
PANORAMA.....

CURRENT EVENT ANALYSIS

July 8- 14, 2014

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ENVIRONMENT

Policy on ozone gases

If it is serious about phasing out ozone depleting gases by 2030, India needs to evolve a clear stand against persisting with those that have global warming potential and evaluate environmental-friendly technologies. This is easier said than done as both the Indian government and the industry are hesitant to make some hard choices.

The tussle is over the choice of technology and the phasing out of hydrofluorocarbons (HFC) under the Montreal Protocol, an international treaty to protect the ozone layer. India wants to discuss the phasing out of HFC under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and not under the Montreal Protocol. This has several implications, not the least of them being that there will not be any binding benchmarks.

What goes against the UNFCCC is that it is not designed for a phase down of specific gases. Countries have the choice to decide which gases they want to reduce.

The industry has differences on whether hydrocarbons were a viable replacement in refrigeration and air conditioning instead of HFCs or HydroFluoroolefins (HFO).

HFC is a replacement for ozone-depleting substances like chlorofluorocarbons (CFC) and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs). While CFCs and HCFCs are being phased out under the Montreal Protocol, HFCs, on the other hand, have zero ozone-depleting potential but high global warming potential.

India State of Forest Report 2013

biennial report "India State of Forest Report (ISFR)"

The India State of Forest Report 2013 is 13th report in the series.

Need to enhance the forest cover in the Country

Need to make Afforestation the 'People's Movement'

It was critical for each stakeholder to participate in making Environmental sustainability a reality so as to ensure the agenda for Growth.

The India State of Forest Report 2013 contains information on forest cover, tree cover mangroves cover and growing stock inside and outside the forest areas. Special thematic information on forest cover such as hill districts, tribal districts, and north eastern region had also been given separately in the report. The information of forest cover for all the States and districts for the current assessment and changes with respect to forest cover of previous assessment has been presented in the report.

Following are the observations:

- ✓ Total forest and tree cover of the country is 78.92 million hectare
- ✓ This is 24.01 percent of the geographical area of the country
- ✓ As compared to the assessment of 2011, there is an increase of 5871 sq km in the forest cover of the country.
- ✓ The increase in forest cover has been observed in open forest category outside forest areas.

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- ✓ The maximum increase in forest cover has been observed in West Bengal (3810 sq. km.) followed by Odisha (1444 sq. km.) and Kerala (622sq km).
- ✓ Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover of 77,522 sq. km. in terms of area in the country followed by Arunachal Pradesh with forest cover of 67,321 sq. km. I
- ✓ n terms of percentage of forest cover with respect to total geographical area, Mizoram with 90.38 percent had the highest forest cover in terms of percentage of forest cover to Geographical area followed by Lakshadweep with 84.56 percent.
- ✓ 15 States/UTs had above 33 percent of the geographical area under forest cover. Out of these States and UTs, eight states namely Mizoram, Lakshadweep, A&N Island, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Manipur and Tripura had more than 75 percent forest cover while 7 States namely Goa, Sikkim, Kerala, Uttarakhand, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Chhattisgarh and Assam had forest cover between 33% to 75%.
- ✓ The total growing stock of India's forest and trees outside forests is estimated as 5,658.046 million cum which comprises 4,173.362 million cum inside the forests and 1484.68 million cum outside the forests. In the present assessment, total carbon stock in country's forest was estimated to be 6941 million tonnes. There was an increase of 278 million tonnes in the carbon stock of country as compared to the year 2004 as reported in ISFR 2011.
- ✓ Forest Survey of India (FSI) has been assessing the forest and tree resources of our country on a biennial basis since 1987. The results of the assessment have been published in its biennial report "India State of Forest Report (ISFR)".

Increase in Sea Level in Coastal Areas of Goa

The average sea level rise trends along the Indian west coast has been about 3.0 mm/year during the last two decades. Sea level rise is a very slow phenomenon and can be because of physical factors like normal subsidence, coastal erosion and siltation of river channels along the coastline apart from global warming.

An isolated incident of flooding on the Morjim beach during 2-6 January, 2014 occurred around mid-night for 3-4 consecutive days largely coinciding with the highest high tide (spring tide) of the year as per the gravitational tidal prediction tables of 2014.

The study conducted by the Pune based Central Water and Power Research Station (Union Ministry of Water Resources' Research) found out that over the years the problems of coastal erosion has accelerated and presently about 25kms is affected. Appropriate protection measures are addressed jointly by respective state governments and the Coastal Protection and Development Advisory Committee (CPDAC) of the Central Water Commission.

Earth System Science Organization (ESSO) – Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) and Survey of India continuously monitor the sea level measurements all along the Indian coastline.

Steps to Mitigate of Deficient Rainfall Impact

As per India Meteorological Department's (IMD) second stage operational long range forecast, South-West Monsoon (June-September) rainfall during 2014 is likely to be 93% \pm 4% of country's Long Period Average (LPA) of 890 mm.

Government has taken several measures to address any situation arising due to deficiency in monsoon rainfall.

Central Research Institute of Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), in collaboration with State Agricultural Universities has prepared contingency plans for 500 districts for implementing location specific interventions to sustain agriculture production in the eventuality of weak monsoon/deficient rainfall.

States have been advised to ensure availability of short duration and drought tolerant varieties of seeds so as to be in a position to supply them to farmers in case such a need arises. States have also been advised to keep asides 10% of funds available under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and other schemes for undertaking appropriate interventions to mitigate any situation arising out of deficient rainfall.

States have also been requested to construct water harvesting structures, restore irrigation infrastructure by desilting canals; energising tubewells, replacing/repairing faulty pumps and arranging power to meet irrigation needs.

Field functionaries and extension workers under Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) and other schemes are educating, training and making the farmers aware of various techniques to overcome deficient rainfall. Farmers are also being advised through farmers' SMS portal, Kisan Call Centres, Kisanvani Programme of All India Radio (AIR) and Krishi Darshan Programme of Doordarshan etc.

Farmers have been advised to adopt techniques such as in-situ moisture conservation, on farm water conservation, ridge furrow sowing, promoting suitable agronomic practices including mulching, inter cropping, mixed cropping, sowing of less water consuming crops etc.

Delay in onset of monsoon and its slow progress has caused delay in sowing of paddy, pulses, oilseeds and coarse cereals during Kharif-2014. However, the sowing window is available till early August and sowing coverage is expected to improve with further progress of monsoon.

POLITY – GOVERNANCE

Fatwas not legal: SC

The Supreme Court held that fatwas issued by Muslim shariat courts (Dar-ul-Qazas) do not have legal sanctity and cannot be enforced if they infringed on the fundamental rights of an individual. A Bench of Justices C.K. Prasad and Pinaki Chandra Ghose gave the ruling on a public interest writ petition filed in 2005.

A woman from Kukda village in Muzaffarnagar district of Uttar Pradesh was raped by her father-in-law, following which the village panchayat passed a fatwa asking her to treat him as her husband. The Dar-ul-Uloom also declared that she had become ineligible to live with her husband.

This was endorsed by the All-India Muslim Personal Law Board as well.

Disposing of the petition, the Bench said the fatwa had no legal sanction.

Fatwa

A fatwā in the Islamic faith is the term for the legal opinion or learned interpretation that a qualified jurist or mufti can give on issues pertaining to the Islamic law. The person who issues a fatwā is called, in that respect, a Mufti, i.e. an issuer of fatwā. This is not necessarily a formal position since most Muslims argue that anyone trained in Islamic law may give an opinion (fatwā) on its teachings. If a fatwā does not break new ground, then it is simply called a ruling.

An analogy might be made to the issue of legal opinions from courts in common-law systems. Fatwās generally contain the details of the scholar's reasoning, typically in response to a particular case, and are considered binding precedent by those Muslims who have bound themselves to that scholar, including future muftis; mere rulings can be compared to memorandum opinions. The primary difference between common-law opinions and fatwās, however, is that fatwās are not universally binding; as sharia law is not universally consistent and Islam is very non-hierarchical in structure, fatwās do not carry the sort of weight that secular common-law opinions do.

All India Muslim Personal Law Board

The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) is a non-government organisation constituted in 1973 to adopt suitable strategies for the protection and continued applicability of Muslim Personal Law in India, most importantly, the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act of 1937, providing for the application of the Islamic Law Code of Shariat to Muslims in India in personal affairs. The Board presents itself as the leading body of Muslim opinion in India. A role for which it has been criticised as well as supported

Uniform civil code of India

Uniform civil code in India is the debate to replace the personal laws based on the scriptures and customs of each major religious community in the country, with a common set governing every

citizen. These laws are distinguished from public law and cover marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption and maintenance.

Article 44 of the Directive Principles in India sets the implementation of a uniform civil code throughout the country as duty of the State.

The personal laws were first framed during the British Raj, mainly for the Hindu and Muslim citizens. The orthodox Hindu law framed by the British discriminated against women by depriving them of inheritance, remarriage and divorce. They feared opposition from community leaders and refrained from interfering within this domestic sphere. The demand for it was first put forward by women activists in the beginning of the twentieth century, with the objective of women's rights, equality and secularism.

Apart from being an important issue regarding secularism in the country, it became one of the most controversial topics in contemporary Indian politics during the Shah Bano case in 1985. In this case, a divorced Muslim woman sought maintenance from her husband. The debate then focused on the Muslim Personal Law, which is partially based on the Sharia law and remains unreformed since 1937, permitting unilateral divorce and polygamy in the country. The Bano case made it a politicised public issue focused on identity politics—by means of attacking specific religious minorities versus protecting its cultural identity.

Till Independence in 1947, a few law reforms were passed to improve the condition of women, especially Hindu widows. In 1956, the Indian Parliament passed Hindu Code Bill amidst significant opposition. Though a demand for a uniform civil code was made by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, his supporters and women activists, they had to finally accept the compromise of it being added to the Directive Principles of the Indian Constitution. The later Shah Bano case resulted in her being granted maintenance under the All India Criminal Code. Amidst the political debate that followed, the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act 1986 was passed, which exempted Muslims from the Criminal Code—a setback to family law uniformity

British India (1858–1947)

The debate for a uniform civil code dates back to the colonial period in India.

The Lex Loci Report of October 1840 emphasised the importance and necessity of uniformity in codification of Indian law, relating to crimes, evidences and contract but it recommended that personal laws of Hindus and Muslims should be kept outside such codification. According to their understanding of religious divisions in India, the British separated this sphere which would be governed by religious scriptures and customs of the various communities (Hindus, Muslims, Christians and later Parsis).

These laws were applied by the local courts or panchayats when dealing with regular cases involving civil disputes between people of the same religion; the State would only intervene in exceptional cases. Thus, the British let the Indian public have the benefit of self-government in their own domestic matters with the Queen's 1859 Proclamation promising absolute non-interference in religious matters. The personal laws involved inheritance, succession, marriage and religious ceremonies. The public sphere was governed by the British and Anglo-Indian law in

terms of crime, land relations, laws of contract and evidence—all this applied equally to every citizen irrespective of religion.

Throughout the country, there was a variation in preference for scriptural or customary laws because in many Hindu and Muslim communities, these were sometimes at conflict; such instances were present in communities like the Jats and the Dravidians. The Shudras, for instance, allowed widow remarriage—completely contrary to the scriptural Hindu law (Anglo-Hindu law). The Hindu laws got preference because of their relative ease in implementation, preference for such a Brahminical system by both British and Indian judges and their fear of opposition from the high caste Hindus. The difficulty in investigating each specific practice of any community, case-by-case, made customary laws harder to implement. Towards the end of the nineteenth century, favouring local opinion, the recognition of individual customs and traditions increased.

The Muslim Personal law or Sharia law was not strictly enforced as compared to the Hindu law. It had no uniformity in its application at lower courts and was severely restricted because of bureaucratic procedures. This led to the customary law, which was often more discriminatory against women, to be applied over it. Women, mainly in northern and western India, often were restrained from property inheritance and dowry settlements, both which the Sharia provides. Due to pressure from the Muslim elite, the Shariat law of 1937 was passed which stipulated that all Indian Muslims would be governed by Islamic laws on marriage, divorce, maintenance, adoption, succession and inheritance.

Legislative reforms

The Hindu law discriminated against women by depriving them of inheritance, remarriage and divorce. Their condition especially that of Hindu widows and daughters was poor due to this and other prevalent customs. The British and social reformers like Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar were instrumental in outlawing such customs by getting reforms passed through legislative processes. Since the British feared opposition from orthodox community leaders, only the Indian Succession Act 1865, which was also one of the first laws to ensure women's economic security, attempted to shift the personal laws to the realm of civil.

The Indian Marriage Act 1864 had procedures and reforms solely for Christian marriages.

There were law reforms passed which were beneficial to women like the Hindu Widow Remarriage Act of 1856, Married Women's Property Act of 1923 and the Hindu Inheritance (Removal of Disabilities) Act, 1928, which in a significant move, permitted a Hindu woman's right to property.

The call for equal rights for women was only at its initial stages in India at that time and the reluctance of the British government further deterred the passing of such reforms. The All India Women's Conference (AIWC) expressed its disappointment with the male-dominated legislature and Lakshmi Menon said in an AIWC conference in 1933, "If we are to seek divorce in court, we are to state that we are not Hindus, and are not guided by Hindu law. The members in the Legislative assembly who are men will not help us in bringing any drastic changes which will be of

benefit to us." The women's organisations demanded a uniform civil code to replace the existing personal laws, basing it on the Karachi Congress resolution which guaranteed gender-equality. The passing of the Hindu Women's right to Property Act of 1937, also known as the Deshmukh bill, led to the formation of the B. N. Rau committee, which was set up to determine the necessity of common Hindu laws. The committee concluded that it was time of a uniform civil code, which would give equal rights to women keeping with the modern trends of society but their focus was primarily on reforming the Hindu law in accordance with the scriptures. The committee reviewed the 1937 Act and recommended a civil code of marriage and succession; it was set up again in 1944 and send its report to the Indian Parliament in 1947.

The Special Marriage Act, which gave the Indian citizens an option of a civil marriage, was enacted first in 1872. It had a limited application because it required those involved to renounce their religion and was applicable only to Hindus. The later Special Marriage (Amendment) Act, 1923 permitted Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs and Jains to marry either under their personal law or under the act without renouncing their religion as well as retaining their succession rights.

Post-colonial (1947–1985)

Hindu Code Bill and addition to the Directive Principles

The Indian Parliament discussed the report of the Hindu law committee during the 1948–1951 and 1951–1954 sessions. Jawaharlal Nehru, his supporters and women members wanted a uniform civil code to be implemented.

As Law Minister, B. R. Ambedkar was in charge of presenting the details of this bill. It was found that the orthodox Hindu laws were pertaining only to a specific school and tradition because monogamy, divorce and the widow's right to inherit property were present in the Shashtras. Ambedkar's frequent attack on the Hindu laws and dislike for the upper castes made him unpopular in the parliament. He had done his research on the religious texts and considered the Hindu society structure flawed. According to him, only law reforms could save it and the Code bill was this opportunity. He thus faced severe criticism from the opposition. Nehru later supported Ambedkar's reforms but did not share his negative view on Hindu society.

The Hindu bill itself received much criticism and the main provisions opposed were those concerning monogamy, divorce, abolition of coparcenaries (women inheriting a shared title) and inheritance to daughters.

Rajendra Prasad opposed these reforms; others included the Congress party president, Vallabhbhai Patel, a few senior members and the Hindu fundamentalist parties. The fundamentalists called it "anti-Hindu" and "anti-Indian"; as a delaying tactic, they demanded a uniform civil code. The women members of the parliament, who previously supported this, in a significant political move reversed their position and backed the Hindu law reform; they feared allying with the fundamentalists would cause a further setback to their rights. Thus, a lesser version of this bill was passed by the parliament in 1956, in the form of four separate acts,

- ✓ The Hindu Marriage Act,
- ✓ Succession Act,

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- ✓ Minority and Guardianship Act
- ✓ Adoptions and Maintenance Act.

It was decided to add the implementation of a uniform civil code in Article 44 of the Directive principles of the Constitution specifying, "The State shall endeavour to secure for citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India." This was opposed by women members like Rajkumari Amrit Kaur and Hansa Mehta. According to academic Paula Banerjee, this move was to make sure it would never be addressed. Failure of the Indian state to provide a uniform civil code, consistent with its democratic secular and socialist declarations, further illustrates the modern state's accommodation of the traditional interests of a patriarchal society.

Later years and Special Marriage Act

The Hindu code bill failed to control the prevalent gender discrimination. The laws on divorce were framed giving both partners equal voice but majority of its implementation involved those initiated by men. Since the Act applied only to Hindus, women from the other communities remained subordinated. For instance, Muslim women, under Sharia law, could not inherit agricultural land. Nehru accepted that the bill was not complete and perfect, but was cautious about implementing drastic changes which could stir up specific communities. He agreed that the bill lacked any substantial reforms but felt it be "the outstanding achievement" of his time. He had a significant role in getting the Hindu Code bill passed and laid down women-equality as an ideal to be pursued in Indian politics, which was eventually accepted by the previous critics of the bill. Uniform civil code, for him, was a necessity for the whole country but he did not want it to be forced upon any community, especially if they were not ready for such a reform. According to him, such a lack of uniformity was preferable since it would be ineffective if implemented. Thus, his vision of family law uniformity was not applied and was added to the Directive principles of the Constitution.

The Special Marriage Act, 1954, provides a form of civil marriage to any citizen irrespective of religion, thus permitting any Indian to have their marriage outside the realm of any specific religious personal law. As usual the law applied to all of India, except Jammu and Kashmir. In many respects, the act was almost identical to the Hindu Marriage Act of 1955, which gives some idea as to how secularised the law regarding Hindus had become. The Special Marriage Act allowed Muslims to marry under it and thereby retain the protections, generally beneficial to Muslim women, which could not be found in the personal law. Under this act polygamy was illegal, and inheritance and succession would be governed by the Indian Succession Act, rather than the respective Muslim Personal Law. Divorce also would be governed by the secular law, and maintenance of a divorced wife would be along the lines set down in the civil law.

Shah Bano case (1985)

After the passing of the Hindu Code bill, the personal laws in India had now, as its two major areas of application, the common Indian citizens and the Muslim community, whose laws were kept away from any reforms. The frequent conflict between secular and religious authorities over

the issue of uniform civil code eventually decreased, until the 1985 Shah Bano case. Bano was a 73 year old woman who sought maintenance from her husband, Muhammad Ahmad Khan. He had divorced her after 40 years of marriage by triple Talaq (saying "I divorce thee" three times) and denied her regular maintenance; this sort of unilateral divorce was permitted under the Muslim Personal Law. She was initially granted maintenance by the verdict of a local court in 1980. Khan, a lawyer himself, challenged this decision, taking it to the Supreme court, saying that he had fulfilled all his obligations under Islamic law. The Supreme court absolved her in 1985 under the "maintenance of wives, children and parents" provision (Section 125) of the All India Criminal Code, which applied to all citizens irrespective of religion. It further recommended that a uniform civil code be set up. Besides her case, two other Muslim women had previously received maintenance under the Criminal code in 1979 and 1980.

The Shah Bano case soon became nationwide political issue and a widely-debated controversy. Many conditions, like the Supreme court's recommendation, made her case have such public and political interest. After the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, minorities in India, with Muslims being the largest, felt threatened with the need to safeguard their culture.

The All India Muslim Board defended the application of their laws and supported the Muslim conservatives who accused the government of promoting Hindu dominance over every Indian citizen at the expense of minorities. The Criminal Code was seen as a threat to the Muslim Personal Law, which they considered their cultural identity. According to them, the judiciary recommending a uniform civil code was evidence that Hindu values would be imposed over every Indian. The orthodox Muslims felt that their communal identity was at stake if their personal laws were governed by the judiciary.

Rajiv Gandhi's Congress government, which previously had their support, lost the local elections in December 1985 because of its endorsement of the Supreme Court's decision. The members of the Muslim board, including Muhammad Ahmad Khan, started a campaign for complete autonomy in their personal laws. It soon reached a national level, by consulting legislators, ministers and journalists. The press played a considerable role in sensationalising this incident.

An independent Muslim parliament member proposed a bill to protect their personal law in the parliament. The Congress reversed its previous position and supported this bill while the Hindu right, the Left, Muslim liberals and women's organisations strongly opposed it. The Muslim Women's (Protection of Rights on Divorce) was passed in 1986, which made Section 125 of the Criminal Procedure Code inapplicable to Muslim women. The debate now centred on the divinity of their personal law. A Muslim member of parliament made a claim emphasising the importance of the cultural community over national by saying that only a Muslim judge could intercede in such cases. Bano later in a statement said that she rejected the Supreme Court's verdict. It also led to the argument defining a woman's right according to her specific community with political leader Jaffar Sharief saying, "today, in the Shah Bano's case, I am finding that many people are more sympathetic towards Muslim women than their own women. This is very strange." The politicisation led to argument having two major sides: the Congress and Muslim conservatives versus the Hindu right-wing and the Left. In 1987, the Minister of Social Welfare, Rajendra Kumari

Bajpai, reported that no women were given maintenance by the Wakf Board in 1986. Women activists highlighted their legal status and according to them, "main problem is that there are many laws but women are dominated not by secular laws, not by uniform civil laws, but by religious laws. The legal reversal of introducing the Muslim Women law significantly hampered the nationwide Women movement in the 1980s.

Conclusion

The debate for a uniform civil code, with its diverse implications and concerning secularism in the country, is one of the most controversial issues in twenty-first century Indian politics. The major problems for implementing it are the country's diversity and religious laws, which not only differ sect-wise, but also by community, caste and region. Women's rights groups have said that this issue is only based on their rights and security, irrespective of its politicisation.

The arguments for it are: its mention in Article 44 of the Constitution, need for strengthening the unity and integrity of the country, rejection of different laws for different communities, importance for gender equality and reforming the archaic personal laws of Muslims—which allow unilateral divorce and polygamy. According to few, the Muslim Personal laws are "Anglo-Mohammadan" rather than solely Islamic. The Hindu fundamentalists view this issue in concept of their law, which they say, is secular and equal to both sexes. In the country, demanding a uniform civil code is seen negatively by religious authorities and secular sections of society because of identity politics. The Sangh Parivar and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)—one of the two major political parties in India, had taken up this issue to gain Hindu support. The BJP was the first party in the country to promise it if elected into power.

Goa is the only state in India which has a uniform civil code. The Goa Family Law, is the set of civil laws, originally the Portuguese Civil Code, which continued to be implemented after its annexation in 1961.

Centre to set income cut-off for subsidised LPG

The government is working on eligibility criteria for subsidised LPG cylinders and it is likely that households with incomes above a certain threshold will not be provided the subsidy.

The government is also exploring if the kerosene subsidy can be delivered through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). DBTs for the subsidy on LPG cylinders that had been suspended by the previous government are likely to be resumed.

The government doesn't plan to cut the subsidy to the poor; instead it wish to reduce the government's subsidy bill by plugging the leakages and through better targeting

The Centre could seek the States' help to compile the database of consumers of fuel subsidies for plugging leakages and improving targeting.

In the current fiscal, subsidy on diesel, LPG and kerosene is estimated at Rs. 115,548 crore; Of this, LPG accounts for Rs. 50,324 crore and kerosene Rs. 29,488 crore.

The subsidy cost on diesel is estimated is Rs. 35,736 crore but if the monthly retail price increases continue as planned, it could come down. In 2013-14, the government had paid Rs. 70,772 crore in cash subsidy while upstream firms had borne as their share Rs. 67,021 crore of

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the subsidy bill. In 2012-2013, the government had paid out Rs. 100,000 crore and the upstream companies had taken a hit of Rs. 60,000 crore.

SC restrains States on remission for life convicts

The Supreme Court restrained all State governments from releasing life convicts exercising their remission powers.

A five-judge Constitution Bench comprising Chief Justice passed the restraint order till July 22, when the matter relating to the release of life convicts in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case would be taken up for hearing.

Media responsibility

The Election Commission notice, asking former Maharashtra Chief Minister Ashok Chavan to show cause as to why he should not be disqualified in the “paid news” case is aimed as much at the senior Congress leader as a section of the media.

The crux of the case relates to a series of articles and news items in sections of the media in Maharashtra in praise of Mr. Chavan as well as publication of 25 advertisements on his election campaign.

The issue of paid news has been a serious concern for the Commission as well as several institutions related to the media. The Press Council of India (PCI) had come out with a detailed report on the “paid news” in the latter half of 2009 and the Election Commission initiated its first considered steps against it in 2010.

The Commission accepted the PCI definition of “paid news” as any news or analysis appearing in any media (print and electronic) for a price in cash or kind and went on to appoint Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC) at district and State-levels for certification of advertisements and keeping a check on violations.

State Ministers’ Committee on Agricultural Marketing Reforms

A Committee of State Ministers, In-charge of Agricultural Marketing constituted by Ministry of Agriculture, on marketing reforms submitted its report .

The Committee recommended reforms of the agri marketing sector in the country including amendment of the State Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) Acts on lines of Model Act.

Recommendations of the Committee are as follows:

A. Reforms to Agriculture Markets

- ✓ The States should amend their APMC Acts on the lines of Model Act
- ✓ In order to derive full benefits of reforms by small and marginal farmers, States may promote formation of Self Help Groups, Farmers/Commodity Interest Groups, etc;
- ✓ The present system of Licensing of Traders/Commission Agents must be substituted with a modern and progressive system of Registration with open and transparent criteria for Registration;

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- ✓ The APMC Act and Rules should specify clearly provisions for setting up of Private Wholesale Markets and Terminal Market Complex (TMC) for smooth development of infrastructure.
- ✓ In order to simplify the procedure and promote private sector investment in development of Wholesale and Terminal Market Complex in the country, there should be a Unified Single Registration for main market (Hub) and the Collection Centers (Spokes).
- ✓ The validity period of Unified Single Registration for private wholesale markets including Collection Centers should not be less than five years. It is desirable to keep it for 10 years or even more.
- ✓ The private agriculture markets should be given exemption on land ceiling for smooth development of market infrastructure in the country;
- ✓ Professionals are required for efficient management of existing markets
- ✓ There is a need for independent regulator for market operation for which the post of Director of Marketing as regulator may be separated
- ✓ States may de-link the provisions of compulsory requirement of shop for registration of traders / market functionaries for increasing the competition;
- ✓ The private markets should be treated at par with the existing APMCs
- ✓ Complete deregulation of markets in the States has actually increased transaction costs rather than reducing it, and it has not helped in attracting any investment from private sector. Therefore, there is a need for an appropriate legal and institutional structure with a developmental type of Regulation to ensure orderly functioning of agriculture markets and attract investment for infrastructure development in such States.

B. Promotion of Investment in Marketing Infrastructure Development

- ✓ Under Essential Commodities Act, there is a need to have distinction between genuine service providers and black marketeers/hoarders to encourage investment and better service delivery to the farmers
- ✓ There should be a stable and long term National Policy on storage and movement of agricultural produce to achieve the objective of Unified National Market.
- ✓ In order to reduce wastages, promote investment for development of marketing infrastructure and to ensure smooth movement of perishable horticultural produce across the country
- ✓ In order to enhance the private sector investment in marketing infrastructure development projects, there is a need to provide subsidy/Viability Gap Funding for such investments, being long gestation period projects and treat them “as infrastructure project” so as to attract FDI and ECB for their development
- ✓ States may promote PPP Model for infrastructure development and exempt market fee on trade transaction taking place inside the private market yard.
- ✓ However, States can levy minimum user charges(in lieu of market fee) for developing general infrastructures like connecting/ rural roads, etc preferably not exceeding 0.5 % of the value of produce transacted for the use of any facilities created by the States/APMCs.

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- ✓ State Governments should also explore the areas for private investments and PPP projects for market and marketing infrastructure development
- ✓ The requirement of marketing infrastructure in the North-Eastern region and Hilly areas is different than rest of the country. Government of India should constitute a 'corpus fund' for development of marketing infrastructure in their areas. A separate agricultural marketing strategy for North Eastern Region and Hilly areas may be adopted

C. Rationalization of Market Fee/ Commission Charges

D. Contract Farming

Encourage contracting parties by simplifying and rationalizing the registration process

States should promote small and marginal Farmers' Groups/Associations or their Company/Society to encourage Contract Farming in the States. Successful template of Contract Farming may be developed after studying the successful Models adopted in other countries;

E. Barrier Free Markets

There should be a provision for a single window Unified Single Registration for traders/market functionaries in the States to facilitate free trade.

In order to move towards barrier free National market, market Fee/Cess may be levied only for first transaction between the farmer and trader and in subsequent sales between trader to trader/consumer, there may be only service charge related to services provided in the State and no market fee be levied for subsequent transaction

In some of the States, there are check-gates for recovery of market fee, which hinder smooth movement of agricultural commodities and leads to wastages especially in perishables like fruit and vegetables. States should take Initiative to remove such physical barriers, if any

Proposed Agricultural Produce Inter-State Trade and Commerce (Development & Regulation), Bill may, to start with, be applied for a few perishable agriculture commodities and it may be expanded for other commodities depending upon the experience of its working

F. Market Information System

G. Grading and Standardization

There is a need for grading of agricultural produce before it is sold to facilitate the farmers to fetch the prices commensurate with the quality. States should provide Directorate of Marketing and Inspection (DMI), necessary inputs such as name of commodity, quality parameters important for formulation of grade standards for producers' level grading under Agricultural Produce (Grading & Marking) Act, 1937, which are relevant and specific to their State;

To promote the grading and testing of agricultural produce, States are required to take initiative for establishing grading units with trained manpower in the market to attend to work of grading and to promote private laboratories for testing agricultural produce on user-charge basis.

Promotion of Sports

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, has been enacted, making elementary education a Fundamental Right, which, inter alia, provides for:

- ✓ A play ground for each school;
- ✓ A part time instructor for physical education in upper primary school;

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- ✓ Supply of play material, games and sports equipment, as required, to schools

In terms of the provisions of the RTE Act, no school shall be established or recognized unless it fulfills the norms specified in the Schedule attached to the Act.

Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has made it mandatory for all schools affiliated to it to provide one compulsory period for sports upto 10th class and two periods in a week for classes 11th and 12th.

As 'Sports' is in state list, primary responsibility for promotion and development of sports including providing equal opportunity to children for participation and training in various fields of sports/games is that of State Governments.

Request for Special Status to Bihar

Request from the Government of Bihar recently for grant of Special Category Status to Bihar

An Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) came to a finding that the case of Special Category Status for Bihar is not made out based on the existing NDC criteria.

Special Category Status for plan assistance has been granted in the past by the National Development Council (NDC) to some States that are characterized by a number of features necessitating special consideration. These features include:

- ✓ hilly and difficult terrain
- ✓ low population density and / or sizeable share of tribal population
- ✓ strategic location along borders with neighbouring countries
- ✓ economic and infrastructural backwardness and
- ✓ non-viable nature of state finances

SOCIAL ISSUES

Maharashtra still leads in farmer suicides

With the highest number of farmer suicides in 2013, Maharashtra continues to paint a dismal picture on the agrarian front.

According to a recent report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), 3,146 farmers killed themselves in the State in 2013. This despite the State registering 640 less farm suicides than 2012.

According to NCRB data, over 60,000 farmers have killed themselves in the State since 1995.

The Vidarbha region of the State, once considered the epicentre of farmers' suicides in the country, recorded 942 suicides in 2013, claims the Vidarbha Jan Andolan Samiti (VJAS), a farmers' advocacy group working in Vidarbha.

Over the last few years, the rest of Maharashtra witnessed more farmers' suicides than Vidarbha. Last year also, Vidarbha witnessed 965 suicides but the rest of Maharashtra had higher figures.

Marathwada witnessed drought a year ago and heavy rains last year contributing to the woes of farmers and driving them to suicide.

Lack of farmers' advocacy groups and farmers' organisations in Marathwada is the "main reason for the plight of farmers' was being ignored.

Keeping girls in school cuts child, maternal mortality

Despite the pivotal role of education in improving health outcomes in children, delaying marriage and avoiding teenage pregnancy, there are currently about 60 million school-age children out of school across the world.

In India, nearly eight million children have never stepped inside a school and the dropout rate is about 80 million as per UNICEF.

Education can act as a prime mover for long-term, home-grown sustainable development. Access to quality education, as well as health, is important for human development.

According to a 2013 UNFPA report, globally, India has the largest number (95 million) of adolescent girls aged 10-17 years. And not surprisingly, in 2010, India had the highest number — 47 per cent (about 12 million) — of adolescent pregnancies in the world. Globally, child marriage is an important driver of early pregnancies; about 90 per cent of such pregnancies occur within marriage.

A 2009 PLoS ONE study found 44.5 per cent of women aged 20-24 years in India were married as a teenager; 22.6 per cent of them were married before age 16 years. A third of them had no formal education and more than two-thirds resided in rural areas.

Child marriage in India had all the well-documented problems no contraceptive use before first childbirth, high fertility (three or more births) a repeat childbirth in less than two years, multiple unwanted pregnancies, and abortion. Having a baby much earlier in life combined with multiple pregnancies within a short span of time exponentially increases the risk of child death.

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Adolescent pregnancy is often associated with premature delivery, stillbirth, foetal distress, birth asphyxia, low birth weight, and miscarriage.

There is a 50 per cent likelihood of stillbirth and death in the first week of life in babies born to mothers younger than 20 years than in those aged 20-29 years. There is also about 20 per cent risk of maternal mortality in adolescent mothers. According to the WHO, 14 per cent (2.5 million) of all unsafe abortions in low- and middle-income countries are among mothers aged 15-19 years.

A multi-pronged approach is needed to reduce the number of teenage pregnancies.

- ✓ Increasing school enrolment even while reducing the dropout rate.
- ✓ Improving the quality of education.
- ✓ Providing girls with the much needed sex and reproductive education.
- ✓ Providing access to child-friendly health services.
- ✓ Reducing the prevalence of child marriage.

India urbanising, but slowly, UN numbers show

Despite a view that India is rapidly urbanising, it will have just half of its population in cities even in 2050, new UN projections show.

In 2050, India will be one of the least urbanised major countries, with Sri Lanka, Uganda, Cambodia, Nepal, Kenya and Ethiopia for company, while China will be 76% urban.

The 2014 revision of the World Urbanization Prospects produced by the UN Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs was released.

In 2050, the world will have 9.55 billion people and India with 1.62 billion people will be the most populous country in the world, the numbers show, its population still growing.

China, on the other hand, will have hit its peak of 1.45 billion in 2030 and have declined to 1.38 billion people by 2050.

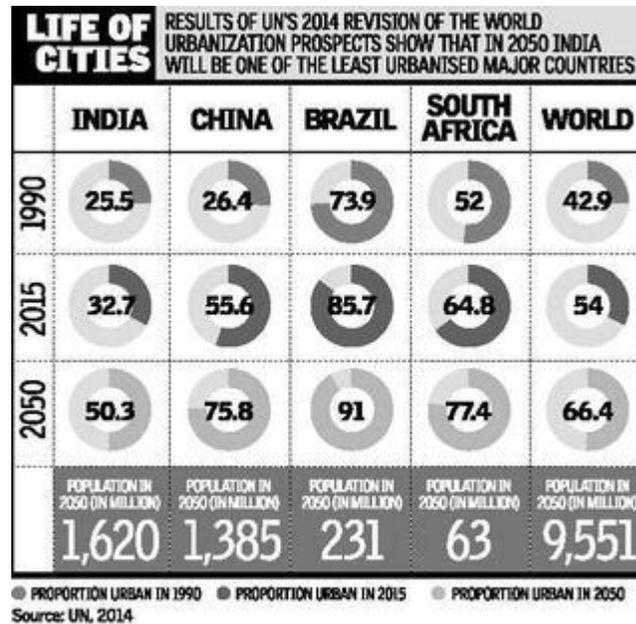
Undoubtedly, India is urbanising, the numbers show; it will add 400 million urban residents between now and 2050, and will account for a third of all urban growth with China and Nigeria. However, the pace is not as fast as had been earlier imagined. The world's rural population will hit its peak in a few years and is expected to decline to 3.1 billion by 2050. While India has the world's largest rural population now (857 million), the number of rural residents is expected to decline by 52 million by 2050, as opposed to an upcoming decline of 300 million rural residents in China. India will account for a quarter of the world's rural population in 2050, as it does now.

In 2014, close to one half of the world's urban population lives in settlements with fewer than 500,000 inhabitants. While this proportion is projected to shrink over time, by 2030, these small cities and towns will still be home to around 45 per cent of urban dwellers.

Another 10% of urban residents lived in cities of 500,000 to 1 million people, 20% of in cities of 1-5 million residents, 8% in cities of 5-10 million and 12% in cities of over 10 million.

Delhi, the world's 12th largest city in 1990 but its second largest city now (after Tokyo), will remain the second largest in 2030 with a projected population of over 36 million people in the entire urban agglomeration. From two megacities (cities with over 10 million residents) – Mumbai

and Kolkata – in 1990, India has three in 2014 – Delhi (25 million), Mumbai (21 million), Kolkata (15 million). By 2030, it will add four more – Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad and Ahmedabad.



Focus on Kala Azar

Union Health Ministry has formed a core group to plan a detailed plan of action to eradicate the dreaded vector-borne disease Kala Azar by 2015.

In 2004, the government had set a target for wiping out the disease, by 2008. It was then revised twice to 2010 and eventually 2015. With less than a year to go, the newly installed Health Minister reviewed the resources at his command and expressed confidence in achieving the objective.

Kala Azar is globally known as Visceral Leishmaniasis, a zoonotic infection

Carrier is the sand fly found in:

- ✓ Eastern UP
- ✓ Bihar
- ✓ Jharkhand
- ✓ West Bengal

Usually strikes during the monsoon months

It is the second deadliest vector borne disease after malaria.

Presently, its incidence is concentrated to about 54 districts, with Bihar most affected

Ninety percent of visceral leishmaniasis cases occur in 5 countries:

- ✓ Bangladesh
- ✓ India
- ✓ Nepal
- ✓ Sudan
- ✓ Brazil

As Kala Azar strikes mainly during the monsoon months, government intends to launch first free treatment drive in selected pockets of Bihar and other states in August.

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In the 1920s, the late Dr U.N. Brahmachari's research led to the use of Sodium Stibogluconate as a breakthrough in treatment lines. However, today patients have developed resistance to this drug. Now three other drugs are being used but without much empirical evidence on their success. One of them, which is usually used for chemotherapy of breast cancer patients, has serious side-effects.

World Population Day -2014 (Youth Bulge in India)

India has one of the world's largest adolescent and youth population. He mentioned that the total population of young persons in the age group 10-24 years is about 36.50 crore. Thus, every third person is young in the country. The data also shows that every fifth person in the country is an adolescent in the age group 10-19 years.

The theme of World Population Day 2014, 'Investing in Young People in India'

is the best way to develop the competitive advantage for the country and there is an urgent need to address their concerns. He said that there is also a need to create an atmosphere where they are able to pursue their goals and excel in their chosen fields.

Software based modules CensusInfo India and YouthInfo India Portal were launched.

Maulana Azad Taleeme-e-Balighan

On account of comparatively low female literacy rate among the disadvantaged groups including Muslims, a target focused approach to enhance female literacy among Muslim adults under the name of Maulana Azad Taleeme-e-Balighan has been initiated since February, 2014.

The female literacy rate is lower than the national average female literacy rate in ten States and one Union Territory namely, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Dadra & Nagar Haveli. Various factors viz. poverty, gender and social inequities, etc. are impeding female literacy in the country. A statement indicating State/UT-wise and gender-wise literacy rate in the country as per Census, 2011 is annexed.

In order to improve female literacy rate in the country, Government has been implementing Saakshar Bharat programme since October, 2009 in rural areas of all the districts that had adult female literacy rate of 50% and below as per Census, 2001, including left wing extremism affected districts, irrespective of their literacy rate. The scheme has a target of 70 million adult non-literates, including 60 million women, with special thrust on disadvantaged groups. In addition, Government is implementing the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 for universalisation of elementary education for all children in the age group of 6-14 years.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has targeted interventions for girls that includes opening of schools in the neighbourhood, appointment of additional teachers including women teachers, free textbooks, free uniforms, separate toilets for girls, teachers' sensitisation programmes, gender-sensitive teaching-learning materials, etc. In addition Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV) has been opened in Educationally Backward Blocks where the female rural literacy is below the national average to provide for residential upper primary schools for girls.

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Population Stabilization

As per World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision, the population of India is likely to be 162,00,51,000 and that of Republic of China to be 138,49,77,000 by 2050.

In spite of perceptible decline in TFR (Total Fertility Rate) from 3.6 in 1991 to 2.4 in 2012, India is yet to achieve replacement level of 2.1 due to slow decline in fertility and wide variations among the States.

Twenty three States/UTs of India have already achieved replacement level by 2012, while the States like UP and Bihar with large population base still have TFR of 3.3 and 3.5 respectively.

The other States like Jharkhand (TFR 2.8), Rajasthan (TFR 2.9), Madhya Pradesh (TFR 2.9) and Chhattisgarh (TFR 2.9) continue to have higher levels of fertility and contribute to the growth of population.

Measures being taken for stabilization of population in the country along with success achieved therefrom.

On-going Interventions under Family Planning Programme:

- ✓ A rational human resource development plan is in place
- ✓ Ensuring quality care in Family Planning services by establishing Quality Assurance Committees at state and district levels.
- ✓ Emphasis on Minilap Tubectomy services because of its logistical simplicity and requirement of only MBBS doctors and not post graduate gynaecologists/ surgeons.
- ✓ Increasing male participation and promotion of 'Non Scalpel Vasectomy'
- ✓ 'National Family Planning Indemnity Scheme' (NFPIS) under which clients are insured in the eventualities of deaths, complications and failures following sterilization and the providers/ accredited institutions are indemnified against litigations in those eventualities.
- ✓ Compensation scheme for sterilization acceptors
- ✓ Accreditation of more private/ NGO facilities to increase the provider base for family planning services under PPP.
- ✓ Improving contraceptives supply management up to peripheral facilities.
- ✓ Demand generation activities in the form of display of posters, billboards and other audio and video materials in the various facilities.
- ✓ Strong Political Will and Advocacy at the highest level, especially in states with high fertility rates.

Performance:

Family Planning indicators:

Indicator	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total Fertility Rate	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.4
Crude Birth Rate	22.8	22.5	22.1	21.8	21.6
Crude Death Rate	7.4	7.3	7.2	7.1	7.0

Total Fertility Rate (TFR)

- ✓ TFR has declined from 2.6 in 2008 to 2.4 in 2011

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- ✓ Rate of decline of TFR has increased by 52.3% during 2006-2011 as compared to 2000-2005. Rate of decline from 2000 to 2005 was 9.38% and from 2006 to 2011 was 14.29%.
- ✓ 23 States/UTs i.e. Goa, Manipur, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Punjab, Delhi, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Mizoram, Nagaland, Jammu & Kashmir, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Odisha and 5 UTs i.e. Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Puducherry, Chandigarh, Daman & Diu and Lakshadweep have already achieved replacement level fertility (i.e. 2.1 or less).
- ✓ 4 States viz. Bihar- 3.5, U.P- 3.3, Meghalaya- 3.1 and Dadra & Nagar Haveli- 3.3 (SRS 07-09), has TFR more than 3.0 and
- ✓ 8 states have TFR between 2.2 and 3.0 viz. Jharkhand 2.8, Chhattisgarh 2.7, Arunachal Pradesh 2.7, Gujarat 2.3, Assam 2.4, and Haryana 2.3, MP- 2.9, Rajasthan- 2.9 (SRS 2012)

INDIA AND WORLD

Bangladesh wins maritime dispute with India

The verdict on the dispute regarding the delimitation of the maritime boundary between India and Bangladesh was given by United Nations tribunal awarding Bangladesh 19,467 sq. km of the 25,602 sq. km sea area of the Bay of Bengal.

The verdict of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) came after nearly five years of arguments and counter-arguments, spot visit by judges and examination of survey reports.

The tribunal verdict is binding on all parties and there is no option for appeal. However, according to the rules of procedures, if any party needs any interpretation of the verdict, it can make a request to the court within 30 days of receiving the verdict and the interpretation would be made available within 45 days.

Bangladesh went in for arbitration over the delimitation of maritime boundary under the United Nations Convention on Law of Sea (UNCLOS) on October 8 2009.

The argument focussed on issues including the location of the land boundary terminus, delimitation of the territorial sea, exclusive economic zone, and the continental shelf within and beyond 200 nautical miles.



Permanent Court of Arbitration

The Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) is an international organization based in The Hague in the Netherlands. It was established in 1899 at the first Hague Peace Conference. The PCA provides services for the arbitration and resolution of disputes involving states, state entities, intergovernmental organizations, and private parties. The PCA is different from the International Court of Justice which is housed in the same building, the Peace Palace in The Hague.

The PCA is not a "court in the conventional understanding of that term, but an administrative organization with the object of having permanent and readily available means to serve as the registry for purposes of international arbitration and other related procedures, including commissions of enquiry and conciliation." It is a permanent framework available to assist

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temporary arbitral tribunals or commissions. The judges or arbitrators that hear cases are officially called "Members" of the Court.

The public at large is usually more familiar with the International Court of Justice than with the Permanent Court of Arbitration, partly because of the closed nature of cases handled by the PCA and due to the low number of cases dealt with between 1946 and 1990. The PCA's caseload has, however, increased since then.

The PCA administers cases arising out of international treaties (including bilateral and multilateral investment treaties), and other agreements to arbitrate. The cases conducted by the PCA span a wide range of legal issues, including disputes over territorial and maritime boundaries, sovereignty, human rights, international investment (investor-state arbitrations), and matters concerning international and regional trade.

Hearings are rarely open to the public and sometimes even the decision itself is kept confidential at the request of the parties. Many decisions and related documents are available on the PCA website.

United Nations Convention on Law of Sea (UNCLOS)

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), also called the Law of the Sea Convention or the Law of the Sea treaty, is the international agreement that resulted from the third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS III), which took place between 1973 and 1982. The Law of the Sea Convention defines the rights and responsibilities of nations with respect to their use of the world's oceans, establishing guidelines for businesses, the environment, and the management of marine natural resources. The Convention, concluded in 1982, replaced four 1958 treaties. UNCLOS came into force in 1994, a year after Guyana became the 60th nation to sign the treaty. As of August 2013, 165 countries and the European Union have joined in the Convention. However, it is uncertain as to what extent the Convention codifies customary international law.

While the Secretary General of the United Nations receives instruments of ratification and accession and the UN provides support for meetings of states party to the Convention, the UN has no direct operational role in the implementation of the Convention. There is, however, a role played by organizations such as the International Maritime Organization, the International Whaling Commission, and the International Seabed Authority (ISA). (The ISA was established by the UN Convention).

The issue of varying claims of territorial waters was raised in the UN in 1967 by Arvid Pardo, of Malta, and in 1973 the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea was convened in New York. In an attempt to reduce the possibility of groups of nation-states dominating the negotiations, the conference used a consensus process rather than majority vote. With more than 160 nations participating, the conference lasted until 1982. The resulting convention came into force on 16 November 1994, one year after the sixtieth state, Guyana, ratified the treaty.

The convention introduced a number of provisions. The most significant issues covered were setting limits, navigation, archipelagic status and transit regimes, exclusive economic zones

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(EEZs), continental shelf jurisdiction, deep seabed mining, the exploitation regime, protection of the marine environment, scientific research, and settlement of disputes.

The convention set the limit of various areas, measured from a carefully defined baseline. (Normally, a sea baseline follows the low-water line, but when the coastline is deeply indented, has fringing islands or is highly unstable, straight baselines may be used.) The areas are as follows:

Internal waters

Covers all water and waterways on the landward side of the baseline. The coastal state is free to set laws, regulate use, and use any resource. Foreign vessels have no right of passage within internal waters.

Territorial waters

Out to 12 nautical miles (22 kilometres; 14 miles) from the baseline, the coastal state is free to set laws, regulate use, and use any resource. Vessels were given the right of innocent passage through any territorial waters, with strategic straits allowing the passage of military craft as transit passage, in that naval vessels are allowed to maintain postures that would be illegal in territorial waters. "Innocent passage" is defined by the convention as passing through waters in an expeditious and continuous manner, which is not "prejudicial to the peace, good order or the security" of the coastal state. Fishing, polluting, weapons practice, and spying are not "innocent", and submarines and other underwater vehicles are required to navigate on the surface and to show their flag. Nations can also temporarily suspend innocent passage in specific areas of their territorial seas, if doing so is essential for the protection of its security.

Archipelagic waters

The convention set the definition of Archipelagic States in Part IV, which also defines how the state can draw its territorial borders. A baseline is drawn between the outermost points of the outermost islands, subject to these points being sufficiently close to one another. All waters inside this baseline are designated Archipelagic Waters. The state has full sovereignty over these waters (like internal waters), but foreign vessels have right of innocent passage through archipelagic waters (like territorial waters).

Contiguous zone

Beyond the 12-nautical-mile (22 km) limit, there is a further 12 nautical miles (22 km) from the territorial sea baseline limit, the contiguous zone, in which a state can continue to enforce laws in four specific areas: customs, taxation, immigration and pollution, if the infringement started within the state's territory or territorial waters, or if this infringement is about to occur within the state's territory or territorial waters. This makes the contiguous zone a hot pursuit area.

Exclusive economic zones (EEZs)

These extend from the edge of the territorial sea out to 200 nautical miles (370 kilometres; 230 miles) from the baseline. Within this area, the coastal nation has sole exploitation rights over all natural resources. In casual use, the term may include the territorial sea and even the continental shelf. The EEZs were introduced to halt the increasingly heated clashes over fishing rights, although oil was also becoming important. The success of an offshore oil platform in the Gulf of

Panorama

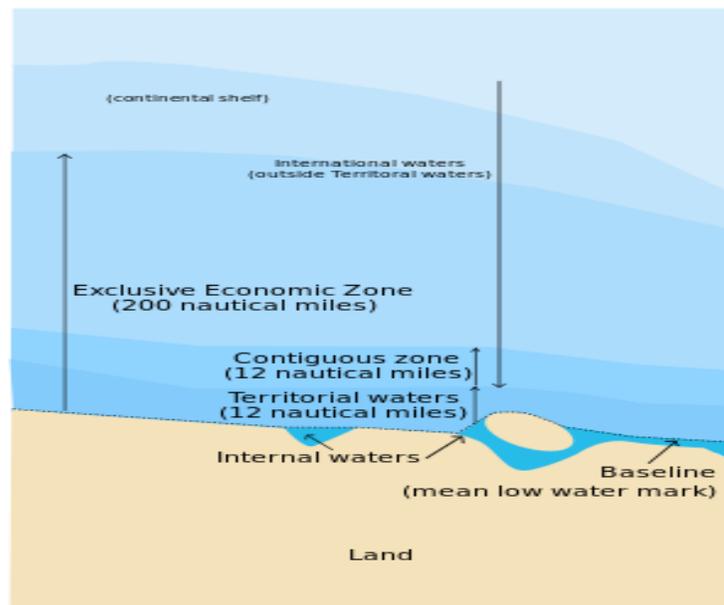
Mexico in 1947 was soon repeated elsewhere in the world, and by 1970 it was technically feasible to operate in waters 4000 metres deep. Foreign nations have the freedom of navigation and overflight, subject to the regulation of the coastal states. Foreign states may also lay submarine pipes and cables.

Continental shelf

The continental shelf is defined as the natural prolongation of the land territory to the continental margin's outer edge, or 200 nautical miles (370 km) from the coastal state's baseline, whichever is greater. A state's continental shelf may exceed 200 nautical miles (370 km) until the natural prolongation ends. However, it may never exceed 350 nautical miles (650 kilometres; 400 miles) from the baseline; or it may never exceed 100 nautical miles (190 kilometres; 120 miles) beyond the 2,500 meter isobath (the line connecting the depth of 2,500 meters). Coastal states have the right to harvest mineral and non-living material in the subsoil of its continental shelf, to the exclusion of others. Coastal states also have exclusive control over living resources "attached" to the continental shelf, but not to creatures living in the water column beyond the exclusive economic zone.

Aside from its provisions defining ocean boundaries, the convention establishes general obligations for safeguarding the marine environment and protecting freedom of scientific research on the high seas, and also creates an innovative legal regime for controlling mineral resource exploitation in deep seabed areas beyond national jurisdiction, through an International Seabed Authority and the Common heritage of mankind principle.

Landlocked states are given a right of access to and from the sea, without taxation of traffic through transit states.



U.N. peacekeeping mission on LoC

India is moving to "rationalise the presence" of the U.N. Monitoring Group on India and Pakistan that has been stationed on both sides of the LoC since 1949.

The MoD has made it clear that all these extra facilities that were part of the original arrangement decades ago, would no longer be offered to the peacekeeping mission, although the Unmogip is

welcome to move to a private accommodation in New Delhi. The Unmogip's office in Srinagar, which is often the destination of protests by separatist groups and human rights activists, however, will continue to function.

It was "consistent with India's long-standing view that Unmogip has outlived its mandate. India considers the mission's mandate existed only until the 1949 "Karachi agreement" lapsed, which India believes took place during the India-Pakistan war in 1971 when many parts of the ceasefire line were changed. And ever since the Simla agreement, stipulating a bilateral solution to the Kashmir issue, was signed by Mrs. Gandhi and Mr. Z.A. Bhutto in 1972, India has refused to acknowledge the role of the U.N. in the dispute at all. In fact, while Pakistan has lodged several complaints with the Unmogip for ceasefire violations on the LoC, including invoking the U.N. group during the heavy firing in January 2013, India has not made a single complaint since 1972. Working with a biennial budget of \$19 million, the Unmogip splits its operational headquarters between Islamabad and Srinagar, and has 40 military personnel and 23 civilian international personnel, along with 45 Indians and Pakistanis on its rolls.

United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (Unmogip)

The United Nations has played an important role in maintaining peace and order in Jammu and Kashmir since the transfer of Power to India and independence to Pakistan in 1947. Immediately after the freedom a dispute erupted between India and the successor nation-state of Pakistan on the question of the very basis of accession of Jammu and Kashmir by the ruler. New Delhi took this matter to the United Nation and the Security Council passed resolution and established the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) to investigate and mediate the issues.

Map issues

As with other disputed territories, each government issues maps depicting their claims in Kashmir as part of their territory, regardless of actual control. It is illegal in India to exclude all or part of Kashmir in a map. It is also illegal in Pakistan not to include the state of Jammu and Kashmir as disputed territory, as permitted by the U.N. Non-participants often use the Line of Control and the Line of Actual Control as the depicted boundaries, as is done in the CIA World Factbook, and the region is often marked out in hashmarks, although the Indian government strictly opposes such practices.

UN Security Council plebiscite resolution

The Security Council of United Nations on the complaint of Government of India concerning the dispute over the State of Jammu and Kashmir passed United Nations Security Council Resolution 47 (1948).

This resolution required among other things that Pakistan withdraws from the areas of Pakistan-administered Kashmir which it had captured in 1947 immediately and conditions are created for a free and impartial plebiscite to decide the future of the state. The Indian Army should withdraw and maintain a skeletal force to ensure proper functioning of the civil affairs of the state after satisfactory withdrawal of Pakistani tribesmen and forces.

It recommended to the governments of India and Pakistan to restore peace and order in Jammu and Kashmir and provide full freedom to all subjects of the state, to vote on the question of accession.

Furthermore, it recommended to the government of India to establish Plebiscite Administration to hold fair and impartial referendum as soon as possible, a nominee of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to be appointed as the Plebiscite Administrator, release all political prisoners, invite the major political groups to share the administration at the ministerial level while the plebiscite is being prepared and carried out. UN Official statement: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on the map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Formation of UNMOGIP and current status of operations

Resolution 47(1948) also enlarged the membership of the UNCIP and its role to observe ceasefire. India and Pakistan signed Karachi Agreement in March 1951 and established a ceasefire line to be supervised by observers. After the termination of UNCIP, the Security Council passed another resolution 91(1951) and established United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) to observe and report violations of ceasefire.

After Indo-Pakistani War of 1971 the two countries signed the Simla Agreement in 1972 to define the Line of Control in Kashmir. India and Pakistan disagree on UNMOGIP's mandate in Kashmir because India argued that the mandate of UNMOGIP has lapsed after Simla agreement because it was specifically established to observe ceasefire according to Karachi Agreement.

However, The Secretary General of the United Nations maintained that the UNMOGIP should continue to function because no resolution has been passed to terminate it. The military authorities of Pakistan have continued to lodge complaints with UNMOGIP about ceasefire violations. The military authorities of India have lodged no complaints since January 1972 and have restricted the activities of the UN observers on the Indian side of the Line of Control.

U.K. to boost India's allocation in Chevening scholarships

Over the next two years, India will see a fourfold increase in the budget for the prestigious Chevening scholarships. The new allocation — raised from £600,000 to £2.4 million — will take the total number of scholarships awarded to Indians to 150 by 2015-16.

Funded by the U.K.'s Foreign and Commonwealth office and its partners, the Chevening Fellowships Programme is designed for "outstanding graduates with the potential to be leaders to pursue one-year Master's degrees in any subject and at any of the U.K.'s leading universities". At present, there are 118 countries that are part of the programme. India, which has the second largest Chevening programme after China, will see a £1-million increase in funding for the 2014-2015 programme, and a further £800,000 increase for 2015-16.

Indian has the second highest number of Chevening alumni — over 2,000.

Fourfold increase to take allocation to £2.4 million by 2015-16

ECONOMY

Plan to hike FDI in insurance with cap on voting rights

The government plans to increase the foreign direct investment in the insurance sector to 49 per cent with a rider that the voting rights of the overseas partner will remain capped at 26 per cent.

The Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2008, proposes an increase in foreign holding in insurance joint ventures to 49 per cent from the existing 26 per cent with corresponding voting rights.

The Finance Ministry now proposes an amendment to the Bill, pending since 2008, by capping the voting rights of the foreign partner to 26 per cent even as FDI is raised to 49 per cent.

This is being done in the interest of meeting the growing capital requirement of insurance companies, which are highly capital-intensive.

The proposal says that equity shares of the foreign company should not exceed 49 per cent of the total paid-up equity capital of an insurance company, provided the voting rights of such foreign shareholders are not exceeding 26 per cent in aggregate.

Besides, the CEO of the insurance joint venture should be appointed by Indian shareholders subject to regulatory approvals, according to the proposal.

The proposal also stipulates that the majority of company's directors should be Indian nationals.

A proposal to hike the FDI cap in the sector was first mooted by the previous UPA government. This has been pending in the Rajya Sabha since 2008.

The proposal says the additional amendment would incorporate suitable safeguards and restrictions on foreign equity investment in the insurance sector while enhancing the overall cap to 49 per cent as envisaged in the Bill.

This is considered essential in the light of the prevailing economic and insurance industry environment and the sensitive nature of the subject of foreign equity investment.

The Standing Committee on Finance had earlier rejected the proposal to hike FDI in the insurance sector, saying it might not have the desired effect and could expose the economy to global vulnerability.

The insurance sector was opened up to the private sector in 2000 after the enactment of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) is an autonomous apex statutory body which regulates and develops the insurance industry in India. It was constituted by a Parliament of India act called Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999 and duly passed by the Government of India.

The agency operates from its headquarters at Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh where it shifted from Delhi in 2001.

The IRDA Act, 1999 was passed as per the major recommendation of the Malhotra Committee report 1994 which recommended establishment of an independent regulatory authority for

insurance sector in India. Later, it was incorporated as a statutory body in April, 2000. The IRDA Act, 1999 also allows private players to enter the insurance sector in India besides a maximum foreign equity of 26 per cent in a private insurance company having operations in India. The FDI limit in insurance sector was raised to 49% in July 2013. It serves as an Authority to protect the interests of holders of insurance policies, to regulate, promote and ensure orderly growth of the insurance industry and for matters connected therewith.

IRDA role is to protect rights of policy holders & they provide registration certification to life insurance companies & responsible for renewal, modification, cancellation & suspension of this registered certificate.

Insurance repository system

Recently the Finance Minister of India announced the setting of insurance repository system. An Insurance Repository is a facility to help policy holders buy and keep insurance policies in electronic form, rather than as a paper document. Insurance Repositories, like Share Depositories or Mutual Fund Transfer Agencies, will hold electronic records of insurance policies issued to individuals and such policies are called “electronic policies” or “e Policies”.

SMBs to spend over Rs.1-lakh cr on IT: study

Driven by increasing adoption of cloud and mobility solutions, small and medium businesses (SMBs) are likely to spend over Rs.1-lakh crore (about \$18.5 billion) on information technology by 2017-18, as per Nasscom study, conducted by research firm Frost & Sullivan (F&S).

According to the study, Indian small and medium businesses (SMBs) spent about Rs.47,200 crore (\$8.7 billion) on IT in 2012-13.

Of this, 45 per cent was spent on hardware, while 40 per cent was on IT services (implementation, support and training) and 15 per cent was on software licensing and software as a service (SaaS).

SMBs play a critical role in the Indian economy in terms of GDP and employment generation. They face significant challenges in the volatile business environment and technology can help them compete on the global platform.

Indian IT players also need to create specific solutions for the SMB sector, tailor-made to suit their specific needs.

The report said SaaS adoption by SMBs in India was growing at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of over 25 per cent and was expected to reach Rs.2,000 crore (\$370 million) by 2017-18.

It added that manufacturing contributed to nearly 21 per cent of domestic spend of SMB on IT, while education accounted for about 15 per cent.

Poultry and Dairy Industry

The Government of India has launched the National Dairy Plan Phase-I (NDP-I) for a period of six years from 2011-12 to 2016-17 on 16th March, 2012 as a Central Sector Scheme with the following objectives:-

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- ✓ To help increase the productivity of milch animals and thereby increase milk production to meet the rapidly growing demand for milk.
- ✓ To help provide rural milk producers with greater access to the organised milk – procession sector.

These objectives are pursued through adoption of focused scientific and systematic processes in provision of technical inputs supported by appropriate policy and regulatory measures.

National Livestock Mission is rolled out during 2014-15 which provides financial assistance for adopting modern technology and provide for focussed extension support to the Animal Husbandry sector.

In addition to this, the Central Poultry Development Organization & Training Institute, Hessarghatta, ICAR Institutes as well as Centers of All India Coordinated Research Projects (AICRPs)/Network/Seed projects are imparting training programmes in various aspects of scientific Animal Husbandry production for different stakeholders and entrepreneurs.

As per an assessment made by Planning Commission, the domestic demand for milk by 2020-21 is expected to be 172.20 million tonnes. The milk production at national level is by and large sufficient to meet the domestic demand of milk and milk products. Further, the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad recommends 3 eggs per week per persons. However, the per-capita availability of eggs is 55 per annum as per Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics, 2013.

The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries is implementing the various schemes to increase milk and poultry production and productivity, directly or indirectly, in the country:

- ✓ National Livestock Mission
- ✓ National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development
- ✓ National Dairy Plan-I
- ✓ Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme
- ✓ Livestock Health & Disease Control

Steps to Contain Price Rise in Essential Commodities

The Government has taken following steps recently to contain price rise in essential commodities:

- ✓ Reduced import duties to zero – for wheat, onion and pulses.
- ✓ Banned export of edible oils (except coconut oil, forest based oil and edible oils in blended consumer packs up to 5 kg with a Minimum Export Price of USD 1500 per MT) and pulses (except Kabuli chana and organic pulses and lentils up to a maximum of 10000 tonnes per annum).
- ✓ Imposed stock limits from time to time in the case of select essential commodities such as pulses, edible oil, and edible oilseeds for a period up to 30.9.2014.
- ✓ Suspended Futures trading in rice, urad and tur.
- ✓ In order to enhance the production and productivity of oilseeds and thereby edible oil, a National Mission on Oilseed and Oil Palm (NMOOP) is being implemented by the during the XII Five Year Plan. The mission envisages in increasing the production and productivity and bridge the gap between oilseed production and consumption.

National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology

The National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET) which encompasses extension, Information Communication Technology (ICT), Seeds, Agricultural Mechanization and Plant Protection aims to restructure & strengthen agricultural extension to enable delivery of appropriate technology and improved agronomic practices to the farmers through interactive methods of information dissemination, use of ICT, capacity building & institution strengthening; to improve reach of farm mechanization to small and marginal farmers by various means including promotion of custom hiring centers; to make available quality seeds and increase Seed Replacement Ratio and to promote Integrated Pest Management and plant protection measures.

Methods of Implementation:

Most components of the Mission are implemented through State Governments. However, some regulatory and administrative components like pesticide registration & quarantine regulation; national institutes, Mass Media, Kisan Call Centre & SMS Portal are implemented centrally. Farmers centric extension activities under various Sub-Missions & other Schemes/Programmes are being converged at the level of Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA).

Current status of the Mission:

Guidelines of various Sub-Missions of NMAET have been issued. Administrative Approval for implementation of the Mission has been issued. Based on the budget provided for NMAET, State-wise allocations have been made in respect of the Centrally sponsored components of the Mission and work on the ground has commenced with effect from April 01, 2014 based on Annual Action Plans received from various States/Union Territories.

The Mission will help farmers through integrated approach as various technological components of NMAET viz. seeds, machinery, plant protection are inextricably linked to each other at the field level and these are disseminated among the farmers and other stakeholders through a strong extension network. Besides interactive & direct extension by dedicated personnel and dovetailing manpower support with other programmes, extensive use of ICT is also being promoted in various areas including Short Messaging Service (SMSs), Farmers' Portal & other web based applications to disseminate timely & relevant information and appropriate technologies.

Public-Private-Partnership is encouraged in the Extension and Training components of the Mission. Genuine and reputed Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), para-extension workers, Farmers Organizations etc. are encouraged to participate and provide extension and training services and guidance to farmers to improve agricultural production and productivity. Besides this input dealers and-agripreneurs are also trained to give advisories to the farmers.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

World's first flying observatory

NASA has fitted a 17-tonne telescope with an effective diameter of eight feet on a modified Boeing 747 jetliner that the U.S. space agency is using as a flying observatory to study stars.

The infrared telescope called "Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy" (SOFIA) is mounted behind a sliding door that reveals it to the skies. The jet can stay airborne for over 12 hours and its range is up to 6,625 nautical miles (7,624 miles).

The data provided by SOFIA cannot be obtained by any other astronomical facility on the ground or in space.

SOFIA is mobile, so it can better spot transient space events like supernovae and comets. Nasa plans to launch SOFIA — now in Germany for its last extensive maintenance and refitting leg — in 2015.

Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy

The Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) is a joint project of NASA and the German Aerospace Center (DLR) to construct and maintain an airborne observatory.

SOFIA is based on a Boeing 747SP wide-body aircraft that has been modified to include a large door in the aft fuselage that can be opened in flight to allow a 2.5 meter diameter reflecting telescope access to the sky. This telescope is designed for infrared astronomy observations in the stratosphere at altitudes of about 41,000 feet (12 km).

SOFIA's flight capability allows it to rise above almost all of the water vapor in the Earth's atmosphere, which blocks some infrared wavelengths from reaching the ground. At the aircraft's cruising altitude, 85% of the full infrared range will be available. The aircraft can also travel to almost any point on the Earth's surface, allowing observation from the northern and southern hemispheres.

The SOFIA Observatory is based at NASA's Neil A. Armstrong Flight Research Center at LA/Palmdale Regional Airport, California, while the SOFIA Science Center is based out of NASA Ames Research Center, in Mountain View, California.

SOFIA uses a 2.5-meter reflector telescope, which has an oversized, 2.7 meter diameter primary mirror, as is common with most large infrared telescopes

The telescope looks out of a large door in the port side of the fuselage near the airplane's tail, and will initially carry nine instruments for infrared astronomy at wavelengths from 1–655 micrometres and high-speed optical astronomy at wavelengths from 0.3–1.1 micrometres.

Sun's burst confirms Voyager's entry into interstellar space

Thirty-seven years after it was launched, Voyager 1 is not only alive and kicking, but continuing its journey into the great void.

Lunched in 1977, the spacecraft has entered interstellar space, the first man-made object to do.

Interstellar space is the region between the stars filled with a thin soup of charged particles, also known as plasma.

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NASA said last September that Voyager 1 might have left the sun's heliosphere and entered interstellar space in 2012. Normally, interstellar space is like a quiet lake

When our sun has a burst, it sends a shock wave outward that reaches Voyager about a year later. The wave causes the plasma surrounding the spacecraft to sing.

NASA said three such waves had reached Voyager 1 since it entered interstellar space in 2012.

The first was too small to be noticed when it occurred and was only discovered later, but the second was clearly registered by the spacecraft's cosmic ray instrument in March 2013.

Thanks to the second wave, the mission team acquired evidence that Voyager had been flying for more than a year through plasma that was 40 times denser than measured before — a telltale indicator of interstellar space.

A third wave was registered in March this year, and data showed that the density of the plasma was similar to what was measured previously, confirming the spacecraft was in interstellar space.

Wireless monitoring of railway bridge health

Health is an issue not just for humans but for structures built by us, too. The periodic monitoring of the health of bridges is crucial, and if you can do this with a wireless system and remotely, it's even better. A collaboration of computer scientists and civil engineers from IIT Madras has developed exactly such a wireless health monitoring system suited to observe the fitness of railway bridges.

Usually the health of bridges is assessed visually, by actually examining whether any component has given way. However, it is known that vibration-based damage detection systems are much better than mere visual examination at assessing the propensity of bridges to fail. For instance, measuring the strain, or expansion of the limbs of the bridge when a train passes over it, can help in an early detection of flaws in the limb. In this case, the sensor measures the strain and the acceleration on the limb to which it is attached, even as the train passes over the bridge.

There are wired systems in use. But these are difficult to maintain, expensive and also take many days to set up. This is where the importance of the wireless health monitoring systems comes in.

The system consists of three units

A mote, which is responsible for collecting, processing and transmitting data (the measured acceleration and strain);

A head node, which is a computer close to the mote (about eight metres away), which receives this data and transmits it in bunches to a remote monitoring station and a remote server, which receives the data and analyses it.

In practice, there can be multiple motes placed on the railway bridge and they can all transmit their data to the head node.

By looking at the correlation of strains from spatially separated motes, the observer sitting at a remote location, even a hundred kilometres away, can predict whether the bridge is within its utility period.

The system was deployed at Nagari bridge in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh.

To maximise the usability of the wireless motes, they are designed to go to sleep when they are not in use. They are "woken up" by vibrations from trains whose speeds exceed 10 kmph. This is

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tied to the reason why Nagari Bridge was chosen for the deployment. Trains pass over this bridge at high speeds, such as 100 kmph, and all these trains would 'wake up' the mote. About 2,500 train passes have been observed so far, and the researchers want to record data from 5,000 train passes to validate the system.

With 50-100 sensors being needed to cover one such bridge, the cost of scaling up this would be huge if the wired systems, which cost Rs 50,000 a piece, were to be used. The cost per piece is reduced to less than 10 per cent of this with the wireless motes. The deployment of the system did come with major challenges.

NIESBUD Web Portal for the Unemployed Skilled Persons

The National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) is an apex training Institute under the aegis of Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprise and is engaged in providing training, consultancy, and other support system for promotion of entrepreneurship and employability. It has so far trained more than 2,70,000 persons which includes more than 2,600 foreign participants hailing from 25 countries of the world. During the last three years, NIESBUD has enhanced its capacity to train more than 1,00,000 persons per year and the same is expected to increase further. A need was felt to provide common platform to our trained persons, so that they could find job at least in the sector where they are available.

NIESBUD Naukri Portal

The NIESBUD Naukri portal (www.niesbudnaukri.com) is a dedicated web portal designed for the unemployed skilled persons. This is the first initiative taken for the benefits of skilled jobseekers who are not yet covered under conventional placement system. It is a common platform for Prospective Employer and Employees. The web portal would facilitate easy registration for all the prospective employees with their detailed background. The prospective employer would find it easy to search their requirement on the web portal. It is expected that all the persons so far trained by different organisations of Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise and who are still looking for job, would at least register on the website.

Child Bullying on Internet

There have been some media reports that children are becoming victims of depression owing to cyber bullying. As per the survey report "Cyber Crime -2013 – Kids (India)", published by the software company, Symantec about 18% of children have said that they have been victim of bullying on internet. It has been stated that the sample size of said survey is limited to 203 kids.

The Government has taken various steps in this regard which include:

- ✓ Ministry of Home Affairs has issued an Advisory on Preventing & combating Cyber Crime against Children wherein it was advised to States / Union Territories to specifically combat the crimes in the forms of cyber stalking, cyber bullying, child pornography and exposure to sexual material etc.
- ✓ The Information Technology Act, 2000 has provision for dealing with cyber crimes targeting children.

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- ✓ Government has implemented Information Security Education Awareness (ISEA) programme including the programs conducted by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Internet & Mobile Association of India (IMAI) and Data Security Council of India (DSCI) for security awareness and training in the area of information security. Specific workshops have been conducted for school children on making them aware about risks on internet and adopting safe internet browsing practices.
- ✓ A dedicated website for information security awareness (www.infosecawareness.in) has also been developed and content is available in English and Hindi language.
- ✓ A website (secureyourpc.in) for children, home users and elderly is available for safeguarding their computer systems and learning the risks on internet.

Cyberbullying/Child Bullying

"Cyberbullying" is when a child, preteen or teen is tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed or otherwise targeted by another child, preteen or teen using the Internet, interactive and digital technologies or mobile phones. It has to have a minor on both sides, or at least have been instigated by a minor against another minor. Once adults become involved, it is plain and simple cyber-harassment or cyberstalking. Adult cyber-harassment or cyberstalking is NEVER called cyberbullying.

It isn't when adult are trying to lure children into offline meetings, that is called sexual exploitation or luring by a sexual predator. But sometimes when a minor starts a cyberbullying campaign it involves sexual predators who are intrigued by the sexual harassment or even ads posted by the cyberbullying offering up the victim for sex.

The methods used are limited only by the child's imagination and access to technology. And the cyberbully one moment may become the victim the next. The kids often change roles, going from victim to bully and back again.

Children have killed each other and committed suicide after having been involved in a cyberbullying incident.

Cyberbullying is usually not a one time communication, unless it involves a death threat or a credible threat of serious bodily harm. Kids usually know it when they see it, while parents may be more worried about the lewd language used by the kids than the hurtful effect of rude and embarrassing posts.

It is done through:

- ✓ Instant Messaging/Text Messaging Harassment
- ✓ Stealing Passwords
- ✓ Blogs
- ✓ Web Sites
- ✓ Sending Pictures through E-mail and Cell Phones
- ✓ Internet Polling
- ✓ Interactive Gaming
- ✓ Sending Malicious Code
- ✓ Sending Porn and Other Junk E-Mail

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- ✓ Impersonation

Sindhu Sadhana

First Indigenously Built Research Ship

By the CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography

Sindhu Sadhana is a multi-disciplinary research vessel equipped with a number of laboratories for data collection, echo sounders, acoustic doppler, profiler, autonomous weather station, air quality monitors and a host of other world-class latest equipments in the field of ocean technology and ocean research.

SECURITY

Advanced version of BrahMos test-fired

An advanced version of the Indo-Russian supersonic cruise missile BrahMos was successfully test-fired from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur on the Odisha coast.

The developmental launch, in steep-dive mode for precision attack against targets behind mountain ridges, was carried out using a mobile autonomous launcher prepared by the third BrahMos regiment of the Army.

The flight-test of the missile, with a range of 290 km, was significant in that it validated the all-new indigenous software algorithm, resulting in “pinpoint accuracy against hidden land targets.

The two-stage missile is capable of delivering a conventional warhead of 200-300 kg.

The missile flew at Mach 2.8 in a textbook launch yielding cent per cent results.

The missile with a 290-km range validated indigenous software algorithm

Kolkata (D63)

The Indian Navy has got its largest-ever destroyer after the addition of the 163 metre-long vessel Kolkata (D63) to its arsenal.

Kolkata (D63) is India's first domestically built guided missile destroyer to feature a Western-style air search radar and stealth technology.

The warship, which is more versatile than the destroyers that preceded it, and with a displacement of around 7,500 tonnes, is scheduled to be commissioned by the end of August.

Kolkata has an all-round capability against enemy submarines, surface warships, anti-ship missiles and fighter aircraft.

It incorporates modern weapons and sensors having advanced information warfare suite, an auxiliary control system with sophisticated power distribution architecture and modular crew quarters, news website USNI News reported. Kolkata is the first in a new class (P15A) of guided missile destroyers.

INS Kamorta handed over to Navy

INS Kamorta, the first in series of anti-submarine corvettes indigenously built by Kolkata based Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd. (GRSE), was handed over to Indian Navy.

A corvette (sometimes corvet) is a small, maneuverable, lightly armed warship, originally smaller than a frigate (2,000+ tons) and larger than a coastal patrol craft or fast attack craft (500 tons or less), although many recent designs are approaching the size of smaller frigates (3,000 tons).

The significance of the warship is that it is the first Indian Naval warship ever built in the country with almost 90 per cent of indigenous content.

The warship is being built with indigenously developed special grade high-tensile steel produced by SAIL (Steel Authority of India).

The hull of the ship encompasses the bulk of sensors and weapon systems that are also indigenously manufactured by various Indian Industries.

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The corvette has a significant edge over existing platforms of other warships as it has a rail-less helicopter traversing system. It also has foldable hangar door.

Work on the warship started in 2006.

The handing over of the warship marks fruition of a significant project in India's pursuit for self-reliance in indigenous warship building.

Mishaps in the Indian Navy

A list of the mishaps in the Indian Navy in the last two years with details is as follows:

- ✓ Fire on board LCU L-38 on 11.03.2012
- ✓ Fire in engine room-INFAC 83 on 08.10.2012
- ✓ Fire in AFT battery pit onboard INS Shankush on 19.12.2012
- ✓ Fire onboard INS Tarasa on 14.07.2013
- ✓ Damage to Starboard Helo hanger and other fittings of INS Delhi by Yard 12701 (Kolkata) on 26.07.2013
- ✓ Explosion in INS Sindhurakshak on 14.08.2013
- ✓ Fire onboard INS Virat on 22.09.2013
- ✓ Fire onboard INS Konkan on 04.12.2013
- ✓ Scraping of INS Tarkash Ship side on SBW Knuckle on 19.12.2013
- ✓ Accident of INS Talwar with unlit fishing boat on 23.12.2013
- ✓ Crack on sonar dome of INS Betwa on 08.01.2014
- ✓ Suspended movement of INS Sindhughosh while securing to alongside berth on 17.01.2014

INDRA 2014

Ships of the Eastern Fleet of the Indian Navy, viz., Shivalik, Ranvijay and Shakti, under the Command of Rear Admiral Atul Kumar Jain, VSM, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet, arrived at Vladivostok today.

Indian Navy officials were welcomed by the representatives of the Russian Pacific Fleet Command, Diplomatic corps of India and the honour guard with the orchestra of the Pacific Fleet Headquarters on the 33rd pier of Vladivostok ship quay.

The major aims of the visit are strengthening and development of friendly relations between the navies of the two countries and conduct of joint Naval exercise INDRA 2014. In the exercise, the Russian Navy will be represented by guided-missile cruiser Varyag, destroyer Bystry, large landing craft Peresvet along with supply vessels (changes are possible). Air assets of the Pacific Fleet and Indian Navy will also be actively involved in the exercise.

The first Indo-Russian bilateral naval exercise was conducted in May 2003 on both the Western and Eastern seaboard of India.

Training and improvement of mutual maritime operations are the main aims of the exercise. The exercise will be spread over six days and will comprise harbour and sea phases. From 14 to 17 July, during mooring of the ships at Vladivostok, leadership of the two navies will undertake planning and training for joint operations. The sea phase of the exercise will be held from 17 to 19 July off Peter the Great Bay in the Sea of Japan. During the sea phase, ships of the two countries

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will engage in tactical manoeuvring, defence against un-alerted raids, cross deck helicopter operations, rendering assistance to a ship in distress, replenishment at sea, joint management of anti-submarine, anti-air and anti-surface warfare. Joint missile-artillery strikes on surface and air targets are also planned to be conducted during the exercise. The exercise will culminate with a farewell ceremony for IN ships at sea.

MISCELLANEOUS

Granville Austin

“The Indians’ sense of their rich cultural heritage, their record of professional achievements in the arts and sciences of the modern world, and their faith in their ability to govern themselves, combined to give them a national maturity that allowed a reasoned approach to the creation and working of government.”

- **Granville Austin (87)**

Renowned scholar of the Indian Constitution and Constituent Assembly (CA) debates, in his book *The Indian Constitution: Cornerstone of a Nation*.

Professor Austin passed away in Washington, D.C.

He leaves behind a treasured legacy of scholarly analysis on the Indian Constitution which he described as, “first and foremost a social document,” one that embodied the objectives of a “social revolution.”

His work provides the most comprehensive, insightful and balanced account of the work of the Constituent Assembly which drafted the Indian Constitution in the brief span of time from December, 1946 to December, 1949 — a time of strife, turbulence and ferment not merely in India but in the entire world.

Including a second book, *Working a Democratic Constitution: A History of Indian Experience*, Professor Austin’s definitive studies of constitution-making in India are said to have effectively displaced much of the pseudo-literature on the subject.

His writings have sometimes been cited by the Indian Supreme Court and are said to have significantly informed legal thinking, jurisprudence and the evolution of Indian constitutional law.

Born in 1927, Professor Austin lived in Norwich, Vermont, from the age of five. He went on to graduate from Dartmouth College with a BA in American Literature and then earned a doctorate in Modern Indian History from Oxford University.

In 2011, in recognition for his writing on the framing and working of the Indian Constitution, Professor Austin was awarded a Padma Shri award, the fourth-highest civilian honour of India.

Significant contribution

The contribution of Granville Austin was of great significance to the democracy in the country.

His books are authoritative and rated very high in the legal world. These books, brought out after extensive research are referred [to] by Indian authors and are quoted even in some of the judgments of the Supreme Court.

Zohra Sehgal

Smt. Zohra Sehgal was a veteran actress, theatre artist and TV personality. She delighted countless Bollywood and Hollywood film watchers by her memorable acting and unabated energy. She will always be remembered for her films like ‘Bhaji on the Beach’, ‘Cheeni Kum’, ‘Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam’, ‘Saawariya’ etc. Her singular contribution to Indian theatre and

cinema was recognized through a number of awards including Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan

CPWD turns 161 years

Central Public Works Department (CPWD) completed 160 years of service to the Nation

It is the principal engineering organization of the government.

In his inaugural address at the 160th Annual Day celebration of CPWD here today, President Shri Pranab Mukherjee urged the organization to evolve into 'a smarter, more dynamic and highly professional organisation' by benchmarking itself with the best in the world. Stating that 'it is understandable that old organizations are often burdened with out-dated practices', the President urged CPWD 'to focus on areas where innovation and modernization in the infrastructure sector can lead to accelerated economic development'. Shri Mukherjee suggested in this regard that CPWD should look at providing last mile connectivity of rural roads, health and educational infrastructure, water supply and sanitation. Referring to sustainable habitats as the need of the hour and energy-efficient building as the important strategy for sustainable urban development, the President asked CPWD to 'adopt innovative designs and practices for construction'. Shri Mukherjee emphasized the need for adopting state of the art procedures for maintenance of assets.

Gandhi peace prize 2013

Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2013 to Shri **Chandi Prasad Bhatt**

The Gandhi Peace Prize was instituted by the Government of India in 1995 on the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. This annual award is given to individuals and institutions for their contributions towards social, economic and political transformation through non-violence and other Gandhian methods.

Previous recipients of the award include Dr. Julius K. Nyerere, former President of Tanzania; Dr. A.T. Ariyaratne, Founder President of Sarvodaya Sharamadana Movement, Sri Lanka; Dr. Gerhard Fischer of Germany; Rama Krishna Mission; Baba Amte; Dr. Nelson Mandela and Grameen Bank of Bangladesh (jointly); Dr. John Hume, Ireland; Bhartiya Vidya Bhawan; Mr. Vaclav Havel, former President of Czechoslovakia and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, South Africa. It carries a plaque, citation and an amount of Rs. one crore.

About Chandi Prasad Bhatt

Chandi Prasad Bhatt was born 1934

Is an Indian Gandhian environmentalist and social activist.

Founded Dasholi Gram Swarajya Sangh (DGSS) in Gopeshwar in 1964

Became a mother-organization to the Chipko Movement in which he was one of the pioneers

He has been awarded Ramon Magsaysay Award for Community Leadership in 1982

Padma Bhushan in 2005

Today he is known for his work on subaltern social ecology, and considered one of India's first modern environmentalist.

Gandhi Shanti Puraskar of 2013 is given to Chandi Prasad Bhatt.

Questions

1. Discuss the need for having a policy for ozone gases.
2. What do you understand the uniform Civil Code? With reference to diverse religious practices in India do you find Implementation of uniform civil code in India a feasible option?
3. Why paid news is cause of concern in elections but not the advertisings used by politicians?
4. Examine the factors responsible for poor maternal health among women in India.
5. Differentiate between Permanent Court of Arbitration and International court of justice.
6. Discuss the purpose of United Nations Convention on Law of Sea. Explain the various areas in seas demarcated under the United Nations Convention on Law of Sea.
7. Recently United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan was in news; examine the India's justification of not recognizing Unmogip .
8. Discuss the functions of Insurance regulatory authority of India.
9. Write short notes on
 - a) SOFIA
 - b) Voyager 1
10. Discuss the Significance of BrahMos with reference to India's geopolitical positioning in subcontinent.
11. "Indian Constitution is first and foremost a social document, one that embodied the objectives of a social revolution". Comment