
PANORAMA.....

CURRENT EVENT ANALYSIS

June 22- 30, 2014

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ENVIRONMENT

New gecko species in Western Ghats

New species of lizard has been discovered in northwestern ghats Kaas plateau in Satara district (Maharashtra).

By researchers from Bangalore's National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) and Centre for Ecological Studies (CES)

Species has been named *Cnemaspis Giri*

After Dr. Varad Giri of Bombay Natural History Society

There are around 17 *Cnemaspis* species found in Maharashtra. Geckos of this genus have a unique rounded pupil, unlike the cat-like eyes of other geckos.

GEOGRAPHY

Monsoon

Likely in North India in 1st week of July: IMD

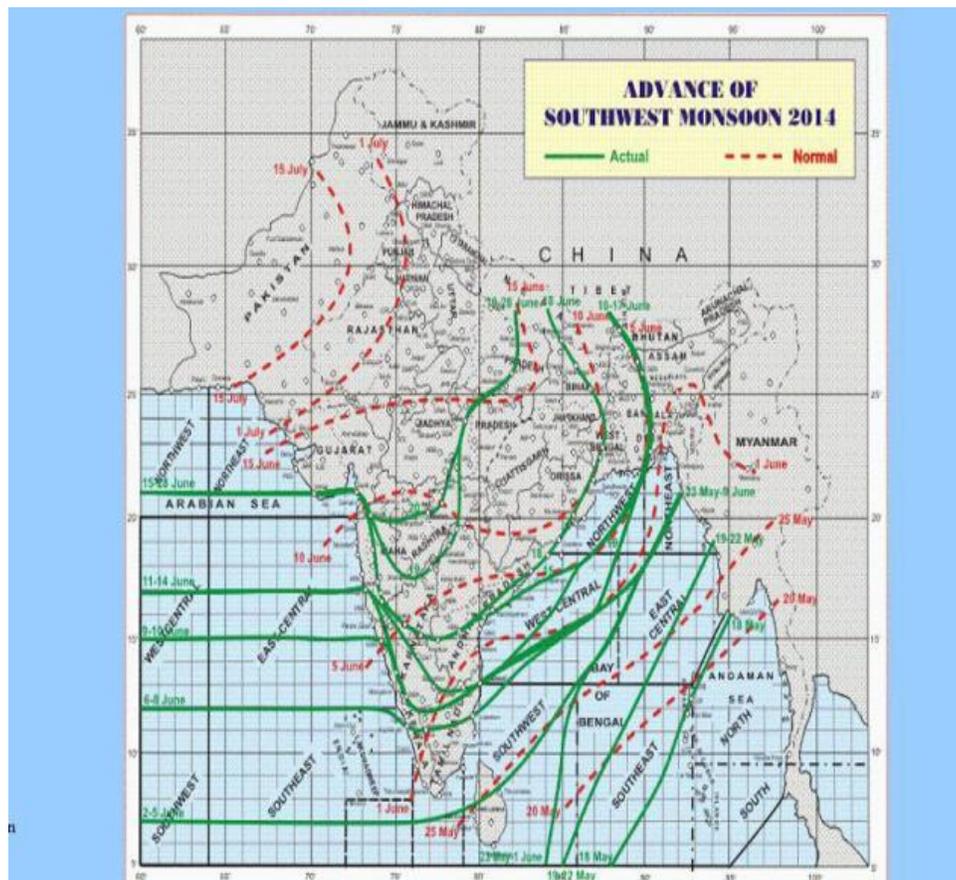
A western disturbance is likely to help advance the monsoon in the hilly parts of North India

In northern Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu division

With fresh monsoon over the west coast and the cyclonic circulation over north Bay of Bengal, the cumulative deficit might get narrowed down by a significant margin.

Rainfall may remain below normal over western parts of the country during the above period.

June national rain average 42% deficient



The national cumulative average of rainfall in June is deficient by a whopping 42 per cent

12th instance in the past 113 years when rain shortfall was over 30 per cent in the month

Gujarat and Rajasthan have over 80 per cent of deficient rain

The Northern Limit of Monsoon (NLM) continues to pass through Veraval, Surat, Nashik, Wasim, Damoh and Sultanpur. The western arm, passing through Veraval, Surat and Nasik has been stagnant for the 13th consecutive day.

Rainfall in the country has made marginal progress as compared to last week. It received 74.4 mm of rainfall from June 1 to June 25, as compared to normal precipitation of 124.5 mm, which is 40 per cent less.

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Cumulative rain deficit has been increasing in Konkan and Goa, which at present stands at 56 per cent short of monsoon rain. Rain deficiency in coastal Karnataka is 35 per cent and Kerala about 24 per cent but the present weather system could mitigate this deficit rain to some extent.

South, east and northeast India have received better rainfall as compared to other parts of the region.

The Southern Peninsula received 90.3 mm of rainfall as compared to normal rainfall of 126.0 mm, which is 28 per cent less while the East and northeast India received 198.8 mm of rainfall as compared to normal rainfall of 281.3 mm, 29 per cent less.

The cyclonic circulation near the coastal parts of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh will continue to bring good monsoon rain over Odisha and Andhra Pradesh and will engulf interiors of Telangana, south Odisha, Telangana and Vidarbha.

Northern Limit of Monsoon (NLM)

A line delineating the regions where the monsoon has advanced from the regions where the monsoon is yet to set in

Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area

The World Heritage Committee has inscribed the Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area (GHNPCA), India, on the World Heritage List on the basis of criterion (x) of UNESCO Guidelines.

The Criterion X is "To contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation."

The Great Himalayan National Park (GHNP) is located in the Kullu District of Himachal Pradesh, India.

The concept of environmental conservation in the Kullu Valley is very ancient. The names of many places in this valley commemorate saints who came here to meditate in the great sanctuary of Himalayas. Some of these sanctuaries are still preserved as sacred groves of trees.

The Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area (GHNPCA) has following Wildlife Sanctuaries:

- ✓ GHNP (754.4 sq km)
- ✓ Sainj (90 sq km)
- ✓ Tirthan (61 sq km)

The 905.40 sq km GHNPCA includes the upper mountain glacial and snow melt water source origins of the westerly flowing JiwaNal, Sainj and Tirthan Rivers and the north-westerly flowing Parvati River.

Situated at the confluence of Oriental and Palaeartic realms, GHNP provides a unique opportunity for the species from both biogeographic regions to thrive, disperse and evolve. GHNPCA is home to several Rare and Threatened species including the Western Tragopan, Chir Pheasant, Snow Leopard, Himalayan Musk Deer, Asiatic Black Bear, Himalayan Tahr, Blue Sheep and Serow. Some 25 Threatened IUCN Red-listed plant species are recorded from the park. The GHNP has more than 35 peaks of greater than 5000m and two greater than 6000m

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which taken together are arguably more exceptional than a few isolated higher peaks in the region. The boundaries of GHNP are also contiguous with the recently established (2010) Khirganga National Park (710 sq km), the Pin Valley National Park (675 sq km) in Trans-Himalaya, Rupi-Bhabha Wildlife Sanctuary (503 sq km) in Sutlej watershed and Kanawar Wildlife Sanctuary (61 sq km). Together these four protected areas (PAs) add 1,949 sq km to the area around GHNP and its buffer zone, making the total contiguous protected area associated with the nominated property approximately 2,854.4 sq km not including the Ecozone. GHNP inscription would serve to expedite integration of other PAs into a huge GHNP Conservation Area of ca. 2850 km².

POLITY – GOVERNANCE

Three judges appointed to Supreme Court

President appointed the Chief Justices of Calcutta and Orissa High Courts, Arun Mishra and Adarsh Kumar Goel respectively, and senior lawyer Rohinton Nariman as Supreme Court judges.

Strength of judges in the court will go up to 28

This is against sanctioned strength of 31

Deadline for National Food Security Act

Centre extended the deadline by three months by which States should roll out National Food Security Act

Act provides for distribution of concessional foodgrains to 75 per cent of identified beneficiaries.

Under the Act, States were given time till July 4 to implement the Act

So far only five states have begun to roll out the scheme while six others are in the process.

The allocation of foodgrains to all States will continue on the basis of the Targeted Public Distribution System till they switch to the new dispensation under the Act.

No licence for non-battlefield equipment

The government has clarified that licences won't be required for manufacturing items for the defence sector except those used in the battleground such as tanks and warships.

To attract more investments in the sector

The government had open Defence sector to the private sector during the tenure of the previous National Democratic Alliance government in 2001 and approved six licences in 2002 following an amended notification. As a result, five licences were granted to Larsen and Toubro and one to Mahindra and Mahindra.

It is clarified that **dual-use items**, having military as well as civilian applications, other than those specially mentioned in the list, would also not require industrial license for defence angle.

The government has already asked private sector entrants into the Defence sector to set up foolproof security systems on the basis of those at government ordnance factories.

SOCIAL ISSUES

Kanyashree Prakalpa

Kanyashree Prakalpa is a West Bengal government scheme. Following are salient features:

- ✓ Provide scholarship to girls from economically-backward backgrounds
- ✓ It is a conditional cash transfer scheme for school girls
- ✓ Its objective is to ensure the education of girls and thereby preventing forced child marriage.
- ✓ Under the scheme, the government provides an annual scholarship of Rs. 500 to girls between 12 and 18 years (class eight to class 12) to continue with their studies, provided they are unmarried.
- ✓ A one-time grant of Rs.25,000 is also provided to the girl, once she reaches the age of 18, to pursue higher studies.
- ✓ The scheme would address the issue of trafficking of young girls.

Scheme was lauded by United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) and UNICEF.

State representatives have been invited to the Girl Summit 2014 in London, in June, and to talk about the scheme to a global audience.

UNICEF has provided technical assistance to the scheme and is aiding the State in its evaluation and monitoring processes.

In an attempt to mark the scheme and increase awareness, the State had announced August 14 as Kanyashree Divas.

Women harassment: Innovative response

Vadodara police have started a new initiative of selling shock torches to women to empower them against molesters.

The torch won't cause a major injury, but the shock would be strong enough to give a good jolt. You just have to press a button. It is non-lethal.

The torches would be sold outside schools and colleges to girls and women in the seven police districts of the Range, namely Vadodara, Chhota Udepur, Baruch, Narmada, Godhra, Mahisagar and Dahod.

Some cost will be born by Suraksha Setu Society — an initiative of the Gujarat police — which gives grants for various police drives.

GAIL pipeline blast

Toll in GAIL pipeline fire tragedy in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh rose to 16.

Leaking gas pipeline of GAIL caught fire and triggered a blast at Nagaram village in the coastal district, about 560 km from Hyderabad.

The leaping flames from the pipeline passing through the village in Mamidikuduru mandal quickly swept through nearby houses and coconut plantations, leaving behind a trail of destruction.

Leaking gas had enveloped some areas of the village and the tragedy occurred when a tea shop vendor lit up a stove, setting off a blast.

Every Newborn Action Plan

Every Newborn Action Plan approved in World Health Assembly by World Health Organisation.

A new global action was launched in the Partner's Forum in Johannesburg to bring in significant new financing, policy and service delivery commitments that could save the lives of newborns and mothers.

About three million women and newborns die every year from preventable and treatable conditions like prematurity, complications around birth and severe infections.

All the 194 countries that attended the World Health Assembly last month agreed to a commitment to support and implement measures that would save these lives.

The WHO remains committed to support countries and work with partners as the plan gets implemented and to the accountability agenda, which included the reporting on progress achieved every year until 2030.

While the number of maternal and newborn (0-27 days) deaths has shrunk significantly over the last two decades, the number of newborn deaths and still birth has been depressingly high. Nearly three million (2.9 million to be precise) newborn deaths are still seen, and another 2.6 million are stillborn globally every year.

At 779,000, India has the highest neonatal deaths in the world, and 56 per cent of all under-five year deaths in India happen during the neonatal period.

That newborn death now accounts for 44 per cent of all under-5 deaths worldwide every year is a poignant reminder of the unfinished work. Also, babies face the greatest risk of dying during the first 24 hours. First day of birth is the most risky period for both mother and newborn. In India, over 300,000 newborns deaths take place in the first 24 hours, the highest for any country. These deaths account for 29 per cent of the global total.

If death on the first day contributes to around half of world's newborn deaths annually, 50 per cent of 290,000 maternal deaths occurring each year across the world is also during the first day of delivery. Clearly, reductions in neonatal mortality have lagged behind those of maternal, infant, and child mortality due to less attention and investment.

It is to prevent these deaths that 40 commitments have been made by the private sector, few countries, philanthropic institutions and NGOs. The private sector, which is supporting the "Every Woman Every Child" movement, is responsible for supporting 17 of the 40 commitments.

Johnson & Johnson will through its \$30 million commitment "work with partners to implement evidence-based interventions and innovative technologies designed to improve the health-knowledge of pregnant women and mothers."

Laerdal has made a financial commitment of \$35-50 million through 2017 "to develop and provide on a non-profit basis, innovative products and programs for high-interventions for saving lives at birth

The Well Being Foundation, Novartis, Pfizer, McCann Health, Merck & Co are among others who have made financial commitment from the private sector.

The Islamic Development Bank has a made a huge \$90 million commitment to address one of the most neglected but very important areas – building midwifery schools, training health workers in

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maternal and neonatal care and establishing health information system, including birth registration. On the sub-Saharan countries would stand to benefit.

Five governments – Bolivia, Cameroon, Malawi, the United States and Oman -- have made commitments.

Four philanthropic institutions and other funders have pledged their support. These institutions are: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Sanofi Espoir Foundation, The Children's Investment Fund Foundation and The Wellbeing Foundation.

Of the several non-governmental organisations, the Family Planning Association of India (FPA India) is one of them. It commits to promote and advocate for universal access to sexual and reproductive health services by continuing to serve the poor, marginalized, socially excluded, and the underserved.

MDG 4 & 5

While a majority of low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) are struggling to meet the Millennium Development Goal 4 and 5 of reducing child mortality and improving maternal health, in 2012 ten countries with similar resources were on the “fast-track” of achieving the targets, notes a WHO report ‘Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health’.

These countries— Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Lao PDR, Nepal, Peru, Rwanda, and Vietnam — “deployed tailored strategies and adapted quickly to change” to achieve the desired results. “Each country had a unique pathway but had certain commonalities like family planning and immunization.

The reason why these 10 countries are doing better than other low- and middle income countries turns the spotlight on the core issue – it was not the amount of money they spent but how they spent it that mattered. These countries identified evidence-based high-impact interventions like immunisation, family planning and quality care at the time of birth. And these were carried out the interventions in a novel way and adapted to suit the particular country's conditions.

As a result, the immunisation coverage shot up from 2 per cent to 85 per cent between 1985 and 2010. They have a very good monitoring system. It needs to focus on the results of investment and not just how much money is put in. These countries have, a triple planning — investment, investing to sustain progress and identifying the challenges that require change.

These countries did work outside health as well, like girl's education; women's participation in labour force and politics; rapid increase in safer water availability and sanitation; and economic development and good governance. All the 10 countries are doing better than other countries in all these areas. We need combined progress in all areas, not just health. That's the challenge for India.

China made universal primary education compulsory in 2000. It made nine years education compulsory for eliminating illiteracy among young people. And in 2011, the net enrolment of primary school-age children was 99.8 per cent. It achieved universal education in 2011, much ahead of 2015. So the strongest population point is China. It achieved 99.8 per cent enrolment of children although the population is 1.37 billion, dismissing the excuse of a large population in India standing in the way of vastly and quickly improving the health indicators.

Between 1990 and 2013, India reduced maternal mortality by 65 per cent (569 to 190 per 100,000 live births). But it still accounts for 17 per cent (50,000) of the global maternal deaths, the highest in the world. Though it brought down under-five mortality from 2.5 million to 1.4 million between 2001 and 2012, 22 per cent (the highest in the world) of deaths took place in India in 2012. Of the three million neonatal (0-27 days) deaths in 2012, 779,000 happened in India. Also, globally there were 2.6 million stillbirths the same year, of which 600,000 were in India.

In the case of Nepal, increased provision of maternal and neonatal services like free delivery scheme and cash incentives for antenatal care visits have ensured that women deliver safely and babies have a better start to life. The number of skilled birth attendance has shot up from less than 10 per cent in 2001 to 36 per cent in 2011.

Many government strategies and policies connected to safer motherhood, neonatal health, nutrition and gender are underpinned by principles of human rights. Reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health have become a political priority. Between 1991 and 2011, Nepal witnessed a 66 per cent reduction in under-five mortality (from 162 to 54 per 1,000 live births) and 80 per cent reduction in maternal mortality (from 850 to 170 per 100,000 live births). Nepal has shown that political instability is not a limiting factor.

There is greater participation and ownership by community and female health volunteers in Nepal.

In the case of Bangladesh, the co-ordinated efforts by community workers and NGOs helped save the lives of many under-five children. In Bangladesh and Nepal somebody takes leadership.. The only problem in India is that it needs a critical mass. There are hundreds of NGOs but all do different things.

The widespread use of mobile phone technology is playing a pivotal role in strengthening the health system in Bangladesh. Collection of real-time data on pregnant women and under-five children, text messages offering advice to registered pregnant women are sent out every week and online registration of births and deaths are driven by information and communication technology.

The use of mobile phones has increased birth registration in Bangladesh from 10 per cent in 2006 to 50 per cent in 2009. The country is striving to make government health services fully digital by 2016; rural areas, where 75 per cent of the population lives, got connected by wireless broadband in 2012.

Between 1990 and 2011, Bangladesh witnessed a 65 per cent reduction in under-five mortality (from 151 to 53 per 1,000 live births) and 66 per cent fall in maternal mortality (from 574 to 194 per 100,000 live births).

Bangladesh and Vietnam adopted economic programmes to employ women. Women have more money then it can help take decisions.

Stressing on the importance of breast feeding, an example is of Cambodia where it increased from 11 per cent in 2000 to 74 per cent in 2010. There was a campaign focussed on media awareness, including TV soap operas.

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In many countries, breast feeding not being done as recommended is not unusual. Early initiation in facilities immediately after birth and exclusive breast feeding for first six months are an issue.

33% quota for women in police force in Gujarat

In a pioneering move, Gujarat Chief Minister announced 33 per cent reservation for women in the police force.

The path-breaking initiative comes at a time when crime against women is on the rise in several states and is under media spotlight following alleged rape and murder of two minor girls in Badaun in Uttar Pradesh.

Gujarat will be the first state in India to implement 33 per cent reservation for women in the police force.

The sanctioned posts in Gujarat Police are around 60,000, around 10,000 more than its present strength. There are around 2500 policewomen in the State at present. If the government manages to fill all 33 per cent posts for women against the sanctioned strength, the State would have around 19,800 women in the force.

Muslim, Maratha quotas in Maharashtra

Maharashtra cleared 16 per cent reservation for the Maratha community and 5 per cent reservation for Muslims.

The State currently has 52 per cent reservation in government jobs and educational institutions. This decision will raise the quota limit to 73 per cent.

The Supreme Court had earlier capped quotas at 50 per cent.

Malaria in Tripura

The malaria situation in Tripura is grim.

The death toll reached 51 with three more people. Around 25,000 people are admitted. State Health and Family Welfare department confirmed deficiency of Tablet ACT-AL, a vital medicine for treatment.

Dhalai District has been the worst affected in the outbreak from where most of the deaths were reported.

INDIA AND WORLD

Russia, China and India as emerging energy alliance

Russia has proposed giant gas pipeline to China and could be extended to India

May lead to triangular energy partnership among three core members of the Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa (BRICS) grouping

Construction of a gas pipeline from Russia to India would be one of the largest infrastructure projects.

This will be a result of Russia's strategic shift towards the East after Ukrainian crisis.

Russia has already identified China as one of its core partners — its inclination evident in the \$ 400 billion gas deal that it has signed with Beijing.

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| <p>MOSCOW EXPRESSES WILLINGNESS TO EXTEND THE PROPOSED RUSSIA-CHINA GAS PIPELINE TO INDIA</p> | |
| <p>IN THE PIPELINE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage set for a triangular energy partnership among three core members of BRICS grouping • Russian foreign policy takes a decisive eastward turn after the Ukrainian crisis • Russia leveraging its position as global energy supplier to reinforce new strategic relationship with China and India • India, Russia to take defence cooperation to a "higher level" | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Working Group on Strategic Issues formed to focus on "strategic projects" |

Bus Service between Imphal and Mandalay

A MoU is to be finalized for cross border bus service between India (Imphal) and Myanmar (Mandalay).

With a focus on strengthening relations and increasing people to people contact with neighboring countries, the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has been in discussion with the Transport Planning Department of the Ministry of Rail Transportation of Myanmar for introducing cross border bus service from Imphal (Manipur) to Mandalay (Myanmar).

India, Pakistan revive back channel talks

Pakistan's Ambassador to the U.S., Jalil Abbas Jilani, said India and Pakistan had reopened back-channel talks following a meeting between the Prime Ministers in New Delhi.

Pakistan desired an uninterrupted peace process with India that would address the causes of all outstanding disputes and not just symptoms.

Mr. Jilani said there had been proposals to develop a serious mechanism to counter terrorism, adding that revival of the peace process would be the first step towards creating a cooperative and tension-free relationship between the two countries.

The back-channel talks intend to address terrorism and other issues.

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Back Channel Talks A means by which actions, especially in government and diplomacy, are carried out secretly rather than through regular avenues of communication.

U.S. A and India on Intellectual Property Rights

American pharma companies favour dialogue with India and not confrontation to address concerns on key issues of protection of intellectual property (IP) and clinical trials.

Arguing that global pharma companies share the same goal of patient first with that of the Indian government

At U.S.-India BioPharma and Healthcare Summit organised by USA-India Chamber of Commerce.

While asserting there can be no compromise on IP protection issues, executives from top U.S. pharma companies said that they were willing to work with India like — tier pricing — to come out with a solution, which is acceptable to both parties.

China invites India to join Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

China has invited India to participate in Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank is China's brainchild to steer development along the ancient "silk route" free from the influence of western-backed lenders such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB)

China had sought India's participation during the visit to New Delhi by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi soon after the Modi government assumed office.

It is clear that the Chinese will not tie the lending from the investment bank to non-economic issues, such as human rights, which western-backed lenders have often leveraged as instruments of political influence and control.

India is yet to make up its mind on Beijing's offer, though partnership in the bank could, eventually, facilitate New Delhi's access to infrastructural funding.

There are major geopolitical implications in China's offer as there is little doubt that Beijing now views India as a potential partner in an interlocking politico-economic network of neighbouring countries.

India's entry into SCO

If India opens its doors to Chinese investments, especially in the field of infrastructure, after taking care of the sensitivities in the security arena, New Delhi's entry into the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) could become the prize. India, along with Pakistan and Iran, has observer status in the SCO, a China and Russia-led grouping, whose role would be central in defining the balance of economic and political power in Eurasia.

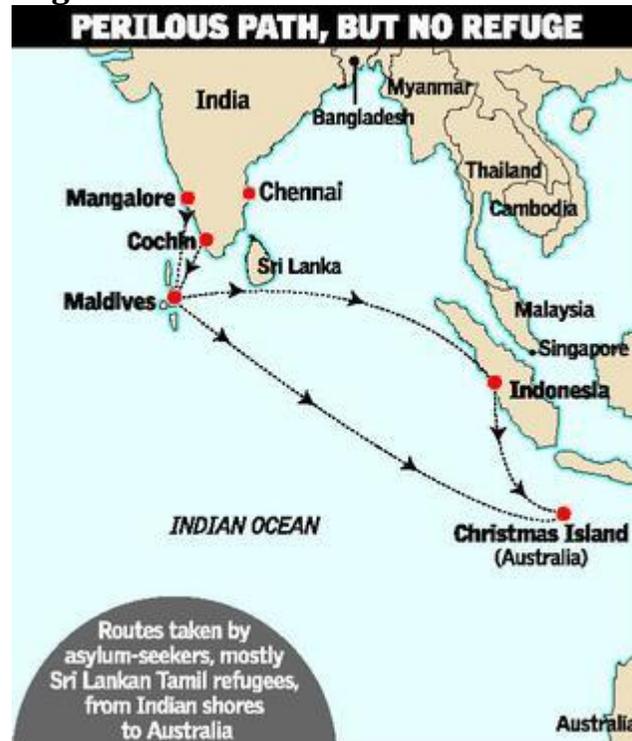
Analysts pointed out that following the events in Libya, Syria and Ukraine, China and Russia have reinforced their geopolitical connections, evident in the signing of a \$400-billion gas pipeline deal. But New Delhi, too, could be part of this expanding arrangement, for visiting Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitri Rogozin said in New Delhi earlier this month that the extension of this pipeline to India would be "one of the largest infrastructure projects that could be conceived".

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The *Financial Times* is reporting that 22 countries, including some of the wealthy monarchies of West Asia, have so far shown an interest in China's bold push to establish the AIIB, with a registered capital of \$100 billion. The fund is sizeable enough to compete with the ADB, which runs on a capital of \$165 billion and is dominated by Japan and the United States.

An ADB study has projected that Asia would require an annual funding of \$800 billion till 2020 for developing infrastructure, offering China enough financial leg room to exercise its soft power in its neighbourhood.

Sri Lankan Tamil refugees Crisis



“We are refugees. We come from Sri Lanka, we stayed in India and we are unable to live there. That’s why we are coming to Australia”: passenger of boat carrying refugees

A boat with 153 refugees from Sri Lanka on board is in trouble 250 km from Christmas Island. Passengers have spoken to reporters in Australia, saying the boat left from India two weeks ago and contains 32 women and 37 children and they are mostly Tamils from Sri Lanka.

The Australian government has vowed to stop boats carrying asylum seekers from reaching its territory, which includes Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean.

Several boats have been towed back to Indonesia in the past six months, but it was not clear whether this boat could be towed to Indonesia because it did not originate there.

Prime Minister of Australia, Tony Abbott told reporters on Saturday that the government would act in accordance with its existing policy.

People who arrive by boat without visas are taken to detention centres on Nauru and Papua New Guinea’s Manus Island. No boat carrying refugees has reached Australia since December 19, 2013.

NAPS units to go under IAEA safeguards by end of 2014

Putting its 14 civilian nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards is part of a commitment made under India-U.S. nuclear deal.

India will complete the process of putting its 14 civilian nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards by the end of 2014 as part of a commitment made under the India-U.S. nuclear deal.

The Narora Atomic Power Station (NAPS) Unit I and II are thus set to go under IAEA safeguards. The 220MW Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR) are in Bulandshahr district of Uttar Pradesh. NAPS I was commissioned in January 1991, while NAPS II became operational in July 1992.

In its July 2008 communication to IAEA entitled, "Implementation of the India-United States Joint Statement of July 18, 2005: India's Separation Plan", it had listed the 14 reactors which would be brought under IAEA safeguards from 2006 to 2014. The separation plan clearly demarcated facilities for civilian and military purpose.

The Additional Protocol, signed between India and IAEA on March 15, 2009, involves a high degree of scrutiny of nuclear facilities, including its reactors and fuel cycle sites, by the inspectors of the atomic energy body.

India has already listed its sites as agreed between the two countries. These includes six facilities — two Uranium Oxide Plants, Ceramic Fuel Fabrication Plant, Enriched Uranium Oxide Plant, enriched fuel fabrication plant and Gadolinia facility — in the Nuclear Fuel Complex in Hyderabad, which were put under safeguards in October, 2009.

Units I and II and two more facilities — the Away-From-Reactor fuel storage (December, 2012) and Nuclear Material Store (March, 2014) — in Tarapur in Maharashtra, units I-VI of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (RAPS), units I and II of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant in Tamil Nadu and Kakrapar Atomic Power Station in Gujarat are also under IAEA safeguards. All these reactors were placed under safeguards in October 2009.

Interestingly, India conveyed to the international atomic watchdog last week that it had ratified the Additional Protocol, mandatory under the India-U.S. civilian nuclear cooperation deal. With this, India has become more open to international checks.

The move will help facilitate multiple entries for IAEA inspectors for conducting the necessary inspections.

| EXPANDING TRANSPARENCY | |
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| MILESTONES | WHAT IT MEANS |
| Aug 1, 2008 Pact reached to place Indian civilian nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhances transparency of India's civilian nuclear infrastructure |
| Oct 10, 2008 Indo-U.S. civil nuclear deal inked | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smoothens ties with the U.S. ahead of Modi's visit to New York, Washington in Sept. Makes import of nuclear power equipment from diverse sources easier |
| Mar 15, 2009 Additional Protocol signed between India and IAEA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boosts India's chances of becoming a member of Nuclear Suppliers Group |
| June, 2014 Modi government ratifies the Additional Protocol | |
| SITES UNDER SCRUTINY | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Six facilities in the Nuclear Fuel Complex, Hyderabad Unit 1 and 2 and two more facilities in Tarapur, Maharashtra Units 1-6 of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Station Units 1 and 2 of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant Kakrapar Atomic Power Station | |

Singapore-India

Singapore's Foreign Affairs and Law Minister K. Shanmugam wanting to engage with the new leadership

Studying what are the priorities for the new government, while finding ways to elevate the India-Singapore bilateral relationship

Mr. Shanmugam will speak about urban planning, water and waste management issues, where Singaporean expertise may be of use in India's quest for renewing its city infrastructure, as also new ideas for strategic investment in infrastructure like the Mumbai port Singapore has contributed to.

Singapore is interested in helping India to build Smart Cities. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's theme of "smart cities"

Singapore is also India's highest source of FDI, investing approx \$ 6 billion here last year.

India and Bangladesh Land Border Pact

India is yet to ratify the Land Border Agreement (LBA) with Bangladesh that involves the exchange of about 17,000 acres for about 7,000 acres of land, which would put to rest a decades-old dispute.

During her visit, Ms. Swaraj is expected to talk about increasing power supply on the new transmission grid from Tripura to Bangladesh, bettering trade relations, as well as focussing on border management issues. While Indian forces have claimed Bangladeshi forces aren't doing enough to check illegal infiltration, officials in Dhaka say they are worried about the increase in civilian casualties from alleged firing by the BSF on the India-Bangladesh border.

ECONOMY

Level tax field for investors in bonds

SEBI Chairman U. K. Sinha has suggested uniform tax treatment for all investors, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

Government needed to come out with a detailed policy on the matter to remove the existing 'anomalies' in the bond market.

At present, tax rates vary for entities making investments in bonds.

Noting that there were 'certain anomalies', the SEBI chief said the level of withholding tax for an FII investing in infrastructure bonds was different from that of others.

The withholding tax is 5 per cent in some cases and 20 per cent in other cases.

Emphasising that procedure had been simplified for the corporate bond market, he said SEBI was in dialogue with industry to encourage them to come out with more issuances.

"... there have been some positive progress but a lot of ground needs to be covered. The matter is under consideration in the forum of regulators and the government. I am hopeful that some progress will come in that," Mr. Sinha said.

On corporate governance, the SEBI chief said the regulator had looked at all qualified financial statements in 700 instances. "The 700 such reports came to us through the stock exchanges and 400 such cases we have referred it for rectification... Now there is a pressure on corporates that somebody is effectively looking at the financial statements," he noted.

Responding to a query on sovereign wealth funds not showing much interest in government securities, he said the situation needed to be looked at for some more time.

At present, \$10 billion is the maximum investment limit allowed for entities such as sovereign wealth funds in government securities.

On e-voting facility for shareholders, Mr. Sinha said listed companies had to follow SEBI norms. Recently, the Corporate Affairs Ministry extended the time till December this year for companies to mandatorily have e-voting facility under the new Companies Act.

Norms for REITs

To give a boost to capital markets, SEBI has asked the government to provide clarity on tax benefits for new products such as REITs (Real Estate Investment Trusts), as also for Infrastructure Investment Trusts and for debt securities.

"SEBI will soon finalise norms for REITs, but is awaiting clarity on taxation issues," Mr. Sinha said, while adding that the regulator wanted such trusts to get tax pass-through status.

The regulator, he said, is close to framing new rules for Infrastructure Investment Trusts but there needed to be clarity on withholding taxation issues for such products.

These new products would allow investors to invest in specific products linked to real estate projects and infrastructure projects, while providing necessary safeguards.

Besides, these products would help the corporates raise significant amounts of capital for their projects.

Panorama

The SEBI Chairman further said that there was a need to work on increasing the base of corporate bonds.

He also stressed on the need to encourage SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises) to get listed and get benefited from the capital markets.

At present, the listed SME market capitalisation in India stands at over Rs.7,500 crore, while 65 companies have got listed on SME Platform of exchanges.

About the new regulations, Mr. Sinha said that SEBI would soon put in place norms for crowdfunding, which would allow start-ups to tap new platforms to raise funds.

Besides, there are already norms in place for Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), such as venture capital and angel investors.

Ponzi scheme

Armed with powers given through an ordinance to take on investment frauds, Mr. Sinha said he hoped it would soon become a permanent law to ensure continued clampdown against illegal investment schemes.

Mayaram panel report on FDI

Foreign investment of 10 per cent or more in a listed company will now be treated as foreign direct investment (FDI) as the government has accepted the report of a committee on rationalising definitions of FDI and FII.

Government had accepted report of committee headed by Finance Secretary Arvind Mayaram.

It said an investor may be allowed to invest below 10 per cent and “this can be treated as FDI subject to the condition that the FDI stake is raised to 10 per cent or beyond within one year from the date of the first purchase”.

If the stake is not raised to 10 per cent or above, then the investment can be treated as portfolio investment.

Among various recommendations, the panel has suggested that foreign investment in an unlisted company, irrespective of the threshold limit, may be treated as FDI.

Foreign direct investment is subject to sectoral caps.

FDI reflects a lasting interest and long—term relationship, while under portfolio investment the relationship between the investor and the company remains largely anonymous, the report said.

It further said that any investment by way of equity shares, compulsorily convertible preference shares/debentures less than 10 per cent should be treated as Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI).

FPI includes portfolio investors like foreign institutional investors (FIIs) and qualified foreign investors (QFIs).

Regarding NRI investors, it said special privileges are also available to them in terms of the Overseas Citizenship Act and the provision to make ‘non—repatriable’ investments.

It has also suggested a relook at the Foreign Venture Capital Investors (FVCI) scheme as these investors are basically in the nature of FDI.

Panorama

Mayaram panel

The Government of India had constituted a Committee for rationalising the definition of FDI and FII as per the announcement of the then Union Finance Minister during the Budget Speech 2013-14. In order to remove the ambiguity that prevails on what is Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and what is Foreign Institutional Investment (FII), to follow the international practice and lay down a broad principle that, where an investor has a stake of 10 percent or less in a company, it will be treated as FII and, where an investor has a stake of more than 10 percent, it will be treated as FDI.

The Committee has now submitted its report which has been accepted by the Government.

Major features of the report are as follows:

The core recommendation of the committee is that it should be the endeavour to simplify the classification of foreign investment and enable basically two classes of foreign investors in the long run viz. Portfolio Investors and FDI Investors, and at best carve outs therein for NRIs, in view of their special status.

The committee adopted the conceptual framework that Foreign Direct investment (FDI) is characterised by a lasting interest i.e. existence of a long term relationship, significant degree of influence. Normally, ownership of 10 percent or more of the ordinary shares OR voting power signifies this relationship and it involves both initial and subsequent transactions. On the other hand Portfolio Investment is characterised by the largely anonymous relationship between the issuers and holders, and the degree of trading liquidity in the instruments. Further it covers, but is not limited to securities traded on organized or other financial markets.

The Committee has recommended the merger of the FII and Qualified Foreign Investors (QFI) regimes under the new "Foreign Portfolio Investors" (FPI) regime, and this has been notified by SEBI and RBI in their respective regulations.

The FPI regime will be subject to the prevailing SEBI (SAST) Regulations to prevent persons acting in concert. There is no change proposed in the monitoring mechanism. However, it has been proposed in addition, that the onus of adherence to the aggregate FPI limit will also be cast on the Investee Company, which can be asked to get the compliance to the foreign investment limit verified by the Statutory Auditor on a half-yearly basis.

Foreign investment of 10 percent or more through eligible instruments made in an Indian listed company would be treated as FDI. All existing foreign investments below the threshold limit made under the FDI Route shall however, continue to be treated as FDI. Foreign Investment in an unlisted company irrespective of threshold limit may be treated as FDI. An investor may be allowed to invest below the 10 percent threshold and this can be treated as FDI subject to the condition that the FDI stake is raised to 10 percent or beyond within one year from the date of the first purchase. The obligation to do so will fall on the company. If the stake is not raised to 10% or above, then the investment shall be treated as portfolio investment. In case an existing FDI falls to a level below 10 percent, it can continue to be treated as FDI, without an obligation to restore it to 10% or more. In a particular company, an investor can hold the investments either under the FPI route or under the FDI route, but not both.

Panorama

A relook at the Foreign Venture Capital Investors (FVCI) scheme is called for since these investors are basically in the nature of FDI.

Regarding NRI investors, they have a special place in the foreign investment regime since NRI funds flow even through deposits and remittances. Special privileges are also available to NRIs in terms of the Overseas Citizenship Act and the provision to make „non-repatriable” investments. This position would remain and to reinforce the same, it may be further examined if non-repatriable investment by an NRI can be treated as “domestic” as also an enabling mechanism to enable such investment to come through via a corporate form.

Foreign portfolio investors to hedge currency risk

Reserve Bank of India has allowed foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) and domestic players to hedge their currency risk without any underlying exposure up to \$10 million.

The central bank has also set a limit of \$10 million on banks’ proprietary positions in the exchange traded currency futures.

In July last year, at the peak of the rupee crisis, the RBI had barred all banks from taking any proprietary positions in the currency futures market. FPIs can take position — both long (bought) as well as short (sold) — in foreign currency up to \$10 million or equivalent per exchange without having to establish existence of any underlying exposure. The limit will be both day-end as well as intra-day, it said in a notification.

FPIs will be able to hedge the currency risk arising out of the market value of their exposure to Indian debt and equity securities. “Such investors can participate in the currency futures/exchange traded options market through any registered or recognised trading member of the exchange concerned,” the RBI said.

The RBI said the responsibility of ensuring the existence of the underlying exposure will rest with the foreign investor.

Similarly, the RBI said domestic participants will be allowed to take a long as well as short position up to \$10 million per exchange without having to establish the existence of any underlying exposure. “For the purpose of convenience, exchanges may prescribe a fixed limit for the contracts in currencies other than US dollar such that the limit is within the equivalent of \$10 million,” it said.

The RBI said domestic participants who want to take a position exceeding \$ 10 million in the ETCD (exchange traded currency derivative market) market will have to establish the existence of an underlying exposure.

Foreign portfolio investment is the entry of funds into a country where foreigners make purchases in the country’s stock and bond markets, sometimes for speculation.

It is a usually short term investment (sometimes less than a year, or with involvement in the management of the company), as opposed to the longer term Foreign Direct Investment partnership (possibly through joint venture), involving transfer of technology and “know-how”.

For example, Ford Motor Company may invest in a manufacturing plant in Mexico, yet not be in direct control of its affairs.

Panorama

Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI): passive holdings of securities and other financial assets, which do NOT entail active management or control of the securities's issuer. FPI is positively influenced by high rates of return and reduction of risk through geographic diversification. The return on FPI is normally in the form of interest payments or non-voting dividends.

Govt says no to CAs on both audit, management panels of banks

In a bid to strengthen corporate governance in banks, the government has decided that chartered accountants who are a part of the management committee of banks will not sit on the bank's audit committee.

According to the order issued by the department of financial services, "Directors appointed under Section 9(3) (g) and (h) of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertaking) Act, 1970, who are on management committee/ credit approval committee, shall not be on the audit committee in any capacity."

Under the Section, the Centre has to nominate one director who has been a ca for not less than 15 years.

PJ Nayak committee had said in its report that chartered accountant-directors face special conflict of interest and only those CAs would remain available for appointments as directors who have not obtained any assignments under any bank, thus raising a very real possibility of persons with hardly any market acceptability and/or competence finding their way by default on the Boards.

A council member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), the regulator for the profession, who requested anonymity, said the move will help in improving oversight in banks and strengthen corporate governance. "Not having the same member on both the boards will ensure independence," he said.

The management committee/credit approval committee in banks are responsible for sanctioning of credit proposals, bringing about a compromise on the settlement of loans, taking a call on write-off proposals among others.

The audit committee is responsible for improving the financial reporting practices. It is a medium through which the Board exercises better control.

The department's order is a departure from its 2008 position when it had reviewed rbi guidelines on composition of audit committee and had directed banks to include non-official chartered accountant-director appointed under Section 9(3)(g) in the audit committee of the board of the banks.

India 58th: Foreign money lying with Swiss banks

India has moved up to 58th rank in terms of foreign money lying with Swiss banks, but it accounts for a meagre 0.15 per cent of an estimated \$1.6 trillion total global wealth held in Switzerland's banking system.

The U.K. has retained its top position with highest share of close to 20 per cent of global wealth in Swiss banking system, followed by the U.S., West Indies, Germany and Guernsey in the top-five in terms of exposure to banks in Switzerland.

Panorama

Indian money in Swiss banks rose by 43 per cent during 2013 to close to Rs. 14,000 crore (2.03 billion Swiss francs), pushing its global ranking up from 70th at the end of 2012.

The rankings are based on the direct client exposure as also the funds held through 'fiduciaries' or wealth managers with a total of 283 banks in Switzerland.

India now ranks higher than Pakistan, whose position has slipped from 69th earlier to 74th now, as its total exposure to Swiss banks declined from 1.44 billion Swiss francs at the end of 2012 to 1.23 billion Swiss francs in 2013.

Reform Energy Sector

Godman Sachs Report

'REFORM ENERGY SECTOR TO SUSTAIN GROWTH MOMENTUM'

WITH THE NEW government training its focus on kickstarting growth and the investment cycle, the question of energy supply to fuel this growth has become paramount.

DRIVEN BY GREATER industrialisation, electrification and urbanisation, India's energy imports could increase to \$230 billion by FY23 from the \$120 billion currently, says a report by Goldman Sachs Research.

ENERGY IMPORTS are set to decline gradually from 6.3% of GDP to 4.9% of GDP, mainly on the back of subdued oil prices and a favourable climate for thermal coal prices. The report forecasts the share of oil to drop and that of coal and natural gas to go up in the energy basket.

GIVEN THE HUGE shortage of energy, India needs to aim at conservation and removing inefficiencies while pursuing reforms, which can reduce imports. While the global average is that 1 unit of energy input produces 4.3 units of energy, India only produces 2.8 units for a unit input, the report says.

ACCORDING TO GOLDMAN SACHS, THERE ARE CRITICAL REFORM IMPERATIVES INDIA NEEDS TO UNDERTAKE:

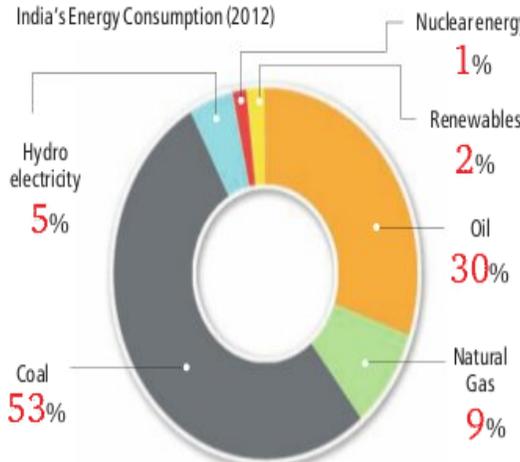


- A stable policy regime to attract private/foreign players
- Increased use of natural gas
- Public investments in oil and gas blocs can be made more accountable
- Market-determined energy prices to incentivise production and shift from oil to gas

- Better coordination among various energy ministries
- Reduce T&D losses by modernising infrastructure and usage of smart grid technology
- Energy efficiency in equipment and transport
- Public awareness for energy conservation

COAL DOMINATES INDIA'S ENERGY CONSUMPTION

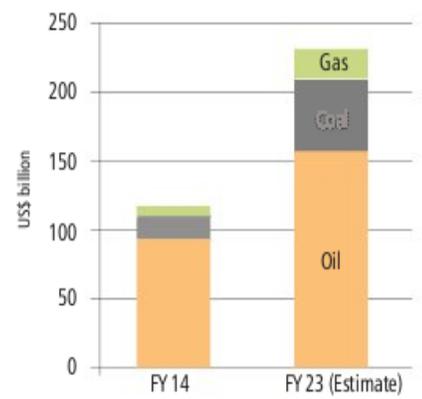
India's Energy Consumption (2012)



| Energy Source | Percentage |
|-------------------|------------|
| Coal | 53% |
| Oil | 30% |
| Natural Gas | 9% |
| Hydro electricity | 5% |
| Renewables | 2% |
| Nuclear energy | 1% |

COAL AND GAS IMPORTS SET TO RISE

India's energy demand from imports



| Year | Oil (US\$ billion) | Coal (US\$ billion) | Gas (US\$ billion) | Total (US\$ billion) |
|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| FY 14 | ~90 | ~20 | ~10 | ~120 |
| FY 23 (Estimate) | ~150 | ~50 | ~30 | ~230 |

SOURCE: GOLDMAN SACHS GLOBAL INVESTMENT RESEARCH

Govt curbs on potato exports

The Centre has given the go-ahead for setting a minimum export price of \$450 per tonne for potato to discourage exports and check the rising price of the tuber.

Onion supplies have improved over the last week easing prices, but the price of potato has gone up by about 30 per cent compared to last year.

India exports between one to two lakh tonne potatoes annually.

A Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) notification said "export of potatoes is permitted subject to MEP which come into immediate effect."

Panorama

As part of efforts to rein in food prices, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had announced that the government would impose export curbs in form of higher MEP on onion and potatoes.

Prices of potatoes have risen to about Rs 25-30 per kg in the national capital.

Gold deposits as part of CRR/SLR?

State Bank of India (SBI) and Bank of Baroda feel a portion of the gold deposits held by banks should be treated as part of the mandatory cash reserve ratio (CRR) or statutory liquidity ratio (SLR).

“Gold is after all a store of value and is it possible for the regulator to treat a bit of our gold deposits as CRR or SLR instead of cash or government securities?”, asked SBI Chairperson Arundhati Bhattacharya.

CRR is the part of deposits that banks park with the central bank (Reserve Bank of India) earning no interest and is at present 4 per cent while the SLR, at 22.5 per cent, is the part of deposits that must be invested in recognised securities and assets.

SBI is the largest player in gold deposit schemes and was not able to deploy the gold in productive assets.

G. S. Sandhu, Financial Services Secretary, said the finance ministry was looking at way to better utilise the gold deposits.

Gold industry had a huge potential but banks had been retreating from it due to its ‘opacity’. “We need to understand that systems globally have changed and banks have to fall in line and as they do so, they will demand that corporates and borrowers also fall in line. Where they cannot be directly controlled, the regulators will impose on the banks greater provisioning requirements making it impossible for banks to do business.”

Stressing the need for transparency, the SBI chairperson said, “Those present in the entire value chain must realise that there has to be greater clarity on how value is moving. There is very little transparency as to which part of the business is using what funds and what is the value and margins in each part of the business.”

Kerala Govt. project to market agricultural produce

Mohanan inaugurates **Kera Samridhi Project** at Mannuthy

The government is preparing a project to market agriculture produce by collecting it from farmers through Krishi Bhavans

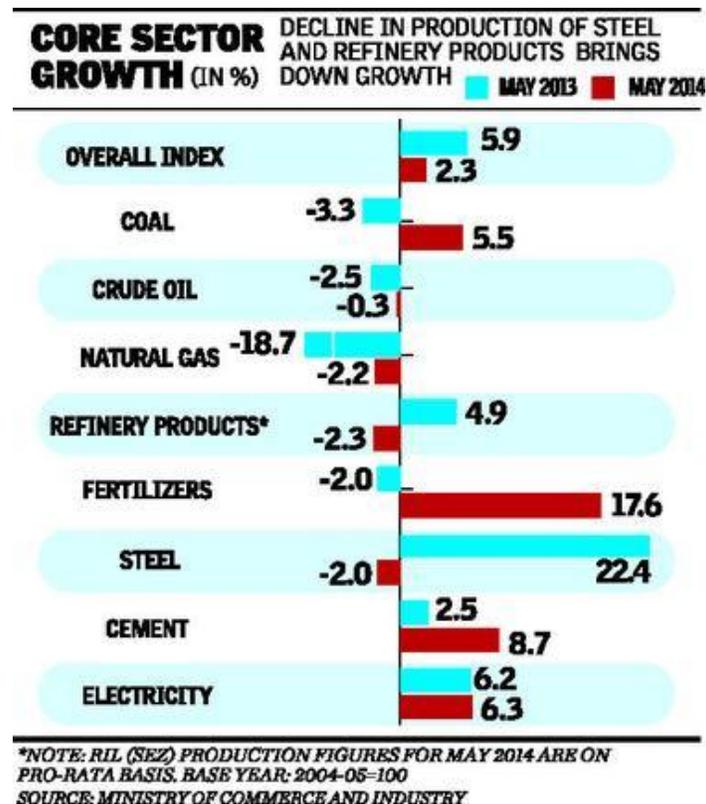
The government will take the initiative to clear hurdles to produce and market neera.

“We are committed to bring back the golden days of farming in the State by using State and Central financial assistance,” the Minister said.

He inaugurated the Kera Samridhi Project by distributing dwarf variety of coconut saplings.

The Minister handed over awards to farmers, clusters, education institutions and offices, which performed well in vegetable farming.

Core sector growth slows to 2.3 %



The eight core sector industries had decelerated 2.6 per cent in 2013-14, the lowest in almost a decade.

The core sector growth spike in April petered out in May as output of eight core industries slowed to 2.3 per cent from 5.9 per cent in the same month a year ago.

During the month, crude oil output shrank 0.3 per cent, natural gas output declined by 2.2 per cent, refinery products were down 2.3 per cent and steel production was 2 per cent lower, according to official data released here on Monday.

Deceleration

The eight core sector industries had decelerated 2.6 per cent in 2013-14, the lowest in almost a decade. However, a 4.2 per cent growth in April had raised the hopes of a recovery.

The output of coal, fertilizers, cement and electricity went up by 5.5 per cent, 17.6 per cent, 8.7 per cent and 6.3 per cent, respectively, the official release said.

The eight core industries have a combined weight of 37.90 per cent in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

The bad news on the core sector front comes at a time when rains during the month of June have been declared to be 43 per cent deficient.

Problems to jute industry

The complaints are against the import of jute bags from Nepal and Bangladesh.

Admitting to the charge levelled by the Jute Commissioner on imported gunny bags being used to pack foodgrains

Panorama

This is adding to the present problem of the Indian jute industry, which is plagued by shortage of orders. The industry maintains that dearth of orders has forced it to cutback on production, triggering a spate of work suspensions.

The work suspensions came in the aftermath of the Northbrook Jute Mills incident where the Chief Executive Officer (works) of the mill was lynched by workers who were protesting against a proposal to cutback on working hours due to paucity of orders.

Such imports are not banned but regulations are in place to stop such bags being used for foodgrains packaging. Under the mandatory packaging order now in force, 90 per cent of the total foodgrains produced in the country and 20 per cent of the sugar output are to be packed in jute bags. This has come to be the mainstay for an industry, which is losing its place to synthetic packaging materials. Nearly Rs.5,000 crore worth gunny bags were purchased by various state governments.

Timelines for Regulatory Approvals

Reserve Bank of India is moving to a time-defined process

Fixed schedules for various regulatory approvals, including grant of private bank licence

It also released a citizens' charter for its various services such as clearing of transactions.

Part of implementation of non-legislative recommendations of the Financial Sector Legislative Reforms Commission (FSLRC)

In case an applicant does not get a response within the indicated timeline, they can approach the head of the department, who will respond with status of the application, the reason for delay, request for additional information and likely time for disposal of the application, if added.

As per the citizens' charter for RBI's departments which have public interface, deposit accounts department should issue cheque book within 20 minutes and demand draft should be issued in an hour, among others. Besides, refinance facility and disbursement of loans should take place in the same day of application while clearing should be completed by three days.

Similarly, timelines have been fixed for in principle approval to banks for IPO, preferential issues of capital and qualified institutional placements (30 days) and authorisation for import of gold and silver by banks (60 days).

SCINECE & TECHNOLOGY

Experiments of Indian students in Space

Prerna Pai, 11-year-old Indian student from UAE

Her two experimental payloads for space are approved by NASA under Cubes in Space (CIS) Programme

NASA's programme for budding young scientists

Are among the 100 selected experiments that will be fired into space by NASA

Among those selected under the programme are seventy-five American students besides 25 students from the rest of the world.

NASA had launched its Cubes in Space (CIS) Programme in May and had invited students from around the world in the age group of 11–14 to devise experimental payloads for space.

She submitted two experiments that she called “To stick or not to stick” and “Time and pressure”.

The first experiment is about studying how different adhesives are likely to behave in space in the absence of atmospheric pressure. For this, Ms. Pai used a thermocol cube of 12 pieces in which each corner was stuck using a different kind of adhesive such as modelling clay, wax, cello tape, metal wire, thread, school glue and super glue.

The second involves two tiny bottles — one made of plastic and the other of glass — sealed with a modelling clay cork and placed in a cube.

The experiment will focus on how the bottles react to lack of atmospheric pressure: Will they disintegrate, get damaged or remain intact?

Once the experiments are back from space and mailed to her, Pai intends to begin research on the effects, film the results and mail them back to NASA.

Smallest force: 42 yoctonewtons

Scientists have measured a force of 42 yoctonewtons

The smallest force measured so far

A yoctonewton is one-septillionth, or 10^{-24} of a Newton.

Using a combination of lasers and a unique optical trapping system that provides a cloud of ultra-cold atoms, the force has been detected by researchers at Berkeley Lab and University of California (UC) Berkeley.

If you want to confirm the existence of gravitational waves, — space-time ripples Measurements of force and motion at the quantum levels bump against a barrier imposed by the Heisenberg uncertainty principle — when the measurement itself perturbs the measuring device, a phenomenon known as “quantum back-action”.

This barrier of least possible measurement is called the Standard Quantum Limit (SQL).

A wide array of strategies have been deployed to minimise quantum back-action and get ever closer to the SQL, but the best of these techniques fell short by six to eight orders of magnitude.

Gamma ray telescope

World's largest high-altitude telescope for detection of gamma ray emissions

All set to be transported to Hanle, Ladakh

It will be installed by 2015 summer and become operational by early 2016.

The 'Major Atmospheric Cherenkov Experiment' (MACE) Telescope will be the second largest in the world and the largest at high altitude with a 21m diameter. The largest telescope of the same class is the 28m diameter HESS telescope in Namibia. The responsibility for design, manufacturing, installation and commissioning of the telescope is with the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre to Electronics Corporation of India Limited here.

Very high energy gamma rays offer a unique insight into some of the extreme phenomena of the universe and the MACE telescope would enable scientists to study exotic objects like pulsars, super nova remnants and active galactic nuclei

It will provide a better understanding of high-energy processes in the universe and help gain more insight into cosmic ray origins. When gamma ray photons enter the earth's atmosphere, they generate a shower of secondary charged particles which cause a flash of blue Cherenkov light, lasting a few nano seconds.

Made up of 356 indigenously manufactured mirror panels and a high-resolution imaging camera capable of detecting extremely short duration light flashes such as Cherenkov events.

The 45-metre tall telescope is designed to operate in winds speeds up to 30 kmph and retain structural integrity in the parking position in winds speeds up to 150 kmph.

At a press conference here on Friday, Chairman and Managing Director, ECIL, P.Sudhakar said the unveiling of the telescope marked an important day for Indian science and technology. He said other similar telescopes had been built by developed countries in consortium whereas this was built indigenously. He said Hanle was the most suitable place in India to conduct gamma ray experiments. There was a live demonstration of MACE telescope at ECIL for media persons.

R.Koul, head of astro-physical sciences division, BARC, said that another similar telescope would be installed at Hanle in 2018.

PSLV-C23

India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C23) successfully put five satellites from abroad into their perfect orbits.

This was the 27th PSLV launch and of these 27 lift-offs, 26 have been successful in a row.

It was a dedicated commercial launch in which the PSLV put into orbit:

- ✓ SPOT satellite from France
- ✓ AISAT from Germany
- ✓ NLS7.1 and NLS7.2, both from Canada
- ✓ VELOX-1 from Singapore

Antrix, the commercial wing of the Department of Space, will be charging a fee for putting each of these satellites into orbit.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who watched the launch from the Mission Control Centre (MCC) at the spaceport at Sriharikota, said the successful mission filled every Indian with pride. "I can see it reflected in the joy and satisfaction on your faces," he said.

Panorama

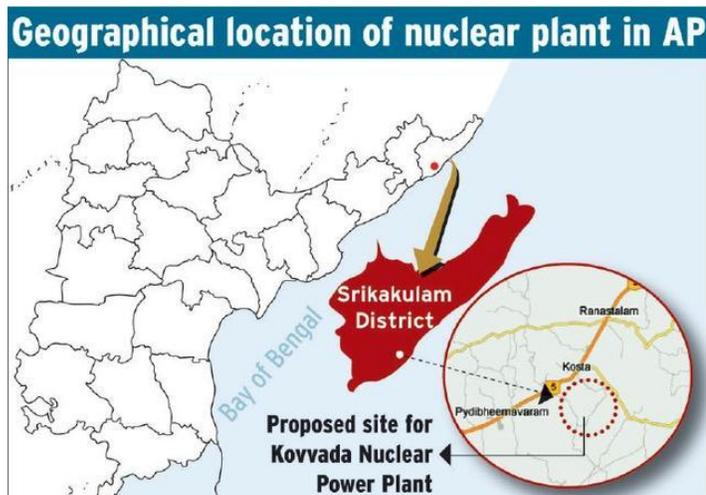
Mr. Modi, who addressed the ISRO scientists, engineers and technicians from the MCC, said space was “one domain where India was at the international cutting edge, a domain in which we have pushed beyond mediocrity to achieve excellence”.

The PSLV had so far put 67 satellites into orbit, of which 40 were from 19 countries, “Truly, this is a global endorsement of India’s space capabilities,” Mr. Modi said.

He wanted the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to develop a satellite for the exclusive use of SAARC countries, a satellite which could provide a full range of applications and services to SAARC members and India’s neighbourhood.

Space technology could play a critical role in realizing a Digital India — the power of 125 crore connected Indians, he said. Space technology was an invaluable tool in communication, disaster management, giving advanced warning of cyclones, telemedicine, tele-education and so on. “We must harness this technology for social change, economic development and resources conservation,” the Prime Minister said.

Kovvada N-plant



Country’s biggest 9,500 MW nuclear power park proposed at Kovvada in Srikakulam district in Andhra Pradesh

GE-Hitachi’s technology for reactors to be installed at the Kovvada Nuclear Park (KNP)

Kovvada Nuclear Park Chief Engineer G. Venkata Ramesh said the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) was gearing up to speed up the project.

According to the NPCIL’s pre-feasibility report submitted to the Experts’ Appraisal Committee of Ministry of Environment and Forests, 884 hectares was required for the KNP. The cooling water required for operation of six units has been estimated at 69,000 million litres per day (MLD). The total fresh water requirement for the project has been estimated at 25 mld that would be met from **Nagavali river** until commissioning of the desalination plant.

The NPCIL has also proposed to construct a jetty for movement of heavy equipment through sea route. In 2013, the Department of Atomic Energy, under the aegis of the Prime Minister, has accepted the NPCIL’s proposal to increase the capacity of the KNP from 6,000 MW to 9,500 MW.

Panorama

National EMF portal

To address concerns arising out of fears over electromagnetic frequency (EMF) exposure due to installation of base stations receivers (mobile phone towers)

Government to launch National EMF portal

It which will provide all the relevant data in this regard along with the location of BTS within a certain locality

Beta testing of portal has begun in Punjab, Haryana, Maharashtra and Mumbai

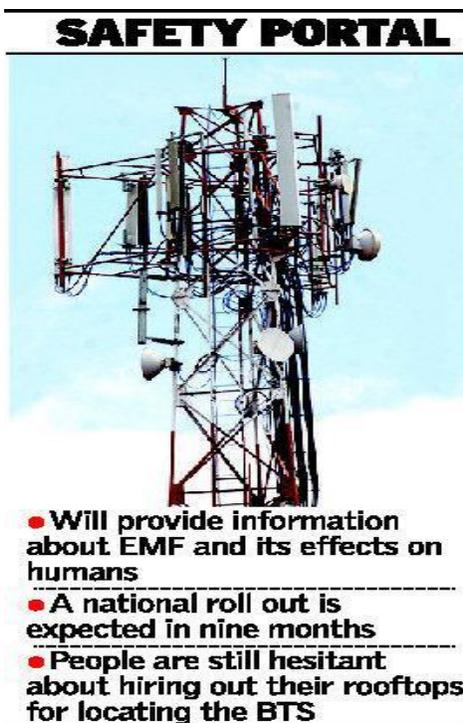
A national roll out is expected in nine months.

Portal aims at providing the reader with information about EMF and its effects on humans, backed by scientific studies. A similar platform is already available in Europe.

The Indian telecom sector has made rapid strides over the last 20 years, and majority of the country's phone connections are now based on mobile telephony. However, this form of connectivity has led to proliferation of cell phone towers across the country and its effect on human beings due to radiation has raised much apprehension. It is now being feared that shortage of towers may hinder India's overall progress. Mobile phone service providers have been facing problems regarding locating their towers, atop of which the receivers are perched.

Although the government has issued guidelines in this regard to state governments on safety norms and procedures to be followed for setting up towers, people are still hesitant about hiring out their roof tops for locating the BTS. He said that while five lakh towers were set up between 2007 and 2010, an incremental one lakh was needed annually for reaching 3G connectivity to the block level. "Average addition was only one third of the requirement", he said, adding that six lakh more towers were needed to take the date connections to 4G levels.

An EMF portal aims at providing the reader with information about EMF and its effects on humans, backed by scientific studies.



HISTORY – CULTURE

Inscription of Rani Ki Vav, Patan, Gujarat

Rani-ki-Vav has been approved for inscription on the World Heritage list.

The recognition was granted by the UNESCO at the World Heritage Committee Session currently on at Doha, Qatar.

UNESCO has recognized this masterpiece as an exceptional example of technological development in utilizing ground water resources in a single component, water management system and it illustrates the exceptional capacity to break large spaces into smaller volumes following ideal aesthetic proportions.

Rani-ki-Vav, a stepwell built in the 11th century is the most developed, elaborate and ornate example of a unique type of Indian subterranean architectural structure, and it marks the zenith in the evolution of stepwells in India. It is a particularly large and complex example of a stepwell, with seven storeys of ornamented panels of sculptures and relief representing the height of the Maru-Gurjara style. Following the flooding and disappearance of the Saraswati River due to geotectonic changes, the property was buried under layers of silt for almost seven centuries and has been preserved underneath in an exceptional state of conservation by the Archaeological Survey of India. The stepwell is digitally documented through collaboration between ASI, CyArk and the Scottish Ten.

It was nominated by ASI for the World Heritage List of UNESCO in Feb. 2013. The process of nomination of Rani Ki Vav and the management strategy presented for the property and Buffer Zone as per Operational Guidelines of UNESCO can be credited to excellent teamwork between the Archaeological Survey of India and the State Government of Gujarat. The dossier was prepared by an in-house team of experts within the ASI and vetted by the Ministry of Culture through its Advisory Committee at various stages. The State Government of Gujarat supported the protection of Buffer Zone as a protected area in the Development Plan. They worked with ASI officials to mark the around the Rani ki Vav including the excavated area of the historic Sahastralinga Talao under ASI as well as the unexcavated areas of this Talao which falls under agricultural fields for future protection in the Development Plan. The initiative of additionally protecting surrounding area around Rani ki Vav with its inclusion in the Local Development Plan is an exemplary example of integrating heritage with planning and needs to be emulated for heritage sites across India.

The inscription of Rani Ki Vav on the World Heritage List as the single most example of a step well is a testimony to the traditional water systems of India. The local residents of Patan who were engaged actively in the process and provided full support to ASI and State Government in the process including its field evaluation by ICOMOS (the Advisory Body to UNESCO) deserve a special mention in achieving this target to place this stepwell on India's World Heritage List.

Telangana State ushers in its first Bonalu

Month-long celebrations kick off from the Sri Jagadamba Mahankali temple at Golconda Fort. Home Minister Naini Narshimha Reddy visited the temple in the morning and presented the traditional offering of silk clothes on behalf of the government.

Less than a month into its birth, Telangana ushered in its first Bonalu, which is also its State festival now.

Devotees thronged the Sri Jagadamba Mahankali temple at Golconda fort on Sunday for the installation of the *ammavari ghatam*, setting off a month of celebrations marked by religious fervour and colourful festivities.

Home Minister Naini Narshimha Reddy visited the temple in the morning and presented the traditional offering of silk clothes on behalf of the government.

With traditional drum beats renting the air and vermilion-smeared *pothurajus* cracking their whips, devotees arrived in large numbers from different parts of the city and from neighbouring districts.

Clad in their traditional finery, women brought along the *bonam*, the festive offering for the mother goddess, prepared from cooked rice and jaggery in a pot and adorned with neem leaves.

Celebrations at Secunderabad and at Lal Darwaza in Old City are to follow in subsequent weeks.

Special arrangements

There was a marked difference in terms of arrangements, with the long-standing demand for Bonalu (or the *Ashada Jatra*) to be declared the State festival becoming a reality this year.

The temple and the entire route to it, including the steps leading to the main temple, were decked up for the occasion. Most devotees arrived in small processions. The GHMC and the HMWSSB, among other government departments, had made arrangements to provide clean roads, drinking water and electricity.

UNESCO to assess Delhi for World Heritage status

The UNESCO team will visit the city in September

A team from UNESCO will be visiting the national capital during September to examine the city's heritage sites, which are part of a dossier sent by India to the world body in pursuance of Delhi's bid for a World Heritage tag.

Delhi Chapter of Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) had prepared the "voluminous" dossier on behalf of the Delhi government, which was eventually submitted to UNESCO by the Union Culture Ministry in January.

The two areas listed in the nomination dossier are — Shahjahanabad in old Delhi which has the Mughal-era heritage and Lutyens' Bungalow Zone (LBZ) in New Delhi, part of the new imperial capital designed by Sir Edwin Landseer Lutyens and Sir Herbert Baker after the 1911 Delhi Durbar.

After evaluation of the sites here, the UNESCO will then eventually decide on "inscribing" the city in the World Heritage List, the announcement for which would be made in June 2015.

MISCELLANEOUS

National awards for outstanding services in the field of prevention of alcoholism and substance (drugs) abuse

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee presented the National Awards for Outstanding Services in the field of Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse

On June 26, 2014: on the occasion of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Speaking on the occasion, the President said that there is an urgent need to provide a whole range of community based services for the identification, counselling and de-addiction of addicts along with their after care and rehabilitation. Alcoholism and drug abuse is a psycho-social-medical problem requiring a holistic approach. The aim of the comprehensive treatment programme should not merely be to get the addicted individuals off alcohol or drugs. Focussed attention on making the addicts productive members of the society by making them drug free, crime free and gainfully employed, is what is required. He stated that in this connection, the importance of skill building and vocational training of drug dependent persons for their effective social and economic reintegration cannot be over emphasised. The stress should be on mobilization of community resources and greater community participation. Apart from this, law enforcement agencies should be sensitized to the needs of victims of substance abuse to enable them to be rehabilitated and reintegrated in the society. Generating continuous and sustained awareness through innovative methods about the harmful effects of drug abuse also assumes critical importance, he added.

The strategy of the ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is three pronged:

- ✓ Awareness building and educating people about ill effects of drug abuse
- ✓ Community based intervention for identification, treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts and counseling.
- ✓ Training of volunteers and other stakeholders with a view to build a committed and skilled cadre for service providers.

The Minister further added that the ministry is in the process of finalizing a National Policy on Drug Demand Reduction in consultation with various stakeholders.

The following Institutions/individuals have been conferred the National Award

| | Name of Category of Award | Name of Institution/Individual |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | Best Integrated Rehabilitation Centre for Addicts (IRCA) | TRADA (Total Response to Alcohol & Drug Abuse), Manganam P.O, Kottayam, Kerala |
| 2 | Best Regional Resource and Training Centre (RRTC) | RRTC, West Zone-I, Muktangana Mitra, Off Pune Alandi Road, Near Shetiya Hospital, Yerwada, Pune, Maharashtra |

Panorama

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| 3 | Best Non Profit Institution | Social and Economic Development Organization (SEDO), Kangmong Langoljam, PO- Nambol, Imphal West Manipur |
| 4 | Best Research or Innovation | Society for Promotion of Youth and Masses (SPYM), SPYM Centre-111/9, Opposite Sector B 4, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi. |
| 5 | Outstanding Individual achievement by a professional | Fr. Joseph Hilary Pereira, Kripa Foundation, Mount Carmel Church, 81/A, Chapel Road, Near Lilavati Hospital, Bandra (W), Mumbai |
| 6 | Outstanding Individual achievement by a non-professional | Shri Tushar Sampat, 301, Lloyds Chamber, 409, Mangalwar Peth, Near Babasaheb Sanskrutik Bhavan, Pune |
| 7 | Outstanding achievement by a Former Addict | Shri Pradeep Goyal, D-301, SPS II, Radhe Shyam Park, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad |
| 8 | Outstanding achievement by a Former Addict | Shri Bosco Michael D'Souza, Kripa Foundation, Mount Carmel Church, 81/A, Chapel Road, Near Lilavati Hospital, Bandra (W), Mumbai |

Saina wins Australian Open

Sixth-seeded Indian

Beat 21-18 21-11 in a 43-minute contest to win Australian Super Series.

Won India Open Super Series earlier this year

Soham Daga

A 17-year-old Indian-American student

Presented with Congressional Award Gold Medal, Congress' highest award for youth in the U.S.

Soham Daga was presented with the award at the Capitol Hill last week along with 282 other recipients from across the country. To earn the award, individuals must spend two years or more completing at least 400 hours of community service, 200 hours of both personal development and physical fitness activities, and a four-night expedition or exploration.

Justice V. K. Rajah

An Indian-origin judge

Appointed as the eighth Attorney-General of Singapore

President Tan also appointed Rajah (57) as a Member of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights for a term of three years. Mr. Rajah was appointed as a Judicial Commissioner of the Supreme Court and as a judge in 2004.

ETHICS, APTITUDE AND INTEGRITY QUESTION

Being electronics hub city, Information technology companies contributes heavily in revenue generation of your district. But in different surveys by NGOs it is found that it results in severe E Waste problem resulting in health problems and problems to environment.

Group of citizens in a locality complained against a MNC for disposing E Waste in the area leading to problems to residents. The MNC has influence over decision making bodies in the City.

1. Discuss the ethical issues involved in this case?
2. What would be your reaction in above case?
3. What solutions would you suggest to both the parties?

QUESTIONS

1. Critically examine the impact of Delayed monsoon on Indian Agriculture.
2. "Only Droughts make us realize the importance of water Conservation". Comment
3. The recent report published by World health organization has proved that some off very least developed countries are performing better than India in achievement of MDG. Evaluate the change in outlook required in India so as to achieve the goals.
4. "Reservations are meant to uplift the socially and economically backward sections of society by providing the opportunity to those sections of society, but in present times the reservation seems to have become a tool of populist democracy". Comment
5. State the principles of Panchasheel agreement. Do they find relevance today in solving the disputes between India and China when both countries have evolved with time?
6. What are the implications of Indian Nuclear Reactors being under the safeguards of IAEA? Does it Jeopardise India's Nuclear Program.
7. Elaborate the recommendations made by Mayaram Committee on FDI in India.
8. Write Note on Gamma Ray Telescope.
9. What are the objectives behind establishment of National EMF Portal?
10. Explain Cyber Warfare. Discuss the Vulnerability of India with regards Cyber Attacks.