

CURRENT AFFAIRS - JANUARY 2014 – DATEWISE NOTES

1 January 2014

Corey Anderson Sets World Record For Fastest ODI century

New Zealand all-rounder Corey Anderson cracked the fastest century in one-day international history on 1 January, reaching three figures in just 36 deliveries against the West Indies. The previous record was held by Shahid Afridi, who took 37 balls to reach his ton playing for Pakistan against Sri Lanka in 1996. Anderson, who finished the New Zealand innings unbeaten on 131, hit 14 sixes in his whirlwind assault, the third highest number of sixes in an ODI innings.

Dubai 2014 Fireworks Display Breaks Guinness World Record

Dubai has ushered in 2014 with more than half a million fireworks spectacle, breaking the world record for the largest such display ever, Guinness World records announced on 1 January. Ten months in planning, over 500,000 fireworks were used during the display on the New Year's Eve which lasted around six minutes, with Guinness adjudicators on hand to confirm that a new record had been set. Organisers had been aiming to beat a record set in 2012 during a display to mark Kuwait's golden jubilee anniversary which saw a total of 77,282 fireworks launched. Dubai's attempt broke that benchmark by some margin, with enough fireworks launched within the first minute of the display alone to surpass the previous record.

2 January 2014

India Signed Credit Agreement with World Bank For RRSMP

India has signed a credit agreement of 160 million dollar with World Bank on 2 January for Rajasthan Road Sector Modernisation Project (RRSMP). On behalf of the Government of India, the agreement was signed by Nilaya Mitash, the Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs Ministry of Finance and on behalf of World Bank it was signed by Manoj Jain, the action Director, New Delhi.

Government Approved CCTVs and GPS on Public Transport Vehicles

The government on 2 January approved a Rs 1,405-crore project to track and monitor public transport and provide alarm buttons for alerting authorities. The project involves setting up of closed circuit television (CCTVs) and using global positioning system (GPS) to ensure safety and security of women and girls in distress. The CCEA has approved setting up of a unified system at the national level (National Vehicle Security and Tracking System) and State level (City Command and Control Centre) for GPS tracking of location of emergency buttons in and video recording of incidents in public transport vehicles.

3 January 2014

Manoj Vaish Appointed As MCX MD & CEO

Multi Commodity Exchange, promoted by the troubled Financial Technologies (India) Ltd, has appointed former BSE head Manoj Vaish as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer for three years. Vaish takes over the responsibility from Shreekant Javalekar, who stepped down as the MD and CEO last October after an investigation into the Rs 5,600-crore scam at group company National Spot Exchange Ltd.

P K Saxena is new GM of South Western Railway

Pradeep Kumar Saxena has taken over charge as full-fledged General Manager of South Western Railway (SWR). Before taking over as General Manager, SWR, Saxena was Principal Chief Engineer, Central Railway, Mumbai. He joined Central Railway as Assistant Engineer in Khandwa of Bhusaval Division of old Central Railway in the year 1980.

4 January 2014

“World Braille Day” was Observed on 4th January

“World Braille Day” is celebrated on 4th January across the world to observe the Birthday of Louis Braille. Louis Braille, born in 1809, was the inventor of braille, a system of reading and writing used by people who are blind or visually impaired. Braille became blind after an accident at the age of three. He created a language based on the patterns of raised dots on paper, which could be felt and one can read anything that is unable to see. He did this to have an access to works of literature.

Scientists Designed Moclic Software To Predict Weather

Researcher from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) designed the software Monitoring Climate Change (Moclic) through which is possible to organise, store and operate geo-referenced data from climate elements. Moclic can calculate bio and agro climatic indicators such as humidity, aridity, rain erosion and rainfall concentration. The software feeds on data from weather stations in any state or country, unlike current software that use global information, with which what happens in a small ranch regarding temperature can be known more accurately. Moclic project allows an agronomist to obtain annual rainfall records and relate them to the crops production figures for explanation of a possible event.

5 January 2014

Portuguese Football Legend Eusebio Died

Portugal football legend Eusebio, who was top scorer at the 1966 World Cup, has died on 5 January. Eusebio was born in Mozambique but he played for Portugal. He was Africa's first international football star. Eusebio was European Footballer of the Year in 1965 but won global acclaim a year later at the World Cup in England, where his nine goals helped Portugal reach the semi-finals. He earned 64 caps and scored 41 goals for Portugal, records that stood for almost two decades. Nicknamed the 'Black Panther', Eusebio was a European Cup winner with Benfica in 1962 and played in three other finals, including the loss to Manchester United at Wembley in 1968.

GSLV-D5 Rocket Launched Successfully With Indigenous Cryogenic Technology

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on 5 January successfully launched its heavy-duty rocket Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle – Development 5 (GSLV-D5) for placing communication satellite GSAT-14 into the orbit. The 49.13-metre tall rocket GSLV-D5 lifted off from Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. It was powered by an indigenously developed cryogenic engine. With the successful launch of GSLV-D5 flight India has now become the sixth nation to possess the cryogenic engine technology, and has joined the elite club of the United States, Russia, France, Japan and China. GSLV-D5 is the eighth flight of India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV). It is also the fourth developmental flight of GSLV. The cuboid shaped Rs.145 crore GSAT-14 is India's 23rd geostationary satellites built by ISRO.

6 January 2014

US Senate Confirmed Janet Yellen as next Chairperson of Federal Reserve

The US Senate has on 6 January confirmed Janet Yellen as the next head of the US Federal Reserve. She succeeds the Chairman Ben Bernanke as the next head of America's central bank. Ben Bernanke is stepping down after serving as the Chairman of Federal Bank for eight years, which was dominated by the Great Recession and the efforts of the bank to combat it. Her term in the office will begin on 1 February 2014.

Justice A K Ganguly Resigned as Chairman of WBHRC

Former Supreme Court Judge A K Ganguly has on 6 January resigned as the Chairman of the West Bengal Human Rights Commission (WBHRC) and submitted his resignation to the West Bengal governor. He resigned following allegations of sexual harassment by a law intern.

7 January 2014

India Successfully Test Fired Nuclear Capable ' Prithvi-II ' Missile

India has successfully test-fired its indigenously developed nuclear-capable Prithvi-II missile, which has a strike range of 350 kms and is capable of carrying warheads of upto 1000 kgs, from Chandipur Integrated test range in Odisha on 7 January. The launch was part of a user trial by the Army.

Chhattisgarh Government Launched Toll Free Number 1100 To Curb Corruption

Chhattisgarh government has on 7 January launched a toll free helpline number 1100 to curb corruption in its departments .On the toll free number people could lodge corruption-related complaints against the state government officials.

8 January 2014

Delhi Government Launched Anti Corruption Helpline

Delhi Chief Minister launched a helpline number 011-27357169 on 8 January to assist people deal with demands for bribes by government workers. The service has been set up under the chief minister's offices and the cases will be passed on to the vigilance department. The helpline will instruct the caller on how to conduct a sting operation by secretly recording the bribe seeker's demand whether in audio or video. The audio or video is the first evidence on the basis of government's anti-corruption team which will lay a trap to nab the offender red handed.

RBI relaxed Gold Loan Norms To Lend Up To 75 Percent Loan

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 8 January allowed the Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) to lend up to 75 percent of the value of gold .With this order of the central bank , the people seeking loan against gold can now borrow more. Earlier, the limitation of loan on gold was 60 percent. The order has been passed in a view of the moderation in the growth of the gold loan portfolios of NBFCs in recent past.

9 January 2014

Delhi Govt Launched Anti-Corruption Helpline

The Delhi Government has launched an anti corruption helpline number 011-27357169 on 8 January to deal with complaints of graft-related cases in the national capital. In future the helpline will be four-digit number which will make it easier for citizens to remember the number. The service has been set up under the chief minister's office and the cases will be passed on to the vigilance department.

Former Mumbai Ranji Trophy Cricketer Vishwanath Ramachandra Bondre Died

Former Mumbai Ranji Trophy Cricketer Vishwanath Ramachandra Bondre died on 8 January. His first session in the Ranji Trophy was 1965-66 and second season was 1969-70. Bondre scored 138 runs with 36 against Baroda at Baroda in his debut season as his best and grabbed 16 wickets at 26.50 per wicket with a personal best of 6 for 116 against Gujarat at Surat in his final Ranji season. In all, Bondre played 28 first class matches and scored 638 runs with 71 as his highest score while he also claimed 40 wickets at just over 30 per victim.

10 January 2014

Prime Minister Inaugurates Mumbai Airport's New Terminal

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on 10 January inaugurated the state-of-the-art Terminal 2 or T2 at Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport in Mumbai. The spanking four-storey glass marvel, whose design has been inspired by a dancing peacock, has come up at a whopping investment of Rs. 9,800 crore as against initial projection of Rs. 7,452 crore.

Government Notified New Natural Gas Pricing Formula

The Government of India on 10 January notified the new natural gas pricing formula, which will be in effect from 1 April 2014. As per the newly issued notification, the rate of all domestically produced fuel will be almost doubled to 8.2 to 8.4 dollar per unit.

11 January 2014

Israel's Former Prime Minister Ariel Sharon Died

Israel's former Prime Minister Ariel Sharon died on 11 January. The former general of Israeli Army had been in coma since 4 January 2006. He served as the 11th Prime Minister of Israel until he was incapacitated by a stroke. Sharon was a commander in the Israeli Army from its creation in 1948. Nicknamed 'The Bulldozer', the veteran soldier fought in all of Israel's major wars before beginning a turbulent political career in 1973.

NABARD reduced Refinance Rate For Banks

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reduced the refinance rates for the banks and other lending agencies by 0.20 percent. This has been done with an aim to promote rural credit and rural infrastructure. The new rates will be in effect from 7 January 2014. The revised rate of interest on refinance will be for a period of five years for commercial, state cooperative, regional rural and primary urban cooperative banks will be 9.70 percent, which has been decreased from 9.90 percent.

12 January 2014

IOC director gets 'Best CFO Award'

The director (finance) of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), P. K. Goyal, has been awarded the 'Best CFO Award' on 12 January by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. Best CFO Awards recognises chartered accountants who have demonstrated excellence and have created value for their company's stakeholders. Goyal is a Chartered Accountant by profession. He has over three decades of experience in Indian Oil and has handled the entire gamut of activities in the Finance function.

Sheikh Hasina Sworn In As Bangladesh Prime Minister

Sheikh Hasina along with her Cabinet of 49 Ministers was sworn-in before President Abdul Hamid at the Bangabhaban (the President's House) on 12 January. Sheikh Hasina was sworn-in as the Prime Minister of Bangladesh for the third time. She had won an overwhelming majority in the Bangladesh general election held on 5 January 2014 by defeating opposition party, Jatiya party.

13 January 2014

Malaysian Government To Introduce high-tech ID cards

Malaysian Government announced on 13 January to introduce high-tech ID cards for foreign workers. The cards will be introduced by the end of December 2014. These biometric identity cards are being introduced to control the influx of illegal foreign workers.

Anu Vidyut Pariyojana Launched In Haryana

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh laid the foundation of 2,800 Megawatt nuclear power plant in Fatehabad district of Haryana on 13 January. The project named as Anu Vidyut Pariyojana, will have four units of 700 MWe each and it will be built at a cost 23502 crore rupees. The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) will build these reactors. This is the first time Haryana will have a nuclear project.

14 January 2014

First Trial Run Of Rail Engine In Arunachal Pradesh

Arunachal Pradesh on 14 January witnessed the first trial run of a rail engine. The first trial run was of 20-km from Harmutty in Lakhimpur district of Assam to the Arunachal Pradesh capital Itanagar. The ambitious railway line project is estimated to cost 372 crore rupees. The State government would put a mechanism in place for checking the inner line permit (ILP) of the passengers. The ILP issued under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1973 is necessary even for an Indian citizen to enter Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland.

King Senebkay, New Pharaoh, Discovered By Archaeologists In Egypt

Archaeologists in Egypt believe they have discovered the remains of a previously unknown pharaoh who reigned more than 3,600 years ago. The skeleton of King Senebkay were uncovered at South Abydos in Sohag province, about 500 km (300 miles) south of Cairo, by a University of Pennsylvania expedition working with the government. Never before heard of in ancient Egyptian history, King Senebkay's name was found inscribed in hieroglyphics written inside a royal cartouche – an oval with a horizontal line at one end signalling a royal name.

15 January 2014

Famous Marathi Poet Namdeo Dhasal Died

Noted Marathi poet and one of the founders of the Dalit Panthers, Padma Shri Namdeo Dhasal has died in Mumbai on 15 January. He was born on 15 February 1949 in Pune district. His selected poems were translated into English under the title 'Namdeo Dhasal: Poet of the Underworld', Poems 1972-2006. He was one of the founders of the militant Dalit Panther movement after the casteist riots in Worli's BDD chawls. In 1999, he was honored with the prestigious Padma Shri Award. In 2004, he won

Sahitya Akadami's Life time achievement award. He received the Soviet Land Nehru award in 1974 for his collection of poems Golpitha.

World Bank Projects India's Growth at Over 6% In 2014-15

The World Bank in its Global Economic Prospects Report released on 15 January forecasted that economy of India will grow by just 6 percent in 2014-15. In its forecast, the World Bank has also said that the economic growth of India will improve to 6.6 percent in 2015-16 and 7.1 percent in 2016-17. The economic growth will be followed by the recovery in global demand and increase in domestic investment.

16 January 2014

India – South Korea Signed Nine Agreements

India and South Korea have signed nine agreements in different areas on 16 January to deepen economic cooperation and bolster defence engagements in New Delhi. The agreements were signed after delegation level talks between Manmohan Singh, the Prime Minister of India and Park Geun-hye, the President of South Korea in New Delhi.

Jet Airways CEO Gary Kenneth Toomey Resigned

Gary Kenneth Toomey , Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Jet Airways was resigned on 16 January. Toomey succeeded Nikos Kardassis for a period of three years in June 2013. Jet Airways Chief financial officer Ravishankar Gopalakrishnan will be the acting CEO of Jet airways until a new CEO is appointed by Jet Airways.

17 January 2014

Legendary Bengali Actress Suchitra Sen Died

Legendary Bengali actress of yesteryears Suchitra Sen died in Kolkata on 17 January . She was 82. She was born as Rama Dasgupta in Pabna district of West Bengal on 16 April 1931. She was famously known as the Greta Garbo of Bengali cinema and had worked in more than 60 films, the most memorable being Aandhi in hindi and Deep Jwele Jai in Bengali. For Aandhi she was nominated for the Filmfare Best Actress Award. In 1955, Suchitra Sen starred as Paro in her first Hindi film Devdas which was Bimal Roy's adaptation of Bengali classic Devdas. She played the leading lady opposite Dilip Kumar and Vyjayanthimala in the film. Suchitra Sen was the first Indian actress to receive an award at an international film festival when, at the 1963 Moscow International Film Festival, she won the Silver Prize for Best Actress for Saat Paake Bandha. In 2012, Suchitra Sen received the Banga Bibhushan award from the government of West Bengal.

Tamil Nadu Governor Inaugurated 15th Express Technology Sabha

Tamil Nadu Governor, Rosaiah inaugurated 15th Express Technology Sabha on 17 January .The annual event is an established platform to share ideas, best practices and innovations on e-governance from senior government IT officials across the India.

18 January 2014

Actor Mithun Chakraborty To Be Nominated To Rajya Sabha

Actor Mithun Chakraborty was nominated to the Rajya Sabha on a Trinamool Congress ticket on 18 January . Shri Chakraborty is a well-known film personality. Chakraborty won the National Film Award for best actor twice — in 1976 for Mrigaya

and in 1996 for Tahader Katha. He also won the National Film Award for Best Supporting Actor in 1998 for Swami Vivekananda.

Indian-American Won United States Great Teaching Award

India-born Meera Chandrasekhar, professor of physics and astronomy and Curator's Teaching Professor of Physics at the University of Missouri, has won Baylor University's 2014 Robert Foster Cherry Award for Great Teaching. Chandrasekhar will receive the \$250,000 award and an additional \$25,000 for the physics department at the University of Missouri. Chandrasekhar's teaching and research has been recognized with many honours, including the 2006 President's Award for Outstanding Teaching from the University of Missouri. She was honoured in 2002 with the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Indian Institute of Technology. She received an Alfred P. Sloan Fellowship in 1985 and was elected a Fellow of the American Physical Society in 1992.

19 January 2014

West Bengal Selected For Krishi Karman Award

West Bengal has been selected for 'Krishi Karman' Award for 2012-13 as the best performing state in overall agricultural production in the country. 'Krishi Karman Awards' are the first ever awards being given to states for their effort and contribution towards raising the country's foodgrain production.

Information Stealing Virus Detected In Online Banking Transactions

Dexter, a private information stealing virus, was detected by Computer Emergency Response Team – India (CERT-In) in online banking transaction space on 19 January. The virus is particularly more threatening for the users of credit card while making payments at the shopping counters. When the credit card is swiped at the point of sale (POS), the virus Dexter steals the confidential data like card holder's name, account number, expiration date, CVV code and other discretionary information. This leak of the information could lead to financial loss and phishing attacks on the card.

20 January 2014

Union Cabinet Approved Setting up of Rail Tariff Authority

The Union Cabinet has approved to set up Rail Tariff Authority on 20 January. Rail Tariff Authority will be an advisory body which will advise the Railway Ministry on fares. RTA will comprise of a chairperson and four members at the apex level. At present railway fare and freight rates are set by the Railway Board in accordance with the Railway Act, 1989.

Union Cabinet Granted Minority Status To Jain Community

The Jain community was on 20 January accorded minority status by the central government which will enable them to avail of benefits in government schemes and programmes. The Jains became the sixth community to have minority status after Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Parsis. The community is already enjoying minority status in some states like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan but the new decision extends that status across the country.

21 January 2014

Thailand Imposes State Of Emergency Over Protest

The Thailand government has imposed a 60-day state of emergency in the capital Bangkok on 21 January 2014. The emergency has been imposed in the province to suppress the anti-government protest that has blocked the parts of the capital and to take care of the situation and to enforce the law. The emergency decree bans public gatherings, censor the news reports and imposition of curfew for next 60 days. The emergency measure came into effect from 22 January 2014. To suppress the unrest of the country, the Prime Minister has already called-in for elections on 2 February 2014. To issue a ruling on how and whether the ballot can be delayed the Election Commission is expected to request the constitutional court.

India-born Prof A J Paulraj Won 2014 Marconi Prize

Indian born scientist and Professor (Emeritus) at Stanford University, Arogyaswami Joseph Paulraj was on 21 January awarded with prestigious 2014 Marconi Society Prize. He was awarded for developing the theory and application of MIMO (Multiple Input Multiple Output) antennas. His discovery of use of multiple antennas at both the receiving and transmitting end has helped in revolutionizing the speed of wireless delivery in the world of multimedia services.

22 January 2014

Meghwal Elected as Rajasthan Assembly Speaker

Kailash Meghwal was elected unanimously as the Speaker of Rajasthan Assembly on 22 January 2014. His name was proposed by the Chief Minister of Rajasthan Vasundhara Raje and the leader of Opposition, Rameshwar Dudi seconded this proposal. Kailash Meghwal was Mines Minister and resigned from that office on 21 January 2014. Apart from this, 143 of the 200 newly-elected MLAs of the state sworn-in by the Pro Tem Speaker Pradyuman Singh on 21 January 2014, the first session of the 14th Rajasthan Assembly. Vasundhara Raje was the first person to take the oath of the office. The other 12 Ministers were administered the oath of the office followed by MLAs alphabetically order of their names.

” Resurgent India – Glimpses of Rajiv Gandhi’s Vision of India ” Book Released

The Vice President of India M. Hamid Ansari released a book entitled “Resurgent India – Glimpses of Rajiv Gandhi’s Vision of India” authored by P.D.T. Achary, former Secretary General of Lok Sabha at a function in New Delhi on 22 January. The book is an endeavour to discover the true significance of the multi-faceted contributions of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi in different areas of national life.

23 January 2014

Indian Origin Professor Rakesh Khurana Appointed Harvard College Dean

Indian American Professor Rakesh Khurana on 22 January was appointed as the Dean of Harvard College. Presently Khurana is serving as Bower professor of leadership development at Harvard Business School (HBS) and master of Cabot House since 2010. With this appointment, Khurana has joined the long list of Indian-origin academicians, who has assumed the leadership roles at the renowned global universities. With this appointment will succeed Evelyn Hammonds, the professor of History of Science and of African and African American Studies at Harvard.

US scientists Genetically Engineer Tulasi To Increase Pharmaceutical Value

Scientists at Western Kentucky University, US genetically engineered Tulasi or basil to enhance its pharmaceutical value. Scientists genetically engineered Tulai to produce eugenol, a compound found in basil. Eugenol has a pharmaceutical value which

controls the breast cancer. Tulasi is a medicinal plant and has anti-cancerous compounds called metabolites. Tulasi is scientifically called *Ocimum tenuiflorum* or *Ocimum sanctum*. Tulasi leaves are used in Ayurvedic medicine and it is known to promote the longevity of life.

24 January 2014

Union Government Launched National Waterway-4 Project In Tamil Nadu

Union Government launched the project for the development of the stretch of 37 Kilometer of the National Waterway-four (NW-4) between Sholinganallur to Kalpakkam in South Buckingham Canal in Tamil Nadu. NW-4 covers a total length of 1078 Km consisting of Kakinada-Puducherry canal systems integrated with Godavari and Krishna Rivers. Main components of the project include dredging and excavation to develop navigational channel, construction of three terminals and navigational locks, replacement of one existing bridge at Kelambakkam, and installation of navigational aids. The project is expected to be completed in two years with 123 crore rupees.

NALSA Launched Free Legal Service Clinics Across The Country

National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) launched the 2648 village legal service clinics across the country on 24 January. The move aims to bring legal services to the doorsteps of the weakest section of the country. Chief Justice of India P. Sathasivam open free legal clinics in New Delhi. As per the regulation, NALSA will set up village legal services clinics in one village in each Taluk of the country. On the lines of health centres in villages, these legal services will provide legal care to villagers who are not aware about laws and their rights. With the help of Para-legal volunteers and empanelled lawyers, clinics will also assist villagers in getting BPL card, Election ID, Aadhaar Card, gas connection and other government welfare schemes.

25 January 2014

The Election Commission of India Celebrated the 4th National Voters Day

The Election Commission of India celebrated the 4th National Voters Day across the country on 25 January. The theme for the 4th NVD is Ethical Voting. National Voters Day is started from 25 January 2011. 25th January is also the foundation day of the Commission, which came into being on this day in 1950. The Commission's objective through NVD is to increase enrolment of voters, especially of the newly eligible ones, to make universal adult suffrage a complete reality. The National Voters Day is also utilized to spread awareness among voters regarding effective participation in the electoral process.

Pitroda Committee Submit Report To Information and Broadcasting Ministry

Expert Committee constituted by Information and Broadcasting Ministry to review the institutional framework of Prasar Bharti has submitted its report on 25 January 2014. The committee was headed by the Advisor to the Prime Minister on Public Information Infrastructure, Sam Pitroda. The committee was set up on 29 January 2013. Committee has recommended to amend the Act of 1990 to give effective freedom to the Prasar Bharti with administrative and financial powers.

26 January 2014

Saina Nehwal Won Syed Modi International India Grand Prix Title

Saina Nehwal won the Syed Modi International India Grand Prix title 2014 on 26 January. Sania defeated P V Sindhu in the final held at Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh. The win was Sania's third straight win over Sindhu. Sania's last title was Denmark Open in 2012 against Juliane Schenk of Germany.

Ela Gandhi Honoured With Amadelkufa In South Africa

Ela Gandhi, the granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi was honoured with Amadelkufa in South Africa on 26 January. She was honoured for her lifetime contribution to the freedom struggle of South Africa. Amdelkufa in Zulu language means Sacrifice. She formed the trio of Indian-origin South Africans along with Sunny Singh and Mac Maharaj.

27 January 2014

India Won Gold In Men's Basketball at Lusofonia Games

India on 27 January won the basketball gold in the men's section at the Lusofonia Games by defeating Angola at the Shyam Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium in Taleigao in Goa. In the women's category gold was bagged by Mozambique by defeating Angola and India won the bronze title. Mozambique men won the bronze defeating Cape Verde .

Egypt's Army Chief Fattah al-Sisi Promoted To Field Marshal

Egypt's army chief General Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, who led the ouster of Islamist president Mohamed Morsi, has been promoted to the rank of Field Marshal (the highest in the military) on 27 January. His promotion came amid speculation that the military strongman was readying for the Presidential bid.

28 January 2014

Ukraine Prime Minister Mykola Azarov Resigned

Mykola Azarov, Ukraine's Prime Minister, on 28 January in order to facilitate peaceful settlement of the political crisis. President Viktor Yanukovich accepted the resignation of the Prime Minister. The move came after the Ukrainian parliament voted overwhelmingly to annul a controversial anti-protest law. The Parliament voted by 361 to two to repeal the protest legislation which among other measures banned the wearing of helmets by protesters and the blockading of public buildings.

RBI raised Repo Rate By 25 Basis Points To 8 Percent

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) raised the Repo rate under Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) by 25 basis points from 7.75 percent to 8 percent. Besides, it kept the cash reserve ratio (CRR) of scheduled banks unchanged at 4 percent of net demand and time liability (NDTL). The decision to raise the repo rate and keep the CRR unchanged was announced by the RBI in its Third Quarter Monetary Policy Review on 28 January. As a result, the reverse repo rate under the LAF stands adjusted at 7 percent, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 9.0 percent.

29 January 2014

Prime Minister Launched National Waqf Development Corporation

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on 29 January launched National Waqf Development Corporation Limited (NAWADCO) that is a new Central Public Sector Enterprise in New Delhi. It will remain under the Ministry of Minority Affairs. The Waqf Corporation is an important institution that will work for development of Waqf properties for the community welfare. National Waqf Development Corporation (NAWADCO) has been established with an authorized share capital of Rs.500

Crere.The establishment of NAWADCO is a follow up of Sachchar Committee recommendation.

ICC Board Approved International Women's Championship

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has on 29 January approved the introduction of an International Women's Championship, which is a part of qualification for the ICC Women's World Cup. As per the approval, each of the top eight ranked international teams will play the others in a series of matches between mid-2017 and the end of 2016. The top teams will automatically qualify for the ICC Women World Cup of 2017 to be played in England.

30 January 2014

India and Netherlands Signed MoU For Cooperation In Field Of Sports

India and the Netherlands signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in field of Sports. MoU provides exchange of knowledge and experience in the fields of sports management, competition infrastructure set-up, coaching, training systems and training of referees for various sporting disciplines. The MoU was signed by Jitendra Singh, Union Sports Minister and Edith I Schippers Health, Welfare and Sport Minister of the Netherlands in New Delhi on 30 January.

Kiwi Kathy Cross Is First Woman In ICC Umpire's Panel

New Zealand's Kathy Cross on 30 January became the first woman to be inducted in an ICC umpires' panel when she was named as an Associate and Affiliate International umpires for 2014 following the annual review and selection process. The panel comprises 11 umpires that sits below the elite and international panels-officiates in ICC World Cricket League matches for teams ranked in divisions three to six and other associate and affiliate tournaments. The panel of 11 umpires' panel for 2014 has been joined by Kathy Cross and Nigel Morrison.

31 January 2014

Gandhi Portal For British-Indian Children Launched By India

India launched a Gandhi Portal named ' Search for Gandhi ' in London on 31 January. With this India aims to popularize Mahatma Gandhi among children of British Indians settled in UK. High commissioner of India to UK Ranjan Mathai and Sam Pitroda launched this portal. The portal is meant for children aged 6 to 15 and will use audios, videos, creatively integrated facts, games and quizzes. The portal will use both English and Hindi to communicate the messages.

Indian Cyber Security Expert Vivek Lall Appointed As Special Advisor To UN

Renowned aerospace and cyber security expert Vivek Lall has been appointed Special Advisor to United Nations on 31 January to help steer the multi-nation body frame a policy and ensure its implementation in the area of broadband and associated cyber security issues.