

Some Key Current Info-Bits at Random (Oct.9- Oct.18)

- On October 9, 2013 **Nobel Prize for Chemistry** was announced for three molecular chemists Martin Karplus, a US-Austrian citizen, Michael Levitt, a US-British citizen, and Arieh Warshel of the US and Israel for devising computer simulations that are used to understand and predict chemical processes.
- On October 10, 2013 **Nobel Prize for Literature** was announced for Canadian Alice Munro for her tales of the struggles, loves and tragedies of women in small-town Canada that made her what the award-giving committee called the “master of the contemporary short story”.
 - Canadian Alice Munro, 82, has become the 13th woman and second Canada-born author to win Nobel literature prize.
- On October 11, 2013 Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), which recently got into the spotlight by the Syria crisis, won the **Nobel Peace Prize** for its work to rid the world of chemical weapons.
- On October 14, 2013 **Nobel prize in economics** was announced for US trio Lars Peter Hansen, Eugene Fama and Robert Shiller for groundbreaking work on spotting trends in asset markets .
- The Supreme Court has **refused** to entertain a PIL pleading for raising the **retirement age of judges of the SC to 67**, high courts to 65 and trial courts to 62 to speed up disposal of cases and deal with the problem of increasing number of pending cases.
- The Supreme Court has asked trial courts and high courts to apply the ‘principle of aggravating and mitigating factors’ in dowry death cases which attract only imprisonment, ranging from a minimum of seven years to a maximum of life term under **Section 304-B IPC**.
- On October 15, 2013 while quashing a Kerala Govt circular to bring all such societies within the scope of the transparency law, Supreme Court said .. ***“Co-operative societies do not fall within the ambit of Right to Information Act...”***
- The Supreme Court has directed Election Commission to make the process of holding elections more transparent by introducing the **voter verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT)** system on the electronic voting machines (EVMs).
 - Election Commission has said that each VVPAT unit would cost Rs 16,200, excluding excise duty, sales tax and transportation, but the price would come

down to Rs 13,000 if bulk orders were placed for equipping all 1.3 million EVMs with the system.

- **ALH-Dhruv** (Advanced Light Helicopter-Dhruv), the flagship helicopter of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has achieved the milestone of flying one lakh hours (Oct 9).
 - ALH-Dhruv has been also exported to Ecuador, Mauritius, Nepal and Maldives.
 - RK Tyagi is the Chairman of HAL
- Recently at Brunei, PM Dr Singh attended the 11th India-ASEAN Summit and the 8th East Asian Summit.
 - The **Secretariat for ASEAN**, a 10-member bloc of countries, including Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, is based in Jakarta
- **India and Hungary** have signed six agreements for cooperation in defence and other fields. . .
 - Viktor Orban is Hungarian counterpart of PM Dr Singh.
- The **SEBI has notified new norms** for listing of start-ups and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) on stock exchanges without having to make initial public offer (IPO).
 - The SEBI has made amendments of rules to permit listing of start-ups and SMEs in Institutional Trading platform (ITP) without having to make an IPO.
 - As per a circular of October 8, SEBI .the minimum amount for trading or investment on the ITP (Institutional Trading platform) would be Rs 10 lakh.
- **Raj Jain**, former Walmart India head, has been roped in as an adviser by the Bharti Group.
 - Bharti Group has parted ways with the US retail giant to operate stores independently in India.
- The **Budge Budge** railway station on Kolkata's outskirts has been named after Komagata Maru.
- Recently veteran Pakistani diplomats **Syed Ibne Abbas** and Jalil Abbas Jilani were named new Pakistani envoys to India and the US, respectively.

- **Ali Zeidan**, PM of Libya, was freed after being seized and held for several hours by former rebel militiamen angry at the weekend capture by US special forces of a Libyan Al-Qaida suspect in Tripoli.
- **Astronaut Scott Carpenter**, the second American to orbit the Earth and first person to explore both the heights of space and depths of the ocean, has passed away.
- Pakistani teenager **Malala Yousafzai**, shot in the head by the Taliban for campaigning for education for girls, has won the European Union's annual human rights award. (Oct 10).
- On October 11, 2013 **Punjab became the first state in India to ban e-cigarettes** and users of any other electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS).
- Recently a 7.2-magnitude earthquake had struck the central Philippines . . centred about 33 km below Carmen on the **Bohol Island**.
- **Typhoon Wipha**, described as the strongest in 10 years, had recently hit Japan.
- Recently, the cyclone **Phailin** Classified as "very severe", had hit the Andhra Pradesh and Odisha coast with a wind speed of 200 to 220 km per hour.
- **Typhoon Nari** recently pummelled the northern Philippines.. .China . . Nari is the 25th typhoon to hit China this year
 - The **Regional Specialised Meteorological Centre** in the IMD has the responsibility of christening all cyclones that hit India, Pakistan, Oman, Bangladesh, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand.
- **Maria de Villota**, 33, former Spanish Formula One test driver, one of the few women to come close to the top of the sport but whose career was cut short by an horrific accident last year, has died.
- On October 12, 2013 thousands gathered in Baku (capital of Azerbaijan) to protest the re-election of **President Ilham Aliyev** in a vote widely criticized by international election monitors.
- **Wadiah Safi**, Lebanese singer and composer whose strong, clear voice propelled him to fame throughout the Arab world, has died at the age of 92.
- Punjab has been ranked 23rd among states and UTs in **environment performance index** benchmarked by the Planning Commission in its 2012 report.

- World number two **Novak Djokovic** defeated Argentine Juan Martin del Potro and successfully defend the Shanghai Masters title . .his 20th consecutive win in China.
- Australian Sam Stosur denied Canadian teenager Eugenie Bouchard her first WTA title to claim the **Japan Open** for a second time.
- Government Chawmfianga Middle School in Kolasib, Mizoram has won its maiden U-14 boys title of the **54th Subroto Cup**.
- **Infosys** has overtaken Reliance Industries (RIL) to become the second most influential stock on BSE benchmark Sensex after its shares surged by 1.52 pc
- Australian **Terry Walsh** has been appointed the chief coach of Indian men's hockey team as a replacement to his compatriot Michael Nobbs.
- GoI has increased the **minimum support price (MSP)** of wheat by Rs 50 per quintal to take it to Rs 1,400 per quintal.

(compiled by ravi k mahajan)
for IASC