

## Some Key Current Info-Bits at Random (Oct.19- Oct.31)

- On October 29, 2013 Ace fighter pilot **Air Marshal Arup Raha** was appointed the next Chief of the Indian Air Force. .. Air Marshal Raha will take over as the next chief after Air Chief Marshal NAK Browne retires on December 31, 2013.
- On October 30, 2013 Chandigarh-born software engineer **Gurdeep Singh Pall** was named as the corporate vice president of Skype
- On October 29, 2013 at Lima, **India and Peru** signed four agreements in the presence of Vice-President Hamid Ansari to promote bilateral cooperation in the fields of education, culture and defence and to set up a joint commission to diversify relations
- Report by the **World Bank and International Finance Corporation** ranking countries on the basis of 10 factors, has placed India at third worst in resolving commercial disputes.
- Congress president Sonia Gandhi has been ranked 21st among the **world's most powerful people** by Forbes magazine, making her the third most influential of women leaders included in the list.
  - German Chancellor **Angela Merkel** and Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff were the only women who figured ahead of Sonia Gandhi.
- Nielsen global survey suggested that the **consumer confidence level in India** has declined as compared with the previous quarter, .. but India remained third most bullish consumer market in the world.
- The **Global Slavery Index**, a maiden ranking of 162 countries for their record in modern-day practices of slavery, has put India as home to highest number of slaves.
  - Components in the modern-day practices of slavery include, debt bondage, descent base slavery, trafficking and forced and early marriage.
  - As per Global Slavery Index, out of 30 million slaves, in the modern-day practices, in the world, 13.9 million are in India and 3 million (the second highest number) in China.
  - The 10 countries with the lowest prevalence of slavery - among those ranked - are European nations Denmark, Finland, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, Ireland and Iceland. New Zealand is an exception.
- **Infosys, second largest software** exporter of India, has agreed to pay a record \$34 million fine to settle a visa row in the US.
  - Infosys allegedly sent employees to the US with B-1 visitor visas and not on H1-Bs permits designed for high-tech workers
- Indian squash player **Dipika Pallikal** notched up a stunning victory against former World number one Rachael Grinham of Australia to clinch the 2013' Macau Open title.

- OM Roy Memorial, Shillong (Meghalaya) had defeated Magurmari High School, Kokrajhar (Assam) 4-0 to lift the Under-17 Boys title of the **54th Subroto Cup** at the Ambedkar Stadium.
- On October 30, 2013 at Nagpur, India successfully chased second 350-plus run chase in the series. .defated Australia (350) by 6 wkts. (Kohli 115\*, Dhawan 100, Rohit 79)MoM Virat Kohli hit 50 off 31 balls and 100 of 61
  - At Nagpur, **Virat Kohli** had hit his 17th ton in ODIs in his 112th innings, 58 fewer than Sourav Ganguly who was fastest to 17 ODI hundreds before him. Saeed Anwar, next quickest batsman to 17 ODI hundreds, took 177 innings.
- Israel has allowed about 9000 Indian Jews from Manipur and Mizoram, the members of the “lost” **Bnei Menashe** tribe, to immigrate to the Jewish state.
  - Bnei Menashe (literally sons of Menashe), a group of indigenous people from North-Eastern states of Manipur and Mizoram, trace their roots in one of the ten "lost tribes" of Jews exiled by the Assyrian regime over 2,700 years ago.
- Four Indians led by ICICI Bank **CEO Chanda Kochhar** have made to 2013 global list of Fortune magazine of top-50 women business leaders, while PepsiCo chief Indra Nooyi ranked second in a similar list for the US.
  - The list is topped by Brazilian energy giant Petrobras’ CEO, Maria Das Gracas Foster, followed by Turkish conglomerate Sabanci Holding’s Guler Sabanci.
- Renowned Pakistani playback singer **Zubaida Khanum**, 78, has passed away.
- On October 21, 2013 during the 14th Annual **Indo-Russian Summit**, President Putin and PM Dr Singh hoped for a forward movement in the deal on two additional reactors for the Kudankulam nuclear plant.
  - President Putin handed over three historical gifts to visiting PM Dr Singh that included a Mughal-era coin and a 19th century map of India.
  - President Putin personally selected for PM Dr Singh a lithograph of an artwork pertaining to the 1890-91 visit of the son of the then Tsar to India. The son later went on to become Niocholas-II
  - Furing his recent visit to Russia, an **Honorary Doctorate was conferred on PM Dr Singh** by the Moscow State Institute of International Relations.
- On October 21, 2013 **Rasheed Masood** became the first MP to be disqualified after the Supreme Court in July said lawmakers will lose their seats immediately if they are convicted of offences that carry a prison term of more than two years.
  - Rajya Sabha member Rasheed Masood was disqualified from the Upper House after he was found guilty of criminal conspiracy, cheating and forgery in allocating seats in a medical college.
- The Book “**The Blood Telegram: India's Secret War in East Pakistan**”, describes how Richard Nixon was baffled and annoyed by Americans' sympathies for India.

- Princeton University professor Gary J Bass in the book "The Blood Telegram: India's Secret War in East Pakistan", describes how Nixon and his National Security Adviser Henry Kissinger supported Pakistan's military dictatorship.
- On October 24, 2013 Supreme Court directed a Kolkata-based hospital and three doctors to pay Rs 6.08 cr with 6 pc interest for 15 yrs as compensation to an Indian origin doctor settled in US for the death of his wife in May 1998 due to negligence.
- Supreme Court has ruled that Administrative authorities, like judiciary which has the power to review its decisions, can also have a re-look and undo earlier “wrong and illegal” orders.
- On October 24, 2013 recipient of Dada Saheb Phalke Award and Padma Bhushan Award, **Manna Dey**, the proverbial last Mohican among the singers who lighted up the Bollywood musical scene in the sixties and seventies, passed away.
- A new postage stamp of **Prof Ruchi Ram Sahni** was released on October 24, 2013 at Panjab University (PU), on the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of Sahni.
- **Gartner has projected** .. “ IT spending in India will reach \$71.3 billion in 2014, a 5.9 pc increase from the \$67.4 billion forecast for 2013..”.
  - In India, IT services will record the strongest revenue growth at 12.1%, software revenue will grow 10% and the telecommunication services segment that accounts for 42.1% of the Indian ICT market
- As per the latest data released by **TRAI** .. the number of telephone subscribers in India have increased to 906.18 million at the end of August 2013,
  - The overall **Teledensity in India** has increased from 73.54 at the end of July, 2013 to 73.60 at the end of August, 2013.
  - The subscription in the urban areas slightly declined from 548.92 million in July, 2013 to 548.90 million at the end of August, 2013
- Recently, Scientists reported having discovered the most distant **galaxy z8-GND-5296**, ever-seen as it was 700 million years after the Big Bang.
- The China-based Hurun India Rich List, has put energy tycoon and Reliance Industries chairman **Mukesh Ambani** as richest man of India with personal assets of \$18.9 billion
- On October 22, 2013 at Strasbourg, Myanmar leader **Aung San Suu Kyi** received the European Union's 1990 Sakharov Prize for human rights from European Parliament speaker Martin Schulz.
- On October 25, 2013 Indian Army successful completed Exercise Indra 2013 involving Russian and Indian forces.
  - **First time a battalion-level** exercises involving Russian and Indian mechanised forces were held in India

- In **Exercise Gangneva** (name derived from rivers Ganga in India and Neva in Russia) at the Mahajan Field Firing Range in Rajasthan, Indian and Russian mechanised troops captured a notional rebel strong point.
- At Cario, on the 71st Anniversary of the **Battle of El Alamein**, Indian martyrs who had played a pivotal role in the Battle, considered to be a turning point during the World War II were honoured.
- On October 26, 2013 the most active volcano in Europe, **Mt. Etna** erupted spewing glowing lava into the air and sending a vast plume of smoke over the southern Italian island of Sicily.
- On October 26, 2013 IAF launched its own **3G cellular network**, becoming the first among the services to have commissioned its own captive communication system.
- On October 26, 2013 a MoU was signed between **Paradip Port Trust and GAIL** (India) Ltd. for setting up of a LNG Terminal in Paradip Port Trust
  - GAIL having the authorization of laying Jagdishpur – Halida and Surat – Paradip LNG pipeline has planned to set up the Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU) in Paradip Port.
- In the book “**Yeh Khamoshi Kahan Tak**”, Lt General Shahid Aziz, the then DG Military Operations and close aide of Musharraf, has revealed that 1999 coup in Pakistan that saw the ouster of PM Sharif was pre-planned
- **Dealogic report** has put that Global merger and acquisition deal volume has reached \$2.3 trillion so far this year, registering an increase of 9 pc from last year levels.
- “**Mobile Economy India 2013**” has put that Mobile ecosystem generated app. 5.3 pc of GDP for India, directly supported 730000 jobs and an additional 2 million jobs when points of sale and distributors are included during 2012.
- US-based business magazine Forbes has released annual list of **100 richest Indians..** their total wealth grew by a modest 3 pc from a year ago to \$259 billion.
  - Forbes has placed Reliance Industries chief Mukesh Ambani as wealthiest India for sixth year in a row, with a networth of \$21 billion while his younger sibling Anil Ambani bagged the 11th position with a fortune of \$ 6.2 billion.
- On October 27, 2013 South African cricketer **Darryn Randall** died after being hit on the head while batting in a Premier League match.
- At Istanbul, **Serena Williams** has capped off a season by capturing her fourth WTA Championship title with a 2-6 6-3 6-0 win over Li Na.
  - Williams has become the eighth woman to win 11 or more titles in a year and the first since Martina Hingis had 12 in 1997.
- Argentine **Juan Martin del Potro** had defeated Swiss Roger Federer in the final of the Basel Open . .to win his fourth ATP title this year.

- On October 29, 2013 ASI abandoned excavation at historic Raja Rao Ram Bux Singh fort at **Daudikalan village** in Unnao for 1,000 tons of gold hunt after 11 days of high drama.
- On October 30, 2013 first ever **Diwali festival** was celebrated at the US Congress amidst chanting of Vedic mantras by a Hindu priest.
- On October 30, 2013 at Havana, **Festival of India** was inaugurated by Vice-President Hamid Ansari shortly after his arrival from Lima.
- On October 31, 2013 noted Hindi satirist and Padam Shri awardee **KP Saxena** died in a hospital in Lucknow.

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for IASC