

Some Key Current Info-Bits at Random (Nov. 1- Nov.10)

- Mahatma Gandhi's over eight-decade old "charkha", one of his most prized possessions that he used in **Yerwada Jail during the "Quit India Movement"**, was recently auctioned in the UK for £1.1 lakh.
- **CAG Shashi Kant Sharma** has been recently elected as Member of UN Board of Auditors for a six-year term.
- On November 5, 2013 India successfully blasted off PSLV-C25 to put 1,350-kg **Mars orbiter** (Mangalyaan) in an elliptical orbit around the Earth.
 - USA, Russia and Europe have been successful in Mars mission while China has failed to do.
 - ISRO chief is K Radhakrishnan.
- **Yuki Bhambri** has won his first ATP Challenger level singles title of the season and second of his career after defeating top seed American Bradely Klahn in the rain-hit summit clash of the Traralgon event in Australia.
- **Sanathoi Devi and Pooja Kadian** have won silver medals at the 12th World Wushu Championship in Malaysia.
- On November 4, 2013 **Virat Kohli** became the number one batsman in ODI after a superb batting show against Australia series.
 - Kohli has become the **third Indian batsman** to hold the number-one batting rank in ODI, after Sachin Tendulkar and MS Dhoni
- Petroleum Minister Veerappa Moily has recently cleared a proposal to allow the sale of (LPG) cylinders at petrol pumps throughout the country. **non-subsidised 5-kg cooking gas**
- On November 5, 2013 ending a five-year hiatus, India and China began a joint anti-terrorism military exercise in southwestern **Sichuan province**.
 - India and China have deployed about 150 soldiers each in the 10-day exercise, code-named "**Hand-in-Hand 2013**".
- On November 5, 2013 **Malabar 2013**, bilateral exercise of Indian Navy and US Navy commenced in the Bay of Bengal.

- Recently, during the “**Azm-e-Nau 4 Exercise**” at Bahawalpur in Punjab province, Pakistan demonstrated its anti-drone technology by bringing down a drone by targeting it with the 35mm Oerlikon guns.
- On November 5, 2013 Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs Vayalar Ravi revealed that over 1,34,000 **Indian workers have returned from Saudi Arabia** after the kingdom enforced stricter labour regulations.
- **Asian Development Bank** (ADB) has announced a loan of \$2 billion annually for five years till 2017 to India to create jobs, enhance investment reforms, and improve infrastructure.
- Wealth-X and UBS billionaire census report 2013 has reported a decrease in the **India's billionaire population** by 5.5% to 103 and fall in the total billionaire wealth by \$10 billion to \$180 billion.
 - India has more number of billionaires than France, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland and Hong Kong and is home to the sixth largest group of super rich population in the world.
 - United States with 515 ultra-rich people, three times more than in China, which ranks second with 157 billionaires followed by Germany, United Kingdom and Russia make the top five countries with a billionaire population of 148, 135 and 108, respectively.
- GoI has sanctioned Rs **17,772 crore cash subsidy** to fuel retailers like IOC to cover for half of the revenues they lost on selling diesel and cooking fuels below cost in the September quarter.
- Russia has **launched into space a trio of Russian, Japanese and US** astronauts carrying an unlit Olympic torch that will for the first time be taken on a spacewalk to mark the 2014 Winter Games in Sochi.
- **Mullah Fazlullah**, the militant commander who ordered the assassination of teenage activist Malala Yusufzai, has been named by the Pakistani Taliban as its new chief to replace Hakimullah Mehsud, killed in a US drone strike.
- Recently, **Prince Charles of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall Camilla Parker Bowles** had visited the Indian Military Academy (IMA).

- IMA was established by the British in 1932
- Defeating West Indies by an innings and 51 runs, India have won **the Test no. 2101**, played at Eden Gardens, Kolkata.
 - For the first time that India have won five Tests in a row.
 - Mohammed Shami and RG Sharma (India); SS Cottrell (West Indies) made debut during the Test.
 - Mohammed Shami registered best bowling figures for the match by an Indian fast-bowler on debut and the second-best by an Indian bowler on debut.
 - Rohit became the fifth India player to win the Man-of-the-Match award on Test debut.
- India has been awarded the **2018 men's hockey World Cup**, ... the second time in a span of eight years India will be hosting the mega event.
- The **2018 women's Hockey World Cup** will be held in England.
- **Indian women's hockey** team has won a silver in third Asian Champions Trophy after losing to hosts Japan by a solitary goal in the summit clash of the event at Kakamigahara, Japan
- **Martha Doday**, a polio worker in Bihar, was honoured at the Global Leadership Awards Dinner 2013.
- US and Israel automatically have lost **voting rights at UNESCO**, after missing a crucial deadline to repay its debt to the world's cultural agency,
 - U.S. hasn't paid its dues to the Paris-based UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in protest over the decision by world governments to make Palestine a UNESCO member in 2011
 - Israel also suspended its dues at the same time and also lost voting rights
- The **Fortune list of 50 most powerful** businesswomen ranking for 2013' Fortune has named ICICI Bank MD Chanda Kochhar as the most powerful businesswoman in India for the third consecutive year.
 - **Shikha Sharma of Axis Bank and Aruna Jayanthi** of Capgemini India have taken the second and third place.

- The **Supreme Court has stayed Gauhati High Court verdict** declaring as unconstitutional the setting up of CBI 50 years ago primarily to deal with corruption and criminal cases.
- During a trilateral meeting among the **foreign ministers of RIC** (Russia, India and China) countries at New Delhi . . terrorism, drug trafficking and situation in Afghanistan and Syria were among the issues that figured prominently.
 - The three countries have been holding meetings at the foreign ministers' level since 1996.
 - External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi attended the meeting.
 - The three foreign ministers also discussed the issues related to the upcoming 9th WTO Ministerial Conference to be held in Bali.
- Bangladesh golfer **Mohammad Siddikur** has won 50th Hero Indian Open title . . SSP Chowrasia missed a much-needed birdie putt on the last hole.
- **Akashdeep Singh** had scored three goals as India thrashed Oman 6-1 to finish fifth in the third Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament at Kakamigahara, Japan.
- Researchers led by Professor **Radu Silanghi-Dumitrescu**, from Babes-Bolyai University have created an artificial blood substitute with a protein extracted from marine worms, rather than based on synthetic hemoglobins.
- Death toll from **Haiyan**, a super typhoon codenamed Yolanda in the Philippines, that decimated entire towns in the Philippines has been put well over 10,000, authorities warned
 - Haiyan, the most powerful typhoon in the country's history, engulfed many areas in Leyte, Samar, Visayas, Bicol and Mindanao regions
- Industry body **CII has signed an initial agreement with WEF** (World Economic Forum) to collaborate for partnerships in various spheres including infrastructure investments and human capital.
 - The MoU was signed by **Klaus Schwab**, Founder and Executive Chairman, WEF and Kris Gopalakrishnan, President, CII.
- Export-Import Bank of India has identified **15 African countries**.

- Countries identified by Exim Bank are: Algeria, Angola, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, Zambia, and Uganda.
- The first edition of the annual “Sikh 100” published in London has ranked PM Dr Singh as world's most powerful, influential and contemporary Sikh.

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For IASC