

## Some Key Current Info-Bits at Random (Nov. 21- Nov.30)

- The 44th **International Film Festival of India** (IFFI) was recently held at Panjim
  - **Bhartiya Cinema Ka Safarnaama** published by Directorate of publications Division was released at IFFI.
  - Czech filmmaker **Jiri Menzel** was given the Lifetime Achievement Award by the IFFI.
- On November 21, 2013 speaking at **the BRICS International Competition Conference**, PM Dr Singh called for *giving public sector firms greater functional autonomy and freeing them from bureaucratic control and not in tolerating a slip in their competitiveness and then shielding them from competition.*
  - BRICS is a block of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
  - BRICS countries have a combined population of three billion with a total GDP of nearly \$14 trillion and around **\$4 trillion of forex reserves.**
    - The grouping BRICS was originally known as "BRIC" before the inclusion of South Africa in 2010.
- On the margins of the **Asia-Europe Meeting** (ASEM) in Gurgaon, **Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida** reassured External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid of its commitment to a bilateral civil nuclear deal.
  - ASEM was officially established in 1996.
  - The 11th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held on 11/12 November 2013 at New Delhi, India
- **Chand Lal-Sarin**, first Indian-origin woman magistrate in Britain died in Coventry at the age of 84.
  - Myanmar- Born, Chand Lal-Sarin had moved to the UK from Punjab in 1962 and in 1970 she became a magistrate.
- **Liechtenstein, Isle of Man, British Virgin Islands and Cayman Islands** have recently joined the global convention formulated by the Paris-based advisory group OECD.
  - It is seen as a big boost in the fight against black-money.
  - The **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development** (OECD) is an international economic organisation of 34 countries.
  - OECD was founded in 1961.
- With a goal-less draw against Jordan in the return leg of their play-off at **the Centenario stadium Montevideo**, on November 21, 2013 Uruguay became the last team to qualify for the 2014 World Cup.
  - Oscar Tabarez is Uruguay coach.

- Recently Kohli completed 5000 ODI runs in his 114th innings, **equalling Viv Richards'** record as the fastest batsman in ODIs to 5000 runs.
  - For India, Sourav Ganguly had 5000 ODI runs in 126 innings.
  - Kohli has won five Man-of-the-Match awards in ODIs in 2013, the most by any batsman this year. Ravindra Jadeja has become the leading wicket-taker in ODIs in 2013 going ahead of Saeed Ajmal.
- **Serena Williams** has recently won the WTA player of the year award for the second year running and the fifth time overall.
  - Williams has enjoyed one of the greatest seasons in WTA history.
  - She won 78 of 82 matches, the U.S. Open and French Open among 11 titles, and a record \$12,385,572 in prize money.
  - Since February, she's been the oldest No. 1 in WTA history.
- Recently at Chennai, after a hard-fought draw in the 10th game of the World Chess Championship match, five-time title-holder **Viswanathan Anand lost to Magnus Carlsen**, 23, of Norway.
  - Newly-crowned world chess champion Magnus Carlsen won a prize money of Rs 9.90 cr.
  - Anand had won the world championship title five times -2000, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2012, ... ironically he was dethroned in his home town (Chennai).
  - This was the only time that **Anand failed to win a single game** in a world championship match.
  - Starting with his journey in 1991, Anand had always scored at least one victory in each of the match that he played in the last 22 years
  - Carlsen (born on 30 November 1990) is **No. 1 ranked player** in the world.
  - Carlsen was the 2009 World Blitz chess champion.
  - **Carlsen became a grandmaster at the age of 13 years**, 148 days, making him at that time the second youngest grandmaster in history, although he has since become the third youngest.
  - On 1 January 2010, at the age of 19 years, 32 days, he became the youngest chess player in history to be ranked world No. 1.
- On November 22, 2013 Indian-origin British MP **Priti Patel** was honoured with the prestigious Asian Trader Editors Award for her tireless campaigning to support small shops and convenience stores.
- On November 22, 2013 prominent Indian-Americans - author **Salman Rushdie** and filmmaker **Mira Nair**, were honoured by Indo-American Arts Council (IAAC).

- On November 23, 2013 Chief Justice of India Justice P Sathasivam inaugurated the first **National Lok Adalat** at New Delhi. The Lok Adalat held across India disposed of a record 30 lakh cases covering cheque bounce, civil suits, motor accident claims and service and family matters.
  - With this, the number of pending cases (estimated at over 30 million) in India has come down by about 10 per cent.
  - The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) had organised the exercise through state and district-level legal services authorities.
  - Maharashtra managed to reduce the number of pending cases by 5.66 lakh, followed by Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal with 4 lakh cases each.
  - Delhi brought down the pendency by 3 lakh cases, including about 100 in the Supreme Court.
- On November 23, 2013 **East China Sea Air Defence Identification Zone**, established by China over disputed islands (called Diaoyu by China and Senkakus by Japan), became operations.
- On November 23, 2013 India successfully test-fired its **nuclear-capable surface-to-surface Dhanush** ballistic missile from a naval ship off Odisha coast.
  - The surface-to-surface Dhanush is a naval variant of India's indigenously developed '**Prithvi**' missile.
  - Dhanush missile is capable of carrying conventional as well as nuclear payload of 500 to 1,000 kg and hit both land and sea-based targets.
- On November 24, 2013 Iran and six world powers meeting in Geneva reached a deal that temporarily freezes **Tehrans nuclear programme** and marks a historic first step toward a more permanent agreement.
  - The deal was announced in Geneva where officials from Iran and the **P5+1 - the US, Britain, Russia, France, China and Germany** - along with the European Union, held intensive negotiations.
  - Iran has committed to halt uranium enrichment above 5 per cent, which is sufficient for energy production but not for making a bomb.
  - Further, it will:
    - neutralise its stockpile of near-20 per cent enriched uranium;
    - halt progress on its enrichment capacity;
    - make no further advances of its activities at the Arak reactor;
    - halt work at its plutonium reactor; and
    - give International Atomic Energy Agency inspectors daily access to monitor its nuclear facilities at Natanz and Fordow.

- On November 24, 2014 an **Afghan grand assembly** endorsed a crucial security agreement allowing some US troops to stay on after 2014.
  - The assembly urged **President Hamid Karzai** to sign by the end of the year the Bilateral Security Agreement governing the presence of the troops after 2014, the date for most NATO combat forces to pull out.
  - The 50 groups making up the "**loya jirga**" gathering of about 2,500 chieftains, tribal elders and politicians.
- **Scotland has set March 24, 2016** as its independence day, if voters back leaving the UK in a "landmark" referendum to break up the 300-year union.
- On November 24, 2014 **Ireland secured qualification** for next years World Twenty20 by extending their unbeaten record in Group A of the qualifiers with a win over Hong Kong.
- Recently Ghaziabad CBI court convicted Talwar-couple of murdering their daughter and Nepalese domestic help. The two were held guilty **under IPC's Sections**:
  - 302 (murder),
  - 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) and
  - 201 (causing disappearance of evidence)
  - Rajesh Talwar was also held guilty under Section 203 of the IPC for lodging a false FIR.
- On November 25, 2013 first unit of the 1,980-MW **Talwandi Sabo Thermal Plant** became operational at Banawala village.. was commissioned by Dy CM Sukhbir Singh Badal by pressing a remote button.
- On November 26, 2013 in Pakistan, PM Nawaz Sharif laid the foundation stone for a **2200-MW nuclear power plant in Karachi**, .. to be built with Chinese help.
- On November 26, 2013 Bangalore-based pharmaceutical company **Biocon Ltd**, announced that it has received approval from the Drugs Controller General of India to market its **biosimilar trastuzumab** developed jointly with Mylan for treatment of breast cancer.
  - Biocon Limited is headed by a woman entrepreneur **Kiran Mazumdar Shaw**.
- Archaeologists from UK have suggested that the **sage Buddha** may have lived in the 6th century BC, two centuries earlier than thought.
  - Suggestion came from excavations within the sacred Maya Devi Temple at Lumbini in Nepal, a **UNESCO World Heritage** site long identified as the birthplace of the Buddha.
- On November 21, 2013 Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau registered an FIR in a forgery case involving the high-end housing project at Kanlog. The FIR has been registered under IPC Sections:

- 420 (cheating),
- 465 (punishment for forgery),
- 467 (forgery of valuable security, will, etc),
- 468 (forgery for purpose of cheating),
- 471 (using as genuine a forged document) and
- 120 (concealing design to commit offence punishable with imprisonment) of the IPC, and
- Section 33 (to set fire to forest without taking all reasonable precautions to prevent it from spreading) of the Indian Forest Act.

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For IASC