



NOV III

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1. India recently signed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to operationalize the Agreement on Coastal shipping with which of the following country?

- A) Sri Lanka
- B) Bangladesh
- C) Pakistan
- D) Japan

ANS: B

Qs Based on Similar Background

2. Who is India's Minister of Shipping and Road Transport and Highways?

- A) Prakash Javdekar
- B) Arun Jatily
- C) Nitin Gadkari
- D) V K Singh

ANS: C

3. Which of the following Constitution Amendment is related to India – Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) signed in June 2015?

- A) 117
- B) 118
- C) 119
- D) 124

ANS: C

4. Which writer came to India after life became difficult for her in Bangladesh after her novel Lajja was published?

- A) Jhumpa Lahiri
- B) Kiran Desai
- C) Anita Desai
- D) Taslima Nasreen

ANS: D

5. How was Bangladesh known when it was part of Pakistan? (After the formation of Pakistan in 1947, the West Pakistanis made Urdu the whole country's national language. The Bengali population was not happy about this and wanted equal status for their own language. After an uprising by the language movement, Bangla became the national language in 1952.)

- A) Baltistan
- B) Baluchistan
- C) Sindh
- D) East Pakistan

ANS: D

6. Which district of Bangladesh was part of Assam?

- A) Khulna
- B) Sylhet
- C) Chittagong
- D) Dinajpur

ANS: B

SOURCE:

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/shipping/-transport/india-bangladesh-sign-sop-to-operationalise-agreement-on-coastal-shipping/articleshow/49802539.cms>

India and Bangladesh signed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to operationalize the "Agreement on Coastal Shipping" in the presence of Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Shipping and Road Transport and Highways on Sunday in New Delhi.

Gadkari said that once it is operational, the Coastal Shipping Agreement will enable a huge saving in logistic costs of EXIM transport between the two countries. The SOP has been framed as per the terms and conditions of the Agreement on Coastal Shipping and both India and Bangladesh have agreed to its provisions.

The Standard Operating Procedure will pave the way to promote coastal shipping between India and Bangladesh and would enhance bilateral trade between the two countries by bringing down the cost of transportation of EXIM cargo. The SOP contains provisions which stipulate that India and Bangladesh shall render same treatment to the other country's vessels as it would have done to its national vessels used in international sea transportation. The two sides have also agreed upon the vessels of River Sea Vessel (RSV) category for Indo-Bangladesh coastal shipping.

President of India Pranab Mukherjee on 28 May 2015 gave his assent to the Constitution (119th Amendment related to India – Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement (LBA)) Bill, 2013.

India and Bangladesh have a Bilateral Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade (PIWTT) for operation of inland vessels on the river protocol routes between river ports of Haldia, Kolkata, Pandu, Karimganj and Silghat in India and Narayanganj, Khulna, Mongla, Sirajganj and Ashuganj in Bangladesh.

Rapid growth in bilateral trade between India and Bangladesh has led to congestion on the road at Indo-Bangladesh border and at the Land Custom Stations/integrated Check Posts. The traffic congestion at "Petrapole" and "Benapole" on the Bangladesh side has emerged as one of the biggest impediments to the movement of EXIM cargo. Due to such congestion, the exporters/importers on both sides have been facing undue increase in the transportation cost.

The present connectivity through sea route with Bangladesh is through ports of Colombo and Singapore. The long sea route adds significantly to the transportation costs of EXIM trade. There is no significant cargo movement between sea ports of Bangladesh and India as it is not profitable for the big vessels to operate between these sea ports. Under such circumstances there is a need for smaller ships to provide direct connectivity of eastern sea ports of India with Chittagong and other ports in Bangladesh. This, besides improving the connectivity will also provide competitive freight rates.

The biggest impediment in commencing coastal shipping between India and Bangladesh was the non-availability of River Sea Vessel class of vessels in Bangladesh. Bangladesh has foreign going vessels of higher technical and manning standards which are not cost effective for coastal voyage between the two countries. The matter was discussed with Bangladesh side during the Secretary (Shipping) level discussion in Dhaka in July, 2012 and again in

Delhi in February, 2013.

7. American engineers recently developed a new material that could transform seawater into safe, drinking water by filtering large quantities of seawater through extremely small holes which block salt and other impurities. These small holes are called?

- A) Seapores
- B) Nanopores
- C) Freshpores
- D) Waterpores

ANS: B

8. Which day is marked as World Water Day?

- A) March 22
- B) March 25
- C) March 26
- D) March 30

ANS: A

SOURCE:

<http://www.techtimes.com/articles/106329/20151114/scientists-develop-nanopores-that-can-make-seawater-drinkable.htm>

According to the World Health Organization, access to sufficient, safe drinking water is vital in the prevention of 16 out of 17 neglected tropical diseases also known as NTDs.

There is much water on the planet but very little is safe for drinking. During drought, having an access to large amounts of safe, drinking water carries much advantage. Developing a low-cost way to filter seawater is a major step in solving the water crisis.

American engineers are one step closer to developing an energy-efficient and cheaper method to make seawater drinkable.

American engineers have developed a new material that could transform seawater into safe, drinking water by filtering large quantities of seawater through extremely small holes called "nanopores," which block salt and other impurities.

The sheet material is made of molybdenum disulfide (MoS₂) about a nanometer thick. The nanopore sheet came out as the most efficient material out of all the thin-film sheaths the research team tried, being able to sift up to 70 percent more water than the rest. The material is porous and filters salt and dirt but allows water to filter through.

"Finding materials for efficient desalination has been a big issue, and I think this work lays the foundation for next-generation materials. These materials are efficient in terms of energy usage and fouling, which are issues that have plagued desalination technology for a long time," said lead author Narayana Aluru who teaches mechanical science and engineering at the University of Illinois. These include soil-transmitted helminths (intestinal worms), trachoma and schistosomiasis. There is an estimated 1.5 billion people in 149 countries suffering from NTDs which could lead to disfigurement, blindness, permanent disability and even death.

While reverse osmosis is also capable of filtering seawater and making it drinkable, the process is intensive as much as it is expensive. The researchers aim to develop a new process which is more efficient and less faulty as reverse osmosis, wherein membrane collapse due to congestion. Developing a process that requires less pressure in order to get more water is the next step.

9. A Vulture Reintroduction Programme named 'Gyps Vulture Reintroduction

Programme' by putting ten captive bred vultures in pre-release aviaries was recently

launched in which of the following state?

- A) Haryana
- B) Punjab
- C) Himachal Pradesh
- D) Assam

ANS: A

SOURCE:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/vulture-reintroduction-programme-launched-in-haryana/article7875563.ece>

BACKGROUND:

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched 'Gyps Vulture Reintroduction Programme' by putting ten captive bred vultures in pre-release aviaries close to Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centre at Pinjore near here.

The exercise was part of reintroduction programme in the pre-release aviary, where birds will have an unobstructed view of the surrounding.

It will also help them in getting use to the habitat in which they would be released in future.

At the conservation breeding centre, they were kept in aviaries where they had little view of the habitat around, said a spokesman here.

The ten vultures released by the CM include two Himalayan Griffons, which were brought as sick birds. They have been in captivity for last ten years.

The rest were all white-backed vultures, of which six were hatched in captivity at the centre and are of two-three years of age. The other two were adult birds rescued from the wild about ten years, he said.

All the vultures have dummy satellite transmitters fitted as a back pack, but it will be replaced with actual transmitters at least a week before they are released in the wild. It will help in tracking the vultures.

Before releasing the bird, it would be ensured that there is enough food in the habitat and low prevalence of the drug diclofenac at least in 100 km radius in the area targeted by advocacy and awareness programme, he said.

Later, while interacting with the media persons, the CM said for the first time captive bred vultures have been released in the pre-release aviary so that they can play their role naturally.

Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centre, run by Haryana Wild Life Department and the Forest Department, has been constantly working to increase their numbers through breeding and conservation, he said.

When asked whether the vultures would play a role in the success of 'Swacch Bharat Abhiyan', the CM said these birds feed on carcasses of animal before it get decomposed, thus prevent from growth of harmful bacteria and fungus.

This way, they play a vital role in the successful implementation of 'Swacch Bharat Abhiyan' as they keep our environment clean, he added.

Mr Khattar described the conservation of vultures as a world-wide phenomena and said that every country and state is concerned about their decreasing numbers.

It was a matter of concern that their number has decreased from four crore earlier to only one lakh, he said.

The vultures get exposed to Diclofenac, a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug which is given to cattle in inflammation and pain is extremely toxic to vultures, when they feed on the carcasses of an animal which died within 75 hours of the administration of the drug.

The drug was banned by Government of India for veterinary use in 2006. But the vultures continued to die, though at a slower rate due to misuse of multi-dose vials of Diclofenac for human formulations.

The multi-dose vials for human use were banned by the Drug Controller General of India on the July 17, 2015. It directed that only vials of 3 ML could be used for human consumption instead of 30 ML earlier, he said. The CM said his government would enforce these orders in the state.

This would certainly bring down the prevalence of the drug in cattle carcasses and the environment would be safe for vultures.

Earlier, the CM also saw a detailed presentation on the Conservation and Breeding of Vultures.



10. Promising an entertaining outing of children's cinema for a week, the 19th

International Children's Film Festival of India (ICFFI) was inaugurated in which of the following city?

- A) Chennai
- B) Mumbai
- C) Hyderabad
- D) Chandigarh

ANS: C

SOURCE:

<http://www.ddinews.gov.in/Current%20Affairs/Pages/kidsfilmfestival.aspx>

BACKGROUND:

Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore inaugurated the festival in the presence of Telangana Cinematography Minister T Srinivas Yadav, Bollywood actress Tabu, Karishma Kapoor and Kareena Kapoor and other film personalities.

Rathore wished that the week-long festival would offer good and quality cinema to the audience, especially children.

Over 1,200 entries have been received from about 80 countries, he said.

Noting that he grew up in a generation reading 'Amar Chitra Katha' and 'Panchatantra', he said that the present generation of children can make even short films with smartphones.

11. Northeast India's first exclusive hospital for elephants has been established at the**Kaziranga National Park. Kaziranga National Park is in _____.** (This Park is

circumscribed by the Brahmaputra River. It was designated with National Park status in 1968 and was declared UNESCO World

Heritage Site in 1985 for its unique natural environment.

- A) West Bengal
- B) Sikkim
- C) Assam
- D) Manipur

ANS: C**Qs Based on Similar Background:****12. India's first exclusive hospital for elephants was established in which of the following state? (World's elephant hospital first was in Thailand)**

- A) Tamilnadu
- B) Kerala
- C) Andhra Pradesh
- D) Maharashtra

ANS: B**SOURCE:**

<http://www.myindialive.com/northeast-indias-first-elephant-hospital-established-at-kaziranga-national-park.html>

BACKGROUND:

Northeast India's first exclusive hospital for elephants has been established at the Kaziranga National Park in Assam. The hospital was set up at Mark Shand Memorial Learning Centre in Kaziranga National Park. It was inaugurated by Sir Evelyn de Rothschild who is founding patron of the UK-based charity Elephant Family

About Kaziranga National Park:

It is located in the Golaghat and Nagaon districts of Assam and is circumscribed by the Brahmaputra River. It was designated with National Park status in 1968 and was declared UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985 for its unique

natural environment.

13. France has declared a national state of emergency and tightened borders after at least 120 people were killed in a night of gun and bomb attacks in Paris. Which of the following terrorist organization has claimed the responsibility for the attack?

- A) Libyan Islamic Fighting Group
- B) Islamic State of Iraq and Syria
- C) Al Qaida
- D) Boko Haram

ANS: B

SOURCE:

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/live/2015/nov/13/shootings-reported-in-eastern-paris-live>

BACKGROUND:

A Paris city hall official said four gunmen systematically slaughtered at least 87 young people attending a rock concert at the Bataclan music hall. Anti-terrorist commandos eventually launched an assault on the building. The gunmen detonated explosive belts and dozens of shocked survivors were rescued.

Some 40 more people were killed in five other attacks in the Paris region, the city hall official said, including an apparent double suicide bombing outside the national stadium, where Hollande and the German foreign minister were watching a friendly soccer international.

Some 200 people were injured.

Four black-clad gunmen wearing suicide vests and wielding AK-47s stormed into the Bataclan venue in eastern Paris and fired calmly and methodically at hundreds of screaming concert-goers. A half-dozen separate incidents rocked Paris, including multiple bombs that detonated outside the Stade de France, where the country's national soccer team was playing against Germany. President François Hollande was at the game but was evacuated.

People were shot dead at bars and restaurants at five other sites in Paris. Eight attackers are reported to have been killed. Police believed all of the gunmen were dead but it was unclear if any accomplices were still on the run after the string of near-simultaneous attacks. Paris residents have been asked to stay indoors and about 1,500 military personnel are being deployed across the city.

The gunmen's motives were not immediately confirmed, but one witness at the Bataclan heard one of the attackers appear to express support for the militant Islamic State (IS) group. Paris saw three days of attacks in early January, when Islamist gunmen murdered 18 people after attacking satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo, a Jewish supermarket and a policewoman on patrol.

More than 500 French fighters are thought to be with Islamic State in Syria and Iraq, according to official figures, while 250 have returned and some 750 expressed a desire to go. France has joined US-led air strikes on IS targets in Iraq for over a year and in September began bombing the jihadists in Syria.

14. Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi's opposition party won a majority in parliament in the Myanmar's historic first free election in 25 years. Name the political party of Aung

San Suu Kyi. (25% seats are reserved for Military in Myanmar Parliament & Aung San Suu won Nobel Prize for Peace in 1991)

- A) National Party for Democracy
- B) National League for Democracy
- C) People Party of Myanmar
- D) Democratic Party of Myanmar

ANS: B

Qs Based on the Similar Background:

15. When was Burma separated from India? (Burma became independent on 4 January 1948)

- A) 1935
- B) 1937
- C) 1939
- D) 1942

ANS: B

16. Which city is the capital of Myanmar? (Kyat is the currency of Myanmar)

- A) Pegu
- B) Sittwe
- C) Naypyidaw
- D) Bassein

ANS: C

SOURCE:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/11/suu-kyi-party-wins-election-majority-myanmar-polls-151113053433507.html>

BACKGROUND:

Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi's opposition party won a majority in parliament on Friday in the Southeast Asian nation's historic election.

With votes still being counted, the Union Election Commission said the National League for Democracy (NLD) party had crossed the 329 threshold of seats needed for an outright majority in both houses of the 664-member parliament.

The country's first free election in 25 years took place on Sunday.

"The people of Myanmar have been dutiful and it is time for the NLD to try to fulfill the wishes of the people," senior party official U Tin Oo told Al Jazeera outside of its headquarters. "The NLD has to try hard to change."

Phil Robertson from New York-based Human Rights Watch said it was time to move on from the country's bloody past.

"Obviously the people of Burma have had their voices heard," Robertson told Al Jazeera. "I think it's important we know who has won this election, and now the very hard work of moving beyond the human rights abuses of the government comes into play."

NLD captured 21 lower house seats on Friday, the election commission said, taking its total to 348 seats with 82.9 percent of the vote now confirmed.

The ruling Union Solidarity and Development Party has won 140 seats so far.

The party holding a majority is able to select the next president, who can then name a cabinet and form a new government.

Suu Kyi won the last free vote in 1990, but the military ignored the result. She spent most of the next 20 years under house arrest before her release in 2010.

Friday's majority announcement came exactly five years to the day when Suu Kyi was freed from house arrest. Al Jazeera's correspondent Wayne Hay was there.

"I had to sneak into the country to cover the 2010 election," recalled Hay. "On this exact day five years ago, we were here outside the home of the NLD's leader Aung San Suu Kyi as she was released from her last period of house arrest."

The Nobel Peace Prize laureate is barred from taking the presidency because she's married to a foreigner under a constitution written by the then-ruling generals to preserve their power.

But Suu Kyi has said that may change once her party is in power.

On Thursday, the country's powerful military rulers - who have dominated Myanmar's politics for decades - congratulated Suu Kyi on her electoral win and pledged a peaceful transfer of power.

While election observers have said the vote was for the most part free and fair, some people from minority communities - in particular the Muslim Rohingya - were denied the right to vote and others were disqualified as candidates.

Myanmar's government has denied the Rohingya citizenship. Hundreds died in clashes between Rohingya and Buddhists, the religious majority in the country, in 2012.

About 140,000 Rohingya live in squalid camps while thousands more have fled by boat, leading to a regional migration crisis.

While campaigning, Suu Kyi addressed allegations of "genocide" targeting the Muslim Rohingya saying "it is very important" not to "exaggerate the problems" in Myanmar.

"I promise everybody who is living in this country proper protection in accordance with the law, and in accordance with the norms of human rights," she said.

17. Annual Hundred Drums Wangala Festival has begun on a cultural fervor at Asanang

near Tura town in which of the following state? (The festival is celebrated in honor of Saljong, the Sun-god

of fertility.)

- A) Assam
- B) Meghalaya
- C) Tripura
- D) Sikkim

ANS: B

SOURCE:

<https://www.nagpurtime.com/lifestyle/event/annual-hundred-drums-wangala-festival-begins-in-meghalaya/>

BACKGROUND:

Wangala Festival is the annual harvest festival held in the state of Meghalaya. The festival is celebrated in honor of Saljong, the Sun-god of fertility. The festival signifies the onset of winter as well as it marks the end of a period of toil, which brings good output of the fields. Wangala Festival is also known as “100 Drum Festival”, which mainly includes tribal groups offering sacrifices to please their main deity Saljong - the Sun God.

Wangala Festival Celebrations

The festival extends from two days to a week, with the first day focusing on the ceremony of "Ragula". On the second day the ceremony of “Kakkat” is performed. People of all age groups young and old dress in colorful attractive costumes with feathered head gears dance to the tune of music played on long oval-shaped drums.

The festival brings relaxation for the people of Meghalaya. The sound of drums played during this festival echoes in the hills for a long period to come. Although the dances performed every time have some variations, yet the main idea remains a queue of two parallel lines - one of men and other of women clad in their festive fineries. Participants move in lines while playing drums in a rhythmic manner.

The three day-long started with the arrival of ten Wangala Dance Troupes from various parts of Garo Hills. Significance of Wangala Festival Wangala Festival is an annual post-harvest festival of the Garos tribes of North east India.

iii. Generally celebrated in the second week of November every year.

iv. It is a thanks giving ceremony to Misi Saljong, which is also known as Pattigipa Ra-rongipa (The Great Giver) for blessing the people with rich harvest of the season.

18. Which Indian state government is planning to set up a first-of-its-kind university in the country, exclusively for research-oriented studies related to gender?

- A) Goa
- B) Kerala
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Haryana

ANS: B

SOURCE:

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/education/indias-first-gender-university-to-come-up-in-kerala/articleshow/49768403.cms>

BACKGROUND:

Kerala government is getting ready to set up a first-of-its-kind university in the country, exclusively for research-oriented studies related to gender.

The gender varsity will be located in in Kozhikode district in the campus of Gender Park, an autonomous institution under the state's Social Justice Department.

A top official said the proposed varsity is conceptualised on the model of similar institutions abroad and many global agencies have already expressed interest to partner with it.

The South Asian Research Centre at the Gender Park will be developed into a full-fledge varsity by next year and it will be the first such university in the country, Gender Park CEO P T M Sunish told PTI on the sidelines of the ongoing International Conference on Gender Equality at nearby Kovalam this morning.

"Gender studies have begun in our country especially in Kerala at a high time. We had focussed on industrialisation, health and other similar streams but did not show much interest in the area of gender equality earlier," he said.

"Kerala government's first brave step in this regard was the Gender Park. By setting up the Park, our aim was to bring changes in gender-related matters through effective policy interventions. We planned the South Asian Research Centre at the Gender Park as an extension of the plan and the Gender University plan is the latest in this regard," he said.

Sunish, who is also the Managing Director of the Kerala State Women's Development Corporation, said the Gender University is expected to be a reality by the end of next year.

Sunish said "the gender university will have international outreach. We are planning to collaborate with a number of global pioneers in gender studies including the London School of Economics. We are also planning exchange programmes with the support of top gender institutes across the world."

The curriculum framework and the syllabus of the proposed university will not be according to the traditional academic patterns, he said.

"The Social Justice Department is aiming to introduce a completely internationally-oriented academic practice at the new university with the goal of gender equality and empowerment in mind," he said.

A high-level committee will be formed soon after the ongoing three-day gender summit to discuss and finalise the syllabus and other academic-oriented matters of the gender varsity, he said.

A number of global agencies including UN Women, which is the co-partner of the Kerala government in the gender summit, had expressed interest to enter into a long-term tie-up with the Gender Park and to associate with the country's first gender university, he said.

The successful all-women taxi cab network 'She Taxi' and 'Food on Wheels' are other major projects of the Gender Park.

19. Government has recently extended the tenure of a high level committee set up under former Chief Economic Advisor Ashok Lahiri to suggest steps to sort out taxation problem being faced by the trade and industry. The extension has been provided for _____. (In his Budget speech for 2014-15, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had announced the setting-

up of a high level committee to interact with trade and industry and ascertain areas where clarity on tax laws is required.)

- A) Six months
- B) One year
- C) 2 years
- D) 3 Years

ANS: B

SOURCE:

http://articles.economicstimes.indiatimes.com/2015-11-12/news/68222246_1_tax-laws-trade-and-industry-tax-related-issues

BACKGROUND:

Government has extended by one year the tenure of a high level committee set up under former Chief Economic Advisor Ashok Lahiri to suggest steps to sort out taxation problem being faced by the trade and industry. The panel was given the task of interacting with the industry on tax related issues on regular basis and ascertain areas where clarity in tax laws is required.

"The tenure of the committee which was till November 25 is now further extended for one year as per Office Memorandum dated November 10, 2015," an official statement said today.

The other two members in the committee are Sidhartha Pradhan, retired member, Settlement Commission (Income Tax & Wealth Tax) and Gautam Ray, retired DG (Audit) Customs and Central Excise.

"The High Level Committee (HLC) will continue to interact with the trade and industry on regular basis and ascertain the areas where clarity in tax laws is required and will give recommendations to the CBDT/CBEC for issuance of appropriate clarifications by way of circulars, instructions etc," it said.

The CBDT/CBEC will issue the required clarifications, circulars and instructions etc. within a period of two months from the date of receipt of recommendations of the HLC.

In his Budget speech for 2014-15, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had announced the setting-up of a high level committee to interact with trade and industry and ascertain areas where clarity on tax laws is required. Accordingly, a High Level Committee (HLC) was constituted with the approval of the Finance Minister on November 26, 2014 to interact with trade and industry on tax laws.

20. Which among the following Former RBI Deputy Governor was recently appointed as

an Executive Director on the board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)? (The Board

is composed of 24 Directors, who are appointed or elected by member countries or by groups of countries, and the Managing

Director, who serves as its Chairman. The Board meets several times each week and carries out its work largely on the basis of

papers prepared by IMF management and staff.)

- A) S S Mundra
- B) R Gandhi
- C) Subir Gokarn
- D) Harun R Khan

ANS: C

SOURCE:

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/Subir-Gokarn-appointed-executive-director-at-IMF/articleshow/49759280.cms>

BACKGROUND:

Former RBI Deputy Governor Subir Gokarn was today appointed as an Executive Director on the board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Gokarn will represent India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Bhutan on the Washington-based IMF's Executive Board, which is responsible for conducting the day-to-day business of the multilateral institution.

The name of 56-year-old economist was cleared by Appointments Committee of Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as per an order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training.

On the IMF Executive Board, Gokarn will replace Rakesh Mohan, whose three year tenure ends this month. The order did not mention the tenure for Gokarn. Mohan has also been a Deputy Governor at RBI. The current RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan has incidentally been Chief Economist at IMF.

The Board is composed of 24 Directors, who are appointed or elected by member countries or by groups of countries, and the Managing Director, who serves as its Chairman. The Board meets several times each week and carries out its work largely on the basis of papers prepared by IMF management and staff.

The grouping of India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Bhutan would be represented by Gokarn with a total casting vote of 2.8 per cent. This includes more than 2.3 per cent for India.

The US, Japan, Germany, France and UK are among the major countries with individual representatives, while the highest vote is for the US at 16.74 per cent. Other countries with individual representatives on the Board include China, Russia and Saudi Arabia.

Rated as one of the finest economists, Gokarn has in past served as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, Chief Economist of global rating agency Standard and Poor's (S&P) and head of CRISIL's Research and Information business and also a nominee Board Member of the State Bank Of India.

He was appointed Deputy Governor of RBI in 2009 for a term of three years and had a distinction of being the youngest Deputy Governors of the central bank at that time.



21. Which of the following Indian Educational Institute made its entry at 99th spot in the world's top 100 universities prepared by 'Times Higher Education (THE) Ranking for Engineering & Technology'?

- A) IIM Ahmedabad
- B) IIT Delhi
- C) IISc
- D) Delhi College of Engineering

ANS: C

SOURCE:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/iisc-makes-indian-debut-in-top-100-world-university-ranking/>

BACKGROUND:

IISc made its entry at 99th spot in a list that remains dominated by US institutions with Stanford, CalTech and MIT in the top three positions in the 'Times Higher Education (THE) Ranking for Engineering & Technology'.

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore broke India's poor ranking spell by making a debut in the world's top 100 universities for engineering and technology.

IISc made its entry at 99th spot in a list that remains dominated by US institutions with Stanford, CalTech and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the top three positions in the 'Times Higher Education (THE) Ranking for Engineering & Technology'.

"This year's stand out success story has to be India, making its debut in this prestigious engineering and technology ranking, which represents the top few per cent of world universities for these subject disciplines.

"Whether you look at high tech sectors such as IT or aerospace engineering or more traditional fields such as steelmaking, India's engineering and technology prowess is highly visible the world over in the shape of companies

based in India or run by people born in India, such as Google and Microsoft, Infosys and Wipro or Tata and Mittal," said Phil Baty, Times Higher Education World University Rankings editor.

THE has singled out the year as one of Asian progress, with the US holding 31 positions – down from 34 last year – while Asia holds 25 positions in the Top 100, up from 18 last year.

Asian universities occupied six positions in the Top 30 this year, with Japan, China, Korea, Taiwan and India all improving their representation, while Singapore and Hong Kong maintained theirs.

"While the US and UK still dominate the upper echelons of this table, Asia is shifting the balance of power, proving that its institutions are world-class in this field.

"Asia's success mounts serious pressure on universities in North America and Europe, which will have to run fast just to stand still in this table," Baty said.

22. Who among the following has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director

of Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL)?

- A) T P Singh
- B) Dharmveer Saxena
- C) I S Jha
- D) Deepak Madhok

ANS: C

SOURCE:

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2015-11-12/news/68222380_1_power-grid-corporation-cmd-pgcil

BACKGROUND:

State-run transmission utility Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL) today said I S Jha has been appointed as its Chairman and Managing Director.

Jha was the Director Projects since 2009 and was also holding the additional charge as CMD of the company. He holds an electrical engineer degree from NIT, Jamshedpur

"I S Jha has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited with effect from November 10, 2015," PGCIL said in a statement.

The CMD was on board of state transmission utilities of Haryana and Madhya Pradesh, governing board member of CPRI and member of board of governors of Indian Institute of Forest Management.

He is also a member of several prestigious professional bodies including Institute of Engineers (India), Power Engineering Society of IEEE in USA and CIGRE, France.

Jha had taken over the additional charge of Chairman and Managing Director of the company on October 1.

23. Country's largest lender State Bank of India is all set to launch mobile wallet app for feature phone users to become the first bank to offer wallet services for feature phone users. Name the app.

- A) Khazana
- B) Batua
- C) Tijori
- D) Maal

ANS: B

24. Name the mobile wallet app launched by SBI for Smart Phone Users. (HDFC Bank launched PayZapp, a one-click payment and purchase solution, It has also launched Chillr, a third party app platform that enables users to transfer money to anybody in their phone book contacts. ICICI Bank has launched 'Pockets', a wallet model aimed to take on industry rivals Paytm and MobiKwik. Axis Bank also recently rolled out a full-fledged mobile app 'Lime' that enables shopping, making payments and banking under one window)

- A) SBI Buddy
- B) SBI Friend
- C) SBI Purse
- D) SBI Dost

ANS: A

SOURCE:

<http://telecom.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/mvas-apps/sbi-to-launch-mobile-wallet-batua-for-feature-phone-users-next-month/49752499>

BACKGROUND:

Country's largest lender State Bank of India is all set to become the first bank to offer wallet services for feature phone users. SBI is set to launch mobile wallet "Batua" next month and the service will be available to existing as well as non-SBI customers. The application will be available on Java-enabled mobile phones.

"We want to cater to both India and Bharat and this new initiative is part of our efforts to cater to Bharat," a State Bank of India official, who did not wish to be named, said.

"Post-launch customers can log into sbi.co.in download "Batua" on their desktop and load the app on their phone," he added.

The bank has been ramping up its efforts to become the banker to Digital India. It has an annual IT budget of Rs 3,000 crore, a 20% market share, a customer base of 28.6 crore, of which 2.3 crore are net banking customers and 1.2 crore are mobile banking customers.

The bank also launched its mobile wallet SBI Buddy for smart phone users in August this year. SBI Buddy customers can send money to new and registered customers, book movies, flights, hotels as well as use the mobile wallet for shopping. Customers using Batua will only be able to load, pay and receive money.

"We have a market place in Buddy. Unless the market place enables the Batua application to access these sites customers will be unable to enjoy the shopping experience on this app," the banker said.

The bank is also planning to launch another version of Batua for very basic phones which does not offer internet access and does not entail downloading any app.

While, this project is in the pilot stage, SBI plans to use the instant messaging service to allow customers to pay and receive money. The bank plans to launch this next year.

The bank has been increasingly trying to capitalise on its large customer base in the semi-urban and rural areas. It has a total of 8.5 crore financial inclusion accounts with a transaction volume of over Rs 29,000 crore at the end of September 2015. SBI has deposits of nearly Rs 5,931 crore in these financial inclusion accounts.

25. After being barred from developing aircraft following World War II, Japan made its maiden test flight with launching the plane. Name the plane?

- A) Mitsubishi Regional Jet (MRJ)
- B) Embraer
- C) Bombardier
- D) Highjacker

ANS: A

SOURCE:

<http://news.yahoo.com/japans-first-passenger-jet-takes-off-maiden-test-020849525.html>

BACKGROUND:

Japan's first passenger jet made its maiden test flight Wednesday, a landmark in a decade-long programme to launch the plane aimed at competing with Brazilian and Canadian rivals in the global market for smaller aircraft.

About half a century after the last Japanese-made commercial plane took to the skies, the Mitsubishi Regional Jet (MRJ), painted with dark blue, red and beige stripes, took off from Nagoya airport under clear skies for a 90-minute trip.

After being barred from developing aircraft following World War II, Japan -- and its MRJ jet -- is competing with other regional passenger jet manufacturers such as Brazil's Embraer and Canada's Bombardier.

Hikomichi Morimoto, president of Mitsubishi Aircraft Corp -- a subsidiary of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries -- voiced his delight and relief at the successful flight.

"We were able to see the beautiful fuselage of the MRJ taking off into the sunny autumn sky," he told a press conference.

"The fact that I was able to see that with you, as someone who was involved in its development, there is no greater joy."

Its pilot also praised the jet.

"The operation performance of the MRJ was far better than expected," Yoshiyuki Yasumura said, according to a Mitsubishi Aircraft release.

"We had a significantly comfortable flight."

The two-engine MRJ marks a new chapter for Japan's aviation sector, which last built a commercial airliner in 1962 -- the YS-11 turboprop that was discontinued about a decade later.

The MRJ is approximately 35-metres (115-feet) long, has a pointed nose and will seat about 80 passengers.

Mitsubishi Aircraft boasts that the fuel-efficient MRJ will offer more passenger comfort with lower operating costs, eyeing the booming regional jet sector.

China is also developing a similar-sized homegrown regional passenger jet, the ARJ21. It had its first test flight in 2008 and the initial commercial delivery is reportedly expected by the end of the year.

Mitsubishi Heavy would not disclose how much of the aircraft consists of Japanese components, but it is powered by two next-generation engines developed by Pratt & Whitney of the United States.

26. A leading UAE-based bank has recently announced a partnership deal with State Bank of India to help NRI customers in the Gulf carry out their remittances instantly and more conveniently. Name the UAE-based bank.

A) Abu Dhabhi Commercial bank

- B) Emirates NBD
- C) Bank of Sharjah
- D) Commercial Bank of Dubai

ANS: B

27. Which of the following country is the largest remittance source country that witness outflow of \$42 billion annually? (The remittance to Latin America exceeds the foreign investment and development aid)

- A) UK
- B) India
- C) USA
- D) China

ANS: C

SOURCE:

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/dubaisbi-emirates-bank-sbi-join-hands-for-easier-remittances/article7866100.ece>

BACKGROUND:

Emirates NBD has expanded its partner bank network in India to include State Bank of India (SBI) for the DirectRemit 60 seconds remittance platform.

With this partnership, the bank's Non-Resident Indian (NRI) customers, who also bank with SBI, can now avail themselves of the fastest remittance service in the UAE more easily.

The tie-up with SBI will help strengthen Emirates NBD's DirectRemit platform which is set to benefit a large additional customer base in the UAE.

"The DirectRemit platform is amongst our most popular services as it provides customers with an on-the-go, quick and free mechanism to transfer funds instantly to their home country," said Suvo Sarkar, Senior Executive Vice President & Group Head Emirates NBD.

"We are confident that our customers will take advantage of this new tie-up to carry out remittances to meet all their ongoing requirements," Sarkar said.

The partnership will allow fund transfers to SBI bank accounts across India in 60 seconds at zero fees. Emirates NBD currently has existing tie-ups with HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and Axis Bank in India.

Arundhati Bhattacharya, Chairman, SBI said India is one of the biggest and the fastest growing countries for remittances.

“SBI has a large customer base in the UAE and this partnership will help all our customers to carry out remittances instantly and conveniently. With the pick-up in India’s economic growth, we will see the pace of remittances growing much faster than earlier,” Bhattacharya said.

Emirates NBD customers can also transfer money to other banks in India with their remittance being processed within an hour. Customers can avail themselves of the 60 seconds money transfer service via online, mobile banking & ATMs.

With DirectRemit, customers will be able to transfer funds back home instantly and can also make home loan payments, pay bills, remit insurance premiums or carry out investments.

Remittances – Statistics and Facts

As per the Remittances Stats, one in every ten people around the globe is directly associated with remittances. The U.S. is the largest remittance source country that witness outflow of \$42 billion annually. Among the various regions of the world, the Latin America has the largest and fastest growing remittance flow. It received approx 40% of remittance sent to developing countries. In fact, the remittance to Latin America exceeds the foreign investment and development aid. The economy of the Latin America depends largely on the remittances flow. The rapid increase in Latin America is gradually slowing with more Latin American immigrants are adopting U.S. society and thus sending less money home.

The Migrants who are earning into foreign locations remit on average 12.6 times a year. The average remit amount is in the range of \$150/200/250 every time. These remittances are used by the family, friends or relatives in the home country for their daily expenses. These remittances make up to 10% of their household income. A quarter of remitters usually send money their earned money home first, prior to paying their own bills. The remittance rates have shown good growth in spite of downfall of U.S. economy.

Generally, the remittances increase at times of the slow economy of home country where it can be used as an effective anti-poverty tool. These remittances promote the economic growth, community development and increased investment in home country. Moreover, remittances can also lead to inflation and higher interest rates. As per the remittances data, nearly 46% of all Hispanics that are born outside US, send money to their home country. Nearly, 57% of immigrants from El Salvador send remittances and around 60% of U.S. remittance senders are male. Around 64% of people who are employed constitute unskilled labourers and 45% say they would go back to their home country.

28. Which of the following team won 2015 FIFA Under – 17 World Cup and thus became just the second team to retain the title? (Nigerian Football is popular among the fans with the name “The

Golden Eaglets”)

- A) Mali
- B) Nigeria
- C) India
- D) Chile

ANS: B

SOURCE:

<http://theworldgame.sbs.com.au/article/2015/11/09/record-breaking-nigeria-win-back-back-u-17-world-cups>

BACKGROUND:

The Golden Eaglets became just the second side to retain the title despite an early setback.

Nigeria had a golden opportunity to take an early lead, after Chato handled the ball inside the box in the third minute.

Osinachi Ebere took the resulting penalty but his low effort was parried by Mali keeper Samuel Diarra, before the penalty taker saw his follow-up header rebound off the crossbar and a third bite of the cherry was blocked by the Malian defence.

After a goalless first-half, Osimhen broke the deadlock in the 56th minute, finishing with aplomb to set a new mark for the most goals in a FIFA U-17 World Cup tournament.



29. Who has been appointed as interim CEO of The National Skill Development

Corporation (NSDC)?

- A) Deepak Shah
- B) Rajiv Chawla
- C) Jaya Goyal
- D) Jayant Krishna

ANS: D

SOURCE:

<http://www.aninews.in/newsdetail3/story240512/nsdc-board-appoints-jayant-krishna-as-interim-ceo.html>

BACKGROUND:

The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) announced the appointment of Jayant Krishna as its interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Krishna has assumed office on 10th November 2015 and will be in office until the selection and appointment of the new MD and CEO.

Krishna is on deputation for the period of his appointment at NSDC from Tata Consultancy Services (TCS). This is in keeping with the unique model of Public Private Partnership embedded in NSDC. As India's largest private sector company by market capitalization, TCS is committed to supporting the PM's skills agenda for the nation.

Krishna has been an overall industry experience of over 29 years. He has been a champion of apprenticeship reform in Indian industry and leads the CII Task Force for the same. He has been actively involved with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship's (MSDE) Special Taskforce on Apprenticeship Curriculum Rationalization and the Committee for the Optimization of Sector Skill Councils (SSCs). He was also involved in the evolution of the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF) as well as, the formulation of India's 12th Five Year Plan with respect to the nation's skills ecosystem



30. In a big financial reform move, Indian Government recently announced to ease foreign direct investment norms in _____ major sectors.

- A) 10
- B) 12
- C) 15
- D) 18

ANS: C

31. The government recently increased the financial power of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board to give single window clearance for investment projects. Now FIPB clear the project of up to _____ rupees. (Earlier it was 30 billion Rupees)

- A) 30 billion
- B) 40 billion
- C) 50 billion
- D) 60 billion

ANS: C

SOURCE:

<http://in.reuters.com/article/2015/11/10/india-reforms-idINKCN0SZ18J20151110>

BACKGROUND:

India has eased foreign direct investment norms in 15 major sectors, including mining, defence, civil aviation and broadcasting, the government said on Tuesday, in a bid to drum up investment and speed growth.

The announcement came as Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeks to regain the political initiative after his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) suffered a humiliating defeat last Sunday in a state election that has reinvigorated opposition parties.

"The crux of these reforms is to further ease, rationalise and simplify the process of foreign investments into the country and to put more and more FDI proposals on the automatic route, instead of the government route, where the time and energy of the investors are wasted," the government said in a statement.

The government also increased the financial power of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board to give single window clearance for investment projects of up to 50 billion rupees (\$753.35 million), from 30 billion.

32. Who has become the first Indian central banker to be appointed as vice-Chairman of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS)? (BIS is the bank for central banks)

- A) Deepak Gandhi
- B) Hanun R Khan
- C) D Subbarao
- D) Raghuram Rajan

ANS: D

SOURCE:

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/Raghuram-Rajan-first-Indian-to-be-VC-of-Bank-for-International-Settlements/articleshow/49743379.cms>

BACKGROUND:

Reserve Bank of India Governor Raghuram Rajan has become the first Indian central banker to be appointed as vice-chairman of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) -the bank for central banks. The appointment is expected to give stronger voice to Rajan, who has been repeatedly calling for more coordination among central banks in monetary policy.

Rajan was elected to the number two position for a period of three years from November 10, 2015 at a meeting of the BIS board. Rajan had joined the BIS board in December 2013. As vice-chairman, Rajan will work with BIS chairman Jens Weidmann, who is also president of

Germany's Bundesbank.

Rajan has for long been a critic of central banks in the developed world opening up the monetary sluice gates and flooding emerging markets with capital flows. Rajan once even had a face-off with former chairman of the Federal Reserve Ben Bernanke when he said that powerful central banks should pay attention to how their policies affect other countries.

On Tuesday, speaking at Frankfurt, Rajan forecast volatility when the Federal Reserve raises rates. However, he said that the consequences of the inaction by the Fed would be even more severe. "When it happens, there will be volatility. I worry more about the consequences of staying in the ultra accommodative ... world. I think there will be volatility, but I think we have to bear it," he said.

Prior to Rajan, former RBI governor Y V Reddy had a key role as chairman of the BIS Asian Consultative Council which comprised all governors of BIS member central banks in the Asia-Pacific region.

As an organization of central banks, BIS seeks to bring more predictability and transparency in monetary policy. The framework for regulations that prescribe capital requirement for banks is also prescribed by the BIS. The capital norms are known as Basel norms, named after the location of the BIS headquarters where they were framed.

33. World Health Organization has recently announced which of the following country

free of the Ebola virus. (Ebola has killed almost 4,000 people in this country.)

- A) Tanzania
- B) Ghana
- C) Sierra Leone
- D) Ethiopia

ANS: C

SOURCE:

<http://airworldservice.org/blog/archives/14707>

BACKGROUND:

World Health Organization has announced that Sierra Leone is free of the Ebola virus. West African nation's epidemic was declared over yesterday at a ceremony attended by President Ernest Bai Koroma and WHO representative Anders Nordstrom. Residents of Sierra Leone's capital have celebrated the end of an Ebola epidemic that has killed almost 4,000 people since it began last year.

34. Indian Coast Guard's largest offshore patrol vessel was commissioned by Defence

Minister? Name the Vessel. (This is first in the series of six 105m offshore patrol vessels and has been built by Goa

Shipyards.)

- A) Tej
- B) Shakti
- C) Veer
- D) Samarth

ANS: D

35. Who is India's Defence Minister?

- A) Arun Jaitly
- B) Manohar Parrikar
- C) V K Singh
- D) Sushma Swaraj

ANS: B

SOURCE:

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/largest-coast-guard-offshore-patrol-vessel-samarth-commissioned/articleshow/49736776.cms>

BACKGROUND:

The Coast Guard's latest and largest offshore patrol vessel, Samarth, was recently commissioned here by Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar who asked the force not to sit on past laurels and focus on securing India's maritime interests.

With a displacement of 2450 tonnes, the ship is equipped with sophisticated technology, sensors, navigation, communication and weapon systems. Samarth is first in the series of six 105m offshore patrol vessels and has been built by Goa Shipyard.

Backing the Coast Guard's efforts at modernisation, Parrikar referred to the force earlier this year intercepting a vessel off the Gujarat coast.

"I am not saying there were terrorists or something but definitely they were not friendly," he said, complimenting the CG as he recalled the January incident which had run into controversy.

Parrikar said the CG will reach its sanctioned strength as various vessels were in the pipeline and lauded Goa Shipyard for early completion of Samarth.

At the same time, he asked the force not to sit on past laurels and focus more on securing the coastal boundary.

Samrath will be based in Goa and will be extensively used for Exclusive Economic Zone and other duties as it is set to be exploited extensively on the Western Seaboard.

It will be carrying one twin-engine helicopter and five high-speed boats. It is also capable of carrying pollution response equipment to contain any oil spill at sea.

"In the present security scenario, with increased threat from maritime terrorism, the induction of a sophisticated and state-of-the-art offshore patrol vessel, will provide the desired fillip to maritime protection of the coastal state of Goa in particular and the Indian coast in general," CG officials said.

The force currently has a fleet of 117 ships. 74 more ships are at various stages of construction at different shipyards.

Samarth has a maximum speed of 23 knots and has an endurance of 6000 nautical miles at economical speed.

36. According to Global property consultancy Jones Lang LaSalle's (JLL) latest Asia-Pacific

City Investment Intensity Index which of the following city in India has been emerged

as the top investment destination in the property market? (Top five cities in the Asia-Pacific region

are Tokyo, Singapore, Seoul, Sydney and Hong Kong)

- A) Mumbai
- B) Jaipur
- C) Gurgaon

D) Bengaluru

ANS: D

SOURCE:

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2015-11-10/news/68165001_1_jll-india-property-market-rubi-arya

BACKGROUND:

The IT capital has surpassed both the commercial and political capitals of India as the top investment destination in the property market.

Nearly 13 per cent of over \$6.7 billion Rs 44,450 crore) that PEs have invested (.in India's property market from 2013 through the first half of 2015 has gone to Bengaluru.

Global property consultancy Jones Lang LaSalle's (JLL) latest Asia-Pacific City Investment Intensity Index ranks the southern city among the top-20 destinations globally. At the 20th position, it is well above New Delhi (34th) and Mumbai (42nd). JLL had earlier this year listed Bengaluru among the top-20 technology-rich cities globally.

"Despite being a smaller city than the political and financial capitals of India, it has managed to attract a lot of investment in comparison of its size," a JLL report said.

The investment intensity index provides a measure of real estate market liquidity and is a barometer of a city's overall attractiveness to investors based on direct real estate investment over a three-year period. "Real estate investment is generally difficult for foreigners in India, and investors looking to take part in market growth may need to go through routes such as debt deals and joint ventures with local partners," said Anuj Puri, chairman and country head at JLL India. "The index advises investors to continue to seek core business park or office investments in Bengaluru."

Leased office assets such as IT parks and IT-SEZs attracted significant interest from foreign investors as they continue to ramp up their portfolio of office space. This is primarily due to low risk owing to high occupancy levels along with stable rental yields and significant potential for appreciation in capital values. "Bengaluru's office market has seen the highest commercial space absorption in the country and continues to retain the spot. This, along with the consequent job creation, would throw up opportunities in residential space," said Rubi Arya, executive vice chairman at Milestone Capital Advisors. "We are keenly watching the market given the momentum."

Milestone has invested more than Rs 120 crore in an asset at Electronic City in south Bengaluru. The fund has been receiving interest from high net-worth individuals for picking up stake in this fully leased property , Arya said.

Ambar Maheshwari, chief executive of private equity funds at India bulls Asset Management Company, said both the residential and commercial markets in Bengaluru were more vibrant and mature than any other property market in India.

"As a thumb rule, every 100 sq ft of commercial space absorbed leads to demand for 600 sq ft residential area. In terms of commercial space, Bengaluru is the biggest market and that explains investors' interest," Maheshwari said.

Cities like New York, London and Tokyo almost always rank at the top in commercial real estate investment volumes. The top five cities in the Asia-Pacific region are Tokyo, Singapore, Seoul, Sydney and Hong Kong, ranked by three-year rolling direct real estate investment volumes though the second quarter of 2015.



37. Which of the former BCCI President has been removed from his post as ICC chairman?

- A) N Srinivasan
- B) Jagmohan Dalmia
- C) Lalit Modi
- D) Shashank Manohar

ANS: A

SOURCE:

<http://www.dnaindia.com/sport/report-former-bcci-chief-n-srinivasan-sacked-as-icc-chairman-2143668>

BACKGROUND:

Former BCCI President N Srinivasan has been removed from his post as ICC chairman, reports an English news channel. The decision was taken at the BCCI AGM on Monday in Mumbai. Consequently, Shashank Manohar's name has been put forward as the new ICC chairman.

With this decision, the saga of N Srinivasan's stranglehold over Indian and world cricket comes to an end.

The BCCI is holding its 85th Annual General Meeting in Mumbai on Monday. The issue of N Srinivasan's post as ICC chairman was considered high on the agenda.

News reports recently had that BCCI would change its nomination vis-a-vis ICC and name Manohar as the new chairman till the next Annual Conference of the world governing body in June when the Indian board-nominated person's term comes to an end.

Appointment of the Ombudsman, or Ethics Officer, was one of the key changes that had been proposed in the BCCI's Memorandum of Rules and Regulations to be taken up at the AGM.

With the soon-to-be-delivered recommendations over governance reforms by the Supreme Court-appointed Justice Lodha Committee hanging over them, the Board members were all set to clear the way for this pathbreaking move which was announced by Shashank Manohar after being re-elected as the BCCI president last month.

The Ombudsman is going to be appointed "to deal with the complaints of Conflict of Interest and any act of indiscipline or misconduct or violation of any of the Rules and Regulations of the Board by an administrator," as per the wordings of the clause that has been proposed to be taken up at the AGM.

The AGM, which was postponed by more than a month from its normal late September date, is expected to put in place strict compliance protocols to the Conflict of Interest regulations in the wake of the Supreme Court's cracking of the whip on this matter.

Another important change in the proposed clauses is about the BCCI president approving every team picked by the national selection panel. The existing clause says that the president "shall approve the composition of the team selected by the Selection Committee", while the proposed clause reads, "The President, along with the Office Bearers, shall approve the composition of a team selected by the National Selection Committee from time to time."

Career PUNDIT