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### INFOSYS IS THE FIRST PRIVATE COMPANY TO GET PROTECTION FROM CSIF

- Infosys Technologies Ltd. became the first private company to get protection from the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) - Bangalore. The force protects public sector undertakings and government-owned industrial establishments.
  - This is the first time since its creation in 1969 that the CISF will be providing security cover to a corporate organisation in India. The company would have to pay the CISF a daily fee of Rs. 1 lakh.
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### NANDITA DAS TO HEAD CHILDREN'S FILM SOCIETY

- Actor Nandita Das has been appointed chairperson of the Children's Films Society of India (CFSI). According to the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, she will hold the office for three years.
  - The last chairperson was **Nafisa Ali**.
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### ARREST WARRANT ISSUED AGAINST WARREN ANDERSON FORMER CHAIRMAN OF UNION CARBIDE

The Chief Judicial Magistrate of Bhopal issued an arrest warrant against Warren Anderson, former chairman of Union Carbide . A fugitive since 1992, Mr. Anderson has been traced by activists and found to be currently living in a New York neighbourhood. In the case of 'CBI vs. Union Carbide and others,' Chief Judicial Magistrate Mohan P. Tiwari ordered the Central Bureau of Investigation to arrest and bring Mr. Anderson before the court without further delay. It pulled up the CBI for not taking swift action against the prime accused on another warrant issued against in 2002.

Union Carbide Corporation (Union Carbide) is one of the oldest chemical and polymers companies in the United States, currently employing more than 3,800 people. It became infamous for the worst ever industrial accident in history that took place in its Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India plant in 1984. After heated litigation, Union Carbide was found to be at fault for the disaster, but the company denied responsibility.

The Bhopal disaster of 1984 was the world's worst industrial accident. It was caused by the release of 40 tonnes of methyl isocyanate (MIC) from a Union Carbide India, Limited (UCIL, now known as Eveready Industries India, Limited) pesticide plant majority owned (50.9%) by Union Carbide. The Bhopal site is located in the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh.

The BBC estimates the death toll at nearly 3,000 people dead initially and at least 15,000 from related illnesses since, while Greenpeace cites 20,000 total deaths as a conservative estimate.

According to the Bhopal Medical Appeal, around 500,000 people were exposed to the leak. Approximately 20,000 are believed to have died as a result and roughly one person on average dies every day from the effects. Over 120,000 continue to suffer from the effects of the disaster, such as breathing difficulties, cancer, serious birth-defects, blindness, gynaecological complications and other related problems.

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### **Dadupur-Nalvi canal first phase inaugurated : Haryana**

The irrigation project was being executed in three phases at an estimated cost of Rs.267.27 crore for re-charging and irrigating 92,532 hectares of land in 225 villages of Ambala, Yamunanagar and Kurukshetra districts. The second phase is likely to be completed by June 30, 2010. The whole system of the Dadupur-Nalvi canal project had been kept unlined to re-charge the aquifer of this area besides providing irrigation facilities.

Nalvi is a big village in Haryana (a North Indian state), India. The village is approximately 450 years old. It is named after one of the great Sikh warriors, Hari Singh Nalwa, who as a military general of Ranjit Singh's army. He was the Governor of Kashmir in 1822-23 A.D. It got 4 different gurudwaras. (place of Sikh worship). Nalvi was in news in 90s because of the Dadupur Nalvi canal and dispute is still going on although the project has been authorised by the government of India.

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### **INDIAN MUSEUM GETTING READY FOR 200TH BIRTHDAY**

- The ninth oldest regular museum of the world, INDIAN MUSEUM, Kolkata, India is the oldest institution of its kind in Asia Pacific region and repository of the largest museum objects in India. A multipurpose and multi-disciplinary institution of national importance,
- the Museum was established at the Asiatic Society, the earliest learned body in the country on 2nd February 1814. Transferred to the present building in 1878 with two galleries, the Museum has now over sixty galleries of Art, Archaeology, Anthropology, Geology, Zoology and Botany sections, spreading over ten thousand square feet area.
- Indian Museum is an autonomous institution fully funded by the Department of Culture, Government of India. Founder Curator was **Dr. Nathaniel Wallich** - a botanist from Copenhagen, Denmark.

- The grand old Indian Museum is set for a major restoration and renovation programme to give it a facelift by 2014, when it will be celebrating its bicentenary year. It is the eighth oldest museum in the world and the largest in India. “The project has two components – restoration of the museum building and modernisation of the galleries.

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### ISO (INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION)

- world's largest developer and publisher of International Standards.
- ISO is a network of the national standards institutes of **162 countries**, one member per country, with a **Central Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland**, that coordinates the system.
- ISO is a non-governmental organization that forms a bridge between the public and private sectors. On the one hand, many of its member institutes are part of the governmental structure of their countries, or are mandated by their government. On the other hand, other members have their roots uniquely in the private sector, having been set up by national partnerships of industry associations.
- ISO enables a consensus to be reached on solutions that meet both the requirements of business and the broader needs of society.
- ISO has developed over 17500 International Standards on a variety of subjects and some 1100 new ISO standards are published every year. The full range of technical fields can be seen from the listing International Standards. Users can browse that listing to find bibliographic information on each standard and, in many cases, a brief abstract. The online ISO Standards listing integrates both the ISO Catalogue of published standards and the ISO Technical programme of standards under development.

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### BHARATIYA RESERVE BANK NOTE MUDRAN PRIVATE LIMITED (BRBNMPL) IN MYSORE

- Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL) was established by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as its wholly owned subsidiary on 3rd February 1995 with a view to augmenting the production of bank notes in India to enable the RBI to bridge the gap between the supply and demand for bank notes in the country.
- The BRBNMPL has been registered as a Public Limited Company under the Companies Act 1956 with its Registered and Corporate Office situated at Bangalore.
- The company manages 2 Presses one at Mysore in Karnataka and the other at Salboni in West Bengal.

### 'SGPC IN HARYANA' ROCKS PARLIAMENT

Functioning of both Houses of Parliament was disrupted over the proposed move to create a Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) in Haryana, even as Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda offered to hold a referendum among the Sikhs living in the State.

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### DOTS-DIRECTLY OBSERVED TREATMENT, SHORT COURSE (T.B)

- The WHO-recommended Directly Observed Treatment, Short Course (DOTS) strategy was launched formally as Revised National TB Control programme in India in 1997 after pilot testing from 1993-1996.
- In terms of population coverage, India now has the second largest DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment, Short course) programme in the world. However, India's DOTS programme is the fastest expanding programme, and the largest in the world in terms of patients initiated on treatment, placing more than 100,000 patients on treatment every month.
- Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious disease caused by a **Bacterium, Mycobacterium tuberculosis**. It is spread through the air by a person suffering from TB. A single patient can infect 10 or more people in a year.
- In India today, two deaths occur every three minutes from tuberculosis (TB). But these deaths can be prevented. With proper care and treatment, TB patients can be cured and the battle against TB can be won
- Multi-drug-Resistant Tuberculosis (MDRTB)
- MDRTB refers to strains of the bacterium which are proven in a laboratory to be resistant to the two most active anti-TB drugs, isoniazid and rifampicin. Treatment of MDRTB is extremely expensive, toxic, arduous, and often unsuccessful.
- DOTS has been proven to prevent the emergence of MDRTB, and also to reverse the incidence of MDRTB where it has emerged. MDRTB is a tragedy for individual patients and a symptom of poor TB management. The best way to confront this challenge is to improve TB treatment and implement DOTS.
- **Beginning 1999, the Tuberculosis Research Centre, Chennai in collaboration with the National Tuberculosis Institute, Bangalore,** initiated drug resistance surveys in different parts of the country using the WHO/IUATLD guidelines.

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### ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA (ASI)

- Archaeological and historical pursuits in India started with the efforts of Sir William Jones, who put together a group of antiquarians to form the Asiatic Society on 15th January 1784 in Calcuta.

- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), under the Ministry of Culture, is the premier organization for the archaeological researches and protection of the cultural heritage of the nation. Maintenance of ancient monuments and archaeological sites and remains of national importance is the prime concern of the ASI. Besides it regulate all archaeological activities in the country as per the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. It also regulates Antiquities and Art Treasure Act, 1972.
- For the maintenance of ancient monuments and archaeological sites and remains of national importance the entire country is divided into 24 Circles. The organization has a large work force of trained archaeologists, conservators, epigraphist, architects and scientists for conducting archaeological research projects through its Circles, Museums, Excavation Branches, Prehistory Branch, Epigraphy Branches, Science Branch, Horticulture Branch, Building Survey Project, Temple Survey Projects and Underwater Archaeology Wing.

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#### **PRESIDENT INAUGURATES ARMED FORCES TRIBUNAL**

- The government has appointed the former Supreme Court judge **A.K. Mathur** as chairperson of the AFT, which will have 29 members. It has 8 judicial members and 15 administrative members.
- A total of 15 courts — three each in New Delhi, Chandigarh and Lucknow and one each in Kolkata, Guwahati, Mumbai, Kochi, Chennai and Jaipur — will function.
- The Armed Forces Tribunal will provide a judicial forum for redress of grievances of some 1.3 million armed forces personnel and 1.2 million ex-servicemen. The decisions of the AFT can be challenged only in the Supreme Court.

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#### **7.8 MAGNITUDE QUAKE IN ANDAMANS**

- An earthquake of 7.8 magnitude was recorded in the region of Andaman islands with the epicentre 260 km north of Port Blair at about 1.25 a.m. on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> August, causing aftershocks in many cities in the southern and eastern parts of the country.
- **The Hyderabad-based National Tsunami Warning Centre** issued the first bulletin within six minutes of the earthquake stating that it was evaluating its tsunamigenic potential.
- Its next bulletin came at 2.45 a.m., pointing out that there were no significant water level changes in the Bottom Pressure Recorders and tide gauges in the Andamans, after receiving real time data from them.

### ***What is epicenter?***

The epicenter is the point on the Earth's surface that is directly above the hypocenter or focus, the point where an earthquake or underground explosion originates.

In the case of earthquakes, the epicenter is directly above the point where the fault begins to rupture, and in most cases, it is the area of greatest damage. However, in larger events, the length of the fault rupture is much longer, and damage can be spread across the rupture zone.

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### **National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)**

An autonomous body under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India.

The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), has a mission i.e. to provide the best possible ocean information and advisory services to the society, industry, government and scientific community through sustained ocean observations and constant improvement through systematic and focussed research. Which houses the Tsunami Warning Centre. The information was shared with other countries along the Indian Ocean rim and also with regional tsunami warning centres in Australia, Indonesia, Thailand, the Maldives and Sri Lanka.

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### **RANGARAJAN HEADS ADVISORY COUNCIL**

The Prime Minister has reconstituted his Economic Advisory Council with C. Rangarajan as head and Govinda Rao, V.S. Vyas, Suman Bery and S. Chaudhuri as members.

The Economic Advisory Council has been set up with a view to provide a sounding board for inculcating awareness in Government on the different point of view on key economic issues. The Economic Advisory Council has been reconstituted time and again with different organisational setup headed by various economists who are of recognised international eminence.

#### ***Terms of Reference:***

1. Analyzing any issue, economic or otherwise, referred to it by the Prime Minister and advising him thereon;
2. Addressing issues of macroeconomic importance and presenting views thereon to the Prime Minister. This could be either be suo-moto or on a reference from the Prime Minister or anyone else;

3. Submitting periodic reports to the Prime Minister on macroeconomic developments and issues with implications for economic policy;
4. Attending to any other task as may be desired by the Prime Minister from time to time.

### **ORGANISATION**

The Planning Commission is the Nodal Agency for the EAC for administrative, logistic, planning and budgeting purposes.

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### **U.S. PUTS INDIA ON 'WATCH LIST'**

The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) placed India on its "Watch List" for 2009 because it found the Central government had failed to take effective measures to ensure the rights of religious minorities in several States.

- "It failed to take steps to ensure rights of religious minorities in several States"
- In 2002 and 2003, India was designated as a "country of particular concern"

In 2002 and 2003, the Commission had recommended that India be designated a "country of particular concern (CPC)" in the wake of the "severe riots" in Gujarat and elsewhere. This is a grade higher than "Watch List," which includes countries "where religious freedom conditions do not rise to the statutory level requiring CPC designation but which require close monitoring due to the nature and extent of violations of religious freedom engaged in or tolerated by the governments."

The USCIRF annual report states that "despite the Congress Party's commitment to religious tolerance, communal violence has continued to occur with disturbing results, and the government's response – particularly at the State and local levels – has been largely inadequate."

According to a footnote in the chapter on India, the Commission had sought permission to visit the country in June this year to discuss religious freedom conditions with officials, religious leaders, civil society activists and others, but the government did not issue visas. "Nor did the Indian government offer alternative dates for a visit which the Commission requested."

In particular, the Commission dwells on the attacks on Christians in Orissa since the Christmas of 2007, which left 40 people dead and over 60,000 members of the community homeless.

Adding to this indictment, the reports says "efforts continue to lag to prosecute the perpetrators of the 2002 Hindu-Muslim riots in Gujarat in which over 2,000 people were killed, the majority of whom were Muslim."

### India regrets U.S. report

India has termed "regrettable" the move by the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) to ask U.S. President Barack Obama to urge India to take new measures to promote communal harmony and prevent communal violence.

Ministry of External Affairs said: "India, a country of 1.1 billion people, is a multi-ethnic and multi-religious society. Aberrations, if any, are dealt with promptly within our legal framework, under the watchful eye of an independent judiciary and a vigilant media."

Any country designated on the 'Watch List' requires "close monitoring." Other countries on the list are **Afghanistan, Belarus, Cuba, Egypt, Indonesia, Laos, the Russian Federation, Somalia, Tajikistan, Turkey, and Venezuela.**

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### JINNAH WAS 'DEMONISED' BY INDIA: JASWANT

"**Jinnah - India, Partition, Independence**", the book written by Jaswanth Singh described the "epic journey of Jinnah from being the ambassador of Hindu-Muslim unity to the Quaid-e-Azam of Pakistan".

Singh, a former external affairs minister, feels India had misunderstood Jinnah and made a demon out of him. Contrary to popular perception, ***Singh feels it was not Jinnah but Nehru's "highly centralised polity" that led to the Partition of India.***

Singh contested the popular Indian view that Jinnah was the villain of Partition or the man principally responsible for it. Maintaining that this view was wrong, he said, "It is. It is not borne out of the facts...we need to correct it."

He feels Jinnah's call for Pakistan was "a negotiating tactic" to obtain "space" for Muslims "in a reassuring system" where they would not be dominated by the Hindu majority.

He said if the final decisions had been taken by Mahatma Gandhi, Rajaji or Maulana Azad -- rather than Nehru -- a united India would have been attained, Singh said the widespread opinion that Jinnah was against Hindus is mistaken.

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### FISHERMEN RIGHTS BILL IS ON ANVIL

- A draft Fishermen Rights Bill will be introduced in Parliament in December to protect the traditional rights of fishermen. It will be modelled on the Forest Rights Act, or The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

- In July, the Ministry had accepted the recommendations of the M.S. Swaminathan Expert Committee Report on the Coastal Management Zone (CMZ) Notification and let the CMZ Notification, 2008, to lapse.
- The Ministry also announced that amendments would be made to the existing CRZ notification for better coastal management.

### Navroze -parsi New Year

Jamshed-E-Navroz is the first day of the first month of the Zoroastrian year.

Parsis follow the Fasli calendar and their New Year commences with the Vernal Equinox.

The community dutifully follows all the rituals performed during Jamshed-e-Navroze. Parsis offer special prayers on the day savour the fixed menu of the festival and greet each other.

A Parsi or Parsee is a member of the larger of the two Zoroastrian communities of the Indian subcontinent. According to tradition, the present-day Parsis descend from a group of Iranian Zoroastrians who emigrated to Western India over 1,000 years ago. The long presence in the region distinguishes the Parsis from the Iranis, who are more recent arrivals, and who represent the smaller of the two Indian-Zoroastrian communities.

### USE MIMANSA PRINCIPLES OF INTERPRETATION (MPI): JUDGES

- The Supreme Court has called for liberal use of Mimamsa Principles of Interpretation (MPI) in interpreting and understanding the statutes and provisions of law.
- A Bench of Justice Markandey Katju and Justice A.K. Ganguly in its order said “MIP which were our traditional principles of interpretation for over 2,500 years, but which are unfortunately ignored in our Courts of law today. It is deeply regrettable that in our Courts of law, lawyers quote Maxwell and Craies but nobody refers to the MPI. Most lawyers would not have even heard of their existence. Today our so-called educated people are largely ignorant about the great intellectual achievements of our ancestors and the intellectual treasury which they have bequeathed us.”
- Mimamsa is one of the six philosophical system of Hinduism, the others are
  1. **Sankhya**, a strongly dualist theoretical exposition of mind and matter.
  2. **Yoga**, a school emphasizing meditation closely based on Sankhya
  3. **Nyaya** or logics
  4. **Vaisheshika**, an empiricist school of atomism
  5. **Mimamsa**, an anti-ascetic and anti-mysticist school of orthopraxy
  6. **Vedanta**, opposing Vedic ritualism in favour of mysticism. Vedanta came to be the dominant current of Hinduism in the post-medieval period.

### Universal application

The Bench said “the Mimamsa Principles were our traditional system of interpretation of legal texts. Although originally they were created for interpreting religious texts [pertaining to the Yagya sacrifice], gradually they came to be utilised for interpreting legal texts and also for interpreting texts on philosophy, grammar, etc. i.e. they became of universal application. Thus, Shankaracharya has used the Mimamsa adhikaranas in his bhashya on the Vedanta sutras. There were hundreds of books [all in Sanskrit] written on the subject, though only a few dozens have survived the ravages of time, but even these show how deep our ancestors went into the subject of interpretation.”

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### INDRA NOOYI, SONIA GANDHI, CHANDA KOCHHAR IN FORBES POWERFUL WOMEN LIST

**PepsiCo Chief Executive Indra Nooyi, Congress president Sonia Gandhi and ICICI Bank chief Chanda Kochhar** have been listed among the world’s 100 most powerful women by Forbes magazine.

**German Chancellor Angela Merkel tops the list**, followed by U.S. Federal Deposit Insurance chairperson Sheila Bair. The three Indians have been ranked higher than U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on the list. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, chairperson of Biocon, is another Indian to have made it to the list. Chennai-born Ms. Nooyi has been ranked third, followed by Ms. Gandhi at the 13th position, Ms. Kochhar (20th) and Ms. Mazumdar-Shaw (91st). “Gandhi, the Italian-born leader of India’s most powerful political party, is still the country’s dominant force since she reluctantly entered politics in the 1990s,” said the magazine.

Referring to the strategies Ms. Nooyi was adopting, Forbes said, “Focusing on innovation, instead of acquisition, the company is debuting new product lines, targeted marketing and repackaging efforts in 2009.”

About Ms. Kochhar, Forbes said she created a stir when she was named the first woman boss of ICICI Bank in December. “After taking charge in May, she now oversees a bank with assets of \$100 billion. After topping her B-school class, she joined ICICI 25 years ago as a management trainee, when it was a wholesale lending institution,” the magazine said.

While assembling the list, Forbes looked for women who ran countries, large companies or influential non-profits. Their rankings are a combination of two scores: visibility and the size of the organisation or country they lead.

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### CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL (CAT) CHIEF SHOULD BE A SITTING OR FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE: LAW COMMISSION

It suggests amendment in view of importance of post

Tribunal has nationwide jurisdiction and has to adjudicate complicated service disputes

The Law Commission has recommended that the Centre amend the Administrative Tribunals Act to provide for appointment of only a sitting or retired Chief Justice of a High Court as Chairman of the Central Administrative Tribunal. In its latest report to the government, the Commission, headed by Justice A.R. Lakshmanan, said though a former or sitting judge of a High Court was eligible, the Supreme Court always recommended a former or sitting Chief Justice, given the importance of the post and the nationwide jurisdiction of the tribunal and also because highly complicated service disputes were to be adjudicated.

The first seven Chairmen were Chief Justices of High Courts. For a short duration from 2002 to 2007, the post was held by former High Court judges.

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## CHENNAI DAY

- Madras, now Chennai, is 370 years old.
- On August 23, 1639, the East India Company's **Francis Day** obtained from a Naik named Damarla Venkatadri a firman or grant of territory and privileges and licence to build a fort and form a settlement.
- This became Fort St. George, today the administrative headquarters of the Tamil Nadu government.

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## CJI CONSTITUTES COMMITTEE OF JUDGES TO SIMPLIFY LAWS

- Chief Justice of India K.G. Balakrishnan has constituted a Committee of Judges to bring out an authoritative series of 'Restatements of Law' on about 100 topics to remove ambiguities surrounding the legal principles and their applicability; clarification and simplification of laws for their better adaptation to social needs.
- It is proposed to have two parallel projects — long-term and short-term, having regard to the nature of topic, current relevance and need for re-statement.
- The committee, comprising a few Supreme Court and High Court judges, eminent jurists, academicians, and scholars, has initially embarked upon a pilot project (to create standards as models) in three areas: legislative privileges, contempt of court and public interest litigation. The other short-term subjects are: corrupt practices in elections; treaty-making power of the state; preventive detention and adoption.
- The long-term projects would be in administrative law; arbitration; partnership; succession; damages and compensation; interpretation of statutes and deeds and consumer protection. There will be periodical addition of subjects, revisions and updates of existing re-instatements.

- Thereafter the relevant suggestions and comments received from the public would be placed before a full committee of judges for incorporating them in the draft report and the final report is expected to be published as a book before the retirement of Mr. Balakrishnan in May 2010.

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### SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS OFFICE OF PROFIT LAW

- The Supreme Court held that the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Amendment Act, 2006 exempting 55 offices occupied by members of Parliament from disqualification was constitutionally valid.
- It was the prerogative of Parliament to decide which particular post could be exempted from the Office of Profit. The Bench also held that there was no violation of Article 14 (equality before law) in choosing the offices as each office was different in its own way.
- The court dismissed petitions filed by the Consumer Education and Research Society and Dinesh Trivedi, MP, challenging the constitutional validity of the law.

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### IITS CAN'T THROW OUT SC/ST STUDENTS FOR POOR PERFORMANCE: SUPREME COURT

- The Supreme Court has held that Scheduled Caste/Tribe students could not be expelled from the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) on the ground of poor performance, said the IITs must provide them with additional coaching to bring them up on a par with the general category students.
- **Mandate of Article 46** "It is not in dispute that SC and ST are a separate class by themselves, and the creamy layer principle is not applicable to them. Article 46 of the Constitution enjoins upon the state to promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections and protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation. These socially and economically backward categories are to be taken care of at every stage even in the specialised institutions like IITs."
- Avinash Singh Bagri and five other SC/ST students of the IIT-Delhi filed writ petitions, alleging that most of the SC/ST students who had been admitted were denied the right to pursue their education on the ground of poor performance.

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### SUPREME COURT JUDGES AGREE TO MAKE THEIR ASSETS PUBLIC

- Information to be put on court website
- The judges of the Supreme Court, including Chief Justice of India K.G. Balakrishnan, will make public the statements of assets they declared at the time of their appointment to the Supreme Court and subsequent additions, if any.

- This decision was taken at a Full Court meeting, presided over by Justice Balakrishnan. The meeting was a sequel to the CJI's announcement that consensus was being evolved on disclosure of assets. "We have decided in principle to put our assets on the [Supreme Court] website, but regarding the modalities, in what manner or form, we have not yet decided,"
- The decision made by SC will not be applicable High courts, they will have to take independent decision.
- The issue of public disclosure of assets by judges came to the fore after **Justice D.V. Shylendra Kumar of the Karnataka High Court and Justice K. Kannan of the Punjab and Haryana High Court** voluntarily disclosed their assets and made them public.
- At present, there is no law governing the declaration of assets by judges. In the recently concluded Parliament session, the government introduced a Bill to make declaration of assets by judges mandatory. But since it contained a clause that such a declaration would not come within the ambit of the Right to Information Act, the Bill was withdrawn. The government has announced that it will be re-introduced in the winter session with amendments

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#### 50% QUOTA FOR WOMEN IN ALL TIERS OF PANCHAYAT RAJ

- The UPA government raised reservation for women at all tiers of the panchayat raj system from 33 to at least 50 per cent. The Cabinet, also cleared the proposal to amend Article 243(D) of the Constitution for the purpose. An amendment would be moved in the next session of Parliament. The Urban Development Ministry would also initiate a similar proposal soon to enhance women's representation in urban local bodies. The proposed amendment seeks to increase reservation for women in the number of seats to be filled by direct election for the office of chairperson, right from the panchayat to the panchayat samiti and the zilla parishad.
- Once implemented, the law will be applicable in all States except Nagaland, Meghalaya and Mizoram, tribal areas of Assam and Tripura and hill areas of Manipur.
- The panchayat raj system being a State subject, it would be the prerogative of the States concerned, where the quota for women is less than 50 per cent, to formulate their own rules to implement the provision once it is made part of the Constitution.
- Currently, the representation of women is 36.87 per cent of the 28.18 lakh elected panchayat representatives. The number of women representatives will go up to over 14 lakh after the proposed Constitution amendment.

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#### IIMS TO BE SET UP IN SEVEN STATES

- The Union Cabinet approved a proposal to set up seven Indian Institutes of Management in **Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand.**
- Four of the IIMs — in Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh — would be set up this year and become operational from the next academic year. The others would be set up next year and become operational in 2011.
- In Tamil Nadu, the IIM would come up in Tiruchi, in Haryana at Rohtak, in Jharkhand at Ranchi and in Chhattisgarh at Raipur. The location for the institutes in the other three States would be decided later.
- In the first phase, the intake in the postgraduate course would be 140 students and eventually it would reach 560. The admissions would be made through a common admission test.

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#### **THE ALL INDIA DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (AIDWA)**

- The All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA) is the women's wing of the Communist Party of India (Marxist).
- The All India Democratic Women's Association, AIDWA was established in 1981, and works for women's rights and for their education, employment and status, along with issues like casteism, communalism, child rights and disaster aid.
- AIDWA has an annual membership fee of one rupee, which allows it policy-independence from donor agencies and government. In 2007, it had over 10 million members, spread across 23 states.

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#### **PREMIER INSTITUTES IN BANGALORE**

Bangalore has the distinction of playing host to a number of premier research institutions in the country. Several factors have helped the capital city of Karnataka achieve this. One is its location, far away from the borders and away from the coast, which is ideal for sensitive scientific and defence institutions. Another is its pleasant climate.

**In the early years of Independence, several public sector companies were set up in Bangalore and some existing manufacturing units in the city were taken over by the Central government. these include**

1. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL),
2. Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL),
3. Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML),
4. National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) and Hindustan Machine Tools (now HMT).
5. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) was set up in 1972.

6. the Indian Institute of Science (IISc). Set up in 1909, it has consistently set benchmarks in terms of quality in scientific research. The institute was the result of the vision of Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata. Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV, the progressive Maharajah of Mysore, enthusiastically contributed the land required for the institute.

**Among the Central research institutes situated in the city are**

1. The National Tuberculosis Institute; the Coffee Research Centre;
2. The National Dairy Research Institute (South);
3. The National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology;
4. The National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences;
5. The Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Bangalore;
6. The Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research;
7. The Tata Institute of Fundamental Research;
8. The National Centre for Biological Sciences;
9. The Central Institute of Medical and Aromatic Plants;
10. The Indian Institute of Horticultural Research;
11. The National Council for Teacher Education;
12. The Indian Statistical Institute; the Regional Institute of English; the National Power Training Institute;
13. The Project Directorate on Animal Disease Monitoring and Surveillance;
14. The Society for Integrated Circuit Technology and Applied Research;
15. The Indian Veterinary Research Institute;
16. The National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Insects; and the Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute.

**Apart from these, there are a few institutions that have achieved a special place for themselves in the areas of research and training.**

1. These include the Central Power Research Institute (CPRI),
2. The Institute of Wood Science and Technology (IWST),
3. The Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute (IPIRTI),
4. The National Law School of India University (NALSIU),
5. The Raman Research Institute (RRI),
6. The Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA),
7. The Apex Hi-tech Institute (AHI),
8. The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) and the Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC).

### THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADVENT OF TELEVISION IN INDIA.

- Doordarshan will complete 50 years of transmission in September this year.
- In 1959, using some equipment donated to All India Radio (AIR) by Philips after an exhibition, a television channel was started in Delhi
- **Then, in 1982 came the second decisive moment in the 50 years of Indian television: the use of satellites and the switch-over to colour.**
- **The third decisive moment was in 1990**, when CNN positioned a satellite close to India and telecast the Gulf War live. Suddenly, audiences realised they could see a channel other than Doordarshan, a realisation not lost on private entrepreneurs. They used Hong Kong as a base to start private television channels and beamed programmes airlifted from India to satellites positioned close to India. Private satellite television had arrived in India.
- Doordarshan today operates more than 30 channels across India and an international channel abroad.
- Doordarshan will soon commence HDTV transmissions on an experimental basis, followed by a commercial rollout, in time for the Commonwealth Games to be held in Delhi in 2010. Thus, Indian television viewers will be able to watch the Commonwealth Games on HDTV ready televisions.

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### LAW COMMISSION MOOTS SWEEPING REFORMS

In its 214th report, the Commission had suggested that the three Supreme Court judgments of 1982, 1993 and 1998, giving primacy to the judiciary in appointments be reconsidered to bring about clarity and consistency in appointments.

In its 230th report on judicial reforms, the Commission, headed by Justice A.R. Lakshmanan, reiterated this recommendation. It pointed out that in every High Court “the Chief Justice is from outside the State as per the policy of the government. The senior-most judges who form the collegium are also from outside the State. The resultant position is that the judges constituting the collegium are not conversant with the names and antecedents of the candidates and more often than not, appointments suffer from lack of adequate information.”

- Equal role for judiciary, executive in appointment of judges
- Post of Chief Justice should not be transferable
- Judges must deliver judgments within a reasonable time

The Law Commission has reiterated its earlier recommendation suggesting an equal role for the judiciary and the executive in selection and appointment of judges to the High Courts and the Supreme Court.

The report said, "As recommended in the 214th report, two alternatives are available to the government. One is to seek a reconsideration of the three judges' cases by the Supreme Court. The other one is to enact a law restoring the primacy of the CJI and the power of the executive in making the appointments." The Commission took into consideration the views of the parliamentary standing committee on Law and Justice, recommending the scrapping of the present procedure.

The Commission said, "The post of Chief Justice should not be transferable. If the functioning of the High Courts is to be improved, the policy of transferring the Chief Justices should be given up forthwith. If the Chief Justice is from the same High Court, he will be in a better position to not only control the lower judiciary, but also to assess the persons both from the Bench and the Bar for elevation to the High Court. This will also curtail unnecessary delay in filling up the vacancies in the High Courts. Also while making judges appointment, advocates whose kith and kin practising in a High Court, should not be posted in the same High Court." This would eliminate "uncle judges," it said.

### **Refresher courses**

Regarding lawyers it said, "Continuing professional development was necessary for all legal practitioners, State law officers and judicial officers to improve and sustain their proficiency. There should be a mechanism for refresher courses and attendance as a pre-condition for renewal of practising certificates for advocates."

On pendency, it said: "pendency is a normal feature of any system but is assuming great proportions in courts. This will necessitate courts to prescribe time-limits for all cases. To deal with this, there can't be one prescribed limit, but the kinds of cases need to be identified and prioritised."

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### **Tripartite meeting agrees to abolish Gorkha Hill Council**

Union Home Secretary G. K. Pillai (right) greets Gorkha Janmukti Morcha leader Anmol Prasad before the tripartite talks to find a solution to the Gorkhaland statehood issue in New Delhi.

At the tripartite talks held ; the Centre, the West Bengal government and the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha agreed in principle to abolish the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council and set up an alternative administrative framework in Darjeeling.

The meeting also decided to appoint an interlocutor to carry forward the discussions and send a Central team to Darjeeling to review the development works.

"It was agreed, in principle, to repeal the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council Act of 1988. The repeal of the Act will be in process as soon as an alternative administrative set-up

framework is finalised through mutual consultations and agreement,” The meeting agreed that the proposal for establishing a hill council under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution would be dropped.

#### **CAUVERY BASIN STATES’ MEET**

- To thrash out differences between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka
- To be chaired by the Union Power Secretary
- Project envisages setting up of 4 power plants

The Union government has called a meeting of the Cauvery basin States here on Monday to thrash out differences between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka over the 1,150-megawatt Cauvery Hydro Power Project (CHPP).

The project envisages the establishment of four power plants, two each in Tamil Nadu (Rasimanal: 360 MW and Hogenakkal:120 MW) and Karnataka (Shivasamudram: 270 MW and Mekadatu: 400 MW).

According to the Central formula, the National Hydro Power Corporation (NHPC) would develop the plants and allocate the power generated to the two States. For project execution, the States and the NHPC had to sign a tripartite agreement.

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#### **India’s average farm output lowest in the world:**

**U.R. Rao** Pointing out that the country’s food production had remained stagnant for a long time, he said there was a dire need to increase the productivity as the country’s food requirement was increasing sharply in tune with the population growth. The country’s average farm productivity which stood around two tonnes per hectare was the lowest in the world as the global average was about 2.6 tonnes.

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