

## Current affairs for civil services and state civil services

1. The 23 year old student who was gang raped on a moving bus in Delhi on December 16 died at **Mount Elizabeth Hospital, Singapore**. Police had initially charged against six men allegedly involved in gang rape under section **307** (attempt to murder), **201** (destruction of evidence), **365** (kidnapping or abducting), **376** (2) (g) (gang rape), **377** (unnatural offences), **394** (hurting in committing robbery) and **34** (common intention) of Indian Penal Code.

2. 'Geneva plan' (Kofi Annan's 6 point plan) deals with Syria.

3. National Water Resource Council is chaired by Prime Minister.

4. CAR crisis

African Union is prepared to deploy troops in CAR (Central African Republic) if all efforts to stabilise peace failed.

### **5. Jayashri competes for Oscar**

Playback singer Bombay Jayashri Ramnath, along with composer Mychael Danna, has been nominated in the **Original Song category** for the lullaby song she sang in film "Life of Pi" directed by Ang Lee. It is for the first time a Tamil song has been nominated for Oscars.

### **6. France honors Malala with Simone de Beauvoir Prize**

France honored Pakistani schoolgirl Malala Yousafzai, who was shot by the Taliban for campaigning for girls' education, with Simone de Beauvoir Prize for Women's Freedom. Malala Yousafzai was undergoing treatment at a British hospital and is awaiting reconstructive surgery on her skull.

7. Justice D K Jain to head 20th Law Commission

Justice D K Jain, who is about to retire from Supreme Court, has been appointed as the chairman of the 20<sup>th</sup> Law Commission of India.

### **Task for 20<sup>th</sup> Law Commission:**

The 20<sup>th</sup> Law Commission was constituted through a Government Order with effect from September 1, 2012, with the term ending on August 31, 2015. It has been charged with a wide terms of reference including one to examine existing laws from the gender equality perspective and suggest necessary amendments. It will also identify obsolete laws for their repeal and also recommend appropriate steps for speedy grievance redressal of citizen's grievances in the field of law. The commission would also examine the Laws which affect the poor and carry out post-audit for socio-economic legislations and take all necessary measures to harness law and the legal process in the service of the poor.

### **8. Indian origin scientist Venkatesh Mannar gets Canada's highest civilian award**



Indian origin scientist **Venkatesh Mannar** who is President of Micronutrient Initiative, Canada, has been conferred with Canada's 'highest' civilian award – **the Order of Canada**.

**Order of Canada** award is given to recognize a lifetime of outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation to people in all sectors of Canadian society.

### **What is Mannar's contribution?**

Mannar has been working for 40 years to alleviate debilitating micronutrient deficiencies among the world's most vulnerable. He is attached with **Micronutrient Initiative** which is a not-for-profit organization which endeavors to ensure that the world's most vulnerable – especially women and children – in developing countries get vitamins and minerals they need to survive and grow through supplements and a food fortification programme.

### **9. South Korea becomes first Asian country to punish rapist with castration**

In a remarkable verdict a South Korean sentenced a 31-year-old pedophile Pyo to 15 years in jail and ordered the country's first ever chemical castration.

This is for the first time since the country introduced a law in 2011 that allows hormonal treatment or chemical castration for convicted child molesters, who are at risk of repeating their crimes.

The court also ordered Pyo's information to be made available to the public for 10 years and that he wear an electronic monitoring anklet for 20 years after his release from prison. Pyo was also ordered to undergo 200 hours of therapy to treat his sexual impulses.

**South Korea was the first country in Asia to adopt this type of treatment, although Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Poland and the US state of California have used it for years.**

#### **10. Haryana govt to implement new 'Kanyadan' scheme**

The Haryana Government will implement a new initiative known as 'Kanyadan' from April 1, 2013 under which an incentive of Rs 11,000 per girl will be given to each of the beneficiary brides during the mass marriage ceremony to be organized by Red Cross Societies or any registered NGO in the state. This is meant to promote the concept of mass marriages and curb the social evils like dowry system and would help families to reduce the marriage expenditure.

#### **Who are eligible?**

Beneficiary should be Haryana domicile and must be 18 years of age on the date of her marriage. The mass marriage should have least 11 marriages at a time, by Red Cross Societies or any registered NGO in the state. This incentive would be given irrespective of the caste, race, creed, religion or income of the beneficiaries but they would have to produce a certificate regarding proof of girl's age such as birth certificate or that of matric.

#### **11. Ireland honors Malala with Peace Prize**

Social activist Malala Yousafzai from Pakistan who was shot at by a Taliban gunman in 2012, will be awarded with Ireland's esteemed **Tipperary International Peace Prize for 2012** in recognition to her courage and determination to speak out in support of equal access to education for every child.

Malala is the second Pakistani to get the award. In 2007, it was given to **Benazir Bhutto**.

### ***12. Justice Amitava Roy is the new Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court***

Justice Amitava Roy was sworn in as the Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court.



He replaced previous chief justice Arun Kumar Mishra who has been transferred to Kolakata High Court.

### **13.5% increase in U.N. budget, India to pay more**

The United Nations General Assembly cleared the \$5.4 billion budget for 2012-13 which is 5% more than the previous budget. India, Brazil, China and other emerging countries will pay more to the U.N. European nations, such as Britain, Germany and France and Japan will pay less in the revised U.N. budget. The U.S. contribution for the regular budget will remain unchanged at 22%.

### ***14. What is Organic fertigation?***

#### **What is Fertigation?**

- Fertigation is a practice of conjunctive application of fertilizers and water to crop plants.

#### **How it is done?**

- Soluble fertilizers like urea, potash and a wide variety of fertilizer mixtures available in the market are nicely mixed with irrigation water, filtered and then passed through the irrigation unit.

### ***15. Asif Ibrahim appointed as chief of Intelligence Bureau***



Syed Asif Ibrahim

A 1977 batch Madhya Pradesh cadre IPS officer.

- Took charge as director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB).
- Ibrahim is the **first Muslim to hold the top post in IB.**

### **16. Nobel laureate Rita Levi-Montalcini “Lady of the Cells” passed away**

“Lady of the Cells”, as she was known in Italy, **Rita Levi-Montalcini** (103) passed away. She was a biologist who conducted underground research in defiance of Fascist persecution and later won a Nobel Prize for helping unlock the mysteries of the cell.

#### **Her major contribution:**

Her most significant work was: **isolating the Nerve Growth Factor (NGF)** from observations of certain cancerous tissues that cause extremely rapid growth of nerve cells. The protein assists portions of the central nervous system that have been damaged by disease or injury. For this discovery, she, together with colleague Stanley Cohen, received the 1986 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. Her research increased the understanding of many conditions, including tumors, developmental malformations, and senile dementia.

### **17. Y.V. Reddy to be the chairman of 14th Finance Commission**

The constitution of the 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission has been announced by the government. The Commission will have 5 members which will be headed by former RBI Governor Y.V. Reddy. The panel is to submit its report by October 31, 2014.



#### **What this Commission will do?**

#### **Main purpose of the Commission:**



- Recommend ways of tax sharing b/w centre and states which will apply for a five-year period beginning April 1, 2015.
- Recommend steps for pricing of public utilities such as electricity and water in an independent manner.
- Look into issues like disinvestment, GST compensation, sale of non-priority PSUs and subsidies.
- Look into the need for insulating the pricing of public utility services like drinking water, irrigation, power and public transport from policy fluctuations through statutory provisions.
- Review the state of finances, deficit and debt levels of the Centre and States, keeping in view, in particular, the fiscal consolidation roadmap suggested by the 13<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission.
- Suggest measures for maintaining a stable and sustainable fiscal environment consistent with equitable growth.

### Who are the members of the panel?

#### Members of the Panel:

- **Chairman: Dr. Y.V. Reddy**
- Former Finance Secretary **Sushma Nath**
- NIPFP Director **M. Govinda Rao**
- Planning Commission Member **Abhijit Sen**
- Former Acting Chairman of National Statistical Commission **Sudipto Mundle.**

### **18. Vanitha Narayanan becomes IBM India MD**

**Vanitha Narayanan** has been appointed as managing director of IBM India by the company. She replaced Shanker Annaswamy.



### **19.China unveils “Beidou Navigation Satellite System (BDS)” in Asia-Pacific**

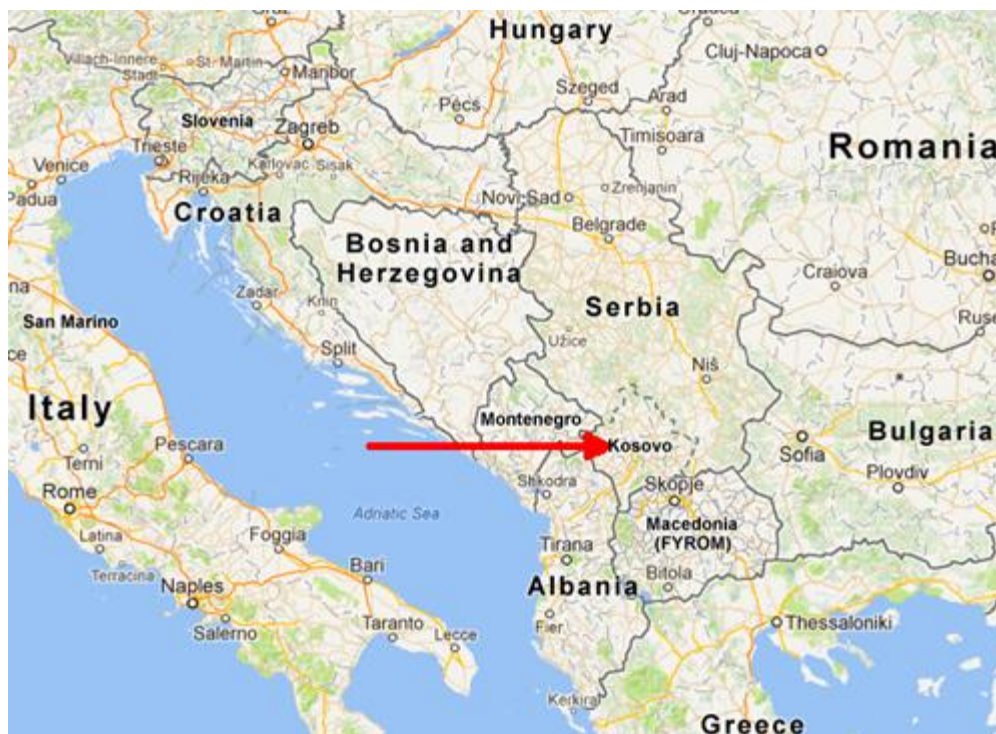
China launched **Beidou Navigation Satellite System (BDS)**, a kind of global positioning system, in the Asia-Pacific from its Beidou satellite network with an aim to gain up to 20 % of global market share by 2015.

#### **What would it do?**

The system would initially provide positioning, navigation, timing and short-message services in China and the Asia-Pacific region. It is compatible with other global positioning systems and could provide positioning accuracy of 10 metres, velocity accuracy of 0.2 metres per second and one-way timing accuracy of 50 nanoseconds. It would provide both open and authorized global navigation services worldwide by 2020 and will eventually use 35 satellites.

### **20.Pakistan recognizes Kosovo as an Independent State**

- Pakistan became another country to officially recognize Kosovo as an independent state.
- Kosovo had declared its **independence from Serbia** in 2008.
- **With this Pakistan became the 98<sup>th</sup> sovereign state among 193 UN-member states to recognize Kosovo.**
- In September 2012, Kosovo declared **full independence** after the western powers supervising Kosovo declared the end of their supervision.



### ***21. Pratibha Ray to get 2011 Jnanpith Award***



**Pratibha Ray** who is a famous **Oriya novelist** has been chosen for the prestigious **Jnanpith award for the year 2011** in recognition to her contribution to the field of Indian literature. She will be the **fourth Oriya author** to get the award. Previously, the honor was conferred on Gopinath Mohanty (1973), Sachidananda Routray (1986) and Sitakant Mohapatra (1993).