CLAT GYAN’S WEEKLY GK COMPENDIUM

APRIL THE 9TH, 2011

- Anna Hazare withdraws his hunger strike after the Government agrees to set up a 10 member committee which is constituted as follows:
  1. From the government side- Mr. Mukherjee, Mr. Moily, Mr. Sibal, Home Minister P. Chidambaram and Mr. Khurshid.
  2. Besides Mr. Hazare, civic society will be represented by the retired Supreme Court Judge, Justice Santosh Hedge; lawyer Prashant Bhushan, Mr. Kejriwal and the former Union Minister, Shanti Bhushan, who will also be co-chairman of the committee.

- An atmospheric phenomenon called a 22 degree halo of the sun was visible in the skies of Kolkata. The phenomenon occurs whenever a particular kind of cloud is present in the atmosphere. These clouds, characterised by thin strands, are called cirrus clouds.

- A Japan-India-United States trilateral — an idea on the boil for the past one year — will now come to fruition with all sides agreeing to discuss regional and international issues under this format.

- The UPA Government will soon unveil a national manufacturing policy that is aimed at attracting overseas investments and generating employment for the youth, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma said. The government aims at increasing the share of manufacturing sector from 16-17 per cent to 25-26 per cent of the GDP by 2020.

APRIL THE 10TH, 2011

- A constitutionally mandated shutdown of the United States federal government was narrowly averted as the White House and Congress hammered out a deal to cut $38 billion in spending out of the 2010 budget proposals.

- The three-member panel, comprising Justice Aftab Alam of the Supreme Court, Karnataka High Court Chief Justice J.S. Khehar and senior advocate P.P. Rao probing charges including corruption, land-grab and abuse of judicial office against Justice P.D. Dinakaran, has declined his plea to defer the proceedings. The committee issued the
Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said that the Centre will introduce the Lokpal Bill in Parliament during the monsoon session. (The monsoon session normally starts in July).

Union Minister for Law and Justice M. Veerappa Moily said that the first meeting of the Joint Drafting Committee to prepare the draft Lok Pal Bill has been scheduled tentatively for April 16.

Setting August 15 as the deadline to pass the Bill in Parliament, failing which, he said, he would march to the Red Fort and hoist the tricolour, Mr Hazare declared that his movement marked the “start of a second independence struggle.”

Hoteliers here created a new Guinness record at Vijayawada dishing out a 38.2-foot-long dosa, the longest ever made.

APRIL THE 11TH, 2011

Forces loyal to Muammar Qadhafi are threatening to overrun the strategic town of Ajdabiyah ahead of talks in Benghazi between the opposition and an African Union (AU) delegation, which aims to find a formula to end the Libyan civil war.

International health journal Lancet has accused the Government of India of “suppressing truth” about the presence of a drug-resistant bacteria in the public water system. Mark Toleman, one of the co-authors of the study that claimed to have detected the bacteria in the capital's waters, said it was named ‘New Delhi-beta-lactamase’ first in an American journal called Antibiotic Agents and Chemotherapy in 2009 and the naming had nothing to do with Lancet.

Reconsidering its earlier decision, the UPA government is now contemplating not to give direct inclusion to all members of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities in the proposed BPL list. Only six categories of people will be compulsorily included in the BPL list. The six categories are –

- the designated primitive tribal groups,
- most discriminated SC groups called Mahadalit groups where so identified by the State,
- female headed households with no adult male member,
- minor head of households with no adult member,
- destitute households which are dependent predominantly on alms for survival,
• households that are homeless or with no homestead land.

• Israeli and Palestinian officials floated a ceasefire to end an upsurge of violence in Gaza. In Cairo, the Arab League said it would call on the U.N. to impose a no-fly zone over Gaza.

• The Central Government has set in motion the process for formulation of the XII Plan (2012-17) starting April 1, 2012, with a tentative intent to achieve a GDP (gross domestic product) growth of about 9-9.5 per cent during the five-year period.

**APRIL THE 12TH, 2011**

• **COURT REPRIEVE FOR 44 DEEMED UNIVERSITIES**
  The Supreme Court gave a reprieve to the 44 deemed universities (DUs) facing de-recognition on the basis of the deficiencies pointed out by the Tandon Committee, by extending the status quo order (viz., restraining the government from taking further action on the basis of the report). This would mean that these DUs would be at liberty to take admissions for the academic year 2011-12.

• **Indian wins Indu Sharma Katha Samman**
  Indian novelist Vikas Kumar Jha has been chosen for the 2011 International Indu Sharma Katha Samman, for his novel ‘McCluskieganj’. The award will be presented to Jha at a function in the House of Commons on June 27, Tejendra Sharma.
  The International Indu Sharma Katha Samman was instituted in the memory of poetess and short story writer Indu Sharma who died of cancer in 1995.

• **Government to issue biometric PAN cards**
  The government has decided to issue biometric PAN cards to taxpayers across the country to weed out the problem of duplicate and fake ones.
  The decision was taken recently by the Finance Ministry, in the wake of a Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report that asked the Income Tax department to ensure that a single taxpayer was not issued multiple cards. The proposed new biometric Permanent Account Number (PAN) cards would bear the Income Tax assessee's fingerprints (two from each hand) and prints from the face.

There could be an option for existing PAN card holders to opt for the biometric cards, but it may not be mandatory, a senior official in the I-T department said.
Yasmeen to hold charge of NCW

Yasmeen Abrar, member of the National Commission for Women, has assumed charge as chairperson of the panel following completion of the tenure of Girija Vyas. Ms. Abrar has been Member of NCW since 2005. She was nominated for the second term in 2008.

Tata Power bags IAF order

Tata Power has bagged a Rs.1,000-crore contract from the Indian Air Force for modernising 30 airfields, in two phases, over four years

The Hindu Saregama M.S. Subbulakshmi Award presented to Carnatic vocalist Nisha P. Rajagopal, by former President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

Laurent Gbagbo captured

Ivory Coast leader Allassane Ouattara's forces, backed by French and U.N. troops, captured his besieged rival Laurent Gbagbo in Abidjan at the climax of a deadly months-long crisis. Mr. Gbagbo, who has held power since 2000 and stubbornly refused to admit defeat in November's presidential election, was detained and taken to his rival's temporary headquarters, with his wife Simone and son Michel.

APRIL THE 13TH, 2011

First ever BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) Summit held at Sanya in China. The last two BRIC Summits were hosted by Russia and Brazil. This Summit has a new entrant – South Africa. The next Summit will be hosted by India.

The main issues that were dealt with were: the present international situation; international economic and financial issues; development issues; and cooperation among the BRICS countries.

The nuclear radiation crisis at the Fukushima Daiichi plant in Japan was reclassified as a “major accident” with the same worst-case rating as the 1986 Chernobyl disaster. The level of the Fukushima crisis has now been raised from ‘five’ to the worst-possible ‘seven’ on the International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale (INES).

British Medical Journal, The Lancet has named a drug – resistant superbug after New Delhi. Its full name is New Delhi Metallo Beta-lactamase-1. The National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), in a letter to the journal, has shown its disapproval.
India sent a two-member team to Chile to probe claims that the authorities in Santiago had detained a person named Abdul Rauf, wanted in the hijacking of the Indian Airlines aircraft in 1999 to Kandahar.

Sugam – name of the new, user-friendly, tax returns form.

World Tuberculosis Day – March 24th.

Directors of 17 regional cancer centres in the country have written to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, urging him to bring in a ban on smokeless tobacco products, including gutka and pan masala. India has the highest number of oral cancer patients in the world.

Russia marked a half century since Yuri Gagarin became the first man in space, the greatest victory of Soviet science which expanded human horizons and still remembered by Russians as their finest hour.

Ivory Coast President – Alassane Ouattara.

Tata Steel Vice-Chairman B. Muthuraman has been elected new President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2011-12. The Godrej Group Chairman, Adi Godrej, is the President-designate. Mr. Muthuraman succeeds Hari Bhartia of Jubilant Organosys.

Infosys Technologies CEO and Managing Director S. Gopalakrishnan has been elected Vice-President for 2011-12

This is the first time that CII has three office bearers at the top posts.

APRIL THE 14TH, 2011

Tahawwur Hussain Rana, a key accused in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack case, has made claims that he acted on the behest of Islamabad and its spy agency, ISI and not LeT.

It took 116 years for India to be featured in the Venice Biennale. This year finally, India will have its own national pavilion at the prestigious Biennale to be inaugurated on June 3, 2011. India will be one of the 94 countries in this world famous art event that saw its inception in 1895. The theme for the different national pavilions this year is “Illuminations.” For the Indian pavilion, famous art critic Ranjit Hoskote has been appointed the curator.

The Supreme Court has refused to lift the ban on sale of tobacco products such as gutka and pan masala in plastic sachets and allowed several civil societies and
manufacturers of non-smoking, chewing tobacco products such as gutka to become a party to the proceedings against a plea for their sale in plastic sachets.

- Lewis Binford, founder of the New Archaeology movement and one of the senior most figures in world archaeology, passed away at the age of 80.
- India figures at the top of 10 countries that have the highest number of stillbirths, according to the Stillbirth series published in the British medical journal, The Lancet. India is followed by Pakistan, Nigeria, China, Bangladesh, Congo, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Afghanistan and Tanzania.
- The Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) received a Rs.96-lakh grant from the German Government for conservation and restoration of the 17th Century Mughal-era tomb Chausath Khamba at Nizamuddin in New Delhi.
- India to sign a pact with Kazakhstan which will give India 25 per cent stake in the Satpayev oil field on the Caspian Sea. The deal is being negotiated by ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL)
- Chairman of SEBI – U K Sinha

APRIL THE 15TH, 2011

- Shunglu Committee report – alleged irregularities in executing various infrastructure projects related to the Commonwealth Games by the Delhi government.
- The BRICS nations inked a pact to use their own currencies instead of the U.S. dollar in issuing credit or grants among one another.
- The grouping of India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) on Thursday reaffirmed its relevance despite the formation of BRICS.
- President of Brazil - Dilma Rousseff.
- NPCIL chairman and managing director - S.K. Jain.
- 14 cities across the country get close – circuit TVs (CCTV) installed in public places for security purposes.
- Pakistan set free 89 Indian fishermen as part of a process initiated by the two countries to speed up the release of people held in each other's prisons for inadvertently crossing land and maritime boundaries.

---

1 Professor Binford brought about a virtual revolution in archaeology in the 1960s and 1970s by elevating its status from a descriptive study of antiquities to a scientific discipline devoted to anthropological understanding of ways of life of ancient societies. His ‘archaeology as anthropology' proposition emerged as a dominant paradigm in contemporary archaeology.
• French Finance Minister and current G-20 chair - Christine Lagarde.
• Bourn Hall Clinic, the world's first IVF (In-vitro Fertilisation) clinic, has opened a centre in Kochi, Kerala — the first one outside the United Kingdom. The assisted conception clinic, which has to its credit the world's first test tube baby, will be opening 16-18 centres across the country in the next three to five years.
• First test tube baby – Louise Brown
• Noted Telugu actor, Ram Reddy passes away.
• Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited was conferred the Mini Ratna Category-I status by President Pratibha Patil. It has been providing services to the paramilitary forces and support services for oil exploration. Recently, the company established its own training school.
• Jennifer Lopez has been named at the World’s Most Beautiful Woman by the People Magazine.