

SNIPPETS

OCT 01

- The Supreme Court declines to entertain a writ petition challenging the powers of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) to conduct performance audit relating to allocation of coal blocks and other issues.
- The Financial Sector Legislative Reforms Commission, headed by former Justice BN Sri Krishna says key regulators such as SEBI, IRDA, PFRDA and FMC shall be merged into a Unified Financial Agency.
- Eric J Hobsbawm, the distinguished British Marxist historian who had a profound influence on the Indian Left and famously said he wanted to be remembered as unrepentant flag-bearer for communism, passes away at the age of 95.

OCT 02

- Arvind Kejriwal, the member of India against Corruption (IAC) announces the launch of a party to provide alternative politics for changing the system and giving power back to the people. A nine-point 'Vision Document' is also released.

OCT 03

- Election Commission announces the poll schedule of Assembly elections in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh. Himachal Pradesh will go to polls on November 4, 2012 while Gujarat will witness two phase polling on December 13 and 17, 2012
- Former Union Minister A.Raja, Kanimozhi and Suresh Kalmadi are made members of the Parliamentary Standing Committees on Energy, Home Affairs and external Affairs respectively.
- Former Governor of Goa and Sikkim and veteran Bharatiya Janata Party leader Kidar Nath Sahani passes away at the age of 85.
- The high level committee on financing of infrastructure, headed by HDFC chairman Deepak Parekh, pitches for 100 percent FDI in telecom sector.
- Saurabh Sangvekar sets new National record in the men's 400 m freestyle at the 66th
- Enerzal Senior National Aquatics in Pune. Richa Mishra bags her fourth gold medal.
- P Kashyap and Sayali Gokhle win the men's and women's singles title respectively in the National badminton championship in Srinagar.

OCT 04

- The Government raises the foreign direct investment cap in insurance sector to 49 percent, opens up the pension sector to foreign investment and clears the Companies Bill, 2011. The Government also approves amendments to the Competition Act, 2002 and the Foreign Contracts (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2010.
- Prithvi-II, the surface-to-surface missile is successfully test-fired by the Strategic Forces Command of the services from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur in Odisha.
- The Union Cabinet approves the 12th Plan (2012-17) document aimed at achieving average economic growth rate to 8.2 percent, down 9 percent envisaged earlier.
- India successfully test-fires the nuclear-capable surface-to-surface Dhanush ballistic missile from a naval ship off the coast of Odisha.

- The two day seventh meeting of women speakers of Parliament ends in New Delhi with the adoption of Delhi declaration which calls for promoting women's representation in Parliament and other elected bodies through supportive electoral laws and temporary special measures.
- Afghanistan imposes a cap on US dollar flows across the border with Iran amid clashes there between Iranian police and protestors prompted by a collapse in the rial currency.
- The Social Networking site Facebook crosses one billion milestone which implies that it reaches now one out of every seven people on earth.

OCT 05

- Veerdhawal Khade emerges best swimmer in men's category while Richa Mishra clinches the best swimmer title among women at the 66th Senior National Aquatics championship in Pune. Karnataka wins the men's team championship.

OCT 06

- SEBI simplifies norms across investor base.
- IIT Mumbai gets the fastest computer.
- SpaceX set for first NASA contracted supply mission.
- Seven years on, Hamza extradited to US.

OCT 07

- The Indian Navy test-fires the 290-km range BrahMos supersonic cruise missile off the Goa coast from missile frigate INS Teg.
- Kuwait Emir Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad Al-Sahab issues a decree dissolving the 2009 parliament, just over three months since it was reinstated by the constitutional court.
- The Philippines government and the country's biggest Muslim rebel group agree on a plan to end a decades-long separatist insurgency that has killed more than 150000 people.
- Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez is re-elected for the third time defeating Henrique Capriles.
- West Indies defeats host Sri Lanka by 36 runs to lift the ICC World T20 trophy in Colombo. Aided by Man-of-the-Match Marlon Samuels' blitzing knock of 78, Darren Sammy's side successfully defends a seemingly meager total of 137. It is first major title for West Indies since the 2004 Champions Trophy in England.

Scores: West Indies: 137 for 6

Sri Lanka: 101

Shane Watson of Australia is adjudged Player of the Tournament.

- Australia beats England by 4 runs in the final of ICC Women's World Twenty 20 Tournament in Colombo. Jess Cameron is adjudged the 'Player of the Match' while England Captain charlotte Edwards is named 'Player of the Tournament'
- Sebastian Vettel wins the title of the Japanese Grand Prix Formula One Race ahead of Felipe Massa of Ferrari.
- Kei Nishikori makes history by becoming the first Japanese player to win the Japan Open tennis since 1972 when he defeats young Canadian star Milo Raonic in the men's singles final.
- Novak Djokovic of Serbia beats Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France in the final of the men's singles in the China Open tennis.

OCT 08

- Varsha Bhosle, daughter of Bollywood singer Asha Bhosle, commits suicide at her home in Mumbai.
- Veteran Congress leader and former Gujarat Governor Nawal Kishore Sharma passes away at the age of 87.
- The eurozone launches 500 billion euro rescue fund.

OCT 09

- President Pranab Mukherjee approves revised protocol practices by which the use of the words 'His Excellency' will be discontinued while organizing functions within the country and during interaction between Indian dignitaries and the President.
- French Serge Haroche and American David Wineland share the 2012 Nobel Prize in Physics for inventing methods to observe the bizarre properties of the quantum world.

OCT 10

- Americans Robert J Lefkowitz and Brian K Kobilka win the 2012 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for work on cell receptors, yielding vital insights into how the body works at the molecular level.
- The International Cricket Council (ICC) suspends the six umpires caught in a television sting, in which they were shown willing to fix Twenty 20 matches. The umpires, who were purportedly shown in the video clips, are Nadeem Ghauri and Anees Siddiqui of Pakistan, Nadir Shah of Bangladesh and Gamini Dissanayake, Maurice Winston and Sagara Gallage of Sri Lanka.

OCT 11

- The Cauvery Monitoring Committee (CMC) , at a meeting in New Delhi, orders Karnataka to release a further 8.85 tmcft of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu from October 16 to 31, 2012.
- Mo Yan, a novelist who brought to life the turbulence of the 20th century China in vivid and often graphic works set against the tumult of the Japanese invasion and a struggling countryside, becomes the first writer in China to be awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature.
- Syria accuse Turkey of "air piracy" after Turkish fighter jets force a civilian Syrian aircraft to land in Ankara – an event that is likely to cement political ties among Syria, Russia, Iran and Iraq against Washington-backed Turkey.
- Former Indian captain Anil Kumble is unanimously appointed chairman of ICC's Cricket Committee by the game's governing body in Colombo, replacing West Indies great Clive Llyod.

OCT 12

- The Scandal-hit United Progressive Alliance government faces a fresh corruption related challenge, with the surfacing of a document purporting to show that one of India's largest steel firms made payoffs to senior officials in key ministries and even the media.
- According to the 2012 Global Hunger Index report released for the seventh year by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Welthungerhilfe, and Concern Worldwide, India has lagged in improving its Global Hunger Index (GHI) score despite strong economic growth.

- The European Union wins the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize for fostering peace on a continent ravaged by war, yet the Norwegian prize jury warns that the financial crisis challenging the bloc's unity could lead to a return to "extremism and nationalism".

OCT 13

- Celebrated Bollywood music composers' duo Kalyanji-Anandji are given the prestigious Akshaya Samman for the year 2012 during the annual Akshaya Utsav in Bhubaneswar.

OCT 14

- Iran denies any role in cyber-attacks against two major oil and gas companies in the Persian Gulf, amid statements from the United States alluding to the rise in tehran's capability to launch massive cyber-strikes against Washington and its allies.
- Novak Djokovic gains sweet revenge for his US Open defeat to Andy Murray, saving five match points to seal a stunning victory in the shanghai Masters final.
- A peerless Sebastian Vettel leapfrogs Fernando Alonso at the top of the world championship as the Red Bull driver leads to win the Korean Grand Prix.

OCT 15

- Two American scholars Alvin Roth and Llyod Shapley are awarded the Nobel economics prize for studies on the match-making that takes place when doctors are coupled up with hospitals; students with schools; and human organs with transplants recipients.
- The British and Scottish governments sign a historic deal that will to allow Scotland to hold a referendum in 2014 on whether it wants to remain part of the United Kingdom or secede from the 300 year-old political union.

OCT 16

- After three rounds of vigorous debate, a Group of Ministers approves the controversial Land Acquisition Bill.
- In a bid to kick-start the stalled process of raising global funds for biodiversity conservation, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh commits \$850 million (over, Rs. 264 crore) for what he calls the 'Hyderabad Pledge' as India takes over the two-year presidency of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- Living up to the bookies' predictions, Hilary Mantel wins the 2012 Man Booker Prize for her historical novel *Bring up the Bodies*. She is the first – ever woman and the first living British novelist to win the prize twice.
- Visiting Prime Minister Julia Gillard announces in New Delhi that India's record-breaking batsman Sachin Tendulkar will be conferred with membership of the Order of Australia.

OCT 17

- The Periyar Tiger Reserve (PTR) wins the coveted U.N.-India Biodiversity Governance award instituted by the Government of India and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for the best managed protected area of the country.
- Pranay Sahay is appointed Director-General of the Central Reserve Police Force.

- Environmental economist Pavan Sukhdev, who stresses eco-friendly agriculture, solar power and protection of biodiversity and ecosystem services as free sources of income for the poor, is appointed as the new Goodwill Ambassador of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- India and Australia decide to begin talks on a nuclear agreement that would facilitate the supply of uranium to nuclear plants being set up.
- Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, imprisoned in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and facing trial for allegedly masterminding the 9/11 terror attacks, lashes out at prosecutors in a courtroom, accusing the US of extra judicial killings and circumvention of due legal process in its fight against al-Qaeda.
- Lance Armstrong steps down as chairman of his Livestrong cancer charity as Nike breaks all ties with the disgraced cycling star over "seemingly insurmountable evidence" of doping.

OCT 18

- Proposals worth over Rs. 8000 crore for procuring around 10000 'Invar' missiles from Russia for the Army's T-90 tanks and over 200 air-launched versions of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles for the IAF are cleared by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS).
- The Union cabinet approves the revised norms and enhanced rates of pension that will benefit 76 lakh below poverty line (BPL) widows and 11 lakh persons with disabilities.
- Bollywood actor Aamir Khan is honoured by the National Commission for Scheduled Castes for his contribution in highlighting and helping the cause of eradicating 'untouchability' in the TV show *Satyameva Jayate*.
- Twitter announces to have blocked an account in Germany for the first time, after German police asks the micro-blogging site to restrict access by a neo-Nazi group.

OCT 19

- The Supreme Court makes it mandatory for all the states, Union territories and the regulatory bodies to put in place a legal mechanism to implement the 'guidelines in Visakha case' which require the employers at workplaces to observe them and ensure prevention of sexual harassment of women.
- The first-ever museum of Indian cinema is announced to come up in Mumbai in 2013 to mark the occasion of Indian cinema completing its 100th year, having started its journey with screening of Raja Harishchandra in 1913.
- The Deccan Chargers is expelled out of the Indian Premier League for the next season, as the Supreme Court refuses to interfere with the Bombay High Court's order upholding the termination of the franchise by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

OCT 20

- Kingfisher's licence is suspended by the government.
- Lieutenant General (Retired) Tejinder Singh is booked by the Central Bureau of Investigation for allegedly offering a bribe to the then Army chief V.K Singh on behalf of a private supplier in 2010 for clearance of a proposal for procurement of 1676 high mobility Tatra vehicles.
- Thousands of angry people across Britain take to the streets to protest against the Tory-led government's austerity measures that have seen deep spending cuts and led to millions of job losses.

OCT 21

- Veteran Bollywood producer and director Yash Chopra dies in Mumbai.
- Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's right-leaning Popular Party retains power in his home region of Galicia despite recession and biting austerity measures.

OCT 22

- Lance Armstrong is stripped of his seven Tour de France titles and banned for life by the governing body of cycling following a report from the US Anti-doping Agency that has accused him of leading a massive doping programme on his teams.
- Russia' state giant Rosneft strikes a deal to buy the country's third largest oil producer to become the world's biggest public oil company.

OCT 23

- Faced with difficult government finances, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh asks cash-rich 25 Central public sector enterprises to invest their surplus fund of Rs. 2.5 lakh crore to reignite economic growth.
- In an effort to curb tobacco abuse in the country, the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare notifies a new set of warnings to be depicted on tobacco product packs with effect from April 2012
- President of the Sahitya Akademi and an eminent writer, Sunil Gangopadhyay dies due to heart attack at his residence in Kolkata
- Apple Inc's unveils mini iPad tablet, a new tablet half the size of its existing iPad - with prices starting at \$329 to compete with Amazon and Google's tablets

OCT 24

- Syria agrees to ceasefire
- Pope Benedict XVI appoints Major Archbishop-Catholicos Baselios Mar Cleemis as the Cardinal to boost Christianity in India
- Haryana gets India's biggest dairy plant.
- Kerala based IBS Software Services announces the acquisition of Atlanta-based Hotel Booking Solutions (HBSi) through a multi-million dollar deal

OCT 25

- Actor and Satirist Jaspal Bhatti dies in a road accident near Punjab's Nakodar town 40 km from Jalandhar.
- Microsoft on 25 October 2012 launches the latest version of its most awaited operating system Windows 8 in India which is designed to work across PCs, tablets as well as for smart phones.
- Rajat Gupta, the former Goldman Sachs Group Inc. (GS) director and McKinsey & Co. Managing director sentenced to two years in prison for passing inside tips to his business partner.
- China appoints new Army Chief ahead of key meet.
- Centre clears National Policy on Electronics

OCT 26

- Silvio Berlusconi, the former Prime Minister of Italy, sentenced a term for four years of imprisonment for tax fraud, and also banned from holding any public office, by the Court of Italy.
- India and Spain sign a memorandum of understanding under which they are going to encourage collaboration between their defence industries and exchange of personnel.
- India and Russia sign a memorandum of understanding to strengthen cooperation in 11 key areas including culture, healthcare, education, transport management, trade and housing.
- S.M. Krishna quits as Foreign Minister.

OCT 27

- US growth rate picks up to 2%
- MEA (Ministry of External Affairs) declassifies 70,000 documents.

OCT 28

- Super Sixers claim champion League T20 crown
- Red Bull driver Sebastian Vettel wins the Indian Grand Prix 2012 at the Buddh International Circuit (BIC) for the second time in a row extending his Formula One championship lead.
- Major Cabinet reshuffle takes place- Salman Khurshid gets External Affairs Ministry.

OCT 29

- Indian Billiards Player Pankaj Advani wins seventh World Billiards Championship title after comprehensively beating defending champion and seasoned Englishman Mike Russell in the finals of World Billiards Championship 2012.
- US left helpless as Sandy lashes its coast (Hurricane Sandy is one of the fiercest storms to hit the East Coast of Massachusetts).
- 2000 arrested during Kudankulam protests near TN assembly.
- The state of Uttarakhand tops the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) list of being best-performing States and Union territories in terms of environmental well-being released by Planning Commission.
- Lionel Messi, the Barcelonean forward footballer wins *Golden Boot Award*

OCT 30

- The RBI on leaves interest rates unchanged but cuts the cash reserve ratio for banks by 0.25% and indicates that it is going to cut monetary policy further in the January-March 2013 quarter, with inflation remaining a near-term concern.
- SC questions centre on expenditure in Yamuna clean up.
- Joshna Chinappa, one of the top squash players of India claims the IJM Land Penang Open after defeating top most squash player Siti Munirah Jusoh of Malaysia in straight games.

OCT 31

- Public sector Enterprise Hindustan Copper Ltd (HCL) signs a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Madhya Pradesh government for obtaining required clearances of its proposed investment of 1856 crore Rupees in the state.
- Pakistan's Cabinet ratifies four recent agreements with India-the major of which is landmark visa pact aimed at facilitating restrictions on several categories of travellers, including senior citizens and businessmen.

PEOPLE IN NEWS

A. Didar Singh

A. Didar Singh has been appointed the secretary-general of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

Akhilesh Gupta

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has selected scientist Akhilesh Gupta as its secretary, the number two position in the organization, after weeks of bitter wrangling that threatened to derail its working.

Andres Fogh Rasmussen's

NATO allies agreed on October 3, 2012 to extend Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen's term as head of the organization by a year to the end of July 2014. The extension means Rasmussen will be in office until a few months before the planned end of NATO combat operations in Afghanistan at the end of 2014.

Antoni Dobrowolski

The oldest known survivor of the Nazi German death camp of Auschwitz, Birkenau, who ran secret classes during Germany's brutal World War II occupation of Poland, when the local population was barred from receiving an education, died on October 22, 2012 in Denbo, Poland.

Barun Das

Zee News on September 30 said its chief executive officer Barun Das has stepped down after a five-year-stint. The channel has appointed Alok Agrawal as the new CEO.

Brajesh Mishra

A career diplomat and the country's first National Security Adviser who played a key role in foreign policy matters and pushed for deeper engagement with the US, died in New Delhi on September 28, 2012.

Bhupinder Nayyar

Bhupinder Nayyar has been appointed as Executive Director, Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC).

E. Donnell Thomas

US physician who pioneered bone marrow transplantation and its sister therapy, blood stem cell transplantation and later won the 1990 Nobel Prize in medicine for his ground breaking work related with the treatment of leukemia, died on October 20, 2012 in Seattle.

Eric Hobsbawm

UK's one of the leading historians of the 20th century, a lifelong Marxist whose work influenced generations of historians and politicians, died on October 1, 2012 in London.

Henrique de Castro

Yahoo! Has appointed Henrique de Castro of Google as its new chief operating officer (COO), with a compensation package of up to \$58 million. He will join office on or before January 22, 2013.

Jaspal Bhatti

Well-known comedian and satirist famous for his shows *Flop Show* and *Uta Pulta* on Doordarshan was killed in a road accident near Jalandhar on October 25, 2012.

Keith Campbell

A British biologist whose scientific research helped the Ian Wilmut team to create Dolly the sheep in 1996, the first mammal to be cloned from an adult cell at the University of Edinburgh's Roslin Institute, died in London on October 5, 2012.

Kumud Srinivasan

Global chip-maker Intel has appointed Kumud Srinivasan as President of its India operations succeeding Praveen Vishakantaiah, who is relocating to the US as General Manager of Client Solutions and Technology group in the PC Client Group for Intel.

Mike Corbat

Mike Corbat has been made new chief executive officer of US' third biggest bank – Citigroup on October 16 after an abrupt exit of India-born CEO Vikram Pandit who resigned after a nearly five-year tenure during which he steered the bank through the difficult years after the 2008 financial crisis.

Milind Kharat

United India Insurance (UII) has appointed Milind Kharat as chairman and managing director. Earlier, Kharat was the CMD of the Agriculture Insurance Company.

Norodom Sihanouk

Cambodia's revered and charismatic former king whose life encompassed turbulent years of rule, exile and war including the Khmer Rouge reign of terror, died on October 15, 2012 in Beijing. He quit the throne in October 2004, citing old age and health problems.

Rajiv Mehta

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), which has been without a full-time chief for almost three months now, may finally see its new director general, Rajiv Mehta, an IPS officer of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre, take charge by November 10, 2012.

Sasi Mohan

Veteran Tamil and Malayalam film director who directed over 30 films in his direction career, died on October 1, 2012 in Kannur, Kerala.

Shubhalakshmi Panse

Allahabad Bank, on October 3, said Shubhalakshmi Panse had taken over as its new Chairperson and Managing Director with effect from October 1, 2012.

Shumsher K.Sheriff

Senior IAS officer Shumsher K.Sheriff on October 1 assumed the office of RS secretary-general succeeding V.K. Agnihotri who retired on September 30.

S.Visvanathan

The Central Government, after consultation with the Reserve Bank of India, has appointed S.Visvanathan as Managing Director of State Bank of India with effect from the date of taking over charge of the post till April 30, 2014, that is, the date of his attaining the age of superannuation or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

S.M.Krishna

S.M.Krishna resigned as External Affairs Minister on October 26,2012.

Sunil Gangopadhyay

Noted Bengali litterateur, Sahitya Akademi president, author of over 200 books, and the founder editor of *Kritibas*, a seminal poetry magazine that started publishing in 1953 and became a platform for a new generation of poets experimenting with new forms, died on October 23, 2012 in Kolkata.

Yash Chopra

Bollywood's legendary director, 'King of Romance' and head of its most powerful production house Yash Raj Films (launched in 1971), who debuted as director with *Dhool Ka Phool* (1959) got Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2001 and Padma Bhushan in 2005, died on October 21, 2012 in Mumbai. He directed over 35 films in his 53 years of film career.

AWARDS & HONOURS

Best Film Award in Fiji

Director Sujoy Ghosh's film, *Kahaani*, starring actor Vidya Balan, has been named the best film at the International Film Festival in Fiji held in Labasa and other cities in mid-October 2012. Among the other awards, the Best Director award was given to director Rajkumar Hirani for his film *3 Idiots*, a special Jury Best Film award to *Urban Ox* by A.K. Bir. In the Short Film category, the award was given to *Nirvana & Beyond*, directed by Juhi Sinha.

Indira Gandhi Award

The 27th Indira Gandhi award for national integration is given to the 75-year old lyricist and writer, noted poet and filmmaker Gulzar for his contribution to promoting and preserving the spirit of national integration. The award carries a cash prize of Rs.5 lakh.

Israel Prez Award

India-born music composer Zubin Mehta, 76, was on October 15, 2012 in Jerusalem honored with the Israeli Presidential Award of Distinction for his contribution to the society through the language of music. Mehta, the 1st non-Jew to receive such an award, joins an elite group of Henry Kissinger, Judith Feld Carr etc.

London Film Festival

American director and composer Benh Zeitlin won the prestigious Sutherland award for his *Beasts of the Southern Wild*. The Best film award went to French-Belgian production *Rust and Bones*, directed by Jacques Audiard. The Best British newcomer award went to Director and screen writer Sally El Hosaini for her first film *My Brother the Devil*.

Man Booker Prize

Hilary Mantel scored a Booker double in London on October 16, 2012 with *Bring Up the Bodies*, the second book in her Tudor trilogy about the life of Thomas Cromwell, becoming the first woman and the first Briton to win the Booker Prize twice. Mantel had won her first Booker for *Wolf Hall*, the first book of her trilogy, in 2009.

Mumbai Film Festival

Musa Sayeed's film *Valley of Saints* bagged the special jury award in the international competition section at the 14th Mumbai Film Festival which concluded on October 25, 2012. Veteran actor Waheeda Rehman was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award. In the international competition category for first feature films, the award was won by Aqil Y Alla (*Here And There*) directed by Antonio Mendes Esparza. It also won the Award for best direction. In the newly introduced competition section for Indian feature films, *Miss Lovely* directed by Ashim Ahluwalia bagged the best film awards.

Nobel Prize-2012

The winners in different fields are:

Physics: Serge Haroche (France) and David J. Wineland (USA) "for ground-breaking experimental methods that enable measuring and manipulation of individual quantum systems".

Chemistry: Robert J. Lefkowitz and Brian K. Kobilka (both from USA) "for studies of G-protein-coupled receptors".

Medicine: Sir John B. Gurdon (UK) and Shinya Yamanaka (Japan) "for the discovery that mature cells can be reprogrammed to become pluripotent".

Literature: Mo Yan of China for "who with hallucinatory realism merges folk tales, history and the contemporary".

Peace: European Union (EU) "for over six decades contributed to the advancement of peace and reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe".

Economic Sciences: Alvin E. Roth and Lloyd S. Shapely (both from USA) "for the theory of stable allocations and the practice of market design."

Sangeet Natak Akademy Fellowship & Awards

Eleven eminent persons in the field of music, dance and theatre were bestowed with the Akademy fellowship for 2011 on October 9, 2012 in new Delhi by President Pranab Mukherjee. The awardees included Sarod maestro Amjad Ali Khan, Santoor exponent Shiv Kumar Sharma and Flute legend Hariprasad Chaurasia. Besides this, 36 eminent personalities and artists, including well-known film and television actor Vikram Gokhle, were conferred the Sangeet Natak Akademy Awards.

Shastri Award

Tessy Thomas, the key defence scientist in the Agni series of missiles, was conferred the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award by President Pranab Mukherjee on October 1, for her outstanding contribution for making India self-reliant in the field of missile technology. The award carries a Rs. 5 lakh purse, a plaque and a citation.

Spanish Honour

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor was conferred with a Spanish honour in New Delhi on October 11, 2012 while Union Minister Farooq Abdullah was honoured with the Great Cross of Civil Merit decoration.

'Pride of India' Award

Trilochan Singh Sahni, an ex-Indian diplomat-turned-entrepreneur, has been presented with the 'Pride of India' award on October 6, 2012 in London for his outstanding services to India and Britain.

Top French Honour

Ebrahim Alkazi, the grand old man of Indian theatre, has been conferred France's highest cultural award –Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters (Chevalier dans l'ordre des Arts et des Lettres) – for his contribution in nurturing and presenting modern theatre in India and preserving the treasures of photography and other art forms for posterity on September 28, 2012 in New Delhi.

Books & Authors

Total Recall: My Unbelievably True Life Story: Arnold Schwarzenegger

Princes and Painters in Mughal Delhi, 1707-1857: William Dalrymple

A Free Man: Aman Sethi

The Folded Earth: Anuradha Roy

The \$10 Trillion Prize: Abheek Singhi with Michael J Silverstein, Carol Liao & David Michael

The Incredible Banker: Ravi Subramanian

The Araya Women: R. Narayan