

DIARY OF EVENTS - 2008

JANUARY

Jan. 10 : Tata Group Chairman Ratan Tata unveils 'Nano', the world's cheapest car priced at Rs.1 lakh, at the Auto Expo 2008 inaugural in New Delhi. Centre develops blueprint for the auto industry.

Jan. 17 : The Centre gives its nod to Rs.1,800 crore job scheme for the disabled in the private sector. Over 11,225 poultry birds are culled and 5,877 eggs and 1,218 kg of poultry feed destroyed in the bird flu-hit districts of West Bengal. The Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, is presented with the NDTV's 'Leader of the Year' Award at a function in New Delhi.

Jan. 18 : The Supreme Court stays the death sentence on three accused in the Dharmapuri bus burning incident on February 2, 2000 in which three girl students of the TNAU, Coimbatore were killed.

Jan. 21 : The PSLV-C10 puts into orbit the 300 kg Israeli satellite Tecsar after liftoff from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.

Jan. 24 : The Union Cabinet gives nod for getting up an All India Institute of Ayurveda in New Delhi on the lines of the AIIMS.

Jan. 25 : India and France sign accords on cooperation in nuclear research and mutual protection of classified information after talks between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and French President Nicolas Sarkozy, in New Delhi.

Pranab Mukherjee, Ratan Naval Tata, Sachin Tendulkar, Sir Edmund Hillary, Asha Bhosle are among 13 Padma Vibhushan awardees. Sunita Williams, Dominique Lapierre, P.Susheela prominent among 35 honoured with Padma Bhushan. Madhuri Dixit, Manoj Night Shyamalan, Baichung Bhutia among 71 Padma Shri awardees.

Jan. 26 : The nation celebrates its 59th Republic Day.

Jan. 27 : France confers the Order of Arts et Lettres on Bollywood star Shah Rukh Khan at a glittering function in Mumbai.

Jan. 28 : The Supreme Court stays the death sentence awarded to Yakub Razak Memon for his role in the 1993 Mumbai blasts.

Jan. 29 : The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, M. Karunanidhi, introduces in the Assembly a Bill declaring the first day of "Thai" as Tamil New Year's Day.

Jan. 30 : The Union Cabinet gives nod for setting up a Central Institute of Classical Tamil in Chennai at a cost of Rs. 76,32 crore.

India and the U.S. sign their biggest ever arms deal estimated at over \$1 billion (Rs.3,943 crore).

FEBRUARY

Feb. 9 : Amit Kumar, the alleged kingpin of the multi-crore kidney transplant racket is brought to New Delhi by a CBI team following deportation from Nepal.

Feb. 14 : The Union Cabinet approves implementation of the recommendations of the Delimitation Commission of re-defining Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies.

Feb. 15 : The Centre appoints National Securities Depository Limited Chairman C.B. Bhave as the new SEBI Chairman.

Feb. 18: The Supreme Court, rejects petitions challenging the Tamil Nadu Learning Act 2006 making Tamil a compulsory subject from Standard I to X in all schools in the State.

C.B. Bhave takes charge as the Securities and Exchange Board of India Chairman.

A British teenager Scarlett Edden Keeling is found dead in Goa's Anjuna beach.

Feb. 19: President Pratibha Patil signs notification for implementing the Delimitation Commission recommendations.

Feb. 20: India's indigenously developed pilotless target aircraft 'Lakshya' is successfully flight-tested from Chandipur, Orissa.

Noted Bengali poet and novelist Sunil Gangopadhyay is elected Sahitya Akademi president and Punjabi poet S.S.Noor vice-president.

Feb. 26: The Railway Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav announces 53 new trains, including 10 'Garib Raths' presenting his fifth consecutive Railway Budget. Leaves freight untouched and slashes fares. The annual plan is set at a record Rs.37,500 crore.

India joins a select club in under-water missile capability by successfully test firing Sagarika, a tactical, submarine-to-surface missile, from a pontoon off the coast of Visakhapatnam.

Feb. 29: The Union Finance Minister, P. Chidambaram, announces a Rs.60,000 crore farm loans waiver presenting the Union Budget for 2008-09.

MARCH

March 4: Kashmir Singh crosses the border at Wagah in Amritsar after being freed by Pakistan where he spent 35 years in jail, following his arrest in Rawalpindi in 1973.

March 5: Maharashtra Governor S.M. Krishna resigns.

March 10: D.D. Lapang is sworn in Meghalaya Chief Minister heading a minority Congress-led Meghalaya United Alliance Government.

Manik Sarkar is sworn in Tripura Chief Minister for a third consecutive term at a function in Agartala.

March 19: Meghalaya Progressive Alliance leader Donkumar Roy is sworn in Chief Minister of Meghalaya after D.D. Lapang resigns ahead of the floor test, after being at the helm for just nine days.

March 20: The Tamil Nadu Finance Minister, K. Anbazhagan, presents a revenue surplus budget for 2008-09. Announces a Rs.2,300 crore transportation corridor for Chennai. New district with Tirupur as headquarters to be carved out of Coimbatore and Erode districts.

The Union Cabinet gives its nod for launching a Central Scheme to assist civilian victims of violence.

March 27: The government decides to set up a Farmers' Debt Relief Fund with an initial corpus of Rs.10,000 crore.

A.B. Bardhan (82) is re-elected CPI general secretary for the fourth consecutive term at the party's 20th national congress in Hyderabad.

March 28: India's first Centre for Climate Change and Adaptation Research is inaugurated at Anna University in Chennai.

APRIL

April 1: The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is extended to all the 604 districts of the country.

April 3: Prakash Karat is re-elected CPI(M) general secretary for a second term on the final day of the 19th party Congress in Coimbatore.

April 6: The former CEC M.S. Gill (Youth Affairs and Sports) Jyotiraditya Scindia (IT and Communications) are among seven new persons inducted into the Union Cabinet following a reshuffle.

April 10: The Supreme Court upholds law enacted by the Centre in 2006 providing a 27 per cent quota for OBCs in higher educational institutions. Creamy layer to be excluded.

April 13: Biranchi Das, the former coach of child marathoner Budhia Singh is shot dead in Bhubaneswar.

April 14: "Maitree Express" is flagged off from the Kolkata station on its inaugural journey to Dhaka. The train services have been resumed after 43 years.

April 23: Four children die after being administered measles vaccine in Tamil Nadu's Tiruvallur district.

April 24: The Union Cabinet gives nod for construction of airports, airstrips and helipads for private use.

April 25: The Prime Minister Manmohan Singh announces a Rs. 1,600 crore package for refugees in Jammu and Kashmir. The nation's longest cantilever bridge over the Chenab which links Rajouri and Poonch districts with the rest of the country is inaugurated.

April 28: The PSLV-C9 puts 10 satellites in orbit in a precisely timed sequence after lift-off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre Sriharikota.

April 30: The Lok Sabha Privileges Committee draws up a code of conduct for MPs.

Vice-Admiral Raman Prem Suthan takes over as Vice-Chief of the Naval Staff.

MAY

May 1: Mr. K.V. Kamath, CMD, ICICI Bank, takes over as the new CII president.

May 2: The Union Cabinet gives nod for major amendments in the Code of Criminal Procedure.

May 3: A devastating fire destroys Asia's largest chilli market yard in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh causing a loss of Rs.80 crore.

G.K. Chandha, is appointed CEO of the SAARC University.

May 5: External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee, cricketer Sachin Tendulkar and melody queen Asha Bhosle are presented with Padma Vibhushan awards. Dominique Lapierre, ICCI Bank CMD K.V. Kamath receive Padma Bhushan awards.

May 7: India successfully test fires Agni-III ballistic missile, capable of striking targets 3,500 km away, from the Wheeler Island, off the Orissa coast.

May 10: Ratan Tata, L.N. Mittal, Dr. R.K. Pachauri among Padma Vibhushan award recipients. Lord Meghnad Desai, P. Susheela receive Padma Bhushan awards.

May 19: Justice A.K. Ganguly is sworn in the new Chief Justice of Madras High Court.

May 20: The resignation of Tamil Nadu Social Welfare Minister, Poongothai Aladi Aruna following a row over her telephone talk with the DVAC director is accepted.

May 25: The BJP emerges as the largest party in the 224-member Karnataka Assembly bagging 110 seats.

May 31: B.S. Yeddyurappa is sworn in the 29th Chief Minister of Karnataka.

The IAF reopens the Daulatbeg Oldi airbase in the Ladakh region after-43 years.

JUNE

June 2: Tata Motors announces completion of the \$2.3 billion acquisition of British luxury brands Jaguar and Land Rover in an all cash transaction.

June 3: Sajjan Jindal takes over as Assocham president.

June 5: The Centre approves the amendment of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

June 10: Soumitra Chatterjee bags the Best film *Pokokkhep* and Priyamani the Best Actress award for her role in Tamil film *Paruthi Veeran* at the 54th National Film *Pulijanmam* is adjudged Best Feature Film and *Lage Raho Munnabhai* the best popular film.

June 11: Japanese drug firm Daiichi Sankyo announces the acquisition of a majority stake in domestic major Ranboxy for over Rs.15,000 crore.

June 17: The DMK snaps ties with the PMK

June 24: The Construction of the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu crosses a "mega milestone" following installation of the 160 tonne safety vessel inside the reactor vault.

June 27: Field Marshal Sam Hormusji Framji Jamshedji Manekshaw (94), hero of the 1971 liberation war that helped create Bangladesh dies at the Wellington Military Hospital in the Nilgiris.

JULY

July 2: P. Venugopal retires as AIIMS director.

July 14: Bhutan Prime Minister Lyonchen Jigmi Y. Thinley arrives in New Delhi.

July 15: The four Indian Embassy blast victims in Kabul are nominated for the Kirti Chakra.

July 17: The Cabinet approves the setting up of eight new IITs during the current academic session.

Ranbaxy Laboratories and Japanese drug major Daiichi Sankyo confirm merger deal.

July 21: Veteran Bengali film director Tapan Sinha is selected for the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for the year 2006.

July 22: The United Progressive Alliance government wins the trust vote in the Lok Sabha by a margin of 19 votes after a two-day debate. Three BJP members allege being bribed crores of rupees to abstain.

July 24: The Union Cabinet approves merger of the State Bank of Saurashtra with the State Bank of India.

July 31: Himachal Pradesh DGP Ashwani Kumar is appointed CBI Director.

AUGUST

August 1: The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, M. Karunanidhi, inaugurates the Vellore Corporation. P. Karthikeyan takes office as the first Mayor.

August 5: Tuticorin Corporation comes into being and R.Kasturi Thangam becomes the first Mayor.

August 13: The former RBI Governor C. Rangarajan is nominated to the Rajya Sabha.

August 15: Politics of consensus not confrontation needed to tackle divisiveness, says the Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in his address to the nation on the 62nd Independence Day.

August 18: C, Rangarajan and S.M. Krishna are sworn in Rajya Sabha members.

August 21: The Nation's first poly-silicon solar project is launched in Kolkata.

August 26: Telugu matinee idol Chiranjeevi launches 'Praja Rajyam' at the temple town of Tirupati.

August 27: Shibu Soren is sworn in as Jharkhand Chief Minister.

The country's first frozen egg baby is born in a Chennai hospital.

August 28: Tata Motors suspends work at Singur.

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 1 : The Union Finance Secretary Duvvuri Subba Rao is appointed the RBI Governor.

Sept. 2 : Tapan Sinha is presented the Dada Saheb Phalke award for 2006 in absentia. Soumitra Chatterjee bags best actor award and Priyamani gets best actress award.

Sept. 4 : V. Vaithilingam takes over as the 17th Chief Minister of Puducherry.

Sept. 5 : Sanjeev Nanda is sentenced to five years RI for killing six persons in the BMW hit-and-run case.

Sept. 6 : India signs a 'historic' agreement with Colombia for cooperation in the entire spectrum of hydrocarbon sector, in New Delhi.

Duvvuri Subba Rao takes over as the 22nd Governor of the RBI, in Mumbai.

Sept. 7 : The stalemate over land acquisition at Singur ends.

Sept. 8 : Singer Bhupen Hazarika is conferred the 'Asom Ratna'.

Sept. 11 : The Union Cabinet approves the signing and ratification of an extradition treaty with Iran.

Sept. 18 : The Union Cabinet gives nod for foreign news magazines to come out with Indian editions.

The Cabinet clears Chandrayaan-2 moon mission costing Rs.425 crore.

Sept. 25 : The fire aboard Sabarmati Express at the Godhra railway station on February 27, 2002 is a "pre-planned conspiracy" by local Muslims, says the Nanavati-Mehta judicial commission report.

OCTOBER

Oct. 1 : Bombay Stock Exchange launches the currency derivatives segment in Mumbai.

Oct. 2 : The nationwide ban on smoking in public places comes into force.

Oct. 7 : The Tata Group's Rs.2000 crore Nano car project moves to Sanand in Gujarat's Ahmedabad district.

Oct. 11 : The Prime Minister Manmohan Singh flags off the first ever train in the Kashmir valley at the Nowgam station on the outskirts of Srinagar.

Oct. 15 : Sensex closes below the 10000-level for the first time in two years.

Oct. 21 : The much-awaited cross-LoC trade the first since 1947 begins with the flagging off of 13 trucks carrying goods on the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad road.

Oct. 22 : India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C11) puts Chandrayaan-1, the nations' first spacecraft to the Moon, in its initial orbit after liftoff from the Sriharikota space center.

Oct. 23 : The Lok Sabha passes two bills to declare water stretches in five states, including Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, as national waterways.

NOVEMBER

Nov. 4 : Eminent Hindustani vocalist of the Khirana Gharana Pandit Bhimsen Joshi is chosen for the Bharat Ratna Award.

Chandrayaan-I becomes the first Indian-built space craft to leave the earth's gravity.

Nov. 6 : Kashmiri poet Abdul Rahman Rahi is presented the 40th Jnanpith Award by the Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in Delhi.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gives nod for the first rail link to Sikkim, Integrated checkposts to come up on borders.

Nov. 8 : Chandrayaan-1 is safely inserted into the lunar orbit.

Nov. 14 : The Moon Impact Probe on board Chandrayaan-1 successfully ejects and lands on the lunar surface near the Shackleton crater on the South pole.

Nov. 18 : India and Egypt sign an extradition treaty at a bilateral summit being held after 11 years in New Delhi.

The Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak is conferred the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understandings for 1995.

Nov. 19 : The International Atomic Energy Agency Director-General Mohamed ElBaradei is chosen for the Indira Gandhi prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2008.

Nov. 22 : The 39th International Film Festival of India gets under way in the Goa capital Panaji.

Nov. 24 : SBI to enter general insurance business. Forms joint venture with Insurance Austrailia Group of Australia.

Nov. 26 : At least 125 persons are killed and 327 injured in a series of explosions and firing by Lashkare-e-Taiba terrorists at seven places in Mumbai. Anti-terrorism squad chief Hemant Karkare dies while seeking to assist in an operation near the Cama and Albles Hospital. Additional Commissioner of Police (East) Ashok Kamte and inspector Vijay Salaskar also lay down their lives. Fifty six persons are killed and 98 injured in the terrorist rampage at Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus.

Nov. 27 : Four terrorists holed up in Mumbai's Taj Mahal hotel are killed as NSG

commandos and the Army launch a counteroffensive. Hundreds evacuated from hotels. The BSE and the NSE remain closed.

The former Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh (77) remembered most for ordering the implementation of the Mandal Commission recommendations dies after a prolonged illness at the Apollo Hospital in New Delhi.

Nov. 28 : Nine inmates and three terrorists are killed in the Chabad-Lukovich Jewish religious center in Nariman House in Colaba area. Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan NSG commando leading the rescue efforts at the Taj hotel falls to terrorists' bullets.

Nov. 29 : At least 172 persons including 21 foreigners lose their lives in the Mumbai terror attacks. Nine terrorists are killed in the 60-hour gun battle with security forces dubbed Operation Cyclone.

Cyclone Nisha batters Chennai city besides wreaking havoc in almost all the districts of Tamil Nadu leaving over 100 dead. Chennai receives about 370mm rainfall in a span of 72 hours.

Nov. 30 : Union Home Minister Shivraj Patil resigns and Finance Minister P. Chidambaram replaces him. Primer Minister to hold Finance portfolio.

DECEMBER

Dec. 1 : The interrogation of Mohammed Ajmal Amir Iman, the only terrorist of the ten-member group involved in the Mumbai mayhem to be caught alive unfolds background story.

Dec. 2 : Kazakh film director Sergei Dvort7sevov's Tulpan bags the Golden Peacock at the 39th IFFI. Dvortsevov also gets the Best Director's award.

Dec. 4 : The Maharashtra Chief Minister Vilasrao Deshmukh submits resignation to Governor S.C.Jamir.

Historian Romila Thapar is chosen for the 2008 Kluge Prize for Life-time Achievements in the Sstudy of Humanity.

Dec. 5 : India and Russia clinch a mega uranium deal in New Delhi following a summit between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President Dmitry Medvedev. Four more nuclear power plants for Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu.

Dec. 8 : Ashok Chavan is sworn in Maharashtra's 24th Chief Minister. Chhagan Bhujbal takes office as Deputy Chief Minister.

Dec. 15 : The Union Cabinet gives nod for setting up a National Investigation Agency. Proposal to amend the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967 cleared.

Dec. 16 : A postage stamp on Field Marshal Manekshaw is released at a function in New Delhi.

Dec. 17 : The Lok Sabha passes two Bills – the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act Amendment Bill, 2008 and the National Investigation Agency Bill, 2008.

Dec. 18 : Parliament nod for anti-terror Bills

The indigenous cryogenic engine passes a "flight acceptance hot test" at Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu.

Dec. 23 : Parliament passes Information Technology (Amendment) Bill that provides for stringent punishment for cyber crimes.

Tamil poet Melanmai Ponnusamy among 21 litterateurs chosen for the Sahitya Akademi awards for 2008.

Dec. 31 : The new anti-terror laws come into force after presidential assent.

The Indian Maritime University is inaugurated in Chennai.

INTERNATIONAL

JANUARY

Jan. 1 : E.U. newcomers Cyprus, Malta adopt the euro scrapping the pound and lira.

Jan. 11 : Sir Edmund Hillary (88) conqueror of Mt. Everest on May 29, 1953 dies in an Auckland hospital of heart attack.

The world's first commercial service from Hobart, Australia to Antarctica, an Airbus A-319, touches down smoothly at the Wilking glacial blue ice runway.

Jan. 14 : Prime Ministers Manmohan Singh and Wen Jiabao sign a joint document "A Shared Vision for the 21st Century" after talks in Beijing.

NASA's Messenger Spacecraft makes historic Mercury flyby.

Jan. 23 : The world Economic Forum summit opens in Davos, Switzerland.

Jan. 24 : Dr. Craig Venter of the U.S. creates the world's first man-made micro-organism.

FEBRUARY

Feb. 5 : France's Alstom unveils "Automatrice Grande Vitesse", a new generation of super fast train without locomotive that can travel 1,000 km in three hours.

Feb. 15 : Mark Beaumont (25), a Scotsman sets a record by cycling around the world in 194 days and 17 hours.

MARCH

March 11 : A Chinese vessel with e-tagged containers sails out from Shanghai to Savannah in the U.S. marking the opening of the world's first international e-tagged container route.

March 15 : China's Parliament endorses Hu Jintao for a second five years term as President. Xi Jinping is appointed Vice-President.

APRIL

April 1 : India's Kamallesh Sharma takes over as the Commonwealth Secretary General.

India and Venezuela sign a historic agreement to invest \$400 million to develop the San Cristobal oil field.

April 9 : The Navy becomes the first Indian team to ski to the North Pole.

Jigme Y. Thinley assumes office as Bhutan's first elected Prime Minister.

MAY

May 1 : The world's longest sea bridge is inaugurated in the Yangtze River delta in

China. The 36 km long Hangzhou Bay Bridge in Ningbo, Zhejiang province links Shanghai with Ningbo.

May 7 : Dmitry Medvedev is sworn in Russian President and nominates his predecessor Vladimir Putin Prime Minister.

May 16 : The Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, pledges to extend the Indian rail network to Bhutan during talks with his counterpart Jigmi Y. Thinley in Thimphu.

Russia, India, China and Brazil institutionalize their four-way group BRIC after Foreign Ministers' meeting in Yekaterinburg, Russia.

May 17 : The Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, addresses the first-ever joint sitting of the Bhutan Parliament in Thimphu. Announces decision to begin work on the 'Golden Jubilee Rail Line', the first-ever rail link into the Himalayan kingdom from Hashimara, northern Bengal.

May 25 : Min Bahadur Sherchan (75) becomes the oldest person to reach the summit of Mt. Everest.

May 26 : The former president of the erstwhile Soviet Union, Michael Gorbachev is conferred the lifetime achievement award at the Energy Global Awards in Brussels.

JUNE

June 6 : The External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee confers the Padma Bhushan award on Chinese Indologist Ji Xianlin (97) in Beijing.

June 28 : Bill Gates leaves the job of running Microsoft.

JULY

July 2 : Usha Chammar of Gujarat is crowned 'Princess of Sanitation Worker's at the U.N.

July 10 : Salman Rushdie wins the Best of Booker prize for his path breaking novel Midnight's Children after a global vote by readers.

July 24 : Indian-origin ICC judge Navanetham Pillay is appointed the United Nations' new Human Rights Commissioner.

July 29 : A group of Russian scientists reaches the bottom of Lake Baikal, the world's deepest fresh water lake in Russia's far east, for the first time ever.

July 31 : Doctor couple Prakash Amte and Mandakini Amte of India, Grace Padaca, a woman Philippines provincial Governor among the 2008 Ramon Magsaysay awardees.

AUGUST

Aug. 2 : Terrorism "single biggest threat" to stability and progress, says the Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at the inaugural of the 15th SAARC Summit in Colombo. Nod for SAARC Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty.

Aug. 3 : The SAARC Summit adopts the Colombo Declaration titled "Partnership for growth of our people." Leaders resolve to jointly fight terror and trans-national organised crime.

Aug. 8 : The 29th Olympic Games gets off a colourful start in the Chinese capital Beijing.

Aug. 11 : Abhinav Bindra wins the Olympic gold medal for the 10-metre air rifle event bagging for independent India its first individual Olympic gold.

Aug. 16 : U.S. ace swimmer Michael Phelps ties Mark Spitz's 1972 record of seven gold medals in a single Olympics.

Aug. 17 : Michael Phelps win an unprecedented eighth gold medal at the Beijing Olympic Games.

Aug. 18 : Pervez Musharraf resigns as Pakistan President after an eight-year rule.

Aug. 24 : The Beijing Olympic Games conclude after 16 glorious days.

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 10 : The biggest physics experiment in history, Large Hadron Collider tests being under the aegis of the European Organization for Nuclear Research on the French Swiss border.

Sept. 17 : Australia issues licence allowing scientists to create cloned human embryos.

Sept. 18 : The Large Hadron Collider is shutdown by the CERN for two months due to a mechanical failure.

Sept. 23 : "Like slavery and piracy, terrorism has no place in the modern world," says the U.S. President George W. Bush in his farewell speech to the U.N. General Assembly.

Sept. 25 : China launches Shenzhou-7 its third manned spacecraft with three taikonauts on board from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in Gansu province.

Sept. 27 : Taikonaut Zhai Zhigang starts China's first spacewalk.

Sept. 28 : The Shenzhou- space shuttle with three taikonauts aboard lands safely at Siziwang Banner in Inner Mongolia in China after a 68-hour flight including a 25-minute space-walk.

OCTOBER

Oct. 1 : Sarvodaya couple Krishnammal Jagannathan and Sankaralingam Jagannathan share the Right Livelihood Award or "alternative Nobel." An American Journalist, a Swiss-born doctor and an activist from Somalia are the other winners.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration celebrates 50 years of operation.

Oct. 6 : Germany's Harald Zur Hausen and French researchers Françoise Barre-Sinoussi and Luc Montagnier share the 2008 Nobel Prize for medicine.

Oct. 7 : Two Japanese scientists, Makoto Kobayashi and Toshihide Maskawa and a Tokyo-born American citizen Yoichiro Nambu share the 2008 Nobel Physics Prize for discoveries in sub-atomic particles.

Oct. 8 : The U.S. President George W. Bush signs the United States-In-dia Nuclear Cooperation Approval and Non-proliferation Enhancement Act in Washington.

Osamu Shimomura of Japan and Americans Martin Chalfie and Roger Tsien win the

Nobel Chemistry Prize for a fluorescent protein derived from a jellyfish.

Oct. 9 : French writer Marie Gustave Le Clezio is awarded the Nobel Literature Prize.

Oct. 10 : Finland's former President Martti Ahtisaari is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Oct. 12 : India's Sister Alphonsa is declared a saint by Pope Benedict XVI at a ceremony in Vatican City and named St. Alphonsa of Immaculate Conception.

Oct. 13 : U.S. Economist Paul Krugman is awarded the Nobel Economics Prize for his trade analysis theory.

Oct. 14 : Arvind Adiga, the Chennai-born author wins the \$50,000 Man Booker Prize for his debut novel The White Tiger.

NOVEMBER

Nov. 13 : Ilustrado, a novel by Filipino author Miguel Syjuco wins the \$10,000 Man Asian Literary Prize.

Nov. 14 : Ann E. Dunwoody becomes the first woman four-star general in the U.S. military.

Nov. 15 : The Prime Minister Manmohan Singh moots a coordinated global fiscal stimulus to mitigate the severity of recession addressing the G-20 Summit in Washington.

DECEMBER

Dec. 6 : The Malaysian State of Malacca presents 'Datuk' title to Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan, making him the first foreign actor to get the honour.

Dec. 9 : Lord Swraj Paul becomes the first Asian Deputy Speaker of the British House of Lords.

**E-BOOK
WORTH RS.
3000/-
FREE!**

SUBSCRIBE G.K.POWER @ Rs.200-00

SPORTS

JANUARY

Jan. 6: Mikhail Youzhny wins the Chennai Open ATP championship.

Jan. 24: Sachin Tendulkar scores his 39th Test century in the fourth Test against Australia in Adelaide.

Jan. 26: Maria Sharapova wins the Australia Open women's tennis championship in Melbourne.

Jan. 27: Djokovic clinches the Australian Open men's tennis championship in Melbourne.

MARCH

March 29: Rahul Dravid completes 10,000 Test runs in the match against South Africa in Chennai.

JUNE

June 7: Serbia's Ana Ivanovic wins the women's title of the French Open in Paris.

June 8: Rafael Nadal is crowned the men's French Open champion in Paris.

JULY

July 5: Venus Williams claims the women's Wimbledon crown.

July 6: Rafael Nadal wins the men's Wimbledon title.

AUGUST

Aug. 4: Viswanathan Anand retains title in the world rapid chess championship in Mainz.

Aug. 11: Abinav Bindra becomes India's first-ever individual Olympic gold medalist, winning the 10m air rifle competition at Beijing.

Aug. 16: Jamaica's Usain Bolt creates a new World record (9.69 sec) in the men's 100m final in the Beijing Olympic Games.

Aug. 17: American swimmer Michael Phelps overtakes Mark Spitz's record of seven gold medals in a single Olympics, with eight in Beijing.

Aug. 20: Usain Bolt clinches a double winning the 200m in a World record time (19.32s), thereby becoming the first athlete to bag a sprint double since Carl Lewis in 1984.

SEPTEMBER

Sep. 8: Serena Williams claims the women's crown in the US Open tennis championship in New York.

Sep. 9: Roger Federer wins the men's title in the US Open tennis championship in New York.

OCTOBER

Oct. 17: Sachin Tendulkar goes past Brian Lara's mark - 11953 runs - to become the highest run-getter in Tests. He achieves the feat in the second Test against Australia in Mohali.

Oct. 29: Viswanathan Anand wins the World chess championship in Bonn.

NOVEMBER

Nov. 4: Pankaj Advani wins the men's National billiards title in Indore.

Nov. 25: Umadevi wins the women's National billiards title in Indore.

DECEMBER

Dec. 15: India wins the first Test in its two-Test series against England at Chennai. Sachin Tendulkar makes his 41st Test hundred in guiding India home.

**FOR LATEST WHO'S WHO – READ
G.K. POWER – CURRENT AFFAIRS
ENGLISH MONTHLY @ Rs.10-00 ONLY... *Now on stands***