

# **Important Information - VI**

## **- Compiled**

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# Important Information - VI

S. No.	Item	Address
1	369 MPs, MLAs face Charges of Crimes against Women	<a href="http://www.rediff.com/news/report/lawmakers-369-face-charges-of-rape-crimes-against-women/20121221.htm">http://www.rediff.com/news/report/lawmakers-369-face-charges-of-rape-crimes-against-women/20121221.htm</a>
2	India remains World's Largest Arms Buyer	<a href="http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2014/3/17/india-still-worldslargestarmsbuyerAsianrivalriesheatup.html">http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2014/3/17/india-still-worldslargestarmsbuyerAsianrivalriesheatup.html</a>
3	Indian Arms Imports almost triple China, Pakistan: Study	<a href="http://tribune.com.pk/story/683815/indian-arms-imports-almost-triple-china-pakistan-study/">http://tribune.com.pk/story/683815/indian-arms-imports-almost-triple-china-pakistan-study/</a>
4	34 Muslims among 1122 who cracked the 2013 UPSC IAS Mains Exams	<a href="http://www.ummid.com/news/2014/June/12.06.2014/muslim-in-upsc-2014.html">http://www.ummid.com/news/2014/June/12.06.2014/muslim-in-upsc-2014.html</a>
5	18 Children go missing in Delhi Every Day	<a href="http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/18-children-go-missing-in-delhi-every-day-report/article6195950.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/18-children-go-missing-in-delhi-every-day-report/article6195950.ece</a>
6	Top 5 Richest Indians Have Half of Nation's Billionaire Wealth: Report	<a href="http://profit.ndtv.com/news/your-money/article-top-5-richest-indians-have-half-of-nations-billionaire-wealth-report-638133">http://profit.ndtv.com/news/your-money/article-top-5-richest-indians-have-half-of-nations-billionaire-wealth-report-638133</a>
7	Aligarh Scientists find New Superbug	<a href="http://www.delhidailynews.com/news/Aligarh-scientists-find-new-superbug-1410067786/">http://www.delhidailynews.com/news/Aligarh-scientists-find-new-superbug-1410067786/</a>
8	ISRO Scientist becomes First Indian Tourist to go to Edge of Space	<a href="http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/isro-scientist-becomes-first-indian-tourist-to-go-to-edge-of-space/article1-1262694.aspx">http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/isro-scientist-becomes-first-indian-tourist-to-go-to-edge-of-space/article1-1262694.aspx</a>
9	35% of Female Characters in Indian Movies shown with Nudity: UN report	<a href="http://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/indian-films-high-on-sexualisation-of-women-un-report/article1-1267578.aspx">http://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/indian-films-high-on-sexualisation-of-women-un-report/article1-1267578.aspx</a>
10	India's 100 Richest are All Billionaires: Forbes	<a href="http://profit.ndtv.com/news/industries/article-indias-100-richest-are-all-billionaires-forbes-670787">http://profit.ndtv.com/news/industries/article-indias-100-richest-are-all-billionaires-forbes-670787</a>
11	Google Doodle celebrates 100th Birthday of Jonas Salk, who developed Polio Vaccine	<a href="http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/tech/tech-news/Google-doodle-celebrates-100th-birthday-of-Jonas-Salk-who-developed-polio-vaccine/articleshow/44955622.cms?">http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/tech/tech-news/Google-doodle-celebrates-100th-birthday-of-Jonas-Salk-who-developed-polio-vaccine/articleshow/44955622.cms?</a>
12	India slips 13 Places in World Economic Forum's 2014 Gender Gap Ranking	<a href="http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/india-slips-13-places-in-wefs-gender-gap-ranking/article6540659.ece">http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/india-slips-13-places-in-wefs-gender-gap-ranking/article6540659.ece</a>
13	10 Million Child Deaths Attributed to a Lack of Toilets	<a href="http://www.businessweek.com/news/2014-11-19/10-million-child-deaths-attributed-to-a-lack-of-toilets">http://www.businessweek.com/news/2014-11-19/10-million-child-deaths-attributed-to-a-lack-of-toilets</a>
14	India has Highest Number of People Practicing Open Defecation	<a href="http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-india-has-highest-number-of-people-practicing-open-defecation-2036591">http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-india-has-highest-number-of-people-practicing-open-defecation-2036591</a>
15	26th World AIDS Day: The struggle for a HIV-free world	<a href="http://zeenews.india.com/news/health/health-news/26th-world-aids-day-the-struggle-for-a-hiv-free-world_1507434.html">http://zeenews.india.com/news/health/health-news/26th-world-aids-day-the-struggle-for-a-hiv-free-world_1507434.html</a>

# 369 MPs, MLAs face Charges of Crimes against Women

Vicky Nanjappa Last updated on: December 21, 2012 10:42 IST

**There has been a national outcry seeking harsher laws for rapists in India. As the outrage grows against the heinous incident of gangrape in Delhi and Parliament discusses the issue, Vicky Nanjappa takes a look at the background of our lawmakers (members of Parliament and members of legislative assemblies) with respect to rape cases and other crimes against women based on their self-sworn affidavits.**

The Association for Democratic Reforms, which provided a report on the issue shows that a large number of candidates with rape charges against them were given tickets by political parties to contest the elections.

## Highlights:

Six MLAs have declared that they have charges of rape against themselves in their sworn affidavits submitted with the Election Commission at the time of their election.

Of these six MLAs with declared rape cases, three belong to the Samajwadi Party -- Sribhagwan Sharma, Anoop Sanda and Manoj Kumar Paras (all from Uttar Pradesh), one from the Bahujan Samaj Party namely Mohd Aleem Khan from (UP), Jethabhai G Ahir from Gujarat (Bharatiya Janata Party) and Kandikunta Venkata Prasad from Andhra Pradesh (Telugu Desam Party).

Thirty-six other MLAs have declared that they have other charges of crimes against women such as outraging the modesty of a woman, assault, insulting the modesty of a woman etc.

Of the 36 MLAs who have declared that they have charges of crimes against women, six MLAs are from the Congress, five from the BJP and three from the SP.

UP has the maximum number of MLAs (8) who have declared that they have charges of crimes against women, followed by Orissa and West Bengal with seven MLAs each.

Two MPs, namely Semmalai S of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam from Salem constituency in Tamil Nadu, and Adhikari Suvendu of All India Trinamool Congress from Tamluk constituency in West Bengal, have declared that they have charges of crimes against women, such as cruelty and intent to outrage a woman's modesty etc.

## Candidates

Political parties gave tickets to 27 candidates who contested the state elections in the last five years, who have declared that they have been charged with rape.

Of these, seven are independent candidates, five have been given tickets by the SP, two have been given tickets by the BJP and two are BSP candidates.

Out of these 27 candidates who declared rape charges, 10 are from UP, and 5 are from Bihar.

Political parties also gave tickets to 260 other contesting candidates in the legislative assembly elections held in the last five years have declared that they have charges of crimes against women such as outraging the modesty of a woman, assault, insulting the modesty of a woman etc.

Out of the 260 candidates who declared that they have been charged with crimes against women, 72 are independent candidates, 24 have been given tickets by the BJP, 26 by the INC, 16 by the SP and 18 have been given tickets by the BSP.

Maharashtra has the maximum number of such candidates (41), followed by Uttar Pradesh (37) and West Bengal (22).

In the Lok Sabha 2009 elections, political parties gave tickets to six candidates who declared that they have been charged with rape. Of these, one is from the Rastriya Prajatantra Party, one from the Rashtravadi Communist Party, one from the BSP, one from the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha and two independent candidates.

Out of these six candidates who declared rape charges, three are from Bihar, one from Delhi, one from Uttar Pradesh and one from Andhra Pradesh.

Thirty-four other contesting candidates from the Lok Sabha 2009 general elections declared that they have charges of crimes against women.

Twelve out of the other 34 Lok Sabha 2009 candidates declared that they have been charged with crimes against women, 77 are IND candidates and 4 are BSP candidates and 2 each from AITC and Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation.

Maximum cases of crimes against women are against candidates from Bihar (9), followed by Maharashtra (6), and Uttar Pradesh (5).

# India remains World's Largest Arms Buyer

March 17, 2014, ET, Updated March 18, 2014, ET

## *India leads global arms imports along with China and Pakistan, as US and Russia maintain dominance in exports*

India remains the world's largest arms buyer by a huge margin, even as regional rivalries spur the flow of arms to other countries in Asia, according to a report released Monday by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

India increased its arms imports by 111 percent in the past five years compared with 2004–08, and it now accounts for 14 percent of the world's arms imports. The mainly Russian-supplied flow of arms to India dwarfs the imports of its regional rivals China and Pakistan, the second- and third-largest buyers.

“There is money, there is threat perception, and there is a willingness of exporters to supply weapons,” said Siemon Wezeman, a senior researcher with SIPRI Arms Transfers Program and a co-author of the report.

The United States and Russia dominate arms exports — over half the market, combined — but their business has diversified and shifted focus from Europe toward emerging world powers such as India, Brazil and China. Even as European imports declined by a full quarter over the past five years, the volume of global arms sales climbed 14 percent in 2009 through 2013 compared with the previous five-year period, SIPRI found.

Because arms sales fluctuate year to year, SIPRI uses a five-year average to provide a more stable measure of trends.

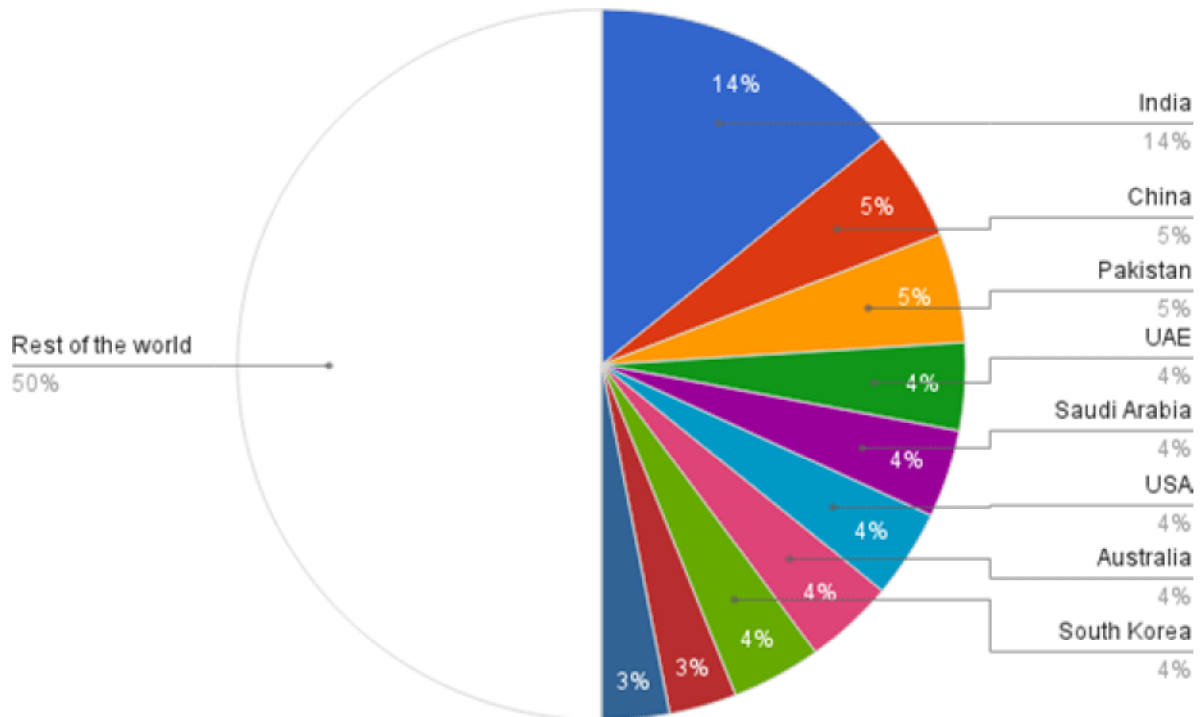
By a substantial margin, Asia witnessed the greatest growth in arms imports. The region buys 47 percent of the globe's major weapons. Among the bigger importers is South Korea, which ranked eighth in that period, reflecting both the country's burgeoning economic prowess and rising tensions with North Korea. The South has devoted its considerable defence spending to being able to detect and destroy North Korean missiles, SIPRI said.

But the global arms-importing trifecta consists of three Asian countries that eye each other with constant suspicion: India, Pakistan and China. Though India went on the biggest buying spree in the world, Pakistan has boosted its weapons imports by 119 percent and now ranks third in the world behind China, which has gained a foothold in high-tech arms exports as well. Relations between India and Pakistan have been hostile since they split in 1947, a history punctuated by several wars and an ongoing border dispute

in the Kashmir region, but China’s recent efforts to expand its regional military presence are viewed as especially threatening.

“China’s naval modernization is starting to infringe on the Indian Ocean, which India considers its backyard,” Wezeman said. “That’s why you see both countries expanding naval forces slowly and carefully toward Southeast Asia.”

## Global Arms Imports



Arms imports: From 2009 to 2013, India accounted for 14 percent of the world’s arms imports, more than any other nation. Russia was India’s main supplier. Source: SIPRI.org

India’s arms-buying is also explained by the country’s failure to satisfy its appetite for weaponry through domestic production. “A growing India still depending on foreign companies for a substantial part of our defence needs is not a happy situation,” the country’s Defence Minister A.K. Antony admitted at a defence expo in New Delhi last month. Of the world’s top 10 weapons buyers, India has the second-lowest domestic production, trailing only Saudi Arabia. Most analysts place the blame on poor infrastructure, limited real estate and civil sector corruption.

But the threat of imminent war is not the only factor that motivates the hoarding of high-tech arms. “India, it sees itself as a regional power, if not a world power,” Wezeman said. “When you have those ambitions, that requires some military powers or muscle that you can show off. Otherwise, it’s not really power. So, prestige does play a role in weapons acquisition.”

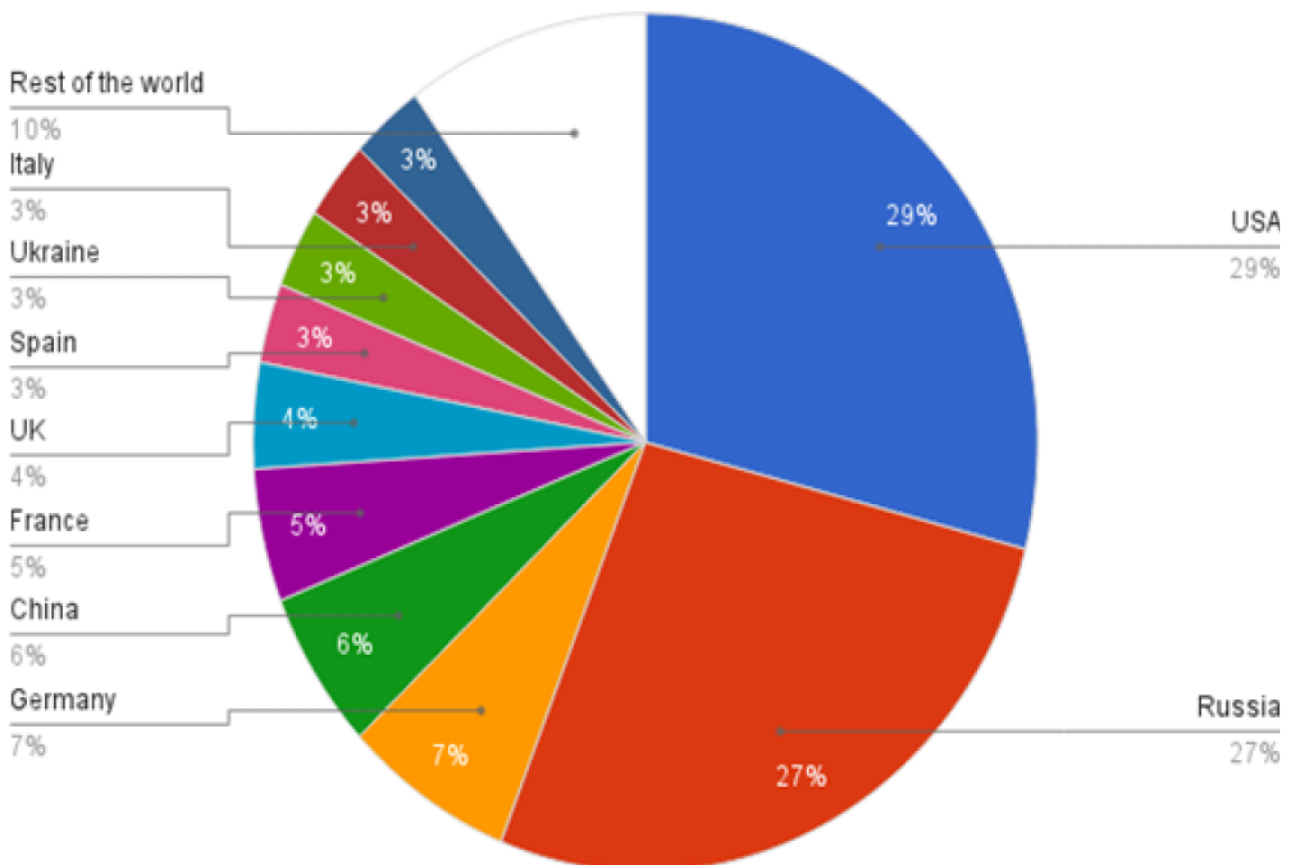
Global stature also appears to motivate Brazil’s climbing weapons imports, despite the relative placidity of South America. With one of the world's fastest-growing economies, Brazil has sought to build on its role as the most powerful nation on the continent. As it charts that course, it has increased weapons

imports by 65 percent in 2009 through 2013 versus 2004 through 2008. That includes an order for 36 combat aircraft from Sweden for \$4.8 billion and four submarines from France for \$9.7 billion. Brazil has announced plans to replace its aircraft carrier, the only one in South America. “You ask yourself, what is that good for? It fits a prestige role much better than anything else,” Wezeman said.

Other regions where arms buying has picked up include the Persian Gulf (called the Arabian Gulf by some Arab nations), home to the fourth- and fifth-largest importers in the world, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, respectively. Conflict-ridden African states like Sudan and Uganda also witnessed huge increases in 2009 through 2013 compared with the previous period.

Europe, the only region to observe a sharp decline arms imports, has faced limited threats to its stability as well as a long-running euro zone economic crisis, which has contracted spending in most countries. “But that all may change considering how Russia is using missile policy toward Ukraine,” Wezeman said. “It has already led to discussions in Poland and Sweden about whether those countries actually have enough missiles to deal with a more assertive Russia.”

## Global Arms Exports



Arms exports: The United States and Russia are the world's two largest exporters in arms. From 2009 to 2013, the U.S. exported 29 percent of all arms transfers. Source: SIPRI.org

# Indian Arms Imports almost triple China, Pakistan: Study

By AFP, March 17, 2014

**Pakistan increased its weapons acquisitions by 119%, growing from 2% of the global total to 5% during last 5 years.**

**PARIS: India remains the biggest buyer of arms in the world, importing nearly three times as many weapons as its nearest competitors China and Pakistan over the last five years, a Swedish think tank said on Monday.**

The total volume of arms sales was up 14 percent in 2009-13 compared to the previous five years, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

Indian imports of major weapons rose by 111 percent in the last five years compared to 2004-08. Its share of total global arms imports increased from 7 to 14 percent, SIPRI said.

India replaced China as the world's biggest arms buyer in 2010. With its domestic defence industry struggling to manufacture high-tech arms, India is in the midst of a defence spending binge as it struggles to keep up with better-equipped Chinese forces and a range of military challenges in its volatile neighbourhood.

**The main supplier of arms to India in 2009-13 was Russia, accounting for 75 percent of all imports – reflecting India's need to upgrade and modernize weapons systems dating back to their close relationship during the Cold War.**

India has lately sought to diversify its sources, looking particularly to the United States.

Figures from IHS Jane's released in February showed that India became the biggest buyer of US weapons last year – with total imports worth \$1.9 billion, and a string of large-scale purchases including Boeing's C-17A transport aircraft and P-8I Maritime Patrol Aircraft.

In 2009-13, however, the US still accounted for only 7 percent of India's purchases according to SIPRI.

India's traditional rival Pakistan increased its weapons acquisitions by 119 percent, growing from 2 percent of the global total to 5 percent during that period.

The five largest arms suppliers worldwide between 2009 and 2013 were the United States (29% of global exports), Russia (27%), Germany (7%), China (6%) and France (5%).

They collectively accounted for 74 percent of total arms exports, SIPRI said.

The world's top five arms importers were now India, China, Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

“Chinese, Russian and US arms supplies to South Asia are driven by both economic and political considerations,” said Siemon Wezeman, senior researcher with the SIPRI Arms Transfers Programme.

“In particular, China and the USA appear to be using arms deliveries to Asia to strengthen their influence in the region,” Wezeman said.

Arms exports to Africa between 2004-08 and 2009-13 jumped 53 percent. The three largest importers in the region were Algeria, Morocco and Sudan.

Imports by European nations have decreased by 25 percent between 2004-2008 and 2009-13.

Britain was the largest importer of major weapons in Europe (receiving 12% of deliveries), followed by Azerbaijan (12%) and Greece (11%).



## **34 Muslims among 1122 who cracked the 2013 UPSC IAS Mains Exams**

Thursday June 12, 2014, ummid.com Staff Reporter

Mumbai: The Union Public Service Commission Thursday declared the results of the Civil Service Examination 2013, naming 1,122 successful candidates including 34 Muslims who had cleared the prestigious examination to join premier civil services including the Indian Administrative Service.

**Among the top hundred successful candidates are four Muslims. They are Faiz AQ Ahmed Mumtaz (Rank 17), Abid Husain Sadique (Rank 27), Md Musharraf Ali Farooqui (Rank 80) and Sana Akhter (Rank 90).**

**Other Muslims who had cleared the prestigious examination to join premier civil services are Basheer A Bhatt (Rank 189), Sheraz Danish Yar (rank 237), Shafeeq S (Rank 250), Raja Yakooob Farooque (rank 274), Afshana Perveen (Rank 332), Danish Abdullah (rank 335), Mudassir Shafee (Rank 418), Asim Anwer (Rank 486), Mohammad Sujitha MS (rank 511), Raees Akhter ( Rank 564), Mohammad Iqbal (rank 568), Fareha Ejaz (rank 574), Aafaque Ahmed Giri (rank 585), Shakeel Maqbool (Rank 633), Mohd Moeen Aafaq (rank 649), Etesham Wakarib (rank 710), Sharif Rasheed (rank 715), Owais Ahmed (rank 741), Qamruzzama Choudhary (rank 751), Raunak Jameel (rank 763), Mohammad Saem (rank 775), Raziq Fareed (rank 781), S. Fahad Ahmed Khan (rank 810), Nahas Ali (rank 851), Mohammad Shahid Kamal Ansari (857), Babu Abdul Qafir (rank 929), Anees C (rank 935), Mehtab Ahmed (rank 1003), Mohd Sarfaraz Aalam (rank 1016) and Mohammad Ashraf JS (rank 1032).**

Religion of two successful candidates Ruhi Dugg and Tarannum Verma cannot be verified.

In 2013, 30 Muslims were among the successful candidates, four of them were among top 100.

The performance of successful Muslim candidates is almost same in numbers if compared with the results of last few years. In 2009, a total of 31 Muslims were in the list of 791 successful candidates. Though percentage wise it shows a marginal decline.

Likewise, in 2010 among the 875 successful candidates 21 were Muslims with Dr. Shah Faisal of Kashmir topping the exam at the national level.

Similarly in 2011, 31 Muslims were among the 920 successful candidates whereas 30 Muslims were selected in 2012 for the civil services.

The results are particularly worrisome for the community as there are quite a few organisations which are running campaigns at different level to increase the representation of Muslims in the civil services.

Compare to their population in the country which is about 13-14%, only about 02% are in the civil services.

13 candidates who were trained at the coaching centre run by Zakat Foundation of India are also among those successfully cracking the coveted exam considered as most difficult in India. Of these 13 candidates 12 are Muslims.

The results are based on the scores of the candidates comprising a written test (held in December 2013) followed by personality test interviews (held in April-June 2014).

The results can be accessed on the UPSC website.

This is the highest intake of civil servants through this examination, nearly double the 580 civil servants recruited in 2009. An additional 210 candidates have been placed in the reserve list.

While 517 candidates have cleared the examination in the general category, 326 belong to Other Backward Classes, 187 Scheduled Caste and 92 to Scheduled Tribe categories.

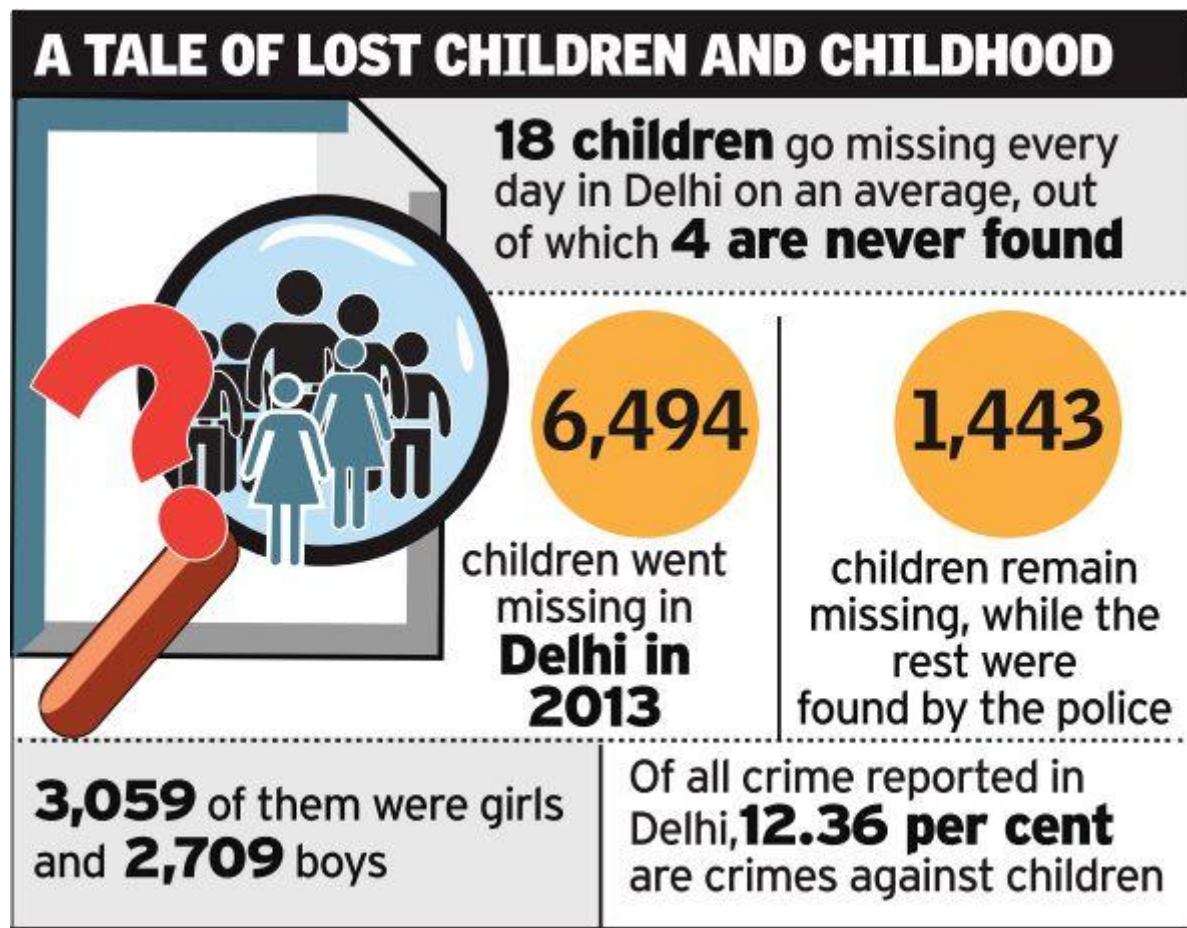
As many as 180 candidates have made it to the highly-coveted IAS, 32 to Indian Foreign Services and 150 to Indian Police Service.

The maximum (710) number of candidates has been selected for Central Services Group 'A' and the rest (156) to Group 'B' Services.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/18-children-go-missing-in-delhi-every-day-report/article6195950.ece>

## 18 Children go missing in Delhi Every Day

New Delhi, July 10, 2014



Source: RTI replies from Delhi Police to Alliance for People's Rights

### 6,494 children, 53 per cent of them girls, disappeared from January 1 to December 31, 2013

It has been a year and four months since her 13-year-old daughter Rosie went missing from their home in North-West Delhi and even today when Nasima Khatun recounts the tale her eyes well up.

The girl was alone at home while her three siblings were at work and school that day, said Ms. Khatun, who was in her hometown in Bihar at that time. “We are quite certain that a neighbour, who has been missing since that day, is the one who took our daughter,” said Ms. Khatun.

What happened to Rosie and thousands of other minors has become a depressing statistic, one which was reinforced by a new report on missing children released on Wednesday.

**On an average, 18 children go missing in the Capital every day and four of them are never traced, the report by the Alliance for People's Rights found. A total of 6,494 children, 53 per cent of them girls, disappeared in Delhi from January 1 to December 31, 2013, the report said, citing Right to Information replies from the Delhi Police.**

**The report also found that the number of missing children has increased in the past year from 14 cases a day in 2012. In some districts the number has shot up, with a 54.82 per cent jump in cases reported in West and a 47.24 per cent increase in North-West districts.**

**Only two districts, North-East and New Delhi, saw a decline in the number of missing children in 2013 compared to 2012. The report stated "more than 50 per cent of them [rescued victims] are from the socially deprived sections of society".**

**The convenor of the alliance, Reena Banerjee, said: "This is just the data we could get from the police through RTI, but there are many cases that never get registered. So the actual number of missing children may be higher."**

The parents of missing children allege that the authorities are not doing enough to bring them back and to prevent similar cases happening again. Ms. Khatun said: "We gave the police a photo of the accused and his number. But they didn't do much. Now, we have filed a habeas corpus plea in the High Court, which has asked the police about what action they have taken so far."

A "blame game" would not work and a holistic approach was the need of the hour, said Ms. Banerjee. The report and its recommendations will be shared with the Lieutenant-Governor, the High Court and the Centre so the problem of missing children can be addressed at different levels.

Soha Moitra, the regional director of Child Rights and You, said a single and transparent database should be kept. "Children's commissions should be proactive," she added.

Ms. Banerjee said: "If we can have bullet trains in the country, we can surely keep our children safe."

<http://profit.ndtv.com/news/your-money/article-top-5-richest-indians-have-half-of-nations-billionaire-wealth-report-638133>

## **Top 5 Richest Indians Have Half of Nation's Billionaire Wealth: Report**

Press Trust of India | Updated On: August 13, 2014

**New Delhi:** The top five Indian billionaires, led by Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani, collectively control \$85.5 billion (Rs. 521550 crore at 1 dollar = 61 rupees) in personal wealth, accounting for nearly half (47.5 per cent) of the country's total billionaire wealth, according to a report by Wealth-X.

Of India's richest individuals, Mukesh Ambani remains the richest man in the country with an estimated net worth of \$24.4 billion (Rs. 148840 crore), the report by the wealth research firm said.

He was followed by steel tycoon Lakshmi Mittal, drug maker Sun Pharma's Dilip Sanghvi, IT giant Wipro's Azim Premji and Tata Sons' shareholder Pallonji Shapoorji Mistry among the top-five wealthiest individuals from India.

"The five billionaires collectively control \$85.5 billion in personal wealth, accounting for 47.5 per cent of India's total billionaire wealth," Wealth-X said.

Observing that "entrepreneurialism is the key to attaining financial success in the world's largest democracy", the report further said that these five entrepreneurs have made their fortunes through their businesses in sectors such as oil and gas, steel and pharmaceuticals.

In comparison, India's wealthiest actor Shah Rukh Khan is worth \$600 million (Rs. 3,660 crore), while Indian cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar retired in November 2013 with a personal fortune of at least \$160 million (Rs. 976 crore), it added.

Through Reliance Industries group, Mr Ambani owns the Mumbai Indians Indian Premier League (IPL) cricket team, reportedly the most valuable team at around \$112 million (Rs. 683.2 crore), it noted.

Steel tycoon Lakshmi Mittal takes the second position on the list with a personal net worth of \$17.2 billion (Rs. 104920 crore). He is the chairman and CEO of Arcelor Mittal, the world's largest steel making company.

Mr Mittal, 64, owns a 38 per cent stake in Arcelor Mittal and 33 per cent of the Queens Park Rangers Football Club.

Sun Pharmaceutical's Dilip Sanghvi is the third wealthiest Indian on the list with an estimated net worth of \$156.3 billion, or Rs. 9.53 lakh crore, followed by Wipro chairman Azim Premji (\$14.9 billion, or Rs. 90,890 crore) and Tata Sons Shareholder Pallonji Shapoorji Mistry (\$12.7 billion, or Rs. 77,470 crore).

All five entrepreneurs have also established philanthropic foundations in support of causes ranging from education, health, environment, social welfare and community development, Wealth-X the report added.

<http://www.delhidailynews.com/news/Aligarh-scientists-find-new-superbug-1410067786/>

# Aligarh Scientists find New Superbug

DDN Correspondent Posted on 07 Sep, 2014 at

*The researchers from Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) have discovered a new variant of superbug called NDM-4 from sewage water in Aligarh.*

The superbug has been found by Dr Asad U Khan, Associate Professor and Coordinator, Interdisciplinary Biotechnology Unit, Aligarh Muslim University, along with his research team.

*The superbug has been found by Dr Asad U Khan, Associate Professor and Coordinator, Interdisciplinary Biotechnology Unit, Aligarh Muslim University, along with his research team.*

Dr. Khan added that that infection caused by this superbug was not easy to control and it is more dangerous than NDM-1, the superbug discovered in 2012.

Khan and his team are also involved in screening of NDM- superbug in Neonatal Intensive care Unit in collaboration with Prof S Manazir Ali, Department of Pediatrics.

He noted that this superbug in India and its dissemination to other countries are already prime issues for the Ministry of Health, Govt of India. The priority is to come up with policies in order to control the threat of the producers of NDM-4.

According to Khan, the emergence of NDM-4 superbug and other variants in India should be seen as a major challenge more steps are needed to evaluate prevalence of multidrug-resistant bacteria and develop strategies to prevent their spread. Dr. Khan added that that infection caused by this superbug was not easy to control and it is more dangerous than NDM-1, the superbug discovered in 2012.

Khan also stressed on the need to spread awareness regarding the urgent need of taking due precautions with regard to safe drinking water and uncontaminated food. He said that people must use antibiotics only after being prescribed by a doctor.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/isro-scientist-becomes-first-indian-tourist-to-go-to-edge-of-space/article1-1262694.aspx>

## **ISRO Scientist becomes First Indian Tourist to go to Edge of Space**

Vanita Srivastava, Hindustan Times, New Delhi, September 11, 2014

**A senior scientist working at the Indian Space Research Organisation has become the first Indian to go on a tour of the stratosphere, the edge of space, which is the second layer beyond earth.**

**The stratosphere is the second major layer of Earth's atmosphere, just above the troposphere, and below the mesosphere. It is stratified in temperature, with warmer layers higher up and cooler layers farther down.**

**TN Suresh Kumar, an avid traveller, is a senior scientist at ISRO's master control facility in Hassan. He paid a sum of Rs. 15 lakh for the travel and took the journey from an agency conducting space travel — Country of Tourism Ltd — in Russia which started the journey called 'Edge of Space' six years ago. He travelled to an altitude of 17,100 metres in a MIG 29 from Sokol Airbase.**

"Besides me there was a pilot on the flight. I always wanted to take the Indian flag to space and so I deliberately undertook the journey on August 15. Besides the flag, I also took my mother's photo with me. It was very expensive but nothing can be compared to the thrill that I got. After the space journey, I went on a trans-Siberian tour and returned three days back," he told HT.

Describing the journey he said: "It was a 48 minute flight but we were at the edge of space only for one minute."

"It was in late 1985, I was one of the astronauts short listed to go to space but unfortunately the programme was dropped due to explosion of the space shuttle Challenger in February 1986. This was a great disappointment for me. But it set a new goal for me to touch all the continents of the globe."

On his next mission he said: "I am planning to undertake the zero gravity flight from Russia in February next year."

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/indian-films-high-on-sexualisation-of-women-un-report/article1-1267578.aspx>

# 35% of Female Characters in Indian Movies shown with Nudity: UN report

PTI, United Nations, September 23, 2014

India tops the chart in showing attractive women in its movies and as much as 35% of these female characters are shown with some nudity, finds a first-ever UN sponsored global study of female characters in popular films across the world.

The study, commissioned by the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media, with support from UN Women and The Rockefeller Foundation, reveals deep-seated discrimination, pervasive stereotyping, sexualisation of women and their underrepresentation in powerful roles by the international film industry.

Indian films, the study finds, have a significantly higher prevalence of sexualisation of female characters and the movies score low in depicting women in significant speaking roles and as engineers and scientists.

While women represent nearly half of the world's population, less than one third of all speaking characters in films are female and UK-US collaborations and Indian films are at the bottom of the pack.

Both, the American/British hybrid films (23.6 per cent) and Indian films (24.9 per cent) show female characters in less than one-quarter of all speaking roles. Even the frontrunners (UK, Brazil and South Korea) feature female characters in 35.9-38 per cent of all speaking roles on screen.

Sexualisation of female characters in movies is a standard practice across the global film industry and women are twice as likely as men to be shown in sexually revealing clothing, partially or fully naked, thin, and five times as likely to be referenced as attractive.

Indian films are third behind German and Australian movies in showing females in "sexy attire" and at 25.2% India tops the chart in showing attractive females in its movies.

About 35% of female characters in Indian movies are shown with some nudity, the study finds. The prevalence of female directors, writers and producers in the Indian films was also not at a very high number.

India had 9.1% female directors, slightly above the global average of 7%, while its percentage of female writers was 12.1%, significantly lower than the 19.7% global average.

Female producers in India were only 15.2%, way below the 22.7% global average.

This data of gender prevalence behind the camera translated into a gender ratio of 6.2 males to every one female in the film industry in India.



<http://profit.ndtv.com/news/industries/article-indias-100-richest-are-all-billionaires-forbes-670787>

## India's 100 Richest are All Billionaires: Forbes

PTI, Updated On: September 25, 2014

**Singapore:** For the first time, the 100 richest tycoons in India are all billionaires with Mukesh Ambani topping the league for the eighth consecutive year, according to Forbes.

With a net worth of \$23.6 billion, up \$2.6 billion from last year, RIL chief Mukesh Ambani topped the list for the eighth consecutive year.

Mr Ambani was followed by Dilip Shanghvi, who got richer this year by \$4.1 billion. Mr Shanghvi is the new No. 2, after he displaced steel baron Lakshmi Mittal (\$15.8 billion), who slipped to the fifth place.

Wipro's Azim Premji moved up one notch to the number three position as his net wealth increased to \$16.4 billion from \$13.8 billion previously. Pallonji Mistry, patriarch of construction giant Shapoorji Pallonji Group which is the biggest shareholder in Tata Sons with a new worth of \$15.9 billion, was placed in the fourth place.

Forbes said that "good days are here" for the India's 100 Richest, as the top 100 richest Indians are all billionaires with combined wealth of \$346 billion, up more than a third from \$259 billion in 2013.

Propelled by the euphoria after the BJP's (Bharatiya Janata Party) landslide victory in May, the stock market has gained 28 per cent since January, driving the net-worth of the uber-rich people in India.

The biggest dollar gainer is ports magnate Gautam Adani, who jumped 11 spots to 11th rank in the list, adding nearly \$4.5 billion to his wealth which reached \$7.1 billion on soaring share prices.

"Shares of Adani's companies started soaring ahead of the elections on hopes of a BJP victory. The gains added close to \$4.5 billion to his wealth, more than anyone else," Forbes said.

Others in the top 10 include NRI businessmen Hinduja Brothers who were at the sixth position with a net worth of \$13.3 billion, followed by Shiv Nadar (7th, \$12.5 billion), Godrej family (8th, \$11.6 billion), Kumar Birla (9th, \$9.2 billion) and Sunil Mittal & family (10th, \$7.8 billion).

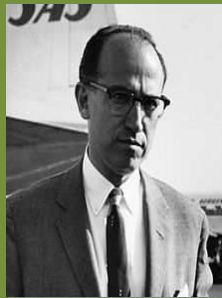
As many as 85 of the 89 who returned to the top 100 from last year are wealthier, and several are billionaires for the first time.

Among them are Qimat Rai Gupta (ranked 48, net worth \$1.95 billion), chairman of Havells; V G Siddhartha (75, \$1.27 billion), founder of the Cafe Coffee Day chain; and brothers Harsh Goenka (82, \$1.18 billion) and Sanjiv Goenka (69, \$1.4 billion), who run their independent empires and are listed separately.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/tech/tech-news/Google-doodle-celebrates-100th-birthday-of-Jonas-Salk-who-developed-polio-vaccine/articleshow/44955622.cms?>

# Google Doodle celebrates 100th Birthday of Jonas Salk, who developed Polio Vaccine

Kashmira Gander, the Independent, Oct 28, 2014



<b>Born</b>	Jonas Edward Salk, October 28, 1914, New York, New York
<b>Died</b>	June 23, 1995 (aged 80), La Jolla, California, United States
<b>Residence</b>	New York, New York, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, La Jolla, California
<b>Nationality</b>	American
<b>Fields</b>	Medical research, virology and epidemiology
<b>Institutions</b>	University of Pittsburgh, Salk Institute, University of Michigan
<b>Alma mater</b>	City College of New York, New York University, University of Michigan
<b>Doctoral advisor</b>	Thomas Francis, Jr.
<b>Known for</b>	<b>First Polio Vaccine</b>
<b>Notable awards</b>	Lasker Award (1956)
<b>Spouse</b>	Donna Lindsay (m. 1939–68); Françoise Gilot (m. 1970–95)

Google has celebrated the 100th birthday of Dr Jonas Salk, the American scientists who developed the first successful polio vaccine, with a doodle on its homepage.

The heart-warming illustration depicts two children holding up a sign reading "Thank you, Dr Salk!" - A tribute to the virologist's work against a disease whose main victims were children.

**In the two years before his vaccine was made widely available, the average number of polio cases in the US was more than 45,000. By 1962, that number had dropped to 910.**

Salk graduated from New York University School of Medicine in 1939 with his M.D. degree, and soon started work as a staff physician at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City.

He would then apply his talents to the field of research, becoming a fellow at the University of Michigan where he worked to develop a flu vaccine at the request of the US Army.

By 1947, he was appointed director of the Virus Research Laboratory at the University Of Pittsburgh School Of Medicine, the institution where he developed the techniques that would help him discover a vaccine for polio.

Salk re-worked the established idea of a vaccine by suggesting that immunity could be established in the body by using inactivated viruses.

The virologist's research soon caught the attention of Basil O'Connor, president of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis (now known as the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation), whose organisation funded Salk's efforts to develop a vaccine against the devastating disease.

The resulting vaccine was tested first in monkeys and then in patients at the D.T. Watson Home for Crippled Children (now The Watson Institute), who already had polio.

Polio-free volunteers, including Salk, his laboratory staff, his wife and their children, were given the vaccine - none of whom reacted badly to the experimental drug.

**In 1954, national testing began on one million children, age's six to nine, who became known as the Polio Pioneers: half received the vaccine, and half received a placebo. On April 12, 1955, the vaccine was declared safe and effective.**

**Salk chose not to patent the vaccine and did not earn any money from his discovery, preferring to see it distributed as widely as possible.**

Salk died at age 80 on 23 June, 1995.

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/india-slips-13-places-in-wefs-gender-gap-ranking/article6540659.ece>

## **India slips 13 Places in World Economic Forum's 2014 Gender Gap Ranking**

PTI, New York, October 28, 2014

**India has performed poorly in removing gender-based disparities, ranking 114 out of 142 countries in World Economic Forum's 2014 gender gap index, scoring below average on parameters like economic participation, educational attainment and health and survival.**

**India slipped 13 spots from its last year's ranking of 101 on the Gender Gap Index by the World Economic Forum. India is part of the 20 worst-performing countries on the labour force participation, estimated earned income, literacy rate and sex ratio at birth indicators.**

**On the other hand, India is among the top 20 best-performing countries on the political empowerment subindex.**

The index was first introduced by the World Economic Forum in 2006 as a framework for capturing the magnitude of gender-based disparities and tracking their progress. The index benchmarks national gender gaps on economic, political, education and health criteria.

On the criteria of economic participation and opportunity, India was ranked 134. Its female to male ratio in labour force participation was 0.36. The disparity in estimated earned income was high with females earning USD 1980 compared to USD 8087 earned by their male counterparts.

**On educational attainment, India ranked 126 with female to male ratio in literacy rate at 0.68. India was the second-lowest performing country on health and survival, ranking 141 just ahead of Armenia.**

**However, on political empowerment sub-index, India ranked an impressive 15. It is the highest-ranked country on the years with female head of state (over the past 50 years) indicator. There is also some evidence from India to suggest that women in local government roles make decisions with better outcomes for communities than men do when charged with budget decisions. They also appear to be more competent representatives than men, obtaining more resources for their constituencies despite having significantly lower education and relevant labour market experience.**

**The report said that India has the highest difference between women and men on the average minutes spent per day on unpaid work—a difference of 300 minutes. It is also**

**among the countries with the highest difference in the female and male percentage of total R&D personnel. India has one of the lowest percentages of firms with female participation in ownership.**

**India had experienced improvement of its overall score since 2010, when it had ranked 112. It had ranked 105 in 2012 and 101 last year but saw a decrease in 2014 due to a drop in scores on the economic participation and opportunity and educational attainment subindexes.**

India performed better than countries like UAE, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Jordan.

Iceland, which has had a female head of state in 20 of the past 50 years, ranked number 1 on WEF's index. Iceland has taken the top spot on the index consecutively since 2009. The country was followed by its Nordic neighbours: Finland ranked 2, Norway (3), Sweden (4) and Denmark (5). The US is ranked 20, putting it behind countries like Canada, South Africa and France, but ahead of other developed countries like the United Kingdom and Australia.

The report said that no country in the world has fully closed the gender gap, but all five of the Nordic countries have closed more than 80 per cent of it. Yemen, the lowest ranking country has closed just over 50 per cent of the gender gap.

**At 141, Pakistan was the second lowest ranking country, scoring poorly on all the four parameters.**

In 2014, 25 countries fully closed the gap in Educational Attainment (same as last year). Angola, Ethiopia, Yemen, Guinea and Chad hold the last five spots on this subindex, with Yemen and Chad having closed less than 70 per cent of their education gender gap. In total, there are 22 countries where women still have less than 90 per cent of the education outcomes that men have.

While eight countries—Bahamas, Belize, Brazil, France, Guyana, Latvia, Namibia, and the Philippines—have fully closed the gap on both the health and education subindexes, no country has closed either the economic participation gap or the political empowerment gap.

On the Economic Participation and Opportunity subindex, 14 countries have closed more than 80 per cent of gap, including from Sub-Saharan Africa and five from Europe and Central Asia.

Burundi, Norway, Malawi, the United States and the Bahamas occupy the top five spots on the subindex.

(This article was published on October 28, 2014)

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2014-11-19/10-million-child-deaths-attributed-to-a-lack-of-toilets>

# 10 Million Child Deaths Attributed to a Lack of Toilets

By Randall Hackley, November 19, 2014

In India, perhaps Ground Zero in the sanitation and faecal contamination battle, the government has set Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birthday in 2019 as its target for achieving "total sanitation," including access to toilets for all 1.2 billion residents. Photographer: Mohamed Hossam/Anadolu Agency/Getty Images

In a world in which 14 percent of the population in the 21st century still defecates outdoors, children remain among the most vulnerable to a lack of toilets, contamination from human waste and dirty water.

The young are suffering the brunt of a health and development crisis that has claimed the lives of at least 10 million children under the age of five since 2000 because they have no access to a basic toilet, according to a new report from the international development organization WaterAid.

The United Nations, which designated today as World Toilet Day to highlight sanitation as a developmental priority, says about 35 percent -- 2.5 billion of the planet's 7 billion people -- live without basic sanitation facilities such as toilets and latrines. That's at a time when more people have mobile phones on Earth than a toilet. Globally, an estimated 1.8 billion drink fouled water that's faecally contaminated, according to World Health Organization/UNICEF figures.

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-india-has-highest-number-of-people-practicing-open-defecation-2036591>

# India has Highest Number of People Practicing Open Defecation

Wednesday, 19 November 2014, New Delhi, PTI

**India has the highest number of people practising open defecation in the world at 597 million, according to the UN which said political will at the highest level is needed to address the challenge.**

Noting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pledge to end the practice in the country by 2019, the UN said it is an "ambition" channelling the view of Mahatma Gandhi, who had termed sanitation "more important than independence." About one billion people worldwide or one-sixth of developing world's 5.9 billion populations does not use toilets.

**About 825 million people — 82 per cent of the one billion practicing open defecation reside in just 10 countries, the UN said as it marked 'World Toilet Day' today.**

**India has the highest number of people practicing open defecation at 597 million or 47 per cent of the national population. Others are Indonesia (54 million), Pakistan (41 million), Nepal (11 million) and China (10 million).**

**The other five countries where people do not use the toilets are in Africa, namely Nigeria, Ethiopia, Sudan, Niger and Mozambique.**

UN also called on religious, education and opinion leaders in developing regions to join government officials and champion a halt to open defecation, highlighting the health threat posed by lack of access to sanitation, and the particular dangers open defecation poses for women and girls.

"We know that political will at the highest level is critical to address these challenges. However, we also know that success at ending open defecation goes beyond infrastructure. It requires the understanding of behaviors, cultural attitudes and social norms," Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson said in a statement.

The UN noted Modi's pledge to have 111 million toilets and achieve an end to open defecation by 2019, saying it is an "ambition" channelling the view of Mahatma Gandhi, who had termed sanitation "more important than independence." Eliasson added that women and girls bear the "greatest burdens" caused by the lack of toilet access.

"Girls are more likely to drop out of school if they don't have access to a safe and clean toilet. Women and girls are also at the risk of harassment and sexual abuse when trying to use public toilets or when trying to find somewhere to defecate in the open," he said.

"Universal access to sanitation has a clear role to play in defending women's safety, dignity and equality," he added.

[http://zeenews.india.com/news/health/health-news/26th-world-aids-day-the-struggle-for-a-hiv-free-world\\_1507434.html](http://zeenews.india.com/news/health/health-news/26th-world-aids-day-the-struggle-for-a-hiv-free-world_1507434.html)

# 26th World AIDS Day: The struggle for a HIV-free world!

By Ritu Singh, Monday, December 1, 2014



December 1 marks World AIDS Day, an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the battle against HIV, one of the most destructive pandemics in history. People worldwide show support for people living with HIV on World AIDS Day by wearing a red ribbon, the international symbol of HIV awareness and support.

World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day and the first one was held in 1988. Since then, numerous events and campaigns have been organised around the world to spread awareness about this disease.

**This year, the theme for World AIDS Day is “Focus, Partner, Achieve: An AIDS-free Generation.”**

## History of World AIDS Day

**James Bunn and Thomas Netter, two public information officers for the Global Programme on AIDS at the World Health Organisation are credited for conceptualising this idea in August, 1987. Bunn and Netter then sought approval of Dr Jonathan Mann, the**



**former head of the Global Programme on Aids (now known as UNAIDS). It was then decided to observe the first World AIDS Day on 1, December 1988.**

In 1996, UNAIDS took over the planning and promotion of World AIDS Day. The White House began marking the day with a display of a 28-foot Aids ribbon in 2007, as the first symbol to hang on the building since the Lincoln administration.

## **Importance of this day:**

**This day is important because an estimated 34 million persons are living with HIV infection and more than 35 million have died from the disease. World AIDS Day is meant to draw attention to the current status of the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome epidemic worldwide.**

The current situation is not completely grim though a leading campaign group fighting HIV has observed that the world is finally reaching the "the beginning of the end" of the AIDS pandemic. A lot still needs to be done.

Social stigma attached to HIV/AIDS poses a bigger threat and that has to be won. Despite all efforts, AIDS continues to be a word that generates more anxiety than awareness. Even now, the average person still fears touching or kissing someone with HIV, even though we have been taught for years that neither of these activities can infect someone else. HIV is infectious, not contagious.

In this age of education, it is important to keep our knowledge on HIV up to date and bust common myths and misconceptions. We also need to modify our disposition and temperament, challenge our beliefs, take a stand, get rid of prejudices and accept those people with love, care and support.

**So, on this World AIDS day, let's all take a pledge to actualize more empathy within us and pray for an AIDS free world!**