

Current Affairs December 2013 – Jobs57.com

International:

- The Palestinian Authority has expelled Israeli journalists who came to the historic biblical town of Bethlehem to cover Christmas celebrations, a step lauded by their Palestinian counterparts who protested to stop them from entering Palestinian-controlled territories.
- Egyptian police arrested Hisham Qandil, who was prime minister under deposed Islamist president Mohamed Morsi.
- The UN Security Council has voted to almost double its peacekeeping force in conflict-torn South Sudan to nearly 14,000 from 7,000, in an effort to quell ethnic and political violence that has left hundreds of people dead and thousands displaced in the world's youngest country.
- India's strong concerns over the security and mandate of its peacekeepers in South Sudan found support from several UN Security Council members who unanimously passed a resolution that directly addresses the situation faced by Indian soldiers in the strife-torn country. While India is not in the Security Council, it was able to "influence" the UNSC resolution in a "significant manner", as it highlighted key issues "pro-actively" with the powerful UN body.
- At least 40 civilians have been killed in an attack on a village in the restive east of the Democratic Republic of Congo, a non-governmental organisation said on Thursday. "Up to this morning we have found more than 40 bodies, all of them civilians, in the latrines," Teddy Kataliko, the head of civil society in the Beni region where the attack took place on Wednesday, told AFP.
- Tokyo Electric Power said it would submit a fresh restructuring plan to a Japanese government-backed fund Wednesday, which could see the creation of a special unit to dismantle the crippled Fukushima plant.
- Militants in Iraq targeted Christians in two separate bomb attacks in Baghdad on Wednesday, killing at least 22 people.
- Syria signs oil exploration deal with Russian firm Soyuzneftegaz to explore in Mediterranean Sea.
- Chinese smugglers dug a "professional" concrete tunnel into Hong Kong equipped with lights, vents, steel reinforcements and even rails to transport goods, domestic media reported on Wednesday.
- Egypt's interim government has declared the Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist organisation, a move that gives authorities greater freedom to crack down on the group.
- A 72-year-old American development worker who was kidnapped in Pakistan by al-Qaida more than two years ago appealed to US President Obama in a video released Thursday to negotiate his release, saying he feels "totally abandoned and forgotten."

National:

- 152nd birth anniversary of social reformer Pt. Madan Mohan Malaviya observed today.
- President PranabMukherjee inaugurated the 86th All India Bengali Literary Conference at Prayag Sangit Samiti in Allahabad today.
- Aam Aadmi Party leader Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday held a 'Janta Durbar' outside his Kausambhi residence during which many people went there to congratulate Arvind and also to

put forward their complaints regarding water and electricity. People also demanded AAP to form a team of lawyers who will fight cases free of cost for people who cannot handle legal expenditure.



- The 3-day annual 'Shaheedi Jor Mela' began in Fatehgarh Sahib, Punjab to mark the martyrdom of two younger sons of Guru Gobind Singh.
- President Pranab Mukherjee has accepted Delhi Lt. Governor's proposal on government formation by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) with outside support from the Congress.
- Arvind Kejriwal, Leader of AAP will take an oath as Delhi CM on Dec 28th December 2013.
- The government on Thursday approved the widening of highways in Bihar and Gujarat at an estimated cost of Rs 1,912 crore. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) cleared projects that include the four-laning of a highway stretch in the Buddhist tourist circuit in Bihar for Rs 1,408.85 crore and the six-laning of a Vadodara-Surat section in Gujarat at a cost of Rs 503.16 crore.

Business:

- The Reserve Bank has assigned State Bank of India (SBI) to act as the lead bank in four newly-constructed districts (North Garo Hills, East Jaintia Hills, South West Khasi Hills and South West Garo Hills) in Meghalaya.
- Gold prices dipped below Rs 30,000 per ten grams level for the first time in over four months in the national capital on Thursday on stockists selling against fall in demand at prevailing higher levels.
- The BSE benchmark Sensex on Thursday inched up by nearly 42 points on buying in HDFC Bank, Infosys and Tata Power, amid expiry of monthly equity derivatives. Midcap and smallcaps

continued to outperform bluechip indices on the back retail investor interest, said traders. The Sensex, which had lost 68.32 points in the previous session, recovered by 41.88 points, or 0.20 per cent, to end at 21,074.59, after touching the day's high of 21,135.85.

- A number of bitcoin operators in India have begun suspending their business following RBI's warning against use of such virtual currencies due to potential money laundering and cyber security risks. While RBI is yet to come out with a clear regulatory framework for bitcoins, which have been gaining currency across the world over the past few months, it has issued an advisory cautioning general public against use of bitcoins and other virtual currencies.

Sports:

- South African all-rounder Jacques Kallis to retire from Test and first class cricket after second match against India in Durban.
- Defending champion Janko Tipsarevic has pulled out of the Aircel Chennai Open, due to start on Monday, after failing to recover sufficiently from a ruptured heel tendon. The 2014 edition would have been the 29-year-old Serbian's seventh visit to the city and sixth on the trot.
- Odisha capital Bhubaneswar will host the 35th edition of the Champions Trophy men's hockey tournament to be held from December 13-21 next year.
- Deepika Kumari of Jharkhand won her sixth straight individual women's recurve title in the 34th senior National archery championship at the JRD Tata Sports Complex here on Wednesday. The 19-year-old recovered from early setbacks to retain the title with a 6-4 win over V. Pranitha of Gujarat.