

ROUND 1 : CURRENT AFFAIRS

<p>01 (visual)</p>	<p>What you see in the picture is the French-Colombian politician who was kidnapped by left-wing FARC guerrillas in 2002 while campaigning for the Presidency. In July this year, she and 14 other hostages were freed by Colombian intelligence agents who tricked her captors into believing that they were acting on behalf of the FARC leader. Who is this politician?</p>	<p>Ingrid Betancourt</p>
<p>02 (visual)</p>	<p>What you see in the picture is the former Bosnian Serb wartime leader, who was arrested in July 2008 in Belgrade, after 13 years on the run. Accused of leading the slaughter of thousands of Bosnians and Croats, he has been indicted by the United Nations war crimes tribunal in The Hague. Who is he?</p>	<p>Radovan Karadzic</p>
<p>03 (visual)</p>	<p>Russia and Georgia are now in the news over a conflict involving the Georgian province of South Ossetia. Russia accuses Georgian forces of killing Russian peace keepers in the province as well as of committing acts of “ ethnic cleansing”. The man who is standing up to Russia is the fluent English, French, Ukrainian and Russian speaking president of Georgia who was one of the leaders of the bloodless “ Rose revolution” in 2003 which ousted the then President Eduard Shevardnadze. Name the current president of Georgia whose picture is seen on the screen?</p>	<p>Mikheil Saak'ashvili</p>
<p>04</p>	<p>On 18th August 2008, The Central bank of Sri Lanka issued two commemorative coins to mark the event of Sri Lanka Cricket team becoming the runners-up in the 2007 Cricket World Cup tournament held in the West Indies from March 13 to April 28, 2007. What are the denominations/values of the two coins. Both denominations should be correct to obtain marks.</p>	<p>Rs. 1000 and Rs. 5</p>
<p>05</p>	<p>A Sri Lankan has been Awarded the 2008 Ramon Magsaysay award in the Emergent Leadership category, for his commitment to bring appropriate and effective psychosocial services to victims of war trauma and natural disasters in Sri Lanka. Who is he?</p>	<p>Ananda Galappatti.</p>
<p>06</p>	<p>Recently, World Bank changed its definition of poverty, from the then fixed poverty line of USD 1 per day to a new level. What is the new line of poverty defined in terms of how much earned per day in USD, below which people should be considered poor in absolute terms?</p>	<p>USD 1.25 per day</p>
<p>07</p>	<p>Luis Moreno-Ocampo, the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court recently accused the President of Sudan of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in Darfur committed over the past five years. Who is the President of Sudan?</p>	<p>Omar al-Bashir</p>
<p>08</p>	<p>By taking into consideration the performance of global corporations, Royal Dutch Shell posted \$31.3 billion in profits in 2007, an impressive 23.1% jump from a year earlier. Yet Shell wasn't even the most profitable company in the world last year. That distinction went to a company that posted \$40.6 billion in profit last year. It was the first company ever to make more than \$40 billion in profits. What is this company?</p>	<p>Exxon Mobil</p>

09	Year 2008 saw Bill Gates retiring from his day job as Chief Software Architect of Microsoft, the company he founded more than three decades ago. Name the creator of Lotus Notes and Groove Networks who succeeded Bill gates as Chief Software Architect of Microsoft?	Ray Ozzie
10	On 18 th August a dam on Kosi river (known as Saptakoshi in Nepal) burst resulting severe floods in an impoverished state in India. It is reported that more than 2.5 million people were displaced and PM Manmohan Singh declared it as a “ national calamity”. What is this Indian state affected by one of India's worst floods in recent memory?	Bihar

ROUND 02 -SPORTS AND GAMES

01	At the 2008 Beijing Olympics Usain Bolt from Jamaica became the fastest man on earth by clocking 9.69 seconds at the men's 100m event. In doing so he bettered his own world record of 9.72 seconds as well as the existing Olympic record of 9.84 seconds set at 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games. Who held the 100m Olympic record previously?	Donovan Baily (of Canada in 1996)
02 (Visual)	At the 2008 Olympics Games, women's 100m Gold was won by this Jamaican sprinter. Who is she?	Shelly-Ann Fraser
03 (visual)	At the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics Michael Phelps won an unprecedented 8 Golds. However, highest number of individual Golds won by a woman at Beijing Games stands at 3 golds by an Australian swimmer. Who is she?	Stephanie Rice
04	Which aquatic Olympic sport is only open to women?	Synchronized Swimming
05	27 th August 2008 marked the birth centenary of Sir Donald Bradman,cricket's first superstar. Affectionately known as "The Don", Bradman's statistics are so far ahead of everyone else's that he reigns supreme as the greatest batsman of all time. In 52 Test matches, he amassed 6,996 runs at an average of 99.94 per inning. Interestingly,Bradman went out to bat at the Oval for his last Test innings in 1948,needing only four runs to finish with an average of 100. But he was bowled second ball for a duck. Who was the bowler who took Bradman's wicket in his last Test Innings.?	Eric Hollies
06	At the India- Sri Lanka Test Series concluded in August 2008, Sri Lanka's Ajantha Mendis created a world record by capturing 26 wickets thus claiming the record for most wickets by a debutant in a three-match Test series. Previous record was held by an Englishman who took 24 wickets in his debut series , also against India, in 1946. Who was he?	Alex Bedser
07	At the 2008 Beijing Olympic games,India clinched its first ever individual Olympic gold medal in 108 years when a 25 year old shooter won the 10 meter air rifle event in one of the most pulsating shooting finals in the history of the world's biggest sporting extravaganza. Who is he?	Abhinav Bindra

08 (visual)	What you see in the picture is a controversial former world chess champion, who died early this year at the age of 64, in Iceland. This US-born player became famous for beating Cold War Soviet Rival Boris Spassky in 1972. Who was this legendary chess champion?	Bobby Fisher
09	At the 2008 International Cricket Council's annual awards ceremony held on 10 th Sept in Dubai, Sri Lankan spin prodigy Ajantha Mendis was adjudged the Emerging Player of the Year as a result of his explosive start to the international cricket career. Which other award won by Sri Lanka at the same Awards ceremony?	Spirit of Cricket
10	Which Spaniard followed Oscar Pereiro in 2006 and Alberto Contador in 2007 to become the third Spaniard in three years to win the coveted Tour De France this year(2008)?	Carlos Sastre

ROUND 3 (SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY)

01	NASA, the premier United States government agency responsible for the nation's public space program celebrates its 50 th anniversary this year. Established on 29 th July 1958, NASA's motto is: "For the Benefit of All". What do the letters NASA stand for?	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
02	100 years ago, on 30 June 1908, an immense explosion that was 1,000 times more powerful than the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki generated a shock wave that knocked people to the ground some 60km from the epicenter. The cause was an asteroid or comet just a few tens of metres across which detonated 5-10km above the ground. Some 80 million trees were flattened over an area of 2,000 square km near a River in Siberian Russia. What is the name of the place in Russia where this event had occurred?	Tunguska
03	Sir Arthur C. Clarke, science fiction guru and inventor of the communication satellite passed away on March 2008 in Colombo, at the age of 90. Among his best selling novels are Childhood's End, 2001: A Space Odyssey, Rendezvous with Rama and Fountains of Paradise. Just a few days before he died, Clarke reviewed the final manuscript of his latest novel, co-written with American author Frederik Pohl. The novel was released on 5 th of August in both USA and UK. What is the name of this last novel of Sir Arthur Clarke? .	The Last Theorem
04	It is considered the most reflective body in the Solar System since it reflects some 90% of the sunlight that falls on it, making it more reflective than freshly fallen snow. It is a satellite of the planet Saturn. What is this satellite's name?	Enceladus
05	The greatest invention of this Columbia University professor was an alternative to the AM(amplitude modulation) format : FM (frequency modulation) radio, which made possible TV, walkie talkies and cellular	Edwin H. Armstrong

	phones. Who was this inventor FM radio?	
06	The most powerful physics experiment ever built, the LHC (Large Hadron Collider) is an international project designed to study matter by emulating conditions just a few billionths of a second after the Big Bang, which is believed to be the beginning of the universe. LHC is located in a 27-km -long circular tunnel at the CERN laboratory in Geneva, Switzerland. One of its major purposes is to find the most highly sought after particle in physics. The importance of this particle is such that it is dubbed the “ god particle” because it is so crucial to our understanding of the universe,and this particle is thought to give everything its mass. What is the name of this particle?	Higgs boson
07	WiMAX is a telecommunications technology that provides for the wireless transmission of data in a variety of ways, ranging from point-to-point links to full mobile cellular -type access. The technology provides the users with an idea of enjoying the broadband speed without the actual requirement of any wires or bulky network structures. What does the acronym WiMAX stand for?	Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access
08	Rat fever is an infectious disease caused by pathogenic bacteria that live in the kidneys of animals such as rats, pigs, cattle, rodents, canines and wild animals. Rat fever has claimed 118 lives in the last eight months and 3960 patients also have been reported in Sri Lanka. What is the medical term used to identify Rat Fever?.	Leptospyrosis
09	In 1972, MIT professor Edward Lorentz put forward an idea stating that even the most minute aberrations could have major repercussions in larger systems,which gave birth to the modern field of chaos theory. He captured the concept in a 1972 paper titled “Does the flap of a butterfly's wings in Brazil set off a tornado in Texas?”. What is the popular name given to this phenomenon which encapsulates the more technical notion of sensitive dependence on initial conditions ?	Butterfly effect
10	Charles Darwin is regarded as the father of the theory of evolution . But there was another British scientist who developed the concept of evolution independently of Charles Darwin. He was also considered the 19th century's leading expert on the geographical distribution of animal species and is sometimes called the "father of biogeography. Who was he?	Alfred Russell Wallace

ROUND 4: HISTORY/ARTS/LITERATURE/ENTERTAINMENT

01	He was the man who exposed Stalin's prison system in his novels and spent 20 years in exile. Two of his famous novels are “ The gulag Archipelago” and “ one Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich. This 1972 Nobel Literature Prize winning author died in August this year. Can you name him?	Alexander Solzhenitsyn
02 (Visual)	Widely considered to be the greatest action heroine in the business of movies, this Malaysian -Chinese actress became a household name after her role in “ crouching tiger ,hidden dragon” Who is this popular actress?	Michelle Yeoh
03	She was born on Elora, in Ontario, Canada in 1874 and was qualified as a doctor at the Toronto Medical College for Women. She was Ceylon's first ever Lady Municipal councilor. Amongst her many achievements were being the President of Women's Christian Temperance Union; President Lanka Mahila Samitiya, and the President of all-Ceylon Women's Conference. In 1958 She was awarded the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award for Public Service. Who was this prominent Canadian born-Ceylonese woman ?	Dr. Mary Rutnam
04	This prominent Lankan literary giant was once a teacher at Shanthineken, India. His works include : Grass for My Feet(1935); The Buddha(1946), and Mynah at the Zoo(1947). Who was he?	Jinadasa Vijayatunga
05	3 rd September 1866 is regarded as the birth of Sri Lanka's Police Service when Mr. G.W.R. Campbell who was in charge of the “ Rathnagiri Rangers” of the Bombay Police assumed duties as the Chief Superintendent of Police of Sri Lanka, a post held by non-Sri Lankans till 1947. Who became the first ever Sri Lankan Inspector General, by assuming duties on 1 st June 1947?	Sir Richard Aluvihare
06 (movie clip)	Following question is based on the movie clip which you just saw. The song “ <i>Galana Gankaki Jeewithe</i> was sung by great Nanda Malini. Her singing performance resulted in her being awarded the first ever Sarasaviya Award for female Playback Singing in this 1961 film. Can you name this film?	Ranmuthu Doowa
07 (movie clip)	The movie clip you saw just a while ago is related to a scene depicting a best actor Oscar Award winner, who died in April this year at the age of 84. Can you identify this actor and movie(both should be correct to award full marks)	Charlton Heston in Ben Hur
08	Whilst Sri Lanka in 2008 celebrated its 60 th year of Independence from Britain, Israel too celebrated its 60 th year of the declaration of the State of Israel on 14 May. Who was the first Prime Minister of Israel?	David Ben Gurion
09	At the recently announced 2008 State Literary Awards, a novel by Liyanage Amarakeerthi has been nominated for the best Sinhala novel award for 2007. Can you name this novel?	<i>Atawaka Puththu</i>

10	This year saw Indian -born British author Salman Rushdie winning the "Best of the Booker" prize awarded to mark the 40th anniversary of one of the world's most prestigious literary awards. For which 1981 Booker Award winning novel did Rushdie win “Best of the Booker “ Award?	Midnight's Children
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ROUND 5 (GENERAL KNOWLEDGE)

01 (visual)	What you see is the national flag of Lebanon, which was adopted first in 1943. What is the name of tree which appears on flag, as Lebanon's symbol since Biblical times?	Ceder
02	This African city is known as Leopoldville until 1966. With a population of over 7 million, it is often considered the second largest francophone city in the world after Paris. If current demographic trends continue, it will surpass Paris in population before 2020. What is the current name of this city?	Kinshasha
03	Taj Mahal, located in Agra is one of the most beautiful buildings of the world. It is made of white marble and was a monument built by emperor Shahjahan in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal who died at the time of the birth of her fourteenth child. On the banks of which famous river does Taj Mahal situated?	Jamuna or Yamuna
04	The currency of Guatemala is named after its national bird. In ancient Mayan culture this bird's tail feathers were used as currency. What is the name of this currency?	Quetzal
05	It is a twice-weekly passenger rail service running between Perth and Sydney, Australia and is operated by the Great Southern Railway. The 4353 km journey takes 65 hours, passing through three states, and travels along world's longest straight stretches of railway track when it crosses Nullabar Plain. What is the name given to this famous railway service?	Indian Pacific
06	In 1805, British Navy Commander Francis Beaufort devised a scale-from force 0 to 12 to quantify the wind force. Force one quantifying a wind speed of 1-5 km/h is identified as “light air” whilst the force 5(29-38km per hour) is identified as “ Fresh Breeze”. What is the term used to identify a wind force of 10 with a speed of 88-101 km/h on the Beaufort scale?	Storm
07 (visual)	In Greek and Roman mythology, what is the name given to the mythological creatures, half woman and half bird, who lured sailors to their deaths with their beautiful singing?	Sirens
08	In an African safari, you are considered lucky if you were able to spot all the “ Big Five” animals. The term “ big five” was actually coined	Wild or Cape buffalo

	by big game hunters (not safari tour operators).It refers to the difficulty in bagging these large animals, mostly due to their ferocity when cornered and shot at. Of the Big five four are The Lion, elephant, rhinoceros, and leopard. Which is the fifth?	
09 (visual)	Mount Rushmore National memorial is a gigantic sculpture of the heads of four US Presidents. They are Washington,Jefferson, Lincoln and which other President?	Theodore Roosevelt
10	Every year Sri Lanka celebrates its Independence on February 04 th as a grand event with state patronage. Which government institution is responsible for the organizing of the main independence day celebrations on Feb 4 th ?	Ministry of Public Administration and Home Affairs

TIE BREAKER ROUND 1

01	15 th SAARC Summit was held in Colombo in early August 2008.It was also attended by the Current Secretary General of SAARC who assumed duties on March 1 , 2008. Who is he?	Sheel Kant Sharma
02	Nigeria recently handed over a potentially oil-rich peninsula to Cameroon, ending a long-standing territorial dispute. Though majority of the local population in this peninsula considers itself Nigerian The International Court of Justice gave ruling in favour of Cameroon in 2002 taking into consideration of an early 19 th century colonial agreement between Britain and Germany. What is the name of this all-important disputed peninsula?	Bakassi Peninsula
03	He was the President of the United Nations General Assembly in1952/3, He was awarded the Nobel Peace prize in 1957 and was Prime Minister of Canada from 1963 to 1968. Can you name him?	Lester Pearson

TIE BREAKER ROUND 2

01	It is regarded as Asia's largest slum. Home to over a million people, it is a dense labyrinth of dirt roads in the centre of India's biggest and most economically important city, Mumbai. It is in the news recently over an ambitious plan to demolish the low-rise slum and re-house the residents in tower blocks on the same site. What is the name given to this Asia's largest slum in Mumbai?	Dharavi
02	In the field of medicine, COPD is a disease of the lungs in which the airways become narrowed. This leads to limitation of the flow of air from the lungs causing shortness of breath. In contrast to asthma, the limitation of airflow is poorly reversible and may gradually get worse over time. What does COPD stand for?	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
03	The head of state who represented Bhutan at the 15 th SAARC Summit held in Colombo in August 2008, he became Bhutan's first ever elected Prime Minister in April 2008. Can you name him?	Jigme Thinley