

WESTERN TIMES

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VOL. 45 NO. 130 AHMEDABAD THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2010

PRICE : Re.1/-

"Registered under RNI Reg. No. 11172/67. Permitted to post at AHD RMS on Daily under Postal Regd. No. GAMC-162 issued by SSP AHD valid upto 31-12-2011.

For epaper log on to www.westerntimes.co.in

Printed & Published by: Nikunj Patel at Ahmedabad at Western Times Press "Western House", Marutnandan Complex, Madalpur, Ahmedabad-380 006. PHONE : 079-26576037, 26576738 Advertisement : 26576417 advt@westerntimes.co.in* Fax : 26577421 Email : english@westerntimes.co.in

News Brief

Doctor shot dead in Lucknow

Lucknow, Two motorcycle-borne assailants shot dead a senior government doctor here Wednesday morning, police said.

Fifty five-year-old Vinod Kumar Arya, chief medical officer, Family Welfare, was fatally shot in the Vikas Nagar area.

"The assailants shot at the doctor barely 300 metres from his house and escaped," police inspector Gangesh Tripathi told reporters.

"We are yet to trace the gunmen and establish the motive," he added.

Arya was also a senior doctor with the Balrampur hospital in Lucknow.

Blast kills two in Pakistan

Islamabad, At least two people were killed and three injured in a powerful explosion at a peace committee meeting in the western Pakistan's Khyber agency Wednesday, a media report said.

Initial reports said that the blast targeted a peace committee meeting in Tehsil Bara, Federally Administered Tribal Area of Pakistan.

The meeting was chaired by Amal Gul, who survived, but his guards have been critically injured, reported Dunya TV.

Apex court may take up Rathore's bail plea

New Delhi, The Supreme Court Wednesday indicated that it might take up the bail application of former Haryana police chief S.P.S. Rathore, who is undergoing sentence in the Ruchika Girhotra molestation case.

The apex court asked the Central Bureau of Investigation to indicate the conditionalities it would like to impose on the disgraced Indian Police Service officer if it decides to give him bail.

Rathore had moved the Supreme Court after the Punjab and Haryana High Court refused him bail.

India signs CSC on nuclear damages

Vienna, In a significant step which will enable it to do nuclear commerce, India today signed the Convention on Supplementary Compensation (CSC), which sets parameters on a nuclear operator's financial liability, at the IAEA

in Vienna. The Indian move is seen as an effort towards allaying concerns of American companies on account of the newly-enacted Nuclear Liability law by Parliament.

"We can confirm that the Indian government

has signed the CSC this morning," International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) press officials told reporter from Vienna.

The international convention provides for compensation in case of trans-national implications of a nuclear accident and has been signed by 14 countries, including India.

However, only four countries-- the US, Argentina, Morocco and Romania have ratified the Convention so far.

Upon entry into force, the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage would establish a uniform global legal re-

gime for compensation to victims in the unlikely event of a nuclear accident.

The CSC provides for establishment of an international fund to increase the amount available to compensate victims and allows for compensating civil damage occurring within a State's exclusive economic zone, including loss of tourism or fisheries related income.

It also sets parameters on a nuclear operator's financial liability, time limits governing possible legal action, requires that nuclear operators maintain insurance or other financial security measures and provides

for a single competent court to hear claims.

According to IAEA, all States are free to participate in the Convention regardless of their involvement in existing nuclear liability conventions or the presence of nuclear installations on their territories.

Adopted on 12 September 1997, the Convention was opened for signature at the IAEA's 41st General Conference at Vienna that same month and is set to enter into force on the 90th day after date of ratification by at least five States who have a minimum of 400,000 units of installed nuclear capacity.

Compensate Nandigram firing victims: SC

New Delhi, The Supreme Court Wednesday asked the West Bengal government to pay compensation to all the victims of Nandigram police firing in 2007.

The state government told the apex court that it had paid compensation only to those who were not involved in violence against the police.

The apex court bench, headed by Justice R.V. Raveendran directed the state government to pay compensation to all the injured or raped, irrespective of its claim of their involvement in violence against police. On March 14, 2007, 14 people were killed and over 100 injured in police firing while protesting against the land acquisition for a special economic zone (SEZ) in Nandigram.

We've met almost everyone in valley, say interlocutors

Jammu, Two interlocutors in Kashmir who arrived in Jammu Wednesday said their visit to the Valley was successful as they "met almost everyone" - despite being boycotted by separatists.

"We met almost everyone except the separatists," journalist Dileep Padgaonkar, one of the interlocutors, told reporters here. He was responding to a question on whether he could describe the visit as successful as separatists did not interact with them.

Padgaonkar and academician Radha Kumar arrived here at the conclusion of their four-day visit to the Valley. Hardline separatist leader Syed Ali Geelani had given a call to boycott the three central government interlocutors, the third being M.M. Ansari.

Padgaonkar said he was aware that "what's palatable in the Valley is not palatable in Jammu".

He disclosed that he and Kumar would be meeting separatist leaders in Kot Bhalwal jail in Jammu. Officials earlier said they would be interacting with separatists like Shabbir Shah and Asiya Andrabi there.

Padgaonkar, Kumar and Ansari met mostly mainstream party faces in the Valley like National

Conference leader and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Peoples Democratic Party leader M.H. Baig. A few students of the Kashmir University Iso met them, while separatists boycotted the central team. Ansari has flown back to New Delhi from Kashmir.

Patil, Ansari condole freedom fighter's death

New Delhi, President Pratibha Patil and Vice-President M. Hamid Ansari Wednesday mourned the death of freedom fighter Satyavati, noting that with her death the nation has lost an eminent personality.

In her message, Patil said: "Satyavati was a freedom fighter, who actively participated in our freedom struggle. I fondly recall my meeting with her at her residence last year. In her death, the nation has lost an eminent personality and a great freedom fighter."

In his message to the freedom fighter's family, the vice-president said: "I am deeply grieved to learn about the sad demise of Satyavati. My wife and I express our heartfelt condolences to you and all family members.

India, Malaysia announce comprehensive economic pact

By Minu Jain

Kuala Lumpur, India and Malaysia Wednesday announced completion of negotiations on the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA), saying it will significantly transform their bilateral engagement.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his Malaysian counterpart Najib Tun Razak said the agreement will be signed by Jan 31, 2011, and come into force July 1.

Razak said the two countries had concluded "very productive" bilateral discussions.

He told a joint news conference that when he visited New Delhi in January this year, his desire was to make Manmohan Singh's return trip "equally significant and historic".

He called CECA a corner stone of India-Malaysia relations and said this will unleash tremendous potential in trade, investment and other economic linkages. The Malaysian leader described himself as a great admirer of Manmohan Singh for "transforming India into an economic powerhouse". He said they also discussed military cooperation, maritime secu-

urity, terrorism, higher education, and visa issues.

Manmohan Singh said his discussions in Malaysia had laid the basis for a multifaceted partnership between the two countries.

He said CECA "will transform our economic engagement in a very substantive way". Manmohan Singh arrived here Tuesday on the second leg of a three nation Asia tour that has already taken him to Japan. He leaves here Thursday for Vietnam, where he will take part in the India-ASEAN Summit and the East Asia Summit.



Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his Malaysian counterpart, Najib Razak (L), receive garlands during a ceremony at Kuala Lumpur.

Malaysia can handle its ethnic issue, says PM

Kuala Lumpur, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said Wednesday he was confident that Malaysia had the ability to handle its ethnic issue.

"Like India, Malaysia is multi-cultural and multi-ethnic. I am confident that the Malaysian system has the built-in flexibility" to tackle the issue, Manmohan Singh said. The prime minister's observation came in response to a question on Malaysia's handling of its largely Tamil Indian miiti.

Before Manmohan Singh could answer, Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak intervened to say: "This is purely a matter for Malaysia."

People of Indian origin account for 2.1 million or eight percent of Malaysia's population. Most of them are Tamils and Hindus.

US did not share information on Headley, asserts Pillai

New Delhi, Home Secretary G.K. Pillai Wednesday said that India was disappointed that the US did not share information on Pakistani-American terror suspect David Coleman Headley, now in US custody, for conspiracy in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks.

"They did not share Headley's name. Had they done so, at least after the horrific Mumbai attacks, Headley could have been nabbed as he travelled to India in 2009 March," Pillai said in an interview to CNN-IBN.

Asked about media reports that the US did not act even after one of Headley's wives tipped off anti-terror officials about his militant links, Pillai said: "You could say we were disappointed that the name of David Headley was not shared, if not pre-26/11 at least post-26/11, so that at least when he came subsequently to India at that time we could have nabbed him here."

Pillai said the government is prepared for any eventuality during the four-day India visit of US President Barack Obama starting Nov 6.

He said the government does not have any intelligence report of any 26/11 type attack during Obama's visit.

"But definitely, we do believe that the visit of the US president to India is, shall I say from the publicity point if view, large enough for people to try and create something, even if it's not in some place nearby where Obama would be there but could be somewhere else."

"Therefore, we have to take all adequate precautions," the home secretary said.

Pillai said the sharing of intelligence between India and the US has increased considerably.

"We have also signed the counter-terrorism initiative...we are getting into new areas of cooperation, not just in intelligence but like training of our forensic scientists so that there is a better investigation of terrorism cases, also cooperation in many other aspects of terrorism," he added.

Pillai said he did not see any impact of the US pressure on Pakistan reflected on the activities of militants in Kashmir.

"Whatever they have...they have been putting some pressure, we really haven't seen any real action insofar as groups that are coming and creating trouble for us in Kashmir," he said.

Narendra Modi, Nitin Patel congrats WASMO for winning CAPAM award



Gandhinagar, Gujarat's Chief Minister Narendrabhai Modi and Water Supply Minister Nitinbhai Patel today congratulated the staff of Water and Sanitation Management Organization (WASMO) of the State Water Supply Department for winning the Commonwealth Association

for Public Administration (CAPAM) international award. The prize was received by Principal Water Supply Secretary H.K. Dash on behalf of the Gujarat Government at Malta in Europe recently. The award was in recognition of the WASMO's achievement in the field of people's

participation in water resource management. It may be mentioned here that Gujarat Government won a CAPAM award for the second time. Earlier, the Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority (GSDMA) had won the CAPAM Gold Medal in 2004 for its achievement in disaster management.



Energy Minister Saurabh Patel received India award The President, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil during '12th World Innovation Summit & Expo POWER India 2010', in Mumbai.

Pak troops fire rockets at Indian posts

Jammu, Pakistani troops fired rockets and mortar shells at Indian border posts in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district Wednesday, officials said and added that Indian troops retaliated, leading to an exchange of fire.

The firing started around 3.30 p.m. at Indian posts along the Line of Control (LoC) in Krishna Ghati sector in Poonch, 210 km th of Jammu. "Pakistani troops opened heavy machinegun fire and fired rockets and mortar shells

at the Indian posts of Kranti and Kirpan along the LoC in Krishna Ghati sector," a senior army officer told IANS by telephone. Indian troops also retaliated and the exchange of fire was continuing even at 4.30 p.m. There were no reports of any casualties.

This is the second time since Sunday that the Pakistan Army has violated the ceasefire and targeted Indian posts, which the army believes is a "diversionary tactic" to "facilitate infiltration" from across

the LoC.

One Indian soldier was killed in Pakistani firing Sunday evening.

According to the army, there are about 450 terrorists waiting across the LoC to sneak into the Indian side.

Brigadier Satish K. Dua told IANS that the Indian troops were maintaining "high degree of vigil along the LoC".

He said that Pakistan had violated the ceasefire Wednesday despite the Indian protest Monday to its earlier such action Sunday.

Skiping breakfast risky for the heart

London, A new study shows that leaving the house on an empty stomach leads to obesity, larger fat stores around the stomach and higher cholesterol levels -- all major risk factors for heart disease. It also triggers higher insulin levels in the blood, a warning sign that diabetes could soon set in. Researchers from the University of Tasmania in Australia tracked 2,184 volunteers over 20 years.

WESTERN TIMES

From Editor's Desk.....

SC 'live-in' ruling's impact will be huge

Thursday's Supreme Court ruling that allows for a financial settlement to be made to a live-in partner of the opposite sex under specified circumstances is a development of far-reaching impact. It has been criticized by some women activists, but its innovative nature and the social effect it might produce even in the fort and medium term is hard to over look. The notion of something akin to alimony to be paid to a regular live-in partner in the event of a breakup can be traced to the social upheavals in America some 50 years ago. The revolutionizing of social mores in the United States in the 1960s, and in the West more generally, radicalised the understanding of the institution of marriage in key respects, and raised questions that had never been asked at the common level before. It also allowed for the developing and evolution of what is today known as live-in relationships. These came to be regarded as being a "normal" as being in wedlock. The underlying cover haul of sexual mores and the wide social acceptance of these new attitudes could not but have their impact on the judicial system, especially in America. Thus, although in slow stages, came into the picture the notion of "palimony", the financial settlement to be made to a "pal", a live-in friend over a recognizable length of time, in the event of partners moving away. Even in this liberated setting, however, the law continued to recognize a difference between a marriage and a live-in-relationship, clearly according the former higher status. The most celebrated case was that of Hollywood actor Lee Marvin and his live-in partner of seven years, Michelle Triola. In 1979, a US court refused Triola's plea for "palimony" (it is from this case that the word came into currency: while alimony payments were the norm, "palimony" had to be fought for) on the ground that the live-in relationship did not commence with a contract. (Such insistence is not relevant to marriages.)

Broadly, this is the key parameter that guides judicial action in the West. However, it is not usually required in the West that live-in partners be single. Changes in social values are also proceeding in the direction of awarding palimony to same-sex live-in partners. Our recent Supreme Court ruling certainly marks a departure, but it differs from the US concept of "palimony" in that it permits a financial award to a live-in partner on separation only if the marital status of both parties is "single". Also, gay live-in partnerships are not recognized as such. The court's ruling is likely to be viewed as being libertarian by many in India, and not just orthodox sections. It could be argued that it will encourage "sinful" cohabitation and detract from the notion of matrimony. Religious points might also be made. This group is likely to be bolstered by the fact that there are no statistics that tell us how common live-in relationships actually are in this country (while there is a plethora of data in the West), and whether judicial pronouncements are being made when there is no properly established social demand. Many progressive elements, particularly women, are likely to be critical as the verdict does not extend the notion of "palimony" to all women regardless of the length of their live-in status and regardless of whether the male partner is already married or not.

These are all very interesting issues which attest to the fact that significant sociological change in India has occurred over a relatively short time, and that the new and the old exist with vociferous support bases of their own. An issue that will perhaps need to be resolved is whether "palimony" is to be paid only by men to women. In the West, the disbursement can be either way, depending on which party brings in the meat.

100 skeletons found in lake bordering Serbia, Bosnia

Sarajevo,

At least 100 skeletons, believed to belong to victims of 1992-95 war, have been discovered in lake Perucac, bordering Serbia and Bosnia, officials said.

Amor Masovic, the head of Bosnian commission for missing persons, told a press conference Tuesday in Sarajevo that 396 "cases" have been discovered during two and a half month search of lake Perucac.

"I emphasise 'cases', not victims," Masovic said. He explained that in some "cases" only one bone, leg, arm or rib have been found, not complete skeletons.

But Masovic said he believed that after forensic analyses of the remnants, between 97 and 120 victims could be identified.

Masovic said that apart from six Austro-Hungarian soldiers whose remnants have been discovered to date back to World War I, most were Muslim victims from the Bosnian town of Visegrad, south of lake Perucac.

Visegrad was the scene of one of the worst crimes committed by Bosnian Serb forces dur-

ing 1992-95 war. At least 800 people are still listed as missing in Visegrad, Masovic said.

Crimes committed in Visegrad including burning people alive, throwing people off bridges, severe beatings and mass rapes of women and girls.

The Hague-based UN war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia has sentenced Milan Lukic, a commander of a Serb paramilitary "Orlovi" (Eagles) to life in prison for crimes committed in Visegrad.

Veljko Odalovic, the head of the Serbian commission for missing persons, told a joint press conference that Serbia actively participated in the operation and lowered the lake level last August to facilitate the search.

Odalovic said there were still 14,500 victims of war listed as missing in the former Yugoslavia. Discovering their fate was a "civilisation and humanitarian" issue and a precondition for the reconciliation and stabilisation of relations.

"As long as we have such a great number of unresolved destinies, we have potential problems in overall relations," he said.



Ismael Reyel (2nd Left) mourns during the funeral for his two sons Sotero and Ismael Reyes Ricario, who were both killed at a family birthday party, in Ciudad Juarez. Families mourned the victims of the massacre, one of Mexico's worst shootings, weeping over the open coffins.

Toll in Indonesia volcano eruption rises to 25

Mount Merapi (Indonesia),

The death toll from a volcanic eruption on Indonesia's central Java island rose to 25 Wednesday, hospital staff said, as rescue workers resumed their search for bodies and survivors.

Mount Merapi, Indonesia's most dangerous volcano, erupted Tuesday evening, spewing clouds of hot ash 1.5 km into the sky and sending hot debris down its southern and southwestern slopes.

The eruption came a day after authorities upgraded the danger alert status to the highest level.

"Twenty-five people were killed and 12 others are being treated," said Trisno Heru Nugroho, spokesman for the Sardjito hospital in the city of Yogyakarta, near the volcano.

Thousands of villagers who had refused to leave their homes despite a warning were moved after the eruption.

A rescue official said the search was focused on two villages - Kinahrejo and Turgo, where at least 15 bodies were found at the house of Mbah Maridjan, known as the spiritual keeper of the volcano.

According to local television, his family identified him as one of the dead, local television said.

Maridjan, revered by locals as a man who was believed to be able predict the behaviour of the volcano, had refused to leave his house.

"These two hamlets are the most severely hit by hot ash from the volcano," the state-run Antara news agency quoted the rescue team commander Aloysius

Pramono as saying. Television footage showed rescue workers using a chainsaw to cut away fallen trees blocking the evacuation routes.

The Jakarta-based Vivaneews.com news website said one of its reporters was among the dead. A three-month-old baby died of respiratory problems, while at least 60 people were treated after inhaling volcanic dust. Officials estimated up to 40,000 people live in the affected areas. The eruption also damaged hundreds of homes and other property.

The 2,968-metre volcano located about 500 km south-east of Jakarta last erupted in 2006, killing two people.

Its most deadly eruption on record occurred in 1930, when 1,370 people were killed. At least 66 people were killed in a 1994 eruption.

Half of Italians have extramarital affairs

Rome,

Half of married Italians have had affairs and the number is growing, according to a survey by the Italian Association of Family lawyers.

Men are less faithful than women: 55 percent of husbands admit to having an affair, compared with 45 percent of wives, according to the research.

The thorn Italian city of Milan is Italy's 'marital infidelity' capital and social networking sites, especially Facebook are stoking 'serial adultery', the research found.

Another culprit is Gleeden.com, which describes itself as "the premier international dating website for married

people" and to which 90,000 Italians are signed up. The site, which has versions in 158 countries, has special 'alarm' button allowing visitors to disconnect should their spouse walk in.

Most extramarital affairs (60 percent) happen in the workplace and the trysts typically take place during 'lunchbreaks' between 2 and 3 p.m.

Seven out of 10 affairs are one-off flings and the rest more long-term relationships. The biggest philanderers are men in their fifties who dally with younger women. Most women cheat on their husbands with work colleagues, personal trainers, ski and dance instructors.

Bangkok survives flood threat, countryside suffers

Bangkok,

Irrigation officials Wednesday claimed success in protecting Bangkok from floodwaters that have inundated Thailand's central region, leaving at least 59 people dead.

Unusually heavy monsoon rains since Oct 10 have caused widespread flooding in central and th-eastern provinces, affecting the lives of some 2.5 million people and causing more than 10 billion baht (\$333 million) in damage to crops, households and infrastructure.

The capital was threatened by a "perfect storm" over the past days as sea water from the Gulf of Thailand was forced into the Chao Phrya river that winds through Bangkok by high

tides while runoff from dams had already swollen the river. Added heavy rain would have severely tested the city's flood preparedness.

The Irrigation Department, which manages the country's big dams, claimed success in controlling the river. "Over the past two days we've reduced the amount of water released into the Chao Phrya from the dams, especially during the periods of high tide," the department's Director General Charit Damrongrak said.

"It's been successful," he said. Thailand's central and th-eastern provinces have been less fortunate in the struggle against floodwaters, although the disaster has triggered an outpouring of assistance

from public and private sources to the countryside. The cabinet on Tuesday approved a special allocation of 3 billion baht to provide a 5,000-baht handout to each of the about 600,000 affected households. The government approved another 300-million-baht budget to provide emergency relief supplies.

King Bhumibol Adulyadej granted another 10 million baht to flood victims, and his daughter Princess Sirindorn helped deliver relief kits to flood victims in Nakorn Rathasima, 300 km th-east of Bangkok, one of the hardest-hit provinces.

Private sector charities have also worked hard to deliver aid to the needy, most of whom

were in the relatively impoverished th-eastern region. The floods, deemed the worst in recent history, have hit Thailand at a time when the nation's psyche is still tender from anti-government protests earlier this year that turned violent. Thailand has been suffering a deep political divide for the past four years, pitting the Bangkok elite and middle classes against the rural poor in a struggle for political power between rival groups donning yellow and red shirts. "The floods have washed away some of the 'colours'," said The Nation newspaper in an editorial. "This has been a time when we did what we were supposed to do," it said of the nationwide relief effort.



BJP MP and cine star Shatrughan Sinha briefing mediapersons at Patna airport on Tuesday before leaving for campaigning for Bihar assembly polls. UNI

India, Malaysia announce comprehensive economic pact

Kuala Lumpur,

India and Malaysia Wednesday announced completion of negotiations on the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA), saying it will significantly transform their bilateral engagement. Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his Malaysian counterpart Najib Tun Razak said the agreement will be signed by Jan 31, 2011, and come into force July 1. Razak said the two countries had concluded "very productive" bilateral discussions. He told a joint news conference that when he visited New Delhi in January this year, his desire was to make Manmohan Singh's return trip "equally significant and historic". He called CECA a corner stone of India-Malaysia relations and said this will unleash tremendous potential in trade, investment and other economic linkages. The Malaysian leader described himself as a great admirer of Manmohan Singh for "transforming India into an economic powerhouse".

He said they also discussed military cooperation, maritime security, terrorism, higher education, and visa issues. Manmohan Singh said his discussions in Malaysia had laid the basis for a multifaceted partnership between the two countries.

He said CECA "will transform our economic engagement in a very substantive way". India and Malaysia also signed six agreements. These included, one on traditional medicine, cooperation in services, cooperation in tourism and a cultural exchange programme.

Manmohan Singh arrived here Tuesday on the second leg of a three nation Asia tour that has already taken him to Japan. He leaves here Thursday for Vietnam, where he will take part in the India-ASEAN Summit and the East Asia Summit.

India, Malaysia to step up military ties

Kuala Lumpur,

India and Malaysia Wednesday agreed to step up military exchanges and also cooperate in counter-terrorism measures.

A joint statement on India-Malaysia Strategic Partnership released during Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit that began here Tuesday also underlined the need to expand and deepen relations with a bilateral strategic partnership.

"Both sides agreed to enhance defence exchanges and cooperation through regular exchanges between the defence ministers, senior defence officials, chiefs of the armed services and regular service-to-service staff talks and regular ships visits," the statement said.

They "agreed to explore the possibilities of joint collaboration on projects of mutual inter-

est in the defence sector on the basis of experience gained by both sides during the successful completion of the SU 30 MKM training programme, including in the areas of industry collaboration and partnership".

Malaysia said it "looks forward to participation from the Indian defence industry at the soon to be established Malaysian Defence and Security Park. Both sides also agreed to support each other's defence exhibitions".

Manmohan Singh and his Malaysian counterpart Najib Tun Razak condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and agreed to enhance cooperation in counter-terrorism, including through information sharing and with a bilateral Joint Working Group to be set up at an early date.

Burundi builds trade bridge with India over pots and pans

New Delhi, The little landlocked republic of Burundi in the great lakes region of East Africa is forging an unusual business bridge with India by importing casseroles and cooking pans.

"The price of kitchenware is reasonable in India unlike many developed nations across the world with which the country has business ties," Burundi's Ambassador Rubuka Aloys told IANS in a chat here.

The embassy of the Republic of Burundi that set up its diplomatic mission last year stationed its first envoy in the capital this February.

"Cooperation between the two countries has just begun. We are importing casseroles, cooking and kitchen equipment because the prices are good in India," Aloys said.

The envoy who lives with his wife in India is "gradually adjusting his palate to the spicy Indian

food.

"It is very difficult but I am gradually learning to eat it," he said.

"Our staple cuisine is a combination of beans, rice, potatoes, bananas and cassava. We also grow cotton, tea, coffee and sugarcane which contribute 60 percent to foreign exchange earned from agricultural exports. Burundi has an agricultural economy," he said.

The independent nation, with a population of about 10 million, has a vibrant Indian diaspora, mostly traders, the envoy said.

"The capital Bujumbura boasts of three Indian restaurants, including one which makes tandoor dishes. Indian food is popular in Burundi," Aloys said.

The country is looking forward to trade with India in "pharmaceuticals and medical equipment".

"My country is also rich in minerals like nickel, coal tar, cobalt, copper, bit of uranium,

gold and petrol. We are conducting feasibility studies whether nickel can be mined commercially. We are talking to American and South African companies to explore prospecting. India is too far," the envoy said.

"We will study the viability of other minerals later," he said.

The country rests its economic hope in its minerals. According to geo-chemical studies, the Karonge rare earth deposits make the country a virtual treasure trove of mineral reserves.

Many minerals found in the rare earth deposits are yet to be identified.

The ambassador has issued nearly 500 visas to Indians since he took over the mission in February.

"Most of those who visited Burundi in the last six months were either Indian businessmen or families, who went to meet their relatives in the country," Aloys said.

Azure Power announces investment for Gujarat Solar Power Project

Ahmedabad, On the first day of DIREC (Delhi Interantional Renewable Energy Conference) in the presence of Mr. Suresh Kumar, Assistant Secretary, US Department of Commerce, Azure Power announced an investment of \$40 million in the state of Gujarat for developing a state of the art Solar PV power plant. The investment is led by Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIIC), an agency of the United States Government that helps U.S. businesses invest overseas and promotes economic development in new and emerging markets. Other investors in the project include IFC, a member of World Bank group, Helion Advisors, a venture capital firm based in Bangalore, India and Foundation Capital, a venture

capital firm based in Menlo Park, California. Azure Power has signed a 25 year power purchase agreement with the state of Gujarat. The project is expected to be commissioned by mid 2011. Once fully operational the plant will employ most advanced solar photovoltaic technology while eliminating as much carbon dioxide pollution as 2.5 million trees would annually.

Azure Power has already operationalised India's first private MW scale solar power plant in Punjab, India in December 2009.

Mr. Suresh Kumar, Assistant Secretary, US Department of Commerce said, "The potential for solar energy in India is huge, and the Azure Power project is a good example of US India collaboration for the

development of the solar energy sector. I am excited to see job creation in both India and the US through US investment and technology exports for the Azure Power project."

Speaking on behalf of the State of Gujarat, Mr. D J Pandian, Gujarat Principal Secretary for Energy and Petrochemicals said, "We are encouraging development of solar power in the state of Gujarat and we expect to make Gujarat the hub of solar power development in India. We have set up a target of 1,000 Mw established solar power generation capacity by the end of 2012 and 3,000 Mw in next five years. We are very pleased to see the progress and commitment made by Azure power in this sector and are happy to welcome them to the state of Gujarat."

Business Brief

Kingfisher Calender to be shot in Mauritius

Ahmedabad, The ultra chic Kingfisher calendar will now be shot in Mauritius. This will be the second time Mauritius gets re-associated with Kingfisher calendar. The introductory edition was shot there. Ace photographer Atul Kasbekar will lead the shoot in the east coast of Mauritius.

"For the connoisseurs of photography and style, the Kingfisher Calendar showcases some of the best visual talent in India," Vijay Mallya, chairman of United Breweries, said in a statement.

"Expect the Unexpected" with this calendar. Last year we had images with reef sharks and a model in a Malcom lagoon. You never know what surprises there will be in store. The inaugural edition of the calendar was shot in Mauritius. Our project photographer Atul Kasbekar has often said that the island has the best 'light' in the world. I tend to agree," he added.

Kasbekar is planning to capture the 'inherent charisma' of the island.

Karl Mootoosamy, director, Mauritius Tourism Association, said the Kingfisher shooting helps them to reach out to seasoned travellers from India. "Our brand association will further help us to augment destination recall in the elite circles in India," he added.

V Ashok appointed Essar Group CFO

Ahmedabad, The Essar Group today announced the appointment of Mr. V Ashok as the Chief Financial Officer for its India operations. V Ashok has been with the Essar Group for over 13 years and his elevation to the new role is an indication of the strong internal line up of experienced professionals within the Essar group management which is now ready to take on higher responsibilities in the company. Essar Group across all its businesses and functions continues to develop and build on its strong line up of managers who are leading the organisation into its next phase of growth and execution of ongoing projects. V Ashok joined the Finance team of Essar Shipping in 1997 and was responsible for systematically developing the accounting role at Essar Shipping into a properly structured finance organization.

Krishna Capital & Securities Limited

604-C, Sahjanand Shopping Centre, Shahibaug Road, Ahmedabad-380 004.

UNAUDITED RESULTS FOR THE 2ND QUARTER ENDED ON 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2010

Sr. No.	PARTICULARS	3 Months ended 30/09/2010 (Unaudited)	Corresponding 3 months ended in the previous year 30/09/2009 (Unaudited)	Year to date figures for current period ended 30/09/2010 (Unaudited)	Year to date figures for previous period ended 30/09/2009 (Unaudited)	Previous Accounting Year ended 31/03/2010 (Audited)
1	(a) Net Sales/Income from operation	5669877	53046911	5794439	57771125	61993346
2	Expenditure					
	(a) Increase/decrease in stock in trade and work in progress	34776	13466	(46856)	(35578)	(25935)
	(b) Consumption of raw materials	0	0	0	0	0
	(c) Purchase of traded goods	6532723	56491873	6532903	59389085	61205546
	(d) Employees cost	200700	150300	401400	300600	206800
	(e) Depreciation	42804	33740	85608	67481	134807
	(f) Other expenditure	54208	52379	110024	104662	212854
	Car Running Exp.	178547	186301	339360	315666	1370960
	Others	178547	186301	339360	315666	1370960
	Total Expenses	7043758	56928059	7422439	60141916	63105032
3	Profit from operation before other income, interest and exceptional items(-1,2)	(1373881)	(3881148)	(1628000)	(2364791)	(1111686)
4	Other income	682472	713683	1571525	1417426	71543
5	Profit before interest and exceptional items (3+4)	(691409)	(3167465)	(56475)	(947365)	(1040143)
6	Interest	374620	259147	941381	485392	1448375
7	Profit after interest but before exceptional items(-5,6)	(1066029)	(3426612)	(997856)	(1432757)	(2488518)
8	Exceptional items	0	0	0	0	0
9	Profit(+)/loss(-) from ordinary activities before tax (7+8)	(1066029)	(3426612)	(997856)	(1432757)	(2488518)
10	Tax Expenses	0	0	0	0	0
11	Profit(+)/Loss(-) from ordinary activities after tax(-9,10)	(1066029)	(3426612)	(997856)	(1432757)	(2488518)
12	Extraordinary item (net of tax expenses Rs.)	0	0	0	0	0
13	Net Profit(+)/Loss(-) for the period (11-12)	(1066029)	(3426612)	(997856)	(1432757)	(2488518)
14	Paid up equity share capital (Face value of the share shall be indicated)	31584000	31584000	31584000	31584000	31584000
15	Reserve excluding revaluation reserves per balance sheet of previous accounting year	610000	610000	610000	610000	610000
16	Earning Per share (EPS)					
	(a) Basic and Diluted EPS before extraordinary items for the period, for the year to date & for the previous year (Not to be annualized)	(0.338)	(1.085)	(0.316)	(0.454)	(0.788)
	(b) Basic and diluted EPS after extraordinary items for the period, for the year to date & for the previous year (not to be annualized)	(0.338)	(1.085)	(0.316)	(0.454)	(0.788)
	Public shareholding no of shares % of shareholding	50.72	62.77	50.72	62.77	50.72
17	Promoter and promoter group shareholding	49.28	37.23	49.28	37.23	49.28
18	(a) Pledged/encumber number of shares % of shares (as a % of the total shareholding of promoter and promoter group)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	% of shares (as a % of the total share capital of the company)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	(b) Non-encumbered number of shares % of shares (as a % of the total shareholding of promoter and promoter group)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	% of shares (as a % of the total share capital of the company)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Notes:
1 The above Results have been taken on record by the Board in its Meeting held on 26/10/2010.
Place : Ahmedabad
Date : 27.10.2010

For and on behalf of the Board
Sd/- (Ashok Agarwal)
Director

Google risks heavy fines for Street View photography in Italy

Rome, Italy has threatened Google fines of 180,000 euros each time it photographs neighbourhoods without giving clear warning to residents of the presence of its cameras, according to the watchdog tasked with safeguarding privacy in Italy.

Italy is the first European country to adopt measures that can punish the California internet giant for collecting images for its popular Street View service that allows users to pan through neighbourhoods and individual addresses around the world.

Google's Street View cars, which travel through

neighbourhoods with cameras mounted on their roofs, must be easily identifiable by signs and other means or risk a fine.

"Google cars will have to be clearly marked by means of visible stickers or signs to unambiguously signify that pictures are being taken for the purposes of Street View," the Rome-based Privacy Authority said in a statement.

"This decision...takes account of the many complaints lodged by citizens who did not wish to be displayed on the online pictures."

Google in response to the potential sanctions

said that it has been conducting a "constant dialogue" with the Privacy Authority to protect personal information, countering that there "already exists numerous instruments that we use to inform citizens" of the presence of Street View cars. The company has addressed previous worries by blurring out faces and license plates in its images. Italy's Privacy Authority in September reprimanded Google for allowing its Street View cars to intercept electronic information from wireless internet networks, although the company said it has never used the data.

Obama to meet with US business leaders in India

Washington, During his India trip, US President Barack Obama will meet top US business leaders, including India-born Pepsico chairperson Indra Nooyi, to "discuss the opportunities and challenges of doing business in India," according to the White House.

The business delegation meeting Obama will include Honeywell International Inc's David Cote, Boeing Co's Jim McInerney, General Electric Co's Jeffrey Immelt and McGraw Hill Companies' Terry McGraw, White House spokesperson Jen Psaki told the Politico.

Obama and US Commerce Secretary Gary Locke will also speak at a Nov 6 Business Sum-

mit in Mumbai that is sponsored by the US India Business Council (USIBC), she said.

Obama has vowed to double US exports in five years. India, Asia's third-biggest economy, offers a rapidly growing market for US companies. Trade between the US and India more than doubled to \$37 billion in 2009 compared with 2003, according to US Commerce Department data. In the first eight months of 2010, total trade topped \$32 billion. Commerce figures show. India is in negotiations to buy as many as 10 Boeing military transport aircraft. The sale of 10 C-17 Globemaster III aircraft may be valued at as much as \$5.8 billion, according to the US Defense Security Cooperation Agency.

Boeing, the second-largest US defense contractor, expects to bid for \$31 billion worth of military contracts in India in the next 10 years.

GE Hitachi, a venture between GE and Hitachi Ltd, and Westinghouse Electric Co are among the companies competing for contracts to build nuclear power plants in India. GE has just won India's biggest single order for gas and steam

turbines in an over \$750 million deal for the expansion of a Reliance Power Ltd plant.

United Technologies, the maker of Otis elevators, Carrier air-conditioners, Sikorsky helicopters and Pratt & Whitney jet engines also is seeking to add sales in India.

Some of the CEOs Obama will meet with in India serve as advisers to the White House. Immelt sits on the president's outside economic board and McInerney heads the export council that the president formed in March. Cote has been appointed to his commission on cutting the federal deficit.

CHANGE OF NAME
I have changed my name from **BUKHARI JAINATBIBI AHMEDHUSEN** to **SAIYAD JAINABBIBI ASLAM**. Add: Chhatral Kalol, Gandhinagar

CHANGE OF NAME
I have changed my name from **LIMBACHHYA GUNVANTAL GOVINDBHAI** to **PAREKH GUNVANTBHAI GOVINDBHAI**. Add: 26, Navrang Bungalows, Nagalpur Mehsana-384002

CHANGE OF NAME
I have changed my name from **NAYI AMITKUMAR JASHWANTLAL** to **PAREKH AMITKUMAR JASHWANTLAL**. Add: Moraliyano Madh, Kansa Ta. Visnagar Dist. Mehsana

CHANGE OF NAME
I have changed my name from **NAYI SANJAYKUMAR JASHVANTBHAI** to **PAREKH SANJAYKUMAR JASHVANTBHAI**. Add: Moraliyano Madh, Kansa Ta. Visnagar Dist. Mehsana

CHANGE OF NAME
I have changed my name from **JAIN NEETHU MANGILAL** to **JAIN NITU MANISHKUMAR**. Add: B/2, Jainam Apt, Pritamnagar Ahmedabad-06

CHANGE OF SURNAME
I have changed my surname from **RATHAVA BABUBHAI GOPSING** to **PATEL BABUBHAI GOPSING**. Add: Vachia Falia, Khanpatla. Post: Bor. Tal: Ghoghamba Panchmahal-389365

CHANGE OF NAME
I have changed my name from **MOHANANI PUSHPA PURSHOTAMDAS** to **NENWANI BHARTI MURLIDHAR**. Add: B-1-12, Goyal Interity, Nr. S.A.L. Hospital, Vastrapur Ahmedabad

CHANGE OF NAME
I have changed my name from **KINARABEN SATISHCHANDRA SHAH** to **KINARA ANKUR KHANKHANWALA**. Add: 238/2848, Satyam Apartment, Sola Road, Naranpura Ahmedabad-380063

CHANGE OF NAME
I have changed my name from **MAKWANA RAMAJI PUNAJI** to **THAKOR RAMAJI PUNAJI**. Add: 254, Tekravalo Vas, Tragad Ahmedabad

MRPL records 57% increase in PAT in Q2', turnover Rs 9,590 crores

New Delhi, The Board of Directors of ONGC Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited, a subsidiary company of ONGC, and a category I Mini Ratna, approved its un-audited results for the Second Quarter 2010-11. The turnover is Rs 9,590 crores, up 7% compared to last years Rs 8,950 Crores. The exports were up 19% with Rs 2,859 crores. The PAT is Rs 282 Crores.

The company completed its turnaround Maintenance of its 7.14 MMTPA Crude / Vacuum Distillates Unit successfully in 24 days. Despite 10% lower throughput due

to this planned shut down, the company recorded a 7% increase in turnover, and a very impressive 57% increase in Profit After Tax.

Rs 13,964 Crore Expansion project is progressing a head of schedule says the company. The project has achieved the physical progress of 62.80% as on 15th October 2010 against the scheduled plan progress of 57.00 % (Mechanical Completion Target Oct' 2011).

The physical progress for Poly Propylene unit has been 28.50% and is targeted to be complete as per schedule by April 2012.

The orders for all major process plants and auxiliary equipments including off site facility have been placed. The

commitment made against the project so far is Rs. 11,015 crore.

MRPL Board as well as ONGC Board has cleared the project of installation of Single Point Mooring (SPM) at New Mangalore Port at an estimated cost of 1,044 crore with completion target of May 2012.

CHANGE OF NAME
I have changed my name from **MODI MUKESHKUMAR GANPATLAL** to **JARIWALA MUKESHBHAI GANPATLAL**. Add: Krishna Kutir, Maniassa Soc, Maninagar Ahmedabad

CHANGE OF NAME
I have changed my name from **ATAL BHOMRAJ CHANDANMAL** to **ATAL JITENDRA CHANDANMAL**. Add: 3, Santoor Avenue, Kankaria Ahmedabad-22

CHANGE OF NAME
I have changed my name from **MAAN KANWARI SONU KUNDALIYA** to **DAGA SONU SUMITKUMAR**. Add: 205, Vrajdharm Apt, Maninagar Ahmedabad-8

CHANGE OF NAME
I have changed my name from **CHORARIA DHARMESHKUMAR KAMALKUMAR** to **CHORADIA PANKAJ KUMAR KAMALCHAND**. Add: 5, Shriji Apt, Kankaria Ahmedabad-380000

KALPTARU PAPERS LIMITED
701, Avdesh House, Opp. Gurudwara, Thaltej, Ahmedabad-380054

NOTICE
Notice pursuant to Clause 41 of the Listing Agreement is hereby given that a meeting of Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Saturday 13th day of November, 2010 at 5.00 p.m. at Registered Office of the Company inter alia, to take note of the Un-audited Financial Results for quarter ended on 30th day of September, 2010. The meeting of the Board of Directors to be held on 29th day of October, 2010 to take on record un-audited Financial Results for the quarter ended on 30/09/2010 is cancelled on account of non-availability of independent directors due to festive season ahead.

For **KALPTARU PAPERS LIMITED**
Place: Ahmedabad
Date: 25/10/2010

Jaikishan Gupta
CHAIRMAN

PUBLIC NOTICE CANCELLATION OF SUB-BROKERSHIP

NAMITA DUSHYANT SHAH
406, Shail, Opp. Madhusudan House, Nr. Navrangpura
Tel. Exchange, C. G. Road, Ahmedabad - 380 009.

Sub-broker of

ISE Securities & Services Limited
Registration No : INB011077733
Reg. Off. International Infotech Park, Tower-7, 5th Floor,
Vashi, Navi Mumbai - 400 703, Maharashtra
(Corporate Member of The Stock Exchange, Mumbai)

NOTICE is hereby given that Ms. Namita Dushyant Shah, our Sub-broker having his/its Sub-broker Code No. D240650 and SEBI Registration No. INS 011943912/01-10777 have applied to us for cancellation of his / its Sub-brokership.

Therefore, investors and general public are advised not to deal with the above-referred Sub-broker. Any client / person having any claim against the Sub-broker arising out of their transactions in securities through ISE Securities & Services Ltd. may furnish details of his / their claim in writing to the Directors, ISE Securities & Services Ltd. at the Registered Office indicated above, enclosing therewith all supporting documents, within 6 months of the publication of this Notice.

For, ISE Securities & Services Ltd.
Place : Navi Mumbai
Date : 27-10-2010

Manisha Thakur
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

Gujarat Maritime Board
Sector No.10/A, Opp. Air Force Station, Chh-Road, Gadhingar-382010.
Phone: (079) 23238346-47-48-51
Fax: (079) 232334703 / 23234704

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2	ADD.PORT OFFICER(FGM)	01	Pay Band 15600-39100 Grade Pay-7600
3	MARINE ENGINEER	02	Pay Band 15600-39100 Grade Pay-7600

Send your complete resume in prescribe application format not later than 30/11/2010. For more detail please visit our website www.gmbports.org.

Vice Chairman & Chief Executive Officer
INN/1523/10-11

WR to run special weekly trains this festive season

Ahmedabad, Western Railway will run a special weekly train between Bandra Terminus-Hapa-Bandra Terminus for clear the extra rush of passengers this festive season, WR said in an official release on Monday.

Train No. 0961 Bandra terminus-Hapa (weekly) Special will depart from Bandra Terminus at 11.25 pm every Thursday and reach Hapa next day at 3.10 pm from October 28 to November 25.

Train No. 0962 Hapa-Bandra Terminus (Weekly) Special will depart at 5 pm from Hapa every Wednesday and arrive at Bandra Terminus at 7.55 am the next day. The train will run from October 27 to November 24.

Four arrested for bike thefts

Ahmedabad, Police on Monday arrested four persons for allegedly stealing motorcycles from the city. The four-Vijay Prajapati, Mehul Kalani, Ranjeet Saroj and Nilesh Rajput -- were nabbed from near Omnagar Apartments in Amraiwadi and two motorcycles (GJ 7 AF 2632 and GJ 1 JR 2224) were seized from them.

Bootlegger held for beating up police

Ahmedabad, Police on Monday arrested a bootlegger, Raju Langda, and his brother Vicky for allegedly assaulting a Sardarnagar police constable, Ravindrasinh Chudawat, on Saturday night when the latter asked them to not gather on the crossroads after 12 in night. The bootleggers were already found creating nuisance on the road.

Youth held with country-made pistol near Science City

Ahmedabad, A 19-year-old Kishanpal Ujagarsingh Yadav, was arrested near Gujarat Science City on Monday for carrying a country-made double-barrel pistol. His aide Yadhvir Yadav, however, fled. Both have been booked under Arms Act.

Auto-driver stabbed to death in Shahpur

Ahmedabad, A auto-rickshaw driver who reportedly spat on road that fell on another pedestrian was stabbed by the latter and his relatives near Pattharwali Masjid in Shahpur on Sunday. The victim died at V S Hospital on Monday.

The victim has been identified as Abdul Samad Abdul Karim Sheikh, a resident of Gama Master na Chapra in Shahpur Mill Compound. The accused were identified as Sabir Sheikh and his relatives Moim Sheikh, Yusuf Sheikh and Navar Ibrahim Sheikh, all residents of Shahpur. Police have registered a case of murder and the accused are at large.

Ex-councillor's brother held for fraud

Ahmedabad, The Ahmedabad police on Monday arrested Mansingh Tomar, brother of former Congress Councillor Kishansingh Tomar, for allegedly duping several persons by selling one apartment to multiple buyers.

The police said that in 2009, he had sold off an apartment in HariKunj Society at Ghatlodia to one Bharti Patel, a resident of Ghatlodia. Patel had lodged a complaint of cheating against Tomar and few others in 2009. Inspector V H Dindor said: "Tomar had been absconding from along time. The ACP's B Division Squad arrested him today from Maninagar. He sold the flat to Patel for over Rs 1 lakh for which she had paid him installments in cheque. He later sold off the same flat to two-three others on higher rates."

Sumul Dairy chairman dies

Surat, The Chairman of Sumul Dairy farm, Manubhai Patel, died of cardiac arrest on Sunday night. Patel (61) had joined Sumul Dairy in 1987 as a director and became its vice-president in 1993. During his tenure, Sumul Dairy received five awards for national production, 11 for total quality management, six for energy efficiency and 14 other awards.

Morpheus Art launches art fertility clinic in city

Ahmedabad, Morpheus Art, an Indo German Joint Venture Company today launched its full service, state-of-the-art fertility clinic in Ahmedabad. This center is equipped to conduct advanced fertility procedures using assisted reproductive techniques. Morpheus ART, centers are operational in Mumbai, Pune, Bengaluru, Hyderabad & Nasik. The company will open its Solapur center shortly making it a leading chain of fertility centers in the country.

The Morpheus Ahmedabad Fertility Center has Dr. Sunil Shah as its Core Fertility Specialist. Dr. Shah is one of Ahmedabad's most experienced specialists in Fertility Management.

Dr. Sunil Shah is trained for IVF and advanced infertility at Bad Munder, Germany, where he received extensive training. He has recently actively participated in ESHRE (European Society for Human Reproduction) at Rome, Italy. He has extensive experience of 15 years and many

national awards to his credit. Dr. Sunil Shah has also published scores of articles in National journals and done numerous live workshops in various parts of India.

Morpheus centers have a dedicated team of in-house embryologists for performing IVF/ICSI procedures, ensuring consistency of performance. Morpheus ART's fertility specialists are trained in advanced fertility management techniques at the company's German center. This enables the doctors to offer patients quality treatment in terms of protocol management, embryological procedures, drugs and media selection and professional counseling guidance.

Morpheus has launched a unique Medical offer, titled "Double Your Chances". It is a clinically result oriented and cost effective treatment plan. The patient gets the chance of undergoing a second cycle at no extra procedural cost, if the first cycle does not lead to clinical pregnancy.

FCI to rope in private firms to build grain storehouses in state

Ahmedabad, The Food Corporation of India (FCI) and the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) will rope in private players to build godowns "to augment the storage capacity for Public Distribution System" in Gujarat.

Under its policy of 2008, the Centre has allotted 3.52 lakh metric tonnes (MT) storage capacity to Gujarat of which 2.95 lakh MT capacity will be built, owned and operated by private investors for a period of 10 years. CWC will build godowns with a capacity of 0.75 lakh MT. But, officials say, even

then the total capacity achieved will store roughly half of the annual requirement of foodgrains in the state.

The state government channels around 1.5 lakh MT food-grain per month (18 lakh MT per annum), through the Public Distribution System in Gujarat -- nearly a fifth of which is stored in the open.

At present, FCI and the CWC together own and operate 27 godowns in 26 locations in Gujarat with a total storage capacity of 6.5 lakh MT, while the state government operates two godowns in Bharuch and Veraval.

A S S Ramarao,

Deputy Director of the FCI regional office in Ahmedabad said at least one CWC official will be posted with each privately-owned warehouse to monitor its dealings within this period. Besides care will be taken to ensure that at least each district will have at one godown for storage facility.

Only last week, FCI and CWC conducted an investor's meet in Surat, where officials briefed businessmen on what kind of loans and subsidies they will be entitled to if they were willing to build warehouses. The next meeting will be held here on Tuesday.

Halol doc's suicide: Cops probe Chiranjeevi scheme angle

Vadodara, The case of Halol-based doctor Dr Bharat Rana's suicide got murkier on Monday with the police investigating fresh allegations made by his wife Kunjalata that the trustee of the hospital he worked for forced him to share the monetary benefits of Chiranjeevi scheme given to the doctors by the state government.

Government Railway Police (GRP), which is now investigating the case, has collected documents to probe if the trustees of Kantiben Shantilal Maternity Hospital drove Dr Rana into committing suicide by jumping in front of a train near Vadodara Railway Station on October 19.

According to Inspector B MN Tank of GRP (Vadodara region), who is the investigating officer in the case, Kunjalata said in her complaint that the trustees were forcing her husband to share the benefits given to the private gynecologist by the state government to conduct delivery.

GRP officials raided the offices of Kantiben Shantilal Maternity Hospital run by Mahajan Arogya Mandal.

"We collected some documents pertaining to the Chiranjeevi scheme, Kunjalata has alleged that the hospital authorities were demanding Rs 50 lakh when her husband wanted to resign," Tanks said, adding no arrests had been made so far

since the documents were still being examined.

GRP official also recorded the statement of former president of the hospital trust, Hasmukh Shah. Police have already registered complaint against three trustees -- Bharat Parikh, Pinakin Shah and Dilip Sheth -- all residents of Halol.

As per the Chiranjeevi scheme, the state government pays private gynecologists Rs 1,795 per delivery -- including Rs 200 to the patient for transportation costs in getting to the place where she will deliver and Rs 50 for the person accompanying the patient to compensate for a loss in wages.

International denim conference this month-end

Ahmedabad, A two-day international denim conference will be held at IIM-Ahmedabad on October 29 and 30, the Ahmedabad unit of Textile Association of India (TAI) announced on Monday.

To be jointly organized by TAI and fibre2fashion.com, the "International Conference on Denims -- the new face of Indian Textiles and Apparel Industry" will host the heads of denim giants like Levi Strauss & Co, Cotton Inc (both US), Jeanologia (Spain), and Arvind Ltd and Mafatal Denims (both India).

Delegates from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are also expected (most of the manufacturing units are concentrated in Asia), but Chinese delegates have not confirmed their participation, organizers said though China is considered to be the biggest denim producer.

P R Roy of TAI said

the domestic demand for denim had bailed out the industry during the global meltdown, but the ongoing "currency war" is affecting profit margins as the dollar is losing value to the rupee.

"There is an annual demand of about 240 to 260 million pairs of jeans in India now, which would amount to roughly 300 million metres of denim (roughly half of India's annual production). The market is now domestic," said Roy.

He added that the unorganized denim retail is stronger and bigger than the organized retail market. But that may change as the Diwali season has boosted sales in the organized sector.

The domestic demand may see a sudden rise if denim houses decide to vigorously market in the rural areas, he added.

He said India still has to catch up with China, which had produced three billion metres of denim in 2007. But the fact that China has con-

verted two million hectares previously used for cotton cultivation -- a major component of denim -- to grow food crops, and has started relying on imports from the US and India, has tilted the race in India's favour.

BJP slams Cong for doubting EVMs

New Delhi, BJP national spokesperson Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said the Congress has exhibited a spoilsport mindset by alleging that the EVMs were manipulated.

"The Congress criticism runs counter to the party's stand on EVMs in general. During a recent meeting of parties convened by the Election Commission, it had vouched that these machines were tamper-proof and need no change. Even the Prime Minister has categorically denied that EVMs used in elections are liable to tampering," she said.

"Infantry Day' celebrated by Golden Kata Infantry Division



Maj Gen IS Singha paying homage to the martyrs.

Ahmedabad, Infantry Day to commemorate the first ever action post independence was celebrated at the Golden Katar War Memorial. The event was presided over by Major General IS Singha, Vishisht Seva Medal, General Officer Commanding the Golden Katar Infantry Division, responsible for the borders of Gujarat and Rajasthan. Mrs. Baljeet Singh, Convener Golden Katar Family Welfare Organisation (FWO) and representative of the FWO fraternity also graced the occasion. On this day 63 years ago, Pakistan raiders invaded the state of Jammu and Kashmir with the aim of annexing the territory. As the raiders advanced along the road towards Uri-Baramulla-Srinagar, the situation turned grave and the 1st Battalion of

the SIKH Regiment was flown to Srinagar airport in Air Force Dakota aircrafts to throw out the raiders. These gallant infantrymen fought a valiant action reversing the tides of battle and thus, saved Kashmir from falling into Pakistani hands.

At the function organized at the Golden Katar War Memorial Park, wreaths were laid in memory of our martyrs who made their supreme sacrifice for safeguarding our motherland. The event was attended by a large gathering which included both serving and retired Officers, Junior Commissioned Officers and Other Ranks. Ladies of the Golden Katar FWO fraternity also witnessed the function.

Referred to as the 'Queen of Battle', the Infantry is the largest and most decisive arm for achieving victory in war. Infantrymen have fought

with exceptional courage and valour in all wars of independent India including the 1948 conflict, the 1962 war with China, the Indo-Pak wars of 1965 & 1971 and the Kargil war in 1999. In each of these wars, the gallant infantrymen have proved their worth and by their selfless devotion to duty, have proved that for the Infantry soldier, sacrifice is the way of life. The Infantry has the enviable combat record of having won 17 out of a total of 20 Param Vir Chakras and 26 out of a total of 28 Ashok Chakras awarded so far.

On this solemn and historic occasion, a pledge was taken by all to strive with renewed vigour and dedication to uphold the highest traditions of the Infantry and to forever be ready to give up their lives in the cause of the nation.

Exhibition clears air on low-calorie and sugar-free snacks

Ahmedabad, It's Diwali time, and low-calorie snacks and sweets targeted at the diabetics, have stormed the markets. But here is a catch. These food items, according to a dietician working with the Gujarat Diabetes Association, are only sugar-free and not low-calorie.

The Gujarat Diabetes Association organized an exhibition on low-calorie snacks and sweets for diabetics

and those suffering from obesity at its office in Paldi on Monday.

Sangeeta Mehta, a dietician said: "There is a misunderstanding among the patients that low-calorie and sugar-free are the same. But only having sugar-free food items will not help. The overall calorie intake must be reduced. Therefore, we have organized this exhibition."

She said 100 gms of fat equals 250 gms of sugar. Mehta herself prepared at least 12 food items in which no sugar and very less ghee was used and none of the items were fried.

Ashwin Patwari, owner of Manmohan Chavana and Sweets in Ambawadi Bazaar said: "It is not possible to have low-calorie sweets. What we do is that instead of sugar we use sugar-free products. But other high-calorie products like dry fruits, ghee, and oil are used. Jaimin Patel of Jaihind Sweets, which has many branches in Ahmedabad, also made similar confessions.

Dr Premal Thakkar, president of the association said: "People in Gujarat eat fatty and oily food and do not exercise. The incidence of diabetes is quite high in the state

and the multiplying effect is also very high. Being a genetic disease, a past family history makes the probability of afflicting the next generation quite high, Dr Thakkar said.

Kalpataru Power bags Projects worth Rs 384 crores

Mumbai, Kalpataru Power Transmission Ltd (KPTL) has secured two orders worth over Rs. 384 crores from PMC Projects (India) Pvt. Ltd and National Grid Corporation of the Philippines.

KPTL secured an order for supply and construction of 466 Km, 765 KV S/C -Akola Aurangabad Transmission Line for PMC Projects (India) Pvt Ltd -a joint venture between Maharashtra State Transmission Co. Ltd. and Adani Power Ltd.

The order is worth Rs 286 crore. The completion period for this order is 14/16 months.

The other order secured by KPTL is from Philippines for supply and construction of 108 Kms, 230 KV double circuit, Kirahon-Maramag Transmission line for National Grid Corporation of Philippines.

State boats strike off Somalia from route

Rajkot, With pirates hijacking their vessels -- as many as seven vessels from Gujarat with 100 crew members were in Somali pirates' captivity for a month before the end of last season -- country craft owners and sailors are now wary of trading through the pirate-infested routes in Gulf of Aden.

About 40 country craft from Salaya in Jamnagar district make several trips between Dubai and Somalia every season ferrying general cargo, but this time, the two main country craft hubs in Gujarat -- Salaya and Mandvi -- have struck off Somalia from their list of destinations for now. If Salaya has completely struck off Somalia from its trade route the port

town of Mandvi in Kutch district has got selective -- crew say they will set sail only if they get an armed security cover on board.

For the past few years, Somali pirates have wreaked havoc in Gulf of Aden by attacking several cargo vessels. Last April, pirates had held hostage several vessels. While the goods on board were looted, vessels are freed one by one only when they ran out of food and fuel. One vessel was rescued by Yemen navy. A sailor from Mandvi lost his life in the process. Most of the over 100 sailors who were held hostage hailed from Mandvi and Salaya in Gujarat.

With around 600 country craft, most in Salaya and Mandvi, Gujarat is a

hub in India for this wooden container industry. However, with little business available of Indian shores now, these vessels operate from Dubai to parts of Africa and Gulf countries.

"Not a single country craft or sea man will go Somalia this season," said Salaya Vahanvatta Association secretary Adam Bhaya. "In some cases, even if craft owners agree, crew members are signing contracts only if it's not for Somalia," Bhaya added.

"Despite the presence of armed forces in the Gulf of Aden, it's too much of a risky affair," said Kalim Hussain, a sea man who has refused to take up Somalia assignments this time.

Some sailors and craft from Mandvi agree-

ing to go to Somalia have put a rider. "Sailors now demand armed security cover on board," said Kasam Bholim, president of Mandvi Vahanvatta Association. "Interestingly, security cover has also been provided by the Somalia-based trading companies," added Bholim.

"When pirates see their own country men guarding the vessels, they might spare it. That way we feel safe," said Hanif Ismail, a sailor.

Salaya craft owners meanwhile, focussing on Gulf ports in Iraq, Iran, Yemen and Muscat. It is general cargo like construction material, clothes and cement that they carry. "We do make losses by refusing to go to Somalia, but life is more precious," said Bhaya.



A Thai teenager wades through a flooded alleyway near the Chao Phraya River, in Bangkok. High tides combined with increasing flood water runoff from the country's northern part landing in to the Chao Phraya River have made the area near the river in the Thai capital.

A fifth of world's life at extinction risk

By Joydeep Gupta

Nagoya (Japan), A fifth of the world's mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and fishes are in imminent danger of going extinct, says this year's edition of the benchmark IUCN Red List. The percentages of threatened invertebrates and plants are similar. Releasing the findings at the Oct 18-29 UN biodiversity summit, being attended by 192 countries, here Wednesday, Simon Stuart, chair of the Species Survival Commission of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), said their findings on vertebrates showed that "nature's backbone is at risk".

Around 3,000 scientists from around the world have worked to put this Red List together. They have found that 25 percent of all mammals, 13 percent birds, 41 percent amphibians, 22 percent reptiles and 15 percent fishes risk extinction, mostly due to loss of their habitats and some due to overhunting. A recent study by the Kew Botanical Gardens has found that around six million species - 20 percent of all plants and invertebrates - face the extinction threat too.

But it's not all bad news. IUCN has found 64 species that have improved their status in the Red List, moving from the critically endangered to the endangered category, for example. Stuart said all these were in areas

that had been protected, "proving the importance of conservation". Results show that the status of biodiversity would have declined by at least an additional 20 percent if conservation action had not been taken. The successes include three species that were extinct in the wild and have since been re-introduced back to nature: the California condor and the black-footed ferret in the US, and Przewalski's

horse in Mongolia. Conservation efforts have been particularly successful at combating invasive alien species on islands. The global population of Seychelles Magpie-robin, increased from fewer than 15 birds in 1965 to 180 in 2006 through control of introduced predators, like the brown rat. In Mauritius, six bird species have undergone recoveries in status, including the Mauritius kestrel, whose population has increased from just four birds in 1974 to nearly 1,000.

Scientists fear mass extinction has begun

London, One in five of the world's mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians are under threat of extinction, a study says.

The research found that the a growing number of vertebrates (animals with backbones) are being added to the endangered species list, with humans largely to blame. One of the world's leading ecologists, Edward O. Wilson of Harvard University, warned: "This is just a small window on the global losses taking place."

The tiger, for example, is facing a threat from poachers and the destruction of its habitat. Scientists fear that a fifth of the world's animals could soon be extinct. Many scientists believe the world is going through a 'sixth mass extinction'.

Simpson may settle down with Eric Johnson

London, Actress Jessica Simpson has praised her boyfriend Eric Johnson for giving her confidence and says she may settle down with the football player soon.

"He definitely makes me very happy. He brings out a lot of light in me and makes me very comfortable being who I am. It's nice to be with somebody who praises you for the right reasons," contactmusic.com quoted her as saying.

Talking about marriage, she said: "I've definitely dreamed of being married my whole life and having children, so hopefully that's in my future."

Pattinson fed up of success, fame

London, Success and fame has created problems as he is unable to travel in the US freely.

He claims his success has caused more difficulties in the US than his native Britain because everywhere he goes he is hounded by paparazzi and fans, reports contactmusic.com.

"It's changed more in America. I always thought it would've by now in London, but it hasn't really. I can't do anything in America. I just don't want to have any stories written about me," he said. "Anyone who likes going out and having their photo taken all the time, to me, seems an incredibly boring person or very delusional." Pattinson, who is dating his "Twilight" co-star Kristen Stewart, also admits his fame makes him "paranoid".

Michael Jackson named top earning dead celebrity

London, Late pop legend Michael Jackson has topped a list of the highest-earning deceased celebrities after making more money in the past year than 12 other dead stars combined, including Elvis Presley and John Lennon.

Jackson, who died in June last year, posthumously pulled in \$289 million over the past 12 months with his catalogue and merchandising deals. "This Is It", which documented his ill-fated preparations for the London stage performance, also made \$264 million at the box office. Jackson's earnings were greater than the total combined earnings of the 12 other dead stars on Forbes magazine's list, including Presley, Lord of the Rings author J.R.R. Tolkien, Peanut animator Charles Schulz and Beatles legend Lennon, who rounded out the top five respectively.

Hillary Clinton will not join Obama on India trip

By Arun Kumar

Washington, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who has played a key role in strengthening India-US relations, will not accompany President Barack Obama on his trip to India next month.

"The Secretary has been to India and has engaged Indian officials to help prepare for the president's trip," State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley told reporters here Tuesday.

"Given the competing major fora that are underway here, the secretary has her agenda; she will not join the president in India, but others will

be in his delegation," he said explaining Clinton's absence from the Obama delegation.

"But this is characteristic of our engagement where, in the Asia-Pacific region, in the coming days, you'll have the president there, the secretary there, the deputy secretary there, and that just gives you a sense of the breadth of the issues that we are wrestling with in the region," Crowley said.

Clinton would be in Australia along with Defence Secretary Robert Gates for the 25th anniversary of the annual Australia-US Ministerial Consultations during Obama's India Nov 6-9 India trip.

But Clinton will meet Indian officials in Hanoi ahead of East Asia summit "to work together on coordination", another senior US official told the foreign media stressing US support for India's growing role in the Asia Pacific region.

"We have stated very clearly that the United States welcomes and supports India's growing role as an Asian-Pacific player," Assistant Secretary of State for South East Asia and Pacific Affairs Kurt M. Campbell said.

"Obviously, we're also trying to regularise and intensify our overall diplomacy with India going forward," he said in response to a question.

Emaar-MGF moves court against DDA on bank guarantee

New Delhi, Emaar-MGF, the private firm which developed the Commonwealth Games Village, Monday moved the Delhi High Court against the central government's direction to the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to confiscate the company's Rs.183 crore bank guarantee.

The guarantee was furnished by the builder before taking up the construction of 1,168 flats in the Village on a bank of the Yamuna river in east Delhi at a cost of over Rs.1,000 crore.

Asking the DDA to respond to the Emaar-MGF's petition by Nov 11, the high court said that if the guarantee has not been encashed by the authority a status quo has to be maintained.

The DDA informed the

court that Rs.90 crore has already been encashed by it and Rs.60 crore has been deposited in its bank account for clearance through cheque. The rest of the amount of Rs.33 crore is still to be encashed.

on hearing the DDA's submissions, Justice Vipin Sanghi said that a status quo would have to be maintained in respect of Rs.33 crore out of the bank guarantee and Rs.60 crore which was still to be cleared through cheques.

Emaar-MGF through its plea submitted before the court that the DDA had given it a week's time Oct 16 to explain why it delayed the construction of the Games Village flats and also sought damages worth Rs.80 crore.

The developer said the

Village was built to the "highest standards of quality and design" and all the pertinent milestones were achieved as per the scope of work.

The company also said all deficiencies pointed out by the DDA or any other agency were duly rectified by it.

Delhi to host global road safety meet

New Delhi, With India accounting for about 10 percent of the 13 million deaths in road accidents around the world every year, around 400 road safety experts from over 20 countries will meet here next month to deliberate on measures to reduce road fatalities. The two-day global meet "Institutional Arrangements for Reduction of Road Fatalities" is being organised in New Delhi by the Geneva-based International Road Federation (IRF) from Nov 25. "Some of the subjects that will be discussed will include institutional coordination for road safety, dedicated road safety fund, changes in Motor Vehicle Act, vehicle design for safety, road safety through engineering measures, safety during road operations, safety on high speed corridors, advanced traffic management systems, public education, intelligent highways and vehicle safety devices," IRF chairman K.K. Kapila said.

US hopeful of India signing CSC global convention

New Delhi, Ahead of US President Barack Obama's visit, the US is hoping that India will sign a key global convention so that the civil nuclear liability legislation will be consistent with international ms and enable the start of nuclear commerce between the two countries.

Speaking to reporters, senior US government officials Monday said the US was hoping for "a (nuclear liability) legislation that is consistent with international ms".

"We are hopeful that the outcome is consistent with international ms so that they can lead to nuclear transactions be-

tween the two countries," said officials, who did not wish to be named.

India's signing up to the CSC (Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage), a global treaty that gives India access to global funds in case of a nuclear accident, will be a "positive step", said officials. They added that the two sides are trying to "resolve differences", over issues relating to civil liability legislation so that the US companies can begin nuclear business with India.

Senior officials also admitted that India's participation in the 45-nation Nuclear Suppliers Group

(NSG) has been "under discussions", but added that New Delhi's membership in the nuclear cartel will have to be agreed to by all NSG members by consensus. "We need the approval of others," said sources. US officials also indicated that there would be some positive movement on lifting restrictions on high-technology exports to India. US nuclear suppliers are understood to have conveyed that the existing Indian legislation would leave them exposed to potentially unlimited claims for damages by Indian victims in the case of an atomic accident involving US-supplied reactors.



A cultural programme at MTNL Perfect Health Mela organized by Heart Care Foundation of India jointly with various departments of Government of NCT of Delhi.

Payment to SIS Live with ministry's approval, says Lalli

New Delhi, Prasar Bharti, the host broadcaster for Commonwealth Games, Monday denied any wrongdoing in the award of contract to Britain-based entity SIS Live for the Games coverage, saying the payments were "approved at the highest level" of the information and broadcasting ministry.

"Payment was made according to a payment schedule approved at the highest level," Prasar Bharti CEO B.S. Lalli told mediapersons here.

Lalli, who was accompanied by Doordarshan Director General Aruna Sharma, said the ms specify that any proposal above Rs.20 crore needs approval from the minister. He said that 60 percent payment of the contract has been made to SIS Live and it was done according to schedule approved by the ministry.

Denying allegations that he overruled suggestions of withholding payments to SIS Live till it was investigated, Lalli said all due processes were followed and deci-

sions were taken in transparent manner.

On the allegations of SIS Live subcontracting its work, Lalli said works of this nature have sub-contracts but Prasar Bharti will find out the details.

"We have come to know of it now. We will find out about it," he said.

On the questions relating to service tax number of SIS Live, Lalli said that the payment of this tax was the responsibility of the entity and not Prasar Bharti. He said it was a must for the company to give service tax on time and he had talked to his officials about it.

However, he added that it was not for Prasar Bharti to intervene in issues relating to service tax. Doordarshan was in receipt of a letter issued by Central Board of Excise and Customs showing the service tax number of the entity, he said, adding that SIS Live had informed that they have paid due tax in accordance with the regulations.

Lalli said selection of the entity was made with

approval of Information and Broadcasting Minister Ambika Soni.

"The contract was given for Rs.246 crore which was well within the original estimates prepared and cleared at relevant levels," he said.

Lalli said that agencies kept pushing deadlines for Prasar Bharti to start its work at the venues. "It caused us difficulties but we decided to

work without making complaints," he said.

Doordarshan DG Sharma said there was "no question of changing any clause in the contract after it had been signed." "The contract is what is approved by the final competent authority," she said.

She said terms of payment to SIS Live were modified after it threatened to walk out of

enforcement of the ban and also of those guest teachers who were appointed without following due procedure or those who do not have proper qualifications. He said that explanation of the then district education officers (DEOs) and principals has been called.

In 2006, with a view to ensure that studies of the students did not suffer due to shortage of teachers, the department had authorised heads of institutions and department officials to assess the shortfall of teachers keeping in view the enrol-

ment of students and engage teachers as guest teachers wherever the enrolment rate necessitated the provision of faculty. "The objective of the policy was to ensure that the studies of children did not suffer," the spokesman said.

Currently, 16,047 guest teachers are working in government schools in the state. The spokesman said that in the light of major irregularities in appointments of guest teachers, all the district education officers have been directed to scrutinise all appointments, including the educational qualifications of these guest teachers.

Guest teachers' selection under scanner in Haryana

Chandigarh,

Haryana's school education department Monday announced that it has started scrutinizing irregularities in guest teacher selections.

An education department spokesman said that cases have come to light in Faridabad district where selections were made without following due procedure and some appointments were made in 2008 when a total ban on appointments was in force. He said that the department has directed removal of all guest teachers appointed after



A potter making "Diyas" (earthen lamps) for the coming Diwali festival, in Guwahati. UNI

Padgaonkar, Kumar to meet jailed separatists in Jammu

Jammu, Meeting jailed separatist leaders in Jammu tops the agenda of the two interlocutors on Kashmir who are arriving here Wednesday afternoon from Srinagar, officials say.

Journalist Dileep Padgaonkar and academic Radha Kumar will meet separatist leaders like Shabir Shah, Asiya Andrabi and president of Kashmir Bar Association Mian Abdul Qayoom in Kot Bhalwal jail on the outskirts of Jammu, official sources told IANS.

The third interlocutor, former bureaucrat M.M. Ansari, has flown back to New Delhi.

"There is also a proposal for their visiting a migrant camp of Kashmiri Hindus at Muthi," an official told IANS. "But the schedule would be firmed up once the interlocutors reach here," an official told IANS.

The two will also meet representatives of industry, university teachers and the leaders of various political groups.

Padgaonkar and Kumar are arriving here at a time when Jammu is celebrating the state's accession with India. Several political groups in Jammu marked the occasion Tuesday and are observing Wednesday as "Vijay divas" or victory day.

Mornings, evenings to get chilly in Delhi

New Delhi, Delhiites will feel the chill during early morning and late evening hours as the night temperature has been "dipping every day" in the city, the weather office said here Wednesday.

"There will be more misty mornings as the minimum temperature is dipping every day. The early mornings and evenings will get chilly," said an official of the India Meteorological Department. "It will be mainly clear sky today (Wednesday)," the official said.

Snowfall in Jammu and Kashmir and the wind pattern over the state have brought down the temperatures in Delhi. "This is the first indication that Delhi is getting colder," the official said.

The minimum temperature was a notch above the average at 17 degrees Celsius while the maximum temperature was expected to hover around 31 degrees, a notch below the normal for this time of the year. The maximum temperature was 30.5 degrees Celsius Tuesday while the minimum temperature Tuesday was 16.5 degrees.

Kalam Stresses the Need of Blending Science with Philosophy



New Delhi, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the Former President of India released a research work "The Enigma of The Universe" authored by an eminent Jain saint scholar, Prof. Muni Mahendra Kumar, at his residence at New Delhi, today. On the occasion several eminent scientists, academicians and scholars among which Prof. Samten, VC, Central University for Tibetan Studies, Sarnath Varanasi, Dr. R.K. Deka, Director, AIIMS, Prof. Deepak Pentel, VC Delhi University, Prof. Ranjeet Nair, Director, Centre for Philosophy and Foundations of Science were present. Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam during the release of the book said that the book was so fascinating and binding that despite his busy schedule, he could not resist reading it till 3 in the morning! He further said that the book starts with a set of questions on the dimension and age of Universe. "These questions are there from time immemorial and so many theories till date have been formed by scientists and philosophers to solve the same. This book is a step forward to solve this theory from the point of view of science and philosophy", he said. He conveyed that the author had played the role of an intelligent medium between him and

Acharya Mahapragya ji. Further Dr. Kalam suggested that Steven Weinberg, Nobel laureate, must work with the Muni for Unified Field Theory. Prof. Muni Mahendra Kumar said that a happy blending of science and spirituality could pave the way for bringing about the ultimate internal transformation of the human personality, so as to free man from destructive emotions which were responsible for violence, anger, cruelty, deceit etc. He discussed the project to be started shortly to undertake scientific research in the field of evaluation of effects of spiritual practices on human brain and behavior. There was an interesting interactive session, in which almost all of the participants agreed to the urgent need of comparative studies and research in the field of spirituality and science.

Muni Ajit Kumar and Muni Shudhakar Kumar presented an auspicious song in the beginning. Mr. Rajesh Jain introduced the eminent scientists and scholars participating in the function. Mr. T.K. Jain, President, Anuvrat Vishva Bharti welcomed the participants and Mr. Vimal Surana, President of Delhi chapter of ANUVIBHA, proposed a vote of thanks. Muni Abhijeet Kumar convened the function efficiently and effectively.



Actors Mithun Chakravarty, Ajay Devgan, Tusshar Kapoor and Shreyas Talpade during the "Dilwalon Ki Diwali" programme to promote their upcoming movie "GOLMAAL 3" in Mumbai.

Notification issued for sixth phase of Bihar polls

Patna, The notification for the sixth and final phase of the Bihar state assembly elections was issued Wednesday.

In the sixth round due Nov 20, polling will be held in 26 of the 243 assembly constituencies.

The first two rounds of polls took place Oct 21 and Oct 24 for 47 and 45 seats respectively. In the third round of polls, scheduled Thursday, elections will be held in 48 constituencies.

Bihar will elect the 243-member assembly in staggered polling that begins Oct 21 and ends Nov 20. The results will be known Nov 24.

ISS to produce water from byproducts

Washington, The NASA has announced that a new system has been launched for the production of water from byproducts on the International Space Station (ISS).

The Sabatier system can create up to 530 gallons of water per year from byproducts of the station's Oxygen Generation System and Carbon Dioxide Removal Assembly. The process is named after Paul Sabatier, a 1912 Nobel Prize winner in chemistry, Xinhua reported.

"This is an important step forward in NASA's commercialisation endeavours and shows how successful private industry can be at providing solutions on its own," said Bill Gerstenmaier, NASA associate administrator for space operations at the agency's headquarters in Washington.

"The ability to produce this water will be important for sustaining space station operations once the shuttle is retired," he said.

The system was integrated into the space station's Water Recovery System in the second week of October. Activation and first use of the system were completed Oct 22.

India is not tilting to US, says PM

Kuala Lumpur, India is not tilting towards the US and its foreign policy is an expression of "enlightened national interests", Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said.

The prime minister also told Malaysia's New Straits Times in an interview that New Delhi desired speedy reforms of the international financial institutions so that rapidly growing economies like India were properly represented.

Asked if India, once a vocal champion of non-alignment, was tilting to America and the West, the Indian leader replied in the negative.

"We are not tilting in any one direction. The foreign policy of India is an expression of our enlightened national interests. In the globalised world that we live in, the inter-relations and inter-dependence of nations have increased enormously. Therefore, we seek good relations with all major superpowers - the US, Russia, China, Japan. In our continent, ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian) countries have assumed great importance for the orderly management of increased interdependence with Southeast Asia. We, therefore, look to ASEAN countries to promote trade, investment and multifaceted cooperation."

The prime minister admitted he was not satisfied with the pace of G20's promised economic and financial reform.

"I think the world economy is not really in robust health. There are uncertainties on the horizon. Therefore, on the promise that G20 had held out, I think a lot more remains to be done to realise it," he said.

"I think the reform of the international financial institutions needs to be pushed at a faster pace than ever before. And the coordination of macro-economic policies of various major countries of the world is something that is not moving at the pace one would have liked or anticipated in London or in Pittsburgh or even in Toronto. So, I think there is scope for accelerating the pace of reform."

Manmohan Singh, who is on his second leg of a three-nation Asian tour, spoke glowingly about Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's January visit to New Delhi.

"It was a landmark visit, and the prime minister said all the right things. He committed himself along with me to work together to nurture and promote multifaceted economic cooperation, and these are things which need to be done."

"Malaysia is one of the most important countries of the ASEAN region. Therefore, whatever we can say or do, I think is not enough. I believe the sky is the limit in

working together to promote trade and investment and promote cooperation in multilateral and regional fora."

Although India is growing at near nine percent, the economist-turned-politician said the country had a "long way to go in removing the ills of chronic and mass poverty... but I do feel we are on the right track".

"In the current fiscal, we hope to achieve a growth rate of over 8.5 percent. Overall, the Indian economy has performed well despite the effects of the global economic crisis and the severe drought last year."

But he underlined that India's objective "is not just growth but inclusive growth. To do so, we need to accelerate the growth rate to 9-10 percent on a sustainable basis".

"We are making continual improvements in our policy regime and implementation procedures. Our priority is to focus on agriculture, infrastructure, health and education."

"I would be the last to say that there is no scope for reforms. I think we need to move ahead in reforming our financial system. We need to move ahead to put in place a reformed direct tax system, and also a reformed indirect system which would lay a lot more emphasis on goods and services tax as the major source of revenue from indirect sources."

The prime minister went on to say that Indian companies today were among the most entrepreneurial and competitive globally. "We have liberalised the FDI (foreign direct investment) regime because we also welcome and need foreign investment, capital, technology and skills for our development plans. We want to ensure a policy framework that is transparent, predictable, simple and reduces regulatory burden."

Manmohan Singh said he wanted to see a comprehensive free trade pact between India and Malaysia and ASEAN.

"We are quite keen to sign a comprehensive free trade arrangement with the ASEAN countries. The goods section is in place. We sincerely hope that all of us have the political will to move ahead with the remaining part of the free trade area in services as well as investments. India and Malaysia have successfully concluded negotiations on the text of the India-Malaysia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA). Both sides hope to conclude the remaining steps and internal approval processes in the very near future. It is my hope that the agreement will come into force next year. "I am confident that the bilateral arrangement will qualitatively transform our economic relations and boost trade and investment flows between India and Malaysia..."

Shutdown in Guntur for high court bench

Hyderabad, The agitation to demand an Andhra Pradesh high court bench between Guntur and Vijayawada intensified Wednesday with a shutdown in Guntur district.

The shutdown, called by lawyers and supported by all political parties, evoked good response.

Shops, business establishments and educational institutions were closed while few vehicles were seen on the roads in Guntur and other major towns in the district, about 300 km from here.

Lawyers under the banner of Joint Action Committee (JAC) came on the streets in Guntur, Bapatla, Narsaraopet and other towns, appealing to the people to observe the shutdown.

The protesters stopped few buses of the state-owned Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corp (APSRTC) and private operators.

Student groups declared their support to the protest by lawyers. Nagarjuna University students boycotted their classes, demanding the high court bench.

The lawyers in Guntur and Vijayawada have been on protest, boycotting courts and staging hunger strikes for one month, demanding the high court bench. Guntur is 30 km from Vijayawada.

JAC conve and Guntur Bar Association president D. Samuel John told reporters they would intensify the agitation if the government failed to respond positively to the demand.

Claiming that their demand was justified, John pointed out that this was envisaged in the Gentlemen's Agreement reached at the time of formation of Andhra Pradesh in 1956.

"The high court bench will drastically reduce the number of cases pending with the high court and will provide justice to the people of coastal Andhra at their doorsteps," he said.

The JAC leaders claimed that majority of litigants in the high court were from coastal Andhra and they face a lot of hardships in travelling to Hyderabad.

They want the government not to link their demand with the report of Srikrishna committee, which is looking into demands for and against separate statehood to Telangana. The Srikrishna committee is expected to submit its report to the central government by Dec 31.

Law Minister Mopidev Venkata Ramana has assured the agitating lawyers that the state would take up the demand with the central government.

He said the demand for a high court bench between Guntur and Vijayawada was justified but since the issue does not fall within the purview of the state government, it is for the high court, Supreme Court and the central government to take a decision.



Railway Minister Mamata Banerjee honouring Sushil Kumar, medal winner of the Commonwealth Games, at a function in New Delhi.

DD left with permanent legacy after CWG

New Delhi, Public broadcaster Doordarshan has been left with a permanent legacy after the 2010 Commonwealth Games as now its staff knows "how to go about such an event" and even have new software at their disposal, says its chief.

"If such events take place, only then do improvements come about. We now have a set of people who know how to go about it," Doordarshan's director general Aruna Sharma told IANS.

Doordarshan was the rights-holding broadcaster for the Oct 3-14 Games for India and also provided the feed to foreign rights holders.

Sharma said the Games had left Doordarshan with a permanent legacy. Not only did the staff receive training in high definition TV format but they also honed their skills on camera angles and correction of lighting, she said.

The broadcaster had set up a new channel - DD HD - which telecast the event in high definition format, while DD Sports provided round-the-clock transmission on standard format. Other channels like DD National, DD Urdu, DD Bharti, DD News and regional Doordarshan channels also broadcast Games-related events.

The public broadcaster has plans to use the Games software at its disposal by showing special programmes like record-breaking feats by Indian athletes. It also has plans to bring out a DVD of the opening and closing ceremonies.

Doordarshan has also decided to pen down the lessons learnt from the CWG coverage so it can serve as a rulebook for future events.

"The idea is to put it on record and form a kind of rulebook so that the drill can be smoother for the next event. It is not meant to be a witch hunt," Sharma.

She said the broadcaster will write down how the sporting extravaganza, which saw the participation of 6,700 athletes and delegates from 71 teams, could have been broadcast in a better manner.

Sharma said Doordarshan faced tense moments as it was given access to venues "very, very late". The public broadcaster should have got the green signal to set up facilities at the venues by June, but they could get into the act properly only by August, she said.

Sharma said some delay was also caused by the unexpected heavy rains in the run-up to the mega event.

Most of the complications were eventually ironed out and the coverage evoked appreciation from broadcasters and viewers across the world, Sharma said.

A possible reason for glitches, Sharma said, was that a major international multi-sport event was held after a gap of over two decades.

"Nobody knew the whole picture as a key multi-sport international event was held in the country after 28 years, after the Asian Games of 1982," she said.

Suggesting a single-window clearance instead of multiple authorities, she said it would ease the process of setting up facilities.

Manchester United 3 Wolves 2: Pea shooter saves the day again! Javier Hernandez fires United into quarter-finals of Carling Cup

They brought their sombreros to Old Trafford last night in honour of a new hero. Javier Hernandez, Manchester United's new Mexican forward, did not let them down.

Watching a goalscorer in full flow when the confidence is pulsing through the veins is a remarkable thing. You know, just as they know, that at some point they will score. United have two such strikers who were not required last night.

Michael Owen, one of the finest marksmen of his generation, was in the stands while Wayne Rooney was in a posh hotel in Dubai. The one who mattered, though, was on the pitch.

He is very much the man of the moment for Sir Alex Ferguson and his misfiring team and last night Hernandez - alias Chicharito or Little Pea - needed only nine minutes as a substitute to win this game.

During a first half as wretched as anything you will ever see, an Old Trafford crowd of 45,000 was almost lulled in to a slumber. At full-time they roared their team from the field. That is what a goalscorer can do almost on his own.

With the game at 2-2 and seemingly heading for extra time, deep into the 89th minute United mounted one last forward movement. And as Hernandez charged through the middle he was picked out by Darron Gibson. Once Hernandez collected possession it was clear he would score.

He may only be 22 but he has the nerves of



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a veteran. Drawing his right foot back to shoot, he forced Steven Mouyokolo and keeper Wayne Hennessey to go to ground. When he then checked inside to set up the goal with his left foot, the rest was a formality.

'He was absolutely brilliant,' raved Ferguson. 'They build up heroes very quickly here but he is justifying the praise and quite right.'

We just knew when he came on that if he got a chance then he would take it. It was an absolutely magnificent finish. He dummed the defender really well.

'The area that is improving with him is his touch and control and also his vision. That's because the training is intense. We care about our training and we make sure our players improve.'

Perhaps the only player in the United dressing room who may

have felt a shred of envy when Hernandez followed up his two goals at Stoke with the winner here was the Portuguese starlet Bebe.

Starting his first game at Old Trafford since his £7.4million summer move from Guimaraes, Bebe crowned a performance of promise with a goal in the 56th minute. By full-time it had all been forgotten.

'He doesn't have the same advantage as Hernandez as he doesn't speak the language,' added Ferguson. 'But he is having his lessons twice a week and he will be fine. I was pleased with him.'

Bebe's goal was somewhat overdue as this had been a wretched game early on. United had made 11 changes from the team that beat Stoke while Wolves had only four players remaining from their 2-0 defeat

by Chelsea. Frankly, it showed. The game desperately needed a goal, even if it was a rather peculiar one. Tall and rangy, Bebe had shown a willingness to attack left back George Elokobi and it was one such run that led to the goal. Elokobi managed to get something on Bebe's cross but it served only to loop the ball over keeper Hennessey. Kevin Foley looked briefly to have headed clear from the line but the goal was rightly given after crossing the line.

From this point United should have eased towards the next round. However, Ferguson's team don't do anything easily these days and Wolves could have won the game over the course of the peculiar 20 minutes that followed.

Riled by United's goal, Wolves took just four minutes to equalise. A

corner was swung in from the right and Elokobi rose to head in from only six yards. Stephen Hunt, usually reliable in front of goal, clipped the top of the bar when he really should have scored from 18 yards and then former United midfielder player David Jones was similarly wasteful and his

shot went wide.

Wolves were playing with confidence and spirit and manager Mick McCarthy deserves credit. Too few teams visit Old Trafford with two centre forwards but McCarthy's did and with a little more composure from his players he could have been rewarded.

Indian company Venky's to buy Blackburn Rovers

London, Indian company Venky's, which specialises in poultry farming and pharmaceuticals, is close to finishing their takeover of English Premier League (EPL) football club Blackburn Rovers.

If the deal goes through, the company would be the first Indian firm to own a Premier League club. The company has held several meetings with the club's management and the deal will be finalised next month.

In a statement on the Blackburn website, Venky's chairperson Anuradha J. Desai said: "We expect to be the first Indian company to acquire a Premier League team. We are particularly delighted that the team is Blackburn Rovers, with whom we believe we have many shared values and ambitions."

Rovers chairman John Williams said both parties were "hopeful" the deal would be completed in November. "A series of meet-

ings, including discussions with Premier League, have followed an extensive due diligence process. Both parties are hopeful that the transaction will be completed in November," said Williams.

Blackburn boss Sam Allardyce welcomed the prospect of new investment in the team.

"Investment is needed at every football club and investment here has dried up somewhat because of the club being up for sale. We have a strong base at Rovers, a very good club which is run and managed very professionally indeed. Blackburn Rovers has a strong history and it could have a bright future given the right sort of investment," Allardyce was quoted as saying by the BBC.

In 2007, Indian steel magnate Lakshmi Mittal had brought 20 percent stake in second division Championship club Queen's Park Rangers.

IOC hopes to break billion-dollar mark for sponsorship

Acapulco (Mexico), The International Olympic Committee (IOC) hopes to break the billion-dollar mark for revenue from top sponsors by the time of the London Olympics in 2012, IOC marketing head Gerhard Heiberg said.

The IOC already has \$960 million of sponsorship in place for the 2009 to 2012 timeframe and remains confident of adding one or two more major companies by the London Games.

"The market situation has relaxed considerably. I hope that we will reach the billion-dollar mark in the coming year," Heiberg told DPA on the verges of the IOC Executive Committee meeting in Acapulco.

The IOC have managed to sign up Dow Chemical and Procter & Gamble in the last four months, bringing the number of top sponsors to 11.

The sponsorship programme brought in \$866 million for the 2006 Winter Games in Turin and the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics.

No patch up between Modi and BCCI, apex court told

New Delhi, The Supreme Court was Wednesday informed that efforts for a patch up between former Indian Premier League (IPL) commissioner Lalit Modi and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) have failed.

Modi's counsel Ram Jethmalani told the apex court that attempts for a settlement, despite the best efforts, did not succeed.

The matter was adjourned and will come up for hearing Nov 11. Modi is facing an inquiry for alleged financial irregularities in the IPL when he was at the helm of affairs.

No wives, girlfriends for England cricketers during Ashes

London, England cricket team's director Andy Flower has barred the players from seeing their wives and girlfriends for the first five weeks of the Ashes tour in Australia. The Daily Mail reported Tuesday that Flower showed his willingness to make unpopular decisions in pursuit of a first Ashes triumph in Australia for 24 years. The team leaves for England Friday. The first Test starts November 25 but the squad will not be allowed to see their families until after the second Test in Perth, scheduled to finish December 7. Flower also asked the 16-member team to travel to Australia with 'no fear' while insisting that warm-up matches will be taken deadly seriously.

In 2007, Indian steel magnate Lakshmi Mittal had brought 20 percent stake in second division Championship club Queen's Park Rangers.

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હિન્દી ગુઆ બેન્ડ

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News in a Nutshell

4 held for beating man to death in Rajkot Dist

Rajkot,

Four people have been arrested on the charge of killing a suspected pickpocket near State Transport bus depot of Morbi in Rajkot district. The four men had allegedly beaten to death a 40-year-old man for allegedly attempting to pick a pocket of one of them yesterday, police said. When the unknown man fell unconscious following the assault, the four dragged him to a nearby police station and lodged a police complaint against him for picking a pocket. He was admitted to a government hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead, they said, adding, the identity of the deceased was yet to be ascertained. Following which, the four men -- Dinesh Rathwa, Girish Rathwa, Ramnik Rathwa and Veenubha Rathwa -- were arrested. A police complaint has been filed against the four, they stated.

Four girls suspended from college for ragging

Jamnagar,

Four girl students of a medical college here have been suspended from the college as well as hostel for a month for their alleged involvement in the ragging of a girl student. According to Vikas Sinha, Dean of M P Shah Medical College, an investigation by authorities and New Delhi-based Anti-Ragging Helpline proved the involvement of all four girls in the ragging of Urmi Vijaykumar few weeks ago. A depressed Urmi informed her parents about the ragging and the mental torture by some of the girls in the college. Her father, Vijaykumar, lodged a complaint with the Anti-Ragging Helpline who, in turn, carried out an investigation in the matter in which the four girls were found involved in the ragging. On the basis of the report of the helpline's anti-ragging committee and college's own inquiry, the authorities have suspended the four girls from the college as well as hostel for a month. The suspended girls are Payal Chavda, Falguni Dhar, Nikita Mevada and Nirupama Sunara. Dr Rupam Solanki, who just completed her internship, was also found involved in the ragging and the authorities have asked her to pay a fine of Rs 25,000.

Communal clash kills 13 in Nigeria

Lagos,

At least 13 people have been killed while several went missing following a communal clash in Nigeria's Cross River state, police said. The incident occurred between Nsador and Boje communities in Boki local government area over a disputed piece of land, state police spokesperson Etim Dickson told reporters in state capital Calabar Tuesday. The toll could, however, increase considering the level of destruction in the area, Dickson was quoted as saying by Xinhua. A man named Michael Pius said his wife and six children were among those missing. Another man, Silas Abang, said there had been a lingering acrimony between the two communities over an ancestral piece of land. Eyewitnesses said around 200 people were admitted to hospital.

Four die in Orissa house wall collapse

Bhubaneswar,

Four members of a family, including a boy, died and one sustained critical injuries after a wall of their house collapsed early Wednesday in Orissa's Ganjam district, police said. The family was asleep when the accident occurred at about 1.30 a.m. in Baurisahi village, some 230 km from here. "A middle-aged woman and her 10-year-old son died on the spot. Her 65-year-old father and 60-year-old mother died in the hospital," inspector in charge of the local police station Paramananda Sahu told IANS. The woman's husband - the house owner - was rescued. He suffered critical injuries. The wall was an old one and in dilapidated condition, Sahu said.

Jharkhand lawyers boycott courts

Ranchi,

The Jharkhand High Court lawyers Wednesday boycotted courts to protest against the "unparliamentary remarks" by some judges. The advocates Tuesday decided to boycott the courts of all the 11 judges from Wednesday to protest against the unparliamentary remarks made by some of them, Jharkhand High Court Advocates Association leader Mantu Gope told IANS. "Lawyers should be treated with respect," he said.

BJP demands withdrawal of interlocutors from J & K

Ahmedabad,

Asking the Union Government to withdraw its interlocutors from Jammu and Kashmir, the BJP today demanded the arrest of separatist leader Syed Ali Geelani and writer-activist Arundhati Roy, terming their remarks about Kashmir as 'objectionable' and 'an attack on the country's integrity'. Taking strong exception to Jammu and Kashmir interlocutors' panel head Dilip Padgaonkar's remarks about involving Pakistan to resolve the decades-old Kashmir problem, the Party

spokesperson Tarun Vijay objected to the way the interlocutors were issuing statements and called for their withdrawal from the valley. Talking to mediapersons here, Mr Vijay wondered why the Union Government was showing haste in addressing the Kashmir issue on the eve of US President Barack Obama's India visit? "Is there any pressure from the US to address the Kashmir issue," he asked. Mr Vijay said the separatist and anti-national elements like Ms Roy and Mr Geelani should be immediately

booked under the law and given exemplary punishment for their remarks and acts. Ms Roy and Mr Geelani's statements indicate that there is rule of anarchy. He said the government should abrogate Article 370 of Constitution giving special status to Jammu and Kashmir. He said the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to India was full and final. The government should ensure safe return of Kashmiri Hindus to the valley. He added the BJP will organise rallies across the country to educate people about the Kashmir issue.

Diamond Hospital' for diamond workers

Surat,

In a bid to provide medical treatment on concessional rates to diamond workers in the city, the Surat Diamond Association (SDA) has decided to set up a hospital for them at Varachha. According to Dinesh Navadia, SDA President, the hospital will have all ultra-modern treatment facility including child OPD. Hospital will be developed on 21000 sq ft area at Chikoowadi in Varachha at a cost of Rs 20 crore. He said apart from providing general treatment, hospital would focus on diseases related to infants, children and women.

To meet the daily and monthly expenses of hospital, SDA has reserved Rs five crore in the form of bank bonds. The amount required for developing the hospital is

being collected through donations from diamond units, land developers and textile entrepreneurs. At present, SDA has almost raised more than 50 per cent of its project cost. "There was long time requirement of a good hospital, which can provide quality treatment to our diamond workers. Majority of workers belong from middle-class families and the way medical treatment is getting costlier each day, it is becoming difficult for them to afford proper treatment. We plan to inaugurate hospital as early as possible," Mr Navadia said. Mr Navadia added that apart from subsidized treatment, patients will also be provided with medicines at discounted rates. In coming days, all kinds of treatment would be available in the hospital.

US lost link with 50 nuclear warheads for 45 minutes

Washington,

The US military lost communication with 50 of its nuclear missiles last week for about 45 minutes due to an engineering failure, the Wall Street Journal said.

A defence official said the failure disrupted communications between a control centre and the missiles at F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming, making it difficult to launch them and sending the military scrambling to determine the cause of the incident. President Barack Obama was briefed about the incident this week, the Journal added. The incident took place Saturday and was first reported by the Atlantic on its website Tuesday. The Atlantic reported that the squadron of inter-continental ballistic missiles (ICBM) was in "LF Down" status, which means the airmen in the missile bunkers could not communicate with the missiles.



President Pratibha Devisingh Patil receiving Pankha of PhoolWalon Ki Sair organized by the Anjuman Sair-e-Gul Faroshan at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

Hearing in Sohrabuddin encounter case adjourned

Ahmedabad,

The Gujarat High Court today adjourned till tomorrow the further hearing on the bail plea filed by former minister of state for home Amit Shah in Sohrabuddin Sheikh fake encounter case of 2005.

Senior lawyer K T S Tuli, the counsel for the CBI, submitted before the court of Justice R H Shukla that Shah, who is currently lodged in Sabarmati Central Jail here, is threatening the witnesses and tampering with evidence even from inside the jail, he said and asked what happens if he is freed on bail.

Mr Tuli said such activities by Shah from the jail was a mockery of judicial system.

He also quoted relevant portions from the statements given by the witnesses including builder brothers Dashrath and Ramhan Patel, Rubabuddin, brother of Sohrabuddin Sheikh, gangsters Azam Khan, Naimuddin and Nuru Goghari.

Shah has approached Gujarat High Court and filed an application seeking to set aside an order of special CBI court re-

jecting his bail plea. Shah was taken into custody on July 25, after his surrender before the CBI, and was remanded to judicial custody till August 21. He appealed for bail on July 26.

CBI has accused Shah, a close confidante of Mr Modi, of murder, kidnapping, conspiracy and extortion in connection with Sohrabuddin Sheikh fake encounter case. According to the charge-sheet by CBI, Shah is the prime accused involved in the

case along with IPS officers Rajkumar Pandian, Abhay Chudasama, M N Dinesh and D G Vanzara. Sohrabuddin, who was detained along with his wife Kausar Bi, was killed in an alleged fake encounter at the city outskirts here in November 2005. Kausar Bi was also later eliminated, while another eyewitness to their detention, Tulsiram Prajapati, was also killed in another staged encounter near Ambaji on Gujarat-Rajasthan border in 2006.

Leopard kills boy in Uttar Pradesh

Lucknow,

A leopard killed a 12-year-old boy in Uttar Pradesh's Bahraich district after straying out of a forest reserve, an official said Wednesday. Hariram of Navtod village was mauled to death by the leopard in the Nishangadha range of the Katarniaghat forest reserve.

"The adult leopard Monday attacked Hariram in the village and dragged him to the forest

area where his mutilated body was found Tuesday," Divisional Forest Official R.K. Singh told reporters in Bahraich, some 130 km from here.

It is for the first time that a leopard has killed a human in the Nishangadha range of the wildlife sanctuary, he added.

As per the last census conducted in 2005, Katarniaghat forest reserve is home to at least 32 leopards.

Vadodara toy train tacks set for repair

Vadodara,

The Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC) has decided to repair the tacks for the toy train in Sayajibaug, civic officials said, adding the work would start next month.

The toy train runs on a 10-inch wide track and used to cover 3.5 km, but the distance was reduced after an accident in December 2009. Now, it has been decided to increase the distance by adding tracks lying unused at Ajwa Sarovar.

"We will replace the slippers (wooden slabs) placed under iron tracks. But we will not close the services. Considering the popularity of the train and also Diwali vacations, we have decided to carry out maintenance in a phased manner and during the time when the train is not running. The slippers are changed regularly to give

better stability to them train," said V R Chikhaliya, director, (parks and gardens). In December, 2009, the toy train had met with an accident when it derailed during the last trip of the day. There were about 32 children on board.

Annually, VMC allocates Rs 2 lakh for the maintenance of the train but officials admitted due to time constraints, the maintenance work is often put on hold.

Meanwhile VMC officials said, not much has moved on the plans to have another toy train on build-operate-transfer basis. "There are several aspects, including financial, that need to be looked into, apart from the technical part of the project to have another train at Sayajibaug," said a VMC official.

Cell phones edging out wrist watches in telling time

London,

Cell phones are edging out something as basic as wrist watches in telling time. One in seven people say they have "no reason" to wear a watch, according to a survey.

The change has been attributed to the rising tide of time-telling gadgets in our possession - mobile phones, iPods and laptops.

Most of those surveyed by market researchers Mintel said they relied on their mobile or PC, rather than a watch, to tell the time, reports the Daily Mail.

Although 86 percent of people still own a watch, more than nine in 10 own a mobile. And those aged 25 or younger are twice as likely as those in their 40s or 50s to have stopped wearing a watch, with 28 percent not having one.

Sales of watches have remained flat over the last few years and watchmakers are struggling to convince shoppers that expensive timepieces are worth the money. Tamara Sender of Mintel said: "Many consumers have grown up with technology and are just as likely to associate the notion of checking the time with a mobile handset as with a watch."



Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad activists shout slogans during a protest rally against alleged commercialisation of education by the Union Government, in Bhopal.

Curfew in Srinagar to scuttle separatist march

Srinagar,

Curfew was imposed in Srinagar and some major towns of Kashmir Valley to scuttle a protest march called by separatists Wednesday.

"Curfew has been imposed in Srinagar city,

Awantipora, Pattan, Palhalan, Kunzar, Sopore, Handwara, Kupwara and Kralpora towns as a preventive measure," a senior police officer said here. The officer, however, said the movement of students and officegoers was not being disallowed in Srinagar city besides facilitating the passage of patients and other emergencies.

"The intention of the administration to impose curfew is not to inconvenience the common man. It is intended to prevent miscreants from creating a law and order situation," the officer said. Both the separatist Hurriyat groups headed by hardline leader Syed Ali Geelani and Mirwaiz Umer Farooq appealed to people to march to the office of the UN Military Observers Group (UNMOG) in uptown Sonwar area of summer capital Srinagar to protest the landing of the Indian Army in Kashmir on this day in 1947. Shops, other businesses, public transport, banks and post offices remained closed in most parts of Srinagar city and other major

When a SON is born a MAN is born when a DAUGHTER is BORN a MOTHER is BORN



Women celebrating 'Karva-Chauth' festival at Lala Lajpat Rai Bhawan in Patna.