

## **Business and Politics in Muslim World**

**India**  
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## **Summary:**

Congress decided that the government, not the party, would have to clarify on the various aspects of the Bhopal gas Tragedy case, as the facts are only with the government. The party was concerned that the former Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi's image should not be tarnished by the controversy.

Senior leader of the Communist Party of India Gurudas Dasgupta said, the Communist movement in India is at a crossroads and needs a restructuring and greater democratization to bring it closer to the people. Mr. Dasgupta regretted that despite several years at the helm in West Bengal, apart from a few initiatives such as land reforms and the strengthening of the Panchayati Raj system, the Left had not been able to reflect an alternative line.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) launched a broadside against the United Progressive Alliance government over the Civil Nuclear Liability Bill and accused it of working for U.S. interests. Party says the bill failed to hold American and other foreign suppliers responsible in the event of a nuclear accident.

Sharp decrease in Muslim community's support for Left Front causes concerns for the alliance. Muslim voters no more trust their unfulfilled promises. West Bengal government announced to implement Sachar Commission's suggestions for Muslim backward class but it could not deliver well practically. Muslims constitute the most backward community of Left ruled states. As a result they are moving towards Trinamool Congress and other parties.

The interrogation of a senior Naxal leader caught recently by the security forces in Bihar has reportedly revealed a link between them and insurgent groups in the Northeast.

India has strongly protested the inclusion of Naxal issue under the realm of an "armed conflict" in a UN report that deals with 'Children and armed conflicts' saying the violence being perpetrated by these groups does not make it a zone of armed conflict as defined by international law. The report, which is produced by the office of Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and submitted to the Security Council, highlighted the recruitment and use of children by the Maoist armed group in some districts of the Chhattisgarh. The report also pointed out that the Naxal's had carried out systematic attacks on schools in order to intentionally destroy government structures and to instill fear among the local community.

India is quite capable of combating the impact of Eurozone crisis as India's exports to the European Union as a percentage of GDP (gross domestic product) was only 3.4 per cent. Although the stock markets are fluctuating, this is due to the global trends, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said. ADB has projected an 8.2 per cent growth and for 2011 the projection is 8.7 per cent for India.

Stock market benchmark Sensex climbed 273 points to settle at its highest level in more than one month on the back of a smart rally in IT stocks and RIL. Shrugging off concerns over double digit inflation, the 30-share barometer of the Bombay Stock Exchange rose 273.2 points, or 1.6 per cent, to finish at 17,338.17, a level last seen on May 3.

The inflation rate surging into double digits and it touched 10.16 per cent in May, the highest in the last 19 months.

India conveyed its concerns to US for Pak-China nuclear cooperation. India clearly told US that it has objections on such cooperation between China and Pakistan during strategic dialogue with US.

After failing to persuade Pakistan to resolve the Kishenganga hydel project dispute at the government level, India on Wednesday named a judge of the Geneva-based International Court of Justice Peter Tomka and a Swiss international law expert Lucius Caflisch to represent it. India's greatest effort will go into ensuring that Pakistan should not get a veto on forthcoming water projects in India. Pakistan's main disputes are first that India's proposed diversion of the Kishenganga (its called Neelum in Pakistan) to another tributary, Bonar-Madmati Nallah "breaches India's legal obligations under the treaty." Pakistan also objects to India's decision to deplete the level of the reservoir level of the plant to "below the dead storage level (DSL)". Its reason being that it says the treaty places strict limitations on drawdown of water. Pakistan wants to prevent India from proceeding on the project until the verdict. India doesn't want to do this because it's a financial liability and then the project could become threatened. Pakistan also wants a legal declaration that the diversion is a breach of the treaty. Third, that India should not draw down the water level of the reservoir.

India successfully test-fired its nuclear-capable, ballistic missile Prithvi-II from a launch complex of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur-on-sea. With a maximum striking range of 350 km, Prithvi-II is capable of carrying a pay-load of 500 kg.

Britain has launched an inquiry into reports that millions of pounds of aid for education has disappeared into the depths of corruption without any benefit to the poor children the aid was intended for.

India has been ranked as a "Tier II Watch List" country only one level better than worst-performing Tier III countries such as Saudi Arabia and Zimbabwe in the 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP) compiled by the United States State Department. India ranks among those countries whose governments do not fully comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act's (TVPA) minimum standards. The Government of India did not demonstrate sufficient progress in its law enforcement, protection, or prevention efforts to address labour trafficking, particularly bonded labour.

## **National Report**

### **Politics:**

#### **Bhopal: Congress says it's for government, not party, to explain**

The Congress, pushed to defend its record in dealing with the Bhopal gas tragedy case, was once again in firefighting mode. On Friday evening, its core committee consisting of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Congress president Sonia Gandhi, her political secretary Ahmed Patel, Union Ministers Pranab Mukherjee, P. Chidambaram and A.K. Antony decided that “the government, not the party, would have to clarify” on the various aspects of the case, as “the facts are only with the government,” highly placed sources told. The party was concerned, the sources said, that the former Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi's image should not be tarnished by the controversy. There was also anxiety that the continuing attempt to “isolate” and “humiliate” the former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister, Arjun Singh, might provoke him into breaking his silence on the chain of events and phone calls that led to Union Carbide chairman Warren Anderson being given safe passage out of Bhopal and the country. The BJP, smelling blood, has naturally pitched in: Chief Minister Shivraj Chauhan has written to Mr. Singh asking for an explanation on Mr. Anderson's “flight” from Bhopal and also for a panel of legal experts to examine the trial court judgment. Earlier, a Cabinet Minister told that the government had hoped that the announcement of the reconstituted Group of Ministers (GoM) on Bhopal, with its wide ranging mandate, would help to quell public anger and Opposition fire. But with the controversy continuing to rage in the media, and a growing dramatis personae stepping on the stage with revelations and accusations, the Minister said, the Congress was being compelled to answer questions. The Minister also stressed the need to ensure that Rajiv Gandhi was not dragged into the mire. Indeed, party spokesperson Jayanthi Natarajan on Friday emphatically stated that there was “no question of the Rajiv Gandhi government being implicated,” and that the GoM would unearth all facts about the case. “All facts need to be brought out about how Warren Anderson escaped,” she said, adding, “All avenues should be explored to arrive at the truth.” The sources said the Congress might also go on the offensive and question why the NDA government, which was in power for six years, did nothing to push for his extradition. Defending Mr. Chidambaram and his Cabinet colleague, Kamal Nath — who reportedly advised the government not to press Dow Chemicals for remediation charges as the company was prepared to invest in India Ms. Natarajan said: “It is not right to cast aspersions on Ministers who gave an opinion on an issue, without knowing the context.” However, P.C. Alexander, then Principal Secretary to Rajiv Gandhi, hinted that Rajiv Gandhi might have released Mr. Anderson in consultation with Mr. Singh. His remarks drew an angry response from Congress leader R.K. Dhawan, private secretary to Rajiv Gandhi when he was Prime Minister. Mr. Dhawan alleged that since the Congress had not backed Mr. Alexander's BJP-sponsored candidature for President, he was now taking revenge. Defending Rajiv Gandhi, Mr. Dhawan squarely blamed Mr. Singh, saying Rajiv Gandhi would never have put pressure on any Chief Minister. Meanwhile, Congress general secretary Digvijay Singh too modified his statement about the possibility of “U.S. pressure”: “I was campaigning and really don't know the events which led to the bail and release of Mr. Anderson,” he said.

Those who could answer questions were Mr. Arjun Singh, and the then senior officials of the State government, he pointed out, stressing that Rajiv Gandhi had left his campaign and rushed to Bhopal to meet the families of the victims. (The Hindu)

### **Communist movement in India at a crossroads, says Gurudas Dasgupta**

The Communist movement in India “is at a crossroads” and needs “a restructuring and greater democratization” to bring it closer to the people, senior leader of the Communist Party of India Gurudas Dasgupta said on the eve of the party's national council meeting to be held in Hyderabad. Mr. Dasgupta said the setback suffered by the Left in the recent civic elections “is not only a question of a poll debacle in West Bengal, but begs the larger question: why has the Left not been able to make a headway at the national level?” He spoke of the “need for the restructuring of the Communist movement and re-committing itself to humanism and the people.” Mr. Dasgupta regretted that despite several years at the helm in West Bengal, apart from a few initiatives such as land reforms and the strengthening of the Panchayati Raj system, the Left had not been able to “reflect an alternative line.” “The setting up of a few industrial units cannot meet the aspirations of the younger generations,” he said, adding that hardly any attempts were made to take care of sick units. Pointing out that the Left had suffered reverses in industrial belts, particularly on either side of the Ganga, Mr. Dasgupta said: “The violation of labour laws and gross exploitation of labour in traditional industries, including jute and tea, have alienated the working class.” “The role of the trade unions has been undermined and even the right of workers to go on strike was questioned,” said Mr. Dasgupta, who is also general secretary of the All-India Trade Union Congress (AITUC). He said it was possible for the Left to bounce back to the centre of Indian polity by “rallying democratic forces, re-evaluating its policies, and building up a militant mass struggle at a time when Parliament is being sidelined in the political system.” On whether the suggested “restructuring of the Left movement” could be achieved before the crucial 2011 Assembly elections in West Bengal and Kerala, Mr. Dasgupta said: “The potential of the Left doesn't depend on the result of one election.” He emphasised the need for a public debate to find the root causes of the Left poll reverses. “Discussion within the confines of the party organisation, as is normally done, is not enough to bring out the truth...they ought to be held at a broader level for the sake of an objective assessment of the situation,” Mr. Dasgupta said. (The Hindu)

### **Paswan, Rudy win Rajya Sabha seats from Bihar, Mallya fromn Karnataka**

Lok Janshakti party chief Ram Vilas Paswan and BJP leader Rajeev Pratap Rudy have won Rajya Sabha seats from Bihar while Independent candidate Vijay Mallya has won from Karnataka. The nominees of the ruling NDA and RJD-LJP combine, including former union minister Paswan, were set to be elected to the Rajya Sabha from Bihar today after independent candidate and Bangalore-based businessman B G Uday conceded defeat. With Uday, whose presence in the fray necessitated the elections to the five Rajya Sabha seats from the state, conceding defeat, winning the polls has become an easy task for RJD-LJP nominees Paswan and Ramkripal Yadav besides BJP's Rajiv Pratap Rudy and JD(U)'s R C P Singh and Upendra Prasad Kushwaha. "I have conceded defeat ... I can't survive in politics here. I will go back to Bangalore after congratulating the

winner," Uday told reporters while leaving the polling centre at the state Assembly. All the parties, save BSP, have issued whips asking their MLAs to vote for official nominees. CPI with three MLAs has decided to support Paswan. (Times of India)

### **UPA serving U.S. interests: BJP**

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday launched a broadside against the United Progressive Alliance government over the Civil Nuclear Liability Bill and accused it of working for U.S. interests. Spokesman Syed Shahanawaz Hussain told reporters that the bill failed to hold American and other foreign suppliers responsible in the event of a nuclear accident. "There are no liabilities on the part of foreign suppliers." "The operator's liability is capped at Rs. 500 crore, and the government's liability and that of the Convention on Supplementary Compensation (CSC) for nuclear damage is capped at Rs. 2,200 crore each; but in the U.S., the operator's liability is capped at Rs. 30,000 crore," Mr. Hussain said. Criticising the government for trying to delete Section 17 (b) of the bill (which makes foreign suppliers liable for damage in case of a nuclear accident), Mr. Hussain said the note had "circulated on June 8 without Cabinet approval." "Only after the BJP raised the issue did the government agree to withdraw the inimical amendment." "Had there been such a cap on Union Carbide, its chief Warren Anderson would never have been able to flee the country," he said. As for the Bihar Assembly elections, Mr. Hussain said price rise would be a major campaign issue for the BJP. Asked whether Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi would campaign for the party, Mr. Hussain said the party would decide who would campaign and who would be its candidates at an "appropriate time." (The Hindu)

### **Bill meant to safeguard U.S. firms, says Karat**

The Manmohan Singh-led government is under pressure from Washington on the Civil Nuclear Liability Bill and the proposed legislation bears the handiwork of the U.S. nuclear industry lobby. Hence it must be scrapped. This was stated by Communist Party of India (Marxist) general secretary Prakash Karat in the latest edition of the party organ, Peoples' Democracy. He said both the bill, which is being scrutinized by a parliamentary panel, and the Bhopal episode brought out some class truths and underscored need to draw lessons from the 1984 gas tragedy. "If there are lessons to be learnt from the tragic episode of Bhopal, it is that there should be strict laws, which will assign civil liability and ensure that criminal liability is also pinned down. There can be no compromise with the lives and safety of the Indian people to appease the commercial interests and profits of foreign and Indian big business. The first step towards ensuring this will be to scrap the Civil Nuclear Liability Bill," he said. Referring to the class truths, he said the first was that the Central government of the day and successive governments served the interests of big capitalists and corporates; for the ruling classes and their political representatives the 20,000 people who died and tens of thousands who were physically affected were poor and expendable, with the judiciary also reflecting it, and the class outlook could be seen in the Civil Nuclear Liability Bill. The bill, he said, was meant to safeguard the interests of the U.S. companies that would supply reactors to India. In the event of a nuclear accident, they were to be exempted from any liability to pay

compensation for the damage caused. “What Westinghouse and General Electric want is that even the limited liability that accrued to the Union Carbide in the case of Bhopal [\$470 million as per the settlement approved by the Supreme Court] should not fall on them.” The government had tried to obfuscate the issue by arguing that a foreign supplier could be liable if such a clause was included in the contract between the operator and the supplier. “If the law is passed, if there is a faulty design or a manufacturing defect in a reactor supplied by a U.S. company, the operator or the victim of an accident has no right to claim damages from the supplier.” On the Rs. 500-crore liability cap on the operator, Mr. Karat said it had been put because the government wanted to bring in private operators in the nuclear sector and the law would limit the liability of Indian or foreign private companies that operated reactors. On the government argument that it wanted to accede to the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage, and access to international funds, he said the Convention was favoured by the U.S. Only 13 countries had joined it and of these, only four had ratified it. “The government should answer why it does not go by the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability, which does not cap nuclear liability but only puts a minimum floor. Further, it also allows countries to operate their independent liability regimes.” Drawing attention to the BP oil spill in the U.S, he said, the powerful oil lobby got the U.S. Congress to put a cap on the liability of oil firms for the damage at \$ 75 million and now efforts were on to raise the cap to \$ 10 billion or to leave the scope for unlimited liability. Mr. Karat said that for no more recurrence of Bhopals and Warren Andersons, the government should make Dow Chemical that has taken over Union Carbide pay all the costs for cleaning up the Bhopal factory site and the environment. As for the Group of Ministers on it, he said it included Ministers who wanted to absolve Dow of all such responsibility. “This will be an acid test of the government's intention.” (The Hindu)

### **Minorities' Issues:**

#### **No quota hoax: LF to Muslims**

KOLKATA: Realising that a large number of poor Muslims have shifted their allegiance to the Opposition despite the initiative to extend to them the benefits of OBC status, the Left Front government has coined a new slogan “Reservation of minority Muslims as OBC: Not a hoax but a reality” in a transparent bid to regain the trust of the poorer sections of the Muslim community. The chief minister Mr Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee recently asked the minister of state for state for minority development and Madrassa education Mr Abdus Sattar to send him a note updating him on the status of reservation of minority Muslims as Other Backward Classes (OBC), said an official at Writers' Buildings. Subsequently, Mr Sattar has prepared a note titled “Reservation of minority Muslims as OBC: Not a hoax but a reality” which would be submitted to the chief minister soon. An official of the department said the government is planning to issue an advertisement in the media detailing the progress of the work of bringing poor Muslims under the OBC category. The CPI-M, too, is set to launch a campaign in the minority areas to highlight the initiative taken by the Left Front government to upgrade the living standard of the poverty-stricken section of the Muslim community. A CPI-M state committee member said analysis of results of the panchayat and Lok Sabha polls

indicated that the party's vote bank among the minority community has eroded and most Muslims have switched their allegiance to the Trinamul Congress. "Though the party state committee is yet to analyse the results of the recently-concluded civic polls, it appears that the state government's announcement regarding reservation of Muslims has failed to bring poor Muslims back to the LF camp. We are going to launch a campaign in the minority belt to highlight the welfare activities taken up by the state government for the minorities," the leader said. The note, prepared by the minority development & Madrassa education department, states: "Within four months of announcement by the chief minister the State Minority Commission has identified 31 groups. Including the earlier 12 groups, now the number of groups (to be included in OBC category) stands at 43. The government decision has been announced in (the) form of a release and out of 2.05 crore Muslims, 1 crore people have already come under the purview of reservation. Preparation is on for another 90 groups". The note also pointed out: "The process of issuing certificate has been simplified by a committee headed by the chief secretary." (The Statesman)

### **Why Muslims no longer support the Left**

Abdur Rezzak Mollah believes that had the state government accepted the Sachar Committee report and announced job reservations for Muslims, they would not have deserted the CPI-M, says sk sadar nayeem CPI-M state secretary Biman Bose has conceded in his preliminary report to the Politburo that the swing in the Muslim vote, especially in Kolkata, spelt doom for the Left Front in the municipal elections. The mandarins of Alimuddin Street had earlier denied, after Trinamul's resounding victory in the three-tier panchayat polls in 2008 and the Lok Sabha elections in 2009 that Muslims who once used to be the party's most dependable vote-bank had turned away. Bose and his party had then failed to read the writing on the wall and did not try to examine the causes for the erosion of its Muslim support base. Bose had said then that propaganda misled some Muslims, not the majority. He was acting like the ostrich. Muslim opposition to the Buddhadeb Bhattacharya government started growing when land acquisition for the sake of industrialisation began in 2006 in Muslim-dominated Rajarhat and Bhangar. Singur and Nandigram intensified that opposition. Muslims in rural Bengal, especially farmers and agricultural labourers, voted against the CPI-M with a vengeance in the panchayat polls and again in the Lok Sabha elections. The findings of the Sachar Committee reflected the Muslim discontent in urban areas and added to the Left's woes. In his preliminary report to the Politburo, Bose said that of 18 Muslim-dominated wards in Kolkata, Trinamul bagged 14 while the Left managed to get only four. However, Bose's report is not totally correct. In Kolkata there are at least 28 wards where there is a substantial Muslim presence. Of these 28 wards, Trinamul bagged 22 and the Left got only six, indicating the huge erosion of support among urban Muslims that had stood by the party in the past. Interestingly, this was despite the Left government's bid to woo the community with a 10 per cent reservation in government jobs. It proved that Muslim alienation had deeper roots over three decades of Left rule in the state. The Left had become apathetic towards the problems of Muslims and had treated them only as vote banks. The CPI-M's time-tested poll plank of secularism this time was also threatened when during the civic poll campaign, the chief minister made a last-minute appeal to BJP

supporters to vote for the Left Front. It came as a blow to Muslims who were already annoyed with the Left. Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee's appeal to the BJP made the Muslim community apprehensive about the secular credentials of the chief minister himself. After the civic poll results, Bengal land and land reforms minister Abdur Rezzak Mollah told this writer that had the state government accepted the Sachar Committee report at the beginning and announced job reservations for Muslims in the state, they would not have deserted the CPI-M. In fact, when the Sachar Committee report first came to light painting a grim picture of the socio-economic and educational status of Muslims in the country, especially in West Bengal, the mandarins of Alimuddin Street didn't agree. The chief minister lambasted the report because "it put West Bengal in a poor light. The report didn't do justice to us. It didn't take into account the number of Muslims who got jobs as teachers, as policemen and in so many other sectors". He was unaware of the fact that there was a general perception among Muslims that the CPI-M government virtually had done nothing for Muslims during its 33 years of rule in West Bengal. And that perception was not without reason. Contrary to what the chief minister claimed about Muslim employment, the data related to Muslim employees in two major government departments shows how abysmally low their representation is. The data which was made available by the two organisations, following an RTI query filed by a Kolkata-based NGO, is self-explanatory. The data says, "The total number of employees in the Kolkata police force is 24,840 of which only 2,267 are Muslims, constituting a mere 9.13 per cent of the overall strength. Of a total 24,840 employees in the Kolkata police, only 414 are women, and only 12 of them (2.9 per cent approx) are Muslims." The figures from the Kolkata Municipal Corporation are worse. "The municipal body has only 1,555 Muslim employees in its workforce of 34,731. Of the 4,556 women employees, only 136 are Muslims comprising just 2.98 per cent." However, when the chief minister realised his folly, he changed his statement and somehow reluctantly agreed... "there is a lot more to do for the development of the Muslims and the Left Front government was doing that exactly". Interestingly, the chief minister didn't disclose what exactly his government was doing. His remarks, therefore, only made it look as if he was fooling around in the way his party had been doing for so long. Under these circumstances, the West Bengal government's announcement of 10 per cent reservation for OBC Muslims in government jobs cut no ice. It was seen as a tactical ploy to draw political capital. If the Left government announced job reservations for Muslims in a hurry, it was because it had realised the challenge posed by the shift in the Muslim mindset. The results of the civic polls indicate that the challenge still exists and may prove costly in the coming assembly elections. (The Statesman)

### **Aligarh V-C defends 'Special Centres'**

The Aligarh Muslim University on Monday rejected allegations that the decision to establish 'special centres' in different parts of the country was illegal and against the letter and spirit of the founding objectives of the institution. "Under Section 12(2) of the University Act 1981, the Visitor of the University was empowered to set up such Centres," AMU Vice-Chancellor P.K. Abdul Azis said. The University's decision has been opposed by a number of members of different governing bodies of the University and also the AMU Old Boys' Association. "The restriction of 25 km from the University

campus for establishing such centres existed in the earlier Acts of the University. The present Act of 1981 did not include any such restriction,” Mr. Azis said while addressing a meeting of staff and students of the University. The decision to establish these centres had been sanctioned by all the governing bodies of the University including the University Court and Executive Council, he added. Kaukab Hameed, Secretary of AMU Old Boys' Association, said, “The move would erode the character of the University and adversely affect its academic standards.” A national convention of University's alumni is being held here on June 19 on the issue. (The Hindu)

### **Hindu Fundamentalism:**

### **Insurgency Movements:**

#### **Naxal reveals ‘links’ with NE groups**

The interrogation of a senior Naxal leader caught recently by the security forces in Bihar has reportedly revealed a link between them and insurgent groups in the Northeast. Shambhu, a member of the Naxal ‘Central Military Commission’, is believed to have been active in Bihar and Jharkand. Delhi has long suspected such a link, and hopes to find out whether it extends from training to supply of arms and ammunition from Shambhu’s interrogation. As per sources in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the 48-hour bandh called by Maoists in Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Orissa was primarily prompted by the arrest of Shambhu and Chandrashekhar Gorebale, a member of the CPI (Maoist) state committee who was recently caught in Andhra Pradesh. Apart from this, say sources, the Maoists had also been rattled by other successes by security forces recently, including a raid by the CRPF in Gaya jungles in Bihar yielding a large amount of explosives and the destruction of a Maoist camp near the Jharkhand-Orissa border. Security forces have also arrested several Naxal leaders and activists recently. (The Indian Express)

#### **Peace process with ULFA set to pick up momentum**

The peace process with the United Liberation Front of Asom looks set to pick up momentum over the next few weeks with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh likely to meet leaders of the Sanmilita Jatiya Abhibartan (SJA), comprising leading intellectuals and prominent citizens, which has taken the initiative to revive the peace process. A day after apprising Dr. Singh of the progress being made on the peace process, Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi discussed the issue with Home Minister P. Chidambaram on Wednesday. Mr. Gogoi gave enough hints of the State government's willingness to speed up the peace process. He also indicated that the services of the former Intelligence Bureau Director, P.C. Haldar, could be utilised in the peace process. “A majority of ULFA leaders are in favour of talks. The government may appoint Mr. Haldar interlocutor for ULFA talks,” Mr. Gogoi told journalists, after the meeting Mr. Chidambaram. Mr. Gogoi said he was consulting the ULFA leaders, most of whom are in jail, on reviving the peace process. “We cannot wait for Paresh Barua [ULFA military chief] for an indefinite time. We have appealed to him to come. But so far the response is not positive.” Barua is believed to be based in Bangladesh. (The Hindu)

## **Naxal problem not an armed conflict: India to UNSC**

India has strongly protested the inclusion of Naxal issue under the realm of an "armed conflict" in a UN report, saying the violence being perpetrated by these groups does not make it a zone of armed conflict as defined by international law. Referring to the recent UN report that deals with 'Children and armed conflicts', India's envoy to UN Hardeep Singh Puri told Security Council that operations of the Maoist groups did not fall into the realm of an "armed conflict". "At the outset I should make clear that the violence being perpetrated by these groups though completely abhorrent and condemnable, certainly does not make this a zone of armed conflict as defined by international law," he said. "We, therefore, cannot accept reporting on these incidents as falling within the mandate of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict," he said, referring to top UN official Radhika Coomaraswamy. The report, which is produced by the office of Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and submitted to the Security Council, highlighted the recruitment and use of children by the Maoist armed group in some districts of the Chhattisgarh. "The Naxals have admitted that children were used only as messengers and informers but have admitted that children were provided with training to use non-lethal and lethal weapons including landmines," the report said. Coomaraswamy did not respond to PTI on India's specific objection but the UN diplomat spoke generally to reporters about the difficulty of defining an armed conflict. "What is an armed conflict is contested," she said, adding that many countries who have been in this report claim that they are not in situations of armed conflict. "What we determine is that there has to be a political dimension to it for an armed conflict," she said, adding the report made a disclaimer that this was not a "legal determination" of the situation being an armed conflict but countries were selected on the basis that it is a "political conflict with humanitarian consequences for children." The report also pointed out that the Naxal's had carried out systematic attacks on schools in order to intentionally destroy government structures and to instill fear among the local community. Some schools remained closed or abandoned due to lack of security. It also described the incident in which Naxalites forced villagers to provide five boys and girls for their armed group in October 2009, and stated that the Jharkhand police had vacated 28 of 43 schools in Naxal-affected areas of the state and were in the process of vacating 13 more. Speaking at an open-debate on children in armed conflict, Puri told the Security Council that New Delhi was taking measures to address the situation. "We strongly condemn these despicable acts of Naxal violence and are fully committed to controlling such diabolical activities," he said. (The Indian Express)

## **Economic Front:**

### **India can combat impact of Greek crisis: ADB**

India is quite capable of combating the impact of Eurozone crisis. Although the stock markets are fluctuating, this is due to the global trends, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said. Mr Rajat M Nag, managing director general of ADB, said that India's exports to the European Union as a percentage of GDP (gross domestic product) was only 3.4 per cent. In case of China the corresponding figure is 6.7 per cent. So, India is less

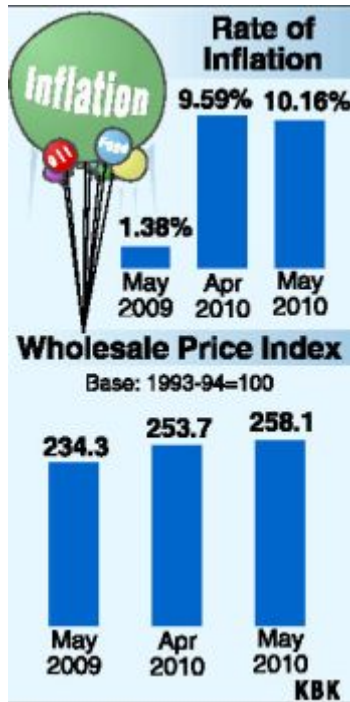
vulnerable to the debt crisis in Eurozone. "We have seen the worst of the crisis. But since it seems to be still unfolding at times, it is difficult to say anything with certainty. If the crisis worsens, then of course there will be some impact", Mr Nag said. The ADB sees robust growth in India. For 2010 calendar year, ADB has projected an 8.2 per cent growth and for 2011 the projection is 8.7 per cent. The corresponding figures for China are 9.6 per cent and 9.1 per cent. Asia is well on its recovery path and "we don't expect another sort of recession", he said. India has done a good balancing act. While the stimulus package is being withdrawn gradually, the monetary policy is slowly tightened. A proper balance in this regard is very important to ensure economic growth and at the same time keep inflation under control. India is also managing fiscal deficit well. In fact, maintaining growth is not a problem for India. But inflation, particularly food inflation, is a cause for concern, Mr Nag said. "India is very important to us. The country is one of the top three recipients of ADB support. It will receive \$1.6 billion in the calendar year 2010 and its total outstanding so far is \$8.8 billion", the Asian Development Bank managing director general said, adding "our top priorities are infrastructure, transportation and financial sectors". (The Statesman)

### **Sensex surges to four-week high**

Stock market benchmark Sensex climbed 273 points to settle at its highest level in more than one month on the back of a smart rally in IT stocks and RIL. Shrugging off concerns over double digit inflation, the 30-share barometer of the Bombay Stock Exchange rose 273.2 points, or 1.6 per cent, to finish at 17,338.17, a level last seen on May 3. This is the fourth straight day of gains for the gauge. The bellwether opened higher and remained in the green for the entire session. Firm global cues, as well as a rush at IT counters, pushed the index to a high of 17,351.18 at the closing bell for trade. The wide-based 50-share Nifty Index of the National Stock Exchange also ended 1.53 per cent higher at 5,197.70. "Investor sentiment across the globe is very positive and domestic economic conditions are also bullish. Markets are taking a sigh of relief," Network Stock Broking CEO Girish Dev said. IT major Infosys, which carries the maximum weight on the benchmark indices after RIL, zoomed 4.32 per cent to Rs 2,747.2 amid improving markets conditions in the West, from where Indian firms get most of their revenue. "We saw good demand for IT stocks on renewed optimism that the US is on the right track, with TCS, Infosys and Wipro gaining," said Geojit BNP Paribas Research Head Alex Mathews. TCS rose 2.85 per cent and Wipro zoomed 4.13 per cent, propelling the BSE IT index to 5,351.98, up 3.69 per cent. Brokers said that the market sentiment got a fillip after Fitch Ratings announced that it had revised the outlook on India's long-term local currency Issuer Default Rating (IDR) to stable from negative. The nation's most valued company, Reliance Industries Ltd -- which had gained over 3 per cent in previous trade on the company's re-entry into the telecom sector -- extended its gains for another day and closed 1.64 per cent higher at Rs 1,063.40. On Friday, Mukesh Ambani-led RIL announced its foray into the telecom space, hitherto forbidden to it, by acquiring a 95 per cent stake in Infotel Broadband for Rs 4,800 crore. However, it seems that RIL's entry into the telecom sector was not good news for other existing operators. Barring Anil

Ambani-led RCOM, all major telecom stocks saw selling pressure and ended in the red. The country's top telco, Bharti Airtel, continued to bleed and sank 1.73 per cent. Airtel has lost 5.4 per cent in the past two sessions. According to a broker, "entry of a strong/committed player with clout, is incrementally negative for the sector." However, there is hardly "any risk to incumbents, at least for the next 2-3 years." (The Indian Express)

### Inflation touches double digits



The plight of the common man, reeling under the impact of rising prices, worsened with the inflation rate surging into double digits — it touched 10.16 per cent in May, the highest in the last 19 months. This could force the Reserve Bank to tighten liquidity in its future policy directions. According to the latest figures, essential items that have become dearer and directly hit the pocket of the common man include pulses, vegetables and sugar. Furthermore, the prices of metal, textiles and plywood prices have also gone up, as inflation has spread to non-food items. Inflation data released officially on Monday says that the final figure for March was 11.04 %, up from the provisional 9.9 %. The data for May too will be revised later. As per the provisional data, the previous high of 10.72 % was witnessed in the last week of October, 2008. "It is always a matter of concern. Something more needs to be done by the Reserve Bank. It is already doing it. We are in touch with the bank," Finance Secretary Ashok Chawla told reporters. Inflation, which remained confined to food items for some time, has now spread to manufactured goods. Food inflation remained at the enhanced level of 16.49 % despite moderation from 16.87 % in the previous month. "The picture is clear that inflationary pressures are now stronger. The March figures are revised upwards. The manufacturing sector inflation is up and is not confined to food. So, some action would be called for by the RBI in terms

of policy tightening," Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council Chairman C. Rangarajan said. Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission Montek Singh Ahluwalia said, "There is no doubt that in the first few months there has been a rise in inflation. Our assessment is that it going to come down towards the end of the year. I think that remains my view and you will see. I completely agree with Mr. Rangarajan for policy action by the central bank to curb inflation." The RBI is scheduled to announce the first quarterly review of the monetary policy on July 27. It may also take some action to deal with the deteriorating price situation that time. Experts feel that rising inflation could prompt the Reserve Bank to tighten money supply on July 27. (The Hindu)

### **With costly wheat in stock, govt can't bring prices down**

Though prices of essential commodities seem to have levelled off, there does not seem much likelihood of their declining any time soon given demand-supply trends for food grain like wheat and pulses in domestic and international markets. The government is grappling with contrary situations with regard to the two widely consumed commodities. While international price of wheat has gone down, the government's stocks are high and increases in minimum support prices have impacted retail rates as well. With the government unable to push out its stocks in a manner that brings down prices, it is not able to consider cheaper imports either. The landed price of imported wheat is seen to be fairly competitive and while private players may use this option, the government cannot. Stuck with its stocks, government's policies may actually maintain the price line. In the case of pulses, India remains import-dependent and faces a scenario quite different from wheat. Trends are pointing to increased consumption of pulses, particularly moong, in China and US. This could put greater pressure on the limited export capacities of countries like Canada, Myanmar and Turkey and make India pay more for imports. The hefty increases in support prices for pulses cleared by the cabinet recently are aimed at boosting domestic production and offering steady returns for a crop that is not seen to be as reliable or hardy as wheat or rice. The international supply situation remains tight with India's own demand rising year on year. The government is hoping that what so far seems to be a decent monsoon will result in a plentiful kharif harvest and ease inflationary pressures on food items. (Times of India)

### **Foreign Relations/Geo-strategic developments:**

#### **Access to Headley shows strength of ties: U.S. official**

The access to David Headley given by the U.S. government to Indian authorities is a "symbol" of the strong partnership between the two countries, said Michael P. Pelletier, minister-counsellor for public affairs, Embassy of the United States of America. Mr. Pelletier said: "We have worked very hard — the U.S. government and the Indian government — to make this access happen and more than anything this shows how strong our partnership is [especially] in the area of counter-terrorism." It was also an indication that the strong partnership between the two countries would continue, he added. Mr. Pelletier also referred to the India-U.S. strategic dialogue held in Washington recently and said President Obama's interest in it showed how important the partnership was at the

highest levels in the U.S. government. The broad range of topics discussed and the number of authorities who participated in the meeting showed the depth and the broad-based nature of the partnership, he said. On the action taken by the Pakistan government on extremists allegedly on its soil, following the Mumbai attacks in 2008, Mr. Pelletier said many Pakistanis had talked about how violence and extremism hit their people and society and it was important for them to deal with it for both internal and external reasons. He said the U.S. government was working very hard to stress the importance of this to the Pakistani officials and was working hard to deliver assistance in such a way as to bolster stability and security and democracy within the country because it was in Pakistan's interest as much as it was in India's interest and in "everyone's interest." (The Hindu)

### **Pak to seek firming up of CBMs with India during resumed talks**

Pakistan is expected to seek the firming up of confidence-building measures during the upcoming Foreign Secretary-level talks with India to pave the way for progress in addressing long-standing issues like Kashmir, diplomatic sources said. Senior Pakistani officials have broadly classified the issues to be raised during the meeting of the two Foreign Secretaries in Islamabad on June 24 as outstanding issues like the Kashmir issue, humanitarian matters like the release of prisoners and fishermen, terrorism and trade and commerce, the diplomatic sources said. The Pakistani side will press for strengthening of confidence-building measures in these areas so that the two sides can ultimately make headway in addressing issues that have bedeviled relations for many decades, the sources said. There are indications that the Pakistani side could ask for the withdrawal of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act and the release of political prisoners to improve the ground situation in Jammu and Kashmir when Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir meets his Indian counterpart Nirupama Rao. The sources also said there is a realisation at the highest levels of the Foreign Office of the need to lower tensions in the region while at the same time preventing any further deterioration of bilateral relations. In this regard, the two sides are expected to discuss ways to improve cooperation in countering terrorism, the sources added. There is a feeling in the Pakistani leadership that there is a need to upgrade the existing Joint Anti-Terrorism Mechanism, which was set up in 2006. Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani spoke of the need to reactivate the JATM earlier this month and Pakistani officials now believe intelligence agencies should be represented in this body, the sources said. However, the Foreign Office appears to be undecided on how to respond to India's call for firm action against anti-India groups like Lashker-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed and militant leaders like LeT founder and Jamaat-ud-Dawah chief Hafiz Muhammad Saeed. Despite several dossiers provided by India on Saeed, Pakistani leaders like Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Interior Minister Rehman Malik have contended there isn't enough evidence to act against the JuD chief. In the run-up to the meeting of the Foreign Secretaries, the government has been given the go-ahead by parliament's standing committee on national security to take "difficult decisions" to normalise ties with India, the Dawn newspaper reported today. The advice from the parliamentary panel was part of eight recommendations made by it for the forthcoming meetings of the Foreign Secretaries, Interior Ministers and Foreign Ministers. (Times of India)

### **India against Pak-China nuclear deal**

Despite a seeming nonchalance, India told the US it had serious objections to the proposed China-Pakistan nuclear deal, during the strategic dialogue in Washington earlier this month. With UN Security Council sanctions resolution on Iran finally out of the way, the US has now decided to formally object to the Chinese proposal to build two new nuclear reactors in Pakistan. China, reports said, is likely to raise the proposal at the NSG plenary session in New Zealand scheduled for later this month. US state department spokesperson Gordon Duguid was quoted as saying that the US “has reiterated to China that the US expects Beijing to cooperate with Pakistan in ways consistent with Chinese nonproliferation obligations”. (Times of India)

### **Kishenganga water dispute: Pakistan on strong wicket**

India is bracing itself for a costly and cumbersome international arbitration case with Pakistan over the Kishenganga hydel project. After failing to persuade Pakistan to resolve the dispute at the government level, India on Wednesday named a judge of the Geneva-based International Court of Justice Peter Tomka and a Swiss international law expert Lucius Caflisch to represent it. India’s initial choice for legal representative was the Baglihar neutral expert, Raymond Lafitte and Prof Boisson de Chazournes. Tomka, was formerly a legal advisor to the Slovak foreign ministry while Caflisch is a professor at the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva. But Baglihar was probably an easier verdict, according to internal assessments in the government. For one thing, the Kishenganga project is not as advanced as Baglihar was, and Pakistan’s Neelum-Jhelum project is already under construction. Most important, the unknown of an international legal verdict is disquieting to the Indian system, hence India’s greatest effort will go into ensuring that Pakistan should not get a veto on forthcoming water projects in India. For Pakistan though, the legal recourse is more political — in a note verbale (diplomatic missive) to India on May 17, Pakistan’s primary complaint appears is the fundamental structure of the treaty itself — questioning India’s right to divert water. Here, India is on more solid ground, because the Indus Waters Treaty is fairly clear on the subject, because it shows that Pakistan is taking a more political stance on water disputes rather than a technical one, which was India’s objection from the start. Pakistan’s main disputes are — first that India’s proposed diversion of the Kishenganga (its called Neelum in Pakistan) to another tributary, Bonar-Madmati Nallah “breaches India’s legal obligations under the treaty.” Pakistan also objects to India’s decision to deplete the level of the reservoir level of the plant to “below the dead storage level (DSL)”. Its reason being that it says the treaty places strict limitations on drawdown of water. What does Pakistan want? First, to prevent India from proceeding on the project until the verdict. India doesn’t want to do this because it’s a financial liability and then the project could become threatened like the Tulbul project. Second, Pakistan wants a legal declaration that the diversion is a breach of the treaty. Third, that India should not draw down the water level of the reservoir. India says the treaty permits India to move water from one tributary to another after power generation. India will refute Pakistan’s contention of the depleted water destroying Pakistan’s agriculture activities, by showing that there is very little agricultural activity there anyway. Indian government sources said the NHPC had also kept a provision of an extra 150 cusecs of water to be released downstream for Pakistani use, if necessary. But ultimately, the dispute resolution is political, because for Pakistan,

water is an emotive issue at present, including their belief that India was stealing their water. Apart from Kishenganga, Pakistan also objects to the Uri II project and the Chutak and Nimoo-Bazgo projects on the tributaries of the Indus. According to the 1960 treaty, India is allowed to create storage capacity of 3.6 million acre feet on the Indus, Jhelum and Chenab, the three western rivers. India is nowhere close to this figure. India is also allowed to create 1.34 million acres of irrigation capacity but its still to be exploited. (Times of India)

### **India, Korea to discuss civil N-cooperation**

India and South Korea will discuss civil nuclear cooperation during foreign minister S M Krishna's visit to Seoul starting Thursday. Krishna will hold the sixth meeting of the joint commission with his South Korean counterpart Yu Myung-hwan during the visit. "I think civil nuclear cooperation will be discussed at the joint commission between the two foreign ministers. I do not know in what direction that discussion will go. But I think there will be something that the two foreign ministers will put out to the press after their meeting," said joint secretary (East Asia) Gautam Bambawale. The two leaders are also likely to explore prospects of stepping up cooperation in the defence sector, particularly in counter-terrorism. (Times of India)

### **N-capable Prithvi-II successfully test-fired**

The Army on Friday successfully test-fired its indigenously developed nuclear-capable, ballistic missile Prithvi-II from a launch complex of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur-on-sea. The missile mounted on a mobile launcher was blasted off from the launch complex-3 in the ITR at around 6:50 am, defence officials said. DRDO sources said it was a text book launch and met all the mission objectives. The entire operation for the launch was conducted by the Strategic Force Command of the Army. The terminal phase of the flight and the events were monitored by downrange ships located near the site of impact. All the operations of today's test were reviewed by VK Saraswat, scientific advisor to Rakshya Mantri and programme director VLN Rao among other scientists of the organisation. With a maximum striking range of 350 km, Prithvi-II is capable of carrying a pay-load of 500 kg. The surface-to-surface missile was fourth such test in a span of 8 months. Prithvi, propelled by liquid propulsion twin engine, is nine metre long. (The Indian Express)

### **Indian Occupied Kashmir:**

#### **Hurriyat leader Mirwaiz Umer Farooq arrested in Srinagar**

Chairman of Moderate Hurriyat Conference Mirwaiz Umer Farooq along with his nearly a dozen colleagues was detained by police for violating prohibitory orders clamped in the city, officials said. Mirwaiz along with executive members of the Amalgam, including Prof Abdul Ghani Bhat, Bilal Ghani Lone, Mohammad Abdullah Tari, Maulana Masroor Abbas Aansari, Nayeem Ahmad Khan, Zaffar Akbar Bhat, Hakeem Abdul Rashid, Aga Syed Hassan Alsafvi Almoosvi. Mirwaiz and others were detained at tourist reception centre when they were heading towards the office of the United Nations Military Observers Group for India and Pakistan at Sonawar to submit a memorandum regarding

alleged "unabated" human rights violations in Kashmir, they said. The police first asked Mirwaiz and his colleagues to disperse as prohibitory orders were clamped in the city but when they refused, the police swung into action and forcibly bundled them into a vehicle and lodged them in Khotibagh police station, they said. (Times of India)

### **Social front:**

#### **Anderson extradition not a high priority for India, said U.S. document**

“GOI [the Government of India] officials may feel that, for political reasons, they need to be perceived as being concerned about extraditing Mr. Anderson although this does not currently appear to be a high priority bilateral issue for the GOI,” reads a document sent to the U.S. State Department from the U.S. consulate in Mumbai in July 2004. Documents obtained by Bhopal activists from the State Department under the Freedom of Information Act, the American equivalent of the Indian Right to Information (RTI) Act, reveal that the extradition of Mr. Warren Anderson, the then CEO of Union Carbide Corporation (UCC), prime accused and absconder in the criminal case against him and 11 others, might be more complicated than it appears. Another letter by the consulate, dated July 6, 2004, cites the advice of the then Attorney-General of India, Soli Sorabjee, in 2001: “Efforts should not be made to extradite Mr. Anderson as there was inadequate evidence to link him directly to the cause of the gas leak.” However, according to H. Rajan Sharma, counsel for the plaintiffs in the U.S. against the UCC, there were several instances that prove the direct involvement of Mr. Anderson in decisions that eventually caused the leak. For instance, Mr. Anderson's decision on cost-cutting — the plant's refrigeration had been non-operational for three months, and the strength of operating staff reduced from 12 to six members at the time of the gas leak — in response to letters from UCC, New York, expressing concern over dwindling profits. The pressure exerted on the U.S. government by the U.S. business lobby, whose interests and concerns would be threatened by it, appears a significant factor in the unaccomplished extradition of Mr. Anderson. A letter written by Joseph E. Geoghan, Union Carbide's chief international counsel, to State Department review authority Archie M. Bolster (dated July 24, 2003) reveals why the business community didn't want Mr. Anderson extradited. “The request [to extradite Mr. Anderson] should be rejected. No issue has greater potential to destroy U.S. business leaders' confidence in India than the handling of the Warren Anderson case.” Mr. Geoghan goes on to call the extradition request “sheer hypocrisy” and that its “chilling effect on American investment abroad cannot be overstated.” Linda Jacobson, Assistant Legal Adviser of the U.S. Law Enforcement and Intelligence Department, then wrote to Thomas J. Donohue, president and CEO of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, convincing him that the business community's concerns would be taken into account. She writes: “We are aware of the importance of this issue to the U.S. business community... we have learned a great deal about the concerns of the Union Carbide and the U.S. business community... we have also received and reviewed written documentation from the private sector related to these concerns.” The then Secretary of State, Colin Powell, also assured Mr. Donohue that the State Department was aware of the concerns of the business community. (The Hindu)

## **UK to inquire into misuse of India education aid**

Britain has launched an inquiry into reports that millions of pounds of aid for education and the 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan', has disappeared into the depths of corruption without any benefit to the poor children the aid was intended for. Shocked by reports based on findings by the Ministry of Human Resources Development, Andrew Mitchell, Secretary of State for International Development, said: "These are shocking allegations. "I have launched an immediate inquiry to ensure British aid money has not been misused. The new British Government will have a zero tolerance policy to corruption". Reports in the British media about the corruption mentioned a figure of 340 million pounds in aid to a schools project for children under the age of 14. One audit of money earmarked for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan project found that 70 million pounds had reportedly vanished. Mitchell said: "When I took up this job a month ago I made a pledge to taxpayers that they must know that for every pound of their money, we will get 100 pence of value". "Now I'm reviewing every single one of the Department for International Development's country programmes to ensure we are giving aid to where it's most needed - to help the world's poorest people". 'The News of the World' quoted a report by India's Auditor General that almost 14 million pounds had been spent on items and luxuries that had nothing to do with schools. The newspaper's investigation said: "Cash meant for kids' education has been blown on luxuries. "We discovered that officials throughout the country had used it to buy new cars and in one instance aid cash was spent on four luxury beds costing a total of 17,754 pounds as well as a 3,803 pounds computer". Large amounts of money were shown to have been spent on schools that reportedly did not exist, while in some cases air conditioners, faxes, photocopiers and 7,531 colour television sets were reportedly bought despite there being no electricity supplies. The report said that 150,000 pounds was paid into a mystery bank account with no reason given. It quoted a report by the Institute of Public Auditors of India that in Bihar children were reportedly being taught in open fields, because money had not been passed on for classroom repairs. "In Muzzaffarpur they found that only 400,000 pounds out of an allocated 1.1 million had gone to schools," it said. India is one of the largest recipients of British foreign aid. One woman involved in the widespread fraud has been accused of siphoning off up to 6 million pounds from the funds, even using 44,000 pounds of it to make a movie directed by her son. "Auditors checking individual state accounts found sums up to 4.8 million pounds missing from the books," the report said. (The Indian Express)

## **RSS-developed cancer drug gets US patent**

An anti-cancer drug extracted from cow urine and developed by an affiliate of the RSS has got a US patent for the third time for its anti-genotoxicity properties, a senior official has said. The drug developed by RSS-backed Go Vigyan Anusandhan Kendra had earlier got the US patent as a bio-enhancer with antibiotics and anti-cancer drugs. The research for the drug brand named 'Kamdhenu Ark' was carried out jointly by the Anusandhan Kendra and National Environmental Engineer Research Institute (NEERI), Acting Director of NEERI Tapan Chakraborty said. The research found that Re-distilled Cow Urine Distillate (RCUD) was useful for protecting and repairing DNA from oxidative damage, Chakraborty and Sunil Mansinghka of Kendra told reporters

yesterday. Oxidative DNA damage is a leading cause of ageing, cancer and other diseases. RCUD works against genotoxicity, a harmful action on a cell's genetic material, they said, adding research has strengthened the efficacy of 'Kamdhenu Ark' as an anti-cancer drug. The research was carried out on three patients, two of them having throat and uterus cancer, Mansinghka said.

### **India to adopt US model in tackling domestic violence**

India is hoping to take a cue from the United States in tackling domestic violence cases. In an effort to minimise state intervention in implementation of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA), the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) has now mooted a proposal to encourage NGOs to provide assistance and shelter to victims. As of now the Domestic Violence Act expects the state to appoint protection officers who coordinate between courts, police and support services for enabling women's access to justice. Officials said the "Safe DC programme" being implemented in Washington DC, in the United States, could be a good model to give implementation of the act a boost. The model was discussed by the officials of the ministry with states at a two-day meeting that began on Wednesday. The programme envisages a domestic violence intake centre established by an NGO which is housed with-in the court premises and works in collaboration with police, prosecutors, NGOs and the court. The victims can approach a domestic violence intake centre or a police station and the victim is assisted in getting an ex-parte temporary protection order within two hours which is valid for 14 days. During the period the victim is provided with shelter, transport, legal assistance, custody of children depending on her needs. A senior ministry official said that efforts were being made to involve more NGOs. "It has been seen that NGOs are sensitive to the victims' needs and unlike state appointed protection officers are able to dedicate themselves completely to the implementation of the act," he said. The official added that the state and ministries would monitor the implementation. (Times of India)

### **India among worst countries in human trafficking**

India has been ranked as a "Tier II Watch List" country only one level better than worst-performing Tier III countries such as Saudi Arabia and Zimbabwe in the 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP) compiled by the United States State Department. Given the definition of Tier II Watch List in the TIP, this implies that India ranks among those countries whose governments "do not fully comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act's (TVPA) minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards." Additionally, one of the three following conditions was found in India: first, that the absolute number of victims of severe forms of trafficking was very significant or was significantly increasing; second, there was a failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking from the previous year; third, the determination that India was making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with minimum standards was based on commitments by India itself, to take additional future steps over the next year. In terms of the definition of trafficking under the TVPA, a person may be a trafficking

victim “regardless of whether they once consented, participated in a crime as a direct result of being trafficked, were transported into the exploitative situation, or were simply born into a state of servitude.” The TIP adds that at the heart of this phenomenon lies the myriad forms of enslavement, including forced labour, sex trafficking, bonded labour, debt bondage among migrant labourers, involuntary domestic servitude, forced child labour, child soldiers and child sex trafficking. While most of South Asia ranks along with India as a Tier II Watch List country, Pakistan is notably ranked as Tier II — one level better than India. Thus, while Pakistan's government did not fully comply with the TVPA's minimum standards, it was making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance with those standards — with none of the three additional conditions found in the case of India applicable to Pakistan. Most developed countries, even some developing countries such as Colombia and Nigeria, were ranked as Tier I countries in the TIP, that is, countries whose governments fully complied with the TVPA's minimum standards. Commenting further on the case of India, the TIP noted that the Government of India “does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so, particularly with regard to the law enforcement response to sex trafficking.” Yet, the TIP argues, the Government of India did not demonstrate sufficient progress in its law enforcement, protection, or prevention efforts to address labour trafficking, particularly bonded labour. “Therefore, India is placed on Tier II Watch List for the seventh consecutive year, the report said. The TIP noted that there were few criminal convictions in cases of forced labour during the reporting period, and police raids of brick kilns, rice mills, factories, brothels, and other places of human trafficking were usually prompted by non-governmental organisation activists, as were efforts to provide rehabilitation and protective services to the victims removed from human trafficking. Further, national and State government anti-trafficking infrastructure, and the implementation of the Bonded Labour (System) Abolition Act, “remained weak,” the TIP observed, and the number of government shelters increased, but some continued to be of poor quality. Some public officials' complicity in trafficking remained a major problem, the report said. (The Hindu)

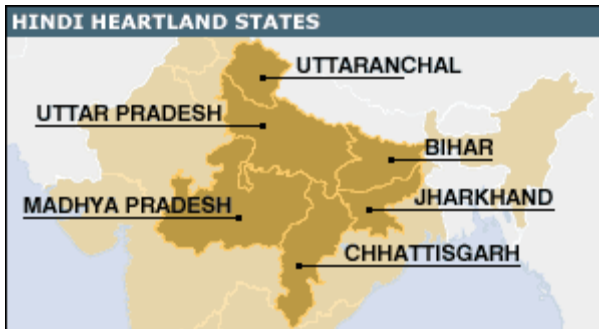
### **2002 Gujarat riots: Probe panel gets another six-month extension**

The Gujarat government has granted another extension of six months to the justices (Retired) G T Nanavati and Akshay Mehta Commission. The Nanavati-KG Shah Commission was formed in March 2002 to probe the Godhra train carnage and the subsequent communal riots in Gujarat. The Commission's term was to expire on June 30. Commission Secretary C G Patel confirmed that the panel had sought another extension of six months, which has been granted. The new deadline to submit the report is December 31, 2010. The Commission has already submitted its first report pertaining to the burning of the S-6 coach of the Sabarmati Express in which 59 Kar Sevaks were charred to death. The Commission had called the incident a preplanned conspiracy involving “some individuals”. HC seeks report on Modi's questioning. The Gujarat High Court on Thursday granted the state government a week's time to make a statement regarding the status of the Commission on the issue of summoning Chief Minister Narendra Modi and six others for questioning. Jan Sangharsh Manch, a voluntary organisation, has filed a petition in the HC challenging the original order of the probe panel to turn down its application to summon Modi and others to probe their alleged role

in the statewide communal riots. The petition will be heard on June 25. (The Indian Express)

## **Regional Report**

### **Central India (Hindi Heartland)**

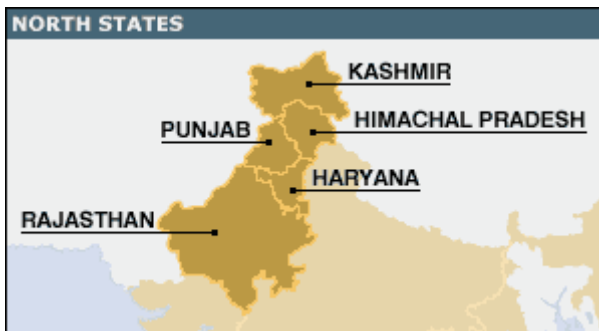


#### **Politics:**

#### **Social front:**

#### **Economic Front:**

#### **The North**

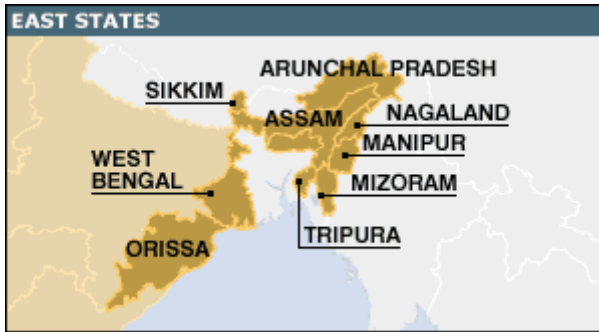


#### **Politics:**

#### **Social front:**

#### **Economic Front:**

#### **The East**



### Politics:

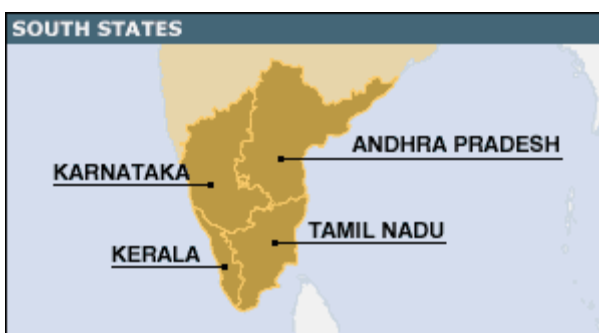
#### **Centre to send forces to remove Manipur blockade**

Taking a tough stand, the Centre on Monday decided to send security forces to remove the 65-day-old blockade by Naga groups of the two national highways, which has created a severe shortage of essential commodities in Manipur. "We have decided to send Central forces to remove the blockade," Home Secretary G K Pillai said. National Highways 39 (Imphal-Dimapur) and 53 (Imphal-Silchar), passing through Nagaland and connecting Manipur, have been blocked by different Naga groups since April 11 to protest Manipur government's refusal to allow NSCN leaders T Muivah's entry into Manipur to visit his ancestral home. Pillai said that the chief secretaries of Nagaland and Manipur will meet on Wednesday to review the situation there. The economic blockade has pushed Manipur on the verge of a breakdown with stocks of all essential commodities, including baby food and life saving drugs, almost drying up. The All Naga Students' Association (ANSAM) had launched the blockade to protest holding of elections to six autonomous district councils in the Hills which, it alleged, were given not enough power to carry out development works. The blockade was intensified after the state refused entry to the NSCN (IM) general secretary on May 3, hitting regular supply of essential commodities. Before the blockade, between 300 to 400 trucks carrying essential commodities were plying daily on the two national highways. (The Indian Express)

### Social front:

### Economic Front:

### The South



**Politics:**

**Social front:**

**Economic Front:**

**West India**



**Politics:**

**Social front:**

**Economic Front:**