

PART A: News pertaining to Planning Commission



01.12.2014

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and Communication, IT & Information Division

(महापुरुषों के प्रेरणात्मक विचार)

(जो सपने देखते हैं और उन्हें पूरा करने की कीमत चुकाने को तैयार रहते हैं, वो खुश रहते हैं.)

Leon J. Suenes लेओन जे. स्युंस

1. DECCAN Chronicle

Published on *Deccan Chronicle* (<http://www.deccanchronicle.com>)

PM Narendra Modi to address meet at Parade Grounds in February

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DC CORRESPONDENT | November 30, 2014, 03.11 am IST



PM Narendra Modi

Hyderabad: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address a mega public meeting at the Secunderabad Parade Grounds in February 2015. This will be his maiden visit to Telangana after taking charge as PM.

Telangana BJP sources said Mr Modi will take part in a training programme for party activists. Mr Modi's first public meeting is planned to boost the morale of party cadres, strengthen the party in Telangana and position itself as an alternative to the TRS by the 2019 general elections.

The BJP has recently launched an ambitious membership drive to enrol 10 crore members across the country. Telangana BJP has set a target to enrol 20 lakh members by January.

"We want BJP workers in every polling booth in Telangana. We are confident of enrolling 20 lakh workers," said Mr G. Kishan Reddy, Telangana BJP president.

Mr Reddy said the TRS government has been facing an "anti-incumbency wave" due to its failure on all fronts. "Telangana has already witnessed the governance of Congress, TD and TRS. Since all these parties have failed they have started looking at the BJP," Mr Reddy added.

Sources said the BJP has decided to admit leaders from other parties. Former minister A. Chandrasekhar who worked with the Telugu Desam and TRS earlier is likely to join the BJP soon.

PM calls CMs' meeting:

Prime Minister Modi has conveyed a meeting on December 7 of Chief Ministers at New Delhi to take their opinion about the new body replacing the Planning Commission. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Naidu will go to New Delhi on December 6 to attend the meeting. Some states like West Bengal are opposing the decision to abolish the Planning Commission.

PM Modi in the past announced that the centre government has decided to abolish the planning commission and constitute a new body. AP CM Naidu also supported the PM's decision on abolition of planning commission. PM said that age old planning commission system is not suitable to cater to the aspirations of 21st century.

But some states like West Bengal are opposing the decision of abolition of planning commission. In fact PM Modi has invited the general public to give their ideas to shape the new institution that will replace the planning commission.

PM Modi in his Independence day speech said that the soviet style planning commission will be scrapped and it will be replaced with a new institution to address the current economic challenges and strengthen the federal structure.

2.

PM, chief ministers to meet on Dec 7 on Plan panel structure

PTI November 29, 2014

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will meet chief ministers on December 7 to discuss the structure of new body which will **replace the Planning Commission**.

"The Prime Minister has convened a meeting of the Chief Ministers to seek their view point on the structure of the institution which would replace the Planning Commission," an official source said.

Modi, in his Independence Day speech, had announced that the Commission, set up in 1950 at a time when government gave public sector the **commanding heights of economy**, would be abolished and replaced with a more relevant institution.

"We will very soon set up a new institution in place of Planning Commission...the internal situation of the country has changed, global environment has changed...We need an institution of creative thinking and for optimum utilisation of youth capability," Modi had said in his Independence Day address.

After the announcement, **the Commission also held meetings** with the experts to discuss the new structure of the new institution which would ultimately replace it.

India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had set up the Planning Commission to steer the nation's economic destiny.

Set up by a Cabinet Resolution, the Commission had enjoyed immense power and prestige as it had always been headed by the Prime Minister. Its most important function was to fix targets for sectoral growth and allocate resources to achieve them.

The Deputy Chairman of the Commission has often been a political stalwart holding the rank of a Cabinet Minister. Those who held the post in the past included Gulzarilal Nanda, VT Krishnamachari, C Subramaniam, PN Haksar, Manmohan Singh, Pranab Mukherjee,

KC Pant, Jaswant Singh, Madhu Dandavate, Mohan Dharia and RK Hegde. The last deputy chairman was Montek Singh Ahluwalia.

3. Niti Commission to be new plan panel, Modi calls meeting

Hindustan Times:28.11.2014

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called a meeting of all chief ministers and chief secretaries on December 7 to discuss the framework of the proposed Policy Commission (Niti Aayog) — a new body that could replace the scrapped planning commission.

Besides the policy panel, new mechanisms to improve Centre-state coordination for effective utilisation of central funds — worth Rs. 3,00,000 crore in 2014-15 — will also be discussed. This is Modi's first meeting with all the CM's.

At the core of these talks will be the use of unique identification number or Aadhaar, which will be handled by the new body, for "outcome"-based programme implementation, senior government sources told HT.

This is said to be the logic behind the proposal to put both the Unique Identification Authority of India, an attached office of the plan panel, and the Direct Benefit Transfer programme, presently anchored in the finance ministry, under the new body.

The Centre plans to enroll all eligible into Aadhaar by March 2015.

The Niti Aayog will also be the secretariat for the inter-state council -- a body to discuss Centre-state issues. The council, under the home ministry, rarely met under UPA rule but was a regular feature under the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-government.

Official sources said the key function of the plan panel -- preparation of new plans and its evaluation -- will be retained in the new body. But, it will lose its fund disbursement powers, which has already been given to the finance ministry.

The new body will have four wings for better policy implementation. Instead of one planning secretary, sources said, the new body will have four secretaries -- each handling one of the four divisions: Inter-state council, plan evaluation, UIDAI and DBT. Each division will have experts from both inside and outside Centre or state governments, sources added.

While the Prime Minister will head the policy commission, a vice-chairman will be the real executive head to firm up long and short term perspective plans. The panel is likely to have some members to assist the vice-chairman.

Source: www.hindustantimes.com

4. Planning Commission replacement likely in December The Times of India: 30.11.2014



'Planning commission to be replaced with a new institution soon'

NEW DELHI: Work has moved into top gear for finalizing the name and structure for the new institution that will replace the 64-year old Planning Commission and the same may be unveiled this December.

"The Prime Minister has convened a meeting of the chief ministers on December 7 to seek their view points on the structure of the institution which would ultimately replace the Planning Commission," an official source said.

The commission has received many suggestions regarding the name and role of the new body. Some of the suggested names are Sustainable Development Commission, National Development Agency, Social Economic Development Commission or Bharat Pragati Lakshya. Besides, there have been reports about the new body being named as Niti Aayog or Policy Commission.

The new institution, which is likely to be headed by the Prime Minister as was the case in Planning Commission, may have four divisions — Inter-state council, plan evaluation office, UIDAI and DBT. All the divisions would have experts from the Centre and state governments as also experts from the industry.

The Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Mission earlier was part the Planning Commission but was moved to the finance ministry later.

According to sources, the new body could also be the secretariat for the inter-state council which is at present under the home ministry and met rarely during the UPA term. This council used to meet regularly during the previous NDA regime.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day speech had announced that the commission would be abolished and replaced with a more relevant institution.

Since then the commission has held several meetings with experts to discuss the new structure of the proposed institution.



PM Modi and Montek Singh Ahluwalia at the 12th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention. Ahluwalia was the last deputy chairman of plan panel.

Country's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had set up the Planning Commission to steer the nation's economic destiny at that time.

Set up by a Cabinet Resolution, the commission has enjoyed power and prestige with Prime Minister as its chairman. Its most important functions have been fixing targets for sectoral growth and allocate resources.

The deputy chairman of the commission has often been a political stalwart holding the rank of a Cabinet Minister.

Gulzarilal Nanda, V T Krishnamachari, C Subramaniam, P N Haksar, Manmohan Singh, Pranab Mukherjee, K C Pant, Jaswant Singh, Madhu Dandavate, Mohan Dharia and R K Hegde had been deputy chairman at different points of time.

Montek Singh Ahluwalia was the last deputy chairman.

5. PM CALLS CMS' MEET TO GIVE SHAPE TO NEW PANEL

The Pioneer: 01 December 2014 | PNS | New Delhi

The Centre has moved into top gear to institute an alternative body to the Planning Commission. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has convened a meeting of the Chief Ministers on December 7 to seek their views on the name and structure of the institution which would ultimately replace the 64-year old Plan panel.

Modi, who in his Independence Day speech had announced that the Planning Commission would be replaced with a more relevant institution, may announce the establishment of a new institution with a completely new name and boss to head the plan panel in its new avatar.

Sources said that the Government has already received several suggestions regarding the name and role of the new body. Some names suggested include Niti Aayog, Sustainable Development Commission, National Development Agency, Social Economic Development Commission and Bharat Pragati Lakshya.

“It may have four divisions viz Inter-State council, plan evaluation office, UIDAI and DBT. All the divisions would have experts from the Centre and State Governments as also experts from the industry. The complete new entity could also be the secretariat for the inter-state council which is at present under the Home Ministry,” said the sources.

The first PM Jawaharlal Nehru through a Cabinet resolution had set up the Planning Commission to steer the nation's economy. While the PM held the post of Chairman of the Commission, that of Deputy Chairman has been held by some of the great stalwarts like Gulzarilal Nanda, VT Krishnamachari, C Subramaniam, PN Haksar, Manmohan Singh, Pranab Mukherjee, KC Pant, Jaswant Singh, Madhu Dandavate, Mohan Dharia and RK Hegde, Montek Singh Ahluwalia being the last.

6. New Plan body likely soon

The Statesman: 01 Dec 2014

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Mr Montek Singh Ahluwalia was the last deputy chairman of the Planning Commission

PART B

NEWS AND VIEWS

Monday 1st December 2014

Polity

: Eyes on Lone as Valley gears up for
2nd phase

Economy

: Rupee on a weak footing, could slide
Further

Planning

: Centre to Extend Direct Benefit
Transfer Scheme to MGNREGA

Editorial

: The language muddle

Communication, IT Information Division
Phone # 2525

Centre to Extend Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme to MGNREGA

To cover 300 districts in the first phase where enrolment is more than 80%

Yogima.Sharma@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The central government plans to soon extend the direct benefit transfer (DBT) programme to the beneficiaries of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act as well as seven higher scholarship schemes.

Finance minister Arun Jaitley has approved the proposal to extend wages under the flagship rural jobs programme through the DBT platform and a final notification is expected shortly, a senior government official involved in the exercise told ET.

The move to expand the programme comes days after the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National



Democratic Alliance government at the Centre launched the modified DBT-L or direct benefit transfer of LPG subsidy in 54 districts on November 15, which will be in addition to the 27 schemes already covered under the mechanism.

"We will use DBT for extending wages under MGNREGA in the select 300 districts in the first phase. Besides, seven more scholarship

schemes will be added to the list of social sector benefits being routed directly in the bank accounts of the beneficiaries using the DBT platform as Prime Minister Narendra Modi is keen to speed up the rollout of DBT across schemes to minimise leakages," the official said, requesting anonymity.

A massive verification drive undertaken by the Unique Identifica-

tion Authority of India (UIDAI) under the supervision of the Planning Commission in 300 identified districts, where enrolment is more than 80%, has shown that 10-12% of the beneficiaries are ghost beneficiaries, resulting in huge misappropriation of planned funds of the government to non-eligible and even non-existing beneficiaries.

Official estimates suggest that if

this is taken up on a massive scale at the national level, the government may end up saving at least ₹10,000 crore annually.

A large proportion of wages under rural jobs scheme is already transferred to the bank accounts of beneficiaries. However, many of these accounts are believed to be fake and the government hopes that linking the jobs programme with the unique Aadhaar number allotted by UIDAI will enable biometric verification of the actual beneficiary and prevent leakages in the system. The NDA government, which took charge in May, has brought forward the target for universal coverage of Aadhaar by March 2015.

Started by the previous UPA government in January 2013, DBT covers 121 districts and has 27 schemes in its fold, including scholarships (17), pensions (three), motherhood (two) and child development. This was followed by the launch of DBT-L in June last year but the government had to withdraw it within a few weeks because of process-related issues.

Rupee on a weak footing, could slide further

Month-end dollar demand from oil firms drags rupee below 62 even as equity market hits new high

GURUMURTHY K

There was bubbling euphoria in the equity market last week, but in sharp contrast, the currency market had no reason to pop the champagne. While the stock market celebrated as the Nifty touched the 8,600-mark on Friday, the currency segment was glum as the Indian rupee closed below 62 for the first time since February, both on a daily as well as weekly basis.

The week started well enough with the rupee opening slightly higher at 61.69 and climbing to a high of 61.65 on Monday. After an uneventful week, the currency fell below 62 to record a low of 62.075 on Friday before closing at 62.03, down 0.42 per cent for the week.

Why the drop? Strong month-end dollar demand from oil importers kept the rupee under pressure. Also, fiscal deficit worries continued as the current account deficit widened to ₹4.76 lakh crore in the April-October period, 89.6 per cent of the full-year target of ₹5.31 lakh crore. This has increased doubts on whether the government can meet its target of restricting the fiscal deficit to 4.1 per cent of GDP for the year.

The surprise easing of gold import curbs does not bode well for



the deficit. The market was widely expecting that gold imports will be further tightened during Parliament's winter session, which began last Monday. But to everyone's surprise, the Government eased gold import curbs on Friday.

GDP numbers were nothing to cheer either. India's growth slowed to 5.33 per cent in the second quarter from 5.71 per cent in the previous quarter. The major drag was the manufacturing sector, which contributes about 15 per cent to total GDP. The sector grew by a mere 0.12 per cent on a year-on-year basis, compared to a thumping 3.46 per cent expansion in the first quarter.

Is there a silver lining to the slowdown? The tepid numbers certainly add pressure on the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to cut

Trading levels for the week

NSE futures	LTP	S1	S2	R1	R2	Trade ideas
USD-INR	62.39	62.20	61.90	62.80	63.10	Outlook is bullish. Go long now and also accumulate on dips
EUR-INR	77.67	77.25	76.50	78.00	78.80	Double bottom visible on the chart. Go long at current levels
GBP-INR	97.80	97.40	96.50	98.60	99.50	Reversing higher from a key support. Initiate fresh long positions
JPY-INR	52.83	52.30	51.75	53.20	53.60	Immediate outlook is not clear. Avoid trading this contract

LTP: Last Traded Price; S1,S2: Support; R1,R2: Resistance

Note: In a buy recommendation, the resistance would be the targets and the nearest support would be the stop loss; in a sell recommendation, the support would be the targets and the nearest resistance would be the stop loss; The recommendation are based on technical analysis. There is a risk of loss in trading.

rates. But this may take a while and the market widely expects the RBI to maintain status quo in its monetary policy meeting tomorrow. Besides the RBI meeting, the HSBC Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) today and Services PMI on Wednesday are the key data releases this week.

Record inflows

Bad news aside, buying spree by foreign portfolio investors (FPI) continued. They bought \$461.36 million in debt and \$480.89 million in equity in the past week. At a total of \$40.32 billion (\$24.43 billion in debt and \$15.88 billion in equity) so far in 2014, the FPI inflows are at an all-time high, surpassing the \$39.45 billion of inflows seen in 2010.

The dollar index (88.35) is con-

solidating sideways within its overall uptrend. Support for the index is at 87.5. Staying above this level keeps the bullish view intact. Key resistance for the index is at 88.6, and is likely to be tested this week.

A strong break above this level could take the index higher to 90 in the coming days. Among the major index components, the euro (1.2451) is consolidating sideways against the dollar, between 1.235 and 1.26. The overall trend remains down, with a target of 1.225.

The British pound (1.5632) remains bearish for an immediate target of 1.55. There is a danger of the fall extending further to 1.525 and 1.51. The Japanese yen (118.5) is weak and could fall to 120 and 122 against the dollar. The weakness in major constituents raises

the chances for the dollar index to rise to 90 in the coming days.

Rupee outlook

The close below 62 is a weak sign for the rupee. The immediate outlook is bearish. Resistance for the currency is at 61.85. As long as the rupee trades below this level, a fall to 62.35, an important support level, looks likely this week. Short-term strength in the rupee is possible only if it breaches 61.85. In such a scenario, the rupee could strengthen to 61.65 and 61.50 in the short term. But such a strong move in the near term looks unlikely.

Whether the rupee is going to break 62.35 or reverse higher will be key in deciding the next leg of movement for the currency.

The level of 62.35 is a key medium-term support. Both the 38.2 per cent Fibonacci retracement as well trend line support are poised at this level. A reversal from this support will see the rupee strengthen to 61.9 in the short term. On the other hand, a strong break below 62.35 will increase the pressure on the currency and could drag it lower to 63 and 63.6 thereafter.

On the charts, the bias is bearish and there is a strong likelihood of breaking 62.35 and falling to 63.6.



What to watch

- Manufacturing PMI on Monday
- RBI monetary policy on Tuesday
- Services PMI on Wednesday

Devaluation

Nigeria devalued its currency by 8 per cent and also raised interest rates by 100 bps to 13 per cent last week

Eight minesweeper naval vessels to be built in India: Parrikar

Panaji, Nov 30: Eight minesweeper naval vessels will be built by Goa Shipyard with maximum indigenous technology under the 'Make in India' campaign, defence minister Manohar Parrikar said on Sunday.

"In-principle it has been decided that the work for constructing eight minesweepers would be awarded to Goa Shipyard Limited. This would be under 'Make in India' campaign," he told reporters here.

Earlier, similar kinds of vessels were being brought from outside India and later modified here, he said.

"But in this case, they will be built in India with indigenous technology being used at its maximum. Only in case they

require technological help, they can get it after following proper procedures," he said. Parrikar said it was not possible to make a completely indigenous ship. *PTI*

'Smart city norms will be ready in 2-3 months'

OUR BUREAU

KOLKATA, November 30

The Centre will finalise the guidelines of smart cities over the next two-three months. Typically, a smart city refers to one which uses digital technologies to reduce cost and resource consumptions. Often terms like 'intelligent city' or 'digital city' are used.

According to Shankar Aggarwal, Secretary, Urban Development Ministry, the guidelines will include determining the commercial aspects of the project that will make it attractive for private investors.

"In another two-three months' time, the guidelines of the smart cities will be ready. We need to ensure that the projects are viable for the private investors too," he told newsmen on the sidelines of a seminar organised by the MCC Chamber of Commerce and Industry here.

The initial idea, Aggarwal said, was to include not just cities, but certain townships. As a first, the state and Union Territory capitals might be upgraded as smart cities.

Plans are also afoot to have a tripartite agreement between the State governments, Centre and the private developers.



Shankar Aggarwal, Secretary, Urban Development Ministry

This apart, State governments need to ensure that faster clearances are obtained for a private investor. If necessary, the State governments and private investors will be given equity stakes to make the smart city project more viable. The Modi Government has proposed to build 100 smart cities that will be identified by the Centre at the suggestion of the State governments.

Plans are also afoot to provide financial assistance to the States in setting up smart cities.

Urban development

According to Aggarwal, the Centre will also formalise a new set of guidelines for urban renewal or development over the next two-three months.

Prabhu pushes for India's first rail varsity for high-speed trains

Srinand Jha

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NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambition to establish India's first rail university for high-speed trains with Chinese help is being aggressively pushed by railways minister Suresh Prabhu. He is putting together a dedicated and in-house team of IIT/IIM graduates to firm up the blueprints of the plan.

Following Prabhu's directions, Railway Board chairman PC Gajbhiye recently shot off a letter to all zonal railway headquarters, instructing them to forward a list of railway officers who have degrees/diplomas from IITs/IIMs or the Bengaluru-based Indian



■ Suresh Prabhu

Institute of Science by November 26, while indicating their area of specialisation.

"A core group comprising such officers will evaluate the various options and place their suggestions to the railways minister. A concrete plan on the setting up of the university is likely to

be announced in the next rail budget," sources said.

Last week, a Rail Vikas Nigam Limited team headed by Satish Agnihotri visited China and discussed the details with Chinese experts including those associated with two oldest Chinese rail universities — the Beijing Jiaotong University and the Lanzhou Jiatong University, sources added.

The NDA government proposes to set up four rail universities in all, although it is not clear whether these will be Greenfield projects, or whether the government will take the route of financing a wing of an existing university to conduct rail related research — particularly high speed and emerging technologies.

Protect everyone from harmful PET

green
piece



Bharati Chaturvedi

You probably haven't heard of this almost revolutionary notification. But it is for real. About eight weeks ago, the department of health and family welfare at the Union ministry of health issued a notification.

In a nutshell, the notification banned the use of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastics or plastic containers for packaging oral drugs that could be used by

children, old people, pregnant women and women who are in the reproductive age.

In the coming fortnight, the ministry will have to firm up this plan.

Last week, people bemoaned this as green terrorism, suggesting medicines would become expensive.

But the notification is predicated on science, which shows how toxic chemicals leach into such formulations — how can anyone be healthy when they are not getting the purest drugs?

Why should we compromise on our own health? Some of the chemicals could take years to show-up as disease, and often, defect-and cause and effect is

expensive to establish.

But here is my question: Why isn't this notification being extended to cover the kind of stuff a healthy person consumes?

Knowing that PET plastics may leach, why are we still being allowed to consume juices, squashes and even oils, packed in this material?

Does the health of a healthy person not matter? And what about alcohol? Should people straining their livers be subject to more toxics? Everyone should be protected from PET.

The Central government has accepted that PET is not safe for us. It should now protect us all, not only the ill.

Tripura's Marxist CM invites Modi to address his cabinet

PM Accepts, Will Speak On Good Governance

Sanjay.Dutta@timesgroup.com

Agartala: In a rare instance of bipartisanship, Tripura chief minister Manik Sarkar, who leads the sole surviving Marxist government in the country, has invited PM Narendra Modi to address the state cabinet on his favoured themes of Swachh Bharat and good governance.

In the backdrop of intense political bitterness in Centre-state relationships, the meeting—the first of its kind—is being seen as the harbinger of a new trend. Ever since be-



PM Modi dons the gamcha and japi at a BJP meet in Guwahati

coming PM, Modi has repeatedly made it clear that there is no place for politics when it came to working with the states for development.

Modi is coming here to switch on the second unit of

Plans for more NE youths in city police

PM Narendra Modi on Sunday said plans were afoot to induct youth from the northeast into Delhi Police while around 200 policewomen from the region would be sent to Gujarat on a two-year stint to boost national integration. Speaking at the Sangai cultural festival in Imphal, Modi also promised a sports university in Manipur to encourage various disciplines and generate jobs. **P 7**

the 726-MW power plant constructed by ONGC-Tripura Power Company Ltd at Palatana, some 70km from the state capital.

Sources in the know said the PM is expected to meet

members of Sarkar's cabinet after the inaugural function.

The invitation from Sarkar, who has been CM of Tripura since 1998, also stands out since he had earlier this month written to the PM expressing apprehension that changes in the structure of rural employment scheme MGNREGA would reduce the money allotted for his state.

Sarkar, a Left stalwart who is serving his fourth term and takes pride in being described as India's poorest politician, had maintained that the proposed changes would make "the people from rural areas, particularly of Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and minority community losers".

► Ties with Centre first, P 12

Sarkar puts relations with Centre first

► Continued from P 1

Tripura CM Manik Sarkar, a politburo member of the CPM, had called



Manik Sarkar

on Modi in Delhi in August when he was in town for his party's central committee meeting. He had described

the interaction as a courtesy call and had said he would meet the PM again later to discuss matters about Tripura.

Sarkar was hailed for steering CPM to an impressive win in the 2013 state polls even as the Left was being ousted from its strongholds of Bengal and Kerala. With his invite to Modi, Sarkar indicated he would not let ideology come in the way of better ties with the Centre. Modi's visit to Tripura also marks an extension of his push for sub-regional economic corridor with eastern neighbours—Bangladesh and Myanmar—that could lead right up to China. This is evident from the fact that a five-member team from Bangladesh is scheduled to attend the power plant's inauguration.

MODI IN GUWAHATI

Modi tells top cops to focus on SMART policing, better intel

DGP MEET Also asks to honour officers who died on duty as CBI chief dozes off again

Rajesh Ahuja
and Digambar Patwary
■ rajesh.ahuja@hindustantimes.com

GUWAHATI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday told top police officers that they needed to become SMART, but the outgoing CBI director Ranjit Sinha presented an altogether different picture of the his fraternity by seemingly dozing off again.

Addressing the 49th All India Conference of DGPs and IGP's on its concluding day, Modi, in his now familiar style, came up with another acronym — SMART, with S standing for strict and sensitive, M for modern and mobile, A for alert and accountable, R for reliable and responsive and T for techno-savvy and trained.

During Modi's 18-minute speech, television cameras again caught Sinha napping. Sinha, who is retiring on December 2, by virtue of belonging to 1974 batch of IPS is the senior-most serving police officer of the country. Sinha has already been in the eye of a storm after the Supreme Court directed him to recuse himself

from looking after the 2G case.

On Sunday, rather than speaking about the internal security challenges, Modi devoted his whole speech on police and police officers. The Prime Minister said that since independence, 33,000 police officers had lost their lives and it was necessary to honour their memory.

"I suggest a taskforce to institutionalise the memory of martyred policemen. It can be in a book form which can be used in training policemen and also an e-book as well," said the PM.

Modi also asked for more efficient intelligence network. "The country which has high class intelligence network, doesn't need any arms and ammunition," said Modi.

Modi commented on the negative image of police portrayed in Bollywood movies. "Positive stories about police should also come out," said the PM.

He said police welfare is another important issue as "an officer may be good but it important that his/her family is kept well."



■ PM Modi greets officers at the All India Conference of DGPs in Guwahati on Sunday.

PTI PHOTO

PM meets N-E CMs, asks them to prioritise security

Rajesh Ahuja
■ rajesh.ahuja@hindustantimes.com

GUWAHATI: In a first, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday met with seven chief ministers of the Northeastern states and Sikkim during the annual meeting of police chiefs after addressing the conference.

During Modi's address to

the conference six CMs of the Northeastern states, the Manipur CM didn't come as the PM was slated to fly to state capital Imphal in the afternoon, and the Sikkim CM sat on the dais. Later he had two closed door sessions with the all the police chiefs first and then with the Northeastern CMs and their police chiefs.

The session immediately after

Modi's address was focused on the Northeast region and finding a better security environment for it.

"The PM said this is just the beginning and he wants to listen their views. The chief ministers one by one raised their issues. Assam chief minister Tarun Gogoi spoke about porous borders and threat posed by terror operatives. Meghalaya chief minister

Mukul Sangma talked about lack of connectivity in the region. The Prime Minister remained there for two hours and most of the time he just listened," said a participant in the meeting.

The Prime Minister then told the CMs that they should find three or four common issues. They brainstorm on them and then have a follow up meeting

in three months, added the participant.

"The PM said if they identify three to four issues, by the end of year, it would be possible to find solution of at least two of them. The Prime Minister also suggested that all states should recruit police personnel from other states," said an official present during the deliberations.

PHASE-II POLL CAMPAIGN ENDS IN KASHMIR, J'KHAND

BOTH STATES WITNESS MULTI-CORNERED CONTESTS, ALL EYES ON LONE IN JAMMU

AGENCIES

Jammu/Srinagar, 30 November

The high-pitched campaign for the second phase of election on December 2 in 18 seats in Jammu and Kashmir and 20 in Jharkhand ended today with Prime Minister Narendra Modi spearheading BJP's bid to woo voters even as the performance of his government came under attack.

Several high-profile candidates, including separatist-turned-mainstream politician Sajad Lone, and the lone woman minister in the present government, Sakina Itoo, tried their luck at the hustings.

The campaign fever had heightened in this leg after



71.28 per cent voting in 15 seats during the first phase. A total of 15.35 lakh people are eligible to vote in the 18 constituencies where 175 candidates are in the fray.

However, security has been tightened in the wake of three militant attacks during the period, including in Arnia where 10 people were killed. While political observers are keenly watching the polling pattern in all the nine constituencies

in the Valley, the Handwara constituency in north Kashmir's Kupwara district will draw special attention as Lone is contesting his maiden Assembly election from the seat.

In a surprise move, Lone met Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier this month saying the BJP leader came across as an "elder brother". What did not come as a surprise was BJP not fielding a candidate from Handwara.

Lone will be up against National Conference candidate Chaudhary Mohammad Ramzan, who is seeking a fifth term having won all elections since 1983 except the 2002 polls when Ghulam Mohiuddin Sofi won as an Independent.

There are three sitting MLAs, including CPI(M) face in Jammu and Kashmir Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami, seeking a fourth consecutive term during Tuesday's polling. After two comfortable wins, Tarigami had some nervous moments on the counting day in 2008 elections as he prevailed over the PDP candidate by just 236 votes on the back of migrant votes which overturned the deficit.

National Conference candidates from Karnah and Kupwara - Kafeelur Rehman and Mir Saifullah respectively - are also seeking a fourth consecutive term from their respective seats.

In the Noorabad constituency of south Kash-

mir, Social Welfare Minister and National Conference candidate Ittoo will be hoping that the LS poll results will not have much of an effect in the Assembly elections.

In Jharkhand, former Chief Ministers Arjun Munda and Madhu Koda and three ministers are among 223 candidates, including 35 women, contesting from 20 seats - 16 of them reserved for tribals. Both the states are witnessing multi-cornered contests. With 16 out of the 20 constituencies reserved for tribals in Jharkhand, Modi and Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi took up issues of the community.

Eyes on Lone as Valley gears up for 2nd phase

IN FOCUS Kupwara's Handwara constituency draws special attention as former separatist Sajjad Lone contests his maiden assembly election from this seat

Press Trust of India

letters@hindustantimes.com

SRINAGAR: The second phase of polling in Kashmir on December 2 will witness several high profile candidates including separatist-turned-mainstream politician Sajjad Lone and the only woman minister in the present government Sakina Itoo trying their luck at the hustings.

While political observers are keenly watching the polling pattern in all the nine constituencies in the Valley, the Handwara constituency in north Kashmir's Kupwara district will draw special attention as People's Conference leader Lone is contesting his maiden assembly election from the seat.

Lone, whose father Abdul Gani was a three-time MLA before joining the separatist ranks when militancy erupted, broke off from the ranks in 2009 and contested the Lok Sabha polls that year but came a distant third.

The senior Lone had represented Handwara constituency thrice from 1967 to 1983. He also won in the 1983 Assembly elections but from Karnah seat of the district. The junior Lone will be banking on immense goodwill his father enjoyed in Handwara.

In a surprise move, Lone met Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier this month saying the BJP leader came across as an "elder brother". What did not come as a surprise was BJP not fielding a candidate from Handwara.

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Campaigns turn into battle of 'sher'

Press Trust of India

letters@hindustantimes.com

SRINAGAR: It is a battle of 'sher' in the hectic Assembly poll campaign in Jammu and Kashmir with every party claiming to be the 'king' of political jungle in the Valley.

"Nakli shera vatu daira, asli shera aa gaya (it's time for fake lions to pack bags as the original lion has arrived)," is a common slogan witnessed in the campaign by ruling National Conference, estranged ally Congress and main opposition PDP.

'Sher' was a sobriquet associated with former J&K chief minister Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah who was called 'Sher-e-Kashmir' (Lion of Kashmir) for being in the

WHILE EVERY PARTY HAS ITS OWN SHARE OF SLOGANS, IT IS THE 'SHER' THAT IS THE COMMON THREAD IN THEIR CAMPAIGNS

forefront in taking up the cause of the downtrodden in the state.

While every party has its own share of slogans but it is the "Sher" which is the common thread in their campaigns in the politically charged atmosphere in the Valley.

"Walay vasi, asli sher hayy, aaway (come, my friend. The original lion has come)," sing Kashmiri

women folk in traditional 'rauf' dance at political rallies.

The name of 'Sher-e-Kashmir' has been prefixed with a prestigious medical institute in the Valley an agriculture university, gallantary medals for police, employment scheme and the only cricket ground in the Valley.

PDP also invoked 'sher' besides its own slogans.

BJP, besides its "abki baar Modi sarkar" slogans, has banners at various traffic cross sections "aao badle Jammu Kashmir ke haalat, aao chale Modi ke saath (let's change Jammu and Kashmir's destiny. Let's walk with Modi)."

The Independent candidates have also taken fancy for slogans like "nakli shera vatu..."

Work on body to replace Plan panel in final stages

NEW DELHI Work has moved into top gear for finalising the name and structure for the new institution that will replace the 64-year-old Planning Commission. It may be unveiled this December.

"The Prime Minister has convened a meeting of the Chief Ministers on December 7 to seek their views on the structure of the institution, which will ultimately replace the Planning Commission," an official source said.

The Commission has received many suggestions regarding the name and role of the new body. Some of the

names suggested are Sustainable Development Commission, National Development Agency, Social Economic Development Commission and Bharat Pragati Lakshya. Besides, there have been reports about the new body being named Niti Aayog or Policy Commission.

The new institution, which is likely to be headed by the Prime Minister as was the case with the Planning Commission, may have four divisions - Inter-State Council, Plan Evaluation Office, UIDAI and DBT. All the divisions would have experts from the Centre and State

governments, as also experts from industry.

The Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Mission earlier was part the Planning Commission, but was moved to the Finance Ministry later.

According to sources, the new body could also be the Secretariat for the inter-State council, which is at present under the Home Ministry and met rarely during the UPA term. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his Independence Day speech, had announced that the Commission would be abolished and replaced with a more relevant institution. - PTI

PM calls CMs' meet to give shape to new panel

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has moved into top gear to institute an alternative body to the Planning Commission. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has convened a meeting of the Chief Ministers on December 7 to seek their views on the

development Agency, Social Economic Development Commission and Bharat Pragati Lakshya.

"It may have four divisions viz Inter-State council, plan evaluation office, UIDAI and DBT. All the divisions would have experts from the Centre and State Governments as also experts from the indus-

PLANNING COMMISSION REPLACEMENT

name and structure of the institution which would ultimately replace the 64-year old Plan panel.

Modi, who in his Independence Day speech had announced that the Planning Commission would be replaced with a more relevant institution, may announce the establishment of a new institution with a completely new name and boss to head the plan panel in its new avatar.

Sources said that the Government has already received several suggestions regarding the name and role of the new body. Some names suggested include Niti Aayog, Sustainable Development Commission, National Devel-

try. The complete new entity could also be the secretariat for the inter-state council which is at present under the Home Ministry," said the sources.

The first PM Jawaharlal Nehru through a Cabinet resolution had set up the Planning Commission to steer the nation's economy. While the PM held the post of Chairman of the Commission, that of Deputy Chairman has been held by some of the great stalwarts like Gulzarilal Nanda, VT Krishnamachari, C Subramaniam, PN Haksar, Manmohan Singh, Pranab Mukherjee, KC Pant, Jaswant Singh, Madhu Dandavate, Mohan Dharia and RK Hegde, Montek Singh Ahluwalia being the last.

NEW PLAN BODY LIKELY SOON

WORK ON TOP GEAR FOR FINALISING NAME AND STRUCTURE OF THE INSTITUTION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 30 November

Work has moved into top gear for finalising the name and structure for the new institution that will replace the 64-year old Planning Commission and the same may be unveiled this December.

"The Prime Minister has convened a meeting of the chief ministers on 7 December to seek their views on the structure of the institution which would ultimately replace the Planning Commission," an official source said.

The commission has received many suggestions regarding the name and role of the new body. Some of the suggested names are Sustainable Development Commission, National Development Agency, Social Economic Development Commission or Bharat Pragati Lakshya. Besides, there have been reports about the new body being named as

MANY SUGGESTIONS REGARDING NAME



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Niti Aayog or Policy Commission.

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The Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Mission earlier was part of the Planning Commission but was moved to the finance ministry later.

According to sources, the new body could also be the secretariat for the inter-state council which is at present under the home ministry and met rarely during the UPA term. This council used to meet regularly during the previous

NDA regime.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day speech had announced that the commission would be abolished and replaced with a more relevant institution.

Since then the commission has held several meetings with experts to discuss the new structure of the proposed institution.

Country's first Prime

Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had set up the Planning Commission to steer the nation's economic destiny at that time.

Set up by a Cabinet resolution, the commission has enjoyed power and prestige with Prime Minister as its chairman. Its most important functions have been fixing targets for sectoral growth and allocate resources.

The deputy chairman of the commission has often been a political stalwart holding the rank of a Cabinet minister.

Gulzarilal Nanda, VT Krishnamachari, C Subramaniam, PN Haksar, Manmohan Singh, Pranab Mukherjee, KC Pant, Jaswant Singh, Madhu Dandavate, Mohan Dharia and RK Hegde had been deputy chairman at different points of time.

Mr Montek Singh Ahluwalia was the last deputy chairman of the Planning Commission

Plan panel replacement likely this month

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 30

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PM Modi and Montek Singh Ahluwalia at the 12th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention. Ahluwalia was the last deputy chairman of plan panel.

Country's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had set up the Planning Commission to steer the nation's economic destiny at that time.

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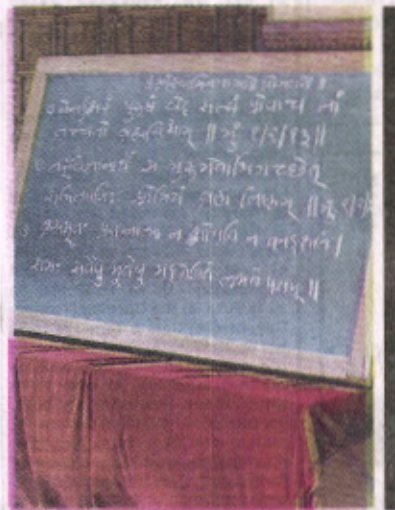
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The language muddle

German or Sanskrit? Supreme Court shows way

The Supreme Court's sagacious intervention to iron out the German-Sanskrit controversy deserves appreciation. Responding to a petition filed by parents of Kendriya Vidyalaya students, the apex court has noted that switching language studies in the middle of the academic year would be detrimental to the students. It also urged the Union Government to consider implementing the curriculum changes from the next academic year. This suggestion has many merits. First, it will provide relief to 75,000 students across 500 Kendriya Vidyalayas from classes VI to VIII, who would have had to instantly switch from German to Sanskrit. The 2014-2015 academic year has less than three months of study time left, and the affected middle-schoolers (and their parents and teachers too) would have come under tremendous pressure, if they had to learn and unlearn languages overnight. Second, if the Government accepts the court's suggestion and agrees to implement the change only from the next academic year, it will also be doing a huge favour to the school authorities, who'd otherwise be scrambling to set up Sanskrit classes. Switching to a new language is not like replacing one essay or novel in the syllabus with another. For effective learning, an entirely new language ecosystem, that includes new teachers, books and learning aids, has to be put in place — and that takes time. Third, suspicious motives will, no doubt, be attributed to a sudden mid-year switch. This muddies the waters unnecessarily.



What should have been an opportunity for national debates on Indian education and the place of Sanskrit in public life today, for example, quickly degenerates into a ridiculous political controversy on the supposed 'saffronisation' of school books.

Additionally, the Government can use the Supreme Court's suggestion to take the time to explain its decision to the public. Few are aware that instead of making a radical change in India's education policy, the BJP-led NDA Government is actually undertaking course-correction measures to

properly implement it in its original form. The National Education Policy of 1968 clearly specifies a three-language formula — English, the main regional/State language, and another modern Indian language. Formulated after the 1960s anti-Hindi riots, the policy was supposed to promote national integration, but over the years it has been practised largely in the breach. The decision to teach German as a third language, taken by the Congress-led UPA Government in 2009 and expanded in 2011, however, was an obvious violation of the National Education Policy which has no scope for a foreign language. Schools are free to offer foreign language classes as a 'hobby subject' but they cannot replace an Indian language in the curriculum with a foreign one. Also, though Sanskrit has become the focus of this controversy, the policy in fact extends to all Indian languages. Finally, there is the matter of whether Sanskrit needs to be taught in schools at all. This is important; the language is the receptacle of our civilisational roots, but it also has limited usage in terms of job skills etc. The Supreme Court has supported the Government's decision to teach Sanskrit. Hopefully, a way will be found by which German and Sanskrit and other languages can flourish.

An imaginative deal

The 160-member World Trade Organization (WTO) wrote history last week when its General Council approved its first major global trade deal since its inception nearly two decades ago. The WTO got into a logjam when New Delhi put its foot down, and refused to sign the trade facilitation agreement unless a solution was found to the food stockpiling issue. The resultant impasse had even put a question mark over the very future of the WTO. Sensing the disastrous consequences of a WTO failure, Washington swiftly went into a bilateral huddle with India. Once the two sides agreed on a solution to the contentious issue, the decks were cleared for the WTO to ink its maiden trade agreement. Quarantining the public food stockpiling issue has ensured that the members' commitment for a multilateral trading system remains intact. India and others felt that the Bali agreement put at risk their food security policies. The WTO General Council has now agreed to keep the negotiations for a permanent solution on public stockholding for security consideration independent of the outcomes on talks on other issues. It has also decided to let the peace clause, agreed in Bali, to remain in force until a permanent solution is found. The agreement clearly addresses India's concerns. The WTO has set for itself an accelerated time frame of December 2015 to arrive at a lasting solution to the issue. A stricter deadline reflects a sense of seriousness in not letting the issue linger indefinitely. In a way, it also assures the developed world that its concerns over the trade-distorting food subsidies remain a priority focus. With the General Council adopting the Protocol of Amendment, the process of implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement has finally begun. Essentially, it is aimed at modernising the trade infrastructure and easing regulations to smoothen global trade.

Since the Doha Round, the WTO has been struggling to be relevant in the midst of diverse interest blocs. It is hoping to shore up its image with the less-ambitious but procedurally significant trade facilitation agreement. The public stockholding issue almost spoiled the party for the WTO but now there is no need to redo Bali. Significantly, the WTO General Council has also given itself a deadline of July 2015 to agree on a work programme to implement the Bali Ministerial Decisions. If it reveals a prudential compromise, the historic deal also underscores the acute anxiety among members to work towards strengthening the multilateral trading system. Surely, the deal must spur member-nations to discover ways and means to deliver fast on the Bali decisions. The moot question, however, is: will the deal embolden the WTO attempt liberalising the more sensitive areas of trade as was intended by the Doha Round?