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TELEGRAPH

TIMES OF INDIA

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## CIVIL SERVICE

HINDU, JUL 21, 2014

Centre notifies IAS cadre posts for AP, Telangana

### **IAS CADRE POSTS for A.P. and Telangana**

<b>Post</b>	<b>A.P.</b>	<b>T</b>
Chief Secretary	1	1
Additional CS	2	1
Principal Secretary	12	10
Secretary to govt	11	5
Secretary cum Commissioners	23	22
Secy to CCLA	1	1
Collectors	13	10
Joint Collectors	13	10
PO, ITDA, PD, DRDA	8	6
Joint Commissioner, Dep Commissioner	2	2
Chief Rationing Officer	1	1
Directors	22	16
Additional/Joint/ Dep.Directors	6	4
Central deputation reserve and others	96	74

The allocation of all India cadre officers, including IAS, IPS and IFS, will be made to both the successor States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana after the Centre and the Prime Minister approve the guidelines of the Pratyush Sinha Committee.

The Department of Personnel and Training, Government of India has notified the posts allocated to Andhra Pradesh and Telangana States post bifurcation.

The DoPT released the regulations called the Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of cadre Strength) Fifth Amendment Regulations for publication in the Official Gazette as per the provisions in Section 76 of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.

While the total authorised strength before the notification was 376, the total authorised strength for Andhra Pradesh is 211 and of which posts to be filled by direct recruitment are 147.

For Telangana, the total strength of posts is 163 and the posts to be filled by direct recruitment are 114.

The Andhra Pradesh IAS cadres posts include 115 posts under the State Government and 89 posts for Telangana, including the cadre posts of Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary, principal secretary, secretary, Collectors and District Magistrate, Joint Collectors, Project Officers (ITDA, DRDA, CEO, ZP), Joint Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, Commercial Taxes, Chief Rationing Officer, Directors and Additional/Joint/Deputy Secretaries to Government.

The other posts include Central deputation posts, State deputation reserve, training reserve, Leave reserve and junior posts reserve and posts to be filled by promotion under rule 8 of the IAS (Recruitment) rules, 1954.

The allocation of all India cadre officers, including IAS, IPS and IFS, will be made to both the successor States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana after the Centre and the Prime Minister approve the guidelines of the Pratyush Sinha Committee.

**HINDU, JUL 21, 2014**

**Central government officials to declare assets under new Lokpal rules**

**B. MURALIDHAR REDDY**

The Union government has notified rules on declaration of assets and liabilities of its employees under the Lokpal Act.

Though system of declaration of assets and liabilities has been in vogue, the Lokpal Act seeks to systematise it with additional information.

While the Lokpal Act became operational in 2013, rules framed by the UPA government on some of the provisions were contested by the BJP.

Among others, the BJP had taken serious exception to the rules on Search Committee for selection of Lokpal on the ground that they do not conform to the letter and spirit of the Act. The NDA government is currently in the process of re-framing the rules.

As per the new rules notified by the government, its employees have to file returns with details on cash in hand, bank deposits, investment in bonds, debentures, shares and units

in companies or mutual funds, insurance policies, provident fund, personal loans and advance given to a person or any entity, among others.

The returns should give information about spouses as well. The employees' need to declare motor vehicles, aircraft, yachts or ships, gold and silver jewellery and bullion possessed by them, their spouses and dependent children, according to the form.

The employees also have to give details of their immovable properties along with statement of debts and other liabilities on first appointment or as on March 31 of every financial year.

However, the competent authority may exempt a public servant from filing the information in respect of any asset if its value does not exceed his or her four months basic pay or Rs. two lakh, whichever is higher.

**TELEGRAPH, JUL 17, 2014**

**Stung by Mira, govt IAS-shy**

**Calcutta, July 16:** The Bengal government has dipped into the state civil service archives for the first time to find a successor to Mira Pande, the feisty state election commissioner who had refused to toe the chief minister's line on the panchayat polls.

The government today issued an order appointing S.R. Upadhyay, a retired WBCS officer, as the state election commissioner, departing from the practice of filling the post from the pool of retired IAS officers.

Upadhyay, who will take charge on July 21, retired as a special secretary in 2013 and is now serving as an officer on special duty at Raj Bhavan after securing an extension of service,

"He will be the sixth state election commissioner but the first WBCS officer to head it," said a government official.

An amendment that the Left government had introduced in 2010 has empowered Mamata to designate to the post a WBCS officer with 25 years of service.

Till now, retired officers from the IAS — the service that does boast officers with spunk though not everyone displays it every time — had occupied the post of the state election commissioner who oversees rural and civic polls.

Former chief secretaries Tarun Dutta, Anish Majumdar and Ashok Gupta and additional chief secretaries Ajoy Sinha and Pande had held the post till now.

Pande's battle, which she took all the way to the Supreme Court, ahead of the panchayat polls had tormented Mamata. The commission is now locked in another legal battle with the government over polls to 17 civic bodies.

The state government had tried to clip the wings of Pande by making it a three-member body like the Election Commission of India. But the initiative had fallen flat as the Constitution made it clear that the state election commission would be led by “a” commissioner.

The appointment from the WBCS has fuelled theories that the government was looking for a friendly face.

“As the head of a constitutional body, the commissioner has the right to summon senior officers such as the chief secretary, home secretary and the DGP. Will a WBCS officer, although with long service, summon the courage to do that?” an official asked.

The post of secretary to the commission has also gone to a WBCS officer — Osman Gani, who was a joint secretary in the public works department.

The state poll commission plays a key role. According to Article 243K of the Indian Constitution, once the local body elections are declared, the administration comes under the state election commission.

“During the time of Pande, the chief minister realised how a non-pliable officer can challenge the state,” said a bureaucrat. “The new decision will make the commission defunct unless the appointee rises to the challenge.”

HINDU, JUL 22, 2014

### **Graft-tainted IAS couple in Madhya Pradesh sacked**

Graft-tainted IAS couple in Madhya Pradesh, Arvind and Tinoo Joshi, have been dismissed from service by the government, four years after an income-tax search on their house led to detection of disproportionate assets worth Rs. 350 crore and recovery of Rs. 3 crores in cash.

The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), nodal authority to deal with matters related to Indian Administrative Service (IAS), sent their dismissal orders to the Madhya Pradesh government.

“The dismissal orders have been served to Arvind and Tinoo Joshi,” Madhya Pradesh Parliament Affairs Minister and State Cabinet spokesperson Narottam Mishra told *PTI* on Tuesday.

The duo were not available for comments.

Both Mr. Arvind and Ms. Tinoo are 1979 batch IAS officers of Madhya Pradesh cadre. They were suspended in February 2010 following the income tax search on their residence in Bhopal.

Mr. Arvind was due to retire next month and his wife in October this year.

As per rules, they can move Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) or may make a representation to President Pranab Mukherjee against their dismissal order.

Maintaining that his government will have zero-tolerance towards corruption, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan had said his government “will move court to seek confiscation of their property earned through corrupt means”.

Following the tax searches and huge haul of currency notes, Mr. Chouhan had written to the Centre seeking their dismissal from service.

“There were certain deficiencies in the State government’s proposal due to which we had to write to them seeking clarification. We wrote to them again to get the IAS couple’s statement on the matter which is a mandatory requirement to dismiss an officer of the service.

“Then the approval of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) was taken,” a senior DoPT official said explaining the procedure which caused delay.

The State government has also decided to confiscate their properties earned through corrupt means and moved a special court in Bhopal, the official said.

The couple had bought agricultural or non-agricultural land at a number of places including Kanha and Bandhavgarh national parks, Raisen, Balaghat, Sehore and Bhopal, according to an appraisal report by the Income Tax department.

It also alleged that the couple purchased 25 flats of which 18 are in Guwahati, six in Bhopal and one in New Delhi.

Papers of seven plots at Patel Nagar (central Delhi) have also been recovered from their possession, the report said.

The I-T search had resulted in recovery of jewellery worth Rs. 67 lakh and foreign currency worth Rs. 7 lakh, the IT department had claimed.

TIMES OF INDIA, JUL 23, 2014

**6 months on, no civil services board in place**

[Himanshu Kaushik](#),

AHMEDABAD: For nearly six months, the Gujarat government has been violating the directions of the central government over the formation of a Civil Services Board for recommending transfers of cadre officers.

The central government had on January 28, 2014 though a notification made changes in the Indian Forest Service (Cadre) Rules, 1966. These rules called the Indian Forest Service (Cadre) Amendment Rules, 2014 say: "All appointments of cadre officers shall be made on the recommendation of the Civil Services Board. However, in case of appointments to the state cadre it shall be done by the state government."

Officials said that the board, according to the notification, shall make recommendations for all appointments of cadre officers. The board shall examine the cases of officers who are proposed to be transferred before completion of the minimum period of service and should consider it based on such circumstances.

The five-member board shall have chief secretary as the chairman, the senior most additional chief secretary, principal secretary or secretary (GAD), principal secretary or secretary (forest department), and the principal chief conservator of forest on it.

Sources said the government was dragging its feet over the formation of the board as this would completely take away the transfer powers from the government, especially the minister. Despite repeated attempts, forest minister Ganpat Vasava was not available for his comments.

[DECCAN HERALD, JUL 21, 2014](#)

### **Prime minister, Cabinet get personal secretaries**

In fresh appointments in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), IFS officer Sanjeev Kumar Singla has been appointed Private Secretary (PS) to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Singla, a 1997-batch officer, will succeed the 1989-batch Vikram Misri, who is going to Spain as Ambassador.

The appointment order of Singla, who was previously posted in the Indian Embassy in Israel's Tel Aviv, was issued on Saturday. Singla had worked as director to former Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai.

Misri was asked to continue for some time after Modi took over. The Department of Personnel and Training order on Singla's appointment said Misri would continue as Private Secretary till July 31 for "overlap purpose".

Misri had joined the PMO in 2010 as Joint Secretary, and in 2012 became PS to former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. Union ministers Harsimrat Kaur Badal, M Venkaiah Naidu, Ravi Shankar Prasad and D V Sadananda Gowda also got new Private Secretaries last week.

Hardeep Singh, a 1990-batch Indian Trade Service officer, was appointed Private

Secretary to Badal, while S Suresh Kumar, a 2000-batch IAS officer from the Andhra Pradesh cadre, was appointed as Naidu's PS.

IAS officer Dr V Ponnuraj will be PS to Gowda, while N Saravana Kumar, also an IAS, will be Prasad's Private Secretary.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has also approved the appointment of Debasish Mallick and David Rasquinha as Deputy Managing Directors (DMDs) of the EXIM Bank of India.

Mallick is presently MD and CEO of IDBI Asset Management Company Ltd, and Rasquinha is presently Executive Director EXIM Bank.

**HINDU, JUL 16, 2014**

### **IAS officers get GHMC postings**

Three IAS officers posted by the Government to GHMC have been assigned the following departments: A. Babu has been posted as Special Commissioner (Systems & Projects) and would look after the subjects of IT, grievances, house numbering, heritage, T&T, Hyderabad Metro Rail project and the Charminar pedestrianisation project.

P.S. Pradyumna has been posted as Special Commissioner (Environmental Services) and would look after health & sanitation, entomology, veterinary, transport and urban biodiversity.

Dr. N. Satyanarayana has been posted as Zonal Commissioner of Central Zone in place of Ronald Rose, who has been transferred and posted to West Zone, a press release said.

**HINDU, JUL 16, 2014**

### **Govt. for PSC list within one year**

Steps will be taken to publish the list of those selected by the Kerala Public Service Commission (PSC) for various government jobs within one year after examination, Chief Minister Oommen Chandy has said.

The PSC had fixed the time-limit for publishing the list as two years and the government would hold discussion with it to cut down the time-limit to one year, the Chief Minister said while replying to questions in the Assembly on Tuesday.

The PSC had been conducting the examinations in a transparent manner and the government was proud of that, he said.

The Chief Minister said that nearly 25 lakh candidates had registered with the PSC for various examinations. The suggestion for one-time registration would be looked into. The government would consider extending the current PSC list for Lower Division Clerks (LDC), he said.

**AIIMS**

In reply to another query, the Chief Minister said the government was in receipt of an official communication from the Centre for suggesting three or four places for setting up an All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Kerala. The State government is yet to decide on the place for setting up the AIIMS, the Chief Minister said.

## EDUCATION

HINDU, JUL 16, 2014

### **DUTA alleges foul play in appointments**

VIJETHA S. N

The Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA) has alleged that appointments to key academic and administrative posts were being made in violation of the university's ordinances and rules. This was being done to accommodate those who have been "close to the administration and ready to support it in all its actions". The latest case, the DUTA insisted, was the appointment of Geology Department head. The teachers alleged that Professor J.P. Shrivastava, a qualified and senior hand, was bypassed twice – first by Prof. C.S. Dubey and now by Prof. Devesh Kumar Sinha, who is six years junior to him.

The DUTA alleges that he was bypassed this time because he had protested against the extension given to Prof. Dubey.

"Prof. Dubey is currently Director, Campus of Open Learning and therefore a member of the Vice-Chancellor's team and also holds the post of Chairman, Delhi University Sports Council, and Dean, Faculty of Science. In the Geology Department too his term was extended twice contrary to the rules and ordinances," said DUTA president Nandita Narain.

"The principle of rotation laid down under Ordinance XXIII in appointment of Heads of Departments in several cases has been violated in a completely non-transparent manner in the past few years. This arbitrary abuse of rules seems to stem from the desire to bypass individuals who would not be pliant to the Vice-Chancellor's commands," said DUTA secretary Harish Khanna.

He explained that the ordinance stipulates that "the Head of the Department shall be appointed by the Vice-Chancellor by observing, as far as possible, the principle of rotation".

The teachers also alleged that despite the FYUP fiasco, the university was still brazenly "extending favours and rewards to those who were seen as close to the administration and ready to support it in all its actions". "All these illegalities have been implemented through notifications signed by the Registrar, Alka Sharma," added Ms. Narain.

TIMES OF INDIA, JUL 22, 2014

Mumbai university, college professors court arrest over NET/SET issue

MUMBAI: Hundreds of university and college teachers staged a jail bhara andolan at Azad Maidan on Monday afternoon, to register their protest against the alleged state apathy. "We staged a protest for three hours, after which we courted arrest. The police let us go after recording our names," said Madhu Paranjape, member of the Maharashtra Federation of University and College Teachers' Organisation.

According to the teachers, despite several court orders, the state has not provided them relief in the NET/SET issue. A government resolution passed in June 2013 had directed that teachers affected due to the mandatory NET/SET criteria between 1991 and 2000 will be regularized from the date of the resolution. But the teachers are not satisfied with this either as 15-20 years of their service will be disregarded. "We have received a reply from the President's office that our memorandum has been sent to the department concerned. The Union home minister said he will demand an explanation from the state," said Paranjape.

TIMES OF INDIA, JUL 21, 2014

### **Patna University likely to surrender Rs 4.5 crore to UGC**

[B K Mishra,](#)

PATNA: Sounds ironical, but Patna University (PU), which has been facing financial crunch for the past several years, is likely to return about Rs 4.5 crore to the UGC as the amount could not be utilized.

PU had received handsome development grants from the UGC during the 10th and 11th Plan periods, but the amount remained unutilized over the years. A major part of the development grants sanctioned by the UGC during the 12th Plan period is also lying unutilized.

As many as four PU officials including registrar Balram Tiwary, development officer Sanjay Kumar Sinha and engineer Sachin Dayal are going to New Delhi on Monday for a meeting with the UGC on the utilization of development grants. PU officials would plead with the UGC for extending the time limit for utilizing the remaining amount.

The UGC grants during the 10th and 11th Plan were for construction of buildings, indoor stadium, travel grants for attending seminars and conferences and coaching classes for weaker section students. During the 12th Plan period, Rs 1.89 crore received from the UGC for purchase of equipment and books has been utilized, but another sum of Rs 3 crore is yet to be utilized, said Tiwary.

The main reason for the delay in grants utilization is attributed to the ad hocism prevailing in the university administration. Very little development activities could be taken up due to frequent changes in the office of the vice-chancellor. The financial powers of previous VCs, including Shambhu Nath Singh, U K Sinha and Arun Kumar Sinha, had been seized by the court and they had been allowed to transact only routine work like payment of salaries to the staff, etc. Consequently, all the development activities in the university had virtually come to a standstill. The development activities are likely to be undertaken on fast track following the appointment of full-time VC, said PU development officer S K Sinha.

[ECONOMIC TIMES, JUL 23, 2014](#)

**National Eligibility Test not to be conducted by UGC now**

NEW DELHI: The eligibility examination for college and university lectureship, the National Eligibility Test (NET), will no longer be conducted by the University Grants Commission. The examination, which has been conducted since 1989, for entry-level teaching jobs in the country's higher education institutions will now be administered and conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education. A decision to this effect was taken at the meeting of the University Grants Commission held on Tuesday. The CBSE will conduct the NET examination scheduled to be held in December.

The decision for the UGC to outsource the NET has been on the cards for a while. The CBSE, which conducts several entrance examinations for engineering and medical undergraduate programmes besides the school leaving exams, was chosen for the purpose. A senior official said that given the CBSE's proven record in conducting competitive examinations on a large scale, the UGC decided it would delegate the task of conducting and administering the NET to it.

However, the CBSE has no experience of administering a post graduate level examination. To this end, the UGC has decided to share its resources with the CBSE.

The NET examination is conducted in 80 subjects and the questions are geared for the post-graduate student. As many as 20,000 applicants appear for the examination, which is conducted twice a year in June and December. The NET, which was introduced by a government notification in 1988, was instituted to ensure minimum standards for the entrants in the teaching profession and research.

At its meeting on Tuesday, the UGC also decided to ask the human resource development ministry for an extension for the July 31 deadline on the working out a course of action for the 41 deemed to be universities that were adjudged as unfit to continue operations by the PN Tandon Committee set up in 2009.

On the basis of the Supreme Court's direction, the UGC had constituted a four member committee headed by H Devaraj, Vice-Chairman, UGC to assess whether these 41 institutions could continue to operate. All the institutions have made their presentations, but the committee was unable to arrive at a consensus. Sources said that there were differences of opinion on the approach that the committee should take in assessing these 41 institution.

Two members were of the view that the final assessment should be in line with the findings of the Tandon Committee and a committee of officials that had been set up subsequently. The other two members were not in agreement with this approach and were of the opinion that their assessment should be independent of the findings of the previous committee.

Other members of the committee are Sanjay Dhande and V.S. Chauhan, both members of the UGC and Amita Sharma, Additional Secretary, ministry of human resource development. The committee was to submit its report by July 31. The UGC has decided to approach the ministry for more time to resolve the differences.

HINDU, JUL 23, 2014

### **Opinion divided on appointment of ad-hoc teachers in Delhi University**

VIJETHA S. N

In 2013, DU had around 4,500 ad-hoc teachers. Some of them have been teaching for as long as 18 years

Most of them have Ph.Ds but they earn very little and also do not know when and if they will get a pay check for the next month. These are the teachers in their late 20s and some even in their 30s and 40s who were hired on a temporary basis in Delhi University and are yet to be made permanent. Some of them have been teaching for as long as 18 years while some were appointed only last year.

In 2013, Delhi University had around 4,500 teachers who worked on an ad-hoc basis. The opinion is divided over their appointments. Many say that the university's teaching standards have gone down quite significantly over the last three years; some blame the four-year undergraduate programme for encouraging ad-hocs; while others insist that FYUP at least created jobs, even if on an ad-hoc basis.

“Most of the teachers who were being appointed were not equipped to teach in our college. The university made these appointments on its own. We have teachers who have been teaching on an ad-hoc basis for years who teach well and are knowledgeable about their subjects. We want to make them permanent but we cannot because of the university's refusals. The standard of the college is coming down but there is nothing I can do about it for now,” said a principal of a well-known college.

The university had decided to hold marathon interviews for about 4,500 applicants for positions in 63 colleges but the move faced severe criticism.

“A job is not guaranteed if you go for an interview. A teacher applying will need to go to at least more than one college. This way, it was impossible for the interviews to be held simultaneously in all the colleges,” said Delhi University Teachers' Association president Nandita Narain. She added that the UGC letter directing all principals to keep the teachers who were appointed on the last working day was welcome, since it avoided panic and confusion.

Other teachers' organisations too have been trying to highlight the issue. “We have been holding dharnas continuously to highlight this issue. Despite the UGC letter, many colleges went ahead and conducted interviews and recruited new ad-hocs causing loss of summer salary to older ones. Those ad-hoc teachers who have lost their jobs have no respite from this letter,” said Rajesh Jha from the Academics for Action and Development.

## FINANCE

BUSINESS LINE, JUL 18, 2014

**Delhi budget: No new tax proposals; Rs 260 cr for power subsidy**

SHISHIR SINHA

A day after power tariff hike, the Government has announced subsidy for Delhi residents consuming electricity up to 400 units. This is part of Delhi budget which was presented by Finance Minister, Arun Jaitley, in the Lok Sabha today.

“Those using units up to 200, will get subsidy at the rate of Rs 1.20 per unit, while it will be 80 paise for consumption between 201-400 units. Total of Rs 260 crore provided for this,” Jaitley said while highlighting the key points of the budget.

Since Delhi is under President’s rule, which is why it is the responsibility of the Central Government to present the budget in Lok Sabha.

### **No tax proposals**

He also announced that there will not be any new tax proposal. There are a lot of welfare initiatives in the budget. These include a new medical college (in Rohini, West Delhi), 50 new dialysis centres, 110 ambulances for road accident victims, and a one-stop centre for the treatment of sexually assault victims.

The National Capital will have 20 new schools and a new school for architecture and planning. It has also been proposed to open three new centres for medically challenged patients. Females coming from different parts of the country to the National Capital will have more accommodation facilities, as there will be six more working girls hostels.

The budget proposes total expenditure of Rs 36,776 crore, while it estimates earnings of Rs 31,571 crore through tax, Rs 11,061 crore through non-tax sources, Rs 699.71 crore through capital receipts and Rs 3,672.09 crore from the Centre.

(This article was published on July 18, 2014)

## FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

HINDU, JUL 23, 2014

**Public sector banks to be enlisted to disburse wages to rural workers in Karnataka**

MADHUMATHI D. S.

The outcome could help 15 lakh poor rural households get wages at their doorstep and over six lakh SHGs to deposit their interest subsidy money under Sanjeevini.

The Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department will meet representatives of public sector banks on Friday to enlist their support in disbursing wages directly to labourers in rural areas and self-help groups through banking correspondents (BCs.)

T.M. Vijay Bhaskar, Additional Chief Secretary, RDPR, told *The Hindu* that the talks were an extension of State Bank of India's offer to provide payment services for free at workers' doorstep under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission. The meeting on Friday would decide how many banks would join in the effort with their own BCs — informal bank-authorized individuals, grocers, pharmacists or small vendors — who take banking to the rural poor with smart cards and handheld devices. The outcome could help 15 lakh poor rural households get wages at their doorstep and over six lakh SHGs to deposit their interest subsidy money under Sanjeevini. "The SBI has promised to enlist its estimated 3,000 BCs [for the RDPR's work.] with smart cards. We asked other banks also to do for free," Mr. Bhaskar said.

Earlier, at a multi-city conclave on financial inclusion organised by Dun & Bradstreet, Mr. Bhaskar said this year, the State would handle an amount of Rs. 3,100 crore under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. The State discontinued disbursing wages through rural post offices two years ago and opted for bank transfers. Yet, "last-mile" payment to workers was a major issue as many poor people did not have bank accounts or access to them. Other agencies expected a fee for reaching the workers.

"We have been exploring cheaper options and recently invited expressions of interest from financial service providers," he said.

### **'Post offices can play role'**

M.S. Ramanujan, Chief Postmaster General, Karnataka Circle, said post offices, with their large rural presence and postal staff, could play an important role in the government's plan to reach safe banking services to the poor. A large number of the population was "unbanked". With 300 million postal accounts across 1.4 lakh post offices, India Post was also modernising and had all the ingredients to formally become a payment bank if the Reserve Bank gave it licence.

The mission for financial inclusion had room and opportunity for all players and should be seen as much more than a social obligation, he added.

## GOVERNORS

HINDU, JUL 20, 2014

**Ram Naik to be sworn in U.P. Governor tomorrow**

ATIQ KHAN

The Governor-designate of Uttar Pradesh, Ram Naik, will assume charge on Tuesday. A release issued by the Raj Bhavan on Sunday said Mr. Naik would arrive at the Amausi airport at 1.05 p.m. on July 22 where he would be given a “Guard of Honour” by the police. Thereafter, Mr. Naik would meet eminent persons.

He will be administered the oath at 5 p.m. in the Gandhi Sabhagar of Raj Bhavan the same day. Mr. Naik will be administered the oath by the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court, D.Y. Chandrachud.

According to the press release, the present Governor, Aziz Qureshi, will leave for Amausi airport on Sunday after inspecting a “Guard of Honour” by the Army at 10.30 a.m. Dr. Qureshi will be given a “Guard of Honour” by the police before departing for Dehradun.

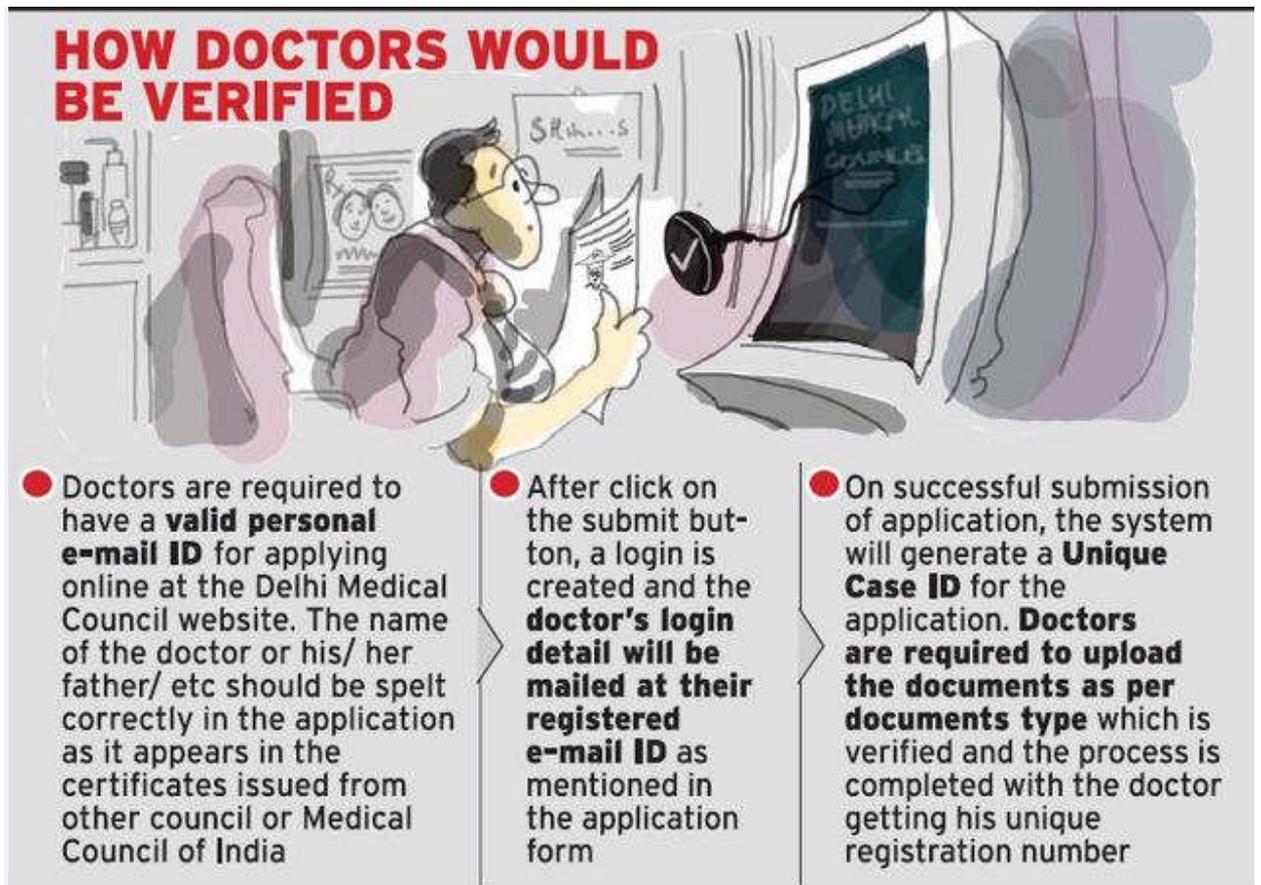
Dr. Qureshi, who is the Governor of Uttarakhand, was given the additional charge of Uttar Pradesh following the resignation of B.L. Joshi in June.

## HEALTH SERVICES

HINDU, JUL 16, 2014

### Delhi starts online registration of doctors

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN



**HOW DOCTORS WOULD BE VERIFIED**

- Doctors are required to have a **valid personal e-mail ID** for applying online at the Delhi Medical Council website. The name of the doctor or his/ her father/ etc should be spelt correctly in the application as it appears in the certificates issued from other council or Medical Council of India
- After click on the submit button, a login is created and the **doctor's login detail will be mailed at their registered e-mail ID** as mentioned in the application form
- On successful submission of application, the system will generate a **Unique Case ID** for the application. **Doctors are required to upload the documents as per documents type** which is verified and the process is completed with the doctor getting his unique registration number

First State in the country to introduce the scheme which aims to check malpractices

Delhi has become the first State in the country to start online registration of doctors. The scheme is aimed at checking malpractices and ensuring that quacks operating in the city are effectively weeded out.

The scheme was initiated in May and has now reached operational levels. Delhi Medical Council (DMC) secretary Girish Tyagi said: "This latest provision is aimed at making the registration system transparent, robust and easy-to-use for doctors."

Information about the shift to the new system has already been provided to doctors. As per the new rules, all those applying for provisional and permanent registration of recognised qualifications obtained from universities/institutions in India are now required to apply online at the Council website– [www.delhimedicalcouncil.org](http://www.delhimedicalcouncil.org). Any request for offline registration will not be entertained.

Dr. Tyagi said all the certificates of provisional and permanent registration will be sent on registered e-mail ids as mentioned in application forms and the applicants will be able to take their print out. The despatch of certificates of provisional and permanent registration of recognised qualifications obtained from universities/institutions in India by post was discontinued from May 15.

Stating that 1,400 applicants have already used and registered under the new system, Dr. Tyagi explained how the registration process will be beneficial to the common man.

“The certificate provided by the Council will have a scan mark or Quick Response (QR) Code, a photo of which can be taken by the patients and sent to the Council website to check the medical qualification of the doctor and his details. This we hope will help us in weeding out quacks operating in the city,” he added.

Delhi is the first State to launch this system and it is being used as a model for other parts of the country. “The system is to be duplicated across India after being tested here,” added Dr. Tyagi.

DECCAN HERALD, JUL 21, 2014

### **Govt, private health facilities to be mapped**

The Union Health Ministry has begun the process of creating district-wise maps of doctors, nurses, diagnostic laboratories and medical stores – both private and government sectors included – with the underlying purpose of improving access to health care.

Once created, the map would guide policy planners about distribution of facilities and doctors in each district, so that focus can be given on the neglected areas with poor health infrastructure.

India’s abysmally low allopathic doctor-patient ratio of 1: 2,000 has improved in the last decade to come up to almost 1: 1,400, as per the National Health Profile, 2013, a compilation of health statistics, released by the ministry last week. But the allopathic doctors attend to only 8 per cent of the population, suggesting congregation of doctors in urban areas.

“The maps, which we are creating would tell us where the gaps are. For the pilot project, maps would be created for Vellore (Tamil Nadu), Dungarpur (Rajasthan), Hazaribagh (Jharkhand) and one district in Nagaland,” Jagdish Prasad, director general of health services at the Health Ministry told Deccan Herald.

HINDU, JUL 23, 2014

### **No entrance test by private medical colleges**

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

SC asks managements to admit students from Common Entrance Exam rank list

The Supreme Court on Tuesday did not agree with a suggestion by Kerala private medical college managements to allow them to conduct separate entrance test for their management seats and carry out admissions from the resultant rank list.

Noting that their paramount concern was the welfare of the students, a three-judge Bench headed by Justice H. L. Dattu instead asked the managements to consider admitting students from the Common Entrance Exam (CEE) rank list prepared by the Commissioner of Entrance Examinations.

The entrance tests were supposed to be conducted by May 31, 2014 as per a Supreme Court order. Justice J .M. James, heading the Admission Supervisory Committee for Professional Colleges, had also seconded the Supreme Court order and directed the colleges to strictly abide by it.

However, appearing for the private medical colleges' association on Tuesday, senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, produced a fresh time schedule by which the entire admission process would be completed by September 30. Mr. Dhavan argued that the Medical Council of India also allowed time till September 30.

But Justice Dattu stood firm saying the revised schedule gave very little time for the students to prepare for the entrance test. The association's timetable further reduced the academic year too, the court remarked.

"We have always said our objective is the welfare of students. We are intervening in this matter because some day these young people will become good doctors," Justice Dattu observed.

"Your schedule demands that students file their applications in July. Exams will be held in three days. Where is the time to prepare? Students will be attending exams with butterflies in their tummies. Moreover, results will be out in the next three days..." Justice Dattu observed. The court even passed comments on the lack of time for students to study during the academic year, in case the September 30 deadline was granted. "He hardly gets seven to eight months... How does he study? These are young medical students studying to treat human beings," Justice Dattu remarked.

The court further asked whether students from the government list could be accommodated in the management seats of the private medical colleges. However, the association strongly objected to this proposal citing a marked difference in the fee structure between government and management seats. It told the court that the colleges would not be able to afford the reduced fees that students from government list would pay.

The Bench has posted the case for July 24.

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

PIONEER, JUL 19, 2014

### INDIA'S ROAD TO PEACE IS PAVED WITH GOOD INTENTIONS

While it is too early to say whether Modi could reprise Vajpayee's bus ride to Lahore, his intent vis-a-vis Pakistan is clear: India wants friendly relations with its western neighbour

The huge victory of the Bharatiya Janata Party in India's 16th general election had sparked debate about which direction the country's foreign policy would go. And with the strident Narendra Modi heading the Government, there were fears that relations between Pakistan would be hit hard. The fears were genuine in the sense that while in Opposition, Modi had always chided the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance Government for its "soft" response to terror attacks emanating from Pakistan. Against this backdrop, the widely held perception was that the newly-formed BJP Government would be tough on Pakistan.

The opposite of this happened. Modi in a surprise move invited Pakistan's elected premier Nawaz Sharif to his swearing-in ceremony and then for bilateral talks. The move was a masterstroke. Modi was the first Indian Prime Minister to host a Pakistani leader for official talks in New Delhi since the 2008 Mumbai attacks by Pakistan's militant group — Lashkar-e-Tayyeba — in which 166 people were killed.

At the swearing-in ceremony, Modi had said: "Let us together dream of a strong, developed and inclusive India that actively engages with the global community to strengthen the cause of world peace and development."

Like Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Modi appears to have decided to reach out to Pakistan so that contentious issues between the two nuclear-armed countries — that have fought three wars since Independence from British colonial rule in 1947 — are resolved. With an overwhelming mandate from the voters, Modi-led BJP is in a better position to deal with Pakistan and might even give a final push to settling major issues, including Kashmir, so that more efforts are invested in economic development.

The last time hopes of a normalisation of ties between the two neighbours had sprung was in 1999 when the BJP was in power. Vajpayee had then taken the bus to Lahore to sign a peace accord. While it is too early to say whether Modi could reprise Vajpayee's bus ride, Modi's intent vis-a-vis Pakistan is clear: he wants friendly relations.

Modi's reputation may allow him more leeway to get closer to Pakistan. It is a golden opportunity for both the neighbours to resolve issues and set forth on the road to economic development. Chances for such a development are high with Sharif in power. Like Modi, Pakistan too has a premier who has come to power riding on public mandate. Being a Punjabi, Sharif is in an advantageous position to strike a peace pact with India.

With the Pakistani army too sidelined for the time being, this could be the best of time for the two premiers to seal the deal on peace, thus bringing an end to conflict and terrorism.

With the onus now on Sharif, it would be interesting to see how he succeeds in reining in rogue and radical elements in Pakistan who would encourage conflict between the two countries and attempt to provoke India. Also for peace to happen, it is important that Pakistan dismantles the anti-India terror camps bent on jeopardising peace and spreading hatred. The other big quandary for both India and Pakistan would be the withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan.

The development has the potential to change the security dynamics in the region. The strengthening of democracy and sidelining of Taliban in Afghanistan are crucial things to permanent peace in the region.

The road to peace right now is full of hurdles. But an initiative has already been taken by Modi-led BJP; it is now for Pakistan to reciprocate.

## LABOUR

BUSINESS LINE, JUL 22, 2014

### **The labour reforms we truly need**

KR SHYAM SUNDAR

Nothing's working Collective bargaining has been demonised R Ragu

The case against labour inspector raj is overstated. Labour courts need to be strengthened

The labour reform debate in India has acquired renewed vigour under the new government.

The Rajasthan and the Haryana governments have recently proposed to amend a few Central labour laws. The Ministry of Labour and Employment has also circulated labour reform proposals. The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion has issued an “advisory” to the state governments to institute reforms relating to inspection.

Labour flexibility measures, especially in respect of hire and fire and contract labour, have caused industrial unrest and violence. India is committed to the pursuit of the ‘decent work’ agenda of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) which essentially seeks to promote just and efficient workplaces.

The pursuit of some “good” reforms could also contribute to a rise in productivity via nutritional, incentive-based and efficient governance systems.

#### **An inclusive view**

The use of “thresholds” such as size of employment to exclude vast sections of workforce amounts to exclusionary governance. According to Economic Census 2005 about 75 per cent of total workers in India in 2005 were employed in establishments employing less than 10 workers, and these workers are most likely to be not covered by most labour laws save the Shops and Establishments Act and the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The coverage of all the workers by separate legislations for micro and small enterprises and medium and large establishments would raise the floor level labour standards.

India has not ratified four of the eight ILO Core Conventions concerning child labour (C.138 and C.182), trade unions and collective bargaining (C.87 and C98). Out of 185 countries, 153 countries have ratified conventions covering these three areas. While mere ratification does not lead to solutions, the commitment of the Indian Government to decent work makes early ratification imperative.

The Trade Unions Act, 1926, merely provides for voluntary registration of trade unions and not for recognition of trade unions, which is more relevant for collective bargaining. Trade union recognition is provided for by laws at the state level, such as in Maharashtra. Legal amendments providing for trade union recognition, time-bound union registration, sharing of information by parties for efficient collective bargaining, strong union democracy and proscription of unfair labour practices must be initiated.

The law on minimum wages and its implementation urgently needs reforms. For example, there is no definition of “minimum wages” in the law. The penalties prescribed in the law for violations of this important socio-economic law are absurdly low. Minimum wage boards are not re-constituted in time and minimum wages are revised after a considerable time lag. The frequent incidence of fatal industrial accidents especially among contract workers calls for stricter regulations and efficient governance.

### **Smartening inspection systems**

The inspector *raj* critique is a case of overstatement. The introduction of self-certification in some states and sectors, relaxation in inspections in several states, high person-power deficits and multiple tasks of inspectorates in the labour department have weakened the inspection regime. Labour inspections and conviction rates have significantly declined in the post-reform period. According to the Government of Maharashtra, in 2010-11, an inspector for minimum wages had 5,062 establishments under him. With a workload of 100 inspections per month, he cannot cover the universe even in three years!

Penalties need to be kept high enough to dissuade cheating. They need to be inflation-indexed to sustain their bite. Most penalties for violations are in the lower range, that is, less than ₹1,000 and only the Factories Act imposes heavy penalties (₹1-2 lakh in exceptional cases). This also weakens the significance of the critique of corruption by labour officers as compared to other high-profile government departments. Imprisonment for labour law violations is often not invoked.

Due to the inadequate number of judicial bodies and judicial officers, there are delays in dispensation of justice. These are costly not only for the workers but also for the employers. The Government must increase the number of judicial bodies and personnel proportionate to the workforce.

The writer is a professor at the Xavier Labour Relations Institute, Jamshedpur

ECONOMIC TIMES, JUL 23, 2014

### **Number of child labourer has declined: Government**

NEW DELHI: There has been a decline in the number of [child labourer](#) in the age group of 5-14 years in the country, Rajya Sabha was informed today.

"The total number of working children in the age group of 5-14 years in the country has declined from 1.26 crore as per Census 2001 to 43.53 lakh as per Census 2011 which is a reduction of 65 per cent," [Minister of state](#) for Labour and Employment, [Vishnu Deo Sai](#) told Rajya Sabha in a written reply.

He said the government is implementing [the National](#) Child Labour Project (NCLP) scheme for rehabilitation of child labour since 1988 in the area of high concentration.

Under this scheme, all children in the age group of 9-14 years are rescued from hazardous occupations and processes and enrolled in NCLP Special Training Centres which have a provision for bridge education, vocational training, mid day meal stipend and others before being mainstreamed into formal education system.

"At present, the scheme is approved for 270 districts in 20 states for the country through approximately 6,000 Special Training Centres with enrolment of more than 2.50 lakh children," the minister said.

He said in 2011-12, 1,25,716 children were brought into mainstream while in 2013-14, 64,050 have been brought.

Replying to another question, Sai said that [Women Labour Division](#) is administering grant-in aid scheme for welfare of women labour. While in 2011-12, against an expenditure of 15.28 lakh, 52,630 women were benefited, in 2013-14, against an expenditure of 13.39 lakh, 14,700 women were benefited.

## LIBRARIES

HINDU, JUL 16, 2014

### Launch of e-libraries remains a dream in Mandya

M. T. SHIVA KUMAR

The Department of Public Libraries is struggling to upgrade libraries in rural areas. Civic bodies have not transferred library cess to department, says official

The ambitious project of setting up e-libraries in Mandya district continues to hang in balance with civic bodies not transferring library cess to the Department of Public Libraries for several years.

Two town panchayats, four town municipal councils and 232 gram panchayats across the district have to remit at least Rs. 15 crore to the department. As a result, the department is struggling to upgrade libraries in rural areas, provide infrastructure and subscribe newspapers/periodicals of major publication houses.

The paucity of funds due to non-clearance of library cess has been hampering the development of libraries in the district, says an official at the department here. The department has set up a district library in Mandya; taluk libraries and branch libraries in all taluks in the district, and 232 gram panchayat libraries across the district.

### e-libraries

It planned to establish e-libraries (browsing centres) in Maddur, Nagamangala and Kannaghatta near Nagamangala on an experimental basis. The department planned to establish e-libraries in other parts of the district in a phased manner. The proposal did not get executed due to shortage of funds, sources added.

As per an audit conducted in 2009-2010, civic authorities had to pay Rs. 10.65 crore to the department during that year. The cess due from gram panchayats alone during the period was Rs. 10.43 crore. Library audits for 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 are yet to be done. Hence, the dues would cross at least Rs. 15 crore, sources added.

The libraries have been playing a key role in providing materials to those appearing for competitive examinations. About 6 per cent of property tax collected by civic bodies is set aside as library cess. However, the funds had not been given for the last several years, Mallikarjun M. Lakkalakatti, Chief Librarian of the District Central Library in Mandya told *The Hindu*. Recently, the department requested the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Mandya Zilla Panchayat to clear the balance.

When contacted, ZP CEO Rohini Sindhuri told *The Hindu*: "I am aware of it and we will take measures to clear the dues." Ms. Sindhuri said recently she conducted two rounds of meetings with officials from the Department of Public Libraries and discussed issues pertaining to the development of libraries.

TIMES OF INDIA, JUL 21, 2014

**Don't name SC library after any individual, Singhvi, Rohatgi say**  
[Abhinav Garg](#)

NEW DELHI: In a new twist to the controversy surrounding renaming of the Supreme Court library, senior Congress leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi and attorney general Mukul Rohatgi have asked the SC bar not to name it after any individual.

An ugly row between Singhvi and the Supreme Court Bar Association over renovation funds had led the bar to remove LM Singhvi's name and instead honour new donor Rohatgi by renaming it after his father Awadh Bihari Rohatgi.

Now, Rohatgi and Singhvi, in their joint letter to SCBA president PH Parekh, have said they wish to put an end to the "unsavory situation" by proposing that instead of naming it after an individual, the library can continue to be called Library No 2. They wanted display "with due prominence" of photographs of their respective jurist fathers.

Sources said a resolution accepting proposals mooted by Singhvi and Rohatgi is expected soon.

"The primary object of the Supreme Court Bar Association is to promote and protect the privileges, interests and dignity of the Association. We have both spent an entire lifetime in the Bar and neither of us appreciates in the least this highly avoidable controversy," the letter laments.

It suggests that a wooden plaque within the library can display donations made by members in chronological order year wise.

Singhvi and Rohatgi have also proposed that photographs of LM Singhvi and Awadh Bihari Rohatgi already put in the library should be "properly maintained with due prominence within the library premises". Echoing displeasure of some of the bar members, the letter says SCBA may bring back the portrait of CK Daphtary which was removed.

TOI had highlighted on July 8 the SCBA's decision to remove plates and plaque announcing library no 2 as Dr LM Singhvi library after Abhishek Singhvi's conditional offer to give additional Rs 20 lakh for its renovation. The Rajya Sabha MP, who had paid Rs 20 lacs in 2008 when the library was named after his father, had again agreed to bear expenses of its renovation.

But he wanted an assurance the bar won't ask for any future contribution for the library, which was rejected by SCBA through a resolution condemning Singhvi's move.

## MUSEUMS

HINDU, JUL 21, 2014

### **Rashtrapati Bhavan to get new museum on July 25**

SMRITI KAK RAMACHANDRAN

President Pranab Mukherjee's second year in office will be marked by inauguration of a new museum, a dinner for the Council of Ministers and release of three books apart from a melange of cultural activities.

A new museum, 'The Stables', will be inaugurated on July 25 at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. Visitors will get a glimpse of the history of the erstwhile Viceregal Lodge and get to see the exquisite gifts that Presidents over the years have received from Heads of State and royalty.

Also on display will be artefacts that were hitherto tucked away in the Toshakhana. The museum has been constructed by the Central Public Works Department and the building was earlier used as part of the stables. A portion of it was used as a garage for the buggies owned by the President's House.

A book of quotations of the President will be released alongside two others, one chronicling the birds of Rashtrapati Bhavan and the other giving an insight into the cultural events held on the premises under its 'Indradhanush' programme.

As part of the ongoing restoration work in the Estate, initiated on the directions of the President, a bank and a post office are also being moved out of a heritage building.

## PARLIAMENT

TIMES OF INDIA, JUL 23, 2014

### **Narendra Modi uses 'Zero Hour' for idea exchange at Cabinet meetings**

NEW DELHI: Despite the perception of being a martinet, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is quite comfortable with allowing a discussion on political issues outside the official agenda at the end of cabinet meetings.

Though dubbed as "zero hour", the free-wheeling discussions where ministers can bring up any topic they feel relevant for the cabinet's informal consideration actually lasts about half an hour.

Sources said the practice is a spill-over from when Modi was Gujarat chief minister, the difference being that then the zero hour happened at the start of cabinet meetings and Modi absented himself during the deliberations.

"In Gujarat Modi would join the cabinet meetings after the informal part was over. The idea was to let ministers speak up without feeling hesitant due to his presence," said a minister.

But after moving to Delhi, while Modi has continued the zero hour session, he chooses to listen to ministerial colleagues though he does not chip in too often.

The exercise is aimed at bringing issues to the PM's notice and getting a sense of the cabinet on how a particular situation or development is playing out in terms of its public perception or political ramifications.

The discussions, particularly as they are a regular feature, provide a contrast to the previous UPA cabinet that rarely discussed matters that were out of agenda.

UPA ministers almost never broke the unspoken law expect when on rare occasions a discussion was initiated by a senior minister - a hint that it was officially sanctioned.

The closest UPA came to a similar mechanism was the group of ministers on media headed by then finance minister P Chidambaram that could take up current events and discussion possible political interventions.

The zero hour mechanism could prove useful in helping NDA brass get a feedback and serve as a sounding board for policy decisions as well.

The Modi cabinet holds its discussions without officials barring the cabinet secretary and national security advisor who are permanent invitees to ministerial discussions.

Informal political discussions were fairly common during the previous NDA government when then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee was prepared to hear his colleagues on issues of the day. But they were not structured in the form of a zero hour.

## POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

TELEGRAPH, JUL 17, 2014

DREAMING OF A SUNSET

Reflections on the Scottish referendum

**Westminster Gleanings** - Anabel Loyd

The date for the Scottish referendum on September 18 is approaching. Both the Scottish National Party, the Yes campaign, and the Better Together, No camp, led by the former Labour chancellor and Edinburgh MP, Alistair Darling, are boiling over. With a few weeks to go before the vote for which the turnout is expected to be uniquely high, claims and denials, accusations and rebuttals are being bandied about with increasing fervour and a level of acrimony unprecedented in the United Kingdom in recent history outside Northern Ireland. There is a cloud of ill-feeling hanging over Scotland and, whatever the outcome of the referendum, a legacy of divisiveness will be left behind and may become a lasting wound from which we will all suffer, most of all the Scottish. Issues of separation are familiar in India, ours are inevitably on a smaller scale but, relative to that, may prove as painful.

I am British, a person of the United Kingdom including Scotland and that is what I wish to remain. As it happens, I may be more Scottish than anything else. One ancestor was educated at Winchester College, but fought for the Jacobites in the '45 rebellion; another came south from the Outer Hebrides to make a family fortune in London and use it, in part, to buy land back in Scotland; yet another made a vast fortune in Glasgow, became a well-known figure in the South but always made Scotland his real home. There were others, one of my sons was born near Glasgow — does that make him a Scot? Not in the eyes of the Nationalists unless he espoused their cause and moved to Scotland. He was born precipitously during the summer holidays, spent that year and every year of my life in Scotland. Readers of this column may have noticed that I usually write about Scotland in August when I am there. This year, I am ahead of myself and suspect the Scottish debate may still be at the forefront of events here into the autumn.

Those of us of mixed Scottish/ English descent, whose ancestors had or made lives that wove both cultures together deep into the fabric of their family, may be newly aware of roots planted on both sides of the border and dread division. In fact, the levels of Scottish blood that run in my veins are hardly relevant, however proud I might be to embrace kinship with extraordinary Scots who have shown their abilities throughout the world. As J.K. Rowling, author of the Harry Potter books and a proud Scottish resident, has pointed out, discussions on purity of lineage have unappealing connotations. The question is rather how much any of us care about the country we love and live in. Rowling could reasonably, after 21 years of residence, talk about Scotland as the country she loves and materially support the No vote to keep it as it is. I would say my country is the United Kingdom, including Scotland as a vital part of that national and personal identity.

For more than 300 years, the Union has added to and enabled the best of us in the British Isles to achieve and create by using the unique advantages of each part, land and people,

for optimum value and success severally and together. It may not always seem that way to Scotland, for those who feel far removed from apparently uncaring Westminster or we may share a detestation of a particular government or policy that affects us all, but we are better, stronger, richer and safer, together than apart regardless of the party ruling in Westminster or Holyrood. Many of the issues that the Yes campaign and the 'Scotland's Future' white paper highlight as uniquely Scottish and soluble only by division are not so. They are shared by us all just as we have a shared currency, the future of which in an independent Scotland has been seriously questioned by Mark Carney, the governor of the Bank of England, and 'ruled out' by the chancellor of the exchequer, George Osborne.

Scottish entrepreneurship and business acumen is international. Scots have left their mark in the names of businesses and great trading companies, sometimes still in Scottish hands, round the globe. There are institutions founded by Scots — schools, colleges, hospitals and always a Scottish Church here or there with a graveyard filled with Scottish names. As for the flow of people back and forth across the imaginary line of border once guarded by Hadrian's Wall, we need it freely to continue in every field of exchange and everyday united existence. We need to continue to address those issues that affect us all, together, in relative harmony.

In many areas, the devolved Scottish Parliament at Holyrood already has the power to do its best for Scotland alone and has been seen to do so at times in ways that we might envy in the South. What we do not need, as the tone of the referendum debate becomes more vicious, is to create an uncertain future. We have seen wars of attrition in other places drag on through generations, making for uncertainty, lack of confidence and loss of opportunity, especially economic. The United Kingdom will be much less comfortably divided than Alex Salmond, first minister of Scotland, and his Scottish Nationalist cohorts promise, and we will all be damaged by the rift.

If Salmond realizes his dream of sunset on the United Kingdom while the Saltire, the Scottish flag, billows over his head, all those financial institutions so essential to Scotland's future prosperity will be hurriedly packing their remaining bags and scurrying south. Money is already flowing in that direction, from worried individuals, ordinary concerned people moving their pensions and savings, and the major banks. They have contingencies in place for an immediate switch of their operations to London in the event of a Yes victory and it may be that there is already little money resting in the Scottish vaults of the great banks. It seems unlikely that Scottish entrepreneurs, avoiding trouble by keeping their opinions to themselves when they can and with businesses dependent on the City of London, have not switched their own financial contingency plans to amber.

Relocations are likely to be implemented even if there is a No vote — no financial institution, no individual, needs to get burnt again. We have seen the economic meltdown much too recently not to be aware of the worst that can happen. Uncertainty over the future and an acrimonious divide within Scotland, let alone between Scotland and the rest of the Union, will not encourage the investment and financial optimism that underpin the Nationalist vision. Pressure is being put on big business in Scotland to keep its pessimism to itself, and, remembering that whatever happens, there will still be a Nationalist

government at Holyrood, business leaders are in a very uncomfortable situation leading to yet more uncertainty.

Beyond that, there are questions of taxation. There is no mention in all the pages of *Scotland's Future* of inheritance tax, capital gains, mansion or wealth tax. There is a strong probability of divergence of personal tax between Scotland and England with the betting on increased taxation north of the border. People, especially the rich, are far more mobile than in the past and will migrate south to access a more favourable tax climate. It isn't very difficult. It might mean no more than a short car journey from Edinburgh to Berwick upon Tweed, just into the most northern English county, Northumberland. Even our united country is small. London is only a hop further with all the powerful Midland centres in between.

The Independence campaign turns a blind eye to issues of emigration because they believe they have the solution in all the skilled immigrants who will pour into Scotland to take advantage of the manifold rewards available in a thriving new independent country. Those rewards are currently a dream based on expectations of compliance in Westminster to a range of mutual agreements that are already being denied. It is additionally questionable whether the flood of eager immigrants will so easily get through a door that is wide open only in Scottish Nationalist minds, regardless of the effect of controls elsewhere in Britain, and indeed all the questions of fulfilling the membership criteria of the European Union and negotiating further regulations.

These putative immigrants are likely to read the writing on the wall for an independent Scotland that might not have the wherewithal to flourish as promised. Nationalist financial predictions based on business creation and a huge economic upswing ring as hollow presumptions. A Scottish renaissance needs firmer foundations than that. Immigrants might wonder about flourishing in a country where life expectancy is historically and presently decades less than south of the border. This fact has allowed Nicola Sturgeon, the deputy first minister, to protest that the pension age should not be raised in Scotland as it will be in the rest of the UK because people will not live long enough fully to enjoy their pensioned retirement. How encouraging.

In the early days of the campaigns, the No vote looked stronger — strong enough to throw out the independence question for at least a generation. On present estimates a 60/40 No win will stop independence for now and will require Salmond, the SNP ringmaster and magician, to step down. But the bitterness left behind on both sides, combined with the anger and disappointment of a considerable minority, could poison the future of Scotland inestimably and indefinitely. It is not a happy outlook. So much that Scotland has already achieved as a devolved part of the UK could be wasted. Hopes for a future that will further embellish the global reputation of the people of Scotland could be put on long-term pause, we all need not only to support union and the UK as the best way forward, but to fill the chasms created between opposing campaigns by this referendum.

TIMES OF INDIA, JUL 23, 2014

### **Andhra Pradesh govt wants capital near Vijayawada**

HYDERABAD: The TDP government wants the new capital city of Andhra Pradesh to be built near Vijayawada.

Citing logistic advantages and availability of drinking water, the Chandrababu Naidu government has plumped for the Vijayawada-Guntur stretch for the development of capital city.

A high-level committee headed by municipal minister P Narayana met the experts panel headed by K C Sivaramakrishnan in New Delhi on Tuesday and presented the AP government's views on the capital city. They also discussed about the development of five smart cities of Anantapur, Kurnool, Rajahmundry, Ongole and Nellore.

Naidu also wants to develop Visakhapatnam as the financial capital by setting up a trade centre and software hub. To ensure all-round development of Visakhapatnam it was also decided to locate the petroleum university sanctioned by the Centre in the port city.

"The Vijayawada-Guntur stretch is centrally located and also has sufficient drinking water resources for the growing city," minister Narayana told TOI.

The Sivaramakrishnan Committee, which was constituted to identify possible locations for the new capital is to meet Naidu in Hyderabad on July 26 and submit its final report. "The committee will submit its recommendations to the government but the final decision on the new capital will be taken by the state government and the chief minister. Our aim is to ensure that the capital and smart cities boost all-round development of the state," vice-chairman of AP Planning Board and AP government economic advisor, C Kutumbarao, told TOI.

The TDP government wants the All India Institute of Medical Sciences to be located near Guntur and it has already identified three possible places. Apart from AIIMS, the Naidu regime wants the National Institute of Disaster Management to be located at Kakinada and the National Institute of Technology near Eluru.

Visakhapatnam might get an IIM while Tirupati is the choice for the central university. Likewise, the Naidu government has indicated that a 150-acre site between Kurnool and Kadapa has been finalized to set up the Indian Institute of Science.

The Sivaramakrishnan panel is also assessing the fund requirement for the development of the capital. It was decided to give a report to the Union government on the probable cost of construction of buildings, development of infrastructure, setting up of institutes of excellence and laying of new roads and widening the existing road network.

"We are looking at something around Rs 1.5 lakh crores of total investment in the next five years and we are confident of receiving the same from the Centre," sources in the government said.

## POVERTY

HINDU, JUL 20, 2014

**For a blueprint to fight poverty and hunger**

V. RAJAGOPAL

We need a National Authority on Hunger Elimination, with adequate funds and exclusive powers, administrative and financial

Of the eight Millennium Development Goals set by the United Nations, the first relates to eradicating poverty and extreme hunger, halving hunger by 2015. But most of the countries, including India, have not achieved tangible results on this front. With 2015 around the corner, the new government has a major task of addressing the issues of poverty and hunger. It should now halve hunger at least by 2017-2018.

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasised that his new government's top priority is to address the problems of the poor, he would have had in his mind the twin problems of hunger and health. Despite India's remarkable progress marked by high economic growth, impressive food production levels, technological advancement and enviable human resources, it is confronted by the problem of its 350 million hungry people. In the Global Hunger Index (GHI) it has the sixty-third position among 78 countries. India could reduce hunger only marginally (by less than 25 per cent) over a period of 18 years (1990-91 to 2007-08). Inadequate attention has been given to hunger-related issues.

As Gujarat Chief Minister, Mr. Modi's leadership was evident in the fields of agriculture and food production. When the country's average agriculture growth was 3.5 to 4 per cent, Gujarat recorded over 10 per cent growth. Mr. Modi had realised that soil health is important for crop health and this in turn for human health, a healthy and positive outlook.

This paved the way for the issue of Soil Health Cards to farmers in Gujarat for the first time in the country almost a decade ago, which had a significant effect on agricultural growth. The fact that several other States emulated Gujarat on the Soil Health Card scheme bears testimony to Mr. Modi's practical approach.

Compared to States such as Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and Jharkhand, there was less hunger and child malnutrition in Gujarat. So Mr. Modi's vision was clear: unless hunger and health, which are closely related to poverty, are tackled with effective strategies, it is not possible to achieve development.

Thus, the road map for overall development has been set, with experience gained from a State to be translated at the national level. The lessons learned could transform India from a nation of poverty and hunger to one that is healthy and vibrant, with sustainable growth and development.

India cannot afford to ignore the problem anymore. The long-term implications of the currently underweight children below five years will be on the future generation. Physical and mental health is essential to take up the responsibilities of nation-building. To sustain developmental activities during the coming decades, all children born, say from 2009-2010 onwards, need to be given utmost care in a holistic manner, in terms of health, education, environment, character-building and skill development in order to ensure leadership qualities.

Particular attention should be paid to States such as Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh, besides slum pockets in cities and tribal and rural belts in States, to rescue millions of underweight children. An effective health and nutrition programme for children (and mothers), from infants to juveniles to youth, is needed. A weak youth force will impede progress.

### **The need**

It is high time that Mr. Modi personally examined the situation and initiated action to establish a National Authority on Hunger Elimination. It should have adequate funds and exclusive powers, administrative and financial, and enhanced human resources with the goal of making India hunger-free by 2025.

NAHE must function as a high-power coordinating unit with the Ministries concerned — food and agriculture, health, education, rural development, environment and finance. As the ongoing poverty alleviation programmes have not yielded the desired results in terms of minimising hunger among the poorest of the poor, NAHE might be expected to achieve the goal better and in a shorter time-frame. It must be an empowered authority to coordinate with all the States.

India should strive hard to get its name erased from the list of Global Hunger Index with exemplary and time-bound programmes. For this, an extraordinary level of political will is called for. On their part, research organisations and universities should initiate mandated projects on all hunger-related issues in a holistic way, with rural-based programmes. The scientific community cannot remain aloof from the reality of millions going to be bed each day without food. Unless they play a proactive role it may be difficult to combat hunger in the country.

Hopefully, the Prime Minister will thus be able to put poor Indians on his agenda.

## PRIME MINISTERS

DECCAN HERALD, JUL 21, 2014

### **Modi swearing-in cost govt Rs 17.6 lakh**

The government has incurred a cost of Rs 17.6 lakh for the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his ministers this May, an RTI query has revealed.

In reply to RTI activist Subhash Chandra Agrawal, the CPWD said, "The approximate cost of arrangement related to tentage, stage, furniture and other allied items is Rs 17.6 lakh."

A reply to another RTI query filed by activist Ramesh Verma also mentioned the same amount as expenditure. The swearing-in ceremony was held in the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan on May 26.

In its response to Verma, the President's Secretariat said it does not maintain the records of expenditure function-wise.

"Hence, the information sought for cannot be provided. It is informed that the expenditure on functions is incurred by the spending units from the annual budget allotted to respective head of accounts," the reply to the RTI query said.

Around 4,000 guests, including Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Sri Lankan President Mahendra Rajapakse, attended the ceremony.

## **PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM**

HINDU, JUL 16, 2014

### **'SMS-based system an inconvenience to ration card holders'**

Ration card holders from Kesare, R.S. Naidu Nagar and nearby localities staged a dharna outside the Deputy Commissioner's office here on Wednesday. They were opposing the SMS-based ration card distribution and renewal system introduced by the Department of Food and Civil Supplies. The protesters demanded that simple procedures be introduced as poor people were unable to fulfil the conditions laid down by the department.

The department had asked existing ration card holders and fresh applicants to send Aadhaar and EPIC numbers to a designated phone number through SMS. July 15 was the last date to send the details. The residents, led by councillor Haseen Taj, said the new system had inconvenienced ration card holders, especially those who did not have mobile phones.

In a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner, the councillor alleged that some persons were charging Rs. 20 to Rs. 50 from card-holders to send SMSs for them. The councillor also alleged that some fair price shops were denying card-holders rations if the biometric machines failed to read their thumb impression.

## SENIOR CITIZENS

HINDU, JUL 22, 2014

### **New national policy for senior citizens under finalisation: Govt**

The new National Policy for Senior Citizens is under finalisation, the Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday.

Replying to a question, Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Sudarshan Bhagat said, in order to improve the living standard of senior citizens, different ministries and departments of the Government of India, along with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment are implementing various welfare schemes.

“Keeping in view the changing demographic pattern, socio-economic needs of the senior citizens, social value system and advancement in the field of science and technology over the last decade, the National Policy on Older Persons, 1999 has been reviewed and the new National Policy for Senior Citizens is under finalisation,” he added.

According to the 2011 census, the population of senior citizen in the country is 10.38 crore, which is about 8.6 per cent of the total population in the country, the Minister stated.

To another query, Mr. Bhagat said, a Non-Governmental Organisation, on the basis of a sample survey in 24 cities with 6,748 older persons, has reported that 23 per cent of the respondents experienced abuse.

## SOCIAL WELFARE

HINDU, JUL 16, 2014

### **Bengal to set up Transgender Welfare Board**

SHIV SAHAY SINGH

Representatives of the transgender community at a State-level consultation in Kolkata on Tuesday. Photo: Special Arrangement

In a major development towards recognising the rights of transgender people, the West Bengal government has decided set up a Transgender Welfare Board, State Minister for Social Women and Child Development and Social Welfare Sashi Panja said on Tuesday.

The development comes in the wake of a Supreme Court order delivered on April 15 2014 recognising transgender people as a third gender and directing the State governments and Centre to extend benefits of all welfare schemes, education healthcare and jobs.

“We feel that the issue requires our undivided attention and we are setting up a transgender welfare board. The Central government has set up an expert committee to gather expertise on the issue and we are waiting for its guidelines,” Dr Panja told *The Hindu*.

Tamil Nadu was the first State to have a transgender welfare board in 2008 and Maharashtra followed suit.

Dr. Panja, who chaired the first 'State Level Consultation on the Rehabilitation and Welfare of Transgender Community' during the day, said opinion was divided on certain issues like referring them as “third gender” and whether transgender may be included in the Other Backward Class category.

She claimed that the welfare of the transgender community would require “co-ordination” of Department of Health, Backward Classes Welfare Department and the School Education Department.

The Minister advocated having separate toilets in schools and wards in hospitals for transgender people.

As per available statistics, the West Bengal government claims that the number of transgender community members is 30, 349, though activists claim that the actual population is much higher. In the electoral rolls prepared for the 2014 Lok Sabha polls, the number of voters registered as ‘others’ in West Bengal was 513.

Welcoming the initiative, Ranjita Sinha, secretary of the Association of Transgender/Hijra in West Bengal, said work on the initiative of having a welfare board should start soon.

Representatives of over 30 community-based organisation working for the rights of transgender people were present at the meeting and expressed their discontent over discrimination against them in society. They also criticised the apathy of the State government agencies in providing them support.

Prior to the first-State level consultative meeting, two informal meeting were held between State government officials and members of the transgender community. The resolutions adopted at the earlier meetings include identifying the number of transgender community members in the State, setting up a separate correctional home and extending educational facilities, by augmenting infrastructure in schools.