POLITICAL NEWS

Prime Minister's Wish to Hold All Elections Together

NEW DELHI: The fiercest Poll campaigner PM Modi wishfully talked about the idea of holding simultaneous elections to panchayat bodies, assemblies and Parliament at a meeting of BJP national office-bearers and state unit chiefs. The PM lamented that frequent elections in one part or the other held up development and stopped government’s effort of doing good work wider and deeper. Leaders, including Congress GN Azad, agreed with the PM during the informal chat. But, The PM feared that a consensus will elude if any such idea is brought for formal consideration.

Bharathiya Janata Party in Talks With Smaller Parties

CHENNAI: After giving up on striking a deal with the Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK) and the Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) and releasing its first list of 54 candidates, Bharathiya Janata Party (BJP) is in talks with smaller parties like the Indhiya Jananayaga Katchi and New Justice Party on seat-sharing for the assembly election. Union minister Prakash Javadekar, BJP election panel head for Tamil Nadu, is likely to declare the details after chairing a meeting in Chennai on Thursday to shortlist the candidates. With the DMDK and the PMK out of National Democratic Alliance, smaller political outfits could get a chance to field more candidates. Some independents may also get a look in certain pockets. The BJP having released the first list of its candidates, the second list is likely to have a few surprises with personalities from the entertainment industry and some prominent social workers.

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

India-US to Sign MoU for Building LIGO Project

NEW DELHI: India and US will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) tomorrow for building a state-of-the-art LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory) project in the country, almost a month after the discovery of gravitational waves. The MoU will be signed between the National Science Foundation USA and India’s Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Science and Technology. The project will bring unprecedented opportunities for scientists and engineers to dig deeper into the realm of gravitational wave and take global leadership in this new astronomical frontier. LIGO-India will also bring considerable opportunities in cutting edge technology for the Indian industry which will be engaged in the construction of an 8 km-long beam tube at ultra-high vacuum on a levelled terrain. The machines that gave scientists their first-ever glimpse at gravitational waves are the most advanced detectors ever built for sensing tiny vibrations in the universe. The two US-based underground detectors are known as the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory, or LIGO for short. One is located in Hanford, Washington and the other in Livingston, Louisiana.
**ECONOMIC NEWS**

**Budget Passed with VAT Rollback on Shoes, Textiles**

NEW DELHI: The AAP government on Wednesday withdrew the proposal to levy 5 per cent Value Added Tax (VAT) on shoes priced below Rs. 500 and all kinds of fabric which was proposed by Finance Minister Manish Sisodia while presenting the Budget. Some of the AAP MLAs had opposed the tax on these items because it would hurt the livelihood of traders. The Delhi Assembly passed the INR 466 Billions “tax-free” Budget on Wednesday after the government announced the rollback. The focus of the 2016-17 Budget is on education, health, transport sectors, and rationalisation of the VAT structure that will bring down prices of readymade garments, shoes and watches, among other items.

**Water Scarcity: Take Steps on War Footing, High Court Tells Government**

MUMBAI: The Bombay High Court on Wednesday directed the state government to take steps on a war footing to address water scarcity and drought. Several villages and cities in Maharashtra are facing severe water shortage and firm steps are not taken immediately then there will be further destruction.” According to a government resolution on September 7, the government had taken note of water scarcity in different parts of the state and recorded that till there is adequate rainfall, district collectors will have to preserve water in various dams for drinking purposes. he court had noted, “Though according to policy, utmost priority needs to be given for drinking water, in practicality it is being given to ‘shahi snaan’ (royal bath).

**4,000 Indian Millionaires Shifted Overseas in 2015**

NEW DELHI: According to a report by New World Wealth, some 4,000 uber-rich Indians have changed their domicile in 2015, while France saw the maximum outflow of millionaires with as many as 10,000 super rich leaving the country. “The outflows from India and China are not particularly concerning as these countries are still producing far more new millionaires than they are losing,” the report said and added that “once the standard of living in these countries improves, we expect several wealthy people to move back.” Other countries that saw significant millionaire outflows include Greece (3,000), while Russian Federation, Spain and Brazil saw 2,000 such outflows each. Millionaires, otherwise known as "high net-worth individuals" or "HNWIs" refer to individuals with net assets of $1 million or more excluding their primary residences.

**‘Market Access for India’s Services Key to BTIA’**

NEW DELHI: Obtaining greater access to the market for services in the European Union (EU) is key for the progress of the Broad based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) between the EU and India, Commerce Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told *The Hindu* in an exclusive telephone interview in Brussels. The two governments are hoping to make progress on the trade deal during the 13th EU India Summit in Brussels on March 30. In a global economic climate of falling demand and competitive currency devaluations, the textile industry was among those that had approached the Commerce Ministry and expressed a view that a free trade agreement with the EU would be beneficial to it, Ms. Sitharaman said. However, she added that India would also take up the issue of market access for its services in the EU.
ECONOMIC NEWS

World Trade Center Planned in Perungudi
CHENNAI: Brigade Group and GIC, Singapore’s sovereign wealth fund, have jointly acquired a 16-acre land parcel at Perungudi, in which a World Trade Center (WTC) and residential units, entailing an investment of more than Rs. 10 Billions, are expected to come up. The land was purchased from Kansai Nerolac Paints for Rs. 5.3786 millions. The acquisition was done through Perungudi Real Estates, a special purpose vehicle formed by Brigade Enterprises and GIC. Real Estate firm Jones Lang Lasalle (JLL) was also instrumental in this deal. “The Brigade Group has licences to build World Trade Centers. This is the third WTC for us after Bengaluru and Cochin,” said a senior official from Brigade Enterprises.

Tamil Nadu Ranks Low in Actual Investments
CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu is slipping in converting investment proposals into tangible investments (hard or real asset or personal property), with the latest data showing that it lags behind many states, including late bloomers such as Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Though 615.5 billions was proposed to be invested in the state between 2013 and 2015, actual investments were a meagre 52.93 billions, the worst among 10 large states, DIPP (Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion) data showed. While investment proposals in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh were slightly lower than TN during 2013-15, the neighbouring states were way ahead in actual investments committed. Observers attribute the poor showing to the sluggish demand, especially in the automobile sector which is the mainstay of investments in TN, lack of diversity and restive labour in Sriperumbudur, the hub for major investments.

Chennai Floods Caused Economic Loss of $2.2 Billion: Study
CHENNAI: The floods in Chennai last year caused an economic loss of $2.2 billion, out of India’s total economic loss of $6.2 billion suffered due to disasters in 2015, says a study by reinsurance company Swiss Re. According to the study, the insured losses due to the Chennai floods were estimated at $755 million, making these floods the second costliest insurance event in India. A large part of the losses originated from commercial lines. The event highlighted the vulnerability of rapidly growing urban areas to flash floods caused by heavy rains, the statement said.

Karnataka to Rebuild Kalaburgi Greenfield Airport
BENGALURU: The State government will soon take up the task of completing the much-delayed Kalaburagi green-field airport project. Replying to a debate on the state budget, Siddaramaiah said new tenders will be floated soon to take up the work on the project which has remained suspended for over 3 years now. The CM renewed promise came in the backdrop of his meeting with leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha M Mallikarjun Kharge who sought more funds from the state government for projects in Hyderabad-Karnataka region. Soon after the meeting, Kharge had supported Siddaramaiah’s decision to set up the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) recently. Siddaramaiah also announced take up two other projects including the development of railway line.

State May Resume 10,000 Acres of Government Land
HYDERABAD: Over 200,000 property registrations, done between 1999 and 2007, are now under the scanner of the revenue, registrations and stamps department. These registrations were done on notified government land. Armed with the recent high court order on prohibition of registrations on notified government land, the state government is getting ready to declare them null and void soon. Officials hope that the move will help the state government to resume prime land, especially in Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy districts.
Health Corner

CURRY LEAVES

The curry tree scientific named, Murraya koenigii, a tropical to sub-tropical tree in the family Rutaceae (the rue family, which includes rue, citrus, and satinwood), which is native to India and Sri Lanka. Often used in curries, the leaves are generally called by the name 'curry leaves', although they are also literally 'sweet neem leaves' in most Indian languages.

It is a small tree, growing 4–6 m (13–20 feet) tall, with a trunk up to 40 cm (16 in) diameter. The plant produces small white flowers which can self-pollinate to produce small shiny-black berries containing a single, large viable seed. Though the berry pulp is edible—with a sweet but medicinal flavour—in general, neither the pulp nor seed is used for culinary purposes. The leaves are highly valued as seasoning in southern and west-coast Indian cooking, and Sri Lankan cooking especially in curries, usually fried along with the chopped onion in the first stage of the preparation.

Health Benefits

- Curry leaves are a rich source of iron and folic acid and hence prevents anaemia.
- Curry leaves protect the liver from oxidative stress and harmful toxins that build-up in your body due to the presence of kaempferol, a potent antioxidant.
- The presence of fiber in the leaves plays a significant role in controlling your blood sugar levels.
- Curry leaves prevent the oxidation of cholesterol as it is packed with antioxidants, which in turn increases the amount of good cholesterol (HDL) and protects you from heart disease and atherosclerosis.
- Curry leaves are known to be carminative in nature and thus, is highly effective against indigestion.
- Packed with vitamin C, A and compounds such as kaempferol that is a very potent anti-inflammatory, decongestant and antioxidant agent, curry leaves can help loosen up and release congested mucous.
- Known to prevent grey-ing of the hair due to the presence of various nutrients in the body. But it also very effective in treating damaged hair, adding bounce to limp hair, strengthening the shaft of thin hair, hair fall and treats dandruff.