



Royal Harbinger

Education system needs serious reforms

The outrageous remarks by the sitting Union Culture Minister Mahesh Sharma in an interview to a television channel that despite being a Muslim, late Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, was a true nationalist, betrays the deeply entrenched and unconcealed prejudices of his party, the BJP and its saffron associates against members of Muslim community at large.

Editorial

Such remarks have the potential of disturbing the communal harmony. The minister's conduct is despicable and deserves universal condemnation. It is yet another example of the party's continuing attempts to polarize the society for electoral gains. He owes an unqualified public apology to the entire nation. Will Prime Minister Narendra Modi act and sack him immediately from his Council of Ministers? Going by his inaction in the recent past against the questionable conduct of one of his senior ministers, it is unlikely. His inaction against this minister should be interpreted as his own endorsement of the minister's remarks. This will set a dangerous precedent. The ball is now clearly in the Prime Minister's court.

Relief for Salman as HC allows plea in arms case

Jodhpur : In a respite for Salman Khan in Arms Act case, the Rajasthan High Court on Tuesday allowed a petition by him ordering the prosecution to make him available the documents sought by him pertaining to the prosecution permission by the then district magistrate. "We had moved a petition in the high court seeking the documents pertaining to the sanction of prosecution against Khan by the then district magistrate. The court allowed the petition and ordered the prosecution to provide with those documents to us", said the counsel of Khan, H M Saraswat. The same petition earlier in the trial court was rejected following which the defence had moved the high court against the order of the trial court. On Monday, Justice Sandeep Mehta, while hearing the petition called for the public prosecutor from the trial court. But on his failure to appear in the court,

Justice Mehta adjourned the hearing till Tuesday. "Today, he appeared in the court and assured the court to make the required documents pertaining to the prosecution sanction", Saraswat said. On the other hand, the trail of the case under Arms Act in the court of CJM (Jodhpur district) could not progress either because of the absence of the 4 witnesses including the then district magistrate (Jodhpur) Rajat Mishra, two police officers and a forest officer. "The court has now listed the matter for hearing on November 23 and 24 for appearance of these 4 witnesses", said the Public Prosecutor N K Sankhla. The court had allowed Khan to summon 5 prosecution witnesses for the re-examination, of which only one, the investigation officer and the then Asst. Superintendent of Police, Ashok Patni had appeared on September 24.

VBS to power connectivity for JCB's construction equipment in India

Mumbai : Vodafone Business Services (VBS) - the enterprise arm of Vodafone India, one of leading telecommunications service provider, today announced its strategic technology partnership with JCB India Ltd - India's leading manufacturer of construction equipment. This partnership will enable Vodafone to provide Machine-to-Machine (M2M) solution to power JCB's Livelink. - an advanced telematics system that allows remote monitoring of its construction equipment and provides information on service, operation and security of the equipment. Vodafone Business Services has recently retained its position as a leader in Gartner's Magic Quadrant for Managed M2M Services for a second year in a row. Announcing the collaboration with JCB India, Nick Gliddon, Director - Vodafone Business Services says, "Vodafone is renowned globally for being an undisputed leader in M2M solutions and is driving the Internet of Things (IoT). The VBS M2M powered Livelink will help the users of the JCB construction equipment to better manage the efficiency, maintenance and health of the equipment. JCB customers will manage working versus idle

time, fuel usage and identify small problems before they cause unscheduled downtime." He added, "M2M presents a huge opportunity in the highly competitive Indian market. This Livelink deployment is an example of our strong, successful and differentiated approach to M2M in India. We have the capability to maintain over 10 billion SIMs and are confident of growing business further, especially from segments like healthcare and automobiles." Speaking at the occasion, Mr. Vipin Sondhi, MD & CEO, JCB India Limited, said, "We are delighted to be partnering with Vodafone for our Livelink, an important technological upgrade for JCB equipment. This has the potential to radically change the way we enable our customers to monitor their machines and also in the way we provide real time support to our customers." Remotely monitor machine health for any malfunction identify and remove wasteful idle time, improving utilisation and cutting fuel costs According to Ipsos, the global construction equipment market was estimated at INR 5,551 billion (\$90.5 billion) last year and is expected to reach INR. 7,310 billion by 2016, representing CAGR of 7.7 per cent.

Several states celebrating their formation day today

New Delhi : Several Indian states are celebrating their formation day today. The states which came into existence on 1st November include Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Karnataka and Kerala. Greeting the people of Madhya Pradesh on the occasion Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the state is marching ahead on the path of sustained growth and prosperity. He also extended his greeting to the people of Chhattisgarh and said in the tweet that state progress has been noteworthy. Extending his best wishes to the people of Haryana on the occasion Mr Modi prayed for state's progress and said that Haryana manifests the spirit of Jai Jawan Jai Kisan. Prime Minister also extended his greeting to the people of Karnataka and hoped that Karnataka will keep scaling new heights of progress. He has greeted people of Kerala where the day is celebrated as Kerala Piravi.

Real estate sector has huge potential for growth

New Delhi : Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said that the real estate sector has huge potential for growth and hoped that the period of slow down would end soon. The minister emphasised on the need of more townships, sub-urban townships and smart cities to lead the economic development of India. Addressing the CREDAI-BANKCON 2015 on Role of Banking and Finance in Real Estate Development in Mumbai he said that the sector will be the next big mover as far as the Indian economy is concerned, but added that the industry must survive on market economy and subsidies should not be the essence of survival. Office bearers and members of CREDAI, Maharashtra Chamber of Housing Industry and leading real estate developers were present at the conference. He said that the government has taken steps to pull the highways and steel sectors out of distress and now improving health of the power sector will be given top priority.

Flipkart goes Offline with Spice Hotspot

New Delhi : In a unique instance of online and offline retail coming together, Flipkart, India's leading e-commerce portal, has tied up with Spice Hotspot, India's leading smartphone retailer, to showcase its exclusive phone portfolio in retail stores across India. As part of this unique assisted e-commerce model, customers can touch and feel Flipkart's exclusive range of smartphones at selected Spice Hotspot outlets. The store staff will assist them to place their order on the Flipkart app and customers can take the delivery of the phones at the same store



at their home. This association is aimed at reaching out to a larger target audience, especially the not-so-tech-savvy customers as they can now get a first-hand experience of these exclusive products and place their order conveniently

Customers will also be able to interact with the stores' well trained staff about the smartphones and address their product queries directly. Speaking on the association, Rajiv Sethi, Chief Marketing Officer, Spice Retail said "We are delighted to partner with Flipkart as an offline partner for their exclusive smartphone range. With our wide footprint across India and our well trained store staff, we are confident that we will add a lot of value to our customer's shopping experience. This unique "online and offline synergy" will offer cus-

tomers the best of both worlds - the convenience of online retail and the touch and feel in-store experience of offline retail." Sandeep Karwa, Director Retail Flipkart, said, "This is targeted mainly at places where online shopping is still catching up. Customers in Tier-3 and Tier-4 towns have heard about online shopping but are still circumspect. This initiative will empower and ease customers from smaller cities to shop online. Overall, we foresee this becoming a big customer conversion tool for our smartphone category."

Manpasand's brands will be made available at around 210 food outlets of Havmor spread across Gujarat, Mumbai & Punjab

Manpasand Beverages fruit drinks to be available at Havmor's food outlets

India's leading fruit juice player, Manpasand Beverages Ltd, has entered into a tie up with ice cream & food retailing major Havmor Ice Cream Ltd. Manpasand's flagship mango-based brand 'Mango Sip' and recently launched 'Fruits Up' brand will be made available at around 210 food outlets of Havmor spread across Gujarat, Mumbai & Punjab to start with. Apart from one of the MNC cola brand, Manpasand's two beverage brands will be the only other beverage brands to be sold at all Havmor outlets.



Our fruit juices will be available in tetra packs and 200 ml PET bottles. Both Manpasand and Havmor are Gujarat headquartered companies with a strong presence in the state. With our 'Fruits Up' brand we plan to take head-on the global cola majors in urban markets. We will consider further expanding our tie up with Havmor by making our fruit

juice brands available at their food outlets in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh and rest of Maharashtra in future." Mr. Vrajesh Jha, Vice President (Marketing) of Havmor Ice Cream Ltd said, "With this tie-up, Manpasand's popular drinks will now be available at all our restaurants, eateries, ice-cream parlours, Fun flavours and hotchpotch format stores. This also signifies coming together of not only two Indian, but Gujarat based companies in the FMCG sector and brings about opportunity to tap in newer markets. We are very hopeful about this alliance and look forward to further expansions."

About Manpasand Beverages Limited

One of the country's leading fruit juice players, the Rs 400 crore Manpasand Beverages Limited, has got the unique distinction of being the only pure play company in this sector in the Indian capital markets. It is a niche player in a large, high-growth market. Manpasand Beverages represents the successful story of a visionary first generation entrepreneur, Dharendra Singh, who has built one of India's fastest growing fruit juices company and is now ready to take on the global cola giants head-on. Manpasand Beverages is a fruit drink manufacturing company with a primary focus on mango fruit, which is the leading flavour for juice drinks in India. Company's mango-based fruit drink, 'Mango Sip', is its flagship brand, which is strategically focused towards customers primarily based in semi urban and rural markets. With a view to expand its product portfolio, company has launched two new brands, 'Fruits Up' and 'Manpasand ORS'. Under the 'Fruits Up' brand, Manpasand offers fruit drinks and carbonated fruit drinks in different flavours. Under the 'Manpasand ORS' brand, it offers fruit drinks with energy replenishing qualities with a primary focus on North East India. Company's other major fruit juice brands are Apple Sip, Litchi Sip and Guava Sip.

Centre announces draft aviation policy

New Delhi : The centre announced draft aviation policy aimed at popularizing air travel among the people. The draft proposes to improve air connectivity among the smaller cities. Airlines will not be allowed to charge more than 2500 rupees for one hour flight between two small cities. As per the new draft, about 300 airports and air strips in smaller cities could be operationalized. The draft says the government will provide money for it by setting up a special fund. To boost the aviation sector, the draft proposes tax incentives to airlines by giving them custom exception on aviation fuel. The policy aims to bring India to third position from the current 10th position in the global aviation sector. Government has proposed a slew of tax incentives for airlines and main-

tenance works in the draft civil aviation policy unveiled today. It has proposed hiking FDI in domestic airlines to over 50 per cent in open skies policy, which is 49 per cent at present. Under open skies policy, overseas airlines can operate unlimited number of flights into and out of India. The policy proposes to put service tax at zero to promote Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul, MRO facility in order to develop India as an MRO hub in Asia. It also seeks to revive underserved airstrips and build no-frills airports at a cost of 50 crore rupees under Regional Connectivity Scheme. The Draft Policy proposes two per cent levy on all domestic and overseas tickets for funding the Scheme. Another proposal is to cap fare at 2,500 rupees for one-hour flight under regional connectivity scheme.

Vedanta Consolidated Results for the Second Quarter

Mumbai : Vedanta Limited (formerly known as Sesa Sterlite Ltd) today announced its unaudited consolidated results for the second quarter ended 30 September 2015. Financial Highlights: Continued optimization of opex and capex to maximise free cash flow and reduce net debt; generated free cash flow of Rs. 7,145 crore and net debt reduced by Rs. 5,335 crore in Q2. Revenues at Rs. 16,349 crore. EBITDA at Rs. 4,113 crore up by 2% QoQ; robust EBITDA margin at 32%. Attributable PAT at Rs. 974 crore, 12% higher QoQ. Strong balance sheet with Cash & Cash Equivalents of over Rs. 52,000 crore, up 11%.

Operational Highlights: Zinc-India: Strong mined and refined metal production; integrated silver production up 64%, underground mining ramping up. Oil & Gas: Q2 production up 6% & H1 in line with guidance. Aluminium: Stable volumes from existing smelters; cost reduction initiatives in progress; further pots at Jharsuguda-II smelter to commence ramp up in Q3. Copper India: Stable operations at 94% capacity utilization.

Contribution of Rs. 12,104 crore to the Indian Exchequer during H1 FY2016, in the form of taxes, duties, royalties and profit petroleum. Interim dividend of Rs. 3.50 per share. Iron Ore: Mining commenced in Goa, 1st export shipment made in October. Power: TSPL Unit-I achieved 86% availability; Unit-II commissioning activities commenced, to be synchronized in Q3. Tom Albanese, Chief Executive Officer, Vedanta Limited, said: "Our diversified asset portfolio has delivered a strong operating performance, including record production from our tier-1 Zinc mines, resulting in strong free cash flows during the quarter. We are continuing to drive efficiency improvements and optimise opex and capex across the business, taking measured steps to reduce net debt and maximise free cash flow."

TCS Recognized as a Leader in Magic Quadrant Evaluation

Mumbai : Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), (BSE: 532540, NSE: TCS), a leading global IT services, consulting and business solutions organization, today announced that it has been recognized by Gartner, Inc. as a 'Leader' in its 'Magic Quadrant for SAP Application Management Services, Worldwide' report, by Kris Doering, Frances Karamouzis, and Gilbert van der Heiden, October 7, 2015. Gartner analysts note that providers designated as Leaders "are performing well today, gaining traction and mind share in the market. They have a clear vision

of the market's direction and are actively building competencies to sustain their market leadership." Gartner evaluated 17 service providers, including TCS, on their ability to execute and completeness of vision. "Being recognized by Gartner analysts as a Leader in the Magic Quadrant report for the third year in a row provides independent confirmation of the value we help our customers create through our deep industry expertise and comprehensive set of application management services across the SAP product line," said Akhilesh Tiwari, Global Head, SAP Practice, TCS.

"Over the past year, we have focused on investing in new technologies to help our clients remain competitive, including opening new innovation labs, expanding our UX offerings (SAPUI5 and SAP Fiori) and developing a digital enterprise platform comprised of prebuilt, hosted enterprise business-process-as-a-service offerings." TCS' Practice for SAP solutions, part of TCS' Enterprise Solutions group, offers best-of-the-breed solutions and services in support of SAP software to its clients around the world. In 2006, TCS became the first SAP glob-

al services partner in Asia, and earlier this year TCS received the 2015 SAP® Pinnacle Award for Run SAP Partner of the Year for the third year in a row, and was named a 2015 finalist for the Services Transformation Partner of the Year. TCS has two Centers of Excellence at TCS' Seven Hills Park Delivery Center in Milford, Ohio; a User Experience Center of Excellence, providing end-to-end consulting and implementation services to customers seeking innovation and ease-of-use in further leveraging SAP® applications, and the TCS Global Center of Excellence (CoE), which

was launched in 2011 in support of the SAP HANA® platform. Gartner does not endorse any vendor, product or service depicted in its research publications, and does not advise technology users to select only those vendors with the highest ratings or other designation. Gartner research publications consist of the opinions of Gartner's research organization and should not be construed as statements of fact. Gartner disclaims all warranties, expressed or implied, with respect to this research, including any warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose.