

# MANASA GANGOTRI



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## BRIEF

### PETA opposes exchange prog

Kolkata, Oct 28 (UNI) People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) has opposed a Union Ministry of Environment and Forests department's decision to send two elephants, kept in an Indian zoo, to Turkmenistan as part of an animal exchange programme.

### CARTOON



## IT sector is not just for elite class : Sachin Pilot

Bangalore, Oct 28 (UNI) Union Minister of State for IT and Communications Sachin Pilot today called for breaking the "psychological barrier" that branded the IT sector as one belonging to only the elite class.

Speaking at the inauguration of the country's premier IT event 'Bangalore IT.biz' here, he said "It is important for us to break the barrier where the IT sector is looked at as an elite sector, belonging to people who carry laptops".

"We should create an environment where job creation takes place to cater to all sections of the society", he said. The country's premier IT event has attracted major players in the sector within India and



abroad. It is being held at a time when Indian IT industry is back to double digit growth 'warding off' the ill-effects of global economic slowdown.

Over 500 companies and 5,000 delegations from six countries are attending the three-day event whose focus is on business-to-

business events with exhibitions on the IT sector and various sessions touching upon all aspects of the industry.

Mr Pilot said despite the global economic slowdown during the past two years, the Indian IT sector has proved to be resilient and made tremendous growth. Information Technology, ITeS and the BPO sector had grown from strength to strength. The real hard work of youth in the IT sector, companies, entrepreneurs and the government had resulted in India become a big stage in global arena. The sector provided direct and indirect jobs to over 11.5 million young Indians.

The real value of the IT sector lies not in merely attracting investment and

earning in dollars. It should improve the life of the common man in India. That is the true value of the IT sector", Mr Pilot added.

He said the sector had contributed handsomely to the GDP growth of the country and remained a net job creator and helped the country attract quality investment. India had 51 per cent of the global IT market share.

However, it was time for the Indian IT companies to diversify their destinations of their portfolios as the export-focused industry was mainly depending on the US market, which accounted for 63 per cent of its revenue. It must look towards other countries and other geographies like Africa.

## CWG row- IT raids on companies continues

New Delhi, Oct 28 (UNI) The Income Tax Department has raided

These companies had provided landscaping services and tracksuits for the October 3-14 Games.



Different agencies such as Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), Comptroller and Auditor General, C B I, Enforcement Directorate and IT Department have been examining

premises of two companies in connection with the alleged scam in the Commonwealth Games.

"Investigation is on in the charges of corruption in the sports event," a Tax Department official told UNI today.

The sources said offices of two companies were raided in Delhi and NCR.

the "bungling and irregularities" in the mega sports event. The Shunglu Committee will look into files and documents processed by the Group of Ministers (GoM) besides those in the possession of Urban Development Ministry, Sports Ministry and the Games Organising Committee.

## UIADI MoU with IGNOU

New Delhi, Oct 28 (UNI) Unique Identification Authority of India (UIADI) has signed an MoU with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) for speedy implementation of its Unique Identification (UID) numbers project in the country.

This was exchanged between UIADI Chairman Nandan Nilekani and IGNOU Vice-Chancellor V N Rajasekharan Pillai here yesterday.

An IGNOU spokesperson told UNI today that under this collaboration, IGNOU would cooperate and collaborate with the UIADI in conduction proof of concept (POC) studies, pilots to test the working of the technology and process of enrollment into the UID database and subsequently full roll out of the UID project.

## More Funds released for development of Mysore Tourism

Mysore 28 Similarly Rs.1.4 lakh had been released for the development of Kukkarahalli Lake while

expansion and renovation of Hotel Mayura Hoysala was being taken up at a cost of Rs.1.5 crore. Mr Luthra said the KSTDC was also funding tourist infrastructure development facilities at Chunchunkatte and Arkeshwara Temple in K R Nagar at a cost of Rs 30 lakh in the district.

While under the Tourist Taxi Scheme during 2010-11, a 50 per cent subsidy

would be given to 30 scheduled caste and 15 scheduled tribe candidates in Mysore for procuring a vehicle and operating it as a taxi to make the beneficiaries self-reliant.

The KSTDC had given a subsidy of Rs.70.20 lakh for 30 SC/ST candidates during the year 2009-10,

he pointed out. Speaking on the occasion, Mr B B Verma, Divisional Railway Manager, Mysore Division of South Western Railway said the inauguration of a tourist information centre was the fulfilment of a long-felt need of the railways.





## “My age does not worry me” : Tendulkar

London, Oct 28 (UNI) India's master blaster Sachin Tendulkar, who has been in blistering form this year and has surged to the top of the ICC Test rankings for batsmen for the first time since 2002, said he is “not worried” with his age.

“I am really enjoying my cricket right now. I do not know how long I am going to continue playing for but as long as I enjoy myself and feel that I can contribute I will be playing.

“My age does not worry me - age is in the mind,” the 37-year-old told ‘Evening Standard’.

Tendulkar was speaking at The Asian Awards held at Grosvenor House last night where he was handed the People's Choice Award and the Outstanding Achievement in Sport Award.

“I am very happy and humbled to win this award. It



Courtesy wikimedia.org

is always good to know that you are appreciated,” he said. Tendulkar gave Australia a torrid time a fortnight ago with his mammoth first-innings haul of 214 helping to defeat the tourists in Bangalore.

He became the first cricketer to score 14,000 Test match runs as India

inflicted a 2-0 series defeat on Australia, a result that was notable for a couple of other reasons too.

It saw Ricky Pontings's side fall to fifth in the ICC team rankings and, crucially, below England for the first time since the standings were launched in 2003. Coupled with the defeat to Pakistan in July, it was also the first time in 22 years Australia had lost three Tests in a row.

Tendulkar said Australia are no longer the team to beat in Test cricket.

“The Australians competed very hard which they always do but India as a team showed

tremendous character and a toughness and we were able to beat them quite convincingly by seven wickets in the Second Test.

“If we are talking about the side to beat in Test cricket right now, I would say South Africa in South Africa. They compete hard and use their conditions to their advantage,” he added.

## Defence Minister not against Hike : Anand Sharma

Hanoi, Oct 28 (UNI) Calling for a hike in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) cap in defence sector, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma today said it is wrong to say that Defence Minister A K Antony is not in favour of proposed FDI hike.

Mr Sharma said though his Ministry has released a 'discussion paper' to raise the FDI limits in the defence production, the paper did not aim at destroying domestic private or public undertakings.

Talking to mediapersons enroute Hanoi from Malaysia with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Mr Sharma asked whether he was disappointed over Mr Antony's refusal to increase the FDI cap, said, "Antony ji is one of the senior Ministers of Cabinet and I can assure you that he is not against the hike." He said defence purchases is a sensitive sector and the decision on hiking

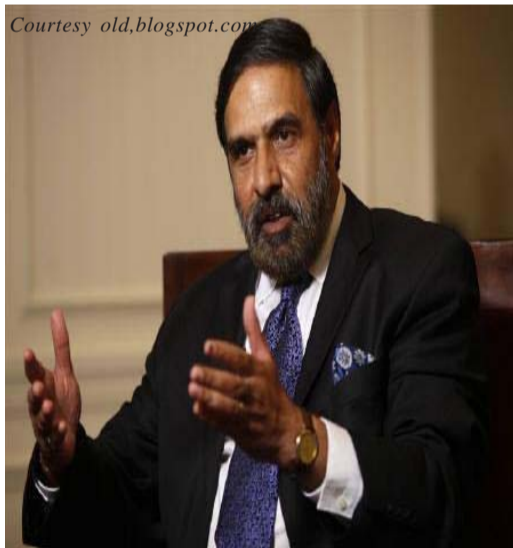
FDI in this regard would be realised only after taking on board the views of the defence establishment.

“Leave foreign investment in defence area, even Indian industries were not permitted to invest in the sector.

Times have changed. Under the present policy, 26 per cent FDI along with 100 per cent investment by Indian industries is allowed in defence and several companies are being benefited by it," he added.

Clarifying his stand, Mr Sharma said the industrial countries, which are developing in the defence production across the world nowadays, have adopted liberalisation policy in 1950-60.

Asked whether increasing the FDI limit would not be against offset



Courtesy old.blogspot.com

policy of defence purchases, Mr Sharma replied in the negative saying that increasing the FDI limit will not affect the offset policy and no harm will accrue to the domestic private companies and public sector undertakings

Under the offset policy, the Defence Ministry has made mandatory that in any deal worth over Rs 300 crore in Indian companies will get 30 per cent of investment and India was trying to increase indigenous defence production.

## Govt to issue free bus passes for journalists- R Ashok

Bangalore, Oct 28 (UNI) The Karnataka Government today issued free bus passes which allows an accredited journalist to travel free on the state-run buses within the state.

Speaking after issuing the bus passes, Karnataka Home Minister R Ashok, who is also the Transport Minister, said the government today implemented one of the long-pending demands of the scribes.

On the occasion, the Minister also announced the launch of Common Mobility Cards for the public to travel on the State-run Transport Corporation Buses.

“The card would help the people to travel in all the

## Sustainable development needed for urban area : UNO

NAGOYA, Japan, Oct 28 (Reuters) The fight against the destruction of nature can start in cities, even as urban centres around the world face the challenge of accommodating more people, skyscrapers and transport systems.

While green groups at a UN environment meeting in Japan focused on the need to save rainforests and oceans, mayors at the talks said conserving nature in cities was equally vital.

“We must work on two levels. First, the preservation of ecosystems but also the integration of biodiversity in the city and in all policies,” Evelyne Huytebroeck, the Brussels' region minister for environment, told a news conference.

“Biodiversity must be seen as part of the solution for the city,

state-run buses without any hassles of buying tickets,” he said. He said the Union Government had sanctioned Rs 16 crore to implement the scheme, which is the first of its kind in the entire country.

Mr Ashok also informed the electronic test driving track developed by the State Transport Department which had evinced great interest among various state governments, including Maharashtra and Rajasthan, had proved more beneficial, fruitful and transparent.

“Maharashtra government had appealed to Karnataka to help it to have one such track in their state,” he said.

for sustainable urban planning, not as a problem.” Half of world's population is now squeezed into cities and the



Courtesy holidayiq.com

urban population is expected to grow to 70 per cent by 2030.

Urban development should not have to clash with the need to restore ecosystems and biological diversity in cities, whether it be trees, plants or insects, delegates from 230 local authorities meeting on the sidelines of the Oct 18-29 UN talks said.

## KRS Reaches the maximum level

Mysore, Oct 28 (UNI) With continued rains in the catchment areas of River Cauvery, the inflow into the Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS) Reservoir, near here, has increased to 23,345 cusecs.

According to official sources the water level of the reservoir has already touched maximum of 124.80 feet and hence whatever the inflow, it was let off.

So far, nearly 15.47 tmc of water had been released from the dam. The inflow into the Kabini Reservoir also increased to 3500 cusecs from 1500 cusecs yesterday.

The water level stood at 2273.43 mts against maximum of 2284 mts.