

The Hindu, 2 March 2008

Sri Lankan Army Chief coming tomorrow

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka Army Chief, Sarath Fonseka, is visiting India from Monday for exchange of views with his interlocutors in New Delhi on matters of mutual interest between the two countries amid claims by the Sri Lanka military that dozens of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam cadres had been killed in continued fighting along the Forward Defence Lines in the north over the week-end.

Hindustan Times, 2 March 2008

Indian link emerges in credit card scam in UK

London: An international credit card cloning scam has been unearthed in UK in which thousands of pounds in the bank accounts of British people were allegedly siphoned off from foreign locations including India. Hundreds of car owners in Lincolnshire in the east Midlands became victims of the scam last week after they filled fuel from a petrol station in the county. This is the latest in a series of credit card scams across Britain in which card details are recorded by hidden cameras while making payment for fuel at petrol. Several British people have reported instances of money being withdrawn from their accounts in India, Philippines, Australia and Canada.

The Hindu, 2 March 2008

Canada-India Business Council lauds Union Budget

Toronto (PTI): The Canada-India Business Council (C-IBC) has commended the union budget presented by Finance Minister P Chidambaram as thoughtful, pragmatic, and a blend of India Rising and India Shining. The substantial increase in the minimum tax slab for the working class is going to set in motion a spending spree that will ensure India's GDP growth rate of eight to nine per cent in the year ahead, he said. The banking transaction tax, which was an irritant for the middle class, has also been withdrawn, the president of C-IBC, an association of Canadian companies doing business in India, said.

The Hindu, 3 March 2008

Suzlon to invest Rs 100 cr in retrofit programme in US

Mumbai (PTI): Wind power major Suzlon Energy on Monday said it will invest about Rs 100 crore for strengthening the blades in some of its turbines in the US. A provision for this expenditure would be made in the fourth quarter of FY'08 and the project would be completed over a period of six months, the company informed the Bombay Stock Exchange.

The Hindu, 3 March 2008

CBI may approach UK on Nanda nationality

New Delhi (PTI): The CBI is preparing to send a request to the UK to find out whether arms dealer Suresh Nanda had acquired British nationality, even as the External Affairs Ministry is still undecided about its plea for revoking his passport. The sources said the information from the Interpol could only be treated as an input for further probe in the case whereas a formal confirmation had to come from the British authorities to enable the CBI to produce the information as evidence in the court here looking into the case.

The Hindu, 3 March 2008

India to host first SAARC meet on agriculture

New Delhi (PTI): India will host the first South Asian conference on agriculture here from March 5, which aims to focus on alleviating hunger and poverty in South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries. A three-day meet on Science-based agricultural transformation towards alleviation of hunger and poverty in the SAARC countries will discuss the regional agrarian situation, encompassing food insecurity and poverty and suggest necessary policy and programme shifts to meet the Millennium Development Goals.

The Hindu, 3 March 2008

Black Monday revisits markets, Sensex plunges by 901 points

Mumbai (PTI): It was black Monday once again for stock markets as benchmark Sensex melted to record its second biggest fall of over 900 points in BSE history and closed below 17k level as the already dim global situation gave further signs of the worst feared recession in the US.

The Hindu, 4 March 2008

Indian maid in Spain alleges torture by employer

Pune : A middle-aged woman, who went to Spain in January this year after being hired by an Indian family as a baby-sitter, has returned alleging torture and abuse by her employers. The 42-year-old Kalpana Salunke, who returned here last week said that she was offered a job of baby-sitter at Lanzerote city in Spain by the family of a diamond merchant from India. Pune police said they had received the complaint from the woman on Saturday but had not filed FIR so far. We will investigate the complaint before we formally lodge FIR in the case, they said.

The Hindu, 4 March 2008

Bahrain firm acquires 49 pc stake in India IT park

Dubai : A Bahraini real estate firm has acquired 49 per cent stake in an information technology park in Noida at a cost of USD 69 million. Acacia Real Estate, a company spearheaded by Bahrain-based TAIB Bank, has acquired 49 per cent of Logix TechnoPark located in Noida. With a projected internal rate of return of over 24 per cent per annum, the deal was structured to provide investors with downside protection and an average cash coupon of 8 per cent per annum over a three-year holding period, he said. TAIB Bank is the exclusive placement agent for the project.

Hindustan Times, 5 March 2008

Govt may have not done enough for ethnic-Indians: Vellu

Kuala Lumpur: Seeking re-election in the upcoming polls, Malaysia only ethnic-Indian minister, who faced flak for opposing protests by the community against alleged marginalisation, has now admitted that the government may not have done enough for them. Samy Vellu, whose Malaysian Indian Congress (MIC) is part of the ruling Barisan Nasional coalition led by Premier Abdullah Badawi, said ethnic Indians were facing lack of education opportunities, unemployment and inadequate housing facilities. Vellu, who is facing accusations of not doing enough for the community. Vellu admitted that there was

a failure at the implementation level which has resulted in the ineffectiveness of current delivery mechanisms.

The Hindu, 6 March 2008

Left accuses Centre of aiding and abetting Israel

New Delhi (PTI): In a sharp attack on the UPA Government, the Left parties on Wednesday accused it of aiding and abetting Israel in its bloody offensive against Palestine and demanded snapping of military and security ties with it. Significantly, the CPI(M) was joined by the CPI, Samajwadi Party and the NCP, a constituent of the UPA, in demanding that India should not have any relationship with Israel at the cost of the Palestinians. SP Shahid Siddiqui and CPI Kamal Mitra Chenoy aired similar views. Siddiqui said it was in India interest to see that peace prevails in West Asia as the rise in oil prices because of turmoil there has a direct bearing on India.

The Hindu, 7 March 2008

Eco-friendly energy efficient project

NEW DELHI: Leading power equipment manufacturer, OSRAM, on Thursday announced that it had joined hands with the largest German power generation company RWE to launch their first energy efficiency project in India based on the Kyoto Protocol guidelines at a cost of 150 million Euros. The project together with our partner RWE will reduce CO₂ emissions in India and help the country keep its energy requirements down. It will also give a broad cross-section of population who would not otherwise be able to afford energy-saving lamps the opportunity to save money, said Wolfgang Gregor of OSRAM.

Hindustan Times, 7 March 2008

NRI convicted of exposing himself to Welsh woman

London: An Indian-origin man has been banned from returning to his own home in Wales for two years after a crown court convicted him of exposing his private parts to a woman in the neighbourhood. The order was made at the Mold Crown Court against Joby Jacob, 33, who lives in Ffordd Gwenllian in Llanfair PG, Anglesey, with his wife and child. The judge said that what had occurred was the defendant's own fault and no one else's, and that he wrongly saw himself as the victim.

The Hindu, 8 March 2008

Chinese envoy: there is enough space to co-exist

NEW DELHI: Chinese ambassador Zhang Yan said here on Thursday that India and China were partners in development and there was enough space for them to co-exist and prosper. China attached great importance to the development of Sino-Indian relations. China was ready to work with New Delhi to create favourable political conditions, increase mutual trust and seek new ways to expand economic and trade cooperation on the basis of equality and mutual benefits.

The Hindu, 8 March 2008

New Delhi condemns killing of Israelis

NEW DELHI: India has condemned the killing of eight Israelis in Jerusalem but held

Israel responsible for disproportionate retaliation to attacks allegedly by Hamas militants. Advocating dialogue to resolve all outstanding issues, India called on both sides to abjure violence. Speaking on the occasion, Communist Party of India (Marxist) general secretary Prakash Karat criticised External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee for being soft on Israel military incursions in the Gaza Strip and the inconvenience caused by the denial of all basic facilities to them for several days.

Hindustan Times, 8 March 2008

Indian worker dies in crane crash

Dubai: An Indian worker died after a crane he was operating at a construction site collapsed in Sharjah emirate of the UAE. The 23-year-old crane operator, identified as KR, was moving construction material to the fifth floor when suddenly the crane went crashing down, apparently due to overloading or some technical glitch in the machinery, media reports said.

Hindustan Times, 8 March 2008

Progress of India-assisted projects in Bhutan reviewed

Thimphu: Indian and Bhutanese officials have reviewed the progress of New Delhi-assisted projects undertaken during the Himalayan country 9th Five Year Plan. The Indian government has released Nu 70,352 million for projects in the 9th plan. The projects funded by India include the Punatsangchu Hydroelectric Project, JDWNR Hospital and Semtokha Dzong. The next monitoring committee meeting will be held in September.

Hindustan Times, 8 March 2008

Malaysian Indians urged to pursue education, enterprise

Malaysian Indian Congress (MIC) leader and the country Works Minister S Samy Vellu said on Wednesday that education alone would help the community to be on its path to socio-economic development and parity with other communities. There has been speculation about early general elections in Malaysia and all political parties have said that they have begun preparations for it. However, Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has not yet given any indication.

The Times of India, 8 March 2008

India, Russia ink MiG-29 upgrade deal

NEW DELHI: Faced with a declining aerial combat edge against Pakistan, which is getting spanking new F-16s from US, India on Friday signed a huge \$960 million (Rs 3,840 crore) contract with Russia to upgrade its five squadrons of MiG-29 fighters inducted in mid-1980s. The upgrade, expected to be completed within three years, will include the advanced multi-functional Zhuk-ME radar and a new weapon control system. The package will include state-of-the-art avionics and cockpit ergonomics, as also fuel capacity increase. Some sub-systems will be sourced from Israel.

The Times of India, 9 March 2008

Farm loan waiver distress relief, not subsidy: Nath

LONDON: Kamal Nath has rejected suggestions his government promised \$15 billion loan waiver to farmers makes the Indian kisan the human equivalent of the European

Union pampered, subsidized cows, off the back of crucial trade talks with EU commissioner Peter Mandelson. Nath and Mandelson agreed late on Friday that they hoped trade ministers would narrow differences enough for a breakthrough in the Doha Development Round in Geneva next month. But both negotiators agreed a gulf remained between the positions taken by the developing world and the developed.

Hindustan Times, 10 March 2008

US dream lost in packed dorms, stink of stale food

When Kurian David sold his home, he believed he was doing so to seek a better life in the US for him and his family. He was promised good wages, decent accommodation, a green card and permanent residency for him, his wife and two sons. He paid \$20,000 Rs 8 lakh in exchange for a job at the Signal International shipyard in Orange, Texas. When he arrived at the facility there was no opportunity for his dreams to come to fruition. Instead, he lived in a room with 23 other men, sleeping in bunk beds and sharing two bathrooms. David, 41, said he worked 10-hour days in the hull of a ship where he inhaled fumes and smoke. He was served stale bread for breakfast and forced to eat lunches left in the elements for hours

Times of india, 10 March 2008

Scarlett death case: Family demands CBI probe

PANAJI: The family of British teenager Scarlett Keeling, who was found dead on a Goa beach, has demanded a CBI probe (Watch) into the case. Making allegations against the police, the family counsel Vikram Varma said Scarlett mother has no faith in police investigations. Scarlett mother Fiona MacKeown has expressed unhappiness over the way the investigation has been conducted, he said.

The Times of India, 11 March 2008

Tibetan exiles set off from India on symbolic march home

DHARAMSHALA: More than 100 Tibetan exiles in India were flagged off to loud applause on Monday as they started a symbolic march home as part of pro-independence protests ahead of the Beijing Olympics. Thousands lined the roads to cheer the marchers, mostly Buddhist monks in red caps, who said they plan to make it over the Chinese border. China has ruled Tibet since 1951, a year after Beijing sent in troops to liberate the devoutly Buddhist region.

The Asian Age, 11 March 2008

India, Burma to focus on security and border

New Delhi, March 10: India and Burma on Monday expressed strong desire to enhance cooperation in the areas of security and border management in order to make the common border between the two countries a symbol of peace and harmony. During the 14th home secretary level talks that concluded on Monday, both sides emphasised the importance of strengthening cooperation so that the benefits out of various infrastructure projects and economic cooperation between the two countries can be fully realised, said an official statement issued by the home ministry.

The Hindu, 11 March 2008

Rs. 7,074 crore Japanese loan for various projects

NEW DELHI: Japan on Monday approved a massive loan package of about Rs. 7,074 crore in the form of soft loan assistance for various projects including Delhi and Kolkata Metro, infrastructure project in Tamil Nadu, transmission project in Haryana and road projects in Hyderabad. The areas to be covered under the new loan package include power, transportation, water supply and environment, according to an official release by Japan Embassy. It said Phase-II of the Delhi Metro Project would continue to receive financial assistance from Japan. Following the successful implementation of the Delhi Metro project, the Kolkata Metro Project would also receive the assistance in this package. The main objective of loan assistance is to support India in establishing physical infrastructure to boost and sustain economic growth, the release stated.

The Times of India, 12 March 2008

Two Bangladesh terrorists killed in Mumbai

MUMBAI: In its first encounter this year, the anti-terrorism squad (ATS) intercepted and killed two alleged Bangladeshi terrorists in Kashimira in Thane district around 9.15pm on Tuesday. The men were carrying firearms, Rs 2 lakh fake currency and a powder-like substance suspected to be RDX.

The Times of India, 12 March 2008

India aiding genocide against Tamils: LTTE

CHENNAI: Rattled by the Indian government hosting of Sri Lanka hardline army chief, Lt Gen Sarath Fonseka, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) have condemned India for the first time in years for propping up the Sinhala war machine and aiding genocide against Lankan Tamils. Accusing India of double standards in talking of the need for a peaceful solution on the one hand and encouraging Colombo military approach on the other, the LTTE said India approach could only intensify the genocide.

The Hindu, 12 March 2008

India lags behind China in spending on R&D

New Delhi (PTI): India lags behind China in spending on research and development work as well as number of scientific researchers, Science and Technology Minister Kapil Sibal informed the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday. Replying to supplementaries during Question Hour, he said the number of core researchers in India was about 1.5 lakh as compared to China 8-10 lakh.

The Hindu, 13 March 2008

No follow up action on Australia agreeing to supply uranium

New Delhi (PTI): Australia had agreed in principle to supply uranium to India after waiver of guidelines by the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) but the follow up action has not taken place yet, Government said on Thursday. Replying to questions in Rajya Sabha, Minister of State in Prime Minister Office Prithviraj Chavan said Australian Prime Minister had in August, 2007 informed his Indian counterpart about his country's willingness to supply uranium.

The Hindu, 14 March 2008

HRW asks India, China and Nepal to release detained Tibetans

Washington (PTI): A leading human rights watchdog has urged India, China and Nepal to release the detained Tibetans protestors, who attempted to observe the 49th anniversary of a failed uprising against Beijing's rule in 1959, and permit them to demonstrate peacefully.

The Times of India, 14 March 2008

Indian-origin author gets Commonwealth award

LONDON: Mumbai-born Indra Sinha on Thursday won the Best Book Award for his vivid portrayal of the tragic 1984 Bhopal Gas Tragedy, in the Europe region category of the Commonwealth Writers Prize 2008.

The Hindu, 15 March 2008

CAG slams Navy for purchase of USS Trenton

New Delhi (PTI): The Indian Navy on Friday received a severe censure from the Comptroller and Auditor General for buying a 36-year-old warship USS Trenton without undertaking its physical assessment. The Landing Ship Dock was only delivered in a safe to steam condition and would require upgrades and modifications, the facts which, the CAG said in its latest report tabled in Parliament, Navy had kept hidden from competent financial authority.

Times of India, 15 March 2008

British girl case: Mother alleges police-politician nexus

Continuing her attack on the Goa Police and politicians, Fiona Mackeown, mother of slain British girl Scarlett Eden Keeling, on Saturday alleged that Home Minister Ravi Naik and state Director General of Police were having a nexus with the drug mafia. I had been informed that there is a strong nexus between drug mafia, Ravi Naik (current home minister) and Director General of Goa Police BS Brar, Fiona said before she went to the juvenile police station in Panaji to record her statement in connection with the death of her daughter.

The Hindu, 16 March 2008

U.S. delegation to focus on renewable energy

WASHINGTON: Speaker of the United States House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi is scheduled to leave here on Monday on a six-day visit to India with a Congressional delegation. The team will visit Delhi, Dharamshala, Agra and Mumbai. The four-leg tour will primarily focus on the Ms. Pelosi favourite subject of renewable energy with little or no emphasis on seeking New Delhi view on the future of the India-U.S. civil nuclear cooperation. The delegation reaches India via England on the night of March 20 and depart for Spain on March 25.

The Times of India, 17 March 2008

Top Pak rebel, Indian Army officer killed in J&K

SRINAGAR: A top Pakistani militant commander, an Indian army officer and a soldier were killed in a fierce gunbattle in northern Kashmir, the army said on Monday. The fighting erupted late Sunday near the town of Sopore, about 50 kilometres (30 miles)

north of Srinagar, after Indian troops received a tip-off, army spokesman Anil Mathur said. Violence has declined in Kashmir since India and Pakistan, which hold the scenic region in part but claim it in full, started a peace process in 2004.

The Times of India, 17 March 2008

Uproar in Lok Sabha over Tibet unrest

NEW DELHI: The Chinese crackdown on protestors in Tibet created uproar in the Lok Sabha on Monday, with several parties barring the Left expressing concern over the cultural genocide in Lhasa. Members of the BJP, BJD, Samajwadi Party and RJD wanted India to condemn the violence and seek immediate intervention by the United Nations and the main Opposition even walked out. Responding to the concern by members, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee expressed distress over the unsettled situation and violence" in Tibet and wanted the causes of trouble in the autonomous region of China to be resolved through dialogue and non-violent means.

The Hindu, 18 March 2008

China promises to open up Lhasa to international media

Beijing (PTI): China on Tuesday promised to open to the rest of the world riot-scarred Lhasa, locked down since Friday after the worst pro-independence protests in two decades, amid a clamour by foreign journalists seeking access to the Tibetan capital. At his maiden press conference after being re-elected as Premier which stretched for more than two hours, Premier Wen Jiabao faced repeated questions from the foreign media on the unrest in Lhasa which has brought Beijing's human rights record under fresh scrutiny.

The Hindu, 18 March 2008

Border issue complex: Wen

Beijing (PTI): Describing Sino-Indian border row as a complex issue, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on Tuesday said it cannot be resolved overnight. It is no easy task to resolve such a complex issue left from the past and we cannot expect that the issue will be resolved overnight, Wen said in his press conference at the conclusion of the session of China parliament the National People Congress (NPC) here.

The Hindu, 19 March 2008

Scarlette case has no impact on British holiday-makers to Goa

London (PTI): The Scarlett Keeling murder has had no impact on holiday bookings to Goa or on the number of visa applications at the Indian High Commission from British citizens keen to visit the state. Tour operators in London and other parts of the UK say there have been no unusual cancellations of bookings. There has been no noticeable change in the number of visa applications from Britons keen to visit Goa, sources in the High Commission confirmed.

The Times of India, 19 March 2008

Indian workers in US launch satyagraha

WASHINGTON: Some 100 workers who claim to have been exploited by a human-trafficking chain in India and the US began a long march/drive from New Orleans to Washington DC on Tuesday to confront ambassador Ronen Sen because of what they say

is the Indian government's unhelpful attitude in resolving their case. The workers, members of the Alliance of Guest workers for Dignity, said they will travel on foot through historically racist sections of the United States, following in the footsteps of African-American freedom fighters who marched to win basic human rights.

The Hindu, 19 March 2008

TPIE demands autonomy for Tibetans

New Delhi (PTI): The Tibetan Parliament-In-Exile (TPIE) on Wednesday held a hunger strike here demanding autonomy for Tibetans while expressing solidarity with their spiritual leader the Dalai Lama. We seek autonomy to the people of Tibet by China. We pledge to follow the Dalai Lama and support his peaceful ways to attain justice for Tibetans, its Speaker Karma Choephel said here.

The Hindu, 19 March 2008

CPI assails security ties with Sri Lanka

NEW DELHI: The Communist Party of India (CPI) on Tuesday urged New Delhi to be transparent in its security-related dealings with Sri Lanka, especially in providing secret training to its soldiers. Recently, India provided secret military training to the Sri Lankan Army. If this is the policy of the Indian government, let it be declared. It should not be in a clandestine manner.

The Hindu, 19 March 2008

Indian-origin Sikh magistrate jailed for fraud

London (PTI): A Sikh magistrate of Indian origin has been jailed in Britain for 18 months for telling a businessman friend that he could make a court case against him disappear for 45,000 pounds. Handing down the judgement to disgraced magistrate Balbir Singh Sandhu (62), Birmingham Crown Court Judge Robert Orme described his actions as a blatant abuse of a position of authority and trust. Sandhu Defence Counsel Jas Mann said that his client stupidity has cost him everything. He has lost his standing as a magistrate and also his standing in the community. He is doomed for the future to walk with his head bowed. He was a prominent member of the Sikh community, Mann told the court.

Times of India, 20 March 2008

Indian-origin pilot dies in plane crash in US

TORONTO: An Indian-origin pilot died when his single-engine plane crashed near Mountain Empire airport in Virginia in the US. Toronto-based Roy Sanwalka was on his way to the Bahamas in his four-seater Mooney when it went down in the mountains of Jefferson National Forest early on Sunday morning. Rescuers found the body of the 36-year-old entrepreneur and his 44-year-old girlfriend Margaret O'Brien in the cockpit of the crashed plane.

The Hindu, 20 March 2008

Satyagraha threat in U.S

Washington: Over 100 Indians, who allegedly faced slave-like treatment in a shipyard in the United States, have threatened to stage a satyagraha here if the Government of India did not take up their cause with the U.S. government. The protesters, who launched a

long march from New Orleans to Washington a distance of 1,500 km, on Tuesday, alleged that the Government of India failed to protect them

The Hindu, 20 March 2008

Sikh magistrate jailed in Britain

London: A Sikh magistrate of Indian origin has been jailed in Britain for 18 months for telling a businessman-friend that he could make a court case against him disappear for ?? 45,000. Handing down the judgment to disgraced magistrate Balbir Singh Sandhu (62), Birmingham Crown Court Judge Robert Orme described his actions as a blatant abuse of a position of authority and trust.

The Hindu, 21 March 2008

India may appeal against tax

New York: India is likely to appeal the decision of a U.S. court upholding imposition of \$ 42.4 million property tax on it by the city for using the United Nations Mission building here for residential purposes. India has been arguing that tax cannot be levied as the diplomatic staff, which occupy the 20 floors of the building in midtown Manhattan across the United Nations headquarters, is exempt from tax. But, U.S. District Court Judge Jed S. Rakoff ruled on Monday that under Vienna conventions, only the residence of head of the mission is exempted from tax. We could go up to the Supreme Court, if necessary, Indian official sources said.

The Hindu, 21 March 2008

Adopt convention on terrorism, India urges U.N.

United Nations: India on Wednesday asked the international community to act as one in denying terrorists, their ideologues and financiers access to arms, funds, means of transportation of deadly goods as well as safe havens. United Nations must first finalise and adopt the Comprehensive Convention on Terrorism, Indian Ambassador to U.N. Nirupam Sen told the 15-member Security Council. Mr. Sen stressed the need to strengthen democratic and secular forces across the world to stem the scourge. He expressed India willingness to provide all assistance in the larger effort to counter the threat.

The Hindu, 21 March 2008

India can lead battle against climate change: Blair

NEW DELHI: The former British Prime Minister Tony Blair on Thursday said India had an important role to play in mitigating the impact of climate change. As a powerful, developing nation with the right response to the issue, India could assume a strong leadership role, he said at the launch here of an initiative, Breaking the Climate Deadlock. Pointing out that unless the world changed course by the middle of the century, irreparable damage would be caused, Mr. Blair said it was important that the global community came together to deal with the problem. Mr. Blair leads this work and guides it politically to ensure that technical work is given the right political direction. The project has already been launched in Japan and China.

The Hindu, 23 March 2008

More security for Chinese embassy

NEW DELHI: A day after some Tibetan protesters forcibly entered the Chinese Embassy here, the police reviewed security arrangements in the Chanakyapuri area. Two battalions are already stationed around the embassy. Though no additional force has been deployed, Panchsheel Marg has been temporarily closed to traffic and security beefed up on the road, Delhi police spokesman Rajan Bhagat said on Saturday. The protesters are demanding that China immediately stop use of force against peaceful protesters and release all detainees without any pre-condition, and that the United Nations send an independent fact-finding team to Tibet and present a report on the prevailing condition.

The Hindu, 23 March 2008

Turkey offers to sign FTA with India

Mumbai (PTI): Turkey has offered to consider a Free Trade Agreement with India as it plans to increase the bilateral trade to 10 billion dollars annually by 2012, Turkish Minister for Foreign Trade Kursad Tuzmen has said. We would like to have a Free Trade Agreement with India... Our trade with India is currently around 2.7 billion dollars annually and we want to raise it to 10 billion dollars by 2012, Tuzmen told a meeting of industrialists at the World Trade Centre. Tuzmen also wanted more flights between India and Turkey in the face of growing bilateral economic cooperation.

The Hindu, 24 March 2008

Kalam recalls Raman unique trait

Philadelphia: The former President, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, cited an example from the life of Nobel laureate Sir C.V. Raman to stress the dedication needed by teachers, especially in research institutions. Raman was also in the first batch of Bharat Ratna winners. At a meeting organised by the Wharton School here on Saturday, Mr. Kalam recalled an incident when the Bharat Ratna award ceremony was to take place in the last week of January after the Republic Day celebrations in 1954. Here was a scientist who gave up the pomp of a glittering ceremony associated with the highest honour. Mr. Kalam identified seven areas of research which he believed were most important and challenging.

The Hindu, 24 March 2008

British parliamentary team to visit Kolkata

London: Leading NRI industrialist Lord Swraj Paul will head a high-level British Parliamentary delegation to West Bengal next month to discuss issues such as terrorism and ways and means of enhancing the India-U.K. trade. The team will be in Kolkata between April 5 and 12 at the invitation of the West Bengal Assembly, said Lord Paul, also British Ambassador for Overseas Business, on Sunday. A detailed programme was still being finalised by West Bengal Assembly and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, London, he said.

The Times of India, 25 March 2008

Bihar couple suspect mystery boy found in UK to be their son

AURANGABAD (BIHAR): Suspecting the nine-year-old boy found abandoned in London last week to be their son, a Bihari couple here has said the boy resembles their

child who was kidnapped three years ago. Gurinder, 5 ft tall, found abandoned at a Southall Clinic last week, speaks only Punjabi, and the London police were trying to ascertain the identity of the White Uncle with whom he was staying before being abandoned.

The Hindu, 26 March 2008

Takeover tycoon Tata gets JLR steering for \$2.30 billion

London (PTI): Creating history, India top corporate Tatas on Wednesday acquired luxury auto brands -Jaguar and Land Rover - from Ford Motor for 2.3 billion dollars, stamping their authority as a takeover tycoon. Beating compatriot Mahindra and Mahindra for the prestigious brands, just a year after acquiring steel giant Corus for 12.1 billion dollar, Tatas today announced the deal they signed with Ford, which on its part would chip in 600 million dollar towards JLR pension plan. The deal was announced after protracted negotiations that Tatas had with JLR union workers. In addition, Ford Motor Credit Company will provide financing for JLR dealers and customers during a transitional period, which can vary by market, for up to 12 months.

Indian Express, 26 March 2008

Indian workers allege harassment on march to Washington

Washington, March 26: Nearly 100 Indian workers, who alleged slave-like treatment in a Mississippi shipyard, said they were harassed by US Immigration authorities during their march from New Orleans to Washington DC forcing a one-day delay in their meeting with the Indian Ambassador. Our schedule has changed somewhat due to harassment and surveillance from immigration authorities on the way to Washington DC, Media Coordinator for the New Orleans Workers Center for Racial Justice Stephen Boykevich said. The Indian Ambassador to the US Ronen Sen had cancelled some of his prior appointments outside Washington DC to meet the Indian workers. The NGO groups and their officials representing the 100 Indian workers have said that a class action law suit has been filed in New Orleans focusing on anti-racketeering against Signal International, the American and Indian recruiters.

The Asian Age, 26 March 2008

India will never allow separate Tamil state

Jerusalem : India will never allow a separate independent state for Tamils to be carved out from Sri Lanka, the island Prime Minister Ratnasiri Wickremanayaka said here. Because such a development will have a disastrous effect in India, Mr Wickremanayaka, who is the first Sri Lankan Prime Minister to visit Israel, told a gathering. India has always been committed to Sri Lanka territorial integrity, he added. The Sri Lankan Prime Minister, who is on a four-day visit, claimed that LTTE leader V. Prabhakaran wanted to create a Tamil state by including certain parts of India as well. He said that his country is committed to a political solution to the three-decade-old conflict and is not seeking a military solution. He ruled out any division of the island nation, which he said has remained as one single unit.

The Hindu, 26 March 2008

59 hurt in Dubai workers clash

Dubai: A scuffle between an Indian and a Pakistani ended up in a clash between two groups, injuring 59 workers, in the Jebel Ali Industrial Area near here, local media reports said on Tuesday. Both, said to be drunk, sparked off the fight on Sunday, the reports said. Seven people were taken to Rashid and Al Baraha hospitals, Colonel Khalil Ebrahim Al Mansouri, Deputy Director of Dubai Police Criminal Investigation Department, said.

The Times of India, 27 March 2008

China dates were a problem: Kamal Nath

NEW DELHI: Commerce Minister Kamal Nath visit to China next week is being rescheduled due to problems with dates as he emphasised it is not because of any diplomatic reasons. The minister sought to set at rest speculation that his visit to Beijing is being put off by India apparently to express disapproval over its Ambassador Nirupama Rao being summoned well past midnight last Friday by the Chinese Foreign Ministry to register its protest over a group of Tibetans storming the Chinese Embassy in Delhi. The Minister said India trade with China continues to be healthy. We are looking forward to achieving record level of trade with China in the current year.

The Hindu, 27 March 2008

Brazil invites Indian companies to invest in cane farming

NEW DELHI: Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Murli Deora on Wednesday announced that the percentage of ethanol blending in fuel would be raised to 10 per cent from the present 5 per cent even as the world largest ethanol producer, Brazil, urged Indian companies to invest in sugarcane farming, extracting ethanol and exporting it back home for mixing in petrol. While India mixes petrol with five per cent ethanol to cut its oil import dependence, petrol in Brazil is made up of one-fourth ethanol. Mr. Deora declared after the meeting that the Government had plans to double the ethanol quantity in petrol to 10 per cent from October.

The Times of India, 28 March 2008

China distorted coverage of Tibetan unrest: Dalai Lama

NEW DELHI: The official Chinese media has used deceit and distorted images to portray the recent unrest in Tibet, the Dalai Lama said on Friday, warning such actions could deepen tension in the region and lead to further violence. The protests, which began on March 10, were the most-sustained challenge to China rule in the Himalayan region since 1989. The ensuing crackdown by Chinese authorities has focused international attention on China human rights record in the run-up to the Olympics.

The Hindu, 28 March 2008

Indian workers meet Sen, demand CBI probe

Washington (PTI): Indian workers, who claimed they were lured to move to the US by false promises of permanent jobs, ended their 1,500-km march to Washington and demanded that New Delhi help stop human trafficking and order a CBI probe into their case. Sen met the workers, who had quit Signal International plant in Pascagoula in Mississippi on March 6 alleging they were being forced to live and work under inhuman conditions, for over three hours patiently listening to their concerns and demands. The

workers have already sued their employer in the U.S.

The Asian Age, 28 March 2008

India, Russia, China plan May conclave

New Delhi, March 27: External affairs minister Pranab Mukherjee is likely to meet his Russian and Chinese counterparts in the Russian city of Yekaterinburg in May. It will only be the fourth standalone trilateral session among the foreign ministers of India, Russia and China after the Harbin (China) meeting in October 2007, New Delhi in February 2007 and the first meeting at Vladivostok (Russia) in June 2005. Yekaterinburg is the largest city in the Urals and one of the top five in Russia. It is situated in Asia, on the eastern side of the Ural mountains on the Iset river.

The Hindu, 28 March 2008

India conveys unhappiness to China over flip-flop

New Delhi (PTI): India has conveyed its unhappiness to China over the flip-flop and changes in the meeting between Commerce and Industry Minister Kamal Nath and his counterpart in Beijing Chen Deming, scheduled for April 2. Pillai said in his letter, I have suggested that in future the meeting dates should be fixed on dates mutually convenient to the two ministers.

The Hindu, 29 March 2008

Russian Consulate expresses concern over situation in Goa

Panaji (PTI): The Russian Consulate in Mumbai has expressed strong concern over the security situation in Goa saying more complaints have been filed by its citizens lately against unlawful actions by the state inhabitants. Russian tourists have faced unfair attitude of Goan policemen, hotels and guest house owners. The Consulate has registered an increase in complaints of Russian nationals regarding numerous unlawful actions by Goan inhabitants lately, Alexander V Mantytsky, the Consulate General has said in his letter to the state Chief Minister Digamber Kamat. Mantytsky is visiting Goa and today met Tourism Minister Fransisco Pacheco to express the concern.

The Hindu, 31 March 2008

China seeks India support

Beijing: China on Sunday sought India understanding and support on the Tibet issue as it tightened security on the eve of receiving the Olympic torch, apprehending protests by the supporters of the Dalai Lama, whom it accused of trying to sabotage the Games. Chinese State Councillor Dai Bingguo spoke to National Security Adviser M.K. Narayanan over phone and briefed him on the violent crimes in Lhasa and expounded China stance on and concerns over the Tibet issue.