



LALIT MODI SAYS HE'LL BE BACK SOON AS DELHI HC ORDERS FOR PASSPORT TO BE RESTORED >ht sport p25

TATA INVESTS IN SNAPDEAL >ht business p15

IMF CHIEF CHARGED IN CORRUPTION CASE FRANCE TO INVESTIGATE CHRISTINE LAGARDE FOR 'NEGLIGENCE' > ht world p22

SC puts onus of appointing clean ministers on PM, CMs

ADVICE Top court decries criminalisation of politics but stops short of taking action; Opposition says it's a hint to Modi govt

HT Correspondent
The Supreme Court said on Wednesday that politicians against whom criminal or corruption charges have been framed should not be made ministers but refused to disqualify such lawmakers, leaving the decision of such appointments to the prime minister and chief ministers. The Constitution bench verdict puts pressure on PM Narendra Modi, who swept to power earlier this year pledging clean governance. According to Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), an advocacy group, the Modi government has 12 ministers facing criminal cases such as attempt to murder, rioting and criminal intimidation. Charges have been framed against two. ADR's report states 186, or 34%, of MPs in the Lok Sabha had declared criminal cases against them. While upholding the right of the prime minister and chief ministers to select their councils of ministers, the top court added that the prime minister and chief ministers should act in "national interest" and desist from appointing such legislators in their cabinet, raising several legal and ethical issues about lawmakers with criminal backgrounds serving in government. "It can always be legitimately expected... the Prime Minister, while living up to the trust reposed in him, would consider not choosing a person with criminal antecedents against whom charges have been framed for heinous or serious criminal offences or charges of corruption to become a minister..." said the five-judge bench headed by Chief Justice RM Lodha. "The top court left it to the "wisdom" of the prime minister and chief ministers to take a call on the issue, but said it hoped they would take into account India's democratic values and the norms of good governance. "This is what the Constitution suggests and that is the constitutional expectation from the Prime Minister. Rest has to be left to the wisdom of the Prime Minister. We say nothing more, nothing less," the bench said. The court disposed of advocate Manoj Narula's 2005 PIL, which had been triggered by Lalu Prasad joining the UPA-I cabinet even as he was an accused in the fodder scam. It sought to bar from office MPs against whom criminal charges have been framed by a court. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 8**
ACTIVISM TO RESTRAINT, P13

COURTS' REFORM ROLE

The judiciary has made several attempts of late to clean up the electoral/political system. Some landmark judgments:

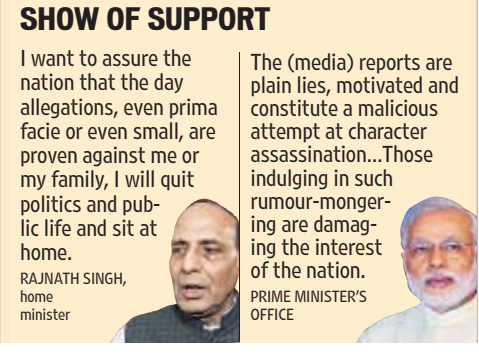
- MAY 2013** Delhi HC says false affidavit at the time of filing nomination is grounds for setting aside a candidate's election
- SEPT 2013** SC empowers voters by giving NOTA option in EVMS
- MARCH 2014** Top court sets one-year deadline for lower courts to complete trial in cases involving MPs, MLAs
- MAY 2014** SC says election of winning candidate will be void if courts find misinformation or suppressing of information in affidavit filed during nomination
- SEPT 2013** Top court says candidate's nomination will be rejected for non-disclosure of info or leaving columns blank

IT CAN BE LEGITIMATELY EXPECTED... THE PM, LIVING UP TO THE TRUST REPOSED IN HIM, WOULD CONSIDER NOT CHOOSING A PERSON WITH CRIMINAL ANTECEDENTS... TO BECOME A MINISTER. SC Constitution bench, on Wednesday

Rajnath protests rumours about son, PMO backs him

HT Correspondent
The Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP Wednesday came out strongly in support of Rajnath Singh and dismissed as "motivated" reports in a section of the media that the home minister's son was hauled up for misconduct by the PM.

Sending out a strong message to his party, government and the media, Modi's office issued a statement denying reports "mentioning the PM, and referring to the conduct of some Union ministers, and the alleged misconduct of the home minister's son". These developments came at a time when the government is about to complete 100 days in office. The opposition read it as the first sign of power struggle at the highest level in the government, with Congress asking Singh to clarify who made the allegations. News reports Wednesday claimed the Prime Minister was unhappy over some misdemeanour on part of Singh's son and had ticked him off. The reports went on to say the home minister was "anguished" and had taken up the unconfirmed and unsourced stories, allegedly being leaked by a ministerial colleague, with the RSS and the party leadership. Singh sought to scotch the "rumours" and said he would quit politics if proved that any of his family member was involved in any kind of misconduct. Modi, said sources, spoke to Singh twice during the day — before and after the home minister went public — to assure him of support. The PMO said such reports were "plain lies, motivated" and constituted "a malicious attempt at character assassination and tarnishing the image of the government". "Those indulging in such rumour-mongering are damaging the interest of the nation." The home minister spoke to reporters outside his North Block office minutes before the PMO statement was released in what is seen as a synchronised move. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 8**
POSITION CEMENTED, P10
OPPOSITION DIVIDED, P10



INDIA EMBASSIES TO GIVE STATES SPACE TO MARKET GOODS ABROAD

Kumar Uttam
The Centre is considering a proposal that will allow states to become ambassadors of their own products and services, which they can directly market to foreign countries. A proposal permitting states to open desks in countries of their choice is with the ministry of external affairs and a decision is expected soon. Such an idea was suggested by Narendra Modi in a pre-election speech and the MEA is amenable to it. Modi had also criticised the then ruling UPA for not responding to a similar recommendation. The PM, sources close to him told HT, is now keen to take the states on board and wants them to have a say in deciding ties with countries that they share borders, or cultural and commercial affinity with. "Japan may have an interest in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu which have emerged as auto hubs of India. Indonesia also expressed interest to explore opportunities to invest in the rubber plantation and mining industries in Odisha because of their strong cultural ties. The intent is to allow states to grow, which would lead to overall progress of the country," a Union minister said on condition of anonymity. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 8**

Bullet train boost ahead of PM's Japan trip

Srinand Jha
With days to go for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's scheduled visit to Japan, the tracks are being swiftly cleared for India's bullet train project. The government Wednesday notified liberalised FDI norms for the railways, permitting 100% foreign investment in areas including high-speed projects, dedicated freight lines and suburban corridor projects. Japan is keen to land one such deal — a high-speed corridor connecting the 524km stretch from Mumbai to Ahmedabad. Funding and technology issues related to the ₹62,410-crore project are likely to be firm up during Modi's visit, which starts August 30. The railways have drawn up an action plan of "pre-construction activities" that need to be immediately taken up. The Indian delegation is likely to insist on a transfer of



technology clause to provide for indigenous manufacture of rolling stock (coaches, wagons, etc) and high-speed technology, officials said. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) — conducting a joint study with the railways on the proposed corridor — is understood to have offered an "untied loan" (without preconditions on technology purchase) to build the infrastructure. But the offer comes with a 'tied loan' component on mandatory purchase of rolling stock from Japanese firms. This issue is also likely to get ironed out during the PM's trip. "I cannot speculate on the outcome of the PM's visit and technology or funding issues have not been formalised with Japan or any other country," Railway Board chairman Arunendra Kumar said. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 8**
PM TO TRAVEL LIGHT, P13

HT EXCLUSIVE

QUIET KYOTO MEET FOR ABE, MODI?
Sitaraman Shankar and Gaurav Choudhury
Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe may travel to meet PM Narendra Modi in Kyoto on Saturday, the first day of his Japan visit, instead of waiting to see him in Tokyo on September 1. Government sources said the plan, though not final, was possible as Abe wanted to lend a personal touch to the meeting, away from the crowded schedule in the capital. **CONTINUED ON P8**

Mumbai man who left to join ISIS killed in Iraq air strike

Faisal Tandel and Debasish Panigrahi
MUMBAI: Arif Ejaz Majeed, one of the four young men from a Mumbai suburb suspected to have joined ISIS, has been killed in Iraq, the family was told Tuesday. In his early 20s, Majeed, a civil engineering student, died in an air raid, a relative said. Shaheen Tanki, who left with him to reportedly join the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS), called up his home and asked elder brother Farzan to inform Majeed's family about his death. "He has sacrificed his life. prayers for the young man on Wednesday afternoon. Kalyan police chief Sanjay Jadhav said they couldn't confirm Majeed's death and were investigating the claim. Majeed, Tanki, Fahad Sheikh and Aman Naeem Tandel went missing on May 24. The four were allegedly part of a group of 42 people from Mumbai and adjoining areas on a pilgrimage to Iraq. Shaheen didn't say where Majeed was killed and said he was last seen in Mosul, a northern Iraqi town overrun by the Sunni insurgents who now control large swathes in Iraq and neighbouring Syria. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 8**



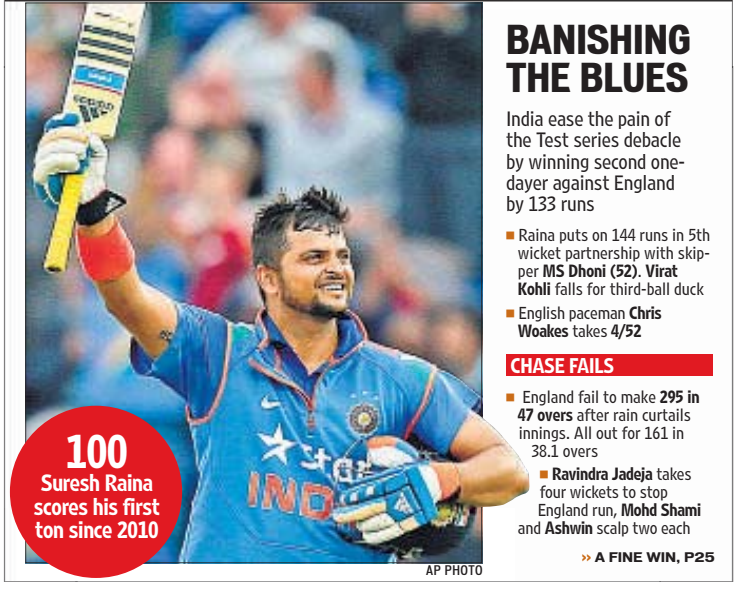
BANISHING THE BLUES
India ease the pain of the Test series debacle by winning second one-dayer against England by 133 runs

- Raina puts on 144 runs in 5th wicket partnership with skipper MS Dhoni (52). Virat Kohli falls for third-ball duck
- English paceman Chris Woakes takes 4/52

CHASE FAILS

- England fail to make 295 in 47 overs after rain curtails innings. All out for 161 in 38.1 overs
- Ravindra Jadeja takes four wickets to stop England run, Mohd Shami and Ashwin scalp two each

A FINE WIN, P25



SC orders DLF to pay ₹630cr fine within 3 months for unfair practices

HT Correspondent
NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed real estate major DLF Ltd to deposit within three months the ₹630-crore penalty imposed on it by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) for abusing its dominant position and forcing flat buyers to accept changes in the building plans of three projects in Gurgaon. The money will be deposited by the Supreme Court registry in a nationalised bank till the disposal of DLF's appeal against the CCI order, which was upheld by Competition Appellate Tribunal (Compat). Flat buyers' associations in Belaire, Park Palace and Magnolias, three prestigious DLF projects in Gurgaon, had complained to CCI that the real estate company had allegedly delayed handing over possession of their flats and had built several additional floors that were not there in the original plan when the flats were sold to them. Belaire and Park Palace, they submitted, were to comprise five multi-storied residential buildings, with 19 floors each. The total number of apartments, according to the original plan, was 368 and the construction was to be completed within 36 months. However 10 more floors were added to each tower. In Magnolia, the number of floors was increased from 17 to 26. These, and a one-sided agreement that allowed DLF to change the original plans, amounted to abuse of its dominant position, the flat buyers had contended. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 8**

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- Greater Noida Authority's first MW High Efficiency (21%) Solar Power plant. Completion by December 2014

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Now, no monthly cap on your quota of subsidised LPG

HT Correspondent
NEW DELHI: In a relief to consumers, the cabinet on Wednesday lifted the restriction on supply of only one subsidised cooking gas LPG cylinder to a household per month, saying consumers can avail their quota of 12 subsidised cylinders at any time of the year. The cabinet has lifted the one cylinder a month restriction, imposed by the UPA regime, to allow consumers the flexibility to meet personal requirements. "The cabinet concluded that this system is causing problems. Sometimes people do not need one but during festive season demand is more. There was a feeling that if on a given month a cylinder is not taken, it won't be given later," telecom and law minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said. From the 13th cylinder onwards, cooking gas has to be purchased at market rate of ₹920 per 14.2-kg cylinder. The UPA, in February, had raised the number of subsidised LPG cylinders to 12 from nine, but also introduced the one-month-one-cylinder policy.

Dry spell takes sting out of dengue

Rhythmia Kaul
NEW DELHI: There's much to worry about after the severe shortfall in rain in Delhi this monsoon but there's good news on the health front. Only 28 cases of dengue have been reported in the city in August this year compared to 98 last year. This is thanks to the lack of rain. "The dengue virus isn't in circulation in the environment this year and the mosquito that picks up the virus is not breeding as fast, owing to non-availability of sufficient water to lay eggs. This in turn means the disease is not spreading," said Dr AC Dhariwal, director of national vector borne disease control programme. The small number of cases are especially something to cheer about as epidemiologists had

expected 2014 to be an "outbreak year", which usually occur in four-year cycles. In 2010, an outbreak year, a total of 6,259 cases were reported, 550 cases and a death were reported in August alone. "The situation is far from being epidemic this year. We are getting sporadic cases but that we treat otherwise also throughout the year. There's nothing alarming as was the prediction," said Dr RK Singal, a director at BLK super-speciality hospital. The few cases that have been reported were mild and didn't require hospital-care. "Fortunately there has been no platelet transfusions, no serious cases of dengue this year," added Singal. Civic agencies claim they started preparations to check spread of dengue months in advance leading to fewer cases but nature seems to have played a bigger role.

