

Indian writers dominate Man Asian Prize long list

Five novels by Indian writers, including those of Amitav Ghosh and Tarun Tejpal, figure in this year's Man Asian Literary Prize long list. The other Indians in the fray for the award - considered by many as the Asian Booker - are Jahnvi Barua (*Rebirth*), Anuradha Roy (*The Folded Earth*) and Rahul Bhattacharya (*The Sly Company of People Who Care*). While Ghosh has been selected for *River of Smoke*, Tejpal's novel *The Valley of Masks* won him a place on the list.

Setback to 44 deemed universities

The 44 deemed universities facing de-recognition on the basis of the Tandon committee report suffered a set back with the Centre informing the Supreme Court that there was no ground to interfere with the conclusions of the committee report. The panel appointed by the Human Resource Development Ministry in its findings said: "The committee of officers on examining the matter finds no reason to deviate from the conclusions drawn by the [Tandon] committee of experts." The report of the committee of experts was filed by the Centre in the Supreme Court after completing the process of review of these institutions.

India welcomes Nepal accord

India has welcomed the 7-point agreement reached among the political parties in Nepal to take the integration and rehabilitation of the Maoist combatants to its "logical conclusion." In a statement, India said the agreement, which broke three years of political deadlock, provided a firm basis for successfully concluding the remaining aspects of Nepal's peace process. Nepal's political parties reached an agreement on the peace process, Constitution writing and power sharing.

CRPF celebrates 72nd birthday

Eight CRPF personnel were awarded the President's Police Medal for Gallantry and eight others the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service at the 72nd anniversary celebrations of the Central Reserve Police Force on November 1. The trophy for "Innovation in Training" was presented to Counter-Insurgency and Anti-Terrorist School, Silchar, Assam. The Best Group Centre trophy was lifted by Group Centre, Srinagar, whereas the honours for the Best Operational Battalion in Left-Wing Extremist, Jammu & Kashmir and North-Eastern areas were lifted by 131, 152 and 128 battalions respectively. The force came into existence in 1939 at Neemuch, MP, as the Crown Representative's Police. It was renamed Central Reserve Police Force after Independence with the then Union Home Minister Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel visualising a multi-dimensional role for it.

New Chief Justice for AP High Court

Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court Madan Lokur Bhim Rao has been appointed as Chief Justice of AP High Court and has been asked to take charge on or before November 15. He succeeds Justice Nissar Ahmad Kakru who retired on attaining the age of superannuation. Born in 1953, Justice Lokur had his schooling in New Delhi where he went on to obtain a degree in law in 1977 and enrolled as an advocate in the Supreme Court. He was appointed as Judge of the Delhi High Court in 1998 and elevated as Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court in June 2010. He served as Additional Solicitor General of India for a brief while.

Pakistan grants India most favored nation status

Pakistan has extended the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to India amid protests from jihadi outfits and the media. The decision was taken at the Cabinet meeting in which Commerce Secretary Zafar Mahmood set his Ministry's proposal in a historical perspective by pointing out that Pakistan had given MFN status to India during Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's time.

India ranked 134th

The U.N. study has ranked India at 134 out of 187 countries in terms of human development even as it observed that life expectancy at birth in the country has increased by 10.1 per cent a year over the last two decades. In the 2010 Human Development Report, prepared by UNDP, India had been ranked at 119 out of 169 countries. But the new report for 2011 says it is misleading to compare values and rankings with those of previously published reports, because the underlying data and methods have changed, as well as the number of countries included in the Human Development Index. The report said India's Human Development Index (HDI) value for 2011 was 0.547 — positioning the country in the 'medium human development category' Neighboring Pakistan was ranked at 145 (0.504) and Bangladesh at 146 (0.500).

Sportscar Ariel Atom comes to India

InterGlobe Established Private Limited (ESTD), the luxury lifestyle solution provider, has announced the launch of British sportscar maker Ariel Motor's Atom range of cars in India. ESTD, a subsidiary of InterGlobe Enterprises, will exclusively represent the Ariel Motor Company in India and SAARC. ESTD will sell various models of Atom with price of car having standard specifications starting from about Rs.55 lakh and for all upgrades such as superchargers going up to Rs.85 lakh. The models of Atom that will be available in India include the 245 bhp and 300 bhp variants of Ariel Atom 3. ESTD President and CEO Nigel Harwood said that ESTD had introduced Swedish super luxury sports car Koenigsegg, carrying a price tag of about Rs.12.50 crore. It had also launched an entire range of other luxury products in India such as motorcycles, yachts, boats, premium helicopters and private jets.

Samsung introduces new smartphone Galaxy Note

Further strengthening its smartphone portfolio in India, Samsung Electronics has introduced Galaxy Note that aims at creating a new mobile category with bigger screen, advanced pen-input technology and high-end multimedia capabilities. Priced at Rs.34,990, Galaxy Note comes with a larger 5.3-inch high-definition touch-screen display. It is equipped with faster 1.4GHz dual-core processor, Android 2.3 (Gingerbread) operating system, an advanced pen-input technology 'Smart Pen', and a long-lasting battery. Samsung also announced the launch of 'S Choice', a new category menu under the Samsung Apps, with applications specially designed for Galaxy Note's Smart Pen feature.

10. Japan's Ricoh to expand India presence

Japan's Ricoh has said it plans to expand its presence in the Indian market by introducing new printing solutions in order to increase its revenue to Rs.1,000 crore by 2014 from the current level of over Rs.300 crore. The company is now offering its newest innovations in production print technology in India, including high-speed production print solutions and automated document factory portfolio (ADF).

11. JLR restructures U.K. management

In a top-management rejig, Tata Motors-owned Jaguar Land Rover has appointed ex-Audi U.K. boss Jeremy Hicks as the Managing Director of its operations in the U.K. with immediate effect. Mr. Hicks will now be responsible for the Jaguar and Land Rover brands in the U.K., which had separate Managing Directors earlier. JLR has shifted Jaguar U.K. Managing Director Geoff Cousins to Jaguar Global Sponsorships & Partnerships as its Director, while Land Rover U.K. Managing Director Colin Green has been moved to Global Dealer Operations as its director.

GAIL earmarks \$400 m for Singapore LNG trading business

GAIL (India) has earmarked \$400 million for its new Singapore trading office to secure LNG and petrochemical product cargoes for delivery to India in 2012, Chairman and Managing Director B. C. Tripathi said in Singapore.

Pakistan recalls Afridi, Razzaq

The Pakistan cricket selectors have recalled Shahid Afridi in the Pakistan squad for the ODI series against Sri Lanka, hours after the former captain had a meeting with the new PCB Chairman Zaka Ashraf. Another senior player Abdul Razzaq was also recalled to the squad for five ODIs and a Twenty20 match series against Sri Lanka in the UAE in November.

Praveen shatters national record

Tamil Nadu's V. Praveen broke the under-18 boys' national 100m record while emerging as the fastest boy in the 27th National junior athletics championship at Ranchi, Jharkhand,

Poonam Rani to lead India

Poonam Rani will lead the Indian team in the four-nation Shastri junior women's tournament to be held at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium from November 8 to 12. The under-21 tournament will feature Australia, Germany and New Zealand and the matches will be played on a round-robin format. The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has appointed Rosie Stern from Australia as the Tournament Director and Vilma Bagdaskiene from Lithuania as the Neutral Umpire.

India looks to defend title at home

Host India has been grouped with Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Afghanistan for the opening stage of the 10th SAFF Championship, scheduled to be held in New Delhi from December 2 to 11, India, the defending champion, will begin its campaign in Group A with a game against Afghanistan on December 3. Pakistan, Nepal, Maldives and Bangladesh, meanwhile, make up Group B with Bangladesh and Pakistan scheduled to face each other in the tournament-opener. All matches will be held at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. India last hosted the biennial football tournament in 1999 in Margao, where it won the title.

Indian men at 10th spot

Erstwhile hockey powerhouse India is languishing at the 10th position in the men's category, while the women's team is further down at 13th spot in the recent FIH world rankings. With just 1385 points in the kitty, India is a place behind arch-rivals Pakistan in the rankings chart. In the Asian region also, India is currently ranked fourth behind Pakistan, Malaysia and Korea