

BusinessLine

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India first

Modi's fifth US visit has been surprisingly productive

Donald J Trump did it his way. He took to his favourite medium Twitter to signal he wouldn't be flinging any metaphorical grenades into the delicately nurtured India-US relationship. "Look forward to welcoming India's PM Modi to @WhiteHouse... Important strategic issues to discuss with a true friend," Trump told his 32 million followers. Hours after Modi's arrival on Monday, following his meetings with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Secretary of Defense James Mattis, the Americans sent out an even stronger signal all was well, by declaring Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin a global terrorist.

In terms of the atmospherics — and bear hugs — so crucial in the world of diplomacy, Modi's joint press conference followed by cocktails and dinner couldn't have gone more favourably. Incidentally, Modi is the 46th world leader to meet Trump, but the first to get a dinner invitation. More crucially, the language on Pakistan was tougher and more direct than before. In a joint statement, the leaders called on Pakistan to ensure its territory is not used to launch terrorist attacks on other countries. They further called on Pakistan to "expeditiously bring to justice perpetrators" of the 26/11 Mumbai, Pathankot, and other cross-border terrorist attacks by Pakistan-based groups. By contrast, the language on China was toned down, possibly because Trump wants to preserve the balance with the Chinese who he needs both for trade and to rein in the North Koreans. In terms of defence, India got the 22 Guardian drones it's been keen to add to its arsenal and significantly, it's the first non-Nato ally to be allowed to buy these hi-tech weapons. Trump, who has made jobs his first priority, also noted pointedly India's shopping for a large consignment of Boeing jets. On the economic front, India came under increased US pressure on IPRs, and the HIB visa issue remained unaddressed.

For India, which kept expectations muted for the visit, it was clearly a moment of triumph. But India can't afford to be lulled into diplomatic complacency and must make its moves on the global chessboard with redoubled caution in coming months. Indeed, India's already keeping a wary eye on the Chinese. China made it clear it frowns on the blossoming India-US friendship which it reckons, is aimed squarely at encircling it. China's Global Times didn't mince its words: "Washington's pursuit of closer ties with New Delhi is mainly driven by its strategic need to utilise India as a tool to counterbalance China. How many practical interests (sic) can India gain from it?" More ominously, Indian and Chinese troops were involved in a border stand-off a few days ago and, in retaliation, the Chinese have closed the Nathu-La Pass for pilgrims to Kailash Mansarovar. The move, coming as it did when Modi was in Washington, appeared to be aimed at sending a message — one India cannot ignore.

Making tracks around the world

The Indian tyre industry's a low-key star that's rolling along at ever-greater speeds around the globe



PARAN BALAKRISHNAN

It's a place with a tongue-twisting name but that didn't stop Apollo Tyres from opening its newest factory near Gyongyoshalasz, a 100-km drive from Hungary's capital Budapest. In fact, the launch of Apollo's factory last month near this village was significantly big to draw Hungary's prime minister, Viktor Orban, as chief guest. Apollo is hoping the greenfield factory will spread the company's tyre tracks to the farthest corners of Europe.

When Indians talk about global-scale industrial successes, examples springing to mind are usually info-tech and pharmaceuticals which have made their mark internationally. Tyres are almost a part of an older industrial age and, anyway, for many people, more something that need to be serviceable and roadworthy rather than especially eye-catching.

A success story

But the Indian tyre industry is one of the country's less trumpeted success stories that's been moving from strength to strength — and that's despite fierce global competition from low-cost Chinese challengers. "To be a global player, we need to be present in the biggest and the most challenging markets across geographies," says Apollo Tyres vice-chairman and managing director Neeraj Kanwar.

Shift gears to the fast-growing

Mexican market where JK Tyres is firmly established as a major producer with three factories in the country. JK Tyres bought up local brand Tormel in 2008. It's just completed a \$22-million expansion and has revved up production to five million tyres from 3.5 million. From its low-cost Mexican base, JK Tyres has been selling into the highly competitive NAFTA (North American Free Trade Area) embracing Canada, the US and Mexico.

Now take a look at BKT (the former Balkrishna Industries) and nine-year-old Alliance Tire Group, which have made their mark in a remarkably short time. Both companies are key players in off-highway tyres and export almost their entire production to different corners of the globe. BKT already has six per cent of the global market and is targeting 10 per cent.

But undoubtedly, the company that's undergone the biggest makeover in slightly just over a decade is Apollo Tyres.

Back in 2006, the company ambitiously decided to go global. Today, 40 per cent of its revenue comes from international markets and it's pushing that number higher.

Says Kanwar: "India will continue to grow at a better pace than some other markets, but with the Hungary plant, we expect revenue contribution from outside India to grow to 45 per cent."

Apollo has been aggressively moving to grab a larger market share outside India. In 2009, it snapped up 100-year-old Dutch company Vredestein, which gave it a strong beachhead in the developed world. Says Kanwar: "Vredestein has become a launchpad for Apollo's entry into the challen-



The big wheel India's tyre industry is gathering pace across the world. (Above) A file picture of Apollo Tyres' Chennai facility

ging Europe market, and to some extent, into the US as well."

Global moves

While Apollo's been taking bold steps, the other tyre companies have also been making global-scale moves. Top players from MRF to CEAT are exporting and looking for breakthroughs. "Companies typically start with an overseas distributor. Then you get your own distribution or marketing network," says Rajiv Budhraj, director-general of the Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association (ATMA). If that goes well, he adds, companies then look at getting their tyres made by a third party. Apollo, for instance, has bought Reifencorn GmbH, one of Germany's large tyre distributors with physical and international B2C portals.

As Indian tyre companies accelerate onto foreign roads, their successes haven't gone unnoticed. In March, Japan's Yokohama Rubber Co, a passenger-car tyre-maker, snapped up the Alliance Tire Group for \$1.2 billion from US private

equity star KKR and, in the process, bought itself a presence in the booming global off-road agricultural, construction and other tyre business. The sale by KKR represented one of the biggest private equity departures from an India-focused investment. Alliance, which makes over 3,000 types of tyres and sells in 120 countries, has two Indian plants and a third in Israel.

Alliance was founded in Israel in 1950. But its growth really picked up speed when the Mahansaria family, which was involved in turning BKT into a global winner, acquired Alliance, backed by private equity fund Warburg Pincus. Warburg then sold it to KKR for a reported \$500 million-\$600 million and KKR sold to Yokohama three years later in 2016. "The acquisition by Yokohama has given us access to the best technical expertise in the industry and our ambition is to have a \$1-billion turnover by 2020," says Alliance CEO Nitin Mantri. With increased automation in fields such as construction and farming, the company, which had

global sales of close to \$600 million in 2015, believes it's on an off-road route to significant growth.

The China factor

Indian tyre companies are carving out their international markets while facing really tough competition in the domestic market, mainly from the Chinese, who are muscling into lucrative sectors such as truck and bus radials (TBR). Indian firms accuse the Chinese of dumping.

Ironically, though, Indian tyre manufacturers reckon demonetisation hit the sales of Chinese tyres because transactions are often cash. However, the Chinese pressure may ease as the US has decided not to impose anti-dumping duties on Chinese TBR tyres. During the dumping probe, Chinese tyres were re-routed to India, according to industry sources. Now that China can restart exports to the US, some dumping in India may be curbed.

And on the export front, it's not looking too bad out there in the wide world. India gets an advantage from its lower labour costs compared to other countries.

That's particularly true for companies such as BKT and Alliance, which have labour-intensive operations and produce thousands of different types of tyres for different off-road operations. Certainly, the foreign markets are "heavily competitive," says Budhraj, with exporters from Korea, Thailand, Vietnam Indonesia and Sri Lanka all striking abroad.

But tyre-makers can also look forward to satisfying pent-up replacement demand in the agriculture and construction segments, according to analysts, who see tyre exports growing annually at six-to-eight per cent over the next few years as global acceptance of Indian tyres gains traction.

Modi, Trump can go together a long way

Both are nationalists who believe in taking a hard line against terrorism and radicalism



RAJ KAMAL RAO

Appearing regal, Prime Minister Modi stood shoulder to shoulder with President Trump and declared that when it comes to the development of the world's two largest democracies, he remains a "driven, determined, and decisive partner". Their handshake on the White House lawns — and indeed the hug — was genuine, one built on mutual respect and admiration.

This meeting was such a contrast to the first time when Modi visited the White House, to meet Obama. The 44th president had pre-judged Modi guilty of religious intolerance and lifted America's visa ban on him only after Modi assumed office as India's PM in a nod to long-standing protocol to permit heads of state to visit the US.

Finding common ground

On this 2017 trip, Modi needed to have no fear that Trump, the con-

summate businessman, was judging him through any righteous lens. This was an effective, efficient meeting between two extraordinarily strong leaders united by a common goal: How to advance his own country's interests first.

Remarkably, they found a lot to agree on. In statecraft, a rival's rival is a friend. China's geopolitical ambitions from One Belt One Road to dominating the South China Sea, not to mention its failed efforts to contain North Korea, all drove Trump closer to Modi who additionally offered Trump what the latter has been seeking from every world leader: Solid cooperation in fighting terrorism, extremism, and radicalisation. These assurances for Trump have not been forthcoming from traditional American allies in Europe, a region where Trump continues to be unpopular.

Contrary to the dismissive comments of London mayor Sadiq Khan who suggested that Trump should not visit London, or when French president Macron openly expressed appreciation for the out-of-office Obama, Modi was graciousness personified, burying any disappointments about Trump's withdrawal from the Paris accord or the proposed tightening of tech visas. This



Meeting of minds Modi and Trump

was traditional Indian culture at its best, reciprocating the warm welcome he received, and inviting Trump and his family to India hoping "that you will give me the opportunity to welcome you and host you in India". Trump has had to scour the globe to find such warm invitations.

The meeting earned good coverage both on TV and in the print media, although the PMO should have known that the last week of June is

crucial because the US Supreme Court releases its most awaited decisions of its term this week. The liberal media, which for months had been celebrating the overturning of Trump's travel ban on citizens of six majority Muslim countries, woke up today to find a 9-0 decision from the Supreme Court allowing Trump to continue with the ban and giving him an important victory.

This was such a major news story that it sucked all the oxygen from covering the Modi-Trump meeting. Other news stories — including the release of the US Senate's health bill to repeal and replace Obamacare and the never-ending Russia story — also continued to blanket the airwaves.

Still, both *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* had identical pieces leading to today's meetings describing how India's storied outsourcing industry has come under pressure because of Trump administration policies and automation. Both articles focused on Nasscom's "forced resignations" and how skill re-development is vital to India's middle class.

No benefit for trade, jobs

On matters of trade, climate change and high-tech visas, the meeting

will likely result in few successes for Modi. Trump's slogan, "Make America Great Again" is directly at odds with Modi's vision of "Make in India" because both nationalist leaders are actively attempting to increase manufacturing in their respective countries as a pathway to lift their respective middle classes.

In a way, Trump is already winning this battle. Companies such as Infosys have already done the unthinkable and announced massive plans to hire Americans in the US and scale back hiring in India.

Trump knows that Modi is a consummate deal-maker too and has fundamentally helped change India through infrastructure development, FDI and tax reform — goals Trump has clearly outlined for the US.

Given how few friends Trump has on the world stage, he may reach out to Modi for advice. The potential friendship between these two men could yet turn out to be more consequential than any other PM-President relationship in the past. And this is the best news for both countries.

The writer is the managing director of Rao Advisors LLC, Texas

FROM THE VIEWROOM

Farm loan waivers not enough

Why scuttle sustainable options such as animal farming?



Loan waivers will give temporary relief to farmers but will not permanently fix problems that the agriculture sector faces. They can help beneficiary farmers make a fresh start but will not help farmer households double their real income by 2022, the year India completes 75 years as an independent nation.

Minimum support price (MSP) for procurement is a good signalling tool but it is no good when procurement machinery is inadequate and smaller farmers have little idea of either the support price or the machinery. And, indeed that is the case as National Sample Survey Organisation found in its 70th Round of surveys conducted between July 2012 and June 2013. Most farmers, except for those growing paddy, wheat and sugarcane, were unaware of the MSP announced by the government as well as the procurement process.

It also does not help if the government, under pressure to keep food prices in check, resorts to ad hoc measures such as imports and clamps down on exports. Interventions in the agri-produce market to curb food prices hurts small farmers as much as large farmers. This is because small farmers, defined as those owning one or two hectares, get as much as 57 per cent of the income from cultivation. Their total income from various economic activities, net of the expenses, was estimated at ₹7,348, NSSO reports estimate.

Encouraging farmers to supplement their income through animal husbandry is a sensible decision, but placing too many restrictions on trade in animals is counterproductive. Curbs on animal trade and cow vigilantism hurts the poorest farm households, particularly those with less than a hectare of land. Those with less than 0.01 hectare of land earn more than a quarter of their income from animal husbandry.

Thus, it is critical that the government weigh the impact of every decision it takes on farmers, rather than resort to fire-fighting when a crisis erupts.

Tina Edwin Senior Deputy Editor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send your letters by email to bleditor@thehindu.co.in or by post to 'Letters to the Editor', The Hindu Business Line, Kasturi Buildings, 859-860, Anna Salai, Chennai 600002.

Use PMC bond funds wisely

This refers to "Clean up act" (June 27). Kudos to Pune Municipal Corporation to raise ₹200 cr through bonds. Now, it is critical that this money is utilised most judiciously in a time-bound manner. As a country, we fare poorly at implementation. Most States' finances are a shambles and they need something like this to fund their civic infrastructure needs.

Bal Govind Noida

A prudent move?

The bond issue is slated to cover in time ₹2,500 crore. The first tranche of ₹200 crore must be seen against the loss of ₹156 crore in 2015-16. Is the bond then meant to balance revenue accounts? If so its purpose is seriously flawed *ab initio*. Bonds are subject to investment ratings by independent agencies and coupon rates would go up as ratings dip. The resultant

rise in debt burden would make its servicing tough. The PMC has an annual budget of around ₹4,000 crore. Half of this is salaries. If it has a pension scheme, the liabilities are open-ended. Remember, the city of Detroit filed for bankruptcy largely on pension payouts. Is there a master plan for developing Pune with a realistic time-frame, to ensure rapid growth and highly enhanced revenue to cover accruing liabilities, be it bond issues or loans from institutions? Hope and enthusiasm are fair-weather companions but raw economics is a hard task master and a merciless usurer.

R Narayanan Ghaziabad

New education policy welcome

That the Centre has constituted a nine-member committee under the leadership of eminent scientist Dr K Kasturirangan to formulate a new education policy for the

country is welcome. One hopes it would be comprehensive and flexible suiting the needs of the job market and the great cultural tradition of the nation. Needless to say, the effectiveness of any educational policy hinges on teachers who are entrusted with the task of taking it to the students and the society at large.

S Ramakrishnasayee Ranipet

All eyes on Modi, Trump meet

The meeting between US President Donald Trump and Indian Prime Minister Modi is being watched by the entire world community very closely. From India's standpoint, the mention of Hizbul Mujahideen leader Syed Salahuddin's name in the joint statement issued by India and US assumes great significance. In a way it vindicates India's stand that Pakistan is fomenting trouble in border areas and is actively supporting terror activit-

ies on Indian soil. It is evident that Modi and Trump have developed a personal rapport which should go a long way in cementing India's bilateral ties with the US.

K Ashok Kumar Kolkata

India's interests ignored

The interests of India needed to be squared with those of America, given Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'India First' and US President Donald Trump's 'America First' mantras. How much of it has been achieved in the Modi-Trump summit is not easily quantifiable. The negotiations scripted by US mandarins carefully skirted the major sticking points of H-1B visas to Indian IT professionals, climate change and trade to save the high-profile leaders the embarrassment of having to deal with them.

There was no rethink by Donald Trump of his accusation that US tech companies are using cheap

Indian labour, his unfounded charge that India made participation in the climate change programme contingent upon billions in foreign aid and the protectionist trade barriers put up by him. For all his 'communication skills', Modi did not achieve much success in convincing Trump that 'India's rise is in America's interest'.

The US has conferred the status of a strategic partner on India with the express purpose of positioning it as a counterweight to China. Washington's acknowledgement of India as a "victim of terror" was at bottom self-centred — it was to facilitate defence deals and arms sale. India is now all set to procure Predator drones 'made in US'. It is significant that India-Pakistan relations dominated the India-US talks, deflecting attention from thorny issues between India and the US.

G David Milton Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

Issues in registration

On compliances and transition provisions

AJAY SRIVASTAV
GST MASTERCLASS

Identify the category of suppliers for whom GSTIN registration is mandatory?

The following categories of suppliers need to mandatorily register irrespective of turnover: Firms making inter-State supply; businesses liable to pay tax under reverse charge; sellers on e-commerce platforms; all e-commerce operators; persons responsible for deducting TDS; input service distributor; and agents supplying on behalf of a taxable person.

What are the rules on GST registration for business verticals in States?

A firm has to register separately for each of its verticals in each of the States it has operations. Thus a firm having five business verticals and each operating in 6 states will have to obtain 30 GST registrations. For each such registration, the firm would be treated as a separate and distinct person for the purpose of levy of GST. However, for the purpose of recovery of dues, all business verticals, though separately registered, will be considered as a single legal entity.

What are the types of invoices under the GST?

Under the GST law, it is compulsory for a supplier to issue an invoice. Two types of invoices can be issued: Tax invoice is issued by a registered firm supplying taxable goods or services. Bill of supply is issued by a GST registered firm supplying exempted goods or services or by the Supplier paying tax under composition scheme. A bill of supply is not eligible for claiming input tax credits.

When are credit and debit notes issued?

A supplier issues credit note favouring recipient when the value of supplies is less than the value shown on invoice. A supplier issues debit note for the recipient

when the value of supplies is more than the value shown on invoice.

How does the return reconciliation process take place at the GSTIN?

A GST registered firm can claim input tax credit as self-assessed in the return only on a provisional basis. It cannot use such credit. GSTN matches details of input tax credit claimed by the recipient with the corresponding tax paid by the supplier, or with the additional duty of customs paid by the recipient himself. If details match, the input tax credit will be accepted and details of such acceptance will be communicated through form GST ITC-1. If the details of recipient's claim for input tax credit and the details of returns and tax payment of supplier don't match, and supplier does not agree for rectification, such Input tax credit is added to output tax liability of the recipient. The recipient would be eligible to reduction only when the supplier declares/ rectifies the invoice within the maximum time limit specified.

What are the situations where a refund is allowed?
Refund is allowed on the tax paid on (I) inputs used for making a product/service and (II) product/service which is subsequently exported. It is also allowed (I) on the unutilised input tax credit when output is exported or falls in the category of zero-rated supplies or (II) where the credit has accumulated on account of rate of tax on inputs being higher than the rate of tax on output supplies, other than nil rated or fully exempt supplies. But refund of unutilised input tax credit is not allowed in cases where goods exported are subject to export duty and if the supplier claims the refund of output tax paid under the IGST Act.

What are the situations where a refund is allowed?

The writer is from the Indian Trade Service. The views are personal. Adapted from his book, *The GST Nation: A Guide for Business Transformation*

This is Part 9 of a series to introduce readers to GST's intricacies. The previous part appeared on June 27.

Taking an objective view of the Raj

Let's admit this: the British propelled an India steeped in medievalism into the modern age

UDAY BALAKRISHNAN

June is a month of anniversaries. India Gandhi's infamous Emergency was declared 42 years ago, on a June 25. Long before that, on June 23, 1757, Robert Clive famously defeated the forces of Siraj ud-Daulah, the last Nawab of Bengal, on a slushy battlefield at Plassey, about 150 kilometres north of present-day Kolkata.

Of the two events, the British victory at Plassey is historically the more important as it marked the big push to gain control of all of India, directly leading to the creation of the independent Indian state.

No conquest of our country was more systematic, or more comprehensive. The British eliminated the French as a force in India by 1763. The four wars against Hyder Ali and his son Tipu Sultan — the last ended in the defeat and death of Tipu at Srirangapatnam in 1799 — secured South India for them. The three Anglo Maratha wars, fought between 1775 and 1849, ended the most powerful challenge to British expansion and control of India, while their victories in the two Anglo Sikh wars wrapped up their conquest of the country by 1849.

Era of darkness

The great Indian revolt of 1857 — not quite the first war of independence we make it out to be — which spread across much of North India, was crushed by the British in about a year and a half. In the almost 90 years after that, the British aggregated an India which Gandhi and Nehru could later fight to liberate. We also need to give credit to the British for the audacious manner in which they accurately mapped India, penetrated and harried secretive Tibet and advantageously fixed our northern borders, which we so vigorously defend against China today.

Nevertheless, most Indians view British rule of India as an unmitigated disaster. Gandhi was one of its severest critics while more contemporary writers such as Shashi Tharoor see the period as an era of darkness, rotten and unremittingly exploitative to the last. So, was it as bad as it has been made out to be?

In the brutal aftermath of the 1857 rebellion, the British conducted grisly mass public executions of those who went against them. Famines in British India killed an estimated 50 million people. In the last of these in 1943 more than three million starved to death in Bengal — Madhusree Mukherjee attributes this to British callousness in her well-researched book, *Churchill's Secret War*. Certainly, British rule was terrible in parts but it had its brilliant side too.

Closing in on 70 years of our independence we surely can now acknowledge what we always accepted in private, that but for British rule, the free India we are citizens of today, might never have been. Our former Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh sensibly broke rank to openly accept that the British contributed to "the idea of India as an inclusive and plural society and the experiment of building a democracy within the framework of a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, multi lingual and multi religious society." It is not an accident that our Constitution is an intelligently tweaked version of the Government of India Act of 1935 passed by the British Parliament.

Connecting India

The British created inexpensive and reliable communication systems such as the posts and tele-



Just a few conquerors? We must look at history without bias

graphs, which connected all of India while also linking Indians to the rest of the world. By the early 1900s, India also had one of the most extensive railway networks in the world, thanks to a perspective plan drawn in the mid-1800s that was actually implemented. A recent award-winning study by Dave Donaldson, formerly of LSE, established how the railways in India contributed significantly to boosting the Indian economy by penetrating 'inland districts bringing them out of near-autarky and connecting them to the rest of India and the world.'

Were these infrastructure projects way too expensive? One should think not, considering how much similar projects have cost since independence. The cost of the Udhampur Srinagar, Baramulla line for instance has escalated from an estimated ₹111 crore to over ₹2,371 crore by 2015 while the Jirbham-Imphal line has shot up from ₹727 crore to more than ₹6,500 crore. The recently completed Bangalore metro ended up

costing more than twice what was estimated and went way beyond predetermined time frames to complete.

Angus Maddison is India's favourite economic historian, not the least because he established that the Indian economy went from being one of the top performers in the world to becoming one of the worst under British rule. But he also highlighted the positive contributions of British rule in India.

As he put it, 'They replaced the wasteful warlord aristocracy by a bureaucratic-military establishment, carefully designed by utilitarian technocrats, which was very efficient in maintaining law and order,' adding that the 'greater efficiency of government permitted a substantial reduction in the fiscal burden.'

The much-maligned administrative, police and intelligence systems as well as the modern Indian armed forces developed by the British created a secure environment, which made day-to-day

life for the common man, much less uncertain than ever before in our history.

Take an objective look

Eventually, these systems of control, in place to this day, provided the secure environment that enabled institutions such as the iconic Thomson College of Civil Engineering (thoughtlessly renamed, IIT Roorkee) and the Indian Institute of Science, to name a few, to come up, and for a Rabindranath Tagore or CV Raman to make his mark on a global stage.

It will come as a surprise to us that the same Angus Maddison we love also established that land tax in India, contrary to what was generally accepted, had actually come down under the British who, as he states, 'had inherited the Moghul tax system, which provided land revenue equal to 15 per cent of national income, but by the end of the colonial period land tax was only 1 per cent of national income and the total tax burden was only 6 per cent.' 'It is curious,' he adds, 'that this large reduction in the fiscal burden has passed almost without comment in the literature on Indian economic history.'

Two hundred years after Plassey, it is time that we took a colder and more objective look of our time as a colony under the British. While they fully deserve to be condemned for the gross human right violations they perpetrated through their rule, we also must accept that the British frogmarched an India steeped in medievalism, into the modern age, wonderfully well.

The writer is a visiting faculty at the Centre for Contemporary Studies, IISc Bangalore

5 THINGS to WATCH OUT for TODAY

■ **The initial** public offering of AU Small Finance Bank will open for subscription today, with a price band of ₹355-358 per share. Bids can be made for a minimum of 41 equity shares and in multiples of 41 shares thereafter. The issue will close on June 30. The equity shares are proposed to be listed on the BSE and NSE.

■ **ISRO** is to launch the communications satellite GSAT-17 from French Guiana today. This would be the third launch for ISRO in less than a month. Last week ISRO's workhorse rocket, the PSLV-C38, successfully launched the Cartosat-2 series satellite along with 30 nano satellites from Sriharikota.

■ **Finance minister** Arun Jaitley and oil minister Dharmendra Pradhan are to launch the country's maiden NDR today. The National Data Repository will help the country switch over to an open acreage licensing regime, where companies can choose areas they want to explore.

■ **The NDA's** presidential nominee Ram Nath Kovind will visit Srinagar today to seek the support of alliance partner PDP. Kovind will be accompanied by Union ministers M Venkaiah Naidu and Jitendra Singh.

■ **The Delhi** government will hold a two-day session of the Assembly today and tomorrow. Speaker Ram Niwas Goel confirmed the session, but did not disclose the agenda. The Privileges Committee of the Assembly, headed by AAP MLA Saurabh Bharadwaj, is expected to present its report on desilting of drains by the PWD and the municipal corporations.

A THOUSAND WORDS



Bloody hot A Sumatran tiger tastes a frozen blood lollipop on a hot summer day at the Bioparco zoo in Rome on June 27. An extreme heatwave has gripped the Northern Hemisphere, reaching record high in parts of Europe, triggering forest fires and water shortage. REUTERS/TONY GENTILE

BusinessLine TWENTY YEARS AGO TODAY

JUNE 28, 1997

Industrial growth slumps

Swamped by growing infrastructural bottlenecks, industrial performance has registered a marked deterioration during 1996-97, with overall growth estimated at a mere 6.7 per cent. The deceleration also reverses the earlier observed post-reforms fenz, which pointed towards a sustained increase in industrial growth rates from 0.6 per cent in 1991-92 to 2.3 per cent in 1992-93, 6 per cent in 1993-94, 9.4 per cent in 1994-95 and 11.6 per cent in 1995-96. The decline in industrial growth for 1996-97 has been recorded for all the three major sectors constituting the general Index of Industrial Production.

RBI directive on CRB group

The RBI has advised all commercial banks to take necessary action as indicated in the Delhi High Court order passed on June 23, 1997, on the CRB Capital Markets and its sister concerns. The HC has passed an order that all banks and all other financial institutions having any amount lying in the account of CRB Capital Markets and 40 sister concerns/companies of the group, excepting Daewoo Finance (India), shall remain frozen to the extent of their liabilities, dues, shares and investments in those companies by CRB Capital Markets till further orders.

Service tax on mandap keepers

The Government has decided to bring into effect a service tax on mandap keepers and air travel agents from July 1, 1997. Mandap keepers have been defined as persons who allow temporary occupation of a mandap for a consideration for organising any official, social or business function. Mandap includes all immovable properties let out for organising social, official or business functions. This include kalyan mandapams, marriage halls, etc.

EASY

ACROSS

- 01. Fixed, unchangeable (8)
- 04. Couple (4)
- 08. Belonging to us (3)
- 09. A giant (5)
- 10. Commercial traveller (3)
- 11. Treatment, curative power (7)
- 12. Irritating (5)
- 13. Praises (11)
- 17. Written defamation (5)
- 18. Sugar-pill (7)
- 20. Dyeing tank (3)
- 21. Brother's, sister's daughter (5)
- 22. Dolt, idiot, lout (3)
- 23. Part played (4)

- 24. Triangular structure over door (8)

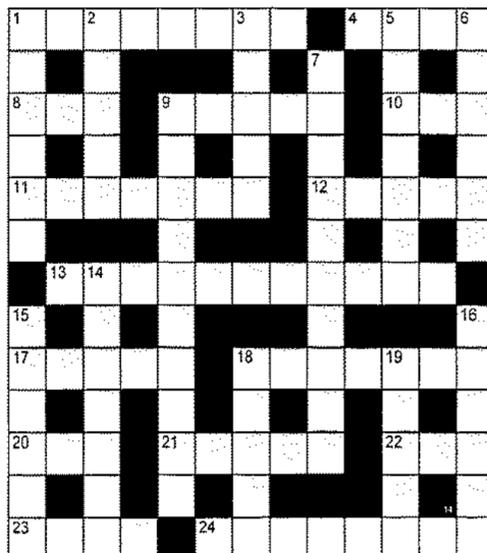
DOWN

- 01. Cuffs, hits with force (6)
- 02. Nanny (5)
- 03. Dapper, spruce (5)
- 05. Orange-coloured fruit (7)
- 06. Recompenses, pays back (6)
- 07. Reduce to ashes (10)
- 09. Jumping-frame (10)
- 14. Of path in space (7)
- 15. Lapwing, peewit (6)
- 16. Sweetmeat, sugared almond (6)
- 18. Portion (5)
- 19. Call to mind (5)

SOLUTION: BL Two-way Crossword 880

ACROSS 1. Genuflect 5. Sad 7. Arum 8. Penitent 10. Tasteful 11. Uses 13. Depict 15. Hobnob 18. Hare 19. Protocol 22. Rehearse 23. Soda 24. End 25. Sentiment
DOWN 1. Granted 2. Nouns 3. Eke out 4. Trip 5. Stepson 6. Dates 9. Bench 12. Mouth 14. Parched 16. Ballast 17. Prison 18. Horse 20. Crone 21. Mars

BL TWO-WAY CROSSWORD 881



NOT SO EASY

ACROSS

- 01. It's true it's the same mathematical quantity (8)
- 04. Leaving bed out of 5, put two together (4)
- 08. Nothing original belonging to us (3)
- 09. Giant bird puts an end to it (5)
- 10. Corded cloth briefly seen in theatre (3)
- 11. Treatment they have includes a sharp blow (7)
- 12. Irritating way one could be spiteful after starting breakfast (5)
- 13. Expression of civility from me's PC, Milton being involved (11)
- 17. Liable, after a loss, to be responsible for defamation (5)
- 18. I shall please Latin with a pretend drug (7)
- 20. Tax animal doctor after a change of heart (3)
- 21. A pope's daughter called him uncle (5)
- 22. A lout won't start to lounge about (3)
- 23. One's function in life may be

- played by actor (4)
- 24. I'm taking this structure over door to be an obstacle (8)

DOWN

- 01. Garments with cuffs (6)
- 02. She may work onwards when separated (5)
- 03. Dapper as a non-drinker in the Big Apple (5)
- 05. Fruit a tropic can produce (7)
- 06. Settles loan and takes the rap? Yes! (6)
- 07. Burn it to egg one on about near-disaster (10)
- 09. In mole-trap it might give athlete the jumps (10)
- 14. Bit in the spoken exam that has one going around in circles (7)
- 15. Philome's first inamorato, a peewit (6)
- 16. Sugared almond will almost come to be suitable for one (6)
- 18. Bit that is starting to capitalise in price-earnings ratio (5)
- 19. It will awaken memories all right, having woman around (5)