

### **On Internet rules, India now more willing to say ICANN**

India has reinvented its position on Internet governance, hoping to become a new voice of reason in what has so far been a deeply polarised global debate. The change is intended to distance India from any model propagating governments taking “charge” or “balkanising” the Internet. It was unveiled at the recent Budapest Cyber Space Conference. Sachin Pilot, who led the Indian delegation to Budapest, instead of opposing the U.S.-based Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and its operations through an earlier proposal called the U.N. Committee on Internet-Related Policies (UN-CIRP), India will pursue enhanced cooperation through wider dialogue. Countries such as Russia, China, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan have been advocating governance models that seek to place the Internet under U.N. control while the U.S. and western states have been reluctant to move away from the status quo position of ICANN-led Internet governance. India had positioned its UN-CIRP proposal as something that would lie in between these two extremes.

### **BrahMos gains sub-strategic super weapon capability**

Latest upgrades to the Indo-Russian BrahMos cruise missile make it a sub-strategic super weapon capable of being launched from land, sea, sub-sea and air platforms. BrahMos missile, test fired from the Russian-built frigate INS Teg, had a new satellite guidance system borrowed from Russia’s long-range cruise missile X-555 and its latest version, X-101. The new guidance technology, which uses Global Navigation Satellite System (Glonass) Russia’s alternative to the U.S. Global Positioning System (GPS) has been added to the BrahMos’ Doppler-inertial guidance system to increase its range and precision. If the BrahMos range, originally limited to 290 km, has indeed been increased to 500 km, it would put Russia in violation of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), which bans export of rocket technology exceeding a 300 km range threshold to countries like India, that are not members of Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

### **Shatabdi plans to offer on-board shopping soon**

**Journey on Shatabdi Express will soon become more exciting. The Indian Railways are planning to introduce on board shopping facility in these set of trains running on long routes.** The ministry has engaged a private firm to provide on-board facility on a pilot basis in Shatabdi trains for a month. To begin with the facility will be available with the Bhopal Shatabdi, which carries quite a large number of foreign tourists to places like Mathura, Agra, Gwalior, Jhansi and Bhopal. Perfumes, skincare products, handbags, watches and exquisite jewellery among other gift items will be available on sale in Shatabdi trains in Executive Class and Chair Cars. For chocolate lovers, trolleys showcasing luxury items will have a wide range of delicious chocolates. Besides, there will also be souvenirs associated with railways on offer for Shatabdi passengers. **Pragya award for book by Sakhalkar**

The Rajasthan Hindi Granth Akademi has selected the book “Adhunik Chitrakala Ka Itihaas” (History of modern art), authored by eminent litterateur and artist Ratnakar Vinayak Sakhalkar based in Ajmer, for its prestigious Pragya award. Mr. Sakhalkar, 94, will get a memento and a cash reward of Rs.51,000 at a function to be organised shortly. A book is selected for the Akademi’s award after the publication of a minimum of 15 of its editions. The Akademi has published four books authored by him.

### **UK teen of Goan roots 'beats' Einstein's IQ**

With a Mensa IQ score of 162, a 15-year-old London teenager with Goan roots has beaten Albert Einstein and Stephen Hawking. Fabiola Mann’s IQ has put her in the top 1% of intelligent people in the world, two points over the 160 scored by the scientific greats. Mensa, founded in 1946 as a society for intelligent people, awarded Fabiola her membership certificate in August 2012. The Harrow-on-the-Hill-resident, who wants to study medicine at Cambridge University and become a surgeon.

### **Satellite phone recovered from Pak doctor who helped CIA trace Osama**

Pakistani authorities have seized a satellite phone from a jailed doctor, who helped CIA trace Osama bin Laden, and also arrested four police commandos guarding his cell. The law enforcement agencies seized a 'Thoraya' satellite phone from Shakeel Afridi in Central Jail Peshawar and have arrested four police commandos on guard at his cell in the jail. After interrogation, one of the four arrested commandos, confessed that he had provided satellite phone to Afridi. The sources also said that Afridi had made more than 68 calls from the satellite phone set and most of these calls were long-distance, but the authorities are assessing the satellite phone data to ascertain the country location.

### **London now second most attractive financial centre**

London has moved from sixth to second behind New York in a ranking of the world's most attractive financial centers by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, due in part to the British capital's international connections. London's "economic clout, ease of doing business, innovation and attraction as an international gateway" offset Britain's sluggish economy and financial job losses. New York remained in first place, while Toronto and Paris rank third and fourth, respectively, based on a blend of criteria that include cost of living, natural environment, transport, health and security.

### **FM to meet GST panel on November 8**

Finance Minister P Chidambaram will meet members of the Empowered Committee (EC) of state finance ministers on November 8 to sort out the issues concerning implementation of the Goods and **Services Tax** (GST). Before meeting the committee members, Chidambaram will hold discussion with the chairman of committee, Sushil Modi on October 22. GST, which will empower the Centre and states to simultaneously tax supply of goods and services, was to be introduced from April 2010 and has missed several deadlines.

### **Dunkin' Donuts to enter Mumbai, Bangalore in 6 mths**

Jubilant FoodWorks, which has the master franchise for Dunkin' Donuts outlets in the country, has said it will enter the Mumbai and Bangalore markets. The Jubilant Bhartia Group company also has the exclusive franchise for Domino's Pizza for the country and also in Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. The Bhartias-promoted company had bagged the franchising rights from the leading US baked-food and coffee chain for Dunkin' Donuts earlier this year. It had launched the first store in Delhi in April 2012.

### **Bhullar wins Macau Open**

Gaganjeet Bhullar survived an early back nine slump to bring home a solid three-under 68 on the final day and clinch the Venetian Macau Open title, his second title in less than a month. Bhullar finished in style with a birdie to sign off with a four-day total of 16-under 268, two shots clear of American Jonathan Moore, who had five birdies in his last five holes. Making it sweeter for India was Shiv Kapur, who carded a four-under 67 to total 10-under and finish sole fifth. Himmat Rai (70) was 38th at one-under 283 and Ajeetesh Sandhu (73) was one-over 285 in 47th place. Moore (65) finished second, while Thitiphun Chuayprakong (70) of Thailand and Siddikur (66) of Bangladesh were tied third and Kapur (67) was fifth. This is Bhullar's fourth Asian Tour title following wins in 2009 Indonesia President Invitational, the 2010 Asian Tour International, Thailand and the 2012 Yeangder Tournament Players' Championship, Chinese Taipei.

### **Sweden's Blixt wins first US PGA title**

Swedish rookie Jonas Blixt earned his first US PGA victory after rolling in a four-foot par putt on 18 to capture the \$5 million Frys.com Open by one stroke. Blixt closed with a three-under par 68, collecting \$900,000 in prize money and becoming the third rookie to win on the US tour. Americans Tim Petrovic and Jason Kokrak tied for second. Petrovic shot a 64 and Kokrak had a 68. Bryce Molder, winner of 2011, carded a two-under 69 to tie for 11th on 273.