

### **Camilla in Bangalore for treatment**

The Duchess of Cornwall, Camilla, wife of Prince Charles, arrived at Bangalore on a private visit to a holistic centre. Sources said that she was accompanied by nine others, including her daughter Laura Lopes, and they would be at the Soukya Holistic and Integrated Medical Centre at Whitefield till November 2. The entourage is scheduled to leave in the morning of November 2. This is the second visit of the Duchess of Cornwall to the centre. In 2010 she stayed for a week. She was received at Bengaluru International Airport by the British Deputy High Commissioner in Bangalore, Ian Felton.

### **Reference to Nadars in CBSE textbook fuels controversy**

Now another Central Board for Secondary Education textbook has triggered a fresh controversy. A reference to the Nadar community in the social science book prescribed for Class IX students has evoked strong protests. According to DMK Vaiko and PMK founder S. Ramadoss have taken exception to “an objectionable reference” in the book which reads that the Shanars (also called Nadars) were a community of toddy tappers who migrated to southern Travancore to work under Nair landlords.

### **Bihar jails to get gym, library**

Initiating a unique experiment, the Bihar Government has decided to set up a gymnasium and a library in all its jails to promote physical and mental health of prisoners. The Jail Department has released money for setting up a gym and a library in all the eight Central jails and 31 districts prisons across Bihar. Setting up gym in jails is probably the first of its kind in the country. The step has been taken in view of demands coming from inmates who find it hard to maintain good health due to lack of space for morning walk or play.

### **Govt. debt up 3.6% to 39 lakh crore during second quarter this fiscal**

The Centre's debt increased by 3.6 per cent to Rs. 39,00,386 crore during the second quarter (July-September) this fiscal from Rs. 37,63,264 crore in the previous quarter, mainly owing to a marked rise in the internal debt component. In the first quarter (April-June), the government's total public debt (excluding liabilities that aren't classified under public debt) had gone up by 5.2 per cent. According to the 'Quarterly Report on Debt Management' released by the Finance Ministry internal debt during the July-September quarter constituted 90.4 per cent of the public debt, as compared to 89.6 per cent at the conclusion of the first quarter of 2012-13.

### **President to open world Malayalam festival**

Literature and art from across the world will stopover in the State capital of Kerala for three days, when the city would become the stage for the 'Viswa Malayala Mahotsavam'. The mega literary and cultural event were being organised by the State government's Department of Culture and the Kerala Sahithya Akademi.

### **Potsherd with Tamil-Brahmi script found in Oman**

A Tamil-Brahmi script inscribed on a potsherd, which was found at the Khor Rori area in Oman, has come to light now. The script reads “nantai kiran” and it can be dated to first century CE, that is, 1900 years before the present. The discovery in the ancient city of Sumhuram has opened a new chapter in understanding the maritime trade of the Indian Ocean countries, according to specialists in history.

### **'One-stop shop' for info on Germany & its researchers**

The German House for Research and Innovation (DWIH), established by a 14-member consortium of German organisations, was inaugurated, at New Delhi, at a function held at the German House. The DWIH-New Delhi is intended to serve in the words of Matthias Kleiner, president of the German Research Foundation, as a 'one-stop shop' for Indian researchers, providing information on Germany and its research community, showcasing its strengths and opportunities. The aim is to enhance the cooperation between the two countries in academics and research. It is expected to bring more synergy and joint initiatives between Indian and German institutions and organisations and will form one of the major pillars of the Research and Academic Relations Initiative in India by the German government. It is being jointly sponsored by the German Federal Foreign Office and the German Federal Ministry of Education Research.

### **16 States and 2 years on, tireless activist cycles on**

When Kuldeep Singh said that he was proud of Tamil Nadu. It was the only State that had been paying Rs. 1,000 a month as pension for the disabled, it was quite a compliment for the State from a man who has campaigned tirelessly for their rights. Kuldeep Singh, 50, has polio and has taken up a tour of the country by tricycle. He finished his schooling and college at Ahmedbad and then moved to Punjab where he tried his hand at various jobs. He wrote a book about his experiences. It also motivated him to take up the cause of persons with disability. His resolve to embark on a journey across the country was strengthened by the encouragement of his well-wishers, he says. His wife, Kiran Kaur who also has polio, works as a school teacher.

### **BG locos converted to cape gauge for first time**

For the first time, Golden Rock Railway Workshop, at Tiruchi, has converted two in-service broad gauge diesel locomotives to cape gauge for export to Mozambique railways soon. A host of modifications and additional features have been incorporated as part of the conversion work in the two engines to suit the operational requirement of Mozambique railways.

### **The journey of Fearless Felix**

Supersonic skydiver Felix Baumgartner has finally come home after his death-defying, record-breaking leap from the edge of space. The Austrian former military parachutist nearly two weeks after his plunge from a balloon to the New Mexico desert made him the first person to reach supersonic speed without travelling in a jet or spacecraft.