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INSIDE NATION

Kalmadi gets bail
After remaining behind bars for nearly nine months, former CWG Organising Committee chairman Suresh Kalmadi was on Thursday granted bail by the Delhi High Court in a 2010 Games-related graft case. The court also granted bail to OC former director general and co-accused VK Verma. **P12**

HARYANA

Sonepat jailbreak
The SIT has arrested Sumit of Badwasni and Amit of UP for their alleged involvement in the Sonepat jailbreak on Tuesday night, DSP Surender Malik said on Thursday. The arrested youths had managed to supply four new mobile phones to the escaped jail inmates. **P7**

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Fee hike
Proposing a substantial hike in the fee and examination and other charges, Himachal Pradesh University is trying to convince student outfits to agree to the move. **P10**

WORLD

Iran warns neighbours
Iran's foreign minister warned Arab neighbours on Thursday not to put themselves in a "dangerous position" by aligning themselves too closely with the US in the escalating dispute over Tehran's nuclear activity. **P13**

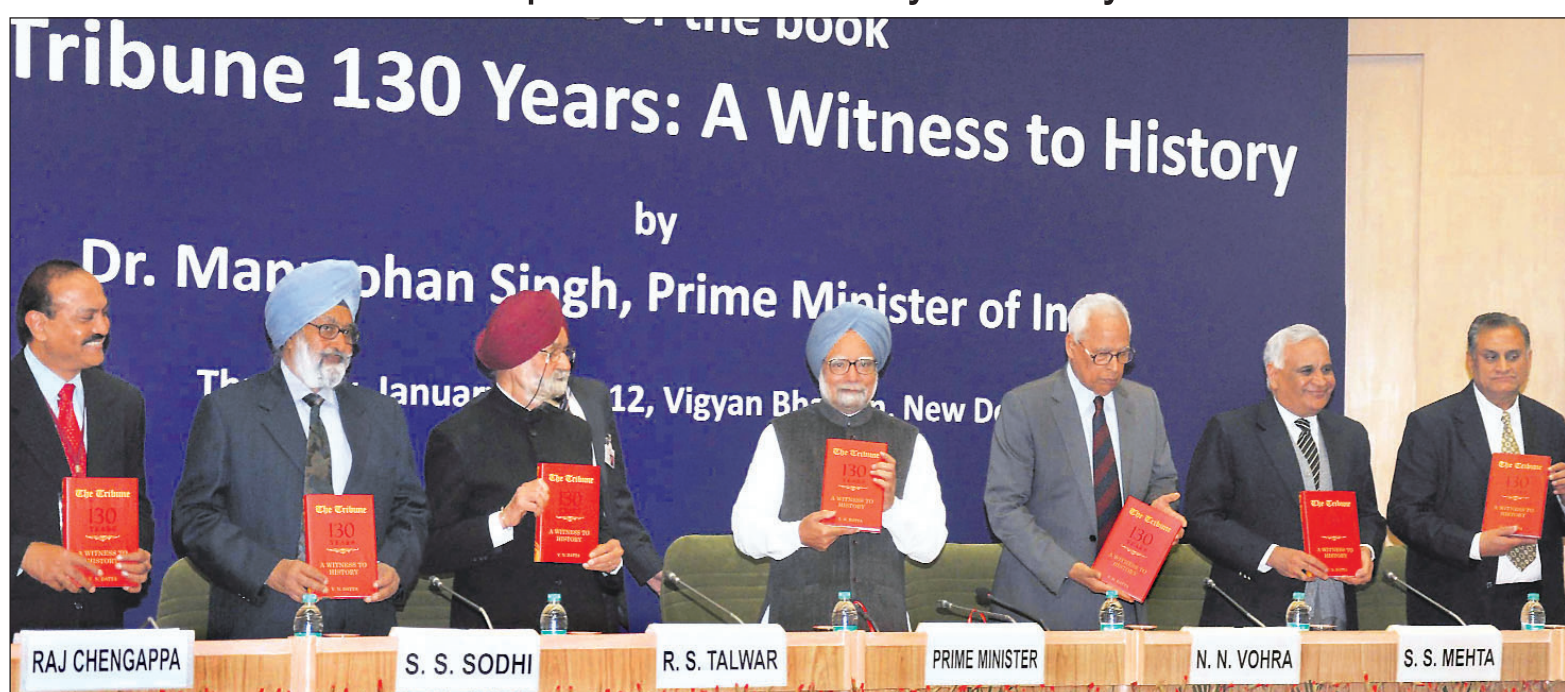
BACK PAGE

PM media adviser quits
Harish Khare, Media Adviser to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, resigned on Thursday.

A free four-page pull-out of Haryana Plus only in Haryana.

PM rules out regulating media

Releases book on comprehensive history of 130 years of The Tribune



Prime Minister Manmohan Singh (C) with (from left) The Tribune Editor-in-Chief Raj Chengappa, Trustees of The Tribune Trust, Justice (ret'd) SS Sodhi, RS Talwar (President), NN Vohra, Lt Gen (ret'd) SS Mehta and Naresh Mohan during the release of the book 'The Tribune 130 Years: A Witness to History' at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi on Thursday. Tribune photo: Mukesh Aggarwal

ASHOK TUTEJA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 19
While conceding 'irresponsible journalism' to be a dampener, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has once again ruled out any kind of monitoring, regulation or censorship of the media. The media, he said, ought to be reprimanded by the government, whenever necessary, but added in a more lighter vein that "it should not always be gloom and doom".

The Prime Minister was addressing a large gathering at Vigyan Bhavan after releasing 'The Tribune 130 Years: A Witness to History', a volume brought out to mark 130 years of uninterrupted publication of the newspaper.

Authored by noted historian Prof V N Datta, the volume chronicles the momentous and exciting journey of

"It is true that sometimes irresponsible journalism can have serious consequences for social harmony and public order, which the public authorities have an obligation to maintain, but censorship is no answer."

— Manmohan Singh, PM

the newspaper, which was launched at Lahore on February 2, 1881.

The eclectic gathering at Vigyan Bhavan included Union ministers P Chidambaram, Pawan Kumar Bansal, Ambika Soni, Kapil Sibal, Selja and V Narayanasamy, Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Punjab's Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal.

Seated on the dais in the company of the PM were the trustees of The Tribune—

RS Talwar (President), Justice (Ret'd) SS Sodhi, NN Vohra, Lt-Gen (Ret'd) SS Mehta, Naresh Mohan and the Editor-in-Chief of The Tribune Group of Newspapers, Raj Chengappa.

The President of The Tribune Trust, RS Talwar, said the newspaper, during the 130 years of its existence, has been a witness to the tumultuous history of the subcontinent, chronicling events and guiding its readers through historic changes while voicing their concerns. After independence also, The Tribune has continued to retain its

distinctive character and preserve its autonomy, objectivity, fairness and liberal and independent way of thinking, whatever the odds, he added.

Hailing Sardar Dyal Singh Majithia, the founder of the newspaper, as a man of rare foresight, the PM said he was inspired by high ideals and wanted The Tribune to be free of any sectarian or commercial bias, and unaligned to any dogma or political party. "I am happy that the newspaper has by and large lived up to its founder's vision," he said.

The PM said that while glancing through the pages of 'A Witness to History', he was struck by the words of an avid reader of the newspaper, who wrote to the daily on September 25, 1947, the day The Tribune resumed publication from Shimla, after Partition had forced it to move out of Lahore. The reader wrote: "The heart of Punjab

has begun to beat again, though the pulse is yet faint."

The PM said the government believed in the freedom of the media from external control. "It is true that sometimes irresponsible journalism can have serious consequences for social harmony and public order, which the public authorities have an obligation to maintain, but censorship is no answer." It was for the 'Fourth Estate' to collectively ensure that objectivity was promoted and sensationalism curbed, he added.

The Editor-in-Chief Raj Chengappa in his opening remarks was happy to note that The Tribune is the first newspaper that the PM reads in the morning. He said the Haryana CM had also told him once that his morning tea was not complete without The Tribune.

Full text of the PM's address and more reports on P2, 3

B'desh army foils plot to topple Hasina govt

DHAKA, JANUARY 19

The Bangladesh army said on Thursday it foiled a coup attempt by retired and serving officers late last month which intelligence sources said was driven by a campaign to introduce Sharia law throughout the majority Muslim country.

Impoverished Bangladesh has a history of coups, with army generals running the South Asian nation for 15 years until the end of 1990.

"Specific information has been unearthed that some officers in military service have been involved in the conspiracy to topple the system of democratic governance," Brigadier General Muhammad Masud Razzag told reporters. He said around 16 former and active officers were involved. Some had been detained and would appear before a military court.

Sources in the army said the coup attempt was made late last month. "The attempt has been effectively controlled and now the process is on to punish the culprits," one military official said. The Prime Minister's Office and the Home Ministry did not comment, but addressing a rally outside Dhaka earlier this week, Hasina urged Bangladeshis to remain alert. — Reuters



CLOSE CALL: Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh PM

THE DEC COUP

- The coup attempt made late last month to overthrow Hasina govt
- Attempt aimed at introducing Sharia law in the country
- Around 16 former and active officers involved.
- Hasina points finger at her rivals, especially the leaders of the B'desh Nationalist Party

Army Chief's age row sensitive issue: PM

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 19

As a controversy rages over the date of birth of the Army Chief General VK Singh, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh today termed it as a sensitive issue.

"It is a sensitive issue. I do not want to comment," said the Prime Minister on the sidelines of a function to launch the book The Tribune 130 Years: A Witness to History.

He was asked by media persons if the government has formulated its plan.

Meanwhile, sources in the government said the establishment was unhappy at the Chief's move to file a plea in the apex court. The Army Chief has filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court seeking direction to the government that his date of birth on military records be treated as May 10, 1951 and not 1950. **■ SC to hear plea today P18**

Sonia terms Punjab Govt 'anti-poor'

PUNJAB POLLS 2012

DHARMENDRA JOSHI/TNS

KAPURTHALA, JANUARY 19
Congress president Sonia Gandhi today lambasted the SAD-BJP government for allegedly "blocking development". She urged the voters to change the "anti-poor" and "non-performing" government for all-round development of the state.

Starting her 15-minute speech with a salute to the holy town of Sultanpur Lodhi (a sub-division of Kapurthala district) where Guru Nanak Dev spent about 14 years of his life and attained enlightenment, Sonia Gandhi alleged the SAD-BJP government



AICC chief Sonia Gandhi interacts with women Congress leaders in Kapurthala. Tribune photo: Malkiat Singh

"The Centre provided Rs 5,000 crore under the MGNREGA scheme, but the SAD-BJP government utilised only Rs 526 crore."

— Sonia Gandhi, Congress president

created a big hindrance in the development of the state as it had not let Central schemes to get

implemented here.

She said the Centre had provided funds of several **Continued on page 12**

CONTEMPT BATTLE

Breather for Gilani, SC adjourns hearing to Feb 1

AFZAL KHAN IN ISLAMABAD

The Supreme Court on Thursday adjourned the hearing on its contempt notice to Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani till February 1, leaving the brewing political crisis over corruption cases and presidential immunity unresolved.

The PM drove himself to the apex court and reached around 9.25 am to comply with its directive after being slapped with a contempt notice. The seven-judge Bench led by Justice Nasrul Mulk allowed Gilani's counsel Chaudhry Aitzaz Ahsan time to prepare for arguing his contention that President Asif Zardari enjoyed immunity from criminal proceedings under the constitution.

Gilani, in a brief statement, said he did not comply with court orders on writing to



Pakistan PM Yousuf Raza Gilani in Islamabad. — PTI

Swiss authorities to reopen money laundering against Zardari because he believed that the President enjoyed immunity under Article 248. The court also exempted Gilani from appearing for the upcoming hearing of the case.

Gilani appeared before the apex court to explain why he should not be charged with contempt for failing to reopen old corruption cases **Continued on page 12**

Nashik varsity has a degree for everyone

SHIV KUMAR/TNS

MUMBAI, JANUARY 19

Like various professionals, delivery boys, police personnel and even auto-rickshaw drivers will soon be able to enhance their skills and further their career prospects by acquiring degrees.

The Nashik-based Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU) has tailored courses to meet the needs of various sections of society. "These courses aim to improve the quality of life and

enhance career prospects of people who have few opportunities," says vice-chancellor Dr R Krishnakumar.

The university has tied up with organisations including trade associations and unions to reach out to potential students. Recently, YCMOU got together with the Mumbai Rickshawmen's Union to rope in auto-rickshaw drivers for a degree course in road transportation.

"The three-year course will earn auto-drivers a BA in Road Transportation," says Thampi

TAILOR-MADE COURSES

- BA (Road Transportation) for drivers
- BA (Consumer Service) for gas delivery boys
- BA (Police Administration) for policemen

Medium of instruction: English, Hindi, Marathi, Urdu

How it works: The varsity will award a diploma on completion of Year 1, an advanced diploma on completion of Year 2 and degree on completion of Year 3

Kurian of the Union. Apart from those who ply auto-rickshaws, drivers of taxis and trucks would also be eligible to enroll in the course.

The open university allows students to study at home

instead of attending a regular college. It recently tapped delivery boys who handle LPG cylinders. The varsity tied up with the All India LPG Distributors Federation (AILDF) and Bharat Petrole-

um for the purpose, according to a university official.

Gas delivery boys in Nashik, Mumbai, Uran and Pune have already begun these courses. At the end of the three-year course, they would be eligible for a BA degree in Consumer Service.

Similarly, 3,200-odd policemen signed up for a BA in Police Administration last year alone, according to the university. According to YCMOU, the courses were offered in English, Hindi, Marathi and Urdu.

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Ludhiana 3pm WWICS, Noble Enclave, 2nd Floor, Opp. Hotel Park Plaza, Bhai Wala Chowk, Ferozepur Road

Amritsar 3pm WWICS, SCO-112, ICICI Bank Building, District Shopping Center, MK Hotel Road, Ranjit Avenue

21ST JANUARY 2012 (SATURDAY)

Bathinda 3pm WWICS, 2739 - A, 2nd Floor, Grover Complex, Near Hanuman Chowk, Gonia Road

Jalandhar 4:30 WWICS, 3rd Floor, Midland Financial Centre, Plot No. 21-22, GT Road, Opp. Hotel Kings, Near ICICI Bank, Jalandhar City

Chandigarh 3pm SCO 2415-16, Sector 22-C, Near Hotel Aroma

22ND JANUARY 2012 (SUNDAY)

Patiala 3pm WWICS, SCO 11, 1st Floor, Leela Bhawan, Near Sandeep Autos

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