

Making Headlines in India

Here's what was making headlines in India during the Wisconsin Rural Leadership Program's mid-January 2008 visit.

Compiled from India's English language newspapers by
WRLP Group XII traveler Keith Wohlfert

Skyscrapers linked to slowdown – Research demonstrates a strange correlation linking a flurry of constructing tall building to economic recessions.

Hi-tech research ship sails Monday – India's deep-sea exploration program was about to dedicate Sagar Nidhi, a state-of-the-art "technology demonstration vessel" in Chennai on January 22.

BUY – BUY SENSEX – Investors were carefully watching the Indian stock exchange during a turbulent time in world markets. The market dipped by over 850 points in two days in January.

Alert at city airport, on coast for 50 Tiger aides – An alert was sounded at the Chennai airport and along coastal districts for a group of suspected terrorists. (This was headline news one the day our WRLP group was scheduled to fly home from the Chennai airport.)

Humans safe from bird flu in Bengal – Fears of bird flu spreading to humans were laid to rest following a recent scare.

Ex-governor for law on primary education – A former regional governor spoke out in support of mandatory education for children ages 6-14. He also supported increased federal funding for education.

Mayor suspends two for faulty lights – Madurai's mayor suspended two city engineers for failure to repair burned out street lights in a timely fashion. The mayor warned of more surprise inspections and harsh consequences for employees failing to perform their duties.

Town villagers mourn death of temple bull – The people of Vellichanatham mourned the death of their aged temple bull. Considered a guardian deity of the Navaneethakrishna Perumal temple, he was loved (and fed) by everyone in the village. Villagers made elaborate funeral arrangements and carried the bull through the streets to his burial site. The bull was 21 years of age.

Temple Cows (Letter to the Editor) – No political leader has voiced concern for the cows who have been starving at the Rameswaram temple. One wonders how this escaped the notice of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments department. Thousands throng the temple and if each visitor had contributed just a rupee for buying fodder, these cows would have been rescued from the jaws of death.

Iraq's tragedy and the way to a stable future – A review on the recently released book *Iraq – Preventing a New Generation of Conflict* by Markis Bouillon. The book cautions Indians against taking a simplistic view of Iran's strategies in Iraq.

4-yr-old gets vision after rare surgery – The Chennai-based Agarwal Hospital successfully restored vision in the right eye of a four-year-old girl by fixing her lens with glue instead of sutures. The procedure is new to India and offers promise for countless others.

Country gets 8m new phone users in December '07 – New Delhi – India added 80 million new telephone subscribers in December taking the teledensity to 23.9 percent. At the same time, landline use declined.

India launches Israeli spy satellite – Israel used an Indian space vehicle to place its radar imaging satellite TecSar into orbit. The launch took place from the SHAR centre in Sriharikota, about 80 km north of Chennai.

State to buy power from Kerala, Assam – Electricity minister Arcot Veerasamy said that all steps would be taken to tide over power cuts in his state this summer. Although typically self-sufficient on power generation, Tamil Nadu was recovering from the effects of recent monsoons. New construction is making it difficult for utility officials to keep pace with demand.

France says nuke pact when India is ready – India and France have concluded negotiations for a bilateral agreement on civil nuclear cooperation. The pact will be signed as soon as India can meet safeguard guidelines with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

India worst hit in global meltdown – India's stock market tumbled by 1,408 points, the biggest single-day loss, shaving off over Rs7.5 trillion from investor's wealth. The plunge for the sixth straight day was triggered by concerns in the global investor community about a recession in the US.

Career Opportunities

WANTED urgently for our Bangalore, Karimnagar and Vijayawada projects – Diploma & Graduate Civil Engineers. Experienced people are preferable. TCI Constructions

USA Job Opportunities – Developer/Programmer/QA Testers. Visa & Green Card Processing. Competitive Salary & Benefits Package. Remote Tiger, Inc, Hyattsville, MD.

Advertisement

English? Join Speak Easy Centre for Better English.