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## 8 percent GDP growth rate is achievable if we make united efforts, says President

Kolkata, Dec 13  
The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the 185th Anniversary Celebrations of Calcutta Chamber of Commerce yesterday in Kolkata. Speaking on the occasion, the President said the Calcutta Chamber of Commerce, which is one of the oldest associations of its kind in the world, since inception, has played a catalytic role not only in the industrial growth of the region but also in its socio-economic development. The President said India has witnessed a period of high growth particularly in the



middle years of last decade. Though the tempo could not be maintained thereafter, we did have good years of growth. This was despite the fact that prolonged global economic slowdown had affected the growth performance of all major

## EPFO settles 2401 Provident Fund/Pension claims; disburses Rs. 11.72 crore

Port Blair, Dec. 13  
Employee's Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is a Statutory Body under the Ministry of Labour & Employment, created for the purpose of implementation of Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952) in short the 'Act'. It is one of the largest social security organization in the world. This Act envisages three schemes viz. Employees Provident Fund Scheme, 1952, Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 and Employees Deposit Linked

Insurance Scheme, 1976. Under these three schemes various benefits such as Provident Fund benefits, advances, pensioner benefits and insurance benefits are available to PF members/subscribers and their family members. During this financial year 2015-2016 from April 1 to Oct 2015, the Sub-Regional Office, A&N Islands has settled 2401 Provident Fund/Pension claims and disbursed about Rs. 11.72 crore to its PF members/subscribers. Out of 2401 claims, almost all

claims were settled within 10 days of its receipt in the office and 91% of the claims were settled within 3 days. Meanwhile, the general public and in particular PF members/subscribers, Trade Union leaders etc. have been requested to forward any complaint regarding non-compliance of the provision of the Act or any to the grievances related to the PF matter at Sub-regional Office, EPFO, Supply Line, Port Blair over phone no. 239897/232482. Email-sro.portblair@epfindia.gov.in, a communication said.

## PM pays tribute to martyrs of 2001 Parliament attack



New Delhi, Dec 13  
Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today paid tribute to the martyrs in the premises of Parliament who had lost their lives during the deadly terror attack in 2001. The Prime Minister also met some of the martyr's family members who were present. On the occasion, the Red Cross

Society has organized blood donation camp in Parliament complex. On 13th December 2001, five heavily-armed terrorists had stormed Parliament complex and opened indiscriminate fire killing 14 people, six Delhi Police personnel including five terrorists.

## Legendary actor Dilip Kumar conferred with Padma Vibhushan

Mumbai, Dec 13  
Dilip Kumar, Indian cinema's one of the greatest actors, has been conferred with the Padma Vibhushan today at a special function held at the



veteran actor's residence in Mumbai. Padma Vibhushan to 93-year-old Kumar was given by Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh at the thespian's residence. Maharashtra's Chief Minister Shri Devendra Fadnavis and Governor Shri C. Vidyasagar Rao too were present while honouring Dilip Sa'ab two days after his birthday. (Contd. on last page)

## Climate justice has won, no winners or losers: PM on Paris deal

New Delhi, Dec 13  
World leaders have hailed the landmark climate accord, which was sealed in Paris yesterday, to curb global warming. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today said, the Agreement has no winners or losers as climate justice has won. In a series of tweets, Shri Modi said, climate change remains a challenge, but Paris Agreement demonstrates how every nation rose to the challenge to work towards a solution. He said, the deliberations at COP 21 also demonstrate the collective wisdom of world leaders to address climate change issue. Earlier welcoming the deal, Environment Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar said, it is a historic day. He said, what we have adopted, is not only



an agreement but we have written a chapter of hope in the lives of 7 billion people. Earlier today, French President Mr François Hollande spoke to Shri Modi and apprised him of the status of the climate talks. US President Mr Barack Obama has termed the Paris agreement the best chance to save Earth. He said, it could be a turning point for the world to take on the challenge

of a low-carbon future. China's climate envoy Mr Xie Zhenhua said, the agreement saw the nations of the world marching historic steps forward. Climate scientists also welcomed the pact as a major political advance, but warned of a gaping hole - the lack of a detailed roadmap for cutting greenhouse gases that cause the problem. (Contd. on last page)

## District Admn. to modernize land record management

Port Blair, Dec. 13  
With a view to modernize the Land Record Management in the District, the District Administration organised a capacity building training programme recently under the National Land Records Modernization Programme in the conference hall of District Office, South Andaman recently.

The specialized training is surely going to help the Revenue Administration in issuance of digitalized record of rights/map and further simplify the procedure of demarcation of landed property. An intermediate arrangement has been devised by the Revenue Administration to mitigate acute shortage of field functionaries. Accordingly, the Revenue Inspectors has been entrusted with the

additional charges of Patwari circles. All the revenue field functionaries have been directed to be present at their respective patwarkhanas from 9 to 10 am on all working days and if they are not available then the same be displayed on the information board available with each patwarkhana where the telephone numbers have also been displayed, a press note from the Additional District Magistrate, South Andaman District received here said.

the capacity building programme included two days of class room session with additional three days of field surveying under NRLMP on integration of land records and registration, cadastral maps, security and uniform coding etc for officer/staff in the Revenue/Registration/Survey and Settlement departments of the UTs conducted by NIC/NICSI, New Delhi under the aegis of District Administration, South Andaman in coordination with NIC, Port Blair, A & N

submit Aadhaar number. All the LPG consumers of CCS Ltd have been asked to submit their Aadhaar numbers with the distributor to enable continuity of subsidy deposit. The submission of Aadhaar number will also benefit the consumer as they need not have to submit account

All LPG consumers have been advised to submit Aadhaar number in person or by mobile/SMS to 9933262425 in the format on consumer number- Aadhaar number - mobile number on or before Dec. 31, 2015, a communication said.



Pic show: Visitors at Flea Market organised by Tourism Department at Mahavir Singh Road on 13.12.2015.



## Safe driving campaign; free health check-up for tank truck crew held



Port Blair, Dec. 13  
With a view to reduce road accidents, safe driving campaign is being organized all over the country. Indian Oil Port Blair Terminal is also carrying out different activities in order to create awareness among the tank truck drivers and helpers, who carry the petroleum product all over the Islands. The campaign is being organised throughout the

## Demo on increasing coconut productivity held for tribal populace

Car Nicobar, Dec. 13  
A demonstration programme on 'Increase in productivity of existing coconut/arecanut gardens through inter cropping' was organized in Afra Bay tribal village, Great Nicobar Islands under ATMA in association with Department

## Training on 'fish diseases & its management measures' imparted

Mayabunder, Dec. 13  
ICAR- KVK, N&M Andaman organized a two days training programme on "Fish diseases and its management measures" for extension functionaries of N&M Andaman district at Zilla Parishad Hall, Mayabunder. The training was inaugurated by Smt. K. Nachiamma, Pramukh, Panchayat Samiti,

## Circuit Court of CAT from today

Port Blair, Dec. 13  
Ms. Bidisha Banerjee, Member (J)/HOD & Mr. R. Bandyopadhyay, Member (A) of Central Administrative Tribunal, Calcutta Bench will hold Circuit Court at Port Blair from Dec. 14 to 28, 2015 (both days inclusive) to dispose of cases pending in the court of Central Administrative Tribunal. Fresh applications will also be entertained, an official communication said.

## Science Centre to remain open on all days

Port Blair, Dec. 13  
The Science Centre located at Goodwill Estate, Corbyn's Cove Road will remain open for general public and tourists on all seven days including Mondays with immediate effect, a communication from Curator, Science Centre, Shri N. Mohan said.

## Training on mushroom cultivation held

Port Blair, Dec. 13  
A two-days training programme on 'Mushroom Cultivation' was organised by the Department of Agriculture in association with Union Territory Agricultural Technology Management Agency (UTATMA) under farmers oriented activities at Rangat zone on Dec. 7 & 8 in the field of Shri. Surjokanta Halder at Kaushalaya Nagar. The programme was inaugurated by Smti. Phelisisa Tirkey, (Contd. on last page)

## Sagarika Emporium at New Delhi attracts visitors; varieties of handicraft items on display



Port Blair, Dec. 11  
With a view to promote the artisans of A&N Islands, to provide them a platform at the National Level and to showcase the beautiful handicraft items created by these artisans, the A&N Administration has set up a Govt. Emporium at New Delhi. The 'Sagarika Emporium' is located on the first floor in Rajiv Gandhi Handicraft Bhavan, Baba

Kharag Singh Marg, Connaught Place, New Delhi. On a visit to this place, it was observed that a good number of tourists frequent this Emporium and they evince keen interest in the beautiful handicraft products displayed at the emporium. The emporium showcases handicrafts and artefacts made out of Sea Shell, Coconut Shell, Cane, Bamboo etc. manufactured by artisans of A & N Islands and available for

sale here. The items such as Virgin Coconut Oil, Desiccated Coconut Powder manufactured by the local micro & small industries and tribal artefacts manufactured by aboriginal tribes of A & N Islands have also been displayed for sale. The Sagarika Government emporium, a unit under Directorate of Industries was inaugurated by the First Lady of the Islands, Smt Suneeti Singh on Feb 12, 2014.

Proper use of condoms prevents transmission of HIV.

SPORTS

LOGO and MASCOT of 12th South Asian Games, 2016 Launched

Guwahati, Dec 13  
The Organising Committee of the 12th South Asian Games, 2016 (OC-SAG) today unveiled the logo and mascot of the Games in a ceremony held at the ITA Cultural Center Machkhowa, Guwahati, Assam. Beautiful North Eastern cities of Guwahati and Shillong would jointly host the Games from February 6-16, 2016.

Chief Minister of Assam Shri Tarun Gogoi, Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports (Independent Charge) Shri Sarbananda Sonowal and Sports Minister of Meghalaya Shri Zenith Sangma were present on the occasion.

About 4500 sport persons and officials from 8 countries are expected to participate in 23 events from 6th February to 16 February 2016 in 12th South Asian Games.

The Logo and the Mascot of the Games were selected from around 450 entries each. Kolhapur's Anant Khasbardar and Abhijeet Krishna of NIFT Patna won the mascot and logo designing contests respectively. The logo has eight petals



representing the countries participating in the 12th South Asian Games, 2016. The petals are seen to be moving in a clockwise direction showing the positive spirit of the games. The look also resembles a head gear that was given to the winners of games during the ancient times in Europe.

The Orchid represents the flavor of the region and a welcome stem to all participants of the Games. The logo has been designed to capture the essence of games which is Peace, Prosperity and Progress. The name of the Mascot for the

Games is TIKHOR, who is the Brand Ambassador of the 12th South Asian Games, 2016. TIKHOR is someone who is sharp, naughty, sporty and modern. He is all-rounder, active, energetic and popular among kids.

Nadal beats Federer in IPTL

New Delhi, Dec 13  
Rafael Nadal beat Roger Federer 6-5 in the International Premier Tennis League's India leg at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi yesterday. Nadal-led defending champions Indian Aces maintained their stranglehold on the championship with a comfortable 30-19 win over Federer's UAE Royals. Earlier, Indian Aces began the tie strongly as its mens doubles pair Rafael Nadal & Rohan Bopanna beat Roger Federer & Marin Cilic 6-4.

It's mixed doubles pair of Bopanna and Sania Mirza also defeated Daniel Nestor and Kristina Mladenovic of UAE Royals 6-4.

Khawaja back in Australia squad

Melbourne, Dec 13  
Australia have put in batsman Usman Khawaja's name in the 13-man squad for the Boxing day cricket Test here against the West Indies. Khawaja missed the first Test between the two sides because of an injury.

He will have two games for Sydney Thunder in the Big Bash League in the lead-up to the Boxing Day to push his case for a recall after his replacement, Shaun Marsh, made 182 in the comprehensive first Test win against the West Indies in Hobart, reports cricket.com.au on Sunday. The Queensland captain struck back-to-back centuries in the first two Tests of the summer against New Zealand before sustaining a hamstring injury on day two in Perth.

Dharamsala set to increase capacity ahead of ICC World T20

New Delhi, Dec 13  
Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium in Dharamsala is all set to get a makeover ahead of the ICC World Twenty20 2016, the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association announced on Sunday (December 13). The stadium currently has a seating capacity of 20,000 and it will be increased ahead of the mega event. "5000 more seats shall be added to the present 20,000," Sanjay Sharma, the HPCA spokesperson, was quoted by the Press Trust of India. Also, the stadium currently has around 100 rooms for the players and officials.

MORE LOCAL / NATIONAL NEWS

No paper admit cards for civil services main exam: Union Public Service Commission

New Delhi, Dec 13

No paper admit card will be issued for this year's civil services main examination, scheduled to begin from Friday, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has said. The candidates will have to download their e-admit cards and take a printout thereof.

UPSC will be conducting the main examination at 23 centres from December 18 to 23. The civil services examination is conducted annually in three stages -- preliminary, main and interview -- to select officers of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS) and Indian Police Service (IPS), among others.

"The Commission has uploaded the e-admit cards on its website at www.upsc.gov.in. The candidates are advised to download their e-admit cards and take a printout thereof. The candidates will have to produce the printout of their e-admit cards at the

allotted venue for appearing in the examination," a press release issued by the UPSC said.

"No paper admit card will be issued for this examination by the Commission," it said. In case the photograph is not visible or available on the e-admit cards, candidates are advised to carry identical photograph for each session along with proof of identity such as valid identity card, Aadhar card, voter identity

card, driving license, passport etc. to the venue of the examination.

About 15,000 candidates have qualified in this year's civil services preliminary examination, results of which were declared on October 12.

As against a record number of 9,45,908 candidates who had applied for the exam, about 4.63 lakh wrote the test on August 23, which is about 49% of the total applicants.

Valedictory function of MEDPs prog. held



Port Blair, Dec. 13  
The valedictory function of two months MEDPs programme on Fashion Designing & Tailoring and Bamboo Handicraft training under MEDP Programme at Hobbypur and Ferrargunj was held at the premises of SURABI. The programme was conducted by the

SURABI under the sponsorship of NABARD, Port Blair. Altogether 55 ladies of Self Help Groups participated in the programme. The Deputy General Manager, NABARD, Shri. Murli Mohan was the chief guest of the valedictory function, a communication said.

No heavy rain for next few days in Tamil Nadu, says Met office



Chennai, Dec 13  
In Tamil Nadu there was only isolated rain in southern districts as the upper air circulation has moved over Maldives. There was sunshine in most parts of the state to the relief of people. Met office has forecast no heavy rain for the next few days in Tamil

Nadu. Tamil Nadu badly affected by North east monsoon rain is slowly limping back to normalcy as there was welcome sunshine today. Schools and colleges which were closed for almost a month in Chennai Tiruvallur Kanchiuparm and Cuddalore will be reopened tomorrow.

8 percent GDP growth ....

(Contd. from page 1)

sector is crucial. During the years 2005-06 to 2007-08 when our economy grew by more than 9 percent, exports grew in excess of 20 percent in each of these years. Though Exports have come down in the last three years, the import bill has also called because of the decline in oil prices. This has helped to keep the current account deficit at a manageable level of 1.4 percent last year. Foreign exchange reserves at US Dollar 353 billion as of end October are also at comfortable levels giving us a cushion to meet any crisis. The President said 8 percent GDP growth rate is achievable by India if we make united efforts in this direction. Various countries today consider India an attractive investment destination because of political stability and Government's new initiatives like Swachh Bharat, Make in India, Digital India, Skill India, etc. He called upon the Calcutta Chamber of Commerce to contribute substantially to the development of the region and the economic regeneration of India.

Legendary actor....

(Contd. from page 1)

The announcement to honour Dilip Kumar, Amitabh Bachchan and a few others with Padma Vibhushan was made by the government on the eve of Republic Day on January 25, 2015. However, the acting legend could not attend the special function held in Rashtrapati Bhavan in April when other Padma awardees were honoured by President Shri Pranab Mukherjee.

WEATHER

Partly cloudy sky. Maximum and minimum temperature will be around 30°C and 23°C respectively on Monday 14/12/2015

Observational data for Port Blair in last 24 hours

Maximum Temperature (°C): 30.9  
Minimum Temperature (°C): 21.6  
Relative Humidity (%) at 0830 IST: 065  
Relative Humidity (%) at 1730 IST: 075  
Sunrise Time for tomorrow (in IST): 0531  
Sunset Time for tomorrow (in IST): 1659  
Rainfall upto 0830 hrs of date (last 24 hrs) in mm: 000.0  
Rainfall upto 1730 hrs of date in mm: 000.0  
Rainfall (Progressive total from 1st January 15: 2878.1 upto 0830 hrs (of date) in mm

CINEMA

DIVIYUM TALKIES

Following is the Schedule for Week Dec 11 - 17

Hate Story 3 (A - Hindi) - 12:00 PM & 7:00 PM  
Eetti (U - Tamil) - 4:00 PM  
Urumeen (UA - Tamil) - 12:30 PM & 7:30 PM  
Prem Ratan Dhan Payo (U - Hindi) - 3:30 PM  
Online booking at www.ticketnew.com  
For queries only 8373010002

SEVA SUCHNAYEIN

ALL THE SAILINGS ARE SUBJECT TO WEATHER CONDITIONS

MV Sentinel will sail for Nancowry via Car Nicobar, Chowra & Teressa on 17.12.2015 (Thu) at 0800 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on 20.12.2015 (Sun) at 0600 Hrs from Nancowry via same route. Reservation of passenger tickets for the above sailing will commence from 15.12.2015 (Tue) onwards at STARS Ticketing Counters. Similarly booking of cargo tickets will commence from 15.12.2015 (Tue) between 0900 Hrs to 1300 Hrs at Commercial Wing. All the consigners are advised to book actual quantity of cargo to be transhipped, as no excess cargo will be allowed.

Due to administrative reasons the scheduled sailing of MV Kamorta for Neil Island on 18.12.2015 (Fri) at 1300 Hrs from Port Blair and back on the same day at 1515 Hrs from Neil Island has been cancelled.

MV Jolly Buoy will sail for Hut Bay on 15.12.2015 (Tue) at 0615 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1300 Hrs from Hut Bay. Reservation of passenger tickets for the above sailing will commence from 14.12.2015 (Mon) onwards at STARS Ticketing Counters. MV Kamorta will sail for Mayabunder on 18.12.2015 (Fri) at 0700 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 2200 Hrs from Mayabunder. Reservation of passenger tickets for the above sailing will commence from 15.12.2015 (Tue) onwards at STARS Ticketing Counters. MV Rani Changa will sail for Neil Island on 18.12.2015 (Fri) at 0630 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty in place of MV Kamorta and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 0845 Hrs from Neil Island.

14.12.2015 (MONDAY)  
HAVELOCK & NEIL ISLAND  
MV Bambooka will sail for Havelock on 14.12.2015 (Mon) at 0620 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 0900 Hrs from Havelock.

MV Kamorta will sail for Neil Island on 14.12.2015 (Mon) at 0630 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 0845 Hrs from Neil Island.

MV Jolly Buoy will sail for Neil Island on 14.12.2015 (Mon) at 1100 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1600 Hrs from Neil Island.

MV Jolly Buoy will sail for Havelock in place of MV Bambooka on 14.12.2015 (Mon) at 1300 Hrs from Neil Island Jetty and will sail back to Neil Island on the same day at 1445 Hrs from Havelock.

MV Kamorta will sail for Neil Island on 14.12.2015 (Mon) at 1300 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1515 Hrs from Neil Island. (Additional Service).

MV Bambooka will sail for Havelock on 14.12.2015 (Mon) at 1400 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1630 Hrs from Havelock.

RANGAT, MAYABUNDER & DIGLIPUR  
MV Rani Changa will sail for Rangat via Neil, Havelock, Kadamtala and Long Island on 14.12.2015 (Mon) at 0615 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on 15.12.2015 (Tue) at 0615 Hrs from Rangat via same route.

15.12.2015 (TUESDAY)  
HAVELOCK & NEIL ISLAND  
MV Bambooka will sail for Havelock on 15.12.2015 (Tue) at 0620 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 0900 Hrs from Havelock.

MV Kamorta will sail for Neil Island on 15.12.2015 (Tue) at 0630 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 0845 Hrs from Neil Island.

MV Jolly Buoy will sail for Neil Island on 15.12.2015 (Tue) at 1100 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1600 Hrs from Neil Island.

MV Jolly Buoy will sail for Havelock in place of MV Bambooka on 15.12.2015 (Tue) at 1300 Hrs from Neil Island Jetty and will sail back to Neil Island on the same day at 1445 Hrs from Havelock.

MV Kamorta will sail for Neil Island on 15.12.2015 (Tue) at 1300 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1515 Hrs from Neil Island. (Additional Service).

MV Bambooka will sail for Havelock on 15.12.2015 (Tue) at 1400 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1630 Hrs from Havelock.

16.12.2015 (WEDNESDAY)  
HAVELOCK & NEIL ISLAND  
MV Bambooka will sail for Havelock on 16.12.2015 (Wed) at 0620 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 0900 Hrs from Havelock.

MV Rani Changa will sail for Neil Island on 16.12.2015 (Wed) at 0630 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 0845 Hrs from Neil Island.

Training on mushroom ....

(Contd. from page 1)

Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat, Kaushalaya Nagar. At the outset, Shri. Dilip Kumar, Assistant Director (Agri.), Rangat welcomed the gathering and explained the importance and prospects of mushroom Cultivation.

Shri. Dinesh Majhi, Agriculture Assistant, Smti. Chetna Gupta, Shri. Palani Swamy, SCA, Shri. Amar Kr. Sadhu, AFA also spoke on the occasion, a communication said.

Training on ....

(Contd. from page 1)

Dr. Shailesh Kumar, SMS (Fisheries) & Course Coordinator briefed the content of two days training programme and urged the participants to make it more interactive for better sharing of knowledge and field experience, a communication said.

Three Indian athletes qualify for Rio Olympics

New Delhi, Dec 13

Three Indian athletes have qualified for the Rio Olympics as the world governing body of the sport IAAF lowered the entry standards for taking part in the 2016 Games. Besides ace discuss thrower Vikas Gowda two Indians who have benefitted from the revision of entry standards were Sapna in women's 20km race walk and Nitendra Singh Rawat in men's marathon. As many as 15 Indian



athletes have so far attained the Rio Olympic Games qualifications.

Australia selectors mull resting Smith against India

Melbourne, Dec 13

Dashing opener David Warner may lead the Australian team in place of an injured Steven Smith during the upcoming limited-overs series against India starting January 12.

Knee and hip niggles have been bothering Smith for sometime but he is a certainty as far as the upcoming Boxing Day or New Year Test against West Indies is concerned.

But the selectors and team medical staff may decide to rest him from portions of the five-match ODI series against India, according to a report by ESPN

Cricinfo. The management are certainly taking no chances and want Smith to be fit and raring to go for the February tour of New Zealand and also the Twenty20 matches to be played in the lead-up to the World T20 in India in March. Smith's absence from the opening rounds of the Big Bash League that is slated between now and Boxing Day is an indication that his knee needs proper care in the coming months. He has carried the problem since the latter part of the Ashes tour.

IPL Players draft to be held in Mumbai on Dec. 15

New Delhi, Dec 13

The IPL Players draft to allow the new franchises, based in Pune and Rajkot, to pick 5 players each of their choice will be held at the Mumbai Cricket Associations (MCA) clubhouse in the Bandra-Kurla Complex on Tuesday (December 15). "The draft pick is to be held at the BKC clubhouse starting at 12:15 pm on the 15th," a source in BCCI revealed. Sanjeev Goenka's 'New Rising' won the bid for the Pune franchise while Intex won for Rajkot in the reverse bidding process held in Delhi on December 8. Their negative bids would mean, Goenkas company will have to shell out Rs. 16 crores while Intex will pay Rs. 10

crores to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). Thanks to their lowest bid, Pune will have the advantage of picking the first player.

The bidding process for the two new franchises comes as result of the two-year suspension handed to Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and Rajasthan Royals (RR) for the involvement of some of their officials and co-owners in the 2013 IPL betting scandal, as concluded by the probe conducted by the Supreme Court-appointed Justice (retd.) R M Lodha committee.

However, both CSK and RR will make a comeback in the cash-rich league after serving out their 24-month suspension.