

# समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

दैनिक सामयिक अभिज्ञता सेवा

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## Report on pvt sector entry into defence production soon

By Kalyan Ray

How many Indian private companies are capable of manufacturing critical military platforms like aircraft, submarines, warships and helicopters? The answer may be known within a week when a defence ministry task force submits its final report. "The task force report should be submitted by January 15-16 on the identification of strategic partners. The strategic partners would be selected through invitation. The capability of a company would be the deciding factor and not the price of the final product," Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar said here. Headed by V K Aatre, former chief of the Defence Research and Development Organisation, the task force's job is to determine the parameters on the basis of which, strategic partners would be chosen following the new defence procurement procedure (DPP). Aatre report would deal with strategic partnerships in sectors related to aircraft, helicopters, submarines, warships, armoured vehicles and ammunition. In the DPP-2016, the defence ministry seeks to create a manufacturing base in the private sector for important military hardware, which is largely being manufactured by defence public sector undertakings and ordnance factory board units. "Since the DPSUs and OFB units work under the government shadows, the decision making is difficult because of the fear of CBI. In private sector, the work culture is different and there would be speedy decision making," Parrikar said. Several companies like Reliance, Tata, Mahindra, Adani, Bharat Forge and L&T are eyeing these projects, worth thousands of crores. They will be able to form joint venture with foreign partners to manufacture these platforms in India. The new plan mimics the US model where all major defence manufacturers like Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, General Dynamics and BAE are in the private sector, but operate under strict government control.

**The Economic Times**

**14 January 2016**

### **Def Min's Move to Fund Weapons Development with Pvt Cos Favoured**

The defence ministry's move to fund 90% of the developmental cost of select new weapon systems by the private sector, with a guaranteed return of the remaining 10% invested by the entity has found favour across the industry as well as its plans to reserve smaller contracts for MSMEs. While the new defence procurement policy is expected to come into effect only by March, Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar has announced a major change in the 'Make procedure' that would also provide private companies a 20% 'mobilization advance' under a separate category. In future purchases, the government would select certain products to be bought under the 'Make procedure', say a future infantry combat vehicle or a new assault rifle. This would go only to eligible Indian players who would then carry out research and development on the basis of the military's requirements. While the Make process was also present in older policies, no project has yet materialised through the process due to several bottlenecks and constraints that were brought forward by the industry. The defence ministry has tried to address this by providing for a mobilization advance to kick start research by the private industry. In case a product is completely funded by the industry and made to the requirements of the forces, the ministry would 100% of the developmental cost in case it does not purchase the system. Many bottlenecks faced by the industry will be done away with. The amended DPP will give a boost to indigenous design and development as well as manufacturing. Amendments will create a win-win situation for Indian Defence Forces and the Indian Defence Industry," Baba N Kalyani, Chairman CII National Committee on Defence said. All defence products which will have a developmental cost of less than ₹ 10 cr have been reserved for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). "The revised Make procedure addresses the most pressing concerns of the private sector and also ensures a significant role for MSME'S. The Mod should now endeavour to release a greater number of programs in this category," said Ankur Gupta of EY. However, the industry is keen for decisions on more pressing issues, including the new procedure for blacklisting of foreign firms accused of corrupt practices as several tie ups and joint ventures hinge on the ministry's decision. Also, the strategic partnership model details are also awaited, even though Parrikar has indicated that the process will take several months for clearance as it also requires cabinet approval.

# Smaller U.S. atom bombs are adding fuel to nuclear fears

By William J. Broad

As North Korea dug tunnels at its nuclear test site last fall, watched by U.S. spy satellites, the Obama administration was preparing a test of its own in the Nevada desert. A fighter jet took off with a mock version of the nation's first precision-guided atom bomb. Adapted from an older weapon, it was designed with problems like North Korea in mind: Its computer brain and four manoeuvrable fins let it zero in on deeply buried targets like testing tunnels and weapon sites. And its yield, the bomb's explosive force, can be dialled up or down depending on the target, to minimise collateral damage. The build-it-smaller approach has set off a philosophical clash among those in Washington who think about the unthinkable. President Barack Obama has long advocated a "nuclear-free world." His lieutenants argue that modernising existing weapons can produce a smaller and more reliable arsenal while making their use less likely because of the threat they can pose. The changes, they say, are improvements rather than wholesale redesigns, fulfilling the President's pledge to make no new nuclear arms. But critics, including a number of former Obama administration officials, look at the same set of facts and see a very different future. The explosive innards of the revitalised weapons may not be entirely new, they argue, but the smaller yields and better targeting can make the arms more tempting to use - even to use first, rather than in retaliation. As Mr. Obama enters his final year in office, the debate has deep implications for military strategy, federal spending and his legacy. The B61 Model 12, the bomb flight-tested last year in Nevada, is the first of five new warhead types planned as part of an atomic revitalisation estimated to cost up to \$1 trillion over three decades. As a family, the weapons and their delivery systems move toward the small, the stealthy and the precise. Already there are hints of a new arms race. Russia called the B61 tests "irresponsible" and "openly provocative." China is said to be especially worried about plans for a nuclear-tipped cruise missile. Last week, Brian P. McKeon, the principal deputy undersecretary of defense for policy, argued that anyone who looks impartially at Obama's nuclear initiatives in total sees major progress toward the goals of a smaller force and a safer world. "We've cleaned up

**WORLD'S 11TH STRONGEST FORCE**  
**PAK MILITARY**

An all-volunteer force with **three-quarters of recruits from Punjab**

With a **strength of 710,000**, Credit Suisse report ranked it the **world's 11th strongest in 2015**

**Has more weaponry than**

- > **Owns security-related businesses, hotels, shopping malls, insurance companies, banks, farms and an airline**
- > **Domination of the economy** rooted in awarding of land grants to soldiers following the 1857 mutiny
- > **Perceived external**

Germany, Australia & Canada

An estimated **\$14bn private business empire** strengthens its political power

Controls an estimated **one-third of all heavy manufacturing and up to 7% of private assets**

**threat** from India and the Kashmir dispute has helped the military take center stage by ensuring its institution's financial autonomy and control over policy making

> **Incompetence and corruption** of civilians and the US backing too has enabled Pakistan military's political and economic predation

## SpaceX will attempt ocean landing of rocket on January 17

Previous attempts to set down the rocket's first stage on a floating barge in the Atlantic Ocean have failed.

Miami: SpaceX will try again on Sunday to land its Falcon 9 rocket on an ocean platform, one month after successfully returning the rocket's first stage to an upright landing on solid ground. Full-duration static fire complete at our California pad. Preliminary data looks good in advance of Jason-3 launch. Previous attempts to set down the rocket's first stage on a floating barge in the Atlantic Ocean have failed, but the California-based company will try again on January 17, a spokesman confirmed. This time, the Falcon 9 will launch from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. According to NASA, the rocket will carry "Jason-3, an international mission led by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to continue US - European satellite measurements of the topography of the ocean surface." The launch is planned for 1:42 pm Eastern time (1842 GMT), at the opening of a 30-second launch window. A backup launch opportunity will occur on January 18 at 1:31 pm (1831 GMT). SpaceX, headed by Internet entrepreneur Elon Musk, has tried three times before to land its Falcon 9 on what it calls a "droneship" platform, marked with an X. Each attempt failed, after the rocket either missed, collided with the barge or tipped over after setting down. On December 22, the company celebrated its first successful landing of the rocket's first stage on solid ground, as part of SpaceX's mission to make rockets reusable, much like airplanes. The goal is to bring down the cost of rocket launches and make space flight more affordable and sustainable in the years to come.



The Falcon 9 will launch from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California (Photo: Twitter)

## S. Korea fires warning shots

South Korean soldiers fired warning shots at a suspected North Korean drone on Wednesday that crossed the tense border, the defence ministry said. The unidentified aerial vehicle flew across the border and encroached into South Korean territory by some “tens of metres [yards],” the Defence Ministry said. The incursion occurred near South Korea’s Mount Dora Observation Post, some 47 km north of Seoul, at 2:10 p.m. South Korean soldiers responded by sounding broadcasts and firing warning shots before “the vehicle immediately returned to the north,” the Ministry said. Yonhap news agency said about 20 rounds had been fired as warning shots from a machine gun. Meanwhile, South Korea’s President Park Geun-hye on Wednesday urged North Korea’s only major ally, China, to help punish Pyongyang’s recent nuclear test with the strongest possible international sanctions. Her comments came as Seoul said North Korea had flown leaflets across the border describing her and her government as “mad dogs” as Cold War-style propaganda warfare continued between the rivals. South Korea, the U.S. and others are pushing hard to impose fresh sanctions and other punitive measures on the North for what Pyongyang

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Punjab Kesari

14 January 2016

### परमाणु हथियारों का संग्रह वादाखिलाफी : द.कोरिया

**D** सोल : दक्षिण कोरिया की राष्ट्रपति पार्क गुयेन हुयी ने आज कहा कि उत्तर कोरिया के चौथे परमाणु परीक्षण की प्रतिक्रिया में यदि उनका देश परमाणु हथियारों का संग्रह करता है तो यह विश्व के साथ वादाखिलाफी सुश्री हुयी ने सालाना संवाददाता सम्मेलन में कहा "दक्षिण कोरिया ने दुनिया से परमाणु हथियारों का संग्रह नहीं करने का वादा किया है और यदि उत्तर कोरिया के परमाणु परीक्षण के जवाब में हम भी परमाणु हथियारों का संग्रह करते हैं तो यह विश्व के साथ वादाखिलाफी होगा।" उन्होंने कहा कि उत्तर कोरिया द्वारा छह जनवरी को किये गये परमाणु परीक्षण के मद्देनजर दक्षिण कोरिया संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद के प्रस्ताव के एक प्रारूप के बारे में चीन के साथ विचार विमर्श कर रहा है। **C**

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The Hindu

14 January 2016

## PSLV C31 launch on January 20

By G. Ravikiran

The Indian space scientists are expected to launch the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle C-31 from the Satish Dhawan Space Center (SDSC) at Sriharikota here on January 20. This is aimed at putting the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System 1E satellite into a geo-synchronous orbit. The initial launch preparations have been started with the scientists likely to announce the launch date officially once the weather forecasts are found favourable for the mission. The IRNSS 1E is the fifth satellite in the navigation constellation with its objective being to provide navigation, tracking and mapping

## Satellite technology to help NHAI monitor highway projects

NHAI will take up some pilot projects with both the organisations. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and North East Centre for Technology Application and Research (NECTAR) will provide help in monitoring and managing the National Highways. The Union Road Transport and Highways Ministry on Wednesday announced a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) with the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) under ISRO and NECTAR “for use of spatial technology for monitoring and managing National Highways.” Use of UAVs The NRSC distributes remote sensing satellite data products in India and NECTAR of Department of Science and Technology uses unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) technology for acquiring aerial

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## Lt Gen JFR Jacob, last of 1971 war trinity, dies at 92

NEW DELHI: Lt-General Jacob Farj Rafael Jacob (retd), the last surviving general from the trinity which led India to its greatest military victory till now, passed away after prolonged illness at the Army (R&R) Hospital here on Wednesday. He was 92. If the then Army chief General (later Field Marshal) ‘Sam Bahadur’ Manekshaw was the fountainhead of the decisive military war that led to the liberation of Bangladesh from Pakistan in 1971, the then Eastern Army Command (EAC) chief Lt-Gen Jagjit Singh ‘Jaggi’ Aurora was the executor of the daring ‘dash for Dhaka’ strategy. ‘JFR’ Jacob, then a major-general, was Lt-Gen Aurora’s right-hand man as the chief of staff of the Kolkata-based EAC. Jacob is credited with the “war of movement” plan, which aimed to capture all of the then East Pakistan by directly reaching Dhaka through secondary routes, avoiding the towns in between. The objective was achieved in just 13 days, and led to the famous surrender of 93,000 Pakistani troops commanded by General A A K ‘Tiger’ Niazi in Dhaka on December 16, before the UN or US forces could intervene. Jacob, who had reached Dhaka ahead of the main Indian forces, gave Niazi just 30 minutes to decide on the draft unconditional surrender document he was carrying. Niazi promptly accepted the conditions. As Sam, Jaggi and JFR became national heroes, Radio Pakistan broadcast that India had handpicked a Jew in Jacob to humiliate the Muslim world. In later years, Jacob created a controversy of sorts by claiming he was the main architect of India’s victory in the 1971 war. Born in a Baghdadi Jew household in Kolkata in 1923, Jacob joined the British Indian Army “to fight the Nazis” in 1942, serving in northern Iraq, north Africa, Burma and Sumatra. After World War II, he graduated from artillery schools in England and the US. After he retired from the Army in 1978, he served as the governor of first Goa and then Punjab. Condoling Jacob’s demise, President Pranab Mukherjee said, “I am sad to learn about the passing away of Lt General JFR Jacob. He served the Indian Army with distinction for more than three decades. He played a key role in India’s victory in the Indo-Pakistan war of 1971 and the liberation of Bangladesh. His distinguished services to the nation and the Indian Army shall always be remembered.” PM Narendra Modi said India would remain grateful to him for his “impeccable service” to the nation. “Lt-Gen JFR Jacob and I interacted often. Had a memorable interaction when he presented his autobiography to me,” he said in a tweet. Congress President Sonia Gandhi hailed Jacob as a “brave son” of India, who has a special place in history for his sterling role in the 1971 war. “The country stands proud of his life, work and service to the nation as a soldier and patriot,” she said. Jacob was remembered as an “Indian war hero, a proud Jew and a great friend of Israel” by Israeli ambassador to India Daniel Cermon. “For many years, the General had been a staunch

## Why quadcopters, drones are not just a passing fad

If you're used to thinking of drones as a passing fad, last week's CES gadget show should give you second thoughts. Tiny, self-piloted copters promise to buzzily follow you around like something out of a Neal Stephenson cyberpunk novel. New drones that could find lost wilderness adventurers or help them see out above treetops; others purport to carry a human passenger at the touch of a button. None of this, of course, will be happening overnight. Limited battery life means that many commercial models can't fly for more than about 20 minutes at best. Manufacturers haven't yet figured out the best way to keep many tiny drones where they ought to be, given that GPS positioning sucks too much power for their minuscule batteries. Obstacle avoidance systems that would let small drones pilot themselves are still under development. And looming over the entire field are new government rules intended to keep people safe, but which may also slow innovation. So far, none of those obstacles are slowing down an industry that appears to be in full lift-off. The Consumer Technology Association estimates that US consumer drone spending will more than double to \$953 million next year. ABI Research believes the global market for drones will hit \$8.4 billion in 2018, with users ranging from the military and oil companies to farmers, journalists, and backyard tinkerers. As drone capabilities continue to grow, drones may become a mass-market product for average consumers in about three years, says Patrick Moorhead, principal analyst of research firm Moor Insights & Strategy. "You should be able to get a drone that can effectively follow you, not run into things, and find things on its own," he says. "That's pretty cool." That's assuming, of course, that you're not commuting to work in one. At CES, Chinese manufacturer Ehang unveiled a large drone that it said can carry a human passenger at speeds of up to 60 miles an hour. The four-armed quadcopter has been on more than 100 flights, mostly in wooded areas of Guangzhou, according to Chief Marketing Officer Derrick Xiong. Some - he didn't say how many - have carried a human passenger. Federal aviation regulators declined to comment on Ehang's human-carrying drone, saying the company hasn't submitted any proposal to authorities. The Federal Aviation Administration advised an Ehang representative at the show to contact its unmanned aircraft system office. In contrast with the bigger drones, smaller ones were also on display. On the small drone front, Kickstarter-funded Fleye envisions its camera-bearing flying sphere as a kind of personal videographer that follows you around street corners; you'll be able to switch between settings such as "selfie," "panorama" and "virtual tripod." And because it's encased in what looks like a lightweight football helmet, its propellers pose less risk to bystanders. "Instead of doing collision detection and avoidance, we just make sure if it collides, it won't hurt," says CEO Laurent Eschenauer. Toy drone maker Spin Master showed off an augmented-reality game in which kids use a real-life drone to rescue tiny virtual people, put out fires and fight aliens.

# 10 things you should know about Bharat Stage VI

Government has advanced the date when new standard for cleaner auto fuel kicks in, aiming to leapfrog to BS-VI norms by April 2020. Here are 10 things you should know:

1. What are the norms?
  - \* Bharat Stage emission standards are used to regulate output of air pollutants from internal combustion engine.
  - \* These were introduced by the Union government in 2000.
2. Do our norms follow global precedents?
  - \* The Bharat Stage norms are based on European regulations. Two and 3-wheeler emission norms are lenient
3. What is India running on right now?
  - \* BS-IV auto fuels are being supplied in north India.
  - \* The rest of the country runs on BS-III grade fuel.
  - \* From April this year, Goa, Kerala, Karnataka, Telangana, Odisha, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Andaman & Nicobar will get BS-IV fuel.
  - \* The remaining parts of the country will get BS-IV fuel from April 2017
4. How much will switch cost oil companies?
  - \* According to oil minister Dharmendra Pradhan, oil PSUs will invest about Rs 28,750 crore for switching over to BS-VI auto fuels.
5. Why skip one entire stage?
  - \* “We are not going for Bharat Stage V (or Euro-V) petrol and diesel as there is not much difference between BS-V & BS-VI (Euro-VI) fuel. We will bring BS-VI fuel by 2020,” Dharmendra Pradhan, oil minister says.
6. What changes will the switch bring to your car?
  - \* Vehicles will have to be fitted with DPF (diesel particulate filter), mounted inside the engine compartment
  - \* In small-car crazy India a DPF in the bonnet will involve major re-engineering
  - \* Bonnet’s length may have to be increased, making cars longer than 4 metres and liable to come under higher excise duty bracket.
7. Will cars get costlier?
  - \* Petrol cars by Rs 10,000-20,000
  - \* Diesel cars by Rs 80,000-1.2L
  - \* Trucks by Rs 1.5L-2L
8. Difference in norms?
  - \* BS-VI norms not defined yet but will be equivalent to Euro-VI standards
9. Why is industry resisting?
  - \* Oil refineries will need a substantial investment to upgrade refineries to supply fuel types that match BS-VI standards.
  - \* The shift of technology from BS-IV to BS-VI likely to cost anything between Rs 50,000cr and Rs 80,000cr to oil companies
  - \* Skipping a step like BS-V puts extra pressure on auto manufacturers to produce compliant vehicles
10. Why is India speeding up bid to curb vehicular pollution?
  - \* India pledged at the recent global climate summit to improve the carbon emission intensity of its GDP by 33-35% by 2030 from 2005 levels
  - \* It has also pledged the creation of an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

## Your employer wants you to play video games in office

Microlearning Via Short & Fun Games New Corporate Training Tool Go through a 10-minute zombie attack. Thankfully, it's only a game to teach you teamwork. Or a 'spot the difference' game that helps you identify commonly committed errors while filling bank forms. With the millennial generation set to occupy half of the global workforce (by 2020), HR managers are waking up to the impending need for engaging youngsters. 'Microlearning' or bite sized lessons in the form of games are therefore finding more takers. Usage of gaming techniques by corporates is not new. However, with the increase in millennial population in corporates, they find it increasingly challenging to engage the workforce. "The young generation have a greater ability to take risk. They harbour a seed of restlessness and their retention capacity is less. They are looking for intuitive methods that help them infer learnings on their own," said R Rajgopal, organization consultant in Mumbai and senior adviser, KPMG, who has over 20 years of experience in various HR, leadership and training roles. With smartphones becoming commonplace, corporates push games into their employees' phones which they can complete

at their convenience. Besides, millennials cannot sit through hourlong training sessions and this is where microlearning in gamification comes in."These are bite-sized digestible modules that are locationagnostic and engaging. They can be accessed on mobiles and computers," said Madan Panathula, senior learning consultant, Knolscape, an immersive gamification and simulation software company. Bite-sized learning increased the productivity of an on-boarding programme designed for freshers in an FMCG company (name not disclosed) they had partnered with. For Sid Bannerjee, co-founder, Indusgeeks, microlessons are one of the basic principles that their games are designed around.

The Mumbai-based gaming company has worked with Fortune 1000 companies defence organizations & governments worldwide. One of their clients, SHRM a global HR association, has deployed microlessons to connect professionals in the age group 22-35. The game, Office Guy walks through the corporate machinery through the eyes of a young graduate named Kay. It also puts users' reflexes, management skills and quick-thinking to the test. "Long learning sessions become burdensome for the employee. With micro lessons, we are able break the monotony. With multiple levels and stages, the game induces excitement for the player," said Puneet Nagpal, marketing lead, SHRM India and South and East Asia. Ptotem, a Mumbai-based gaming company, is developing a set of microlessons for several of its clients, one of them being a large consulting firm. "Three main factors are changing the gamification landscape. People are demanding more interactive and engaging games; they want it all on the cell phone; and corporates want to tap in to the data collected behind these games," said Arijit Lahiri, cofounder, Ptotem. "We are training the millennial generation today who are used to consuming content in 140 characters or less. So if we expect them to read pages of learning content or sit through long flat PowerPoint presentations, that would just not work," Lahiri said. Padmakar Rao, AVP, learning & development at Aditya Birla Financial Shared Services, who has engaged with Ptotem, said, "The 15-minute modules are easily absorbed by the employees. Practical

### TARGETTING MILLENNIALS

#### WHAT'S MICROLEARNING

| Learning in short, digestible, bite-sized units used for next-gen training for a workforce ready to consume it the way it does everything else – fast, small, and fun

**USABILITY** | Easily accessible via devices such as mobile phones, tablets, and laptop computers in formats as varied as videos, blogs, games, quizzes, simulations

**TARGET AUDIENCE** | Millennials or Generation Y



#### WHY

Millennials have short attention spans and need to be kept engaged in an interactive manner

## Hookah more harmful than cigarettes

A first of its kind data released on Wednesday showed that compared with a single cigarette, one hookah session releases approximately 125 times the smoke, 25 times the tar, 2.5 times the nicotine and 10 times the carbon monoxide. The analysis, led by the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, vindicates the World Health Organisation's fears that hookah smokers are inhaling a large load of toxicants. Waterpipe use is most prevalent in Asia, Africa and the Middle East, but it is a rapidly emerging problem in other continents such as Europe, North America and South America. In the US, the decreasing prevalence of cigarette smoking, as a result of decades of tobacco control efforts, has coincided with the emergence of unregulated alternatives such as flavoured tobacco via waterpipe (hookah). "A waterpipe tobacco smoking session may deliver over 20 times the smoke volume of a single cigarette," WHO said. "Our results show that smoking hookah poses real health concerns and should be monitored more closely," said lead author Brian A Primack. These findings come at a time when the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that, for the first time in history, past 30-day use of hookah was higher than past 30-day use of cigarettes among US high school students. Additionally, about one-third of US college

The Times of India

14 January 2016

## Two new frog species discovered in Madagascar

Scientists have discovered two new species of very elusive frogs—*Rombophryne ornata* and *Rombophryne tany*—that live on the forest floor in the Tsaratanana Massif, the highest mountain in Madagascar. "Those mountains are home to a high level of native species and are very rarely visited by researchers due to poor connectivity," said David Vieites, a scientist at the National Museum of Natural Sciences in Madrid (MNCN-CSIC). *Rombophryne ornata*, which received its name owing to its colour and decorative features, can be told apart from other frogs of the same genus by the reddish colour it presents. It has a black mark between each eye as well as on its back, and it also presents spines located over its eye sockets. The scientists carried out a more thorough molecular analysis on *Rombophryne tany* since this species does not have any features that distinguish it from other species belonging to the same genus. Its name *tany*, which means 'land' or 'ground' in the local language, not only references the frog's brownish colour, but also its tendency to spend time on the ground. This species also presents spines over each eye.

The Indian Express

14 January 2016

## Govt sets up panel to study 7th Pay Commission's recommendations

The implementation of the new pay scales is estimated to put an additional burden of Rs 1.02 lakh crore on the exchequer in 2016-17. Government today decided to set up a high-powered panel headed by Cabinet Secretary P K Sinha to process the recommendations of the 7th Pay Commission which will have bearing on the remuneration of 47 lakh central government employees and 52 lakh pensioners. The Cabinet has approved the setting up of Empowered Committee of Secretaries to process the recommendations of 7th Pay Commission in an overall perspective, Parliamentary Affairs Minister M Venkaiah Naidu told reporters here. The implementation of the new pay scales is estimated to put an additional burden of Rs 1.02 lakh crore on the exchequer in 2016-17. Subject to acceptance by the government, they will take effect from January 1, 2016. The Empowered Committee of Secretaries will function as a Screening Committee to process the recommendations with regard to all relevant factors of the Commission in an expeditious, detailed and holistic fashion, an official statement said. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had said earlier that he was not worried about fiscal deficit and government would be able to meet its target despite additional outgo on account of higher pay. He had admitted however that the impact of implementing the recommendations, which will result in an additional annual burden