MEETS RAJNATH

VIJAYTA SINGH
NEW DELHI AUG 7

WAS planning to bring all my baggage to Delhi, after this government came to power I thought I would apply for a six-month resident permit. I was shocked to find that I have only been given two months here," said a well-known politician who was asked to leave Delhi by the new government.

"We have been given a resident permit for only six months, and we are not extended to one more year," he said.

"After the NDA government came to power, I applied for a long-term resident permit. I met the home minister and I am happy after that. He has assured me that the two-month visa is a technical issue," the politician said.

He said, "I will go to Oxford to deliver a lecture and after that I plan to go to Sweden. I was expecting a long-term resident permit and even got all my belongings here," he said.

A verification process of Parkeet and Narsee's visa applications had been initiated and the two-month visa had been given pending a decision on the longer-term visa, a Home Ministry official said.

Narsee, who has been living in India since 2004 in the wake of death threats from Islamic fundamentalist outfits, had applied for a resident permit in June this year.

Centre would have made Gita compulsory in class 1

SARANASACHI
BABYMANDALY
KOLKATA AUG 7

A SENIOR IAS officer has been for the past 10 months serving "punishment" for cadets, after he was accused of demanding a bribe from a student seeking permission for a Kolkata-based conglomeration to conduct an "aerial reconnaissance" (survey) to find iron ore in West Bengal, a state not known to have such a natural resource.

The 1996-batch officer, Somesh Bhattacharya, who was then Secretary in the Department of commerce and industries, was put on compulsory leave a month ago after he wrote to the ministry of steel and mines in September 2013 without consulting (then) minister (Partha Chatterjee), sources said.

Chatterjee, who had reportedly flown into a rage upon learning about the letter, said Bhattacharya "should have been removed by now".

"Before writing the letter, he should have taken permission. I am surprised at how small-minded he is." Chatterjee said.

This is the way we learn how to live," the minister said. "I am sorry if somebody says I am secular or I am not secular. But we have to get good things from everywhere."

"Our traditional culture is that people read about the teacher-student relationship is lost; it had been there, and we would not have had all these problems in our country," he said.

"Today we would not blame any person's right if we stick to our ancient scriptures," Justice Dave said. Other speakers at the conference included Justice (retired) Jeevan, sitting Chief Justice of Bombay High Court Mohit Shah.

Mars orbiter on track, no need to correct trajectory

ARVIND NAIR
HYDERABAD AUG 7

INDIA's Mars Orbiter will not require a trajectory correction manoeuvre in August as it is on track, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has said. Currently 163 million kilometres from the red planet, the spacecraft will however undergo a trajectory correction on September 14 before it performs a crucial orbit insertion manoeuvre to enter Mars orbit.

"It is travelling at a speed of 1.2 million km per day. It is on schedule and on target. Originally we were planning to have a corrective manoeuvre on August 19. But in the current situation, we don't think it is necessary," ISRO's S K Karan Kumar, director Space Applications Centre, ISRO, told The Hindu.

"On September 24 the orbiter will be at its closest point to Mars and perform the manoeuvre to orbit the red planet," Kumar said. ISRO officials say there is no scope for error for "cruise" manoeuvre which will help tag India as the first Asian country to successfully reach Mars in its maiden attempt.

"We have 200 kg of fuel left, which we require about 240 kg for the manoeuvre to enter the Mars orbit. The process normally ends by reducing the velocity by one kilometre per second. The liquid propellant motors used to push the spacecraft out of the earth's orbit is to get captured by Mars' gravity. The Sunday Express on the sidelines of a conference in Ahmadabad on Saturday, The Centre would have made Gita compulsory in class 1.