



THE HINDU

International News

Trump crosses swords with Merkel on trade, defence

United States President Donald Trump on Tuesday ratcheted up tensions with Germany with a fresh tweet, blaming the key ally for not spending enough on defence and for America's trade deficit.

"We have a MASSIVE trade deficit with Germany, plus they pay FAR LESS than they should on NATO & military," Mr. Trump wrote on Twitter. "This will change," he added, amid a raging debate in the U.S on the President's first official tour of Europe last week, which many critics say has undermined key partnerships.

leash

Control

loafer

An idle, lazy person

Business News

Indian banks' bad loans may rise to 15% by March 2018: S&P

Indian banks' stressed assets are likely to increase to 15% of total loans by March 2018 even as their regulatory capital requirements will continue to rise till 2019, S&P Global Ratings said on Tuesday.

Indian banks' credit profiles are unlikely to improve over the next 12 months, said S&P Global Ratings in a report titled 'No Quick Cure for India's Banking Blues'.

The banking sector's total stressed assets will increase to 13-15% of the total by the end of March 2018 with PSU banks accounting for most of those loans, S&P Global Ratings' credit analyst Deepali Seth Chhabria said.

lucrative

profitable

lustrous

Bright; shining

National News

Tight norms bring Bihar results down

After last year's mass-copying, toppers scam and allegations of corruption, the Bihar State Education Board (BSEB) claims to have cleaned things up this year. The results for the Bihar Intermediate Board examination, declared on Tuesday, seem to bear this out with 64.75% students failing, almost a mirror image to last year, when just 37.81% failed.

According to the BSEB, of 12,40,168 students who appeared for the examination, 7,94,622 students failed. Only 30.11% students passed in the Science stream and 37.13% in Humanities. Commerce results were better, with 73.76% passing. "We'll analyse the results later," a BSEB official said.

malign

To slander

meddle

To interfere, to intrude