

**International News**

**U.S. ends role of special Af-Pak envoy**

Washington’s special envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan stepped down on Friday, just as the United States is preparing to send thousands more troops to the region. A senior State Department official told AFP that acting special representative Laurel Miller left the post without a replacement being named. State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said Ms. Miller is returning to a position at the Rand Corporation and that Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has not yet decided what to do with post.

**abscond**

**to leave secretly and hide, often to avoid the law.**

**advocate**

**to speak, plead, or argue for a cause, or in another’s behalf**

**Business News**

**Innopolis: Destination next for technology firms in Russia**

Newest Russian city eyes IT capital tag; dangles hi-tech university to attract firms  
Innopolis is a city in a hurry. It has 2,000 citizens, one police officer and one electricity-powered bus to cover its 40-km stretch of roads. It wants to reach the milestone of 150,000 citizens and fast. In an effort reminiscent of India’s STPI scheme that allowed tax breaks to software firms, and the South Asian nation’s intermittent efforts at developing Tier-II cities as software hubs, Russia’s newest city is doing all of these and, importantly, has bundled into the package what was the missing link in the Indian IT landscape — an educational curriculum that delivers what companies want. It has set up a university dedicated to computer science, with an obligation on graduates to work with a company based in Innopolis for at least 18 months.

**aggrandize**

**to make greater, to increase, thus, to exaggerate.**

**amalgamate**

**to unite or mix.**

**National News**

**Red carpet welcome awaits Modi**

White House to take forward agenda set under Obama rule for U.S.-India ties  
President Donald Trump is eager to build on the momentum in U.S.-India ties built over the recent years and this resolve will be visible during Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s first meeting with him on Monday, a senior White House official said. “The White House is very interested in making this visit special and really seeking to roll out the red carpet,” the official said, dismissing suggestions that Mr. Trump’s courting of China has created a drift in U.S. ties with India.

**ambiguities**

**vague; subject to more than one interpretation**

**ambrosial**

**extremely pleasing to the senses, divine**