get gold and silver medals and the best team will represent India at 'Bermuda Bowl' the international championship, scheduled to be held in Chennai in October 2015.

Free hostel facility for boys

>> SRNG Sampannappa Charities has invited application from boys who have completed PU and secured more than 55 percent marks for admission to its free hostel. Applications will be issued from June 22 to July 9 (except on holidays) between 11 am and 5 pm at 1091, OTC Road, Nagarthpet. Last date for submitting the application is July 7. Call 22229654 or 65320874.

'Shortage of optometrists'

>> In a country that is in need of at least 10,000 optometrists every year, just 1,000 of them graduate annually resulting in severe shortage of the professionals. Vivek Mendonsa, President, Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry, said that with an aim to create awareness on the profession, the Association had taken up an initiative to travel nation wide. Mendonsa said nine institutes offer the course with a total intake of 360 in State. So far, 150 seats have been filled.

"Presently, the field is in need of professionals. Job opportunities are in plenty," he said adding that the salary of optometrists could range between Rs 25,000 and Rs 40,000 per month.

comprising three Volvo buses and a number of cars - was the Lower Agaram Road where he inspected the concrete road and moved on to Victoria Road, where he inspected the stormwater drain and concrete road.

The next stop was the Hosur-Lashkar Road near Johnson Market, which has been chosen for widening. The place where the chief minister stood was full of potholes till 6 am on Monday. But it got a makeover thereafter. It was a last-ditch effort before Siddaramaiah came, so that there is a feel-good factor for the high-profile visitor.

He then visited Anepalya Junction, Palm Grove Road, Mayabazaar- Lower Agaram Road, Ejipura EWS Quarters, Natasha Gold View, Domlur Biogas Plant, Ulsoor Referral Maternity Hospital and BBMP Shopping Complex. The complex will be developed as a food court under the public private

Random verification of caste census in City

BENGALURU: Random cross-verification of the data collected during the socio-economic survey (caste census) will be done in the Bengaluru region before releasing the findings of the survey.

Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, Social Welfare Minister H Anjaneya said the verification process will be done to check the authenticity of the data collected during the survey.

The verification process will be confined only to Bengaluru as there were some complaints regarding the manner in which the enumerators collected data.

Census block

One census block in each of the assembly constituencies in Bengaluru would be randomly selected for the verification process, he said.

The survey process in Bengaluru had to be extended five times as enumerators could not cover the 26.3 lakh households on time.

Fee reimbursement

Anjaneya said that professional colleges have been directed not to collect fees from SC/ST students during admissions. The State government will reimburse the entire fee amount of such students to colleges.

"We will initiate action against colleges which harass SC/ST students by insisting that the fees will have to be paid during admissions," the minister said.

Anjaneya said the government was taking steps to ensure no SC/ST student is denied hostel facility across the State.

The finance department has given its nod for filling vacant posts in the Social Welfare department, he said.
DH News Service

[handwritten: DECCAN HERALD 16-JUN-15]

City weather

FORECAST: Generally cloudy sky. One or two spells of rain/thundershowers would occur.
(Summary of observations recorded at 5.30pm)

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	29 C
Minimum	19.5 C
Rainfall	0.7 mm
Humidity	61 pc
Sunrise	5.54 am
Sunset	6.47 pm
Moonrise	5.34 am
Moonset	6.36 pm

In City today

GENERAL
Karnataka Knowledge Commission:I nauguration of workshop on 'Assessing Technologies for Higher Education' by Prof B Thimmegowda, Vice Chancellor, Bangalore University, Jnanajyothi Auditorium, Central College Campus, Palace Road, 10 am.
Bangalore University Dept. of Performing Arts: Inauguration of course work workshop by Ashok Kumar, Director, Kannada University, Hampi, K Y Narayanaswamy and Prof Nagesh V Bettakote, participate, Kalaamythri, Dept. of Performing Arts, Sneha Bhavana, Bangalore University, 10 am.
Sichrem: Free human rights counselling and legal advice for victims of human rights violation, Call 25473922/ 25804072/3/ 94498

16942 between 3.30 and 5.30 pm (Mon to Fri).
Jaya Karnataka: Inauguration of seminar on Nanjundappa report, by freedom fighter H S Doreswamy, Sri Krishnaraja Parishthmandira, Kannada Sahitya Parishath, Chamarajapet, 10.30 am.

CULTURAL
Karnataka Haridasa Scientific Research Centre: Bharathanatya by disciples of Vidushi Jyothi Pattabhiram, Sadhana Sangama School, The Structural School of Fine Arts, Vijayaranga, 17th Cross, Vijayanagar, 6 pm.
Cotton Silk Weavers Welfare Association: 'Weaves of India,' an exhibition of handloom, fashion jewels, silk/ cotton sarees and handicrafts, Shilpakala Mantapa, 9th

Bengaluru will become Vistara's second destination in south India after Hyderabad and the 10th overall since its launch

The Mumbai-bound flight is set to take off from Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport at 10.10 am.

With this, Bengaluru will become Vistara's second destination in south India after Hyderabad and the 10th overall, since its launch on January 9, Phee Teik Yeoh, chief executive officer, Tata SIA Airlines Ltd said.

To mark the launch of services to Bengaluru, Vistara also announced a partnership with Tata Group company Titan Company Ltd, under which passengers travelling on Vistara will be entitled to a 20 per cent discount on purchase of watches priced ₹5,000 and above at all World of Titan showrooms in Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru. However, the

has grown its network to 237 weekly frequencies connecting Delhi, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Bagdogra, Guwahati, Goa, Hyderabad, Lucknow, Mumbai and Pune. Vistara has already flown more than 300,000 customers and has delivered an on-time performance of 96 per cent since February. Its load factor touched 66 per cent in the month of April.

presence into the Unit States, the company said i statement.

However, financial deta of the transaction were r revealed by the company.

"Aequs is committed being an agile and reliab global supplier for our cu tomers and, in line with th we have become the fi Indian aerospace manufactu

BUSINESS STANDARD 16-JUN-15

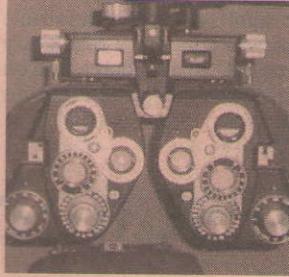# Efforts on to make optometry council a statutory body

PRAVEEN BOSE
Bengaluru, 15 June

Efforts are afoot to ensure that India will have an Optometry Council of India (OCI) soon to regulate the profession of optometry. Optometry is the profession that involves measuring eyesight, prescribing corrective lenses and detecting eye diseases.

Just like the Medical Council of India (MCI) and the Dental Council of India (DCI) that register medical and dental practitioners, respectively, the OCI is aiming to be one. While currently it is a self-regulatory council, in future it hopes that the government will take over the council and let it function like MCI and DCI.

As of now ophthalmologists

do the job of optometrists. "Everywhere in the world, the optometry council started as a self-regulatory body, and would be later taken over by the government," said Lakshmi Shinde, CEO, Optometry Council of India. For a start, the council is registering trained optometrists. OCI began registering optometrists in the past year and it has begun to slowly

register optometry colleges. Currently, there are 140 optometry colleges in the country.

As of now about 1,000 optometrists are registered with the council. Once its strength reaches 5,000-6,000, the OCI plans to approach the government to take it over and make it a regulatory body. Once there's adequate data, OCI will push the government to make it a statutory body. "We can now ask people to go to a registered optometry practitioner," Shinde told Business Standard.

To start with, optometry education in India is now being standardised with the Common Minimum Optometry Curriculum (CMOC) developed by the Association of Schools and

Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) and the Indian Optometry Federation (IOF). The CMOC has now been accepted by nine universities in India.

The country has about 16,500 ophthalmologists today. In the west, there are five optometrists for every ophthalmologist. Given the ratio of optometrists to population, it provides immense opportunity and, that too, with a course costing about ₹70,000.

With about 42 per cent of the population having issues with their eyes, India has an acute shortage of optometrists. Currently, only 1,000 optometrist graduates are produced per annum in India. With five optometrists required per ophthalmologist, India will have a shortage of 45,000

optometrists. "At this rate India will take 45 years to over come the backlog," Vivek Mendonsa, President, ASCO told Business Standard.

With the opportunity that the profession provides, many corporates that have universities have started optometry as a discipline. It could cost ₹40 lakh to ₹50 lakh to start an optometry college with an intake of 30. According to Mendonsa, the government should allow for more such schools to come up. Global firms like Essilor have shown interest in starting such schools.

The CMOC developed here in India has now been accepted as a standard in Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan.