Dr Jitendra Singh gives away awards to various Ministries/Departments for meritorious performance in handling Public Grievances on PG portal

The Union Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region (I/C), Prime Minister's Office

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PM congratulates Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre, Leh Ladakh on Mahakaruna Diwas 2017 celebrations

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The Brexit negotiation. Don't believe everything you read in the media. (Not that you would anyway.)

A week ago, Article 50 had not been moved. As a new week begins, it finally has been. This means that we now move into the negotiation proper between Britain and the EU27. Which makes this as good a time as any to say: don't believe everything you read about it in the media.

Leaks and briefings are the stuff of which political journalism is made – and thank goodness for that. Where would ConservativeHome be without it? But one be more than usually suspicious, during the weeks ahead, of being stampeded or spun, for three good reasons.

First and inevitably, Ministers will seek to manipulate public opinion. That

is par for the course. But take what you read with a handful of salt – particularly if it involves threats to pull the plug on or walk out of the negotiation. Ministers know that Brussels and the EU27 read our newspapers. What they brief will be part of the game of bluff and counter-bluff. We saw that last week with the to-and-fro over security policy.

Second, there will be genuine leaks at our end. Today's *Sunday Telegraph* story about a Cabinet committee discussion of that policy, apparently based on leaked minutes, looks like one such, though one cannot be sure.

Third, Eurocrats and EU27 Ministers will seek to manipulate public opinion, too. For while our Ministers will feed information to journalists, they will want to keep most of their negotiating position under wraps: remember how long it took Theresa May to deliver her big speech setting out the Government's position on Brexit. Our interlocutors will have no such inhibitions. They will brief anyone willing to listen about May's position, if they think it is in their interest – and garnish what they deliver with their own threats and counter-threats. The BBC, the *Guardian*, the *Financial Times* and Remainers everywhere will lap it all up.

Fouth, tales will surface that are, frankly, triumphs of wishful thinking. We hate to single out particular instances, but today's *Sun on Sunday* yarn suggesting the return of blue passports post-Brexit is unsupported by its contents.

Fifth, stories will appear whose projection is more impressive than their content. The rumpus over Gibraltar is a classic. If Spain wants to use its veto over the matter, or push for support via QMV, or both (depending on what sort of deal is under discussion), it will – at considerable cost to its own growth, by the way. If it doesn't, it won't. What Donald Tusk put about Gibraltar in his letter is simply one of the negotiation's opening shots.

It is this site's duty to link to anything significant reported each morning in our newslinks. If we're not entirely convinced by it, watch for the use of "appears" or "claims", or the swathing of entire chunks of texts between quotation marks.

We are no more or less prone to being spun, or caught up in the excitement of the moment, than is anyone else. But we will try to keep a cool head during the two years or so ahead, especially since the negotiation is unlikely to begin in earnest until the autumn, when the French and German elections are over.

Central Board of Direct Taxes signs

three more Advance Pricing Agreements pertaining to the Engineering Goods and Shipping sectors. With this, the total number of APAs entered into by the CBDT reaches 120.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has started the year 2017 by entering into three unilateral Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs) today.

The Union Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley holds Pre-Budget consultations with the Finance Ministers of all States/ UTs (with legislature); FM: Various steps taken by the

The Union Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley said that various steps taken by the Central Government in recent past to unearth black money will help in curbing corruption and making the Indian economy more cleaner, transparent and efficient. He said that the world economy is passing through a difficult phase and is quite fragile.