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PM: Time for talks over, need concrete steps against terror

Strong Signal From Modi Ahead Of Saudi Royal's Visit

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New Delhi: Sending a strong signal to international "peace-makers", Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday unequivocally declared that the time for talks was over and India was determined to take "concrete steps" against terrorism.



Argentina President Mauricio Macri with PM Narendra Modi in New Delhi

Using a joint appearance with Argentine President Mauricio Macri, Modi said, "The Pulwama attack shows that the time for discussions is over. Now the whole world unitedly needs to take concrete steps against terrorism and its supporters. Hesitating to act against terrorists and their anti-humanitarian supporters is also equivalent to promoting terrorism."

This is a strong signal to Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who is scheduled to arrive here on Tuesday night. On Monday, addressing a press conference in Islamabad, Saudi foreign minister Adel Al Jubeir was quoted as saying, "Our objective is to try to de-escalate tensions between the two countries, and to see if there is a path forward to resolving those differences peacefully." India, Modi indicated, would have no time for any mediation or attempt by the Saudis to prevent it from taking action.

In fact, the Saudi crown prince's Pakistan visit has turned out to be more problematic for India than initial-

Mamata questions timing of attack

Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee on Monday questioned the timing of the Pulwama terror attack and alleged that it was Narendra Modi government's "lapses" and "neglect" that "put CRPF jawans in such a situation". "Why did they put these jawans in such a situation in the first place?" she said at a press conference at the state administrative headquarters. "From where does Pakistan get such encouragement? I have my suspicions. Why has this happened just after Parliament is over and weeks ahead of polls?" she said. **TNN**

ly believed. In a joint statement after his visit, Saudi Arabia endorsed Pakistan's version of "combating terrorism". More troubling is an agreement between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan which

"underlined the need for avoiding politicisation of UN listing regime". This means India can expect no help from Saudi Arabia to list Masood Azhar as a terrorist in the UNSC's 1267 committee. The Saudi-Pakistan statement said, "Dialogue is the only way to ensure peace and stability in the region to resolve outstanding issues." India clearly disagrees, with Modi emphasising that

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India would brook no more discussions. The joint statement is being seen as an instrument by Pakistan to pressure India to stand down from military action.

The statement shows that Indian hopes that Saudi Arabia has changed or evolved its stance on terrorism is misplaced. The Saudi-Pakistan statement "expressed their deep appreciation for the achievements and sacrifices made by the two sides in the war against terrorism. They also applauded the martyrs who sacrificed their lives in order to confront this serious scourge and called on the international community to shoulder its responsibilities to join all international efforts to combat global terrorism."

None of this will be appreciated in India, which puts a big question mark on the Saudi crown prince's visit.

SC to consider plea for urgent hearing of PIL against Art 370

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday said it would look into the plea seeking urgent hearing of a PIL challenging the constitutional validity of Article 370 of the Constitution, which grants special status to Jammu & Kashmir and limits Parliament's power to make laws for the state.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi took note of the submission of lawyer and BJP leader Ashwini Upadhyay that his plea was of "extreme national importance" and needed to be listed for urgent hearing. "Give the mentioning memo to the Registrar. We will see it," the bench, which also comprised Justice Sanjiv Khanna, said.

Upadhyay, in his plea which was filed in September last year, has contended that the special provision was "temporary" in nature at the time of framing of the Constitution and Article 370(3) lapsed with the dissolution of the Jammu & Kashmir Constituent Assembly on January 26, 1957.

The plea also seeks a declaration from the apex court that the separate Constitution of J&K was "arbitrary" and "unconstitutional" on various grounds, including that it was against the "supremacy of the Constitution of India and contrary to dictum of 'One Nation, One Constitution, One National Anthem and One National Flag'". The plea may come up for hearing next week. The petition claims that the maximum life span of Article 370 was only till January 26, 1950. **PIB**

5.7 crore Indians dependent on alcohol, need treatment

1.4Cr Hooked To Other Substances: Govt Study

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New Delhi: A comprehensive government survey that covers all states and Union Territories has revealed serious drug and alcohol abuse with an estimated 5.7 crore persons requiring treatment for alcohol dependency, 72 lakh individuals for cannabis use, 60 lakh for opioids and 11 lakh for sedatives.

The numbers may well be higher, but the survey, which is based on a household survey of over 2 lakh households in 186 districts, presents a worrisome picture of drug and alcohol abuse that is taking a heavy toll of health and economic productivity of individuals. A respondent driven sampling survey of 70,293 people suffering from dependence on illicit drugs was also carried out.

The number of individuals affected by cannabis abuse points to a growing problem with the drug easily available in cities and even rural areas. Seen as a "gateway drug" that leads to harder drugs like cocaine and heroin, cannabis carries the risk of mood and personality disorders. For the first time, data on women users has also been collected. Data shows while alcohol use is higher among men at 27.3% as compared to women at 1.6%, it is reported among women in almost all states. Also, 6.4% of women users are dependent on alcohol.

More than half of the male population of Chhattisgarh, Tripura and Punjab are alcohol users. In absolute numbers, UP has the highest at 4.2 crore users, followed by 1.4 crore in West Bengal and 1.2 crore in MP.

The survey found that of an estimated 1.6 crore alcohol

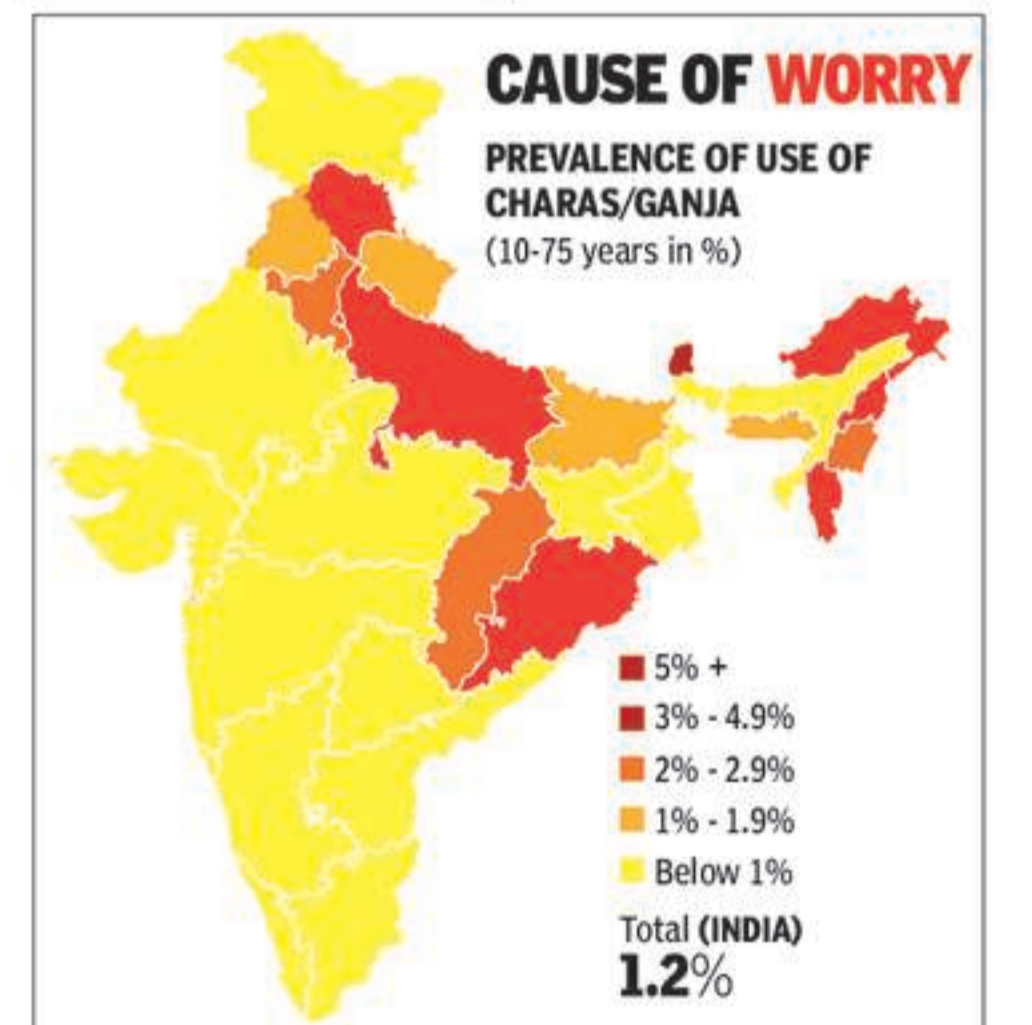
NATIONAL TRENDS

ALCOHOL 14.6% (16 crore people) of the population between 10-75 years consume alcohol. (This includes anyone who has had alcohol once in the last one year)	For every woman who consumes alcohol there are 17 men who take alcohol	As many as 19% of alcohol users are dependent on the substance. Prevalence estimated to be 2.7% of 2.9 crore individuals	About 5.7 crore (5.2%) of the population is affected by harmful or dependent alcohol use and needs help
CANNABIS In any form 2.83% (3.10 cr) prevalence of current use 0.66% (72 L) in need of help Bhang 2.02% (2.21 cr) prevalence of current use 0.36% (40 L) in need of help Ganja/Charas 1.21% (1.33 cr) prevalence of current use 0.45% (50 L) in need of help	Opium 0.52% (57 L) prevalence of current use 0.10% (11 L) in need of help Heroin 1.14% (1.25 cr) prevalence of current use 0.57% (63 L) in need of help Pharmaceutical category 0.96% (1.05 cr) prevalence of current use 0.23% (25 L) in need of help	Amphetamine-type stimulants 0.18% (19 L) prevalence of current use 0.02% (7 L) in need of help Inhalants 0.70% (77 L) prevalence of current use 0.21% (22 L) in need of help Hallucinogens 0.12% (13 L) prevalence of current use 0.03% (3.4 L) in need of help	At national level, an estimated 4.6 lakh children and 18 lakh adults need help for harmful dependence on inhalants and sedatives
OPIOIDS In any form 2.06% (2.26 cr) prevalence of current use 0.55% (60 L) in need of help	SEDATIVES 1.08% (1.19 cr) prevalence of current use 0.11% (11 L) in need of help Cocaine 0.10% (11 L) prevalence of current use		

consumers in the 10-75 years, as many as 19% of them were dependent on alcohol. Besides alcohol and drug dependency, there are an estimated 4.6 lakh children and 18 lakh adults in need of help for dependence on inhalants and sedatives. Data collected between December 2017 to October 2018 also shows a severe lack of treatment facilities. Only one in 38 people with alcohol dependency reported getting any treatment while one in 180 reported getting in-patient treatment in a hospital. For drug users, the number was one out of 20.

These findings are part of the "Magnitude of Substance Abuse in India" report prepared by the National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre of AIIMS for the ministry of social justice and empowerment.

Minister Thawar Chand Gahlot pointed out that the 2004 report on drug use was not as comprehensive hence a new survey was commissioned in 2016. He cited the new report to be the first country-wide government survey that captures state-



wise data and variations on substance use. States with higher prevalence of cannabis use are UP, Punjab, Sikkim, Chhattisgarh and Delhi. In Sikkim and Punjab prevalence of cannabis use disorders is more than thrice of the national average. The

number of people needing help in UP stands at 28 lakh followed by Punjab at 5.7 lakh and Odisha at 4.9 lakh.

The new report draws upon similar surveys in the past to highlight that a substantial number of Indians — more than 5% — suffer from alcohol use disorders.

HC allows Kolkata woman to abort 29-week fetus

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: The Calcutta high court on Monday overturned a single-judge bench's order to allow a 29-week pregnant woman to abort her fetus which has been diagnosed with multiple congenital complications, including Down syndrome.

The order came almost a month after the 39-year-old Belgachia resident had moved the court citing financial constraints in raising such a child. She had also mentioned in her petition that trying to raise the child would be mentally and physically traumat-

ic. The HC allowed the woman to undergo abortion at any registered private facility of her choice after the state pleaded helplessness in conducting the procedure at a government facility.

The division bench of act-

COURT RELIEF

ing Chief Justice Biswanath Somadder and Justice Arindam Mukherjee returned down the January 29 order of a single-judge bench, which had refused the woman's plea.

The earlier order had observed that with pregnancy in third and last trimester,

the organs of the fetus have developed. The medical report, it said, suggested that the "prognosis of the baby would be better if it is delivered near term. The doctors have opined that even with the Down syndrome the baby is likely to survive." The HC had then concluded that at that stage, the right of the fetus to live outweighs the mental trauma that may be suffered by the mother.

The mother then appealed against this order in the division bench, which said in the Right to Life under Article 21, the term "life" means more than mere animal existence.

SIT arrests Punjab IG for police firing on protesters

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Bathinda: The special investigation team (SIT) of Punjab Police on Monday arrested Inspector General (IG) of Police Parampal Singh Umranganal in connection with the police firing at Kotkapura in Faridkot district in October 2015 during protests over desecrations in Punjab.

Umranganal, in recent months, was called for questioning regarding the circumstances and people who ordered firing on Sikhs agitating against the sacrilege of

SACRILEGE CASE

Guru Granth Sahib during the previous Shiromani Akali Dal-BJP regime.

SIT member IG Kunwar Vijay Pratap Singh said "though Umranganal had been arrested in Kotkapura case, his role was also being probed in the Behbal Kalan firing case."

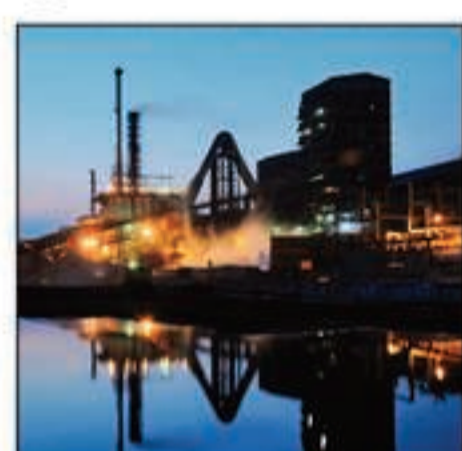
The SIT arrested him in the case of cane charge and firing at Kotkapura light point in the wee hours of October 14, 2015. A case was registered in August, 2018, under charges of attempt to murder for indulging in firing and cane-charge on protesters on the basis of a statement made by one Ajit Singh of of Barnala against unknown policemen.

SC quashes NGT order on reopening of Sterlite plant

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday quashed the National Green Tribunal order which had directed reopening of Vedanta's Sterlite plant in Tamil Nadu's Tuticorin and asked the company to approach the HC for relief.

A bench of Justices R F Nariman and Navin Sinha set aside the order of NGT saying it had no jurisdiction to pass order and the matter should have been decided by the HC. Noting that the plant has been shut down since April last year, the apex court said the company may file an application before the HC for expeditious hearing on its plea. "We are of the view that the NGT has no



The SC bench set aside the order of NGT saying it had no jurisdiction to pass the order and asked Vedanta to approach the high court for relief

general power of judicial review akin to that vested under Article 226 of the Constitution possessed by the high courts of this country," the bench said.

"Given the fact that we

are setting aside the NGT judgements involved in these appeals on the ground of maintainability, we state that it will be open for the respondents to file a writ petition in the high court against all the aforesaid orders. If such writ petition is filed, it will be open for the respondent to apply for interim reliefs considering that their plant has been shut down since April 09, 2018," the bench said.

"Also, since their plant has been shut down for a long period, and they are exporting a product which is an important import substitute, the respondent may apply to the Chief Justice of the High Court for expeditious hearing of the writ petition," the court said.

Mantri OSD's tenure curtailed over article

New Delhi: The Centre on Monday curtailed the tenure of Union minister Jitendra Singh's OSD after the railway ministry objected to his article casting aspersions on railway minister Piyush Goyal and questioning the wisdom of senior government officials.

As per an official order, the deputation of Sanjiv Kumar has been curtailed. The move comes after railway ministry had written to personnel ministry, asking for Kumar's immediate repatriation for "breach of official decorum and misconduct." In his article "What is supreme between national interest and interest of cadre", he had said top railway officers including Railway Board chairman, gave advice to railway minister which is coloured by departmental bias. **TNN**

PC's wife gets interim relief from arrest in Saradha case

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: The Calcutta high court on Monday granted interim relief to advocate Nalini Chidambaram after she moved court last week with an anticipatory bail plea in the Saradha chit fund scam case.

The court told CBI she could not be arrested for six weeks until the matter comes up for hearing next. The order, however, is for CBI alone, and is not binding on other investigating agencies such as Enforcement Directorate.

The division bench of Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Manojit Mandal ordered Chidambaram to submit her passport to CBI and not leave the country without court permission. It asked CBI counsel Chandreyi Alam to file an objection petition within four weeks, to which Chidambaram can reply within two weeks.

The court also asked her to respond to any summons issued by CBI seeking her appearance. Chidambaram's lawyers argued that in the fifth supplementary chargesheet, filed on January 4, 2016, CBI had named her as a lawyer of

Aircel-Maxis: PC, Karti's protection extended

Delhi court on Monday extended the interim protection from arrest granted to former Union minister P Chidambaram and his son Karti in the Aircel-Maxis scam cases till March 8. Special Judge OP Saini extended the protection after hearing arguments from the defence and the prosecution. The CBI had on January 11 informed the court that sanction for prosecuting all the accused in the case had been filed. The agency had, however, sought to complete the collation of the "newly-gathered" evidence. **TNN**

Manoranjana Singh, who was implicated in the Saradha case, and had never mentioned her as an accused.

It was alleged that Chidambaram had accepted Rs 1.30 crore between 2010 and 2012 towards fees and other expenses incurred. In the sixth supplementary chargesheet, filed on January 12 this year, CBI mentioned her as an accused involved in money siphoning.

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TENDER NOTICE:- 6 / 2018-19

Smart Kalyan-Dombivli Development Corporation Limited (SKDCL) Kalyan invites Request for Proposal (RFP) through e-tendering process from experienced and competent bidders for below mentioned Smart City Mission Projects in Kalyan-Dombivli city.

The blank forms and the detailed information regarding Request for Proposal (RFP) will be available on the website www.mahatenders.gov.in from 20/02/2019 to 13/03/2019 up to 3:00 PM. The completed tenders are to be uploaded up to 13/03/2019 up to 4:00 PM. E-tenders will be opened on 14/03/2019 at 5:00 PM, if possible.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Cost of blank tender form (In Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (In Rs.)
1	Selection of System Integrator for Smart Governance solution in Kalyan Dombivli Municipal Corporation area	29,500/- (25,000 + GST)	50,00,000/-
2	RFP for Selection of Master System Integrator Implementation of Smart and Safe City Elements in Kalyan Dombivli Municipal Corporation area	29,500/- (25,000 + GST)	2,50,00,000/-

Pre bid of No. 1 will be held on 28/02/2019 at 11:00 AM and Pre bid of No. 2 will be held on 28/02/2019 at 4:00 PM in the office of CEO, SKDCL, Kalyan

Rights to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reasons thereof are reserved by the CEO, Smart Kalyan-Dombivli Development Corporation Limited and whose decision will be final and legally binding on all the Consultant.

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