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## TELLS UPPER HOUSE 22 BILLS LAPSED AT END OF 16th LOK SABHA

# Lapsing of Bills waste of LS time, rethink provision: Venkaiah to RS

His suggestion: Any Bill not taken up within five years of introduction should automatically be treated as lapsed

**ABANTIKA GHOSH**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 21

VICE PRESIDENT M Venkaiah Naidu Friday called for a debate on a Constitutional provision that provides for automatic lapsing of any Bill passed by Lok Sabha but remains pending in Rajya Sabha on the dissolution of the Lower House of Parliament. A "rethink" on the provision, he said, will not let Lok Sabha's time go waste.

Naidu, who is the chairman of Rajya Sabha, had another suggestion: A Bill which is not taken up for consideration and passage within five years of introduction



**'Three Bills pending for over 20 years, oldest 32 years'**

should automatically be treated as lapsed. Since Rajya Sabha is a permanent House, Bills introduced there do not lapse, and remain pending, sometimes for

decades.

Pointing out that 22 Bills lapsed after the dissolution of the 16th Lok Sabha since these had been introduced in the Lower House first, Naidu told members of Rajya Sabha: "As all of you would appreciate, it takes considerable time and energy to get a Bill passed in either House of Parliament. Given the implications for the functioning of Parliament and the impact of Bills getting lapsed on the much desired transformation of our country, there is a need to rethink the provision regarding the lapsing of Bills in the Upper House of Parliament."

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## Criticism from the field: RS Deputy Chairman raises red flags over MPLADS

**RAVISH TIWARI**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 21

WHILE RAJYA Sabha chairman M Venkaiah Naidu referred to the "wide gap" between the number of Bills passed by the previous Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha to express his "concern" and appealed to end the "downside" in the functioning of the Upper House, Deputy Chairman Harivansh is learnt to have red-flagged the problems "plaguing" the "most criticised scheme" of MPLADS with Ministry of



**Harivansh heads the RS MPLADS committee**

Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) at the end of the last Lok Sabha.

Sources have told *The Indian Express* that Harivansh, who is ex-officio Chairman of the Committee on MPLADS (MP Local Area Development Scheme), cited observations **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## EXPRESS NETWORK



**PM LEADS YOGA DAY ACROSS COUNTRY**  
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# Persian Gulf on boil, Navy starts escorting Indian merchant ships

Op Sankalp launched for maritime security, aerial surveillance begins

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 21

AMID HEIGHTENED tensions in the Persian Gulf after the shooting down of a US drone, the Indian Navy has deployed its warships in the Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf to reassure Indian vessels operating and transiting in the region.

In a statement, the Navy said that it has also begun aerial surveillance in the area. "INS Chennai and INS Sunayna have been deployed in the Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf to undertake maritime security operations," it said. While the INS Chennai is a destroyer, the INS Sunayna is an offshore patrol vessel.

"The Indian Navy launches

Operation Sankalp in the Persian Gulf/Gulf of Oman to re-assure Indian flagged vessels transiting through the area following the recent maritime incidents in the region," the Navy said.

The Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region, which was inaugurated by the Navy in December 2018 at Gurgaon, was also monitoring the movement of ships in the Gulf region, it said.

The move was announced after US President Donald Trump declared Thursday that "Iran made a very big mistake" by shooting down a US surveillance drone over the Strait of Hormuz and gathered top national security officials at the White House to discuss options.

On Friday, some of the **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



**INS Sunayna escorting an oil tanker as part of Operation Sankalp.** Via Indian Navy's Twitter handle

## Stopped Iran strike, was told 150 will die: Trump

**MICHAEL D SHEAR, HELENE COOPER & ERIC SCHMITT**  
JUNE 21

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump said Friday that the US military was "cocked and loaded" for a strike against Iran Thursday night, but that he called it off with 10 minutes to spare when a general told him that 150 people would likely die in the attack.

Trump said in a series of tweets Friday evening that he was prepared to retaliate against three sites in Iran for that country's shooting down a US drone, but that he was "in no hurry". He indicated that the death of 150 Iranians would not be "proportionate to shooting down an unmanned drone".

"Sanctions are biting & more added last night," Trump

tweeted. "Iran can NEVER have Nuclear Weapons, not against the USA, and not against the WORLD!"

Meanwhile, Tehran released photographs Friday of what it said were fragments of the high-altitude surveillance drone, saying that the pieces were retrieved from Iranian territorial waters.

Later, Reuters reported that Amirali Hajizadeh, head of Iran's Revolutionary Guards aerospace division, was quoted as saying by Tasnim news agency: "With the US drone in the region there was also an American P-8 plane with 35 people on board. This plane also entered our airspace and we could have shot it down, but we did not."

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## SC stops Kandi road work inside Rajaji tiger reserve

For promised road, Uttarakhand wangles land from tiger reserve



*The Indian Express* report dated March 14

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 21

A SUPREME Court bench headed by Justice Deepak Gupta ordered Friday that further construction of the Kandi road inside Uttarakhand's Rajaji tiger reserve be stopped forthwith and issued notice to the state government.

The stay comes two days after an interim report was submitted to the court on June 19 by the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) that advises the apex court on forest matters.

The CEC filed its interim report on an application by environment activist Rohit Choudhury, after obtaining the views of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). In its response to the CEC on June 18, the NTCA held that the Kandi road was within the tiger reserve and cut through a wildlife corridor between Rajaji and Corbett, and that "due process as per law, has been overlooked by the state concerned".

The NTCA also stated that "the said matter was first brought to the notice of this Authority on May 14, 2019 vide media article in *The Indian Express*... which highlighted that statutory clearances had not been taken... to upgrade road passing through Rajaji tiger reserve" and that the Authority sought factual information from Uttarakhand on the same day but was yet to receive a response from the state despite two reminders in April and May. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## THE TRIBUTE

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at Palam airbase with Sq Ldr Anjula Tanwar, sister of Flt Lt Ashish Tanwar. He was the pilot of the An-32 that crashed in Arunachal Pradesh, killing all 13 on board. Tanwar's wife Sandhya, also with the IAF, is at the centre. PTI

## Fire on board warship under construction kills one in Mazgaon docks

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
MUMBAI, JUNE 21

A 23-YEAR-OLD contract worker died while another was injured after a fire broke out on board a warship under construction at the Mazgaon dockyard in Mumbai Friday.

Officials said the incident took place around 4 pm in Yard 12704, and the fire was on the second and third decks of the warship, INS Visakhapatnam. The body of the 23-year-old, who hospital authorities later identified as Brajendra Kumar, was recovered by 7 pm.

INS Visakhapatnam, a stealth guided missile destroyer, is the

lead warship of Project 15B which involves construction of four such destroyers. Started in April 2015, INS Visakhapatnam is expected to enter service with the Indian Navy by 2021.

Work on INS Mormugao, the second ship of the Visakhapatnam class, began in September 2016 while on INS Imphal, the third, work began in April 2019. The fourth planned destroyer is INS Porbandar.

The Mazgaon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, in a press release, said: "A minor fire incident took place on Yard 12704 (Visakhapatnam), the first of class of Project 15B during grinding operations in tank at MDL **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## She vaults to a bronze at Asian meet: For my father, a bus driver

**SHIVANI NAIK**  
MUMBAI, JUNE 21

PRANATI NAYAK went to Ulaanbaatar in Mongolia for the Asian Gymnastics Championships, relieved in the knowledge that she had successfully accomplished two of her four targets for 2019: build a house for her family and take half the responsibility of her elder sister's wedding.

Her father, a state transport bus driver in West Bengal until 2017, had saved up as much as he could, before taking up a smaller job in an office the last two years as he neared the age of 60 while Pranati (26) took care of the rest. Her third task was a lifetime's dream — winning an international medal which had eluded



From Midnapore in Bengal, Pranati with coach Minara Begum

the West Bengal gymnast.

And Friday, Pranati stuck two clean landings scoring 13.384 on the vault and picked a commendable bronze, behind China

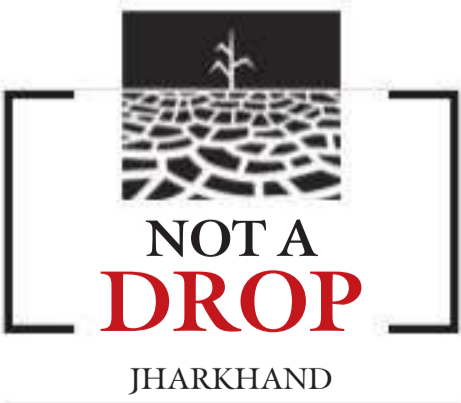
(14.350) and Japan (13.584) at the Senior Asian Championships, 20 years after she first took to the sport in Midnapore. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## PAGE 1 ANCHOR

# In thirsty Ranchi, stabbings, fights break out over water

**ABHISHEK ANGAD**  
RANCHI, JUNE 21

EXACTLY A fortnight back, on June 6, a mere argument over water sharing resulted in a fracas with four persons including 24-year old Sunil Yadav being stabbed. Sunil's father was enquiring the whereabouts of another youth, Bharat Pratap Sahu, standing near the Municipal Corporation's community water tank in Kishorganj area in Ranchi, when Sahu in a fit of rage attacked Sunil, his mother, and two other neighbours with a knife. "We were rushed to the hos-



pital," Sunil said showing five stab injuries on his body. A case under attempt to murder and other charges have been invoked against Sahu in Kotwali Police Station of Ranchi. "The incident happened due to a fracas over filling water," said Sujata Kumari

Veenapani, SP (City). Scuffles during summers are not so uncommon in the state capital with each person desperate to hoard maximum water whenever a tanker arrives in their colony. Various other areas including Harmu Housing Colony, Hindpiri, Piska Mor, Morabadi, Kanke also reel under water shortage every year.

The water crisis in Ranchi, Jharkhand is divided into two parts: ground water depletion and the lack of water supply to the tail end through surface reservoirs.

Depletion is mostly due to lack of ground water recharge, say experts. Rainfall is erratic,



(From left) Sonu Singh, Sunil Yadav and Ajay Yadav were attacked and stabbed in Ranchi. Abhishek Angad

and rainwater, passing as run-offs, does not percolate deep enough. Deep borings in apartments and households, shrinking natural water bodies have also lowered the ground water, according to experts.

Ranchi, some five decades back, had over 100 ponds and smaller water. Now, less than 40 remain. In an affidavit submitted to the court in 2017, the Ranchi Municipal Corporation submitted that 22 ponds/lakes were identified and conservation work had commenced. It said cleaning work would be done in the "near future".

This remains only on paper

though. For instance, the Karamtoli Chowk Talab, like other ponds, in the name of beautification, are fenced with concrete and the pond is full with silt, and sediments hampering bottom discharge. The Jharkhand Ground Water Directorate, set up to control over exploitation of ground water, and replenish it, has only a limited role in assessing availability. This work can be undertaken effectively by Central Ground Water Board through aquifer mapping, the Jharkhand ground water directorate said in an affidavit to the High Court in an ongoing PIL over the water crisis. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## BUSINESS AS USUAL

BY UNNYS



## THE EDITORIAL PAGE

**BREAKING THE HUM OF MY SILENCE**

BY ARUNDHATI ROY  
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## CITY



**WOMAN ASSAULTED AT TOLL PLAZA, SAYS SCARED TO GO BACK**

**ACCUSED WAS HELD IN ANOTHER CASE IN 2011: POLICE**  
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