



SUNDAY STORY PAGE 11

E-drive: High voltage, low charge

Budget incentives show the govt's intention to get India's sluggish electric vehicle market going. But there are many speed breakers

BIG PICTURE PAGES 12-13

A happy class

Rajasthan has been working to make schools less dreary and more child-focused. The results are visible



SPORT



SIMONA HALEP WINS WIMBLEDON
PAGE 24

250 PRE-FABRICATED UNITS FOR REFUGEES HANDED OVER

As India builds houses, Myanmar to reach out to Rohingya in Bangladesh

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, JULY 13

WITH INDIA handing over 250 pre-fabricated houses for the first batch of refugees who are willing to return, Myanmar is likely to send its foreign secretary to the Rohingya camps in Bangladesh — at New Delhi's gentle nudge. Faced with social, religious and ethnic persecution, these families left Myanmar for Bangladesh, in boats, two years ago. Sources said that while India has built and handed over these



Each housing unit is about 40 sq m. Photo courtesy: Indian Embassy in Myanmar

houses to the Rakhine provincial government, the visit by Myanmar's top diplomat — possibly later this month — to the Rohingya refugee camps near Cox's Bazar in south-eastern Bangladesh will work towards assuaging the safety and security concerns of the displaced families. By getting top Myanmar officials to address the refugees

KARNATAKA: 5 MORE REBEL MLAs GO TO SC

BJP split on staking claim, coalition hopes to win trust vote

JOHNSON TA
BENGALURU, JULY 13

ON A day that five more rebel MLAs approached the Supreme Court, accusing Assembly Speaker K R Ramesh of sitting on their resignations and saying they were "being threatened to support the government", deep divisions emerged within the BJP in Karnataka on the issue of staking claim to form a new government. With a section of the BJP that's aligned to the party's high command not in favour of forming a new government given the hung nature of the current Assembly, the ruling Congress-JD(S) coalition is hopeful of winning the trust vote that Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy sought on Friday. The lack of cohesion in the



Congress rebel MLA MTB Nagaraj on Saturday. P17

state BJP, coupled with efforts of the Congress to bring back a few of its more amenable rebels (13 of the 16 who resigned since July 6 are Congress MLAs) to the legislature for the trust vote, are likely to help the coalition

MORE REPORTS
PAGE 7

Godrej speaks up again: Intolerance, hate crime rampant, can hurt growth

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, JULY 13

LEADING INDUSTRIALIST Adi Godrej, Chairman, Godrej Group, Saturday warned that rising intolerance, hate crimes and moral policing can "seriously damage" economic growth of the nation. He was speaking at a leadership summit to celebrate the 150th anniversary of his alma mater, St Xavier's College. Talking about India being among the fastest growing economies in the world and Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently announcing his vision of India becoming a \$5-trillion economy, Godrej said, "But with the growth vision and dreams firing away, it's not all a rosy picture



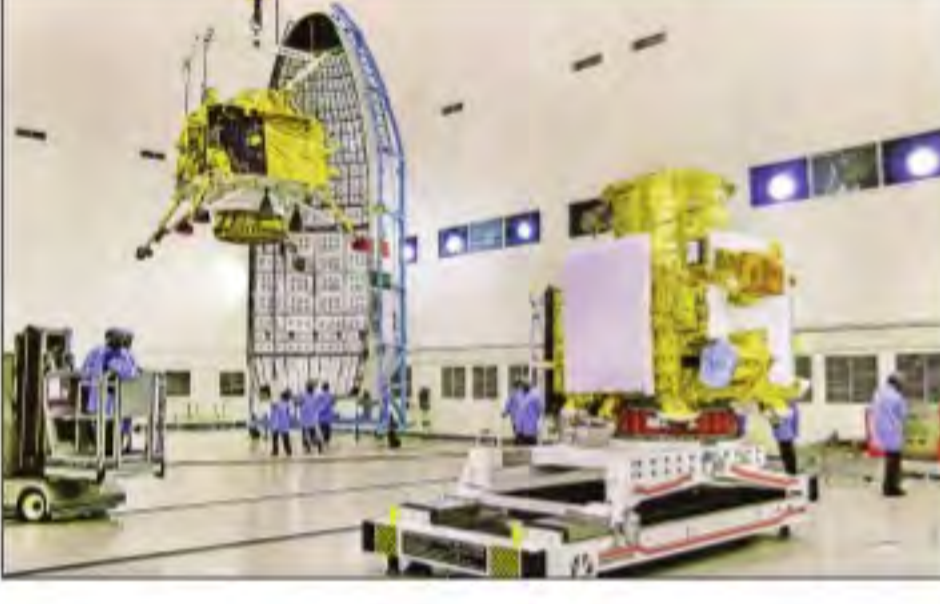
Godrej on Saturday. Express

as yet. One must not lose sight of the impoverishment that still massively plagues our nation, which can seriously damage the pace of growth going forward." "Unemployment is soaring at a four-decade high of 6.1%. It is a problem not only for India but a concern for most countries around the world. Rising intolerance, social instability, hate

Destination Moon: Chandrayaan-2 to launch India into new space age

AMITABH SINHA
PUNE, JULY 13

ONE OF the often recalled statements in the Indian space establishment is a remark by Vikram Sarabhai explaining the rationale of India's space programme: "There are some who question the relevance of space activities in a developing nation. To us, there is no ambiguity of purpose. We do not have the fantasy of competing with the economically advanced nations in the exploration of the moon or the planets or manned space flight. But we are convinced that if we are to play a meaningful role nationally, and in the community of nations, we must be second to none in the application of advanced technologies to the real



In this picture released by ISRO, officials carry out the hoisting of the Vikram Lander during the integration of Chandrayaan-2, at the launch centre in Sriharikota

problems of man and society". It is not clear exactly when or where Sarabhai made this remark, but for over four decades, this remained the guiding principle of the Indian Space

Research Organisation (ISRO) that directed all its energies at building capabilities to exploit the power of space technology for fulfilling the country's development needs, and not exactly for doing science. The launch of Chandrayaan-2, ISRO's most ambitious mission till date, at 2:51 am on Monday will signal an equally unambiguous intent — that India is not just ready to compete with the advanced countries in space exploration and human missions, it is even capable of taking the lead. The Chandrayaan-2, a moon-lander and rover mission, is designed to go where no spacecraft has gone before. There have been 28 landings on the moon so far, including the six that had humans on board, and almost all

Continued on page 2

After brother-in-law died in custody, Dalit woman alleges gangrape by cops

DEEP MUKHERJEE
JAIPUR, JULY 13

THE FAMILY members of a 35-year-old Dalit woman from Rajasthan's Churu district have alleged that she was gangraped by policemen and illegally detained for around eight days in connection with a theft case. According to police officials, the brother-in-law of the woman was arrested on July 6 and died the same night in police custody, for which a judicial inquiry is being conducted by an additional chief judicial magistrate.

Talking to reporters in Jaipur on Saturday, the woman's husband said, "On June 30, police picked my 22-year-old brother in a theft case. On July 3, they came with him but when they took him back the same day, they took my wife too. Later, on the night of July 6-7, police tortured and murdered my brother. My wife, who witnessed the torture, was gangraped by police. They also plucked her nails, hurt her eyes and fingers." He added that even after the death of his brother, his wife was

From YC (young cricketer) to WC final today, journey back to Lord's



SRIRAM VEERA
LONDON, JULY 13

THE BOY who would run out to take covers off the pitch at Lord's before games, the child who would sell scorecards at the famed arena, the teenager who would gulp his breakfast at a nearby hostel and rush out to the most famous cricket stadium in the world — he will now play a World Cup final at the same ground on Sunday. Cricketing dreams don't get more romantic



New Zealand's Ross Taylor at a practice session ahead of the World Cup final. AP

than that. Ross Taylor is that lucky man. In 2002, when he was 18 years old, Taylor was sent to MCC Young Cricketers, the club based at Lord's. Every year, the most

promising New Zealand cricketer would get that honour. Martin Crowe did it for a year, Ken Rutherford, and Taylor. They were known as YCs.

Clive Radley, a Middlesex cricketing legend who was the manager of MCC then, remembers picking up Taylor from the Heathrow airport. "I was taking him to the MCC hostel where the other kids were, but thought 'let me show him Lord's on the way,'" he told *The Sunday Express*.

Taylor was smitten by everything there — the old grey building that still houses the groundsman (Lord's provides a house within the stadium and private-school tuition fees for the groundsman's children to this day), the green grass, the scenic setting, and, of course, that classic old pavilion.

Darjeeling toy train's heritage tag under threat, UNESCO to send team

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR
NEW DELHI, JULY 13

INDIA'S CONTINUING failure to conserve the 140-year-old Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR), a World Heritage Site, has prompted UNESCO to take steps to assess the state of the railway system and see whether the property is worth the global heritage tag.

Not satisfied with the information the Indian Railways has been furnishing about the state of conservation of the World Heritage Site, UNESCO has sent its Reactive Monitoring Mission, comprising experts from UNESCO's World Heritage Committee and the International Council on Monuments and

EXPLAINED
A wake-up call to conserve heritage

THE INDIAN Railways has been struggling to conserve heritage assets for years — tracks, buildings, bridges and even rolling stock. UNESCO has in the past raised the issue of erosion of heritage value of mountain railways in India, especially the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway. The latest move is a wake-up call.

Former R&AW chief has a new mission: Paddy-shrimp farming in ancestral village

SHAJU PHILIP
ALAPPUZHA (KERALA), JULY 13

DURING HIS long stint with India's external intelligence agency, Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW), P K Hormis Tharakan had to stay alert for possible threats to the country. Twelve years into his retirement as R&AW chief, Tharakan is still watchful: this time of water crops. In his gumboots, with an umbrella in one hand and a hat in the other, he stands on the mud banks of his aquaculture

farm in his village in Kerala's Alappuzha district, ensuring the crowds don't prey on his shrimp and fish. "They come, swoop down and fly away with their catch," says the 74-year-old.

Tharakan, a former Kerala DGP, is now a budding farmer in his village. He says his is a family of traditional agriculturists but none among the present generation did farming until Tharakan decided three years ago to experiment with paddy-cum-shrimp culture in the brackish waters near his ancestral home. "After my retirement in 2007, I moved to Bengaluru. But in



Began farming on his family land three years ago

2014, I shifted to my village, Olavaip, hoping to spend the rest of my life reading and writing. But now I have become a full-time farmer. The field is my classroom and farming is a really humbling experience for me," says Tharakan.

After the death of his father Kochupappu Tharakan in 1959, none among the eight brothers took up farming and the family's 5-hectare land fell into disuse. "I joined government service in 1968 when I got into the IPS at the age of 23. I was the first among my brothers to get a job. After me, the others

moved to various professions, both in the government and private sectors." "When I decided to take up farming, I went for paddy-cum-shrimp cultivation (known as One Paddy, One Fish farming in Kerala). All my brothers contributed financially for this group activity," he says. Under One Paddy, One Fish, alternate cropping of fish and paddy is done in wetlands, with paddy being cultivated for four months and shrimp in the remaining eight months, when the fields remain fallow.

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INNOVATIVE PROJECTS BY STUDENTS

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- Student Project "Win Switch" awarded amongst best three projects by "US-India Startup Forum" alongwith other two projects from alumni of IIT Kanpur & IIM Ahmedabad
- Winner of Inspiration Award in Smart India Hackathon organized by Ministry of HRD & AICTE
- "Smart Agricultural Support System" won 2nd prize in National Design Contest NI YANTRA
- Five students awarded as "University Innovation Fellows" by Hasso Plattner Design School, Stanford University, USA

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Case of 26-yr-old who died of cardiac arrest is now a study

ASTHA SAXENA NEW DELHI, JULY 13

RAISING CONCERNS over prevalence of sudden cardiac death in young individuals, doctors from AIIMS have published the case study of a 26-year-old man who collapsed while moving on an escalator at a Metro station in Delhi. The post-mortem conducted at the institute revealed that brain and visceral organs were congested, with blocking in some parts of the lungs.

The case study, published in RFP Journal of Hospital Administration, aims to highlight the presence of undiagnosed heart diseases in young individuals so that preventive steps may be taken for early diagnosis and treatment.

"The boy was declared brought dead and during post-mortem, we did not find any major injuries which could have caused death. During further investigation, we saw chronic deposition of fat in arteries. Such type of coronary artery disease at an early age is rarely reported," said Dr Abhishek Yadav, assistant professor, department of forensic medicine and toxicology, AIIMS.

The boy had no previous complaints or symptoms of any cardiac illness. The department is also conducting a study to compile the number of deaths due to

The case study aims to highlight the presence of undiagnosed heart diseases in young individuals for early diagnosis

sudden cardiac arrest. "The data has been collated and we are performing comparisons on certain parameters. We are aiming to identify biomarkers," said Dr Sudhir Gupta, professor and head of department of forensic medicine and toxicology at AIIMS.

Sudden cardiac death is defined as death from unexpected circulatory arrest—usually a result of cardiac arrhythmia—that occurs within one hour of the onset of symptoms. Coronary artery disease (CAD) is the main cause of sudden cardiac deaths. Experts have suggested that lifestyle changes may be a predisposing factor. "Deposition of fats in the body can be attributed to several reasons such as consumption of unhealthy food and oil, lack of exercise, alcohol abuse, smoking and rising pollution levels," said Dr Yadav.

Symptoms such as chest pain, dyspnea or shortness of breath and palpitations should not be ignored and requires a proper examination, doctors said.

SEARCH CONTINUES FOR KINGPIN At centre of robberies in Delhi, a love story

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL NEW DELHI, JULY 13

AT THE centre of at least 25 gunpoint robberies that have rocked the capital since May-end is a love story between a gang member and the kingpin's relative.

Since the July 10 arrest of two men, Safan Abbas (23) and Chand Gaffar (22), who allegedly conducted gunpoint robberies with kingpin Burhan Ahmed (23) across Model Town, New Friends Colony, Pandav Nagar and Nizamuddin, questioning has revealed how Abbas was recruited into the gang.

According to police, the wives of Ahmed and Abbas are sisters and the families lived together on rent in North East Delhi. "On February 10, Abbas met Ahmed's sister-in-law and fell in love with her. In order to be close to her, he befriended Ahmed and left his job at a bakery to join the gang. The woman was married and her husband too was a part of the gang," said a police officer investigating the case.

In March, Ahmed, Abbas and the woman's husband Rahat were arrested for a spate of robberies they conducted in North East Delhi. "It was in prison that Abbas told Ahmed that he was in love



Safan Abbas and kingpin Burhan Ahmed caught on CCTV in Taimoor Nagar; (right) Abbas and Gaffar have been arrested

with the woman. It was this revelation that Ahmed took advantage of as he was unhappy with Rahat. He promised to get Abbas married to the woman once they got out of prison," said a police officer.

Just before the gang allegedly resumed committing gunpoint robberies across the capital, Rahat and his wife separated. "Abbas and the woman got married," said a police officer.

On July 10, Abbas and Gaffar were arrested and police attributed at least 25 robberies to them. Raids are on to arrest Ahmed.

The gang came under the spotlight when they allegedly robbed a businessman at gunpoint in Model Town, in front of his wife and children who were inside the car. Days later, the men allegedly robbed a 24x7 medical store in New Friends Colony of

Rs 1.2 lakh—again at gunpoint. Police said the men usually covered their faces with a cloth or helmets.

"Footage recovered from the spots of some of the incidents was shared with police informers and one of them approached officers in the North East district. An informer identified one of the men as Abbas after seeing his face and noticing his body language. Abbas and Ahmed were captured on CCTV in Taimoor Nagar from where they stole a scooter," said police.

Police questioning revealed that Abbas would go to Old Delhi to eat biryani and kebabs after conducting the robberies. After he married the woman, Abbas began working towards buying a new house, a task that kingpin Ahmed promised to help him with, said police.

Owners out of town, thieves target 2 houses in South Delhi

ASHNA BUTANI NEW DELHI, JULY 13

BURGLARS STRUCK at two houses in South Delhi and decamped with cash and valuables worth around Rs 15 lakh.

The first incident took place in Chittaranjan Park on July 7, when the 65-year-old complainant, Avinash Kumar Mishra, and his wife, Sudha (63), had gone to Mathura. When they reached home around 3.15 am, they found the door bolted from the inside and heard noises.

They called police, who

reached the spot and broke open the main door. By then, the burglars had managed to escape. "When we entered home, everything was out of place in two of our bedrooms. The house was ransacked and Rs 3.5 lakh in cash and jewellery was missing. There were clothes scattered all over the room and the window grills were broken. They must have heard our voices and fled," Mishra told The Sunday Express.

Police said a forensic team of the South district was called to the spot to lift fingerprints and an FIR was registered.

The second incident took

place on July 8 at a house occupied by an elderly businessman, Subhash Chand and his wife in Greater Kailash II. "The couple returned from London and found their house bolted from inside... Police had to break open the door... the house was ransacked just like in the CR Park case. The thieves made off with Rs 2.7 lakh and jewellery," a senior officer said.

"We have registered FIRs... We have found footage of one of the incidents and are questioning locals. We have some crucial leads and are trying to identify the accused," said DCP (South) Vijay Kumar.

In bid to increase enrolment, NDMC schools renamed after Vajpayee

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JULY 13

THE NEW Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has changed the names of its schools from Nagar Palika schools to 'Atal Adarsh Vidyalaya' after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

According to the council, the decision was taken early this week to improve "public perception on schools and enhance enrolment". "In order to increase enrolment in NDMC schools and improve public perception about them, we have passed a resolution to change the names of all Nagar Palika schools to Atal

Adarsh Vidyalaya from the 2019-20 academic session," NDMC's education director R Gupta said, adding that all principals have been asked to get the school names changed in all records.

The civic body runs 31 schools in the city. New Delhi MP Meenakshi Lekhi said the council had received multiple requests, seeking that parks and schools be renamed after the late PM.

"Atalji's life is worth emulating for students. He was a poet, writer, profound thinker, a man of high intellect. His name will inspire students," Lekhi said.

She added that other similar projects are also in the pipeline.

The development comes days after the Centre-run Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital proposed that its medical institute be called Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee Under-Graduate and Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research.

The institute is currently known as the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER). The proposal was sent to Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan by the college administration Monday.

The South body has also decided to name its under-construction headquarters near Pragati Maidan after Vajpayee.

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Bihar School Examination Board NOTICE INVITING SHORT TERM TENDER Tender Notice No.: PR 293/2019 Bihar School Examination Board, Patna invites sealed short term tender under two bid systems from the reputed Agency/Sound Films/Companies for "Third Party Inspection (TPI) & Physical Verification of Nine numbers of Examination Halls situated in each Divisional District Headquarter, Administrative Building situated in the campus of main building of BSEB office at Sinha Library Road, Patna and face lifting, renovation, interior works and campus development of Academic building of BSEB, situated at Budh Marg, Patna"

कार्यालय जिला परिषद, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा अति अल्पकालिक निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-03/2019-20 1. विज्ञापनदाता का नाम - उप विकास आयुक्त-सह-मुख्य कार्यपालक पदाधिकारी, जिला परिषद, प० सिंहभूम, चाईबासा।

राज्य न्यायालयिक विज्ञान प्रयोगशाला, रायपुर के रसायन एवं फिजिक्स/बैलिस्टिक्स शाखा हेतु निम्नांकित उपकरणों का क्रय किया जाना है जिसके लिए निविदा आमंत्रित किया जाता है-

कार्यालयक अभियंता का कार्यालय पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमंडल, देवघर। ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट सूचना ई-निविदा प्रसंग संख्या - RCD/DEOGHAR/1228/2019-20 दिनांक - 13.07.2019 1. कार्य का नाम - चौथा मोड़ (साइट-बस्ती-पालोजीरी पथ पर)-मधुपुर - बासकुटिया-कुजवाणा (MDR-223 पर) पथ (कुल लम्बाई 10.753 कि०मी०) का चौड़ीकरण एवं मजबूतीकरण कार्य।

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PLANNING AND INVESTIGATION DIVISION ROAD CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT (RCD),RANCHI "Nirupan Bhawan," Floor,Room No. 401,56-Set,Doranda,Ranchi-834002 e-Procurement (Short Tender Notice) Letter of invitation (LOI) no-04/2019-20 1 Call Dated- 12-07-2019

Mass transfers of police dogs, handlers draw criticism from BJP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BHOPAL, JULY 13

THE MADHYA Pradesh government's decision to transfer 46 police dogs and their handlers from across the state has drawn sharp criticism from the opposition BJP.

One sniffer dog from Chhindwara, Betul and Satna each have been shifted to the Chief Minister's house in Bhopal. Two dogs deployed there have been removed, probably because they were getting old.

With the Congress government transferring thousands of officers and employees since the change of regime in the state seven months ago, the transfer of the canines and their handlers saw the BJP target the Kamal Nath government for not even sparing animals.

"It's true that dog handlers are transferred once in a while, but the Kamal Nath government, which has made frequent transfers of officials its only business... such an mass transfers defies logic. One can understand transfer of men who fall short of expectations but what's the fault of animals that some of them have been sent 500 km away?" state BJP chief and Jabalpur MP Rakesh Singh said. He alleged that the government's focus is only on transfers.

Hitting back at the BJP, Congress spokesperson Abhay Dubey said the loss of power has affected the Opposition party so much that it has started politicking over the transfers of dogs. He said it's common knowledge that when handlers are transferred, their canines also go with them.



CLEAN SHEEN

MPs Anurag Thakur and Hema Malini among others, participate in Swachh Bharat Abhiyan at Parliament complex on Saturday. Amit Mehra

Digvijaya, Scindia ask Nath govt to probe firing at tribals in MP

MILIND GHATWAI BHOPAL, JULY 13

FOUR DAYS after an alleged skirmish between tribals and forest department officials in Siwal village of Burhanpur district, senior Congress leaders Digvijaya Singh and Jyotiraditya Scindia, along with a party MLA, have targeted their own government in Madhya Pradesh and sought an impartial probe and action against the officials who allegedly opened fire at the tribal people.

The skirmish took place on July 9 in the village, located about 35 km from the district headquarters, resulting in alleged pellet injuries to four tribal people. Three forest officials suffered injuries when the tribal people allegedly threw stones at them.

The forest officials had come to evict them, while the forest department claimed that its officials had gone to the village on reforestation work.

An FIR has been lodged by both sides at Neapanagar police station and a magisterial inquiry has been ordered into the incident. Burhanpur's Superintendent of Police Ajay Singh told The Sunday Express that no arrest has been made so far and the police will wait for the magisterial inquiry to get over.

Leading the charge against the Congress government, former CM Digvijaya Singh tweeted, "Development of tribals and protection of their rights is the priority of the Kamal Nath-led Congress government. The (Burhanpur) incident is condemnable because it's against the declared policy of the current gov-

ernment. The government should quickly act against the guilty officials." Describing the incident as unfortunate, former Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Saturday said Nath should order an impartial and transparent inquiry and take strict action against the officials found guilty. Before senior leaders went public, Dr Hiralal Alawa, party MLA from Kukshi who is associated with a tribal group called Jai Adivasi Yuva Sangathan (JAYS), wrote to the CM and demanded action against officials and compensation for the tribal community people who suffered injuries. He alleged that a team of forest officials used a JCB machine to uproot standing crop on July 9, and when the tribals objected, they were fired at. He said the victims have submitted their claims under the Forest Rights Act.

Alawa said the incident took place at a time when the government has asked collectors to not evict any claimants and verify their claims again. Late in the afternoon, CM Kamal Nath responded to Singh and Scindia's remarks and stated on Twitter that a magisterial inquiry into the skirmish, and the incident of firing, had been ordered the very next day. "There will be impartial inquiry and no one will be spared," he stated.

RSS withdraws Ramlal from BJP after 12 years in key post

Will be joint-secretary of the Sangh in charge of communication

SHYAMLAL YADAV NEW DELHI, JULY 13

THE RSS has withdrawn its pracharak, Ramlal, who was general secretary (organisation) of the BJP for the last 12 years, the longest-serving leader in that post.

He has been appointed sahsampark pramukh (joint communication chief) of RSS.

Although it is still not clear who will replace Ramlal as general secretary in charge of BJP organisation, the names on top of those doing the rounds are that of Shivprakash and V Satish, both national joint secretaries of BJP.

The other two in the same post are BL Santosh and Saudan Singh. Of the four, Shivprakash is the RSS pracharak in the post.

Satish is considered close to both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and party president Amit Shah; he had worked with both in Gujarat.

General secretary (organisation) is a crucial post in BJP, and the leader helming it acts as a bridge between the party and RSS, its parent organisation. A full-time



Ramlal wanted to get back to the Sangh, according to party leaders.

RSS 'pracharak' is appointed to the post, who works on deputation in the party until his repatriation. Ramlal, 67, was appointed in this post in February 2007, replacing Sanjay Joshi.

As he exits the BJP organisation, Ramlal, active in the Sangh since the Emergency days, leaves a significant mark in the party's history, holding a key post when it is at its peak. During his term, the BJP recorded stunning victories in two General Elections and several Assembly polls.

With his exit, the transition of the BJP's organisation is complete

under Modi and Shah. Sources said there could be changes in the states as well, with Sunil Bansal, RSS's man in Uttar Pradesh, likely to be shifted out.

The decision was taken at the RSS's 'pranth pracharak baithak', which concluded in Vijayawada on Saturday.

Sources said in his new role, Ramlal will be responsible for developing contact among "special category" - or elite - people.

Sources present at the annual meet told The Indian Express that sar-karyawah Bhaiyaji Joshi announced the decision and told delegates, "Ramlal worked with BJP for many years and earned fame for his work. We have spoken to the BJP and are now putting Ramlal-ji on other work. He will be sahsampark pramukh."

There were nearly 275 delegates at the meeting, most of them pracharaks of state-level and above, along with one or two each (deputed as pracharaks) from the Sangh's other front organisations.

Another change announced at the Vijayawada meeting was that Rakesh Jain, who was general secretary (organisation) of BJP in UP

four years ago and now works as sangathan mantra of Sewa Bharti, an RSS organisation working among the deprived sections, will now be all-India joint head of paryawaran vibhag (environment department). This is a new dimension of the Sangh's work, which was cleared at the Akhil Bhartiya Pratinidhi Sabha in March.

Another pracharak, Gopal Arya, is already deputed to it, and sources in RSS said this new department will get office-bearers up to the district levels in the coming days considering challenges the country faces on the environment front.

As general secretary (organisation), Ramlal worked with three BJP presidents: Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari and Amit Shah.

Unlike his predecessors - K N Govindacharya and Sanjay Joshi - Ramlal leaves the post without any controversies. Govindacharya had to go on "leave" unceremoniously following his comments against Atal Bihari Vajpayee, while Joshi was removed after a controversial CD emerged. Madhya Pradesh Police later found it fake.

(WITH LIZ MATHEW)

J&K Governor skips Martyrs' Day function in Srinagar

ADIL AKHZER SRINAGAR, JULY 13

JAMMU AND Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik skipped the Martyrs' Day function in Srinagar on Saturday. However, his advisor Khurshed Ahmad Ganai and other administration officials visited the graveyard that is the site of the function and laid floral wreaths.

July 13 is observed as Martyrs' Day in Kashmir, commemorating the deaths of 22 people killed when the forces of Maharaja Hari Singh opened fire on them on this day in 1931.

This is the second year that the head of the state has skipped the Martyrs' Day function. Last year, then Governor N N Vohra too had skipped the ceremony.

While leaders from all mainstream political parties visited the graveyard on Saturday, the BJP, like previous years, again stayed away from the function.

National Conference president Farooq Abdullah, after visiting the graveyard, said Malik was "BJP's Governor". "He is BJP's Governor. How can he come?" Abdullah said.

A release by J&K administration on Friday had said that Governor Malik, on the occasion of Martyrs' Day, has called for "collective efforts from all sections of the Society to secure rapid growth and development of the State on all fronts."

"Jammu and Kashmir has always been known for its glorious pluralistic ethos and harmony and emphasized the crucial importance of maintaining unity and brotherhood for ushering the State towards peace and prosperity," the release quoted Malik as saying.

WESTERN RAILWAY-AHMEDABAD DIVISION PART SUPPLY OF SIGNALING. MATERIAL, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING. NOTICE INVITING TENDER No.- DRM-SNT-ADI-Sig 12 of 2019-20 DRMS and T acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No. DRM-SNT-ADI-Sig 12 of 2019-20 closing date 08.08.2019, 15:00 Bidders will be able to submit their original/revise bids upto closing date and time only.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE No.Com/ATM/MGS/19 Dated: 10.07.2019 On behalf of president of India, DRM (Commercial), E.C. Railway, Mughalsarai invites duly completed & sealed tender on Single Packet Tendering System from Public Sector Bank/Scheduled Commercial Indian Bank for installation of ATMs in Railway premises & railway colonies for 05 years. Tender may also be sent through Registered Post/Speed Post/Courier Service which must be received in time i.e before 15:00 hrs on 08.08.19.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY OPEN TENDER THROUGH E-TENDERING 2019-20 No. LWS-TC-OPN-AEBAS-2018R Dated: 12.07.2019 For and on behalf of The President of India, Dy. CME/Loco Ajmer invites e-tender with following details, interested firms/tenderer may participate through IREPS portal in this e-tender.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE No. SA/RS/ED/OT/19-20/5 Dated: 11.07.2019 The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, Rolling Stock, Southern Railway, Electric Loco Shed, Erode acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites online E-tender for the under mentioned work.

GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CHAYANG TAJO DIVISION, PWD, AP. CHAYANG TAJO Dated 12/07/2019 Notice Inviting e-Tender The Executive Engineer, Chayang Tajo Division, PWD, Arunachal Pradesh, Chayang Tajo, on behalf of the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh invites online eligible tender in Single bid system from all registered contractors in class-1 and contractors eligible for National & International competitive bidding as per Arunachal Pradesh District based entrepreneurs and professionals incentives (Development & Promotional) Act 2015 published vide Notification No. SPWD/W-66/2012 dated 13th August 2015 and published in Arunachal Pradesh Extra Ordinary Gazette vide No. 224 Vol-XXII dated 11th September 2015 for following work(s).

BIHAR SCHOOL EXAMINATION BOARD NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (Through e-procurement mode only over https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in) Tender Notice No. - PR 294/2019 Bihar School Examination Board, Patna invites e-tenders under two bid systems from the reputed Agency/ Sound Firms/Companies for the "Change of First Two pages of various Old Answer Books for Examination 2020 (Annual) as per decision of BSEB."

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE No. SNT-JU-12-2019-20 Dated: 11.07.2019 Open E-tender is invited by DRMs(S&T), Jodhpur for and on behalf of the President of India for S&T work.

WESTERN RAILWAY-AHMEDABAD DIVISION PART SUPPLY OF SIGNALING. MATERIAL, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING. NOTICE INVITING TENDER No.- DRM-SNT-ADI-Sig 14 of 2019-20 DRMS and T acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No. DRM-SNT-ADI-Sig 14 of 2019-20 closing date 08.08.2019, 15:00 Bidders will be able to submit their original/revise bids upto closing date and time only.

MADURAI SMART CITY LIMITED Municipal Corporation Building, Aringar Anna Maligai, Tallakulam, Madurai - 625 002 Phone: 0452 - 2530521 to 0452 - 2530526 INVITATION FOR BIDS NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

10 IDEA EXCHANGE

NEWSMAKERS IN THE NEWSROOM

Domestic, industrial use of water accounts for 11% of the total consumption; 89% is in agriculture. Agriculture water use is the most unproductive. We use 5,600 litres to produce 1 kg rice; China does it in 350 litres"



WHY GAJENDRA SHEKHAWAT

Soon after returning to power, the Modi government set up the Jal Shakti Ministry, combining the erstwhile Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation and Ministry of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation. The Jal Shakti Mission, which includes plans for water conservation and provision of piped water

connections to every household by 2024, is the NDA government's next big flagship programme after the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. As the Jal Shakti Minister, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat is at the centre of the implementation of the Mission, as part of which work has begun in over 250 water-stressed districts



"The biggest problem (in cleaning Ganga) was capacity building... It took Germany 25 years, across several phases, to clean up the Rhine. So, five years is not a long time to clean the Ganga... Results will show in 2 yrs

SHALINI NAIR: India has been facing a water crisis for a long while now. Under the previous ministry, the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, the drinking water part was largely ignored. What prompted the government to take it up in such a big way now?

The entire world is concerned about water, including developed countries such as the US. In India, it has been a challenge for decades. Unfortunately, the issue of water was being governed by many rules and heads... Drinking water had a separate ministry, urban drinking water had another ministry, there was a different ministry for water sharing... Even before the elections, as the scarcity of water rose and we realised that water will become a challenge for the country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi began to talk about the need to address the issue in a holistic manner. That is why this ministry (Ministry of Jal Shakti) was created.

In our country, there is 65 per cent dependence on underground water. Of the 4,000 BCM (Billion Cubic Meters) annual precipitation, only 1,198 BCM is usable. The holding capacity of the 5,400 reservoirs across the country is less than 300 BCM. And, the total replenishable water that we get from all the sources, including the underground replenishable sources, is around 400 BCM. So practically, we can use only 600 BCM of water. But as our population is increasing, water requirements are also increasing. Hence, the water availability per person per year which stood at 5,100 cubic metres (in 1950) has now come down to 1,400 cubic metres, and in the coming years it will go down to a 1,000 cubic metres. It's a big challenge, and work on this should have started 20 years ago. We are already late, but it is still not too late. That is why the Prime Minister has begun this work, and in the next five years, our mission is to ensure that every household has access to water.

Apart from (providing access to drinking water) there are two other important things. The first is source sustainability. Whatever source of water we create, it must be sustainable — either by point recharge mechanism or groundwater recharging. Secondly, according to recent government statistics, 40 litres of water per capita per day is being supplied in the rural areas. But according to the new benchmark, it should be 50 litres per capita per day, and this should be provided to every household. But if every household is being provided with 50 litres of water, then almost 80 per cent of the water that is discharged, whether it is grey water or black water, cannot be reused unless it is treated. In such a situation, the piped water scheme will create another problem — every pond in every village will permanently have dirty water, as we have witnessed in Haryana. So, the Prime Minister has set a target to achieve all the three things together. That is the mandate of the (Jal Shakti) Ministry. We had organised a day-long conference of all the stakeholder states. All the ministers (of the states) along with officers of the water resources, drinking water, and sanitation departments were summoned. All states are serious about the issue of water management and they are all motivated as well. I come from the state of Rajasthan where the terrace of every pucca household is linked to an underground water tank. The rainwater collected in this manner is then utilised throughout the year for cooking, drinking...

Throughout the world, the first step any country that has overcome its water crisis has taken is to harvest rainwater. In all, there are four steps to tackle water scarcity. The first, rainwater harvesting, can be carried out either through storage of rainwater or its percolation, which will then help recharge groundwater. The second step is judicious use of water, and there is a lot of confusion around this. (Unlike what is believed) domestic and industrial use of water only accounts for 11 per cent of the total consumption; 89 per cent is in agriculture. Our water use in agriculture is the most unproductive. We use 5,600 litres of water to produce 1 kg of rice whereas China is doing the same with 350 litres. So it is a challenge for us. It's not because we do not have the technology, it's because we don't value water, and so it is being misused. Free electricity is being used to pump out water from the ground. We need to seriously focus on judicious use of water. The third aspect is reuse of water, both in domestic and industrial sectors. Around 140 billion litres of sewage water is produced in India annually. If we manage to use this, India's water woes will be addressed. And the last aspect is afforestation.

We are looking at all the four aspects. As part of our first initiative, which is along

'Water a challenge for decades... Work should have begun 20 yrs ago. We're late, but not too late'

Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat lays out government plan on revival, reuse of water through traditional water bodies, rainwater harvesting and treatment of sewage water, and calls for more interest from states and behavioural change among public



Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat with Senior Assistant Editor Shalini Nair in *The Indian Express* newsroom. Amit Mehra

the lines of the Gram Swaraj Abhiyan of 2017, we have identified 250 districts that are water-stressed, over-exploited or critical. Teams of joint secretary-level officers, hydrologists and engineers have been sent to these districts. They will be spending time in these areas till September 15. They will prepare plans on groundwater recharge, motivate and educate people, and also prepare plans to revive traditional water bodies.

We have also written to the states to identify traditional water bodies in every district within the next three months. This idea came from Bundelkhand. Water scarcity in the region has always been a topic of discussion, but it was not the case this time. There is a reason for it. Nearly 600-1,000 years ago, the Chandela dynasty king of Bundelkhand built 9,000 tanks in the region. Over the years, they had all disappeared. Then, 2,500 of them were identified, of which 250 have been revived in the last two years. That has ended half their water troubles. So if all the 9,000 tanks are revived, then Bundelkhand will be a water-rich area. The science behind the tanks also fascinates me. All of them are interconnected — so one gets filled when the other spills. There is a water body at Jaipur's Jaigarh fort which has a capacity of three crore litres. It also has a canal network of 25 km which was used to channel rainwater. This water was sufficient for 30,000 soldiers who lived there for one year. It was built 300 years ago and is still functional.

We need to understand the power of rainwater and it is possible only when it becomes a people's movement. Governments can only initiate, handle and support things.

SHALINI NAIR: But what about Part B of the plan, that deals with water supply? It will require a lot of capital investment from the government but the Budget was silent on it.

See, Rs 10,000 crore has been allocated for the NRDW (National Rural Drinking Water Programme) this time. This is the first year, and we are targeting 2024. We will implement it in phases. There is no shortage of funds, at least till the Modi government is in power.

KRISHN KAUSHIK: In the last five years, cleaning of the Ganga river was the government's big target. There were no issues of budget, and a full-fledged ministry was set up for it. However, the key indicators still do not suggest that the Ganga has been cleaned.

The biggest problem that we faced when we took up the initiative was capacity building. From Gangotri to Ganga Sagar, there is no village or town which doesn't release its sewage into the Ganga. In the first two years, we had to study the river comprehensively because the work done by the last Ganga missions was fuzzy. They made Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) 20 years ago and they still don't operate. People also protested because they did not want an STP in their colony... Capacity building cannot happen overnight. What I can say with confidence is that, by this November, no homes in Uttarakhand will dump their raw sewage into the Ganga.

In Varanasi, of the 27 drains that were releasing their waste into the Ganga, 24 have been tapped. I have personally visited and checked each and every one of those drains. Now only one major and two small streams remain. Also, one STP is being built; it will be completed by December. So by December, Varanasi will have no drains releasing sewage into the

Ganga. Things will take another two years, after which the results will show.

Recently, I was talking to the Ambassador of Germany about the cleaning of the river Rhine. It took them 25 years over several phases to do it. If it took Germany 25 years, then five years is not a long time to clean the Ganga.

LIZ MATHEW: Ninety per cent of the water used in agriculture in India is fresh water, whereas in countries such as China and Brazil, the figure stands at 64 per cent and 60 per cent respectively. Is there a need to change that as well?

Before answering your question, let me tell you one more thing. Seventy per cent of Singapore drinks treated sewage water. (If this happens in India) wouldn't all the fights between Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab end? That is why we have undertaken a programme to treat and reuse all sewage water in villages, either in agriculture or at least for groundwater recharge.

RAVISH TIWARI: You said there should be judicious use of water but we are not pricing water at all. Democratically elected governments have always been averse to the idea. Can you create a political consensus for it?

Water is a state issue, and so they will

have to take the first step. As we plan the piped water scheme, we have this in the back of our minds, that there should at least be a revenue source for water. We can make drinking water a revenue source, but along with that if we also make treated sewage water into a revenue model, then everything will be okay.

SHALEEN AGRAWAL: What role will the private sector play in this?

Urban water has to be treated either by the government or by a private body or through a public-private partnership, whatever model it is. Models such as BOT (build, operate and transfer) and DBOT (design, build, operate and transfer) are currently under operation. We started using the Hybrid Annuity (PPP model for sewage treatment) in the Ganga (basin states). The problem was that we built the capacity but the states are not even paying the electricity bill or running it. We can build a Rs 250 crore STP and give it, but if it's not even running at 30 per cent of its capacity, then there's no use of it. So we introduced a new model that those who make the project will run it for 15 years too. We will give them 40 per cent of the money at the start and the remaining 60 per cent in instalments over the next 15 years, along with the O&M (operational and management) costs.

In big cities, there is no option but this. However, in villages work should be done on community-based phytoremediation technologies (use of plants and associated soil microbes to reduce the concentrations or toxic effects of contaminants). It is very easy. Until now, people talked about dual pipelines, one for treated water and other for potable water, where treated water could be used in the gardens, toilets etc. I want to take this a step further. I have got a design developed after speaking with IIT Madras to have dual lines for discharge (of water). The water that comes out of your homes is black and grey — black from the toilets and grey from the kitchens. Treatment of grey water involves only 10 per cent of the cost of treatment of sewage water. So kitchen water can be made potable or reusable by spending just 10 per cent of the of money, and that will end 90 per cent of our problems.

All these aspects will have to be

worked on collectively and it will take time. The programme involves both behavioural change and capacity building.

SHALINI NAIR: Have you factored in climate change into the Jal Shakti Mission?

We have to because we are the most vulnerable to climate change. We can save groundwater by mapping aquifers across the country. By the end of this financial year, I will have a 3D aquifer map of every single village. We will have to train people on how to extract water, how to recharge it etc. We are working on that.

ANUPAM CHATTERJEE: Is there a water finance corporation in the works?

That is a very ideal situation. We should definitely have a financial arm.

HARISH DAMODARAN: We have built so many reservoirs but the efficiency of water usage from them is very low. Why is our canal water usage so inefficient? Also, can't there be a way to replace these open canals with underground pipes because otherwise most of the water in them is drying up or getting stolen. Why can't we think beyond just building reservoirs?

The total capacity (of the reservoirs) that we have made is only 256 BCM, whereas the availability of water is more than 758 BCM. Secondly, we are not using even 60 per cent of the capacity that has been built. There is no canal system where the water is drying up or going into the ocean. Also, the states have not made canal systems. They were provided help for this under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana. The Central government is doing it but the state government has to put this on their priority list and work towards it.

Earlier, *jal ko jagdeesh mante* the (water was considered god). In my childhood, we drank rainwater. Every village had a pond. There used to be a catchment area for it and the entire village would look after it. Now, it's all gone, encroached. A mindset change in just one generation has done so much damage. Since we are the ones who have ruined it, it is now our responsibility to educate our children.



"We can make drinking water a revenue source, but if we also do it with treated sewage water, all will be okay... 70% of Singapore drinks treated sewage water. (If this happens in India) state rows will end"

11 SUNDAY STORY

E-DRIVE: HIGH VOLTAGE, LOW CHARGE

Budget incentives, a mission plan, and a 2030 target show the govt's intention to get India's sluggish electric vehicle market going. However, from infrastructure and price bar, to policy confusion and a worried market, there is a long way to go.

ANIL SASI & SANDEEP SINGH on the many speed breakers

TYPES OF EVs

The term EV is used to broadly define three main types of electric vehicles, bracketed by the degree to which electricity is used as the energy source:



(Clockwise from top) Hyundai Kona; Tata Tigor EV; and the Mahindra e-Verito

BATTERY ELECTRIC VEHICLES (BEV): Kona; Tesla X, Model 3 and Model S; BMW i3; Chevy Bolt; Nissan LEAF; Volkswagen e-Golf

- Fully-electric vehicles with rechargeable batteries; no petrol engine
- Stores electricity onboard with high-capacity battery packs. This battery power is used to run the electric motor and all onboard electronics
- Does not emit any harmful emissions; charged by electricity from an external source

HYBRID ELECTRIC VEHICLES (HEV): Toyota Prius Hybrid; Honda Civic Hybrid; Toyota Camry Hybrid

- Powered by gasoline, electricity
- HEVs start off using electric motor, then petrol engine kicks in. Both motors controlled by internal computer, ensuring best economy for driving
- Electric energy generated by the car's braking system to recharge the battery (regenerative braking), a process where the electric motor helps slow the vehicle and uses some of the energy normally converted to heat by the brakes

PLUG-IN HYBRID ELECTRIC VEHICLE (PHEV): Chevy Volt; Ford Fusion Energi; Mercedes GLE550e; Audi A3 E-Tron; Fiat 500e

- Has a hybrid drivetrain that uses internal combustion engine, electric power for motive power, backed by rechargeable batteries

CHARGING OPTIONS

International standards vary across geographies — Combined Charging System (CCS; US, Europe) and CHAdeMO (Japan). India will deploy both CHAdeMO and CCS fast-charging, besides its own Bharat Standard chargers, at public EV charging stations

LEVEL 1 CHARGING: Uses power supply from standard outlets available in households, with power cord and equipment that EVs come with. Can be made available in households, business property parking by installing a dedicated electric outlet. Low cost of installation, low impact on the grid, but slow on charging — typically 3 to 8 km/hour

LEVEL 2 CHARGING: Requires installation of an Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment to enable faster charging. More efficient than Level 1, may provide charge of 15 to 35 km/hour. Will have a higher impact on peak power than Level 1

DC FAST CHARGING: Provides 80% charge in 20-30 minutes by converting high-voltage AC to DC power for direct storage in EV batteries. May provide a charge of 90-130 km in 20 minutes. More expensive than Level 1 and 2; will require a high-voltage 3 phase power connection. Has higher impact on peak power than Level 2 Charging

ON A muggy Tuesday morning last week, half-a-dozen Hyundai SUVs tailed a black pilot car zipping around the 5.14-km grid at the Buddh International Circuit in Greater Noida. In contrast to the last major international event here six years ago, when open-cockpit, single-seater Formula One cars had spun around the track with ear-splitting wails, the all-electric posse barely emitted a sound.

South Korean car manufacturer Hyundai's move to showcase its Kona Electric SUVs at the race grid, three days after the Union Budget offered a patchwork of incentives for EVs, was more a demonstration effort than a serious sales pitch. However, it made Hyundai the first firm to introduce a long-range battery vehicle in India — and to herald the start of many.

The Kona will soon face competition from MG Motor India, a unit of China's SAIC Motor Corp, which is slated to offer its e2S electric SUV by the end of December. The two premium-segment offerings will add to the modest line-up of electric cars available currently — the Mahindra e-Verito and e2o (discontinued since March 2019 due to low sales) and the Tata Tigor EV. India's largest car-maker Maruti Suzuki is evaluating a commercial launch next year in the lower end of the segment, with 50 electric WagonRs being tested currently; Mahindra is working on an electric KUV100; Audi is planning an all-electric e-tron in India mid-next year; while by late-2020, Jaguar will have the I-Pace here.

The Modi government has set a target of 30% vehicles becoming EV by 2030. At a Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers' (SIAM) conference in September last year, Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari had put the target at 15% in five years.

The government has also revised its National Electric Mobility Mission Plan 2020, on faster adoption of EVs and their manufacturing. Under it, electrification of public and shared transportation is to be supported, with subsidy push for 7,000 e-buses, 5 lakh e-3 wheelers, 55,000 electric & hybrid (xEV) four-wheelers and 10 lakh e-2 Wheelers.

But the Budget, the slew of launches and the government's good intentions notwithstanding, India is only playing catch-up in the global push for EVs, with no clear guiding policy. While global sales of passenger EVs crossed 4 million last week, just about 2,000 EVs were sold in India last year. China, where the government has handed out hefty subsidies and incentives to manufacturers, made up over a third of the global sales.

In the Budget, the government announced lowering of GST on EVs from 12% to 5%, an income tax deduction of Rs 1.5 lakh on interest paid on loans taken to purchase EVs, and Customs duty exemptions on imports of specific components. Additionally, some states offer a waiver of registration tax.

But to come anywhere close to meeting the target that Gadkari outlined, the smattering of incentives are a drop in the ocean.

The EV push

While India has seen a rapid rise in vehicle ownership — from 53 per 1,000 population in 2001 to 167 in 2015 — there is a stark difference from other countries in terms of the vehicular mix. NITI Aayog and the World Energy Council's (WEC) 'Zero Emission Vehicles: Towards a Policy Framework, 2018' report lays this out analysing six years of sales data. In that period, two-wheelers made up 79% of the total sales, three-wheelers (passenger and goods) 4%, buses and large goods vehicles like trucks 3%, non-premium four-wheelers (costing less than Rs 10 lakh) 12%, and premium four-wheelers (costing over Rs 10 lakh) 2%.

In nations like Norway, the world leader in EVs, the shift has followed a top-down approach since EVs are a technology-intensive and, hence, expensive proposition. But, as the data show, in India, premium four-

wheeler car owners who would be most amenable to these technologies make up just 2% of the sales. This underlines the need for technological and manufacturing leadership in the mass market — incidentally something that has already happened, albeit haphazardly, in the case of e-rickshaws.

At the policy level, there is a recognition of this. The EV transition plan, for example, is now focused on the two-wheeler segment, compared to four-wheelers earlier. The other focus area is the explosion in shared mobility in India. Taxi aggregators like Ola and Uber went up from 130 million rides in 2015 to 500 million rides in 2016, and hence offer a lucrative market given the high vehicle utilisation.

Problem areas

While some of these are generic issues, there are several India-specific concerns.

In a 2016 EV survey, covering China, Germany, and the US, McKinsey found that consumers ranked not having enough access to efficient charging stations as the third most serious barrier to EV purchase, behind price and driving range. With EV prices declining and range expanding, charging could soon become the top barrier.

Maruti Suzuki Chairman R C Bhargava points out that most small car owners park outdoors in India. Plus, while in cities such as Chandigarh or parts of the NCR, many single-family, low-rise homes might have parking slots, in Mumbai, dwellings are largely high-rise apartments. These two scenarios have disparate charging-infrastructure needs.

In India, the debate on charging is still at an extremely nascent stage. Assuming a moderate level of adoption, India needs about \$6 billion for charging infrastructure, \$4 billion in incentives and a further \$7 billion to build battery capacity, according to estimates by Goldman Sachs Group Inc.

Now, the India-specific problems. In countries such as Norway, a majority of the charging stations are located on the premises of a conventional fuel station. In India, this would not be possible at most fuel pumps, since the infrastructure is typically cramped into a tight plot of land. Ole Henrik Hannisdahl, the CEO of Green Contact, who sets up fast-charging stations in Norway, which has made several sorties to India, says spacing out charging infrastructure from fuel pumps is also needed on grounds of security. "Fresh thinking would be needed on where to house EV charging stations," he told *The Indian Express* in an earlier interview.

What would also be needed is a combination of regular charging ports (typically at homes, offices) alongside fast-charging options (at supermarkets and along highways).

There is another issue. In Norway, 99% of the electricity comes from clean hydro power. Connecting the charging infrastructure to renewable energy and not coal was the most fundamental aspect of our EV push, Vidar Helgesen, Norway's former minister of climate and environment, said, speaking with *The Indian Express*. But in India, over 70% of the electricity generation is coal-fired.

Hydro power, which could be a good source of peaking power requirements that EV charging typically leads to, has been steadily declining from India's power mix.

With respect to the charging infrastructure, the government's subsidy plan focuses mainly on public transport, like rickshaws, cars and buses, and personal two-wheelers.

Range anxiety

The fear of being left stranded due to an exhausted battery — known as 'range anxiety' — is a key reason that deters buyers from purchasing an EV. The other is worry that an EV's battery would degrade over time. The solution is increasing the driving range of vehicles or going for hybrid options (see box).

EXPLAINED E

Miles to go

IN TERMS of low numbers of EVs sold (4 mn sales globally compared to 2,000 last year in India), savings in imported crude purchase (well over Rs 1.3 lakh crore), as well as the pollution problem, the government is right in pushing for electrical vehicles. However, a lot of ground is still to be covered.

The Kona claims to be able to cover 452 km on full charge under ARAI (Automotive Research Association of India) test conditions. Going by this, one can drive from Delhi to Amritsar on a single charge with the Kona. In real road conditions (during tests in the EU), this battery achieved a range of 289 km — roughly Delhi to Kasauli — on a single charge.

Mass market cars such as the Tata Tigor EV or the Mahindra eVerito have a more modest range — about 100 km in road conditions.

The government hopes to address the concerns regarding batteries by developing an ecosystem of fast-charging stations and swapping of batteries, at least on a transitional basis.

Directional flip-flops

The Indian automobile and components sector, which is witnessing its worst sales in over a decade, is currently in the process of investing upwards of Rs 1 lakh crore for manufacture of more environment-friendly BS-VI compliant vehicles from April 2020. The shift to the new BS-VI norms comes less than 3.5 years after BS-IV-rated cars were rolled out — an extremely tight window. The EV plan now comes smack in the middle of this transition.

Recent reports that the government is considering banning the sale of internal combustion engine (ICE) three-wheelers by 2023 and less than 150cc two-wheelers by 2025 has further ruffled feathers, with the SIAM calling it "impractical". A SIAM functionary says the industry needs a "stable long-term policy" and that the shift to EVs requires "the building of an entire ecosystem and not piecemeal build-up".

Currently, EV makers, whether of cars, commercial vehicles or two-wheelers, have to deal with the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Ministry of Road Transport for guidelines, the Ministry of Power on charging infrastructure, as well as the Ministry of Finance and GST Council over taxation issues. NITI Aayog too has jumped into the fray. Other government agencies such as the ARAI are involved in certification of cars.

The duplication of efforts also means policy flip-flops. The first Modi government had said it plans to come out with a policy on EVs, but in 2017, the Ministry of Road Transport said a new policy was not required. Now it's back to the original stand.

Subsidies and prices

Even if the charging issue was adequately addressed, EVs are currently priced out of the market. The Kona is pegged at Rs 25.30 lakh, while a comparable product, the Hyundai Creta, costs Rs 12-15 lakh for the petrol version. Hyundai says it does not expect big demand for the Kona and that it was introduced with a broader objective. "We will have a top-down approach... We will bring lower-end electric cars later. We think that the real demand and meaningful volume will be inter-

esting in the mass market vehicle," says S S Kim, MD & CEO of Hyundai Motor India.

Similarly, the Tata Tigor EV starts at Rs 9.9 lakh as compared to Rs 5.5 lakh for the petrol version. The electric WagonR may cost as much as Rs 12 lakh, compared to the Rs 4.20-Rs 5.70 lakh (ex-showroom, Delhi) for its petrol version. Maruti Suzuki's Bhargava fears that the price of electrifying a small car may put it beyond the reach of buyers.

There seems to be consensus within the industry that for any material difference on the final price, there has to be large-scale production of three primary components of an EV — the battery, the motor controller and the electric engine. And that there has to be a combination of EV-focused incentives and disincentives for ICE vehicles. Norway, for example, waives the high taxes it imposes on sales of other cars for EVs, lets EVs run in bus lanes, exempts them from road tolls, and allows free charge at parking lots, while new charging stations are being continuously built on highways.

EVs in the US, Europe and China have up to 40% "all-in" subsidies, including direct federal or state subsidy to buyers and mandates to manufacturers. In Korea, Kim says, while the central government gives 25% subsidy on the cost of an EV, the local city authorities provide an additional 25% subsidy.

The leader in EV penetration level, with these making up over 40% of its light vehicle sales in 2018, Norway, is followed by Iceland (EV penetration of 17%), Sweden (7%) and the Netherlands (5%). China is targeting sales of 7 million new-energy vehicles by 2025, which may account for 15% of its market by then, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers.

S&P Global Platts Analytics believes EVs and plug-in hybrids will account for nearly half of global car sales by 2040. Bank of America Merrill Lynch predicts global oil demand growth will peak by 2030, largely due to the popularity of EVs.

The way ahead

Charging infrastructure has to be at the centre of any policy push. Charging points can be rolled out on a city-by-city basis. This would be consistent with global experience where 33% of all EV sales take place in 14 cities alone, where charging infrastructure is widespread and convenient to use.

Given India's unique mobility pattern, the focus should be on small, public and rural transportation. The two-wheeler focus also makes sense from the point of practicality. Small batteries, short-distance commutes, and vehicles being parked inside housing premises makes charging two-wheelers an easier prospect. Given the CNG station queues currently, cars must clearly be pushed only after charging infrastructure reaches a critical mass.

India has around 180 million two-wheelers. Assuming that each of these uses a little over half a litre of petrol per day, or about 200 litres per year, it works out to around 36 billion litres. At Rs 72 per litre, this would cost about Rs 2.6 lakh crore. On a conservative assumption that 50% of this is imported crude, there is a possibility of saving Rs 1.3 lakh crore worth of imported oil. If the EV push is planned right, there is a real possibility of such savings actually working out over the next few years.

According to the government's latest numbers (June 2019), through support given for purchase of hybrids and EVs, approximately 48 million litres of fuel has been saved so far.

Clearly, there is a long way to go.

12 BIG PICTURE



The ABL *kalsh* at the Rajkiya Adarsh school in Vishnoda village, Dholpur, has lines on the walls for children to write on and activities to make learning fun; at the Karimpur school, Kamlesh Mittal teaches children using props she designed



Priyanka, on the right, with her friends at the Kasturba school in Kuchaman, Nagaur. Daughter of a marble worker, her education is funded by the state; several school buildings in Dholpur have been painted to look like trains to attract students



Rakhi, a Class 4 student of the Karimpur school, with her family — mother Bhuri, siblings, cousin and her pet goat Iru



In Rajasthan, the progress of every child is tracked through three Summative Assessments and internal tests. The Sunday Express visited schools in Nagaur and Dholpur districts between February and May

RAJASTHAN SCHOOLS

1,07,931
Total schools (2015-16)
70,664
Govt schools
34,872
Private schools
1,23,40,135
Total enrollment (2015-16)
62,66,075
Enrollment in govt schools
58,91,623
Enrollment in pvt schools

19:1
Pupil Teacher ratio
Source: DISE data, 2015-16

TOP 10 DISTRICTS BY NAS 2017 SCORES, CLASS 8 MATHEMATICS, IN %

Nagaur	70.53
Dhaulpur	70.11
Dausa	68.49
Belagavi Chikodi	66.65
Churu	66.63
Belagavi	65.37
Barmer	64.65
East Godavari	63.97
Bagalkot	63.88
Ajmer	63.65

* 6 of the top 10 in Rajasthan, 3 in Karnataka, 1 in Andhra Pradesh
* Top 3 in Rajasthan
Source: NAS data, 2017

A HAPPY CLASS

Once a laggard in education, Rajasthan has been working to make schools less dreary and more child-focused, a path also advocated by the recent draft education policy. The results are visible, with its districts topping the last National Achievement Survey. TEXT & PHOTOGRAPHS BY UMA VISHNU, recounting the success stories in Dholpur and Nagaur's big leaps

THE NINE-year-old gasps twice before she speaks, haltingly, in English. "I... I am Rakhi. I am studying in Class 4." For those tense seconds, Rakhi stands stiff, staring at the floor, pinching the seams of her coffee brown uniform *kurta*. The mountain of a task done, she tosses back her hair, breaks into a high-wattage smile and sticks out her hand: "How are you? How was your day?"

But her teacher Kamlesh Mittal isn't letting her off soon. "Here, do some maths," she says, pushing a long notebook in her direction. "9,999 + 825 + 7000..." she says in Hindi. "Diyon se, seedhi banake (carefully, with the place values right, like a ladder)..." Mittal, in charge of the primary school in Karimpur in Rajasthan's Dholpur district, has been a teacher for 31 years. "See how good they are," she says as Rakhi gets the sum right. "Maths is not a problem for their children. It's English that they struggle with. And there, we can't help them much."

Next, it's Armaan's turn. He walks up to Mittal's desk, his brow knit with worry. "Show me how you do this subtraction," she says, giving him a notebook with two three-digit numbers. As the boy uses his left hand to count, Mittal says, "When Arman got into Class 4, he was terrible at maths. I started by giving him Class 1 maths, sometimes Class 2. Now he comes and asks, 'Ma'am, what can I solve?'"

By now, Arman has done the three-digit subtraction and Mittal triumphantly pushes the notebook over way. "See, *ek dum theek*," Arman smiles, his brow still knit.

Mittal is part of the State Initiative for Quality Education (SIQE), a quiet revolution sweeping through Rajasthan's government schools, where a focus on improving learning levels has seen an entire department recalibrate its working. From tracking every child's learning levels to identifying the ones who have fallen behind and teaching them in smaller groups; from teachers making 15-day teaching plans for the class and for individual children; from Activity Based Learning kits to workshops through video conferencing to help teachers make maths and science less dreary, SIQE involves everyone from the local panchayat to the education secretary and all in between — principals, teachers and the students themselves. The results have been showing. In the last National Achievement Survey (NAS), conducted in 2017, which tests children in Classes 3, 5 and 8 for language, science, mathematics and social studies, Rajasthan scored the highest in Class 8 among all states — language (a state-wide average score of 67%), mathematics (57%), and science (52%). The Sunday Express listed all districts across India according to their NAS

Class 8 maths score and of the top 10 districts, six were from Rajasthan, with Nagaur (70.53%), Dholpur (70.11%) and Dausa (68.49%) the Top 3. Besides, in the Performance Grading Index for school education (2017-18) prepared by the Ministry of Human Resource Development and released earlier this year, Rajasthan ranked the highest in 'learning outcomes and quality', scoring 168 out of 180 points.

The trigger for much of this chum is classrooms such as Mittal's.

Behind Mittal's desk is a pink chart paper with names of all 86 children in the school from Classes 1 to 5. Against each name are two columns — one the child's class, and the other the '*lakshya shiksha*' or grade level indicating the child's learning level. Rakhi is Class 4; Arman's is Class 4, Class 1.

Of the 69 children from classes 2 to 5 in the school, the learning levels of 54 are not up to grade. Mittal says that when the year began, there were only six children among 18 in Class 5 who were grade appropriate; that number has now gone up to nine.

"By the time they finish Class 5, we have to make sure all these children can do what a Class 5 child should be doing in terms of reading, writing, maths and science. There is a lot of work left," says Mittal, adding, "But at least now we know what the problem is, which child to focus on."

In Rajasthan's government schools, every child in the primary classes has a 'portfolio', usually a paper file which holds his/her worksheets done in class and assessed by the teacher. The file also tracks the child's progress through three Summative Assessments and internal tests. Rakhi is Rakhi-1 on her yellow portfolio. "That's because there are two Rakhis in Class 4," says Mittal, thumbing through Rakhi-1's worksheets — multiplication sums, an essay on trees, fill in the blanks, and a lotus that she has drawn, with the teachers' comments scrawled along the margins.

The school is by an open sewage pool. "This is not the sight that should be greeting children every morning. Please do something about this," Mittal tells a group of officials from the Education Department who are on an impromptu visit to the school.

There are other problems too. "We bring small gifts, notebooks, pens, to keep the children motivated. We also get them to do activity-based learning," she says.

Mittal says she and her husband, who works in the Dholpur collectorate, have sat up several nights to make these props — *shanyani man patli* to teach place value; *ank seedhi*, a game modelled on snakes and ladders; and a way to do addition and subtraction with match sticks. But a favourite with children is *gule ka number*, for which Mittal has fashioned number tags from old play-

cards which children wear around their necks. So for instance, if Rakhi gets the 72 tag, she stays 72 for the entire day and understands the number vis-à-vis other numbers — that 72 is 5 more than Armaan's 67, 2 more than 70 and so on. "This way, numbers come alive and stay less abstract. It's good to know that 72 has its uses, that it's more than just a number that has to be placed in units and tens places," says Mittal.

Across Rajasthan, for two days every month, teachers assemble in select schools for a live videoconferencing session, during which experts and educationists talk to teachers in far-flung areas about simple activities to make learning fun. These sessions are usually held in model or 'Adarsh' schools. There is usually one such school with classes from 1 to 12 in each gram panchayat that acts as a mentor for other schools in the area.

"Each time, over two lakh teachers across 3,000 schools in the state turn up very little by way of learning."

The Rajkiya Adarsh Uch Madhyamik Vidyalaya in Vishnoda village, Dholpur, has just completed work on its ABL *kalsh*. As

scheme for school education from primary to Class 12.

In 2013-14 then chief minister Vasundhara Raje set up the CM's Advisory Council, with nine sub-groups, including on health, power and education. Led by educationists such as Urvashi Sahni, founder and CEO of the Lucknow-based Study Hall Education Foundation, Gowri Ishwaran, CEO of the Global Education & Leadership Foundation, and Arun Kapur of Delhi's Vasant Valley School, the education sub-group held a series of deliberations on reforms, with SIQE topping their agenda.

Like several good ideas, this one too would have stayed on paper if not for an army of inspired footsoldiers led by Nareesh Pal Gangwar, a 1994-batch IAS officer who came in as Principal Secretary in charge of School Education. Gangwar instantly recognised that the scale was huge and the base dismal — according to the HRD Ministry's DISE data for 2013-14, Rajasthan had 83,564 government schools with over 64 lakh children and over three lakh teachers, but saw very little by way of learning.

The entire department got synergised. Everybody had a voice and transmission

loss was reduced. We got feedback instantly and could start working to rectify or go ahead with what we planned," says Gangwar, who is now Principal Secretary, Energy.

Buildings were spruced and basic facilities such as toilets, drinking water and boundary walls put in place. Many schools got a new look, with a fresh coat of paint and wall paintings. School buildings painted to look like train coaches are currently the most popular design, says Garg, the SAMSa coordinator in Dholpur.

There are, however, challenges. In the absence of adequate funding — the Interim Budget presented in February set aside 16.8% for education — much of this change has depended heavily on individual leaders, especially principals and teachers who have been motivated to, besides contributing money themselves, raise funds from the community through crowdfunding.

Almost every government school in the state has an Akshay Petika, a box where members of the community make donations, anything from as low as Re 1 to a few thousands. The Petika is opened only during meetings of the school management committee, which has parents and community leaders as members. Schools also prominently display a list of 'Bhamashas' or members of the village community who have made significant contributions. The money is used to fund anything from sweaters for children to desks and fans in classrooms.

INTERVIEW

'Will probe if there was RTE violation in schools merged by previous govt'

Govind Singh Dotasra, MoS (Independent) for Primary and Secondary Education, Rajasthan, talks about the govt's roadmap for education



How committed is the government to sustaining the educational reforms of the last few years?

After our government took over, 54,000 teachers whose cases were stuck in court were selected, counselled and sent to school. We did in six months what the previous government couldn't in their five years.

We also strengthened the bond between the community and government schools through monthly Bal Sabhas that are held in village chaupals across the state. These events are attended by teachers, students and community elders... the idea is for all stakeholders to come together to improve the quality of education. On the Bal Sabhas held on May 9, villagers made donations worth Rs 5 crore — additional rooms in schools, fans, furniture, uniform, RO, etc.

We also launched the Rajiv Gandhi Career guidance portal for students of classes 9-12. Now every child has a login ID through which she can know her career options...

We have also done a lot for teachers. For instance, there were 73 Urdu teachers who had been posted in schools where there were no students for the subject. Similarly, for teachers of commerce and so on. So we transferred them to match students with subject teachers and thus used our resources more effectively.

We unidid some of the curriculum changes the previous government brought in to impose the Sangh ideology on students.

Also, for the first time, we set up 33 Mahatma Gandhi English-medium schools, one in each district, with Classes from 1 to 8. We had to do admissions through lottery because the demand was huge. We plan to set up such schools in every block.

Is the government planning to reopen the schools that were merged by your predecessor?

We have formed a committee to examine the merger exercise that the previous government undertook. According to the information we have, 2,851 schools were shut in violation of RTE norms. We will examine that and also see if some of these schools have enough students. If they do, we may reopen them.

Are funds a challenge? Most of the schools depend heavily on private donors and community leaders to meet their infrastructure demands.

Funding will never be an issue. The CM in his Budget speech said 60 new primary schools will be set up, 60 will be converted from primary to higher primary, 100 from higher primary to secondary, and 500 secondary schools will be turned into higher secondary schools. So many schools have never been announced in any Budget before. So funding is not an issue.

Prime time on the border

TAKE 5

FACES ON THE FRINGES
OF NEWSPAWAN VERMA, 47, TEACHER IN
BARABANKI

Govt is giving DD set-top boxes to J&K villages to stop them 'falling prey to Pak propaganda'. Are we still in antenna age, ask villagers

ARUN SHARMA

TARSEM SINGH, 52, of Bobiyan village in Kathua went to Hiranagar, 10 km away, to receive a free Doodardshan set-top box from the Union Minister of State in the PMO, Dr Jitendra Singh, last month.

However, he is yet to make up his mind on what to do with it as he already has one set-top box at home. "The government was distributing them for free. I thought let's get one first and then decide what to do with it," he says.

A farmer who owns nearly four acres, Tarsem was among the 20 people who were handed over the set-top boxes by the Union minister himself. Of them, 10 hailed from the border Kathua district and five each from the adjoining Samba and Jammu districts.

The Central government intends to distribute 15,000 DD set-top boxes each in Jammu and Kashmir divisions for free. In the first phase, 1,500 set-top boxes have been distributed in Kathua, Samba and Jammu.

Giving the boxes, Singh said people in border areas were compelled to watch "propaganda" of Pakistani TV channels as connectivity in border areas in the absence of mobile phone and TV signals remained a major issue, and that the Centre wanted to check this through DD, which would disseminate "authentic information". With the DD set-top boxes, he said, the villagers could watch nearly 100 free-to-air channels and get information on government policies.

To be eligible, households had to be located within 0-5 km area of the International Border or Line of Control, have a TV/LCD screen, an official electricity connection, and a mobile phone connection. The government also specified that priority would be given to households with no access to TV cable network.

This, laughs Bobiyan sarpanch Bharat Bushan Sharma, shows how government decisions are taken. "Yeh ek jeeta-jaagta udaharan hai ki sarkar mein baithay log kaisey aam janata ke dukh-takleef aur jagah ki jankari ke bagair, apney daftron mein baith kar, unkey liye policy banatey hein" (This is a living example of how bureaucrats make policies for general masses sitting in their offices without an idea of their problems or of the area they live in.)

He adds, "What does the government want to convey by distributing DD set-top boxes when almost every household has a dish in border areas these days? Perhaps officials are under the impression that people in border areas still have TV antennas. These have been replaced by dish long ago, bringing an end to the popularity of Pakistani TV channels in the area."

Sharma points out that the border villagers have never asked for free set-top boxes, and that their demands rather are installation of more mobile phone towers so that they can get better signal, five *marla* plots at safer places, away from the border, and reservation for their children in jobs and professional colleges.

Tarsem, along with his mother, wife and three children — in classes 8, 6 and nursery — lives in a *pucca* house. With a monthly income that he puts at Rs 2,000, he has a portable, 14-inch colour TV, a smartphone, and a washing machine. The 52-year-old says that while he bought the TV second-hand and installed the dish four years ago, most villagers had replaced the traditional aluminium antenna 14-15 years ago.

Before the installation of DTH, he would



Tarsem Singh at his home, with a dish already installed on the roof. He says he isn't sure what to do with the DD set-top box but took it as it was for free. Arun Sharma

66 PER CENT HOUSEHOLDS OWN TV SETS

At the function to launch the distribution of free set-top boxes in Jammu and Kashmir last month, Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar said that every household in India would soon have a television. "There are 25 crore households in India and 18 crore have a TV set. There are still seven crore households without a TV," he said.

A look at India's television story:

THE BEGINNING

Tucked away at the bottom of the third page of *The Indian Express* on January 6, 1950, was a small news item from Madras. T N Seshadri, who worked as Physics and Soil Mechanics Officer with the Public Works Department, had written about a cathode-ray television set on display at the polytechnic wing of the Industries Department in Teynampet. The TV set only displayed an image of a scanned letter, and

watch Pakistan TV on a neighbour's black-and-white set as its signal was more clear than DD's. While he can't recall now the names of the shows he watched, Tarsem says it was hardly propaganda. Now, with his dish,

Seshadri wrote that to his knowledge "this is the very first time that such a demonstration is shown in Madras, if not in India".

To now: India is one of the world's largest TV markets. According to data collected by the Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) of India in 2018, of 298 million households in the country, 197 million households — or 66 per cent of the households — own a TV set.

TV HOMES

Census 2001: 32% households had TV (60.6 million of 191.9 million households)
Census 2011: 47%
BARC 2018: 66%

THE TARGET

Between 2016 and 2018, as per BARC data, 14 million households got a TV set. Even at that rate, it can take nearly 15 years for television to penetrate 100 million house-

holds that don't have a TV at present.

Industry insiders say TV is one of the first things a household buys, after a fan, once the home is electrified. So while the country is approaching nearly 100% electrification, a third of the country doesn't own a TV.

WHAT LIES AHEAD

Industry sources say the definition of what is considered television is rapidly changing. Unlike earlier, when a cathode-ray tube screen, flat-screen LED or plasma screen was considered a television, now any screen has the potential to function as one. With mobile phones growing at a much faster rate than the number of traditional TV screens, there is a possibility that TV penetration in the country in future could outstrip the actual number of TV sets that households own.

KRISHNA KAUSHIK

Tarsem mostly watches news and sports, while the children watch entertainment channels.

Local businessman Desh Rattan, who remembers watching Pakistani shows such as

Neelamgarh and *Deewarein*, says, "Until three decades ago, what to speak of border areas, even people in Jammu city used to watch Pakistani TV shows as their telecast was more clear than DD's."

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN NCLT COURTROOM, FORT, MUMBAI

'Going to court is like going to a graveyard'

Since January 2017, National Company Law Tribunal, the adjudicating authority for bankruptcy and corporate cases, has admitted 1,858 cases and managed closure in little over a half. No surprise then that 'judicial members' usually have one advice: settle

KHUSHBOONARAYAN

IT'S A humid day at the end of June, and the discomfort is showing among the 60 people crammed into a room designed to hold no more than 25. In an earlier avatar, this room might have been a conference room. Today, it is functioning as a court room of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Mumbai.

Despite the crowd interest, the case being heard isn't anything sensational, but a mundane corporate matter where a director of a firm and his promoter are fighting over a Rs 2.5 crore compensation. But since the passage of the bankruptcy law in 2016, the NCLT office, at Mahatma Gandhi Road at Fort, is as central to the Mumbai corporate world as the iconic BSE building or Bombay House, the headquarters of the Tata group.

Under the law, the NCLT is the adjudicating authority for bankruptcy and corporate cases, and a massive influx of cases means it is now as busy as the rest of India's overburdened judicial system. It is also as short of infrastructure and staff strength. Apart from bankruptcy cases, the NCLT also hears matters such as allegations of oppression and mismanagement against companies.

Since January 2017, the tribunal has admitted 1,858 cases under the bankruptcy law. Till March 2019, only 715 had seen some kind of closure. Of the rest that are pending, 362 cases have been pending beyond 270 days, the time limit set by the bankruptcy law for closure.

The burden of numbers is evident at the NCLT, with its walls plastered with notices like "Kindly give seats to Advocates and lawyers/professionals during proceedings... Others may occupy seats if they are empty".

The contesting parties include lenders and borrowers, buyers and suppliers, as well as employers and employees. Just like lawyers seeking customers outside regular courts, the NCLT has 'resolution professionals' chasing clients handing out business cards.

On this June day, the cause list has 52 cases, and all of them are called out. It is no surprise that the "judicial members (equivalent to judges)" begin the proceedings asking litigants, "Any chance of a settlement?"

Seeking to push the parties towards settlements rather than lengthy trials, the judicial members use humour to prod and reprimand. Hearing the case of the director versus the company promoter, the judicial member tells the latter's son, "I know that in courts *joh jeeta wahi Sikandar*, but *babu*, tell your father to be considerate. Going to court is like going to a graveyard."

In another case, involving the division of a family business, an aunt is told to invite a warring nephew and make lunch for him as the means to reach a settlement. The suggestion does not go down well with either party.

Unlike other courts, the NCLT regularly hears litigants who come without lawyers, like a 69-year old today who has approached the tribunal against a firm to whom she had let out her property and which has gone



Besides bankruptcy cases, NCLT also hears matters such as allegations of mismanagement against companies. Prashant Nadkar



'Many of us travel from far to schools in interiors, with no network'

'700 have faced pay cuts for not taking selfies... we're unhappy'

Teachers in UP's Barabanki district have been asked to mark attendance by taking a selfie in school and sending it to the Basic Shiksha Adhikari before 8 am every day, failing which they would be marked absent and their day's salary deducted. Verma points out problems with the order

1 When was the order given?

It was given in May by the district's Chief Development Officer (CDO). It is being implemented rigorously now.

2 How does the system work?

We are supposed to take a selfie and send it to a WhatsApp group. Schools start at 8 am and we are given grace time of about 5-10 minutes to post selfies. Those who fail to do so in the stipulated time stand to lose half the day's pay and those who don't do it at all lose the entire day's salary. Salaries of 700 teachers have been deducted since May.

3 Is this applicable to all schools?

There are 7,500 teachers in 3,150 primary and upper primary schools in the district, where this order is applicable.

4 Do teachers support the order?

Teachers are unhappy because many of them travel from far-off places to schools in the interiors, where it's difficult to reach. Moreover, some of these areas have network issues... Some senior teachers are not well-equipped with smart phones.

5 Has the attendance improved?

Teachers have been trying to reach on time against all odds... But now, they are also using the WhatsApp groups to point out problems at their schools. Some have been posting selfies with stagnant water in the background.

MAULSHREE SETHI

THE SUNDAY PROFILE: P JAYARAJAN, THE MAN IN THE MIDDLE OF AN NRI SUICIDE ROW, CPM KANNUR TENSION

THE FOREVER REBEL

He has cadres jostling for selfies and fan pages devoted to him. As P Jayarajan grows in popularity in the CPM bastion of Kannur, the party watches warily. The recent suicide of a Kerala businessman that laid bare fissures within the CPM has only worsened its sense of unease

SHAJU PHILIP

ON THE night of May 18, with five days left for counting of votes for the Lok Sabha elections, C O T Naseer, a former CPI(M) worker who contested from Vatakara constituency in Kerala as an Independent candidate, was attacked by assailants. The opposition Congress pointed fingers at the CPI(M), particularly at P Jayarajan, the party candidate from the seat and an accused in two cases of political killings in Kannur district.

Two days after the attack, Jayarajan rushed to the hospital where Naseer was admitted. He later told reporters, "Naseer has always been my friend. I have nothing to do with the attack. This is a move to frame me."

The case saw a twist when on June 21 police arrested N K Ragesh, an aide of CPI(M) legislator A N Shamseer, who represents Thalassery Assembly seat that's part of Vatakara.

Recovering from the attack, Naseer, 37, a native of Thalassery, told *The Sunday Express*, "Shamseer has held a grudge against me ever since I exposed certain anomalies in the development of a stadium last year." He added that the assailants probably chose to attack him during the elections knowing well that the blame would shift to Jayarajan.

When contacted by *The Sunday Express*, Shamseer refused to comment.

Arguably the most popular CPM leader in Kannur in a party that is suspicious of personality cults, Jayarajan, a former district secretary, has increasingly been finding himself on the wrong side of the party bosses. Once a close confidant of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, their relationship soured after Vijayan became CM in 2016. He is now often compared to V S Achuthanandan. Vijayan's *bete noir* during his days as party secretary, who was popular among the masses but often took positions that embarrassed the party. But unlike Achuthanandan, Jayarajan is also popular among the party rank and file, with the 66-year-old achieving near cult status among the cadre in the northern districts of the state that are considered the party's stronghold.

Just when the party was dealing with the fallout of the Vatakara attack, the recent suicide of an NRI investor further widened the faultlines within the party, with Jayarajan once again pitted against the seniors in the party.

Sajan Parayil, 48, an expatriate who had returned to the state after 15 years in Nigeria, hanged himself on June 18, allegedly after the CPI(M)-ruled Anthoor municipality delayed the occupancy certificate for a Rs 15-crore convention centre he had built. The 28-member Anthoor municipality has no Opposition members and its chairperson PK



P Jayarajan served as the CPI(M)'s district secretary in Kannur prior to being named as the party's candidate from Vatakara constituency. He lost the polls. *Express*

Shyamala, wife of MV Govindan, a member of the CPI(M) central committee, was blamed for denying Parayil the certificate. Parayil's wife Beena alleged that Shyamala denied him the clearance since he was close to Jayarajan and had approached him for help.

While the party and the government rallied behind Shyamala, Jayarajan treaded a different path. Four days after the businessman's suicide, at a CPI(M) meeting in Anthoor to explain the party's stand on the issue, with Shyamala on stage, Jayarajan said, "What is the role of councillors in a CPI(M)-ruled municipality? People's representatives have a responsibility towards the public. They have to make officials work for the people... As a Communist leader as well as the municipal chairperson, Shyamala failed to do that."

That his stand met with the CM's disapproval was apparent when Vijayan, while replying to an adjournment motion in the Assembly on the investor's suicide, said, "It has been apparent that in order to insult the CPI(M), party leader Jayarajan himself is be-

ing used. There have been such attempts in the past to insult the party using such idols, but those haven't affected the CPI(M)."

In Vijayan's message was an acknowledgment and a sense of unease over Jayarajan's growing stature. In the crowded pantheon of CPI(M) stalwarts from Kannur, Jayarajan has not only managed to find a space for himself but also left some of them rattled.

Kannur is the home ground of party stalwarts such as former CM E K Nayanar and A K Gopalan. CM Vijayan himself and party state secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan, both Politburo members, are from here. Four members of the central committee, E P Jayarajan, M V Govindan, K K Shailaja and P K Sreemathi, also belong to Kannur.

Over the last two decades, as Kannur witnessed some of worst political murders, three Kannur CPM leaders — P Jayarajan, E P Jayarajan and M V Jayarajan — kept the cadre morale high, flexing their muscles to take on the Sangh Parivar. However, when Vijayan became the CM in 2016 and E P Jayarajan his second-in-command in the Cabinet as

Industries Minister, the politics of the Kannur lobby underwent a tangible change.

In 2016, when Jayarajan, then district secretary of the CPI(M), addressed a protest march at a police station in Kannur over an action against a party worker, Kodiyeri reprimanded him since the party thought it was unbecoming of a CPI(M) leader to be protesting at a police station when the Left Democratic Front was in power, with the party holding the Home portfolio.

The CPI(M), mindful of its role as the party in power, has softened its attack on rivals, but Jayarajan has stuck to his style of functioning, using militant ways to take on rivals. Over the last decade, the CBI has chargesheeted him in two cases of political murders, one of an Indian Union Muslim League leader and another related to the killing of an RSS district leader.

Lumpen elements in the party jostled to take selfies with Jayarajan and his loyalists created social media fan pages such as "P J Army". To them, he was the only man who could take on Sangh Parivar cadres, an aura that was cemented by the story of how he

THE OTHER JAYARAJANS



EP JAYARAJAN

A CPI(M) central committee member, the 69-year-old is Industries Minister and second-in command in the Vijayan Cabinet. In 2016, a few months after the CPI(M) came to power, Jayarajan had to quit over alleged nepotism in public sector appointments. Later, he returned to the Cabinet after the court cleared him of charges. The first all-India president of the CPM youth wing DYFI, Jayarajan, a diploma holder in electrical engineering, had been groomed by the late M V Raghavan, who was ousted from the party in 1986. Jayarajan had escaped an attempt on life in 1995 when he was shot at while on a train.



M V JAYARAJAN

After P Jayarajan was deputed to contest the 2019 election, M V Jayarajan, 59, was made district secretary of the CPI(M) in Kannur. Known for his provocative speeches, he was sentenced to six months in jail in 2011 after he abused High Court judges for a decision on banning roadside meetings. Now out on bail, he has stuck to his controversial ways, and has often publicly abused policemen for taking partymen into custody. In 2016, when Vijayan took over as CM, Jayarajan had been made his private secretary, a post he held until becoming party district secretary in Kannur.

alleged involvement in political killings since they believe it's for the greater good of stopping the BJP."

Chandran says Jayarajan's clean image has helped too. "He is not involved in corruption cases and scandals. Unlike other leaders, he hasn't been accused of promoting his children either," he says.

But as Jayarajan's popularity grew, the party leadership got increasingly wary until it decided to crack the whip on the former school dropout. He was censured for glorifying himself and trying to grow beyond the party — a charge Jayarajan had raised against party veteran V S Achuthanandan during the latter's run-ins with Vijayan.

The party moved to clip Jayarajan's wings even before the elections. He was one of the three district secretaries who were made to quit their posts after they were given tickets to contest the Lok Sabha elections. But while the other two district secretaries — K N Balagopal, who contested from Kollam, and V N Vasavan, who contested from Kottayam — got back their posts, they too, like Jayarajan, lost the elections. In his place, the party brought in Vijayan's private secretary M V Jayarajan. Now, P Jayarajan remains only a member of the party state committee.

CPI(M) sources in Kannur say there could be more reasons for the party to clip his wings. Pointing to the groundswell of sentiments against political violence, they say Jayarajan's militant ways were a liability for the party.

A source in the party said, "For the first time, the CPI(M) central committee review on the 2019 election identified political killings in Kannur as a factor that worked against party candidates in North Kerala. The party will no longer take responsibility for crimes committed by lumpen elements."

But K S Hariharan, a central committee member of the Revolutionary Marxist Party of India, a party of CPI(M) rebels, says there's more to the party distancing itself from the Jayarajan brand of politics. "With Amit Shah running the Union Home Ministry and controlling Central investigating agencies, the party doesn't want to take chances. Besides, the government doesn't want any violence to mar its development plans and the business interest of its leaders," he said.

When contacted by *The Sunday Express*, Jayarajan said he did not want to comment and that he had already aired his opinion in public.

Years ago, at the height of the feud between Vijayan and Achuthanandan, Jayarajan had compared the veteran to the donkey in Aesop's Fables, which, while carrying a religious image, mistakenly assumes people's reverence is directed towards it. Now, it remains to be seen whether the party in Kannur will remind him of the parable.

America calling

Last month, a 6-yr-old Sikh girl from Haryana died as she and her mother were trying to make their way to the US through the Mexico border. In a bid to reach America, many roads from this region — referred to as "donkey routes" colloquially — end up here. The US has announced nationwide raids to round up illegal immigrants starting today

THROUGH ITALY

THIS ROUTE is expensive since the cost of an Italian visa is steep, but many people prefer this to others because it involves little danger of drowning or perishing in a jungle. A youngster, who is now working in San Jose, US, on a temporary work permit pending his application for asylum, said it starts with a flight to Rome from New Delhi, following which they are taken to Milan, after spending about month in small towns. At Milan, they are handed over to another agent, who puts them on a flight to Mexico. After a few days in towns bordering the US coastal city of San Diego, they are pushed into American territory. The agent takes away their passports and puts a paper in their pocket saying their life is in danger in their native country and they want asylum.

A 17-year-old boy from Kapurthala who took this route was caught by the US Customs and Border Protection officers in January this year and detained in a refugee camp for about a month. Now his case for asylum is in court.

A SOUTH AMERICAN ODYSSEY

A 20-something youth from a village near Jalandhar who took this route to the US, from where he was deported recently, said it started with a long flight to Quito in Ecuador. He was handed over to local agents, who took him and others to Turbo, a port city in Colombia, on a bus journey that lasted two days. This followed a trek through forests for

around five days. After that he was put on a boat to cross the Gulf of Panama and reach Panama mainland.

At Panama, he lived in a refugee camp for over a week and then resumed his journey. The camp officials took him to Costa Rica, where he spent two more days, before hitting a forest in Nicaragua, which he crossed in two

days. This was followed by a two-day-long trek through the jungles of Honduras, that he crossed on boats.

The next stop was Guatemala City, Guatemala, from where he said he was sent to Mexico by a truck. He claimed the journey from Panama to Mexico spanned 20 days. He finally crossed into America from Tucson in a closed truck.

VIA HONG KONG & GREECE

THIS ROUTE takes the client to Hong Kong, from where he is flown to Athens in Greece and then onto Mexico. The family of a 21-year-old from Kapurthala who took this route said he stayed in Hong Kong for two days and at Athens for a week. From Greece, he was flown to Mexico, where he stayed for 25 days in a room huddled with 10 more boys. Then one fine day, their agent took them to the border, where they scaled a 5-foot-high wall to jump into American territory, where they were arrested. He is still in a refugee camp.

SOME PUNJAB NUMBERS

■ As per Regional Passport Office (RPO) in Jalandhar, 28-30 youths whose verification has been done by them are deported daily, from different countries including the US.

■ In 2012, ₹1.68 cr was collected in fines from deported persons at this RPO, rising to Rs 3.46 cr by 2017.

■ Nearly 55 lakh people from Punjab, mostly Doaba region, are settled abroad.

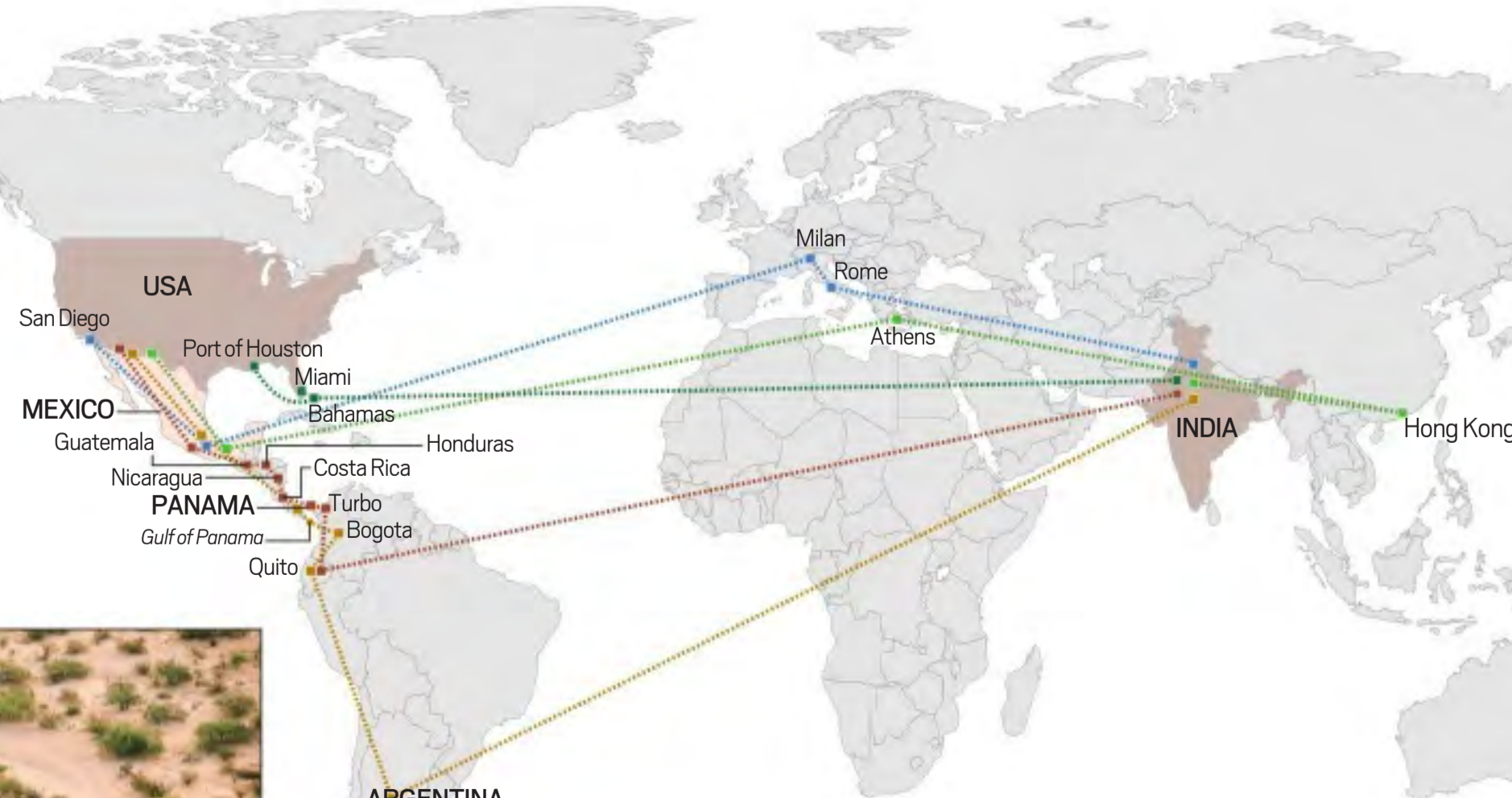
■ As per Kamal Bhumla, the head of the Association of Consultants for Overseas Studies, over one lakh students from Punjab migrated to Canada last year.

■ Apart from this, officials estimate, 1,500-2,000 migrate illegally.

■ The Jalandhar office of VFS Global, an outsourcing and technology services specialist for governments and diplomatic missions worldwide, receives 2,500-3,000 visa applications daily from Punjab residents, up from 1,000-1,200 daily in the past year. The rise in numbers at the Jalandhar office is the highest in the country; the all-India increase was 16%.

■ The number of passports issued by the RPO at Jalandhar, which caters to Jalandhar, Hoshiarpur, Nawanshar, Kapurthala, Gurdaspur, Moga, Pathankot districts and Batala police district, rose from 1.32 lakh in 2012 to 4.51 lakh in 2018.

MANRAJ GREWAL SHARMA & ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA



THE BAHAMAS ROUTE

THIS DANGEROUS route starts with a flight from Delhi to Bahamas, that takes about 27 hours. There are two sea routes to the US from the Bahamas. While one is from Miami and passes through Nassau, the other is from Port of Houston. The migrants are smuggled on rickety boats and many drown at sea. The lucky ones reach in 2-3 weeks. Six youth from Kapurthala and Hoshiarpur, who were taken to the US via this route, went missing last year.

ALL THE WAY TO ARGENTINA, ECUADOR

THIS ROUTE was taken by a 27-year-old from Begowal, near Jalandhar, who was deported from the US in March this year. He said the trip started with a flight to Buenos Aires in Argentina, and then to Quito, Ecuador, which lets in Indians without a visa. From there, he flew to Bogota in Colombia. Then he was taken to the Gulf of Panama where he, along with several Africans, was put on a ship, which

sailed for two days to reach the Panama mainland. There he stayed in a jungle for over a week before embarking on a bus journey to a Mexican town.

He said they stayed in a safe house for a month, before being loaded onto a bus and taken to the border. The migrants were then asked to scale a wall, following which they were arrested. Though this youth applied for asylum, his request was rejected.



A US patrol vehicle standing guard at the US-Mexico border in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico; (right) Gurpreet Kaur from Haryana, who died trying to cross the border. *Reuters*





SO NEAR, YET SO FAR: England batsman Joe Root walks past the World Cup trophy. Reuters

Renaissance men

Williamson dragged a team out of his predecessor's image; Morgan tore the ethos of a dated cricketing establishment. Both thus charted their own contrasting paths to the cusp of immortality



EXPRESS AT WORLD CUP

SRIRAM VEERA
LONDON, JULY 13

A BLACKMAIL letter arrived at the offices of England Cricket Board in 2015. From a man threatening to expose sexual texts from Eoin Morgan to an Australian woman who the blackmailer would later come to date. He wanted 35,000 pounds – from Morgan or the board to keep quiet.

At that point, Morgan was playing in the 2015 World Cup. Coincidence or not, he would go through a horror run with the bat and see England being shoved out of the tournament. The board sorted out that blackmailer, the lady came out in support of Morgan, and that was that. But English ODI cricket seemed well and truly buried.

Kane Williamson was hitting match-winning sixes against Australia in that World Cup in a league game, and was part of the team under Brendon McCullum that would waltz through to the final that year. "I was surprised when he hit that six against Australia then, and when he did it against Pakistan in this world cup, it brought a smile," Josh Syms, Williamson's school coach would say. Soon, after that World Cup, Williamson became the captain.

Andrew Strauss, former England captain, was watching that World Cup in anger. He was upset that the old mistakes from earlier English teams were being repeated again. The way out was clear: The English condescension towards ODIs, what they called pyjama cricket, had to go. "If we wanted to do well at world cups, we had to prioritise white-ball cricket and stop treating it as secondary until next tournament comes up," he would say later after becoming director of cricket for England, a post that he held until this year when he gave up after his wife succumbed to a rare form of lung cancer. Strauss realised that he needed to drastically alter the style and attitude towards the 50-over game and identified three facets: A coach, a

captain, and players who could – and wanted – to play that brand of cricket. A lot who wouldn't retreat to the outdated style of play at the sign of first loss. The best thing with Strauss was that he realised he had been part of the problem – that someone like him shouldn't have played 127 ODIs in his career. That was definition of outdatedness, he was trying to eradicate now. He had a heart-to-heart frank chat with Morgan about how he wants to lead new England. Morgan was clear how he wanted to do it his way: aggressive, positive, and a fearless style of play. In some ways, he was inspired by Brendon McCullum's style of captaincy in that 2015 World Cup.

Williamson, meanwhile, had to ensure he left his stamp on the New Zealand team that was under the halo of McCullum. He wanted to do it his way: which was directly opposite to McCullum's methods. "Brendon had a gambler's instinct and an extrovert in the way he played and captained," says Williamson's long-time coach David Johnston. "Kane captains the way he bats – in a logical considered thought-out way. Kane is developing a very good captaincy record. His leadership has been outstanding and he has an ability to win the tight games in an unassuming way."

Furiously forthright

There was nothing unassuming about Morgan. He couldn't have been: born and brought up in Dublin, he had to be really ambitious – and openly so – if he wanted to be a professional cricketer. Pretty early in the piece, he would tell everyone that he wanted to play for England one day. On the day England were out of the World Cup, the coach Peter Moores called a team-meeting and Morgan would note how a few players ranted but took no responsibility. Sitting with him was Paul Brace, the assistant coach, who would later say, "All it became was a finger-pointing meeting. A disastrous meeting at the end of a disastrous



New Zealand skipper Williamson wears a warm smile as usual. The usually dour Morgan, his England counterpart, breaks into a rare smile. AP



LEADER BOARD			
KANE WILLIAMSON		EINO MORGAN	
Matches	74	Matches	110
Won	40	Won	68
Lost	32	Lost	35
No result	2	No result/Tied	6/1
BATTING STATS (AS CAPTAIN)		BATTING STATS (AS CAPTAIN)	
■ 3349 runs at 50.74 in 148 games		■ 4041 runs @ 45.92 in 110 matches	
■ Seven hundreds		■ Eight hundreds	
"Any experience you have is an opportunity to learn and sometimes tough experiences, can slap you in the face."		"Cricket and sport in particular is very fickle. If you ever get ahead, it always seems to bite you in the backside."	
KANE WILLIAMSON		EINO MORGAN	

World Cup." Morgan still has notes from that meeting. "The thing I wrote down is that not many people looked to themselves. The blame was elsewhere. An emotional frustration from everybody." He knew when Strauss backed him, he had to change a few things. Ravi Bopara, Ian Bell, Gary Ballance, James Tredwell and James Anderson didn't play a single ODI after that and Stuart Broad just two. Jos Buttler, Joe Root, Moeen Ali, and Chris Woakes are the four, apart from Morgan, from that team who are still playing.

Changing team ethos

Williamson too set about establishing a different team ethos. "We have a very different group now, a slightly different vibe and ethos about how we operate (from that 2015 team)." There are two types of successful cricketers, especially captains, out there. Players who love winning, and those who hate losing. Morgan, who has invested so much of his energies to somehow work a dreamy cricketing life for him – moving away from Ireland, stepping out of amateurism, plunging himself in a tough professional world with nothing but confidence in his own skills and ability to write his own destiny. Morgan hates losing.

Asked if he is a man who loves winning or hates losing, Williamson says he "prefers winning". It is probably the best way to say it. Sometimes tough experiences, being on the wrong side of results can slap you in the face and give you a glaring lesson and if you ignore that, I don't think it's a positive thing. "A captain who hates losing, and one who strives to be level-headed about the two would lead their teams to maiden World Cup final.

It's easy to be almost smitten with Kane Williamson. Humour, intelligence, logical brain, the ability to stay grounded, level-headed – and that beard. Above all, that cricketer intelligence. He always has a chuckle, a dry sense of humour even in dour press confer-

ences and according to his mentors in New Zealand, that's how he is.

Morgan has come to be known as the great poker-faced English captain of our times. You can sense the pressure he has is of a different magnitude than that of Williamson's. The New Zealander is one of the world's best batsman in all formats. Morgan is just an ODI player but who often does talk about how proud he is in changing the face of English cricket in the last four years.

He was an outsider who revolutionised English cricket, an Irishman who helped England – a lesser man couldn't have handled the associated pressures that come with it. Not that Williamson has an easy ride this world cup, back home. Not that he is getting only adulation. Johnston talks about how the media have sort of longed for McCullum's style of play. "In the last six weeks, it's been interesting in New Zealand how our media have been comparing the world cup to the last one and in particular the captaincy of McCullum to that of Kane – generally, in an unfavourable way saying he is not attacking enough etc."

Williamson has been asked about the reactions back home and he has side-stepped them with a smile. "No, I am not aware of them" or some such thing. And would talk about how he and his team knows what they are doing. So, what are the two teams doing? What is their style? Morgan's England is being in-your-face. Williamson's is quieter, staying in the moment and working out things logically. Morgan's in some ways is pre-determined. That his England would come out and attack. Williamson's is more a reactionary to the development of the moment. Like his batting. He reacts to the demands of the ball. His captaincy reacts to the demands of the situation. He would get out there, assess the pitch after few overs, arrive at a possible target, and drag his whole team towards that. Morgan's England come out attacking and re-assess in case that initial plan goes awry.

So who would win? By all accounts, England are the favourites but don't count Williamson's team out. If anything, keep a close eye on them. If the Lord's pitch does retain the grass it has on Saturday afternoon and if the sun stays behind the clouds – as it has on Saturday – it could well be the smiling beard that lifts that cup. A clash between a team that stays in the moment, reacts to what is thrown at them and a team that likes to seize the moment and leave its imprint.

BEG, BORROW...

Fallout of India not in final: Their fans have 41 percent of the tickets



Among others, Stuart Broad and Jimmy Neesham have requested Indian fans to sell their tickets for the final to England and Kiwi supporters. AP

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
JULY 13

THOUSANDS OF England and New Zealand fans spent the eve of their team's World Cup final cajoling Indian supporters, who have pre-booked most of the seats at Lord's, to sell them their tickets at a reasonable price.

New Zealand all-rounder Jimmy Neesham and English fast bowler Stuart Broad, not part of this English squad, took to Twitter to appeal on behalf of their supporters. According to a source close to the ICC, roughly 41 per cent of the 30,000 tickets for the final are still with the Indian fans.

Neesham, the most followed New Zealand player on social media, tweeted: "Dear Indian cricket fans. If you don't want to come to the final anymore then please be kind and resell your tickets via the official platform. I know it's tempting to try to make a large profit but please give all genuine cricket fans a chance to go, not just the

wealthy," he tweeted. Through another tweet, he also tried to put things in perspective. "I mean, I can see why people would want to make a couple of quid and that's fine, but the asking price of some I've seen is absolutely ludicrous."

Deco Rator, a celebrated English fan who follows the team around the world, too found himself ticketless on the Cup final eve. His Twitter post said: "Please, please, please, does anyone have a spare ticket for the CWC final at Lords tomorrow? If you do, it will go to a passionate England fan who will love you forever."

Broad took his appeal to the ECB. "Who has followed & supported us as a team ever since I've played. Through thick & thin. Deco NEEDS to be at this #CWC final. @England-cricketer @ECB_cricketer"

Hope came from one Sumit Agarwal, who tweeted: "I've", while asking Rator to contact him at his number. Also, the ICC has decided to release an extra 200 tickets for the final through their official ticketing site.

Something similar happened, albeit on a lower scale, in the second semifinal at Edgbaston as well, where England beat Australia to reach the final. Indian fans had frantically brought tickets for the game, because they expected India to face the hosts in Birmingham. Australia's loss to South Africa in the final group league fixture had upset the apple cart and with significantly higher price quoted for reselling of tickets on third-party websites, there were not many takers. Edgbaston wasn't full to capacity.

The ICC, however, is confident that it would be a full house at Lord's tomorrow. The British Indians are expected to throng the venue and cheer for England.

With regards to reselling of tickets for the final, The Cricketer has reported that on StubHub, a reselling platform not authorised by the ICC, "two tickets to the upper tier of the Compton Stand are being listed at an eye-watering £16,584.80". It added that on Viagogo – another ICC-unauthorised reselling platform, "prices start at £714 for a bronze

level seat and top out at £4,661 for platinum". Tickets are divided into four categories – bronze, silver, gold and platinum.

The World Cup managing director Steve Elworthy has warned fans that tickets purchased through "secondary ticketing websites" might not be valid at the gate. "The only way fans can guarantee their ticket will be valid is to buy it from the Official Ticket Resale Platform, which allows fans unable to attend the remaining matches to sell to other genuine fans at face value. Anyone purchasing tickets from an unauthorized source, either online or in person, faces the risk of being left out of pocket and unable to enter the venue," Elworthy commented on the ICC website.

Reselling of tickets for sports events, however, is not illegal in UK. Back in January, when tickets for the England versus Australia World Cup group league fixture at Lord's had been going for "104 times their face value" on Viagogo, BBC contacted the ticket reselling website. A Viagogo statement had read: "Viagogo does not set ticket prices, sellers set their own

The World Cup managing director Steve Elworthy has warned fans that tickets purchased through "secondary ticketing websites" might not be valid at the gate. Reselling of tickets for sports events, however, is not illegal in UK.

prices, which may be above or below the original face value. Where demand is high and tickets are limited, prices increase."

StubHub told BBC Sport: "As a ticketing marketplace, StubHub does not set the price of tickets that appear on our site, the fans do. Importantly, the prices for the tickets mentioned are the ones listed, but as it is often the case, those are not necessarily the prices for which tickets sell."

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Look how far they've come

They might've taken the long way, but England and New Zealand knew they'd get there someday. An eventful World Cup culminates into the final with a first-timer certain to be crowned at Lord's. *The Indian Express* looks at the fizz bubbling in both countries as the world looks to find the One



New Zealand coach Gary Stead

From cleaning windows to charging Kiwis

Among all the players and support staff in the New Zealand squad, the cheery, jovial coach Gary Stead would be most familiar with the Lord's, its groundstaff and surroundings. Back in his teens, he nurtured dreams of becoming a curator and through some contacts landed up in Lord's. But as hierarchical as the stiff establishment was back then, his first job was to run errands for the senior groundsman.

"Buying stuff like cigarettes, candies, and refreshments, stocking the basement bar," he had once told *stuff.co.nz*. In six months, he got a promotion, from errand boy to the window cleaner. Stead chuckles about those days. "You had different duties when you turned up. One of them was pavilion duty, where you got to clean the windows and take the mail around and selling scorecards and a wee bit of scoreboard duty as well, which was pretty cool," he told *New Zealand Herald*.

But soon, realising it wasn't quite his stuff, he returned home and led his club-side Canterbury to several domestic trophies, before settling into the coaching job. Stead was a cornerstone of Canterbury, who were a domestic powerhouse for much of the 90s and early 2000s.

The performances earned him Test stripes, where he made tough runs in Wellington against Shaun Pollock and Co, coming at No 5 before he was made a makeshift opener against India in Ahmedabad.

He welcomed the promotion with a dogged 78, but his career lived three more innings before was inexplicably jettisoned. For the record, he averaged a decent 34.71, never got out for a single-digit ball and faced an average of 84 balls an innings. It wasn't like New Zealand were brimming with talent, they were as always modest.

But Stead didn't bother asking the questions and moved on, went back to Canterbury, before he embarked on coaching. In Canterbury, he was known for readiness to fit into any role in case of emergency. He'd be happy to bat high up the order on a green wicket, where the ball was nipping around all over the place. When wicket-keeper Lee Germon was forced off the field in the 1995-96 Shell Cup one-day final against Northern Districts with a shoulder injury, not surprisingly Stead was the first to ask for the gloves.

Later, as he quit the game, Germon invited him to join the club as support staff. He took to it like a duck to water, winning three Plunkett Shields (FC Cricket) and a Ford Trophy (50 overs tournament). He then took over the women's team with great success, taking them to the finals of the 50 over and World T20. He wouldn't want another runner-up entry to his name.

Not just cricket, he's a decent golf player,



HE WHO LAUGHS LAST...

New Zealand's Matt Henry laughs during a training session ahead of the World Cup final at Lord's. AP

plying in lower leagues. Germon labels him a "burglar" on the golf course. Stead doesn't have a handicap, but once got down to 10. He loves to dust up golfing analogies too. For instance, when he emphasised the pursuit of perfection. "You can play a par four and hit it down the middle, then the second shot, you can hit to the middle of the green, and you two-putt and get a four. Or you can hit your driver off the tee and it goes into the rough, hit the next one into the bunker on the side, flop it on to the green and sink a 20-foot putt, it's still a four."

Returning to Lord's thus gives his career a circularity. "It's a great experience coming back here at any time but the extra emphasis about what this is about makes this more special." A trophy in his bag would thicken the circles.

Kohli the showman; Williamson the manager

That's how BBC's Tom Fordyce contrasts the two leading protagonists in the World Cup. But while India and England have had other superstars to assist them, New Zealand's progress to the World Cup final is almost totally down to their skipper. "Of all the logical explanations you can find for the illogical progress of New Zealand to the final of the Cricket World Cup, nothing is as persuasive as their skipper Kane Williamson," Fordyce writes. "In the process he is a game away from pulling off the most unexpected triumph since Sri Lanka pinch-hit their way to glory 23 years ago."

A win for New Zealand at Lord's on Sunday will be close to miraculous, he felt. "A nation of 4.3 million people beating one of 1.3 billion in a semi-final that most assumed was lost at the innings break, a coun-

try with a national sport whose own World Cup does not begin until September in Japan... the quiet man from the Bay of Plenty overwhelmed the superstar from the land of many more."

Fordyce can't seem to have enough of the opposite personalities of Kohli and Williamson.

"Virat Kohli cannot leave his house in Mumbai without armed guards. He cannot walk down the street without being mobbed. Williamson could turn up at Lord's in his tracksuit and still need to show ID to get past the stewards... It is Williamson who has gone further and had the greater influence. Across nine innings in this World Cup he is averaging a remarkable 91 with the bat. Kohli is back on 55, Joe Root 69," he reflects.

The Kiwi batting is not the strongest, which makes Williamson's feat all the more admirable.

"Williamson is personally responsible for almost a third of his team's total runs. He has done that behind openers who have produced the lowest average stand for the first wicket of any team in the tournament. Three times he has been at the crease before the end of the first over. He has arrived in the second over, the third, fourth, sixth and ninth. Almost always he has prospered. The century against West Indies after both openers had gone for golden ducks; the endlessly patient 67 in the semi-final as wickets fell and runs dried up all around him," Fordyce says.

Contrasting Williamson with his immediate predecessor, he writes "Brendon McCullum the batsman was all knockouts and hammer blows. Williamson gets there with jabs. Williamson wears you down in such undemonstrative fashion that you don't even realise you're cut until the referee waves it off. Across the tournament he has hit a grand total of three sixes."

Make or break for indifferent Three Lions

Sunday's final could be watershed moment for cricket in England, where the game is struggling with lack of popular support and its absence from public television, while football dominates public imagination and media space. "They (England) have been building up to this moment for four years and will go into Sunday knowing that it is not only an opportunity to win the World Cup, but also a crucial moment for cricket in this country," Jonathan Agnew writes for the BBC.

The authorities have been playing catch-up on interest and participation for a number of years. That is why we have seen initiatives at grassroots level and the introduction of The Hundred from next year. England have had their cricketing moments over the years, but have repeatedly faltered at the World Cup.

"Over the past number of years, we have seen England win the Ashes in that memorable series of 2005, then follow that up with the wonderful series win in Australia in 2010-11. They have won the World Twenty20, while the England women's team have won everything available to them, not least that huge moment of winning their own home World Cup two years ago. The missing piece, as it has been for so long, is the men's 50-over World Cup. England have a fantastic opportunity to put that right on Sunday," he says. The final will be shown on free-to-air television as Sky Sports will share the feed with Channel 4. "It is an important and correct decision for the game to be shown on free-to-air television, because it is essential that as many people as possible see England play - and hopefully win - a World Cup final," the former England player feels.

And he hopes that it will not be the usual

restrained atmosphere one generally associates with a match at the 'Home of Cricket'. "It will be a wonderful occasion. Not the usual genteel atmosphere you expect from Lord's, but flags and horns from a crowd that is likely to be hugely behind England. It promises to be some day."

Inspired by 1992: England dressed to win

Ahead of the World Cup, the England team's uniform for the tournament received a lot of flak on social media. The kit's design was an inspired from the uniform the team wore for the 1992 edition of the World Cup, the last time the country had reached the final. Fans though, weren't too pleased, likening the design to one used by the Indian team in the past, while another claimed it "resembles the colour of the New South Wales blue."

One even said "Perfectly acceptable - if the World Cup was taking place in the 1990s."

But that was the intention itself, to come up with a kit to draw inspiration from the last England team that did well at a World Cup. And somehow, it has worked. England is now in its first World Cup final since 1992, but the tale of the two kits doesn't stop just there. The ECB has decided to send replicas of the current kit to members of the 1992 team, with their respective names printed on the back. England's wicketkeeper 27-years-ago Allan Lamb snapped a picture of the jersey he got in the mail along with the letter from ECB CEO Tom Harrison. "The design of this shirt was based largely on the 1992 Cricket World Cup campaign - the last time England appeared in a World Cup final," the letter read. "Let's hope this fine young team can emulate your success and go one step further."

In the 'VIP box', the sports minister of New Zealand

He is a self confessed 'cricket tragic' and doesn't mind taking potshots at former Australia captain Steve Waugh for his 'irrelevant' commentary skills on social media. New Zealand sports minister, Grant Roberston, will have to be more measured when he arrives at Lord's on Sunday morning for the World Cup final as the guest of New Zealand Cricket. The match ticket is the only 'complimentary pass' the minister is availing. Everything else - from the airfares to accommodation has been taken care of by him. The New Zealand High Commission will help him with the logistics and transport on his arrival at the Heathrow Airport on Saturday morning. The minister flies back to New Zealand on Tuesday after watching the final and visiting the Silver Ferns at the World Netball Championship in Liverpool. "I'm a lifelong cricket tragic and this is the ultimate; a trip to Lord's, the home of cricket, to see the Black Caps in a World Cup final. I am so excited!" Roberston told *stuff.co.nz*.

Top of world, but staying down to earth

Freeview is a luxury in New Zealand. That is to say, the 5 million and some precious more, are celebrating Sky ensuring that the World Cup final - which the Black Caps reached a second straight time - will beam into televisions on Finals Sunday. But just how low-key this is for a country rediscovering its love for the cricket - was best captured in a casual exchange on Twitter. Auckland Mayor was tagged into a conversation with Jimmy Neesham when a journalist told him, "You bring that cup back to NZ mate and I'll work on @phil_goff giving you the keys to the city. He might even throw in some flash mayoral chains #BackTheBlackCaps."

Mayoral chains are part of the traditional regalia worn by the elected mayors. Phil Goff good-naturedly piped in, "I'm not sure the city will appreciate me giving away the chains, but if that's what it takes to win the world cup.... Always #BackTheBlackCaps."

It's superstardom worn lightly on both sides. While Neesham took the train into London along with team-mates, England captain Eoin Morgan had headed to Birmingham solo too, carrying his hand baggage on the train before Eng thumped Australians.

And when the Black Caps bus rolled into London, the players carried their baggage. Whatever be the outcome of the World Cup final at Lord's on Sunday, you would expect Kane Williamson's team to receive a rapturous homecoming. Even Brendon McCullum's Black Caps were given a red carpet treatment in Auckland after their loss to Australia in 2015 final.

This year, however, the organisers are a bit guarded, lest they jinx their team's fortunes in Lord's. Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic Development general manager Steve Armitage said no welcome event for Kane Williamson's team was discussed as yet. He insisted the organisation was "well versed in staging appropriate events at relatively short notice."

"Understandably, New Zealand Cricket is focused on the challenge ahead and so we're not in a position to talk about any potential welcome home plans or what shape these may take," he told *New Zealand Herald*.

ENS

Underdogs? Anyone can beat anyone regardless of breed: Williamson

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON, JULY

NEW ZEALAND captain Kane Williamson was at his wittiest best when he said it is the fight that matters rather than "breed of the dog" as his side geared up to take on favourites England in the summit clash of the World Cup here Sunday. Williamson's comments was in reference to the hostile British media's constant queries on how it feels to go into the finale as "underdogs".

The members of the 'Fleet Street' asked him same questions in various manners mostly pertaining to dealing with defeats and how he plans to do that. "A lot of people say that on a number of occasions which is great and I think England rightly so deserve to be favourites," the Black Caps skipper said on the even of the match at the iconic Lord's. "But whatever dog we are, it's just impor-

tant that we focus on the cricket that we want to play. We have seen over the years that anybody can beat anybody regardless of the breed of dog," Williamson said with a killer smile.

The follow-up question was bit more offensive as a local reporter asked how would it feel to become party poopers, pre-empting that big party is on the cards.

"Party-poopers? You talking about dogs again, hey? (Smiling) Underdogs? Look, we are really looking forward to the occasion and, like I say, the end point and the result, there's a lot of time between now and that point," said Williamson in a more serious tone. "You have to deal with a number of different things, whether it's different moments of pressure, whether it's different moments of momentum and we have to be prepared to deal with all of those again."

The next question was a bit weird as a British journalist asked whether he loves



The famous win over World No.1 India was a huge upset. File

winning more or does he hate losing. Williamson curtly replied: "I prefer winning than losing (smiling). That is probably the best way to say it. Any experience that you have is an opportunity to learn and sometimes tough experiences, being on the wrong side of results, can sometimes slap you in the face and give you a glaring lesson and if you ignore that, I don't think that is a positive thing."

Williamson said New Zealand would look to put up a fighting performance to give them the best possible opportunity to come out on top of England. "Whether having had experience in a final or not is a good thing. But at the same time as we know in this game nothing promises, so it does come down to putting a performance on the board that gives us the best opportunity to win," he said.

He further said for all those kids back in New Zealand, their performance on Sunday will epitomize the fighting qualities and all

Party-poopers? You talking about dogs again, hey? (Smiling) Underdogs? Look, we are really looking forward to the occasion and, like I say, the end point and the result, there's a lot of time between now and that point."

KANE WILLIAMSON
NEW ZEALAND CAPTAIN

hard work that has gone in over the years. "I guess anything's possible (smiling). I guess when you take yourself back to that point in time, it feels like a long way away and you make a few small steps forward and you work pretty hard together as a group and next thing you might find yourself here," Williamson said.

