

NEW DELHI, LATE CITY
JULY 21, 2019
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SUNDAY STORY PAGE 11

At Home

It's 50 days since the BJP chief took over the portfolio central to party's agendas. A look at Shah's MHA, and the party preparing for life after

BIG PICTURE PAGES 12-13

Will & Grace

In loss of the Cup, there were two high points: one of them India's most aggressive pacer, other its most stylish batsman



For nearly five decades, Shanta Gokhale, 79, has chronicled and critiqued literary and theatrical traditions in India. Looking back at a life of fullness

BJP maintains a facade of distance, but its prints all over Karnataka row

CM who shaped new Delhi Sheila Dikshit passes away



Prime Minister Narendra Modi paying his tributes to Sheila Dikshit at her residence in New Delhi on Saturday. Next to him is Sheila's son and former Congress MP Sandeep Dikshit. Via PMO Twitter handle

JOHNSON T A
BENGALURU, JULY 20

A SIGN of the Opposition BJP's single-minded determination to win the trust vote against the Congress-JD(S) coalition in Karnataka has been evident in its refusal to be baited into a clash with ruling MLAs in the Assembly despite allegations of BJP leaders paying MLAs to defect and topple the government. In the House Friday, before Speaker K R Ramesh Kumar extended confidence motion proceedings until Monday, JD(S) MLA Srinivas Gowda accused BJP MLAs Dr C N Ashwathnarayan, S R Vishwanath and former MLA C P Yogeshwar of offering him Rs 5 crore in cash and the guarantee of Rs 25 crore more if he joined the BJP. Another JD(S) MLA, and minister, Sa Ra Mahesh claimed the BJP had offered JD(S) leader H Vishwanath Rs 28 crore to defect. "He said he had run up debts to contest the election last year," Mahesh said.

Till the end the leader Cong turned to in Capital, she dies of cardiac arrest

Knew how to take along rivals, within and outside

MANOJ C G
NEW DELHI, JULY 20



1938-2019

VETERAN CONGRESS leader and three-time Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit died of cardiac arrest Saturday. She was 81. Its longest-serving Chief Minister, Dikshit was instrumental in transforming Delhi into a world-class city, earning her national fame and catapulting her to the front-line of the Congress leadership. She became Chief Minister in 1998 when the Congress was in political wilderness and the organisation in utter disarray. And

battling rampant factionalism, Dikshit reigned supreme in Delhi's politics, spearheading the Congress back to power in 2003 and 2008, becoming a middle-class icon. But in 2013, just as dramatically as she rose, Dikshit fell. I joined her in August 1998,

PAWAN KHERA

IT IS most difficult to write the obituary of a person you have been so close to, within hours of her passing away. Sheila Dikshit was a combination of rarities that defied several stereotypes. As a human being, she never allowed her political rivalries and differences to come in the way of treating another human with dignity and respect. As a politician, she refused to succumb to her personal likes and dislikes. I joined her in August 1998,

SPECIAL TO THE EXPRESS

when she was made president of the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee, tasked with reviving a faction-ridden party and uprooting the BJP from Delhi. The city, largely considered an RSS bastion, was slowly noticing

FULL COVERAGE
PAGES 3, 4

SONBHADRA KILLINGS

Constable sought compromise, hinted at attack, says eyewitness

ASAD REHMAN
UMBHA (SONBHADRA), JULY 20

AN EYEWITNESS to the firing that left 10 dead in Uttar Pradesh's Sonbhadra district has said that a constable at the nearest police station had called him earlier that day for a "compromise" on the land dispute, warning that "something might happen" if he didn't turn up. The witness, Ram Rajya, has also claimed that he called up Sonbhadra Superintendent of Police Salmantaj Jafertaj Patil to seek help, after hearing that an attack was imminent, but said he was directed back to the police station. Ram Rajya said Constable Satyajit of the Ghorawal police station called him saying the SHO wanted to talk to him regarding the land dispute that led to the firing. "He said that if I don't come, then I should not blame the administration if something happens. That means he knew something was going to happen.



The pipe in which many hid during the attack. They were forced out, and shot, said villager Ram Bali. Vishal Srivastav

I had also heard from people in neighbouring villages that the pradhan of Murtiya village (who allegedly led the firing) was collecting tractors and men." Rajya said he called up SP Patil and told him the pradhan, Yagya Dutt, was planning something. "The SP told me that the Inspector at the police station would handle the matter." Rajya said he made several calls to emergency numbers 100 and 1076 from 11 am to 11.30 am, after the attack started. Police took an hour arriving from the Ghorawal police station, over 30 km away, over a kutchra road. By then, Dutt and his men had allegedly fled. The SP, however, denied receiving any calls from Rajya. "I

PRIYANKA MEETS VICTIMS AT STATE GUEST HOUSE PAGE 6

Pressure drop in helium tank led to moon mission delay

AMITABH SINHA
PUNE, JULY 20

A SUDDEN drop in pressure in one of the tanks containing helium gas on the GSLV Mk-III rocket was behind ISRO's decision to abort the Chandrayaan-2 moon mission last week, *The Sunday Express* has learnt. Less than an hour before lift-off on July 15, India's first mission to land on the moon was

scrubbed after what ISRO said was a "technical snag". ISRO has said its expert committee had identified the problem and applied corrective measures, and that the system was now functioning normally. Chandrayaan-2 is now set to launch Monday. But last week, scientists were unable to assess the exact cause of the sudden pressure drop. "The pressure in one of the helium tanks was observed to be falling. It happened while the cryogenic fuel, which is super-cooled to temperatures well below -100 degrees Celsius, was being loaded. Because of the extremely low temperatures of the fuel, the environment surrounding the fuel tanks also got cooled," said an ISRO scientist associated with the mission. "This helium tank was in close proximity to the fuel tank. So, the pressure drop could be because of the loading of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

WORLD



TENSIONS RISE AS IRAN SEIZES SHIP WITH 18 INDIANS; BRITAIN TERMS IT HOSTILE ACT
PAGE 17

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, JULY 20

IN KEY reshuffles and fresh appointments with an eye on state-level politics, the government on Saturday appointed Naga talks interlocutor R N Ravi as the new Governor of Nagaland and shifted Madhya Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel to Uttar Pradesh. Patel has been replaced by Bihar Governor Lalji Tandon in Madhya Pradesh, while BJP veteran Phagu Chauhan takes over in Bihar. Noted lawyer and former Janata Dal MP Jagdeep Dhankhar

EXPLAINED

Political signalling

THE choice of Ramesh Bais, Jagdeep Dhankhar, Phagu Chauhan and N Ravi carries a message for their native states or the states they are headed to. Dhankhar's legal acumen may also come handy in the bitter Bengal battle.

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, JULY 20

AN INVESTIGATION report prepared by the NIA on JKLF chief Yasin Malik alleges he was in touch with Pakistan's ISI, had received funds from Islamabad to "foment trouble" in the Valley, and amassed properties worth more than Rs 15 crore. The NIA, which is probing a case of terror funding against Kashmiri separatists, including Malik, claims some of these properties include government land. Denying the allegations, Malik's lawyer Raja Tufail called it an "exercise to malign him".



JKLF chief took funds from Pak to fuel unrest: NIA report

IF NOT TALKS, KNOW WELL HOW TO SOLVE KASHMIR: RAJNATH
PAGE 7

Naga hand to OBC faces, Govt sends message with its Governor picks

NIA lists Malik 'ISI links, properties'; lawyer slams bid to 'malign' him

Kumbalangi days: Kerala self-help network trains, rolls out all-women construction teams

VISHNU VARMA
KUMBALANGI, JULY 20

"THOSE WERE the days when freshly distilled arrack flowed like a river across the state. And in that river, our husbands swam and frolicked." Sicily, who goes by one name, was a 28-year-old bride in early-1970s Kerala when she arrived at her in-laws' house to discover that her husband was a drunkard. Kunjappan, her spouse, would do odd daily-wage jobs and spend his entire earnings on

TRACKING CHANGE
EVERY SUNDAY

arrack. Her nights were spent fighting with him over his addiction and his total abandonment of the family. At 30, she decided enough was enough and stepped into the construction sector as an unskilled helper to



Sicily (left), 74, and the other members of her construction team at site of their latest project in Kumbalangi. Vishnu Varma

raise her young children. Philomina, 56, has had a similar trajectory. With her husband, a fisherman, squandering his wages at arrack shops, she too was forced to work as a helper at construction sites and later take up any job that came her way under the MGNREGA, from cleaning canals to cutting weeds and building cowsheds. Sicily, now 74, and Philomina were drafted last year into all-women construction units under Kudumbashree, Kerala's famed women self-help network. The

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- The decision of the Awards Committee shall be final.

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EXPRESS TECHNOLOGY
Chandrayaan-2 rescheduled to launch on July 22



THE LION KING: THE STORY OF A STAGE-SCREEN LEGEND

Disney has released the Jon Favreau-directed, re-imagined version of the classic animated movie, The Lion King. While the movie has been met with mixed responses, the story of Mufasa and Simba has warmed the hearts of many since it was first released in 1994

VIDEO OF THE DAY



FACEAPP

The app went viral with its 'old age' filter but the company's privacy policy sparks scare

FULL COVERAGE



SONBHADRA KILLINGS

My objective has been served, says Priyanka Gandhi after meeting victims' family

EXPRESS AUDIO

How to discuss gender roles and stereotypes with children

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In this episode of the Difficult Conversations with Your Kids podcast, we look at how parents can play a part in helping their children avoid gender stereotypes

Sheila Dikshit

when the change swept Delhi and signalled the rise of Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party. Her defeat in the New Delhi seat to Kejriwal and the Congress's disastrous result was the precursor for the party's nationwide fall.

But she fought until the end. At age 80, she took over as the president of the Delhi Congress to fight an uphill Lok Sabha poll battle earlier this year. Just a day before she passed away, Dikshit met Congress workers to plan a protest against the BJP.

She didn't belong to a political family. Politics was not her first choice either. But she learnt the ropes quickly from her father-in-law and veteran Congressman Uma Shankar Dikshit. She was married to his son Vinod.

She saw politics from close quarters as an informal assistant to Uma Shankar, and then formally joined politics in 1984 when Rajiv Gandhi asked her to contest from Kannauj in UP. In Dikshit's words, she felt a surge of excitement followed by apprehension. But she won and there was no looking back.

A year and a half later, Rajiv inducted her into his ministry as a junior minister for Parliamentary Affairs. Seamlessly, she became a part of the Lutyens power politics.

Dikshit worked with three generations of Gandhis, earning their trust, eventually becoming one of Sonia's closest confidantes,

particularly during Rao's tenure as Prime Minister. She was part of the factional feud raging in the Congress against Rao, which finally resulted in the formation of the All India Indira Congress (Tiwari), spearheaded by Natwar Singh and Arjun Singh among others. She even contested the 1996 LS elections as a Tiwari Congress candidate from Unnao but returned to the Congress after Sonia entered politics in 1997.

"Just as her husband had changed the trajectory of my life with one phone call in November 1984, Mrs Sonia Gandhi did likewise in 1998. She called me around midnight and asked me to contest the East Delhi Lok Sabha seat," she said.

But she lost. And perhaps that was a blessing in disguise, for she soon became Delhi's CM.

"The next few months revealed that Mrs Sonia Gandhi had plans for Delhi — and as a part of it, for me," Dikshit wrote.

As Chief Minister, Dikshit changed Delhi's landscape. While the Congress at the national level was implementing NREGA and other populist schemes, she quietly ushered in reforms like handing over the distribution of power to private players. She wooed the urban middle class with road and transport infrastructure.

In the Congress that took a rural welfare-driven turn at the Centre, Dikshit ruled an urban and aspirational Delhi. Though she won the state three times, she

remained virtually decoupled with the national outlook of the Congress's left-leaning outlook during UPA-I and II, and seemed to prefer that.

Ultimately, however, her political fortunes were weighed down by the performance of the UPA-II government. With Delhi emerging as the epicentre of the anti-UPA establishment, Dikshit was the first to feel the shockwaves in the 2013 Assembly elections before the Congress was drummed out of power in 2014. In the 2015 Assembly polls that followed, the Congress won none of Delhi's 70 seats.

Two years later, she was called up by the Congress again, this time as the Chief Ministerial candidate for the 2017 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections at age 79.

"I must admit I was a bit confused whether I should take the plunge or not — if I said no, it might be taken to mean that I was not inclined to do my bit for the party. On the other hand, if I said yes, I was not sure what exactly my role would be. Ultimately, loyalty to the party and its leadership prevailed," she wrote.

Rivals

her dharnas and protests. The workers of the party were full of fresh enthusiasm. Local leaders were cynical in their cautious response to her.

She once invited leaders of different factions to her modest apartment in Nizamuddin East to

try and bring them all together and be battle ready for the Assembly elections to be held in November that year.

The intensity with which she engaged with them was contagious. As a young intern, I was amazed at the ease with which she turned them all from leaders fighting each other into leaders fighting for the Congress. Within a few months, she was able to generate a wave, winning 53 of 70 seats. She became the Chief Minister.

As I was packing my bags to get back to Rajasthan to work in the rural development sector, I heard a knock on my door. Sheila, stood there and said, "Beta, would you like to join my team as my Officer on Special Duty looking after my media and political affairs?"

I was extremely restless with the pace at which the development sector worked during those days. I joined her office in December 1998.

Every single weekday, the gates of her house would be opened for any and everyone who wished to meet her with any grievance. Whether she was getting experts involved to de-gongt Delhi or relocating polluting industries from residential areas or converting Delhi's public transport from smoke-spewing diesel to CNG, she loved the struggle, the challenge of transforming the city she grew up in and was in love with.

The telephone operators at her official residence were under clear instructions to connect every call to her, irrespective of what time of the night it was. Most calls would be related to power outages. She would attend to these calls personally and then also call relevant officers herself to try and resolve the problem. Privatisation of power distribution was on the top of her list of priorities.

"People have elected me to deliver good governance, not to indulge in politicking," was her response to attacks by rivals within the party. She not only ignored internal politics, she just wouldn't let it impact the poise with which she dispensed her duties. In her mind, there was no 'other camp'.

MLAs belonging to the BJP would walk with ease into her office, getting their work done. To her, they were rivals only during elections and had every right to seek redressal to the grievances of their constituents.

Her relationship with Delhi's media is a story of how from print-driven to television, the media landscape evolved.

A powerful newspaper carried a series of stories against her. Being in my aggressive twenties, I stopped giving advertisements to that newspaper. When she got to know of this, she expressed her deep displeasure at my decision.

"This money does not belong to me and you, we cannot take such arbitrary decisions just because a newspaper is writing against us. Please call the Editor for breakfast with me tomorrow and let's see what their issues are". Over breakfast the next day, she apologised to the Editor for my decision.

In the span of 15 years, I saw her devastated on a few occasions. The controversy surrounding the CVG games hurt her immensely. She was committed to delivering a successful event that India would be proud of. She personally ensured that projects got completed in time.

She just could not fathom why television journalists would not do their homework and blame her for decisions that did not fall under her jurisdiction at all. She had the satisfaction of delivering a very successful event but was hurt at the conduct of some of the leaders of the Congress at their attempts to discredit her government and city.

Nirbhaya's ghastly rape broke her completely. As a leader, she found herself without answers to such barbarism prevalent in the very society that worshipped goddesses.


She was uncomfortable at the changing idiom of politics. To her, grace and dignity were of far greater value than political on-upmanship. In her last term as Chief Minister, she found herself at the receiving end of an idiom that she was not comfortable responding to. That was one compromise she refused to make.

Her loyalty to the Congress was again totally contagious. It came naturally to her. At 81, she was brought in to lead the party again in Delhi. The party asked her to contest the Lok Sabha election. Her family members and well-wishers discouraged her but Sheila Dikshit was not one to run away from a challenge. She heard us all out and also agreed with us. But she just could never say no to the party.

Sheilaji was always amused at those who wrote the Congress off. Her understanding of politics was based on a very personal instinct, an instinct sharpened by all that she had observed, witnessed and experienced through a career spanning over four decades.


To me, Sheila Dikshit was always the go-to person for every dilemma, every doubt and every crossroad. Before I left for Washington DC, earlier this month, I met her. "Beta, in politics the ups and downs are highly pronounced. Only if you are willing to go through the long haul, you will do well."

Won't forget these words ever





Always In Hurry?

Trying To Save Minutes Can Cost Precious Lives



Drive Right, Drive Sane, Drive Safe

Avoid wrong side driving.
Red light jumping can cause serious accident.
Zig Zag driving is Dangerous for you and others.

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Karnataka row

television cameras while helping rebels board chartered flights to Mumbai.

The real window into the BJP's game plan to topple the coalition came in February when Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy used the services of Sharanagouda Kandakur, the son of a JD(S) MLA, to trap Yeddyurappa while making a defection offer.

"We are taking 20 people on board. We will make around 12 people who join us ministers and around eight people chairmen of corporations. Those whom we make ministers, we will give Rs 10 crore," Yeddyurappa was purportedly heard saying in the sting tapes.

Incidentally, many coalition MLAs being wooed in February by the BJP — Dr Sudhakar, Ramesh Jharkiholi, B C Patil, Prathap Gowda Patil of the Congress, Narayana Gowda of the JD(S) — have formed the core of the 15 rebel MLAs who have resigned since July 6.

The plan executed by the BJP is exactly what was proposed in February — shift rebel MLAs to BJP-ruled Mumbai and bring them at the appropriate time to topple the government.

Though an SIT was proposed by the government to investigate horse-trading attempts of the BJP in February, Kumaraswamy, in the end, did not go ahead. Following the current crisis, the Speaker and Leader of the Congress in the House Siddaramaiah have expressed regret over this.

The money power that the BJP has in executing defections cannot be matched by the Congress or JD(S), a BJP legislator said. "We can give the rebels more of what they want," said a BJP MLA.

Former minister R Ashok, spotted in the company of Congress MLA M T B Nagaraj, while he was leaving Bengaluru to join rebels in Mumbai last week, denied any role in facilitating the exit. "Just because I

was at the airport that day does not mean I was involved. I did meet the two Independents (who defected)," he said.

The ruling coalition and BJP have also traded charges over Congress MLA Roshan Baig, who was intercepted at the airport on July 15 while leaving for Pune. Baig was stopped by an SIT probing his role in a multi-crore ponzi scheme, while he was waiting to fly out allegedly with Yeddyurappa's aide Santhosh.

"I was told that on seeing the SIT, Santhosh ran away while the team apprehended Mr Baig," said Kumaraswamy. "BJP's Yogeshwar was present at the time. This clearly shows BJP's direct involvement in destabilising the government."

While the BJP has reportedly made offers of huge funds to defecting MLAs, the JD(S) has also accused it of holding out the threat of CBI, ED and IT cases against many of the MLAs. "This is one thing that has come up when we try to convince the rebels to return," said a source.

Governor

has been appointed as the Governor of West Bengal, replacing Keshari Nath Tripathi. Another senior BJP leader, Ramesh Bais, has been appointed Tripura Governor.

An Intelligence Bureau (IB) veteran, R N Ravi is an IPS officer of the 1976 batch from Kerala cadre. He has been associated with Naga peace talks for the past several years and is credited with the 2015 signing of a framework agreement between the government and NSCN(I-M).

His appointment as the Governor of Nagaland is likely to give further push to the eventual signing of a Naga accord and to bringing anti-talks Naga groups to the negotiating table. His elevation is also being seen as a reward for his work as the Naga talks interlocutor. He was currently serving as deputy NSA under NSA Ajit Doval, a senior he worked with for long years in the IB.

Barring Ravi, other appointments are largely political. The choice of Anandiben Patel for Uttar Pradesh is seen as a signal to non-Yadav OBCs, who have backed the BJP since 2014 in the state. Recently, the BJP also made non-Yadav OBC leader Swatntra Dev Singh the UP unit chief.

The appointment of Phagu Chauhan as Governor of Bihar is also expected to send the same message in the state which goes to polls next year. Chauhan is a Naniya, a non-Yadav OBC community, from Azamgarh in UP and the current chairman of the Backward Class Commission in the state. Apart from Bihar, the appointment is also a signal to the backward communities in the Azamgarh-Ghosi belt, where the BJP did poorly in 2019.

Jagdeep Dhankhar's appointment to West Bengal is being interpreted as part of the BJP's balancing act for Rajasthan, after giving a Union Cabinet berth to a Rajput. Dhankhar is a Rajasthani Jat, a community that is dominant in Rajasthan and Haryana. The fact that he is a protege of the late Devi Lal will also come in handy in Haryana, which goes to polls next year.

A lawyer by training and the national convener of the BJP's legal cell, Dhankhar is known to be close to the RSS.

Ramesh Bais, appointed as the Governor of Tripura, is an OBC leader from Chhattisgarh. The seven-time MP from Raipur had been overlooked for a ministerial berth in both the Modi governments, plus denied a ticket this time. A gubernatorial post is being seen as both a rehabilitation of Bais and a signal to OBCs in Chhattisgarh, where the Congress has an OBC CM.

The appointments are in line with the current BJP leadership's focus on rewarding party old-timers and managing social bases. The appointments also a signal of retirement for ageing leaders like Ram Naik and Keshari Nath Tripathi.



HER POLITICAL JOURNEY



1988

Sheila Dikshit with former PM Rajiv Gandhi at an event in the capital



1999

With former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in New Delhi



2008

With Narendra Modi, who was the Gujarat chief minister at the time



2012

At the Mandi House Metro construction site in the capital



2013

With Rahul Gandhi during a rally in Delhi's Mangolpuri

She stepped across the aisle with ease

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, JULY 20

IT'S NOW a cliché to say that Delhi as a modern city — that we know today — is because of Sheila Dikshit, the chief minister for 15 years.

But, how she did it is something worth remembering. She was a tactful politician demolishing her opponents, an administrator on a mission, and a liberal at heart. As a reporter who covered her city, her government and her office for three different publications, early in my career, here's a tale to tell. In March 2001, I was working on a story investigating corruption allegations against one of her ministers. I visited his residence for his version, and the minister, after listening to my questions, started abusing and pushing me till his personal staff restrained him. That evening, I accompanied two of my editors in the publication I worked for to meet Chief Minister Dikshit.

"I apologise for his behaviour, beta," she told me in the drawing room of her Mathura Road residence. I don't remember her exact words, but she assured action, and asked me to keep this within us.

The paper published the story, with a box on the exchange I had with the minister. Over the coming weeks, no action was taken. About nine months later, the minister was dropped from her cabinet for non-performance.

That was classic Sheila Dikshit — no nonsense, getting the work done, but tactfully, without rocking the boat.

The politician

Between 1998 and 2004, when she had a government from a different party at the Centre, she worked the levers with BJP ministers in the Union Cabinet and the bureaucracy with a sense of purpose.

Though initially tagged an "outsider" — she was veteran Congressman Uma Shankar Dikshit's daughter-in-law — she took to city politics like fish to water.

Unsurprisingly, opposition in Delhi came not from her rivals, but her own partymen. Many Congress stalwarts, from Subhash Chopra to Chaudhary Prem Singh, Sajjan Kumar and Jagdish Tytler to Ram Babu Sharma and in later years Ajay Maken, went from protegee to bete noire to comrade. But she almost always outplayed them in the game of political chess. At several moments, including late-night confabulations in the early 2000s when Ashok Gehlot was in charge of Delhi, dissenters campaigned against her. But every time she was called to 10, Janpath, the high command's final verdict would be in her favour.

Similarly, she either co-opted the opposition in the BJP or outplayed them — Delhi BJP MLAs were at the time branded "loyal opposition" as they would hardly ever push the government to a corner. And these were no ordinary politicians, but big guns like Madan Lal Khurana, Sahib Singh Verma and Vijay Malhotra.

The administrator

She made her mark as an administrator early, implementing two of her biggest accomplishments in the first term itself. Pushed by the Supreme Court, she — along with Maken and transport secretary Sindhushree Khullar — got the entire public transport fleet from diesel/petrol to CNG from 2002 onwards. Chaos ensued, with queues at CNG stations and lack of buses, but a coordinated approach with petroleum minister Ram Naik and road transport minister B C Khanduri helped her pull it off.

She was also able to get Delhi's power distribution privatised, from Delhi Vidyut Board to two private firms, BSES and Tata Power. In both cases, there were allegations of favouring private players, but she remained unscathed.

But her signature contribution remains the infrastructure projects built under her watch, including the Delhi Metro, for which she collaborated with E Sreedharan. As a Delhi government official once told me, "When the history of Delhi will be written, just like Shahjahan (for Shahjahanabad) and Edward Lutyens (Lutyens' Delhi), you will see Sheila Dikshit's name." As a sceptical beat reporter in 2006, I had laughed then. Today, I wonder.

The liberal democrat

Besides being a hands-on chief minister, Dikshit remained accessible and affable to journalists. Her first floor office in Delhi secretariat was freely accessible — her officers interacted with media every day, and ministers and bureaucrats were always up for meeting over a cup of tea.

As a reporter covering her government at *The Indian Express*, one could always get through on the phone, if not in person. When she knew I was working on a tricky story, she employed a classic tactic. I would call in the evening and leave a message at her residence. She would return the call the next morning at 7 am and say, "Yes beta, you wanted to speak to me?" The paper would have carried the story, but she would never mention it.

And though there were times her officials would call journalists to complain, access to her was never restricted.

Once, at *The Indian Express*, I got a scoop on the Delhi budget two days before it was to be presented. After the first story was published, her finance minister called and asked me not to report on the second one, citing secrecy of the budget. But, the paper went ahead and printed the stories. Even as the BJP sought a CBI inquiry, she remained unflappable. Officials later told me the CBI had tried to find how I got the papers, but she never asked me to give up my source.

Chief Minister, capital change agent

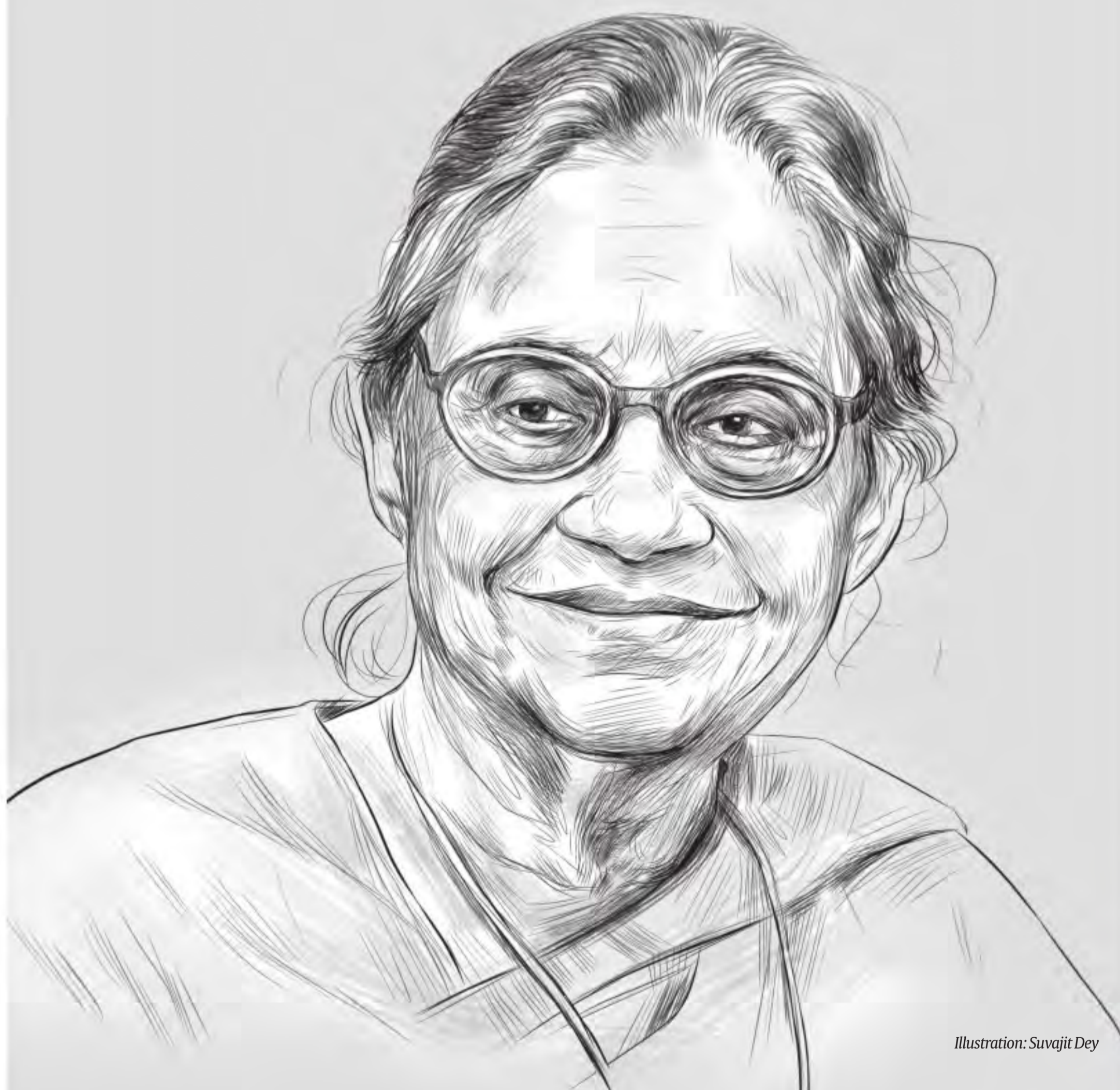


Illustration: Sujajit Dey

{ SHEILA DIKSHIT | MARCH 31, 1938-JULY 20, 2019 }

From drawing on personal experiences to reaching out across political divides — how Sheila Dikshit transformed Delhi in the 15 years she spent as Chief Minister

SOMYA LAKHANI, MALLICA JOSHI & ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, JULY 20

WHEN SHEILA Dikshit first proposed the Barapullah flyover, which now extends from East Delhi's Mayapuri Vihar to AllMS Hospital, opposition from senior Congress leaders was strong. Rakesh Mehta, who served as chief secretary from 2007-11, recalled. But she persevered. "This is the sign of a bold, decisive leader, one who can convince those who oppose, and bring them on board. Can you imagine Delhi without the Barapullah flyover now?" he said, hours after her death.

During her 15-year tenure as Delhi Chief Minister, Dikshit has been credited with changing the landscape of the city — from flyovers that criss-cross the metropolis to the Metro that ferries lakhs daily.

"The AllMS flyover, the Dhaura Kuan roundabout, Signature Bridge and 155 other flyovers in the city can be credited to her. It came from her personal experience... whenever she would get stuck at a bottleneck in the city, she would wonder how to decongest it, call meetings and begin work," Pawan Kherra, her political secretary from 1998 to 2013, said.

Congress leader Arvinder Singh Lovely recalled her work in the education sector: "When I took a decision to define admission norms in public schools and reserve 20% seats for the poor, Sheila ji was the only one who supported the decision. Her public connect was unmatched and I remember she would call up the PWD Minister whenever she saw potholes."

Lovely, the Delhi transport minister during Dikshit's term, recalled receiving calls from the CM inquiring about stationary buses on roads: "She would say, 'Beta, yeh bus kharab kyun hai?' This was her style of functioning."

It was during Dikshit's term that Delhi made a shift from petrol and diesel-based public transport to CNG, after a Supreme Court directive. At the time, Ajay Maken was transport minister. "The SC directive was one of the biggest challenges as it meant we needed uninterrupted CNG supply and gas pipelines. Instead of blaming the Centre, she told me, 'Supreme Court ke orders aaye hain, so let us clean Delhi'," he said.

EPCA chairman Bhure Lal recalled his frequent breakfast meetings with Dikshit over environmental issues: "Even though the CNG bit was an SC order, she did the execution to the best of her ability. She didn't delay or interrupt the process. She would often reach out for advice."

Sunita Narain from Centre for Science and Environment too found herself on the breakfast table across Dikshit often. "I once woke up to a very agitated call by her after she saw a polluting vehicle, asking, 'What can we do about this?' She brought cluster buses to Delhi and manoeuvred past various agencies easily. When we fought for public transport fund, she backed us and negotiated with the L-G at the time."

The Delhi Metro, too, made its debut under her. "Three days before it was inaugurated, the Centre appointed Madan Lal Khurana as DMRC Chairman for political reasons. I told her we should protest but she took a bigger step and called to congratulate him. Then she said that since Delhi is a Union Territory, we can't do anything without Centre's coordination. Let us try

to improve our relationship. This is how she was able to get so many things done in Delhi," said Maken.

While many credit her with world-class infrastructure development for the Commonwealth Games in 2010, it was also purchases during this time that brought allegations of corruption. The CAG, in a 2011 report, had said the Dikshit-led Delhi government granted favours to ineligible vendors and caused loss to the public exchequer. Dikshit had denied the allegations and said her government had followed all procedures.

In the crucial sector of power, Dikshit has been credited with privatisation of electricity distribution, which began on July 1, 2002, onward. "It was a bold decision which faced opposition but she managed to pull it off," said Mehta. He also spoke about the introduction of "low-floor buses" by Dikshit, which eased mobility for the "elderly, children and the differently abled".

Sarvagya Srivastava, former PWD engineer in chief and project coordinator for the first phase of Barapullah flyover project, recalled several meetings with Dikshit when work was going on in 2009. He told *The Indian Express*, "Whenever she would see me, she would ask, 'Beta, bana doge na?' A day before her birthday, she came to the project site at 2 am when a crucial part of the flyover was being constructed. She climbed on to the temporary bridge and spoke to workers. They were so excited to see her. She asked them if they will be able to finish on time and they told her that now that she had come, they would work with twice the enthusiasm. The next day, on her birthday, she sent sweets for them. Once she was convinced about a project, she didn't allow any interference — political or otherwise."

Miranda House girl, politician by chance

SOMYA LAKHANI
NEW DELHI, JULY 20

"Padhi likhi hai, Dilli ki ladki hai, ek Maranda se ayi hai," is how Sheila Dikshit's grandmother-in-law described her, wrote the three-time CM in her autobiography, *Citizen Delhi: My Times, My Life*, last year. Like the city she made her own, Dikshit's life too was peppered with highs and lows.

From "playing pitthu, gitte and devouring Enid Blyton's Famous Five" to watching "cricket matches of arch-rivals, Hindu and St Stephen's College" and meeting her husband Vinod in Delhi University — Dikshit's early years were a far cry from the political life she led.

Congress leader Kiran Walia told *The Indian Express*, "She once told me that if she hadn't been a politician, she would have been an interior decorator."

Politics happened by chance, when she began assisting her father-in-law Uma Shankar Dikshit, a senior Congress leader. In 1984, Rajiv Gandhi asked her to contest from UP, and in 1989, Sonia Gandhi asked her to contest from East Delhi constituency.

Pawan Kherra, her political secretary for 15 years, said, "In the late '90s and early 2000s, whenever there was a power outage, people would call the CM. She had instructed the receptionist to let all calls reach her. She would then note down the areas and call officials about it in the morning."

Behind a tough exterior was a woman who enjoyed solitude and was deeply emotional, said Walia. "After her husband passed away in 1987, she would cry in isolation. But she never made her sorrows public and stayed strong for her kids."

Dikshit's enviable collection of handloom saris became her signature. "When I didn't know her taste too well, I gifted her a sari with a big border once. She called me the next day and politely asked if anything could be done about it as she only wears saris with thin borders," Walia said. Dikshit was also famous for her "breakfast meetings," where she invited officials and experts to exchange suggestions. "She'd have soup, eggs and toast for dinner, while watching TV," said Walia.



Dikshit drives an eco-friendly transport vehicle, to be used in the Metro Feeder Service, in 2012

No question of public spat with her: Former LG

ABHINAV RAJPUT & SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, JULY 20

THOUGH NOT always on the same page, politicians and bureaucrats who worked with Sheila, or across the aisle from her, said she always knew how to take everyone along.

Rajya Sabha MP Vijay Goel said she accompanied L-G Vijai Kapoor to his office in 2001. He was the Union MoS for Planning, she a Chief Minister keen to improve her city. "So we had the L-G, CM and Union Minister sitting together, which you won't see nowadays," he said.

"I had burnt her effigy when there was mismanagement in Delhi during the Commonwealth Games, but even after that we met over breakfast and discussed politics, art and culture, which we both were fond of," he said.

Leader of Opposition Vijender Gupta said he was caught off guard when Dikshit told him she wanted to withdraw a defamation case she had filed alleging "uncivilised language". "It was at a wedding... She came to me and said, 'You are an aggressive guy, but I no longer want to drag the issue... I was humbled by her grace.'"

Tejendra Khanna, who served as L-G from January 1997 to April 1998 and again from April 2007 to July 2013 said, "When we were fairly close to the commencement of the games, we realised the transport of athletes from the CWG village to JLN stadium would be a challenge... It is then we prepared the project for Barapullah elevated road... During my last tenure, only twice did we have to refer matters to the Union Home Ministry over differences of opinion. That was the end of it. There was no question of any public spat. We used to meet once every week and that continued for many years."

Worked closely with police but Dec 16 rape strained relations

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
NEW DELHI, JULY 20

UNDER HER 15-year tenure as Delhi CM, Sheila Dikshit worked closely with several Delhi Police commissioners and maintained cordial relations with the force — until the December 16, 2012 gang-rape. Dikshit had at the time sought the resignation of then police chief Neeraj Kumar over the deteriorating law and order situation in the capital, and also made requests to Home Ministry

to bring police under the state. Responding to a question on bringing Delhi Police under the state, during an Idea Exchange event with *The Indian Express* in 2013, Dikshit said studies have been conducted on Delhi's administrative setup, which said the police should be in the state government's control. "I don't think any state government can have the wherewithal to take on the security needs of VVIPs and diplomats who live in Delhi. But where normal policing in Delhi is concerned, it should be with the state government...," she had said.

Former Delhi Police chief B K Gupta, who worked as DG-Tihar under Dikshit, told *The Indian Express*: "She was a very good administrative officer, a superb team leader and one of the best politicians I have ever met. Before taking charge as police chief, I worked under her as DG of Tihar where we had done a lot of work for inmates. She was supportive; if something big happened in crime, she, apart from being strict, asked us to solve the matter." She also worked with Police Chief Y S Dadwal during the 2010 Commonwealth Games.

'A WARM, AFFABLE PERSONALITY'

Political lines blur as Modi, Sonia, Kejriwal line up to bid farewell

MALLICA JOSHI
NEW DELHI, JULY 20

FROM BITTER political rivals to those who stood behind her staunchly, political lines and rivalries were blurred and personal equations brought forth at former Delhi chief minister Sheila Dikshit's house Saturday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, former Congress president Sonia Gandhi, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, former union minister Vijay Goel and Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari reached her Nizamuddin East home to pay respects after her death.

Dikshit, who was the Delhi CM for 15 years, had been out of power for six years, except for a short stint as Kerala governor in 2014. She worked with the NDA and UPA, with many BJP leaders Sunday calling her a true statesman who went above party lines to ensure Delhi's development.

Kejriwal, a bitter political foe — AAP made several allegations of corruption against Dikshit during its campaign in 2013 and 2015 — Saturday said he was saddened by Dikshit's demise: "Delhi will miss her... Even though we were from different parties, she was always affectionate. There will be a vacuum in Delhi politics. *Unhone Dilli ke liye achha kaam kia.*"



Former Congress chief Sonia Gandhi and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal at Dikshit's residence. *Praveen Khanna*

Goel, who was among the first BJP leaders to reach her house, said: "If you ignore the few controversies, she did a lot for the city. One of the most enchanting things about her was her smile. She won over opponents and supporters alike with it. As a statesman, she knew how to get along with everyone; she was very forthright. Whenever some matter impor-

tant to the state came up, she discussed it with allies and opponents. We met and spoke very frequently and she loved the *parathas* at my house." Dikshit, who was named Delhi Congress chief in January after Ajay Maken stepped down, contested her last election from the North East Delhi constituency in May this year. She was defeated by BJP's

Tiwari. After his win, Tiwari had met Dikshit at her house. On Saturday, Tiwari reached her house minutes after the PM.

"Sheila ji will always be remembered for the respect she gave to everyone and her work. It is tough to believe she has left us. She treated me like her child. When I met her a few days ago, she reminded me about something Atal ji had told her... that we are not personal enemies but political opponents. She always believed that. She told me she was pleasantly surprised that political opponents are still carrying forward the tradition

of meeting with grace and respect. I felt she was giving me a lesson in constructive politics, but like a mother," he said.

On Twitter, Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrote: "Deeply saddened by the demise of Sheila Dikshit ji. Blessed with a warm and affable personality, she made a noteworthy contribution to Delhi's development. Condolences to her family and supporters. *Om Shanti.*"

Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also tweeted about their party leader, with the former saying: "I'm devastated to hear about the passing away of Sheila Dikshit ji, a beloved daughter of the Congress Party, with whom I shared a close personal bond. My condolences to her family and the citizens of Delhi, whom she served selflessly as a 3-term CM, in this time of great grief."

Priyanka tweeted: "Sheila ji will always be remembered for her years of exemplary governance and immense contribution to the development of Delhi. I will miss her wise counsel, her sweet smile and the warmth with which she would hug me whenever we met."

Her protegee Ajay Maken tweeted: "Hard to believe—My mentor and a mother like figure to me #Sheila Dikshit ji is no more. Delhi can never forget her contribution. I will always remember the way she groomed me as a young politician and granted me valuable learning experience under her guidance."

'For her, personal relations never took back seat'

From sitting on a 'dharma' together against the party chief to long chats across the dining table, former External Affairs minister Natwar Singh reminisces about his time with Sheila Dikshit

I HAVE known Sheila ji for over 40 years. We were colleagues in the Rajiv Gandhi government and later in the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust. She never abandoned me in difficult times like other colleagues did, nor did I leave her when she went through the same. It is often said that there are no friends in politics, but in her case personal relations never took the back seat. She was not a run-of-the-mill

politician. In all the years I have known her, I have never seen her raise her voice or display temper. She had come over to our residence even a few days ago; I had advised her to relax as she was not keeping well. But she said she could not say no to the party. I got the impression that she was worried about the state of the Congress. I was horrified by the letters against her by P C Chacko. She did not deserve this;

I must also point out that the party did not stop Mr Chacko from doing so either. What was the need to point out that she was not well? I still remember how four of us — myself, Sheila, KN Singh and ML Fotedar — had a fall-out with Narasimha Rao. Mr Rao had given an assurance that he will give up the post of Congress president after he becomes the PM, a promise he didn't keep. At the

1993 Surajkund AICC session, we sat on a dharma against him. Mr Rao, who got a little rattled, had got a few local toughs stationed there through then Haryana CM Bhajan Lal. We were suspended from the party and joined Congress (Tiwari), floated by N D Tiwari and Arjun Singh. Later, when Soniagi took over, it was dismantled and we went back to the main party's fold. Subsequently, her appoint-

ment as Congress Delhi chief faced resistance from the inner circle that existed then. She was perceived as an outsider. But she was not only a good organiser, she also learnt the art of administration very quickly. Through flyovers, Metro, creation of jobs, she changed the face of Delhi. Delhi is not an easy place to govern, but she earned respect across the spectrum. *(As told to Sourav Roy Barman)*

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

late Lt Hari Singh Bist
On 21 Jul 2000, IC-59276 late Lt Hari Singh Bist of 3/11 GR had made supreme sacrifice during OP Rakshak (J&K) in Jul 1999
Colonel 11 GR & Sikkim Scouts and All Ranks

ON THE 38TH RAISING DAY OF THE TWENTY FIRST BATTALION, THE BIHAR REGIMENT, WE PAY HOMAGE TO THE BRAVE MARTYRS, WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE TO PROTECT THE NATION AND TO BRING GLORY TO THE REGIMENT



AND Nk Lakshman Prasad Pal, L/Nk Karma Oraon, Sep Bhim Singh, Sep Cyprian Kujur and Sep Sushanta Kumar Sahoo. Your gallantry will continue to inspire us forever. We, the fraternity of The Bihar Regiment Kumar Bhanja salute you and your families.
The Bihar Regiment Association

8X16

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No. CWC/CO-ENGG./PRESS NOTE/2019-20/2204 Dated 19.07.2019
PRESS NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
CWC invites online tenders from the contractors for the following works:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated cost (in Lakhs)	Last date of online submission & opening of tender
1.	Renovation of internal roads & replacement of AC sheet roofing at CW, Beasapur & Chandausi -II(UP)	158.07	20.08.2019

Detailed Tender Notice along with conditions of contract and Notice Inviting E-tender may be seen and downloaded from the CWC website www.cewacorp.nic.in or e-tender website www.tenderwizard.com/CWC or CPP Portal <http://eprocure.gov.in/publish/app>. Further Corrigendum/Addendum to this Tender, if any, will be published on website www.cewacorp.nic.in or e-tender website www.tenderwizard.com/CWC or CPP Portal <http://eprocure.gov.in/publish/app> (CPP) only. Newspaper press advertisement shall not be issued for the same. **sd/-CHIEF ENGINEER**

WATCO
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, (OPERATIONS), WATCO
3rd Floor, Public Health Engineering Office Complex, Near Rajiv Bhawan, Unit-V, Bhubaneswar-751001, Odisha, India
Telefax:- +91-674-2391444
E-Mail: maildirectorops@watcoodisha.in
INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)
Bid Identification No. WATCO (O)-01/2019-20 Dtd. 19.07.19

- Name of the work :- Procurement of Allumino Ferric Grade-4 as per IS 299/2025 for Treatment of Raw water in State of Odisha.
- Estimated cost :- Rs. 1,13,05,437/-
- Period of completion :- 30 (Thirty) Days
- Date & time of :- From 11.00 AM of 23.07.2019 to 5.00 PM of availability of bid 06.08.2019 document in the portal
- Last date / time of :- 5.00 PM of 06.08.2019 receipt of bids in the portal
- Date & time of :- 12.30 PM of 07.08.2019 opening of bids
- Name and address :- Director (Operations), WATCO Telefax:- of the Officer 0674-2391444 inviting Bid E-Mail: maildirectorops@watcoodisha.in
- The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only.

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Sd/- (Director Operations) WATCO
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ई-निविदा सूचना
इस खण्ड के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु अनुभव / प्रतिष्ठित ठेकेदारों को सम्बन्धित कार्य का अनुभव रखते हो, से निम्नलिखित ई-निविदाएं दो भाग में आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

- निविदा सं 02/EGD/Mzn/2019-20. कोशी मोला कंकड़खंड लाईन की नरमत्त (ब्रेक डाउन/शट डाउन) हेतु वार्षिक दर अनुबंध एक वर्ष के लिए आवश्‍यकता है। धरोहर राशि ₹ 6000/- (FDR/CDR के रूप में) निविदा शुल्क ₹ 354/- जी०एस०टी० सम्मिलित (डिमांड ड्राफ्ट के रूप में)
- निविदा सं 03/EGD/Mzn/2019-20. इस खण्ड के प्रयोगार्थ एक अर्द्ध कम्प्यूटर, कम्प्यूटर आपरेटर सहित एक वर्ष के लिए किराये पर लेने का कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 3000/- (FDR/CDR के रूप में) निविदा शुल्क ₹ 236/- जी०एस०टी० सम्मिलित (डिमांड ड्राफ्ट के रूप में)
- निविदा सं 04/EGD/Mzn/2019-20. इस खण्ड के अन्तर्गत, जल विद्युत उत्पादन खण्ड, मुजफ्फरनगर के लिए एक इन्जिनो या समकक्ष डीजल चलित कार, निरगमनी, चितौड़ा, सलावा एवं मोला विद्युत गृहों, कार्यालय इयूटी व आश्चरकटापुरा अन्य स्थानों पर आवगमन हेतु एक वर्ष के लिए आवश्यकता है, जिसका संचालन वर्ष 2015 से पुराना न हो। धरोहर राशि ₹ 5000/- (FDR/CDR के रूप में) निविदा शुल्क ₹ 354/- जी०एस०टी० सम्मिलित (डिमांड ड्राफ्ट के रूप में)
- निविदा सं 05/EGD/Mzn/2019-20. निरगमनी जल विद्युत गृह की मशीन सं०-02 के क्षतिग्रस्त स्तर सेक्टर एवं ड्राफ्ट दृश्य लाइनर की नरमत्त का सम्पूर्ण कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 31500/- (FDR/CDR के रूप में) निविदा शुल्क ₹ 1888/- जी०एस०टी० सम्मिलित (डिमांड ड्राफ्ट के रूप में)
- निविदा सं 06/EGD/Mzn/2019-20. निरगमनी जल विद्युत गृह की मशीन सं०-02 की नरमत्त का कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 14000/- (FDR/CDR के रूप में) निविदा शुल्क ₹ 826/- जी०एस०टी० सम्मिलित (डिमांड ड्राफ्ट के रूप में)
- निविदा सं 07/EGD/Mzn/2019-20. निरगमनी जल विद्युत गृह की 2.5 मे०वी० मशीन के स्वेयर सेंट टी०जी०वी०, एल०जी०वी०, यू०जी०वी० (01-01 नग) व चितौड़ा जल विद्युत गृह की 1.5 मे०वी० मशीन के स्वेयर सेंट टी०जी०वी०, एल०जी०वी०, यू०जी०वी० (01-01 नग) तथा सलावा विद्युत गृह की 1.5 मे०वी० मशीन के 01 नग स्वेयर सेंट टी०जी०वी० के सिंबोलीक का कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 11000/- (FDR/CDR के रूप में) निविदा शुल्क ₹ 708/- जी०एस०टी० सम्मिलित (डिमांड ड्राफ्ट के रूप में)
- निविदा सं 08/EGD/Mzn/2019-20. चितौड़ा जल विद्युत गृह के 5 एम०वी०ए०, 11/66 केबीवी ट्रांसफार्मर की नरमत्त एवं तेल सेंटी०स्क्वैजिंग का कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 5500/- (FDR/CDR के रूप में) निविदा शुल्क ₹ 354/- जी०एस०टी० सम्मिलित (डिमांड ड्राफ्ट के रूप में)
- वेबसाइट पर ई-निविदा स्वीकार करने तथा डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि/समय : 05-08-2019/15:00 बजे तक। (ST-05,ST-06 के लिये मान्य होगी) 19-08-2019/15:00बजे तक। (T-02, T-03, T-04, T-07 & T-08 के लिये मान्य होगी)
- ई-निविदा का प्रथम भाग खुलने की तिथि/समय : 06-08-2019 / 11:00 बजे से आरम्भ। (ST-05,ST-06 के लिये मान्य होगी) 20-08-2019 / 10:00 बजे से आरम्भ। (T-02, T-03, T-04, T-07 & T-08 के लिये मान्य होगी) नोट:-निविदा सम्बन्धित समस्त जानकारी, विवरण/डाउनलोड/निविदा में प्रतिभागिता हेतु वेबसाइट www.upjvn.org पर लांघन करे। किसी भी प्रकार के संशोधन/विस्तार की सूचना उपलब्ध वेबसाइट पर दी जायेगी। सभी जानकारी उपरो जल विद्युत निगम लि की वेबसाइट www.upjvn.org पर भी उपलब्ध रहेगी। FDR/CDR/DD के रूप में बंधित धरोहर राशि / निविदा शुल्क तथा गैर न्यायिक स्टाम्प पेपर पर दी जाने वाली जानकारी के दस्तावेजों की मूल प्रतियाँ ई-निविदा स्वीकार करने की अंतिम तिथि ST-05,ST-06 के लिए दिनांक 06.08.2019 को 11:00 बजे तथा T-02, T-03, T-04, T-07 & T-08 के लिए दिनांक 20.08.2019 10:00 बजे तक जमा करना अनिवार्य है, अन्यथा की स्थिति में ऐसी निविदाएँ स्वतः निरस्त मानी जायेगी। इच्छुक निविदाकार, निविदा खुलने की तिथि से पूर्व, किसी भी कार्य रिश्ते में अनुभवित उपरान्त, विद्युत गृह में कराये जाने वाले सम्भावित कार्यों का निरीक्षण कर सकते हैं। निविदा के प्रथम भाग की खिंचवण एवं अनुमोदन पश्चात्, निविदा का द्वितीय भाग खोलने की तिथि सूचित की जायेगी। अग्रोहराखरी द्वारा बिना कारण बताये निविदा को निरस्त करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित है।

अधिसूचना अतिरिक्त, विद्युत उत्पादन खण्ड, नई मण्डी, मुजफ्फरनगर।
"संरक्षित में ऊर्जा के रूप में"

GOVERNMENT COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY CHAK BHALWAL, JAMMU
E-NIT No:- 08 of 2019-20 DATED: 17.07.2019

Principal GCET, Chak Bhalwal, Jammu on behalf of Governor of J&K State invites Tenders by E-tendering mode from Registered Agencies/Organization of Jammu and Kashmir State for Providing Mess Services whose particulars are given below:-

S. No.	Name of the work	Approx. cost	Earnest money	Period of contract	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender
01	Contract for Mess services in GCET Chak Bhalwal, Jammu and arrangement of meals /breakfast during functions within the campus (as and when required).	To be quoted by the contractor	Rs.80000/- (Rs. Eighty Thousand only)	01.09.2019 to 15.06.2020	Registered Agency/Orga nization	Non-refundable amount of Rs. 2000 /- (Rs. Two Thousand only) in shape of e-challan or Treasury Challan/Receipt.

The Bidding documents consisting of quality information, eligibility criteria and detailed terms and conditions of contract can be seen/downloaded from the website www.tenders.gov.in per schedule of dates given below:

- Date of issue of tender Notice: 17.07.2019
- Period of downloading of bidding documents 18.07.2019 from 10.00 A.M. to 17.08.2019 upto 04.00 P.M.
- Bid Submission start date: 18.07.2019 from 10.00 A.M.
- Bid Submission end date: 17.08.2019 up to 04.00 P.M.
- The hard copies of bid will be obtained from the bidder who will be declared L1 after opening of financial bids.
- Date of opening of Bid online: 19.08.2019 at 12.00 Noon.
- The tender fee has been fixed as Rs 2000/- (to be deposited in J&K State Government Treasury under Head 0202-other Receipt, Higher Education, 2019-20) which must clearly indicate the name of the firm (depositor), Tender No. and on whose behalf (Principal, GCET, Chak Bhalwal, Jammu) money is paid. Scanned copy of the e-challan or treasury challan/receipt be uploaded with the tender. The Original e-challan or treasury challan/receipt be sent by post/hand to the Government College of Engineering and Technology, Chak Bhalwal, Jammu along with covering letter in an envelope & should have a card affixed with the details of work order. The EMD of successful tender will be adjusted towards the security money on application, for due performance of the contract/performances during the contract period. No interest shall be payable by the Institute on the EMD deposited by the tenderer. Tenders without EMD shall be rejected.
- The successful tenderer will have to deposit Original affidavit for Rs. 50/- Stamp Paper duly attested by first class Judicial Magistrate with the office of the Principal, Govt. College of Engineering & Technology, Chak Bhalwal, Jammu before the allotment of work or issuance of job order with the effect that: a) The documents/catalogues along with authority letter, etc enclosed with the Tender are genuine and are not tempered or fabricated. b) The firm has not been blacklisted in the past by any Govt./Private institution of the country and there is no vigilance/any other investigating agency case pending against the firm/applicant. c) If any found wrong at any stage application in law, I/we shall be responsible and deem to any legal action. d) Complete bidding process will be online. (Price bid not to be submitted in Physical form).
- The Committee will not be held responsible for any delay.
- The details of cost of documents, EMD specified in the tender documents and affidavit should be same as submitted online (scanned copies) otherwise bid will not be accepted.

No: GCET/Accts/2019-20/538-44
Dated: 17.07.2019
DIP No: DIFC/NB-161019

Sd/- GCET, Jammu

RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION, AMBALA CANTT
Tender Notice No: RE/ROK/EL/Gr. 252/AT CLS/AdvT. 195 Dated: 11.07.2019

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE
Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer, Railway Electrification, Rohtak, for & on behalf of the President of India invites OPEN E-TENDER on web site www.reps.gov.in for the following works. Tenderer may submit their original/revised offer up to prescribed closing time & date. No tender will be accepted manually.

Tender No. & Tender title	App. Cost (₹)	Earnest Money (₹)	Completion Period (Months)	Cost of tender document (₹)	Date of closing tender
1. RE-BTI-EL-Gr 247- 6280, Work of Manning of SP/SSP in Narwana (Excl.) - Kurukshetra (Excl.) section of N. Rly (06 months) and Housekeeping and Security contract for Dy. CEE/RE/Rohtak office and Officers Rest House at Rohtak (12 months), including bathroom cleaning, suits cleaning, cleaning of circulatory area, Varanda & Watching of Railway Property in the premises and maintenance.	23.54 Lakh	47100/-	12 Months	3000/-	14.08.2019 at 15.00 hrs.
2. RE-ROK-EL-Gr.252- AT CLS - G01 Work of power supply arrangement from AT to CLS panel in Garhi harsaru (Excl.) - Farukhshgar (Incl.), Sonapat (excl.) - Gohana (excl.) - Jind (excl.) and 05 Nos. siding i.e. NFL siding, Lehra Mohabat, Vikram cement siding & Ambuja cement siding at Bhatinda and Talwandi Sabo Thermal Power Plant siding at Sadasingh Wala section of Northern Railway.	15.59 Lakh	31200/-	04 (Four)	2000/-	14.08.2019 at 15.00 hrs.
3. RE-ROK-EL-Gr.285-Veh. Hiring: Hiring of Non AC vehicle (01 No.) (Innova, Tavera, Safari, Scorpio or similar of 2017 model or latest) on monthly basis at Gohana in (Gr.285) Sonapat (Excl.) - Jind (Excl.) section of northern Railway for 12 months.	7.27 Lakh	14600/-	12 (Months)	2000/-	14.08.2019 at 15.00 hrs.

Tender documents are available on Railway website i.e. www.reps.gov.in and the same can be downloaded from there. Earnest Money deposit (EMD) and Tender document cost (TDC) in respect of e-tendering will only be accepted through net banking and payment gateway only. Details of bank account number and technical details have been provided for in the software (REPS) to which prospective registered tenderers will have access at the time of tendering. All other terms & conditions may be seen and downloaded from Railway website i.e. www.reps.gov.in
Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer, Railway Electrification, Rohtak For & on behalf of the President of India

"SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE"

Father, son killed as tempo runs over them

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 20

A 45-YEAR-OLD man and his five-year-old son were killed Saturday when a tempo hit them while they were crossing the road in North East Delhi's Namd Nagri. The driver has been arrested. Police said the man, Rajpal, and his family came from Uttar Pradesh's Shahjahanpur to the capital to meet his elder daughter. The incident was reported around 5.20 am, when Rajpal and his son Shiva were crossing the road near

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY
Signal & Telecommunication Branch OPEN TENDER - The Divisional Railway Manager (S&T), West Central Railway, Jabalpur for and on behalf of The President of India invites applications on prescribed tender form for the following works - (1) NIT No. JBP/N/Tele/Tender/2019/11; Name of Work with Location: Annual maintenance Contract (AMC) for Computers & Printers installed at DRM Cell and S&T office/JBP for period of two years; Approx. Cost of the Work (In Rs.): ₹ 2,78,952.00; Earnest Money (In Rs.): ₹ 5,600.00; Cost of Tender (In Rs.): ₹ 1,000.00; Completion Period: 24 months. (2) NIT No. JBP/N/Sig/Tender/2019/21; Name of Work with Location: (1) S&T works in connection with proposed constructions of RUB/LHS in LC No. 271 (2) S&T work in connection with improvement of Railway Under Bridge No. 2, 3 & 4 at JBP city by providing additional opening. Approx. Cost of the Work (In Rs.): ₹ 45,42,096.93; Earnest Money (In Rs.): ₹ 90,900.00; Cost of Tender (In Rs.): ₹ 3,000.00; Completion Period: 6 months; Address of the office from where the Tender Form can be purchased: DRM (S&T)'s Office, 1st Floor, DRM Building, Jabalpur for each. Date & Time for opening of Tender (At 15.15 Hrs.): 15.00 Hrs. on 18.08.2019 for each. The complete information of the above e-Tender is available on website "https://reps.gov.in" and also placed on Notice Board of the Divisional Railway Manager (S&T) Office, West Central Railway, Jabalpur.
अपना जन्मदिन पीछा रोप कर मनायें

US national found dead at hotel

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 20

A 35-YEAR-OLD US national was found dead at Taj Palace Hotel Saturday morning. Additional DCP (New Delhi) Eish Singhal said the man was identified as Muni Jaitly, a businessman. "The incident was reported to us by Primus hospital, which said the hotel administration had rushed the man to hospital. His body has been preserved in the mortuary for post-mortem," he said. Police said Jaitly had checked into the hotel on Thursday. His family called the hotel reception when he did not respond to their calls. "Hotel staff broke open the door and found him lying unconscious," an officer said. "We have checked CCTV footage and it has been established that no one entered his room. We have initiated inquest proceedings under Section 174 of CrPC in the matter," Singhal said.

SECOND HIGHEST MORTALITY FIGURE FOR ZOO IN 5 YEARS

Delhi Zoo records 245 animal deaths in 14 months: Report

SHIVAMPATEL
NEW DELHI, JULY 20

NEARLY 250 animals reportedly died at the National Zoological Park, also known as the Delhi Zoo, in a span of 14 months till June, making its mortality rate "more than exorbitant."

Allegations have also been raised about the under-reporting of animal deaths in the zoo to improve its report card in years with high mortality rates.

An inventory report compiled by the zoo, accessed by *The Indian Express*, shows 245 animal deaths between April 2018 and June 2019, against 323 births.

Dr MS Negi, additional director general of forest (wildlife) at the Central environment ministry, said, "We have taken cognizance of these deaths... and corrective measures are being taken."

This is the second highest mortality figure recorded by the



Between April 2018 and June 2019, there were 245 animal deaths against 323 births in the zoo, the report states. Archive

zoo in the past five years. The highest was 325 deaths in 2016-17 and lowest was 59 in 2014-15.

However, experts and conservationists claim the figures have been manipulated, and deaths of animals are being suppressed. The birth and subsequent deaths of two tiger cubs in a span of 10 days in August, 2018, was also not reflected in the in-

ventory report, which has been submitted to the High Court.

Zoo director Renu Singh said they record births after the offspring have survived for at least a month, but added that all deaths have been recorded in a separate register.

Dr DNSingh, former member secretary of the Central Zoo Authority (CZA), said an accept-

able mortality rate in Indian zoos is around 5%. He said, "The mortality figures are more than exorbitant. If this continues, the zoo would be wiped clean of animals in the next five years."

Moreover, there are 27 species of animals in the zoo that do not have a mating partner. The CZA has advised against keeping single animals in zoos in its national policy.

Also, the zoo witnessed deaths of three animals and birds — a red-breasted parakeet, softshell turtle and hoolock gibbon — that are classified as near threatened, vulnerable and endangered, as per the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Director Singh said, "We will study what caused the deaths of animals. Usually animals like parakeets die when they have completed their lifespan, and that probably happened in other animals' case too. We keep trying to exchange mating partners for single animals from other zoos."

Mehta steps down as Ashoka Univ V-C to 'return to academic life'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 20

POLITICAL SCIENTIST Pratap Bhanu Mehta has stepped down from his position as vice-chancellor of Ashoka University effective August 1 to "return to full time academic life". Malabika Sarkar, principal advisor (academic) at Ashoka, will take over from him, the institute said Saturday.

Mehta, who is also contributing editor with *The Indian Express*, will continue to teach at the university.

In a letter to the varsity community Saturday, Mehta said, "...The Chancellor has kindly accepted my resignation. Being Vice-Chancellor of Ashoka has

been an extraordinary privilege. But after much deliberation, I decided I need to return to more full time academic life. I will continue to be associated with Ashoka University. I will continue to teach, learn, write and enjoy the intellectual richness of this wonderful university, and help it in any way I can."

"I was lucky enough to have the full support of the university in all my endeavours, including my writing. But I had increasingly begun to feel the tension between my vocation as an academic and my obligations as an administrator. The practical challenges of running a university left me without enough space for my academic interests. I had unlimited freedom but little time. It was

time to give academic life one more shot, before my synapses irrevocably hardened. I wanted to carve out a space to engage with the practical and theoretical challenges of our time, and return to various unfinished academic projects. The contemporary world has unsettled so many of our political and philosophical assumptions, and I increasingly felt the need to reorient myself academically. Hence the decision to step down," he said.

When contacted, Mehta said, "My letter says everything, I have nothing to add."

Professor Sarkar, who will succeed Mehta, said, "I look forward to working with the faculty and students to build a world class university."

Shakur Basti residents to get solar power

ANANYA TIWARI
NEW DELHI, JULY 20

DELHI POWER Minister Satyendra Jain inaugurated a scheme to provide solar power to Shakur Basti in Pitampura Saturday, under the Mukhyamantri Solar Power Yojana. This comes nine months after the launch of its second phase in October 2018.

The event, organised by Tata Power-DDL, saw RWAs from various societies in Shakur Basti who expressed eagerness to reduce the cost of electricity expenditures.

"The company will put up the panels and maintain it for 25 years. You'll get 24/7 discounted electricity of Rs 3 per unit at zero capital and maintenance cost, of which Rs 2 per unit will be given by the government. We hope all societies get it done," said Jain.

G G Mor, RWA president of Neelambara apartments in Sainik Vihar, who was present at the event, said: "We are very interested in solar energy... we want to know more on how long it will run, and the subsidies."

The scheme proposes to derive 35 KW of energy from solar rooftop panels in domestic centres, at the rate of Rs 3 per unit for domestic consumers, housing societies, institutional and social sector in IPGCL scheme.

Sanjay Bangra, CEO, Tata Power DDL said, "Delhi's power demand is the highest in India per person. By putting 1 KW plant on rooftops, the cost can come down by one-fourth."

'Operation Romeo': 248 questioned, some claim detained for no reason

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GURGAON, JULY 20

IN AN effort to clamp down on "anti-social elements", Gurgaon Police on Friday night conducted 'Operation Romeo' along MG Road as well as at the Sector 29 market, questioning 248 people.

According to police, the drive was carried out between 8.30 pm and 1 am. "Places like MG Road, which has several pubs, sees a high footfall in the evenings, with incidents of eve-teasing and other anti-social activities also taking place. This operation is

carried out regularly, including on Friday night. A total of 248 people were taken in for questioning and FIRs were registered against 18," said PRO of Gurgaon Police Subhash Boken.

Some of those picked up, however, alleged they were detained without any cause. "We had gone to a pub in Sector 29 for an office party, and were leaving around 11.30 pm. We were walking towards our taxi when some policemen grabbed our hands. We told them we were going home, but they did not listen, and hauled two of us into a bus, along with several other men,"

alleged a 24-year-old, who works at a private firm in the city.

His companion alleged that police manhandled the men they had picked up. "We were taken to the police station and locked in a room. Eventually, they began calling us out and noted down our names, parents' names, addresses, and phone numbers before letting us leave," claimed his companion.

PRO Boken said: "Nobody was picked up wrongly, it is only people indulging in questionable activities who were taken to the police station. Many were let off with a warning."

'Harassed for dowry, 20-yr-old woman jumps in front of train'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NOIDA, JULY 20

A 20-YEAR-OLD woman allegedly committed suicide by jumping in front of a moving train early Saturday morning. The incident took place in Greater Noida, with police saying the pressure of dowry may have led her to taking the extreme step.

The victim, Minakshi, went missing from her in-laws' house around 3 am Saturday. Police said they were informed of the incident by passengers, who found her dead on the railway track near Dadri railway station.

"An FIR is being filed on her family's complaint under IPC sections 304 B (dowry death),

and 498 A (cruelty in violence). The body has been sent for post-mortem to ascertain the nature of injuries. No arrest has been made, but questioning is taking place. Prima facie, it appears she was being harassed by her in-laws after marriage," said Rajeev Kumar Singh, Circle Officer (Greater Noida 3rd).

Minakshi hailed from Sadopur in Dadri, and was living in Tusiana with her husband, who ran a tyre-repair shop, and his parents. They got married a year-and-a-half ago. Minakshi's family alleged that trouble began soon after the wedding, and her in-laws would harass her for dowry.

"We had given everything for dowry, including a car. But they wanted more. Her husband once

choked her and would often be violent. When he came to know she talked to us a lot, he broke her phone. He subjected her to a lot of cruelty," alleged Rakesh, her mother.

She was pursuing her graduation from a local degree college — something her in-laws objected to as well, police said.

Minakshi last spoke to her mother on Friday. Around 5 am Saturday, Rakesh received a call from her in-laws, asking if she had gone home to them. Her family began searching, and were later informed by police that a body had been found.

Minakshi's family has also asked police to probe the possibility of her having been murdered.

BRIEFLY

19-year-old stabbed to death

Faridabad: A 19-year-old man was stabbed to death in Faridabad Friday by four people who had registered a case of attempted murder against him last year. The accused are under arrest, police said.

Man held for killing minor

New Delhi: A 25-year-old man was arrested from Eastern Range for allegedly killing a minor girl during a rape attempt, police said. **ENS**

TAMIL NADU COMMON ADMISSIONS 2019
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DEGREE COURSES 2019 - 2020

Advertisement No. 2500/EA4/2019

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The candidates can register only through online by logging on to <https://www.annauniv.edu/tanca2019>

Commencement of online registration of application 24.07.2019
Last date for online registration of application and submission 05.08.2019

For further details, visit: <https://www.annauniv.edu/tanca2019>
Telephone Nos. 044 - 2235 9908 - 9911 and 044 - 2235 8314.

SECRETARY
TAMIL NADU COMMON ADMISSIONS

DIPR/775/Display/2019

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CENTRAL GOODS & SERVICES TAX, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
BLOCK 'C' & 'D', NEW C.G.O., COMPLEX, NH IV, FARIDABAD (HR)

"PENSION ADALAT"

Central GST Commissionerate Faridabad, Government of India will hold "Pension Adalat" on 29.7.2019 (Monday) at 12:00 P.M for redressal of grievances of pensioners of erstwhile Central Excise & Commissionerate, Faridabad - I & II (Now Central GST Commissionerate, Faridabad) if any.

Venue : Conference Hall, Block - 'C' New CGO Complex, NH-IV, NIT Faridabad

-SD/-
COMMISSIONER
(Good & Services Tax, Faridabad)

DELHI POLICE
SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

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Write to CP, Delhi at P.O. Box No. 171, GPO, New Delhi

Sheila Dikshit
(31st March 1938 to 20th July 2019)

Her mortal remains shall be laid for last darshan between 12:00 Noon to 1:00 pm at the AICC, 24 Akbar Road, New Delhi on Sunday 21st of July 2019.

Cremation shall take place at 2:30 pm at Nigambodh Ghat Crematorium.

Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee

6 GOVT & POLITICS

SONBHADRA KILLINGS

'He did not like plain rice and dal, so I had cooked sabzi that day. He never returned...'

The Sunday Express meets families of those who died in the firing in Umbha village. They recall the last day

ASAD REHMAN
UMBHA (SONBHADRA),
JULY 20



RAJESH (35)
Youngest among three siblings, Rajesh had left home on Wednesday

morning without eating breakfast — wife Pratibha, 32, said he was to return home for lunch. "He didn't like plain rice and dal, so I had cooked sabzi that day. I didn't know he wouldn't return..." she said.

The couple have three children — a 15-year-old daughter and two sons, aged six and four.

atives. Her brother-in-law Ram Bali said he does not know how the two will grow up without their mother.



RAM SUNDAR (50)
"My last conversation with him that day was about foodgrain,"

Ram Sundar's eldest son Lallu Singh, 23, said. "He was obsessed with farming and had told me that I should store grains more carefully after some went rotten recently." Singh, who has four siblings, said their father loved them more than he loved himself.



ASHOK KUMAR (35)
Ashok was the child most loved by his parents among the

three siblings, his sister, Indravati, 38, said. "Growing up, he was always the one most favoured at home," she recalled wistfully. Their second brother, Inderjeet is a small-time farmer — like Ashok was.

Ashok's wife Pushpa Devi is now left to raise their three daughters and two sons — aged between 12 and four years.



JAWAHIR (48)

Jawahir's eldest child, Srikumari, 26, said she regrets not talking to her father for a while. "Who knew he would leave... I was at my in-laws' home and was busy there. I hadn't spoken to him for nearly a month," she said.

Srikumari has four other siblings, aged 13 upward.



RAM DHAR (60)
That Wednesday, Ram Dhar's wife Atwariya, 56, reached

the spot of firing by chance. He was dead by then. "He left around 10 am after a morning meal of baingan (eggplants) and roti. I was grazing cows when I suddenly heard firing... It was far from the village," she said.

Their children Sukwari, 32, and Subhashi, 26, are both married and have their own children.



BASMATIYA (45)

Her son Babbu Singh, 29, said he wouldn't have let her go out to the field that day had he been home. "I had gone to a nearby village for some work," he said.

Husband Nand Lal and Basmatiya have four daughters and a son, aged between 35 and 10.



DURGAVATI (54)
Durgavati's husband died five years ago, after which she became

the head of the household. Her sons Chandra, 32, and Manu, 35, are married and have children. Chandra said Durgavati was shot in the head and on foot.

In the morning, when she left home, "I asked her where she was going. She said some *ladfa* (a skimish) had happened, and that she has to go see what it was and speak (to the people)."



RAM CHANDRA (50)

After his wife, Rakhmeena, died 10 years ago, Ram

Chandra raised their children — now aged between 27 and 16 — on his own. "Our father had fixed the wedding of our youngest sister (Anita, 21) to a man from Madhya Pradesh — we don't even know who he is. Let's see what happens, now that he has gone..." eldest son, Shiv Kumar, 27, said.



SUKHVANTI (40)
Sukhvanti's two children — Sapna, 4, and Preeti, 2 — are now being

looked after by neighbors and relatives.



MP Pakaudi Lal Kol (right) and District Magistrate Ankit Agrawal (third from right) distribute cheques amounting to Rs 5 lakh each to victims' kin on Saturday. Vishal Srivastav

Priyanka meets victims' kin, BJP calls it 'misusing pain of the poor'

AVANEESH MISHRA
LUCKNOW, JULY 20

AFTER CONGRESS leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra sat on a dharna for nearly 24 hours at Chunar guesthouse in Mirzapur, demanding that she be allowed to meet families of the Sonbhadra victims, officials on Saturday arranged a meeting between her and some of the families.

Priyanka sat on a dharna along with other party leaders after the police refused to let them visit Sonbhadra, citing Section 144 of CrPC. She was later taken to the guesthouse.

Seventeen people from families of the victims were brought to the guesthouse on Saturday. After the meeting, Priyanka said the Congress will provide aid of Rs 10 lakh each to the kin of the 10 deceased. She said the Uttar Pradesh government should give Rs 25 lakh compensation to each family of the deceased and the injured. Calling Priyanka's dharna a



Priyanka Gandhi at Chunar Guest House. Anand Singh

"drama", new BJP state unit president Swatantra Dev Singh said. "She is doing politics even after she was made to meet victims' families. This is misusing the pain of the poor for political benefit."

Talking to the media at the guesthouse later, Priyanka said: "They (victims' families) have demanded that each family, where someone has been killed or injured, should get compensation of Rs 25 lakh. Second, ownership of the land on which they have been farming for generations should go to them.

Third, related cases should be heard in fast-track (court). Fake cases against innocent villagers should be withdrawn. And, those who have taken up this fight should be given security."

Mirzapur SP Awadhesh Kumar Pandey said the Congress general secretary was not allowed to deposit any personal bond before she left.

The police today stopped another Congress delegation comprising party leaders Deepender Singh Hooda, Mukul Wasnik, state president Raj Babbar, RPN Singh, Jitin Prasad and Rajeev Shukla was stopped at Varanasi airport by the police.

BSP chief Mayawati, meanwhile, took on the BJP government in the state and accused "negligence" on their part for the "massacre" in Sonbhadra. She tweeted in Hindi: "In order to hide their failure in cases of saving human lives and public welfare, the UP government is not allowing anyone to go to Sonbhadra in the garb of Section 144."

Sonbhadra-bound, Trinamool MPs detained at airport

Kolkata: A three-member delegation of TMC MPs was detained at the Varanasi airport on Saturday morning while they were going to Sonbhadra, prompting a dharna by them outside the airport.

TMC Rajya Sabha MP Derek O'Brien said in a Facebook live video: "We just landed at Varanasi airport (with) colleagues — MP Sunil Mondal and MP Abir Ranjan Biswas. The ADM and SP told us that we have been detained. We told them that it cannot be Section 144 (CrPC), as we are only three people. We asked on what basis we have been detained. Our intention is to go to the BHU trauma centre and meet the victims' families and then visit Sonbhadra to give confidence to the grieving families." **ENS**

With land from locals, police outpost soon in Umbha village

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, JULY 20

DAYS AFTER 10 people were shot dead in a case of indiscriminate firing in Umbha village, with no police help arriving in time despite multiple calls, Sonbhadra's Superintendent of Police (SP) on Saturday said they have decided to open a police outpost in the village. Local residents have offered land for the project.

The local police station, Ghorawal, is 35 km from the village and residents have to travel the distance to seek police help. Sonbhadra is the second largest district of UP after Lakhimpur Kheri.

Sonbhadra SP Salmantaj Jafertaj Patil said on Saturday: "A

police outpost will be set up in the village. We have received an offer from villagers, who have agreed to give land for it. We will soon start the procedure."

There are only two police outposts — Shivdhar and Kasba Ghorawal — under Ghorawal police station. As per police station record, there is no previous record of any murder in Umbha village; there have only been complaints and cases of physical assault and criminal trespass lodged by local residents.

Police record says there are 180 villages under Ghorawal police station's jurisdiction. A chowkidar (watchman) is appointed in each village to keep in touch with the police station and pass on information about the

UP govt trying to protect accused, says Congress

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, JULY 20

THE CONGRESS on Saturday alleged that the Uttar Pradesh government was trying to protect the accused in the Sonbhadra clash and, instead of ensuring justice, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was targeting party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who was detained on her way to meet the victims.

Questioning the reason for Priyanka's detention at a guest house in Mirzapur, Congress's chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said the CM and the ruling BJP were afraid of her, adding, "The reign of Ajay Bisht (Adityanath) continues to be the most insensitive in memory."

"Adityanath has made Uttar Pradesh 'Apradh Pradesh'. The timeline of different incidents clearly shows that the BJP-led UP government is trying to protect the accused in the Sonbhadra clash," he told reporters here.

Surjewala accused Adityanath of "lying" that the previous Congress governments were responsible for the dispute that triggered the violence in Sonbhadra. He narrated various incidents since 2017 to buttress the allegation that the UP government was trying to protect the accused.

"In October 2017, Adityanath illegally grabbed a land of the tribals. In July 2018, the BJP government tried to give the land to accused Yagya Dutt and booked the tribals under various sections of the IPC. In October 2018, two more FIRs were registered against the tribals. On July 6, 2019, the government gave a decision in favour of Dutt and the petition filed by the tribals was rejected so that their land could be grabbed. On July 17, the massacre took place," he said, adding that from the chain of events, it was clear that Adityanath was trying to protect the accused," he said.

BJP MLC targets Nitish over RSS letter controversy

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, JULY 20

BJP MLC Sachchidanand Rai on Saturday sought to know the "nature of relationship" between the BJP and its alliance partner JD(U), days after Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar got the state police to order a probe into how the special branch had issued a letter to his sub-ordinates, seeking the address and work-related details of RSS functionaries across the state.

Rai also sought the intervention of the BJP central leadership to clear the air on the issue. "The way NDA government is functioning in Bihar, it does not bode well for the coming days," Rai told reporters in New Delhi. Praising BJP workers, he said the party must not be "taken lightly and can win next elections on its own".

Rai, who is also a businessman and has been critical of Bihar CM Nitish Kumar, said Kumar was only interested in "remaining CM irrespective of which alliance he is part of". Referring to the ties between his party and the JD(U), he asked, "Ye rishta kya kehlaata hai (how do you define this relationship)?"

The BJP MLC also sought the intervention of his party's central leadership to clear the air of the controversy around the letter. "It is time for our central leadership to take note of it."

BJP spokesperson Rajib Ranjan said, "It was unfortunate for the state government to spy on RSS."

However, Union minister and Begusarai MP Giriraj Singh, who had earlier taken exception to the matter, said, "Since the Bihar CM has clarified his position and ordered inquiry into the special branch letter's origin, there is no need to react."

JD(U) national spokesperson KC Tyagi said, "Bihar Police have already made their stand clear. It is a non-issue. We expect BJP to restrain its leaders from making irresponsible statements."

BJP sources said that even though frontline leaders would not speak on the matter, the party's second-rung leaders would "offer tactical counter" to JD(U)'s political overture. "With RJD declaring Tejashwi Prasad Taday as its CM nominee for 2020 Assembly polls, there is little chance of JD (U) thinking of leaving NDA. Political overtures are part of the game and would only intensify as Assembly election gets closer," a BJP leader said.

Martyrs' Day rally today, eye on Mamata's message

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, JULY 20

TRINAMOOL CONGRESS chief and CM Mamata Banerjee is likely to demand bringing back ballot papers to conduct future elections at the Martyrs' Day rally in Esplanade on Sunday. Poll strategist Prashant Kishor and his team will also be present at the rally, said a senior TMC leader.

The Martyrs' Day rally, held on July 21 every year, is Banerjee's flagship political event. It is a mass rally that she addresses in the heart of Kolkata to commemorate the police firing in the state capital during the Left Front regime on July 21, 1993, in which 13 Youth Congress workers were killed. Banerjee was a leader of the Youth Congress at that time.

To attend the Martyrs' Day rally, party workers have come from several districts, including Cooch Behar, Alipurduar, Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling, North Dinajpur, South Dinajpur and Malda. They have been accommodated at makeshift shelters at four camps across the city — Gitanjali Stadium in south Kolkata, Central Park in Salt Lake, Urtima in Alipore and Khudiram Anushilan Kendra in central Kolkata. The rally also comes weeks after Banerjee reined in party leaders for allegedly taking cut money from people to facilitate government schemes.

Under these circumstances, the party's rank and file is looking up to Banerjee for directions. As an annual affair, Banerjee always sets her party's political road map from the dais of the Martyrs' Day rally.

Third dissident AIADMK MLA calls on Palaniswami

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHENNAI, JULY 20

THE THIRD of the dissident AIADMK MLAs, S Prabhu, called on Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami here on Saturday, completing a cycle of pro-Dhinkaran legislators deserting him post-Lok Sabha polls.

Dhinkaran's AMMK had been routed in the April 18 Lok Sabha polls, and ever since a lot of party functionaries, including two dissident AIADMK MLAs have returned to the ruling party's fold.

Prabhu and two other MLAs E Rathinasabapathy and V T Kalaiselvan were served notices by Tamil Nadu Assembly Speaker P Dhanapal in April for alleged anti-party activities, but the Supreme Court stayed the disqualification proceedings.

Rathinasabapathy and Kalaiselvan had later met the Chief Minister, indicating their return to his camp. On Saturday, Prabhu called on Palaniswami and his deputy O Panneerselvam. Panneerselvam is the AIADMK Coordinator and Palaniswami is Joint Coordinator of the ruling party.

The two other MLAs had earlier said that Prabhu would also soon return to the ruling party fold.

Though the AIADMK won only one of the 39 Lok Sabha seats in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry as part of an alliance including BJP, the ruling party won nine of the 22 Assembly segments where bypolls were held, ensuring it had the majority to continue in power.

Land grab: 3 more cases against Azam, police aide

Lucknow: Three more cases were filed in Rampur against Samajwadi Party MP Azam Khan and retired deputy superintendent of police (deputy SP) Aaley Hasan Khan in connection with alleged land grab for a university. This takes the total number of FIRs against the duo on the same issue to 16 within a week. All cases are lodged at Azim Nagar police station.

The former station officer of Azim Nagar, Kushal Veer, was also named in 13 of the total cases, said Rampur Superintendent of Police Ajay Pal Sharma. Veer is posted in Badaun district.

The accused allegedly acquired land forcibly from farmers to extend Mohammad Ali Jauhar University. Azam is chancellor of the university and Aaley chief security officer. **ENS**

MP, Gujarat spar over Narmada rehab, power generation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
RAJKOT, AHMEDABAD, JULY 20

GUJARAT CHIEF Minister Vijay Rupani on Saturday hit back at Madhya Pradesh minister Surendra Singh Baghel for remarking that MP would not release Narmada water for the Sardar Sarovar dam unless Gujarat government and the Centre addressed its concerns about the dam-affected people and said MP should "stop issuing such threats to Gujarat".

Rupani said it is unfortunate that Madhya Pradesh is playing politics over Narmada water at a time when Gujarat is urgently in need of water following a delayed monsoon.

"The Narmada Control Authority (NCA) has been set up based on judgments of the Supreme Court and (Narmada Water Disputes) Tribunal. Such

talk does not behave (MP Chief Minister) Kamal Nath-ji and ministers of his government," Rupani said.

Rupani was reacting to a statement by Baghel, MP's Narmada Valley Development Authority minister, that Gujarat was not holding meetings of the NCA "seriously" to find agreement on rehabilitation of the project-affected people, PTI reported.

Stating that Gujarat is also not releasing water for power generation — a large chunk of power goes to MP, Baghel told reporters in Bhopal, according to PTI, "So we have decided, after giving a lot of thought to it, that unless Gujarat and Central governments decide on dam-affected people, we are not going to release water."

Interacting with the media in Rajkot, Rupani said, "Share of Narmada water has been decided by the award of (Narmada Water

Disputes) Tribunal in 1979. No state has any right to make any changes to it."

The award of the Narmada tribunal is legally binding on MP, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan. Rupani said, "The Supreme Court order is quite clear: there will be no change in water share till 2024."

On Baghel's remark that MP had ordered a re-survey of Narmada project-affected people, Rupani said, "Rehabilitation of all project-affected people has been completed between 2017 and now in conformity of the Supreme Court order."

Calling Baghel's statement was politically motivated, Rupani said, "All of a sudden, through a letter of their chief secretary, the MP government has conveyed that 6,000 families are yet to be rehabilitated. Given the seriousness of the issue raised, a rehabilitation sub-group of NCA had

convened a meeting on July 12. But no senior officer of the MP government attended it. At the meeting of Sardar Sarovar Reservoir Regulation Committee on July 18, Madhya Pradesh's representatives, in a premeditated move, raised objections to the proceedings of that 61st meeting and cast aspersions (regarding the) neutrality of an independent body like the NCA. This seems to be motivated by mala fide political intentions."

Addressing the media in Gandhinagar, Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel referred to an April 15 meeting of the NCA, where, he said, Madhya Pradesh had insisted that even if there was less water, the riverbed power house at the Sardar Sarovar Project in Gujarat should be run. "Gujarat and the other two states had protested and said that if the hydropower station is run, then all the water would flow to the

sea through the river and would be wasted. So it was unanimously decided that until the water level does not go up to 131 metres, the riverbed power house (RBPH) will not be run.

"The decision on whether to run the RBPH will be taken only when the water level rises above 131 metre,"

On Saturday, Patel pointed out, the level of the water in the SSP reservoir was 121 metres.

In Bhopal, Baghel contended that MP officials had to shun the NCA meeting "because they (Gujarat and the Centre) are not taking us seriously". He said, according to PTI, "This is a rainy season. How do we release water when Gujarat is not releasing water (further downstream from the dam) and is not generating electricity too? If they do not release water, people will get affected by the dam (with water level of reservoir rising)."

EXPLAINED In MP minister remarks, potential for water politics

GUJARAT DEPENDS heavily on Narmada waters to meet its drinking water requirement as well as irrigation needs. This being the second consecutive year when the state is suffering a deficit monsoon, the state government has been releasing water in canal networks to provide crop-saving irrigation. The government has also prioritised drinking water supply from the Narmada to nearly 4 crore people, for which 3.5 crore litres are required every day.

In this scenario, Madhya Pradesh minister Surendra Baghel's statement — threatening not to release Narmada water for Sardar Sarovar dam unless Gujarat and the Centre address its concerns about people affected by the project — has the potential to turn into a political battle between Congress-led MP and BJP-governed Gujarat. And Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani's return-salvo — asking the neighbouring state to stop issuing "threats" to Gujarat — may not be the last volley fired on the issue.

China, India should not allow individual case to disrupt ties, says envoy

K J M VARMA
BEIJING, JULY 20

AS CHINESE President Xi Jinping is set to visit India later this year for his second informal summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, China has said the two neighbours should not allow any "individual case at certain time" to disrupt the bilateral relations and take more initiatives to move forward the bilateral ties in a steady and sound way.

China's new Ambassador to India Sun Weidong said that with two strong leaders at the helm in both the countries, the ties are set to reach new heights.

Under the strategic guidance provided by Xi and Modi at their first informal summit in Wuhan last year, the China-India relations have gathered a "very good and sound momentum of development", Sun told the Indian media here on Friday as he is set to travel to New Delhi to take over his new assignment.

"This year the two leaders are going to hold another informal meeting. I believe, this will be a top priority in our bilateral relations which will surely take our relations on to new heights," he said.

Officials say talks are on for Xi's visit to India which is expected to take place in October this year. The two leaders are expected to hold talks in Varanasi.

Avoiding any references to touchy issues between India and China, like the CPEC and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Sun during his hour-long interaction with the media focussed on critical bilateral issues like the boundary dispute and constant criticism by India over trade gap with China which last year crossed USD 57 billion in a USD 95.5 billion total trade.

"We have to do more than managing differences and take more initiatives in shaping our relationship," Sun said. In an apparent reference to the CPEC and the BRI, Sun said both the countries should not allow "individual cases" to disrupt ties. **PTI**



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh pays homage at Kargil War Memorial in Drass sector of Kargil district on Saturday. **PTI**

Resolution of Kashmir issue to take place soon: Rajnath

ARUN SHARMA & ADIL AKHZER
PANDORI (KATHUA), SRINAGAR, JULY 20

DEFENCE MINISTER Rajnath Singh on Saturday said that resolution of the Kashmir issue is on the cards and no power on Earth can stop it.

"Kashmir samasya ka hal jaldi hi hone wala hai (resolution of the Kashmir issue will take place soon)," he said before inaugurating a 1,000-m bridge over Ujh river in Jammu's Kathua district. "Agar baat cheet se nahi, to kaisey, humey achhi tarah maloom hai (If not through talks, then how, we know very well)," he added.

"Yakeen maniye, iska samadhaan ho kar rahega. Main jo bolta hoon, soch samaj kar bolta hoon. Aisey hi nahi bolta hoon (Believe me, its resolution is bound to take place. Whatever I say, I say with full responsibility)," he said.

"Those who say Kashmir is heaven, I tell them that Jammu

and Kashmir can again be made heaven on earth," Singh said, adding that some forces do not want it.

Recalling his repeated visits to Kashmir as home minister during the previous government, Singh said, "Whenever I visited Kashmir, I repeatedly appealed to all those raking up the Kashmir issue to sit and have talks for resolution of the matter. The number of times I appealed to them, no one had done so earlier."

Singh criticised Hurriyat leaders for misleading Kashmiri children into stone-pelting and inciting them to raise 'Azadi' slogans. On the other hand, he said, they send their own children to study and work abroad. "Which azadi do you want to give the youth of Kashmir? Do you want to give them the Azadi which is available in Pakistan?" he asked.

"Everybody knows that the way India is moving forward on the path of development and progress, it will be one of the three top nations in the world.

However, some people want to push India backward," he said, adding that the government wants both Jammu and Kashmir to progress and become the best tourist destination in the world.

Apart from the bridge at Ujh, Singh inaugurated another on Basantgarh river in Samba district. The bridge on Ujh was constructed by Border Roads Organisation at a cost of Rs 50 crore.

Earlier in the day, marking 20 years of the Kargil War, Singh visited Kargil War Memorial at Drass and paid homage to the soldiers. He was accompanied by Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh and Army chief General Bipin Rawat.

"The Raksha Mantri commenced his visit by laying a wreath in memory of the gallant martyrs of Operation VJAY at the iconic Kargil War Memorial, which was followed by observing of one minute silence as a mark of respect for the fallen heroes," said Srinagar-based Defence spokesperson Col

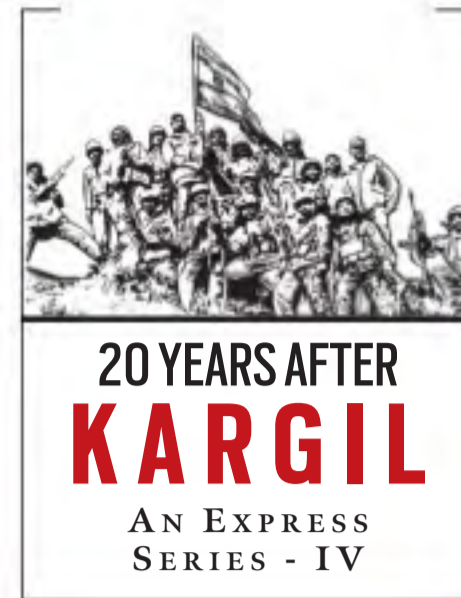
Rajesh Kalia. Singh also visited 'Veer Bhoomi' and the 'Hut of Remembrance', which are in the memorial premises.

According to the Army, as part of the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas, Singh dedicated a 'Memory Lane' which displays information on important battles.

During an interaction with soldiers deployed in Drass sector, the spokesperson said that the minister appreciated the dedication of troops "who are defending the borders in these challenging conditions and conveyed the appreciation of the nation to the Indian Army for always keeping the 'Nation First'."

In the afternoon, Singh tweeted, "Paid tributes to fallen soldiers at Kargil War Memorial in Drass today. On the 20th anniversary of Kargil Vijay the proud nation remembers the exemplary valour and courage exhibited by our soldiers. We will never forget the sacrifices made by them."

How India readied nuclear weapons in IAF's Mirage



SUSHANT SINGH
NEW DELHI, JULY 20

BARELY A year after India and Pakistan officially went nuclear with the Pokharan-2 tests in May 1998, India was posed with the unenviable challenge of possible use of nuclear weapons in case of an unintended escalation during the Kargil War. With no experience to fall back upon, it was in the heat of the conflict that India conjured up a 'primitive' air delivery system for nuclear weapons on Mirage-2000 fighter jets of the Indian Air Force (IAF).

With the war being limited to the Indian side of the Line of Control (LoC), use of a nuclear weapon was highly unlikely, but the need to be prepared for any contingencies was incumbent upon New Delhi. Although India conducted five nuclear tests in May 1998 to become a declared nuclear power, the structures and processes for development, deployment and employment of nuclear forces were still being put in place.

In fact, New Delhi was to release even its first draft nuclear doctrine in August 1999 after the end of Kargil War.

But Indian officials, scientists and military officials dealing with nuclear forces accepted the challenge to be prepared for any eventuality during the Kargil conflict, should the need arise.

The Sunday Express spoke to four retired officials on conditions of anonymity who were involved with that effort two



A casing of nuclear weapon was concocted and fitted on the centre line of fuselage of Mirage-2000 aircraft, where the central ventral fuel tank is fitted, according to officials who were involved in that effort two decades ago. **IAF website**

decades ago.

The first official said, "After 1998, we had started working on creating strategic deterrence. It meant having an authentic nuclear weapon, reliable delivery capacity and a foolproof process to actualise any decision taken by the political leadership. Those were early days; since then, we have come a long way in all those aspects. There is hardly any similarity between then and now."

"The weapon had been tested and we were all confident about it," the second official said. "For delivery, we had to depend on air delivery using the IAF. They did it in a rather primitive way but it was all functional by the summer of 1999, if we needed it."

A retired military official explained, "A casing of the nuclear weapon was concocted and fitted on the centre line of fuselage of Mirage-2000 aircraft, which is where the central ventral fuel tank is fitted. All the modifications were done locally. The take-off angle of attack of the aircraft had to be lower because of this. Essentially, if the nose was at the usual high position during take-off, the fuselage would touch the ground. It was thus lowered by 3-4 degrees and this needed some practice."

The usual altitude, at which the nuclear weapon was meant to detonate, was between 200 and 500 feet above the ground, the fourth official said.

All four retired officials agreed that the 1999 Kargil experience has little relevance to the current scenario, when India has precision delivery systems, an assured second-strike capability and a responsible nuclear doctrine.

Amarinder accepts Sidhu's resignation

KANCHAN VASDEV
CHANDIGARH, JULY 20

PUNJAB CHIEF Minister Amarinder Singh Saturday accepted Navjot Singh Sidhu's "one-line" resignation from cabinet, bringing to closure month-long stalemate between him and the cricketer-turned-politician.

Amarinder forwarded the letter to Governor V P Singh Badnore who conveyed his acceptance. Sidhu, the Amritsar East MLA, remained a cabinet member for just over two years and four months.

For the time being, the power and energy portfolio, allotted to Sidhu in a cabinet rejig on June 6, will remain with the CM. In the absence of Sidhu, Amarinder had been monitoring the functioning of the power department in the wake of ongoing crucial paddy sowing season and rising power demand during hot and humid weather conditions.

Immediately after his resignation was accepted, Sidhu vacated his official bungalow. A cabinet minister is allowed two months time to vacate the official accommodation.

Sidhu, who has been missing from the political scene for over a month, remained incommunicado. He has not been responding to any calls from colleagues and media. He was not available for comment even after his resignation was accepted. His future plans are not yet known.

Citing non-performance, Amarinder had divested 55-year-old leader of the Local Government and Tourism and Cultural Affairs Departments in the cabinet rejig. Sidhu was allotted the power and new and renewable energy portfolio.

BJP MLA slams 'removal' of Deendayal from MP academic activity calendar

MILIND GHATWAI
BHOPAL, JULY 20

A BJP MLA on Saturday alleged that the higher education department in Congress-ruled Madhya Pradesh has given instructions to keep Jan Sangh leader Deendayal Upadhyay and Adi Shankaracharya out of the annual activity calendar of higher education institutes. He called the move "a symbol of anti-Hindu mindset" that will destroy the country's culture.

The allegation was made by Narela MLA Vishwas Sarang during Zero Hour, prompting Speaker N P Prajapati to say that the proposed removal is not proper.

The Speaker said the minister concerned (higher education) should ensure that the activities continue because "sanatan dharma is perpetual". He said that if the minister concerned was not in the House, the

Legislative Affairs Minister should bring it to his knowledge. Sarang said Shankaracharya worked to unite the country, protected the country's culture and heritage, and is revered in Hinduism. "Removal of chapters by placing party politics above amounts to opposing the majority community and a symbol of anti-Hindu mindset. Also, it will destroy the country's culture," he said.

Leader of Opposition Gopal Bhargava said Shankaracharya's philosophy is a heritage and serves as a foundation for "Vedic culture, Hindu community and Sanatan Dharma". Seeking a discussion on the issue, he said such attempts to destroy cultural heritage cannot be entertained.

When Congress MLA Arif Masood alleged that the central government has removed names of many freedom fighters, the Speaker asked him to sit down.

Higher Education Minister Jitu Patwari was not available for comment on matter.

HARYANA STATE TECHNICAL EDUCATION SOCIETY (HSTES)
(Under Department of Technical Education, Govt. of Haryana)
Bay Nos.: 7-12, Sector-4, Panchkula, Haryana
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E-mail: onlineadmissionhelp@gmail.com
Website: www.hstes.org.in www.onlinetestshry.gov.in
www.techadmissionshry.gov.in

Public Notice

Provisional admission allowed for B.Tech. lateral Entry 2019-20 to the final year Diploma Students of Delhi Board whose final result is awaited.

It is for the information for all aspiring candidates of Delhi Board who has participated in 2nd Centralized Online Off-campus Counseling for admission to B.E./B.Tech (Lateral Entry) Course for the session 2019-20 in all Govt./Govt. University Departments & Self-Financing Institutions situated in the State of Haryana that keeping in view of AICTE F.No. AICTE/P&AP/Misc./2019, dated 16.07.2019 and larger interest of stake holders, the dates of reporting at the institutes for the 2nd online counseling of B.Tech. Lateral Entry course for the session 2019-20 has been extended upto 23.07.2019. Government has also decided to allow Delhi Board students provisionally for admission in B.Tech. Lateral Entry 2019-20 whose final year Diploma result is awaited. That student has to give undertaking as available at official website of HSTES.

77684/HRY **Joint Director**

HARYANA STAFF SELECTION COMMISSION
BAYS NO. 67-70, SECTOR-2, PANCHKULA-134154
(www.hssc.gov.in)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Final Result for the post of Sub Fire Officer For Urbal Local Bodies-cum-Fire Services, Haryana Against Advt. No. 11/2017, Cat No. 02.

On the basis of Written Examination, Scrutiny of Documents and Socio-economic criteria for the post of Sub Fire Officer For Urbal Local Bodies-cum-Fire Services, Haryana Against Advt. No.11/2017, Category No.02, the Commission has finalised and declared the result. The result has been shown Roll No. wise and category wise and the marks secured by the last selected candidate in each category have been shown in the bracket.

Advt. No. 11/2017, Cat. No.02, Sub Fire Officer (Total 26 Posts)

General (09)	1172000001	1172000012	1172000037	1172000050	1172000063
	1172000071	1172000091	1172000093	1172000099	(45.00)
General Waiting	1172000002	1172000009			(43.00)
BCA (03 Posts)	1172000094				(25.00)
ESM GEN(02 Posts)	1172000005	1172000015			(23.00)
ESM BCA(01 Post)	1172000049				(40.00)

Note:- SC (03 Posts) BCA (02 Posts) BCB (02 Posts) ESM SC (01 Post) ESM BCB (01 Post) and OSP SC (01 Post) remained Vacant due to Non-availability of Eligible Candidates.

CRITERIA ADOPTED FOR SELECTION

- 1.) WRITTEN EXAMINATION..... 90-MARKS
- 2.) SOCIO ECONOMIC CRITERIA AND EXPERIENCE..... 10-MARKS
Total: 100 - MARKS

Note:

1. The result of EBPG category (03 Posts) has been with held in Compliance of Honble Punjab and Haryana High Court order date 16.05.2019 in CM-5052-CWP-2019 in/and CWP No. 7607 /2019. The EBPG Category candidates, except those who have availed the benefit of age relaxation, have been considered against general vacancies.
2. The above result is subject to the final outcome of CWP No. 262/2018, 3564/2019 and COCP No. 484/2019 and any other writ petitions pending in Honble Punjab and Haryana High Court or any other court of law.
3. While every care has been taken in preparing and uploading the result, possibility of inadvertent/technical errors cannot be ruled out. The Commission reserves the right to rectify the same later on.
4. The result is also available on the website of HSSC i.e. www.hssc.gov.in.

Sd/- (Under Secretary)
For Haryana Staff Selection Commission
Dated: 17.07.2019

77685/HRY.

Lady Hardinge Medical College
100 Glorious Years of Excellence
1919-2019

On the Occasion of
World Brain Day
Department of Neurology
LADY HARDINGE MEDICAL COLLEGE & ASSOCIATED HOSPITALS,
NEW DELHI
Present
PUBLIC LECTURE & PANEL DISCUSSION
(In Hindi & English)
On
Brain Health

Welcome/Introduction
Dr. Rajiv Garg, Director, LHMC & Associated Hospitals

Speakers

Dr. Rajinder K. Dhamija	Dr. Anil Gurtoo
Dr. Dinesh Kataria	Dr. K. S. Anand
Dr. Divyani Garg	Dr. Suvasini Sharma

- How to improve Brain Health?
- Healthy Aging
- Emotional Health
- Management of Migraine
- Cognitive Fitness
- Optimizing Development in Children

Time of Public Lecture & Panel Discussion
Date: 22.07.2019, 12 Noon
Venue: Swarna Jayanti Auditorium (MEU), LHMC, New Delhi.
(Please take your seats by 11.45 AM)
Walk for Brain: Date: 22.07.2019, Time: 7.30 AM onwards
(Please assemble by 7.00AM)
(Starting point - Gate no.2, LHMC, New Delhi Opp - Shivaji Stadium)
For Details Please contact: **Dr. Rajinder K. Dhamija (HOD)**
Deptt. of Neurology, LHMC & Smt. S. K. Hospital, New Delhi.
Ph.no.011-23367579,011-23408279,011-23408380.
All are cordially invited

davp 17148/13/0005/1920

PUNE-SOLAPUR HIGHWAY

Nine friends die as SUV jumps divider, hits truck

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, JULY 20

Nine people died in a major road mishap at Loni Kalbhor on the Pune-Solapur highway, when the car they were travelling in jumped off the road divider and rammed into a truck coming from the opposite direction, in the early hours of Saturday.

According to the police, all nine deceased, aged between 19 and 21, were friends and had gone on a trip to Raigad Fort on Friday in a Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV). The accident took place when they were returning home in the early hours on Saturday. Most of them hailed from Yevat in Daund taluka of Pune district.

Police said the SUV, driven by one of the deceased, was at a high speed while heading towards Yevat on the Pune-Solapur highway. Police said the SUV driver might have lost control of the vehicle, which jumped off the road divider near the gram panchayat office in Kadam Vak Vasti in Loni Kalbhor area around 1 am. The SUV then collided head on with a truck coming from the opposite side. The impact was so severe that all nine youths inside the SUV were killed on the spot, said police. Local residents rushed to the



The mangled car after the accident, on Saturday. Express

spot and alerted the local police and fire brigade. A team of Loni Kalbhor police station led by Inspector Suraj Bandgar reached the spot. The fire brigade team removed the bodies stuck inside the damaged SUV. The bodies were then brought to the Sassoon hospital in Pune for post-mortem. Police said the truck driver and cleaner escaped unhurt.

'Victim was my cousin'

On Friday, Mohammad Ali Ismail Daya, a resident of Yevat, came to Pune city for some work. He was returning home in a car 1.30 am when he saw a damaged

SUV on the Pune-Solapur highway in Loni Kalbhor area.

"The accident looked serious. I stopped to check what had happened and if anyone needed any help. But, when I heard about the victims, I was shocked to find that it included my brother Noor Mohammad and his friends," said Mohammad Ali, who is a cousin of Noor, who along with his eight friends died in the accident at Loni Kalbhor area on Pune-Solapur highway. "All nine were close friends. They would contact and visit each other daily. They lived together and now they died together..." he added.

Set to come out on parole, Nalini to spend time with daughter, kin

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, JULY 20

NALINI SRIHARAN, India's longest-serving woman prisoner and convicted in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, is set to walk out of the Vellore central prison on a month-long ordinary parole.

The Madras High Court had on July 5 granted her the parole, her first such leave in 28 years of incarceration, to make arrangements for the wedding of her daughter, Charithra Sriharan, who was born in prison and is currently a medical practitioner in London.

Nalini was granted 12-hour parole in 2016 to attend the last rites of her father P. Sankara Narayanan.

According to Nalini's counsel M Radhakrishnan, Nalini may be released on an ordinary parole on Sunday or Monday after completing prison formalities. She was forced to move a petition in the high court after the state prison authorities did not respond to her requests for parole.

However, Nalini may not come to her Royapettah home in

Chennai. "We have made arrangements for stay in Vellore during the parole period. We do not want to entertain anyone, media or politicians, as per the parole conditions set by the court. She prefers to spend these 30 days with her daughter and close relatives," Radhakrishnan said.

Confirming her stay in Vellore, a source close to her family said that they have already arranged the house. Her close relatives, including mother Padmavathi, sister Kalyani and brother Bhagyanathan are expected to be with Nalini during the parole period.

The source close to Nalini's family said it has been a long time since Nalini and her husband Sriharan alias Murugan have seen their daughter, who lives with Sriharan's mother Shomani and other relatives in London. "Charithra left the prison in her early childhood, so Nalini is left with nothing but the old clothes Charithra used since her birth in prison... she was taken by the family of a co-prisoner in Coimbatore where she was admitted in a school under a different name and studied for three years. Later, Murugan's par-

ents took her to Sri Lanka before they managed to migrate to the UK at the peak of the Lankan war," the source said.

Nalini was pregnant when she saw the blast that killed former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, and she fled Chennai along with Sriharan after realising that the assassination was executed by people whom she had been accompanying for several days, the court held. In a portion in the SC judgment about Nalini, Justice K.T. Thomas observed Nalini as "an obedient participant without doing any dominating role."

"She realised only at Sriperumbudur that Dhanu was going to kill Rajiv Gandhi. But she would not have dared to retreat from the scene because she was tucked into the tentacles of the conspiracy... She knew how Sivasaran and Santhan had liquidated those who did not stand by them," Justice Thomas wrote. Nalini was a graduate in English Literature and was working for a private firm at the time of her arrest. Her death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment in 2000.

FROM PAGE ONE

Constable

don't know why he is levelling such allegations. I will talk to him about the matter," Patil said, adding that Satyajit had been suspended and a probe ordered against him. "If the Constable is found guilty of being taking a side in the dispute, we will take strict action against him."

In the firing on July 17 triggered by a land row between members of the Gond and Gujjar communities, 10 people were killed and 23 injured. Gonds are classified as Dalits in this village. With the incident snowballing, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced he would be visiting Umbha village on Sunday to meet the victims.

Police have so far arrested 29 people and are searching for 17 others. "The prime accused, Yagya Dutt, has been arrested," said the SP.

Recalling how the incident unfolded, several eyewitnesses told *The Sunday Express* that they saw men collecting on the main road of the village at 10.45 am. "We thought some officials had come to hold talks. We headed towards the disputed land. It was then that we realised that the pradhan had come with at least 100 people in around 20 tractors. They were armed and started firing around 11 am. We could not fight back because they had at least 10-12 guns," said Basant Lal Gond, 35.

Counting his narrow escape, Gond said, "I would have been killed had I been in the front. They shot indiscriminately." Three women were among those killed. Ram Bali, 40, said many of

them crawled into a big pipe nearby. Showing the blood stains in the mud at the entrance to the pipe, Bali said. "The pradhan stationed a person at one end of the pipe and a group of others at the other. The group pushed out people from that side with sticks, and the man on the other side shot those who hurried out."

Phoolpati, 51, said a bullet brushed her thigh as she ran. Shuddering at the memory, she said, "Bhage nahin hote toh abhi gadhe hote zameen mein (I would have been dead had I not run)." Bali said the attack lasted an hour. "At least 100 bullets were fired, maybe more. One person standing on a tractor kept reloading the guns and passing them on to those who were firing at the unarmed crowd."

Rajya said police came after it was all over, around noon. "Nine people were already dead and one died at the hospital later."

Kerala women

objective is simple: to turn them from unskilled labourers into masons and contractors. Last year, as a part of the first phase of training, an all-women team comprising Sicily, Philomina and four others, built a 450 sq ft home for Rs 4.5 lakh in the coastal panchayat of Kumbalangi in western Kochi under the state government's LIFE housing scheme. Now, across Kerala, dozens of such houses for the poor and destitute are being built by similar groups of Kudumbashree.

"These are all women who have been doing MNREGA jobs for Rs 271 a day. We are training them to become better at what they do,"

Manjeesh, a district programme manager with Kudumbashree, who is in-charge of the construction units, says.

Vinaya Joy, 28, a civil engineer, left a cushy private job to train women like Philomina. The initial phase wasn't easy, she concedes, because of the sheer physical strength required for tasks like plastering and lifting solid blocks. Add to that, the sarcastic remarks passed by locals and the general attitude of the public. "Ayyo veedu idinju polinju veezho (Oh, will the house collapse?)" they would often ask us. They think a house built by women will not stand," Vinaya scoffs.

She says at one point they thought of packing up. "But then we remembered the state of the beneficiary for whom the house was being built, and soldiered on. At the end, everyone was happy."

These days, Vinaya smiles, when she walks through the town, everyone acknowledges her. Including Ambika, for whom Vinaya's team built a house last year. "Of course we were scared," says the 51-year-old. "But they worked with dedication."

The oldest in Vinaya's gang, Sicily is up at 5 every morning, and by 9 am, is at the construction site. Her children are settled now, and her alcoholic husband dead. But, she says, she's not calling it a day.

"My sons must look after their families. I don't need their help. I earn the money I need. I get ration rice and prawns from a friend. What else do I need?" she says. Turning 75 next week, Sicily probably won't get a chance to become a contractor like the others. But, even that isn't a deterrent. Pointing to her group, she laughs, "It's a lot of fun together."

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tendering Notice No. 03

Dated: 19.07.2019
By: CE(TM), WCR, BPL acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tender for supply of following items. Tender details and documents are uploaded on IREPS on date 17.07.2019 and 18.07.2019. For more details visit www.ireps.gov.in

Any corrigendum, if required will be uploaded on website 10 days before closing date of bidding. Details are also displayed on notice board of Dy.CE(TM)/BPL office, till the date of closing of instant tender. All the bidder must see the website before bidding.

S.No. 1. Name of work: Overhauling of tamping unit of CSM/Duomatic machine, Tender No. WCRBPLTM 19W93 Dated:- 17.07.2019, Estt. Cost of tender : 26613219.48, Cost of tender form: 10000.00, Earnest Money: 283100.00, Delivery/Completion period: 24 Months, Date of Opening: 28.08.2019

S.No. 2. Name of work: Hiring of inspection vehicle (Scorpio, Innova, TUV 300 or similar etc.) for three years for XEN (TMD) BPL. Tender No. WCRBPLTM 19W95 Dated:- 18.07.2019, Estt. Cost of tender : 1056074.40, Cost of tender form: 2000.00, Earnest Money: 21000.00, Delivery/Completion period: 36 Months, Date of Opening: 21.08.2019

Dy. CE / Track Machine, WCR/Bhopal

CHANGE OF NAME

ANNEXURE - II
Newspaper Advertisement For Change of Name (Spouse) (For Change of Name of Widows of Deceased Soldiers & Change of Name of Wives of Veterans And Serving Soldiers)

I, Sarita Titlotia spouse of Pradeep Kumar R/o Village Chudela, Post + The - Jhunjhunu, District : Jhunjhunu State - Rajasthan - 333001 Have Changed My Name From Sarita Titlotia To Sarita Fogat Vide Affidavit Dated-12/07/2019 Before Pitam Pura, Delhi.

To be known to all that I Harish Kumar S/o Late Shri Raghunath R/o 85-149-C, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-88, Allocated/Purchaser of Flat No. 85-149-C, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-88 has applied for conversion of the aforesaid Flat from Lease hold to Freehold in DDA. The original documents Possession Slip of above said flat has been lost issued by DDA. An FIR on this effect has been lodged vide LR No.12289/2019 dated 01/07/2019.

Any person claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with the above named person at above Address/ Phone No. 9971216674 within 15 days from the date of Publication of this Notice or Write to Dy. Director (Janta) Housing or Director (Housing-II, D-Block, 3rd Floor, Vikas Sadan, New Delhi-110023

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given that myself Ms. Neeraja Chawla resident of C-4A, 25 C Janakpuri, New Delhi 110058 is not in the employment of Mother's Pride / Presidium Societies since 10th October 2018. I am in no way liable or responsible for any transactions of any sort of investments of Mother's Pride / Presidium Societies and in no way connected for any sort of felony of public money or any liability whatsoever as any act of mine was just under the clauses of employment and employer-employee relationship.

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client Shri Rupender Pratap Singh S/o Late Sh. Rajendra Bahadur Singh, R/o House No. 246-247, Rajendra Park Extn., Angli, West Delhi-110041, has severed/terminated all his relations from his daughter, namely, Neha and her husband Sh. Rohit Yadav along with their future children, who are presently residing in their matrimonial home at House No.416, Kamrudeen Nagar Extn.-5, Nangli, Nangli, West Delhi-110041 and have disintegrated and disowned her from his all movable and immovable properties due to her misbehavior, cruelty and non-compliance. In future, if any person deals with above named person, shall be at his own risks and costs any my client shall not be responsible for the same in any manner.

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I, Arman Chaudhary S/o Dhara Singh R/o A-12, Freedom Fighter Enclave, Neb Sarai, IGNOU Road, New Delhi-110068, informs that I have changed my Son's name to Arman Chaudhry for all purposes.

0040504079-1
I, Geetika Bhatia W/o Munish Kumar R/o T-9-1708, RPS Savana-Society, Sector-88, Faridabad, Haryana-121001, have changed my name to Geetika. 0040504064-9

I, Aprajita W/o Shri Lalit Sharma R/o-H.No.14/343, Gali.No.1, Dayanand Nagar, Bahadurgarh, District-Jhajjar, Haryana-124507, have changed my name to Aprajita Sharma. 0040504129-2

I, Aparna Jha Spouse of no-4578421w, Rank NK, Name Pankaj Kumar Jha, village +P.O.Chainpur Uttarkhand, Tehsil-saharsa distt saharasa state bihar-852212, have changed my name from Aparna Jha to Aparna Kumari vide-Affidavit date-20/07/2019, Haryana-court. 0040504093-6

I, Anita Kumari W/o Mr.Nitesh Kumar R/o-VIII-Kapriwas, Po-Hero Honda, Distt-Rewari, Haryana, have changed my name to Anita for all future purposes. 0040504129-3

I, Akanksha Chaudhary w/o Shajhat Kataria D/o Dhara Singh R/o H.No. 123, Hews Apartments, Sector-15-II, Gurugram inform that I have changed my name to Aknksha Chaudhary for all purposes. 0040504087-1

I, Sunilkumar Vinod Bhai Patel S/O, Vinodbhai Patel R/O Swaminarayan Akshardham Mandir, Noida mor, Delhi-110092 have changed my name to Sunil Kumar Patel for all purposes. 0040504093-1

I, Sunil Kumar Jain S/O Kapoor Chand Jain, R/O.H.No.4/1639, Mahavir-Block, Bhola Nath-Nagar, Shahdra, Delhi, have changed my name to Sunil Jain. 0040504073-2

I, Satish Kumar S/O Bansil Lal Vohra R/O.396, four storey-flats, near Vishal-Market, Tagore-garden, New Delhi-110027, have changed my name to Satish Vohra for all purposes. 0040504073-9

I, Sabina Singh Shrestha W/o Rakesh Mrjani D/o Binod Man Singh Shrestha R/O Jyathra 27 kathmandu Nepal 44600 Permanently residing at H-3/14 Ground Floor Shri hari Rohini Sector-18 Delhi-110085 have changed my name after marriage from Sabina Singh Shrestha to Jaanvi Mrjani for all purposes. 0040504024-1

I, Ashma Tomer, H.N.1 Yamaha Vihar Sec 49 Noida, By mistake my last name is not added in my daughter (Meemansa) school documents and Birth certificate. I added my last name also as ASHMA TOMER in place of Ashma vide affidavit 20.07.2019 NCT Noida 0040504046-1

I, ARMY NO.4083768K NK/WM Sunny Kumar H.NO.D1/51A Sita Puri Part-1 Near Shiv Mandir South West Delhi-110045 Changed my minor daughter name from Miss Navya to M.Navya 0040504081-2

I, ARMY NO.4083768K NK/WM Sunny Kumar H.NO.D1/51A Sita Puri Part-1 Near Shiv Mandir South West Delhi-110045 Changed my minor daughter name from KM Yogitha to Yogita 0040504081-1

MATRIMONIAL

Bride wanted
MALYALEE KERALITE

"Keralite JSO Christian boy 27/174 Diploma Pvt. Service working/Delhi settled seeks suitable alliance. Contact 8750070872, 9873883592 Email: eliaskv16@gmail.com." 0040501715-3

Hindu Malayali Viswakarma 29, Bangalore based, 180 cm, BE, MBA(S'pore), currently employed outside Karnataka, inter caste parentage. Seeks Malayali bride. Ph: 9600190880. mail to : pbbpmon@gmail.com mailto:pbbpmon@gmail.com 0050150970-3

Groom wanted
BENGALI

ALLIANCE invited from cultured well settled family from Mumbai for 29 yrs. bengali girl BE born and brought in Mumbai and working. Contact- 9833666113/ 9769288149. 00407065031-1

SITUATION VACANT

OTHERS

Reqd. Psychiatrist in Punjab Firozpur, Govt registered hospital, both OPD and IPD treatments. Well established reputed hospital. Salary negotiable 9779572729, 9876260060 0050151685-1

Urgently required Merchandisers, Sales Coordinators and Sales Executives in Delhi. FMCG industry. Contact 9990132929, hr@sogigroup.com 0050151817-1

FOR SALE

Company Owned Truck-5 Nos (MH No. Model-LPT3718,Yr-2016) For Sale, Km-150000, Body and Tyre Good Condition,Contact-7303200196 0050151828-1

LOST & FOUND

It is notified for the information that my original qualifying certificate of 10th class examination of year-1988, Roll.No.470335 and 12th class examination year-1990, Roll.No.329347, issued by CBSE, has been actually lost. Name of the candidate: Seema Rani, Contact: 9811229220. 0040503879-3

Lost my Original Booking Receipt Issued by TDI Infrastructure Ltd. having Customer ID-KFL-15585 in the name of Sita Aggarwal R/o 360/15, Churu Wala Gali, D.N.College Road, Hissar, Haryana. Online FIR has been lodged Vide-LR No.1282930/2019. 0040504075-1

I, Chander Bhushan S/O Jagdish Mitter Aggarwal R/O Gopal Nagar BTL PSOC City Batala, Punjab have lost Conveyance Deed File No. 505 (408) 95 ESH/NA Delhi Development Authority, this deed jointly in name of Manisha Aggarwal W/o Chander Bhushan, somewhere. If anybody found, please contact on above address. 0040504027-1

I, Suman Gupta D/O Satya Pal Gupta R/O-C-49, Shivaji-Park, West-PunjabBagh, Delhi-110026, have lost my D.Pharma Diploma-Certificate 02/07/2019 with B.T.E. Roll No. 89N9761, Institute Roll No. 156P991. 0040504093-9

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC AT LARGE IS HEREBY INFORMED THAT MY CLIENT SHRI MUKESH KUMAR S/O LATE SHRI MUKESH SINGH R/O-D-163, GALI NO. 2, TAPUR ROAD, DISTT. FARM, BADAPUR EXTENSION, BADAPUR ROAD, NEW DELHI-110044, HAS SEVERED ALL HIS RELATIONS WITH HIS SON NAMEDLY ARVIND SINGH AND HIS WIFE POONAM AND HAS DISINHERITED/DISOWNED THEM FROM ALL HIS MOVABLE AND IMMMOVABLE PROPERTIES. ANYBODY DEALING WITH THEM SHALL BE DOING SO AT HIS OWN RISK AND COSTS. PERIL, RISK AND CONSEQUENCES WILL BE HELD SOLELY LIABLE FOR THE SAME. Sd/- YUDHISHIR SINGH CHAUHAN (Advocate) Ch. No. 276, Block-D, Delhi High Court N. Delhi-03

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform to public at large that my client Shri. Ravinder Chauhan of Ravinder Kumar S/o Sh. Gas dev Chauhan and Smt. Seema Chauhan of Seema w/o Sh. Ravinder Chauhan of Ravinder Kumar S/o Sh. R/o 2/96B, DDA Flats, Kalka Ji, New Delhi-110019, has severed all relationship from their son named M. Virender Chauhan along with his wife Mrs. Pooja Arora D/o Navneet Arora, DDA Flats, Kalka Ji, New Delhi-110019 and their children in future abandoned and disowned them from all their movable and immovable properties and my clients have nothing to do with them due to their misbehavior and misconduct against my clients. My clients shall not be responsible for their acts, deeds from now onwards.

PUBLIC NOTICE
PARAS AGGARWAL (Advocate) Block-74/B, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-63

PUBLIC NOTICE
My clients Shri Shri Mukesh Singh son of Shri Prabhoo Daga & Smt. Smt. Sukanta Singh wife of Shri Mukesh Singh both resident of S-28, Old Malabar Nagar, Gali No.1, New Delhi-110016 have disowned their son Shri Manoj Kumar and his wife Smt. Raksha and their grandsons Yashvir and have abandoned them from inhering any movable and immovable property owned by my above said clients and have also severed all kinds of relation with them. Any person dealing with them will do so at their own risk.

Pardeep Kumar (Advocate) Shop No. 6, Plot No.7A, DDA Building, Distt. Centre, Janakpuri, New Delhi-220116 Email: No.0420822016

सार्वजनिक सूचना
मेरे मुम्बिकनत को नरेक कुमर पुत्र श्री रामलाल वरु श्रीमती यशोदा यशोदा श्री नरेक कुमर, निवासस्थान मकान नम्बर 317, हरिनोरी वास्ती मनी, सिटी चौक, लखनऊ, नोड 300 दिल्ली, दिल्ली-110040 ने अपने पुत्र नरेक कुमर को अपने कुम्बिकनत से अलग करने के कानून संबंधित दस्तावेज कर्तव्य रूप आनी समस्त सार-अवगत समुचित से इस्तेफाल कर दिया है। भविष्य में यदि कोई नरेक कुमर ने कोई नरेक-नरेक कुमर को इस्तेफाल कर स्वयं निम्नकार, धोखा और सत्य मे मुम्बिकनत को कोई निम्नकार नही होगा।

VINEET KUMAR Advocate Chamber No. 500 Civil Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public in general is hereby informed that my clients Mr. Rajendra Prasad S/o Sh. Prem Raj Sharma aged about 61 years and Mrs. Shyam Lata w/o Rajendra Prasad aged about 55 years R/o E 68, Gali No.3, Gokul Puri, Bhagirathi V

10 IDEA EXCHANGE

NEWSMAKERS IN THE NEWSROOM

Why do we talk only of women reservation? There are many ways women can be empowered... create an environment for women to grow, get the right education. Reservation is not the only answer”



WHY APARAJITA SARANGI & S JOTHIMANI

The 17th Lok Sabha has 78 women MPs. At approximately 14 per cent, this is the highest representation of women MPs since Independence. Of these, 46 women are first-time MPs — including Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi and Karur (Tamil Nadu) MP S Jothimani. Both of them made it to the

House without any political connections. While Sarangi, a former IAS officer, defeated BJD's Arup Patnaik, Jothimani, who has been with Congress for 23 years, took on former Lok Sabha deputy speaker M Thambidurai of the AIADMK, and won by over four lakh votes



“When I say I am a Tamil, it is also a kind of Indian identity. Congress failed to understand this. And that is why we are losing. But as a new generation of leaders, we are clear on the original ideology of India and the Congress

COOMI KAPOOR: What inspired you to fight elections?
APARAJITA SARANGI: I was in the Indian Administrative Service for nearly 25 years. I was last posted as Joint Secretary in the Ministry for Rural Development. I handled the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) for five years... But after 25 years, one day, while sitting with my family, I asked myself if I would like to step onto a bigger platform from where I could serve the people better. That is when I decided to join politics... My family, seniors in the bureaucracy, and others helped me take the decision.

COOMI KAPOOR: Did you approach the BJP or did the party approach you?
SARANGI: It was a mutual love affair. There were three parties — the Congress, the BJD, which has been ruling Odisha for 20 years, and the BJP... The Congress was out of the question because there is a leadership crisis in the party. The BJD was counting its last days... What does one look at when joining a party? You look at the objective. The objective of the BJP is development and that attracted me. I admire Prime Minister Narendra Modi's work, determination, willpower, transparency and accountability.

SJOTHIMANI: About 23 years ago, politics happened to me all of a sudden. After completing my graduation, I had taken a break because my mother was unwell. I got the opportunity to see what a village actually looked like — the Dalits and the other castes lived separately. In my village, drinking water was in excess, but the Dalits had not been getting it for years.
 In 1996, when I was 21, reservation for women was introduced in the panchayati raj system. At the time, I didn't like politics, but decided to join the Congress. I told my cousin about it, but we didn't know how to get a ticket. When I told my mother, there was *hungama* (pandemonium) in the house, and no one helped me. Somehow, my cousin and I managed to find a block president who could give me a ticket. When I went to meet him, I ran into my uncle, who asked me what I was doing there. I said I wanted a ticket. A few Congresspeople from Chennai were there too. My uncle told them not to give me a ticket since I was from his family. All I wanted to do was to get water (for the Dalit families). We didn't have any other big ideas then. Soon, I was informed that the Congress party had decided to give me a ticket for the panchayat elections.

After I filed my nomination, I never told anyone about the reason I was fighting the elections... When I visited three-four Dalit villages, I realised that the panchayat elections are not like the other elections. It was a difficult task. So I thought I would get water for the Dalit homes and then quit politics and pursue my education. Then, just like in the parliamentary elections, I got a huge mandate.
 When I went to the panchayat office, I found that there was no power, money, nothing. When I said I fought the elections to get drinking water for Dalit homes, many were irritated since they were from other castes. Earlier, I thought (getting drinking water to Dalit homes) would be a 15-day job, but I had to fight three polls before the issue was finally resolved.

When Rahulji (Gandhi) took charge of the Youth Congress, he found out how difficult it was to get a ticket, how the doors of politics are closed to 98 per cent of the people. He would say in internal meetings, “I am a symptom of the disease”. He sent a team of young MPs across India to find people like me, who believed in changing the political system.
 After working in the party for many years, I realised that while it is good for all of us to maintain status quo, we must fight it. I would ask him (Gandhi) whether we will see the change in our lifetime. He said it doesn't matter. He convinced people like me and so we are still fighting.

COOMI KAPOOR: Is being a woman a disadvantage in politics?
SARANGI: Not at all. In fact, I'm very proud to be a woman. In fact, it is an advantage being a woman. When I went for door-to-door campaigning, I could go inside the kitchen or the bedroom of a woman. I would draw women out from behind their doors... If you're a woman, you can go and talk to them and that's what I did... Women are more sensitive. They understand problems and comprehend them in a much better way.
JOTHIMANI: There is an advantage as well as a glass ceiling... When a man fights for justice, he has to fight for justice alone. But women have to fight for gender also... You have to prove your mettle so that you are not taken for granted.

LIZ MATHEW: After attending Parlia-

‘Why did Rahul leave? Should have owned up defeat’

BJP Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi and Cong Karur MP S Jothimani on what inspired them to join politics, the challenges of being a woman in the field, their position on the women's reservation Bill, and their views on leaders of their parties



BJP MP Aparajita Sarangi (centre) and Congress MPs Jothimani (right) with Consulting Editor Coomi Kapoor in *The Indian Express* newsroom. Renuka Puri

ment, have you found anything that has surprised or shocked you?
SARANGI: It has been too short a period. When I decided to quit my job in the IAS and join politics, I was apprehensive. I was planning to join the BJP in Odisha but I was scared. But there was a very good atmosphere. Things have changed over time, politics has a lot of good people. After I entered Parliament, I met MPs from different parts of the country. It was an exhilarating experience... The definition of politics and politicians is changing. We need to study and know a lot more... If you come to Parliament, you should be fully prepared to take part in any kind of debate.

LIZ MATHEW: Jothimani, in 2011, you only wanted to be an MLA. Has parliamentary politics come as a shock to you?
JOTHIMANI: I still want to become an MLA and work in Tamil Nadu. Last time (the 2016 Tamil Nadu Assembly polls), I couldn't stand for election. So this time (2019 general elections), in spite of opposition from party leaders who believed I could not fight the deputy speaker of the Lok Sabha (the AIADMK's M Thambidurai), I won.
 I'm happy that there are so many women MPs, and young MPs, cutting across party lines. What disappointed me was that when we were taking oath, slogans such as 'Jai Shri Ram' were raised... So MPs from Tamil Nadu decided to say 'Tamil Vaazhga (long live Tamil)'. It has now become an identity issue... India is a federal country, one cannot impose anything on anyone.

COOMI KAPOOR: Did you get the Congress's nomination only because of Rahul Gandhi's support?
JOTHIMANI: The Congress's state president told me that party leaders were opposed to my nomination. But Rahul Gandhi stood his ground. He believed I would win with thumping majority because he knew the work I was doing. He was the only person who stood by me in the central election committee...

COOMI KAPOOR: How tough was the contest against M Thambidurai?
JOTHIMANI: M Thambidurai is an icon in Karur. But I have been working in the district for 23 years. The people there know me well... The day I filed my nomination, many people tried to stop me. The collector called me at 1 am to tell me that he was going to recommend the cancellation of polls. Next morning, Abhishek Manu Singhvi and Kapil Sibal visited the Election

Commission's office. We literally fought a battle everyday. As the DMK is our alliance partner, the party's district secretary, Senthil Balaji, and I decided that we would not resort to violence. We ran a very positive campaign... On the last day of the campaign, they (workers of other parties) arrived with iron rods to beat the people who had assembled. About 98 per cent were women. So while they were threatening, the women stood there like a disciplined army. That was the moment we realised that the margin was going to be high. It made us more determined.

SHALINI NAIR: What is your stand on the women's reservation Bill?
JOTHIMANI: I'm actually for 50 per cent (reservation for women). We should bring it. I have worked across India... A lot of women want to join politics. We should do justice to them. In Panchayati Raj, there is 33 per cent reservation for women. Many block panchayat chairpersons, district panchayat chairpersons and panchayat presidents are women...
SARANGI: When we talk about women empowerment, why should we always think only of reservation? There are many ways in which women can be empowered... We have to create a favourable environment where women can grow up and get the right kind of education. Reservation is not the only answer. But women form 50 per cent of the population and we need to help them. When debates and discussions on this issue are held, the party will take a stand. This government supports women empowerment.

SHALINI NAIR: What is your opinion on the demand to provide proportional representation for SC/STs and OBCs in the women's Bill?



JOTHIMANI: I personally agree with them. Within the Panchayati Raj reservation, there is SC/ST reservation. For me, it would have been very difficult without reservation. It is very difficult for SC/ST women.

RAVISH TIWARI: When bureaucrats enter politics, does it not create a suspicion among people that they would have been partial during their tenure?
SARANGI: Not at all. We are guided by the Government Servants' Conduct Rules and the Constitution when in service. As a bureaucrat, I thought of the job at hand and the people for whom I had to work. I also thought of the government, for whom I was working, and not the party. But once I decided to quit and join a party, that was my personal decision. So these are two different things. I don't see it as a disservice.

RAVISH TIWARI: Following the Congress's defeat in the general elections, what is your assessment of the party and Rahul Gandhi?
JOTHIMANI: As an insider, I don't think there is a crisis. I am from Tamil Nadu... I have seen Jayalalithaa (former Tamil Nadu CM, AIADMK chief) lose. At one point in time every Tamilian hated her. But situations in politics keep changing. It is important to stick to principles and ideology. As far as Rahulji is concerned, he is a man who always stands his ground. He never changed his ideology. He is not hungry for power. I've worked with him for almost seven years now. Many people wonder what he did in the last 10 years — he built people like me. He built the Congress.
 For the last 30 years, we provided good governance but we didn't take care of the party. Our party organisation slowly receded in many states. There were no local leaders in many states for 30 years... Now you can see that in every state there are four or five people like me who understand the state better.

AMRITH LAL: The ethos of the politics in Tamil Nadu is drawn from the Dravidian movement. How does the Congress plan to grow in the state without aligning with the DMK or AIADMK?
JOTHIMANI: If you look at Kerala, for instance, the KPCC (Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee) is not an extension of the AICC (All India Congress Committee). The KPCC is a completely different unit. So when we work in a particular state, we have to be the voice of people of that particular state... It was the K-plan (former Tamil Nadu CM K Kamraj's plan) which was a disaster for us.



It was the biggest mistake the Congress made, when Kamaraj and our stalwarts stepped down.

(the revival of the party) has taken a lot of time in Tamil Nadu and even in Karnataka. So there is a gap in leadership... For many years, we had been an extension of the AICC, which people like me are opposed to... We personally feel that the Congress should have a state-specific agenda. I feel there is a chance for the Congress to regain whatever it lost. It's our mistake, not the mistake of the people of Tamil Nadu. We never talked about the Central schemes. For example, if you ask about MGNREGA, they (the people of Tamil Nadu) will either say Karunanidhi or Jayalalithaa introduced it. Only a handful may say Sonia Gandhi brought it.
 Then there is the identity issue. If you ask me who I am, I will say I am a Tamil. That's how I feel and that is my root. Tamil is my language and culture. That's where I am from. Then I see myself as an Indian. I feel my Indian identity includes my Tamil identity. But the moment I say I am a Tamil, it is also a kind of Indian identity. So the Congress failed to understand the sentiments of the people. And that is why we are losing in many states. But being part of a new generation of young leaders, we are very clear about the original ideology of India and the Congress. The idea of India is no different from that of the Congress.

LIZ MATHEW: Aparajita, what are your views on Rahul Gandhi?
SARANGI: He is not sure of himself. He lacks confidence. He should lead from the front, which he doesn't. He's an escapist. Prime Minister Modi is a role model not only for me but for all BJP supporters. There is no comparison between the leader of the

BJP and the leader of the Congress, Rahul Gandhi is no longer the party president now. But why did he leave and not lead from the front? He should have owned up the defeat, sat with young leaders like Jothimani who have the potential and energy. When I see him in Parliament, he appears to be someone who is always afraid of being attacked. I think he lacks confidence and doesn't come prepared to the Lok Sabha. He never participates in any discussion. MPs must come to Parliament after a good deal of reading.

LIZ MATHEW: Jothimani, what is your opinion of PM Modi?
JOTHIMANI: I see him as someone who is scared to face direct questions... I feel he is despotic, doesn't want to listen to anyone, and controls and centralises everything. We have never had a prime minister like him. I have been closely watching him since 2002. He has a strategy and the party is winning elections, but the Congress also won elections for 50 years. That did not make the Congress arrogant. He is someone who follows people (on Twitter) who are abusing and giving rape threats. He brings down the office of the prime minister... None of the development issues figured in the 2019 campaign; it was completely polarised.

COOMI KAPOOR: Aparajita, do you agree that development didn't figure in the BJP's 2019 election campaign?
SARANGI: When I was a bureaucrat, I was working under the direction of Prime Minister Modi. I know his working style much better than many of the people who are outside the government. The kind of transformation brought to MGNREGA is enough of an indication of his administrative abilities. The scheme was in a sad state when he took over in May 2014. And not only MGNREGA, we have grown in different sectors — be it digital technology, ensuring transparency and accountability, or completing pending projects. And where is the dictatorship? The Prime Minister takes everybody's opinion into account. And why should he be seen as someone who doesn't talk to the press? He is such a wonderful communicator. The UPA-II regime had a prime minister who was silent. Do we need that kind of a PM?
 He has been emphasising on transparency... When PM Modi came to power in May 2014, the way funds were allocated changed. He took into consideration the performance of the states. Which ever state performs well, gets more money... And the mandate says it all. The BJP got 303 seats.

11 SUNDAY STORY

AT HOME

It's 50 days since Amit Shah made the transition to the Modi government. With the powerful president of the BJP now holding the portfolio central to its pet agendas, what does it mean for the Home Ministry he has joined and the party that remains under his shadow



Shah with PM Modi, J P Nadda after the latter took over as working president

Changes begin in BJP, but with his imprint

LIZ MATHEW

LAST WEEK, when Congress MPs sought suspension of business in the Rajya Sabha to take up the political developments in Karnataka, senior BJP MPs immediately huddled around J P Nadda's seat to discuss their tactics on the floor of the House.

Outside the House too, the first stop for BJP strategists like Bhupender Yadav and Anil Jain is Nadda, who operates from a corner of the large office room once occupied by Arun Jaitley and now by the BJP's current leader in the Rajya Sabha, Thaawar Chand Gehlot.

Nadda's new role was also reinforced at the BJP Parliamentary Party meeting on July 2, the first after the 17th Lok Sabha was constituted. Unlike in the past when Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh flanked Narendra Modi, Nadda sat on the Prime Minister's right in the front row.

A month after Nadda took over as the working president of the BJP on June 18, the party is clearly in a post-Amit Shah transition phase. While Shah continues as the president of the BJP, almost every senior leader admits in private that Nadda will take over once the BJP organisational elections are over. Few doubt either that real power will continue to be wielded by Shah and Modi, though, as a senior leader puts it, Nadda won't be eclipsed, as the party leadership "maintains respect for organisation ethics".

While a senior office-bearer talks about still going to Shah for "everything", he adds, "But of course, we first discuss the issues with Nadda." Another leader says Shah has asked them to discuss regular organisational matters with Nadda and to not involve him — except when it comes to West Bengal, Kerala and Telangana. In case of the three states the BJP is focused on, Shah wants to be kept in the loop.

BJP leaders also mark out the appointments since Nadda was picked, as part of a gradual generational shift and transition of power — contrasting this with the arbitrariness in other parties, especially the Congress. Still, it was far from that. Shah again proved speculation wrong and didn't pick the expected choice, 62-year-old V Satish, the BJP national joint secretary seen as close to both Modi and Shah since his Gujarat days.

"Only those who do not know Amit Shah or the RSS or the BJP were surprised," says a senior BJP leader. "The RSS does not send someone as its top nominee in the BJP for a short term. It is always for at least a decade. Satish is already 62 years and Ramlalji was 66 when he left the party after 13 years." Santhoshji is 56.

There were other reasons as well. With Nadda considered soft-spoken and mild, the BJP needed someone in the mould of the aggressive and disciplinarian Shah. Says a BJP general secretary, "When Amit Shahji was at the helm of affairs, Ramlalji's mild-

ness and composure were complementary. But with Naddaji, you need someone of the same temperament as Amit Shah, although no one can match him."

Adds another leader: "Ramlalji would delay decisions to seek a consensus over issues while Amitji takes decisions quickly. Santhoshji, as far as I know, is like our party president."

An engineer who joined the RSS after college, Santhosh proved himself in his role as Karnataka organisational general secretary. Under him, the BJP established its base and formed a government in the state — its only one in the south, a region crucial to the BJP's further growth. Santhosh also held the BJP together when its most popular and influential Lingayat leader, B S Yeddyurappa, quit to launch another party.

As national joint general secretary, Santhosh strategised for the BJP in Kerala too, organising the party's Sabarimala campaign. "Santhoshji was the brain behind it. He coordinated the BJP and RSS agitation in the state," says a party functionary.

Santhosh is also tech-savvy, unlike Nadda, a qualification that goes far in the party, which it has used technology to maximum effect in politics.

Still, in the absence of Shah as full-time chief, the Nadda-Santhosh duo will have their task cut out. If south remains a challenge, with the Assembly elections in Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Haryana only a couple of months away, one of the first talks before Nadda would be managing querulous ally Shiv Sena.

Next would be the Assembly elections in Delhi, Bihar and West Bengal, all states where the BJP can't be too sure of its chances. If West Bengal and Delhi CMS Mamata Banerjee and Arvind Kejriwal are primed for battle, there are signs of discomfort in the BJP-JD(U) alliance in Bihar. The JD(U) has not joined the government at the Centre yet.

With the Modi government raising stakes on Jammu & Kashmir, led by Shah as Home Minister himself, the Nadda-Santhosh team would also have to ensure that this is reflected in the BJP's poll performance there. Elections could be declared anytime in the state.

In a party ruled with an iron hand under Modi-Shah, all eyes will also be on how the new dispensation fares in the face of its controversial leaders and their inflammatory speeches. In the brief time since the Lok Sabha polls, the BJP has had to warn disciplinary action against a number of party leaders, though it is unclear whether it did go ahead against Pragna Thakur, Anant Kumar Hegde and Nalin Kumar Kateel for their Nathuram Godse remarks, or against Madhya Pradesh MLA Akash Vijayvargiya for attacking a municipal corporator. That this is delicate territory was evident when the party expelled Uttarakhand MLA Pranav Singh Champion for six years on Thursday, after a video of him brandishing guns and using abusive language went viral. Party sources said a section of the state unit questioned the quick action when others accused of more serious charges have got away.

Even senior leaders have recently embarrassed the BJP with their outbursts on social media. Organisation joint secretary Shivprakash left many confused when he posted a "Talk with me" message to Uttarakhand BJP chief Ajay Bhatt on Twitter, below the latter's post announcing action against Champion. Another senior leader, BJP vice-president Prabhat Jha, posted a series of tweets preaching values and principles of leadership.

Many BJP leaders see these voices as linked to Shah's withdrawal from managing the party's day-to-day affairs. Says one MP, "A party with crores of members and hundreds of leaders cannot be expected to be on auto pilot. Only a strong leadership can steer the ship without hitting turbulence."

As Modi and Shah watch, no one knows that better than Nadda and Santhosh.

Kashmir, NRC, Bengal top minister Shah's agenda

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY

ON JUNE 26, holding a meeting at Srinagar's Sher-e-Kashmir International Conference Centre on his maiden visit to Jammu and Kashmir, Home Minister Amit Shah asked a senior state police officer about security arrangements for the Amarnath Yatra set to begin soon.

"Sir, everything is in place. *Ab bas aapka aashirwad chahiye* (Just need your blessings now)," the officer replied with palpable excitement. "*Main koi baba hoon jo aapko aashirwad doonga* (Do I look like some holy man who will bless you)? Tell me in detail what has been done," the Home Minister shot back. At another meeting, when the officer tried to impress the minister with statistics on terrorist killings, he earned another rebuke: "Don't rattle off data. Give me the larger picture."

The officer got the message and gave a detailed presentation on the security arrangements.

Saturday marked 50 days in office for Shah as Union Home Minister, the BJP president's first stint in the Central government. Officials say the Srinagar anecdote, travelling fast through the security establishment and becoming a talking point in the bureaucracy in Delhi, is characteristic of his no-nonsense tenure.

Shah has underscored Kashmir and the contentious National Register of Citizens (NRC), two of the BJP's pet ideological agendas, as top of his priority list. One of the first people to call on him after he took charge as Home Minister on June 1 was J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik. After courtesy calls by chiefs of various agencies and forces, Shah held his first formal internal security meeting on June 3 and went through detailed presentations by 19 divisions of the Home Ministry over the next few days, starting with J&K and the Northeast.

Among those he met were National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval, Intelligence Bureau Director Rajiv Jain and Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) chief Anil Dhasmana. On June 4, the day Shah took briefings from Additional Secretary (J&K Division) Gyanesh Kumar and Joint Secretary (Northeast) Satyendra Garg, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) took into custody Kashmiri separatist leaders Masarat Alam, Asiya Andrabi and Shabbir Shah in connection with its terror funding case against Lashkar-e-Toiba chief Hafiz Saeed.

Days later, the Home Minister held a meeting with Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal to discuss the NRC and Citizenship Amendment Bill.



(Top) Shah at Parliament for ongoing session; with panchayat members during a trip to J&K in June, where no overtures were made to separatists

On West Bengal too, the other front on which the BJP has been pushing, Shah has been unequivocal — so much so that the Trinamool Congress has complained about the number of times the state has been referred to in Parliament, and alleged a political conspiracy. Within Shah's first 10 days, the Home Ministry issued an advisory to the Bengal government expressing "deep concern" over political violence in the state and underlining "failure on the part of the law enforcement machinery". Shah also met West Bengal Governor Keshari Nath Tripathi for a briefing, with the Governor stressing later that speculation that they talked about President's rule was wrong.

Tripathi hasn't been the only governor to have called on Shah, who had met as many as 20, apart from over half-a-dozen chief ministers, within a fortnight in the ministry.

In his first interventions in Parliament as Home Minister too, Shah addressed the Kashmir problem and NRC, reaffirming the BJP's position on the issues.

While the Home Minister is considered the natural No. 2 in the Union Cabinet, a series of incidents have settled any doubts regarding whether Rajnath Singh, who held the portfolio in the Modi government and is now Defence Minister, continued to hold the privilege. One of Shah's first meetings was with Foreign Minister S Jaishankar, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Railways and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, in his office, to discuss petroleum trade issues with Mozambique.

Bureaucrats who had been apprehensive of Shah's reputation of being a hard taskmaster as BJP president, have been proved wrong on one front. Contrary to speculation in Home Ministry corridors about largescale reshuffles, Shah has largely continued with the team that existed. Says a source close to the minister, "He believes all bureaucrats work for the government. Only when someone fails to perform will he or she be moved out."

Officers say this continuity, including in the government's agenda, helps. Talking

about Shah, an officer in the Home Ministry says, "You may disagree with him, but you can't deny he has great clarity of thought. That's good for bureaucracy. There is a clear message about what the government wants."

Another bureaucrat, who made a detailed presentation to the minister during the first few days, says, "He is sharp and focused. Many a time he doesn't need briefings either, he knows the subject... The things he knows, he will fast forward. We thought it would take us three hours for our presentation, it was over in one hour."

Even during the visit to J&K, Shah made no concessions for his transition from a party functionary to the government. During his two-day trip beginning June 26, while he held meetings with security forces, the state administration and newly elected panchayat members, no invitation was extended to either Mehbooba Mufti's Peoples Democratic Party or Omar Abdullah's National Conference, unlike during his predecessor Rajnath Singh's visit. Sources say political outreach to separatists was never on the cards even though, in the run-up to Shah's visit, Hurriyat leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq had extended an olive branch of talks and the Governor had welcomed it. Shah did not meet any civil society groups either, nor did he take along Kashmir interlocutor Dineshwar Sharma. In fact, he chose to not even meet Sharma before his visit.

According to sources, Shah told security forces in J&K to crack down on terrorists and devise ways to wean local youth away from guns, as well as instructed the administration and panchayat members to help the 35 Central government schemes reach the grassroots.

An official who accompanied Shah during his visit says the messaging was deliberate. "There is so much focus on security that no one looks at the other big problems in Kashmir, lack of governance and corruption. Violence in Kashmir is actually limited to three districts, but governance is totally abject. Cartels associated with politicians bag projects, which keep hanging for years. Even tenders are not issued. The Centre is of the

EXPLAINED
E

Home set for a decisive phase

AMIT SHAH has held fast to BJP's ideological projects and its election manifesto in his tenure so far, making it clear that he will take his maximalist position as party chief on issues into his role as Cabinet Minister, a job where negotiating hurdles is considered a requisite. Given that he enjoys the PM's confidence, MHA under him is set for a decisive phase.

view that successive state governments have fallen miserably short of governance expectations. In the next one-and-a-half years, we will try to fix this."

Later, in his reply to a debate on the resolution to extend President's rule in J&K, both in the Lok Sabha on June 28 and the Rajya Sabha on July 1, Shah said, "As far as the question of Article 370 (on special status to J&K) is concerned, you must know that it is mentioned as temporary in the Constitution and not permanent. And this was done in agreement with Sheikh Abdullah."

Indicating that chances of any dialogue with Hurriyat leaders were slim, Shah also said the NDA government would "strike terror in the hearts of secessionists" and had zero tolerance for terrorism. "Those (in Kashmir) with anti-India thoughts should fear us. We are not members of the *tukde-tukde gang*." In the Rajya Sabha though, he took a less hard line, saying he was not a pessimist and wanted to assure the House that "we will win the hearts of Kashmiri people".

A Home Ministry official says, "In the Lok Sabha he was sending a message to the separatists. In the Rajya Sabha he was talking to the people of Kashmir."

On the NRC, days after the Home Ministry filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court expressing doubts over the enumeration, Shah told the Upper House that they would identify illegal immigrants staying in any part of the country and deport them as per international law.

Over the past 50 days, what Shah has made clear is that he is not shy of either wielding the BJP's brute majority in Parliament or championing the party's pet issues, contentious as these may be, not allowing the Opposition an inch.

If the latter were in any doubt, this was cleared a couple of days ago. Moving amendments to the NIA Bill, Shah pounced on the demand for a voice division — incidentally by arch opponent Asaduddin Owaisi of the AIMIM. With a vote against the amendments certain to be portrayed by the BJP as a sign of its weakness on internal security issues, the Opposition voted with the government. The amendments went through: 278 to six votes.

12 BIG PICTURE

Will & Grace

One is India's most aggressive pacer, the other its most stylish batsman. With Jasprit Bumrah and Rohit Sharma the only Indians to feature in the ICC's Team of the Tournament post-World Cup, despite the team's semi-final loss, their friends rewind to talk of another time — when the impatient and talented Bumrah broke car tail-lights and more on his way to the Indian squad, and how the laidback and elegant Sharma set off on a new personal innings

JASPRIT BUMRAH

MHIR VASAVDA

UNTARAYAN 2013, Vastrapur, Ahmedabad. It's that time of the year when the sky is dotted with colourful kites and the air carries the aroma of traditional Uttarayan fare — *undhiya*, *jalebi*, *her* and such. Everyone's out on their rooftops. That year in Ahmedabad, on one of the terraces of a crowded cluster of two-storey blocks, a group of six friends, all budding cricketers, were slouched against the walls. They watched the kites soar, and their dreams crash. Few words were spoken.

For three years, the six had dominated Ahmedabad's school and university cricket. They had dreamt of playing for India. Now, one of them, the best of the lot by some distance, was giving up after repeatedly being ignored by selectors. He had declared his intention of migrating to Canada in a year's time if things didn't go his way.

Some did not take him seriously because of the awkward bowling action. Others didn't pay much attention because he hadn't taken enough wickets. Such was his degree of desperation that the teenager had started consulting astrologers. "It'll happen, it's written in your stars," many told him. But he was getting restless. The teenager, raised by a single parent after his father died when he was seven, did not have the luxury of time. His father had migrated from Punjab to Ahmedabad to be part of a family business, but it had folded up and the Bumrahs couldn't afford another failure.

Parth Shah, on whose terrace the group had congregated, recalls his teammate's state of mind. "He thought, 'In *gadhon ke saath khel raha hoon, mera kuchch nahin ho raha* (I'm headed nowhere playing with these idiots).'" And we thought, "We are playing with him and even then we are headed nowhere!"

That impatient, talented and ambitious teenager was Jasprit Bumrah.

Ten days ago, India's World Cup ended in a heart-breaking semifinal defeat to New Zealand. But in Bumrah, there's a silver lining. Over the last month-and-a-half, he has reassessed his position as the country's most versatile bowler — one who gets early wickets, provides breakthroughs in mid-overs and has mastered death-overs bowling. And he is doing all this remaining very economical.

With 18 wickets in nine matches, he was not India's leading wicket-taker this World Cup, but it was his frugality that set him apart. He was captain Virat Kohli's go-to man in crucial situations and delivered almost every time, like that match against Afghanistan where he took two wickets in middle overs, turning the game in India's favour.

In the commentary box, the experts did not sound unsure when they called the 25-year-old the "best pacer in the world". Bumrah also made it to the post-World Cup ICC Team of the Tournament — the only other Indian on the list was Rohit Sharma. Bumrah's exploits at the World Cup are the talk of his hometown, a city known for its sharp business acumen and thrift. Perhaps reflected in Bumrah not giving away much to the batsmen.

Apart from this trait though, he isn't much of an Andazadi. The man, whose bread and butter is speed, is the antithesis of the city's leisurely pace. Unlike Saurashtra and Baroda, which have a rich cricketing heritage, Ahmedabad has been a cricket watcher's city. While it has produced cricketers such as Jasu Patel and Parthiv Patel, the city is more famous for Metra, the stadium that has witnessed some of Indian cricket's historic moments. Sunil Gavaskar scored his 10,000th run in Ahmedabad. Kapil Dev became the world's highest Test wicket-taker in this city.

"Here, if one has to choose between *dhandho* (business) and *namat* (sports), the former triumphs," says Siddharth Trivedi, a Ranji Trophy veteran from Ahmedabad who coached Bumrah in his early cricketing days. But over the last decade, as the city has started to resemble Mumbai with its towering apartments and Metro construction, Ahmedabad is also aspiring to mirror another crucial element: Mumbai's cricket culture.

And Bumrah is the forefront of this shift. Goyal Intercity, in the congested suburb of Thaltej, is a regular middle-class colony. In



(Left, top) The space in between two towers at his home in Goyal Intercity, in the Ahmedabad suburb of Thaltej, was Bumrah's first 'ground'; at 15, he won his first Man-of-the-Match award, at an under-17 tournament.

Javed Raja/Express

between a few towers, there's an open space — the 'ground' where it all began for Bumrah. Here, he is remembered for two things — being the only boy who owned two hockey sticks and for breaking tail-lights of cars with his bowling. "We played hockey on the concrete ground in our society. But cricket was everything," says Preet Mehta, Bumrah's childhood friend.

Preet, Meet, Jeet, and Jasprit may sound like a cheesy boy-band quartet, but all they ever did was play cricket along with two others, Jilay Shah and Sunny Bhatia. When not playing, they'd meet up at Mehta's house and watch re-runs of old matches.

The rules of the game here were simple — bowler who dismissed the batsman would get a chance to bat. But Bumrah was never interested in batting.

Bumrah had a short run-up even then, an adjustment he was forced to make considering the size of the 'ground'. And his bowling action changed almost daily, depending on which bowler he had seen on TV that day. "He imitated actions of Makhaya Ntini, Bret Lee, Shahid Afridi and Wasim Akram. He could bowl really nicely with his left arm as well," Mehta says.

No matter whom he imitated, Bumrah remained quick. So much so that he terrorised the colony children with his pace. "If we hit him for four or six, the next ball would either be a bouncer or beamer," recalls Mehta, who works with an IT firm now. Bumrah, quite literally, never stopped. He would spend afternoons practising alone by bowling against the wall. To ensure he did not disturb his mother Daljeet Bumrah, who retired as a school principal earlier this year, he started aiming right at the floor skirting so that the ball would rebound straight back at him, without the thud.

Finally, in 2009, Daljeet enrolled her 14-year-old at a cricket academy in her school. Ketul Purohit, Bumrah's coach at the academy, admits his first impression of the boy wasn't great. He had a slight build and "a strange run-up, an ugly action with no sense of direction, *Ektum zero*".

Trivedi, the Ranji Trophy player who occasionally coached the trainees at the academy along with Purohit and his father Kishor, says Bumrah's action presented a dilemma. The run-up back then was more or less the same as it is now — skipping and stuttering. But as he leapt to deliver, his right arm extended so far to the left that coaches feared he would lose his balance and fall. "We were tempted to modify his action but then we realised it's his main weapon," says Trivedi, one of the stars of the Rajasthan Royals team that won the inaugural IPL in 2008.

Parth Shah, Bumrah's teammate at the academy who is now a banker, says most players could not even see the ball when he bowled. He started shattering stumps with his pace, forcing Purohit to buy the hard plas-

tic variety. Arth Naik, another teammate, says Bumrah often lost his cool when he got hit by batsmen or if a teammate dropped a catch. "He was at a level higher than us, so he expected the same from everyone."

The team tolerated his tantrums, knowing they would be nothing without him. Shah recalls the final of an under-17 tournament against a Rajasthan team. "He bowled a bouncer that broke the batsman's ribs," Naik, a cinematographer, chips in: "*Baaki sab log andar hee out ho gaye* (The batsmen waiting for their turn were quivering). He took five wickets in six balls in one of the games — that was his first hat-trick."

Soon, the teams started to be extra cautious while playing Bumrah. The smallest of things riled him, but his teammates made sure his temper worked to their advantage. "So just before we went out to bowl, we would taunt him for never purchasing a cricket kit. That would upset him and the anger was taken out on the batsmen," Shah says. "But he was like that on the field. Off it, Jasprit was very shy."

Or so his friends at the academy thought. Mehta, the childhood friend, describes Bumrah as a movie buff who can parrot dialogues from most movies, especially the ones that star Ibrahimovic along with one of his quotes: "Nobody believed I could do it. Everybody was trash-talking. They thought I will go away because I have a big mouth... But I had these dreams of where I would end up. And now here I am. Let's go back 15 years and all I saw then has come true..."

Bumrah need not go back 15 years, only to that Uttarayan of six years ago, to know how far he has come.

■ In 2012, former Mumbai Indians coach John Wright spots Jasprit Bumrah at the Syed Mushtaq Ali tournament, the premier domestic T20 tournament

■ Bumrah is an instant hit in the IPL. The same year, he makes his first-class debut

■ In 2016, he gets his international breakthrough and the next year, asserts himself as India's best fast bowler in the shorter formats. He makes his Test debut in 2018, and plays an influential role in India's maiden series win in Australia, besides setting up Test wins in South Africa and England

18

The number of wickets Jasprit Bumrah got this World Cup.

While he wasn't India's highest wicket-taker, what stood out was his economy rate: a mere 4.41 runs an over

How good is Bumrah. His last five overs (against New Zealand) were an exhibition of how to bowl at the death. He's the best in the world by a country mile.

MICHAEL VAUGHAN, FORMER ENGLAND SKIPPER



ROHIT SHARMA

DEVENDRA PANDEY

ROHIT SHARMA'S friends chuckle as they tell you that the biggest change in him over the years is how he has moved on from watching the 1999 Amitabh Bachchan turkey *Sooryavansham* every time it's on television to joining the starkly up-per-crust world in its breathless anticipation of *Game of Thrones* in 2019.

As he tries his best to fit in — a recurring theme that runs parallel to his own professional life — it's his wife Ritika Sajdeh, an astute celebrity manager, who has tugged him into an eclectic lifestyle where cricket sits neatly arranged in a compartment alongside family downtime with on-demand video-streams, plus his new passion for wildlife conservation.

Sharma, 32, was always marvelously entertaining to watch, got the odd double centuries and a lot of attention from cricket connoisseurs. But the record-breaking five centuries this World Cup — before that one costly failure against New Zealand in the semi-final, when he got out for 1 — has brought Sharma's career to a juncture where criticism of his inconsistency seems like the disappointment of a distant past.

"There has been a big change in Rohit. Ritika and captaincy of Mumbai Indians played a big role in that," says Sharma's friend and former India cricketer Abhishek Nayar, adding that Rohit has mellowed from his early days, when he would be on short fuse and was almost always quick to react.

Once, a tabloid put out Sharma's name as among Mumbai's many celebrities who, the daily alleged, "demanded" VIP number-plates from the transport office. While Sharma, playing with the Hyderabad IPL franchise then, was hopping mad about having made no such demand, he shyly admitted to friends that he was flattered to find his photograph alongside Mukesh Ambani's and Amitabh Bachchan's.

A few years later, he would lead the Ambani-owned Mumbai Indians, winning three IPL titles. But crucially, as IPL captain, he would hold his own while interacting with the cream of Pedder Road's affluent crowd and a parade of celebrities from the film, finance and political world, who sashayed in and out of South Bombay's floodlit cricket stratosphere.

Leading a team which couldn't be seen failing for lack of proactive leadership, Sharma smartened up. Gone was the laid-back man smug in his lazy elegance. His shots were always crisp, but now the strategising got starched. It showed in his media interactions and it kept him on his toes on the field. The shift from Borivali to Bandra, passed via South Bombay.

Even before he could make it to the Indian team, Sharma was termed the next big thing from Mumbai. Former chairman of selectors Kiran More had first nudged Sachin Tendulkar to watch out for "this boy Rohit Sharma". The time he had on him to play his shots and his bat speed had started a buzz around him much before Virat Kohli fetched up.

"Rohit was always at another level. But he is just scoring on a consistent basis now. He is not over-confident. He can keep doing the same thing over and over again without trying to do something different always," Nayar explains.

With 648 runs from nine games, Sharma scored 26 per cent of ODI's total runs at the World Cup. Credited with playing the shot of the tournament — the lofted straight-drive against Bangladesh — Sharma managed manic hitting without the accompanying adrenaline rush.

Much of Sharma's prodigious talent lay in his sublime wrists that conjured magic, but at the start of this decade, he carried a bit of a chiplet on his shoulders. He would often get salty about criticism of his technique. That, combined with his supreme confidence while taking on any bowler, meant his self-assuredness would come off as a boast, with no fitness to back it up. This was pre-2011, two World Cups ago.

A snub back then jolted him, steering him towards the treadmill eight years ago. But it was only when he settled into a culture of compulsive success at Mumbai Indians that he found himself in a happy space from where he could summon perfection in his batting, almost at will.

Juice at Chowpaty and *dosa* near Babulnath — is what former international Pragnan Ojha and his one-time IPL teammate remembers about the times he spent with Sharma, whom he has known since their U-16 days. Bad days on the field or late nights after the IPL turmoils emptied out at Wankhede — the juice and *dosa* were as common as the impromptu long drives and wild parties of their early-20s.

Ojha would meet him after an IPL game this summer, and find a man politely excusing himself from the late nights and completely immersed in his family — wife Ritika and daughter Samaira. "Since he has be-



Rohit Sharma's home at Bandra in Mumbai; with his wife Ritika Sajdeh, who, his friends say, has played a big role in Sharma's transformation from being a laidback cricketer to one of India's most dependable openers. Pradip Das/Express

come a father, his priorities are clear. There is always pressure to perform when you represent the country but now he is enjoying his game more than before because of his fatherhood. Sometimes things don't go your way and the team loses. But he goes back to the hotel and his daughter is waiting for him. So he switches off unknowingly and relaxes," says Ojha.

A tad tetchy earlier, Sharma can charm and chortle at press conferences now. Shouldering the burden of MI's batting, leading them day in day out, he has bitten his quick temper. "He speaks in press conferences as if he's with friends. There is humour and happiness," says Ojha.

As captain, Sharma has the eye for talent and confidence to delegate, trusting his team members to do their job once picked into the eleven. Ojha, whom he backed even after the offie's action underwent correction, and Praveen Kumar, whom he helped get out of depression, swear by the man. "After I changed my action, I played only one Ranji Trophy game but Rohit ensured I got picked for IPL. He trusts people and knows if he backs them, they'll do anything for him. It's the quality of a leader," Ojha says.

When the now retired pacer Praveen Kumar, who played for both the Indian team and Mumbai Indians, was battling his own demons, Sharma rallied behind him and convinced him of his skills. "He won't say one thing to my face and something else altogether behind my back. Rohit is a genuine man, a real friend," at-tests Kumar.

Rohit's loyalty to friends is legendary. He once got into a scrap while playing tennis-ball cricket with the rival team members. With bursting bravado, he challenged his opponents to a fist-fight, only to turn back and realise the rest of his team had fled. He got a beating and never played tennis-ball cricket again. The friendships, mercifully, didn't end.

There are more stories of his friendships. Back in 2006, while Sharma played for India-A in Australia, he came to know that Vicky, the watchman at his grandparents' home in Borivali (he stayed with them then), had been sacked by the building secretary for giving Sharma and his friends easy access to the terrace, bypassing society rules. Sharma then called Vicky from Australia, saying he could now work for him. Even as India's lethal opener upgraded from Borivali to Bandra, he ensured he kept a room for Vicky in his new home.

"Not all his friends are cricketers, but he has no airs and treats everyone with respect," Ojha says, adding that he can easily float between conversations — from a '90s dubsmash with one buddy to the latest Swiss watch with another.

"He was not scoring during the last IPL that concluded a couple of weeks before the World Cup but was in control of the situation. It was just a matter of being calm," Nayar recalls.

The calm before the five-century storm.

I have been watching it for years now, I have been saying it publicly... In my opinion, Rohit is the best one-day player."

Virat Kohli, INDIA CAPTAIN

648

The number of runs Sharma made this World Cup. That's 26 per cent of the team's runs. He also scored five hundreds, the most centuries by a batsman in a single edition

648

The number of runs Sharma made this World Cup. That's 26 per cent of the team's runs. He also scored five hundreds, the most centuries by a batsman in a single edition

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF ZAHOOR AHMAD, 31, AND ISHTIYAQ AHMAD, 31, MEMBERS OF J&K POLICE'S MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM THAT HELPS AMARNATH PILGRIMS



(Left to right) Zahoor and Ishtiyahq administer oxygen to a pilgrim. At an altitude of 14,500 feet, most pilgrims complain of breathlessness; the team also administers first-aid and attends to the elderly; (below) pilgrims on their way to Mg Pass. Shuaib Masoodi

'How far to the top?'

Amid plunging oxygen levels and sub-zero temperatures, Zahoor and Ishtiyahq help pilgrims navigate the toughest stretch along the Amarnath Yatra route

ADIL AKHZER

AT AN altitude of 14,500 feet and under several inches of snow, Mahagunub Top or Mg Pass looks serene, wrapped in a blanket of white. At 6 am, it's deserted, except for a few men in blue-and-yellow jackets. Personnel of the Jammu & Kashmir Police's Mountain Rescue Teams (MRTs), they are here to help pilgrims navigate the highest — and what's considered the toughest — point along the route to the Amarnath shrine in Kashmir.

Every year, about 10 days before the start of the 46-day Amarnath pilgrimage, the MRTs, drawn from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), are deployed along the entire stretch of the yatra route, besides home guards and personnel from other agencies. Today, on Day 16 of the yatra, Zahoor Ahmad, 31, and Ishtiyahq Ahmad, 31, part of a 10-member MRT team that has been deployed at the Pass, have been here much before the first pilgrim of the day is scheduled to the spot.

Just then, Zahoor and Ishtiyahq spot a man wearing a raincoat trekking up, panting heavily. They sprint up to him and ask if he needs help. "Are you comfortable? Do you need any support?" Zahoor asks. The pilgrim, too tired to speak, leans against his walking stick and responds in a low voice: "I am fine. How far is it to the top?"

There are two trekking routes to the Amarnath shrine — the traditional Pahalgam route and the shorter Baltal trek, which is 14 km from the base camp at Baltal in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal District. Most pilgrims, however, choose the Pahalgam route, which passes through Mg Pass and is about 30 km from the base camp at Chandanwari in Anantnag.

According to official figures, as of July 18, 2,32,860 yatis have visited the Amarnath cave, of whom 1,03,332 took the Baltal route, and 1,29,528 chose the longer Pahalgam route. From Mg Pass, pilgrims usually head



to Pospathri and then to Panchtarni, where they halt for the night.

At MG Pass, where the temperature often drops below freezing point at night and which has very low levels of oxygen, the MRT's job is crucial — they have to be prepared for medical emergencies and respond quickly in case any of the trekkers falls ill.

Other than the MRT team, personnel from the departments of health, tourism, forest and electricity, besides a few locals selling water and juice, have set up camps at Mg Pass. A unit of the Army too is deployed here.

It is now 7.30 am and more pilgrims make their way up. While some are on ponies, others are on foot. A young woman from Bengaluru, who is trekking with her mother, walks up to Zahoor and Ishtiyahq and asks: "Abhi aagey aur upar kitna jana padega (How much longer will it take us to reach the top?)" Will

the trek ease up after this or will the climb be tougher from here on?"

Zahoor responds, "Zyada door nahi hai (It's not too far). After you cross this pass, the route is not very steep."

Just then, a 60-year-old *sadhu*, carrying a trident, complains of breathlessness. Ishtiyahq takes out a portable oxygen can from his bag and administers it to the *sadhu*. After a few minutes, the man smiles, places his palm on Ishtiyahq's head and says, "May Bhole bless you. You are doing very good work."

As more pilgrims reach Mg Pass, many more complain of breathing trouble and it's Zahoor's turn to administer oxygen. Ishtiyahq, meanwhile, is helping elderly pilgrims cross a particularly slippery stretch nearby. He, along with another MRT member, carry some of them up the slope.

At some distance are a group of tents,

some of them covered in blue-and-yellow tarpaulin sheets. "That's where we stay," says Ishtiyahq, adding that these tents, which house six to seven personnel each, are not only for MRT members but also for those from other departments. Spotting a colleague clearing snow at the entrance of a tent, he says, "The MRT team reached on June 21; we were the first to arrive. The terrain is tough and it's not easy to set up tents here. The snow base inside the tents starts melting because of the temperature inside and we have to relocate every few days."

Ishtiyahq, a constable with SDRF, says this is his first deputation on Mg Pass. A graduate, he joined the SDRF in 2012 and is now posted in Srinagar.

Before every such posting, MRT members have to do several courses, including one on rescue operations. "I know Cardiopulmonary

Resuscitation (CPR) and other first-aid techniques... I have also done a course in swimming and skiing," he says.

This year, authorities increased the number of MRT units (each unit has about 10 members) on the yatra route. "There are 31 MRTs in all along both the Baltal and Pahalgam routes, right up to the holy cave. In 2018, there were only 25 teams," says Tariq Ahmad, an SDRF officer, who is in charge of MRT teams on the Pahalgam route.

A little before noon, one of the pilgrims approaches Zahoor, saying she slipped on her way up and hurt her leg. Zahoor gives her a pain-relief balm and the woman thanks him profusely. "Dekho, bhagwaan ne kaise bheja aap logon ko (You are a godsend)," she says.

Just as the woman leaves, another pilgrim, a man in his 40s from Pune, asks Zahoor: "Where can I make a call? One of my friends is on a pony on the way to the cave. I haven't been able to contact him — there is no network on my phone."

Zahoor tells him he will have to travel some distance to make calls as the area has poor cellphone connectivity.

He says he himself hasn't called home in a while. "Even in the evenings, we can't venture too far to make calls because there are snow bears roaming around. It's not safe... One night, we received a wireless message from the SSP office, saying the family members of a home guard personnel were worried because he hadn't called them. We informed the SSP office that he was fine and that he would soon get in touch. But when this man ventured to a nearby area to make the call, he spotted snow bears. He immediately returned. He managed to call his family only the following day."

Zahoor, who has Bachelor's degree in Education, joined the SDRF in 2012. Originally from Baramulla, he is posted in Srinagar.

The pilgrim from Pune now wants a selfie with Zahoor, who obliges cheerily.

Around 1 pm, he is back at the camp for lunch. "There is rice and *dal*," says a colleague. "We cook ourselves. If one of us gets to go

home, we fetch some vegetables. Otherwise, we make do with what we have, mostly rice and *dal*," Zahoor says, heating the food that was cooked in the morning and has turned icy cold by noon.

A few MRT members enter Zahoor's tent to chat. "The water from the glaciers is so cold that we can't even touch it. So we didn't bathe for the first 15 days after we were sent here. But then, the Health Department sent a gas geyser for their men and now we too use it," says one of them.

It's 3.30 pm and Ishtiyahq and Zahoor are back at the Pass. The weather has taken a turn for the worse, with a strong gush of wind accompanied by rains and, soon after, a hailstorm. Ishtiyahq, Zahoor and other personnel direct pilgrims to a fibre-glass shelter, which was set up ahead of the yatra season. "The weather here changes in no time — bright sun one minute and heavy rain the next," says Zahoor.

With the rain still pounding, one of the pilgrims comes out of the shed to tell Ishtiyahq that a *sadhu* is complaining of pain. Ishtiyahq and a health official deployed at the Pass head to the shelter. "I can't breathe," the *sadhu* says, panting heavily. The health official helps the man with a nebuliser and tells Ishtiyahq to call two men who can take him to the doctor at the health camp on Mg Pass.

It's now evening and the pilgrim flow has thinned. According to the CRPF, over 7,500 people have taken the Pahalgam route since the beginning of the day. MRT officer Mohammad Ashraf tells his team to spread out and ensure no pilgrim is stranded anywhere on the trek. At 7.30 pm, against the setting sun, a camp fire is lit up outside the tents.

After a few minutes by the fire, the men start returning to their tents. The team can finally call it a day — unless there is an emergency. Around 8 pm, the wireless sets cackle with a message: a MRT team from a nearby camp is taking an ill pilgrim down to the base camp.



THE SOURCE

₹ 65 Cr

ALLOCATED FOR THE PROJECT. WATER MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH A VELLORE SCHEME



Jolarpet, with a population of about 30,000, is sourcing the water from the Mettuchakkara Kup-pam storage tank, which is largely fed by Cauvery water. The government has allocated

Rs 65 crore for the project. Along with Southern Railways, the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board and the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board are transferring water from the storage tank to a pumping station at the Jolarpet railway station, a distance of 3.2 km, through underground pipelines.

THE TRANSFER

100

FLANGES ADDED TO FACILITATE WATER TRANSFER



From Jolarpet, the water makes its way to Villivakkam railway station in Chennai. Here, an exclusive track has been allocated for the water train. A Railway official said around 30 flanges had been

attached to this track for a similar water ferrying project during a crisis in 2002. "More flanges, a total of 100, have been added to transfer the water from wagons to pipelines laid parallel to the rail track, up to a length of 700 metres. The pipelines take the water 3 km to a water treatment and storage centre in Kilpauk."

THE REQUIREMENT

1,200

MILLION LITRES, CHENNAI'S DAILY WATER NEED



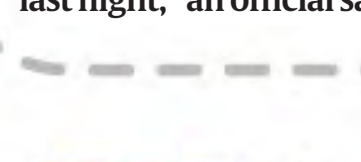
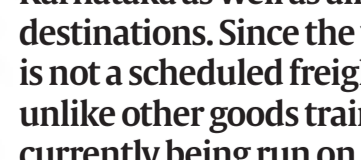
With its population of 70 lakh, Chennai needs 1,200 MLD (million litres a day) of water. Before summer, the average supply in the city was 830 MLD, falling to 525 MLD by May and June. Chennai

Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board estimates that only around 450 MLD ultimately reaches consumers due to transmission loss. In other words, a city resident currently gets 60 to 62 litres of water per day, which is far below the WHO-mandated international standard of 135.



From Jolarpet, the water train makes its way to Villivakkam railway station in Chennai

THE TIME TAKEN



The Vellore-Chennai sector is a busy sector, connecting Chennai with major stations in Kerala, Karnataka as well as all northern destinations. Since the water train is not a scheduled freight service, unlike other goods trains, it is currently being run on convenient time schedules when there is lesser traffic. "For instance, the train reached Chennai around 1 last night," an official said.

THE OTHER SOURCES

■

Chennai gets its regular water supply from a few lakes, two sea-water desalination plants and some abandoned stone quarries in northern Tamil Nadu region.

Currently, two desalination plants supply a total of 180 MLD, Veeranam lake in Cuddalore, which is about 240 km south of Chennai, brings another 180 MLD, agriculture borewells in the city suburbs contribute about 95 to 100 MLD, and about 30 MLD water is recovered from 22

abandoned rock quarries in Chikkarayapuram, 50 km southwest of Chennai.

■

However, the four reservoirs that usually supply water to Chennai have almost run dry. On top of 2018's failed monsoon, Chennai has had no major rains this year.



Lack of water has forced lakhs in Chennai to turn to water trucks

All hopes now rest on the northeast monsoon, starting October-November, which usually helps recharge its groundwater tables.



Maharashtra's 'Jaldoot' supplied water to Latur from Sangli, 342 km away

OTHER WATER TRAINS

■

From April to August 2016, the Maharashtra government supplied water to Latur from Sangli, 342 km away, the longest distance for a water train in India. The 'Jaldoot' train was a 10-wagon operation costing Rs 2.8 lakh and taking 25 hours for every run, bringing 5 lakh litres of water. In all, the train made 111 trips.

■

Rajasthan uses the Railways regularly to get its districts water. In 2016, the year the Latur water train made news, the state's Public Health Engineering Department began running a daily 50-wagon train from Ajmer to Bhilwara in January, carrying a total of 25 lakh litres.

GM CROPS IN INDIA

2002: Bt cotton introduced in India

2006: Second generation variety of Bt cotton introduced. (Roughly 93 per cent of India's cotton area is now covered by Bt hybrids)

2009: Mahyco's Bt brinjal cleared for commercial cultivation by the GEAC

2010: Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh declares a unilateral moratorium on Bt brinjal despite the GEAC recommending its commercial cultivation

2013: Environment Minister Jayanthi Natarajan puts on hold field trials of a few GM crops approved by the GEAC

2014: Environment Minister Veerappa Moily approves 'confined field trials' of GM crops, says no embargo from SC; later, the new NDA govt approves 21 new varieties of GM crops (rice, wheat, maize and cotton) for field trials

2017-18: GEAC gives the go-ahead for commercial release of GM mustard with a number of conditions, but puts its decision on hold a year later; allegations of the crop causing 30-40 per cent reduction in production of nectar in flowers, thereby attracting fewer bees to collect and make honey from it, emerge

2018: GEAC approves field studies of GM mustard on bees

ACTION AGAINST SEED SUPPLIERS

ANDHRA PRADESH/TELANGANA

HTBt cotton seeds were first detected in Andhra in 2017, leading to the registration of 50 cases and arrest of 49 people, all of them seed suppliers. In 2018, police booked 45 cases and arrested 44 seed sellers, while in 2019 so far, 20 cases have been registered, 43 seed suppliers arrested and 716 quintals of HTBt seeds seized. In all cases, the accused are out on bail. The state government also temporarily cancelled licences of at least 15 seed companies.

Telangana, where cotton is one of the main crops, has identified rail cargo as one of the primary means of transporting HTBt seeds. "Gujarat we think is the main source of the seeds. The seeds are also being smuggled from Maharashtra by road," Agriculture Principal Secretary C Parthasarathi said. About why they did not register cases against farmers, he said it was difficult to track down who purchased the seeds and admitted that, furthermore, they did not want to antagonise the farmers.

GUJARAT

Gujarat is the largest producer of cotton in the country, contributing one-third of the production. Since samples of cotton leaves collected randomly from farmers in the 2017-18 season tested positive for HTBt, the government has filed at least eight cases against seed dealers, and seizures of the prohibited seeds have continued.

While the state government is wary of taking action against farmers, Dinesh Patel, Deputy Director of the Quality Control Department in the Directorate of Agriculture, said they had booked farmers in Aravalli district in 2015-16 for sowing prohibited soybean seeds. While many Maharashtra farmers bring their cotton to agriculture market committees in Gujarat, where they get better prices, Patel added that HTBt was unlikely to have made its way to Gujarat through this route.



(C'wise from above) Farmers in Sarangpur, Hisar, where HTBt was sowed; Saini, whose Bt brinjal crop was uprooted; Kauthakar faces an FIR over HTBt. Abhinav Saha

GM: A wake-up call?

Amid a continuing moratorium on all genetically modified crops except Bt cotton, prohibited seeds are now in use across the country. The govt knows it, and defiant farmers have started challenging it to do something about it. ANKITA DWIVEDI JOHRI, with PARTHA SARATHI BISWAS, on the debate

SIXTY-PLUS FIRs, at least a dozen against farmers, cases against over 40 seed sellers, the arrest of at least one, and the seizure of nearly 1,100 kg of cotton seeds. Still, a 'civil disobedience' movement that started with a group of Maharashtra farmers planting genetically modified (GM) crops has now spread to Haryana, and shows no sign of abating.

Jeevan Saini, 32, of Nathwan village in Haryana's Fatehabad district, says he "lived in fear" for nearly two months after officials ordered the Bt brinjal he had grown in his half-acre leased plot destroyed in May. "We were treated like criminals, questioned every day. Finally when I took the Haryana government officials to the Dabwali mandi from where I had purchased the saplings, I was left alone," says the father of three, who has studied till Class 8. Saini adds that Bt brinjal helped him double his income. "I could afford private school fees for my three children."

Saini, who has now planted Bt cotton in the cleared field, claims he got no compensation for the destroyed crop. So, on July 5, he joined nearly 200 farmers, led by a faction of the Bharat Kisan Union (BKU), to "symbolically" sow another banned GM crop, Herbicide Tolerant (HT) Bt cotton, at a farm in Sarangpur, Hisar district.

"I am a small farmer and pay rent for my land (Rs 60,000 for the field he grew the brinjal on). If GM seeds get us better returns, why shouldn't the farmers use them?" he says.

It's a question that resonates more than 1,000 km away, in India's cotton belt.

On June 25, Laxmikant Kauthakar, 35, led a group of farmers in sowing HTBt seeds in Adgaon Budruk village in Akola's Telhara taluka. It was a fortnight after a thousand farmers, including him, had sown the seeds in Latil Bahel's field in Akola, leading to an FIR against Kauthakar and nine other farmers.

Since a 2010 Central government order put a moratorium on cultivation of all GM crops except Bt cotton, planting such a seed entails a five-year jail term and Rs 1 lakh fine.

However, with the BJP governments in the two states cautious, and the farmers defiant, official action has not gone beyond FIRs. This gives farmers hope that the centre of gravity on the GM debate in India may have shifted, enough for a tipping point.

Haryana Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department Deputy Director Vinod Phogat claims to be "not aware" of the Sarangpur protest, and says the department hasn't been notified about the ban on HTBt cotton yet.

Back in Maharashtra, the newly appointed Minister of Agriculture, Dr Anil Bonde, has talked about the need for "open consultation". An MLA from the cotton-growing district of Amravati, Bonde says, "We have to take note of both sides. Based on that, we will send a report to the Central government."



The state's powerful Shetkari Sanghatana (SS) farmers' union has been seeking HTBt since two years. The news of the Saini incident brought the two outfits together, says BKU president Guni Parkash. He was present along with an aide, Chiranjilal Bishnoi, at the June 10 event where the SS planted HTBt cotton in Maharashtra's Akoli Jehagir village.

Bishnoi's younger brother, Sunil Kumar, says access to GM seeds can transform the lives of farmers like him. "Despite Hisar, Sira and Fatehabad being the cotton belt of the North (cotton is cultivated in over 6 lakh hectares in Haryana), you find Fortuner and Audi cars only outside the homes of paddy farmers," he says. For now though, it is simply a question of "survival", add Kumar and Bishnoi, with low Minimum Support Price, high cost of fuel, labour and fertilisers, and poor monsoons, rendering cotton farming increasingly unprofitable.

A big chunk of that cost involves weeding, with the cotton crop being particularly vulnerable to weeds. At present, the only option farmers have is weeding manually, but clearing a single acre in one day entails hiring 10 labourers, or spending around Rs 2,500. With a total of four dweeedings prescribed during the 180-day time period of the crop, the cost comes to Rs 10,000 per acre. Broad-spectrum and low-price weedicide glyphosate can't be used for Bt cotton as the chemical is unable to distinguish between the weed and the crop. This is where HTBt, the third generation of GM cotton, steps in. It makes the crop resistant to glyphosate. "The total cost (of dweeeding) is almost one-third of the present. Why shouldn't we use it?" says Kauthakar.

US giant Bayer Monsanto had applied to the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) for the commercial release of HTBt in 2013 but withdrew the same in 2016. Approached by *The Sunday Express*, Monsanto refused to comment on the issue.

Kishan Kumar, 40, a cotton farmer in Sarangpur, says HTBt seeds can increase their yield to 24 quintals per acre. "We end up spending Rs 40,000-45,000 per acre for cot-



ton. While in theory Bt cotton is resistant to pests, we spend nearly Rs 12,000 on pesticides to fight pink bollworm and whitefly. The MSP for cotton produced on a one-acre plot (10 quintals) is Rs 60,000. So our profit is barely Rs 10,000."

Saying poor rains have shot up irrigation costs, fellow farmer Dalvir Singh, 42, says, "Karz-maafi nahin karz-mukti chahiye (Not loan waivers, we want freedom from debt)."

Kauthakar finds the situation "hilarious". "Here we are fighting for technology and the authorities are booking us. Whatever happened to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's slogan of *Jai Anushandan* (innovation)?"

While making a case for HTBt, BKU president Parkash says there is no reason to keep out Bt brinjal either — the GM debate largely centres around whether it is safe for food products. According to him, the reason can't be more obvious. "Seventy per cent of the brinjal in Haryana is already GM. Its saplings are available everywhere." In Maharashtra, estimates suggest, 15 per cent of the state's 40 lakh hectares under cotton have HTBt.

Claiming they don't know where the seeds are coming from, Parkash adds, "The government must acknowledge the change." Recently, the Ministry of Agriculture told the Lok Sabha that the sale of HTBt cotton seeds had been reported from Maharashtra, Gujarat and Telangana. In February, the Department's Field Inspection and Scientific Evaluation Committee found that unapproved cotton was grown in around 15 per cent of the cotton area in Andhra, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Telangana in 2017-18.

Barun Mitra, who is associated with the Centre for Civil Society, says the regulation around GM crops has "handicapped" farmers. "In 2010, a moratorium was placed on Bt brinjal and further tests suggested. Has there been no testing in 10 years? In Delhi drawing rooms the conversation centres around subsidy, but what farmers need is technology. Bt brinjal will have less pesticides, if anything it will be better for consumers," he says. Jairam Ramesh, the UPA minister for envi-

ronment, under whom the moratorium was placed, was unavailable for comment.

With no clear policy despite a change in regime at the Centre, GM sceptics are alarmed at the tacit acceptance that appears to be filling the vacuum. Ashwani Mahajan, the national co-convenor of the RSS-affiliated Swadeshi Jagaran Manch (SJM), accuses herbicide companies of tapping into farmers' ignorance. "Who is gaining from HTBt cotton? It is the herbicide companies. It's a cartel. They are making these seeds available illegally... What the farmer doesn't know is that herbicides are carcinogenic in nature. With these varieties being grown widely, one can see an increase in cases of cancer."

Adds Anil Faujdar, the national council member of the SJM, "Once a farmer uses GM seeds, he is dependent on the seed dealer and the MNC operating behind the scene for new seeds every year."

Gurnam Singh, who heads another faction of the BKU in Haryana, says not all farmers support GM farming either. "A small group of farmers are not bothered about the impact of GM, and so a lot of such crops are being grown. We often see oversized *lauki* (bottle gourd) in the market. It is full of chemicals... The government must crack down."

It was on May 17, following a report by the National Bureau for Plant Genetic Resources, that Saini's entire Bt brinjal crop was uprooted. Now, in Sarangpur village, Chiranjilal hopes another GM crop will settle the debate. He was among the farmers who defied the law to sow HTBt on July 5. "The sowing season for cotton begins in April, we are three months late. But even if the HTBt plants grow a bit, both the farmers and officials in Haryana can see the results," he says.

In Akola, Ganesh Nanote of Nimbhara village, who grows cotton in around 20 acres, is also waiting to make a crucial decision. "The day HTBt is permitted, I will shift my entire land holding to it," says the 45-year-old.

Mitra points out that India's neighbours like Bangladesh, Vietnam and Sri Lanka, are miles ahead in GM technology. "The US introduced Bt cotton in 1996, and we got it in 2002. Why do we have to follow the West? Bt cotton 2 was introduced in India in 2006, and since then farmers have been waiting for a new (herbicide tolerant) variety."

Insisting the delay was holding India back, Mitra adds, "HTBt cotton has revolutionised the textile industries in Bangladesh, which is now taking over China in the production of inner garments... We need a cotton revolution to boost our industry as well."

At a time of deep agricultural distress, it's not enough to just eulogise farmers as *anna data* (food providers), says the BKU's Parkash. "Even mobile phones have harmful effects, we haven't banned them. Farmers need technology. Haryana's farmers are not scared of jail. We will sow Bt brinjal (next)."

Farmers clear, politics muddled

HARISH DAMODARAN

CONVENTIONAL CROP breeding was about selection and crossing of plants within the same genus, to produce offspring with the desired traits of both parents. Even in the Green Revolution, the dwarfing genes that Norman Borlaug used for developing high-yielding wheat plants with shorter and stronger stalks — allowing them to bear the weight of the extra grain from increased fertiliser application — were sourced from a Japanese wheat variety, Norin-10.

Genetic modification (GM), by contrast, has involved transcending these natural breeding barriers. The genes didn't any longer need to be selected from within the same species (say, *Triticum aestivum* or common wheat), genus (*Triticum*) or even kingdom (Plantae). The breeder could actually take genes from animals or bacteria and insert these into a host plant.

Thus, Bt cotton has two alien genes, 'cry1Ac' and 'cry2Ab', isolated from a soil bacterium, *Bacillus thuringiensis*, and coding for proteins toxic to specific bollworm insects. The same 'cry1Ac' gene has also been incorporated in brinjal to confer 'in-built' resistance against the fruit and shoot borer. In both cases, GM technology has been deployed for minimising crop damage from pests that cannot be effectively controlled through spraying insecticides.

The object of the latest controversy is HTBt cotton. It is basically Bt cotton containing a third gene, 'cp4-epsps', derived from another soil bacterium, *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*. This gene produces a modified protein that enables the plant to 'tolerate' the application of glyphosate, a chemical herbicide. Farmers cannot spray glyphosate on normal cotton as the chemical cannot distinguish between weeds and the crop itself. But with Herbicide Tolerant Bt cotton, they don't have to rely on manual labour to remove weeds that compete with the plant for nutrients, water and sunlight.

For farmers, pests and weeds are a major cause of crop losses, due to which the varieties/hybrids grown by them cannot realise their genetic yield potential.

The fourth GM crop, which was in the news not too long back, is hybrid mustard. Breeders have always exploited the hybrid vigour resulting from crossing two genetically dissimilar plant varieties even within the same species. Their first-generation offspring tend to have yields higher than what either parent can individually give. In mustard, such possibilities are limited, simply because the flowers have both female (pistil) and male (stamen) reproductive organs. To the extent that the egg cells of one plant cannot be fertilised by the pollen from the stamen of the other, it restricts the scope for developing hybrids.

With GM technology — entailing the introduction of a male sterility-causing 'Barnase' gene in one plant and a 'Barstar' gene blocking the former's action in the other — the yield benefits from hybridisation and making crosses from a diverse genetic pool, both native and exotic, can be extended to mustard. The two genes are, again, derived from a soil bacterium called *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens*.

The opposition to GM crops is clearly not from farmers. Were that so, the global annual area planted under them wouldn't have risen from a mere 1.7 million to nearly 190 million hectares between 1996 and 2017. Roughly 93 per cent of India's cotton area is today covered by Bt hybrids; nobody forced farmers to cultivate these, unlike what the British did to Champaran's indigo growers. The opposition is, instead, coming primarily from environmental activists, who are raising issues based more on ethics, 'tampering with Mother Nature' and ideology. The treatment of GM crops as "hazardous substances" under the Environment Protection Act, 1986 — again guided by fear of the unknown than strictly scientific rationale — has not helped either.

Whether to permit cultivation of HTBt cotton, Bt brinjal or transgenic hybrid mustard will ultimately be a political call. Maharashtra and Haryana farmers launching a 'civil disobedience' movement to assert their right to plant these, of course, adds a new dimension to that.

DR S R RAO, Chairman, FSSAI Scientific Panel on GM foods, and former senior advisor, Department of Biotechnology

'No risks reported from GM crops grown for decades'

ESHA ROY

Are there any dangers associated with GM crops?

No risks have been reported from GM crops which have been cultivated and consumed for decades. Globally, 67 countries have adopted biotech crops (till 2018), while GM crops are being grown by 24 countries, 19 developing and five industrial countries, covering about 190 million hectares. All GM crops undergo rigorous food and environmental safety assessment following international protocols and national regulatory guidelines.

Is our regulatory system robust enough to address the concerns over GM crops?

India had put in place regulations as early as 1989 under the Environmental Protection Act (1986). Since then the system has evolved scientific risk assessment from product to product. India is the only country where all the genetically engineered products in use, in medicine, agriculture etc, are regulated under one single law. Several regulatory and biosafety tests, which cost up to 2-3 million dollars, are carried out before a crop is actually authorised for commercial use. Several notified public and private labs conduct tests apart from the official regulators, independ-



ent multi-disciplinary scientific experts in the RCGM (Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation) and GEAC. These regulatory bodies are assisted by a biosafety support

unit of PhD scientists and agencies. India is the only country where all genetically engineered products in use, in medicine, agriculture etc, are regulated by one law. Several tests, costing up to 2-3 million dollars, are carried out before a crop is cleared for commercial use"

What has been the experience with Bt cotton?

With the introduction of Bt cotton, India's cotton production received a big boost — from 130 lakh bales production in 2002 to 400 plus lakh bales in 2018-19. The textile industry is a huge beneficiary of this spurt. Since 2000, its size has grown six times to Rs 10 lakh crore, exports tripled to more than Rs 2.5 lakh crore... There has been no adverse effect on soil, humans, animals or other pests and diseases.

How much of the opposition to GM crops is ideological?

GM technology is even more advanced today than it was 20 years ago... (including

FULL INTERVIEW ON www.indianexpress.com

ACROSS THE AISLE



P CHIDAMBARAM

The CEA has good reason to be worried about the insufficiency of domestic resources. Government/public investment can be made only out of tax revenues and public sector surpluses. Of these, tax revenues are under pressure. 2018-19 was a particularly dismal year; yet the government has set aggressive targets for tax revenues in 2019-20. Evidently, the CEA does not share the government's optimism

Toward USD 5, 10, 20 trillion economy

WHILE SPEAKING on Budget 2019-20 in the Rajya Sabha, I said, "If the nominal growth rate of GDP is 12 per cent, the size of the GDP will double every six years. If the nominal growth rate is 11 per cent, it will double every seven years." I urged the Finance Minister to not stop with the goal of a USD 5 trillion economy in 2024-25 but also point out that the size of economy will become USD 10 trillion six or seven years thereafter and it will become USD 20 trillion six or seven years thereafter.

It was not my intention to mock the goal of a USD 5 trillion economy. It is a fair goal (and we shall be happy when we reach that milestone), but it is not an extraordinary goal. Why do I say so?

SIMPLE MATH

The nominal growth of the Indian economy has been, on average, 12 per cent a year for the last 10 years. Please note it is *nominal* growth. If you do your math and multiply 100 by 11 or 12 per cent once for every year you will arrive at the following table:

Base Year	at 11%	at 12%
+Year 1	111	112
+Year 2	123.21	125.44
+Year 3	136.76	140.49
+Year 4	151.81	157.35
+Year 5	168.51	176.23
+Year 6	187.04	197.38
+Year 7	207.62	

Of course, to measure in USD, the exchange rate has to remain reasonably stable. If the rupee-dollar exchange rate remains between Rs 70-75 a dollar, the Indian economy that was at the level of USD 2.75 trillion in 2018-19 will reach the level of USD 5 trillion by 2024-25. In fact, the Economic Survey has assumed that the rupee may depreciate up to Rs 75 per dollar while estimating that the size of the GDP will be USD 5 trillion by 2024-25. But why stop there?

The size of India's economy that was USD 325 billion in 1991 doubled by 2003-04, doubled again by 2008-09, and doubled again by September 2017 to USD 2.48 trillion. In future too, the GDP will double every six or seven years. Each milestone will be a matter of satisfaction but not an extraordinary achievement.

CRUCIAL QUESTIONS

The more important questions are:
1. How do we quicken the rate of nominal growth from 11 or 12 per cent to 14 per cent (which is when India will achieve the double digit GDP growth rate of 10 per cent)?
2. What will be the rate of increase in the per capita income of the average Indian?
3. Will inequality between the poorest 10 per cent and the richest 10 per cent widen or narrow?
We need answers to these questions and we need policies that will address

	Budget Estimates	2018-19 Revised Estimates	Actuals	Growth Rate y-o-y	2019-20 Budget Estimates	Growth Rate y-o-y
Income Tax	529,000	529,000	461,654	7.16	569,000	23.25
Union Excise	259,600	259,612	259,612	0.06	300,000	15.55
Customs	112,500	130,038	117,930	-8.60	155,904	32.20
GST	743,900	643,900	457,535	3.38	663,343	44.98

Rupees crore; Growth rates in %

the underlying reasons for low nominal growth, low rise in per capita income, and growing inequality. Unfortunately, the Finance Minister avoided a review of the macro-economic situation and her assessment of the present state of the economy.

Some answers to the questions can be found in the Economic Survey 2018-19. According to the Chief Economic Adviser (CEA), the key to higher growth is greater private investment. A few days ago he reiterated that domestic resources for investment alone would not be sufficient and, hence, the importance of foreign investment.

SEARCHING FOR RESOURCES

The CEA has good reason to be worried about the insufficiency of domestic resources. Government/public investment can be made only out of tax revenues and public sector surpluses. Of

these, tax revenues are under pressure. 2018-19 was a particularly dismal year; yet the government has set aggressive targets for tax revenues in 2019-20. Evidently, the CEA does not share the government's optimism.

The table above justifies the CEA's concerns.

If the ambitious tax revenues are not realised, the government's total revenues as well as capital expenditure will come under pressure — as it happened in 2018-19 when the government 'lost' Rs 1,67,455 crore of tax revenue and its capital expenditure was hit.

The CEA is right. Absent greater investment, the growth rate of GDP will be about 7 per cent in 2019-20. Hence the ambiguity in the official documents about the inflation-adjusted growth rate of GDP — 7 or 8 per cent!

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FIFTH COLUMN



TAVLEEN SINGH

A mythical deep state

ONE THING that the International Court of Justice's judgment on Kulbhushan Jadhav proved conclusively is that Pakistanis and Indians no longer understand each other at all. The cacophony that passed for debate on our news channels last week proved this. Pakistani journalists and security experts were invited on Indian TV debates. They were hostile and belligerent and the Indians replied with hostility and belligerence. Much was lost in noise and fury but one odd argument that came through was that the Pakistani media believes that India is governed by a 'deep state' just like Pakistan. A Pakistani woman journalist said this on Aaj Tak and I paid special attention because I have heard it said before by Pakistani friends.

Most Indians have not the faintest idea what a 'deep state' means, so let me explain. The Islamic Republic next door has for most of its existence been in the iron stranglehold of military men, mullahs and bureaucrats. This is the 'deep state'. It is this uber-government that has always got rid of political leaders who say nice things about India and those who dare to talk about peace. Nawaz Sharif, originally a creation of the military, was dumped when he tried to respond with friendship to Narendra Modi's overtures in the summer of 2014.

Sharif had also responded with friendship when Atal Bihari Vajpayee drove across the Wagah border in that gilded bus on a sunny February afternoon 20 years ago. There was so much hope in the air that in Lahore that night I met old friends who truly believed that there would now be peace at last. They did not know that the 'deep state' was busy planning the intrusion in Kargil that led to war months later.

The deep state has always been powerful but I can remember a time in the early Eighties, when I first visited Pakistan, when it was not so totally in control. It was a time when it was possible for political leaders like Benazir Bhutto to rise and for semi-real elections to happen. Pakistan's moment of limited democracy lasted long enough for many Indian foreign policy and defence experts to be seduced into believing that by strengthening the hands of elected prime ministers, peace would one day come.

Images come to mind of Rajiv Gandhi and Benazir Bhutto smiling happily at each other as if between them they could change the destiny of the sub-continent. Some idiots among Rajiv's closest advisors actually went around crowing about the imminent possibility of peace in the corridors of South Block. Peace may not have come, peace may never have been possible, but we could at least dream of it. The one single incident that changed everything was 26/11. It changed the way Indians saw Pakistan. And, a real bitterness began to set in, because despite ample proof being provided to Pakistan, not just by India but by international agencies, Pakistan has so far refused to accept its responsibility in the attack.

In the debate last week, when the Pakistani journalist implied that 26/11 was an attack engineered by India's 'deep state', I was not surprised to find that she was backed up by other Pakistani journalists. Not surprised because after this terrible event, whenever I have met Pakistanis in foreign lands and in Pakistan, they have all said that they did not believe that Pakistanis could do such a thing. Not even after David Headley was arrested in the United States and gave full details of the planning and execution of the worst act of jihadi terrorism on Indian soil, were ordinary Pakistanis convinced.

This is because they believe that a 'deep state' exists in India capable of killing Indians just to malign Pakistan. This belief has been strengthened by Congress leaders having gone out of their way to encourage the tiny handful of Indian Muslims who believe that 26/11 was the work of the RSS. Since the election results, the new 'secular' myth that is carefully and deliberately being created is that Narendra Modi is a pawn of the RSS. And, that it is the RSS that is the real 'deep state'. It is unfortunate that even Rahul Gandhi seems to believe this.

The RSS has been around a very long time and has helped the BJP at election time, but without Narendra Modi, it could never have delivered 300 seats in the Lok Sabha. There is evidence of the RSS interfering in some ministries like education and culture. But, it cannot by even the wildest stretch of Pakistani imagination be described as India's deep state.

For now our biggest problem is that our political leaders do not even speak the same language any more. After the ICJ judgment, Narendra Modi tweeted happily that it was a victory for India and Imran Khan that it was a victory for Pakistan. Ahead lies a nowhere road.

Follow Tavleen Singh on Twitter @tavleen_singh

INSIDE TRACK



COOMI KAPOOR

SNATCH AND GRAB

According to conventional thinking, the BJP will not have sufficient votes to pass contentious legislation, such as the triple talaq Bill, till next year, when it could gain a majority in the Rajya Sabha with the help of allies and sympathisers. But Amit Shah has mounted an ambitious gameplan to trigger enough defections in the Upper House by the year end. The operation began with four of the six TDP MPs switching to the BJP, followed by the lone INLD MP. Now, Neeraj Shekhar, son of the late prime minister Chandra Shekhar, has resigned from the Samajwadi Party. The BJP is focused on Uttar Pradesh since any MP who resigns will automatically be re-elected to the Upper House on a BJP ticket with the help of its large numbers in the state Assembly. Two BSP MPs and two SP MPs have been earmarked as potential targets. The two PDP MPs, Nazir Ahmed Laway and Mir Mohammad Fayaz, are also being wooed. Significantly, neither MP criticised the extension of President's rule in Kashmir. In fact, Ahmed felt that Shah's visit would bring new light to the Valley. Both probably realise that in the present scenario, any association with the PDP is unproductive.

GLASNOST AT HOME

The Capital's journalists find it tough to get exclusive news breaks, since the usual sources are increasingly fearful of being seen talking to journalists. When the Finance Ministry restricted access to PIB-accredited newsmen at its North Block offices, many feared that this was the prelude to a blanket ban on journalists in all government offices and possibly even in Parliament's Central Hall. But reassurance that no such prohibitory order is in the offing came from Home Minister Amit Shah, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's neighbour in North Block. Shah assured reporters that he would not prohibit their entry. "I am a large-hearted man, I don't impose such restrictions."

AS YOU SOW

What goes around comes around. Goa MLA Vijay Sardesai, whose Goa Forward Party won three seats in the 2017 Assembly elections, had assured Digvijaya Singh, then Congress general secretary in-charge of Goa, that his party would support the

OUT OF MY MIND



MEGHNAD DESAI

INDIA IS in a unique position. The 2019 election has ensured a stable government for the next five years and it will be a bold or foolhardy person to predict a change of party in power in 2024.

Narendra Modi has the opportunity to shape India as he wishes. The vision he presents to India has to be a grand one, an inclusive, enriching vision which will make India a leader in the world.

HISTORY HEADLINE

Rise, dissolution of Dalit Panthers



SUBODH MORE

THE DALIT Panthers was formed on July 9, 1972. India was preparing for grand celebrations to mark 25 years of Independence, but India's Dalit youth were restless.

In 1967, the first non-Congress state governments had been formed. Political movements by youth were picking up worldwide and in Maharashtra too, the Yuva Kranti Dal had been formed. Dalits converted to Buddhism en masse in October 1956. On December 6 the same year, Babasaheb Ambedkar died. But Buddhists had a new identity. Some were benefiting from reservation and were studying in colleges. Between 1959 and 1964, a large land rights movement led by Dadasaheb Gaikwad, who was associated with the Left, had conducted agitations in Marathwada and Khandesh, and over 1 lakh people were in jail. In the late Sixties, Chief Minister Y B Chavan was forced to extend reservation benefits to converted Buddhists too.

It was in the backdrop of these developments that Dalit youth felt emboldened to question the new post-Ambedkar leadership of the Republican Party of India who, they felt, were soft on their issues.

Simultaneously with the Little Magazine movement, Dalit literature began to blossom, speaking a new, angry language. Dr M N Wankhede published *Asmita* from Aurangabad. Baburao Bagul started *Amhi* (We) in Mumbai. These magazines threw up a galaxy of Dalit literary stars including Daya Pawar, Namdeo Dhasal, Arjun Dangle, Avinash Mahatekar and Raja Dhale. Dhasal's *Golpitha* was published in 1971, its crude language causing havoc in prudish Marathi literary circles.

Inspired by the Black Panthers movement for civil rights and against racism, writer-poets JV Pawar and Namdeo Dhasal decided to form the Dalit Panthers, and immediately called for a boycott of the 25th Independence Day revelry, calling it a 'Black Independence Day'. Their anger was sparked by recent atrocities against Dalits — a Dalit woman paraded naked in Pune district and two Dalit men's eyes gouged out in Dhakali village in Akola district.

Founding member Raja Dhale (who passed away on July 16) wrote an essay in *Sadhana* magazine, on the 'Tiranga'. If it couldn't protect a Dalit woman's dignity, it was only a rag, he wrote. Dhale faced a



Cover of Saptahik Manohar, Feb 1974

defamation case while the Dalit Panthers gained wide publicity. The Panthers would go to villages where incidents of atrocities had been reported and protest. In Mumbai, as they developed strongholds in Matunga Labour Camp, Naigaon-Dadar, Chembur, Ghatkopar, Sewri, Parel and Worli, they challenged the Shiv Sena and Bal Thackeray.

Dhasal, Bagul and Dangle had clear Left leanings, but not everybody among the first generation Panthers saw eye-to-eye. When Dhasal released their manifesto, called *Zahimama*, in 1972, Dhale retorted with a pamphlet saying it had a purely Communist agenda. It was a Namazahir, his pamphlet mocked. Bagul and Dangle's Left leanings were honed by Annabhau Sathe who inaugurated the first Dalit Sahitya Sammelan in Maharashtra in 1958.

The Panthers also bore the influence of the Black Panthers. In fact, JV Pawar named his daughter Angela after Angela Davis. They began to network with civil rights groups worldwide and grew in stature. In 1974, the Worli riots took place after an event where Dhasal and Dhale were speakers. Those gathered faced police repression, even policemen's kids donned *khaki* uniforms and joined Shiv Sainiks in assaulting Dalits. Dhale was severely injured. On January 10, 1974, as a protest rally wound its way out of Bhoiwada, a large grinding stone was hurled from a building by Shiv Sainiks near Parel Railway workshop, and Bhagwat Jadhav died, the first Dalit Panther martyr.

Amid the subsequent unrest across the state, women leaders including socialist Mrinal Gore, Comrade Ahilya Rangnekar, Comrade Tara Reddy and other Left parties gheraoed the old Vidhan Sabha at Kala Ghoda on the issue of PDS rations. I was there too. The Panthers played a major role in supporting this movement.

Moving beyond emotive politics, the Dalit Panthers focused on economic issues

Modi must take risks

Modi can pursue the most elusive but universally desirable goal of making every Indian healthy, well-educated and out of poverty forever.

India was known for the fabulous fortunes of its kings but also for its abysmal poverty, illiteracy, ill-health. It is this challenge of sustained economic growth which has been the most difficult. Poverty was not reduced to any significant extent for 44 years after Independence. That was the consequence of bad economic policy, pursuing the Soviet model unsuitable for India.

Narasimha Rao took the risk of deviating from the Nehru-Gandhi line in economic policy. He faced universal condemnation of the economists of the day who

were wedded to Socialist economic policy. Inaugurating neoliberalism was a political gamble but it proved economically transformative.

Rao's revolution has guaranteed 30 years of moderately high income growth in the 5-10% range. Poverty has fallen to single digit levels. But now there needs to be another bold step for India to jump further up in the growth league. India may be fifth largest economy in total income but it is 145th in terms of per capita income. The vision has to be that India will be in the top 100 if not top 50.

To do this, Modi has to take risks. Risks imply the willingness to suffer costs if you want benefits. It is not possible to have change which hurts no one. One must

compensate the losers but not let them stop the positive change. It involves breaking with the old culture as Rao did.

The first break should come in the public sector. It was possible in the Fifties of the last century to believe in the superiority of the public sector over private sector. India created an aristocracy of public sector employees who faced no test of efficiency or of enhancing the return to the public purse. They thrived at the cost of the poor. It was a damaging mistake.

There was an Indian way of pursuing development. India had been a trading, private business-oriented economy for centuries. Sardar Patel and C Rajagopalachari knew about the old business culture and would have chosen

a different path, but Jawaharlal Nehru prevailed.

Narendra Modi once said government has no business being in business. He has to deliver on that now. Air India, PSU banks, hotels, shops, factories — any enterprise wasting taxpayers' money should be sold off. This should be the next revolution in Indian economic policy. Modi has to erase the ill-effects of Old Economics.

Just think of the benefits of abandoning the Nehruvian model. It took India 20 years after 1991 to accept FDI without reservations. But its benefits have been immense. The slimming down of the public sector must be the next transformation. It will be the Modi Revolution in economic policy. India will win.

17 THE WORLD



TWITTERATI

@AOC, ON TRUMP'S COMMENTS AGAINST CONGRESSWOMEN
The GOP wants to send us back: Back towards injustice, Back to the denial of science, Back to the times when women needed permission slips from men, Back to racism — But we won't go back. We will move forward.

TOP OF THE WORLD



'El Chapo'

US 'El Chapo' begins life term in supermax jail

New York: Joaquín Guzmán, the Mexican drug lord known as "El Chapo," entered a Colorado prison known as "Alcatraz of the Rockies" Friday to begin a life sentence after being found guilty of a raft of crimes including conspiracy to commit murder. "We can confirm Joaquín Guzmán is in custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons at United States Penitentiary (USP) Administrative Maximum (ADX) Florence... located in Colorado," the US Bureau of Prisons said in a statement. The high-security "Supermax" prison has never had an escape since it opened in 1994.

RUSSIA Over 22,000 gather as poll anger boils over

Moscow: More than 22,000 people packed a Moscow square Saturday to demand free and fair local polls, incensed by the authorities' refusal to put popular opposition candidates on the ballot. Staging their largest protest rally in years, opposition leaders such as President Vladimir Putin's top opponent Alexei Navalny and ordinary Muscovites gathered after authorities refused to register independent candidates seeking to contest the September vote for the capital's parliament. "This is my city!" the crowd chanted during the rally.

UK Indian-origin woman jailed over murder of her baby

London: An India-born woman has been sentenced to six years' imprisonment after a UK court found her guilty of manslaughter and cruelty against her seven-month-old daughter. The court heard that Shalina Padmanabha abused her daughter for three months after the premature baby spent the first four and a half months of life in hospital. The girl suffered fatal head injuries from Padmanabha either hitting her or bashing her head against a hard surface, the court was told during the trial.

MEA SAYS IN TOUCH WITH TEHRAN

Iran seizes UK ship with 18 Indians, London calls capture a hostile act

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JULY 20

INTENSIFYING TENSIONS in the Strait of Hormuz, Iran Friday seized a British-flagged oil tanker and briefly detained a second vessel, a move that Britain's Foreign Minister said was a "dangerous path" even as major European powers expressed alarm.

Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards took control of the British tanker *Stena Impero* after it collided with an Iranian fishing boat whose distress call it allegedly ignored. Eighteen Indians were among 23 people onboard the *Stena Impero* and the Ministry of External Affairs said it is in touch with Tehran to secure the early release and repatriation of its nationals.

Iran's official news agency IRNA said the *Impero* was seized after it allegedly collided with an Iranian fishing boat and for "violating" international maritime rules.

"We are ascertaining further details... Our mission is in touch with the Government of Iran to secure the early release and repatriation of Indian nationals," MEA spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said about the detention of Indian crew members.

"There are 18 Indian and five crew members from Russia, Philippines, Latvia and other countries on board the *Stena Impero*. The captain is Indian, but the tanker is UK-flagged," IRNA quoted Allahmorad Afifipour, director-general of Ports and Maritime Affairs of Hormuzgan province, as saying. Britain denounced the Iranian seizure of a British-flagged oil tanker in the Gulf as a "hostile act" on Saturday, rejecting Tehran's explanation that it had seized the vessel because it had been involved in an accident.

Revolutionary Guards post video of capture

Iran's Revolutionary Guards posted a video online showing speedboats pulling up alongside



The *Stena Impero* oil tanker was seized on Friday. AP

EXPLAINED UK's response hinges on ongoing leadership race

TEHRAN'S LATEST move comes at a time when UK Prime Minister Theresa May is set to step down in a few days. The race within the ruling Conservative Party to choose a successor has brought the government nearly to a standstill.

It is likely that the race will have to conclude before the government decides on a response to the seizure. While Boris Johnson, the favoured candidate, has said he is in favour of avoiding conflict with Iran, he has also pursued closer ties with US President Donald Trump. If the new leader chooses to stand with the United States, it could further reduce the chances of a return to the 2015 nuclear accord.

the *Stena Impero* tanker, its name clearly visible. British Defence Secretary Penny Mordaunt called the incident a "hostile act". Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said he expressed "extreme disappointment" by phone to his Iranian counterpart, Mohammad Javad Zarif. Britain also summoned the Iranian charge d'affaires in London.

A spokesman for Iran's Revolutionary Guards, Brigadier-General Ramezan Sharif, said Tehran had seized the ship despite the "resistance and inter-

ference" of a British warship which had been escorting it. No British warship was visible in the video posted by the Guards.

Stena Bulk, a Swedish company which owns the vessel, said they have been unable to contact the ship. "Soon after the vessel was approached by unidentified small naval craft and a helicopter during her transit... the vessel suddenly deviated from her passage to Jubail and headed north towards Iran," the company said in a statement.

WITH INPUTS FROM REUTERS



"Yesterday's action in Gulf shows worrying signs. Iran may be choosing a dangerous path of illegal and destabilising behaviour after Gibraltar's LEGAL detention of oil bound for Syria"

JEREMY HUNT, UK FOREIGN MINISTER

"As I said in NY, it is IRAN that guarantees the security of the Persian Gulf & the Strait of Hormuz... UK must cease being an accessory to #EconomicTerrorism of the US"

MOHAMMAD JAVAD ZARIF, IRAN'S FOREIGN MINISTER

For telling Trump about minority persecution, Bangla woman faces trial

ANISUR RAHMAN DHAKA, JULY 20

A BANGLADESHI Hindu woman will be tried for sedition after she told US President Donald Trump in Washington that the minority communities in her country were being persecuted, according to a minister.

Priya Saha, organising secretary of the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council (HBCUC), attended a meeting at the White House on July 19 and a video of the meeting with Trump subsequently went viral on social media and sparked widespread controversy back home.

In the video, she was seen identifying herself as a Bangladeshi national and telling the US President that 37 million people of the minority groups

"Saha's allegation was absolutely false. No one will agree with her. A sedition case will be filed against her. The process is underway."

—BANGLADESH MINISTER

disappeared from Bangladesh.

Reacting to her statement, Road Transport Minister and ruling Awami League general secretary Obaidul Quader told reporters that she has made a "false, purposeful and treasonous remarks". Home Minister Asasuduzzaman Khan Kamal said: "we will certainly ask her (about the remarks) when she returns" from the United States. PTI



'No To BORIS, YES To EUROPE'

People hold puppets depicting Nigel Farage, Boris Johnson and Jeremy Hunt during an anti-Brexit 'No to Boris, Yes to Europe' march in London on Saturday. Reuters

Will ensure Pak action against terror isn't just window dressing, says US

LALIT K JHA WASHINGTON, JULY 20

THE US is not taking at face value Pakistan's actions against terrorists outfits, including the arrest of Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed, and will ensure that these steps are made "irreversible and sustainable" and not just "window dressing", the White House has said ahead of Prime Minister Imran Khan's first meeting with President Donald Trump.

A senior Trump administration official explained that by extending the invitation to Prime Minister Khan to visit the White House, the US wants to send a message to Pakistan that the "door is open to repairing relations" and building an enduring partnership if Islamabad "changes its policies" with regard to terrorists and militants.

Relations between Pakistan and the US have been turbulent since Trump took office in 2017, with the president repeatedly singling out Islamabad for failing to rein in extremists and being an unfaithful partner in the fight against terrorism.

Khan, the 66-year-old cricketer-turned politician, is scheduled to meet Trump at his Oval Office on Monday, the first by a Pakistani leader in nearly four years, the last one being that of Nawaz Sharif in October 2015.

The Trump administration is preparing to give him a warm welcome which includes a traditional welcome at the White House, one-on-one meeting at the Oval Office and a working luncheon in the presence of several of the president's Cabinet colleagues and leaders from the Pentagon.

The senior administration official ruled out lifting suspension of security aid to Pakistan unless it sees sustained, decisive and irreversible action against terrorist and militant groups. "As you know, we sus-

'EARLIER ARRESTS OF HAFIZ SAEED HAD NO EFFECT'



SEVENTH ARREST A US official noted that this was the seventh time Saeed was arrested since 2001. "So we would like to see that Pakistan takes sustained action in actually prosecuting these people," the official said.

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE

"We're under no illusions about the support that we could see from Pakistan's military intelligence services to these groups. So we will look for concrete action," the official said, when asked about action against terrorist groups.

pending security assistance to Pakistan in January 2018. And as of now, there's no change to that policy," the official said in response to a question.

"By and large that security assistance is still suspended. We will consider changing that suspension on certain items if Pakistan meets our security concerns both in Afghanistan, and with regard to some of the externally focus groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed. But as of now, there was no change to that suspension and security systems," the official, requesting anonymity, said. PTI

PAK ANTI-GRAFT BODY LAUNCHES NEW SHARIF PROBE

Lahore: Pakistan's anti-corruption body has initiated another investigation against jailed former prime minister Nawaz Sharif and his daughter Maryam for their alleged involvement in money laundering and having income beyond means, media reports said Saturday.

The NAB launched the investigation against Maryam, her father Nawaz, uncle Shahbaz Sharif, cousins Hamza Shahbaz and Yousuf Abbas and others for owning the Chaudhry Sugar Mills Limited, Dawn reported.

The NAB has traced telegraphic transfers worth millions of rupees by the Sharif family and beneficiaries included Maryam and other owners of Chaudhry Sugar Mills, the report said. PTI

HE TRIED TO RECONCILE MODERNISM WITH HIS INTEREST IN ARCHITECTURE OF THE PAST

César Pelli, designer of iconic buildings around the world, dies at 92

FRED A BERNSTEIN JULY 20

THE ARCHITECT César Pelli, whose firm designed Salesforce Tower in San Francisco, the Petronas Twin Towers in Malaysia and other of the world's most recognizable buildings, died on Friday, according to La Gaceta newspaper in his hometown, San Miguel de Tucumán, Argentina. He was 92.

Pelli's many distinctive works include the World Financial Center in New York (now Brookfield Place); the Pacific Design Center in Los Angeles, known for its bright

blue-glass facade; and a terminal at Washington's Reagan National Airport. He won hundreds of awards, including the American Institute of Architects' 1995 gold medal, and served as dean of Yale's School of Architecture from 1977 to 1984.

Pelli, who lived and worked in New Haven, Conn, was known for his innovations with glass, and he spent much of his career trying to reconcile modernism with his interest in shape, texture and the architecture of the past. Many of his buildings used colored panels to try to get a sense of variation into the idea of a modern glass building. His biggest successes came



later in life. Pelli did not open his own firm until he was 50, and even then, he said, "It was only because I was forced to." The firm grew, eventually be-

coming Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects in 2005, with his son Rafael as a named partner.

César Pelli was born on Oct 12, 1926, in San Miguel de



César Pelli (top) designed the Petronas Twin Towers (left) in Malaysia. Reuters

Tucumán, a small city in northern Argentina where his mother was a teacher and his father a civil servant reduced by the Depression to doing odd jobs to

make ends meet.

He considered his entire career to be improbable. His hometown offered little architectural inspiration, he would say, and he decided to study architecture at the National University of Tucumán only because it combined two of his favorite subjects, history and art.

In 1952, he moved to the University of Illinois to continue his architecture training. He said he had no money, and no plans to remain in the United States after his nine-month fellowship expired. He was married by then to the Spanish-born Balmori, whom he met in college, and she was pregnant.

In the 1960s, he took a job in California at the architecture and engineering firm known as DMJM (pronounced Dim-Jim), many of whose clients wanted buildings erected quickly and on budget.

As long as he met those goals, he was given artistic license that allowed him to experiment with the tight glass wrappers that eventually became his trademark.

In 1968, he moved to Los Angeles-based Gruen Associates, where he took on one of his best-known projects, the Pacific Design Center. He said he took "a very ugly building type, which is showrooms, which are normally brick boxes," and "turned it into something joyful" by covering it

in bright-blue glass.

In 1977, Pelli was selected as the dean of Yale's school of architecture, where he had occasionally taught. He had barely settled in when he won the MoMA competition.

The firm's most monumental work — the Petronas complex in Malaysia's capital — is a pair of 88-story towers linked by a skybridge about 500 feet off the ground. The bridge has a practical purpose, but Mr. Pelli said his goal was aesthetic: "The bridge and the towers' upper floors form a kind of gate suggesting a portal to a higher world. The towers themselves were the world's tallest buildings from 1998 until 2004. NYT

18 ECONOMY

TOTAL OUTSTANDING BALANCE INCREASES TO ₹52.6 LAKH CRORE IN MAR 2019

Individual lending growth doubles in four years since March 2015

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, JULY 20

LENDING TO individuals has been the largest contributor to the growth in debt with the aggregate debt of individuals more than doubling in the past four years.

Total individual lending has registered a 22.0 per cent compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) in the past four years. "Total outstanding balance has increased from Rs 23.7 lakh crore in March 2015 to Rs 52.6 lakh crore in March 2019. While for the same time period from March 2015 to March 2019, commercial lending has expanded from Rs 38.8 lakh crore to Rs 64.1 lakh crore," said a report from Transunion Cibil, a credit information company.

While individual loans (including consumer loan, business loan to individuals and other loans) led the credit off-take, lending to commercial entities (including MSME and cor-

COMMERCIAL LENDING EXPANDS TO ₹64.1L CR

■ Total individual lending has registered a 22.0 per cent compounded annual growth rate in the past four years

■ Commercial lending has expanded from Rs 38.8 lakh crore to Rs 64.1 lakh crore in the same period

■ Bank credit to the industry had fallen three years ago in the wake of huge non-performing assets in the corporate sector

■ Personal loan outstanding as of March 2019 was Rs 22.2 lakh crore, as per RBI data

porate entities) rose by 13.4 per cent and government debt by 10.6 per cent.

Bank credit to the industry had fallen three years ago in the wake of huge non-performing assets in the corporate sector.

"Banks started pushing retail individual loans to boost the credit growth. Personal, auto and home loans had witnessed a surge in the last two years as banks started focusing on recovery and resolution of bad assets in the corporate segment," said an official of a nationalised bank.

According to Reserve Bank data, personal loan outstanding as of March 2019 amounted to Rs 22.2 lakh crore, a rise of 16.9 per cent on a year-on-year basis. Housing loan outstanding was Rs 11.6 lakh crore as of March 2019, registering a rise of 18.7 per cent. On the other hand, outstanding loans to industry were Rs 28.8 lakh crore, up 6.4 per cent from the same period of last year.

Cibil said state government lending has expanded much more rapidly than central government debt. Total central gov-

ernment debt has expanded at a rate of 9.2 per cent in the past four years. While for the same time period from March 2015 to March 2019, state government debt has expanded with a rapid growth of 13.8 per cent, debt increased from Rs 27.0 lakh crore to Rs 45.4 lakh crore.

"Total credit exposure stood at Rs 116.7 lakh crore as of March 2019 of which the corporate segment holds the largest share of 55 per cent and exposure of Rs 64.1 lakh crore," Cibil report said. The remaining exposure of Rs 52.6 lakh crore belongs to individual lending, including consumer lending, business lending and other retail, agriculture and priority sector lending, it said.

It said Gujarat has emerged as the top ranking state, in terms of performance and credit growth potential for MSME (micro, small and medium enterprises) corporate lending in India, followed by Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka and Delhi. MSME

corporate entities are defined basis the aggregate credit exposure up to Rs 50 crore.

The market size of this category is Rs 17.6 lakh crore as of March 2019. Other states with high potential in MSME corporate lending are Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir, Cibil said.

"Andhra Pradesh ranks highest in market growth in FY19, ranking improved significantly in market growth and Delinquency parameters between FY17 to FY19," it said.

Haryana and Karnataka have got equal scores in MSME Ranking, but Haryana fared better in delinquency and score quality of consumers while Karnataka is positioned well in market size and market growth. The ranking of Haryana has improved significantly in the market growth parameter. Delhi ranks highest in low riskiness of MSMEs measured by better Cibil MSME rank of entities, Cibil said.

AVIATION WATCH
'NO COMPROMISE ON PASSENGER SAFETY'

New Delhi: Union Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Saturday said there would be no compromise on the safety of passengers and stressed that the narrative that airfares were shooting up was wrong. PTI

AT THE UPCOMING ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

IndiGo to seek shareholder nod for board expansion, appointment of a women independent director

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JULY 20

INTERGLOBE AVIATION'S Board of Directors decided Saturday to seek shareholder approval at its upcoming annual general meeting for expansion of the board including induction of an independent woman director. InterGlobe Aviation is the parent company of India's largest airline IndiGo.

"The Board has decided to seek the approval of the shareholders at the upcoming Annual General Meeting for expanding the Board to enable the induction of an independent woman director," IndiGo said in a statement.

However, the company and its board maintained silence on the feud between its two promoters and co-founders Rakesh Gangwal and Rahul Bhatia that has brought the firm under regulatory scanner.

The company and its board maintained silence on the feud between its two promoters and co-founders Rakesh Gangwal and Rahul Bhatia that has brought the firm under regulatory scanner

Friday, while speaking at a post-earnings analyst call, IndiGo's CEO Ronojoy Dutta said that the board discussed a range of issues during the first leg of its meeting that continued on Saturday. Dutta did not detail the proceedings of the said discussions.

To induct an independent woman director, the company will need to amend its Articles of Association (AoA), for which it will seek approval of its shareholders.

Regulations stipulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) require at least one woman independent director in the top 500 listed entities by market capitalisa-

tion by April 1, 2019 and in the top 1,000 listed entities by April 1, 2020.

Gangwal had alleged serious corporate governance lapses at IndiGo including related party transactions with entities in which Rahul Bhatia's InterGlobe Enterprises has interests. However, Bhatia's side played down the allegations terming them "much ado about nothing".

The company informed the BSE Saturday that as of June 30, Bhatia's family and his firm InterGlobe Enterprises held 38.23 per cent stake in InterGlobe Aviation, while Gangwal and his family owned 36.65 per cent in the company.

BRIEFLY
Inspection of Strides plant completed

New Delhi: Drug firm Strides Pharma Science said Saturday the inspection of its formulation facility in Bengaluru by the US health regulator has completed successfully with a voluntary action indicated (VAI) classification. The company's facility in Bengaluru underwent a United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) inspection that ended on May 24, 2019, Strides Pharma Science said in a statement.

UDAN scheme: Operations on 8 routes begin

New Delhi: Eight routes under regional connectivity scheme UDAN have become functional since Friday, taking the total number of operational routes to 194, the Civil Aviation Ministry said in a statement on Saturday. "With this, the total UDAN routes (that are) operational as on date (have) increased to 194," it added.

RIL CMD keeps salary capped at ₹15 crore

New Delhi: Reliance Industries Limited Chairman and Managing Director Mukesh Ambani has kept his annual salary capped at Rs 15 crore for the eleventh year on the trot. Ambani has kept salary, perquisites, allowances and commission together at Rs 15 crore since 2008-09, forgoing over Rs 24 crore per annum. PTI

'Rural telephone subscribers fall in May'

The number of telephone subscribers in rural areas fell 0.86 per cent while those in the urban areas rose 0.57 per cent in May 2019, according to official data released by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai)

1,183.15 mn: Total number of telephone subscribers in the country declined marginally to 1,183.15 million as on May 2019 from 1,183.7 million in the previous month

512.91 mn: The rural subscription declined from 512.91 million at the end of April 19 to 508.49 million at the end of May 2019.

674.66 mn: However, the urban subscription increased from 670.86 million to 674.66 million during the same period, as per the subscription data for May 2019. The rural subscriber



base fell 0.86 per cent, while the urban subscriber numbers rose 0.57 per cent during May

TELEDENSITY: The overall teledensity in the country

slipped to 89.92 per cent at the end of May 2019 from 90.05 per cent at the end of April 2019

SUBSCRIBERS SHARE: The share of rural and urban

98.69%: Top-five service providers constituted 98.69 per cent market share of total broadband subscribers at May end

subscribers in total number of telephone subscribers at the end of May 2019 was 42.98 per cent and 57.02 per cent respectively

BROADBAND: In broadband segment, defined as more than or equal to 512 kbps download speed, number of overall subscribers increased 1.67 per cent to 581.51 million at end of May 2019

Jet RP invites expressions of interest by August 3

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, JULY 20

THE RESOLUTION professional (RP) of Jet Airways Saturday called for expressions of interest (Eols) to sell the grounded airline's meager assets by August 3.

In an advertisement posted on the airline's website and in newspapers, the RP, Ashish Chhawchharia, appointed by Jet Airways' lenders, has set a deadline of August 3 for receipt of Eols, August 6 as the date of issue of provisional list of prospective resolution applicants, and August 11 as the last date of submission of objections.

The advertisement stated that on August 14, final list of prospective resolution applicants will be issued. The final date for submission of resolution plans of these applicants will be September 5, it added. The estimated date for the submission of resolution plan by

RP has set a deadline of August 6 as the date of issue of provisional list of prospective resolution applicants

the RP to the National Company Law Tribunal for approval is September 20. The airline's assets include 14 aircraft including 10 Boeing planes — down from 124 before the grounding — and 49 per cent stake in Jet Privilege and a few buildings.

Its liabilities are over Rs 36,000 crore, including more than Rs 10,000 crore of vendor dues, Rs 8,500 crore along with interest owed to the lenders, over Rs 3,000 crore in salary dues and more than Rs 13,500 crore in accumulated losses of the past three years.

The next hearing on the insolvency case and RP's progress report is on July 23.

Aditya Birla Idea fourth payments bank to shut operations

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, JULY 20

NEARLY 17 months after it began operations, Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank Limited Saturday announced winding up of its business on account of "unanticipated developments" that made its economic model "unviable".

The company is the fourth payments bank to shut shop after Tech Mahindra, Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company and a consortium of Dilip Shanghvi, IDFC Bank Ltd and Telenor Financial Services that pulled the plug of operations.

Vodafone Idea Limited in a regulatory filing said, "the Board of Directors of our associate company Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank Limited (ABIPBL), has subject to receipt of requisite regula-

tory consents and approvals, approved the voluntary winding up of ABIPBL".

The decision has been taken due to unanticipated developments in the business landscape that have made the economic model unviable, the filing added.

In February 2018, Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank became fourth such entity to begin operations since the issuance of licences to 11 firms by RBI in August 2015.

ABIPBL had received the banking licence from the RBI on April 3, 2017, for carrying on the business of a payments bank and had also received an authorisation to carry on the business of Prepaid Payments Instrument business. It commenced business from February 22, 2018. Total deposits with Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank stand at about Rs 20 crore, according to sources.

Axis Bank to raise ₹18K cr

New Delhi: Axis Bank said on Saturday its board has approved raising up to Rs 18,000 crore through an issue of equity shares, depository receipts or convertible securities.

The Board of Directors of the bank approved the proposal in this regard in the meeting held Saturday, the bank said in a regulatory filing. "The Board... has approved raising of funds aggregating up to Rs 18,000 crore," it said in a regulatory filing. The bank, however, did not disclose when it will raise the funds. Earlier, it had said it will mobilise resources at an "appropriate time". PTI

Equifax to pay \$700 mn in breach settlement

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SAN FRANCISCO, JULY 20

EQUIFAX WILL pay around \$700 million to settle with the Federal Trade Commission over a 2017 data breach that exposed Social Security numbers and other private information of nearly 150 million people, according to a *Wall Street Journal* report.

The Journal, citing unnamed sources familiar with the matter, said the settlement could be announced as soon as Monday. Equifax declined to comment. The report says the deal would re-

solve investigations by the FTC, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and most state attorneys general.

It would also resolve a nationwide consumer class-action lawsuit. Spokesmen for the FTC and CFPB didn't immediately return messages seeking comment Friday night. The breach was one of the largest affecting people's private information. Equifax did not notice the attack for more than six weeks. The compromised data included Social Security numbers, birth dates, addresses, driver license numbers and credit card numbers.

China opens up finance sector to more foreign investments

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BEIJING, JULY 20

CHINA LIFTED some restrictions on foreign investment in the financial sector Saturday, as world's second largest economy fights slowing growth at home and a damaging trade war with the US.

China will remove shareholding limits on foreign ownership of securities, insurance and fund management firms in 2020, a year earlier than originally planned, the Financial Stability and Development Committee said in a statement posted by the central bank Saturday.

Foreign investors will also be encouraged to set up wealth management firms, currency broker-

It will remove shareholding limits on foreign ownership of securities, insurance and fund management firms in 2020

ages and pension management companies, the statement said.

Beijing has long promised to further open up its economy to foreign business participation and investment but has generally dragged its feet in implementing the moves—a major point of contention with Washington and Brussels. The announcement followed a Friday meeting chaired by economic czar Liu He where pol-

icymakers focused on tackling financial risk and financial contagion and pledged new steps to support growth, according to a state council statement.

Additional measures include scrapping entry barriers for foreign insurance companies like a requirement of 30 years of business operations and cancelling a 25 per cent equity cap on foreign ownership of insurance asset management firms. Foreign owned credit rating agencies will also be allowed to evaluate a greater number of bond and debt types, the statement said. US President Donald Trump has launched a damaging tariff war in an attempt to force Beijing to further open up its economy and limit what he calls its unfair trade practices.

White House to host meeting on Huawei ban with tech executives

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, JULY 20

WHITE HOUSE economic adviser Larry Kudlow will host a meeting with semiconductor and software executives on Monday to discuss the US ban on sales to China's Huawei Technologies Co Ltd, two sources briefed on the meeting said on Friday.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin will also attend the White House event, to which chipmakers Intel Corp and Qualcomm Inc have been invited, the people said. A White House official confirmed the meeting would take place, noting that

Google and Micron would attend, but said it had been called to discuss economic matters. The subject of Huawei was expected "to come up but that it is not the reason why they are convening the meeting," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The future of US companies' ties to Huawei remains uncertain after the Trump administration put the company on a blacklist.

The move banned US companies from selling most US parts and components to it without special licenses, but US President Donald Trump said last month American firms could resume sales, with an eye on reviving trade talks with Beijing.

Fed's Rosengren doesn't see the case for a rate cut

REUTERS
NEW YORK, JULY 20

BOSTON FEDERAL Reserve President Eric Rosengren on Friday pushed back against expectations for an interest-rate cut when Fed policymakers meet later this month, saying the US economy does not need a boost the way some other countries might.

"It makes sense that if I was in Japan or if I was at the ECB (European Central Bank) that I would seriously be thinking about easing," Rosengren said in an interview with CNBC. "The US economy is not at that point, the economy is actually quite reason-

"It makes sense that if I was in Japan or if I was at the ECB (European Central Bank) that I would seriously be thinking about easing."

ERIC ROSENGREN
PRESIDENT, BOSTON FEDERAL RESERVE

able at this stage. So, if that were to change, I'd be happy to ease that point. But I don't want to ease if the economy is doing perfectly well without that easing."

had improved since the Fed met in June, when it held rates steady.

On Thursday, comments by New York Fed President John Williams stoked expectations that the US central bank would cut rates by a half-percentage-point when it meets on July 30-31. But those expectations were deflated just hours later when a New York Fed representative said the comments were not meant to signal policy actions at the upcoming meeting.

The Fed is widely expected to cut rates for the first time in a decade at its July meeting. Friday was the last day that investors will hear from Fed officials until they release their policy statement at the close of the July meeting.

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
You just can't get away from monetary matters, however hard you try. Cost still seems to be the determining factor, and this is maybe why you are so aware of the need to increase your income. Those of you in the housing market, or making major domestic purchases, are on strong ground.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
Curiously enough, if you wish to make the right financial decisions, the answer may lie in a dream, perhaps in a waking day-dream. Also, if a partner is unable to give you the support you require, you may need to rely on yourself.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
Please make a quick start at work, getting in there before colleagues and rivals can make their move. However, it may be that the best planetary aspects will assist partners, and that you will therefore have to link up with others in order for your interests to be protected.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
It's a positive week, so partnership questions need to be pursued as a matter of urgency, especially if there has been any bad feeling lately. It is domestic and family ties which are most important, although you may be perplexed by a colleague's changing ideas.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
You certainly have a great deal on your mind. In fact, the liveliest part of the day may take place when you're asleep. If you have any strange, uncomfortable feelings, it could be because your dream life is particularly active at the moment. Also, you'll be much happier once a family mystery is resolved.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)
The most important part of your life is work, which means that even relationships actually need to be worked at. Domestic chores should also be tackled, and if you get ahead of yourself now, you'll have more spare time later. Extravagant stars presently are lingering in the background.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Friendly stars are coming your way, and this is a useful moment to team up with other people in a new venture. It is also a perfect period for giving yourself over to social pleasure and putting aside the stresses and strains of the 'real' world. Hopefully you'll find someone who shares your fantasy.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
Personal and professional planets are finely balanced, which is undoubtedly good news. Within your family, children and younger relations should be given first place. You should also try to be more youthful and young at heart. If artistic ventures are on the go, you should do well.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
A sensational alignment between the Sun and Mercury will endow you with sheer brilliance, so don't be slow to bring your ideas forward. However, partners will be ready with their awkward questions. The golden rule is therefore not to talk about things you don't know anything about.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
There have been one or two threats to your stability recently, but these seem to be more imaginary than real. The way to find your feet is to seek support from those who know you best — the people you grew up with. Make sure that you offer partners support when they need it.

Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
Legal matters seem to be looming and, if at all possible, you should attempt to find a quick solution. Also, if you still have travel plans to arrange, do so as soon as you can. And, if there's a mystery to solve, go back as far into the past as you can to find the answer.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
It is unlikely that you'll be happy staying in one place, and there is much to be said for taking a few short trips. Emotional relationships require extra attention, and partners shouldn't be taken for granted, otherwise you may find that you lose out.

If it's your Birthday

Sunday July 21
You're almost ready to take a leap into the future. It looks as if you are about to reach a point of no return professionally, or in any major ambition designed to secure praise and recognition.

Monday July 22
Be positive. Many planets are aligned with your chart connected with money. At the heart of financial issues is the extent to which you can pay for your dreams in the coming year.

Tuesday July 23
A shift in solar patterns alerts you to fresh possibilities and new people. You'll begin to open your heart to a broader vision of the world, but only after you have faced the truth.

Wednesday July 24
You should be able to sort out a tricky family matter, but the overall situation could be confused. Perhaps some helpful information is currently hidden from you, so be patient.

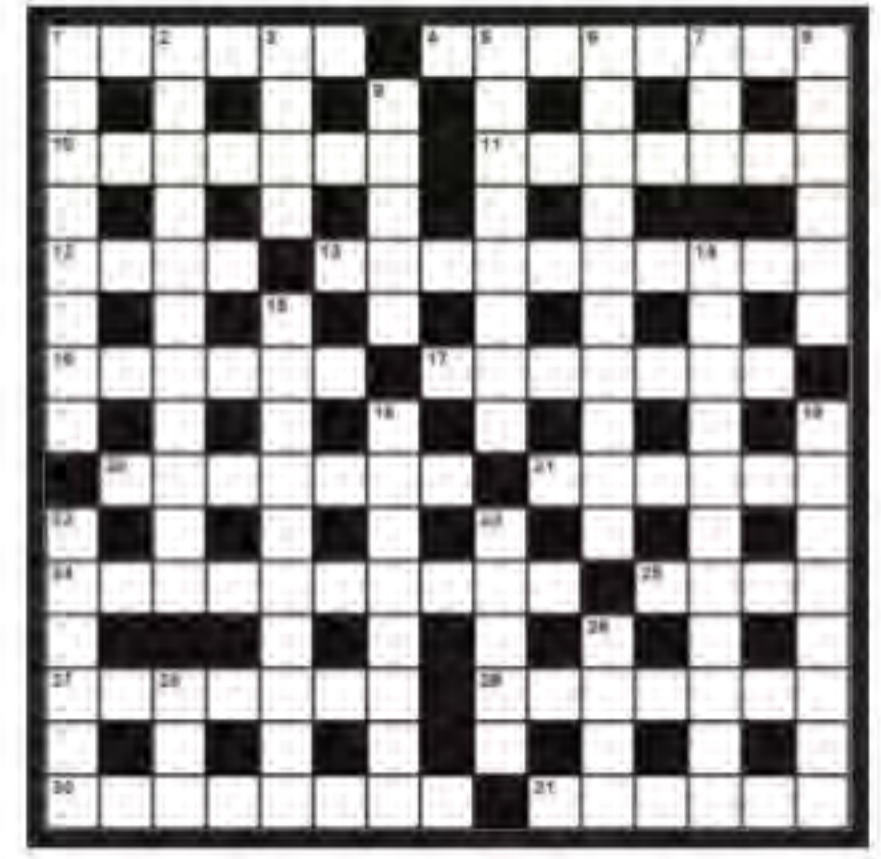
Thursday July 25
You should pace yourself, working hard but relaxing harder. Your persuasive powers are second to none and you should be able to convince anyone that they should do what you want.

Friday July 26
You'll be in search of pastures new, tickled by nomadic and restless tendencies. Before you imagine that the grass is always greener on the other side, stop and pause for thought. You must be absolutely sure that you're making the right move.

Saturday July 27
It's a day for fun, so let your hair down and enjoy yourself, letting serious matters wait for tomorrow. If you want to plan for the coming year then the best policy is to plan well and take care of every tiny detail.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2226

- QUICK CLUES: ACROSS**
- Kind of drill or saw (6)
 - Battles, clashes or competitions (8)
 - Less sunny or more underhand? (7)
 - Tool for turning nut on bolt, for example (7)
 - Auld ___ Syne: days of long ago? (4)
 - Pleasant in appearance or behaviour (10)
 - A reduction or concession in selling given to a buyer? (6)
 - Small fruits that may be black, blue or straw? (7)
 - Ex-India paceman ___ Srinath (7)
 - Start of a play (3,3)
 - Keep one's head ___: just about manage to survive or cope, in a way? (5,5)
 - Temple, poetically (4)
 - ___ of instructions: even after having told you to do so...? (2,5)
 - Activity undertaken to boost one's own self-esteem or feelings? (3,4)
 - Done in a very careless manner, in a way? (8)
 - Brutes or blackguards; animals (6)



- DOWN**
- Cattle stealers of the Wild West (8)
 - Windsies all-rounder currently playing in World Cup 2019 (6,5)
 - ___ test: crucial and conclusive test (4)
 - ___ with: preoccupied with or haunted by an idea, etc.? (8)
 - Rail lines (5,5)
 - Heir, at times (3)
 - In ___: not in parallel, electrically speaking? (6)
 - Forest in As You Like It (5)
 - Argentina's capital city (6,5)
 - It's his job to do all the planning prior to an attack (10)
 - Whence Jesus came (8)
 - Acknowledgments that payment have been made (8)
 - Old ___ die hard? (6)
 - Marked for removal (5)
 23. ___ about: to happen? (4)
 28. Trafalgar or Washington e.g.: abbr. (3)

- Becomes curious when no peace offerings are brought round (6)
- Inveigled into bar, almost emptied? (7)
- Fade out before last month's failing (7)
- It's a vessel, returned to a state of equilibrium (6)
- After an operation you may be laughing (2,8)
- A pound of potatoes? (4)
- Edward's come in to stay near the patient (7)
- Departed on vessel, showing no emotion (7)
- His genre may be somewhat undeveloped (8)
- A tool for the boatmen who travel regularly on the route (6)

- CRYPTIC CLUES: ACROSS**
- Jumbo seating had to be raised under way (6)
 - Sack old mate for taking a gem (4-4)
 - Everything considered, no one is left in ignorance (3,4)
 - Musical space-travellers? (7)
 - Happening often when fire breaks out (4)
 - Decline to let one express disapproval (10)

- SOLUTIONS TO 2225**
- QUICK CLUES ACROSS:** 1. Tiddlers, 6 Adams, 9 Serbs, 10 Selfie, 11 Criticised, 12 Best, 14 Seeming, 15 Sai Baba, 17 Russets, 19 Signore, 20 Weak, 22 Cartridges, 25 Authorise, 26 Avila, 27 Scots, 28 Goldeneye, Down: 1 Assoc, 2 Tardiness, 3 Dispirited, 4 Tossing, 5 Soldiers, 6 Ahet, 7 A mere, 8 Set at ease, 13 Pilgrimage, 14 Straw hats, 16 Alongside, 18 Shaking, 19 Sitwell, 21 Arco, 23 Slate, 24 Cons. **CRYPTIC CLUES ACROSS:** 1 Assaulted, 6 Jason, 9 Looms, 10 Lion-heart, 11 Determines, 12 Gyro, 14 Cretons, 15 Snowjob, 17 Nascent, 19 Released, 20 Pipe, 22 Historians, 25 Retrieval, 26 Drone, 27 Dray, 28 Scorpions. **DOWN:** 1 Allied, 2 Stoutness, 3 Unsurfaced, 4 Tallies, 5 Drivers, 6 John, 7 Sammy, 8 Not too bad, 13 Toll-bridge, 14 Conspired, 16 Juxtapose, 18 Thieves, 19 Rattler, 21 Putin, 23 Seers, 24 Lily.

BRIDGE

If possible, try to give yourself two chances in the play. This may mean taking a long hard look at the hand before playing too quickly to the first trick, a common error many declarers (not you!) make.

Dir: South; Vul: Both

NORTH		SOUTH	
♠ Q2	♠ A63	♠ Q2	♠ A63
♥ QJ74	♥ A10965	♥ QJ74	♥ A10965
♦ K96	♦ A73	♦ K96	♦ A73
♣ 8754	♣ KQ	♣ 8754	♣ KQ

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

OPENING LEAD: DQ
Plan the play.

The idea is to give yourself two chances in the play by winning the opening lead in the closed hand and leading a low spade at trick two. If West has the king, West's best play is to win and get out with a diamond. You have an answer. Win the DK in dummy, cash the SA, cross to the HA (finesses are for peasants—especially when they can cost you your contract) and discard dummy's losing diamond on the SA. Now you can concede a heart. You wind up losing a spade, a heart and a club. If East has the SK, you are reduced to the heart finesse.

If you take the heart finesse before leading up to the SK (putting all of your eggs in one basket), as the cards lie, West wins, gets out with a high diamond, and down you go losing a trick in each suit.

THE WEST HAND: ♠ KJ85 ♥ K2 ♦ QJ102 ♣ 962

THE EAST HAND: ♠ 10974 ♥ 83 ♦ 854 ♣ AJ103

TRY THIS PROBLEM NOW:

NORTH		SOUTH	
♠ AJ98764	♠ 32	♠ AJ98764	♠ 32
♥ KQ	♥ AJ10976	♥ KQ	♥ AJ10976
♦ KQ	♦ A2	♦ KQ	♦ A2
♣ J10	♣ K93	♣ J10	♣ K93

You and partner arrive at the exquisite contract of 6H against silent opposition. West leads the DJ.

PLAN THE PLAY. Hearts are 3-2.

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

Let us not ___ the darkness. Let us ___ little lights. - Dada Vaswani (5...6)

SUEER	CHRCNU
KYILS	CEOTDK

SOLUTION: REUSE, SILKY, GRUNCH, DOCKET

SUDOKU 3914

Difficulty Level 2s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

SOLUTION SUDOKU 3913

2	1	5	3	4				
	8	1						
9	6		1	5				
1	4	3		7	2			
3	2	5		6				
5	4		2	9				
8	2		3	4	1	7		

SOLUTION SUDOKU 3913

1	4	7	5	3	9	8	6	2
2	9	5	7	6	8	1	3	4
3	6	8	1	4	2	7	5	9
4	8	2	3	1	7	5	9	6
6	3	9	4	8	5	2	1	7
7	5	1	2	9	6	3	4	8
5	2	4	9	7	1	6	8	3
9	7	6	8	5	3	4	2	1
8	1	3	6	2	4	9	7	5

U.P. Projects Corporation Ltd.
(ISO 9001 : 2015 Certified Company)
Gomti Barrage, Left Bank, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow

Notice No.20/GM(T&C)/UPPCL/2019-20 Dated: 20-07-2019

Short Term e-Tender Notice

U.P. Projects Corporation Limited (A U.P. Government undertaking) invites percentage rate Tenders (two envelope system) from eligible contractors/firms registered in U.P. Projects Corporation Ltd. (category specified in column 9) for following work. Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria.

S.No.	Name of Work & Location	Estimated cost Approx (in lacs)	Bid Earnest Money (Rs. in Lacs)	Tender Processing Fee	Time of Completion	Address of Unit	Address of tender Receiving Officer	Category of Registered Contractor
1.	जनपद आगरा के बदेरेश्वर घाट में घाटों का जीर्णोद्धार/सौन्दर्यीकरण कार्य।	Rs. 311.70	Rs. 6.23	Rs. 6500.00+ 18% GST	02 Years (i/c rainy season)	Project Manager, Unit-4, U.P. Projects Corporation Ltd. HIG ZB/108 Sec-2, Awaz Wazir Colony, Skandaria Aligarh	General Manager, (T&C), U.P. Projects Corporation Ltd. Gomti Barrage, Left Bank, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow	"B" or Above

The tender documents can be downloaded from the website <http://etender.up.nic.in> during the period 22-07-2019 to 01.08.2019. The tender should be submitted up to 3.00 P.M. on 01.08.2019. The technical bid shall be opened on same day at 4.00 P.M.

Prospective bidders are advised to regularly check through U.P. Projects Corporation Ltd. website www.upprojects.org and e-tendering web site <http://etender.up.nic.in> for all other terms and conditions, qualifying criteria, corrigendum / amendments etc., if any and separate advertisement will not be made for the same.

GENERAL MANAGER (T&C)
U.P. Projects Corporation Ltd., Lucknow

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
(SECTION 82 Cr.Pc.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Vinod Kumar Yadav S/o Baleshwar Yadav r/o Village-Dakahi, Distt. Madhubani, Bihar and also at Jhuggi No. B-45, B-Block, Keshav Puram, New Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence, in case FIR No. 173/18 u/s 279/304A IPC dated 05.09.18 at Police Station - Naraina, Delhi, and it has been returned to a Warrant of Arrest issued there upon (unexecuted) stating that the said accused Vinod Kumar Yadav could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Vinod Kumar Yadav has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Vinod Kumar Yadav is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 30th Day of August 2019.

By Order,
Sh. Manoj Kumar,
Metropolitan Magistrate, Room No.28,
Patiala House Courts, New Delhi

DP/8334/WD/19

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE FOR DIFFERENT ELECTRICAL WORKS

DRM (Electrical)/TRD/ECR/Dhanbad for and behalf of the President of India invites e-tender for execution of the work indicated as under:

E-Tender No. : TRD/OT/08/TW/2019-20.

1. Name of work with location and Completion of work : Replacement of Engine, Transmission and Brake System (Vacuum stock to Air Stock) from Perkins P-6 engine to TATA engine of Tower Car 863 and 246 Mark-II (Completion period 03 (Three) months). 2. Approx. cost of the work : ₹25,14,196.40, (Cost of e-tender form ₹3,000/-), 3. Earnest money to be deposited ₹50,300/-. 4. Date & Time for submission of closing and opening of E-Tender: Closing of E-Tender - On 08.08.2019 at 11.00 hrs. Opening of E-Tender - On 08.08.2019 at 11.30 hrs. 5. Website particulars : Website : www.reps.gov.in Manual tender offer note accepted under e-tender.

Divl. Railway Manager (Elect)/TRD/ ECR/Dhanbad PR/0805/DHN/Elect./T/19-20/32

KERALA CASHEW BOARD LIMITED (KCB)
TC-29/4016, Women's College, Bakery Junction Road, Vazhuthalacaud, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India-695014, Phone No: +91 471 4252855, 4852855 email: kcb@keralacashewboard.com, Web: www.keralacashewboard.com

No: KCB/10/535/2019/GB/2 Date: 17.07.2019

e-Tender Notice

Kerala Cashew Board Limited invites e-tenders through e-procurement portal for import of 3000 Metric Tonnes of quality Dried Cashew Nut of 2019 crop of Guinea-Bissau origin. (Tender Id: 2019_KCBL_287769_1).

Last date for submission and uploading e-tenders : 1700 hours on 7th August 2019. Opening of e-tender : 1100 hours on 8th August 2019.

All details can be viewed, downloaded and applied through the e-procurement portal www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road
Bengaluru - 560 001. Phone No. 080 - 40931272
website : www.kiadb.in e-Mail: cdoce@kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-06/5475/2019-20 Date: 19.07.2019

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK e - Procurement Portal Only)

Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from Class-I Contractors (Electrical) registered in KPWD and Super Grade Electrical Contractors License issued by KCEI of Government of Karnataka who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work as per the schedule given below:

Name of Work: Establishing 2 X100 MVA, 220/66/11 KV Substation & Construction of 220 KV LILO line from existing 220 KV Somanahalli-Kanakapura-T.K.Halli S/C line for a distance of 0.9 Kms (90 meters) to proposed 220 KV Substation, Harohalli KIADB Industrial Area 3rd Phase, Yeduvanhalli Village, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagar District for arranging power supply to an extent of 21, 18 MVA (18 MW).

Approx cost put to tender (Rs in lakhs) : 6544.95, EMD (Rs. in lakhs) : 65.45, Time for completion including Monsoon : 12 Months, Class of Contractor : KPWD Class-I (Electrical) and Super Grade Electrical Contractors License issued by KCEI & KPWD Class-II & above (Civil).

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>.

Scheduled of dates are as follows:

- Last date to receive pre bid Queries : 29.07.2019 Up to 05:00 pm
- Pre bid meeting will be held on : 31.07.2019 at 12:00 noon
- Last date for submission of bids is : 21.08.2019 upto 04:00 pm
- Time and date of opening Technical bids is on : 23.08.2019 at 11:30 am

Sd/-
Chief Development Officer & Chief Engineer-1

DIPR/DOU/RO-816/2019-20

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD
E-Tender Notice No. 2019-July-01 **E-TENDER NOTICE** Date: 17.07.2019

Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering), N.C. Rly. Agra for and on behalf of the President of India invites "Open Tender" through on Line only (E-Tendering) for the following works. The details of the tender are as under :-

S. N.	Tender No.	Description of work.	Approx Cost in ₹
1	2019-July 01-01	Basid Yard-CTR (S) 0.991 Km. & Through Turn Out Renewal 1 in 8.5 (11 Nos.) In Basid Yards in Jurisdictions of ADEN-II Mathura.	₹ 6239206.15
2	2019-July 01-02	Deep Sectioning work 18.800 Km. under Jurisdiction of SBE (PW)/WMTJ in MTJ-AWR Section.	₹ 6241233.76
3	2019-July 01-03	Maintenance of track between MTJ-PWL in connection with construction of MTJ-PWL 4 th Line.	₹ 6891976.80
4	2019-July 01-04	Agra Division Vrindavan Road Ajhai & Chhatra-Extension & raising of Platform from medium level to High level provision of Toilet block Cop.	₹ 89338055.87

For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.reps.gov.in. Tenders can only be submitted through web portal www.reps.gov.in up to 15.00 hrs on 08.08.2019. 1047/19 (5)

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

U.P. Projects Corporation Ltd.
(ISO 9001 : 2015 Certified Company)
Gomti Barrage, Left Bank, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow

Notice No.18/GM(T&C)/UPPCL/2019-20 Dated: 20-07-2019

Short Term e-Tender Notice

U.P. Projects Corporation Limited (A U.P. Government undertaking) invites percentage rate Tenders (two envelope system) from eligible contractors/firms registered in U.P. Projects Corporation Ltd. (category specified in column 9) for following work. Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria.

S.No.	Name of Work & Location	Estimated cost Approx (in lacs)	Bid Earnest Money (Rs. in Lacs)	Tender Processing Fee	Time of Completion	Address of Unit	Address of tender Receiving Officer	Category of Registered Contractor
1.	जनपद अलीगढ़ में ग्राम-अलाहाबादपुर, ब्लाक-धनीपुर, में मल्टीपरपज हॉल का निर्माण कार्य	Rs. 469.12	Rs. 9.38	Rs. 6500.00+ 18% GST	03 Years (i/c rainy season)	Project Manager, Unit-32 U.P. Projects Corporation Ltd. Bahad Mahanah Vohiya Mandir, Kishanpur, Aligarh	General Manager, (T&C), U.P. Projects Corporation Ltd. Gomti Barrage, Left Bank, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow	"B" or Above
2.	जनपद सूदा में ग्राम-रकननगर चौधरा, विकास खण्ड-निचौलीकला में मल्टीपरपज हॉल का निर्माण कार्य	Rs. 351.92	Rs. 7.04	Rs. 6500.00+ 18% GST	03 Years (i/c rainy season)	Project Manager, Unit-32 U.P. Projects Corporation Ltd. Bahad Mahanah Vohiya Mandir, Kishanpur, Aligarh	General Manager, (T&C), U.P. Projects Corporation Ltd. Gomti Barrage, Left Bank, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow	"B" or Above

The tender documents can be downloaded from the website <http://etender.up.nic.in> during the period 22-07-2019 to 31.07.2019. The tender should be submitted up to 3.00 P.M. on 31.07.2019. The technical bid shall be opened on same day at 4.00 P.M.

Prospective bidders are advised to regularly check through U.P. Projects Corporation Ltd. website www.upprojects.org and e-tendering web site <http://etender.up.nic.in> for all other terms and conditions, qualifying criteria, corrigendum / amendments etc., if any and separate advertisement will not be made for the same.

GENERAL MANAGER (T&C)
U.P. Projects Corporation Ltd., Lucknow

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Pennaiyar Basin Circle, Tiruvannamalai - 606 603.
INVITATION FOR BIDS CANCELLED NOTICE
NOTICE No.:02/PBC / T.V. Malai / 2019 - 20 / F.460 - DRIP / JDO2 / Dated : 19.07.2019

This office Bid Invitation No.01 / PBC / T.V. Malai / 2019 - 20 / F.460-DRIP / JDO2 / Dated : 18.07.2019 was called for the work of "Design, Procurement, Fabrication, Corrosion Protection Transportation and Delivery at Project site, local transportation at Project site, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Gates invent No.2 to 8 in Krishnagiri Dam in Krishnagiri taluk & district under DRIP" (Loan No.7943-IN and IDA credit No.4787-IN) is hereby cancelled, due to some unavoidable Administrative reasons.

The Bid date for the above work will be intimated later
Superintending Engineer, WRD.,
Pennaiyar Basin Circle, Tiruvannamalai-3
DIPR/2481/Tender/2019

RAJASTHAN HOUSING BOARD
"Avas Bhawan", Jan Path, Jyoti Nagar, Jaipur-302005, Rajasthan India
No. Computer/ContractStaff/81 NIT No. Secy/computer-01 Dated: 17.07.2019

Notice Inviting Bid

Rajasthan Housing Board invites bids from the eligible bidder for hiring services of Manpower of Programmer, Asstt. Programmer, Information Assistant for the period of Two year or Till Appointment of regular staff whichever is earlier on rate contract in Rajasthan Housing Board.

Nature of Service	Rate contract for hiring services of Manpower of Programmer, Asstt. Programmer, Information Assistant
Cost of Tender Document (non-refundable)	Rs. 3000.00 + 18% GST = 3540.00 (Rupees Three Thousand Five Hundred Forty)
Estimated Cost	Rs. 3.00 Crore (Rupees Three Crore)
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs. 6.00 Lac (Rupees Six Lac)
RISL Charges	Rs. 1000.00 + 18% GST Rs. 1180.00 (Rupees One Thousand one Hundred Eighty)
Publishing Date	22.07.2019
Bid document sale or Download Start	30.07.2019
Bid download and sale End Date/Time	18.09.2019 Upto 6.00 PM
Bid submission End Date/Time	17.09.2019 Upto 6.00 PM
Bid Opening Date/Time	18.08.2019 Upto 11.00 AM
Website for downloading Tender	www.urban.rajasthan.gov.in/rhb
Document Corrigendum's	www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in , www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in
Bid & EMD Validity	90 Days

*The Banker's Cheque/ Demand Draft of tender fee & EMD should be drawn in favor of, Rajasthan Housing Board, Jaipur EMD & e-tender fee banker cheque/ DD in favor of MD, RISL, Jaipur

UBN No.: (RHB)1920SLRC00038 Secretary
Raj, Samwad/CI/488/2019-20 Rajasthan Housing Board



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

ALIVE AND KICKING

The search for normalcy in war-ravaged Syria ends in a game of kick-about. Football was the silent casualty of eight years of political violence and the first luxury the football-mad country afforded itself when a semblance of peace returned, writes MIHIR VASAVDA

"WHEN THE enemy comes and wants to kill you, what will you do? You fight. That's normal. I want to save myself. If one bad man comes to kill me, I won't say 'okay come'. I will kill him."

Fajr Ebrahim looks you in the eye, bangs his fist on the table as he says those last four words, and gives a taut smile. It isn't the smile of an assured man. Rather, it reeks of helplessness. The 55-year-old coach of the Syrian national team insists he wants to talk football, not politics. But so closely intertwined have the two been in Syria's recent past, it is impossible to talk about one without delving into the other.

It's a complicated world, Syrian football. The eight-year war has reduced most cities to rubble, left almost half-a-million dead according to *Human Rights Watch*, and the life expectancy in the country has fallen by 15 years to 55. Football, the country's national sport, isn't untouched either. Dozens of footballers have died, an entire generation of youth players has been wiped off and stadiums were reportedly turned into military bases. It has turned fans against their heroes, pitted teammates against each other and, at times, players against their coaches. In spite of this, Syria came close to weaving a fairytale like few others. The Qasioun Nosour (Assyrians), as their national team is called, fell agonizingly short of qualifying for the 2018 World Cup — losing by the closest of margins to Australia in a two-legged playoff.

Under Ebrahim, they will launch their bid for the 2022 World Cup away to the Philippines on September 5, when the Asian qualifiers get underway. But their road to Qatar began, rather improbably, here in Ahmedabad last week. Syria were one of the four teams competing in the Intercontinental Cup — others being North Korea, Tajikistan and hosts India. Ebrahim used the tournament to test a completely new bunch of players; one final look at

the players before the serious business will begin in a couple of months. "In the circumstances we had during the last qualification campaign, we did very well... we did very well," Ebrahim says. "It means we have quality players and good motivation."

Quality has never been Syria's problem. The country's clubs have been a consistent threat in Asian club competitions, especially in the first decade of this century. Al Jaish, from Damascus, won the AFC Cup in 2004, beating city rivals Al Wahda in an all-Syrian final. Aleppo's Al-Ittihad repeated the feat in 2010 while Homs-based Al Karamah were the runners up in the 2006 AFC Champions League and 2009 AFC Cup. Crowds in excess of 30-40,000 filled the stadiums to watch the players who were in demand across

Asia and Europe. "We had fantastic football at that time," Ebrahim, who was Syria's coach from 2006 to 2010 as well, says. His tone turns sombre as he adds: "(But) during the war, everything changed."

In 2011, a peaceful uprising against Syrian president Bashar al-Assad over issues like increasing unemployment, corruption and a lack of political freedom turned into a full-scale civil war, which still hasn't ended.

Dropping on priority list

As the cities got destroyed and casualties multiplied, football dropped drastically on the list of priorities. "You have to save yourself first. You have to support your army, your government. Everyone was fighting for something. I was fighting for football. My son was fighting for the Army. Others fought as teachers, workers... We all fight because it wasn't easy," Ebrahim, who is from Damascus, says. "It was war, everyone was afraid of what will happen. That is normal, I am not a hero. You are afraid for yourself, your family. But you have to fight. You have to be strong."

Being strong wasn't easy, especially in the face of death. Ebrahim says he watched on helplessly as several footballers he knew died during those turbulent times. The ones who survived found themselves in the middle of an ideological battle — the political differences had split Syrian football and left indelible marks on the dressing room. Ebrahim is an unabashed follower of the country's president and, in 2015, walked into a news conference wearing a t-shirt of a smiling Assad. "For me, he's the best man in the world. He fought all terrorists and saved Syria, not himself. He saved the country, the people. Great man," Ebrahim says.

But not all his players felt the same way. In fact, the country's two biggest players stood against the Assad regime. In 2012, Omar al-Somah — one of Asia's best strikers — waved the Syrian opposition flag after a West Asian Football Federation Championship match against Kuwait as a protest against Assad's policies. He spent five years in exile and played club football in Saudi Arabia, Syria's regional rival. His teammate, Firas al-Khatib, regarded as Syria's best player of all time, said in 2012 he wouldn't play for the national team until the government stopped bombing the civilians. In 2017, both returned to the national team.

ports. Al-Khatib smiles when you show him a couple of comments on his Facebook page from 2012. One read: "You are a dog, Firas. Damn your soul." There's another, which goes: "Firas, my hero, we need you. Syria needs you."

These are just a couple of samples from Al-Khatib's social media page, which is flooded with extreme emotional outbursts. "At that time, there were 12 million people in Syria who wanted to kill him. And the other 12 million supported him," says a Syrian fan from Latakia, who was in Ahmedabad for the Intercontinental Cup match against India last week.

When he announced his comeback, the feelings of the fans had not changed. But they swapped positions — those who once supported him felt betrayed. "Your end will be terrible... sold your religion and blood of the martyrs. You have the curse of God!" a fan vented on the same Facebook page. Another wrote: "Welcome, legend. God protect you. Big hug."

Al-Khatib is aware of the significance of both his decisions. Largely considered to be

the government granted them amnesties, with Reuters quoting a government policy "to pardon any Syrians who joined the opposition unless they have blood on their hands."

The dressing-room divide wasn't Syria's only hurdle. The war, Ebrahim says, brought their football programme to a standstill. Syria's domestic structure before the war broke out was well defined: 14 clubs from various corners of the country played home and away. Each of them had a football school, with most having up to 200 trainees aged between 6 and 12. The youth leagues were divided into three age groups — under-14, under-16 and under-18 and like the senior teams, they played matches every week. But after the war broke out, the system collapsed. "We lost an entire generation of young footballers. Some died, some did not have anywhere to play football. That's normal in war. Leagues for youth teams stopped that time. Most coaches had no team to coach," Ebrahim says.

There is genuine concern among Syrian coaches and players that there is no one to follow the current generation of players, who entered the system just before the war broke out. "We started focussing on grassroots again two years ago so maybe in five years, we will have

a new group of young players," Ebrahim says. The national team's problems were compounded after FIFA no longer deemed the country safe to host international matches. They were forced to look for shelter elsewhere, crisscrossing across the continent — from Oman to Jordan to Malaysia to Qatar and even Turkey — in search of a new 'home'. "Also some players died. It's war. A lot of players I knew died. I know a lot of players who fought against the government. That happens, it's normal. But we accept everything," Ebrahim adds.

The new normal

What strikes you is the number of times Ebrahim says 'it's normal' to describe the situation that is anything but. The silver lining, if it can be seen as one, was the national league never stopped. "We played sometimes in just one or two states but it did not stop," he says. "Now, 95 percent Syria is safe, *Alhamdulillah* (thank god). Now, we can play anywhere except for one state — Idlib. There are problems there even now. When we are finished with the war in this state, everything will be back to normal in Syria."

For the first time in our conversation, Ebrahim uses the word 'normal' in a positive, more normal context. The priority now, Ebrahim says, is to restart the youth programme. "If you don't care for grassroots there will be no football in the future."

The money to fund the grassroots programme, though, is hard to come by because of the international sanctions imposed on the country. There's barely any money to support the sport, in fact, Ebrahim says. The average pay per week for a top-tier player in Syria is Rs 3,000 (in contrast, the average pay for a national team player in India is between Rs 1 to Rs 1.5 lakh).

Yet, Ebrahim says football's the best way to make a good life. Around 80 percent of the

team in Ahmedabad, Ebrahim says, is made up of players who play their club football in Syria, which is a departure from the past when most national team players plied their trade abroad. All of them were travelling outside their country for the first time. "Football provides them the best environment to make money. This is the time a lot of clubs in Syria and outside are looking for new players. So they want to prove themselves. Marketing, advertisements... you can be very famous."

The players are icons in their own right. Al Somah and Al Khatib are by far the biggest stars along with goalkeeper Ibrahim Alma. "He (Alma) is a very strong man. Very, very cute," gushes Ahmad Ghassan, who studies computer engineering at Marwadi University. When the Syrian league returned to port city Latakia, Ghassan's hometown, after five years in 2017, thousands swarmed the streets. "There were 10,000 people outside the stadium and double of that inside. Everyone was missing the sport. And when the league started again, everybody went crazy," he says.

There are occasional reports of bombings outside stadiums and players losing their lives. Just last month, 27-year-old Abdul Baset al-Sarout from Homs, who rose to fame as a goalkeeper, died of wounds sustained in battle with government forces. Ebrahim, as he often does during the interview, calls all of this 'normal'. "But football helped me survive the war. And so many others as well." He isn't the only one who sought comfort in the sport as war waged elsewhere in the country. "If there was war outside, they played football inside — at schools, their homes," defender Tamer Haj Mohammad says. "Football kept people alive. But Syria is getting better now. It's safe."

After years of death and destruction, the country is gradually getting back on its feet. And a ball is never too far.

granted him and his teammate Omar Al-Somah, who too had rebelled against Al-Asaad, mercy as they 'did not have blood on their hands', according to a Reuters report.

Now, he looks hopefully at the future — not as a player but as a coach. Al-Khatib says he is considering to retire from international football after six months, following a discussion with the federation. Once he hangs his boots, he wishes to focus completely on his academy, which he started in Homs after his return. More than 1,000 kids train there every day, he says, including is two sons — Hamza (13) and Ahmed (9). "Inshallah, they will play for Syria too," he says.

The supporters, too, are beginning to soften their stance. "If you like somebody but he has a different philosophy and you don't support, it's okay," says Rifa'at N'deeb, one of the supporters who has travelled to Ahmedabad to watch Syria take on India. "We all love him as a player. There's not going to be another Firas."

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Hero or villain: The double life of Syria's leading goal scorer

MIHIR VASAVDA

BARELY TWO kilometers away from Gandhi Ashram in Ahmedabad, in the cosy surroundings of a five-star hotel, Firas al-Khatib is talking about bombings, murders and unending violence.

Syria's all-time leading goal-scorer hates confrontations. But for the last eight years, he has been at the centre of one of Syria's biggest ideological battles between the followers and dissidents of the country's president Bashar al-Asaad. In 2012, Al-Khatib turned his back on the national team, boycotting them after the government, he claims, bombed his hometown Homs during the civil war that began a year before. Then, in a spectacular U-turn, he returned to the national team in 2017 to assist them in their qualifying campaign for the 2018 World Cup.

His rebellion and return triggered extreme responses from his, and Syrian football's, sup-

ports. Al-Khatib smiles when you show him a couple of comments on his Facebook page from 2012. One read: "You are a dog, Firas. Damn your soul." There's another, which goes: "Firas, my hero, we need you. Syria needs you."

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Al-Khatib is aware of the significance of both his decisions. Largely considered to be

Syria's greatest player ever, every move he makes and every word he utters carries a lot of weight. He insists both his decisions were the right ones in the circumstances that prevailed at that point. "The war was becoming too dangerous," he says, carefully choosing his words. "I took the right decision back then. This is my country, eventually. Now, I have returned to help my country to come back stronger."

The 36-year-old is broad-shouldered and bearded, with sharp features and compassionate eyes. He has been playing outside Syria since 2001 — in Kuwait, Qatar, Iraq and China, where Shanghai Shenhua gave him the jersey number that belonged to Didier Drogba. He sparked interest from clubs Belgium and England but wasn't given a work permit when Nottingham Forest were keen to sign him.

He credits his success to Syria's youth structure, which routinely churns out technically and physically strong players. "The youth system in Syria produces very strong players. I'm a product of that. They don't pay



Syria captain Firas Al-Khatib. File

a lot of money but take proper care. The clubs will give you coaching, education, food... and if they sign a player from their youth team, then the rule is to give a five-year contract initially. A player does not have to worry about his future," Al-Khatib says.

But the war changed everything. Clubs ran out of money to invest in youth teams and the

system crumbled. "The young players had nowhere to play — the ones who are here are the ones who trained just before 2011 so they are well developed. But maybe we will struggle for the next five, six years until we start nurturing talented players again," he says.

This was also the time when he was in exile. Al-Khatib says the five years he spent outside Syria — mostly in Kuwait — were a struggle. As he lived a comfortable life and earned millions in salaries, those close to him became victims of the war. In 2013, a Homs-based player — Yusef Suleiman — died after a mortar fell as he was training with his teammates in the outskirts of Damascus. Three years later, Al-Khatib's teammate from youth club Al Karama and former Syria captain Jihad Qassab died after two years detention. "You hear about people dying every day. My family was there. Friends, teammates... I couldn't go back to help them."

He eventually did, but is reluctant to talk about what led to the change of heart and return to the national team. The government

Selectors need to bite the bullet, rest Kohli for WI tour

SANDEEP DWIVEDI
NEW DELHI, JULY 20

A COUPLE of days back, Virat Kohli posted a slickly-edited gruelling one-minute video of his gym session on *Instagram*. Watching it can be an intimidating experience. With each streaming second, the weight-plates get heavier, and the lifts tougher. In the background, Irish pop band *The Script* provides the push — “You could be the greatest, You can be the best, You can be the King Kong banging on your chest”.

It's timed perfectly, just when the seemingly drained-out Kohli drops the ever-bulging barbell one last time, the crooner's voice fades away — “You could be the hero, You could get the gold, Breaking all the records that thought, never could be broke...Do it...”.

On Sunday, chairman of national select-

tors MSK Prasad, a low-key man with a modest international record, in consultation with a committee that has a total experience of 13 Tests, will decide if the raring-to-go India captain needs to be rested for the West Indies tour. India play three T20 Internationals, three ODIs and two Tests against the team that finished ninth at the 10-team World Cup.

If Kohli's *Instagram* post is any indication, rest is the last thing on his mind. But for the greater good of Indian cricket, it would be prudent if the captain takes a much-deserved break. Isn't the West Indies tour the ideal opportunity to test the bench? By including Kohli, and other mainstays for the sojourn, isn't Indian cricket refusing to learn any lessons from the World Cup batting disaster?

In England, India's lack of batting depth had puzzled the cricket world. The pundits couldn't fathom that a cricket-mad country of billion-plus, with world-class facilities spread far and wide, had a depressingly un-



India can test their bench strength by giving captain Virat Kohli a break.

derwhelming middle order. “Vijay Shankar and Kedar Jadhav fall short of the pedigree we have come to expect from a country that has produced some of the most gifted middle-order batsmen of recent times,” wrote Michael Atherton in *The Times*.

In the lead-up to the World Cup, India's

persistence with the tried and tested for every other series denied those waiting in the wings precious match-time. And so when Plan A failed, out on the field unfolded the ill-conceived Plan B with untested implementers. By insisting on Kohli, the selectors will once again push back the Pandeyes, Gills and Iyers of Indian cricket.

However, such is India's cricket culture that it isn't easy for the national selectors to “rest” a star even against a far-from-formidable opponent. Such decisions require extraordinary courage and conviction.

For starters, it makes the selectors unpopular with the rested player who is denied the chance to get easy runs or wickets. It also annoys the hosts with gate-money worries, sponsors looking for returns on their exorbitant investment, and big-spending broadcasters tasked with marketing a low-key series.

But unlike previous committees, MSK and Co are better placed to take such tough calls.

The new BCCI constitution has empowered the chairman. By eliminating the BCCI secretary from the quorum, and making the chairman the convener of the selection committee, the Big Brother has been thrown out of the room. In another significant change, the final list of selected players no longer needs the BCCI president's approval. Time will tell if these are progressive changes but henceforth, the selectors will be both independent and accountable. The excuse that their hands were tied would now sound hollow.

Previous selection committees, too, have been reluctant to rest captains. Strangely, India traditionally plays either West Indies or Bangladesh after World Cups. Except for 2011 when world champion skipper Dhoni was rested, captains haven't opted out or been left behind for such irrelevant post-World Cup bilateral ODI series. It remains to be seen if the selectors do some heavy lifting of their own this time.

Axar's valiant effort in vain as Windies A edge past India A

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COOLIDGE (ANTIGUA), JULY 20

AXAR PATEL'S rearguard heroics went in vain as India A suffered a narrow five-run loss against West Indies A in the fourth unofficial ODI of the five-match series here.

With the series already in pocket after winning the first three games, India A tasted their first defeat in the tour on Friday despite Axar's (81 not out of 63 balls) valiant effort with the bat while chasing 299 runs. Chasing the home team's 298 for nine, India A's top-order failed to put up big scores despite getting starts and at one stage were struggling at 160 for six.

Then came in Axar and in the company of Washington Sundar raised 60 runs for the seventh wicket to keep India A in the hunt. Axar marshalled the tail beautifully but Khaleel Ahmed and Navdeep Saini fell in a space of three balls towards the close as West Indies' registered their first win in the series. India A needed nine runs of the last over but could only manage three to finished on 293 for nine.

Axar hit eight boundaries and one six during his fiery knock. Sundar (45), Krunal Pandya (45), skipper Manish Pandey (24), Ruturaj Gaikwad (20) and Hanuma Vihari (20) all got starts but couldn't prolong their stay.

Rovman Powell (2/47) and Keemo Paul (2/61) shared four wickets between them for West Indies A. Earlier, West Indies A rode on Roston Chase (84), Devon Thomas (70), Jonathan Carter (50) and skipper Sunil Ambris' (46) fine efforts with the bat to post 298 for nine after being sent into bat. Left-arm pacer Khaleel continued his fine form, returning with figures of 4 for 67 while Avesh Khan picked up 3 for 62. The fifth and final one-day will be played at the same venue on Sunday.

BRIEF SCORES: West Indies A 298/9 (Roston Chase 84, Devon Thomas 70, Khaleel Ahmed 4/67, Avesh Khan 3/62) bt India A (Axar Patel 81*, Washington Sundar 45, Rovman Powell 2/47) by five runs

MCC likely to review overthrow rules: Report

London: The custodians of cricket laws, Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) is likely to review the overthrow rules in the aftermath of the controversy that rocked the just-concluded World Cup final between New Zealand and England, a newspaper report said.

According to a report in *The Sunday Times*, “There is a feeling at MCC that overthrows are worth looking at when it next reviews the laws of the game, which is the responsibility of the MCC Laws sub-committee.” The overthrow rules drew MCC's attention after New Zealand were left to rue a fortuitous, last-over overthrow that went for four after getting a deflection of Ben Stokes' bat to help England take the match into Super Over and eventually lift the trophy via boundary count.

Back to the future

Middle-order regeneration the key issue as selectors pick squads for the tour to the Caribbean

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
KOLKATA, JULY 20

AHEAD OF the selection meeting for India's upcoming tour of the West Indies, there's a more pressing problem to deal with than MS Dhoni's future. Till early evening on Saturday, the national selectors had no information on whether Dhoni would be recusing himself from the tour, although they were confident of getting a communication before the selection meeting in Mumbai on Sunday.

Grapevine has it that the veteran wicket-keeper-batsman has communicated to the BCCI that he will take a brief sabbatical to serve the Parachute Regiment of the Territorial Army, of which he is an honorary lieutenant-colonel. The post-selection press conference on Sunday should clear up the confusion.

However, a brittle middle order that eventually became India's bugbear in the World Cup will be the matter that will keep the selectors busy. The defeat to New Zealand in the semifinal, where the first three wickets fell for five runs, wasn't a case in isolation.

Two years ago, in the Champions Trophy final, India couldn't recover after Mohammad Amir ran through the top order. Between the two tournaments, 12 players were tried at No. 4 in a manic experiment. It yielded nothing. India have a ready replacement for Dhoni in Rishabh Pant. Sanju Samson, too, is waiting in the wings. But when the MSK Prasad-led selection committee meets to pick the squads for the West Indies tour, initiating a middle-order course correction would be its biggest challenge.

India's original World Cup squad had five middle-order batsmen — KL Rahul, Dhoni, Kedar Jadhav, Vijay Shankar and Dinesh Karthik — along with a pinch-hitter in Hardik Pandya and a bowling all-rounder in Ravindra Jadeja. After Shikhar Dhawan was ruled out of the tournament, Pant came in as a replacement, while Rahul moved up the order to open the innings. Shankar became the team management's preferred choice at No. 4 in the batting order rejig and when a toe fracture ended his World Cup, Pant became the team's No. 4.

The World Cup report card says Shankar made 58 runs in the three matches he played, Jadhav had 80 from five, Pant 116 runs in four and Karthik 14 runs from two innings at a strike rate of 41.17. Dhoni, comparatively, had a decent performance, with 273 runs from eight innings, although he struggled to force the pace when the ball wasn't in his hitting range. Pandya scored 226 runs from nine innings but he was never a holding option in the middle order. “In hindsight, yes, we did need a solid batsman out there in the middle order,” the head coach Ravi Shastri told this paper after the Cup exit.

Former national selector and BCCI secretary Sanjay Jagdale told *The Indian Express*: “Don't forget, before the World Cup we had lost the home ODI series against Australia



Manish Pandey has been in good form for India A in the ongoing one-day series against West Indies A. File

also. Virat Kohli scored two centuries in that series and yet we couldn't win, which confirmed India's lack of batting depth. Middle-order batting suffered because the selectors backed the wrong players.”

India will play three ODIs and as many T20 Internationals in the Caribbean apart from two Tests that are part of the World Test Championship.

Quite a few options

And if Prasad and company start course-correcting, they have quite a few options. Manish Pandey is the in-form batsman for India A at the moment in the ongoing one-day series against West Indies A. Just a few days ago, he scored an 87-ball 100 at North Sound. Pandey had announced his arrival with a match-winning 104 not out against Australia in Sydney three-and-a-half years ago. Between January 2016 and September 2018, he, however, was given just 19 more matches — that too, not at a stretch — in the 50-over format and at different batting positions.

Both Shreyas Iyer and Shubman Gill are batting well for India A in the Caribbean. Iyer made his ODI debut in December 2017 and played just six matches before being dropped, even though he scored two fifties. Gill made his ODI debut in New Zealand earlier this year but wasn't included in the list

of World Cup stand-bys and was also overlooked as a replacement when the selectors decided to pick Mayank Agarwal, an opener, for the injured Shankar.

By the way, there's still no update on the status of Dhawan and Shankar, as far as their recovery from injury is concerned.

Then, there's the curious case of Ajinkya Rahane, whom Virat Kohli had spoken about as India's possible No. 4 for the World Cup during the ODI series in South Africa in February 2018. Rahane, surprisingly, was binned after that series.

During a recent interview with this paper, former chairman of selectors Dilip Vengsarkar had elaborated on how India missed Rahane's experience at the World Cup. “I had said this before, you need to have someone like Ajinkya Rahane or (Cheteshwar) Pujara, who have done very well in England and have explored the conditions. Keep experienced player as back-up. For back-up, India had (Rishabh) Pant, Dinesh Karthik and Kedar Jadhav. If you have such kind of selection, the result is there for everyone to see,” the ex-India captain had said.

Jagdale was even more vocal. “I would like to have Ajinkya Rahane at No. 4. You can't have players (in a World Cup) squad who couldn't secure their spots in the Indian team despite playing since 2003. They are not your

future also.”

Rahane is still pretty young at 31, and the day the Indian World Cup squad was picked, a member of the current selection committee admitted that it might not be all over for the Mumbai batsman, with regards to white-ball internationals. Now that they have had a rude awakening, it would be interesting to see if the selectors want to fall back on Rahane's class.

Also, the future of Karthik and Jadhav is an issue they need to address. Both are 34 years of age and unlikely to last till the next World Cup. Sunday's meeting will give fans an idea about the regeneration timeline; whether it will start with immediate effect, or the selectors will wait till the home series against South Africa in September. By then, India will also have a permanent head coach.

Saha a contender

If two wicketkeepers are picked for the Test series in the Caribbean, Wriddhiman Saha has a decent chance to make the squad. The Bengal stumper was out of action for over nine months last season after suffering a shoulder injury that needed surgery. Pant came in as his replacement and revelled in the opportunity, with centuries in England and Australia. He rose to become the team's first-choice keeper.

BRIEFLY

Thapa wins gold in Kazakhstan

Astana: Shiva Thapa became India's first gold-medallist at the President's Cup boxing tournament after getting a walkover in the finals in Astana, Kazakhstan on Saturday. Making his international debut in the newly-introduced Olympic category of 63kg, Thapa was to fight Kazakhstan's Zakir Safiullin in the summit clash but his opponent had to pull out due to injury. Signing off with a silver medal was woman boxer Parveen (60kg) who lost her final bout to local hope Rimma Volosenko.

Nagal a win away from Hamburg main draw

Hamburg: Sumit Nagal knocked out fifth seed Sebastian Ofner to be one win away from sealing a berth in the main draw of the ATP 500 Hamburg European Open, Saturday. Nagal beat the world number 138 from Austria 7-5 6-2 in his first round of the clay court event. The 21-year-old from Haryana next faces Alejandro Davidovich Fokina, the world number 128 and third seed from Spain.

Paes in semifinals of Hall of Fame Open

Newport: Leander Paes reached the semifinals of the ATP Hall of Fame Open with partner Marcus Daniell, edging out Matthew Ebden and Robert Lindstedt in Newport. The third seeded Indo-Kiwi combination prevailed 6-4 5-7 14-12 over the Australian-Swede team in the quarterfinals after saving three match points. Paes, who made his Hall of Fame Open debut way back in 1995, is now the oldest ATP Tour semi-finalist since John McEnroe (47) at 2006 San Jose.

15 Indian paddlers qualify for main draw

Cuttack: In a good outing for India, 15 paddlers gained entry into the main draw of the individual event at the Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships. While nine paddlers qualified in the women's category, the men's qualifiers saw six Indians sailing to the main draw. The women will join Archana Kamath, Ayhika Mukherjee and Madhurika Patkar in the main draw. The Indians that failed to make the cut included Pooja Sahasrabhude, Reeth Risya and Surbhi Patwari.

Junior badminton: Solid start for India

Suzhou: Indian shuttlers outclassed Macau China and Mongolia with identical 5-0 margin in their Group C encounters on the opening day of the Badminton Asia Junior Championships. The two wins have put India in second place right behind Korea in the four-team Group C. With India and Korea scheduled to clash on Sunday, the outcome will decide the group leader before the knock-out rounds begin.

Hima clocks 52.09s to win 400m gold

Nove Mesto: Sprinter Hima Das extended her sensational run by claiming her fifth gold of the month as she returned to her pet 400m competition with a season-best time of 52.09s in Nove Mesto Saturday. Meanwhile, MP Jabir also won a gold in the 400-metre hurdles race, clocking 49.66 seconds but Mohammad Anas settled for a third-place finish in the 200m with a timing of 20.95 seconds.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

FIRST ASIAN-BORN PLAYER IN TENNIS HALL OF FAME

Even after retirement, Li Na continues to break the glass ceiling

DAVID WALDSTEIN
JULY 20

WHEN Li Na was a girl, tennis was often an objectionable chore. Training was gruelling, her coaches berated her, and sometimes she hated it. Later, when she dared to stand up against the Chinese government-run tennis program by demanding the right to make the choices about her own career, she faced withering criticism and attacks in state-owned media outlets, while others doubted her playing ability.

On Saturday, Li's perseverance and pioneering courage will be recognized with the highest honor in her profession: induction into the International Tennis Hall of Fame. She will be the first Asian-born player enshrined, but one ceremony cannot encapsulate all Li endured to reach the top of the tennis world and make a country pay attention to a sport that was mostly unknown when she started playing it. “For me, it means everything,” Li said in Manhattan on Thursday. “The tears, the tough times, the pain. Everything is paid back. It was all worth it.”

Tennis has been a dynamic stage for some of the most influential people in sports and society, from Arthur Ashe and Billie Jean King to today's stars like Venus and Serena Williams. Li Na is a worthy member of that pantheon — a modest woman from Wuhan, China, whose

impact in Asia surpasses them all.

When Li, 37, began playing tennis at age 8, most people in her country did not even know what the sport was, she said. But when she won the 2011 French Open to become China's first Grand Slam singles champion, 116 million people in her country watched the final on television. Even her mother was confused about all the attention. “She called and asked: ‘Li Na, you just won one tournament. Why is your picture in all the papers?’” Li recalled with a laugh. “I said, ‘Uh, maybe this was a big one.’”

Big does not even begin to describe her enduring impact. In 2011, there were two WTA events in China, including the China Open. In 2019, there are 11. Chinese women have followed Li's path. China has 10 women in the top 200 in singles and 51 in the top 850. In doubles, there are 13 Chinese women in the top 200.

Grass-roots participation there has soared, too, with an estimated 14 million players driving a \$4 billion industry. With about 30 million followers on her *Weibo* account and millions of dollars in endorsements, Li still has wide influence. “It's the most momentous induction into the Hall of Fame that we have had probably since Andre Agassi was inducted,” said Todd Martin, the chief executive of the International Tennis Hall of Fame, “and certainly until the Federers, Nadals, Djokovics and the Williams sisters of the world retire and get inducted.”



Li Na poses with students at a tennis clinic in New York. She was inducted to the International Tennis Federation's Hall of Fame on Saturday. AP

Agassi was inducted in 2011, and when Li was young, he was her role model with his long hair, earrings and bleached denim shorts. She later demonstrated her own flair with multiple stud earrings and a rose tattoo on her chest, considered rare for a Chinese player at the time. But more important barriers would fall, too.

Li won two Grand Slam events and nine WTA tournaments and reached a career-high ranking of No. 2 on Feb. 17, 2014, after her victory at that year's Australian Open. She also reached the Australian Open final in 2011 and 2013 and a semifinal of the United States Open in 2013. She enthralled her nation by reaching

a semifinal at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, where she now resides.

“Before I got into Grand Slams, maybe people thought Asian players were not suited for tennis,” she said while traveling along the Franklin D. Roosevelt Drive on Thursday morning. “I made people realize that it is reachable.”

In Manhattan to promote the induction ceremony, where she will be joined by Mary Pierce and Yevgeny Kafelnikov, Li spent the morning being spirited from one event to another — an interview at South Street Seaport, a tennis clinic on the Upper East Side, a luncheon. It was a hectic day, and for much of it, other people were in control, directing her where to go and when. That is unusual for a woman who fought against powerful forces for her right to make decisions about her own career and life.

Through a combination of her success and doggedness, Li was eventually able to choose her own coaches, map out her schedule and keep more of the prize money she earned. She initially had to play for the Chinese national team and hand over 65 percent of her earnings to the federation. But it dropped to 8 percent and finally 0 in a policy called *danfei*, or fly solo.

Li does not consider success in tennis a solo achievement, though. “I prefer, ‘Make your own choice about your team,’” she said, and lauded her coaches and trainers, including some from the Chinese federation years ago.

Li said that over time, tennis went from being something she hated to something she loved and finally enjoyed. Many current players have benefited by her example. “She let us see and believe that Asian players can have the ability to win and go far in a Grand Slam,” Zheng Saisai, the 47th-ranked player in the world, said in a telephone interview from Kazakhstan, where she was playing in a tournament.

Zheng, 25, said when she began playing tennis in China as a schoolgirl, taxi drivers and classmates asked if her racket was a guitar. But Li's early success turned the tide, and by the time she captured the French Open, the tide was an unstoppable wave. “My parents always said, ‘Look at Li Na,’” Zheng said. “After she won, so many kids walked on the tennis court. She let them have the tennis dream.”

Since her retirement in 2014, Li and her husband, Jiang Shan, have started a family. They have a 4-year-old girl and a 2-year-old boy. Li said she runs 10 kilometers every day in roughly 65 minutes, the result of a wisecrack from her daughter about being out of shape, which Li took as a challenge. She also earned an M.B.A. from the Cheung Kong Graduate School of Business in Beijing. “In our country, so many people think that professional athletes, after they retire, the only thing they can do is coach,” she said. “So I want to challenge myself. At least I'm trying.”

NYT

Defence Sindhu's best attack

Indian demolishes World No. 3 Chen 21-19, 21-10 with a near-perfect game of offence sprinkled on a bed of defence

SHIVANI NAIK
JULY 20

IT WAS a 13 x 8.5 square feet area either side of the net where all the drama was centred in the Indonesian Open Super 1000 semifinal. China's top contender Chen Yufei was trying to catch PV Sindhu on the forehand lunge at the front of the court, while Sindhu was aiming for just across the net on Chen's backhand forecourt.

It was while defending her 6.5x8.5 patch relentlessly (every player from Tai Tzu-Ying to Nozomi Okuhara to Carolina Marin loves drawing her forward on a scramble) that the Indian, ranked World No. 5, took apart the World No. 3 Chinese woman's game.

With her Plan A of exploiting Sindhu's vulnerability failing, and the Indian looming on the court with the 5ft11's ferocious reach, Chen went wildly for the corners and sprayed the shuttle all over giving Sindhu a bunch of points in errors and a 21-19, 21-10 win on her second straight day of brutal rampage. In the quarters on Friday, Sindhu had chomped into Nozomi Okuhara 21-(eye-popping)7 in the second game. On Saturday, the Chinese was demolished with a near-perfect game of offence sprinkled on a bed of defence.

The Indian, who recently turned 24, has defined her career with top performances at the big events. She plays Akane Yamaguchi, an opponent whom she's beaten 10 times in 14 attempts, in the final though the Japanese won the last tournament final they contested at Dubai in 2017.

Indonesia has a bit of a charm for Indians as Saina Nehwal has won the title three times (from four finals) - India's first Super Series crown coming 10 years ago. Moreover, Sindhu's first serious title in seniors - a Grade 4 event - had come at Surabaya in 2011.

"It is the first final this year so I hope I don't miss out on the opportunity and can get the gold. Ups and downs are always there. I have learnt from my mistakes and have come back much stronger," she said later.

Sindhu won't be too fussed about the lack of titles in the pre-Olympic year - she's always stepped up at the prestigious medal events, and will be content with the China, Korea, India and World Tour Finals titles she's collected in her career. But Indonesia would be a nice box to tick.

Going into the final, Sindhu's form looks ominous. She trailed 14-18 (after a 5-point flurry from 3-8 to 9-8) in the opener. But a second surge of five straight points for 19-18 was when she started dismantling Chen - a clever and stubborn player on most days with strokes and strength. Bull-headed in her own defence, Sindhu wasn't slashing hard at this point, but showing variations as she clasped the first game.

There were spectacular strokes in the second in that 6.5x8.5 forecourt minefield, a cross-court half-smash that looped short, a drop-flick from mid-court and a proper tight cross-court at the net, the kind Kidambi Srikanth and Saina play with aplomb, but which Sindhu reserves for occasions when she's bullish at the net.

From attempting to catch Sindhu - a plan in vain as the Indian's defence stayed compact - Chen, who is sure-footed in her lunges, was found wanting in her own net defence.

But it was in the face of Sindhu's assured retrieving that Chen was forced to go for the lines like a dis-



PV Sindhu leads 10-4 in the head-to-head record against Akane Yamaguchi, whom she has beaten in the last four meetings. PTI

With her Plan A of exploiting Sindhu's vulnerability failing, and the Indian looming on the court with the 5ft11's ferocious reach, Chen went wildly for the corners and sprayed the shuttle all over giving Sindhu a bunch of points in errors and a 21-19, 21-10 win on her second straight day of brutal rampage.

oriented flapping pigeon, as no part of the court seemed safe against the towering Indian. Chen's errors ballooned as she hit most returns wide, and at 18-9 Sindhu increased her hand-speed to resemble a slashing blade. The unflappable Chen was blown dry in straight games.

"The points at the end of the first game were very important to me. Even though I was trailing, I did not think it was over. It was definitely an advantage for me to take the first game. In the second game, it was then pretty easy," she told BWF.

National coach Pullela Gopichand said Sindhu's defence, which frustrated Chen who was hoping the Indian could be ruffled, was the key.

"She looked solid and in control. She's physically in good shape and of course, the defence in the second game was fantastic - something which has really helped her be solid and crack Chen Yufei," he said.

"Overall, a fantastic victory. I think she played well both yesterday and today. The way she's playing, hopefully we'll have a good final tomorrow," he added.

Sindhu's sights are set on the Olympics and she knows fitness will be all-important, not necessarily the finery of circuit titles. "It is equally important that you keep yourself fit as well as perform at the tournaments. If you stay fit, you will automatically perform well. There's only one year to the Olympics so every tournament is equally important and for me it's just step by step," Sindhu said.

Beating the pugnacious Yamaguchi on Sunday is the absolute first step.

Algeria win Africa Cup of Nations with freak early goal

REUTERS
CAIRO, JULY 20

ALGERIA WON the Africa Cup of Nations for the second time on Friday when a freak second-minute goal by Baghdad Bounedjah gave them a 1-0 win over gallant Senegal in the final.

Bounedjah, who missed a penalty in the quarter-final against Ivory Coast and spent the

last few minutes of that game in tears after being substituted, stunned the Lions of Teranga with a shot which took a wicked deflection off Salif Sane and looped over the bewildered goalkeeper Alfred Gomis and into the net.

Algeria, who committed 32 fouls according to official match statistics, sat back after that and had to scrap for their win in a match that was certainly not a classic but was tense and gripping

throughout. Senegal, beaten by Cameroon on their only previous appearance in the final in 2002, were awarded a penalty for handball in the second half but the decision was revoked following a VAR review.

The final whistle provoked wild celebrations among the large contingent of travelling Algeria fans. It was a fitting end to a tournament that, with 24 teams for the first time, produced plen-

tiful drama even if quality was sometimes lacking.

"This has been tough," said Algeria coach Djamel Belmadi, who has restored order to the team after a turbulent period which saw them employ seven coaches in three years.

"I am very, very happy, for the country, for the people who have waited for this for a long time. It's the first time we have won it outside our country, it's simply ex-

traordinary.

"They say you don't play finals, you win them, I don't really believe that," he added. "We prepared and wanted to play against this talented team, Senegal. It wasn't our best match. We didn't have ball possession nor impose our play."

Senegal were missing Kalidou Koulibaly, arguably Africa's finest defender, through suspension and his absence was quickly felt.

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Ireland's Lowry leads from Fleetwood in Open birdie feast

REUTERS
PORTRUSH (NORTHERN IRELAND), JULY 20

IRELAND'S SHANE Lowry forged into the lead at the British Open as he moved to 13 under with six holes of his third round remaining on a becalmed Dunluce links on Saturday.

With England's Tommy Fleetwood nipping at his heels, an inspired Lowry claimed his fifth birdie of the day at the par-five 12th to move a stroke clear to the delight of the galleries who were roaring him on across the course.

Fleetwood, playing in the match ahead with Lee Westwood, was also five under for the day having started a shot behind Lowry and American JB Holmes.

Westwood had earlier briefly gone to the top of the leaderboard after a run of three successive birdies but dropped back to nine under with a bogey at the 10th after driving into a bush. Holmes was tucked in on 11 under.

England's Justin Rose was playing himself into contention on a day of red numbers on the board. He had moved to 10 under with three holes remaining.

Danny Willett had taken the clubhouse lead with a sizzling six-under 65 to reach seven under, before American Rickie Fowler, still awaiting his first major after knocking on the door so many times, moved to eight under with a 66. Willett, winner of the Masters in

2016, missed a birdie putt on the 18th that would have set a new course record as the calm weather conditions produced a birdie feast.

World number one Brooks Koepka, playing with Rose, was two under for the day, six shots off the lead, with three holes remaining but was struggling to mount a charge.

Defending champion Francesco Molinari's hopes of retaining the title look over after he could only manage a one-over 72 to leave himself two over going into the final day.

PTI adds: A flurry of bogeys and double bogeys on the back nine spoil the card of Shubhankar Sharma, who tumbled from a decent T-48th at the start of the day to a disappointing 72nd at the end of his third round.

At the start, Sharma birdied the Par-5 second for the second day running and then had a nice birdie on ninth. But all that changed once the back nine began.

Double bogeys on 10th and 11th were followed by a bogey but he had a bogey-bogey on 13 and 14th. Once again on 15th he had a double. The birdie on 18th was somewhat soothing at the end. He ended the day with a six-over 77 and was 72nd out of the 73 players who have made the cut.

He has one more day to repair his scorecard on the final day, which also happens to be his 23rd birthday.

"I sure would like to mark that with a good final round and make some amends," he said.



Election Commission of India
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* Series 1: Know about EVM/VVPAT

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* Other thematic facts about 2019 Elections will be published in next series.

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