

BRIEFLY



Response sought from officials for trying to take possession of an elephant

Contempt plea against Delhi govt

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court sought response of the Delhi government on a plea seeking contempt action against its officials for trying to take possession of an elephant in violation of judicial orders to not do so. A bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice C Hari Shankar issued a notice to the Delhi government and sought its stand on the plea by the elephant's owner. The bench is likely to hear the matter next on August 5.

Man held for theft of over 100 cars

New Delhi: A 40-year-old man allegedly involved in over 100 cases of car theft was arrested from South East Delhi and 11 vehicles were seized from him, said police.

Elderly woman dies in fire

New Delhi: A 60-year-old woman died Sunday in a fire triggered by a leaking gas cylinder at her home in Outer Delhi's Nihal Vihar. Delhi Fire Services officials said. PTI

VICTIM'S BROTHER SAYS HE HAD WARNED STALKER

Woman stabbed to death wanted to join security forces

JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

A FEW months ago, a 25-year-old man who works in the police force in Uttar Pradesh, received a call from his 21-year-old cousin in Delhi, asking how she could join the force too. "She contacted me in March and asked a lot of questions about my job and the preparation that is required for it. She would study four-five hours every day for the exams," he said.

According to the woman's family, she had been preparing for the entrance exams of CRPF and BSF. "She was very ambitious and studious; she had a diploma in Computer Science and was pursuing her BA from DU," said her elder brother.

On Friday, the woman was heading home from her babysitting job when she was stabbed to death in South East Delhi's Sarai Kale Khan, allegedly by a man who had been

stalking her.

Police said the accused, Mohammed Munsair (25), approached her near the Bhogal bus stand and stabbed her multiple times. He was arrested the same day after eyewitnesses caught him.

The victim lived in a rented one-room flat in Sarai Kale Khan with her parents and five brothers. Her family, who described her as hardworking and talented, said they were surprised when she told them that she wanted to join the police force.

Her parents, aged 58 and 54, had recently bought a new house in Valmiki Colony, Tughlakabad, and were going to shift to the new place this week. They own a shop near Sarai Kale Khan, where they iron clothes.

The victim's father said: "She lived with us because I was told to rest at home, after an angioplasty. My wife would usually leave for work at 11 am... My

daughter would cook food for the entire family and also helped her mother with other household chores."

"We received a call around 7.40 pm about the incident. The man who stalked my daughter lived near our house. She had complained about him to his landlord, who kicked him out 10 days ago. He was a drunkard and was often seen beating his sisters," alleged the victim's mother.

"We didn't know he would attack her or do something like this. She never mentioned anything about the stalker to us... only her elder brother knew about it. We demand justice for our daughter," she said.

The elder brother said he thought he had handled the situation when he beat up the accused. "After she told me about how the man stalked her every day, I went to his house and told him to leave the colony. Munsair started arguing with

me but the landlord understood us and made him vacate the house the next day. He would sit near the roadside and drink liquor almost every day. My sister thought that if she told the family, everyone would be distressed."

The victim's younger brother said she was excited because she received her first salary in July. "She was the only one in the family who went to study at DU. She was waiting for the exam results and didn't want to sit at home. She took up a job as a babysitter at a house as she wanted to support the family. Her employers paid her Rs 7,000 for the first month. Though our parents kept insisting that she get married, she told them that she would do so only after she completes her education and gets placed in a good company."

The victim's family hails from UP's Aligarh and had shifted to Delhi 15 years ago.

Two DU students dead after car rams divider in Shahdara

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

TWO DU students died and three others were injured after the car they were travelling in rams a divider in Shahdara's Surya Nagar Sunday morning.

"We received a call at 5.40 am about an accident near a traffic signal in Surya Nagar. We rushed to the spot and took the five occupants of the car to Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital. Doctors declared two of them dead... A white Honda City was found at the spot... the impact of the crash was such that it damaged a divider and a light pole," said DCP (Shahdara) Meghna Yadav.

The victims have been identified as Prabhjot Singh (18) and Rubal Sama (20). Police said Keshav (21) and Arshpreet Kaur (19) suffered severe injuries while Lakshya Malhotra, who was driving the car, suffered minor injuries to his limbs.

Police have registered a case



The incident took place in Shahdara's Surya Nagar Sunday morning. Gajendra Yadav

under IPC section 304 A (cause death by negligence). "Blood samples of the driver and other victims have been sent for medical examination and a report is awaited," said a police officer.

Prabhjot's father Virender Singh said: "He left for Kaur's birthday party on Saturday night around 10 pm. He didn't come home... I called him around 5 in the morning and he told us that he was reaching home in 10 minutes."

Rubal hailed from Uttar Pradesh's Rania. She was a third-year student of Life Sciences at Daulat Ram College and stayed in a PG, said a family member.

Prabhjot was pursuing a correspondence course in Delhi University. Arshpreet Kaur is a second-year Maths (Hons) student in Vivekananda College, Vivek Vihar, while Keshav worked at a call centre.

Gurgaon cop shot at while trying to foil bid by three assailants to abduct man

SAKSHI DAYAL
GURGAON, JULY 28

A SPECIAL Police Officer (SPO) was shot at in Atul Kataria Chowk while trying to foil an abduction attempt early Sunday morning.

Police said SPO Jaivir Singh (47) and two other personnel, who were deployed at a checkpoint near Atul Kataria Chowk, heard someone screaming and found three assailants trying to force a man into an Innova.

"Upon seeing the police, the assailants got into the victim's Jaguar and drove on the wrong side of the road to escape. However, two cars coming from the direction of Payal Cinema towards Atul Kataria Chowk ob-



SPO Jaivir Singh is undergoing treatment

structed their path. Realising there was no way out, the driver of the car abandoned the vehicle and started running," said Commissioner of Police Muhammad Akil.

"Singh, who was following the vehicle, was shot in the stomach after the driver fired at him while getting out of the car. His accomplices too ran away," he said. Police said the driver, Anshul (27) alias Khali, was arrested later. A resident of Charkhi

Dadri, he is a wrestler.

"During questioning, he confessed to being involved in five cases, including a case of car theft for which he was imprisoned in Jhajjar for three months. There, he met gangster Pradeep Dahiya and became a known criminal. He also spent 18 months in Tihar Jail after he was accused of opening fire at a Delhi resident," said the commissioner.

Police added Anshul was arrested twice in 2017, after he was allegedly found to be in possession of illegal weapons. On July 24, he and an accomplice stole the Innova at gunpoint in Panipat, after taking a lift from its driver.

Police said Anshul revealed he and his accomplices had come to Gurgaon in the Innova

with the intention of stealing more vehicles. Upon spotting the Jaguar, they rammed the Innova into the car from behind. When the driver got out, they brandished a weapon at him and tried to abduct him.

"The accused also confessed to having opened fire at Singh. A country-made pistol and a live cartridge have been seized. He was produced in court and taken into police remand. A search is on to nab his accomplices," said Gurgaon Police PRO Subhash Boken.

Singh, meanwhile, has been admitted to Medanta — The Medicity. Doctors said he is out of danger. An ex-serviceman, he joined the force as an SPO a year ago.

16-year-old kanwaria electrocuted

Ghaziabad: A 16-year-old kanwaria died after being electrocuted at a makeshift pilgrims' camp in Shambhu Dayal Degree College Saturday, police said. The victim, Naanu, was a resident of Vijay Nagar.

SSP Sudhir Kumar Singh said Naanu had recently returned from Haridwar after completing the pilgrimage.

As per reports, Naanu had touched an iron pole, which was being used to install halogen lights. However, the pole was conducting electricity due to the rain and he was electrocuted. Police rushed him to the district hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival.

At the hospital, some kanwaris demanded the early arrest of the "errant" electricity contractor at the pilgrims' camp. Police said an FIR has been lodged against him. PTI

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the company is in the process of developing a Commercial project (114 Avenue) in Sector 114, Village Bajhera, Gurgaon on 2.968 acre land in collaboration with M/s AMD Estate & Developers Pvt Ltd in accordance with the provision of license no. 72 of 2011 dated 21.07.2011 granted by Director General, Town & Country Planning Department, Haryana Chandigarh.

And Whereas the building plans earlier approved for the said colony is now proposed to be revised in accordance with Haryana Building Code 2017.

And whereas the office of Director General Town & Country Planning, Haryana Chandigarh has asked company to invite objections from existing bonafide Allottees regarding the said amendment in building plans. Accordingly, the objections are hereby invited from any of the Allottee in the said colony on the proposed revision in building plans. A copy of earlier approved building plans and proposed revised building plans are available on the website <http://www.vsrinfatech.in/VSR/114-Avenue.html> for perusal.

The said building plans can also be perused in the office of company on address mentioned above and in the office of Senior Town Planner, HUDA Complex, Sector 14, Gurugram.

Any bonafide Allottee having any objection/suggestion on revised building plan may file his/her/its objection in the office of Senior Town Planner, Town & Country Planning Department, HUDA Complex, Sector-14, Gurgaon within 30 days of publication of this notice failing which it shall be assumed that there are no objections to the proposed revision of building plans.

Date : 29.07.2019
Place : Gurugram

Authorised Signatory
VSR Infatech Pvt Ltd.

MODI GOVERNMENT 2014-19: SKOCH AWARD RECIPIENTS RETURNED WITH A MASSIVE MANDATE

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) | Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) | Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) | Turnaround of Steel Sector | Performance in Infrastructure Sector | Deen Dayal Upadhyay Kaushalya Vikas Yojana (DDUGKY) | Swachh Bharat Mission | Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao | Transport and Highways | Women and Child Development | Sagarmala

WHO WILL MAKE THE MARK FOR 2019-2024?

NOMINATIONS FOR THE FINAL ROUND OF ASSESSMENT FOR SKOCH GOVERNANCE RANKING 2019 WILL BE ACCEPTED TILL 20TH AUGUST 2019

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20TH AUGUST 2019

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INDIA'S HIGHEST INDEPENDENT HONOUR



Achintya Kumar Pati, Additional Secretary and Ajay Bhattacharya, Director of DDP & S, Government of West Bengal receiving the SKOCH Award from Sameer Kochhar, Chairman, SKOCH Group and M Ramachandran, Distinguished Fellow, SKOCH Development Foundation in presence of Gursharan Dhanjal, Managing Director & Group Editor, SKOCH Group and of Deepak B Phatak, IIT-B

FOOD & SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

PLATINUM
KHADYASATHI

CONFERRED THIS HIGHEST INDEPENDENT HONOUR IN INDIA ON 25TH FEBRUARY 2019 AT NEW DELHI

4 HARDLOOK OVERHEAD WIRES

ABDUL BAQI (50), a pan seller near Old Delhi's Fatehpuri Masjid, has spent countless hours staring at the entangled web of wires and cables dangling in front of his shop. Every time he looks up, he feels intrigued — and uneasy.

"The web looks like a map of Old Delhi — chaotic and mismanaged, with countless wide and narrow lanes criss-crossing," said Baqi, who has spent his entire life here. "Thirty years ago, you'd see children playing cricket on the roads. But as the market grew and traffic increased, the entire area became choked. Now, even the space above our heads is equally bad."

In the last 10 days, two cases of electrocution by overhead wires have been reported in the city. In the first, a biker died on July 21 when an overhead wire snapped and fell on him. A man who attempted to save him was also electrocuted. In the second incident, on July 27, a kanwaria died when speakers mounted atop a truck he was travelling in touched a high-tension wire.

The problem is far more pronounced in Old Delhi and a majority of unauthorised colonies in the capital where, experts believe, putting the wires underground could be a possible solution.

For guides who accompany foreign tourists to Shahjahanabad, the tour includes a visit to Jama Masjid, Red Fort and popular eating joints at Gali Kababian. But there's another marvel the tourists are shown, purely for the shock it generates: The criss-crossing overhead wires at Sita Ram Bazar.

In fact, such floating wires are a common feature throughout the Walled City, and the police post adjoining Jama Masjid is no exception. A portion of the post on the first floor remains hidden from public view as bands of thick cables run along its length, perilously close to a balcony overlooking the courtyard of the 17th Century mosque.

To an outsider, the sight of 30-odd wires for electricity, cable and telephone services can be unsettling. But life goes on in Shahjahanabad, with that air of indifference finding an echo in the words of shopkeepers and even police officers.

The in-charge of the police post insisted the wires pose no threat: "Show me even one naked wire? They are all covered. What is there to fear?"

The sense of optimism, however, is not shared by officers at the Pai Walan fire station in Old Delhi. "I can tell you, the fact that an area as congested and crowded as this has not seen any major fire incident in recent memory is purely due to the grace of the almighty. *Sab bhagwan bharse hai*," said Vidyasagar, a firefighter.

The Pai Walan fire station, which has two fire tenders, is among the four stations that serve Old Delhi.

Vidyasagar said Pai Walan attends around 300 calls per year. "Around 50% are caused by wires. But yes, we have not seen any major, serious or even medium intensity fire in the last four years that I have been stationed here."

According to officials, overhead wires are not just potential fire hazards, they also pose a danger to birds and monkeys. "We carry bamboo poles at all times to rescue them. It's not as if the government has equipped us to tackle these problems, but we are expected to double up as bird and animal rescuers. Why not provide us equipment then?" said an official, on condition of anonymity.

Asked if shifting of these wires underground will help, Vidyasagar said: "An underground cable network comes with its own set of issues. It takes time to spot snags and correct them. And secondly, during monsoon, there are short circuits even underground as water manages to seep through at times."

A power official explained: "World over, services beneath the surface is a well-accepted practice. As a practice, road-owning agencies build service ducts to lay various services, including electricity cables. In Delhi, if land-owning agencies take ownership and build dedicated ducts for various utilities, it would be a major milestone in refining civic conditions."

While the problem is more apparent in Old Delhi, also the first area in the national capital to be electrified in 1903, more than 30% of the areas in the city have overhead wires lurking around, according to official data.

This year alone, there have been 12 reported incidents of electrocution (both fatal and non-fatal) in the capital. This figure was 40 in 2018 and 25 in 2017.

The constraints

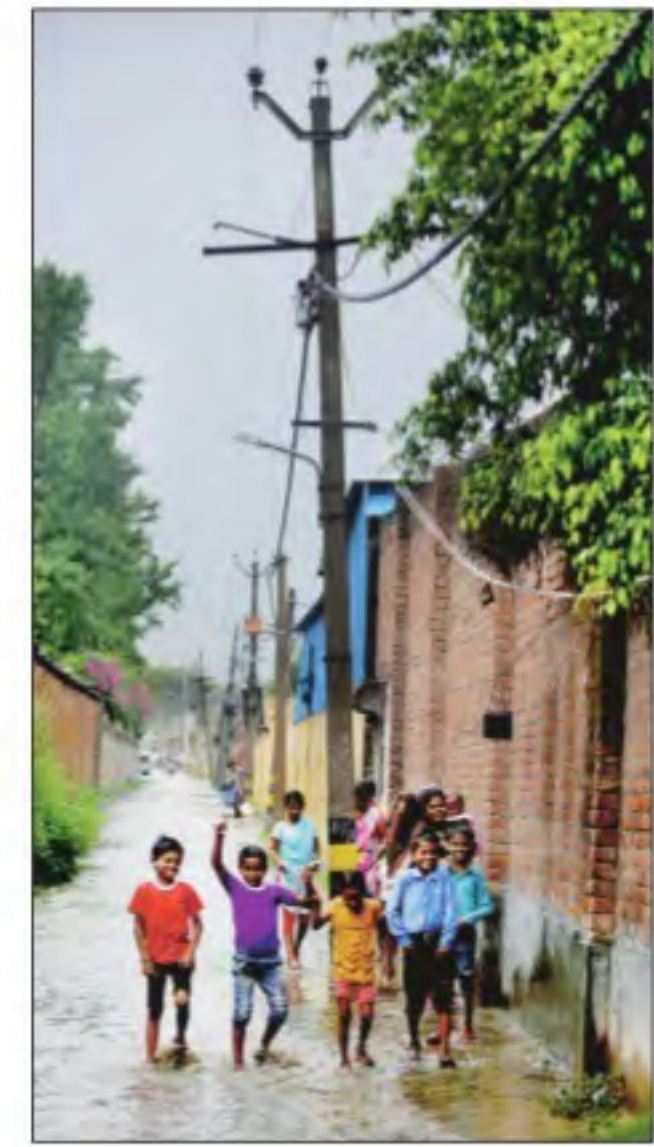
Official data suggests around 60-70% of the BSES network is underground. BSES is Delhi's largest discom, catering to around 42 lakh consumers in Delhi through its two subsidiaries, BRPL (BSES Rajdhani) and BYPL (BSES Yamuna).

TPDDL, a joint venture between Tata Power and the Delhi government, has a customer base of 16.4 lakh in North and North West Delhi. The Walled City comes under the jurisdiction of BSES, a Reliance ADAG company.

According to both private discoms, the plan to shift all cables underground comes with a set of challenges which are almost insurmountable in certain unauthorised colonies due to a lack of space and scale of encroachments. "The illegal extensions have brought balconies in many such colonies within arm's length of the distribution box or transformer fuse, exposing residents and the property to danger," a power department official said.

There have been cases of people encroaching to such an extent that electricity poles have merged with the buildings, he said.

This encroachment is compounded by power theft in these areas by way of "hooking (*katta*)" into an electricity system. This, officials warned, poses a serious safety hazard, especially during the monsoon months.



Dangling wires are a common feature throughout Old Delhi; (above) the spot in Jaunapur where a biker and a passerby were electrocuted. Photos: Praveen Khanna

DOWN TO THE WIRE

Three electrocution deaths in the city have put the spotlight on the dangers of overhead wires, especially in Old Delhi and unauthorised colonies. ABHINAV RAJPUT & SOURAV ROY BARMAN explore why there are no easy solutions to the mess

In the last two-three years, BSES discoms have issued over 55,000 notices to such offenders. Areas that top the list are Shaheen Bagh, Madanpur Khadar near Sarita Vihar, Khanpur, Khirki Extension, Aya Nagar, Saidulajab, Vikaspuri, Yamuna Vihar and Karkardooma.

When *The Indian Express* visited Jaunapur, where the biker and the person trying to save him were electrocuted, the stretch was once again waterlogged after just an hour of rainfall.

Surendar, who owns a factory in the area, recalled the day the two men died: "Casualties could have been more because this is a busy stretch. But we made phone calls to houses on one end and factories on the other, and asked them to stop people from letting people pass as there was current in the water."

Area councillor Ved Pal said there are several stretches where wires are not insulated: "They should ideally shift them underground but if there has been a delay, at least it should all be insulated to prevent accidents."

According to power experts, around 10% of the BSES network that reaches homes or populated areas is not insulated; while in the remaining areas, where 30-40% network is above ground, wires remain largely uninsulated in cases where they are of 33 and 66 kilo volts. In case of 11 Kv wires, half are insulated.

According to estimates prepared by discoms, funds required for conversion of the entire existing high-tension overhead network to an underground network in Delhi is around Rs 2,400 crore, while for low-tension

THE TWO OPTIONS	
UNDERGROUND NETWORK	
PROS	CONS
Higher reliability	Higher installation cost
Beautification	Higher maintenance cost
Safety	Delay in identification of fault in network
OVERHEAD NETWORK	
PROS	CONS
Lower installation cost	Safety concern
Lower maintenance cost	Lower reliability
Faster service restoration, easy to detect fault	Negatively affected by storms, wildlife and vehicular impacts, theft

network, it comes to around Rs 4,000 crore, which includes the cost to restore roads.

"For conversion from overhead network to underground network, TPDDL has worked out two options. One involves conversion through open cutting and trenchless while the second involves building of dedicated service ducts by land-owning agencies, which can later be used by discoms. However, TPDDL also appreciates the fact that several areas are extremely congested, where it would be difficult for land-owning agencies to build dedicated ducts. Hence, it is proposed that a composite solution, having a combination of both options, be used to convert the existing overhead network to an

underground one," a TPDDL spokesperson said.

But the possibility of release of funds on such a large scale looks bleak at the moment, given the mistrust between the state government and the discoms, an official said. Discoms have been petitioning the government for tariff revision, while the government believes discoms have allegedly been inflating dues, the official explained.

Apart from funds, work on such a large scale would also require permission from multiple authorities, which is challenging in Delhi's complex administrative structure.

"Wherever cable shifting is to be done, it needs to start with a study on what all assets

World over, services beneath the surface is a well-accepted practice. As a practice, road-owning agencies build service ducts to lay various services, including electricity cables. In Delhi, if land-owning agencies take ownership and build dedicated ducts for various utilities, it would be a major milestone in refining civic conditions"

— A POWER OFFICIAL

are below the surface and the possible space available to lay cables. There are already too many assets beneath the surface, such as gas and fiber optic lines. It is risky to keep some services, like gas and electricity, adjacent to each other," a discom executive said.

"The government also needs to decide up to what voltage level they intend to go for underground cabling. In case the wiring that goes to homes (service line cables) also needs to be made underground, support from residents to allow civic agencies to dig in front of their front lawns and gates will be essential."

Let there be light

The Walled City area was the first in Delhi

to be electrified in 1903 as Viceroy Curzon wanted to receive King Edward VII, historian Sohail Hashmi told *The Indian Express*. King Edward VII's visit was later shelved but Delhi started its date with electricity.

Initially, there were generators installed at Town Hall and a British company supplied electricity by installing poles at the homes of people who wanted it, he said, adding, "While some showed reluctance as they thought nights are meant to sleep, some showed interest."

In Europe, wires went largely underground, but in India, since it was a costly affair, the intention was to keep the expenditure to a minimum and still serve the purpose. But even as times changed, wires in the Walled City were left hanging and, in fact, more kept being added to the overhead mess. "It shows plain lack of will to develop the area," Hashmi said.

The Shahjahanabad Redevelopment Corporation, which has been working on redevelopment of Chandni Chowk for the past few years, has underground cabling of wires on a 1.3-km stretch from Red Fort to Fatehpuri Masjid as part of its mandate. The project, now being monitored by the Delhi High Court, is still not complete though.

The court has directed authorities to complete installation of transformers on the main road by August 31. "We deal with limited resources and people. The underground cabling for the whole of the Walled City is a challenging task which has to be done by telecom companies," Shahjahanabad Redevelopment Corporation managing director Garima Gupta said.

A senior official in the North MCD admitted that "lack of will" was partly to blame. "We recently shifted several internet and cable wires by asking service providers to move them underground and giving them a deadline," the official said, adding that this ought to be extended to electricity as well.

This work was expedited as Delhi was hosting the ASEAN summit in January 2018, and the Jama Masjid and Red Fort were supposed to be the centre of attraction for international guests.

A BSES official said, "A large part of our network is underground. There are several areas where the EHV (extra high voltage) network/cables have been shifted underground or are being shifted in the next few months. We are working very closely with stakeholders and agencies. Having said that, there are several challenges and practical difficulties that need to be resolved."

The official added: "Encroachment of our network in unauthorised colonies is a big challenge. Not only does it lead to tripping, it is also a huge safety hazard. We have been continuously appealing and advising residents of such areas... to adhere to rules and maintain the specified distance from electricity wires and installations. But a few residents continue with illegal construction, even at the cost of their own safety."

GOING UNDER

AREAS WITH UNDERGROUND CABLING
In Tata Power DDL, areas like Rohini, Prashant Vihar; Pitampura; Shakti Nagar; Moti Nagar; Sudershan Park; Ashok Vihar; Civil Lines;

Hudson Lane; Mukherjee Nagar; Model Town; Priyadarshini Vihar; Shastrri Nagar; Inderlok Rama Road; Kirti Nagar; Naraina etc have HT underground cable network

AREAS WHERE NETWORK HAS RECENTLY BEEN SHIFTED UNDERGROUND

Pooth Khurd; Sanjay Gandhi Transport Nagar; Alipur, Narela — along NH — 1; Mukarba Chowk to Singhu Border; Jindpur Village, Mukhmelpur; Village Khera Khurd, Narela; Prem Colony, Narela

WHO BEARS THE COST?

The overhead to underground conversions are funded under the MLALAD schemes of the Delhi government



Delhi HC halts appointments to NDMC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

THE DELHI High Court has restrained the Centre from appointing any person to the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), after it was told the appointments were being made without the statutorily mandated consultation of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

"Till the next date of hearing, no appointment shall be made under Section 4 of the NDMC Act," Justice Vibhu Bakhru said.

It also set the date of hearing to August 13 from October 17, after it was urged so by AAP MLA Surender Singh, who moved the court challenging the Centre's 2015 notification appointing BJP leader Karan Singh Tanwar as member and vice-chairperson of the NDMC.

Singh sought cancellation of his appointment, alleging it was done in blatant disregard of the Act.

SAYS DURGESH PATHAK WILL FINISH MLA'S WORK

Kejriwal hints at Kapil Mishra replacement for Assembly polls

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

DURGESH PATHAK, AAP's youngest Political Affairs Committee member, will contest the upcoming Assembly polls from Karawal Nagar, replacing Kapil Mishra, indicated Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Sunday.

While Kejriwal stopped short of declaring Pathak (30) as the official candidate, his remarks that the young leader will "fill the vacuum created by Kapil Mishra" was an indication of his candidature from the North East Delhi seat.

"*Aur mai samajhta hu ki, peechli baar Kapil Mishra ke vajay se jo kami reh gayi, wo abye Durgesh saari kami aapki poori karenge*," Kejriwal said, addressing a gathering of people from



CM Arvind Kejriwal with Pathak (right) at an event at his residence on Sunday

unauthorised colonies in Karawal Nagar at his residence.

The process to regularise 1,797 unauthorised colonies in the city has gathered steam with the Centre drafting a Cabinet note, to which the AAP government has responded with suggestions.

On June 21, *The Indian Express* had reported that AAP might replace Mishra, who was suspended from the party in May 2017 due to "anti-party activities", with Pathak.

Delhi is scheduled to go to polls in less than six months, with the term of the current legislative assembly expiring in February 2020. AAP had won 67 out of 70 seats in the 2015 Assembly polls.

Meanwhile, the AAP chief also hit out at the BJP for claiming credit for regularisation of colonies, which is home to an estimated population of 40 lakh.

"The BJP is claiming they got it done... What will we gain from this whole credit thing? AAP is responsible for what you could not do in the last 25 years... Take as much credit as you want," Kejriwal said.

The issue of regularisation of

unauthorised colonies has shaped the city's political dynamics over the last few decades, with the promise of ownership rights over properties finding a prominence in parties' manifestos.

"We are going to end this politics," Kejriwal said, adding that regularisation will lead to a dramatic rise in property rates

Pathak, who came in touch with Kejriwal during the 2011 Jan Lokpal movement, is also the in-charge of the party's organisation building team. The party had won 34 out of the 35 assembly constituencies he was in-charge of during the 2015 polls. Later, he was made the party's joint Punjab in-charge, where it won 20 assembly seats in the 2017 polls.

Mishra did not respond to calls and messages seeking a comment.

AT PTM ACROSS SOUTH BODY SCHOOLS

From dengue to POCSO, parents get a crash course on kids' safety

ANANYA TIWARI
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

PRECAUTIONS TO be taken against dengue, differentiating between 'good' and 'bad' touch, awareness about the POCSO Act — these and several other issues were taken up at the mega Parent Teacher Meeting (PTM) organised by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation across its 581 schools on Sunday. Held every month or so, MCD officials said the meeting helps parents, many of whom are migrants from other states, get a better understanding of their child's studies.

At the SDMC Primary School in Saket G-Block, several parents, predominantly mothers, were made to update Aadhaar details of their child and were imparted awareness about seasonal vector-borne diseases such as dengue and chikungunya. Domestic Breeding Checker officials of the MCD were stationed at the entrance to illustrate, using a cup of water, how live larvae can spread in clean water such as those in coolers and indoor potted plants.

The principal of the school of over 600 students, Sunita Malik, also talked to parents about the POCSO Act and how to perform CPR. "We told them to tell their children not to take chocolates or toffee from unknown persons, to differentiate between 'good' and 'bad' touch, and to talk to teachers or parents if something hap-



At a school in Police Colony, Hauz Khas, Sunday. Abhinav Saha

pens. We also showed them how to perform CPR..." said Malik.

However, attendance at the PTM was low, with many parents coming in late and missing the principal's talk. The area councillor was also not present.

Nissar Khan, whose daughter Alia studies in Class III, said, "I wanted to know about the activities of my child and the tests. They talked about discipline as well. These PTMs are held once a month."

Munni Devi (30), whose son Mukesh studies in Class V, said: "They didn't tell me anything about the POCSO Act or schemes. I just went and met the teacher."

At the Hauz Khas police colony primary school, principal Asha Ekka said: "PTMs have increased since 2016. Now, we have one every month or so. They are quite important for children

whose studies were interrupted for some reason, such as the family migrating or an illness. Some of them even have behavioural problems... Parents want to fill this gap in education and want to understand how to do so."

Many parents came specifically to ask teachers on ways to improve marks of their children in computer learning.

At the Saket primary school, a lab has been set up with the help of an international computer firm. "These children don't have computers at home; this is the only place they can learn," said principal Malik. She added, "A lot has improved over the past few years. The quality of learning in students, as well as enrollment, has gone up a lot. We now have CCTVs, scholarships and computers... We even have solar panels to generate electricity."

Govt slum survey to identify those eligible for EWS housing

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

THE DELHI housing board has started a first-of-its-kind survey to create an "inventory" of the city's slum population which, among other things, will help identify those eligible for EWS housing under the Mukhya Mantri Awas Yojana (MMAY), officials said.

The Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) has engaged a third-party, whose volunteers, officials said, are uploading documents of surveyed people on a central database.

Currently, in the absence of an official count of slum population, agencies, including DUSIB, operate based on "estimates".

While the survey was supposed to take place under the Centre's Pradhan Mantri Awas



140 volunteers are engaged in the survey

Yojana (PMAY) scheme, it is now being carried out as part of the AAP government's MMAY.

The AAP government has decided to keep Delhi out of the ambit of PMAY, under which EWS housing beneficiaries are extended financial assistance.

It has, instead, renamed the 'Delhi Slum and Jhuggi Jhopri Rehabilitation and Relocation Policy' as MMAY.

The survey will cover 675 slum clusters in the national capital. So far, around 26,000 individuals have been surveyed, said an official.

According to the official, the primary mandate of the survey is to establish the number of people who are potential beneficiaries of MMAY, which promises rehabilitation of slum dwellers within a 5-km radius of their current place of stay.

Subsequently, an eligibility determination committee will take a final call on beneficiaries based on vetting of documents.

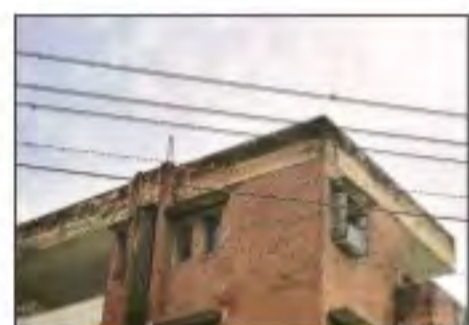
"The survey is app-based... This will create an inventory of all the people, along with families, staying in slums. We must keep in mind that it is not a socio-economic survey where education, health or income indicators will come up," the official said.

IIT-D suicides: Dowry case against husband

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

TWO DAYS after a man, his wife and his mother were found hanging at their house inside the IIT-Delhi campus, police said initial findings from the autopsy report revealed that the man's wife, Sunita (32), had first committed suicide around 1.45 pm. Her husband Gulshan Das (35) and her mother-in-law Kanta Rani (56) committed suicide two hours later, said police.

Based on the post-mortem report, police said they have ruled out foul play. But based on the magisterial inquiry, police have registered a case of dowry harassment under IPC sections 498 A (husband/relative of the husband of a woman subjecting her to cruelty) and 304-B (dowry death within seven years of marriage)



Family lived on the campus

against Gulshan and his mother.

Police said the post-mortem found that the cause of death of all three victims is suicidal hanging. The report also showed that before committing suicide, Das and his mother had lunch while Sunita did not, said police.

The deaths came to light Friday after police received a call about domestic violence. "We reached the house and found the bodies," said DCP (South West) Devender Arya.

DELHI UNDERGROUND

Close watch

Delhi Police chief Amulya Patnaik has been keeping track of construction of the new police headquarters at Jai Singh Road. A few weeks ago, after performing night duty during 'general gash', the chief went to visit the new building. There's a buzz at the headquarters that Patnaik wants to inaugurate the building before his retirement, which is seven months away.

A light moment

Last week, Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri held a press conference to announce the Centre's plan to regularise unauthorised colonies and the draft Model Tenancy Act. The event saw the minister hitting out at Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal and the delay in the regularisation

process, and fielding questions on the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016. In the middle, a journalist quipped: "Sir, I too have a house which I want to rent, would that be covered by the Model Tenancy Act? I am a bit worried!" The entire room burst out in laughter. The minister, too, laughed along, and said, "Of course! Unlike RERA, the Tenancy Act protects both the tenant and the owner..."

One Year of Happiness Class

in Delhi Government Schools

Transforming lives of 8 lakh children



Manish Sisodia
Dy. Chief Minister & Education Minister, Delhi



My daughters beautiful laughter

Till the time my daughter studied in a private school, her personality was extremely reserved and perhaps dull. Though she managed to pass her exams, she rarely participated in any activity or had the confidence to talk to people. She would rarely smile. Last year I shifted her to a Delhi government school and the change I see in her personality is remarkable. Especially since she started attending the Happiness Class. She has become confident and expressive. It makes me so happy to hear her laugh out loud. In fact now she makes me laugh and tells me to never lose hope.

Shweta Mishra (Mother)
Richa Mishra, Class V

Delhi government is celebrating Happiness Utsav from 16 to 30 July | Join us at a government school near you and be part of the Happiness Utsav

6 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



LANGUAGE CHOICES

HRD MINISTER Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank is not the only Union minister who insists that his staff draft proposals in Hindi. Home Minister Amit Shah has also done the same. Sources in the MHA say that files which are being put up for the consideration of the Home Minister also carry a summary in Hindi. During Rajnath Singh's tenure as Home Minister, officers were doing the same, but of their own volition. There was no such request from Singh since his personal staff used to assist him in disposal of files.

ROOM OF ONE'S OWN

WHILE THE Lok Sabha election results have cast a shadow on the office spaces provided for parties like CPM, RJD and TDP among others, one party has heaved a sigh of relief. BSP, which has a very spacious office on the third floor of Parliament, was concerned given its zero members in the last Lok Sabha and dwindling tally in Rajya Sabha. However, the 10 Lok Sabha seats won this year seem to have eased the pressure on BSP in Parliament. The party is now sure to retain its office.

WEEKEND TRAINING

BEFORE BJP MPs go back to their constituencies after the Parliament session that has already lasted more than a month, both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP president Amit Shah want them to be prepared for what's ahead. The party wants all its MPs to be present in the national capital during the coming weekend to attend a two-day Abhyas Varga. BJP working president J P Nadda is expected to chalk out a detailed plan for the meet on August 3 and 4. Both Modi and Shah are expected to address MPs on issues that they should raise and the work they should be carrying out in their respective constituencies.

TALKING EDUCATION

LAST WEEK, RSS-affiliated organisations working in the field of education held a three-day meeting in Bengaluru. Several issues, including the draft national education policy, were discussed. During one session, the chairman of the (now dissolved) committee that submitted the draft policy, K Kasturirangan, attended the meeting. HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank also attended a meeting. Apparently, the contentious topic of the three-language formula was not discussed as the draft policy has already been tweaked to usher in flexibility to ward off allegations of Hindi imposition. RSS top functionaries Suresh Soni and Datta Hosbale were there among the 70-odd delegates who attended the meet.

Surprising that Oppn is objecting to Parliament utilising more time: Yadav

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JULY 28



'Parliament performing better than ever'

COUNTERING THE Opposition's allegations that the ruling party has been rushing legislations through Parliament without proper scrutiny by the Standing Committees or Select Committees, BJP general secretary Biju Prasad Yadav on Sunday said it was "surprising to see that they (the opposition) are objecting to the fact that the Parliament has been utilising more of its time to bring laws". The Rajya Sabha MP contended that the Parliament has "enhanced its productive hours", is "performing better than ever" and that the House has performed better. The opposition, in both Houses, has alleged that the government has been rushing legislations such as the RTI Amendment Bill, which they allege has diluted the existing Act. Trinamool spokesperson Derek O'Brien has said that 14 Bills have been passed in Parliament without scrutiny and that the government was using its "brute majority" to do this. Congress and DMK leaders, too, have raised objections to the manner in which the Bills have been passed. "The allegation that in the Rajya Sabha Bills are not properly scrutinised by the Parliamentary Committees is absolutely wrong as it is a matter of record that the UPA government had referred only five Bills in the Rajya Sabha to the Parliamentary Select Committee from 2009-14 while the NDA government has sent 17

BJP misusing govt agencies to rope in oppn leaders: Pawar

Fadnavis denies charge: Introspect to find reasons for exodus from your party

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE PUNE, MUMBAI, JULY 28

NCP CHIEF and former Union minister Sharad Pawar on Sunday said that Maharashtra was witnessing an unprecedented degree of misuse of investigating agencies at the hands of state and central governments to coerce leaders from opposition parties to join the BJP ahead of the state elections.



Pawar at a press conference in Pune on Sunday. Ashish Kale

"Misuse of power is rife in the entire country by the BJP government. We have recently seen what happened in Karnataka. They are also trying to do the same in Madhya Pradesh. In poll-bound states like Maharashtra, they are trying to coerce leaders from opposition parties to join them by using state agencies. I haven't seen such blatant use of state machinery by any government. The misuse is of extreme level," Pawar said at a press conference in Pune.

Pawar's statement comes in the backdrop of several senior NCP leaders, including Mumbai unit chief Sachin Ahir and women's wing chief Chitra Wagh, quitting the party to join either BJP or Shiv Sena.

Investigation (CBI) and state agencies such as Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) — has also used the state co-operative banks to lure leaders from rival parties by unlawfully providing financial aid to the co-operative bodies they are heading. "The sugar mill of (former MLA) Kalyan Kale in Pandharpur was in a difficult situation. The state government, by flouting norms, gave Rs 30-35 crore to it and asked him to join the BJP. Since he wanted to save his factory, he switched over," Pawar said. He also alleged that instead of performing their duties, the Chief Minister and a few other ministers "have dedicated themselves for this job".

Reacting to Pawar's allegations, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday called the allegations baseless. "It is high time Pawar does some introspection to find why the exodus is taking place from his organisation. Why the NCP has failed to keep its own house in order and inculcate confidence in its leaders and workers?" Fadnavis told reporters in Mumbai. The CM said the BJP was on a strong footing and did not need to poach outsiders. "To the contrary a large number of leaders from Congress and NCP, including sitting MLAs, are keen to join BJP. But the party is not going to induct everyone. Those with a tainted image or facing charges

Himalayan states want green bonus, separate ministry for issues

LALMANI VERMA MUSSOORIE, JULY 28

RECOGNISING THEIR role in security at international borders and contribution to environment conservation, the Himalayan states demanded the Centre for a green bonus and creation of a separate ministry to deal with problems of the region. Representatives of 10 of the 11 Himalayan states made the demand to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the one-day conclave of Himalayan states held in Mussoorie on Sunday.

Centre in programmes of conservation and rejuvenation of rivers and other Centre sponsored schemes.

In the meeting, states also demanded that their borders areas be developed on a priority basis to prevent migration, considering the issue of security.

Rawat said that Finance Minister, Niti Aayog and the 15th Finance Commission have assured them of a separate plan for Himalayan states in the Budget. On the demand of green bonus, Rawat said that the states have contributed to environmental protection which is beneficial for the entire country. "The states concerned have the primary responsibility of security. Hence, the green bonus have been demanded considering the sensitivity," Rawat said. Sitharaman stressed on the security issue at borders in these states. She added that villages located at borders are eyes and ears of the Defence ministry.

According to a release from the state government, Sitharaman in her address said that special efforts like start-ups for youths and development of basic facilities are required to stop migration from border areas. The Himalayan states also passed a 'Mussoorie Resolution' pledging to make endeavours to protect and conserve the rich Himalayan heritage and ethos and nurture the wealth of biodiversity.



PDP president Mehbooba Mufti addresses workers on the 20th foundation day of the party held at the Sher-e-Kashmir Park in Srinagar on Sunday. Shuaib Masoodi

Fiddling with Art 35 A like setting fire to explosives, says Mehbooba

BASHAARAT MASOOD SRRINAGAR, JULY 28

AS APPREHENSIONS about Article 35A have led to panic in the Valley, former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chief Mehbooba Mufti said that fiddling with the special constitutional position of the state will burn the entire country.

Mufti said that the situation in J&K was uncertain. "Today everything is in danger. We don't know what will happen tomorrow. We have to prepare the way we did in 1999 against the oppression," she said.

Mufti asked the people to get ready for a bigger fight as the identity of the state was under attack. "There is fear. They have destroyed everything. J&K Bank has been targeted. There are continuous attempts being made to weaken Kashmiris both politically and economically," she said. "Get ready for a bigger fight. The real test is to safeguard the Jammu and Kashmir's identity, to safeguard the special position of the state," added the PDP chief. Mufti apprehended that she

could also be jailed but asked people not to abandon their fight. "The fight we are getting ready for, even Mehbooba Mufti can be sent behind the bars. But don't get afraid, PDP will fight till the last breath (to safeguard) the identity of J&K," said the former CM.

Mufti said that her father Mufti Mohammad Sayeed joined hands with BJP to find a solution to the Kashmir problem. "Mufti sahib often said that we have to safeguard (article) 370 in Jammu and Kashmir. When we allied with the BJP, the first thing we said that you can't fiddle with Article 370," she said. "This was written in the Agenda of Alliance and BJP agreed to it, only then Mufti sahib formed the government," she added.

As heat in J&K builds up, pending in Supreme Court: 7 petitions against Art 35A

APURVA VISHWANATH NEW DELHI, JULY 28

THE CENTRE'S decision to dispatch additional forces to Kashmir has given fresh cause to speculate that Article 35A of the Constitution, which confers special rights to the permanent residents of Jammu and Kashmir, could be revoked.

Constitution, the Presidential order issued under Article 370 to bring Article 35A into force is invalid. Article 370 is the constitutional provision that recognises the special status of Jammu and Kashmir after it became part of India. The state under Article 370 retained its autonomy to govern itself and frame its own constitution except for three areas — defence, communication and external affairs.

The law that defines the permanent citizens of the state extends Indian citizenship to them and allows the state legislature to extend special privileges to them is currently under challenge before the Supreme Court. However, the challenge does not preclude the Centre from bringing in a new law on the issue.

Political leaders in the Valley have urged the Centre to desist from making changes to the law. Former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti warned the central government against scrapping the controversial law. "We want to tell the Central government that tinkering with Article 35A will be akin to setting a powder keg on fire," she said on Sunday while addressing a meeting in Srinagar.

Seven separate petitions have challenged the constitutional validity of Article 35A before the Supreme Court. The first one was filed in 2014 by We the People, an NGO. It argues that the Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 1954 which introduced Article 35A lacked legal force. Other petitions challenge the law on the ground that it violates the rights of refugees from West Pakistan and discriminates against women of Kashmiri origin who have married outside the state.

The provision impedes citizens from other parts of the country from settling permanently in J&K, buying property in J&K and taking up state government jobs.

The court has adjourned the case and has deferred hearings at least six times since December 2018. The National Conference, the Jammu and Kashmir unit of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) have sought to be heard by the apex court.

The petitions are likely to be heard by a three-judge bench headed by CJI Ranjan Gogoi since he holds the roster for writ petitions.

The cases have not been heard since CJI Gogoi took office in October last year. Since 2014, the case has been heard over 20 times and is now pending for final hearing.

"The case has been delayed citing talks by the interlocutor, panchayat elections, national elections and now the Amarnath Yatra. It would be wonderful if the Centre makes an intervention. Ultimately, whatever the court decides, it will be on the Centre to implement it," said Charu Wali Khanna, one of the petitioners who challenged the law on the ground of gender discrimination.

JUSTICE AP SHAH DELIVERS ROSALIND MEMORIAL LECTURE

'Dangerous to attribute greater morality to judges'

SUKRITA BARUAH NEW DELHI, JULY 28

PROPOSING A new law for judicial accountability to handle complaints of misdemeanour against judges, a continuous performance evaluation system for higher court judges and the framing of a judicial code of conduct to deal with softer accountability issues, retired Delhi High Court Chief Justice A P Shah argued for the need to strengthen mechanisms to ensure judicial accountability at the 27th Rosalind Wilson Memorial Lecture on Sunday. "Judges do not have any pre-

set moral codes embedded in their brains that dictate their behaviour the moment they sit on the bench. Indeed, they are as human as the lawyers, plaintiffs, defendants, criminals, witnesses and police before them. To attribute a greater morality to them merely because of the nature of their office is false and dangerous. They must be constantly reminded of what is appropriate behaviour throughout their career, so that the role that is cast upon them — of administering impartial justice — is never compromised. For that is the only and ultimate goal of the judiciary," he said. Shah said the trigger for him choosing this subject were the



Justice AP Shah with former Attorney General of India Soli Sorabjee at the lecture on Sunday. Prem Nath Pandey

allegations of sexual harassment against Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi. "The entire

process was shrouded in secrecy in the name of the protection of judicial independence," he said.

with how the Vishakha guidelines can be made applicable to the judiciary, the extent to which the right to information is allowed, and so on," he said.

Pointing to the conflation of judicial accountability with loss of independence of the judiciary, Shah argued that judicial independence is never an end in itself but is supposed to be "enough" to aid judicial impartiality. He stated that this is rendered more necessary because of a "new judiciary" which is "like an activist, venturing into areas of policy-making and law-making" making it "much more a public actor than it ever was before."

Path to \$5 trillion economy passes through UP: Shah

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, JULY 28

PRaising The Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said that the path to achieving the country's target of being a USD 5-trillion economy passes through Uttar Pradesh, and expressed confidence that the state will contribute to it by becoming a USD 1-trillion economy.

Shah, who was in Lucknow for the ground-breaking ceremony of about 250 projects worth Rs 65,000 crore, said in just one year after MoUs for about Rs 468 lakh crore worth projects was signed in February last year, the UP government has been able to start 25 per cent of the projects.

Claiming that even law and order situation has improved in the state in the past two years, Shah asked more investors to invest in the state promising "a magical change" in the time to come. "Yahan chamatkari pariwarant



Union Home Minister Amit Shah with UP CM Yogi Adityanath at Lucknow on Sunday. Vishal Srivastav

dikhega...," said Shah, adding, "the path to becoming a USD 5-trillion economy passes through Uttar Pradesh, and I am sure that the state will contribute to it by becoming a USD 1-trillion economy."

Last week, speaking in the Assembly during the debate on

Supplementary Budget, Chief Minister Adityanath had said that though the target of USD 1-trillion economy was big, the state has the potential to become one as it has the requisite resources and manpower. Lauding Adityanath for "running a transparent government", Shah said that despite ob-

jections of choosing him as the chief minister of a politically crucial state, which sends 80 members to Lok Sabha, Prime Minister Narendra Modi felt that with his commitment and ability to do hard work, Adityanath can turn situations to his benefits.

"In 2017, people of Uttar Pradesh gave us the opportunity to form the government here, and BJP chose Yogi Adityanath as its leader. Then many people called as no one had expected that he would become the chief minister. I got a lot of phone calls where people told me that Yogi ji has not even headed a municipality, which was true... he has not been a minister in any government... But as the national president of the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi felt that the one who has the dedication... can turn situations to his favour... Today, I can say with much satisfaction that the decision taken by the BJP was appropriate," Shah said.

(WITHPTIINPUTS)

Reddy was articulate speaker, effective administrator: PM

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JULY 28

CUTTING ACROSS party lines, top leaders led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi and former PM Manmohan Singh on Sunday condoled the death of veteran Congress leader and former Union minister S Jaipal Reddy.

"Shri Jaipal Reddy had years of experience in public life. He was respected as an articulate speaker and effective administrator. Saddened by his demise," the Prime Minister's Office tweeted quoting Modi. The Prime Minister said his thoughts are with Reddy's family and well-wishers in this hour of grief.

In his condolence message, Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu recalled Reddy's "razor sharp intellect" and "biting wit". He said Reddy was his close friend of four decades and they used to sit next to each other in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly.

"An exemplary orator, he was conferred 'Outstanding Parliamentary Award' in 1998. With his razor sharp intellect and biting wit, he was also a powerful

spokesperson of the party to which he belonged," Naidu said.

Former PM Manmohan Singh said Reddy was a treasure of wisdom and knowledge. "Deeply saddened by the untimely passing away of a friend and veteran Congress leader Shri Jaipal Reddy. He was a treasure of wisdom and knowledge. My condolences to the bereaved family," Singh said.

Remembering Reddy as an "erudite and humane leader", Sonia said he was a valued colleague who enriched the Parliament and Government. "Respected across political parties and adored by media for his accessibility and forthright responses, he always held people's interest close to his heart," she said. "I'm sorry to hear about the sad demise of former Union Minister & veteran Congress leader Shri Jaipal Reddy Garu," Rahul Gandhi tweeted.

CPM general secretary Sitaram Yechury said, "During his long political life, he consistently and steadfastly worked to uphold and strengthen the secular democratic foundations of India. His passing away is a big loss for the secular democratic forces in the country," he said.

Celebration of diversity spirit of India: Pranab

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JULY 28

FORMER PRESIDENT Pranab Mukherjee on Sunday said "a celebration of diversity is the spirit of India".

He was speaking at the ceremony where the 6th Dr Paulos Mar Gregorios award 2019 was handed over to social activist and pioneer of the RTI movement Aruna Roy and her organisation Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan.

The award is given by the Sophia society, an organisation under the aegis of the Delhi Diocese of the Orthodox Church in India, also called the Malankara Orthodox Church.

Speaking at the event, Mukherjee said that before the

recent amendment, RTI was a quality piece of legislation born from the experience of Aruna Roy and her colleagues.

"India is an ideal that is fulfilled by various diversities, it cannot be compartmentalised and straitjacketed," Mukherjee said.

Delivering the keynote address, MP Shashi Tharoor said the notion of majority and minority is non-Indian. "Any narrow definition of Indians is an insult to Indianness. Everyone is a minority in India. It's in the acceptance of our differences that make us truly Indian. Everything about India is plural," Tharoor said.

Receiving the award, Aruna Roy said she was pained by the recent amendments to the RTI Act. "Paradise can be lost, we realised it a few days back," she said.

Advertisement for World Hepatitis Day at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. Includes details for a public lecture and panel discussion on Hepatitis in India, featuring speakers Dr. (Prof.) Anoop Saraya, Dr. (Prof.) S.K. Sarin, Dr. Shalimar, Dr. Saurabh Kedia & Dr. Deepak Gunjan. Entry is free.

Haryana Staff Selection Commission notice for Steno Typist (English) positions. Includes a large table of roll numbers and a detailed notice regarding the examination process and rules.

NTPC Limited advertisement. Includes the company logo, contact information, and a detailed notice regarding the 43rd Annual General Meeting and the closure of the e-voting facility.



Renuka Pri

I have spoken about it in explicit terms in the budget, that India Inc is something which we respect; we respect them for the wealth creators that they are, we respect them for the job creators that they are and we want them to be facilitated. Otherwise, why would I keep the word which was given five years ago, in bringing down the corporate tax?

3.3 per cent — given that government expenditure is so vital for kickstarting growth?

That was in the interim budget. So when I'm looking at the whole year, I had to show that the trajectory is being kept. It's not allowed to table or plateau. The glide path is consistent...

Is there enough space for the government to push expenditure given that the private sector is still not investing?

Two things (in) the budget are intended to help private sector investment go up. One is, when I'm looking at providing the window for NBFCs and making sure that the Reserve Bank and we work together on it. It's not only to address the crisis, which the NBFCs are going through, but also for those NBFCs, who are still the main platform through which credit is reaching, we want to ensure that they are not going to be starved for funds.

I was glad that the RBI Governor spoke very clearly about the liquidity (so called) support crunch. He said liquidity is not an issue. But it is for the NBFCs to now move forward with that liquidity, identifying those borrowers who are worth lending to...whether they are car buyers or any other customers.

Second, the government was also very clearly showing an intent to not squeeze out savings, where, you know, every saving is being taken up by the government, that private investors, private borrowers in the country are left with nothing. So we are declogging that space so that it can generate a lot more borrowers, a lot more institutional investors can be supported. That's another way in which I'm expecting private investments to go up.

When we speak with some big industrialists, they talk about a trust deficit between India Inc and the government. They also express concern about regulators' freedoms. The Budget does talks about drawing a part of Sebi's reserves. Would you like to respond to this?

Where it comes to Sebi's capital requirements, their expenditure requirements have all been respected. Over and above that, where there are charges which have been collected as fees, obviously, legally, they are monies which have to go to the consolidated fund. So there is nothing otherwise being imposed on Sebi. So that the legality of what is being collected, (what) belongs to the public account, have all been assessed. Duly respecting their independence, duly respecting the autonomy with which they have to function. It's not an encroachment.

On the trust deficit?

I have spoken about it in explicit terms in the budget, that India Inc is something which we respect; we respect them for the wealth creators that they are, we respect them for the job creators that they are and we want them to be facilitated. Otherwise, why would I keep the word which was given five years ago, in bringing down the corporate tax? Now 99.3 per cent of corporate tax (payers) are already being covered (by a lower tax rate). I keep meeting all of them. And also a positive working relationship with the Reserve Bank.

You warned the taxman a couple days ago, that they should not overreach given that the targets might be stiff...

Actually, no. This time, the revenue target is something which I have discussed with the revenue secretary, and with his team, and only then I arrived at something which is not at all demanding. And this I said on Income Tax Day in front of everybody. If it was too much of a target, there would have been a protest saying what are you saying, woman? You might be Finance Minister but what are you telling me...my targets are not difficult? No, there was a quiet acceptance. I had spent a lot of time (to ensure) that the (collection) is set at realistic levels and not ambitious, over ambitious levels.

Is there a concern that's been brought to your notice that the taxmen are perhaps harassing taxpayers?

Obviously, because there are quite a lot of inputs, which come to me saying, there are people being harassed, and is it the policy of the government or is it individual, you know, fancy overenthusiastic officers doing it? Inputs do come and my opportunity to interact with my officials should be the best place where I can tell them, look, please don't do this. We are with you, when you're definitely dealing with people who are evading or avoiding tax. But when you're dealing with people who are duly, you know, keeping their diligence, you don't need to be overly enthusiastic now.

And you are sure targets would be met? Absolutely, they are not unrealistic at all.

'We want to get money into hands of the people... pump up consumption through public spending on infrastructure'

Days after the passage of the Finance Bill and the transfer — and resignation — of her key adviser, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman sat down for an interview at her North Block office on July 27 to National Business Editor ANIL SASI and Executive Editor (National Affairs) P VAIDYANATHAN IYER. Edited excerpts:

How has been the shift from South Block to North block?

I don't know yet; I'm just moving into a job. Don't want to sound like I'm watering down the question. But it's a great challenge ...and (there's) great support from everybody.

Is there a difference between how you deal with issues in Defence and Finance?

Obviously, here, I have the comfort that my education was also in economics. There, I didn't have that comfort. But the Defence Ministry institutions are far more well-established. It's a world of personnel — ex-servicemen, industries that are specifically focused on defence. Whereas here, it's the entire spectrum of the economy, every sector, every institution which has anything to do with these sectors, banks etc. So it's a larger spectrum where not many institutions are well-established within the ministry, but Finance also has its own institutions, departments. They have their own institutional memory.

The Finance Bill is through, what is the sense that you get on how your Budget was received... and what next?

Today, the GST Council met. We went with a request to consider bringing down the rate for EVs (electric vehicles), but the council's mood was to change not just the rate for EVs but also for chargers. The holistic picture is that we are going with a futuristic step. Today, manufacture or purchase of EV cars is not anywhere near compatible with cars that are petrol and diesel-based. So, it is a step that makes the government's intent clear...Of course, electrical vehicles, per se, doesn't mean non-polluting, non-fossil fuel. But the government's agenda is well-established that generation of electricity itself will now move to more from renewables. Encouraging buying of such cars may not be today's story but the story which is going to come.

The worry within the industry is that a deadline is being imposed, they are being forced to move at a remarkable pace...

Where is the deadline? There is no deadline.

For most two-wheelers 2025 and three-wheelers 2023. The total phaseout that the Niti Aayog has proposed. The concern is that they've invested quite a bit in the value chain.

There can be a lot of discussion, dialogue. But it's not government's policy. Niti Aayog can generate a lot of discussions which is good for the narrative. That's where it is.

You were part of the Free Thinker group in the '80s in JNU. How does that translate into how you look at the economy?

Interesting that you should ask this. Free Thinkers (philosophy) is very consistent with

what I'm doing. When we were talking about raising the tax on some categories, somebody did ask me how do you explain this? Why do you have to tax more? And when you have to tax more, who are earning, because of their sweat, and toil, or because of the business successes, and so on. I did use this expression saying, well, there has to be a redistribution of income and resources, there has to be, you know, wealth, there has to be some resources for the government to be able to do things. And I appreciate the success of these entrepreneurs.

But to bring it as a JNU philosophy is wrong, because Free Thinkers did not subscribe to what is presumed to be the JNU culture. I'm not talking about right or left. After all, what was Deendayal Upadhyaya's Antyodaya? It was about taking care of the man last in the line... What was Jan Sangh? Free enterprise. Recognise small and medium industries, the backbone of this country. So if I'm recognising free enterprise, but at the same time thinking of the Antyodaya of Deendayal Upadhyaya, for people to say, what is this waffle she's coming up, with the JNU memory in her mind. I'm sorry, please listen to what I'm saying in full. There's absolutely no inconsistency with the Free Thinkers that I belong to and what I'm doing now.

Of course, in JNU, you didn't just have Free Thinkers. JNU was a good university where you had all ideologies playing out. Sometimes, the students' union got dominated by one ideology, some other time, a different ideology. But there's nothing called a JNU ideology.

In terms of space for political talk about an alternate view... Is that freedom of expression as vibrant as it was those days?

In the university?

Yes, and even in India, as a country?

I don't think anything has changed between then and now in the country. I'm not talking about JNU alone, even then, in JNU and even now in JNU, I would think the freedom exists, but in JNU there was a lot more sense of the debate happening and there was a sense of each ideology playing out for itself. Now the impression that you may get, I underline, the impression that you may get, is that it's too dominant with elements which are anti-India. That may or may not be (the case), but the impression that you get is even as a students' union, the JNUSU, is now hijacked by forces which are anti-India.

Even I will, sitting in the government, not conclude that it is now completely taken over by anti-India (forces) but the play out of the anti-India forces and JNUSU, knowingly or unknowingly, becoming a part of that play out is what is a matter of concern.

But if you were to ask me then what about the country? India has always had these kind of debates. I find it strange that some sections

would attribute it to post-2014 India, rather than think about the 60s and 70s India when the same thing happened everywhere. Extreme ideologies have played out at different times in this country with the same kind of impact and effect as what they suspect is happening now. I don't see anything unusual in that sense.

The Finance Secretary being moved in the middle of the Budget Session. There seems to be a signal that people are reading.

It is part of a larger reshuffle.

Would you have rather that he'd seen through, at least, the Budget?

The Budget, as you said, is passed. The final details are all settled.

On the sovereign bonds issue, there has been so much written and there seems to be so much confusion. What's on your mind?

I have stated my position in the budget speech. After that (I) have not said anything, either way. So where is the confusion?

A former RBI Governor did raise some red flags on the issue of sovereign bonds. So did a member from the PM's Economic Advisory Council. Does the RBI have a view, and has it been conveyed to you?

Nothing that has come to me.

Would there be limits on how this would be rolled out?

I have not started working the details yet.

So there is no review of the budget announcement that a sovereign bonds

announcement that a sovereign bonds

issue may happen this year?

I don't know. If anybody's doing the review, it's not me.

The proposal involving the surcharge is another thing that attracted a lot of debate. Is there a concern with the peak rate of over 42%? Is that justified in India? And does that impact the larger investment climate; is that a worry?

We wanted to bring the surcharge on those who were above the Rs 2-crore income and above the Rs 5-crore income in a calibrated fashion. It was a surcharge. And in the process, FPIs who were registered as trusts did have an impact.

So when this impact was immediately brought to our notice...one of the options available was that they could shift to registering as companies. (Then) a lot of people commented saying no, the shifting is not going to be tax-neutral, the shifting is not going to be easy, the shifting would mean a lot more effort. I've only said, look now, I thought shifting would be an answer. But if you have issues, do talk to me. Without any commitment, I will hear them. Let me hear them first.

So, the impact on FPIs was not really anticipated at that point in time?

No. It's also a question of how many FPIs have chosen to register themselves as trusts. FPIs are also present in the name of companies... So, it is not intended to hit only at FPIs. Not at all. If I wanted to hit at FPIs, have I hit at FPIs registered as companies? No. So, I think it was wrong to interpret that we are against investors or against foreign investment.

Within the FPI segment, two different sections are being created. This leads to a lot of disparity in their own incentive mechanism, in the way they will look at the Indian markets. Are you open to addressing that?

That is why I said let me hear from them. Without any commitment at this stage, I'm saying let me hear them. Because the conversion is still possible. You can convert to be a company rather than be a trust. Let me hear them.

The broader investment and consumption downturn and the worsening economic crisis, especially on the rural side... monsoon not being that good, numbers that are coming out, like FMCG companies, vehicle sales numbers, including tractors and truck sales, point to the downturn intensifying. Is that something that concerns you?

Definitely, I intensively watch what is happening. Even as you are asking me, you're moving from rural...moving further to say tractor and trucks and so on. So even as you're asking or projecting a picture, which is right, all right,

you're talking about various different sectors, segments of the society. So each may be having their own reasons, which are unique to them.

So I am looking at each one of them. That is why my answer, particularly on the vehicles issue, buyers are not picking up vehicles... is one, as much as I hear that, I also hear reasons for it. Some who speak to me do say that the reason for buyers not rushing to get vehicles now is also this transition from Bharat Stage IV to Stage VI, directly leapfrogging Stage V. Now buyers are probably in anticipation that industry themselves would give something even as the deadline of January 2020 kicks in. So the decision is getting delayed or deferred.

So if that is one of the reasons, my intervention there can indicate something totally different. So I have to be cautious about how I'm going to look at that development.

Private investment has been very low. Not just this year...it's since pre-2014 when policy paralysis impacted investments. And this continues. So how do you see impacting growth this year. We ask this also because the budget this year indicates growth higher than what the Reserve Bank also projected.

At this stage, what we are looking at is making sure that consumption is encouraged through various steps that we're taking, actually get the money into the hands of people, rural, particularly. This whole DBT-based transfer of entitlements to those who need to get it and get it instantly, being enabled by technology, was one very big way in which we're pushing money into the hands of people.

The second, to pump up consumption... through public spending on infrastructure, where your core industries will benefit immediately. Once you start laying roads, start building bridges, strengthening airport, seaports, once you start building inland waterways, you are indirectly or probably even directly increasing the demand for industrial material — cement, steel, concrete, everything else. So if those industries can see demand, their investment, therefore, should automatically be focused on expansion of the capacities or utilisation of the capacity to the fullest extent.

As you are spending on infrastructure, in-situ promotion of labour is what is happening. Giving money they need in their hands instantly is what is needed. So if government's expenditure is diverted to only prioritising on infrastructure, the ripple effect, I expect, will be on labour, everywhere rather than concentrated in one place...The virtuous cycle kicks in from there. Consumption increases, demand increases, investment increases, as a natural course.

On the FRBM targets...why did you choose to better the target that was kept for the year — from 3.4 per cent of the GDP to





The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY
RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

Democratic ambivalence



ASHUTOSH VARSHNEY

Modi, Trump and Bolsonaro are great election winners, but their stance on civil liberties is seen as questionable

PATIENTS AND VICTIMS

Investigations into faulty hip implants highlight the urgent need for a law to regulate medical devices

LAST YEAR, A series of reports in this paper revealed the traumatic experiences of Indian patients who had received faulty hip implants manufactured by the pharma major, Johnson and Johnson. Another investigation by this paper, last week, has revealed that Johnson and Johnson paid hefty compensations to US patients who had received the defective implants. In India, however, the company has challenged government orders to compensate 4,700 patients who had undergone hip replacement surgeries. The reports also highlight that the story is more than that of corporate negligence. That Johnson and Johnson continues to brazen it out in India has much to do with the regulatory deficit in the country.

The investigations pertain to implants manufactured under two brand names, ASR and Pinnacle. Both products are not in the market currently. Johnson and Johnson recalled ASR from the global market in 2010, while Pinnacle was withdrawn in 2013. But recalling a medical device is not like recalling a consumer product. Defective implants can cause crippling pain — even death. Patients who receive such implants need regular monitoring. In several countries, registries track the health of such patients. In fact, Johnson and Johnson's recalling of ASR owes to the more than 15 warnings, between 2007 and 2009, issued to it by the Australian Joint Registry (though the company describes its decision as "voluntary"). Pinnacle was pulled out of the market after a flurry of lawsuits in the US alerted the country's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) about the device's defects. In India, in contrast, regulators were slow to react. Maharashtra's FDA red-flagged ASR a few months after Johnson and Johnson withdrew the product from the global market. But it took another year for the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation to ban the import of ASR. Another year went by before the drug regulator issued an advisory to orthopaedic surgeons asking them to not implant ASR. These delays are significant because last year, Johnson and Johnson told a Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) expert committee that it cannot trace as many as 3,600 patients who underwent surgeries involving the faulty implant. That India did not have a joint registry when these surgeries happened has compounded the problem. The want of a registry has also come in the way of ascertaining the damage caused by Pinnacle. Johnson and Johnson claims that it has no adverse reports of the device in the country. However, reports in this paper have highlighted the trauma of at least seven patients with Pinnacle implants.

In 2017, the MoHFW issued the Medical Devices Rules. However, the country's base legislation on implants continues to be the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, which does not have the scope to cover most modern devices, including hip implants. The Indian orthopaedic device market is valued at over 450 million dollars and is expected to grow by 30 per cent per year till 2025. The investigations into faulty hip implants bring out the urgent need for a law to regulate medical devices.

SWEET START

Not hiking FRP for sugarcane is welcome. Transparent pricing formula, freedom for farmers to sell to any mill is way ahead

THE NARENDRA MODI government has done well not to hike the fair and remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane in the ensuing 2019-20 crushing season from October. The FRP has been retained at the current level of Rs 275 per quintal, linked to a basic sugar recovery of 10 per cent from cane, despite Maharashtra state elections that are due in just over two months. The decision is clearly an acceptance of ground reality, wherein mills are struggling to pay even the existing FRP. As on July 15, Maharashtra mills had cane arrears of Rs 805.76 crore, against the total FRP payments of Rs 23,173.29 crore for the 2018-19 season. It is even worse in Uttar Pradesh, where out of the cane worth Rs 33,046.76 crore bought at the state government's "advised" price (SAP) of Rs 315-320 per quintal — almost equal to the Centre's FRP at an average sugar recovery of 11.48 per cent for this season — mills have paid only Rs 24,535.65 crore till July 25.

At the root of mounting cane dues is politics of a destructive kind. Fixing cane prices totally out of sync with sugar realisations benefits neither mills nor farmers. Mills are supposed to pay the FRP (or SAP) within 14 days of cane delivery. But that requires access to working capital. Banks normally extend cash credit up to 85 per cent of the value of sugar stocks. That, at present ex-factory prices of Rs 31.5 per kg and 11.5 per cent sugar recovery, works out to Rs 308 per quintal of cane. Moreover, mills can use only about 85 per cent of this borrowed money to fund cane purchases and the rest for meeting other working expenses. It means that mills today cannot afford to pay more than Rs 262 per quintal. Farmers are better off getting this price immediately rather than not being paid at all. Politicians may earn brownie points by announcing high cane prices. But how does it help, if these only lead to unpaid dues even at the end of the season.

Not hiking the FRP is a good start; so is the move to create a four million tonnes (mt) buffer stock on which the Centre will bear the interest and storage costs. Given record estimated closing stocks of 14.5 mt for September 30, this should at least help prices from falling further when the new crushing season begins. But the Modi government should go further and push states — at least UP, Maharashtra and now Karnataka, where the BJP is in power — to implement the Rangarajan Committee formula, of paying farmers 70 per cent of the total revenues of mills from sale of sugar and primary byproducts (molasses, bagasse and press mud) as cane price. A transparent pricing formula, combined with freedom for farmers to sell to any mill sans any cane area reservation, should be the path forward.

FREEZE FRAME

E P UNNY



DOES DEMOCRACY CONTAIN within itself the seeds of its own weakening? Does it have an inner adversary? These questions have long agitated the minds of political thinkers. Given what is happening in the US, Brazil and India — all producing stunning election victories in recent times — it is time to pay attention to the internal paradoxes of democracies.

A brief history of ideas would be in order. Some of the democratic questioning goes all the way back to the ancient city-states of Greece, but let us begin with the 1830s. That is when democracy, after its modern birth in the United States a few decades earlier, began its political spread in Europe. Franchise — or who could vote — was the big issue. By the 1830s, the US had already granted the right to vote to all adult white males, amounting to nearly 40 per cent of the population. With franchise at 18 per cent, Britain was considerably behind. In the 1860s, when Britain debated whether franchise should be extended, John Stuart Mill, one of the most prominent British voices of the time and a father of modern liberalism, argued, "I regard it as wholly inadmissible that any person should participate in the suffrage without being able to read, write and, I will add, perform the common operations of arithmetic... Universal teaching must precede universal enfranchisement."

India's debates, six to eight decades later, went against Mill. On how to think about democracy, the most decisive voice was Jawaharlal Nehru's. Labelled as an incorrigible elitist in power circles today, Nehru, in fact, defended universal franchise on the premise that "each person should be treated as having equal political and social value". He did not trust the elite to understand and represent subaltern interests. Ambedkar held a similar view, and thus was born the idea that even though India was a mere 17-18 per cent literate in 1947, the poor and illiterate masses had the right to vote. Mill thought giving voting rights to the uneducated would undermine democracy; Nehru and Ambedkar believed the opposite. Disenfranchising the plebeian voices would cripple democracy.

Though some polities, especially a few American states, continue to have severe voter registration requirements that effectively disenfranchise the poor, universal franchise is now a worldwide democratic norm. Modern democracy is inconceivable without elections. But one should briefly pause to consider

Political analysts all over the world understand the magnitude of Modi's electoral success. But they are also asking: How does his regime perform on civil liberties — on freedom of expression, religious practice and association? And is he, or his party, by any chance interpreting their electoral victory as a mandate to restrict civil freedoms? If so, then electoral democracy might well become the inner adversary of citizens' freedoms. It will be one dimension of democracy versus another, as the electoral triumph is allowed to ride roughshod over the democratically desirable freedoms.



IN GOOD FAITH

AAKASH SINGH RATHORE

FEMINIST THEOLOGIANS have long held that male depictions of gods serve to reinforce patriarchy. This elicits the question: Do goddesses serve in any way to subvert patriarchy?

In Mary Daly's classic, *Beyond God the Father*, the feminist (Catholic) theologian examined religion as a major cause of women's repression over the last 3,000 years. Daly's work exposed the foundational misogyny in religion which continues to flourish. Daly made this claim despite the long-standing theological stance that God of the Abrahamic religions is unsexed. The Catechism of the Catholic Church, for example, states: "God is neither man nor woman: He is God". God's gender ought to be understood as figurative.

But when we turn to symbolism, ritual and informal practice, a different story emerges; one where God is gendered, where incarnate God — the son — or prophets or deified persons, are also male. Philosophies, religious symbols, juridical norms and other ideas stabilise and justify patriarchal dominance and attribute it to inherent natural reasons and not to mere social causes. Beyond merely naturalising patriarchy, the maleness/masculinity of

THE DIVINE PATRIARCHY

Masculinity of gods reinforces gender inequality. Goddesses could subvert it

gods fixes it into the cosmic order.

RW Conant's 1904 book, *The Manly Christ*, is an obscene testimony to this. Conant asserts the manliness of Jesus in order to make the increasingly "feminised" religion, as he referred to it, more attractive to the real men of the working classes. As he stresses: "Christ stands for the highest type of a strong, virile man, and there was nothing effeminate about him."

We could also look at the images of masculinity, sex, and the body in Buddhism. An example is available in the *Ambattha Sutta* from the Dingha Nikaya in the Pali canon. The Brahmin student Ambattha is sent by his famous teacher Pukkharasaati to find out if the acclaimed Gautama is really a great man. He should particularly learn whether Buddha bears the 32 physical bodily characteristics of a perfect man. Ambattha goes to meet Buddha, and behaves insultingly toward him, arrogating himself to a higher position as a Brahmin over the lower-born Sakyas. Buddha argues systematically that Kshatriyas are actually higher born than Brahmins by social convention, but that he himself considers social convention less important than conduct and wisdom. Buddha thus humbles the excessive pride of Ambattha and the student returns to his teacher to narrate what has occurred. Pukkharasaati is angered and goes

himself to confront Buddha. However, upon encountering Buddha and seeing that indeed he bears all the physical marks of a perfect man, he ends up a convert.

Another masculinised body is that of Hanuman. This god's manliness is palpable in the context of the highly masculine practice of wrestling within *akhars*, which always and everywhere occurs under the auspices of Hanuman murtis. Young men, always men, revere and model themselves upon the god. A crucial part of this emulation lies in the celibacy. In this framework, the seductive and thus enervating feature of women's bodies, and feminine wiles, plays a role.

But if, as it seems, the male-sexed bodies of gods serve to reinforce patriarchy, do goddesses serve to subvert it?

Some powerful strands of feminism in the West assume so. Interventions in Indian feminism, however, generally disagree. Rajeswari Sundar Rajan, for example, in her essay 'Is the Hindu Goddess a Feminist?', throws into doubt the emancipatory value of the Stree-Shakti trope. Everyone seems to agree, however, that powerful goddesses do offer potential opportunities for anti-patriarchal action.

The writer is visiting professor of philosophy at Jawaharlal Nehru University

JULY 29, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO

SWEARING IN

A NINE-MEMBER COALITION ministry — the first at the Centre — came into being when Charan Singh, prime minister, and his colleagues were sworn in by President N Sanjeeva Reddy. The ceremony took place in the Ashoka Hall of Rashtrapati Bhavan, in an atmosphere filled with perfume, thanks to Raj Narain who went round with a bottle of "attar". Seven of the Cabinet members, including Charan Singh, are from the Janata (S) Party and PL Kaushik is a Socialist. Y B Chavan was the lone Congress nominee who took the oath of office and secrecy. The appointment of six others of his party, which had been announced in the morning, was cancelled at night. A Rashtrapati Bhavan communique issued in the night designated Chavan deputy prime minister in charge of the home ministry.

GOVT WON'T LAST
THE LEADER OF the Janata Parliamentary Party, Jagjivan Ram, said the Charan Singh government would not last long. Speaking at the national executive meeting of the Janata Party, the former deputy prime minister said Charan Singh's group was in a minority. He had forged "illogical alignments which could not last long". Both Jagjivan Ram and the Janata Party chief, Chandra Shekhar, asserted that their party would be able to eventually

prove its majority in the Lok Sabha.

CONGRESS UNCERTAIN
CHARAN SINGH MUST have got the message: The contradictions in the combination he heads have come to the fore earlier than expected. The hitch that cropped up in Congress nominees not taking oath of office was not over any programme. The party simply had too many claimants. Even Y B Chavan would have stayed back but for the fact that the Congress did not want the impression to go round that the alliance with the Janata (S) was off. No one doubts that the situation created within the Congress over the distribution of ministries will evade solution for long.



15 THE WORLD



RUSSIA
JAILED OPP LEADER HOSPITALISED OVER 'ALLERGY'
 Russian Opposition leader Alexei Navalny, serving time in jail for calling for unauthorised protests, was hospitalised after suffering an acute allergic reaction on Sunday, his spokeswoman said. She added that the cause of Navalny's allergic reaction was unknown and that he had never suffered from such reactions in the past. Navalny's lawyer described his condition as 'strange'.

TOP OF THE WORLD



Astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson

USA
Tyson to remain in post after sexual misconduct probe
New York: Astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson will keep his job as head of the Hayden Planetarium at New York's American Museum of Natural History after the museum concluded its investigation into sexual misconduct accusations against him. A museum spokesman said in a statement Thursday that based on the results of the investigation, Tyson "remains an employee and director of the Hayden Planetarium". Tyson was accused of behaving inappropriately with two women in an article published in November on the website *Patheos*.



FIERY ETNA
 A rescue worker looks on as Mount Etna, Europe's highest and most active volcano, erupts in Sicily, Italy, on Saturday. Reuters

Protesters clash with police in Hong Kong as cycle of violence intensifies

JAMES POMFRET & SIMON GARDNER
 HONG KONG, JULY 28

HONG KONG police clashed with thousands of protesters on Sunday, as they sought to defend China's main representative office from crowds seething over what many see as an increasing cycle of violence against them. Protests over the past two months, spearheaded by activists against a proposed Bill that would allow people to be extradited from the city to stand trial in courts in mainland China, have grown increasingly violent. A march on Saturday against a violent assault the previous weekend by suspected triad gangs ended in violent turmoil as police waded in to disperse crowds. On Sunday, a peaceful gathering at a park in the city's central district soon morphed into a march, as tens of thousands of protesters set off in several directions, clog-



Police detain a demonstrator near China's Liaison Office in Hong Kong on Sunday. Reuters

ging major thoroughfares. Thousands of people headed east, towards the shopping district of Causeway Bay, while another contingent headed west, to the Chinese government's representative office, known as the Central Government Liaison Office. There, hundreds of riot police blocked activists from advancing towards the building, which had been heavily fortified with barricades after it was surrounded and defaced a week earlier. A clear plastic shield had been erected around a national emblem above its front doors. As the crowds surged, hundreds of riot police with shields advanced, firing rounds of teargas, rubber bullets and sponge grenades — a crowd control weapon — at protesters. Some protesters were on their knees choking as ambulances raced to take away the injured. Many others hit metallic surfaces with sticks to create an ominous drum beat that echoed down the streets. **REUTERS**

Trump to black lawmaker: Clean up 'disgusting' district

ASSOCIATED PRESS
 WASHINGTON, JULY 28

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump on Saturday denigrated a majority-black district represented by a congressional nemesis as a "disgusting, rat and rodent infested mess", broadening a campaign against prominent critics of his administration that has exacerbated racial tensions. Trump lashed out in tweets against Republican Elijah Cummings, the powerful House Oversight Committee chairman, claiming his Baltimore-area district is "considered the worst run and most dangerous anywhere in the United States". It was the President's latest assault on a prominent lawmaker, and the people he represents, two weeks after he sparked controversy with racist tweets directed at four congresswomen of colour. His comments against Cummings, who leads multiple investigations of the president's governmental dealings, drew swift condemnation from



As proven last week during a Congressional tour, the border is clean... Cummings' district is a disgusting, rat and rodent infested mess."
 — DONALD TRUMP
 US PRESIDENT

Democrats, including would-be presidential rivals. Trump called Cummings a "brutal bully". "As proven last week during a Congressional tour, the Border is clean, efficient & well run, just very crowded," Trump tweeted. "Cumming (sic) District is a disgusting, rat and rodent infested mess."

AFTER GOVT ANNOUNCES PLAN TO HOLD NEGOTIATIONS Taliban: Talks with Afghan govt after US deal on troop withdrawal

ABDUL QADIR SEDIQI & RUPAM JAIN
 KABUL, JULY 28

THE TALIBAN said on Sunday they will not hold direct talks with the Afghan government and rejected a statement from a senior minister about plans to hold such a meeting in the next two weeks, a senior Taliban official said. State Minister for Peace Affairs Abdul Salam Rahimi said on Saturday it was hoped that direct talks with the Taliban would be held in the next two weeks in an unidentified European country. The government would be represented by a 15-member delegation, he said. But Suhail Shaheen, a spokesman for the Taliban's political office in Qatar, denied that, saying talks with the Afghan government would only come after a deal had been struck with the US on the departure of its forces. The US special envoy for peace

2 dead in blast, gunbattle at Afghan VP candidate's office

RAHIM FAIEZ
 KABUL, JULY 28

THE POLITICAL office of the Afghan President's running mate was hit by a large explosion and stormed by several gunmen who remained holed up inside, Afghan officials said Sunday. The attack in Kabul killed at least two people and came on the first day of campaigning for presidential elections, scheduled for September. Vice-presidential candidate Amrullah Saleh was "evacuated from the building



At the site of the attack in Kabul. AP

and moved to a safe location", said Nasrat Rahimi, the interior ministry spokesman. He said the first and second floors of the building had been cleared by security forces. **AP**

in Afghanistan, Zalmay Khalilzad, said after Rahimi's announcement that talks between the Taliban and

DIPLOMATS COMMIT TO SAVING AGREEMENT

Iran n-deal parties in 'constructive' meet after month of friction

Tehran: UK move to seize Iranian tanker a violation of pact

REUTERS, AP
 VIENNA, JULY 28

DIPLOMATS FROM Iran and five world powers recommitted Sunday to salvaging a major nuclear deal amid mounting tensions between the West and Tehran since the US withdrew from the accord and reimposed sanctions. "The atmosphere was constructive. Discussions were good. I cannot say that we resolved everything, I can say there are lots of commitments," Abbas Araqchi, the senior Iranian nuclear negotiator, told Reuters.

Parties to the deal met in Vienna on Sunday for emergency talks called in response to an escalation in tensions between Iran and the West that included confrontations at sea and Tehran's breaches of the accord. "As we have said, we will continue to reduce our commitments to the deal until Europeans secure Iran's interests under the deal," Araqchi said after the meeting.

Britain, France, Germany, Russia, China and Iran have been trying to salvage the pact since the United States withdrew from it in May 2018 and re-imposed and toughened sanctions on Iran, crippling an already weak economy. However, efforts to protect trade with Iran against the US sanctions have yielded nothing concrete so far. Earlier this month, Tehran followed through on its threat to increase its nuclear activities in breach of the agreement. Iran has called on Europe to accelerate its efforts. "All our steps taken so far are reversible if other parties to the deal fulfil their commit-



Iran's top nuclear negotiator, Abbas Araqchi, and Secretary General of the European External Action Service, Helga Schmid, attend a meeting in Vienna on Sunday. Reuters

The atmosphere was constructive. Discussions were good. I cannot say that we resolved everything, I can say there are lots of commitments."
 — ABBAS ARAQCHI
 TOP IRANIAN NUCLEAR NEGOTIATOR

EXPLAINED
E.
Searching for a diplomatic solution

WHILE THE meeting of the nuclear deal signatories was called to discuss what measures should be taken to address Iranian breaches of the agreement, diplomats focused more on how to save the deal and bypass US sanctions. With Iran and the UK having both seized each others' oil tankers, tensions escalated between the two countries at a time when many feared a US-Iran conflict could break out. The latest diplomatic outreach by the UK and other signatories could ease those tensions and help in finding a quick solution to the tanker standoff

Rohingya to Myanmar: No return without recognition Talks on refugees' repatriation begin

RUMA PAUL
 DHAKA, JULY 28

ROHINGYA REFUGEES in Bangladesh refuse to return to Myanmar unless they are recognised as an ethnic group in their home country, leaders told visiting Myanmar officials on Sunday as fresh repatriation talks started. A campaign by Myanmar's military in response to insurgent attacks in 2017 drove 730,000 Rohingya Muslims to flee to Bangladesh's southeastern border district of Cox's Bazar, where they live in squalid camps, fearing further persecution if they return. UN investigators have said Myanmar's operation included mass killings, gang rapes and arson and was executed with "genocidal intent". Myanmar denies the charge. This is the second time Myanmar officials have visited the camps in Cox's Bazar in an effort to convince Rohingya refugees to kick-start the repatriation process.

In October, Rohingya rejected an offer to go back to their homeland when a Myanmar delegation held talks with leaders of the group. The Myanmar delegation, led by permanent foreign secretary Myint Thu, held talks with 35 Rohingya leaders in Cox's Bazar on Saturday and Sunday amid tightened security in the camps. Rohingya leaders said they wanted Myanmar to recognise them as an ethnic group with the right to Myanmar citizenship before they return. "We told them we won't return unless we are recognised as Rohingya in Myanmar," Dil Mohammed, one of the Rohingya leaders who joined the talks, said. He also said they will not return to Myanmar unless demands for justice, international protection and the ability to go back to their original villages and lands are met. "We want citizenship, we want all our rights. We don't trust them. We will return only if international protection is in place," he said. **REUTERS**

GOVT SCALES BACK EFFORTS TO FIGHT ILLEGAL LOGGING, MINING

Brazil's Bolsonaro slashes Amazon protections, and forest begins to fall

LETÍCIA CASADO & ERNESTO LONDOÑO
 BRASÍLIA, JULY 28

THE DESTRUCTION of the Amazon rainforest in Brazil has increased rapidly since the nation's new far-right President took over and his government scaled back efforts to fight illegal logging, ranching and mining. Protecting the Amazon was at the heart of Brazil's environmental policy for much of the past two decades. At one point, Brazil's success in slowing the deforestation rate made it an international example of conservation and the effort to fight climate change. But with the election of President Jair Bolsonaro, a pop-

ulist who has been fined personally for violating environmental regulations, Brazil has changed course substantially, retreating from the efforts it once made to slow global warming by preserving the world's largest rainforest. While campaigning for president last year, Bolsonaro declared that Brazil's vast protected lands were an obstacle to economic growth and promised to open them up to commercial exploitation. Seven months into his term, that is already happening. Brazil's part of the Amazon has lost more than 1,330 square miles of forest cover since Bolsonaro took office in January, a 39% increase over the same period last year, according to the government agency that tracks deforestation. In June alone, when the cooler, drier season began and cutting trees became easier, the deforestation rate rose drastically, with roughly 80% more forest cover lost than in June of last year. The deforestation of the Amazon is spiking as Bolsonaro's government pulls back on enforcement measures like fines, warnings and the seizure or destruction of illegal equipment in protected areas. A *New York Times* analysis of public records found that such enforcement actions by Brazil's main environmental agency fell by 20% during the first six months of the year, compared with the same period in 2018. The drop means that vast stretches of the rainforest can be



The deforestation of the Amazon is spiking as Bolsonaro's government pulls back on fines, warnings and the seizure or destruction of illegal equipment in protected areas. NYT

torn down with less resistance from the nation's authorities. The two trends — the increase in deforestation and the government's increasing reluctance to confront illegal activity — is

alarming researchers, environmentalists and former officials who contend that Bolsonaro's tenure could lead to staggering losses of one of the world's most important resources. "We're facing the risk of runaway deforestation in the Amazon," eight former environmental ministers in Brazil wrote in a joint letter in May, arguing that Brazil needed to strengthen its environmental protection measures, not weaken them. Bolsonaro has dismissed the new data on deforestation, calling his own government's figures "lies" — an assertion experts called baseless. During a gathering with international journalists last week, the President called the preoccupation with the Amazon

a form of "environmental psychosis" and argued that its use should not concern outsiders. "The Amazon is ours, not yours," he told a European journalist. The Bolsonaro government's stance has drawn sharp criticism from European leaders, injecting an irritant to a trade deal struck last month between the European Union and a bloc of four South American countries, including Brazil. During a recent visit, Germany's minister of economic cooperation and development, Gerd Müller, called protecting the Amazon a global imperative, especially given the rainforest's vital role in absorbing and storing carbon dioxide, essential to the effort to slow global warming. And

when trees are cut, burned or bulldozed, carbon dioxide goes directly back into the atmosphere. Germany and Norway help finance a \$1.3 billion Amazon conservation fund, but the Bolsonaro administration has questioned its effectiveness, raising the possibility that the effort could be shut down. "Without tropical rainforests, there's no solving the climate" issue, Müller said during an event in São Paulo. During the campaign, Bolsonaro had even promised to do away with the ministry of the environment altogether. He ultimately scrapped the plan under pressure from the nation's agriculture sector, which feared the move would incite a boycott of Brazilian products. **NYT**

THE BREXIT ROLLERCOASTER

Here we go

To stop no-deal, Tory MPs must be ready to bring down Boris Johnson

"DO YOU look daunted? Do you feel daunted?" asked Boris Johnson of the crowd of Conservative Party members who had just elected him party leader, and thus prime minister. The question was rhetorical, but many of them did look nervous—and so they should. Britain now has its third Tory prime minister since the vote to leave the European Union three years ago. Its deadlocked Parliament is refusing to back the exit deal struck with the EU, even as an October 31st deadline approaches. The pound is wilting at the prospect of crashing out with no deal. Steering a course out of this mess requires an extraordinarily deft political touch. Yet the Tories have gambled, choosing a populist leader who is nobody's idea of a safe pair of hands.

Mr Johnson, who wrote a biography of Winston Churchill and longs for others to see him in that mould, resembles his hero in the sense that he has inherited Britain's worst crisis since the second world war. Brexit, and a no-deal exit in particular, promises to hurt the economy and leave the country diplomatically isolated in a world where its interests are under threat, as they are right now in the Strait of Hormuz. The risk is existential for the United Kingdom, as Brexit wrenches at the bonds with Scotland and Northern Ireland.

At a time of national gloom, the Tories hope that Mr Johnson's ebullience will be enough to "ping off the guy-ropes of self-doubt", as he put it in his jokey acceptance speech. We hope they are right. But in reality his breezy style seems not so much boldly Churchillian as unthinkingly reckless. To get to Downing Street he has made wild promises about Brexit that he cannot possibly keep. His fantastical approach means he is fast heading for no-deal—and therefore a face-off with Parliament, which seems determined to stop that outcome. Britain should get ready for one of the bumpiest governments in its modern history. It could also be the shortest.

As they waited for the decision of Tory members, ordinary Britons, who had no say in who would succeed Theresa May as prime minister, were left wondering which version of Mr Johnson they would get. Would it be socially liberal, pro-immigration Boris, or born-again Eurosceptic Boris? Chameleon that he is, Mr Johnson has mimicked the increasingly hardline politics of Tory members. In a surprisingly savage reshuffle, he has appointed right-wingers to his cabinet: Priti Patel, a past advocate of the death penalty, is home secretary, and Dominic Raab, an uncompromising Brexiteer, is foreign secretary. Mr Johnson's belief that Donald Trump could provide a "lifeboat" to Britain as it abandons the EU stopped him from criticising the president, even when Mr Trump belittled the British ambassador to Washington. Such pandering is dangerous at a time when Britain should be standing up to American policy on Iran.

Most worrying is his otherworldly Brexit plan. Mrs May was undone by making unrealistic promises about the deal Britain would get, pledges she spent two miserable years



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson talks with Andy Burnham, the Mayor of Manchester, at the Science and Industry Museum in Manchester, on July 27. Reuters

rowing back from. Mr Johnson has made the same mistake on a larger scale. He swears he will bin the "backstop" designed to avoid a hard border in Ireland, which the EU insists is non-negotiable. He says Britain need not pay the exit bill it agreed on. He has vowed to leave on October 31st, "do or die". And he says that if the EU does not roll over, it would be "vanishingly inexpensive" for Britain to leave with no deal. Mrs May found the contact with reality hard enough. For Mr Johnson it will be even more brutal.

The Brexit rollercoaster has one turning that leads away from disaster. Mr Johnson has such a capacity for flip-flopping that, once in Downing Street and faced with the consequences of his promises, it is conceivable

that he may simply drop them. His charm might help guide a slightly modified deal through Parliament. Europe is ready to help. But the chance that he will compromise seems slight. Whereas Mrs May had two years to retreat from her overblown commitments, Mr Johnson has just three months to eat his words. The Conservatives' working majority is only three (and may go down to one after a by-election next week), with plenty of rebels on both the Brexit and Remain wings. So doing a deal would probably mean working with Labour, whose price is a second referendum. That would be a good outcome for the country, which deserves a chance to say whether the warts-and-all reality of Brexit matches up to the

fantasy version it was sold in 2016. But the red lines in which Mr Johnson has entangled himself will probably keep such a deal out of reach.

That means the risk is growing that Mr Johnson will set a course for no-deal, billing it as courageous and Churchillian rather than the needless act of self-harm it really is. Some Brexiteers are following his lead in blustering that the warnings of damage to the economy, the union and Britain's international standing are fake news. Others argue that those are simply the costs of getting Brexit done. But a no-deal exit would not accomplish even that. Talks with the EU on unresolved aspects of the relationship would have to resume, only with Britain outside the club and

negotiating on worse terms than before. As for upholding democracy, there is no mandate for no-deal, which was not in the Leave prospectus, nor advocated by any party in the last election. Indeed, it is opposed by majorities of both Parliament and the public. Some hardline Brexiteers say Parliament should be suspended so that no-deal can be forced through—in the name of democracy. The grotesqueness of this speaks for itself. Yet Mr Johnson has not ruled it out.

If he tries such a reckless gambit, Parliament must stand in his way. It may be that its only course is a vote of no confidence. That would need at least some Conservative MPs to vote to bring down their own government, something that has not happened

since rebel Tories helped turf out Neville Chamberlain in 1940. It would mean yet more uncertainty. Today's polls show a four-party split, making any resulting election a lottery. But wavering Tories should be in no doubt that if Mr Johnson is allowed to suspend democracy to force through a no-deal Brexit that whacks the economy and risks the union, it will not only be a betrayal of the country, it might well spell the end of the Conservative Party. And Mr Johnson should be in no doubt that unless he ditches the fantastical promises and gets serious about doing a deal, he may end up being compared not to Churchill, but to Chamberlain.

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EXTREME WEATHER

Climate blame game

Greenhouse-gas emissions are increasing the frequency of heatwaves

EXTREME HEAT is ruinous to productivity, particularly if you are a criminal. Several American police forces posted messages to their social-media accounts last weekend declaring a moratorium on crime. "It is just too hot to be outside committing crimes," wrote the Park Forest Police Department in Illinois, on its Facebook page. In some cases, it seems to have worked. "We have had zero customers stay the night at our 'hotel', so we appreciate all of the criminals adhering to the heat advisory," tweeted the Malden Police in Massachusetts on Sunday.

The messages came as scorching temperatures swept across America, placing more than 100m people under excessive-heat warnings. Temperatures hovered either side of 40°C on the east coast. On July 18th Mitch Petrus, a well-known retired player of American football, died of heatstroke after working outdoors all day. At least five other deaths have been reported.

Europeans have also been sweating, for the second time this summer. A month ago, warm air from the Sahara contributed to making it the continent's hottest June on record. At the top of Mont Blanc, western Europe's highest mountain, instruments recorded 7°C (the normal June temperature would be below freezing). At Gallargues-le-Montueux near Nîmes, in France, temperatures peaked at 45.9°C. The previous record anywhere in that country was 1.8°C lower. Linked to these temperatures, in Alaska and Portugal, forest fires are raging.

If your hunch is that this kind of extreme weather is more common today than it was once-upon-a-time, you are correct. When, in 2003, tens of thousands of people in Europe died prematurely as a result of a two-week heatwave, it was deemed to be a once-in-1,000-years event. Twelve years later, a study led by Nikolaos Christidis of the Hadley Centre, the climate-research division of Britain's Met Office, found that heatwaves of this severity

had become once-in-100-years events, and would be commonplace by the 2040s.

The question on many people's minds is whether these changes, and specific events like this week's temperatures in America and Europe, are caused by greenhouse gases accumulating in the atmosphere. For years, the semi-official line was that no single weather event could be blamed on climate change, only trends. That began to change in 2004, with the publication of the first "attribution" study. This focused on the European heatwave of 2003, when average summer temperatures broke through a threshold until then unbreached in 150 years of records. By comparing simulations of a world with and without greenhouse-gas emissions, Peter Stott at the Met Office and his colleagues found that climate change had made the record-breaking heatwave at least twice as likely as it would otherwise have been.

Since then, research of this sort, intended to study how climate change is already promoting extreme weather, has grown rapidly. A recent, extended drought in California has been linked to greenhouse-gas emissions, as was the extreme heat southern Europe experienced during the summer of 2017. That event was made at least ten times more likely by climate change according to work published later that year by World Weather Attribution, a collaboration between experts in these sorts of analyses.

Shortening odds

Attribution work does not concern itself only with heat. Floods, storms and cold spells also carry a climatic fingerprint. When Hurricane Harvey hit America in August 2017, it stalled over Texas, delivering huge quantities of rain, which caused heavy flooding and more than 80 deaths. On that occasion, World Weather Attribution found that climate change was responsible for intensifying precipitation levels by between 8% and

19%. Since 2012, the *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society* has published an annual compendium of attribution studies. Roughly 70% of events scrutinised show some influence from climate change.

One challenge has been to do the analyses faster. Findings connected with the heatwave of 2003 took a year to appear, by which time public interest had mostly moved on. The goal today is to offer a verdict on the influence of climate change on particular meteorological events more or less as they are happening. Here, the Met Office has been leading the way, with its Dutch, French and German counterparts close behind. But many other places do not have the capacity to carry out the onerous computer-modelling required. As a result, a European Union project planned to start before November will seek to provide contemporaneous weather-attribution analyses for the continent.

An inadvertent early test of how this could work took place last month, when many of Europe's attribution scientists gathered at a statistical-climatology meeting in Toulouse, just as the June heatwave hit. Within days they published their conclusions. Accumulating greenhouse gases in the atmosphere had made the event at least five times more likely than would otherwise have been the case.

Such statements help show that the danger posed by climate change is clear and present, not just something for future generations to worry about. Heatwaves, for example, sometimes kill by the thousand—and can cause more casualties than other meteorological extremes, such as floods and hurricanes. But attribution also provides useful guidance to policymakers.

For instance, information about how much more likely an event is today than it was 50 or 100 years ago can assist decisions about building and adapting infrastructure. If what were thought of as once-in-a-millennium heatwaves now come once a century



Firefighters help to put out a forest fire near the village of Vila de Rei, Portugal, on July 21. Reuters

and will soon become so frequent as to be normal, then public-health systems need to be designed to cope with an influx of people suffering from heat stress. Likewise, if big floods are more frequent, water-handling systems need to be expanded and flood defences raised. Insurance and reinsurance companies are paying particular attention, because these calculations help them reassess risk levels.

Conversely, some people blamed climate change for a drought in south-eastern Brazil in 2014 and 2015, in which water levels in reservoirs around São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro fell to between 3% and 5% of capacity. But a study published in 2015 by Friederike Otto of the Environmental Change Institute at Oxford University found no sign that greenhouse-gas emissions had raised the risk of drought. Dr Otto concluded instead that a quadrupling of São Paulo's population since 1960 had put pressure on scarce water supplies.

Attribution science is also playing a role in courtrooms and human-rights hearings. A study published in 2015 showed that climate change contributed to the high wind speeds of super typhoon Haiyan, which blew through the Philippines in 2013, killing more than 6,000 people. Those stronger winds created a much bigger storm surge. The matter was raised during hearings held by the Philippine Commission on Human Rights last year, which sought to explore the question of whether fossil-fuel companies could be held responsible.

Clear, present and lethal?

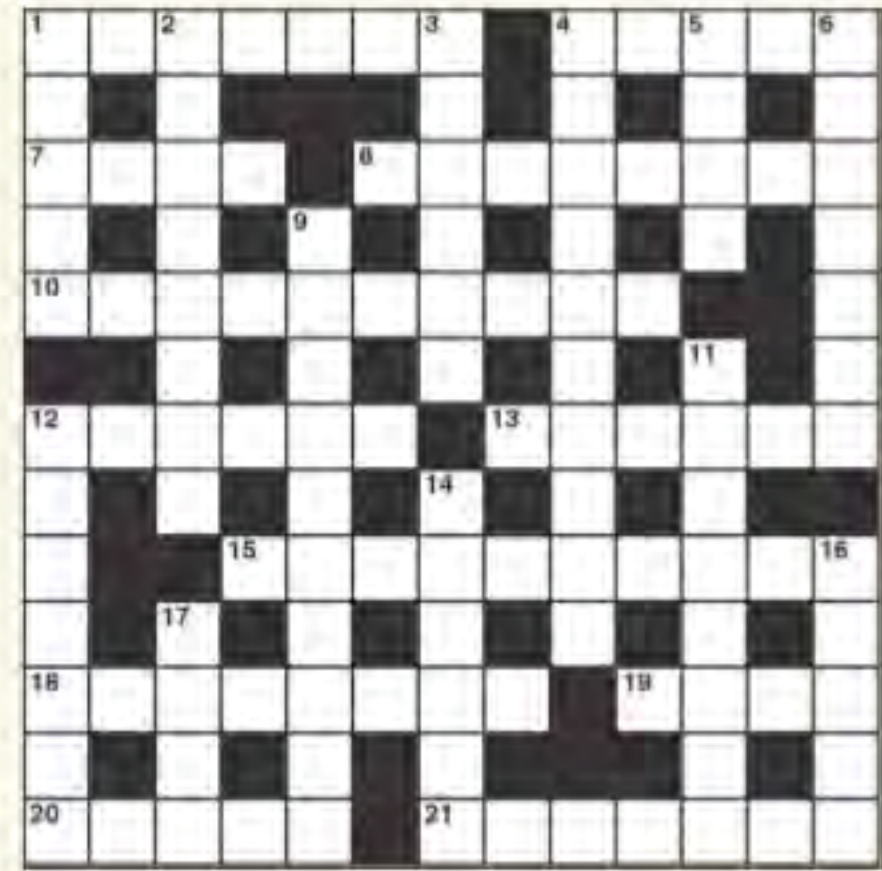
Others have sought to pin companies down more specifically. In one widely reported lawsuit, Saúl Luciano Lliuya, a Peruvian farmer, is suing RWE, a German energy firm, for contributing to the melting of a mountain glacier that threatens to sweep away his vil-

lage. Mr Luciano Lliuya's counsel, Roda Verheyen, has said that the case "was mostly made possible by the advancement of...attribution science". Lindene Patton, a lawyer with the Earth and Water Law Group, a firm specialising in environmental law, has written that "the science of event attribution may become a driver of litigation, as it shifts understanding of what weather is expected and, relevantly for law, foreseeable."

To a layman, however good attribution science has become, trying to use it to link an event in the Peruvian Andes to a particular firm in Germany looks a bit of a stretch. But whether or not Mr Luciano Lliuya wins his case, the fact it is even being heard is a straw in the wind—and a sign that global warming can change metaphorical weather patterns as well as real ones.

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CROSSWORD 3870



- ACROSS
1 Warded off quiet raider in disguise (7)
4 An animal or bird that runs from left to right (5)
7 A singular occasion (4)
8 Some rain upset the gypsies (8)
10 Bring about - a rocket's launch? (4,2)
12 Quiet little brook anything but quiet (6)
13 Recover one's possession? (6)
15 Speak about nothing in particular (10)
18 Theatrical account? (8)
19 Leader of conspiracy gets a long time in the pen (4)
20 Those reformed show spirit (5)
21 Origin of the first book (7)

DOWN
1 A point in favour of New Guinea initially (5)
2 Hope for the lost and the sick (8)
3 Liable to drop off? (6)
4 Sort of lady we hate to go before (4,3,3)
5 Leading sea power (4)
6 He emerged in a USSR shake-up (7)
9 People are genuinely moved by its high-wire performance (7,3)
11 Head south for the big cities (8)
12 Church eminence (7)
14 It provides some standing for a girl on stage (3,3)
16 Level betting for the first woman to get two points (5)
17 A quarter refuse to bathe (4)

Solutions Crossword 3869: Across: 1 Hunting crop, 9 August, 10 Pater, 11 Ends, 12 Pichard, 14 Indoor, 16 Stoker, 18 Lampost, 19 Frau, 22 Issue, 23 Denture, 24 Reverse side. Down: 2 Urged, 3 Thee, 4 Nitwit, 5 Capacity, 6 Outback, 7 Material aid, 8 Trade routes, 13 Complete, 15 Demesne, 17 Asides, 20 Round, 21 Inns.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



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 clue.
Art has to _____ and design does not, unless it's a good design for a _____ David Hockney (4,3,3)

Word jumble puzzles with grids and letters: RWEOO, CLPUMY, HMSUU, AELRBV.

SUDOKU 3922

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.

Sudoku puzzle grid with numbers 3, 8, 9, 5, 2, 8, 9, 6, 4, 5, 2, 9, 1, 4, 6, 3, 1, 4.

SOLUTION SUDOKU 3921

Sudoku solution grid with numbers 5, 8, 9, 2, 6, 4, 1, 7, 3, 6, 3, 1, 7, 9, 8, 4, 5, 2, 7, 4, 2, 3, 1, 5, 9, 6, 8, 1, 9, 6, 5, 8, 2, 7, 3, 4, 4, 5, 7, 9, 3, 6, 2, 8, 1, 8, 2, 3, 1, 4, 7, 5, 9, 6, 9, 1, 8, 4, 5, 3, 6, 2, 7, 2, 6, 5, 8, 7, 1, 3, 4, 9, 3, 7, 4, 6, 2, 9, 8, 1, 5.

Classifieds

- PERSONAL
I, Shyam Narayan S/o Sukhari Singh R/o, KH.No.793, Swami-Sharda Hand-Park, Near Animal-Hospital, Rajeev-Nagar Bhalswa-Dairy, Badli, Delhi-110042. have changed my name to Shyam Narayan Singh., for all purposes. 0040505117-10
I, Seema w/o Pritpal Singh Bhatia r/o WZ-16, Upper Ground Floor, Gali no-1, Hind Nagar, Tilak Nagar, Delhi-110018, have changed my name to SEEMA BHATIA permanently. 0040505045-2
I, Niketa D/o, Mr Vinod Lohia R/o 101, Mutfarrick Nayi Basti-2, Shyam Puri, Khatauli, Muzaffarnagar UP-251201 have changed my name to Niketa Lohia for all purposes. 0040505133-6

PUBLIC NOTICE

We Sahu Refrigeration Industries Ltd., 80 Rajasthani Udyog Nagar, New Delhi through its directors intends to mortgage the following property with State Bank of India, MCB Lawrence Road Branch, Delhi - 35, declares as under:-
We intend to create an Equitable Mortgage on the basis of Laminated Original Title Deeds of Property, On Plot No. 80, Rajasthani Coop Industrial Estate Ltd. measuring 3200 Sq. Yards registered vide Conveyance Deed dated 08.09.2009 vide registration no. 13010 by Delhi Development Authority, bounded as under:-
North 30' Road, East 30' Road, South Plot No. 81, West Boundary.
We wish to create charge for availing Cash Credit facility from State Bank of India, MCB Lawrence Road, Branch Delhi-35 (Branch Code 31355). If any Party has any claim towards the said relevant property, the same should be lodged with the us and also with the stated branch of State Bank of India, within 15 days from publication of this notice.

- I, Neeraj Kumar S/o Moti Lal Shah R/o D-1/296, Gali No-12, 3 Rd Pusta Sonia Vihar, Karawal Nagar, Delhi-94, have changed my name to Neeraj Kumar Shah. 0040505151-1
I Sanjeev Kumar S/o Jagannath R/o E-234 Amar-Colony Lajpat Nagar-4 Delhi-110024. Have Change My Name To Sanjeev Kumar Arora. 0040505133-5
I, Ishaan s/o Shamsher Chaudhary r/o WZ-269, Tihar Village, Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Ishaan Chaudhary permanently. 0040505045-1
I, Geeta Rani W/o Vijay Kumar R/o F-131, F-Block, Gandhi Vihar, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-110009. Changed My Name To Geeta Sethi. 0040505117-8
I, Daya Rani W/o Mukesh Kumar Jain R/o-144, Sector-14, Sonipat have changed my name to Daya Jain for all purposes. 0040505117-9
I, Ankita Mittal W/o Shri Vijay Kumar Aggarwal R/o T-24/10, Second Floor, DLF Phase-3, Gurugram, Haryana-122010 have changed my name from Ankita Mittal to Ankita Mittal for all purposes. 0040505077-1
I, Sadhu Saralshelhdass s/o Lakshmi Narayan Shukla R/o-39-c, Janta Flats Ashok Vihar Phase-3 Delhi-110052 have changed name Amit Shukla for future. 0040505161-2
I, Rashmeet Kaur Sohal D/o Kawaljeet Singh R/o WZ-310B, Street No.17, Shiv Nagar, ND-58 have changed my name to Rashmeet Sohal for all future purposes. 0040505035-1

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NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
FHEL invite E-Tender in Single Packet System of tendering for the following work
Name of Work: F&H/06-T/133/2019 Dated 28-07-2019
Operation & Maintenance of 12,000 MT Agrn Logistic Centre at FHEL, Raj. Sonapat, Haryana.

V. O. CHIDAMBARANAR PORT TRUST
Civil Engineering Department
Tuticorin - 628 004.
NOTICE INVITING TENDER(NIT)
(Only Through E-Tendering Mode)
VOCPT E-Tendering Website : www.tenderwizard.com/VOCPT
NIT No. & Dated: 11CE/RCM&BMR/2019-20/D.1755 Dated : 26.07.2019
Name of Work: Construction of shore protection bund in front of Administrative office Building at V.O.Chidambaranar Port Trust
Estimated Amount: Rs. 2.02Cr.
Downloading of Tender documents from VOCPT online e-tendering website.
Last Date and Time for submission of Tenders through online: 20.08.2019 upto 15.00 Hrs
Online Technical Bid Opening date and time: 20.08.2019 at 15.30 Hrs
For further details, please visit Port's website www.vocport.gov.in

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department
Notice Inviting Tender
NABARD - RIDF - XXV (2019-20)
Restoring the damaged infrastructures of the Gaja Cyclone affected Districts
For details, visit www.tntenders.gov.in

भारतीय कंटेनर निगम लिमिटेड
CONTAINER CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.
Open Tender Notice (e-Tendering mode only)
Tender No.: CONT/BCS/BOGIE-5520/2019
Online Open E-bids are invited through two packet Open tendering system from the RDSO approved sources for supply of 5520 nos. Low Weight High Height 25T axle load bogie (LWLH 25) & its components to RDSO Specification No.WD-40-LWLH 25 Bogie (K - class) - 2015 with latest revision and drawing no. WD-15021-SIG2A11 or latest.

POLICE HEADQUARTERS, CHHATTISGARH, ATAL NAGAR, RAIPUR
Tender Notice
No.PHQ/Sec-10/Kit-Clo(7)/3605/19
Naya Raipur, Dated 26/07/2019
Sealed tenders are being invited from Original Equipment Manufacturer (O.E.M.) for the following item:-
Sl.No Name of Item Qty Specification EMD in Rs. Remarks
1 Camouflage Cloth Disruptive Pattern Uniform Made of Nylon and Cotton Material 58000 Mtr. Fabric : NAYCO As per specification (Attached). Colour/Print : Base Colour plus Disruptive Printing in more than two colours as per requirements. (Figure-1, Figure-2) For reference.

DAY TODAY BY PETER VIDAL

- ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) Please don't wait for others to give you the green light. The Sun is now mixing with a sector of your horoscope responsible for thought and communication, so it's time to get going.
LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23) Stick to the rules and conventional methods and you won't go far wrong.
TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21) There are significant lunar alignments coming up in a few days' time, an indication that the right moves this week could lead to a very profitable business association in the near future.
SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23) Certain things need to be said and a few home truths delivered, especially now that Mercury is edging towards its confrontational relationship with Pluto.
GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) The Moon is now playing a deeply sociable role. If you need friends, allies and supporters later in the week, now is the time to do the spadework, convincing other people and partners that you are the face of the future.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23) Don't expect instant results or demand that partners fit in with your plans.
CANCER (June 22 - July 23) Let's look at the long-term for a change: special planets together are urging you to make a renewed bid for freedom, re-establishing your personal independence in all the areas that count.
AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19) Powerful lunar movements overshadow your emotions this week.
LEO (July 24 - Aug 23) Professional schemes should now be under way. You still have a few weeks to discuss plans, cross the t's and dot the i's, but the foundations should now be laid.
PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20) You have an unfortunate habit of being too self-critical. You may therefore imagine that you have offended people or embarrassed yourself when in fact your behaviour has either gone unnoticed - or, in some cases, it's actually been highly appreciated.

कार्यालय, अस्पताल अधीदाक, राज्य मानसिक स्वास्थ्य चिकित्सालय
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निविदा सूचना
निविदा कार्य: राज्य मानसिक स्वास्थ्य चिकित्सालय, ग्राम-सेंदरी, जिला-बिलासपुर में सुरक्षा व्यवस्था हेतु पंजीकृत सुरक्षा एजेंसी से वर्ष 2019-20 (एक वर्ष हेतु) हेतु 18 सुरक्षा गार्ड (12 पुरुष, 06 महिला सुरक्षा गार्ड) के लिए निविदा. निविदा कार्य में साथ दी जायेगी। इसके अलावा उपरोक्त निविदा की संपूर्ण जानकारी कार्यालय के नोटीस बोर्ड पर एवं बिलासपुर जिले के वेबसाईट www.bilapur.gov.in पर अवलोकन किया जा सकता है।
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Website: www.keralafeeds.com
E-TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF PP BAGS
Tender ID:2019_KFL_28545_1 27/7/2019
E-tenders are invited for the supply of approx. 60 Lakh Laminated Poly Propylene Bags from established manufacturers having own manufacturing unit in India. For more details please visit the Kerala Government E-tender portal www.etenders.kerala.gov.in. (Sd/-) Managing Director

