

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

INDIA & U.S.: TERMS OF ESTRANGEMENT  
BY CHRISTOPHE JAFFRELOT  
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UP order to grant caste certificate not constitutional, says Centre

MANOJ CGG  
NEW DELHI, JULY 2

THE CENTRE Tuesday disapproved the UP government's move to issue caste certificates to 17 Other Backward Classes (OBCs), saying it is "not appropriate" nor "constitutional".

Rekindling the debate over moves to include 17 OBCs in the Scheduled Castes (SCs) list, the UP government, citing a 2017 observation of the Allahabad High Court, had directed officials to issue caste certificates to these 17 castes "after examination and based on documents in accordance with the rules". The High Court, while hearing a PIL, had said that "in the event, any caste certificates are issued pursuant to the order impugned, those certificates shall be subject to the outcome of the writ petition".

The state government's June 24 direction to district magistrates and commissioners to issue caste certificates to the 17 OBCs — Kashyap, Rajbhar, Dhivar, Bind, Kumhar, Kahar, Kewat, Nishad, Bhar, Mallah, Prajapati, Dhimar, Batham, Turha, Godia, Manjhi and Machua — had drawn an angry response Monday from BSP chief Mayawati who called it "unconstitutional", saying these

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KARTARPUR: PAK  
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SENDS TOUGH MESSAGE TO PARTY

## PM on Vijayvargiya Junior: No matter whose son, behaviour unacceptable

Calls for removal of those who felicitated Akash after arrest

LIZ MATHEW  
NEW DELHI, JULY 2

SENDING A stern message to the rank and file of the BJP days after party general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya's son Akash was arrested for assaulting a public official with a cricket bat in Indore, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday said that arrogance and misbehaviour will not be tolerated irrespective of "whoever it may be, whoever's son he may be".

The Prime Minister made the remarks at the first meeting of the parliamentary party after the BJP returned to power with a landslide. Earlier, at the first



Modi with his ministers at the meeting of the BJP parliamentary party in New Delhi, Tuesday. Renuka Puri

meeting of the Council of Ministers, Modi had disapproved of a minister's tweet on iftar gatherings.

At least three MPs who attended Tuesday's meeting held at the Parliament Library Building, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Indore BJP in a huddle, HC orders razing of building at centre of row

DIPANKAR GHOSE  
INDORE, JULY 2

CLEARING THE way for the demolition of the building at the centre of the Akash Vijayvargiya controversy, the Indore bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court Tuesday allowed the Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) to continue with the process.

The High Court direction came on the day the Prime Minister disapproved of Akash

Vijayvargiya's conduct and called for the removal from the party of those who had felicitated him as he stepped out of prison on bail. The strong message from Delhi sent the Indore BJP into a huddle with most leaders declining comment on whether action would be taken against the party workers.

The High Court, in its direction, asked the IMC to make temporary arrangements for the only family still living in the

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India defeated Bangladesh by 28 runs in Birmingham Tuesday to enter the semi-finals of the World Cup. AP

## Riding fourth Rohit century, India in semis



EXPRESS AT WORLD CUP

SRIRAM VEERA  
BIRMINGHAM, JULY 2

ROHIT SHARMA is not only having a dream World Cup but has, with more than a little bit of help from the bowlers, taken India to

their third semifinal in a row. Consider some of his achievements: four hundreds in the World Cup (two more than David Warner), second Indian to tally more than 500 runs in a World Cup (Tendulkar did it twice), most ODI hundreds since 2017 (16 to Kohli's 15), most number of sixes by an Indian in ODIs (238, two more than Dhoni). All this with an almost ridiculous nonchalance to his batting.

Sharma put on the highest opening partnership of any team in this World Cup, adding 180

runs in a little over 29 overs with K L Rahul, to set up the match-winning total of 314. India did slip up after Sharma's fall, adding only 136 runs and losing eight more wickets in the remaining overs but that only accentuates India's dependence on Sharma in this tournament.

Bangladesh will rue the way they bowled in the first half of the innings — erratic in line and length, bowling either short or slipped down leg and Sharma capitalised in some style. Even Rahul, who has had an average tournament so far, especially as

an opener, cashed in though he didn't look as secure as Sharma. Sharma hit five sixes but the best one was the lofted straight hit off the left-handed seamer Mustafizur Rehman in the 23rd over. And he clearly enjoyed it the most, holding his pose for a while as he watched the white ball sail away over the sightscreen.

Bangladesh will also rue the reprieve they offered Sharma

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## TMC men's rate list: Rs 200 for last rites, Rs 25,000 for house



Harekrishna Roy, wife Aloka say they paid Rs 7,000 in cut money for a housing scheme in Berela, Hooghly. Partha Paul

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA & SANTANU CHOWDHURY  
BIRBHUM, HOOGHLY, PURBA BARDHAMAN, JULY 2

LAST DECEMBER, Mamoni Sardar paid Rs 550 to a local TMC leader in Hooghly to get an LPG connection under the central government's Ujjwala scheme. "I thought that was the cost of the connection. I came to know later that I need not have paid any money... I was so angry. Now, I want my money back," says the 23-year-old.

Today, Mamoni, the wife of a tailor, is among a group of women that has gathered at a mango orchard in Nuniadanga village to vent their anger at two local TMC leaders who, they claim, took Rs 500-600 from each of them to "arrange" their cooking gas connections. The two leaders, Subhas Biswas and Sikha Majumdar, have "gone missing".

These women and their angry faces represent the backlash in rural Bengal, especially in the districts of Purba Bardhaman,

**UNKIND CUT PART-2**  
CUT MONEY: MICRO KICKBACKS STORM IN WEST BENGAL  
AN EXPRESS SERIES

Birbhum, Hooghly, Malda, Murshidabad, Coochbehar and Uttar Dinajpur, against the practice of "cut money", or illegal commissions, allegedly taken by TMC leaders at the grassroots to "facilitate" the grant of central and state government schemes.

On Tuesday, *The Indian Express* reported on how the

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## CUT MONEY RAISED IN PARLIAMENT

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## On Budget table: Likely tax breaks for companies that invest, generate jobs

SANDEEP SINGH  
NEW DELHI, JULY 2

LOOKING TO push private sector investment and job creation in the economy, the government is expected to announce incentives including tax sops for companies that make capital investments in a time-bound manner and generate jobs.

## RUN-UP TO BUDGET 2019-20

A source told *The Indian Express* that the government recognises the need for private sector investment and job creation, and there is a likelihood that it may announce tax sops for capital investments.

"While the government is expected to announce a series of measures to push private investment in the forthcoming Budget, it can announce tax breaks for companies that make capital investment of a certain amount and are able to implement and

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**EXPLAINED**  
Route to spur growth, boost pvt investment

THE TWIN challenges for Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman as she presents her maiden Budget two days from now are to spur growth and create more jobs. The government may be fiscally constrained to spend more, but can entice companies to invest more by offering tax incentives. Private investment has remained depressed for over five years now, and a strategy linking tax incentives to investment and jobs may work.

## Monsoon fury has Mumbai reeling: 25 of 31 dead perished as walls collapsed, Pune toll stands at 6

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, PUNE, JULY 2

HEAVY RAIN continued to lash parts of Maharashtra Tuesday, leading to at least 31 deaths in Mumbai and surrounding areas, including 25 in two separate incidents of walls collapsing in Kurla and Kalyan. In Pune, six people were killed in a wall collapse — the second such incident in the city in four days.

Officials said at least 22 people were killed in Kurla's Pimpripada area, on the fringes of the Sanjay Gandhi National

BUSINESS AS USUAL  
By UNNAY  
Use quality Poll poster. It holds the wall together.  
VOTE FOR



Road, rail, air traffic in Mumbai have been severely hit following overnight rain in Mumbai. Prashant Nadkar

Park, when a wall collapsed on hutments early in the morning. Many others are feared trapped in the debris. In Kalyan, three people died after a wall collapsed.

According to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), a 45-year-old man died after a compound wall fell on him around overnight at the Falguni Co-operative Housing Society in Mulund.

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WORLD



CHINA SAYS HONG KONG PROTESTS ARE A CHALLENGE

TRUMP: IRAN PLAYING WITH FIRE BY BREACHING STOCKPILE CAP

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## RSS media arm honours group that branded citizens anti-national

Clean The Nation claims it got people arrested, fired and suspended for post-Pulwama social media comments

KARISHMA MEHROTRA  
NEW DELHI, JULY 2

A GROUP of men who went after those they called "anti-national" and claim they got them arrested, suspended and, in one case, fired from a job won an RSS affiliate's badge of honour — for social media journalism.

Indeed, the proof of the achievement they flaunt is telling. These include a letter from a Guwahati college sus-

pending an assistant professor; a letter from a Rajasthan university suspending four Kashmiri students, all girls; a Twitter post that led to an arrest in Jaipur; a letter from a Greater Noida engineering college suspending a Kashmiri student; and a Facebook post that led to the arrest of an undergraduate student in Katihar, Bihar.

When *The Indian Express* contacted authorities and officials, some said they had withdrawn their action since no

criminal case was made out.

These men and women were singled out for social media comments in the wake of the Pulwama terror attack and the air duel between Indian and Pakistani warjets after the Kashmiri student. Following the Pulwama attack, Kashmiri students in several colleges were targeted by angry mobs and many had to leave campuses fearing a backlash.

Last Saturday, Clean The Nation (CTN), the group which



Clean The Nation members with the award on June 29. IVSK

went after them, was honoured with the Social Media Patrakarita Narad Samman, instituted by RSS-affiliate Indraprastha Vishwa Samvad Kendra (IVSK).

The Narad Samman ceremony for journalism awards was held at the India International Centre in New Delhi where the winners were felicitated in the presence of RSS joint general secretary Manmohan Vaidya and Union Minister Smriti Irani.

On the social media journalism award to CTN, Vagish Issar, secretary of IVSK, said: "We gave the award to them because we saw how much this group loves the nation. Many people love the

nation, but some people love it actively."

The CTN started as a Facebook group, formed by nine men on February 15, a day after the terror attack on a CRPF convoy in Pulwama. Most of its activity was over the next two days, in which they claim to have drawn over 4,500 members. Facebook and Twitter later repeatedly took down CTN handles, but the initial Facebook page was run by a loose network of about 40 administrators with a lead group of nine men, mostly in their 20s who work as IT professionals in Delhi and Noida. Today, its Twitter handle

@CleanTheNation1 has over 7,750 followers.

In the first video that mobilised the group across platforms in February, CTN core member Madhur Singh says: "This is not a time to change your DPs and take out candle marches." Sporting a shirt with Indian Army written across it, he says: "Find out who is laughing at our soldiers today... Contact their employers. Contact the universities they are studying in... Screw them up this way. Get them terminated from their jobs. Get them suspended from their universities."

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