

**Yediyurappa sails through trust vote, Speaker puts in his papers**



B S Yediyurappa during the trust vote on Monday. PTI

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
BENGALURU, NEW DELHI,  
JULY 29

ENDING WEEKS of political turmoil in Karnataka, the BJP government led by Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa Monday sailed through the confidence motion in the Assembly. The process lasted for around an hour with the BJP placed comfortably in the numbers game after Speaker K R Ramesh Kumar Sunday disqualified 14 more rebels.

And as Kumar resigned as Speaker after the trust vote, two rebel Congress MLAs he disqualified on July 25, Ramesh Jarkiholi and Mahesh Kumathalli, approached the Supreme Court Monday alleging that the action smacked of bias, was "completely arbitrary...unreasonable...grossly illegal, irrational, mala fide and violative of constitutional mandate" and deserved to be set aside.

After brief speeches by Yediyurappa while moving the one-line motion expressing confidence in the government headed by him, and by JD(S) and Congress leaders, the Speaker took up the trust vote and declared that it has been carried by voice vote amid thumping of desks by the treasury benches.

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**ACCIDENT CASE TOO TRANSFERRED TO CBI AS OUTRAGE MOUNTS**

## Unnao rape victim fights for life after accident, murder FIR against BJP MLA



The truck which collided with the car in which the woman, her relatives and lawyer were travelling. PTI

**Uncle claims her security detail leaked her whereabouts, police say checking**

**MANISH SAHU**  
LUCKNOW, JULY 29

A DAY after the Unnao rape victim and her lawyer were critically injured and two of her aunts killed in a road accident, the Rae Bareilly police Monday lodged an FIR against BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar, who is in jail on charges of rape, and his brother Manoj. Both, along with eight others, have been charged with murder and attempt to murder at the Gurubakshganj police station.

The woman was injured Sunday afternoon when the car in which she, her lawyer and two aunts were travelling collided with a truck, which had one number plate blacked out, in Gurubakshganj. The truck owner and the driver have been detained on charges of conspiracy. The woman's uncle has



BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar. PTI file

accused Sengar of planning the accident and alleged that the truck owner is an associate of the MLA. The woman was on her way to visit her uncle, who is in the Rae Bareilly district jail, when the accident took place.

Even as the Uttar Pradesh

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Police personnel deployed at the village of the Unnao rape victim on Monday. Vishal Srivastava

## In her village, grief & fear: We are afraid of Sengar's henchmen

**MAULSHREE SETH & AVANESH MISRA**  
UNNAO, LUCKNOW, JULY 29

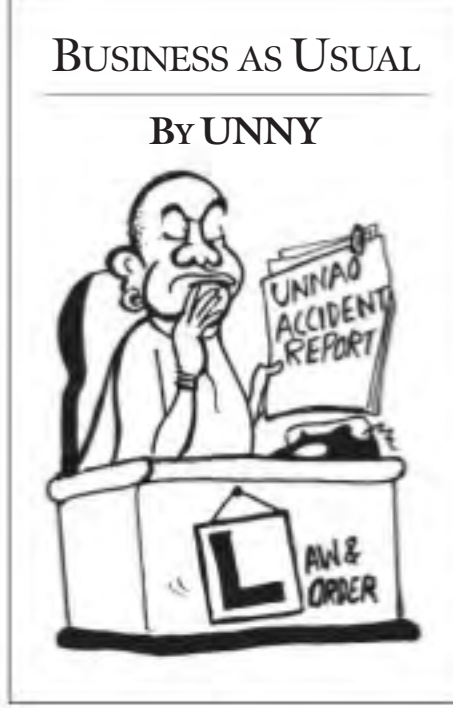
SAAZISH AND chele. Conspiracy and henchmen. The two words echo across the village in Uttar Pradesh to which the Unnao victim and BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar, who she has accused of sexual assault, belong.

Amid the uncharacteristically quiet village, there were more policemen visible on the roads Monday than residents. And a day after the woman and her lawyer were critically injured

and her two aunts killed after the car they were travelling in was hit by a truck on the highway, locals talk of a possible saazish (conspiracy) but only with caution. They say they constantly fear that words they speak might reach the ears of chele (henchmen) of the locally powerful Sengar.

Residents of the village speak of how they have heard that the woman's mother had recently complained of threats, of how the number plates on the truck that hit her car were blacked out and of how her police escort had

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## Tiger numbers double since 2006 but no presence in 3 reserves: Census

2,967 is new total; different cut-off age in reports for 2014 and 2018

**JAY MAZOOMDAAR & ABBINAYA KUZHANTHAIVEL**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

INDIA'S TIGER population has jumped to an estimated 2,967, a rise by 33% over 2,226 reported in 2014. This is also an incredible 210% rise from 1,411 recorded in 2006, according to the all-India estimation — 'Status of Tigers, Co-predators, Prey and their Habitat, 2018' — released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday.

Behind the big headline, hidden in fine print is a discrepancy in methodology: In 2014, tigers aged 1.5 years or older were counted. The current report has the cut-off age as 1 year.

Principal scientists with Wildlife Institute of India did not respond to queries on how the data are comparable, how many tigers are in the 12-18 month age group in the population of 2,967, and how the estimation determines the age of a tiger.

"Tiger cubs don't grow very fast beyond 3 months. Hence, 1 and 1.5 year are synonymous in the context as the difference is not occupationally discernible," said a senior official of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

Releasing the report, the Prime Minister said: "It was decided in St Petersburg that target of doubling tiger population would be 2022, we achieved it

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At the release of the report in New Delhi, Monday. PTI

**EXPLAINED**

### Tech big help in big cat count

THE IMPRESSIVE rise in numbers gains credibility from the fact that 2,461 individual tigers — 83% of the total estimated 2,967 — were recorded in camera-trap. This limits the scope of extrapolation and potential bias or flaws in the estimation process. On the flip side, tigers relinquished 20% of their 2014 habitat though the overall occupancy remained stable due to dispersal to new areas.

**EXPLAINED**  
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## In first 6 months, 82% militants killed in J&K were Valley recruits

**South Kashmir remains hotbed of militancy, says official data**

**SUSHANT SINGH**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

OF THE 121 militants killed in Jammu and Kashmir by security forces in the first half of 2019, only 21 were from Pakistan, which means that 82% of the militants killed in the state were locals. Most of these encounters took place in south Kashmir, with 36 militants being killed in Pulwama, 34 in Shopian and 16 in Anantnag districts.

Recruitment of locals into militancy did not witness a decline in 2019, as 76 locals picked up guns in the first half of the year, with 39 of them joining Hizbul Mujahideen and 21 Jaish-e-Mohammad. The majority of those who joined militancy were from south Kashmir districts: 20 young men from Pulwama, 15 from Shopian, and 13 each from Anantnag and Kulgam joined militancy between January and June this year.

These details about the state

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MONTH	2017	2018	2019
JANUARY	09	04	17
FEBRUARY	10	01	22
MARCH	11	22	21
APRIL	11	22	11
MAY	04	14	27
JUNE	12	13	23
JULY	16	11	
AUGUST	19	22	
SEPTEMBER	14	23	
OCTOBER	09	23	
NOVEMBER	21	39	
DECEMBER	09	21	

MONTH	STONE PELTING	CIVILIAN PROTEST	BANDH CALL
MAY 2018	80	55	04
JUNE 2018	53	46	05
JULY 2018	34	26	02
AUGUST 2018	64	98	09
SEPTEMBER 2018	35	53	07
OCTOBER 2018	53	54	07
NOVEMBER 2018	39	35	02
DECEMBER 2018	39	40	07
JANUARY 2019	23	49	04
FEBRUARY 2019	18	42	04
MARCH 2019	18	54	02
APRIL 2019	51	38	00
MAY 2019	101	114	00
JUNE 2019	17	49	00

## Srinagar SPs told to collect details of all mosques

**ADIL AKHZER**  
SRINAGAR, JULY 29

ALL THE five Superintendents of Police (SPs) in Srinagar district have been told to submit details of "mosques and their managements" in their respective areas "immediately".

"Please provide details of mosques and their managements falling within your respective jurisdictions as per enclosed proforma to this office immediately for onward submission to higher authorities," says an order dated July 28, issued by the office of the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Srinagar district.

When contacted, SSP, Srinagar, Haseeb Mughal confirmed the order but said it was a "routine exercise". "It is an exercise only to update the basic beat book of the police stations. This exercise is done periodically," he told *The Indian Express*. He added that the "timing of the letter is wrong" and people may have got apprehensive.

The order, which is being circulated on social media, has

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**ICIJ THE INDIAN EXPRESS INVESTIGATION**



**MAYO CLINIC ARM ENTERED INTO JV WITH GMR, APOLLO FOR HYDERABAD HOSPITAL**  
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**MIHIR VASAVDA**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

THE WORDS 'shooting' and 'refugees' are often linked together, but seldom in a positive context. Two Olympic gold medalists, however, have joined hands to change that.

Abhinav Bindra and Niccolo Campriani's careers ended on the same day in 2016, but in a highly contrasting fashion. Bindra, with his last shot at the

## Congress flaunted forest rights law in Delhi, dodges it in Bastar

**JAY MAZOOMDAAR**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

WHILE THE Congress celebrates the Forest Rights Act, 2006 as one of its major achievements in the ongoing session of Parliament, the party-led Chhattisgarh government, in its submission to the Supreme Court, has sought to skirt the Act based on an UPA-era circular already struck down by a High Court.

Referring to a letter issued by the Environment Ministry in February 2013, the Chhattisgarh

government submitted that "for projects like construction of roads, canals, laying of pipelines etc where linear diversion of forest land is involved, there is no requirement to obtain the consent" of the gram sabhas concerned unless right of primitive tribal groups are affected, which is not the case in Bastar.

In a landmark judgment on March 6 this year, the Andhra Pradesh High Court set aside the February 2013 circular as inconsistent with FRA and Section (4) of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act.

The Chhattisgarh govern-

ment submitted its affidavit as respondent in a civil appeal filed in the Supreme Court, challenging a National Green Tribunal (NGT) order that upheld the forest clearance granted in May 2014 for the construction of Dalli Rajhara-Rowghat railway line. The petitioner claims that clearance for 83.12 hectare forest land was issued without the consent of the gram sabhas concerned or settling forest rights.

The next hearing of the case is on August 2.

Senior Chhattisgarh forest officials defended the affidavit

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## Bindra trains 3 for refugee team to Olympics



Italian shooter Niccolo Campriani at a selection process earlier this year

Olympic Games, missed podium finish by a heartbreakingly narrow margin. Campriani's farewell shot, in equally dramatic circumstances, fetched him an Olympic gold, the third of his stellar career.

Three years after that epic 10m air rifle final in Rio, they have reunited to nurture another Olympic dream. Campriani and Bindra have collaborated to help three refugees — Khaoula, Luna and Mahdi — qualify for the Tokyo Olympics next July.

Over the next one year, Campriani will mentor them to help them achieve a minimum qualifying score that will make them eligible for the Refugee Olympic Team, which made its debut at the Rio Games. The Italian legend is the face of the project, whose launch coincided with the 500 days countdown to the Games. Bindra, who has held two coaching sessions so far, will play a more behind-the-scenes role.

The five-time Olympian is

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## When Vajpayee vetoed Jaswant on joining US war after 9/11

**After services chiefs said no to India joining Enduring Freedom, PM said 'isko thoda sochna padega', writes Admiral Sushil Kumar who was Navy chief then**

**LIZ MATHEW**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

SHORTLY AFTER the 9/11 attacks in the US in 2001, a high-level delegation, deputised by the US President, came to India with a request that it join its war on terror in Afghanistan. At a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh was all for India joining Operation Enduring Freedom. But the three

chiefs of the Indian armed forces did not want to get involved. After listening to all, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee said: "Isko thoda aur sochna padega" (this may need more thought).

Known for his one-liners, some of which disarmed his political rivals and some created history, Vajpayee's remark put an end to weeks of negotiations and dialogue between New Delhi and Washington over a united war on terror.

Admiral Sushil Kumar, who was Navy chief between December 1998 and December 2001, offers this glimpse into Vajpayee's way of handling issues in his book *A Prime Minister To Remember: Memories of a Military Chief*, published by Konark Publishers Pvt Ltd.

According to Kumar, Admiral Dennis Blair, Commander-in-Chief of the US Pacific Command (now known as US Indo-Pacific Command) had led a large entourage to India with several

high-ranking US military officers. Blair told Kumar that the delegation was personally deputised by the US President because the "US government was keen on India's support for its war on terror" and that a separate delegation headed by Strobe Talbott, former US Deputy Secretary of State, was in dialogue with Indian officials including Jaswant Singh and NSA Brajesh Mishra.

Making a presentation on Enduring Freedom, the delega-



Atal Bihari Vajpayee, George Fernandes, Sushil Kumar. Express archive

tion proposed tasks for the Indian Navy including underway replenishment at sea and combat-related support for US carrier battle groups while the IAF was to make its air bases available for staging long-range US aircraft, and the Army was to prepare for induction of troops in Afghanistan for ground operations.

But the three chiefs — General S Padmanabhan, Air Chief Marshal A Y Tipnis and Admiral Kumar — unanimously decided to advise the government against it. "Neither was this a United Nations operation, nor was this a United

Nations operation, nor was India at war with Afghanistan. Moreover with its policy of non-alignment, India had never been part of a military pact or alliance," Admiral Kumar writes in the book.

At the CCS meeting, Jaswant Singh "waxed eloquent on the need to join this operation as it was part of a global war on terror and could garner international support" and "the opportunity India had to engage with the US, the only super power."

But according to Admiral Kumar, Vajpayee "noticed my look of disapproval" and said

"Hamare Admiral khush nahin hai" (our Admiral is not happy). When he got the chance, the Admiral expressed his reservations and asked whether such a move would not appear as if India was at war with Afghanistan. When Vajpayee turned to Defence Minister George Fernandes, he responded: "Our military chiefs have said it all."

"Prime Minister Vajpayee graciously put the matter to rest with a philosophical quip: 'Isko thoda aur sochna padega'."

In the book, Admiral Kumar mentions how Op Parakram, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2