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CBI STARTS PROBE, BOOKS BJP MLA ON MURDER CHARGE

Unnao rape-accident on CJI table today, UP Minister's kin among those accused



CJI Ranjan Gogoi, Arvind Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia on Wednesday. Prem Nath Pandey



Security personnel at the cremation ground in Unnao on Wednesday. Vishal Srivastava

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

AS CHIEF Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi sought a report from the Supreme Court Secretary General on why the Unnao rape victim's letter was not brought to his notice, the CBI Wednesday filed an FIR against Uttar Pradesh BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar, and nine others, including the son-in-law of a UP minister, on allegations that they orchestrated the accident that has left the woman in a critical condition.

Listing the Unnao matter for Thursday, CJI Gogoi, heading a bench with Justices Deepak Gupta and Aniruddha Bose, remarked that it was "unfortunate" that the woman's July 12 letter did not reach him earlier. Senior advocate V Giri brought the Unnao matter to the court's notice.

Days before she was critically injured and her two aunts killed in a road accident, the Unnao woman, who has accused Sengar of sexual assault, had written a letter to the CJI, and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

News comes of funerals in Lucknow hospital where she fights for life

MAULSHREE SETH
LUCKNOW, JULY 31

THE CLAMOUR outside the King George's Medical University (KGMU) critical care unit stops when a teenager carrying an urn covered with red cloth arrives. His face streaked with tears, the boy has just returned with the ashes of his aunt, who was cremated Wednesday in an Unnao village.

On Thursday in Barabanki, there's another funeral. His mother's. The two women died in the car accident Sunday in Rae Bareilly which left the Unnao rape

victim and her lawyer in critical condition.

As the Unnao woman fights for life on ventilator support, with doctors saying she is still critical with "vitals showing some improvement, which is hard to define", her family is caught between two cremations, her recovery and a police case.

The young boy, who is the woman's cousin walked out later with luggage in one hand and the urn in the other as the woman's mother, who has been wearing the same saree for the past three days, entered the CCU. With nowhere else to go, her

mother carried some belongings in a cloth bag, which she holds tight to her chest at all times, trailed by her three other daughters and son.

"We have cremated my aunt today as my uncle had to go back to jail. I was the only male member left after him, so we have brought the ashes with us. I will now cremate my mother tomorrow morning in our home town of Barabanki," he told

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

RELATED REPORTS
PAGE 10

AN EXPRESS SERIES PART I

'I realised Allah didn't want me to sacrifice my life to make him happy'

Says father of four after a programme of 'deradicalisation' in Maharashtra which is being studied by other states

SAGAR RAJPUT
MUMBAI, AURANGABAD,
JULY 31

ON APRIL 11, 2017, as dusk was settling over Aurangabad, policemen from Maharashtra's Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) knocked on his door and asked him to go with them for an "urgent" investigation. He guessed why they had come.

He had been in touch with his childhood friend who is believed to have joined the Islamic State (IS) in 2014. And through this friend, he had spoken to an IS recruiter over a chat app on becoming a suicide bomber. On his Facebook page, he had changed his profile picture to the black-and-white IS flag and posted two messages that declared his affiliation.

That evening, his wife and parents watching, he feared the worst as he was driven away in a car — life behind bars, even death. But nothing prepared him for what came next.

At their office in Aurangabad, the ATS officers pushed a sheaf of papers towards him. It was a list of 240 questions but not about him and IS. They were questions no one had ever asked him.

Are you impulsive? Do you like going on roller coaster rides? Do you have an active fantasy life? Do you do things just for the thrill of it? Do you sometimes flatter people to get your way? For eight hours, the questions kept coming. Unknown to him, he was facing a psychometric test. And the questionnaire was to assess the degree to which he had been "radicalised" or how vulnerable he was to radicalisation. Then came the second surprise. He was sent home — asked to return every day until further instructions.

He was the latest entrant to the ATS's "deradicalisation programme" under which the police say they are trying to pull people like him back from the edge.

According to Maharashtra Deputy Commissioner of Police Dhananjay Kulkarni, this three-year-old programme has "reintegrated" at least 114 young men and six women who were being wooed by IS. The ATS claims to



ATS office in Mumbai

WHO ARE THEY...

120 persons, including six women, enrolled in the deradicalisation programme

52 above 30 years of age

57 between 21 and 30 yrs

11 below 20 years

...WHAT THEY DO

105 are self-employed; 28 with technical/engineering education

11 are students

4 are unemployed

have counselled 200 others, too.

Much of the programme is under wraps so *The Indian Express* spoke to several officers who run it, individuals who were put through it and their families to piece together the story of how police turned counsellors working with a hastily put-together roadmap with a clearly defined goal.

Traditionally, India has been an outlier in the jihadi recruitment business — al-Qaeda and now IS have few from India in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

DRIVING CHANGE

Rajya Sabha has passed the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2019, which imposes stricter penalties. All the fines are base amounts, states can increase them by up to 10 times, but can't lower them.

₹10,000 FOR DRUNK DRIVING, UP FROM ₹2,000.

₹5,000 FOR TALKING ON A CELLPHONE WHILE DRIVING, UP FROM ₹1,000.

₹5,000 FOR DRIVING WITHOUT A LICENCE, UP FROM ₹500.

■ In hit-and-run cases, ₹2 lakh for death (up from ₹25,000), ₹50,000 for grievous injury (up from ₹12,500).

■ Motor Vehicle Accident Fund to provide compulsory insurance to all road users.

■ If a juvenile is caught driving, the guardian/owner will face a fine of ₹25,000 with 3 years imprisonment, minor to be tried under the Juvenile Justice Act, registration of vehicle to be cancelled.

₹25,000-1 lakh IF TAXI AGGREGATORS VIOLATE LICENSING CONDITIONS.

₹1,000 (LIGHT MOTOR VEHICLES) AND **₹2,000** (MEDIUM-SIZED VEHICLES) FOR OVERSPEEDING.

■ No cap on liability for third party insurance; ₹5 lakh insurance compensation, up from ₹50,000.

■ Vehicle dealers can get a car registered online.

■ A "good samaritan" who helps a road accident victim will be given protection from harassment by authorities.

■ Online provision for learners' licence; Aadhaar card must for driving licence.

₹1,000 per extra passenger for "overloading"; **₹5,000** for "oversized vehicles".

₹1,000 for not wearing a seat belt, up from ₹100.

₹1,000 and disqualification of licence for not wearing a helmet while riding two-wheelers, up from ₹100.

₹10,000 for driving despite disqualification, up from ₹500.

■ The Bill was earlier passed by Lok Sabha, but will be sent back as Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari proposed an amendment and said it had a printing mistake.

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR

REPORT

PAGE 6

Cafe Coffee Day founder's body recovered from river bank; firm names interim chief

JOHNSON TA
BENGALURU, JULY 31

THE BODY of V G Siddhartha, founder of the Cafe Coffee Day chain who went missing Monday evening, was found on the banks of the river Nethravathi Wednesday morning by two fishermen.

Police sources told *The Indian Express* that the body had no visible marks of injuries and a post mortem has indicated drowning as the cause of death. They said this confirms their suspicion that the businessman had committed



People pay their last respects to V G Siddhartha, in Chikkamagaluru, Wednesday. PTI

RELATED REPORTS, PAGE 9

ted suicide by jumping off a bridge into the river Monday.

"We searched for the body for over 24 hours with NDRF, coastal security and coast guard resources pressed into service. Local fishermen also helped us. The body was found this morning. Further investigations are on," Sandeep Patil, Mangalore City Police Commissioner, said.

Mangalore Police also dispatched a team to the Cafe Coffee Day headquarters in Bengaluru to investigate the death, including a letter that Siddhartha, the 60-year-old

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

WORLD



NORTH KOREA TESTS MORE MISSILES DESPITE DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS

AFGHANISTAN HIGHWAY BLAST KILLS 35 ON BUS

PAGE 16

BCCI gets a dose from Govt: You don't have authority to test players for drugs

MIHIR VASAVDA
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

DAYS BEFORE 19-year-old batsman Prithvi Shaw failed a dope test, the government had come down heavily on the Indian cricket board and its anti-doping set-up. In a stern letter to BCCI CEO Rahul Johri, the Sports Ministry said that the board's anti-doping programme lacked robustness and hinted at a conflict of interest since the BCCI itself tests and hands out punishment to its players.

The Ministry also said that the BCCI did not have the right to conduct dope tests on players since it is not authorised by the government or the World Anti Doping Agency (WADA). "Article 5.2 of WADA Code provides for sampling of athletes only by an Anti Doping Organisation with testing authority. It is a matter of fact that BCCI is neither an anti-doping organisation with testing authority under WADA Code nor it can acquire such a status," the Ministry wrote in the letter

dated June 26.

The BCCI has been at loggerheads with the government for several years for not signing up with the National Anti Doping Agency (NADA), an autonomous body mandated to keep sports clean. While all other sports and sportspersons in the country follow regulations laid out by NADA, the cricket board has steadfastly refused to toe the line.

The board has cited flaws in the testing agency's procedures as one of the key reasons for not

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

FROM 30 TO 33

After CJI wrote note to PM, Govt raises SC judge strength by 10%

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

JUST ABOUT a month after Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to consider increasing the strength of judges in the Supreme Court, the Union Cabinet Wednesday decided to bring a Bill to increase the strength by 10 per cent from 30 to 33 judges apart from the Chief



Prakash Javadekar on Wednesday. Prem Nath Pandey

Justice.

Announcing the decision, Union Minister for Information

& Broadcasting, and Environment, Forest & Climate Change Prakash Javadekar said that "there has always been a complaint that so many cases are pending in the Supreme Court and it needs more judges".

The last time the strength was increased was a decade ago in 2009 when the number of judges in the top court was increased to 31 (including the Chief Justice) from 26.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Customer cancels food order over religion, gets a taste of tolerance

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

A CUSTOMER in Jabalpur who cancelled his food order after he found it was being delivered by a non-Hindu got some food for thought — and bared open a divide.

Winning the Internet was Zomato's response to the man who had cancelled his order on the app-based food delivery service, because the delivery person was a Muslim. "Food doesn't have a religion. It is a religion," the company tweeted in response to the man's com-

plaint of the delivery person's religion, and demand for a refund.

The company's CEO, Deepinder Goyal, weighed in with a tweet. "We are proud of the idea of India — and the diversity of our esteemed customers and partners. We aren't sorry to lose any business that comes in the way of our values," he wrote.

Congress leader and former Union minister P Chidambaram said in a tweet: "I've not ordered food so far but I think I will do so now from Zomato." Former Chief Election Commissioner S Y Quraishi was equally appreciative of the food aggregator's stand: "Salute Deepinder Goyal!

You are the real face of India! Proud of you."

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah tweeted: "Respect. I love your app. Thank you for giving me a reason to admire the company behind it."

It all began when Jabalpur-based Amit Shukla complained to Zomato about how the service had "allocated a non-Hindu rider" to deliver his order. Shukla added that the company said "they can't change rider and can't refund on cancellation". Infuriated with the cancellation charges, the man threatened the service with legal action.



Suvajit Dey

"@ZomatoIN is forcing us to take deliveries from people we don't want else they won't refund and won't cooperate I am removing this app and will discuss the issue with my lawyers," the user tweeted.

Shukla also shared a conversation with the company's helpdesk, which had wanted to know what the issue with the rider was. "We have *Shrawan* and I don't need a delivery from a Muslim fellow," he wrote in the conversation.

Zomato responded that the cancellation after the delivery person has picked the order would cost the user Rs 237. The

user alleged that the company blocked him from accessing the details of his order on the site.

Meanwhile, Faiyaz, the food delivery executive, said he was hurt by the customer's refusal. "Yes, I feel hurt. What can I say? We are poor, we have to suffer," he said.

Shukla, however, stuck to his stand. "Do my freedom of expression and religion not fall under the idea of India?" he asked a news channel.

Similar Twitter storms have engulfed several companies before. Last year, after a VHP member tweeted about cancelling an

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE IN POLITICS?

BY PRATAP BHANU MEHTA
PAGE 14

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



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EXPRESS TECHNOLOGY

Here's how to deactivate or delete your Facebook account



CCD OWNER DEAD: MORTAL REMAINS BROUGHT HOME, BSY PAYS LAST RESPECTS

VG Siddhartha, the son-in-law of SM Krishna, was first reported missing on Monday evening by his driver, who was the last to see him. The police had launched a massive search operation Tuesday with teams of NDRF, Coast Guard, Home Guard, fire services and coastal police scouring the swollen Nethravathi river

VIDEO OF THE DAY



TRIPLE TALAQA BILL PASSED IN RAJYA SABHA

The Bill finally received the approval of the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday

FULL COVERAGE



MEA LETTER TO PAK HIGH COMMISSIONER

This is against all established humanitarian norms

EXPRESS AUDIO

Why Privithi Shaw has been handed a ban due to a cough syrup

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In this episode of the 3 Things podcast, we look at why the India test cricket opener has been banned till Nov 15 and what it says about the awareness of anti-doping laws

CLASH DURING 1992-93 COMMUNAL RIOTS

Mumbai: Sessions court acquits man arrested 26 years after violence

SADAF MODAK
MUMBAI, JULY 31

A MAN, who was arrested 26 years after two groups clashed violently during the communal riots in Mumbai in 1992-93, was acquitted by a sessions court last week.

The trial against Usman Mulla, now 52, who was arrested in February this year, began in June and saw the deposition of only one witness — a police officer. However, the witness could not establish Mulla's presence at the spot where the alleged incident took place on January 10, 1993.

"The prosecution has even failed to establish that the accused was present at the time of occurrence of the incident. Merely saying that the accused was arrested on the day of the incident cannot

be and should not be considered as sufficient evidence against the accused to connect him with the alleged crime when his presence on the spot is not established," the court said.

The court acquitted Mulla of charges including rioting, causing hurt and attempt to murder under the Indian Penal Code and other relevant sections of the Mumbai Police Act. A police official said many of the witnesses were not traceable due to the passage of time. The court also observed that 84 others arrested in the case had already been acquitted. The trial was conducted in different stages, including in 2011, when seven men were acquitted. The court had also acquitted men over lack of evidence, stating there was nothing on record to show the accused were members of an unlawful assembly.

3 arrested in Assam for alleged links with Bangladeshi militant group

ABHISHEK SAHA
GUWAHATI, JULY 31

THE ASSAM police arrested three people in Barpeta district and picked up another person from Chirang district for alleged links with Bangladesh-based militant outfit, Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), police officials said on Wednesday.

Barpeta SP, Robin Kumar, told *The Indian Express* that authorities were keeping a close watch over the JMB's activities since January. In February, Ariful Islam, a JMB operative, who hails from Barpeta, was arrested in West Bengal.

"We received a specific input regarding JMB sleeper cells. On the night of July 29, we carried out searches in Bhawanipur area of the district. We got success in arresting one JMB cadre named Haffizur Rehman and also seized one country-made revolver and 4 live rounds from him," Kumar said. He added that during further searches, two more alleged JMB cadres — Yakub Ali and Shoriful Rehman — were arrested.

"They have confessed that they were all trained. Their interrogation is being conducted and we are trying to ascertain where all the training took place," he said.

FROM PAGE ONE

News of funerals

The Indian Express.

The woman's mother and her children walk close to each other, always looking around to make sure every family member is accounted for. Before they reach the doors of the CCU, they are stopped by their police escort.

A policeman says an inspector needs to meet them on the second floor where a room has been arranged for them. Her mother looks at the doors of the CCU once before they are whisked away to the elevators.

At the CCU, as attendants of patients from across the state sit on the hospital floor on plastic bags or old bedsheets, four women constables wearing surgical masks occupy the chairs on either side of the doors outside the KGMU critical care unit.

Two more women constables sit between them and the inner doors of the CCU and another four constables occupy the chairs next to the elevators on the floor. Policemen hustle across the corridors every few minutes. It could not be more conspicuous inside the Lucknow hospital, but most people now know it is no ordinary patient in critical condition at the CCU.

Farhat Hussain, in his early 70's, holds on to one empty chair next to the CCU, hoping to stay on it after his sister is admitted inside. "I have come from Sandila in Hardoi district. My 65-year-old sister fell and suffered a head injury. She was initially kept on a stretcher for about an hour and has been taken for a CT scan, I am waiting for her to come back," he says.

"Doctors awaj dete hain (doctors will call us)," he says on why he wants the chair closest to the CCU doors. Other family members of those admitted to the CCU are not as lucky as Hussain.

One woman from Bahraich says, "What can we do, we have to be here if doctors ask for anything. If we leave this place, others will take it. My granddaughter is admitted here as she developed complications while delivering her first baby," says Kesari Devi.

Noticing the din of policemen, a woman sitting next to Devi asks, "Kiske liye aye hain yeh sab, kya ho raha hai? (For whom have all these people come? What is happening?)" Her relative tells her, "The woman from Unnao who was in news is admitted here. They are here to protect her."

The first woman replies, "Ab ka bachaibe? (What will they protect now?)"

'Deradicalisation'

their ranks. While experts point to several factors — robust democracy, political representation and a more inclusive form of Islam being some of them — senior officers cite Maharashtra's deradicalisation programme as one tangible intervention.

In fact, Maharashtra's programme is the only one in India to be run by a state police force and word-of-mouth has had police from Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat informally sounding them out to study the possibility of replicating the model.

So far, ATS records show, 93 people have been arrested in India for alleged links with IS. While 52 have allegedly travelled to IS conflict zones since 2014, 10 have returned, including Areeb Majid, who is being prosecuted by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and is currently facing trial. He is in judicial custody in Mumbai.

Investigator says that Majid told them he was lured into a honey trap by a faceless woman on Facebook. The officers claim

Unnao rape-accident on CJI table today

other UP authorities, stating that she faced threats by the accused in the rape case.

"On mentioning, the matter is taken on board. List the matter tomorrow (on 1.8.2019) along with the report of the Registry in respect of the administrative order passed by the Chief Justice of India yesterday with regard to the letter written by the victim in Unnao Rape Case, which the media has reported to have been received in the Registry on 17.7.2019," the bench directed.

"The Secretary General to explain why if the said letter has been received on 17.7.2019, the same was not put up either before the Bench on the judicial side or before the Chief Justice of India on the administrative

side until 4.00 pm yesterday." Earlier, the CBI booked Sengar, along with Arun Singh, son-in-law of UP Minister Ranendra Pratap Singh "Dhuni", and eight others in connection with the accident probe. A special CBI team formed to probe the case visited the accident site in the Gurubakshganj area of Rae Bareilly district. The team inspected the crime scene and the truck which had hit the car the woman, her lawyer and aunts were travelling in.

In the SC, stating that he had already issued an order to the Registry regarding the letter Tuesday, CJI Gogoi also took exception to media reports which, he said, seemed to imply that the court had not acted on it.

"Today, I saw media reports which seem to suggest as if the Chief Justice did not do anything about it," the CJI said, adding "I have not seen the letter. I was informed about it yesterday at 4 pm and have sought a report".

The CJI observed that "we try to do something constructive in a highly volatile destructive environment but this happens".

Giri is assisting the court as amicus curiae in a suo motu case registered by the court to find ways to avoid delays in the investigation and trial of cases under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.

Urging the court to take it up, Giri told the bench that he was informed by some NGOs

and also the case attracted POCSO as the victim was a minor at the time of the sexual assault.

In her letter to authorities, including the CJI, the woman stated that on July 7, some people allegedly associated with Sengar threatened her family with dire consequences. It also sought directions for registration of an FIR against those who had intimidated her family.

The Indian Express reported Wednesday that an SC bench of Justices S A Bobde and S Abdul Nazeer had issued notices to the CBI and the accused in the case on a plea by the woman's mother seeking transfer of four cases currently being heard by a CBI Special Judge in Lucknow to Delhi.

litigant public."

Gogoi had said he was unable to set-up five-judge Constitution benches for substantial questions of law as to the interpretation of the Constitution because of inadequate judge strength.

As of July 1, the total number of cases pending before Constitution benches are 557, with 407 before five-judge bench, 13 before a seven-judge bench, and 137 matters before the nine-judge constitutional bench.

Javadekar said the NDA government had also increased the number of judges in High Courts across the country in 2016. He said that the judge strength in high courts was increased by 173 judges, from 906 to 1079 in 2016. After three judges were appointed to the Supreme Court in May, the court is functioning at its full strength of 31 judges — the first time since 2008.

CBI names minister's son-in-law for murder, plot

president Shrikant Katiyar said, "Arun Singh is a BJP leader and son-in-law of minister Ranendra Pratap Singh."

Asked about Arun Singh being named in the Unnao woman's accident case, Harish Srivastava, state BJP spokesperson told *The Indian Express*, "After Yogi Adityanath took the oath, he said that from now on 'aam' and 'khaas' would be same in the eyes of the law. The BJP

government stands with that statement."

"No matter how influential someone is, if they are found involved in crime then action will be taken against them as per the provisions of the law."

The investigating officer in the case and SHO of Gurubakshganj police station, Rakesh Kumar Singh, said, "Those named in the case will be chargesheeted on the basis of the evidence found against

them. Their role will be looked into during investigation. Now, the investigation has been transferred to CBI and all documents related to the case will be transferred to them."

Days after the car in which the Unnao woman was travelling was hit by an over-speeding truck in Rae Bareilly, killing two of her aunts and leaving her and her lawyer critically injured, the UP government had transferred the accident

probe to the CBI. The woman had accused Sengar of sexual assault last year and, on July 12, had even written to UP authorities and the Chief Justice of India that the accused in the sexual assault case had threatened her.

On Wednesday morning, the Rae Bareilly police produced the truck driver Ashish Pal and cleaner Mohan before a local court, which sent them to judicial custody.

BCCI

complying with its rules. It has also contended that since the BCCI is not a government-funded national federation, it is not subject to NADA's jurisdiction, and claimed to have a "robust mechanism to ensure Indian cricket is free from doping".

However, the Ministry dismissed these claims. "The claim of BCCI having a robust mechanism to ensure Indian cricket is clean and free from doping is not based on facts," the letter said. "In 2018, 215 samples were sent by BCCI to National Dope Testing Laboratory, India, for testing. Of these, 5 tested positive. There is no information as to how these athletes who tested positive have been dealt with," it said.

The Ministry questioned the BCCI's overarching involvement in doping cases. As per WADA rules, which are adopted by NADA, an independent panel is formed that has no "prior involvement" with the parties involved. However, in cricket's case, BCCI itself appoints the hearing panel, which the Ministry said is not in "accordance with principles of natural justice".

"BCCI mechanism for adjudication in the event of positive dope result is not in accordance with the principles of natural justice. BCCI as an interested party and also the appointing authority for appointment of officers, tribunal members or appellate authority for adjudication," the letter read.

The government has also categorically told the board that cricketers will not be treated differently to other athletes who comply with strict anti-doping rules.

It is learnt that Johri, in a meeting with senior Ministry officials in July, was told that the BCCI will have to agree with NADA rules and no special agreement will be signed with the cricket body, whose testing programme is managed by Sweden-based International Doping Tests and Management.

The BCCI's claim that it does not fall under NADA's jurisdiction has also been rejected, with the Ministry citing a NADA rule in its letter, which says: "All athletes and athlete support personnel who participate in any capacity in any activity organised, held, convened or authorised by organiser of event or league that is not affiliated with National Federation (are subject to testing by NADA)."

On Tuesday, the BCCI said Shaw has been suspended for a doping violation until November 15, 2019. It said the India batsman had "inadvertently ingested a prohibited substance, which can be commonly found in cough syrups".

The Aurangabad visit

In the Aurangabad case, which is illustrative of the contours of the programme, the visit to the youth's home was followed by counselling customised to the results of the psychometric test, which was analysed by a Thane-based group of private counsellors.

For the next 15 days, the youth reached the ATS office at 11 am to "chat" until late in the evening. Sometimes it would be just one officer, at times there would be two or three. "Rather than formal sessions, we made it seem like informal chats. We would chat about his perception of the world. It was more like friends talking over tea," an officer said.

The room in the ATS office had a large table where the youth sat across his counsellor. It also had workstations for ATS officers, which added to the informality of the setting. At least three officers involved in his counselling said the topics would range from his favourite Bollywood hero to key events in Islamic history.

The conversations would sometimes get heated. Once, said the official, the youth referred to a key event from Islamic history and claimed that injustice was done to Muslims — the officer responded by arguing that there was no reason to fight now over a conflict from centuries ago.

During the sessions, he was allowed to pray five times in a separate room. An officer said they served him tea and snacks and often, homemade food from their lunch boxes.

Gradually, he opened up. He said he was told by the online IS recruiter that he must leave India, which he referred to as the "land of disbelievers". An ATS officer then intervened to point out that this was his own country, and asked whether he had ever been stopped from praying

by anyone.

The youth also claimed to have been influenced by Maulana Syed Anzar Shah Qasmi's speeches. Qasmi was arrested in 2016 for suspected links with Al Qaeda. One heated conversation ended when an officer pointed out that preachers who deliver hate speeches do so to exploit vulnerable minds and fulfil their own agenda.

During one session, the youth brought up another grievance: problems faced by Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar. The ATS officers told him his wife and four children were more important than any international issue. That was when he broke down to admit that his wife gets agitated when he leaves home to reach the ATS office and wondered aloud what her state would be if he had actually gone to Syria.

After he lost his job as a mobile phones seller in 2016, he confided, he could not even buy a football for his son. In response, an officer asked how he would fulfil their needs if he spent all his time watching propaganda videos.

'He won't leave us'

By then, the counselling team knew his mind was changing. He pledged that he would not betray his country. But the ATS officers played it safe, saying they did not trust him.

Citing the example of a doctor who was arrested for his IS links, an officer asked him to imagine what would happen if he spent the rest of his life in jail. At the same time, the officer pointed out that he would be risking his career if he let the youth go.

The youth then swore on his family and the Quran that he would never betray the officer's trust. After 15 days of these conversations, he was called to the ATS office once every week, before the sessions tapered off to twice a month.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, the youth's wife said: "The day he told me that he wanted to join IS, I was shocked and at the same time I was scared. What if he leaves without telling us? I just told him that we won't be able to live without

him. But looking at his expression I understood that he won't leave us and go."

The youth, now 33, said: "I wanted to make Allah happy by sacrificing my life but I have realised that even Allah doesn't want me to do this."

(NEXT: HOW FAMILIES PLAYED A ROLE IN HELPING ATS)

Food order

Ola cab ride because of a Muslim driver, the company issued a statement reiterating that it is a secular platform and against discrimination. Twitter users mocked the VHP member's tweet with their own versions of "canceled an Ola Cab booking today because..."

Food e-commerce has grown tremendously in recent years. A recent study by Unomer showed that the penetration of food delivery apps in tier-2 cities was higher than metros when expressed as a proportion of the smartphone users.

On Wednesday, however, along with all the praise were two hashtags that were trending late in the day: #BoycottZomato and #IStandWithAmIt.

(WITH PTI IN JABALPUR)

CCD founder

son-in-law of former Karnataka Chief Minister S M Krishna, had purportedly written two days before his disappearance in which he suggested frustration over his inability to steer the firm through financial turbulence.

A few hours before his disappearance, the businessman had instructed his personal secretary to disseminate the letter to staff members at Coffee Day Enterprises, the company that runs the coffee chain, Tuesday. Mangalore Police are looking at using the letter as evidence to support the theory that the businessman committed suicide "after much planning".

Police have also found a witness in Simon D'Souza, a fisherman who reported seeing a man jump off the bridge over the Nethravathi around 7 pm on July 29, around the time Siddhartha left his driver waiting in his car

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FIXED CHARGES DECREASED BUT THOSE CONSUMING OVER 1,200 UNITS PAY MORE

Your electricity bills are set to dip

ANANYA TIWARI
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

POWER BILLS for a large section of Delhiites will go down starting next month with the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) announcing a cut in fixed charges for domestic consumers.

Fixed charges, which had become a point of contention over the past few months, with BJP as well as Congress hitting out at the AAP government over the sharp increase seen last year, are levied on the consumer based on the sanctioned load of each household.

The tariff for domestic consumers who use more than 1,200 units per month has gone up, though. While they were paying Rs 7.75 per unit earlier, they will be paying Rs 8 starting Wednesday. There is no change in the per unit tariff for those consuming less than 1,200 units.

Fixed charges have come down from Rs 125 per kilowatt per month to Rs 20 per kilowatt, for a sanctioned load of 2 kilowatt.

For a sanctioned load of between 5 kilowatt and 15 kilowatt, the charge has been reduced from Rs 175 per kilowatt per month to Rs 100.

"The revised tariffs fulfil the need of each and every consumer and is balanced overall," DERC chairperson Justice SS Chauhan said.

According to DERC officials,

MOST DOMESTIC USERS SET TO BENEFIT				
FIXED CHARGES Sanctioned load	Existing fixed charges (Rs/kW/month)	Revised fixed charges (Rs/kW/month)	ENERGY CHARGES	
			Units	Charge in Rs/kWh
Upto 2kW	125	20	0-200 units	3
> 2kW and < 5kW	140	50	201-400 units	4.5
> 5kW and < 15 kW	175	100	401-800 units	6.5
> 15 kW and < 25 kW	200	200	801-1200 units	7
> 25 kW	250	250	> 1200 units	8



for a household with a sanctioned load of 2 kilowatts and usage of 210 units per month, the electricity bill will come down from Rs 895 to Rs 685 — a saving of Rs 210.

A consumer living in a one-room apartment with ambient lights and a refrigerator, and with a sanctioned load of 1 kw per month and using 105 units, will save Rs 105 by paying Rs 335 instead of Rs 440, officials said.

"Similarly, consumers who live in three-bedroom apartments with more than one air

conditioner and have a sanctioned load of, say, 7 kilowatt, using 735 units, will see their bill reduce from Rs 4,903 to Rs 4,378 per month," said Mahender Singh, executive, tariffs, DERC.

These figures do not account for a surcharge of 8% for consumers supplied by BRPL, BYPL and TPDDL.

DERC has also announced a decrease of Rs 0.5 per unit in charges for recharging stations for e-rickshaws and e-vehicles.

As per the Master Plan of Delhi 2021, certain professionals are permitted to convert up to

half of their residential premises into their offices from which they work. These include lawyers, doctors, architects, and will now include psychologists and physiotherapists, as per the latest change by the DERC. Those opening a shop in commercial areas with a sanctioned load of upto 3kVA will witness a reduction in fixed charge rate from Rs 8.50/kVAh to Rs 6/kVAh.

For non-domestic use, DERC has retained the Time of Day tariff. This means that their tariff will depend on the time when electricity is used.

Sisodia takes aim at other states, says people being looted

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

"THE GRAPH is continuously falling," Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said Tuesday while pointing towards the reduction in power tariffs, even as the Opposition projected it as an outcome of the pressure it put on the state government.

Sisodia and Power Minister Satyendar Jain said at a press conference that the capital has emerged as a shining example of probity in governance, even as other states continue to "loot people through high tariffs".

Sisodia went on to demand a CBI probe behind power tariff revisions in other states, saying he wonders why annual hikes are the norm everywhere but the national capital.

"Today, tariff is lower than it was in 2010. The graph is steadily falling in Delhi while in other states, prices are only going up. The fact is other states are witnessing scams. There should be a CBI probe," Sisodia said.

With assembly elections due in another six months, AAP is expected to project the largely un-

changed power tariffs as one of its major achievements — something that the BJP and Congress might find difficult to counter.

In fact, the Opposition's criticism was largely centred around the announcement on reduction in fixed charges, a demand that both the BJP and the Congress had made after last year's hike.

Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari said the DERC's announcement on reduction in power tariffs was an "implicit admission by the Kejriwal government that the discoms have looted Delhi in the last one year".

While Tiwari claimed that the "quantum of loot stands at Rs 7,000 crore", leader of opposition Vijender Gupta put the amount as Rs 10,000 crore.

The Delhi Congress demanded a "total rollback" of the hiked fixed charges and pension cess, which is a part of the total amount consumers are charged.

"The fact that the Kejriwal government has reduced fixed charges tariff is proof enough that it had admitted to looting people of Delhi in the past one and a half years by hiking fixed charges," the DPCC said in a statement.

Central wildlife division shared incorrect info, claims former zoo official

SHIVAM PATEL
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

HIGHLIGHTING THE "pathetic condition" of the central environment ministry's wildlife division, a retired Indian Forest Service officer has alleged the department gave "factually incorrect" information to ministers.

Dr D N Singh, a former member secretary of the Central Zoo Authority (CZA), has written to the Prime Minister, drawing his attention to instances where details shared with MPs in Parliament during question hour were allegedly wrong.

In one such instance from July 26, East Delhi MP Gautam Gambhir asked whether the National Zoological Park (NZP) or Delhi zoo has "lost its sheen"

with enclosures lying empty following death of several animals.

To this, MoS for environment Babul Supriyo had replied, "Only one enclosure of giraffe is lying empty since June 09, 2015... after the death of last giraffe due to myocarditis and kidney failure."

Dr Singh claimed the reply was factually incorrect, as the NZP violated a CZA-approved master layout plan, according to which only one species of animal is to be kept in an enclosure. He added that the zoo's last Chinkara, or Indian gazelle, died on June 14 following which two barking deer were shifted to its enclosure.

An official of the Delhi zoo said, "We have surplus population of herbivorous animals and we have to keep them in separate enclosures to avoid infighting."

Vajpayee name will now be part of institute attached to RML Hospital

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

THE UNION Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has given the go-ahead to rename the medical institute attached with Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital as Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Medical Sciences.

The institute till now went by the name Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER).

The newly renamed medical institute will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 16, the death anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

The *Indian Express* had on July 10 reported about the college administration wanting to rename

RML hospital wants its college to be renamed after Vajpayee



The *Indian Express* report dated July 10

the institute after late PM Vajpayee.

On Wednesday, the administration received a letter from the Ministry confirming the same.

"The renaming of the present PGIMER & Dr RML hospital to Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of

Medical Sciences & Dr Ram Manohar Lohia hospital has been approved. The Prime Minister will inaugurate it on the death anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee," stated the letter dated July 30.

The proposal was sent to Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan by the hospital administration on July 9.

Started in 2009, the institute was inaugurated by the then union health minister Dr Anbumani Ramadoss.

"The Health Minister has requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to inaugurate the newly renamed institute on August 16. There are 213 seats in the post-graduate institute at present, which will be increased to 250 by the end of this year. We are also starting the foundation

course on 100 MBBS seats from Thursday," Dr Rajeev Sood, dean of the medical institute, told *The Indian Express*.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare gave a green signal to the hospital to start the undergraduate MBBS course on June 29.

On an average, the hospital witnesses around 7,000-8,000 patients daily in its out-patient department, and more than 1,000 patients in its emergency ward.

In February this year, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also announced a medical varsity under Vajpayee's name.

The UP government earmarked Rs 50 crore for setting up the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical University in Lucknow.

Man who stole from 5-star hotel arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GURGAON, JULY 31

FIVEMONTHS after "8 to 10 men" scaled the wall of Grand Hyatt hotel in Gurgaon and allegedly stole "50 to 60 sheets of aluminium" after threatening the security guards with pistols, police have arrested one person for the crime.

Police identified the accused as Sandeep alias Sandy, a resident of Behrampur village. The incident had occurred on the night between February 25 and 26.


"In the FIR, it has been alleged that around 1 am, around 8-10 men scaled the wall of the hotel and, brandishing pistols at security guards, and ran off with 50 to 60 pieces of aluminium that were kept on the premises," said Subhash Boken, PRO of Gurgaon Police.

"Two of the men had held the guards at gunpoint and demanded that they close their eyes while they committed the theft. The goods were worth around Rs 35,000," he said.

An FIR was registered regarding the matter at the Sector 65 police station, and one of the accused was finally arrested from the Sohna Court Complex Tuesday.

"He confessed during questioning, and has revealed that his accomplices and he committed a similar crime at a private company in Sector 62 in March," said Boken.

In Memoriam



DEVENDRA NATH DWIVEDI
(30.03.1935 - 01.08.2009)

POLITICIAN, LAWYER AND THINKER
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EXTRACT OF THE UN-AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2019 (₹ in Crore)

S. No.	Particulars	STANDALONE RESULTS				CONSOLIDATED RESULTS			
		FOR THREE MONTHS ENDED		FOR THE YEAR ENDED		FOR THREE MONTHS ENDED		FOR THE YEAR ENDED	
		30-June-2019 (Un-Audited)	31-March-2019 (Audited)	30-June-2018 (Un-Audited)	31-March-2019 (Audited)	30-JUNE-2019 (Un-Audited)	31-March-2019 (Audited)	30-June-2018 (Un-Audited)	31-March-2019 (Audited)
1	Total Income from Operations	1,638.93	1,834.29	1,568.27	6,881.91	1,654.76	1,849.54	1,597.19	6,956.06
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	324.97	483.65	350.02	1,688.88	325.34	479.14	343.83	1,648.97
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	324.97	483.65	350.02	1,688.88	325.34	479.14	343.83	1,648.97
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	227.83	352.31	252.37	1,215.41	242.51	360.02	257.39	1,224.59
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	227.70	349.57	253.79	1,213.55	242.28	357.21	258.75	1,222.66
6	Equity Share Capital	304.65	304.65	243.72	304.65	304.65	304.65	243.72	304.65
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year				10,063.22				10,025.25
8	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 5/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -								
	1. Basic (Rs.)	3.74	5.78	4.14	19.95	3.98	5.91	4.22	20.10
	2. Diluted (Rs.)	3.74	5.78	4.14	19.95	3.98	5.91	4.22	20.10

The Standalone and Consolidated Financial results of the Company for the quarter ended June 30, 2019 have been reviewed by Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors in its meeting held on July 31, 2019. The statutory auditors of the Company have carried out limited review of the above results for Quarter ended June 30, 2019.

Note:- The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarter ended Financial Results for June 30, 2019 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulation, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchanges Websites www.nseindia.com, www.bseindia.com and on company's website www.concorindia.com.

Place: New Delhi
Date : 31st July, 2019

For & on behalf of the Board of Directors
Sd/-
(Manoj Kumar Dubey)
Director (Finance)

AT AIIMS, RML, SAFDARJUNG, LOK NAYAK

As doctors oppose NMC bill, hospital services could be hit

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

MEDICAL SERVICES in Delhi are likely to be affected Thursday with resident doctors from several government hospitals, including AIIMS, RML, Safdarjung and Lok Nayak, threatening to go on an indefinite strike, including withdrawal of services at emergency departments, to protest against the National Medical Commission (NMC) Bill. The bill, which seeks to replace the graft-tainted Medical Council of India (MCI), is slated to be tabled in Rajya Sabha Thursday.

The bill proposes a common final-year MBBS examination, to be known as the National Exit Test (NEXT), for admission to postgraduate medical courses and for obtaining a licence to practise medicine. Besides, the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET), the common counselling and the NEXT will be applicable to institutes of national importance like AIIMS in order to achieve a common standard in medical education across the country.

On Monday, the Lok Sabha passed the bill amid an ongoing protest from the medical fraternity across the country. The bill provides for the setting up of a National Medical Commission in place of the MCI for development and regulation of all aspects of medical education, profession and institutions.

"The decision has been taken in haste. We have been requesting the Health Minister to reconsider the decision to bring the NMC bill. On Thursday, we will refrain from working in the OPDs, emergency departments and ICUs as a mark of protest and the strike will continue for an indefinite period if the bill is tabled and passed in the Rajya Sabha," said Dr Sumedh Sandanshiv, president, Federation of Resident Doctors' Association (FORDA), who al-



OPDs remained shut at some private clinics on Wednesday

leged that the bill was "anti-poor, anti-student and undemocratic".

Medical practitioners across the country are demanding certain amendments in the bill. According to them, if not amended, the bill will lead to deterioration of medical education and degradation of healthcare services in the country. Besides other clauses, they are objecting to section 45 of the bill which, they claim, empowers the Union government to override any suggestion of the National Medical Commission.

"The provisions of the said bill are nothing short of draconian and promote gross incompetence and mockery of the professionals currently working day and night and sacrificing their youth for this broken system. If it is tabled in its current form in Rajya Sabha without any amendments, the medical fraternity across the country will be forced to resort to extreme measures, which may hamper healthcare services nationwide," the AIIMS RDA, the FORDA and the United-RDA said in a joint statement.

Hospital administrations have made some makeshift arrangements to ensure no patient is affected. "OPD services

will function on a restricted basis. Only patients having prior appointment will be registered in the morning OPDs. No walk-in registration for OPD patients (new and old) will be done. Routine surgeries will be taken up as per feasibility," stated the AIIMS administration.

The medical fraternity is also anguished as it believes that the Union health minister, a medical practitioner himself, instead of including key recommendations made by the Parliamentary Standing Committee, replaced many provisions in the bill with clauses "detrimental" to doctors.

The fraternity claims that the bill will encourage quackery.

"The IMA had rejected the bill. Section 32 of the NMC Bill provides for licensing of 3.5 lakh unqualified non-medical persons to practise modern medicine. The term community health provider has been vaguely defined to allow anyone connected with modern medicine to get registered in the NMC and be licensed to practise modern medicine. This will only legalise quackery and endanger the lives of people," IMA secretary general R V Ashokan said.

Overruled at Delhi University: Objections to English and History undergrad syllabus

ARANYA SHANKAR
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

POET MEENA Kandasamy should be replaced by Premchand, Amitav Ghosh by R K Narayan, and any reference to the Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA) or Jan Natya Manch should be removed. These were among suggestions the Undergraduate Curriculum Revision Committee (UGCRC) had sent to the English department to consider changes in their syllabus. Almost all were overruled.

Similarly, in the History syllabus, the committee said there was too much focus on the Delhi Sultanate but not enough on its fall; "regional" empires such as Vijayanagar were not given enough space; the rubric on 'Hindu-Muslim relations' "denotes wrong spirit"; and using 'anti-Brahmanical trends' in a rubric would not be appropriate.

Many of these suggestions, compiled and sent to the respective departments post objections by the National Democratic Teachers' Front (NDTF), are not explained in detail, especially in case of the English department.

Eventually, though, the syllabi for all four courses — English, History, Political Science and Sociology — were passed by the Committee of Courses of the re-

spective departments, as well as the respective Faculty Committees, with almost none of the changes and only minor tweaks.

In the list of objections sent to the department, several papers were sought to be removed with the only reason being given that it was "controversial". As per documents seen by *The Indian Express*, the UGCRC asked the English department to replace Kandasamy's collection of poems called 'Touch' with Premchand's 'Shroud' in the paper 'Indian Writing in English'.

The reason given was that the latter was "better suited for popular culture of women's writing".

"The paper is called Indian Writing in English. Premchand is not an English writer. He was primarily an Urdu writer, whose work was translated into English. So the suggestion is factually incorrect. And who is to qualify who is better suited for what?" said an English teacher who did not wish to be named.

In the same paper, the UGCRC has asked that Amitav Ghosh's 'The Shadow Lines' be replaced by R K Narayan's 'Swami and Friends' as the latter was a "much more important and relevant writer".

"We have already included Narayan in another rubric. Moreover, UGC's learning outcome-based curriculum frame-



ABVP recently protested seeking revision of course material

work (LOCF) says that the syllabus should be more modern and contemporary, and in that sense Ghosh is better suited," the teacher said.

In the paper on 'Studies in Modern Indian Performance Traditions', the UGCRC has sought that texts on Jan Natya Manch's play 'Aurat', Badal Sircar's play 'Procession', and two texts on IPTA be removed because they are "controversial".

This objection was raised in DU's Academic Council as well by NDTF's Rasal Singh. AC member Saikat Ghosh said, "... IPTA's role in the spread of an anti-imperialist consciousness during the freedom struggle is well known, and Jan Natya Manch's need for

women's education, which resonates in slogans such as *Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao*. It transcends partisan politics and ideologies."

The English department, therefore, decided not to incorporate any of these suggestions.

In the History department, the UGCRC asked that a unit on 'Rise of Sikhs' be included in the paper 'History of India (1500-1600)'. However, the department's Committee of Courses (CoC) in its written response said this was "unwarranted" as "all recent research underlines that the making of the Sikh Community belongs to the period 1600-1750", and that it would therefore be included in the corresponding paper.

Similarly, they also objected to the "dropping of Sher Shah Suri", even though the department claims he has not been taught since 2016. This was done so as to not construct a narrative around kings and dynasties.

In the History of India VIII (1857-1950) paper, the objection is to a unit titled 'Left Movements: Peasant and Workers', they said demanded that it be made into two rubrics — the 'Indian Left' and 'Peasant and Workers' Movements'.

In the 'History of India (1200-1500)' paper, the UGCRC has objected to over-emphasis on Delhi Sultanate. The CoC however said that the charge was "ill-founded".

"There are 4 units with 15 sub-rubrics out of which only three deal with the Delhi Sultanate including its sources," they said. Another objection is to not studying "regional" empires like Vijayanagar empire at length, the department has noted the use of the word "regional" as "extremely inappropriate" and argued that it is taught in many rubrics.

Professor Raj Kumar and Professor Sunil Kumar, Heads of Department of English and History respectively, refused to go into the details of the issue. UGCRC Head CS Dubey did not respond to repeated calls and texts by *The Indian Express*.

Gopal Rai spells it out: AAP won't enter poll alliance with anyone

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

THE AAM Aadmi Party will not be going in for alliances in any upcoming elections across the country, the party's Delhi unit chief Gopal Rai said Wednesday.

An alliance between AAP and Congress was at the centre of several controversies ahead of the Lok Sabha polls in May this year. Both parties did not form an alliance in either Delhi or Haryana after several rounds of negotiations. AAP formed an al-



Plan to form alliance went against us, said Rai

liance with JJP in Haryana but did not win a single seat.

"Based on the assessment, we realised that the plan to form

an alliance went against us and that is when we decided we would not form an alliance anywhere in the country. Secondly, we also realised that more work is required at the booth level," Rai told reporters.

The party had issued several contradictory statements on the possibility of an alliance before the polls last year, which several leaders believe created confusion in the minds of the voter. It also pushed several voters away as they were not comfortable with AAP planning to form an alliance with the Congress, a party leader said.

Haryana is scheduled to go to assembly polls late this year while Delhi is expected to see polls early next year.

The party, meanwhile, has also been holding meetings with MLAs to assess their performance and measure their popularity.

Party leaders said they had also hired a start-up to assess the performance of MLAs before tickets are distributed.

AAP did not win a single seat in Lok Sabha polls in Delhi. It slipped below the Congress for the first time ever with a vote share of just over 18%.

Schoolgirl found hanging at home in South Delhi

New Delhi: A class XII student, daughter of a BSF constable, allegedly committed suicide at her South Delhi residence Tuesday, said police.

According to DCP (South) Vijay Kumar, on the day of the incident, parents of another student had allegedly complained to the school principal against the girl for beating their child.

"The class XI student alleged that the girl thrashed her and two boys on Monday after school got over. The parents of both the students were asked to come to school. But by the time the parents of the victim reached school, the teacher had left. The girl went home and was found hanging in her room in the evening," said Kumar.

Kumar added that no foul play is suspected and no suicide note has been recovered so far. The girl's aunt told *The Indian Express*: "After the girl's mother could not find her at school, she went back home and received a call from a man informing her that her daughter was found crying at a bus stop. The child said that the Class XI student's mother had misbehaved in class and that she was upset about it." She added that in 2018 as well, the two children had fought and their parents had intervened.

The victim's family claimed that the child got home, changed her clothes and locked her younger sister inside another room, while their parents were away.

"The younger sister wrote chits saying 'didi, open the door', but she didn't. The sister thought that maybe she had slept off. At 5 pm, she woke up and realised the door was locked. She used furniture to break the door of her room and saw her sister hanging by a hook on the ceiling of their lobby," claimed the victim's aunt. **ENS**

Autopsy confirms doctor died because of sedative drugs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

A DAY after a 30-year-old junior resident doctor at Safdarjung Hospital was found dead under mysterious circumstances at his Lajpat Nagar residence, his post-mortem report has pointed to "consumption of highly sedative drugs". Dr Sudhanshu Singh was found lying on a mattress inside his room with an injection sticking out of his arm Tuesday morning by his flatmate, a junior resident doctor at LNJP Hospital. Singh's post-mortem was done at AIIMS hospital Wednesday.

Dr Sudhir Gupta, Forensics HOD at AIIMS Hospital said, "Singh had been dead two or two-and-a-half days before his body was found."

Singh's colleagues at Safdarjung Hospital told *The Indian Express* that he was last seen at work Sunday morning.

On Tuesday morning, his flatmate, who returned from Goa after 10 days early Tuesday morn-

ing, made a PCR call after foul smell emanated from Singh's locked room.

Gupta said, "The victim used very high quantity of drugs, equivalent to one litre water poured in a drip bottle. There are no injury marks on his body, it's a suspected suicide."

According to police, the "family said Singh didn't discuss any problems that could have led him to take such an extreme step".

DCP (South East) Chinmoy Biswal said, "We have initiated proceedings under section 174 of the CrPc."

Singh hailed from Mughalsarai in UP, and had been pursuing postgraduation in anaesthesia from Safdarjung hospital since 2017.

Make women as safe in Delhi as they are in other cities: HC

PRITAM PAL SINGH
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

"IF WOMEN in other countries and cities like Mumbai are safe day and night, why should they not find the same environment in Delhi," the Delhi High Court observed Wednesday, while issuing directions to the government and police to ensure proper lighting, CCTV cameras and presence of plainclothes officers at vulnerable spots.

A bench of Justice G S Sistani and Justice Jyoti Singh directed the police, the Delhi government and other local bodies to come up with preventive measures and an action plan on "how to make Delhi crime free", so that women and minors do not have to fear while walking on the road.

Among its recommendations to the Delhi Police are deployment of more personnel in areas identified as "high crime zones against women" under 44 police stations; installation of GPS systems in PCR vans so that rape victims can be rushed to the

182
TOTAL POLICE STATIONS IN CITY
■ 179 CCTVs installed

53
TOTAL POLICE POSTS
■ 50 CCTVs installed

THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE has inspected and accepted the CCTV cameras installed at 145 police stations and 23 police posts

hospital in the shortest time; digitisation of malkhanas to ensure all records are preserved; and creation of special task force with motorbikes which can reach every nook and corner in the city.

The bench further directed the authorities to issue directions to all hospitals in Delhi, both government and private, not to turn away or delay giving

treatment to such victims. It also suggested framing guidelines on compensation for rape victims.

The bench directed the Delhi Chief Secretary to convene a meeting of all stakeholders for the purpose.

The Standing Counsel (criminal) Rahul Mehra and additional standing counsel Rajesh Mahajan, appearing for Delhi Police, informed the court that the department had acquired superbikes, after the issue cropped up during hearing of another case relating to robberies. However, Justice Sistani said superbikes were not necessary.

"We need superbikes on highways. What will you (police) do with superbikes in Delhi? If you get Harley Davidson, it will be difficult to even balance sometimes. A 100 CC bike is enough to chase snatchers or criminals."

"We need more of presence and immediate action. Your presence will make them fear, and why should they not fear? Book them (the offenders) every time, they will stop doing," he said.

'HIRED CHOPPER, HELIPAD'

Retired peon plans hat ke farewell, flies home 2 km away

SAKSHI DAYAL
GURGAON, JULY 31

SIX MONTHS ago, 60-year-old Kuderam, a peon at a government school in Faridabad's Neemka village, thought of doing something "hat ke (different)" to mark his retirement. Following a farewell arranged for him in the school Tuesday afternoon, he left for his village, Sadpura, which is located barely 2 km away — by air.

The event was an occasion of excitement in Sadpura where most residents gave a rousing reception as Kuderam and his brother stepped out of the heli-

copter which touched down on the temporary helipad set up on a plot of land in the village.

For Kuderam, the Rs 3.5 lakh he dished out to rent the chopper for three hours and setting up the helipad was money well spent. "I have spent 40 years at the same school as a peon... However, as my retirement came closer, I realised that although my situation was comfortable, I had not done anything to set me apart. That is why I thought doing something hat ke," Kuderam told *The Indian Express* Wednesday.

"Seeing the area by air was the first thing that came to my mind.



Kuderam spent Rs 3.5 lakh on chopper, helipad

I had never been inside a helicopter or an airplane earlier, and neither had my family. I thought this was a good chance to experience that," he said.

Son of a labourer, Kuderam is

the older of two brothers. He completed his education up to class X in a government school, following which he started working as a labourer along with his father. In 1979, he secured a job as a peon at the government school in Neemka.

"He has always worked hard. When he secured the job, he took my responsibility to ease the load on our father, and helped me complete my education. He now has three sons and one daughter, all of whom are married and settled," said his younger brother Shivkumar, who is also the sarpanch of Sadpura.

While Kuderam's eldest son is

a supervisor at a private company, the second one runs a service station, and the youngest is a taxi driver.

Once he decided to tour the skies around his village in a helicopter, Kuderam said the first thing he did was seek his family's approval. "They immediately agreed. They said you have worked hard, and you deserve to get what you desire," he said.

Kuderam said he spent around Rs 3.5 lakh — Rs 90,000 per hour for the helicopter, plus money for the helipad and additional arrangements, including a standby fire-tender and fuel. It was around 2 pm Tuesday

that Kuderam and Shivkumar boarded the helicopter from the Nahar Singh Stadium helipad. "The experience was surreal... Nobody has ever returned home like this," said Kuderam.

Locals said Kuderam's plan to hire a helicopter was the "talk of the town". "People had different opinions... but I think all of them just wanted to see the helicopter up close," said Subhash, a 22-year-old resident of the village.

Kuderam said he now looks forward to a quiet retirement with his wife and children: "I have worked hard for 40 years, and I have now also fulfilled my desire to do something unusual."

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

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(MAJ JOGINDER SHEKHAWAT)



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(SWR DHIRAJ SINGH, SC)



(SWR SULTAN SINGH, SC)



(SEP DILIP BESRA, SM)



(SEP CHITRANSH CHITRANSH, SM)



(SEP DINESH GOSWAMI, SM)

AND

Sub Alban Tigga, Ris Haripal Dutta, SM, Ris Ram Nath Ram, Hav Arun Kumar Jha, ALD Anil Kumar Singh, Nk Mohammed Khalil, Nk Matias Horo, Nk Ram Niwas Singh, L/Nk Raju Kumar, L/Nk Farid Ali Khan, L/Nk Bande Oraon, Sep Devi Dayal, Sep Ram Nandan Singh, Sep Angat Kumar, Sep Rajesh Kumar Minj, Sep Anil Topno, Sep Manoj Kumar Singh, Sep Rama Kant Singh, Sep Birendra Kumar Suman, Sep Inderjit Singh, Sep Bhim Singh, Sep Dhiraj Kumar, Sep David Ravindra Minz, SM, Sep Arvind Kumar Singh, Sep Anil Topno, Sep Ghora Chand Singh, Sep Pawan Kumar Rai, Sep Ramakant Singh, Sep Vijay Kumar, Swr Swinder Singh, Swr Dhananjay Singh Rajput, Swr Ram Singh, Swr Bijender Kumar, Swr Tofan Singh Khiche, Swr Iqbal Ali, Swr Ranjodh Singh, Sigm Naresh Kumar, Sigm N Keshav Kumar,

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Col Manoranjan Panda

(1 August 2004)

In memory of Col Manoranjan Panda, Commanding Officer, 6th Battalion, The Bihar Regiment, who laid down his life in the service of the nation. An officer, who will always be remembered for his professionalism and sterling character by those who served with him. We, the fraternity of The Veer Biharis pray to God for eternal peace for the departed soul.

The Bihar Regiment Association

At meeting of Delhi BJP's social media cell, Bidhuri speaks of plot against him

ABHINAV RAJPUT
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

SOUTH DELHI MP Ramesh Bidhuri has expressed concerns regarding the functioning of Delhi BJP's social media unit, and said that several social media warriors of the party had plotted against him in the run-up to the general elections, it is learnt.

At a meeting of Delhi BJP's social media department held at Dr Ambedkar International Centre Tuesday, he also took a dig at the social media unit for being "people centric" and promoting a few individuals at the cost of others, a senior leader told *The Indian Express*.

Seniors leaders said Bidhuri was miffed as those who allegedly plotted against him during the elections were still enjoying plum posts in the party at the district level.

Union minister Anurag Thakur and Delhi BJP President Manoj Tiwari were also present at the meeting.

Bidhuri, a popular Gujjar face, had won a second term from the seat, trouncing his closest rivals, AAP's Raghu Chadha, by a margin of over 3 lakh votes.

Bidhuri is learnt to have said a negative post about him had been shared more times by party's people than by the opposition.

He was referring to a morphed newspaper clipping that sought to portray him as anti-Purvanchali.

When contacted, he told *The Indian Express*: "New volunteers of social media were also present in the meet, so I kept before them the workings of some people in the past so these things are not repeated."

He said it is for party seniors to decide whether people who plotted against him deserve to



New volunteers of social media were also present in the meet, so I kept before them the workings of some people in the past so these things are not repeated.

RAMESH BIDHURI
SOUTH DELHI MP

be in the BJP or not.

At the meeting, Bidhuri is learnt to have said that Tiwari and social media co-in charge Neelkant Bakshi had to work hard to undo the social media damage, but even then people kept up the negative campaign against him.

"We sometimes become people centric. While promoting someone is a good thing, doing it at the cost of finishing the competitor is not good. I had seen this tendency in our social media in the past few months," Bidhuri is learnt to have said.

He also said the party's platform was being used to settle personal scores.

Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari, when contacted, said these were old issues and "now everything is in order". Neelkant Bakshi said, "It is true that some people in the party plotted against him but it was not done by Delhi BJP team. May be party leaders of his constituency would have done it on social media."

EDUCATION OFFICIALS OF 3 STATES ATTEND DELHI GOVT EVENT

Younger generation dejected: CJI on need for happiness classes

SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

SPEAKING AT an event to mark one year of the AAP government's flagship Happiness Curriculum project, Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi said education is not complete without happiness.

At the event to commemorate one year of the project — attended by education officials from several Congress- and regional party-ruled states — Gogoi said: "I am very happy. This is a great day, the first anniversary of something big and unique. 1,024 schools, 8 lakh students, 45 minutes every day, learning to be happy."

"Without happiness, education is not complete... If we are negative, we can't contribute. This is the significance of the happiness classes which have been introduced in Delhi schools. India as a country needs it... There's a serious problem with the younger generation. They are a dejected lot... It's very important that this curriculum is carried to its fullest extent, perhaps introduced in schools across India."

"As the chief justice, I was thinking yesterday that if I had a happy lot of people in this country, my problem would be over. There will be no cases as everyone is happy... Maybe we can have something like happiness classes in our academies."

Delhi education minister Manish Sisodia moderated a panel discussion with education ministers and officials from Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Nagaland, Puducherry and Ladakh, who shared notes on their education practices. Over the last two weeks, Delhi government schools have been visited by the education ministers of NDA-ruled Meghalaya and Odisha.

"We are not in any competition... The day we start thinking



CJI Ranjan Gogoi with CM Arvind Kejriwal, his deputy Manish Sisodia, and L-G Anil Baijal at Talkatora Stadium. Prem Nath Pandey

like this will be the day India gets left behind. We all need to move together... Happiness Curriculum is our attempt to resolve issues of anxiety and stress in education," Sisodia said.

Representatives from all states expressed interest in adapting the curriculum in some form. Puducherry education secretary A Anbarasu said their government has already resolved to adopt it, and that a cabinet decision will be taken this week, while Nagaland education minister Tokugha Sukhalu said he will propose adopting it to Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio.

Madhya Pradesh education minister Prabhuram Choudhary spoke about starting parent-teacher meetings in government schools in the state earlier this year and setting up model schools with residential facilities in every district. Sukhalu spoke about Nagaland's practice of "communitising" education by empowering local and village communities with the day to day management of elementary education. Anbarasu spoke about their government's effort to do away with an education system

which punishes and intimidates students. Ladakh's councillor in charge of education Konchok Stanzin spoke of efforts to improve infrastructure and practice of promoting local handicrafts by spinning pashmina in their schools.

Choudhary also mentioned that their education department had sent a delegation to South Korea to learn, following which Sisodia said: "We have also sent delegations to Finland. Perhaps states can start peer learning between these delegations."

Collaboration between states was also emphasised by CM Arvind Kejriwal in his opening speech: "I do not consider Delhi's success story (in the field of education) to be just Delhi's success story. It should become a success story of the entire country... I want to assure officials from different states that when you implement this curriculum, you will have our wholehearted support."

Sisodia also announced that the government is planning to introduce a certificate course to train teachers and educationists who wish to teach happiness classes in their institutes.

One year down, many students have their own ideas for Happiness 2.0

SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

HARSH, a student of a school in Civil Lines, has a suggestion to improve Happiness Classes in Delhi government schools: "In every class, we should form groups of five students and give them a task to complete from the first to the last day of the month. Whichever group does the task best should be given a chance to run a happiness class on the last working day of the month. From that, we will also know who has really understood the concept of happiness."

Supriya, a class VIII student also has a suggestion: "We manage to dirty our schools just as rapidly as the helpers clean them. There should be one day a month when we do their work."

These students were speaking in a panel discussion during

the event celebrating the Happiness Curriculum. The students who spoke, as well as parents, said that after introduction of the classes, children have started looking forward to school.

Mohammad Zaki, a resident of Shastri Park, even claimed that his daughter, who studies in class IV, wakes him and his wife up in the morning to go to school.

Akash, a class VIII student, said: "Through mindfulness meditation, *humaare dil, dimaag aur mann shaant hote hai*... I used to think only about myself. But I have learnt it is animals which only think about themselves; we need to think about those around us and larger society."

Outside the hall where discussions were taking place, demonstration classes were conducted throughout the day with visiting guests and parents also participating in them.

BRIEFLY

Teen 'killed by friends'

Noida: A 13-year-old boy was murdered, allegedly by his friends, in a Ghaziabad village on Monday. "We have taken one person in custody and we are ascertaining his age. Prima facie it appears 3-4 people were involved. It appears that he was strangled. There is little known about the motive but more information will be gathered once questioning takes place," Neeraj Jadaun, SP Rural Ghaziabad, said.

Man mowed down by car

New Delhi: A 22-year-old man was killed after a vehicle hit him on a flyover in North Delhi's Wazirabad area Monday. Police said the errant driver was arrested.

Two arrested for murder

New Delhi: Two men have been arrested from Northern range for allegedly killing a 27-year-old rickshaw puller. Police said the duo, who were drinking with the victim, killed him after he allegedly refused to get into a physical relationship with them. Police have recovered bloodstained clothes from the men.

Man hangs self, cops probe wife's role

New Delhi: A 28-year-old man committed suicide by hanging from his ceiling fan in Greater Noida late Tuesday. The police are prima facie looking into the involvement of his wife and in-laws for alleged abetment. **ENS**

10 foreigners held for duping

New Delhi: Delhi Police arrested 10 African nationals from Bindapur for allegedly duping people after befriending them on online platforms. Police said the accused were staying illegally in India for the past seven months. "They were operating from a call centre in Mohan Garden. We have not found their passports," said DCP (Dwarka) Anto Alphonse. **ENS**

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HARYANA TOURISM
"NOTICE"
The Notice issued by Haryana Tourism Corporation to invite the Expression of Interest for the work of selection of Selection of Contractor for Construction of 40 Feet Grand Statue of Lord Krishna Vishwa Roop at Jyotisar Kurukshetra dated 30.05.2019 is hereby cancelled.
The Managing Director, HTC, Chandigarh.
77911/HRV

SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT DEPARTMENT, HARYANA
(S.C.O. No. 20-27, Jeevan Deep Building, Sector 17-A, Chandigarh)
State Award for the Welfare of Senior Citizens (2019-20)
Applications are invited from individuals/Institutions under the Scheme "State Award for the Welfare of Senior Citizens" for the Year 2019-20 under the following categories:-

Sr. No.	Category of Award	Amount of the Award
1.	Centenary Award	Each category will be awarded:- 1st Award- Rs. 50,000/- 2nd Award- Rs. 30,000/- 3rd Award- Rs. 20,000/-
2.	Best Mother Award	
3.	Courage and Bravery Award	
4.	Best Panchayat Award	
5.	Lifetime Achievement Award	
6.	Best Voluntary Organization Award (Best NGO)	
7.	1. Senior Painter Award 2. Senior Sculpture Award 3. Senior Practicing Musician/ Singer Award 4. Senior Practicing Dance Award	
8.	Senior Practicing Sportsperson Award	
9.	Best Old Age Home Award	
10.	Best Day Care Centre Award	

Interested individuals/Institutions may apply along with complete data as well as details/evidence of achievement to the District Social Welfare Office of their District along with all enclosures before 4.00 P.M. on or before 25.08.2019. Details of conditions can be obtained from District Social Welfare Office on any work day. A person/ Panchayat/ Organisation who has received an award in the last 3 Years would not be eligible for re-nomination in the same category of the award. Decision of the Jury will be final and no correspondence will be entertained in this regard. Further information is available on Departmental website: <http://www.socialjusticehry.gov.in/en-US/Notifications.Orders>.
The Government of Haryana wishes a long and happy life to its Senior Citizens.
77987/HRV

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6 IN PARLIAMENT MONSOON SESSION

FROM THE GALLERY

FROM THE CHAIR

RAJYA SABHA
 "There are two voices in this House, even if they speak very lightly, one voice from this side, and the other is from that side, they always vibrate in the entire House. You all know those voices"

M VENKAIAH NAIDU, Chairman, amid din in the House

LOK SABHA

"Honourable member, please. You cannot raise this issue right now."

OM BIRLA, Speaker, to Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury when the latter demanded that the Union Home Minister make a statement on the Unnao case.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Railways are extending concessions...In that ticket, it is written on the backside of the ticket, 'Are you aware that 43 per cent of your fare is borne by the common citizens of the country?' When we are happy that the government has shown a gesture of giving concessions, then why should they insult us like this? A person can withstand poverty and he can tolerate hunger but not indignity."

TIRUCHI SIVA, DMK, during the Zero Hour in Rajya Sabha.



5 QUESTIONS

AIADMK MP A VIJAYAKUMAR SPEAKS TO SHUBHAJIT ROY ON HIS DEMAND THAT KANYAKUMARI TRIVENI SANGAMAM BE NAMED A WONDER OF THE WORLD

What issue did you raise in Parliament?

I urged the government to take steps to announce the Kanyakumari Triveni Sangamam as the eighth wonder of the world.

What is so unique about the place?

Kanyakumari is India's Land's End, the tip of peninsular India where the Bay of Bengal, the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea meet. The confluence of these three is unique in the world and nowhere else can we find such a remarkable sight. It is referred to as the Triveni Sangamam.

What is the significance of the spot?

It is a holy place where people make *Tarpanam* (offering) to the souls of their parents. We can witness three different colours at the confluence point where the three seas meet. The local people believe that it is the coming together of Shiva, Brahma and Vishnu.

How will this help the local population?

It will attract foreign tourists to our country and it will benefit the states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala. It will boost tourism in the area. Lots of tourists gather in Kanyakumari for the breathtaking view of sunrise and sunset on the shore. Kanyakumari is deemed to be comparable to the seven wonders of the world.

Have you taken it up with the state government?

Yes, I have written to the Tamil Nadu government's Tourism Ministry, but there has been no response. I will also raise the issue with the Prime Minister so that the government can take it up with the UNESCO.



Congress's Ghulam Nabi Azad and Anand Sharma, TMC's Derek O'Brien, BJP's Rakesh Sinha and Union Minister Prakash Javadekar at Parliament House Wednesday. Anil Sharma

Scrutiny of Bills: Oppn says govt didn't keep word, minister says never agreed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, JULY 31

OPPOSITION PARTIES led by the Congress on Wednesday accused the government of not keeping its word on sending some Bills, including the Triple Talaq Bill, to the select committee for scrutiny.

Raising the issue after Zero Hour, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad said the government had approached them and asked which Bills they wanted to be sent to select committees. Leaders of all parties wanted that at least six Bills to be sent to committees for scrutiny, he said. "I am drawing the attention of the Chair...we wanted that RTI Bill to be sent to the select committee," he said.

Referring to the passage of the Triple Talaq Bill on Tuesday, Azad said, "You are master, you tell your people to be present and we remain under the illusion that this Bill is going to the select committee. This is not done. This is unfair on the part of the government."

He said the government had approached the Opposition through the Parliamentary Affairs Minister. "We gave them a list of some 23 Bills and we wanted at least half of them to be sent to select committees. We identified as many as six bills as A-category to be sent to select committees, and two under B-category and the list was taken by the government."

"My submission is that out of the six bills which we had given on priority to be sent to the select committee was the Bill which was discussed on Tuesday and passed. We were in the dark we could not inform our Members of Parliament. The second Bill, which is being considered today for passage, is also on the priority list," he said.

"My submission to the government is that

on one side, you are seeking the list from the opposition for Bills to be sent to the select committee and you don't come back and you put them for passage in the House and get them passed," Azad added.

He was backed by TMC's Derek O'Brien. Referring to the listing of Triple Talaq Bill, he said, "Monday night at 9.30 pm, taking everyone by surprise...there is a rule and there is an understanding, there is a convention... So, we find solutions and we don't do anything clandestine midnight to catch people by surprise," he said. O'Brien said sending the Triple Talaq Bill and UAPA Bill to select committees was top priority for the Opposition.

"One got listed on Monday night and the second one was listed today. We seek your protection. Out of the 23 Bills, even though we are not going to go back to what has been passed the last time, the Opposition together had a list of six bills, four of which were marked as A-plus... We want to examine these Bills. If the government has the numbers, it can pass the Bills. But, let us fight for the integrity of Parliament. That is what we are asking for," he said.

The issue was also raised by Congress deputy leader in Rajya Sabha Anand Sharma. "Government has broken our trust. Our understanding was that the government would agree to send this Bill to the select committee. But they got it listed very late in the night. None of our MPs had abstained willfully... We do ask our MPs to be present. But if we had received the information, there would have been specific whip by parties that this particular Bill is being taken up. It was listed late in the night. This was to pre-empt a situation wherein the Opposition could bring in all its MPs," he said.

"I have heard it. I will look into it... You have raised the issue, then I will examine it," Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu said.

Oppn should look where it was betrayed: Javadekar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, JULY 31

THE GOVERNMENT on Wednesday denied that there was any assurance from their side that the Triple Talaq and UAPA Bills will be sent to select committees for scrutiny. It said that the Opposition had asked for it, but the government had not agreed. It also said the Opposition must look within to see where it has been betrayed.

Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting, and Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar said that any claim that there was an assurance from the government "is absolutely untrue".

"This was a demand of the Opposition parties," the minister said, and added that "there was no agreement with the government".

He reiterated what Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu had told the Rajya Sabha on Monday. Javadekar said Naidu had "clarified" that "in his term of two years", which the minister said were the last two years of the previous Narendra Modi government, "of the ten bills which came before the Rajya Sabha, eight have been referred to standing committees".

Javadekar explained that Bills were not referred because no committees have been formed yet. "Now as you know there are no standing committees" as "they are yet to be

formed, because many parties have to yet to give names". He said in the absence of standing committees, such instances have happened earlier too during the first session of Parliament after a new Lok Sabha is elected.

He said that most of the Bills don't need scrutiny because they had been introduced during the tenure of the last Lok Sabha and had lapsed. "More importantly, many of the Bills, nearly more than half the Bills, are lapsed Bills," Javadekar said.

The Bills lapsed, he said, "because Rajya Sabha did not pass them" even as "they were passed in the Lok Sabha". But since Rajya Sabha did not pass them and Lok Sabha's tenure was over, the Bills lapsed. "This is why the lapsed Bills are being brought back," the minister said.

These bills "were delayed for two years" and "people were asking for justice", he said and accused the Opposition of saying that people "did not get justice for two years".

Asked about Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad's comment that it was a betrayal, the I&B Minister said that there were no betrayal, and hinted at the rift within the Opposition parties. "Ismein dhokha kya hai? Dhokha toh unko kahan mila unko dekhna chahiye." (Where is the betrayal in this? They should look where they have been betrayed)," the minister said.

RIVER WATER DISPUTES BILL

Legislation clears LS, minister says tribunals didn't do their job

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, JULY 31

THE LOK Sabha passed the Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2019 with a voice vote on Wednesday.

The Bill aims to streamline adjudication of inter-state river water disputes. It stipulates the constitution of a single tribunal headed by a retired Supreme Court judge with different benches and strict timelines for adjudication. The benches will be wound up once a dispute is resolved. The tribunal will be mandated to deliver the final award in two years. Whenever it would pass an order, the verdict would get notified automatically.

The fresh legislation amends the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956.

Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh



Smriti Irani

Rahul Gandhi

Prasad, Irani get front row seats in House, Rahul stays in second

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, JULY 31

UNION MINISTERS Ravi Shankar Prasad, Smriti Irani, D V Sadananda Gowda, Narendra Singh Tomar, Arjun Munda and Arvind Sawant have been allotted front row seats in Lok Sabha, official sources said on Wednesday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah and Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari already occupy front seats. Prasad and Irani were members of the Rajya Sabha earlier. Sawant belongs to the Shiv Sena.

From the Opposition side, the front-benchers are Congress Parliamentary Party leader Sonia Gandhi, the party's leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Samajwadi Party leader Mulayam Singh Yadav and DMK leader T R Baalu. Congress president Rahul Gandhi stays in the second row because the Congress has a quota of two front seats.

This is the first time that Irani, who won the Lok Sabha election for the first time, has been given a front row seat in Parliament. Shah and Prasad had front row seats in the Upper House earlier.

Lok Sabha nod to eviction Bill

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, JULY 31

THE LOK Sabha passed the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Amendment Bill, 2019 with a voice vote on Wednesday. The Bill seeks to crack down on unauthorised occupants of government residential accommodations.

Responding to the points flagged by members during the discussion, Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri said it was the right time for passing the legislation as numerous MPs were waiting for their new accommodation.

Puri informed the House that of the total 15,416 residential accommodation under the government quota, "currently 3081 cases were under litigation." The proposed amendments would enable the estate officer to apply summary proceedings for evicting unauthorised occupants from residential accommodations and to levy damage charges for accommodation held during the period of litigation.

Kalyan Banerjee of the Trinamool Congress described provisions of the Bill as "draconian".

BJP member Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma said during the time of filing of nomination papers, a candidate should also produce an affidavit stating that government facilities would be enjoyed till he is a member of Parliament.

RS nod to Motor Vehicles amendment Bill

ABANTIKA GHOSH
 NEW DELHI, JULY 31

THE RAJYA Sabha on Wednesday passed the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2019 — there were 108 votes for the passage of the Bill and 13 against it. The Bill was passed even as Deputy Chairman Hariwansh overruled protests by opposition MPs against running the House beyond the stipulated deadline of 6 pm.

The Bill will, however, have to go back to Lok Sabha as Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari proposed one amendment at the instance of the AIADMK and also admitted that the Bill passed in Lower House had a printing error. In his opening statement and later while replying to the discussion, Gadkari tried to allay apprehensions that the Bill will take away rights of the states and bring in the private sector in various aspects, including registration of new vehicles and running driving schools.

"I want to make it clear at the very outset



Road Transport and Highways minister Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday. PPT

that we are not privatising or tinkering with the rights of the states. This is only to regularise the process of licences and make roads safer. Every year, 1.5 lakh people die on our roads...The Bill also has provision for a good samaritan so that a person who takes an accident victim to hospital is not troubled...it

also deals with taxi aggregators," he said.

The AIADMK wanted the provision of consultation with states to be changed to "concurrence" and the minister agreed to make the change.

However, the highlight of the discussion was speeches by Opposition leaders about the House running beyond 6 pm. Congress deputy leader in the House Anand Sharma said, "This is not a factory for producing Bills...we are not opposing the Bill, but it is not possible for everybody to sit from 9 am to 9 pm...this cannot happen every day."

Trinamool Congress's Derek O'Brien and CPM's T K Rangarajan supported his statement but Deputy Chairman Hariwansh remained unwavering in his decision that the sense of the House is for the Bill to pass.

Meanwhile, with passage of the Triple Talaq Bill, Parliament has passed all the 10 Bills listed for this session to replace ordinances. These include ordinances on the homeopathy central council, Aadhaar, the Indian Medical Council and the Jammu & Kashmir teachers' quota.

House discusses cancer incidence, MPs recount personal struggles

ABANTIKA GHOSH
 NEW DELHI, JULY 31

SCREENING DATA available with the government shows that India has 6.1 per cent incidence of diabetes, 7.4 per cent hypertension, 0.26 per cent cardiovascular diseases and 0.21 per cent cancers, Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan told the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday. He was replying to a short duration discussion on the incidence of cancer in India.

"...In a little over 200 districts, we have screened 6.79 crore people and fortunately, we found 6.1 per cent diabetes cases, 7.4 per cent hypertension cases, 0.26 per cent car-

diovascular disease cases and 0.21 per cent cancer cases. For cancers, screening was done for oral, breast and cervical cancer. After that there is an organised procedure to put them on treatment," the minister told the House.

Quoting scientists from the Tata Memorial Cancer Hospital, he claimed that initiatives such as Swachh Bharat and the construction of toilets have led to a reduction in the incidence of penile, uterine and cervical cancers.

He also outlined the various anti-cancer research initiatives. A CSIR laboratory, he said, has "identified and patented signatures for breast cancer and Pediatric Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia which would help



Health Minister Harsh Vardhan speaks in Rajya Sabha on Wednesday. PPT

in diagnosis and screening of the population at large."

Participating in the discussion, MPs recounted their own battles with cancer, with DMK's Tiruchi Siva mentioning his late wife's suffering and Leader of the Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad talking about how the disease took away his father in 20 days, how his father-in-law succumbed to it, but his wife was lucky to have been diagnosed in the first stage. Azad, a former health minister, spoke at length about the initiatives of the UPA government in this direction.

The members also remembered colleagues lost to the disease, including former ministers Manohar Parrikar and Ananth

Kumar. "The burden of cancer has doubled in the last 25 years. Statistics from the ICMR show that there were about 14 lakh cases of cancer in 2016, and by the end of 2018, this number has crossed 15 lakh. This shows that cancer registers a growth of six to seven per cent every year. Unless we take remedial steps in this regard, this problem is going to get more and more serious year after year," said B Vijai Sai Reddy of YSR Congress.

CPM MP K K Ragesh spoke about the high cancer burden of his home state Kerala despite the fact that tobacco control is good there and pollution levels are not alarming. He requested that a special team be sent to Kerala to study the situation there.

7 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



OMITTING THE PM

WEDNESDAY BEING the World Ranger Day, Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi wanted to thank rangers and forest guards who were on ground to protect tigers. As Gogoi started, Speaker Om Birla suggested that he could also compliment the Prime Minister and the Forest Minister. The MP from Assam, however, chose to congratulate former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his UPA government for launching the Save Tiger project. Speaking on tiger population, BJP's Ganesh Singh lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiatives to ensure the tiger survey. He said forest workers had walked almost 5 lakh km and 1 lakh cameras were installed to carry out the tiger census.

LESSON ON EDUCATION

THE DRAFT National Education Policy had run into controversy immediately after its release, and the opposition came mainly from the South Indian states. To address this, the HRD Ministry has decided to brief MPs, mainly from these states, for three days this week on the suggestions made in the draft. The government is of the view that the three-language formula controversy and allegations of imposition of Hindi was based on misinterpretation of the document, and that it took all the attention away from the rest of the policy draft. The three-day briefing organised in Parliament is an effort to correct that, the ministry says.

HONOUR FROM JAPAN

SHYAM SARAN, who retired as the Prime Minister's special envoy on climate change, was honoured with Decoration of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star by Japan's ambassador Kenji Hiramatsu on Tuesday. Saran was remembered for his contribution as Deputy Chief of Mission at the Indian embassy in Japan (1986-1989) and then as the Foreign Secretary (2004-2006) towards strengthening bilateral ties. Saran was key to organising the first large-scale Japan-India cultural event - the "India Festival" - in 1988. During his tenure, he also made it possible to welcome Japan's then PM, Junichiro Koizumi, to India - it was the first visit to India by a Japanese PM in five years. Former External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh, former Foreign Secretary M K Rasgotra and former minister Mani Shankar Aiyar were among many former diplomats at the reception.

SC reserves order on referring pleas against EWS quota to larger Bench

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

THE SUPREME Court on Wednesday reserved its order on demands to refer pleas challenging the introduction of the quota for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) to a Constitution Bench. While the Centre opposed the demand, the three-judge bench said it raised substantial questions of law which needed to be settled.

"Can the reservation exceed 50 per cent? Can there be reservation exclusively for the economically backward? These are points which raise substantial questions of law," Justice S A Bobde, heading the three-judge Bench, remarked and told Attorney General K K Venugopal that "we are inclined to refer the matter (to a Constitution Bench)

unless you give us strong reasons".

The Attorney General told the Bench — also comprising Justices R Subhash Reddy and Bhushan R Gavai — that he had strong points and went on to argue that there were judgments of the apex court which underlined that the 50 per cent ceiling was not inflexible and that reservation could be provided on the basis of economic backwardness.

Venugopal referred to the Tamil Nadu law providing 69 per cent reservation, which was not struck off by the court, to buttress his contention that reservation could exceed 50 per cent.

But Justice Bobde did not seem to agree. "As an interim measure, they (judges who decided it) did not interfere with the 69 per cent. That's not law laid down."

The question, the judge added, was whether the 103rd Amendment introducing the quota was Constitutional or not.

To this, the Attorney General replied that the Amendment was required, as in the Mandal Commission case, the court had said that reservation cannot be based on economic criteria alone. "Thus a plenary law was laid down. Parliament was unanimous. Can the court now sit on judgment on it," he said.

"Parliament was unanimous while passing the law establishing the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) too," said Justice Gavai. The NJAC Act was struck down by a Constitution Bench in October 2015.

Venugopal replied that Senior Advocate Ram Jethmalani, who was a Rajya Sabha MP then, had dissented

on the matter in Parliament.

Justice Bobde then told him: "We are not sure your argument is correct. Only question is what strength of Bench should decide whether your or their claim is true."

Venugopal also cited the Right to Education Act providing for 25 per cent reservation for poor students from the neighbourhood in unaided schools to support his argument that reservation could be provided on the basis of economic criteria alone.

He also opposed the plea for staying the Amendment introducing the economic reservation and said if it was indeed stayed, it will be the first time that a Constitution Amendment is stayed by any court.

The bench made it clear that it will hear arguments on stay only if it decides to refer the matter to the Constitution Bench.

Cabinet extends tenure of OBC panel

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

THE UNION Cabinet on Wednesday gave a six-month extension to the commission looking into sub-categorisation of OBCs. The two-month extension the commission had received in May was to end on Wednesday.

Set up in 2017, the commission was to give its report in 12 weeks. Announcing the Cabinet's decision, Union minister Prakash Javadekar said the additional time - until January 31, 2020 - was allotted for the panel to complete its work with states where there are some "anomalies".

A Bill to extend reservation for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in Jammu and Kashmir also got the Cabinet's approval. Titled the Jammu & Kashmir Reservation (Second Amendment) Bill, 2019, it proposes to provide 10 per cent

reservation to EWS candidates in educational institutions and public employment.

The Chit Funds (Amendment) Bill, 2019, aimed at reducing regulatory or compliance burden of the registered chit funds industry and protecting subscribers of chit funds, got the Cabinet's nod.

The government will sign the UN Convention on International Settlement Agreements (UNISA) as approved by the Cabinet. According to a government statement, signing the convention "will boost confidence of investors and provide a positive signal to foreign investors..."

The Cabinet approved setting up a technical liaison unit of ISRO in Moscow to provide information on development in research and support bilateral programmes of cooperation in space technology. ISRO already has similar units in Washington DC and Paris.

Rajnish Rai moves HC for protection after HRD writes again to his employer IIM-A

SOHINI GHOSH & RITIKA CHOPRA
AHMEDABAD, NEW DELHI, JULY 31

RETIRED IPS officer Rajnish Rai, who oversaw the investigation into the 2007 Sohrabuddin Sheikh fake encounter case and was later denied voluntary retirement by the Centre, sought protection from the Gujarat High Court on Wednesday.

The plea for protection cited the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development's (MHRD) second letter to the Indian Institute of Management-Ahmedabad (IIM-A), asking why it hired Rai as assistant professor. IIM-Ahmedabad director Erol D'Souza had replied to HRD Ministry's first letter, defending the institute's decision to recruit Rai and stating that it was done in accordance with the rules. D'Souza is also learnt to have informed the HRD Ministry that the institute had recruited Rai only after seeking legal advice and as per the advice, Rai is retired and not under suspension.

Rai applied for voluntary retirement from the All India Services in November 2018 and has been working with IIM-A as an assistant professor of Public Systems Group since May 6 this year. At a July 23 hearing, his counsel, advocate Rahul Sharma, told the court that in the preceding week, the HRD Ministry had written to IIM-A, inquiring why the institute had employed Rai when he was under suspension as per the government's records.

As reported by *The Indian Express*, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) had notified the HRD Ministry that the Centre had not approved Rai's VRS application. It also informed the ministry that the Centre had sus-



Rai applied for voluntary retirement from All India Services in November 2018

pending Rai in December 2018 for leaving the services, and a chargesheet was filed against him on January 14.

On Wednesday, Sharma told the division bench headed by Justice S R Brahmbhatt, "For the past four months, the matter has been adjourned for one reason or another. They have now written twice to IIM-A on his (Rai's) employment with them. Misleading arguments have been made and now they are interfering with my client's current employment. They are playing games behind the scenes. Give us some protection, otherwise they will harm my client irreparably."

Despite the two letters inquiring about Rai's employment with IIM-A, advocate Nirzar Desai, representing the central government, dismissed Rai's apprehensions. Desai said, "We are complying with interim orders of the High Court and the CAT (Central Administrative Tribunal). We have not even called him (Rai) for an inquiry."

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

Azam Khan's MLA son held for 'obstructing' police search at university

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, JULY 31

RAMPUR POLICE on Wednesday took into custody MLA Abdullah Khan, the son of Samajwadi Party MP Azam Khan, for allegedly creating obstacles during a search operation at Mohammad Ali Jauhar University. Azam Khan is the chancellor of the university.

The police team had been looking for books allegedly stolen from Madrasa Aaliya.

Abdullah was later released on a personal bond by the court of the sub-divisional magistrate. He was booked under CrPC section 151



Abdullah Khan

(breach of peace), informed Circle Officer, Swar area, Jairam.

In Lucknow, Samajwadi Party workers led by its state president Naresh Uttam and party legislators staged a protest, alleging that the BJP government in the state was targeting Azam Khan and his son out of vendetta.

Zubaid Khan, the principal of Madrasa Aaliya, lodged a com-

plaint regarding the theft of books from the madrasa at Ganj Police Station on June 16. The complaint was lodged against unidentified persons.

On Tuesday, the police claimed to have found nearly 2,000 books from the university's library that were allegedly stolen from Madrasa Aaliya. The police team that conducted the search on Wednesday claimed to have recovered 16 books and manuscripts allegedly stolen from Madrasa Aaliya.

Rampur SP Ajay Pal Sharma said Abdullah was detained because he was not letting the police do their job. "We were searching

the university premises on Wednesday when Abdullah tried to stop policemen from entering the administrative block of the university, where MP Azam Khan generally sits," said Sharma.

"We recovered around 2,000 books yesterday and some more books were recovered on Wednesday. We are conducting the searches based on inputs. A case had been registered in this regard," Sharma added. After being released, Abdullah said, "The only thing we have done is that we have built a temple of education. Police and administration want to shut down this temple. We will not get intimidated."



SWITCHING SIDES

Sanjay Singh and wife Ameeta join the BJP in presence of party working president J P Nadda at BJP headquarters on Wednesday. Prem Nath Pandey

Opposition to triple talaq Bill exposes pseudo liberals: Jaitley

New Delhi: Former finance minister Arun Jaitley on Wednesday said opposition to the triple talaq Bill "exposed pseudo liberals" as he hit out at the Congress for giving higher priority to "fundamentalists" vote bank than justice to women.

In a blog, Jaitley said a 'liberal' should be hostile to the idea of discrimination and injustice perpetuated by an oral divorce. But in this case, not one spoke in favour of the Bill which is ending the injustice, he added. "They raised weak arguments so that the fundamentalists amongst the Muslims are kept happy," he said.

Taking a jibe at Congress, Jaitley said it ruled this country for a long time and amended several personal laws. "But when it comes to the Shariat, it is scared."

"It does not mind Muslim women being driven to destitution. After all, the fundamentalist vote bank is at a higher priority than justice being conferred to the female gender," he said. PTI

**Government of India
Ministry of Tourism**
Gwalior Bhubaneswar Goa Noida Nellore

Indian Institute of Tourism & Travel Management
(An Autonomous Body under Ministry of Tourism, Government of India)
Govindpuri, Gwalior-474011

Search for Director

IITTM is an autonomous institute (registered under the Societies Registration Act) of Ministry of tourism, Govt. of India that was established in 1983. It is the premier institute in the country in the field of tourism education, training, research and consultancy. Its is a five campus institute with headquarters at Gwalior and other centres at Bhubaneswar, Noida, Goa and Nellore. It runs MBA (Tourism Travel Management) and BBA (Tourism & Travel) courses from its campuses along with a large number of training programmes to cater to the needs to the market.

Director-IITTM is responsible for management of the institute and is required to drive it towards excellence and benchmark with the best in the world. Institute is in the process of selecting its Director. The appointment shall be made on contract basis for tenure of 3 years with possibility of further extension as per IITTM Recruitment Rules and depending upon the merit of the case.

Applications are invited for the position of Director from persons of knowledge, experience and eminent professional standing in the field of tourism and/or management. The details of pay scale and related benefits, qualifications and application form can be downloaded from www.tourism.gov.in or www.iittm.ac.in.

Completed applications shall reach **Deputy Director General (HRD), Ministry of Tourism, C-1, Hutments, Dara Shukoh Road, New Delhi-110011** in a sealed cover subscribing in bold letters "APPLICATION FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR, IITTM", so as to reach by within one month from the date of issue of this advertisement.

LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE COURT OF THE LD. DISTRICT JUDGE, ALIPORE (KOLKATA)

TITLE APPEAL NO. 214 OF 2015 (SMT) RATNA ROY ... Appellant -VS- (SMT) VINOD NAYYAR & ANR. ... Respondents

It is hereby notified that Sri Nirmal Kanti Roy (s/o Late Harimohan Roy, r/o Flat no. 1-E, Prerna Apartments, 93/C, Kankulia Road, P.S.-Lake, Kolkata - 700029, lastly resident of GC-229/3, Salt Lake, P.S.- Bidhan Nagar (South), Kolkata - 700106) had brought the afore captioned Appeal, against Order dated 12.08.2015, passed in T.S. no. 23179 of 2013 by 9th Court of Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.) at Alipore, against Vinod Nayyar and Suman Kochhar (both residents of Neha Deep, D2, Kalindi Ring Road, East Kailash, New Delhi- 110065), in connection with Flat no. 1-E, Prerna Apartments, 93/C, Kankulia Road, P.S.- Lake, Kolkata- 700029. During pendency of the Appeal (Sri) Nirmal Kanti Roy passed away on 26.08.2016 whereupon, vide Order No. 12 dated 21.02.2017, his wife (Smt) Ratna Roy (at present r/o GC-229/3, Salt Lake, P.S.- Bidhan Nagar (South), Kolkata - 700106) has been substituted as Appellant in place of (Late) Nirmal Kanti Roy - and she is duly proceeding with the Appeal against the Respondents. If anybody wishes to oppose the said Appeal, he should Appear before the Ld. Court and file his objection, within 30 days from this date, or else the said Appeal will be heard ex-parte.

By order
Sd/ Sherestadar
Court of the Ld. Dist. Judge
Alipore (Kolkata)

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davp 19106/13/0009/1920



NORTH

Three killed, 12 hurt as tempo skids off highway in Jammu

Jammu: Three people were killed and 12 others injured on Wednesday evening when a tempo traveller plying on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway rolled nearly 80 ft down into Kunfer nullah near Chanderkote in Ramban district. Identifying two of the deceased as Sanjay Kumar of Haryana and Khalid Ahmed of

Ramban's Pogal area, police said the vehicle was on way to Kashmir Valley. The injured included Parshad Yadav, Mohammad Alam, Zakir Mir, Ansar-uk-Haq, Belshoo Ram and Shanker Yadav, all residents of Bihar, Sandeep Singh and Sukhdev Singh, both from Rajasthan and Wazir of Haryana. **ENS**



Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' at the inauguration of the Indian Air Force Facilitation-cum-Publicity Pavilion (FCP), at the National Bal Bhawan in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

EAST

Man held for running 'Pakistan zindabad' WhatsApp group

Patna: A man from Betia town of West Champaran district was arrested for running a WhatsApp group called "Pakistan Zindabad" and hurting religious sentiments, police said on Wednesday. Town police station in-charge, Sriram Singh, confirmed that one Saddam Quereshi (22), a resident of

Nazmi Chowk, was arrested on Monday after cyber cell of the district police found him to be the administrator of the controversial group, and tracked his location near Santghat area. Quereshi, who was unemployed, had been running the group for several months. A case was filed under IPC sections. **ENS**

WEST

Seven of family killed as SUV rams tree in Satara

Pune: Seven members of a family from Karnataka, who were on their way to Mumbai, were killed after the SUV they were travelling in ramed into a tree in Satara district, on the Pune-Bangalore highway in the early hours of Wednesday. Police said that the family was on its way to see off two members, who were head-

ing for the Haj pilgrimage. Officials from district police said the accident took place around 1 am at Kashi village, around 140 kilometres from Pune. Assistant inspector Chandrakant Mali of Borgaon Police station said, "None of the family members have survived. The driver seems to have lost control. He is currently being treated." **ENS**

SOUTH

Andhra principal on the run after 7-yr-old alleges rape

Hyderabad: The Guntur Rural Police launched a manhunt on Wednesday for a school principal who allegedly sexually assaulted a 7-year-old student for nearly six months and threatened to fail her if she told anyone. The incident came to light when the victim complained of a stomach ache on Tuesday and the doc-

tor treating her found that she had been sexually assaulted. The victim's parents and other villagers launched a protest outside the school demanding the dismissal of the principal. A case was registered under the POCSO Act, 2012 against the principal, who is absconding, said a police official. **ENS**

Decision on 35A will keep J&K interest in mind: Ram Madhav

ADIL AKHZER
SRINAGAR, JULY 31

SENIOR BJP leader Ram Madhav on Wednesday blamed local political leaders in Kashmir for creating a fear psychosis in the Valley and said that any decision by the government on Article 35A of the Constitution, which gives special status to Jammu and Kashmir, will be taken keeping in mind the "interests of the state".

The BJP general secretary also said holding Assembly elections in the state is a priority for the party, and they have already started preparations.

Speaking to mediapersons on the sidelines of a party function in Srinagar, Madhav said, "Fear is being created by vested political forces in the Valley. Movement of security forces in the Valley is a routine affair. Under some situation, more forces comes here because there was the Amarnath yatra." Stating that "peaceful citizens need not worry", the BJP leader said, "People with their own political interest at stake are the only ones creating a fear psychosis in the Valley."

Several purported "orders" have appeared on social media over the week which have added to the fear and speculation triggered by the deployment of additional forces in the Valley.

On Assembly polls in the state, Madhav said, "If the Election Commission is ready to hold polls before the President's Rule ends, our party is ready. We have started poll preparations in Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh (regions of the state)." He also said that the BJP will contest the elections on its own and field candidates in all 87 seats in the state.

Responding to former J&K Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti's statements in reaction to speculation that the Centre might repeal Article 35A, Madhav said she is using such language "to keep herself politically relevant". He also maintained that since the government has started to act against corruption, "they (leaders) have started these dramas to save themselves".



BJP national general secretary Ram Madhav addresses party workers in Srinagar. Shuaib Masoodi

BJP gets ready for J&K polls, appoints election in-charge

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

THE BJP has appointed party vice-president Avinash Rai Khanna as its election in-charge for Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls, expected to be announced soon.

Khanna is also the party's in-charge for J&K's organisational affairs.

Announcing the party's decision, BJP general secretary Arun Singh said the party will work towards increasing its membership in the state by roping in members at every booth. The announcement comes a day after senior party leaders met the core group of its J&K unit, in which the state leaders were asked to prepare for the Assembly polls.

Chaired by BJP working president J P Nadda, the meeting attended, among others, by party's general secretary in charge of J&K Ram Madhav, Union minister Jitendra Singh and state unit chief Ravinder Raina.

BJP leaders indicated that the

HINDUS BEING CONVERTED IN PAKISTAN, BJP LEADER WRITES, SEEKS CLARIFICATION

New Delhi: A senior BJP leader has expressed concern over reports on purportedly rampant conversion of the minority community in Pakistan and urged External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to take up the matter with Islamabad.

Pointing to reports that "more than 1,000 cases of conversion of minority community has been reported in Pakistan", BJP vice-president Avinash Rai

Khanna stated in a letter to Jaishankar: "The minority (community) in Pakistan is living under fear threat... Time to time their fundamental rights have been violated. Government of India is the only hope for them."

"Pakistan should be asked that the fundamental rights of the minority community should not be violated at any cost," he wrote and urged Jaishankar to intervene. **ENS**

party would utilise gains made in the local body elections last year to bring "normalcy" in the state where the party has not been able to emerge as a major political power in the Valley.

The Election Commission is likely to announce the election schedule after the Amarnath Yatra gets over, with sources indicating that the polls may be held in October-November.

Briefing the media on the

core group meeting, Singh said the party hailed the Narendra Modi government's policy of "zero tolerance against terrorism" and its emphasis on development projects in the state.

The BJP, which has announced a second membership drive, has already enrolled over 2.37 lakh new members and has decided to appoint 5,000 active members for organisational work, Singh said.

Mufti asks PDP to reach out to workers of other parties

NAVEED IQBAL
SRINAGAR, JULY 31

FORMER CHIEF minister Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday visited the four south Kashmir districts of Anantnag, Shopian, Kulgam and Pulwama in a bid to consolidate efforts to defend Article 35A.

The PDP president has been attempting to bring all parties together on the issue.

"I have met our workers and have requested them to speak to political workers of other parties in their areas, whether they are from NC or Congress and even BJP workers. I have asked them to sit together and discuss the situation and the preparations underway threatening the identity of the state," Mufti said after addressing a meeting of party workers at Anantnag. She held similar meetings in the other three districts.

She stated that she has urged

PDP workers in south Kashmir "to tell counterparts from other parties that their politics may differ but we all need to come together to save the identity of Jammu and Kashmir".

The PDP also addressed the controversy surrounding the absence of her party's MPs during the voting on the Triple Talaq Bill in Parliament on Tuesday. "We will take action against them. They spoke against the Bill but they should have voted also," she said. Meanwhile, state Congress chief G A Mir, who also travelled to south Kashmir on Wednesday, cautioned the Centre against tampering with J&K's special status.

"The Centre must put an end to rumour-mongering with regard to the special status of J&K. Any misadventure won't settle things down, it would rather deteriorate the situation to a large extent, which would neither be in national interest nor in interest of the state," Mir said.

ART35A 'ABROGATION'

Shah Faesal, Rashid seek all-party meet

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, JULY 31

REITERATING ITS call for an all-party meet to formulate a joint strategy against the alleged attack on the special constitutional position of Jammu and Kashmir, the Peoples' United Front (PUF) has launched a signature campaign to "tell the world what the people of Jammu and Kashmir want".

The joint forum, formed by the bureaucrat-turned-politician Shah Faesal's Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Movement and Engineer Rashid's Awani Ittihad, has said it is ready to "erase its identity and existence" if all the political parties join hands.

"We appeal to New Delhi, please don't try to play with fire. Any fiddling that will change the

demography here would be unacceptable," Rashid said at a press meet in Srinagar on Wednesday. "By challenging this issue, you are challenging the wisdom of your forefathers, you are challenging the wisdom of those who have given you the Constitution."

Rashid said they have also approached the National Conference and PDP.

"We have been in contact with the NC leadership. We told them that their party has the largest representation in Parliament and that they must convene an all-party meet," the former legislator said. "Farooq sahib agreed. But after that, Omar sahib said let's wait for the response from PM..."

Rashid said they had also met PDP president Mehbooba Mufti. "She said her doors are always open," he said.



National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah outside the ED office in Chandigarh on Wednesday. Jaipal Singh

ED questions Farooq Abdullah in money laundering case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate on Wednesday questioned Lok Sabha MP from Srinagar and National Conference chief Farooq Abdullah in connection with a case of alleged money laundering.

The case relates to alleged irregularities in grants given by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) to promote the game in the state. Abdullah, a former JKCA president, denied the allegations against him.

"I have done no wrong. I am open to investigation. I have recorded my statement today. The matter is sub judice and I have full faith in the judiciary," he was quoted saying by PTI.

He also got support from rival PDP, with party chief and former CM Mehbooba Mufti calling Abdullah's questioning a "misuse of agencies". She tweeted, "Misusing central agencies to harass & intimidate those who dissent or don't fall in line has become quite blasé & brazen." Mufti also indicated that this

was a result of the political parties in Kashmir coming together on the issue of Article 35A. "JK cricket scam is an old case that's been under investigation for quite sometime. ED questioning Farooq sahib at a time when J&K mainstream parties are collectively standing up to protect its unique identity raises suspicions & questions," she tweeted.

Abdullah, who had earlier skipped ED summons citing ill-health, was summoned to appear at the Chandigarh office.

The ED case is based on a CBI FIR. The CBI has already filed a chargesheet against Abdullah for allegedly taking over Rs 43 crore from grants given by BCCI to JKCA. The funds were allegedly siphoned off between 2002 and 2011, when Abdullah was the president of the JKCA.

In a chargesheet filed in July 2018, the CBI had accused Abdullah of conniving with the treasurer of JKCA, among others, for alleged misappropriation of funds. The CBI had charged Abdullah and three others under the provisions of the Ranbir Penal Code related to criminal conspiracy and criminal breach of trust.

Woman killed, five injured in Pak shelling; villagers confined to bunkers in LoC areas

ADIL AKHZER
SRINAGAR, JULY 31

PANIC GRIPPED residents living along the Line of Control (LoC) in north Kashmir districts after cross-border shelling erupted in three border districts, in which one woman was killed and five others, including a health official, were injured in the last 24 hours.

Mortar shelling also occurred in Uri's Hajipour area on Wednesday evening.

The ceasefire violation took place along the LoC in Baramulla, Kupwara and Bandipora districts, officials said.

On Tuesday evening, a woman identified as Rahmie Begum, a resident of Dassi village in Baktore sustained serious injuries in the shelling. She was shifted to a local hospital and

then to district hospital in Bandipora. "She succumbed while being shifted to Srinagar hospital for specialised treatment," said an administrative official in Gurez.

In Gurez, where the two-day Gurez festival was going on and the entire administration was present in the town, the shelling triggered fear. The town witnessed cross-border shelling for the first time since 2016.

"There are no instructions yet from the Army to the administration to relocate people to safer places," said the official. "But in several villages close to the LoC, people are confined to bunkers as they are apprehensive about the situation," he added.

For entire Tuesday night, both armies exchanged fire from both sides in Baktore sector of Gurez. A health official at the Baktore government health fa-

cility was injured after a shell landed near the establishment.

Chief Medical Officer, Bandipora, Dr. Tajamul Hussain told *The Indian Express* that the department has stationed a critical care ambulance at the government health facility following Tuesday's shelling. "We have also deputed one senior doctor in the area as well," he said.

"We have seen such a situation after 2016. There was no shelling today, but we don't know if this lull will continue," said Mohammed Jaffar, a resident of Tarbal village—one of the last villages on the LoC. He said after both the armies exchanged mortar shelling and artillery, locals living in the nearby village went into underground bunkers.

In Baramulla district, ceasefire violation by Pakistan took place in Uri sector. "The shelling was going on for sometime on

Tuesday evening. Though it stopped, there is still fear among residents," said Mohammed Sayeed, a resident of Uri area.

Ceasefire violation was also reported from nearby Kupwara district.

Deputy Commissioner Kupwara Anshul Garg told *The Indian Express* that shelling took place in Tangdhar, Keran and Nowgam sectors of the district. "A total of four people were injured in the firing. The shelling took place on Tuesday evening and today the situation has remained peaceful," he said.

According to villagers, shells have landed near the Tangdhar town after several years. "In the past, the shelling has taken place in other areas of the district. But, close to our town it has happened after a long time. People are worried and there is fear among everyone," said a villager.

Triple talaq Bill passed, BJP MP brings up need for Uniform Civil Code

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

A DAY after the government managed to pass the triple talaq Bill in Parliament despite numbers stacked against it in the Rajya Sabha, a ruling BJP member in the Lok Sabha picked up the Uniform Civil Code, another contentious issue, on Wednesday and sought measures to bring it in.

Nishikant Dubey, a third-time MP from the BJP, raised the matter during Zero Hour, drawing protests from the Opposition benches. Dubey said, "Uniform Civil Code (UCC) is necessary. No one should be allowed to do politics in the name of religion — it is India, and everyone should be treated equally."

Pointing out that Article 44 of the Constitution lists UCC as one of the directive principles of state policy, Dubey said the government should initiate measures to bring in the Code. He said UCC will do away with the need to make laws such as the one banning instant triple talaq. "We have one IPC and once CrPC. If CrPC is the same for everyone, why can we not have a Uniform Civil Code," the BJP member asked.

UCC has been a top agenda for the BJP over the years and was listed in the party's manifesto for the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. "BJP believes that there cannot be gender equality till such time India adopts a Uniform Civil Code, which protects the rights of all women, and the BJP reiterates its stand to

draft a Uniform Civil Code, drawing upon the best traditions and harmonizing them with the modern times," the manifesto stated.

In other matters brought before the House, BJP MP from Kaushambi, Uttar Pradesh, Vinod Sonkar called for setting up special courts to try bureaucrats booked in corruption cases. "There are special courts to try cases against politicians. Usually cases against politicians are not of very serious nature but names of bureaucrats come up in corruption cases. So there should be a special court for trying them," Sonkar said.

Dilip Saikia, BJP MP from Mangaldoi, Assam, urged the government to bring in a national population policy immediately, contending that there has been

an increase of 3 lakh in the population in his constituency between 2014 and 2019. He also said Bengali-speaking Hindus in his constituency are getting notices from the foreigners tribunal in Assam, which should be stopped. "Where will Hindus go? The government should take steps to see that Hindus live in this country," Saikia said.

Congress's Suresh Kodikunni urged the government to "extend a formal invitation to Pope Francis". Pointing out that diplomatic relations between India and the Vatican were established in 1948, soon after India's independence, Suresh, MP from Mavelikkara, Kerala, said, "The Pope is eagerly looking forward to visiting India and other neighbouring nations."

Delhi HC asks Michel to appear over phone call privileges

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

THE DELHI High Court on Wednesday directed Tihar Jail authorities to produce AgustaWestland VVIP chopper case accused Christian Michel before it, during a hearing of the prison authorities' plea, challenging an order allowing him to make overseas calls for 15 minutes a week, in violation of prison rules.

Justice Mukta Gupta sought Michel's personal presence on August 21, as none of the counsel appeared for him during the hearing.

"The superintendent of Tihar Jail is directed to produce respondent no. 1 (Michel), if in custody, on the next date of hearing," the court said.

The court had on March 18 asked the CBI and Michel to file their replies on the plea, in which

the jail authorities alleged that no facts and circumstances were considered by the trial court for granting an "illegal and improper privilege of communication". The counsel for CBI, however, supported the jail authorities plea.

The trial court had in January allowed Michel to make international phone calls.

On Wednesday, Standing Counsel (criminal) Rahul Mehra and advocate Avi Singh, appearing for Tihar Jail, contended the prison manual provided only for 10 minutes per week for making calls.

Mehra said that as per the January 27, 2017 circular of prison authorities, a foreign national is only allowed to make calls to the country of his or her origin. Michel's country of origin is the UK and as per the jail call records, he has been mostly contacting his "legal representative" in Italy.

AgustaWestland: ED takes U-turn, says key witness may be alive

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

A DAY after the Enforcement Directorate told a Delhi court that they fear a witness in the AgustaWestland case "must have been killed", the agency indicated Wednesday that he may be alive.

Referring to the witness K K Khosla, Special Public Prosecutor for ED D P Singh told Special Judge Arvind Kumar: "A little birdie tells us that we might have Khosla today or tomorrow somewhere."

On Tuesday, Singh had told the court that Khosla must have been killed and that his family was scared to register an FIR. The ED was opposing the anticipatory bail application of Ratul Puri, nephew of Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath, who is under the scanner for allegedly receiving kickbacks in the AgustaWestland deal through his companies.

The agency concluded its arguments Wednesday and an order is expected to be passed before this weekend. During arguments, the ED submitted that Khosla was working as a "Chartered Accountant with Puri and maintained kacha entries which are corroborated by different people".

Singh told the court that these entries date to the year 2009-10. "We continue to make enquiries with regard to KK Khosla, hope he is brought back and sincerely hope that he is somewhere and will assist us," Singh said.

At Khosla's home in West Delhi, his neighbours said his family has been living in the apartment for more than 25 years. "His wife passed away around 15 years ago, and he has two daughters who do not stay with him. He stays alone in his house and kept to a 9 to 5 routine," a neighbour said.

The neighbors claimed that

they were under the impression that he worked with the customs department until an income tax raid took place several months ago.

In Wednesday's proceedings, the ED claimed that the witnesses in the case were pressured and influenced, and that evidence in the case was being tampered.

Singh told the court that "people have fear and that he can show the fear being expressed to the IO" in the case. Singh then handed over a mobile phone to the judge to demonstrate that people were threatened. "This is how a witness behaves when he is threatened" and that "the important people in Puri's life who helped him grow are also scared and their identities would not be disclosed before the court as their lives are in grave danger", he claimed.

"He is tampering with evidence. He has forced three people not to give evidence, and one

person was forced to show partial documents," Singh told the court.

The ED went on to claim that Puri has been "incommunicado for two days as all the phone numbers he had given to the ED has been switched off for two days". The ED also claimed to have evidence that Puri was in touch with the approver in the case.

The ED alleged that Puri's associates have spoken of dealing in cash authorised by him and that they needed his custodial interrogation to ascertain the transactions in connection with the case. "These people are saying that they did it and confrontation cannot be done with the fear that when they are out they will be bumped, threatened or harmed," Singh told the court.

At the end of the arguments, Singh asked the judge if he could ask Puri to join the investigation to which Special Judge Kumar replied, "We are not passing any such direction".

AFGHANISTAN

Kerala man's family gets message: Killed fighting for IS

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
JULY 31

A YOUNG man from north Kerala's Malappuram district who is suspected to have gone to Afghanistan and joined the Islamic State (IS) is believed to have been killed in a recent US drone attack.

Police officials identified the man as Muhammad Muhasin, a native of Edappal in Malappuram district. An engineering student, he has been missing since October 2017, the police said.

Police sources said Muhasin's family got a message on WhatsApp on Tuesday, informing them about his death. "The message in Malayalam said, 'your brother has been seeking martyrdom and Allah has fulfilled his wish. He has become a shaheed 10 days back,'" according to an officer.

The message reportedly came with a warning that the incident should not be reported to the police.

An officer said that the message was accompanied by a photograph, ostensibly of Muhasin lying dead. "The family has identified him from the photo. But other than this message and photograph, we don't have any official confirmation from anywhere," the officer said.

The fact that the message

was sent in Malayalam shows the presence of at least another person from Kerala in the group, according to the officer. "We have not identified the person who sent the message," the officer said, adding that during the period Muhasin had gone missing another engineering graduate from Malappuram had also joined the IS.

Sources said Muhasin was not part of the "Kasaragod module" of the IS, in which an estimated 25 people, including children and women, reportedly left the country in June 2016 to join the IS. Security agencies had later found that most people in that group had reached the IS-controlled Nangarhar region of Afghanistan.

Another group of at least 35 people from the coastal state's Kannur district had migrated to Syria to fight for the IS, according to police officials.

A source in the police said, "Muhasin had initially gone to Dubai and then joined the IS. He went missing in 2017 while studying engineering. His family had filed a missing complaint with the local police in Malappuram."

Local residents of

Vattamkulam, near Edappal in Malappuram, said Muhasin came from a middle-class family, which has no orthodox leanings. "He was introvert and aloof. The only son in the family, Muhasin has two sisters, both of them students," a local resident said.

WOMEN'S SAFETY

SC asks govt to consider framing law to regulate app-based taxi services

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

HEARING A plea which highlighted women's safety issues, the Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Centre to consider putting in place a law to regulate app-based taxi services such as Ola and Uber.

"You do it. It's you who will have to do it," a bench of Justices S A Bobde, R Subhash Reddy and B R Gavai told the Centre's counsel when he submitted that this would need changes in the law.

The Bench allowed the petitioner to give suggestions to the Centre on how this can be executed. The top court is hearing petitions filed in the wake of the December 16, 2012 Delhi gangrape-murder case, seeking its intervention to devise and implement guidelines to ensure

safety of women. Senior advocate Indira Jaising, who is assisting the court as amicus curiae in the safety matter, told the Bench that app-based taxi services were "unregulated" at the moment.

Even the transport department was not monitoring them, she said and referred to instances of rape in such taxis.

The Bench said it could make GPS and panic button mandatory in the taxis.

Jaising also informed the Bench that only Bihar, Tamil Nadu and Andaman and Nicobar had filed affidavits in response to the court's 2018 direction asking all states to set up a 'one stop crisis centre' — where victims of sexual assault would be provided medical, legal and other assistance - in every district.

The court will consider the matter again after four weeks.

Cong, TMC target govt over CCD founder's death

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

THE SUSPECTED suicide of Cafe Coffee Day founder V G Siddhartha triggered a political row on Wednesday, with the Congress and the Trinamool Congress accusing the BJP government of not providing a conducive environment for business to Indian entrepreneurs.

Raising the issue in Lok Sabha, Congress's Manish Tewari cited Siddhartha's alleged letter in which he referred to "tremendous pressure" from lenders and "harassment" from Income Tax officials. Speaker Om Birla said investigation into his death is yet to take place and the House cannot ascertain veracity of the letter. Tewari had given an adjournment motion notice on grounds of harassment by Income Tax officials, but the Speaker did not accept it.

Tewari told *The Indian Express*, "The letter, which has appeared in the public space — without going into the veracity of it — makes very damning allegations about the role of me as a serving Director General of Investigation of Income Tax of having been one of the instruments of coercion which was a contributory factor, according to Siddhartha in that purported letter, to the suicide."

Senior Congress leader Anand Sharma told *The Indian Express* that there has to be a conducive environment for Indian entrepreneurs.

"The BJP, when in opposition, used to talk about tax terrorism. Now Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Finance Minister should take note that there is continuing tax terrorism in this country and if what is alleged is true, driving such a prominent entrepreneur to death, then it is something which this country cannot allow. Accountability should be fixed, lessons have to be drawn. You cannot have India governed or entrepreneurship

grow when there is fear, distrust, intimidation and excessive abuse of power by tax authorities and other agencies," Sharma said.

"It is sad and it is unfortunate, but if this is the standard of ease of doing business which they are setting, then there is nothing more to be said," he added.

Trinamool Congress supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said in a Facebook post, "I am deeply shocked by the incident relating to V G Siddhartha...It is indeed very sad and very unfortunate. From what he has expressed, it appears that he was greatly depressed due to harassment and pressure from different agencies for which he could not run his business in a peaceful manner. This he could not resist. I hear from different sources that captains of industry in the country are under pressure; some of them have left the country and some are contemplating to move out."

The Trinamool plans to raise the issue of "harassment of industry captains" in Parliament on Thursday. Banerjee said, "If the industry is demoralised, then there will be no economic and employment growth (and) as a result, more and more people will become jobless."

"On one hand, the economic growth of the country has nosedived to as low as 5.8% in the fourth quarter of 2018-19, the lowest in the last 5 years, and unemployment has increased to the highest level in the last 45 years. On the other hand, central government is actively pursuing disinvestment of government assets, from Ordnance Factory Board to BSNL, from Air India to Railways, from Chittaranjan Locomotive Works to Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur and about 45 more public sector undertakings," Banerjee wrote in her post.

She also said "all the opposition political parties are afraid of horse-trading and harassment with political vendetta".



Relatives pay last respects to Cafe Coffee Day founder VG Siddhartha in Chikkamagaluru on Wednesday. PTI

CCD founder cremated, leaders across party lines pay tribute

DARSHAN DEVAIAH B P
CHIKKAMAGALURU, JULY 31

THE BODY of Cafe Coffee Day founder V G Siddhartha was cremated at his ancestral place Chethanahalli in Mudigere taluk of Chikkamagaluru on Wednesday.

The body of Siddhartha, who was the son-in-law of former External Affairs Minister and former Karnataka Chief Minister S M Krishna, was found on the banks of Nethravathi river near Mangaluru at 4.30 am on Wednesday. He had been missing since Monday. Hours before his disappearance was reported, Siddhartha called his personal staff at the company head office in Bengaluru and informed them about a letter to be disseminated. The purported letter referred to the "tremendous pressure" he was under from lenders and "harass-



His body was found on banks of Nethravathi river

ment" from Income Tax officials.

Politicians and celebrities from across the state paid tributes to the businessman at Mangaluru and at his establishment in Chikkamagaluru before the body was taken to Chethanahalli for the funeral.

Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa was the first among politicians to pay his tributes. Among the others to pay tribute were BJP leaders Ashoka and CT Ravi, former chief minister H D Kumaraswamy and Congress leaders K J George and NA Haris.

Senior Congress leader D K Shivakumar spent time with the deceased's family and flew with Krishna and his wife in a helicop-

ter from the HAL airport in Bengaluru to Chikkamagaluru in the afternoon.

Chief Minister Yediyurappa tweeted, "I am shocked to know that Cafe Coffee Day founder and businessman Siddhartha who is also former chief minister Shri SM Krishna's son-in-law is no more. This causes deep pain. May the Almighty have mercy on his family. May his soul rest in peace."

The 60-year-old businessman was last seen by his driver near a bridge over the Nethravathi river. The body was found after the police launched a massive search operation. Teams of National Disaster Response Force, Coast Guard, Home Guard, fire services and coastal police scoured the river to look for him.

The post-mortem was conducted in Wenlock hospital in Mangaluru. Later, his body was brought to Chethanahalli coffee estate in Mudigere. The last rites

Crop failed due to lack of rain, Jharkhand farmer hangs self

ABHISHEK ANGAD
GUMLA (JHARKHAND), JULY 31

"DEPRESSED" OVER his worsening financial condition, a 50-year-old farmer allegedly hanged himself at his home in Dhadhau village, in Jharkhand's Gumla district, on Monday night, it emerged on Wednesday.

Family members said Shiva Khariya had sown paddy but it failed due to lack of rain, which deteriorated his "mental condition". Deputy Commissioner Gumla Shashi Ranjan, however, said stress may not be the only reason behind the suicide. "He was also an alcoholic, and over the last few days had fever. He did not eat anything."

Khariya's family was a beneficiary of the LPG connection under the Central government's Ujjwala scheme, Ranjan added.

This came days after a farmer from Ranchi district allegedly killed himself, with his family claiming that the government

authorities did not clear dues for building materials for a well dug on his land under the Mahatma National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

Khariya's wife Mangri Devi said he had mortgaged land for their son and daughter's weddings. She said: "Farming is limited to the three-four months during the monsoon; there is no water the rest of the year. Over the years, we survived on free ration and some rice and urad dal produced on our farm. Our sons go out for work, but the money they send home is not sufficient." Land records show Khariya owned 13 acres of land; the family said half of that had been "mortgaged".

Khariya's son Birsu, 25, said his father did not eat the rice and starch cooked at home on Monday night and went to sleep. "We found his body, hanging, the next day," he said.

The family has an MGNREGA job card but has not taken any job for the last five years, with

family members claiming that the low wages and a bigger payment cycles dissuade them.

Village head Sushila Soren said most people in all three villages under Kasira panchayat are farmers but people temporarily leave for other areas in search of jobs after the monsoon. "Under MGNREGA, payment cycles have been absurdly delayed by more than 45-60 days. Even when money comes, there is misdirection of wages and people do not get it. This has led to a belief that there will be no payment under MGNREGA," Soren said.

Panchayat secretary Ravindra Kashyap said farmers who had availed schemes such as well construction in 2017-18 have not received material payments yet.

But maintaining that MGNREGA payment error in Gumla is "less than 1 per cent", the DC, Ranjan, said, "There are some problems regarding material payments, but the dues are cleared periodically."

Madhya Pradesh loses two big cats to 'territorial fights'

MILIND GHATAI
BHOPAL, JULY 31

MADHYA PRADESH, the country's new 'Tiger State', has lost three big cats this week, two of them in confirmed territorial fights.

A sub-adult, aged between 15 and 18 months, was found dead in Ghunghuti range of Umaria forest division on Tuesday. The forest department was able to reach the carcass on Wednesday, as the mother was in the vicinity.

A post-mortem was conducted on Wednesday. Chief Conservator of Forest (Shahdol) A K Joshi told *The Indian Express* that prima facie, the cause of death appears to be a snake bite. While ruling out poaching, he said veterinary doctor's final opinion is still awaited.

On Sunday, a cub was found dead in Kalawa range of the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve (BTR). Even as forest officials



were consigning the cub to flames, they learnt of another carcass in the vicinity. A search led the forest officials to the carcass of a tigress (named T-62), in a dense forest about 100 meters away. She had died days before the cub.

According to officials, a male tiger killed the tigress and one of her two male cubs. The other cub was rescued and shifted to an enclosure. The bodies of the deceased mother and cub had several injury marks.

The carcass found on Tuesday, about 10 kms from

Shahdol, did not bear marks of electrocution or injuries. Maggots had eaten some part of the face. Forest officials also found a kill some distance from the carcass. They initially suspected that the kill could have been poisoned, but that was not the case, they said.

On Monday, MP reclaimed the 'Tiger State of India' status from Karnataka as The All India Tiger Estimation Report, 2018, released by the Prime Minister, had put the number of tigers in the state at 526, marginally ahead of Karnataka's 526.



On a Vadodara street on Wednesday. Express

Heavy rain batters Vadodara

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
VADODARA, AHMEDABAD,
JULY 31

A 17-YEAR-OLD boy was electrocuted as Vadodara was battered by heavy rainfall on Wednesday.

Several trains from Mumbai were stopped en route and passengers were stranded for hours as tracks were waterlogged.

The boy who was electrocuted has been identified as Kalusinh Mahida, who came in contact with live wire under the Lalbaug bridge in Vadsar area. He died on the spot.

In a late-night statement, Chief Minister Vijay Rupani said in seven to eight hours after 2 pm, Vadodara city received 20 inches of rain. "Even as the rain has stopped now and the water

is receding, Ajwa dam is overflowing and the level of Vishwamitri river has risen. If the level rises further and water comes into the city, I request people living on the banks of the river to shift out at least for one night," according to a video statement issued by his office.

At least 13 children from the Bal Bharti school in Kishan Wadi area who were stranded were rescued by Wednesday evening.

"We have sent out an alert in the city and have asked all education institutions to be closed tomorrow. We are extending rescue wherever possible," said Shalini Agrawal, District Collector and incharge Municipal Commissioner. MS University and several private universities will also remain closed on Thursday.

At wife's funeral, Unnao woman's uncle alleges BJP MLA eliminated his family

AVANEESH MISHRA
UNNAO, JULY 31

AMID A blanket of police cover, relatives cremated the aunt of the 19-year-old Unnao rape victim on the banks of the Ganga on Wednesday. She was killed in Sunday's road accident in Rae Bareilly, in which the rape victim suffered serious injuries.

The aunt's husband, who was granted short-term bail by the Allahabad High Court to attend his wife's last rites, was brought to the Ganga ghat from the Rae Bareilly district jail.

Though he was not allowed to speak to reporters, he burst out as he was being taken back to the police vehicle. "My entire family has been eliminated. I have been framed in fake cases... Kuldeep Singh Sengar has got everything done. I have all the evidence," he said.

Incidentally, the UP Police FIR against BJP MLA Sengar was registered on the basis of her uncle's complaint.

The victim's other aunt, who was also killed in the accident, is likely to be cremated in her hometown in Barabanki on Thursday. The woman, her aunts and lawyer were en route to the Rae Bareilly district jail to visit her



Outside the Critical Care Unit of the King George's Medical University Trauma Centre in Lucknow, where the 19-year-old rape victim is in critical condition. Maulshree Seth

uncle when their car was hit by a speeding truck.

The aunt's body, on Wednesday, was brought to the village from King George's Medical University (KGMU) in Lucknow to her residence, just 100 metres from the residence of the BJP MLA who has been accused of sexually assaulting the 19-year-old girl.

Despite a bus being arranged by the district administration to bring residents to the cremation

ground, there were hardly 20 people, including the victim's mother, her sisters and her brother, during the funeral.

Police did not allow locals and mediapersons to speak to the family. District Magistrate Devendra Pandey, Superintendent of Police M P Verma and other officials were present at the site as well.

After the funeral, the victim's family returned to the KGMU Trauma Centre in Lucknow

where the condition of the 19-year-old remains critical. Meanwhile, a 65-year-old local said that he and his family members did not attend the cremation. "It is not like that we are in good terms with the victim's family, but just like most of the villagers, we find it better to stay away from all this. I will not deny that we are scared. In a different situation, we all would have attended the funeral," the villager said.

Oppn seeks govt reply, Cong leads walkout

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

THE CONGRESS on Wednesday led a walkout of several opposition parties in Lok Sabha in protest against alleged threats to the life of the Unnao rape victim and her family.

Congress leader in the House Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury slammed the government over Home Minister Amit Shah's reluctance to give a statement on the issue in Lok Sabha despite repeated requests from the Opposition.

Along with Congress MPs, members of DMK, NCP, RSP, Left parties and the IUML also

walked out in protest. UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi led the Opposition walkout.

Chowdhury said while the CBI is investigating the accident involving the woman and her family, her family members have alleged that there has been a threat to their lives.

Before walking out, RSP leader N K Premachandran mentioned an incident of a person being burnt alive in Uttar Pradesh for allegedly not chanting Jai Shri Ram.

After the members left the House, Trinamool Congress leader Sudip Bandyopadhyay said that despite his party's protests, law and order situation in West Bengal had come up in

the House on several occasions. "I would like to know why on the same day, same question — in different forms — concerning law and order situation of a state was allowed to be raised. I do not know why the matter concerning West Bengal is being allowed and the matter concerning Uttar Pradesh is not being allowed to be raised," he said.

The Speaker replied that it was decided among members that issues related to states would not be raised in the House.

"I don't have any problem if members want to raise issues related to states," Birla said.

When the Congress returned to the House, Chowdhury tried

to speak on the issue again, but Birla said he had already boycotted the House on the same issue.

On Sunday, the car in which the victim, her family and lawyer were travelling was hit by a speeding truck in Rae Bareilly district of UP, killing two family members and leaving her and the advocate critically injured. The CBI has booked BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar and 10 other under murder charges in the accident case.

UP Police on Monday filed a murder case against Sengar and nine others after the woman's family filed a complaint, alleging "conspiracy" behind the acci-

ANTRIX-DEVAS CASE

US court: No need for Antrix to pay \$1.1 billion deposit

JOHNSON TA
BENGALURU, JULY 31

A UNITED States federal court has exempted the Antrix Corporation, the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) commercial arm, from putting down a deposit of \$1.1 billion in a case where Bengaluru-based start-up Devas Multimedia Pvt Ltd is seeking compensation for the government's 2011 decision to cancel a deal for ISRO to launch two satellites for the private firm.

In its order on July 10, the court in the western US district of Washington has exempted Antrix Corporation from paying a security deposit of \$1.1 billion and stayed proceedings for a year in the case where Devas Multimedia is seeking confirmation of a compensation award of \$563.4 million and interest made by an International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) arbitration court for cancellation of the satellite deal.

Antrix Corporation has countered the case filed in the US court by Devas Multimedia, claiming that the firm does not come under the purview of US law. Antrix has also claimed that it is fighting Devas Multimedia's claims in an Indian court.

The US federal court has insisted that Antrix is liable under US law to face the compensation confirmation case brought by Devas Multimedia even as it

EXPLAINED The 2005 agreement, and its cancellation

THE DEVAS-ANTRIX agreement made in January 2005 was annulled by the UPA government in February 2011 in the backdrop of the 2G scam in the telecom sector, and allegations of a sweetheart deal in allocation of S-band spectrum to the fledgling firm Devas Multimedia. Under the 2005 deal, ISRO was to lease two communication satellites for 12 years at a cost of Rs 167 crore to Devas Multimedia. The start-up firm was to provide multimedia services to mobile platforms in India using the space band — or S-band spectrum transponders — on ISRO's GSAT 6 and 6A satellites, built at a cost of Rs 766 crore by ISRO. The NDA government, after assuming office in 2014, asked the CBI to investigate the deal. The CBI and ED have both filed chargesheets in the case.

Washington court until April 15, 2020, to allow legal proceedings to end in India.

"Antrix is subject to this Court's personal jurisdiction pursuant to the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act (FSIA)," the Washington court ruled, while refusing to throw out the case on the grounds of lack of jurisdiction.

"The Court exercises its discretion to stay this action pursuant to Article VI of the New York Convention pending the resolution of Antrix's challenge to the underlying award in India's courts," Judge Thomas S

Zilly noted.

"The Government of India itself characterizes Antrix as a 'corporate front of DOS/ISRO' and as a virtual corporation housed within DOS/ISRO for the purposes of staffing, premises and all organizational support... Antrix has no satellite, satellite launch vehicle, transponder or electromagnetic spectrum of its own, but rather markets assets owned and controlled by ISRO and DOS. Most of Antrix's commercial activities are financed by the Government of India. Much of Antrix's leadership is appointed by the Government of India," the court observed

while stating that it has jurisdiction over Antrix under FSIA.

During the hearing of the case for imposition of a stay, Devas Multimedia sought payment of a security bond of \$1.1 billion by Antrix to protect the private firm's interests during the pendency of the case.

Antrix argued that it would be unfair and illegal to make it pay a security bond.

Devas has been trying to get Antrix to pay a \$563-million compensation, plus interest, awarded by an ICC tribunal on September 14, 2015, by getting the tribunal's orders confirmed in international courts such as the US federal court in Washington.

The case in the US has proceeded even as the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) are pursuing cases against Devas Multimedia and former ISRO officials in India over alleged irregularities in the 2005 deal between Antrix and Devas to make and launch two satellites.

In August 2016, CBI filed a chargesheet against eight officials from Devas, ISRO and Antrix linked to the 2005 deal for "being party to a criminal conspiracy with an intent to cause undue gain".

The ED has filed a chargesheet under Prevention of Money Laundering Act against a former managing director of Antrix and five Devas Multimedia officials.

Worker dies at Vedanta plant, investigation on

SAMPAD PATNAIK
BHUBANESWAR, JULY 31

WORKERS AT Vedanta's Jharsuguda plant in Odisha launched a protest on Wednesday after a 45-year-old worker employed with Cemfis, the company's "business partner and contractor for logistics", died at the railway siding of the plant on Tuesday evening.

"Mumtaz Khan, a resident of Jharsuguda and worker with Cemfis India Pvt Ltd, was working in the railway siding area where this incident happened yesterday at 7 pm. The exact cause of the incident is being investigated," a spokesperson for Vedanta Aluminium Ltd said.

His wife and two children survive Khan. In a statement, Vedanta Ltd stated, "Vedanta firmly believes in zero harm and has the most robust safety standards at par with global safety benchmarks."

Assistant Director of Factories

and Boilers, Jharsuguda Zone, A K Nanda, who is conducting inquiry into the cause of death, told *The Indian Express*,

"He (Khan) was shunting one locomotive engine with a wagon. Our preliminary assessment is (that) during shunting the locomotive may have gone to and fro and he may have lost balance and fallen down. It is possible that the rear end of the locomotive struck him and that may be the reason (for death)."

Nanda also said they have sought CCTV footage from Vedanta, the statement of the security guard on duty and the loco pilot, "the key person who is absconding".

"We will find out if the recommended process was followed," he added. According to sources in the district administration, a settlement between Cemfis and Khan's family include pension to be paid as per applicability, job for the wife or her blood relatives considering eligibility, and Rs 15 lakh ex-gratia.

कार्यालय नगर निगम, कोटा (राज.)
Ref.No.:NNK/NIRMAN/2019/4776-84 Date 31.7.19
संशोधित ई निविदा सूचना
इस कार्यालय द्वारा पूर्व में जारी ई निविदा सूचना क्रमांक/निको/निर्माण/2019/4765-73 दिनांक 30.7.2019 में अंकित Gandhi Bhawan Dushera Ground Kota के स्थान पर Rajeev Gandhi Bhawan Dushera Ground Kota पढा जावे शेष यथावत्।
Sd/-
Superintending Engineer
Municipal Corporation, Kota

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on @SCRRailwaysIndia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C. Railway can be seen on our website www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in
Registration of Firms/Companies for supply of PAD (Proprietary Article Depot) Items for sale in catering units at Railway Stations.
South Central Railway has initiated the process of registration of firms/companies for supply of PAD (Proprietary Articles Depot) except packaged drinking water bottles for sale at all Licence operated Minor Static catering units at stations under the jurisdiction of south Central Railway.
The registration process will be opened from 01.08.2019 to 16.08.2019. Interested parties can register their products during this period duly submitting an application as per the eligibility criteria and other terms and conditions. Details of eligibility criteria and other terms and conditions are uploaded on South Central Railway i.e. www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in and can also be obtained in person from the office of the Principal Chief Commercial Manager, 1st floor, Rail Nilayam, South Central Railway, Secunderabad on all working days between 10.00 hrs to 17.00 hrs.
A1255 Principal Chief Commercial Manager/Secunderabad

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-III, DELHI
PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001.
Notice under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993.
In the matter of O.A. No. 433/2019/DRT-III
UCO Bank Applicant Vs Mr. Dallbir Singh & Ors. Defendants
To,
D-1M/s Dream Procon Pvt. Ltd. Regd. Office : 702-704, D-Mail, Pitampura, Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034
Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case against you and whereas as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in this Tribunal **22.08.2019 at 10.30 A.M.**
Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this 23rd day of July 2019.
By order of the Tribunal
Assistant Registrar, DRT-III, Delhi.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

RAISING THE issue of Johnson & Johnson selling faulty hip implants in the country, Congress leader Anand Sharma on Wednesday asked the Centre to tighten regulatory norms for pharmaceutical majors.

Speaking in the Rajya Sabha, Sharma noted that Johnson & Johnson had, in the US, agreed to pay over \$1 billion as compensation and suggested that such firms were escaping responsibilities in India.

He wondered how some of the implants banned globally were sold in India. "My submission is that once the products were withdrawn globally, how they (medical device firms) could enter the Indian market? Number two, we don't have a joint registry because of which, these pharma companies which are selling medical devices in India — which has a market of implants of almost \$500 million — are escaping and evading responsibility," Sharma said.

He said the government had appointed an expert committee which had recommended Rs 20 lakh as compensation for 4,000 patients, but [S&J] said only 66 patients were identified and located in India. The company, in



Anand Sharma

a submission in the Delhi High Court, agreed to pay Rs 25 lakh. The Congress leader stated that another committee had recommended a compensation of Rs 1.20 crore for each patient.

"The government ought to look at the regulatory law in our country, including the joint registry. The Ministry of Health and (Family) Welfare issued rules in 2017 on hip implants and other devices. My submission for the government is to bring a law to regulate medical devices in India," he said.

Sharma said two implants, namely ASR and Pinnacle, were banned globally by the US FDA and Australian regulator way back in 2010. "But because of weak regulations in India and flawed presentations which were made, they were allowed to enter the Indian market and after that a large number of patients have suffered," he said.

**GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Executive Engineer P.W.Division No.1 Nagpur**

INVITATION FOR TENDERS

e-mail div1nagpur.ee@mahapwd.com
**E-Tender Notice No. 18/2019-20
Short Tender Notice**

Online Item Rate tenders in B-1 Form are invited by the Executive Engineer, Public Works Division No.1, Nagpur for the following work from experienced Contractor. It is not necessary that the Contractor should be registered with P.W.D. The name of work, estimated cost, time limit for completion etc. are as under.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs.in lakh)	Cost of Blank Tender Form	Time limit in Tender (Calendar Months)
1	Providing SRI paints to roof information Boards and misc repairs to general toilet block Tahasil office (City) as per the instruction of Griha Council	16.85	560/-	2(Two) Month
2	Renovation of Damage Floor, Replumbing work, Drainage Improvement at Bandhkam Bhavan C.E. Office at Civil Lines, Nagpur	17.85	560/-	1(One) Month
3	Repairs to Toilet, doors, windows at Electrical Division in the VQCC Building at C.E. Premises Civil Lines, Nagpur.	13.27	560/-	1(One) Month
4	Specified repairs to C.E. Office Building at Civil line Nagpur	16.57	560/-	1(One) Month
5	Reroofing of National High Way Sub Division No.-2 at C.E. Office premises Civil Line Nagpur.	7.99	560/-	1(One) Month
6	Repairs to toilet Block of sub div No.-54 NH, Sub Div No. 1, at C.E. Office Premises Civil Line Nagpur.	7.96	560/-	1(One) Month
7	Specified Repairs to Road Project Division at C.E. Office Premises Civil Line Nagpur.	17.68	560/-	1(One) Month
8	नागपूर महानगरपालिका हद्दीतील मौजा हुडकेकर येथील आरिषा विलडींग मटेरियल ते राजत यांचे घर ते बसतराव तामने यांचे घर व रमेश लोखंडे यांचे घर पतसंस्था ते दयाराव निचोड यांचे घर ते भास्कर गदकवार यांचे घर ग्राम. ११३ रस्त्याचे डांबरी नुतनीकरण करणे.	45.87	560/-	2(Two) Month
9	नागपूर महानगरपालिका हद्दीतील मौजा हुडकेकर येथील सोब्रिके लेआउट ते स्वानंद प्रणालिक यांचे घर ते सुखकर्ता गणेश रस्त्याचे डांबरी नुतनीकरण करणे.	9.86	560/-	1(One) Month
10	नागपूर महानगरपालिका हद्दीतील मौजा हुडकेकर येथील शिवांगी नगर चौड ते राजत यांचे घर ते सिमेंट लावण्यांचा कारखाना रस्त्याचे डांबरी नुतनीकरण करणे, एकूण लांबी ०.७७ कि.मी.	13.40	560/-	1(One) Month
11	नागपूर महानगरपालिका हद्दीतील मौजा हुडकेकर येथील ग्राईड बार ते जानखेडे यांचे घर ते आर.के. राजत यांचे घर ते मा. दुर्गा प्लॉट एजेन्सी ते परमात्मा सॉलर स्टोर व देशमुख मिथान भंडार ते हिरुळकर ज्येष्ठ व मंटेकर हास्योदल ते गायत्री विलडींग श्री गणकवाड यांचे घर ते सहारे यांचे घर ते बालाजी डेली निडस ते विनोद किरण ते किशोर झामणे यांचे घर रस्त्याचे डांबरी नुतनीकरण करणे.	72.56	1120/-	2(Two) Month
12	नागपूर महानगर पालिका हद्दीतील मौजा हुडकेकर येथील रविशंकर कार्यालय ते भिवगडे यांचे घर ते उमेश भंडार यांचे घर ते वरुडकर यांचे घर ते विचूकर यांचे घर ते डॉ. गर्वड यांचे घर ते महानने यांचे घर ते स्वस्तिक हाईवेअर ते जानखेडे यांचे घर ते सद्गुरू निवास ग्राम. ११३ रस्त्याचे डांबरी नुतनीकरण करणे. एकूण लांबी १.७४५ कि.मी.	36.44	560/-	2(Two) Month
13	नागपूर महानगर पालिका हद्दीतील मौजा हुडकेकर येथील प्रिंमिड कलासेस ते नंदनवार यांचे घर व जय अंबे मिश्रा भंडार ते हुडकेकर नरसायन रोड ग्राम. ११२ रस्त्याचे डांबरी नुतनीकरण करणे. एकूण लांबी ०.९४५ कि.मी.	19.89	560/-	1(One) Month
14	नागपूर महानगर पालिका हद्दीतील मौजा हुडकेकर येथील अमेय आय हॉमिंटल ते ऊसरवसे यांचे घर ते धनराज हाटे यांचे घर ते शुकुका माता नगर गेट ते मानखेडे यांचे घर ते रोकडे यांचे घर-ग्राम. ११० रस्त्याचे डांबरी नुतनीकरण करणे. एकूण लांबी १.८९० कि.मी.	39.28	560/-	2(Two) Month
15	हुडकेकर विदिगाव रस्त्याचे बांधकाम करणे. ता. नागपूर लांबी १.०० कि.मी.	65.73	1120/-	2(Two) Month

1. Detailed tender notice can be seen on web site [www.mahapwd.com](http://mahapwd.com) and <https://mahatenders.gov.in>
2. Detailed tender notice can be seen on the Notice Board in the office of the undersigned.
3. Right is reserved to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
4. In this Tender Notice, Tender downloading, Tender opening etc information available on web site.
5. The bidder shall submit the hard copy of tender document (Technical and Financial Envelope) in sealed envelope with in 3 days from last date of submission at the office of tender opening authority.

O.W. No. dt. Sd/-
Executive Engineer
P.W.Dn. No.1 Nagpur

डॉ.जी.आय.पी.आर.२०१९/२०२०/१६४५

E-TENDERING PRESS NOTICE

The Executive Engineer, CD-XII, Irrigation & Flood Control Department, GNCTD Opp. ESI Hospital, Basai Darapur Office Complex New Delhi-110027 invites on behalf of the President of India, online Item rate tender from approved and eligible contractors for the following works :-

1. NIT No. EE/CD XII/19-20/36-(ID)-No. 2019_IFC_177083_1)-HOA-4515-DVDB WORKS IN NCT OF DELHI. SW- Improvement of road and drain from Supplementary Drain (Near Cremation Ground) to Nangloi Najafgarh Road at village Ranhola in Distt. West. (Including Maintenance for Six Years).
E.C. Rs.94,14,261/- Earnest money Rs.1,88,285/- period of completion 60 Days. (Date of submission and opening of bid on **08-08-2019 at 3:00 P.M. & 3:30 P.M** respectively). AE-III.
Note :- 1) Details of above mentioned works & eligibility criteria can be seen and downloaded from the web site <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>.
2) Amendment(s)/alteration(s)/corrigendum if any, will be available at website only.
3) EMD in the form of Banker's Cheque or Demand Draft or Fixed Deposit Receipt (drawn in favour of EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CD XII, I&FC DEPTT., GNCT OF DELHI) shall be scanned and uploaded to the e-tendering website within the period of bid submission. The original EMD should be deposited in the office of EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CD XII, I&FC DEPTT., GNCT OF DELHI within the period of bid submission. (The EMD document shall only be issued from the place in which the office of receiving division office is situated).
Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER/CD-XII
DIP/Shabdarth/0464/19-20

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -III, DELHI
4th Floor Jeevan Tara building Parliament Street New Delhi - 110001
Notice under section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993.
In the matter of O.A. No. 934/2017
DENA BANK APPLICANT versus MR. RAVI RATTAN & ORS. DEFENDANTS
To, D-1 M/s Subhkama Buildtech Pvt. Ltd. Plot No. GH-05/B, Sector-137, Expressway, Noida, Uttar Pradesh. Also At: A-120, F.F., Starhouse, Sector-4, Noida-201301 Also At: A-80, Sector-2, Noida-201301
Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in this Tribunal **07.08.2019 at 10.30 A.M.**
Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this 15th day of June 2019.
BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL
Assistant Registrar, DRT-III, New Delhi.

झारखण्ड सरकार
डा० रामकृष्ण गुप्ता जनजातीय कल्याण शोध संस्थान,
अनुसूचित जनजाति, अनुसूचित जाति, अल्पसंख्यक एवं पिछड़ा वर्ग कल्याण विभाग राँची-8
दूरभाष-0651-2551824, E-mail- tri.directorate@gmail.com
पत्रांक-840 राँची, दिनांक: 30.07.2019
शुद्धि पत्र
(PR No.210223)
संस्थान के पत्रांक-702-05 एवं 708-12 दिनांक-26.06.19 से संबंधित निविदाओं (इच्छा की अभिव्यक्ति) अन्तर्गत दिनांक 31.07.19 को निविदा खोलने की तिथि निर्धारित किया गया था। किन्तु अपरिहार्य कारण से तिथि बढ़ते हुए दिनांक 07.08.2019 अपराह्न 03.00 बजे बैंक आयोजित की गई है।
अतः संबंधित निविदादाता स्वयं या अधिकृत प्रतिनिधि दिनांक 07.08.19 को होने वाले बैंक में उपस्थित होने का कष्ट करें।
रु/-
P.R.213275 Welfare(19-20) D [E - सूचना के माध्यम से सूचना के माध्यम से उप निर्देशक।

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Raju Rathore S/o Shri Virendar Kumar R/O E-348, New Ashok Nagar, Delhi-110096, have changed my name from Raju to Rathore for all purposes. 0040502499-6

I, Shaheen Ali R/O X-32b, Block-X, New Ranjeet Nagar, New Delhi-110008. Changed My Name To Shaheen Bano 0040505593-4

Public Notice: My client Bhagwati Devi W/o Naresh Kumar Sharma R/O RZ-90-A, Gali No.-8, New Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059 has disowned her son Manoj Sharma and has debarred him from inheriting any movable and immovable properties owned by my above said client.

Public Notice: My client Shri Arvind Das age 57 S/o Late Anil Das R/O C-137, Bhumini camp, N.D. 19, has debarred and disowned his sons namely, Sh. Amit Das & Bablu age 26 years, from his moveable or immovable properties and also severed all their relations with them as he is out of control, disobeys and insincere.

CENTRAL WAREHOUSING CORPORATION (A Government of India Undertaking) Regional Office: "Warehousing Bhawan", Vibhuti Khand, Gornli Nagar, Lucknow-226010, Ph: 0522-2720685

कार्यालय नगर निगम, उदयपुर (कार्यालय नगर निगम, उदयपुर) प्रस्ताविका/2019-20/11-06 दिनांक: 29.07.2019

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY ATOMIC MINERALS DIRECTORATE FOR EXPLORATION AND RESEARCH No. 1-10-153-156, AMD COMPLEX, BEGUMPET, HYDERABAD - 500016

verka THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD. SCO 153-155, SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022

Public Notice: My client Prem Nath Dogra S/o Sh. Saloo Ram and Smt. Kamlesh W/o Prem Nath Dogra both R/O H. No. 92-C, Block-K, Saket, New Delhi-17, have severed all their relation from their son Ravi Dogra because of his uncontrolled attitude and behaviors and have debarred him from our moveable and immovable property.

LOST & FOUND

Lost Original Builder Buyer Documents for my House E-14/24 DLF CITY PHASE-1 Gurgaon, Anyone finds it please contact Ashok or Savita Sinha 9873029987 within 15 days. 0040505499-1

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice: My client Shri Arvind Das age 57 S/o Late Anil Das R/O C-137, Bhumini camp, N.D. 19, has debarred and disowned his sons namely, Sh. Amit Das & Bablu age 26 years, from his moveable or immovable properties and also severed all their relations with them as he is out of control, disobeys and insincere.

COURT NOTICE

In the Court of Sh. Laxmi Kant Gaur, LD, ADJ-05, (Central), Room no 102, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

That my client Prem Nath Dogra S/o Sh. Saloo Ram and Smt. Kamlesh W/o Prem Nath Dogra both R/O H. No. 92-C, Block-K, Saket, New Delhi-17, have severed all their relation from their son Ravi Dogra because of his uncontrolled attitude and behaviors and have debarred him from our moveable and immovable property.

For All Advertisement Booking Call : 0120-6651214



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#ExpressExplained

If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

TELLING NUMBERS

Over 140 are killed every day on national highways, expressways

Year	Number of accidents on NHs/expressways	Number of deaths on NHs/expressways
2015	1,42,268	51,204
2016	1,42,359	52,075
2017	1,41,466	53,181

Source: Reply to Lok Sabha question

UTTAR PRADESH and Madhya Pradesh, where the death toll from road accidents is among the highest in the country, were also among the 10-odd states where the number of people killed on the roads had, at last count, increased over the previous year.

UP, India's most populous state, saw 20,124 people killed on the roads in 2017, as compared to the 19,320 deaths in 2016. The corresponding numbers for MP, another large state, were 10,177 and 9,646, according to data provided to Lok Sabha by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways last week.

Roads in Maharashtra, the second most populous state, however, seemed to be getting safer, the data show. The state saw 12,264 fatalities in 2017,

fewer than the 12,935 in 2016, and the 13,212 in 2015. The 2017 number for Tamil Nadu, 16,157, was the second highest (after UP) that year, but lower than the state's 2016 number of 17,218.

Across India, 51,204, 52,075, and 53,181 people were killed on National Highways (including expressways) in 2015, 2016, and 2017, as per information received from police departments of all States/UTs, the Ministry said in its reply. This works out to 140-145 deaths on India's National Highways and expressways every day during the three years for which the data was presented.

The number of accidents on NHs and expressways in those years were 1,42,268, 1,42,359, and 1,41,466 respectively.

FACT CHECK, GROUND REALITY

CCD FOUNDER LEFT A PURPORTED SUICIDE NOTE. WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

MOHAMED THAYER
MUMBAI, JULY 31

A LETTER purportedly written by V G Siddhartha to the board of directors of Cafe Coffee Day before he apparently took his life, accuses leaders of exerting "tremendous pressure" on him, and the Income-Tax Department of "a lot of harassment". While I-T said it had acted in accordance with the law and procedures, the Congress Wednesday attacked the government for unleashing "tax terror" on businesses.

Can the letter purportedly left behind by Siddhartha, if established to be genuine, be considered a "suicide note"?

SUICIDE NOTE: Any document where a person has specifically mentioned that he is planning to end his life, can be considered a suicide note. If the contents demonstrate that the person had been pushed to commit suicide by someone, police can conduct an inquiry to see if charges can be pressed under Section 306 of the Indian Penal Code.

SECTION 306 IPC: The section, 'Abetment of Suicide', says: "If any person commits suicide, whoever abets the commission of such suicide, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine".

Section 306 is applicable only if the deceased specifically holds a person responsible for the suicide. It is usually considered to be a difficult Section to prove in a court of law. In her suicide note, Dr Payal Tadvi, the gynaecology department stu-

dent at Mumbai's Nair Hospital who hanged herself on May 22, named three seniors whose "torture" she said she could no longer bear. The three individuals have been arrested and charged with abetment to suicide.

HOW SERIOUS: The appearance of an individual's name in a suicide note does not automatically lead to the filing of an FIR. It must be established that the person was deliberately harassing the deceased. For example, the I-T officer whom Siddhartha has referred to in his letter cannot be held responsible if the officer is found to have been merely carrying out his duty as per the law.

The registering of an FIR under IPC Section 306 is not necessarily followed by prosecution. Police may register an FIR if members of the deceased's family insist, but may not file a chargesheet if their investigation shows there is not enough evidence to establish abetment. An FIR under Section 306 was registered after musician Karan Joseph killed himself in Mumbai in September 2017, but no one has been chargesheeted.

PROCEDURE: Normally, police initially register an Accidental Death Report (ADR). If there appears to be no foul play after the autopsy — meaning it was not a murder trying to be passed off as suicide — police can, under Section 174 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, conduct an inquiry without registering an FIR. If allegations in the suicide note, or those made by the family, *prima facie* appear to have merit, police register an FIR under Section 306 IPC.

SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

New debate on defence funding

The Centre has asked the 15th Finance Commission to examine whether a separate mechanism for funding of defence and internal security should be set up. What are the implications for the finances of the states?

ISHAN BAKSHI
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

EARLIER THIS MONTH, the Union Cabinet amended the terms of reference (ToR) of the 15th Finance Commission (FC) to widen their scope. Through the change, the government has requested the FC to look into the possibility of a separate mechanism for the funding of defence and internal security. Critics of the decision have questioned the addition to the FC's ToR on the ground that it would undermine the federal structure of Indian polity.

What is the FC and what is its mandate?

The Finance Commission is a constitutional body that owes its existence to Article 280 of the Indian Constitution. Its mandate is to determine the distribution of tax revenues between the Centre and the states, and amongst the states themselves. The FC has a five-year term; the 15th FC was constituted in November 2017 and its recommendations will apply from 2020 to 2025. In the past, FCs have also dwelt on the distribution of central grants to states, as well as the flow of resources to the third tier of governance — the panchayats and the municipalities.

In a federal structure such as India's, powers and responsibilities are divided between the Centre and the states. While the Union collects a majority of the tax revenue, states have a greater responsibility for the delivery of public goods.

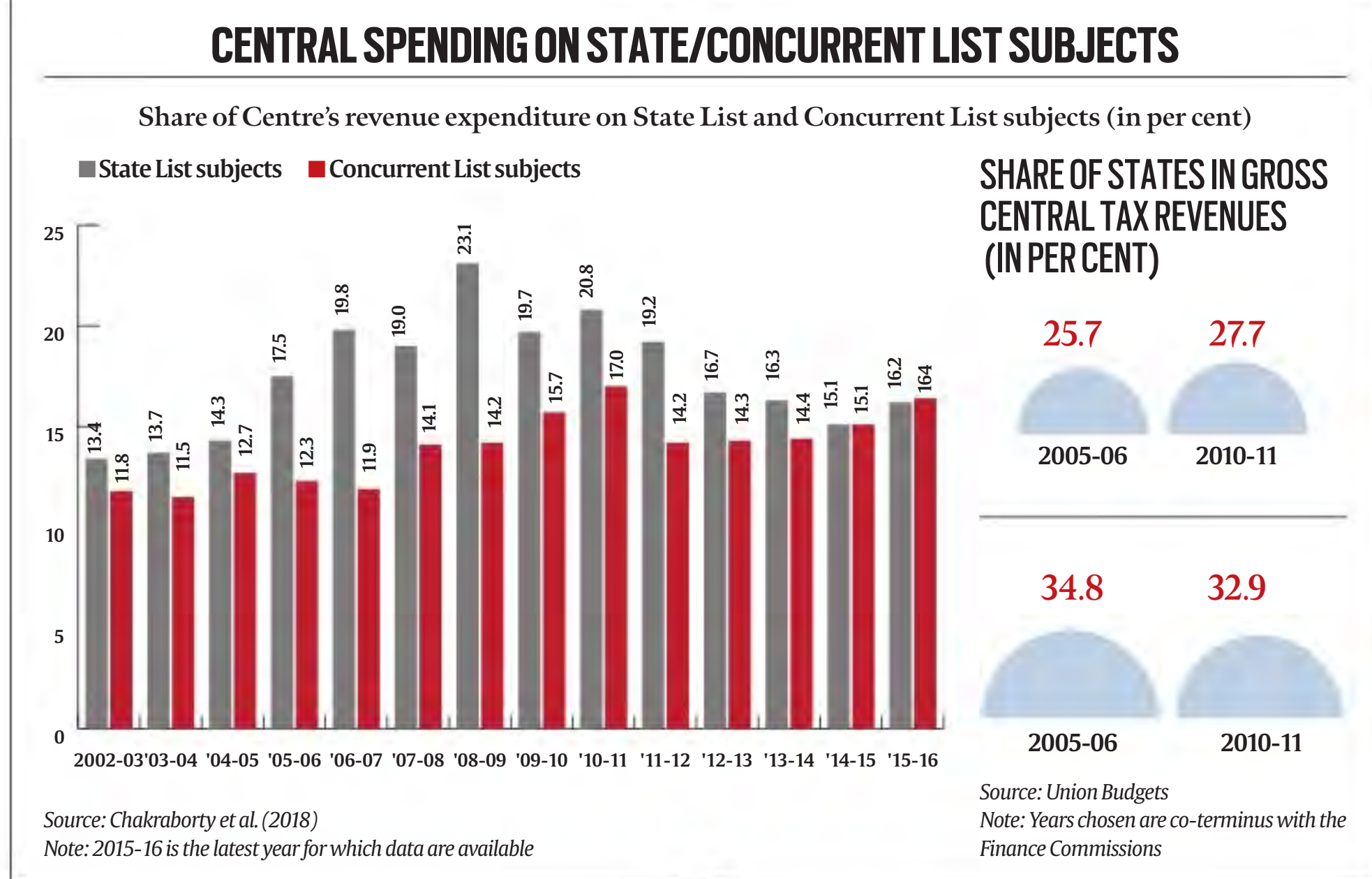
Thus, FCs aim to do two types of adjustments. One, to address the vertical imbalance between the taxation powers of the Centre and the expenditure priorities of the states.

Two, to allay the horizontal imbalances between the states themselves with the objective of ensuring balanced regional development.

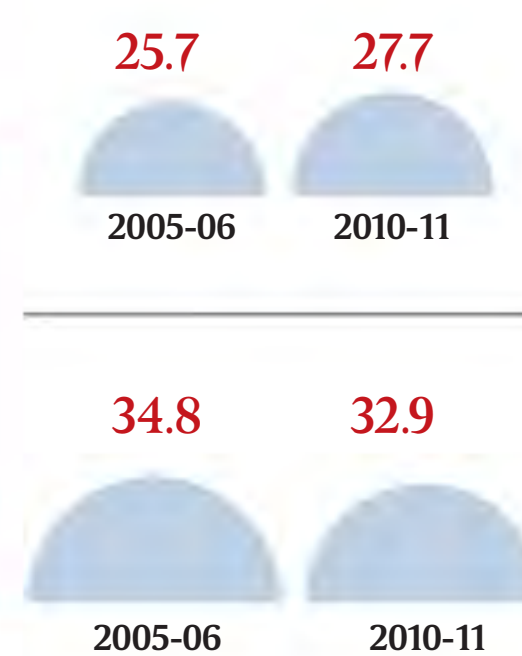
What is the role of the ToR, and why is the latest tweak being criticised?

One of the reasons why FCs are reconstituted every five years is to ensure that they can take into account the changing dynamics of the political and fiscal landscape. Even though the ToRs are essentially in the nature of guidelines to the FC, yet a change in ToRs over the years has reflected the changing needs of India's overall development.

Any changes in ToRs can, and often do, have their critics. For instance, several



SHARE OF STATES IN GROSS CENTRAL TAX REVENUES (IN PER CENT)



southern states had protested against the 15th FC ToR last year because of apprehensions that it would lead to a reduction in their share of tax revenues.

The latest addition to the 15th FC's ToR calls for the FC to examine the possibility of allocation of adequate, secure and non-lapsable funds for defence and internal security of India. In other words, the Centre has requested the FC to examine whether a separate mechanism for funding of defence and internal security ought to be set up, and how such a mechanism could be operationalised.

With capital spending on defence continuing to fall short of requirements, it is difficult to contest the basic premise that spending on defence needs to be bolstered.

However, sequestering funds for defence from the Centre's gross tax revenues means a reduction in the overall tax pool that is shared with states. This is likely to be protested by the states, several of whom are arguing for an increase in their share in taxes collected to 50 per cent from the current 42 per cent. This request by the Centre also raises questions over the fiscal space at its disposal to finance spending

on items in the Union List.

The Seventh Schedule of the Constitution lists the separate (Union List and State List) and joint (Concurrent List) responsibilities of the Centre and the states. Defence is in the Union List. The Centre's request to the FC for greater resources means that it has limited ability to ramp up expenditure on items in the Union List.

This is partly because the Centre's expenditure on items in the State and Concurrent Lists has been increasing over the years. Research has shown that the share of the Centre's revenue expenditure on items in the State List has broadly grown over the years; it went up from 13.4 per cent in 2002-03 to 23.1 per cent in 2008-09, before declining to 16.2 per cent in 2015-16.

Similarly, the Centre spent 16.4 per cent of its revenue expenditure on Concurrent List subjects in 2015-16, up from 11.8 per cent in 2002-03 (see chart). This increase in spending by the Centre on items in the State and the Concurrent Lists has led to a reduction in its spending on items in the Union List.

Are states being squeezed out of funding?

The added fiscal pressures of the Centre and the requirement of having to share tax revenues with states has left the Centre in a peculiar position.

To shore up its revenues, the Centre has, over the years, begun to rely more on cesses and surcharges. In the recent Union Budget, too, it increased the special additional excise duty and road and infrastructure cess on petrol and diesel by one rupee each.

But the revenue from cesses and surcharges is not part of the divisible tax pool that is shared with the states. It is kept by the Centre. This implies that states receive a lower share of the Centre's gross tax revenue collections.

For instance, the states' share in central taxes has been pegged at Rs 8.09 lakh crore in 2019-20. This works out to around 33 per cent of the gross tax revenues. In comparison, post the government accepting the recommendations of the 14th FC, states' share in central taxes rose to 42 per cent from the 32 per cent earlier.

What the Bill to curb Ponzi schemes says

RUDRA MANI TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

ON July 29, Rajya Sabha passed The Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill, 2019; it had been passed by Lok Sabha five days previously. The Bill aims to protect investors from fraudulent investment schemes, such as Ponzi schemes.

The Bill covers existing gaps in legislation that had been exploited by various parties to siphon large amounts of money away from small investors. In particular, it amends three laws, i.e., The Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, The Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 and The Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002.

According to an analysis by PRS India, under the Bill, deposit-taking schemes are defined as 'unregulated' if they are undertaken for business purposes, and additionally, are not registered with one of the nine regula-

tory authorities mentioned in the Bill.

A common type of scam involving unregulated deposits is the Ponzi scheme, a type of investment fraud wherein one party promises high returns on an investment with little to no risk. The early investors in a Ponzi scheme are repaid by the scheme acquiring new investors, and so on. Once there are no longer enough people to secure a new round of investments, the scheme collapses and the investors lose their money. This was the classic pattern seen in the Saradha case in West Bengal, in which politicians of the ruling party have been accused.

The nine authorities charged with the oversight and regulation of deposit-taking schemes include the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), and state and Union Territory governments. Each authority oversees different types of deposit-taking schemes, with the RBI overseeing deposits taken by non-bank-

ing financial companies (NBFCs), and Sebi overseeing mutual funds. Any deposit-taking scheme must be registered with the relevant authority, based on the category it falls under, and only then is its operation legal.

The Bill provides for the appointment of a "competent authority", with a rank not below Secretary to the state or central government, with the power to provisionally attach the property of the deposit-taker, and all the deposits received by them. The Bill also allows the competent authority to summon and examine people to obtain evidence, and order records to be produced.

The Bill provides for the formation of designated courts in specific areas. The central government will additionally designate an authority to establish an online database with information on various deposit-takers. The database will be used to ascertain which deposit-takers are regulated, and which are not. Deposit-takers will be required to inform the authority in charge of the database about

their actions and the state of their business.

Three kinds of offences are delineated under this Bill: running unregulated deposit-taking schemes (which includes advertising, operating, and accepting money for such schemes), fraudulently defaulting on the deposits made under a regulated deposit-taking scheme, and prompting investors to invest in unregulated deposit schemes by knowingly falsifying facts.

The first kind of offence has been made punishable by two to seven years' imprisonment and a fine of Rs 3 lakh to Rs 10 lakh.

The second kind of offence is punishable by imprisonment for three to 10 years, and fines ranging from Rs 2 lakh to double the amount collected from depositors. Repeat offenders may be punished by a five- to 10-year stint in prison, and fined between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 5 crore.

(The writer is a student of Ashoka University and an intern with The Indian Express)

What's at stake in India's biggest ever trial of tuberculosis vaccines

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS
PUNE, JULY 31

ON JULY 15, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) launched India's first large-scale trial for two new tuberculosis (TB) vaccines. As per the 2018 annual report of the Central TB division of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the incidence of TB was nearly 2.8 million annually, and the incidence of multidrug-resistant TB was 1,47,000 per year. The total number of deaths because of TB (excluding HIV) was 4,23,000, and the incidence of HIV-TB was 87,000 per year. India contributes to 27 per cent of the global TB burden; the highest share globally. That is why, in 2017, the central government had committed itself to eliminating TB by 2025.

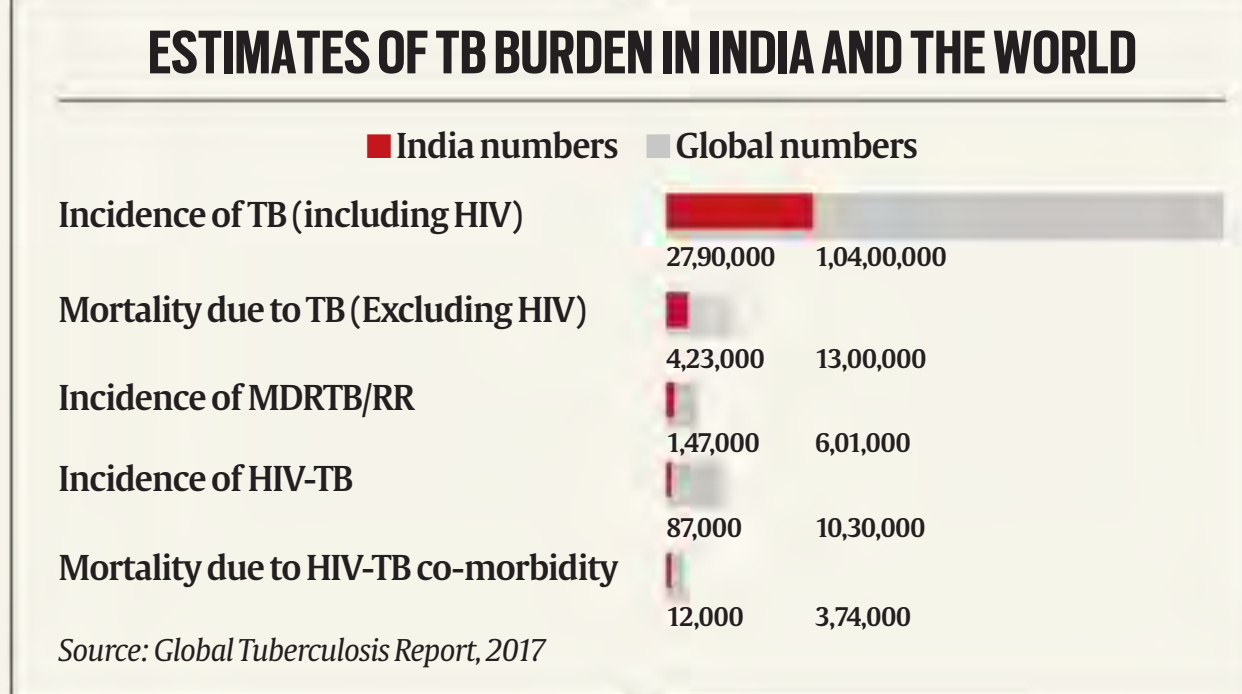
The new vaccines that are being put through the trials offer a chance to contain the accelerating spread of multi-drug resistant TB. Treating TB requires a multi-drug

course of treatment lasting six months; longer still for treating drug-resistant TB. Treatment failure and recurrence can have devastating consequences.

Why new vaccines

Scientists at the Indian Council of Medical Research have felt a critical need for new TB vaccines that are more effective than the Bacille Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccine. The BCG vaccine is used in the routine Expanded Programme of Immunisation (EPI) in countries across the world. It is generally given at birth or in the first year. The vaccine is over 100 years old, and while it has been partially effective in protecting infants and young children, particularly from the most severe forms of TB, it provides poor protection against pulmonary disease in adolescents and adults.

It is for these reasons a need was felt to develop more effective preventive TB vaccines, Dr Balram Bhargava, Director General of ICMR, said.



Which vaccines

There are two vaccines being tested in the latest trial: Immuvac (also known as *mycobacterium indicus pranii* or MIP), which is manufactured by Cadila

Pharmaceuticals in Ahmedabad, and VPM1002 manufactured by Serum Institute of India in Pune. There are seven main centres with six subsites where the trial will be conducted.

What the latest trials entail

Typically, vaccine trials have three phases. During Phase 1, small groups of people receive the trial vaccine. In Phase 2, the clinical study is expanded and the vaccine is given to people who have characteristics (such as age and physical health) similar to those for whom the new vaccine is intended. In Phase 3 the vaccine is given to several thousands of people and tested for efficacy and safety.

Even so, India's trials stand out. Dr Manjula Singh, co-investigator and coordinator of the vaccine trial said that nowhere has a Phase 3 trial involved trying out two TB vaccines in one go. This is the first time that such a large preventive TB vaccine trial has been taken up.

The trials in India will involve enrolling 12,000 healthy household contacts of newly diagnosed pulmonary TB patients. The candidates will be enrolled from across six states — Delhi, Maharashtra, Telangana, Odisha, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

Approximately 2,000 participants will be enrolled in each state over the next 7-8 months. The main aim of the trial is to evaluate the efficacy of both the vaccines by comparing the reduction in the incidence of TB over a three-year period. The candidates in this trial will be at high risk of contracting the disease, and will be vaccinated in a double-blind manner with either one of the vaccines, and compared with placebo for its efficacy.

What happens next

This is a Phase 3 vaccine trial where the safety and efficacy of the two TB vaccines are being studied in comparison to the placebo in a larger population.

Depending on the results, the recommendations would be sent to the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Both vaccines are being manufactured by Indian pharmaceutical companies. The price of the vaccines would be decided by the government.



WORDLY WISE
I LIKE TO PAY TAXES. WITH THEM,
I BUY CIVILISATION.
— OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES JR.

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

Reading 1919 in 2019



PRATAP BHANU MEHTA

What does it mean to be in politics? Weber asked this question — its answer lies in questions that find an echo today

SHORTCHANGED BY LAW

Triple talaq bill was passed without legislative scrutiny it required. Both government and Opposition must take blame

NEARLY TWO YEARS after the Supreme Court declared instant triple talaq or talaq-e-biddat as unconstitutional, Parliament has passed the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, outlawing the practice. In its nearly year-and-a-half long sojourn in Parliament, searching questions have been asked of the Bill's provisions. As a result of these deliberations, the legislation passed by the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday is somewhat different from the one introduced in the lower House in December 2017. The question, however, is: Has the government allayed all the major apprehensions about the Bill? Last year, it did introduce amendments to dilute the Bill's most contentious section — the criminality provision. "An offence punishable under this Act shall be cognisable, if information relating to the commission of the offence is given to an officer in charge of a police station by the married Muslim woman upon whom talaq is pronounced or any person related to her by blood or marriage," reads Clause 7 of the Bill — a climbdown from the original clause, which allowed anyone to file a complaint. Yet, the question remains: Why deem what is essentially a civil wrong as a criminal act? The government has failed to give a convincing response to the Opposition's criticism that a three-year prison term for a husband who pronounces triple talaq would end up doing the estranged wife more harm than good.

The government has deployed the argument of women's empowerment to counter every objection to the Bill. The imperative of gender justice is, indeed, compelling. It is also true that the Supreme Court judgment had recognised the discriminatory nature of triple talaq. However, the 3-2 verdict also spoke of the complexity of the issue and its fraught political milieu. In laying out the intertwined aspects — gender equality, freedom of religion and personal laws — the five-judge bench had put forth a language of reform without being oblivious of or disrespectful to the apprehensions and insecurities of the minority community. Evidently, however, the government did not take its cue from this landmark verdict. It did not make any attempt to strike a conversation with the minority community or put to rest fears that the bill is another ruse for majoritarian assertion — not even after Prime Minister Narendra Modi began his second stint in office by announcing "sabka vishwas" as his government's credo. In fact, in the current Monsoon Session of Parliament, the government used the weight of its numbers to ride roughshod over the Opposition's demand that the Bill be sent to a select committee.

The Opposition's conduct has also left much to be desired. After failing to offer substantive criticism when the Bill was first moved, it did close ranks. But developments on Tuesday indicate that it has lost its appetite for a fight — as many as 23 Opposition members were not present in the House. The triple talaq law required thorough legislative scrutiny. Both the government and the Opposition failed to provide it.

GST RED FLAGS

Government must address issues raised by Comptroller and Auditor General, review indirect tax regime

THE SHIFT TO the goods and services tax (GST) regime marked a significant step towards the creation of a common national market. But the transition to this new indirect tax regime has been marred by implementation glitches. The compliance burden has not significantly eased, nor have revenue collections met expectations. These and many more issues have been dealt with in great detail by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) in its audit report on indirect taxes. This careful report warrants a comprehensive review of the country's new indirect tax regime.

The audit report affirms the shortfall in government revenues post the shift to GST. It estimates that the Centre's revenues from goods and services (excluding central excise on petroleum and tobacco) fell by 10 per cent in 2017-18, as compared to the revenue of taxes subsumed under GST in 2016-17. It was hoped that over time, as the system stabilises, compliance levels would rise. But, as the audit finds out, there has been no improvement in filing of GSTR-3B returns. This needs further investigation. The avoidable physical interface with tax officials continues, as invoice matching — which is essentially matching sales and purchases of buyers and sellers — is still not operational, suggesting that the hope of an IT-based interface remains a distant dream. This has also left the system prone to input tax credit (ITC) frauds. The report has also flagged issues with regard to settlement of claims. It notes that the manner in which the government devolved Rs 67,998 crore under integrated GST to states was "against the provisions of Constitution of India." It has highlighted the issues of transitional credit (the carry forward of credit from the old tax regime to GST) which could have impacted central GST collections. But the issues don't end here. The IT audit of the goods and services tax network (GSTN) also points towards several shortcomings, not only in the GST registration but also in the payment module. Inexplicably, even the CAG's access to data, during its audit, was curtailed.

Part of the problem can be traced to the lack of co-ordination between stakeholders. There was also a failure to test the systems before rolling them out. While these system-related issues need to be addressed quickly, tinkering at the margins is unlikely to address the deeper, structural issues raised by the audit report. As the report points out, there are "serious systemic deficiencies that need to be addressed".

STUFF AND NONSENSE

The world is mad at Richard Branson for rubbishing the material basis of happiness while being a tycoon

THE BEATLES SANG "money can't buy me love" and hit the top of the charts in 1964. Thirty-five years later, Paul McCartney had admitted to an interviewer that it should have read "can buy me love". The world awaits a similar correction from Richard Branson, who is being pilloried for blogging: "I truly believe that 'stuff' really does not bring happiness." The lightning conductors for joy, he declares, are "family, friends, good health and the satisfaction that comes from making a positive difference." It is a statement guaranteed to irritate people who are short on some of these attributes, and short on money, too.

Such pious homilies are generally deployed by religions and cults, to prevent the flock from feeling totally cheated by life. But to be fair, Branson is not suggesting that we must be glad in rags. He has been offering free happiness advice for a while, and has generally said that money is not a valid metric for success. He inverts traditional logic to suggest that happiness is the springboard for finding success and making money, and that nothing can be achieved without a sense of fun.

For a nation that once controlled half the world, the English are surprisingly fascinated by money, and the lack thereof. British reality TV programming generally has something running on the theme. The most recent show is *Rich House, Poor House*, in which economically unlike people swap homes for a while. The best-known is *Famous, Rich and Homeless*, where the prosperous rough it out. The idea is to highlight what the poor are deprived of, but these programmes invite the charge of being patronising. Which is exactly the charge that Branson has attracted, by devaluing the importance of money while swimming in the "stuff".

EXACTLY ONE HUNDRED years ago, Max Weber published what curiously still remains one of the few ruminations that touch on the subject: 'Politics as a Vocation'. Though published in July 1919, the lecture was delivered in January to Free Students Union at the University of Munich, against the backdrop of immense political upheaval: Germany's defeat in World War I, the spectre of Bolshevism, political assassinations and deep scepticism about parliamentary democracy. This was a companion piece to Weber's famous essay, 'Science as a Vocation'. Both essays had a common thread: What does it mean to invest a vocation with meaning in an age characterised by disenchantment and rationalisation? What does it mean to take "politics" or "science" both as a profession and as something deeper, a calling? What ethical commitments and character traits do they draw upon?

The lecture is a typical Weber performance that manages to combine clarity, ambivalence and disillusionment all at once. He begins by telling his audience that the lecture "will necessarily disappoint you." But the sense in which he is about to "disappoint" has various dimensions. Those coming to look for instructions were going to be disappointed. Instead of instruction, what Weber offers is thinking: Thinking about how politics functions as a human activity. In formal terms, it is an autonomous domain in its own right that cannot be reduced either to pure ethics or purely the necessity of economic interest.

Its specificity comes from the fact that it can never avoid the question of power and violence. In the course of delineating the specific nature of politics, and the circumstances under which it functions, Weber invents many of the categories of modern political sociology, including the definition of the state as the institution that strives to monopolise the means of legitimate violence. He, then, in typical fashion, delineates the various forms of political authority: Traditional, rational, legal and charismatic; the ambiguities of politics in an era of parties and patronage; the infirmities of parliamentarianism and so on. This consideration of the circumstances under which politics operates was meant to be a bath of sociological cold wa-

The world Max Weber described was, in some respects, not too far from the world we inhabit: What is the form of political action available, when constitutional forms are decimated, when the application of brute force becomes the norm, when the purpose of politics is a periodic diversion, to keep us in thrall of vicarious excitement? To what 'ends' do we attach ourselves? To what forms of organising power do we hitch our star, when even organisations like parties are dead? What forms of collective action are possible when unity in the face of big challenges either flounders on the shoals of an impossible goal of unanimity, or is subverted by reducing politics to mere short-term interest?

ter over the hot romanticism of politics.

But Weber was offering a disappointment also in a deeper sense, one that gives the lecture its unique pathos. For one, Weber seeks to use Karl Lowith's description, "tear down all veils from desirable objects." He stands against revolution, a form of politics blind to the immorality of means, and to the self-defeating nature of the political project. He stands against pacifism for making war more likely. Both the revolutionary and the pacifist have a hyper moralism in common. The revolutionary is guilty of two aspects of moralism: That the ends can justify any means, and he operates on the delusion that the world can and ought to exactly mirror one ideal. The pacifist is a hyper moralist in the reverse direction: A moralism that pays no heed to consequences. Then there are the typical tensions Weber has to navigate. Weber is a thoroughgoing value pluralist, who nevertheless has to explain how we can, in a world of diverse values, act as if ours actually mattered.

Weber is frustrated with social democrats, assorted parliamentarians and centrists, for their indecision and pettiness. He is a thorough nationalist, one of the early ones to see it as an ideology that confers meaning in a disenchanted world in a way that is unrivalled. But he also sees how delusional nationalism can become. He is an ambivalent liberal, who sees how anaemic it can become in some circumstances, to almost invite charismatic disruption. He sees the psychological attractions of demagoguery; but is also the most prescient about its dangers. "The mere 'power politician', a type whom an energetically promoted cult is seeking to glorify here in Germany as elsewhere, may give the impression of strength, but in fact his actions merely lead into emptiness and absurdity." He describes the ideal politician as combining passion, responsibility and judgement; yet, at the same time, no one recognises the internal tensions between the three qualities more acutely than Weber.

But there is an even deeper "disappointment" in the essay. For his immediate audience, of course, he offers no consolation, "not the flowering of summer but a polar night of icy darkness and hardness." The power of the essay a hundred years later is in conveying

the sense in which the ordinary political agent can feel a sense of suffocation. Politics can often oscillate between the routine power grabs of patronage politics on the one hand, or the romantic delusions on the other. It can oscillate between the expectation that it attends to routine and mundane tasks; on the other hand, it also should provide the thrill and vicariousness that lift us out of our ordinary existence. It is exactly a world that makes moderation, responsibility and judgement so rare and fragile.

The world Weber described was, in some respects, not too far from the world we inhabit: What is the form of political action available, when constitutional forms are decimated, when the application of brute force becomes the norm, when the purpose of politics is a periodic diversion, to keep us in thrall of vicarious excitement? To what "ends" do we attach ourselves? To what forms of organising power do we hitch our star, when even so many organisations like parties are dead? What forms of collective action are possible when unity in the face of big challenges either flounders on the shoals of an impossible goal of unanimity, or is subverted by reducing politics to mere short-term interest?

Weber will not answer these questions. His tragedy was that of someone who has such a will not to be deceived that they literally leave their own actions without a foundation. Perhaps the answer may lie in another unlikely mode of political action that was beginning to take shape in 1919, just as Weber was pouring out his disillusionment. Gandhi was beginning to articulate the politics of exemplarity. His sense of politics was not Weber's by a long stretch. But he did grasp one thing: Perhaps in times of crisis the question to ask is not what ideology, what party, what collective action? The question to ask is: What makes political action an exemplar that is credible in the eyes of others?

But that is a discussion for another occasion. Weber's disappointment was supremely clarifying in one respect: The heroism and dignity of politics will lie exactly in the fact that we don't know all the answers. Till we try.

The writer is contributing editor, The Indian Express



SHAZIA ILMI

TAKING DOWN PATRIARCHY

The Narendra Modi government has finally succeeded in abolishing triple talaq

THE CONSTITUTION OF India, inspired by the lofty ideals of the wise women and men who made it, clearly mentions that there will be no discrimination on the basis of gender. The Fundamental Duties highlight the need to renounce practices that are derogatory to the dignity of women.

Yet, for 72 long years since we began to breathe the air of freedom, the practice of triple talaq remained in our system, an ugly aberration and a living testimony to the power of fundamentalism over rationality. By and large, previous governments accepted this as a part of faith and refused to correct this wrong. Recently, the Supreme Court of India made important observations on triple talaq as well.

It took a determined push by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure that this archaic practice is finally abolished in India. PM Modi is perhaps amongst the only leaders in the last several decades to publicly talk about ending triple talaq. He did so during his years as Gujarat chief minister but this stand became stronger after he assumed office: He used his 2018 Red Fort address to assure Muslim women that this practice would become history.

The manner in which Modi has ensured this practice is abolished provides a lesson

For Modi to use so much political capital for a community perceived to be hostile to him manifests a welcome spirit of statesmanship. After all, vote bank politics can be a deadly pill. The manner in which Rajiv Gandhi pandered to conservative elements during the Shah Bano judgement is a masterclass of political cowardice and social indifference. He had a great opportunity to turn wrong into right but instead, he was more bothered about a handful of votes.

or two in political will, statesmanship and bipartisanship. Many leaders espouse many causes but during the journey from ideation to implementation, there lie huge gaps.

The potential setbacks Modi faced since he actively began talking about ending triple talaq were many. Critics saw his utterances only as election-related. Initial attempts to clear the Bill in the Rajya Sabha were not successful and the conservative Muslim elements had a field day in branding Modi as "anti-Muslim". Yet, he did not lose will and persisted till the very end: This was a personal commitment and he would not accept inability as a way out.

For Modi to use so much of his political capital for a community perceived to be hostile to him manifests a welcome spirit of statesmanship. After all, vote bank politics can be a deadly pill. The manner in which Rajiv Gandhi pandered to conservative elements in the aftermath of the Shah Bano judgment is a masterclass in political cowardice and social indifference. He had a great opportunity to turn a wrong into a right but instead, he was more bothered about a handful of votes.

It must not be forgotten that all this while, the Modi government and the PM himself, have been talking about ending triple talaq

knowing fully well that the numbers in the Rajya Sabha are not in their favour. On previous occasions, the Bill could not even be introduced in the Rajya Sabha. However, the vote in the Upper House on July 30 gives valuable lessons in floor management and consensus building. Parties not with the NDA were roped in as well and the Bill was passed.

The bankrupt politics of the Opposition, especially the Congress, came to the fore once again during the Rajya Sabha debate. Frivolous issues were invented to defend a medieval practice. From preventing the Bill from being introduced to filibustering, their antics stand exposed. They too, like the BJP today, had a strong majority in Parliament: But while they used it to defend patriarchy, the BJP went the extra mile to fight for gender justice.

When the history of our times is written, it will be said that just before India's 73rd Independence Day, the Narendra Modi government, powered by the zeal of the prime minister, gave real freedom to Muslim women who were subjugated to exploitation and terror for no fault of theirs. May this struggle inspire us to overcome many social evils and move towards a more progressive and gender sensitive society.

The writer is a spokesperson of the BJP



AUGUST 1, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO

CWC MEET
THE CONGRESS WORKING Committee will meet on August 2 to discuss the proposal for calling a meeting of the pre-split AICC soon. It will also discuss the proposal for the merger of the Congress and the Janata (S). The first proposal has come from Devaraj Urs, the chief minister of Karnataka. He met Swaran Singh, Congress president. The second proposal was publicly announced by Raj Narain, Janata (S) chairman, in Karnataka Bhavan on July 28. Answering questions at the Press Club of India in Delhi yesterday, Urs said the Congress-Janata (S) merger proposal should be considered "very seriously".

CRITIQUING AIR
ALL INDIA RADIO'S newsmen are in the dock. Their performance during the current political crisis is being subjected to a close scrutiny by the new Information and Broadcasting minister, Purshottam Kaushik. One of the first things Kaushik did on his first day in office was to call for an "analysis" of the coverage of political events by AIR's news services division in the last few days. Incidentally, submission of this "analysis" to the new minister was the last thing I P Tewari had to do as the director of news. He retired today. Kaushik gave a piece of his mind while addressing officers of the ministry today, emphasising that AIR should satisfy itself about

the veracity of news before putting it out.

MNF PLAN EXPOSED
THE OUTLAWED MIZO National Front had planned to carry out a blitzkrieg on Aizawl, and other district headquarter towns on or around Independence day. The plot has come to light through the interrogation of the half-a-dozen men of the "special task force" of the Mizo National Army, who were captured at Melthum about 10 km from Aizawl and two other rebel hideouts on the outskirts of the capital. The special task force had also been assigned the job of liquidating some VIPs, including the Lt Governor, N P Mathur, and chief minister, Brigadier Sailo.

15 THE IDEAS PAGE

Power, not justice

Criminalising triple divorce violates the first principles of criminal jurisprudence, will be counterproductive



FAIZAN MUSTAFA

THE MUCH TALKED about Triple Talaq Bill (TTB) has finally been passed by both Houses of Parliament. The Union law minister justified it as an issue of gender justice and admitted that there have been just 473 cases of triple divorce in the last two years. This admission proves two things: One, the incidence of triple divorce is negligible and the issue was blown out of proportion for political reasons and two, the penal provision in the ordinance had no deterrent effect. That Muslim countries too penalise triple divorce was the third justification for the law but this is factually incorrect — there is a distinction between an act being declared “invalid” and being made an “offence”. The Supreme Court declared triple divorce as invalid and did not ask the government to make it a penal offence.

In fact, the day the Lok Sabha passed this regressive law, newspapers reported that the former Malaysian king, who recently abandoned the throne, announced that he has given triple divorce to his Russian wife. Triple divorce has not gone out of use in the Muslim world. Can we say that since Indian law punishes murders and rapes, no murder or rape is committed in India?

Muslim countries serve as poor examples for gender-just laws. Unlike Muslim men, in almost all Muslim countries, women cannot marry Christians or Jews. In some, they have a duty to “obey their husband” and need his permission to work or go outside the home. Their testimony has half the value of that of men. In some countries, a rapist can escape punishment if he marries the victim. Even on the issue of custody of children and maintenance, laws in Muslim countries are regressive as mothers can get the custody of a son only till he attains the age of 10 and a daughter till she attains the age of 12. And she loses custody on her remarriage. They punish adultery and apostasy with death.

Every punishment which does not arise from absolute necessity, according to Montesquieu, is tyrannical. In fact, criminal law should be used only as a “last resort” (ultima ratio) and only for the “most reprehensible wrongs”. The TTB is an instance of the unnecessary invocation of criminal sanctions.

Consider three current debates in our criminal justice system: One, we have decriminalised breaches of matrimonial faith in the form of adultery. Two, we decriminalised homosexuality though it has been punishable for centuries in all religions and legal systems. Three, we are not able to criminalise “marital rape” despite our revulsion to it. If something is a “sin”, let God punish the sinner. A civilised legal system should not enforce religious morality. The Wolfenden Committee Report (1957) in England clearly said that “unless a deliberate attempt is to be made by society, acting through the agency of the law, to equate the sphere of crime with that of sin, there must remain a realm of private morality and immorality which is, in brief and crude terms, not the law’s business.”

The fact that triple divorce is a “sin” under Islamic law was admitted even by the Narendra Modi government in its affidavit in the *Shayara Bano* case. Yet, we are set to penalise this breach of religious morality through the instrumentality of criminal law. BJP MPs did argue during the debate on the



Suvajit Dey

TTB that since triple talaq is sinful, it can be penalised. Are we going in the direction of religious theocracy?

From another angle, too, triple divorce is a unique case where the law is dictating to the orthodox Hanafi Muslim woman to continue in a relationship she considers sinful. If she thinks that as per her sect, her marriage has come to an end, forcing the continuance of sexual relations is nothing but tyranny unleashed by the law, which seriously undermines individual choice and autonomy. On the one hand, we have the bogey of so-called “love jihad” deployed to curtail the freedom to marry a person of one’s choice and on the other hand, Muslim women are forced to continue with same abusive husband who has given them instant triple divorce. We cannot say that the issue of women’s entry into the Sabarimala temple is a question of faith and triple divorce is an issue of gender justice. This is hypocrisy of the highest order. Moreover, instant triple divorce should not be a crime when it is pronounced at the request of the wife. We should not curtail this right of Muslim women.

Unfortunately, “crimes” originate in government policy and, therefore, criminal law reflects the idea of “power” rather than “justice”. This was evident in the recent amendments to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The state in its discretion deems certain acts as crimes as per its own electoral or other needs. The state may decide to criminalise and decriminalise almost anything.

A crime consists of wrongdoing which directly and to a serious degree threatens the security or well being of society, and because it is not safe to redress it only by compensation to the injured party. The purpose of criminal law is to forbid and prevent conduct that unjustifiably and inexcusably inflicts or threatens substantial harm to individual or public interests. Since the Supreme Court has set aside triple divorce, it can no longer dissolve marriages and thus causes no harm at all. It no longer threatens the security and well-being of the society. Mukhtar Abbas

From another angle, too, triple divorce is a unique case where the law is dictating to the orthodox Hanafi Muslim woman to continue in a relationship she considers sinful. If she thinks that as per her sect, her marriage has come to an end, forcing the continuance of sexual relations is nothing but tyranny unleashed by the law, which seriously undermines individual choice and autonomy. On the one hand, we have the bogey of so-called ‘love jihad’ deployed to curtail the freedom to marry a person of one’s choice and on the other hand, Muslim women are forced to continue with same abusive husband who has given them instant triple divorce.

Naqvi, in his speech in the Lok Sabha, said that government has now made it a bailable offence. He is wrong. A bailable offence is one where bail is a right and cannot be denied. Under the TT Bill, bail is at the discretion of the judge and thus, it is non-bailable. Moreover, we have restricted even this judicial discretion by laying down that it can be exercised by the judge only after hearing the wife on whom talaq has been pronounced.

Criminal law should not be used if it may not be effective in controlling the act in question. The triple divorce law is bound to fail, especially in cases of oral triple divorce given by husbands when no one other than the couple was present, as discharging the burden of proof will be a Himalayan task for the prosecution. We are doing a huge disservice to Muslim women as no husband on his return from jail is likely to retain the wife on whose complaint he had gone to prison. The Bill will lead to more divorces and abandonment. The remedy to tackle triple divorce is thus worse than the disease. Ideally, the marriage contract must lay down that a husband can give divorce only with the consent of the wife and if he gives three unilateral divorces in one go, the dowry amount will be increased to five times. In case of non-payment, a prison term would be justifiable as under civil law, non-payment of debt does lead to imprisonment.

A punishment, to be just, should have only that degree of severity which is sufficient to deter others. Punishments invariably exceed the crime and this, in the ultimate analysis, harms the state. Three years’ imprisonment in the new Bill is excessive and is disproportionate. The Indian Penal Code provides far lesser sentences for graver crimes. The TTB obliterates the distinction between “minor” and “major” crimes.

Criminal law’s promise of safety is matched by its power to destroy. Let us hope the Bill will not be misused.

The writer is vice-chancellor, NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad. Views are personal

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“The tactics employed by the state to neutralise the capacity of Pakistan-based militant groups to wreak mayhem are becoming more finely tuned and comprehensive.”

—DAWN

A familiar despair

Karnataka drama carries a sense of déjà vu — people are betrayed again by the politicians



SHASHI DESHPANDE

WATCHING THE end of the drama in the Karnataka Assembly, I had a sense of déjà vu. Hadn’t we seen this same picture last year, the same flashing V-for-victory signs by some, the same slinking out in silence by others? Now, yet again, one set of actors have exited the stage and another troupe is preparing to step in. But the same play goes on. Will it make any difference to the voters?

Since this battle between the ruling parties and the Opposition began, and the “rebels” retreated to a place where they could not be reached, it has been clear that this is a coup, a well-planned and well-executed coup, perhaps part of a Great Plan. The coup has accomplished what it set out to do: The fall of the Congress-JDS coalition government. Karnataka is no stranger to the toppling of governments. In fact, only three chief ministers have completed their five years in office. Each time this tussle for power happens, all parties bandy the word “democracy”, they speak of the will of the people. Each time there are “rebels” who are pawns in the game of toppling, pawns who are in it for what they can get. In fact, the word “rebel” is a total misnomer. Rebels fight for a cause, they suffer for their cause. Whereas, these “rebels” safely ensconced themselves in a luxury hotel with the local government acting as their guardian angel. No army of medieval times living in a heavily guarded fortress could have been more secure. And when they came to Bengaluru to hand in their resignations, they came on a chartered flight. Who paid for all these things? Perhaps the more fitting word for these men is “turncoats”.

In the last few days, the people of Karnataka have witnessed the most unedifying spectacle of thoroughly unprincipled behaviour by all politicians. This is not new. Each time it happens we think, this is the worst, they can’t go lower than this. But they do. Horse trading is another word being much used. Horse traders, I am sure, were more honourable men; they were open about their profession, they did not claim that what they were doing was for the good of the people. And it is unfair to bring horses into this ugly game: Horses are beautiful, noble animals. They don’t cheat, they run their hearts out for the men and women who ride them.

In his brilliant short story, ‘A Piece of the Wall’, Kannada writer Bolwar Mahammad Kunhi has a poor old woman worshipping the then-chief minister Devaraj Urs as a god, because it was during his tenure that she got a piece of land. God he certainly was not, but he was responsible for a number of reforms, including land reforms which

benefited the poor. There have been chief ministers like K Hanumanthaiah, S Nijalingappa, Veerendra Patil and Ramakrishna Hegde who brought dignity to the post of chief minister. After Hegde, S M Krishna’s government was the only one which gave the people a sense of a government that worked. Since then, it has only been a tussle for power, either within the ruling party, or with the Opposition party. The last few years have been the most dismal. Almost nothing has been done. While the government was fire-fighting, the opposition gloating, and the rebels in their safe space, the people of Bengaluru went to work as usual, braving the terrible chaotic traffic, negotiating through pot-hole-pitted roads. It is no longer a city in which it is a pleasure to live. Garbage piles up on roads, five-star hospitals and posh residential schools are mushrooming. And the middle-class and the poor struggle to give their children a reasonably-priced education, or to get good medical care without bankrupting themselves. And this is Bengaluru, the capital of Karnataka, the richest city in the state. What can one say about the rest of the state? Recently, a meeting was held in the city’s Freedom Park, to express total disgust at the politicians in the state, where a novel, if rather crude way of showing contempt for politicians was adopted. Yet, amazingly, politicians seem to be totally oblivious to voters’ feelings. H D Kumaraswamy, after he was defeated, spoke of continuing to work for the poor, Yediyurappa called it a victory for democracy. Whom are they fooling? Dystopia, we now know, is not tomorrow, or in the distant future; it is now, here, today.

This is a shameful time for the people of Karnataka. We, the voters, are ashamed. After all, we voted these people into power. But what choice did we have? The main problem is: How do we punish those who changed sides for money? How do we make sure the brazenly corrupt find no place in politics? How do we channel our anger, our despair into something that will make an impact on the system, since politicians have shown themselves to be as thick-skinned as buffaloes? All that people ask for is good honest governance. This seems to have become the lowest priority in a politician’s agenda. How do we fight them? Or have we become so blasé, so cynical, that we accept things the way they are?

In *After Blenheim*, a poem by Robert Southey, an old man tells his grandson that a famous battle was fought on the ground where they now live. Why was the battle fought? I don’t know, he tells the child, but they say it was a famous victory.

Victory, or what kind of victory, we have to wait and see. The drama is not yet over; there is still another act, or perhaps more than one to follow. If it is a victory, it will be an infamous, rather than a famous one. But for us, the voters, the question remains: Whom do we vote for in the next elections?

Deshpande is a Bengaluru-based writer

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UNNAO QUESTIONS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Unnao indictment’ (IE, July 19). The Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh, which was expected to go beyond electoral politics, looks to be a replica of other governments on the issue of law and order. Why did Yogi Adityanath not take cognisance of the seriousness of the issue when the victim tried to immolate herself? Why did the BJP not find it fit to expel the MLA after his highly questionable conduct and merely suspended him? The UP government must realise that if it is serious about slogans like “Beti Padhao, Beti Bachao” — put forth by its own party at the Centre — it should take upon itself to create an atmosphere where women can live with dignity.

Anupama Goswami, Mumbai

ERUDITE ORATOR

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘A true liberal’ (IE, July 30). The late Jaipal Reddy, besides being a prominent and long-term parliamentarian, was an erudite orator. He had knowledge of diverse subjects and his speeches would always enrich the quality of the debate in Parliament.

B K Kamboj, Gurugram

DOPING BAN

THIS REFERS TO the report, ‘Podium protests’ (IE, July 30). Chinese swimmer Sun Yang was allowed to compete in the FINA World Championships although he was served a suspension for doping in 2014. Should someone who has once doped be banned for life from competing? Recent research suggests that an athlete who consumes muscle-building substances, such as steroids and testosterone, could retain

LETTER OF THE WEEK AWARD

To encourage quality reader intervention, The Indian Express offers the Letter of the Week award. The letter adjudged the best for the week is published every Saturday. Letters may be e-mailed to editpage@expressindia.com or sent to The Indian Express, B-1/B, Sector 10, Noida-UP 201301. Letter writers should mention their postal address and phone number.

THE WINNER RECEIVES SELECT EXPRESS PUBLICATIONS

the benefits of their use throughout his/her career. In the mid-’90s, Anders Eriksson of Umea University, Sweden, established that the effects of muscle-building steroids are long-lasting or even irreversible.

Subhamay Ray, Kolkata

GETTING HOT

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Cool down’ (IE, July 30). The editorial is smart and funny. But the ability of Indians to adapt to heatwaves could only be a boon in the short term. We should be focussing on controlling global warming and climate change. Because I’m afraid that after some time, even *dhotis* and *gamchas* will not serve any purpose.

Divyam Khandelwal, Jaipur



ABHISHEK KULKARNI

Aiming for the moon

Instead of counselling fiscal prudence, let’s ask for more funds for space projects

SPACE IS the final frontier for mankind’s thirst of exploration and adventure. For all the anti-adventurists and killjoys, there are some obvious real-world applications in agriculture, telecom, weather forecasting, defence, medicine, natural resources and rare elements. Humans could become a space-faring species in another 30 years, perhaps even before if Elon Musk gets his way. After the Apollo missions were completed, the world somehow lost interest in lunar missions. Scientists and space enthusiasts were still hopeful but public support faded away. For the next 50 years or so, a large number of the rocket launches made by the space organisations of the world were to put satellites in lower earth orbits, basically for communications and, let’s face it, for snooping on other countries. A relatively smaller number of missions were academically motivated. The remarkable feats achieved by ISRO on July 22 and in other previous missions have made all Indians proud. Mostly because of two reasons: First, the critical parts of this mission — cryogenics, the orbiter, lander and the rover — are all indigenously developed. And second, the estimated cost of this project is Rs 978 crore only. I know putting “only” after that figure will surely raise eyebrows but

do a Google search and compare it with what other space agencies have spent to achieve similar successes. Fun fact: The last Avengers movie was made at a cost of Rs 2,443 crore. It is in this context that I disagree with your editorial, ‘Another giant leap’ (IE, July 23) which counsels fiscal prudence on space missions.

Chandrayaan 2 was scheduled as early as 2011-12 in collaboration with Roskosmos. Failure in their Mars mission and following delays in the delivery of the lander forced the Russians to back out from the agreement signed on November 12, 2007. This led ISRO to develop the mission entirely in-house, which they did in a very short time. On July 15, the snag during the final countdown and the temporary cancellation of the launch may have given a reason to the international media and other space agencies to second guess India’s capabilities. But within a week, with a successful launch and that too with a very narrow launch window, ISRO made a statement, not with just words but with action.

DEAR EDITOR, I DISAGREE

A fortnightly column in which we invite readers to tell us why, when they differ with the editorial positions or news coverage of ‘The Indian Express’

Another example of the genius of our scientists was emphasised when they had to test the in-house made rover on a moon like surface. The moon’s surface is covered with craters, rocks and dust and its soil is of a different texture as compared to the earth’s. Importing lunar soil-like substance from the US was costly, hence ISRO decided to get “anorthosite” rocks from a couple of Tamil Nadu villages. They then crushed these rocks to the desired specifications and sent it to a test facility at Bengaluru, which resulted in huge savings. Scientists from NIT Tiruchirappalli, Periyar University, Salem and IISc Bengaluru worked on this project.

The remarkable part, however, is not the lower costs of these missions but the efficiency and the rate of success of these missions.

Though Chandrayaan 2 has been splendidly covered by *The Indian Express*, the conclusion of the editorial is somewhat discouraging from a scientist’s point of view.

Government spending on flagship pro-

grammes has increased several times during the past couple of decades, while their return on investment both monetarily and in terms of standard of living is sub-par. On the other hand, there are certain expenditures for which the real motivation is the misguided notion of patriotism. For example, the Statue of Unity has an estimated cost of Rs 2,966 crore and the proposed Shivaji statue is estimated to cost Rs 3,600 crore. I am not against the commemoration of our national heroes, but can we not make their memorials less extravagant and give rest of the money to institutions like ISRO, DRDO and NDMA?

In India, where most government institutions eventually end up spending more than what was initially proposed, ISRO is an exception. Immediately after this success, rather than pivoting the zeitgeist towards supporting the organisation through more funding and resources, we are cautioning the agency to set its priorities right and have asked it to show fiscal prudence. That does not seem fair.

So yes, Dear Editor, I disagree with the conclusion of your editorial.

The writer is an Aurangabad, Maharashtra-based engineer and a space research enthusiast

16 THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



He was behind shows such as *The Phantom of the Opera* and *Sweeney Todd*.

USA

Towering Broadway figure Hal Prince dead

New York: Harold Prince, a Broadway director and producer who pushed the boundaries of musical theatre with groundbreaking shows as *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Cabaret* and *Sweeney Todd* and won 21 Tony Awards, has died. He was 91. Prince's publicist said he died Wednesday after a brief illness in Reykjavik, Iceland. Prince was known for his fluid, cinematic director's touch. He often picked challenging, offbeat subjects to musicalise, such as a murderous, knife-wielding barber who baked his victims in pies or the 19th-century opening of Japan to the West.

WEST BANK

Israel to build new homes for Palestinians

Jerusalem: Israel will build 6,000 new homes for Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank — a move Palestinian leaders decried as showing Israel's "colonial mentality" — but in a rare step it also approved permits for 700 houses for Palestinians. Washington warmed to Wednesday's announcement, made ahead of a visit by President Donald Trump's Middle East envoy and son-in-law Jared Kushner to explore prospects for his own Israeli-Palestinian peace plan.

HONG KONG

44 protesters, charged with rioting, get bail

Hong Kong: More than 40 people appeared in a Hong Kong court on Wednesday charged with rioting for their role in a recent protest that turned violent when thousands of activists clashed with police near Beijing's main representative office in the city. A wave of protests that began in late April have plunged the former British colony into its biggest political crisis since its return to Chinese rule in 1997, but this is the first time that the authorities in the financial hub have resorted to using the rioting charge.

SECOND DEBATE BETWEEN DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES: DAY 1



(From left) Senator Bernie Sanders, Senator Elizabeth Warren and former member of the House of Representatives, Beto O'Rourke, during the first night of the second 2020 Democratic US presidential debate in Detroit, Michigan, Tuesday. Reuters

Sanders, Warren face attacks from moderates over 'Medicare for All'

STEVE PEOPLES & SARA BURNETT
DETROIT, JULY 31

THE SIGNATURE domestic proposal by the leading progressive candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination came under withering attack from moderates in a debate that laid bare the struggle between a call for revolutionary policies and a desperate desire to defeat US President Donald Trump. Standing side by side at centre stage on Tuesday, Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren slapped back against their more cautious rivals who ridiculed "Medicare for All" and warned that "wish-list economics" would jeopardise Democrats' chances for taking the White House in 2020. "I don't understand why any-

EXPLAINED Debate reveals broader dilemma in Democratic party

AFTER HILLARY Clinton's loss in the last presidential elections, and the rise of young progressives like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez within the party, the Democrats have been caught in a dilemma about whether to move forward with the older, more centrist ideals that have characterised most previous Democratic presidents, or to embrace more seemingly radical ideas such as Medicare for All and free college. The debate captured this dilemma, and according to many experts, it was the progressives who came out on top. However, Joe Biden, seen as the leading centrist candidate, will only feature on Day 2 of the debate.

body goes to all the trouble of running for President of the United States just to talk about what we really can't do and shouldn't fight for," said Warren, a Massachusetts senator, decrying Democratic "spinelessness." Sanders, a Vermont senator, agreed: "I get a little bit tired of Democrats afraid of big ideas." Twenty candidates are spread evenly over two nights of debates

Tuesday and Wednesday. The second night features early front-runner Joe Biden as well as Kamala Harris, a California senator. While much of the debate was dominated by attacks on the liberal health care policy, the issue of race emerged in the second hour. "The legacy of slavery and segregation and Jim Crow and suppression is alive and well in every aspect of the economy and the country today," said former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke, adding that he supported the creation of a panel to examine reparations for the descendants of slaves. The primary season won't end for another year, but there was a sense of urgency for many candidates who are fighting for survival. Over a dozen could be blocked from the next round of debates if they fail to reach new polling and fundraising thresholds. AP

SOUTH KOREA CULT LEADER JAILED FOR BEATING FOLLOWERS

The leader of a South Korean doomsday cult has been sentenced to six years in jail for holding 400 followers captive in Fiji and subjecting them to violence and barbaric rituals, a court statement said. This was after Shin Ok-ju, founder of the Grace Road Church, convinced followers to move to Fiji in 2014, where she said they would be safe from impending disasters.

N Korea tests more missiles despite diplomatic efforts

Fires two short-range ballistic missiles, angers South

JOSH SMITH & HYONHEE SHIN
SEOUL, JULY 31

NORTH KOREA fired two short-range ballistic missiles early on Wednesday, the South Korean military said, only days after it launched two similar missiles intended to pressure South Korea and the United States to stop upcoming military drills. The firings follow launches on July 25, North Korea's first missile tests since leader Kim Jong Un and US President Donald Trump met on June 30 and agreed to revive stalled denuclearisation talks. The series of missile tests raises the stakes for US and South Korean diplomats criss-crossing the region this week in the hope of restarting talks aimed at persuading Pyongyang to give up its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programmes. "North Korea's actions do not help ease military tensions, nor do they help keep the momentum for talks that are under way," South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha told reporters in Seoul before leaving for a Southeast Asian security forum in Bangkok. Kang urged North Korea to halt the missile launches. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and the top US North Korea negotiator were also headed to the Association of



People in South Korea's Seoul watch a TV that shows a file picture of a North Korean missile on Wednesday. Reuters

“North Korea's actions do not help ease military tensions, nor do they help keep the momentum for talks that are under way.” —KANG KYUNG-WHA SOUTH KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER

Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum in the Thai capital, where Pompeo said he was holding out hope that US officials could meet North Korean counterparts. Trump and Pompeo both played down last week's launches and Pompeo has continued to express hope for a diplomatic way forward with North Korea. The latest launch comes ahead of newly appointed US Secretary of Defense Mark Esper's first official visit to Seoul, which the Pentagon said on Tuesday was scheduled as part of a tour through Asia in August. US military forces in South Korea were aware of Wednesday's launch, a spokesman said. Wednesday's launches were from the Wonsan area on North Korea's east coast, from which last week's missiles had been fired, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said in a statement. It said it was monitoring in case of more launches. The JCS said later the North had fired ballistic missiles that flew about 250 km and appeared to be similar to those of last week. REUTERS

Afghanistan highway blast kills 35 on bus

Govt blames Taliban, militants deny

REUTERS
HERAT, JULY 31

A ROADSIDE bomb in Afghanistan on Wednesday killed at least 35 people travelling on a bus, including children, and injured 27, officials said. Security has been deteriorating across Afghanistan this year, with the Taliban and Islamic State fighters mounting near-daily attacks on Afghan forces, government employees and civilians. The blast on the main road linking the provincial capitals of Herat and Kandahar happened in the Ab Khorma area of Farah province, said provincial police spokesman Mohibullah Mohib. "The bomb was freshly planted by the Taliban insurgents to target Afghan and foreign security forces," he said, adding most of the dead or injured were women and children. No militant group claimed responsibility. Farah is on the border of Iran. A Taliban official denied responsibility and said their fighters were not responsible for planting landmines in the area. "The blast has not been conducted by the Taliban, we are investigating the incident," said spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid.

US Secy of State backtracks, says no deadline for troops withdrawal

LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON, JULY 31

US SECRETARY of State Mike Pompeo appeared to be backtracking from his statement about President Donald Trump ordering reduction of troops in Afghanistan before the 2020 elections, saying that there is "no deadline" for the withdrawal and the decision will be based on the situation on the ground. Pompeo had on July 29 said that Trump had ordered to reduce the number of American troops in war-torn Afghanistan before the presidential elections in 2020. "That's my directive from the President..." Pompeo had said in response to a question. Pompeo's comments, that came amidst negotiations between the US and the Taliban, were widely reported in the American media. During the presidential election campaign in 2016, Trump had pledged to withdraw US troops from Afghanistan. PTI

Pak news TV blackouts draw fresh censorship claims

ASIF SHAHZAD
ISLAMABAD, JULY 31

PAKISTANI OPPOSITION parties have accused Prime Minister Imran Khan of intimidating broadcasters into a blackout on television coverage of his critics, after several TV channels were briefly taken off-air and opposition protests and news conferences passed unreported. Khan denies censoring the media, describing such accusations as "a joke" during a visit to Washington this month, but relations with the press and broad-



Firdous Ashiq Awan, Special Assistant to the PM for Information and Broadcasting, meets the press in Karachi. Reuters

casters have become increasingly strained since he took office nearly a year ago. Fuelling the criticism, as Khan headed back from the United States last Wednesday a news conference by opposition leader Maryam Nawaz, which would normally be carried live on TV news stations, went un-

900 kids separated at US border since policy halted

MIRIAM JORDAN
LOS ANGELES, JULY 31

IN THE year since US President Donald Trump officially ended migrant family separations at the southern border, immigration authorities have removed more than 900 migrant children from their families, sometimes for reasons as minor as a parent not changing a baby's diaper or having a traffic citation for driving without a license, according to new documents filed Tuesday in federal court. Family breakups have been imposed with even greater frequency in recent months under the Trump administration's most



Migrants near the border in El Paso, Texas. Reuters

widely debated immigration policy, ostensibly to protect the welfare of the children, but in many cases because of relatively minor criminal offenses in a parent's past, such as shoplifting or public intoxication, according to tallies the Justice Department provided

relating to the media. The All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) described the proposal as institutionalised "arm-twisting". "The media is already braving strong pressures in the form of press advices and measures of intimidation from ruling quarters which are tantamount to uncensored censorship," it said. Khan's government dismisses the criticism and says it is dealing with the consequences of abuses by past administrations, who it says used lucrative government advertising business to buy favourable coverage. REUTERS

15 Ethiopian migrants die of hunger, thirst in stranded boat

REUTERS
DUBAI, JULY 31

AT LEAST 15 Ethiopians died after the boat trying to smuggle them into Yemen broke down and left them stranded in the sea without food or water for a week, a UN migration agency said. Survivors said some died from hunger and thirst and others drowned themselves, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said. A number reached Yemen but died before they could get medical help, it added. Yemen is more than four years into a civil war that has killed tens of thousands of people and pushed the impoverished nation to the brink of famine. But thousands of migrants mostly from the Horn of Africa arrive there every year in the hopes of moving on to wealthy Gulf Arab states and escaping poverty and unemployment at home. "The migrants were travelling from Djibouti to Yemen when the smugglers' boat broke down," IOM said on Twitter late on Tuesday. "Those on board reported that lives were lost due to hunger, thirst & intentional drowning, while some people died in Yemen, as they could not reach health facilities in time," it added. The boat, which was originally carrying 90 Ethiopians, arrived in Yemen's southern port city of Aden on Monday, the agency said, without giving details on how it got there.

EXPANDING NATIONAL EFFORT TO 'SINICISE' MUSLIM POPULATION

China's capital orders Arabic, Muslim symbols taken down

HUIZHONG WU
BEIJING, JULY 31

AUTHORITIES IN the Chinese capital have ordered halal restaurants and food stalls to remove Arabic script and symbols associated with Islam from their signs, part of an expanding national effort to "Sinicise" its Muslim population. Employees at 11 restaurants and shops in Beijing selling halal products and visited by Reuters in recent days said officials had told them to remove images associated with Islam, such as the crescent moon and the word "halal" written in Arabic, from signs. Government workers from

various offices told one manager of a Beijing noodle shop to cover up the "halal" in Arabic on his shop's sign, and then watched him do it. "They said this is foreign culture and you should use more Chinese culture," said the manager, who, like all restaurant owners and employees who spoke to Reuters, declined to give his name due to the sensitivity of the issue. The campaign against Arabic script and Islamic images marks a new phase of a drive that has gained momentum since 2016, aimed at ensuring religions conform with mainstream Chinese culture. The campaign has included the removal of Middle Eastern



The Arabic script on the signboard of a halal food store is seen covered, at Niujie area in Beijing. Reuters

style domes on many mosques around the country in favour of Chinese-style pagodas. China, home to 20 million Muslims, officially guarantees freedom of religion, but the gov-

ernment has campaigned to bring the faithful into line with Communist Party ideology. It's not just Muslims who have come under scrutiny. Authorities have shut down many underground Christian churches, and torn down crosses of some churches deemed illegal by the government. But Muslims have come in for particular attention since a riot in 2009 between mostly Muslim Uighur people and majority Han Chinese in the far western region of Xinjiang, home to the Uighur minority. Spasms of ethnic violence followed, and some Uighurs, chafing at government controls, carried out knife and crude bomb

attacks in public areas and against the police and other authorities. In response, China launched what it described as a crackdown on terrorism in Xinjiang. Now, it is facing intense criticism from Western nations and rights groups over its policies, in particular mass detentions and surveillance of Uighurs and other Muslims there. The government says its actions in Xinjiang are necessary to stamp out religious extremism. Officials have warned about creeping Islamisation, and have extended tighter controls over other Muslim minorities. Analysts say the ruling Communist Party is concerned that foreign influences can make

religious groups difficult to control. "Arabic is seen as a foreign language and knowledge of it is now seen as something outside of the control of the state," said Darren Byler, an anthropologist at the University of Washington who studies Xinjiang. "It is also seen as connected to international forms of piety, or in the eyes of state authorities, religious extremism. They want Islam in China to operate primarily through Chinese language," he said. Beijing is home to at least 1,000 halal shops and restaurants, according to the Meituan Dianping food delivery app, spread across the city's historic Muslim quarter as well as in other neighbourhoods. REUTERS

CANADA

The liberal north

Canadians must decide if they want to remain a liberal beacon

THE PEACE arch at the border between the Canadian province of British Columbia and America's Washington state bears two inscriptions. Drivers heading south read that Canadians and Americans are "brethren dwelling together in unity". On the way back the message is that they are "children of a common mother". Built in 1921, the reinforced-concrete monument is said to be among the first earthquake-resistant structures in North America. It commemorates a century-old peace treaty between the United States and Britain, one of Canada's former colonial powers. But those feelings of brotherhood have long been evident between America and Canada itself—as neighbours, friends and allies who share the world's longest undefended border.

The current question facing Canadians is whether they can withstand the political earthquakes originating south of the border. Donald Trump, America's president since 2017, imposed tariffs on Canadian steel and aluminium, supposedly to protect national security. He called the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) "perhaps the worst trade deal ever made" and forced Canada and Mexico to renegotiate it. After a G7 summit in Quebec last year Mr Trump blasted Justin Trudeau, Canada's prime minister, as "very dishonest and weak". In May America's secretary of state, Mike Pompeo, called Canada's claim to the Northwest Passage, which links the Arctic and Pacific oceans, "illegitimate", questioning the two governments' agreement to disagree on it.

Mr Trump has lashed out at many countries, but none is more stunned to be on the receiving end than Canada. The neighbours are, indeed, fraternal twins. Ninety per cent of Canadians live within 100 miles of the border. America buys 74% of Canada's exports of goods and provides 64% of its imports. It holds nearly half the stock of foreign investment in Canada. Canadians winter in Florida. The country's sports teams compete in American leagues. This year the Toronto Raptors became the first Canadian team to win the National Basketball Association finals. In English-speaking Canada most of the top 30 television shows are American.

Yet, despite their shared roots and culture, the two countries have always been distinctive, and never more so than today. Just as the first rumbles of the Trump earthquake were being felt in America, in 2015 Canada, after ten years of rule by the Conservative Party, elected the Liberal Party, led by Mr Trudeau, a telegenic former snowboard instructor, who has set about implementing one of the most liberal social, economic and environmental agendas in the Western world. He promised to restore Canadian values that he said his Conservative predecessor, Stephen Harper, had abandoned. To Canadians who had feared that the country had "lost its compassionate and constructive voice in the world", the victorious Mr Trudeau proclaimed, "We're back."

Who wants more?

As Canada turned leftwards, much of the rest of the rich world was turning the other way. America elected Mr Trump. Britons voted for Brexit. European countries such as Poland and Hungary have moved to the populist right. Centrists have been punished: Angela Merkel for inviting in too many



Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau waits for refugees from Syria at the airport in Toronto, in December 2015. As Canada turned leftwards, much of the rest of the rich world was turning the other way. AP

refugees, Emmanuel Macron for his climate-friendly policies. Vladimir Putin boasts that the liberal idea has "outlived its purpose". In December 2016, after Mr Trump's victory, Joe Biden, the outgoing American vice-president, told Mr Trudeau that the "world is going to spend a lot of time looking to you, Mr Prime Minister".

Mr Trudeau has tried to live up to that prophecy. His parliament legalised assisted suicide, and cannabis for recreational use. His government has let people identify themselves as neither male nor female on their passports. It has moved efforts to fight global warming from the periphery of policy to the centre, compelling provinces to put a price on carbon emissions or submit to a federal scheme. It has continued Mr Harper's policy of liberalising trade, but tilted leftwards by redistributing income and tolerating budget deficits. In a general election in October, Canadians will decide whether they want four more years of Mr Trudeau's liberal policies.

The prime minister has been a prominent figure internationally, too. Like his father, Pierre, who held the job in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s, befriending Fidel Castro and recognising communist China before America did,

he has been willing to stand apart from American foreign policy. While Mr Trump seeks to undermine international institutions and alliances, Canadian diplomats are striving

to shore them up. As its neighbour to the south retreats into a more insular mindset, less willing to take on responsibilities in the world, Canada continues to push its liberal international agenda. It has taken a lead in defending the World Trade Organisation and co-chaired the Equal Rights Coalition that defends gay rights.

While Mr Trump has repelled refugees, Mr Trudeau has welcomed them, notably Syrians and gay people from Chechnya. The world has seen him defy political fashion for four years. With the election approaching, it will be watching "in order to determine whether doing the right thing ends up with the right results", says Bill Morneau, the finance minister.

At home, Mr Trudeau is not getting an easy ride. A conservative backlash has gathered. On the environment, the recently elected premiers of Ontario and Alberta reject his carbon tax. In June Quebec, the French-speaking province which often goes its own way, passed a law banning some public servants, including teachers and police, from wearing religious symbols. This Francophone challenge to Mr Trudeau's cuddly

multiculturalism may be echoed in the national election campaign.

Many liberal Canadians are concerned that the angry politics which put Mr Trump in office could come to Canada. Michael Adams, a pollster, published a book in 2017 called "Could It Happen Here?". The title appears on a red "Make America Great Again" baseball cap. Last year Ontario elected as its premier Doug Ford, an elite-bashing, tax-slashing conservative who is the closest Canada has to Mr Trump. The country is not exempt from "the backlash among white men about cultural and economic changes that are diminishing their power", says David Herle, who managed the losing campaign of Mr Ford's Liberal Party opponent, Kathleen Wynne. Mr Trump's trade tantrums have also added to a sense of economic insecurity, even though unemployment in Canada is near its lowest level since the 1970s.

Some Canadians object to Mr Trudeau's relentless political correctness, and worry that his liberalism has an illiberal side (see article). The prime minister has not been helped by a couple of scandals, notably one in which his office has been accused of trying to press the attorney-general to drop a corruption investigation against a large engineering firm.

All of this has helped the federal Conservative Party, led by Andrew Scheer, to

match the Liberals in opinion polls. Mr Scheer is not Mr Trump. Yet the views of his political base on issues such as climate change, immigration, gun control and foreign policy can seem closer to those of the American president than to those of Mr Trudeau. Under Mr Scheer, Canada would certainly present a different face to the world.

Mr Trump has given Canada a wake-up call, which reverberates beyond trade. Different parts of the country are responding differently. Among business people it has stirred ambitions to match America beyond the basketball court. Policymakers have scrambled to counter America-first economic policies. Many Canadians have renewed appreciation for what makes their country distinctive. The challenge facing Canada is "how do we preserve what's essential about our country in the face of an unpredictable and hostile environment?", says Robert Bothwell, a historian.

Faced with a Trumpian reality to the south, Canada is asking questions about its own identity. Has Mr Trudeau succeeded in selling his liberal vision of the nation? And can it continue to be a liberal beacon to the world? The answer will partly depend on whether, economically, the model works for its people.

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Keeping up with the neighbours

2019 or latest

	Canada	United States
Population	37 m	329m
GDP	\$2trn	\$21trn
Life expectancy	82 years	79 years
Share of foreign-born population, % of total	22%	14%
Gun homicides per 100,000 people	0.7	12
Happiness ranking (out of 156 countries)	9	19
Competitiveness ranking (out of 140 countries)	12	1
Trust in government, % of informed public	61%	33%
Maple syrup production, gallons	13m	4m

Sources: National statistics; United Nations; World Economic Forum; Edelman

JEWS AND GERMANY

Fight at the museum

How the Jewish Museum Berlin fell out with Jews

RUNNING EUROPE'S largest Jewish museum in Germany, where the shadows of the past require a special sensitivity, is one of the most demanding jobs in the museum world. It requires outstanding scholarship, tact, managerial talent, fundraising savvy and the ability to deal with a wide range of interested parties, from the federal government (which provides most of the money), scholars of Judaism and the public at large to the German Jewish community and the Israeli government. Each group has its own strongly held idea about the role of the Jewish Museum Berlin (JMB).

Peter Schäfer, an internationally renowned expert on ancient Jewish history, did remarkably on most of these fronts after taking over in 2014 as director of the JMB, but his leadership repeatedly came under fire from Binyamin Netanyahu's government. At the end of June Mr Schäfer offered his resignation to Monika Grütters, Germany's culture minister, "to prevent further damage" to the JMB.

At the end of last year the Israeli prime minister asked Angela Merkel, the German chancellor, to cut the museum's funding. He claimed its exhibition "Welcome to Jerusalem" (which was so popular that it was extended by a year) reflected "mainly the Muslim-Palestinian perspective" of the city. Mr Schäfer subsequently ruffled feathers when he met a cultural attaché from Iran at the museum.

The final straw was a tweet promoted as a "must read" in early June from the museum's

At the end of last year the Israeli prime minister asked Angela Merkel, the German chancellor, to cut the museum's funding. He claimed its exhibition 'Welcome to Jerusalem' reflected 'mainly the Muslim-Palestinian perspective' of the city

Twitter account sharing an article from TAZ, a left-wing daily. The tweet appeared to criticise a resolution of the Bundestag, Germany's lower house of parliament, which condemned the campaign for boycotts, divestments and sanctions (BDS) against Israel as anti-Semitic. In response, Charles Kaufman, president of B'nai B'rith International, a Jewish advocacy organisation, claimed the JMB ought to be "re-named the Insult to Injury Museum". Josef Schuster, leader of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, wondered if the jmb could still call itself "Jewish".

Mr Schäfer was due to retire next May, just after opening the new permanent exhibition and the new children's museum, which were conceived under his stewardship. By all accounts he took the museum's mission statement literally and made it "a vibrant centre of



Peter Schäfer was due to retire next May. AP

reflection on Jewish history and culture as well as about migration and diversity in Germany". Last year the museum had almost 700,000 visitors, who sometimes queued for hours to get in. The exhibition "Golem", about the myth of artificial life, was his idea. Another of his original exhibitions was "Snip It!", which explored circumcision and its controversy.

Many of Mr Schäfer's supporters believe that he should have weathered the storm. Fifty scholars of Talmud signed a letter in his sup-



The Golem exhibition at the Jewish Museum Berlin, in September 2016. Last year, the museum had almost 700,000 visitors who sometimes queued for hours to get in. The exhibition 'Golem', about the myth of artificial life, was Schäfer's idea. Another of his original exhibitions was 'Snip It!', which explored circumcision and its controversy. Many of Schäfer's supporters believe that he should have weathered the storm. AP

port. Another 322 international academics put their names to a statement demanding "a public apology to him from those who have spread lies about him". (Mr Schäfer was falsely portrayed as a sympathiser of BDS.) And 58 museum professionals from 14 countries penned

a letter to express concerns about his treatment. Nearly everyone agrees that it would help for the next director to be a Jew. (Mr Schäfer is Catholic.) Candidates can apply until September 1st, explains Martin Michaelis, who is managing the museum until the new direc-

tor is appointed. The appointment should happen by the spring. Whoever gets it will need all the talent Mr Schäfer had, with a little more diplomatic skill—and a much thicker skin.

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Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited (PuVNL)

(A subsidiary of UP Power Corporation limited) Purvanchal Vidyut Bhavan, Vidyut Nagar, P.O.- D.L.W., Varanasi-221004 Website: http://www.etender.up.nic.in

The tender invited for through e-tender no., EAV-124, 145, 146/18-19 & EAV-06, 07, 08, 09, 10/19-20 the date of bid opening is hereby further extended and details for the same have been mentioned below.

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, DEHRADUN

Government of India, Ministry of Finance, (Department of Financial Services) 2nd Floor, Paras Tower, Mazra, Saharanpur, Road, Dehradun, U.K. 248171

Whereas, it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by way of this publication directing you to appear in person or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner before the Tribunal on 11.09.2019 at 10.30 A.M.

PANKI THERMAL POWER STATION, PANKI, KANPUR, UTTAR PRADESH RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD.

TENDER NOTICE Sealed and Separate Tenders are hereby invited containing requisite Tender Cost, Earnest Money through NEFT/RTGS (Re-fundable) in the CBI Account no. 1439501795 (IFSC-CBIN0280983, MICR-208016020) in Name of Dy. CAO, CFA & BO, PTPS, Panki, Kanpur and Tenderer will have to provide the signed copy of UTR Number, Name of Account and photo copy of Pay in Slip along with relevant required Tender documents as per Pre-qualifying Condition and other commercial terms & conditions.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited for execution of the following works by Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), E.C. Railway, Dhanbad. 1. E-Tender No.: 241-DHN-2019-20. Name of the work with its location & completion period: Gomoh-Paratara - Elimination of level crossing by subways (3 Nos.) 4/C/E (UM) at Km 6/19-21 (GMO-TELO), 1/C/E (UM) at Km 0/21-22 (JNN-KTA Asstd SDG), BHKD Siding (BHKD-SDG), (320m from SDG) in DHN Divn. 09 (Nine) Months. Approx. cost of work (in ₹): ₹8,51,44,747.81. Earnest Money (in ₹): ₹5,75,700/-

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - III, DELHI

Notice under section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993. In the matter of O.A. No. 942/2017 DENA BANK versus APPLICANT MR. LAKSHAYA BHARDWAJ & ORS. DEFENDANTS To, D-3 M/s Subhanna Buildtech Pvt. Ltd. Plot No. GH-05/B, Sector-137, Expressway, Noida, Uttar Pradesh. Also At: A-80, Sector-2, Noida-201301

Modern Coach Factory, Raebareilly

Tender Notice No. MCF/RBL/Dy. CEE/P/2019/2006. Date: 23.07.2019. Name of the work: Electrical furnishing work for L5D coaches including Electrical Equipment loading and securing for F.Y. 2019-20. The following changes have been done in inviting tender of above work and to be read as: Sl. No. As per Existing (Anywhere in NIT Tender document). To be read as (Anywhere in NIT Tender document): 1. Tender closing date time 22.08.2019 15:00. Tender closing date time 29.08.2019 15:00. 2. Technical Eligibility Criteria: The tenderer must have successfully completed any of the following during last 07 (seven) years, ending last day of month previous to the one in which tender is invited. Three similar works costing not less than the amount equal to 40% of advertised value of the tender. Or Two similar works costing not less than the amount equal to 50% of advertised value of the tender. Or One similar work costing not less than the amount equal to 80% of advertised value of the tender.

Debts Recovery Tribunal-I, Delhi

4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001 O.A. No. 602/2018 Corporation Bank Versus Applicant Raj Kumar Singh & Others Respondents To, 1. Asian Developers Ltd. (Defd. No.03) (Builder & Developer) B-88, II Floor, Sec.2, Noida, (UP) 201301, Also at: 84/31, Vasant Kunj, Road, Mahipalpur, New Delhi-37

Debts Recovery Tribunal-I, Delhi

4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001 O.A. No. 596/2018 Corporation Bank Versus Applicant Abhishek Lomesh & Others Respondents To, 1. Mr. Abhishek Lomesh S/o Kumar Suresh Bhardwaj 2. Mrs. Deepthi W/o Mr. Abhishek Lomesh, Both R/o WZ-12A, First Floor, Street No. 15, New Mahavir Nagar, Delhi-110018

दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि., कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, चित्रकूट, निविदा सूचना

अधोस्ताक्षरकर्ता द्वारा निम्नलिखित निविदा आमन्त्रित की जाती है, दिनांक- 14.08.2019 को अपराह्न 3.00 बजे तक निम्न विवरण में निविदा आमन्त्रित की जाती है जो उसी दिन अपराह्न 4.00 बजे अधोस्ताक्षरकर्ता अथवा उनके अधिकृत प्रतिनिधि द्वारा इच्छुक निविदादाताओं के समक्ष खोली जायेगी। जिसका विवरण निम्नवत है। प्रथम भाग के लिफाफे में निविदा प्रपत्र एवं द्वितीय भाग के लिफाफे में दर व शर्तों को जमा करना अनिवार्य है। निविदा प्रपत्र निविदा खुलने की तिथि से एक दिन पूर्व अधोस्ताक्षरकर्ता के कार्यालय से किसी भी कार्य दिवस में प्राप्त किया जा सकता है निविदा खुलने की तिथि को यदि अवकाश होता है तो अगले कार्य दिवस में निविदा खोली जायेगी। 1. निविदा विशिष्टीकरण संख्या- 15/ SE/ EDDCKt/ 2018-19: भवन: जनपद चित्रकूट में (कर्वा शहर से 10 किमी की दूरी के अन्दर) विद्युत चोरी निरोधक पुलिस थाने (सम्पूर्ण राजस्व जनपद के क्षेत्राधिकार) की स्थापना हेतु 12 माह के लिये भवन की आवश्यकता (भवन में 14X14 का 01 कक्ष 8X10 के 02 कक्ष, 10X10 के 01 कक्ष, 12X14 के 02 कक्ष व भवन के सामने 30 फुट का रास्ता व वाहन व मोटर साइकिल हेतु पार्किंग, पेयजल व शौचालय की व्यवस्था सहित भवन का कुल कवर्ड क्षेत्रफल लगभग 3000 वर्ग फीट)। उक्त भवन की उपलब्धता हेतु इच्छुक भवन स्वामी भवन के सम्पूर्ण अभिलेख, एवं दरों सहित अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, चित्रकूट कार्यालय में दिनांक- 14.08.2018 से पहले उपस्थित होकर जमा कर दें। हस्ता./- अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल चित्रकूट, पत्रांक 397/ वि.वि.मं.चि./ निविदा प्रकाशन/ 2019-20, दिनांक 31.07.2019

कार्यालय प्रमुख अभियन्ता जल संसाधन विभाग, भोपाल

ईमेल- ceprac.enrcwr.d.bpl@nic.in फोन 0755-2767635 फेक्स-0755-2552406 निविदा सूचना क्रमांक-685/2019-20/प्रमुख अभियन्ता/ई-टेंडरिंग/ भोपाल, दिनांक 25.07.2019 निम्न कार्य हेतु निविदा वेबसाइट https://www.mptenders.gov.in पर आमन्त्रित की गई है। निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 29/08/2019 को 17:30 बजे तक क्रय/ डाउनलोड तथा प्रस्तुत किए जा सकते हैं। निविदा में संशोधन की स्थिति में वेबसाइट पर ही संशोधन देखा जा सकता है। विस्तृत निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना व अन्य जानकारी उपरोक्त वेबसाइट पर देखी जा सकती है।

Table with 5 columns: S.No., निविदा क्र., कार्य, जिला, लागत (लाख)

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-III, DELHI

Notice under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993. In the matter of OAO No. 443/2019DR-III UCO Bank Applicant Versus Sh. Mridul Gupta & Ors. Defendants To, M. R. Mridul Gupta Son of Sh. Subhash Chander Gupta D-2 M. Subhash Chander Gupta Son of Sh. Mahabir Prasad Gupta Both R/o 341, Dhruva Apartments-4, LP Extension, Delhi-110092

झारखण्ड सरकार, डा० रामदयाल मुण्डा जनजातीय कल्याण शोध संस्थान, अनुसूचित जनजाति, अनुसूचित जाति, अल्पसंख्यक एवं पिछड़ा वर्ग कल्याण विभाग, राँची-8

पत्रांक- 840 राँची, दिनांक: 30.07.2019 शुद्धि पत्र (PR No.210228) संस्थान के पत्रांक-702-05 एवं 708-12 दिनांक-26.06.19 से संबंधित निविदाओं (इच्छा की अभिव्यक्ति) अन्तर्गत दिनांक 31.07.19 को निविदा खोलने की तिथि निर्धारित किया गया था। किन्तु अपरिहार्य कारण से तिथि बढ़ते हुए दिनांक 07.08.2019 अपराह्न 03.00 बजे बैठक आयोजित की गई है। अतः संबंधित निविदादाता स्वयं या अधिकृत प्रतिनिधि दिनांक 07.08.19 को होने वाले बैठक में उपस्थित होने का कष्ट करें। सूत्र - बुद्ध नहीं बढ़ते तो बुद्ध को तरतों हठ / उप निदेशक। P.R.213278 Welfare(19-20)-D

झारखण्ड सरकार, डा० रामदयाल मुण्डा जनजातीय कल्याण शोध संस्थान, अनुसूचित जनजाति, अनुसूचित जाति, अल्पसंख्यक एवं पिछड़ा वर्ग कल्याण विभाग, राँची-8

पत्रांक- 840 राँची, दिनांक: 30.07.2019 शुद्धि पत्र (PR No.210224) संस्थान के पत्रांक-702-05 एवं 708-12 दिनांक-26.06.19 से संबंधित निविदाओं (इच्छा की अभिव्यक्ति) अन्तर्गत दिनांक 31.07.19 को निविदा खोलने की तिथि निर्धारित किया गया था। किन्तु अपरिहार्य कारण से तिथि बढ़ते हुए दिनांक 07.08.2019 अपराह्न 03.00 बजे बैठक आयोजित की गई है। अतः संबंधित निविदादाता स्वयं या अधिकृत प्रतिनिधि दिनांक 07.08.19 को होने वाले बैठक में उपस्थित होने का कष्ट करें। सूत्र - बुद्ध नहीं बढ़ते तो बुद्ध को तरतों हठ / उप निदेशक। P.R.213276 Welfare(19-20)-D उप निदेशक।

FORM NO. 5 DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL

600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow-226007 (Area of Jurisdiction- Part of Uttar Pradesh) SUMMONS FOR FILING & APPEARANCE BY PUBLICATION Date: 26/07/2019 Summons to defendants under Section 19(3) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993. Original Application No. 583 of 2019

ICICI Bank Ltd. Versus DHARMENDRA KUMAR & OTHERS

To, 1. Mr. DHARMENDRA KUMAR H.No. E- 62 Gr. Noida Siniyara, Siltjan Apartment, Ps. Kasna Teh. Dadar, Noida-201306. ALSO AT- D-5/134, 13th Floor, Tower- D5 Dwarkadhisi, Aravali Heights Sector-24, Dhanuhera, Rewari-123401

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TIIRUCHIRAPPALLI DIST. CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS' UNION LTD., R. 614. PUDUKOTTAI ROAD, KOTAPATTU, TRICHY-620 023. Phone No. 0431-233301/233302/233304/233305 Fax No. 0431-233302

Delhi Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (An Enterprise of Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi)

UPLIFTING, CLEANING & MAINTENANCE OF 96 STAINLESS STEEL BUS QUEUE SHELTERS ON AS IS WHERE IS BASIS IN LIEU OF ADVERTISEMENT RIGHTS ON DELHI GATE TO AMBEDKAR NAGAR ROAD. NIT No.23/2019-20 ID No. 2019_DTIDC_177110.1 Invitation for Proposal Delhi Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (DTIDCL) invites Proposals, from suitable entities in accordance with Request for Proposal (RFP) Document for UPLIFTING, CLEANING & MAINTENANCE OF 96 STAINLESS STEEL BUS QUEUE SHELTERS ON AS IS WHERE IS BASIS IN LIEU OF ADVERTISEMENT RIGHTS ON DELHI GATE TO AMBEDKAR NAGAR ROAD for a period of Ten years (10) years.

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA PUBLIC WORK DEPARTMENT

INVITATION FOR TENDER Notice No. 26/2019-2019-20 Sr. No. Name of Work Estimated Cost 1 Budget 2019. STBT and Construction of RCC gutter to Ulhasnagar SH-76 to SH-81 Thakurli Rly. Station road MDR-71 road in Kalyan Tal. Dist. Thane in Km. 1/390 to 1/890. 47,28,151/- 2 STBT to Bhiwandi Parol MDR-48 Km. 10/370 to 12/270 Tal. Bhiwandi. 73,96,717/- Open Date 12.08.2019 Time 12.30 PM 1. Tender form Condition of Contract Specification and Contract drawing can be downloaded from e-tendering portal of Public Work Department of Maharashtra i.e. https://mahatenders.gov.in 2. Tender Notice can be seen also on web site https://mahatenders.gov.in & www.Mahapwd.com Sd/- Executive Engineer P. W. Division No. 1 Thane DGIPR/2019-2020/1640

Ready for submission, direct tax panel report gets 16-day extension

More time sought by new members of the Task Force: Finance Ministry

ANANCHAL MAGAZINE NEW DELHI, JULY 31 TWENTY MONTHS after it was originally constituted and eight months after it was reconstituted, the 'Task Force for drafting a New Direct Tax Legislation' was given a 16-day extension by the government on its July 31 deadline to submit its report even as it was ready and printed for submission.

The Finance Ministry in a statement said the government allowed the deadline extension as more time was sought by new members of the Task Force to provide further inputs.

It is learnt that the deadline extension was given as Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) Krishnamurthy Subramanian sought more time to give additional inputs, two sources familiar with the developments said. "Along with other members of the committee, the CEA had already given his inputs after which the report was finalised. He sought more time to give additional inputs, following which the government decided to extend the deadline," one of the sources said. Queries sent by The Indian Express to Subramanian did not elicit any response.

The Finance Ministry in its statement said, "The Government has allowed the Task Force to submit its report by 16th of August, 2019, in light of the fact that the new Members of the Task Force requested for more time to provide further inputs."

The Task Force has been mired with delays since its constitution in November 2017. The Task Force, headed by former CBDT Member (Legislation) Arbind Modi, was constituted in November 2017 in order to review the Income-tax Act and to draft a new Direct Tax Law in consonance with economic needs of the country. "During the Rajaswa Gyan Sangam held on September 1-2, 2017, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had observed that the Income-tax Act, 1961 (the Act) was drafted more than 50 years ago and it needs to be re-drafted. Accordingly, in order to review the Act and to draft a new Direct Tax Law in consonance with economic needs of the country, the Government has constituted a Task Force..." a Finance Ministry statement dated November 22, 2017 had said. Then, in November 2018, the Finance Ministry appointed

HDFC cuts lending rates by 10 bps for new, existing borrowers

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, JULY 31

MORTGAGE FIRM HDFC on Wednesday announced a cut in retail loan pricing by 10 basis points (bps) across tenors and buckets of loans, both for new as well as existing borrowers.

For home loans up to Rs 30 lakh, the financier is offering 8.60 per cent now. For women borrowers, the new rate is 8.55 per cent, HDFC said in a statement. The rate reduction will be applicable to existing borrowers as well. For loans above Rs 30 lakh and up to Rs 75 lakh, the new rates will be 8.85 per cent and 8.80 per cent for women borrowers and for those above Rs 75 lakh, the prices will come down to 8.90 and 8.85 per cent, respectively, it said. "HDFC has reduced its retail prime lending rate (RPLR) on housing loans, on which its adjustable rate home loans (ARHL) are benchmarked, by 10 basis points," it said in a statement. HDFC's new rates will come into effect from August 1. The Reserve Bank of India has cut its key repo rate by 75 bps this year but commercial banks have mostly responded with just around 15-20 bps cuts in their key lending rates. Earlier this month, SBI had reduced its lending rate by 5 basis points across all tenors.

INTERIM COO, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPOINTED Coffee Day to probe any unknown financial transactions, says board

Names S V Ranganath as interim chairman of company; shares fall another 20%

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, JULY 31

THE CAFE Coffee Day board on Wednesday decided to investigate all financial transactions outside the knowledge of the senior management, auditors and the board. It also appointed an interim chief operating officer and an executive committee to exercise the powers previously vested with the chief executive officer of the company and the Administrative Committee constituted by the board in 2015.

The board took serious note of the contents of a letter purportedly written by the company's CMD V G Siddhartha, who went missing Monday evening and was found dead Wednesday morning. "While the authenticity of the letter (purportedly written by Siddhartha) is unverified and it is unclear whether these statements pertain to the company or the personal holdings of V G Siddhartha, the board took serious note of the same and resolved to thoroughly investigate this matter," the company said in its filings with stock exchanges on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Coffee Day Enterprises on Wednesday named independent director S V Ranganath as the interim chairman of the company. The com-

ICRA PUTS COFFEE DAY ENTERPRISES ON WATCH

■ According to a stock exchange filing, the audit committee and executive committee will engage in discussions with the statutory auditors of the company and such other advisors as may be necessary with a view to recommend appropriate next steps to the board at its forthcoming meeting on August 8

pany's shares, which plunged 20 per cent on Tuesday, fell another 20 per cent to Rs 123.25 on Wednesday.

The board of directors which met on Wednesday also appointed Nitin Bagmane as an interim chief operating officer of the company "on terms to be detailed and approved by the board". The board also constituted an executive committee comprising S V Ranganath (non-executive independent director), Nitin Bagmane (COO) and R Ram Mohan (CFO) to exercise the powers previously vested with the chief executive officer of the company and the administrative committee constituted by the board in 2015.

Ranganath, who retired from the IAS cadre, was the former Chief Secretary of Karnataka and also served as the chairman of the Coffee Board. Apart from Ranganath, other members on the board are: Albert Hieronimus, Sanjay Nayar, Sulakshana Raghavan and Malavika Hegde. The board will in due course prepare a detailed charter of authorities vested in the executive committee and approve the same, it said in the exchange filing. The executive committee will explore opportunities to de-leverage the Coffee Day Group. The market valuation of the company has fallen to Rs 2,603 crore. According to the exchange filing, the audit committee and executive committee will engage in discussions with the statutory auditors of the company and such other advisors as may be neces-

sary with a view to recommend appropriate next steps to the board at its forthcoming meeting on August 8. "The board has also appointed Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas as its legal counsel to advise it on the foregoing and related matters," it said.

"The board expressed its condolences to V G Siddhartha's family and resolved to lend its support and expressed full confidence in the company's management team. The board also took note of a message from Malavika Hegde expressing support and trust in the company's professional team and the common effort to look after the interest of the employees and all other stakeholders," the filing said.

Meanwhile, rating firm ICRA has put Coffee Day Enterprises on watch with negative implication (revised from watch with developing implication) as the latest "development may have a negative impact on the operations of CDEL, the extent of which cannot be ascertained as yet, given the nascent stage of developments".

The central bank reduced its benchmark rate - which affects many loans for households and businesses - by a quarter-point to a range of 2 per cent to 2.25 per cent. It's the first rate cut since December 2008 during the depths of the Great Recession, when the Fed slashed its rate to a record low near zero and kept it there until 2015. The US economy is far healthier now despite risks to what's become the longest expansion on record.

US Fed cuts rate, first since 2008 financial crisis

Benchmark rate in US reduced by a quarter-point to a range of 2-2.25%

ASSOCIATED PRESS WASHINGTON, JULY 31

THE US Federal Reserve cut its key interest rate Wednesday for the first time in a decade to try to counter threats ranging from uncertainties caused by President Donald Trump's trade wars to chronically low inflation and a dim global outlook.

The Fed also repeated a pledge to "act as appropriate to sustain the expansion" - wording that the financial markets have interpreted as a signal for possible future rate cuts. The initial reaction in the financial markets was muted. Stocks fell slightly after the Fed issued its statement.

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The Fed's action Wednesday was approved 8-2 vote, with two dissents: Esther George, president of the Fed's Kansas City regional bank, and Eric Rosengren, head of the Boston Fed, wanted to keep rates unchanged.

The Fed under Powell has signalled that rising economic pressures, notably from Trump's trade wars and from weakness in Europe, Asia and elsewhere, have become cause for concern. So has an inflation rate that remains stubbornly below the Fed's 2 per cent target level. So the Fed has decided that a rate cut now - and possibly one or more additional cuts to follow - could provide a kind of insurance policy against an economic downturn. The idea is that lowering its key short-term rate could encourage borrowing

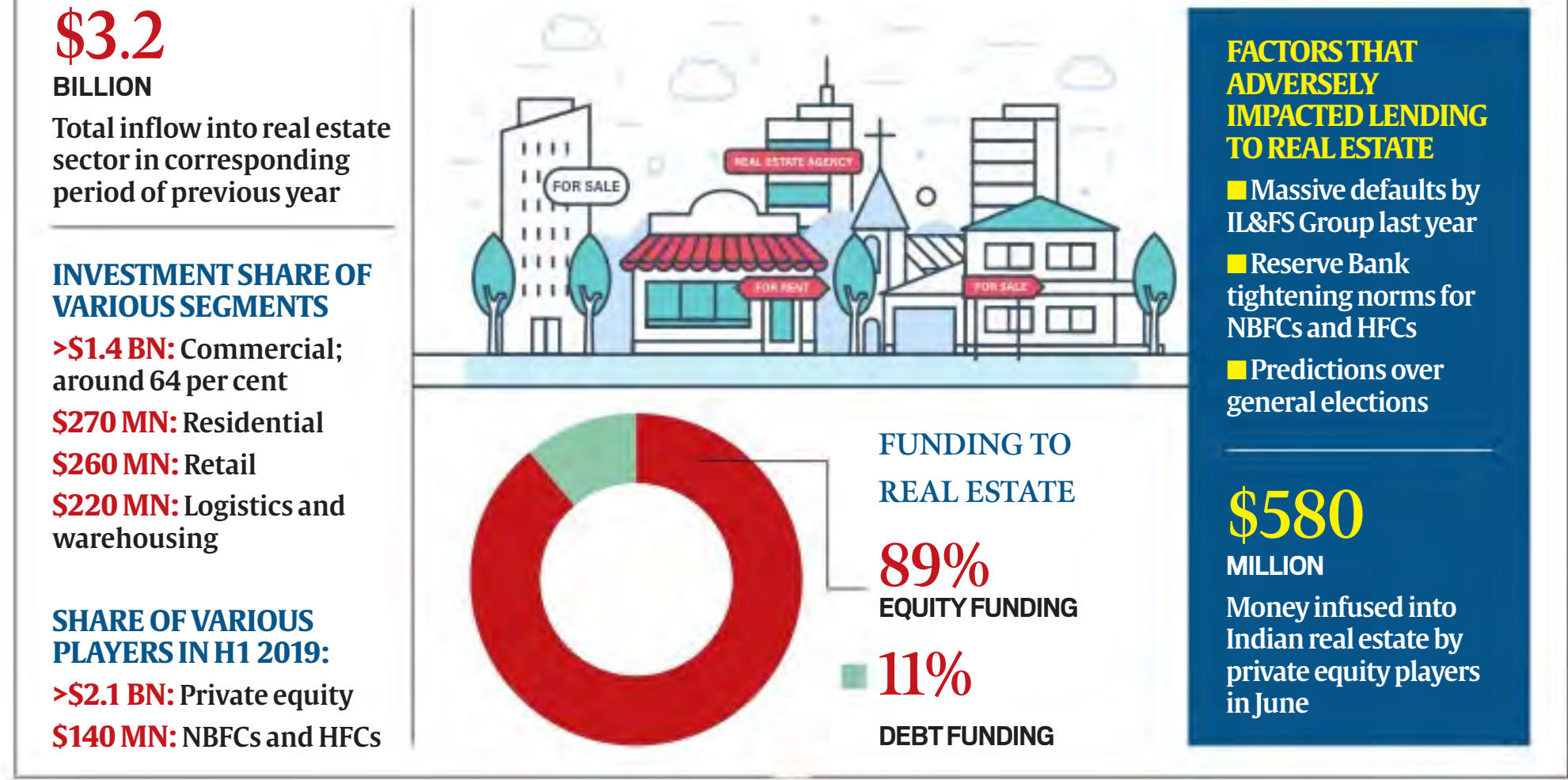
EXPLAINED May catalyse a market rally in countries like India

A RATE cut in the US is good for emerging market economies and is projected to catalyse a debt and equity market rally in countries such as India. Typically, emerging economies such as India tend to have higher inflation and thereby higher interest rates than those in developed countries such as the US and Europe. As a result, FIs would want to borrow money in the US at low interest rates in dollar terms and then invest that money in bonds of emerging countries such as India in Re terms to earn a higher rate of interest. When the US Fed cuts its interest rates, the difference between interest rates of the two countries increases, thus making India more attractive for the currency carry trade.

and spending and energize growth. Wall Street has welcomed that prospect with a stock market rally since the start of the year. A key concern expressed by the Fed is that Trump's pursuit of trade conflicts. Powell has also expressed concern about undesirably low inflation. Another source of pressure for the Fed has been a relentless series of public attacks by Trump over its rate policy under Powell.

'Investment into real estate falls 31% in H1 2019'

Investment flow into real estate fell 31 per cent to \$2.2 billion in the first half this year, mainly due to liquidity crisis in non-banking financial company (NBFC) sector, property consultant Anarock said



INVESTMENT SHARE OF VARIOUS SEGMENTS

>\$1.4 BN: Commercial; around 64 per cent \$270 MN: Residential \$260 MN: Retail \$220 MN: Logistics and warehousing

SHARE OF VARIOUS PLAYERS IN H1 2019:

>\$2.1 BN: Private equity \$140 MN: NBFCs and HFCs

₹4,224-CR DEAL Invesco Oppenheimer ups stake by 11% in Zee Entertainment

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, JULY 31

THE ESSEL group of Subhash Chandra on Wednesday announced that Invesco Oppenheimer Developing Markets Fund has agreed to make an additional investment in Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEEL). The fund has agreed to buy up to an 11 per cent stake in ZEEL from its promoters for a total consideration of up to Rs 4,224 crore.

With this, the stake of Invesco in ZEEL will increase to 18.74 per cent, as it already holds 7.74 per cent stake in the company (as of June 2019). The promoters' stake in ZEEL which is currently at 35.79 per cent, will come down

to 24.79 per cent after the deal. Essel group, which was facing liquidity crunch, had earlier this year sealed a formal agreement with its lenders to keep the company afloat, under which it gets time till September to deleverage or pare its debt. ZEEL has Rs 11,000 crore of outstanding debt against the pledged shares. "Essel group had initiated the process of divesting its key assets, with an aim to repay all the lenders by September 2019. During this divestment process, the group has received positive response from multiple partners expressing interest to buy the stake in ZEEL and the other key non media assets," it said in a statement. On Wednesday, ZEEL shares plunged by 5.18 per cent to Rs 361.45 on the BSE.

Invesco stake in ZEEL will increase to 18.74%, as it already holds 7.74% stake in the company; Subhash Chandra's stake to fall below 25%

Punit Goenka, managing director and CEO, ZEEL, said, "I'm extremely glad to share that the fund as a financial investor has further reposed its faith in ZEEL. It also gives me immense pleasure to note their strong belief and trust in the intrinsic value of our precious asset. It is the valuable belief and support of our esteemed financial investors that enables us to consistently gener-

ate great value, year after year." Ashwin Patil, senior research analyst at LKP Securities, said, "The buyer is a financial partner (completely equity transaction only) and not a strategic one. By that virtue, Zee will be maintaining their operational control. The preference was given to a financial partner as this transaction will happen quicker than the strategic one."

"Out of the total Rs 11,000 crore outstanding debt against the pledged shares, the rest will be achieved by selling their non-media assets (solar, roads and transmission businesses) and a little more stake sale to a financial investor, with whom they are discussing some non-binding offers currently," said an analyst. "There is also, a possibility

that they may sell some of their media businesses too. Management sounded very confident about meeting the September 30 deadline of the standstill," Patil said.

According to ZEEL, the announcement of 11 per cent stake sale of ZEEL to the fund is a strong step in the overall divestment process, giving the promoters the required financial fillip to initiate the repayment process.

"The Invesco Oppenheimer Developing Markets Fund, which is an investment company registered with the US Securities & Exchange Commission, has a long history of investing in India as a financial investor," it said. The fund has been a financial investor in Zee Entertainment since 2002.

TARIFF ROW US, China talks brief but 'constructive'

REUTERS SHANGHAI, JULY 31

US AND Chinese negotiators wrapped up a brief round of trade talks on Wednesday that both sides described as "constructive," including discussions over further Chinese purchases of American farm goods and an agreement to reconvene in September.

The first face-to-face talks since a ceasefire was agreed to last month in the trade war between the world's two largest economies amounted to a working dinner on Tuesday at Shanghai's historic Fairmont Peace Hotel and a half-day meeting on Wednesday, before US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin flew out. "The meetings were constructive, and we expect negotiations on an enforceable trade deal to continue in Washington ... in early September," White House spokeswoman Stephanie Grisham said in a statement.

"Both sides, according to the consensus reached by the two leaders in Osaka, had a candid,



US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, Chinese Vice Premier Liu He and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin in Shanghai. AP

highly effective, constructive and deep exchange on major trade and economic issues of mutual interest," China's Commerce Ministry said in a statement shortly after the US team left Shanghai.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said on Wednesday that she was not aware of the latest developments during the talks, but that it was clear it was the United States that continued to "flip flop".

FINANCE MINISTER RECALLS SUBIR GOKARN'S 'INTELLECT AT ARTICULATION OF INDIA'S CONCERNS AT THE IMF'

One of the youngest RBI Dy Governors, whose term coincided with 2008 global crisis

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, JULY 31

SUBIR GOKARN, who was one of the youngest Deputy Governors of the Reserve Bank of India, passed away on Tuesday in the US after a brief illness.

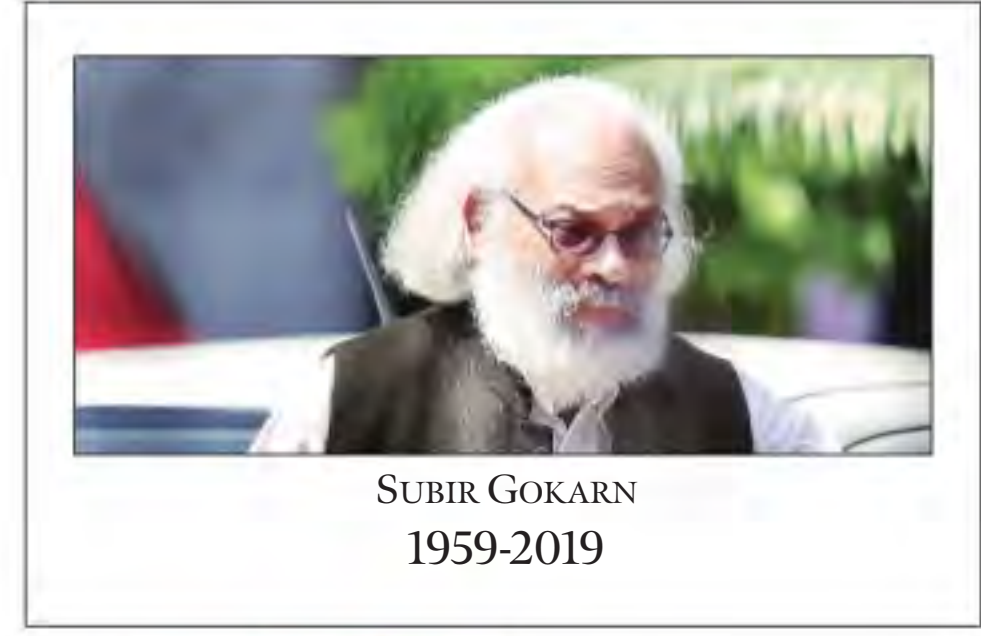
A noted economist, Gokarn had joined the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Executive Board as ED (India) in December 2015 and was to complete his term in October this year. Prior to joining the IMF, Gokarn was

the Director of Research at the Brookings India in New Delhi. A statement by the Finance Ministry noted that Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, while paying her last respects, "recalled his intellect at articulation of India's concerns at the IMF". "Gokarn has had an illustrious career spanning over three decades. He was one of the youngest to serve as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India," the Finance Ministry said in a release.

Born on October 3, 1959, Gokarn served as the RBI Deputy Governor from November 24, 2009 to December 31, 2012. His term at the central bank, where he was in-charge of monetary policy, coincided with period when the world was reeling from a global financial crisis triggered by fall of Lehman Brothers. Former RBI Governor D Subbarao, under whom Gokarn served as Deputy Governor, has said that he had sought an extension for Gokarn's term at the end

of his tenure but the request was rejected by the Central government. Following his term as the RBI Deputy Governor, Gokarn joined think-tank Brookings India, where he helped set up a research team.

"Brookings India did not have an office; it still needed to clear the regulatory hoops and was constrained for finance. Subir did not allow these operational, regulatory and financial issues to constrain his drive to build a robust and high-quality research team. Several of our current re-



SUBIR GOKARN 1959-2019

search staff were hired under Subir's watch and mentored by him over the years," the think-tank's Chairman and Senior Fellow Vikram Singh Mehta noted in an obituary titled "Remembering Subir Gokarn". He is survived by his wife Jyotsna Bapat and daughter Kanak Gokarn. He also worked with Standard and Poor's, National Council of Applied Economic Research, ratings agency CRISIL and Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research.

ICIJ-THE INDIAN EXPRESS INVESTIGATION

After Akula exit, a dispute between SKS stakeholders on split of shares

SANDEEPSINGH NEW DELHI, JULY 31

IN 2011, a year after an IPO that was over-subscribed 13 times, Vikram Akula was forced out of SKS Microfinance after the Andhra Pradesh government and RBI stepped in following reports of intimidation of borrowers. Two years later, records of Mauritius firm Conyers Dill & Pearman show, shareholders of SKS Microfinance argued over how to split their holdings. Records investigated by The Indian Express show that at the heart of the dispute was Mauritius-based Tejas Ventures that held 17.61 lakh shares of SKS Microfinance. Sequoia Capital, Westbridge Ventures and Tejas Capital (an entity set up by Akula) held shares in Tejas Ventures. In October 2013, these shareholders proposed to distribute stocks of SKS Microfinance held by Tejas Ventures to each of its shareholders. Citing precedent, Sequoia's stand was that the proceeds need to be distributed in the ratio of their shareholding which should include various contributions made — like expenses on operational vendors. Westbridge said that the proceeds need to be distributed in the ratio of shareholding as was done at the time of initial subscription towards purchase of shares of SKS Microfinance by Tejas Ventures.

In essence, Sequoia wanted its operational expenses to be treated as capital contributions which, in turn, would increase its share during the distribution. But Westbridge contested this saying this would reduce its shares by as much as 7,000. It argued that subsequent contributions from shareholders



were made to meet expenses of Tejas Ventures and as per the constitution of the company, this cannot be used as a basis to change the quantum of shareholding as Sequoia wanted.

Records show that Conyers, acting as a legal advisor to Sequoia in Mauritius, told Sequoia that the constitution could be amended as a way out. This was put on record in an email by a Conyers official in February 2014: "It is best that we amend the constitution... The buyback can then be carried out without shareholders' approval." To this the Sequoia official replied: "What exactly are we proposing to amend the constitution for and what is the rationale we can provide for the same?"

Records show a subsequent deadlock. Meanwhile, while Akula was looking to sell his holdings in SKS held through Tejas Capital in Tejas Ventures, Akula sold all but 10 shares that he had as ESOP after August 15, 2013, as soon as Sebi's lock-up restriction was no longer applicable.

In 2007, Tejas Ventures was formed to hold shares of SKS Microfinance Ltd on behalf of WestBridge Ventures II, LLC, Sequoia Capital India Growth Fund I and Tejas Capital (personal entity of Vikram Akula). Tejas Ventures paid \$3.16 million for 1,760,552 shares of SKS at that time. An e-mail sent to Sequoia Capital did not elicit any response.

IOC Q1 net profit falls 47%

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, JULY 31

STATE-OWNED INDIAN Oil Corporation (IOC) Wednesday posted a 47 per cent drop in its first quarter net profit due to fall in refinery margins and inventory gains. IOC reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 3,737.50 crore, or Rs 4.07 per share, as compared with Rs 7,092.42 crore, or Rs 7.48 a share, in the year-ago period, the company said in a statement.

"The variation is majorly on account of lower inventory gain during the quarter," it said. IOC, the nation's biggest oil firm, recorded an inventory gain of Rs 2,362 crore as opposed to Rs 7,065 crore gain in the April-June 2018 period.

Inventory gain accrues when a company buys raw material (crude oil in case of IOC) at a given price but by the time it is able to process and convert it into consumable products (fuel in case of IOC), prices have moved up. And, since final product is sold at a prevailing market price, the company books an inventory gain. Inventory loss occurs when the reverse happens. Revenue was almost flat at Rs 1.53 lakh crore in the first quarter of 2019-20.

EIGHT CORE INDUSTRIES HAD EXPANDED BY 7.8% IN JUNE 2018

June core sector growth slows to 0.2%; figure for May revised

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, JULY 31

GROWTH IN the core sectors of India's economy dropped since May, slowing to 0.2 per cent in June — a near four-year low, according to analysts. Overall growth has been hit by a drop in production in crude oil, cement, refinery products and natural gas, according to data shared by the Commerce Ministry Wednesday.

Core sector growth for May was also revised downward to 4.3 per cent from 5.1 per cent earlier. Growth of the country's eight core sectors — coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity — is a lead indicator of the monthly industrial performance. These sectors had grown by 7.8 per cent in June 2018, and their cumulative growth during the 2018-19 financial year was 4.4 per cent.

The growth in April was recorded at 6.3 per cent — the

'NEAR 4-YR LOW'

The 0.2 per cent growth in June for eight core industries was a near four-year low, according to analysts

Core sector growth for May was revised to 4.3% from 5.1% earlier

highest so far this fiscal.

Production in the refinery products sector, which holds 28.04 per cent weightage among the eight core industries, dropped 9.3 per cent in June 2019 over the same month in 2018, continuing the negative trend of growth witnessed in May 2019. De-growth was 1.5 per cent then.

Production in natural gas and cement segments also declined, registering a de-growth of 2.1 per cent and 1.5 per cent, respectively. Growth in steel production,

which accounts for 17.92 per cent, slowed to 6.9 per cent from 15.3 per cent in May and 19 per cent in April. Electricity sector growth — which accounts for nearly 20 per cent of the core industries — was also lower at 7.3 per cent in June, as against 7.4 per cent last month.

Production in crude oil segment continued to drop, registering a de-growth of 6.8 per cent. This is the fifth month that production has fallen over 6 per cent.

On the other hand, coal production — accounting for 10.33 per cent — grew 3.2 per cent in June, compared to 1.9 per cent in May. Growth in coal in March was higher at 9.1 per cent. Production of fertilisers also grew 1.5, up from a 1 per cent de-growth in May.

"The high base effect in the coming months is likely to have a bearing on the core sector growth in the coming months. Owing to that, we expect IIP to grow in the range of 4.5-5% during FY20," stated CARE Ratings in its analysis of the Commerce Ministry data.

Q1 fiscal deficit at ₹4.32 lakh cr

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, JULY 31

THE GOVERNMENT'S fiscal deficit touched Rs 4.32 lakh crore for the June quarter, which is 61.4 per cent of the budget estimate for 2019-20 fiscal.

In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit or gap between expenditure and revenue was Rs 4.32 lakh crore during June-end, as per the data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) on Wednesday. The fiscal deficit was 68.7 per cent of 2018-19 budget estimate in the year-ago period.

The government estimates the fiscal deficit to be at Rs 7.03 lakh crore during 2019-20. The government aims to restrict the fiscal deficit at 3.4 per cent of the GDP in the current fiscal, same as the last financial year.

BRIEFLY

PGIM buys out DHFL's asset management biz

Mumbai: Global asset manager PGIM Wednesday completed the buy-out of its crippled local partner DHFL to take full ownership of DHFL Pramerica Asset Managers. The deal was first announced last December as DHFL's troubles got harder, and has now received necessary approvals including that from capital markets regulator Sebi. Following the troubles at the domestic partner, DHFL Pramerica MF's assets under management plunged by Rs 2.216 crore in June quarter to a low Rs 5,412 crore. PT

'FM to meet CEOs of PSU banks on Friday'

New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will meet the CEOs of public sector banks on Friday to review the financial performance of the lenders and discuss ways to increase credit growth to propel the economy, sources said. PTI

India Post Payments Bank to be converted

New Delhi: The postal department said it has decided to convert the India Post Payments Bank into a small finance bank, enabling it to offer small loans to customers. PTI

Samsung profit slumps more than half

Seoul: Samsung Electronics on Wednesday reported second-quarter net profits slumping by more than half in the face of a weakening chip market, and as a trade row builds between Seoul and Tokyo. Net profits in the three months to June were \$4.38 billion, Samsung Electronics said in a statement, down 53 percent year-on-year. AFP

Angel Broking gets Sebi nod for ₹600 cr IPO

New Delhi: Angel Broking has received Sebi's nod for its initial public offer to raise about Rs 600 crore. The market regulator issued its "observation letter" on July 26, 2019, as per information available on the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) website. PTI

PM chairs 30th PRAGATI meeting; 'Housing for All' among issues taken up

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JULY 31

AT THE very first PRAGATI meeting of his second term, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday reviewed the progress in grievances redressal in the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) scheme and directed officials to work towards the goal of ensuring "Housing for All" by 2022.

Following a review of the many complaints regarding PMAY (U) and its resolution, Modi asked officials to work towards the objective of easing hurdles. According to a media release issued Wednesday, the PM also looked at resolution of public grievances related to the Department of Financial Services

towards the same goal. Moreover, eight railway and road sector projects across states such as Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Odisha, Gujarat, and Himachal Pradesh were reviewed.

This was the PM's thirtieth meeting through the ICT-based, multi-modal platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation (PRAGATI). With regards to the newly-constituted Jal Shakti Ministry, Modi asked states to focus on water conservation in view of the ongoing monsoon season.

For the Accessible India campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan), Modi suggested a feedback collection process, using technology, wherein persons with disabilities can give inputs regarding inaccessible public premises.

Manufacturers, exporters asked to share data on costs borne with govt

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, JULY 31

COMMERCE AND Industry Minister Piyush Goyal directed manufacturers and exporters to share data on the costs borne on the products they export, during an interactive session with export promotion bodies on Wednesday.

As India looks to boost exports in the wake of China's ongoing trade war with the United States, the government aims to make India's products more competitive.

"Piyush Goyal urged manufacturers and exporters to come forward with data and details which directly and indirectly add to the cost of the products that are being exported like cess paid on coal, electricity and royalty paid on mines," the Commerce Ministry said in a release after the meeting. Goyal said the Centre is work-

ing on "making India's export products competitive and simplifying rules and regulations for easy availability of export credit." He also urged the export-import community to flag issues regarding availability of land, labour, common effluent treatment plants, cluster development and logistics support required in ports, airports and customs.

The Federation of Indian Export Organisations said Goyal "assured the industry that while MEIS will be withdrawn, it will be replaced by WTO-compatible RoSCTL scheme, which is already operational for apparel and made ups." It said that Goyal told export bodies the Centre is also reviewing "all" existing free trade agreements to assess their impact on exports as well as manufacturing. "A section of the industry has opined that some of the conditions like requirements of local experience, are limiting their participation in the Chinese procurement process. Government of India has been engaging with the relevant Chinese government entities to ensure that Indian companies get market access for their products," the Ministry said. India currently has an over \$50 billion trade deficit with China and has so far focussed on gaining more market access there for its agricultural, dairy and pharmaceutical products.

Allahabad Bank Q1 net at ₹128 cr

Kolkata: Net profit of PSU lender Allahabad Bank stood at Rs 128 crore in the first quarter of current financial year as against a loss of Rs 194.4 crore in the similar previous period. Provisioning for bad loans fell substantially, during the quarter, the bank said.

The bank's operating profit touched Rs 860 crore in the first quarter of FY20 as against Rs 830 crore in the year-ago period. MD and CEO of Allahabad Bank S S Mallikarjuna Rao told reporters the bank would overhaul its credit portfolio in retail and MSME. PTI

Apple back to growth in India: CEO

NANDAGOPAL RAJAN NEW DELHI, JULY 31

APPLE CEO Tim Cook Wednesday said the company's numbers are looking better in India now. "India bounced back during the quarter, we returned to growth there. We're very happy with that," Cook said during the Q3 earnings call.

Apple has recorded a quarterly revenue of \$53.8 billion, an increase of 1 per cent from the year-ago quarter, and quarterly earnings per diluted share of \$2.18, down 7 per cent. International

sales accounted for 59 per cent of the quarter's revenue.

"In emerging markets, we returned to growth in mainland China, grew strong double digits in India and in Brazil, and we set new Q3 records in Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines," CFO Luca Maestri said in the call. He said there was marked improvement in year-over-year comparisons "from emerging markets relative to the first half of this fiscal year, particularly in the BRIC countries where year-over-year performance went from a 25 per cent revenue decline in the first half to

3 per cent growth in June quarter."

As per research firm Counterpoint, which released its Q2 2019 report on Wednesday, "iPhone shipments fell 11 per cent, and iPhone revenues fell 12 per cent year-on-year". But the report said "trends are improving" thanks to Apple's buyback programmes and other marketing.

The silver lining seems to be iPhone XR, which, as per Canalys, accounted for 37.5 per cent of Apple shipments in May. "The range of iPhones relative to last year is frustrating its distributors," said analyst Vincent Thielke.

Reviewing exposure to car loans, auto dealers: SBI

New Delhi: State Bank of India (SBI) Wednesday said it is continuously reviewing its exposure to automobile dealers as well as individual loans and ensuring the auto sector does not face any stress.

The clarification comes in the wake of reports that SBI is seeking to lower exposure to risk from a sector facing slowdown. SBI is one of the biggest credit providers to auto dealers and individuals. PTI

Registration charge hike will 'further aggravate market condition': SIAM

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, JULY 31

AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY body SIAM on Wednesday expressed concern over the proposed hefty increase in registration charges of new vehicles.

As per the recent draft notification issued by Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, registra-

tion charges of new vehicles would go up by 10-20 times depending upon the vehicle category from the present level.

"Such increase in the registration charges of new vehicles would further aggravate the market condition negatively," SIAM president Rajan Wadhwa said. The industry is undergoing an unprecedented downturn as sales of new vehicles have fallen heavily.

Mangalore SEZ Limited Invitation for Bids. 31.07.2019. Mangalore SEZ Limited (MSEZL) invites tenders from eligible bidders for the following work through e-tendering.

COCHIN SHIPYARD LIMITED TENDER NOTICE. Sealed competitive quotations in Two bid system are invited from reputed firms for the Requirements mentioned below.

KERAFED E-TENDER NOTICE FOR PURCHASE OF EXPPELLER SPARES. KRAFED invites E-Tender from reputed Original Manufacturers for Purchase of EXPPELLER SPARES for Karunagapally Plant, Kollam Dist. and Naduvannur Plant, Kozhikode Dist.

FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA CORRIGENDUM. Reference tender notices (TE dated 20.07.2019) published in various newspapers on 29.06.2019 & CORRIGENDUM dated 13.07.2019 for supply of LDPE sheets (50 Microns).

RITES LIMITED (A Govt. of India Enterprise) CIT No. : L74899DL1974GOI007227. RITES Limited on behalf of RITES invites online bid from Supplier who fulfil Qualifying Criteria stipulated in the Tender document.

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited e-Tender Notice. Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala - 147001. Corporate Identity No. U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website: www.pspcl.in

HIMACHAL PRADESH INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD & PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL. Invites For Development, Operation & Maintenance of Bangana - Dhaneta Tunnel in Himachal Pradesh.

BAKU ANUP-BHARATIYA NITLHAN ANUSANDHAN SANSTHAN ICAR-Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research. F.No.9-175/IOIR/WORKS/2019-20. Notice Inviting Tender Through E-Procurement.

Rajasthan State Mines & Minerals Limited (A Government of Rajasthan Enterprise). Corporate Office-4, Meera Marg, Udaipur (Raj.)-313001. Phone: 0294-2428738, 44 Fax: 0294-2428790.

NUTRIENT BOOM

Make in India

The country may turn a zero urea importer even before the Modi government's second term ends

HARISH DAMODARAN
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

THE INDIAN economy may be going through an extended investment slump, but one industry — urea — is witnessing frenetic activity, with new plants that have just got commissioned or are about to within the next 2-4 years.

On January 1, Chambal Fertilisers and Chemicals Ltd kicked off commercial production at its fresh 1.34 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) capacity facility at Gadepan in Rajasthan, costing \$903 million (Rs 6,035 crore).

However, this is just the start. By the end of 2019, there will be a second 1.27 mtpa plant coming up at Ramagundam in Telangana. This is one of the five closed units of the Fertiliser Corporation of India Ltd (FCIL) and Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation Ltd (HFCL), which are being revived through greenfield investments involving newly-created public sector joint ventures (JV). Ramagundam Fertilisers and Chemicals Ltd is a JV of National Fertilisers Ltd (NFL), Engineers India Ltd and FCIL.

Three other such plants of 1.27 mtpa each — at Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh), Sindri (Jharkhand) and Barauni (Bihar) — are being set up by Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Ltd, a JV of Coal India Ltd, NTPC Ltd, Indian Oil Corporation, HFCL and FCIL. "The lump-sum turnkey contracts for their execution have already been awarded — to Japan's Toyo Engineering Corporation for Gorakhpur and to a consortium of the London-based TechnipFMC and L&T Hydrocarbon Engineering for the other two projects. Onsite work, too, is in full swing. We expect Gorakhpur's commissioning by February 2021, and both Sindri and Barauni in May 2021," a senior government official said.

All these are state-of-the-art plants running on natural gas, which is first 'reformed' to produce hydrogen for conversion into ammonia by combining with nitrogen from the atmosphere. The ammonia is, then, further processed into urea. The process licensors in the Gadepan and Gorakhpur projects are KBR Inc, US (formerly Kellogg Brown & Root) and Toyo Engineering for the ammonia and urea lines, respectively. For Ramagundam, Sindri and Barauni, the technology suppliers are Denmark's Haldor Topsoe (ammonia) and Italy's Saipem (urea).

In addition to the above five, there are two other plants, also of 1.27 mtpa capacity each.

The first one, at Panagarh near Durgapur in West Bengal and promoted by Matix Fertilisers & Chemicals Ltd, was originally supposed to run on coal-bed methane based on KBR-Saipem technology. It actually began production on October 1, 2017, but the non-availability of feedstock led to suspension of operations from November 15, 2017 and Matix even being dragged to the National Company Law Tribunal after defaulting on loans. The unit's resumption hinges upon natural gas availability from the 2,655-km pipeline from Jagdishpur (UP) to Dhamra (Odisha). This pipeline, being built by GAIL (India) Ltd, has already reached



THE BIG SEVEN

LOCATION	CAPACITY*	COMMISSIONING DATE	INVESTMENT (RS CRORE)
Panagarh	1,270.5	Oct 2017	7,000
Gadepan	1,340.0	Jan 2019	6,035
Ramagundam	1,270.5	Dec 2019**	5,254.28
Gorakhpur	1,270.5	Feb 2021**	7,085.77
Barauni	1,270.5	May 2021**	7,043.26
Sindri	1,270.5	May 2021**	6,977.01
Talcher	1,270.5	Sep 2023**	11,611.48@
TOTAL	8,963.0		51,006.80

*000 tonnes per annum; **Expected; @+/-15%

Source: Answer to un-starred question, Lok Sabha (02.07.2019); Company reports

UREA PRODUCTION VS. IMPORTS (lakh tonnes)

	PRODUCTION	IMPORTS
2010-11	218.80	66.10
2011-12	219.84	78.34
2012-13	225.75	80.44
2013-14	227.15	70.88
2014-15	225.85	87.49
2015-16	244.75	84.74
2016-17	242.01	54.81
2017-18	240.23	59.75
2018-19	240.00	74.81

Source: Department of Fertilisers

Barauni, while the spurlines to Gorakhpur, Sindri and Durgapur are scheduled for completion by December 2019.

The second plant at Talcher (Odisha) is yet another revival project. Being executed

by Talcher Fertilisers Ltd — a JV of GAIL, Coal India, Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilisers (RCF) and FCIL — it is envisaged to be a coal gasification-based ammonia-urea complex.

"The plant will use coal from the Talcher mines. Since this coal has high ash content, it will be blended up to 25% with petroleum coke sourced from Indian Oil's Paradip refinery. The urea to be produced would be costlier than from imported liquefied natural gas (LNG), but the government wants to go ahead, as it is being fired by feedstock that is substantially indigenous (pet-coke is byproduct of domestic refineries that process imported crude). We are going to soon award the lump-sum turnkey contract and the targeted commissioning is by September 2023," added the earlier-quoted official.

Put together, all the seven plants add up to 8.96 mtpa, which is nearly 40% of country's total urea production capacity of 23.5 mtpa till September 2017, before the now-idle Matix Fertilisers facility came on steam. The projected aggregate outlay: Rs 51,000 crore (see table 1).

A boom in urea investment of this scale was last seen during the 1980s, when the overall manufacturing capacity virtually doubled from about 7.5 mtpa to 14.70 mtpa. A host of new plants — Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilisers & Chemicals' Bharuch and Krishak Bharati Cooperative's Hazira (Gujarat), RCF's Trombay-V and Thal (Maharashtra), NFL's Vijaiapur (Madhya Pradesh), Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative's Phulpur and Aonla (UP) and Indo Gulf Fertilisers' Jagdishpur (UP) and Brahmaaputra Valley Fertiliser Corporation's Namrup-III (Assam) units — sprung up. All of them — barring Bharuch, Thal and Phulpur — operated on indigenous natural gas, mainly supplied through the Hazira-Vijaiapur-Jagdishpur pipeline. And they (with the exception of Namrup-III) deployed the Haldor Topsoe process for ammonia and Snamporetto (which is now Saipem) technology in urea manufacturing.

In the 1990s, a few more capacities — including Chambal Fertilisers' Gadepan I and II, Iffco's Phulpur II and Aonla II, Nagarjuna Fertilisers & Chemicals' Kakinada I and II (Andhra Pradesh), NFL's Vijaiapur II, Kribhco's Shahjahanpur (UP) and Tata Chemicals' Babrala (UP) — were established, taking the total to 20 mtpa by the decade's end. In the subsequent decade and a half, hardly another 3.5 mtpa got added.

The current revival, unlike the 1980s boom, is based largely on use of imported re-gasified LNG feedstock, conveyed via newly laid pipeline systems such as Jagdishpur-Haldia and Bokaro-Dhamra (for Gorakhpur, Barauni, Sindri and Panagarh) and Mallavaram-Bhopal-Bhilwara-Vijaiapur (for Ramagundam). The LNG would be mostly imported into the eastern coast Dhamra and Kakinada ports, where independent re-gasification terminals are being developed.

India now produces roughly 24 mtpa of urea (many plants operate above their rated capacities) and imports 7-8 mtpa. If all the proposed new capacities materialise, imports may reduce to nothing.



A farm labourer applying fertiliser at a field in Allahabad, UP. File

Make versus Buy

It's not either/or; India can both manufacture and import urea

HARISH DAMODARAN

IS IT worth "making" urea at \$400 per tonne or more, when you can import ("buy") at under \$300? That's what most critics of the Narendra Modi government's aggressive plans for achieving self-sufficiency in this critical nitrogenous fertiliser would ask.

They may well have a point.

In June, domestic and imported re-gasified liquefied natural gas (R-LNG) was being delivered to urea-making units at an average uniform "pooled" price of Rs 813.76 or \$ 11.72 per mmbtu (million metric British thermal units) on a gross calorific value (GCV) basis. The seven new urea plants that have already or are about to come up are comparatively energy-efficient: They need only up to 5 gigacalories (GCal) for producing one tonne of urea, as against the existing units that consume between 5.5 and 6.5 GCal.

But at \$ 11.72/mmbtu — or \$ 12.98 (1,108 times) on a net calorific value (NCV) basis — and 0.25 GCal for every one mmbtu, the feedstock cost alone comes to almost \$ 260 per tonne of urea. Adding a \$ 155 fixed cost, which "substantial expansion/brownfield" projects such as Chambal Fertilisers' Gadepan III are entitled to, takes the total to \$ 415 per tonne. The fixed cost — supposed to cover all other charges, inclusive of interest, depreciation and profit, and payable for a period of eight years from the start of production — is even higher, at \$ 175, for "greenfield/revival" projects being established through state-run joint ventures. Either way, the total cost of "making" works out much more than the current landed (cost and freight, Indian ports) price of \$ 290-295 per tonne for imported urea.

There are problems, though, with the above computations.

For one, they ignore customs duty and other levies (both Central and state government) on feedstock; natural gas isn't covered under the goods and services tax regime. Netting out the estimated 18% taxes would bring down the basic delivered pooled price of gas to \$ 10.65/mmbtu (from \$ 12.98) and the variable cost of urea to \$ 213 per tonne (from \$ 268). The total production cost, too, reduces to \$ 368-388 per tonne (from \$ 415-435).

Secondly, it is wrong to compare prices of imported bulk urea arriving in vessels at ports with the cost of fully-bagged domestically manufactured material. The imported urea has to be discharged and bagged. The bagging, stevedoring and other port-handling charges in this case would be around Rs 950 or \$ 13.75 per tonne. The \$ 368-388 per tonne cost of domestic urea, on the other hand, includes bagging expenses.

Thirdly, the new urea plants are mostly in the northern and eastern hinterland. The differential cost of moving urea to Bihar or Purvanchal from any port vis-à-vis from Barauni, Gorakhpur and Sindri would be Rs 500-600, which is another \$ 7-9 per tonne. That further narrows the make-versus-buy gap to \$ 55-75 per tonne. There are also other deductions — such as delayed subsidy payments to domestic manufacturers (not possible in imports, where the entire cost has to be met upfront) and taxes paid on imported equipment, erection charges and services during construction stage — that would keep the gap well within a \$ 40-50 per tonne range.

Finally, with the building of LNG terminals and pipelines crisscrossing much of the country, it is going to become increasingly easier to import and transport gas than urea to the hinterland. In the event, urea imports would make sense mainly for feeding the western and southern markets. However, for North and East India — which is where the next Green Revolution should be — there is a strong case for having sufficient domestic manufacturing capacity. If the urea plants at Bhatinda, Nangal and Panipat served the cause of farmers in Punjab and Haryana during the seventies, the same logic can be extended to the upcoming facilities supplying to East UP, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha (The Modi government has, incidentally, also approved a greenfield 0.86 million-tonnes-per-annum plant at Namrup in Assam).

Instead of aiming for 100% self-sufficiency, a sounder long-term strategy for urea may be to "make" more in Northern and Eastern India, while exploring greater "buy" options for Peninsular India alongside closing down some of the older energy-inefficient units.

FROM STAPLES TO HIGH-VALUE PRODUCE

Promoting crop diversification for doubling farmers' income

Growing consumption demand for fruits & vegetables offers an opportunity for targeted invention to eliminate smallholder poverty



HARSHIT KOHLI

RAMKISHAN, TILL two years ago, grew paddy and wheat on his one-acre land. This farmer, from Selawan village in Bindki tehsil of Uttar Pradesh's Fatehpur district, has no smartphone or bank credit access. With an annual household earning below Rs 50,000 (until recently), he represents the millions of smallholders in India, stuck in traditional cultivation methods due to inability to avail knowledge and institutional credit.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in early 2016, called for doubling farmers' incomes by 2022. Meeting that goal requires improving farm productivity and price realisations, especially of smallholders, through dissemination of information relating to agronomic practices as well as marketing. Unfortunately, there is an acute dearth of extension workers to bridge this vital lab-to-land gap. UP alone has a mere 7,500 extension workers for 2.33 crore farmers, translating into a ratio of 1:3,000, as against a recommended 1:750. Moreover, roughly three-fourths of rural Indian households have no smart-phones or internet access. They are practically unaware of prevailing market trends or good agricultural practices and, hence, forced to continue growing low-value staples. Any plan for dou-

bling farmers' incomes must rely on massively intensifying last-mile extension work.

Agriculture technology dissemination has drawn significant investor interest in recent years. A host of agritech start-ups today employ the farming-as-a-service model to provide custom hiring of equipment, crop protection and marketing services. But these are mostly tech-based innovations that do not reach three-fourths of our rural masses. Contract farming, too, helps predominantly large growers, who can make continuous supplies to food processing companies. The same goes for microcredit; the strong 30% plus growth rates posted by the industry correlates very little with increased agricultural productivity.

Farming is ultimately a business that is prone to both weather and market price risk. The higher risk involved, therefore, makes private sector investors seek much greater returns compared to other sectors. What we need is strong non-profit or hybrid structures that prioritise returns 'beyond profit' through provision of efficient microcredit and continuous knowledge-sharing, particularly targeting smallholder farmers.

Swayam Farmer Foundation is a non-profit organisation that provides end-to-end training and agri-input financing to smallholders, to enable crop diversification and sustainable cultivation practices, resulting in higher incomes. Our approach has been to get farmers to grow horticultural crops, by training them on proper sowing, irrigation, nutrient management, plant protection and harvesting methods — including through weekly visits and monitoring by field officers — and making available quality inputs on



Ramkishan grows cauliflower and bitter melon on his one-acre land

credit. We have been able to establish that with access to knowledge and credit for quality inputs, farmers can cultivate higher-value crops and increase their incomes by not just two, but 4-5 times.

Ramkishan previously spent around Rs 10,000 on seed, fertiliser, water and labour for growing wheat on one acre. Even with 2 tonnes yield and Rs 18/kg realisation, his net return wasn't more than Rs 26,000. But by

planting cauliflower, entailing an expenditure of Rs 25,000, he's now producing 8-10 tonnes from the same land — and earning up to Rs 1.5 lakh by selling this crop at Rs 16-18/kg. Moreover, the cultivation cycle for most vegetables is 3-4 months, whereas the wheat season is 4-5 months. Recently, Ramkishan also grew bitter melon on half-an-acre, incurring costs of Rs 12,000 and harvesting 4 tonnes produce that he sold for Rs

18-20/kg, netting about Rs 64,000.

For smallholders like Ramkishan, the growing consumer demand for fruits and vegetables, as opposed to cereals, presents an opportunity for more than doubling their incomes. That, however, requires the right kind of interventions. Under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, the government extends 90% subsidy on micro-irrigation for small and marginal farmers. But drip irrigation systems costs Rs 60,000 or so per acre. How many farmers can invest this money upfront, even if reimbursed within a month? Swayam provides short-term finance to farmers to purchase and install these systems, which can deliver about 70 per cent water savings (vis-à-vis traditional flood irrigation) and also boost crop yields through localised application and reduced leaching of nutrients.

An integrated model of training and financing can go a long way in enhancing the agricultural productivity of smallholders. Such a strategy can be effectively deployed to grow crops that command better prices and meet changing food consumption demands. But there is also the issue of price fluctuations, more so in fruits and vegetables, which needs addressing. Crop prices in India tend to follow a 'cobweb' model: If tomato prices are high this season, large numbers of farmers will grow it the next season. That results in a production glut and crash in prices, which, then, induces farmers to plant less and causing rates to spiral again.

The above herd mentality is what farmers need to be warned against. The risks of production gluts can be significantly moderated if farmers continuously diversify their

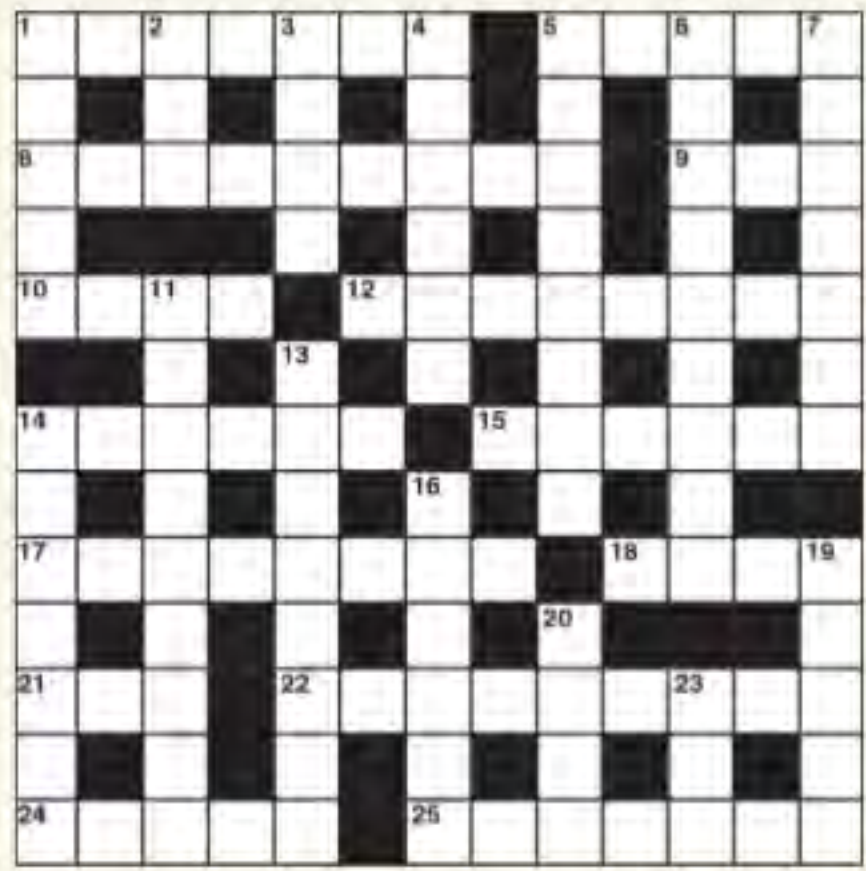
cropping patterns from season to season. With availability of real-time data on prices across mandis and also sale of seeds, it would be possible to ascertain the likely acreage under a particular crop. A crop recommendation service can be provided accordingly, thereby mitigating herd behaviour and enabling farmers to make more informed sowing choices.

Swayam is currently working with 250 farmer families in Fatehpur and they have experienced 4x income increases. We believe our model of promoting crop diversification — which also leads to improved soil fertility, more efficient water and nutrient usage, and lower insect, weed and disease pressure — is replicable across India's 115 'aspirational districts' (that includes Fatehpur). Our target is to reach one lakh farmers by 2023.

Such targeted interventions, however, need active government support. The least that can be done is to make it easier for non-profit organisations to work in agriculture: Registering a non-profit with necessary compliances today takes at least 10 times longer than in the case of a for-profit organisation. We need a grassroots movement to build strong last-mile information connectivity with farmers, who, even with smart-phones and internet, require customisation and direct handholding for effectively utilising tech tools. If the likes of Ramkishan are to have a real chance to grow out of poverty, it calls for a far more robust collaboration of government, private sector and civil society.

The writer is founder and CEO of Swayam Farmer Foundation

CROSSWORD 3873



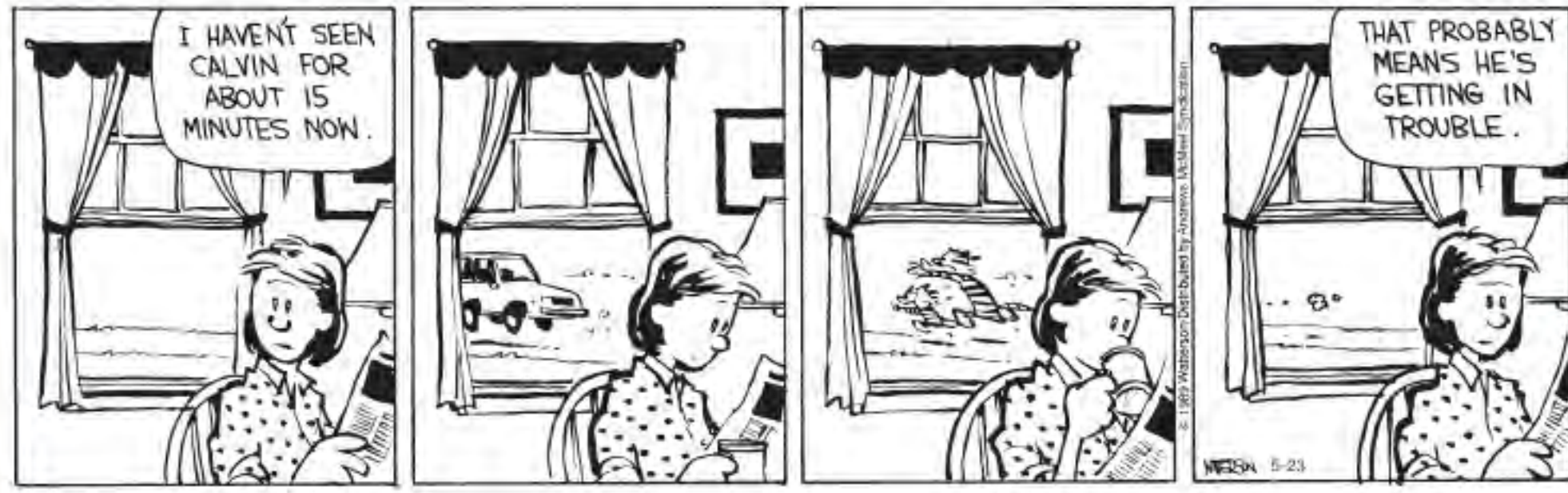
- ACROSS**
- Runs at twice the speed? (7)
 - Precise demand (5)
 - I must mix mid-Atlantic alcoholic drink (9)
 - She comes from Nevada (3)
 - Wine from a cask (4)
 - Found to have arrived (6,2)
 - Actors show they have star potential (6)
 - by a quarter? That's serious (6)
 - Girl thought to be like Queen Victoria? (8)
 - Finish the roadwork (4)
 - Sign the French love (3)
 - The prime minister is pleased to gain weight (9)
 - An air of simplicity (5)
 - Show place (7)
- DOWN**
- Measures intended to do good (5)
 - Touring centre in Switzerland (3)
 - A number of us scowl (4)
 - Unusually astute piece of work by an artist (6)
 - Once was inclined to be lengthy (8)
 - It makes a change (9)
 - Take steps to keep down (7)
 - Look round for a way to throw a fight (4,5)
 - Have a fast time (2,6)
 - Joined up with the company at the front (7)
 - Possibly tread about quietly and leave (6)
 - Firearm part (5)
 - Marine detachment (4)
 - Gout doesn't start abroad (3)

Solutions Crossword 3872: Across: 1 Employed, 5 Stud, 9 Moral, 10 Tropics, 11 Contaminates, 13 Absorb, 14 Oblige, 17 Ghost stories, 20 Anemone, 21 Iliad, 22 Stay, 23 Sturgeon. Down: 1 Elms, 2 Parsons, 3 Obliteration, 4 Entomb, 6 Twist, 7 Disaster, 8 Sound barrier, 12 Gangways, 15 Itemise, 16 Street, 18 Opera, 19 Aden.

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.

Never yourself more clearly than you are able to — Niels Bohr (7...5)

CKEER EERNPT

DISKS EORTHX

SOLUTION: CREEK, SKIDS, REPEAT, EXPORT

SUDOKU 3925

Difficulty Level 5s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.



Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

SOLUTION SUDOKU 3924



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Everything I've written about you this week holds for today — only much more so. So, let me remind you of the vital importance of clear thought, sensible discussion and open lines of communication in absolutely everything, whether your concerns are intensely personal or public and professional.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

There's no time like the present for sorting out financial problems and claiming the prosperity that you so richly deserve. Work out spending and saving plans over the next couple of days and share your ideas with partners once you've made your mind up.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Today's lunar position indicates a time when you may hide yourself away and rest, recharging your batteries in readiness for the coming battles and victories. To do this, though, you may need to duck some of your responsibilities.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

If tensions erupt, they may be difficult to control, mainly because the issues will be obscured behind a fog of confusion and misunderstanding. Tread warily, though, and you'll easily dodge such pitfalls. And, remember, by anticipating the future you can change it to your advantage.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Challenging lunar aspects advise you not to count on certain transactions being finalised on time. A brief hiatus may actually do you good, allowing you to get on and complete the preliminaries or tie up loose ends. A delay is as good as a rest.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Listen to reason and accept that partners also wish to resolve joint problems. Soon you may expect to receive thanks for past efforts, or plaudits for your more successful endeavours. Such appreciation is no more than you deserve. It will certainly provide a pleasant boost to your confidence.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

The Moon now inaugurates a new three-month period of success and fulfilment, at least for all Librans who are capable of looking on the bright side. Specific areas which will benefit include everything to do with travel, education or the law. It's all a question of tuning in to the larger picture.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Your sign has stronger associations with money than many of the others, and I believe that, after today, you will begin to feel your business sensibilities stirring. Emotionally your passions will be more alert — you'll be looking for a challenge in a relationship.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)

Those of you with major schemes on the go, whether personal or professional should reach a satisfactory turning-point. In love, you'll prefer the company of old and tested companions to new excitement. You have much to learn from people who have already had the experiences which are now coming your way.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

It looks as if your work or similar responsibilities are about to increase drastically. On the whole, this will be a welcome development even though you may be taken aback by the rate of change. Yet, there does seem to be a great deal happening at the moment which is taking you on to a more positive personal course.

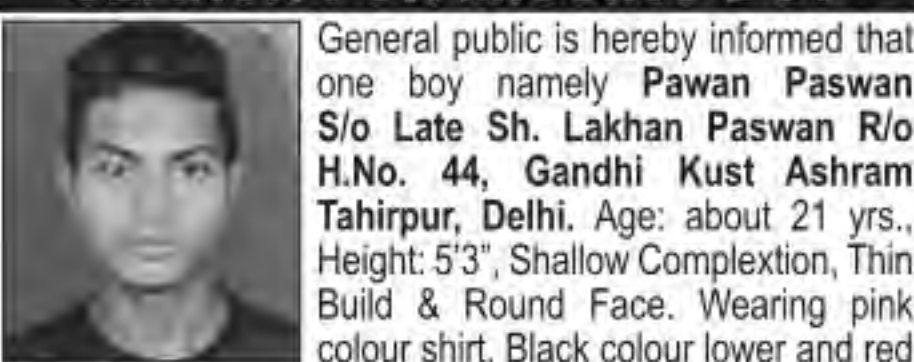
AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Over the next couple of days the powerful and emotional Moon will come to your aid, enabling you to break any deadlocks and shift any obstacles, even those which seemed insurmountable until not so long ago. It's strange how quickly circumstances change when you're looking the other way.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Those of you aiming for domestic improvements will find events over the next few days helpful and reassuring, although if major schemes, including a move of home, are on the agenda, there seem to be few signs of real, solid, tangible movement just yet.

SEARCH FOR MISSING BOY



General public is hereby informed that one boy namely **Pawan Paswan S/o Late Sh. Lakhna Paswan R/o H.No. 44, Gandhi Kust Ashram Tahirpur, Delhi.** Age: about 21 yrs., Height: 5'3", Shallow Complexion, Thin Build & Round Face. Wearing pink colour shirt, Black colour lower and red colour chappal in feet is missing since 06.07.2019 from his house.

In this regard a DD No. 80-A dated: 07.07.2019 has been lodged at PS Nand Nagri, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing boy may kindly inform to the following.

E-mail: cbc@cbl.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368639
S.H.O., P.S., Nand Nagri, Delhi
Ph.: 011-22583307, 8750870730

MODERN COACH FACTORY, RAEBARELI

E-Tender Notice No. 21/2019-20 (Open) of DyCE/IT/MCF/RBL
Deputy Chief Engineer-II, Modern Coach Factory, Raebareli for and on behalf of President of India, invites "E-Tenders" for following works:- SN 1 Name of work: Construction of two wheeler parking shed no. 6, 8, 9 & provision of paved road surface for balance patrolling road in workshop, township and in front of Factory gate no. 3, embedded track, flooring etc in MCF/RBL. Tender No.: 34/2019-20 Approx. cost: ₹ 88550631.49 Earnest Money: ₹ 492800.00 Cost of Tender Form: ₹ 10000/- Date of Opening: 30.08.2019 Completion period: 12 Months • Tenderer/s shall be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. • Earnest Money Deposit & Tender Document Cost will be accepted separately only online payment through IREPS Portal. • For detail, please log on Indian Railway IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in Deputy Chief Engineer-II

E-Tender Notice
Open e-tender based on single packet system Tender Notice No.-CME/IT/MCF/RBL/AMC/2018-19(B), Dt-29.07.2019 is invited by Dy.CE/IT/MCF/RBL on Indian Railways portal www.ireps.gov.in for and on behalf of President of India for the following work: Description of work: Work for AMC of IT equipments for One year as per scope of work at Modern Coach Factory, Rae Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh-229120, Approx. Value: ₹ 14,69,232.00 EMD: ₹ 29,390.00 Cost of Tender document: ₹ 2,000.00 only Completion period of work: 12 Months • Date & time of closing of tender: 20.08.2019 at 15:00 hrs. • Date & time of opening of tender: 20.08.2019 at 15:30 hrs. Detailed Tender Notice, Eligibility criteria, Terms & conditions are available at IREPS website: www.ireps.gov.in in tender document. Dy CEM/IT

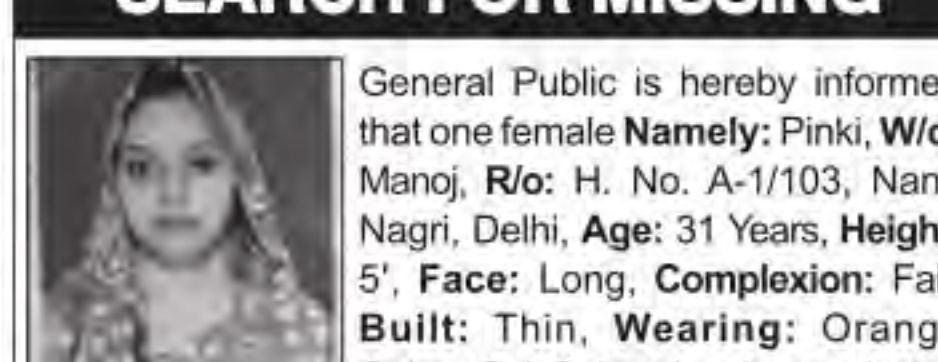
Serving customers with a smile

डा० रामदयाल मुण्डा अल्बुल कलाम प्राविधिक विश्वविद्यालय

संस्थान के पत्रांक-702-05 एवं 708-12 दिनांक-26.06.19 से संबंधित निविदाओं (इच्छा की अभिव्यक्ति) अन्तर्गत दिनांक 31.07.19 को निविदा खोलने की तिथि निर्धारित किया गया था। किन्तु अपरिहार्य कारण से तिथि बढ़ाते हुए दिनांक 07.08.2019 अपराह्न 03.00 बजे बैठक आयोजित की गई है। अतः संबंधित निविदादाता स्वयं या अधिकृत प्रतिनिधि दिनांक 07.08.19 को होने वाले बैठक में उपस्थित होने का कष्ट करें।

बंद - बंद नहीं बरतेगे तो बंद को तरसेगे
PR 213274 Welfare (19-20)_D

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General Public is hereby informed that one female namely: **Pinki, W/o: Manoj, R/o: H. No. A-1/103, Nand Nagri, Delhi, Age: 31 Years, Height: 5', Face: Long, Complexion: Fair, Built: Thin, Wearing: Orange Colour Suit Salwar** has been missing from her house since 01.07.2019.

In this regard DD No. 98-A dated 01.07.2019 has been lodged at PS. Nand Nagri, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing person but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing person please inform the undersigned.

E-Mail ID: cbc@cbl.gov.in
Ph.: 011-29551597
PS. Nand Nagri, Delhi
DP/7206/NE/19 Ph.: 011-22585985, 22583307

KOLKATA METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

e-NIT No. : SE(GRWW, PH-I)/JT-01 of 2019-20
The Superintending Engineer (W&S, GRWW, PH-I), Garden Reach Water Works, Bidhargarh, Kolkata - 700066 invites online e-tender from reliable, experienced and resourceful agencies for the work : Name of work : Design, supply, installation, construction and laying Raw water Rising Main of SWMS 1600 mm diameter and 16 mm thick along with necessary supporting arrangement from 400 M ahead of the Raw Water Pump House at Bhut Ghat, near West Port Police Station up to the Battery Limit of the Water Treatment Plant at ward no. 31 under Rajpur-Sonarpur Municipality along with 3 months' trial run and complete operation & maintenance for 60 months under AMRUT on Turnkey basis. Estimated Amount : Rate to be quoted, Earnest Money : ₹ 1 Crore, Time of Completion : 15 months. Last date of Bid Submission Online : 06.09.2019. For further details please contact above office or visit our both the websites. KMDA/T-275/RA/4/19-20 www.wbtenders.gov.in or www.kmdaonline.org

डा० रामदयाल मुण्डा जनजातीय कल्याण शोध संस्थान

अनुसूचित जनजाति, अनुसूचित जाति, अल्पसंख्यक एवं पिछड़ा वर्ग कल्याण विभाग राँची-8
दूरभाष-0651-2551824, E-mail- tr.directorate@gmail.com पत्रांक-840 राँची, दिनांक- 30.07.2019

शुद्धि पत्र (PR No.210175)
संस्थान के पत्रांक-702-05 एवं 708-12 दिनांक-26.06.19 से संबंधित निविदाओं (इच्छा की अभिव्यक्ति) अन्तर्गत दिनांक 31.07.19 को निविदा खोलने की तिथि निर्धारित किया गया था। किन्तु अपरिहार्य कारण से तिथि बढ़ाते हुए दिनांक 07.08.2019 अपराह्न 03.00 बजे बैठक आयोजित की गई है। अतः संबंधित निविदादाता स्वयं या अधिकृत प्रतिनिधि दिनांक 07.08.19 को होने वाले बैठक में उपस्थित होने का कष्ट करें। कितने अरब तक ना चलेंगे, वो कलामी हैं नै, मुझे बर्बाद मत करो पानी हैं नै।

बंद - बंद नहीं बरतेगे तो बंद को तरसेगे
PR 213273 (Welfare) 19-20 (D) उप निदेशक

H. P. POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(A State Government Undertaking)
HIMFED BHAWAN, PANJARI, SHIMLA-5
Ph:- 0177-2833271, FAX:-2831271 Web: www.hpptcl.com (CIN): U40101HP2008SGC030950.
NO. HPPTCL/Contracts/ADB/66/ 220 KV GIS Gumma /19- 20- Dated:
"CORRIGENDUM"
The Due Date of Tender Sale, Submission and Opening of Bids invited for "41-SS/ADB/HPPTCL/66/220 KV GIS Sub-Station Gumma" for "Design, Engineering, Manufacture, Fabrication, Testing at Manufacturers Works, Transportation to Site, Insurance, Loading/Unloading, Storage, Erection, Testing, and Commissioning of 2x50/63 MVA, 66/220 KV, GIS Sub Station Gumma (District- Shimla) on Turnkey Basis (Complete Package) is hereby extended as under:-
Description Earlier Deadline Revised Deadline
Tender Sale 26.07.2019 08.08.2019
Submission of Bids 27.07.2019 upto 03.00 P.M. 09.08.2019 upto 03.00 P.M.
Tender Opening 27.07.2019 at 03.30 P.M. 09.08.2019 at 03.30 P.M.
All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.
(K.N.Sharma)
Dy. General Manager (Contracts)

माध्यमिक शिक्षा मण्डल मध्यप्रदेश, भोपाल

ई-मेल : mpbse@mp.nic.in, वेबसाइट : www.mpbse.nic.in
फोन : कार्या : (0755) 2551650, फ़ैक्स : (0755) 2552061
क्रमांक/683/क्रय/2019 भोपाल, दिनांक 31.07.2019

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
माध्यमिक शिक्षा मण्डल मध्यप्रदेश, भोपाल परिसर में स्थित रेस्ट हाउस के कक्षाओं किचन-रेस्तरेंट के संचालन हेतु काकरी, कटलरी, लिनेन, फर्नीचर, फ़िक्स्चर, प्लास्टिक वेयर, किचन यूनैट्स, ऑफिस इक्विपमेंट्स, किचन इक्विपमेंट्स, इलेक्ट्रिकल इक्विपमेंट्स आदि सामग्री क्रय हेतु अनलाइन निविदाओं आमंत्रित की जाती है। उक्त निविदा वेबसाइट <https://mptenders.gov.in> के माध्यम से केबल अनलाइन (ई-टेंडरिंग) प्रस्तुत की जा सकती है। अनलाइन निविदा प्रस्तुत करने हेतु निम्न प्रक्रिया परिशिष्ट "D" पर दर्शाई गई है।
निविदा से संबंधित महत्वपूर्ण तिथियाँ [Key Dates & Time] निम्नानुसार हैं :-
(1) Online Tender Publishing Date : 03.08.2019 at 05:00 P.M.
(2) Tender Purchase Start Date : 05.08.2019 at 05:00 P.M.
(3) Bid Submission Start Date : 05.08.2019 up to 05:00 P.M.
(4) Bid Submission Closing Date : 26.08.2019 at 03:00 P.M.
(5) Technical Bid Opening : 27.08.2019 at 04:00 P.M.
(6) Commercial Bid Opening : 28.08.2019 at 04:00 P.M.
ग.प्र. माध्यमिक शिक्षा मण्डल, भोपाल, दिनांक 31.07.2019 सचिव

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF PRISONS PRISONS

HEAD QUARTER: NEAR LAJWANTI GARDEN CHOWK JANAK PURI NEW DELHI

No.F.21 (13)/CD No. 003525066/lab test of Prisoner patients/(Prov.)/2018-19/819 Dated: 24.7.19 (NIT ID No. 2019_CJT_176896_1)

e-TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tender (on line e-procurement website <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>) are invited for OPEN e- TENDER FOR ROUTINE AND SPECIAL LAB TESTS OF PRISONER PATIENTS OF CENTRAL JAIL, TIHAR, NEW DELHI, CENTRAL JAIL ROHINI AND CENTRAL JAIL MANDOLI, DELHI. The NIT has been uploaded and available along with terms and condition and detailed specifications. All the tenderers are requested to have digital certificate (class II and above) and then to get themselves registered with the application service provider of Govt. of NCT of Delhi e-procurement System and should apply online before the Last Date and Time.

Estimated Cost Of Work : Rs. 20.00 Lacs
Date of release of tender through e-procurement solution : 02-08-2019
Last date / Time of receipt of tenders : 23-08-2019 at 12:00 NOON
Through e-procurement solution
Online bid opening date : 23-08-2019 at 12:30 PM
Further information can be seen at: <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

Sd/- Superintendent: PHQ Tihar, New Delhi

Petronet LNG Limited

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT) FOR SELECTION OF CONTRACTOR FOR ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR HORTICULTURAL SERVICES AT PETRONET LNG LIMITED, DAHEJ

Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) invites bids from experienced and financially sound contractors for "Annual Maintenance Contract for Horticultural Services" at Petronet LNG Ltd., Dahej (Gujarat).

Interested parties are requested to visit our website www.petronetlmg.com for detailed eligibility criteria along with other necessary details for issuance of Tender document.

Note: PLL reserves the right not to issue the tender document and / or accept or reject any or all the bids at any stage of the process and/or modify the process without assigning any reasons on its sole discretion. No separate notification shall be issued in press. Bidders are requested to visit the website regularly to keep themselves updated.

Dy. General Manager (C&P)
PETRONET LNG LIMITED
GIDC Industrial Estate, Plot No. 7/A, Dahej, Taluka: Vagra, Distt. Bharuch 392130, Dahej, Gujarat, Tel No. 02641-300232/233/235/231
E-mail id:- materials@petronetlmg.com

EXTENSION OF SPECIAL TRAINS

For the convenience of Rail Passengers, Railways have decided to extend the run of the following Summer Special Trains as per the details given below :-

Train No.	From	Dep. Time	To	Arr. Time	Frequency Days of run	At present running upto	Period of Extension	Total No. of Trips
09809	Kota Jr.	20:20	Hazrat Nizamuddin	3:15	Daily	31.07.2019	up to 22.08.2019	22
09810	Hazrat Nizamuddin	05:15	Kota Jr.	13:15	Daily	01.08.2019	up to 23.08.2019	22

Always Buy Train Tickets from Railway Counters/Railway Travel Agents only

Note : For any kind of Information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit website: www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in
Security Helpline No. 182 and Passenger Complaint Helpline No. 138

2462/19 Please join us on



Serving Customers with a Smile



CURTAIN CALL

Modern classic, *The Shawshank Redemption*, will re-release in cinema halls in the US on September 22, 24, and 25 to celebrate 25 years of the film. The film had tanked at the box office when it released in 1994 but went on to gain cult following with time.

Coffee Break

At CCD, lovers met and parted, friends strummed the guitar late into the night and youngsters embraced freedom



SOMYA LAKHANI

MY MOTHER will be suspicious and unconvinced. I told myself. She may ask why a proud member of a tea-drinking household would visit a cafe? It was the mid-2000s and I had promised to meet a day-old boyfriend at a Cafe Coffee Day (CCD) to begin our dating tenure.

On a pleasant November afternoon, I set out for central Delhi from east Delhi's Karkardooma Court area for my first "young-adult (YA)" date. I ordered a 'Cool Blue', a fizzy blue-coloured iced concoction, he ordered a cappuccino, and together we split a brownie.

I was nervous about being spotted by a relative or a family friend till I looked around me — the cafe was teeming with YA couples, drinking their coffee as they occupied one of the many cosy corners. There was no one to snitch on us, it was an unspoken pact, one that was made at CCD. A decade before I walked into the cafe for my first YA date, the coffee chain had set up its first cafe in Bangalore in 1996. Since then, CCD has seeped into every cosmopolitan and tier-two and three city.

At CCD, lovers met and parted, friends strummed the guitar late into the night, attempts at writing novels were made, phone numbers on paper napkins were passed and college notes copied. At the time, stricken by young love and rejection, little did we realise the impact that VG Siddhartha — CCD's founder and owner — would have on the young.

While magazines and newspapers told us we had embraced Siddhartha's coffee-culture, all we — city kids — were doing was embracing freedom. A relative once lamented that "these CCD type youngsters" lose their path in life, while another proudly announced that since he lets his children hang out at cafes, "he must be modern."

Over the years, we moved on from CCD to Barista, Cafe Mocha, Costa Coffee, The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf, and Blue Tokai. Now, it was a quick highway pitstop which gave access to bathrooms, and a source for an average cup of coffee at a private hospital. Of course, I have stuck to the icy cold 'Cool Blue'.

On Tuesday, however, as the news of CCD founder missing trickled in, my mind raced back to my early 20s when CCD gave me shelter from a stranger who followed me for half a kilometre in Connaught Place at night. Their staff was kind enough to offer me a cup of coffee, and escort me to the metro station.

And then there was CCD, Chanakyapuri — the queen of all CCDs in Delhi, where the outdoor area has been the most sought after. There was always a fella strumming a guitar there, singing a Bryan Adams song tunelessly. Little did I know how much CCD will impact a tea-drinker, and as one bids farewell to Siddhartha, there is that craving for my icy cold 'cool blue'.

A relative once lamented that "these CCD type youngsters" lose their path in life, while another proudly announced that since he lets his children hang out at cafes, "he must be modern"

Deepak Dobriyal (below); with actors Nandita Dhuri and Aaryan Meghji in still from *Baba*

'I didn't want to be branded a comedian'

Actor Deepak Dobriyal on his Marathi film debut as a speech-impaired parent, significance of lead roles and avoiding comedies

ALAKA SAHANI

AFTER CHASING actor Deepak Dobriyal for some weeks for a narration, an exasperated Raj R Gupta told him, "You are anyway going to say no to it. Why don't you just listen to the story once". Gupta was trying to put together his first directorial project in Marathi, and wanted Dobriyal to play the lead role. When the actor finally heard the story of this film titled *Baba*, the actor put some of his commitments aside and agreed to do the film in which he plays a speech-impaired parent to an eight-year-old boy.

The film which explores the relationship between a father and his son, marks Dobriyal's Marathi film debut. Even though there was a sign language coach to train him, the team soon realised that this character lives in rural Maharashtra. So, him using sign language would not have been convincing. "My co-actors (Nandita Dhuri and Aaryan Meghji) and I had to work out a way of communicating and expressing ourselves. Something that appears natural yet makes it easy for the audience to understand," says Dobriyal, who along with the cast, worked on these nuances during the pre-production workshop.

While working on the scenes, the team had to avoid anything that seemed pretentious and worked on the emotional journey of the characters. "We also had to be careful about respecting the dignity of speech-impaired people," he says. As revealed by the film's trailer, the story revolves around the speech-impaired parents of a young boy, whose happy life is disrupted when an affluent couple claims to be the boy's parents.

Dobriyal, who is often praised for his big screen appearances, will be seen as a protag-



I don't want to follow the industry rule and take up anything that's offered to me. As an artiste, I want to push my boundaries

DEEPAK DOBRIYAL

onist after a long hiatus. "Playing the lead role allows an actor the scope to explore a range of emotions and go into details. I've played the lead in a couple of movies, including *Daayen Ya Baayen* (2010). But they were not watched by a large audience. With Sanjay Dutt coming on board as the producer of *Baba*, it's expected to get the push it deserves when it releases on August 2," says the 43-year-old. The actor, appreciated for his performance as the jilted groom in *Omkara* (2006) and gangster in *Dabangg 2* (2012), is often seen playing supporting characters.

Dobriyal gained popularity as Pappi in *Tanu Weds Manu* (2011) and *Tanu Weds Manu Returns* (2015) for his comic timing. "After

Tanu Weds Manu Returns, there was a string of offers to play similar characters and do comedy. Most of them would pitch their project by saying, 'it is an out-and-out comedy'. I tried to avoid such offers as I didn't want to be branded a comedian. At one stage, I had to even send out the message that I have stopped doing comedy. I knew that I would earn a lot of money if I signed those projects, but as an actor, I would not have been happy," says the actor, whose upcoming projects include Navdeep Singh's *Lal Kaptan* and Homi Adajania's *Angrez Medium*. With movies such as *Omkara* (2009), *Gulal* (2008), and *Shaurya* (2008) to his credit, Dobriyal believes that he has shown more shades as an actor than just being a comedian.

The shooting of *Baba* was wrapped up last December. The limited-budget film was shot in the picturesque Guhagar in Ratnagiri in 23 days. Since the shooting schedule was short, a lot of effort went into the preparation for the shoot. "Yet, once we were on the sets, there were a lot of on-the-spot improvisations. While doing the scenes we were reacting to the co-actors just like we do in theatre. There was a lot of dependency on co-actors to perform well. We worked as a team," says Dobriyal. He has been active in Delhi theatre circuit and acted in plays such as *Tughlaq*, *Andha Yug*, *Rakt Kalyan* and *Court Martial* before he shifted to Mumbai in 2002.

After spending nearly 17 years in the industry, Dobriyal is looking for roles which are "solid" and do not "typecast" him. He is also willing to bide his time till such roles are offered to him. "I don't want to follow the industry rule and take up anything that's offered to me. As an artiste, I want to push my boundaries. If you ever see me driving a fancy car, then assume that I have taken the easier route," he says.

An Ode to History

In a tribute to late playwright Girish Karnad, eight young theatre directors join forces to direct his acclaimed play, *Hayavadana*

A rehearsal of *Hayavadana* in progress

DIPTI NAGPAUL

EIGHT YOUNG directors, over 50 actors and one landmark play — it's an unusual but apt tribute to Girish Karnad, as director Atul Kumar's The Company Theatre will present the master playwright's *Hayavadana*. The play is being performed in Mumbai today and its presentation comes without precedents.

After Karnad's passing last month, Kumar felt a deep sense of loss. "He had been an inspiring figure, always encouraging younger actors and directors to take up his plays and reinterpret them, experiment with them. That's what we have attempted to do," says Kumar. The play will be performed at Veda Factory in Mumbai's Andheri at 5pm and 8pm.

The play has been divided into eight parts of 10 minutes each. Each director has been allotted one segment and he or she has the freedom to interpret the play in their own way. Ana Ador, one of the eight directors brought on board by Kumar, for instance, is setting her segment in Kolkata of the '80s. "My segment features in the first half of the play, with all three key characters in the scene. The original is set several centuries ago but mine dates back to the '80s, which allows for a certain kind of setting and music that bring out the emotions of love and jealousy," she adds.

Roshan Shetty, on the other hand, has set his segment in the present times. "It's a play within a play. So we show a cast that is preparing to perform *Hayavadana*," he says, adding that the segments were allotted by a draw of lots.

What is unique about this performance of *Hayavadana* is also its biggest challenge. "It may be a little hard to process in the beginning... each director is also acting in the play, being led by another director in segments," says Ador. "The segments need to connect but the best part is the format, which itself allows us to make mistakes," she adds.

According to Kumar, the play was chosen by the directors. They met for readings of several works by Karnad and zeroed in on *Hayavadana*. Shetty explains that the strength of the play lies in the fact that it's relevant today even though it was published in the '70s. "It talks of casteism, of a woman's physical needs and our deep desire to perfect ourselves, be complete. Ironically, while all the characters in the play struggle to do that, the only one that achieves it is *Hayavadana*, the horse," says Shetty.

While Kumar has nudged them in direction, the young directors, including Mallika Singh, Tushar Dalvi, Lyra Dutt, Divyesh Vijaykar, Rishabh Sood and Niketan Sharma, have independently worked on their segments. Kumar says that the idea was to get young theatre people to read, understand and interpret Karnad's works. "Many of them would not have engaged with his plays this intimately if they were not made part of the production," he says. "With a complex format, we may go wrong but we had to try... Girish *saab* would have encouraged us to experiment. And there can be any number of reasons to do this but the most important one is that the theatre walls have come together and remember the great man that was Karnad," says Kumar.

SNAP SHOTS



Up for Sale

SOTHEBY'S WILL soon unveil a collection that includes nearly 220 items of clothing and accessories from a private collection that revisits iconic creations by fashion designer Martin Margiela, considered "one of the most atypical couturiers of his generation". To be exhibited and auctioned between September 19 and October 1, the sale will offer the works from the designer known for revealing the reverse of the fabric and its lining. He has never given any interview and his label carries no logo.



Turns of Life

VETERAN ACTOR Alfred Molina (pictured) will soon don the director's hat with *Lilian*, a big screen adaptation of the novel written by Jill Gascoine. It follows the story of a cancer survivor Jessica who leaves her husband and children in England to visit a friend in the US hoping to rediscover the joy of life. Once she reaches America, she unexpectedly finds herself falling for another woman. The film, also produced by Molina, is expected to be in here in late 2019.

Once and Future

The exhibition 'A Time for Farewells' takes viewers on a journey into the future

PALLAVI CHATTOPADHYAY

OHIO-BASED MULTIDISCIPLINARY artist Julia Christensen's ongoing artistic endeavour, *Upgrade To Proxima B*, is a project where she gets to design an artwork for an interstellar spacecraft, hoping to be launched in 2069. This will be sent to Proxima B, an exoplanet outside the solar system that is 4.2 light-years away. Thrilled with the idea of working with NASA scientists at Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, the spacecraft's journey is expected to take 40 years and it will have to keep upgrading itself autonomously. Many notes from the discussions and meetings centred around the project, along with photographs of these crucial conversations, make way into her photographic artwork titled *Upgrade to Proxima B* at Shrine Empire Gallery.

Resting alongside this are Christensen's photographs of pen drives, floppy disks, CDs, cassettes, old iPhones and mobile batteries — items that were once celebrated and claimed as the future of technology and humanity, which became obsolete and went out of use

with the advent of newer gadgets. Together they comprise *Obsolescence Culture* and serve as a stark commentary on the upgrade culture of the contemporary world. Fascinated by the idea of future and the various ways it has been interpreted in science fiction, popular culture, literature, philosophy and poetry, curator Premjish Achari has put together the show 'A Time for Farewells' to delve into the idea of future as seen through the lens of 10 artists, including Atul Bhalla, Gigi Scaria, Sumedh Rajendran and Vivan Sundaram. "We are trying to show that the future can be imagined despite the economic disparity, ecological crisis and refugee problems of today. Most movies speak about the end of earth, the doomsday or humans leaving our planet and foraying into another planet, but none talk about saving the planet. I found this thought very disconcerting and started thinking about the show," he says.

Much like the findings of the Indus Valley civilisation during archaeological excavations, New Delhi-based Sundaram has arranged terracotta fragments in an abstract manner and converted them into light boxes, as if referring to the ruins of modernity in



Astral Vision (2019). On the other hand, Switzerland-born artist Markus Baenziger, who has been addressing environmental concerns through art, has placed tiny terracotta pots alongside those made using recycled plastic culled from today's milk and yogurt packets next to a hanging screen. He hints at the different models of sustainable material choices and strategies that humans could use.

Referring to the urban landscape and urbanisation in the three-minute video, *On this*

Way (2017), Scaria zooms in on high-rise buildings in Noida with the metro swishing past them to show how the future doesn't seem bright. Speaking about the many abandoned and incomplete high-rises that lie dormant in Noida today, he says, "The rampant construction taking place today is very weird and has no logic. It reveals a tendency to mark territories and is like a mindless game of engagement in trying to grab land or money. We seem to be on a run for something and have no clue of what's happening.



(From left) Sumedh Rajendran's work titled *Sleeping Dust*; Vivan Sundaram's *Astral Vision*

Right now, it is so important for everyone to learn from the past for the future so that we don't make the same mistakes."

Achari feels that many of these half-constructed buildings appear like relics of a future which have failed to achieve their purpose, thereby leaving the onlookers to think about the various possibilities of the future in their minds.

The exhibition on at D 395, Defence Colony, till August 10

THE ASHES

ENG VS AUS: 1ST TEST

Live on Sony Six — 3:30 pm onwards from Edgbaston.

Chugh tames a devilish course to become world teen champion

TUSHAR BHADURI
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

IT IS one of the most hallowed pieces of land in the golfing world. Pinehurst No. 2 in North Carolina has played host to several Majors and traumatised generations of golfers with its tight fairways, lush wastelands and 'inverted-saucer' greens.

It is at this venue that Raghav Chugh, the 16-year-old top-ranked Indian junior, steamrolled the strong world-wide field to post a wire-to-wire win in the US Kids Golf World Teen Championship.

Opening with a stellar round of 68 on Pinehurst No. 4, that turned out to be the best by anyone in the 15-18 age category, he followed it with a 73 on the second day. The third and final round was held on the iconic No. 2 course, and Raghav as well as the rest of the field struggled to cope. But his 75 was good enough for a five-shot victory, the first for the country in this tournament. In fact, the Indian youngster led by three after the first day and despite his scores getting higher every round, his lead only got bigger.

Each year since 2006, the World Teen Championship attracts golfers in the 13-18

age group to Pinehurst. The World Amateur Golf Ranking recognise the tournament as a ranked event. It has been organised since 2002 by US Kids Golf, the leading youth golf organisation in the world.

The No.2 course at Pinehurst was once described by its architect Donald Ross as the "fairest test of championship golf" he had ever designed. It has hosted three US Opens and a PGA Championship as well as a Ryder Cup, besides several top senior, women and amateur tournaments. The degree of difficulty that Raghav encountered over the three days was pretty high, which puts his achievement in perspective. Stalwarts like Payne Stewart, Michael Campbell, Martin Kaymer and Michelle Wie have been crowned Major champions there.

"I played three practice rounds at the No. 4 course and only one at No. 2, which was also curtailed due to rain. The wind, bunkers and greens, that slope away on all sides, as well as the waste areas that catch hold of errant shots make it an incredibly tough challenge," Raghav, who has honed his game at the Delhi Golf Club from a very young age, told The Indian Express.

Playing at iconic venues is nothing new for the golfing prodigy. He has already tested his game at the Donald Trumped-owned



Raghav Chugh is the first Indian to lift the US Kids Golf World Teen Championship.

Turnberry in Scotland, site of four Open Championships including the memorable 'Duel in the Sun' between Tom Watson and Jack Nicklaus in 1977, and Torrey Pines in San Diego, California, where Tiger Woods prevailed in a sudden-death playoff over Rocco Mediate in the 2008 US Open despite play-

ing with a busted left knee. Raghav has even visited St. Andrews, but not had a chance to play at the Old Course, referred to as the 'Home of Golf'. "You need to book one year in advance," he says.

Golf keeps Raghav away from home for long times at a stretch, and it has helped that

his school has an understanding approach. Back at his Panchsheel Park residence after his exertions in the UK, US and Singapore, the Class XI student needs to catch up on a three-month backlog before leaving for Japan in a month's time. "I've mid-term exams coming up and often study till late in the night. I also have a maths tuition that keeps me busy. When I have some important school projects to complete while I'm away, I take my books abroad with me."

Raghav's coach Romit Bose considers him one of the best golfing talents to ever come out of India. Getting exposure to top golf courses, elite competition and a variety of playing conditions has certainly played its part.

"Playing in the UK is the most unique experience, with the wind coming into play at the links courses providing a different challenge, apart from the cold weather and rain. In the US, the greens are often fast and contoured. Asian greens are mostly slower in comparison."

Dominating in age-group competitions in India and elsewhere is great, for the time being. He has won numerous junior titles on the Indian circuit in the last few years, and has got the better of some older players too in competition. He is ranked No.1 on the Indian Golf

Each year since 2006, the World Teen Championship attracts golfers in the 13-18 age group to Pinehurst. The World Amateur Golf Ranking recognise the tournament as a ranked event.

Union's junior boys Category A rankings and received an exemption entry into the USKG event based on his national status. But Raghav needs to prepare for a time when he will be up against the big boys of world golf, if he wants to make a meaningful career out of the sport.

"He wants to play college golf in the US. For that, he needs to focus on his studies too. When the time comes, we'll contact the various American universities who are good at golf. Having good results throughout the world can only help our case," Raghav's mother Payal chips in.

"We will see how things develop. If everything goes well, the next stage is turning professional. If not, I want to study to be a businessman or investment banker," Raghav has his options open.

Cup cake, Ashes icing?

As the storied rivalry resumes at Edgbaston today, newly crowned ODI champions England will aim to complete a double

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
BIRMINGHAM, JULY 31

ENGLAND RETURN to 'Fortress Edgbaston' for the first Test against Australia on Thursday looking to round off an already memorable season by completing a World Cup and Ashes double. If the World Cup remains the pinnacle of the 50-over game, for England and Australia there's nothing quite like a renewal of Test cricket's oldest rivalry. But now there's arguably more at stake for both sides than the series result.

For England, a home season billed as the most important in a generation started brilliantly with their impressive run to a first men's World Cup title.

International cricket in Britain emerged from behind its satellite television payroll for the first time since the celebrated 2005 Ashes so that millions could watch England's nerve-shredding Super Over win against New Zealand at Lord's earlier this month.

Building on that groundswell of support is a key part of the England and Wales Cricket Board's post-tournament strategy. Regaining the Ashes represents an ideal chance to keep those new followers on board, even if none of the five Tests are on free-to-air television.

For Australia, an Ashes series win under the dignified leadership of Tim Paine would help draw a line under the ball-tampering scandal in South Africa that led to long bans for former captain Steve Smith, David Warner and Cameron Bancroft.

All three batsmen are likely to feature at Edgbaston, with Bancroft set to hear the same booing that greeted Smith and Warner during the World Cup.

Australia have not won an Ashes in England for 19 years, with their batsmen struggling against the heavily stitched Dukes ball on pitches that offer seam movement.

Yet the first Test will be Australia's opening first-class match of the tour, although the likes of Bancroft, who has been captaining English county side Durham, have recent experience of local conditions.

The way an England side featuring several World Cup stars were dismissed for just 85 by Ireland at Lord's last week before winning the first Test between the countries tells its own story of ongoing top-order woes.

England captain Joe Root plans to move back to number three to help shore up a top order featuring novice Surrey openers Rory Burns and Jason Roy.

James Anderson, England's all-time leading Test wicket-taker, is set to return from a calf injury to lead an attack that would not feature World Cup hero Jofra Archer. Archer was omitted from the side for the first test after failing to recover from injury. Barbados-born Archer, who took 20 wickets in the World Cup, has been suffering with a side strain and missed last week's one-off test match against Ireland at Lord's.

'Keep the energy going'

Australia, meanwhile, are poised to put their faith in a rapid four-man attack featuring James Pattinson and Pat Cummins. Several of England's World Cup winners appeared jaded against Ireland but Anderson, who no longer plays one-day internationals and so was not involved in that success, hopes he can revive any flagging spirits.

"For some of us this is the start of our international summer and it's our job to keep the energy going as a team," said Anderson, 37 on Tuesday.

With runs expected to be at premium while the bowlers hold sway, England will hope all-rounders such as Ben Stokes, restored to the vice-captaincy, can again make valuable contributions with the bat.

Australia have not won at Edgbaston in any format since 2001, a run that includes their recent World Cup semi-final loss to England, when Roy made a sparkling 85.



England captain Joe Root and his Australian counterpart Tim Paine pose with the urn at Edgbaston on Wednesday. Reuters

I'm 34 years old, I don't really care about my place in the side any more. I'm here to do a job. I've been put in this team to captain and wicket-keep to the best of my ability and I've said before, at 34 years of age, if you are looking further ahead than the next Test match you are kidding yourself. I'm not going to waste time looking over my shoulder. I'm enjoying the job that I'm doing."

TIM PAINE

AUSTRALIA CAPTAIN, ON IF HE FELT UNDER PRESSURE TO JUSTIFY HIS PLACE

England, by contrast, have won their last 11 internationals at the raucous Birmingham ground.

But a congested schedule, the result of officials cramming an Ashes into the same season as a lengthy World Cup, could have a bigger bearing on the series, the first in the ICC's new World Test Championship.

"I really believe it's a big ask for the fast bowlers on both sides to play five Tests in six weeks," said Australia great Steve Waugh, the victorious captain in the 2001 Ashes, who is mentoring the current squad.

"Depth in the squad will be important but I honestly think if I was a betting man I wouldn't back either side because I don't know who's going to win."

Playing XIs

ENGLAND: Rory Burns, Jason Roy, Joe Root (c), Joe Denly, Jos Buttler, Ben Stokes, Jonny Bairstow, Moeen Ali, Chris Woakes, Stuart Broad, James Anderson.

AUSTRALIA (LIKELY): 1 David Warner, 2 Cameron Bancroft, 3 Usman Khawaja, 4 Steve Smith, 5 Travis Head/Mitchell Marsh, 6 Matthew Wade, 7 Tim Paine (capt & wk), 8 Pat Cummins, 9 James Pattinson, 10 Nathan Lyon, 11 Peter Siddle/Josh Hazlewood.

With Test championship and shirt numbers, old rivalry is in a new bottle

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JULY 31

THE ASHES, cricket's oldest rivalry, probably couldn't have been resumed at a better time, on the heels of England's World Cup win. Unlike the recent Lord's final, The Ashes will not be available on free-to-air TV. And yet, for the next one-and-a-half months, the five-match Test series will arguably be the biggest sporting occasion in the UK, the Premier League's August 10 commencement notwithstanding.

Delayed by a month

Traditionally, The Ashes in England is played in July and August. In 2015, the first Test started on July 8, while the series concluded on August 23, with England winning 3-2. This time, because of the World Cup, the series is delayed by a month, with the first Test commencing on Thursday at Edgbaston. This is peak summer in England and conditions are expected to be batting-friendly. The fourth and fifth Tests will be played in September though, at the break of autumn, when there's more nip in the air. Last time when an Ashes Test was played in September, in 2005, Michael Vaughan's England regained the urn, defeating Ricky Ponting's Australia.

World Test Championship

The Ashes also marks the beginning of the World Test Championship (WTC), which adds extra significance to the series. This is part of a two-year cycle, when nine teams will vie for the top two spots reserved for the finalists. The WTC final will be played at Lord's in June 2021. To start with, both England and Australia have 120 points to play



Jimmy Anderson returns to lead the England attack while Jofra Archer sits out the first Test. Reuters

for in this series and a Test win will secure 24 points. Also, after the ICC's changed approach to slow over rates, a team will lose two points for every over they are short of.

A la short form

For the first time in Test cricket, players will have their names and numbers on the back of their shirts. Both sets of players, by and large, have decided to stick to their limited-overs shirt numbers. For example, England captain Joe Root will wear No. 66. Back in March this year, the ICC decided to bring on shirt numbers in Tests as a "wider plan to promote Test cricket".

Blaster at the top

The 29-year-old Surrey man was

England's X-factor at the World Cup, with 443 runs from eight matches. On his Test debut against Ireland last week, Roy, however, had a rude awakening, when he looked clueless against the moving ball in the first innings. But on a difficult Lord's pitch, Roy bounced back to score 72 in his second dig. A lot will depend on how the opener fares against the Aussies. Geoffrey Boycott has already slammed the England top order in his Telegraph (London) column.

Pattinson on the prowl

The injury-prone Australian fast bowler is back into the Test fold after a three-year hiatus. A recurring lower-back problem hampered his career, but the 29-year-old appears to be in fine fettle at the moment. A tally of 11 wickets in his last two matches has made Pattinson almost an automatic choice for the first Test.

Archer has to wait

Jofra Archer's eagerly-anticipated Test debut will be deferred, as he is still recovering from a side strain. Archer against Australia's comeback duo of David Warner and Steve Smith - Cameron Bancroft, too, has returned after serving the ban - could have been mouthwatering. But fans will have to wait till the second Test at Lord's.

A different ball game

It's a different challenge for the batsmen when a red Dukes is in operation in England. Unlike the Kookaburra, it swings all day. Unlike the SG Test, it doesn't lose its shape after 30-odd overs. England fast bowling great Jimmy Anderson is arguably the finest operator of a red Dukes, as his 368 wickets at 23.76 in 83 home Tests would attest. But Australia, too, have a strong pace attack at their disposal.

BRIEFLY

Lanka thrash Bangla for ODI clean sweep

Colombo: Angelo Mathews scored 87 runs on Wednesday to inspire Sri Lanka to its first ODI series sweep in more than three years, defeating Bangladesh by 122 runs in the third and final match. Sri Lanka's last sweep was a 2-0 series win at in Ireland in June 2016. Choosing to bat after winning the toss, Sri Lanka made 294 for eight in 50 overs, riding on the innings of Mathews. He was well backed by Kusal Mendis who made 54. Captain Dimuth Karunaratne (46) and Kusal Perera (42) also made useful contributions. Fast-medium bowler Soumya Sarkar took three for 56 while Shafiqul Islam had three for 68 for Bangladesh. Sarkar also shone with the bat, top scoring with 69 runs, but a dismal show from the other batsmen resulted in Bangladesh being dismissed for 172 runs with 14 overs to spare. In-form Mushfiqur Rahim, who made two half-centuries in the series including an unbeaten 98 in the second match, was out for 10 caught at slip by Mendis off seamer Shanaka. With wickets falling regularly, Bangladesh was never in the game thereafter. Shanaka took three for 27 while Lahiru Kumara and Rajitha took two wickets apiece. **Brief scores:** Sri Lanka 294/8 in 50 overs (Mathews 87, Kusal Mendis 54; Sarkar 3/56, Shafiqul Islam 3/68) beat Bangladesh 172 all out in 36 overs (Sarkar 69; Shanaka 3/27) by 122 runs **PTI**

CAB yet to adopt new constitution

Kolkata: The Cricket Association of Bengal's general body meeting on Wednesday ended in a stalemate, as the members decided to wait till the next Supreme Court hearing, scheduled on August 8, before adopting the new constitution, fully compliant with the Lodha reforms. Incorporating former international cricketers from the state as voting members of the association, as directed by the Committee of Administrators, in accordance with the Lodha Committee recommendation, is yet to be agreed upon unanimously by the CAB members. On Wednesday, it was an item on the agenda and the house decided to follow the CoA direction subject to the August 8 hearing. "We will give them (ex-international cricketers) voting rights if the court doesn't change (amend) the verdict. After this, we will be fully Lodha compliant," association president Sourav Ganguly told reporters after the SGM. **ENS**

Nash, forever linked with Sobers, dies

London: Malcolm Nash, the Glamorgan bowler who entered cricket folklore when Garfield Sobers struck him for six sixes in an over, has died at the age of 74. Nash's name was forever linked with that of Sobers after the West Indies star went on the attack during a County Championship match between Glamorgan and Nottinghamshire at Swansea in 1968. It was the first time any batsman had hit six sixes in an over in first-class cricket. The first five balls were dispatched cleanly by the West Indian and the sixth was carried over the ropes by a fielder. Nash, a left-arm, took 993 first-class wickets between 1966 and 1983, while also scoring 7,129 runs and holding 148 catches. "Malcolm was a true Glamorgan legend whose exploits have gone down in club folklore," chief executive Hugh Morris said. "His name is connected with that of Garry Sobers... but he was a fantastic cricketer who was an integral part of the club's history and the side that lifted the County Championship in 1969." **AFP**

Kohli's opinion on coach need not count, says Gaekwad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

THE KAPIL DEV-LED Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) tasked to appoint new head coach will not be prejudiced, former India coach and member of the panel Anshuman Gaekwad said on Wednesday. The Kapil Dev-led committee which also has Shantha Rangaswamy as the third member will conduct interviews as the deadline for filing the applications for the head coach and support staff got over on Tuesday.

Incumbent Ravi Shastri, who was given a 45-day extension after their contract expired at the end of the World Cup 2019, has already got the backing of skipper Virat Kohli who said the team would be happy if the former India allrounder continues.

"There's no question of what Kohli says or anybody says," Gaekwad told PTI, pointing out that the same committee did not consult anyone while appointing WV Raman as India women's coach last year despite a lot of controversy. "If you remember the appointment of women's coach, there was a lot of controversy. But we didn't take anyone's opinion," the former India batsman and coach said.

"See, whatever (Virat) Kohli or (Ravi) Shastri may say, we have to adhere to BCCI. He was asked about his preference (at the press conference) and Kohli gave his preference for Ravi Shastri. We have nothing to do with that. We are neutral and we would go with an open mind," the 66-year-old said.

He said the three committee members are awaiting the BCCI guidelines on coach selection as they are yet to discuss the matter among themselves.

"We will act as per the guidelines. We are waiting for that. I have been a coach in the past so too was Kapil. The important thing is man-management, planning, and technical expertise," he said.

"These three things are most important for a coach to succeed. The Indian team is doing well. But to get them to do better these are the three things. There are a lot of things. But these are the main things. We the committee are yet to talk within ourselves. We have no idea when we're meeting. So, just wait and watch," the former India opener added.

Asked about his comments in the media that Shastri has "done well", Gaekwad said: "Everyone has seen our performance and what happened in the World Cup.

"As a CAC member now, I do not want to give any opinion. At this juncture, I would not like to court anymore controversy by commenting about their show," he said.

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly on Wednesday said as the leader of the team Virat Kohli has got every right to voice his opinion in the coach selection process.

"He is the captain. He has got every right to say," Ganguly said referring Kohli's comment at the pre-departure media interaction in Mumbai on Monday.

Ganguly however refused to comment on Gaekwad's statements: "Every individual is different so I cannot comment."

Ganguly also spoke about the eight-month suspension handed to talented opener Prithvi Shaw for failing a dope test after the 19-year-old "inadvertently ingested a prohibited substance, which can be commonly found in cough syrups".

"A cough syrup can have different compositions. I don't know what exactly happened with Prithvi Shaw... I am not sure what exactly is the truth."

"See, whatever (Virat) Kohli or (Ravi) Shastri may say, we have to adhere to BCCI. He was asked about his preference (at the press conference) and Kohli gave his preference for Ravi Shastri. We have nothing to do with that. We are neutral and we would go with an open mind."

ANSHUMAN GAEKWAD

Test that may not crown the best

World Test championship expected to re-energise five-day game but format doesn't guarantee best team will emerge the winner



The World Test championship will see the top-nine teams play 71 Tests over two years but the format has its inherent flaws.

VISHAL MENON
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

THE KEENLY-ANTICIPATED Ashes begins at Edgbaston on Thursday. This historic duel also marks the start of the International Cricket Council's (ICC) World Test championship, an initiative to make the longest format of the game more relevant. Nine Test teams will participate in a total of 71 matches spread across 27 series over the next two years. The two teams with the most points, accrued from every single game, will then square off in the final at Lord's in June 2021.

The concept bodes well for Test cricket, which has spent most of its recent years in existential angst. From now on, every bilateral series will have context, and with points up for grabs, there won't be dead rubbers and the often-heard cliché 'playing for pride' will be a thing of the past. Former Australia captain Steve Waugh, who led his country to 16 consecutive Test victories between 1999 to 2001, said this was just the kind of dose that Test cricket so desperately needed.

"Test cricket really needs this... I played for 18 years and people said we were the No. 1 Test team in the world, but I think unless you hold up a trophy or you can get to that final then you're not really sure," he said.

But if one thinks that the team holding the trophy in London two years from now can be called the undisputed champions in Test cricket, then one may have doubts.

Faulty format

The WTC has its flaws. At the core is the contentious format. Instead of having a round-robin tournament, where each of the nine teams play each other once, teams will play six opponents — three home and three away. In such a scenario, luck could play a bigger factor than skill in a team's fortunes. For example, Sri Lanka do not play Australia and India in the WTC schedule, while New Zealand play against everyone except England and South Africa. Australia, on the other hand, have their task cut out, as they don't play Sri Lanka and West Indies — two relatively lower-ranked teams.

If eyebrows are raised, it's due to the fact that the series comprising the WTC are finalised bilaterally. In other words, the teams decide amongst themselves against whom they want to play. It explains why there is no India-Pakistan series inked in.

In theory, this seems an equitable system but as in most things in life, the big guys have more leverage and a bigger say. The Big Three — India, Australia and England — would not like

England play 22 Tests, Pak and SL just 13

		A W A Y									
		IND	NZ	SA	ENG	AUS	SL	PAK	WI	BAN	TOTAL (HOME)
HOME	1. IND	—	—	3 (19)	5 (21)	—	—	—	—	2 (19)	10
	2. NZ	2 (20)	—	—	—	—	—	2 (20-21)	3 (20-21)	—	7
	3. SA	—	—	—	4 (20-21)	3 (21)	2 (20-21)	—	—	—	9
	4. ENG	—	—	—	—	5 (19)	—	3 (20-21)	3 (20-21)	—	11
	5. AUS	4 (20-21)	3 (19-20)	—	—	—	—	2 (19-20)	—	—	9
	6. SL	—	2 (20-21)	—	2 (20-21)	—	—	—	—	3 (20-21)	7
	7. PAK	—	—	2 (20-21)	—	—	2 (20-21)	—	—	2 (20-21)	6
	8. WI	2 (19)	—	2 (20-21)	—	—	2 (20-21)	—	—	—	6
	9. BAN	—	2 (20-21)	—	—	2 (20)	—	—	3 (20-21)	—	7
TOTAL (AWAY)		8	7	7	11	10	6	7	9	7	

* The teams in the graph have been placed according to their latest ICC rankings.
^ This is only the schedule of the World Test championship, not the full FTP. For example, England will play two Tests against New Zealand later this year, but that is not part of the Test Championship.

to miss out on lucrative series among themselves which could bring in more gate money and television rights money. TV rights for all the series in the WTC rest with the host Board, with the ICC having the rights for the final.

At present, the Ashes and India-England are the only two series to be contested over five Tests.

With the kind of sponsorships and revenue at stake, there's little chance that the respective boards would do anything to dilute or truncate such big-ticket encounters.

However, the system also allows teams like New Zealand, West Indies, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh to use it to their benefit, by setting up series where their potential weaknesses (mostly away from home) are not totally exposed while they can capitalise on the home advantage.

Bangladesh, for example will host New Zealand, Australia and West Indies — teams which have a history of struggling against quality spin — and play India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka away, where they may not be confronted with totally alien conditions. Such teams will feature in several two-match series, look to play smart and collect maximum points.

What's the point?

Another contentious aspect is points distribution. While each team plays against six others from the pool of nine (each series has 120 points up for grabs), there's considerable disparity in the number of matches played. Sample this: England play 22 Tests in this two-year period, the most for any team, while Pakistan and Sri Lanka, with 13 Tests, play the fewest. Since all teams will not play the same number of matches (teams play a minimum of two-match series and a maximum of five-match series), the ICC has devised this points system that will give some inherent benefit to lower-ranked teams, who will be playing fewer matches.

Doing away with gold standard

Over the years, winning series in alien conditions was considered the mark of a quality side. West Indies in their pomp, Australia, South Africa and, of late, India earned respect by doing well overseas. But the WTC will treat all series victories equally — whether home or away. For example, Australia will earn the same number of points (120) if they defeat England 5-0 in

their own backyard in the upcoming Ashes as they would if they blank Pakistan in the two-match Test series at home later this year.

Despite the ICC's best intentions, these are some of the teething issues that cannot be brushed aside. The team that wins this championship will earn the plaudits no doubt, but that will not be the true indicator of its prowess in the game's longest format. Meanwhile, the ICC Test rankings, which allocate points for every series, will continue to do so independent of the WTC with the No.1 team on April 1 holding the Test mace and a purse.

Poor pitch will cost points

The ICC has introduced some new rules that will come into force once the World Test Championship gets underway.

The captain and all his players will be fined equally for a slow over rate and more importantly, two points will also be deducted from the competition points tally of a team for every over they have fallen short of, as adjudicated by the match referee.

That apart, if a pitch or playing conditions are deemed unfit for the game, the points for a win will be awarded to the visiting team.

CERTAINLY NOT A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD

IND: PITTED AGAINST THE BEST
The No.1 Test team, India, will have to be their best to make it to play the Championship final. Though they don't play their arch-rivals Pakistan, but they will be facing the top-teams South Africa, Australia and England in the next two years. Their duel against a relatively lower-rung team like Bangladesh at home too wouldn't be a cakewalk.

NZ: CHALLENGING SCHEDULE
Not playing England and South Africa, two teams who have traditionally had the wood on New Zealand in recent times will surely help their cause. However, Sri Lanka away will remain a tough outing. Equally tough will be the away series against Australia and the home sojourn against India next year.

AUS: NO EASY OUTING
They squaring off against all the top-ranked teams. They kick off with the Ashes campaign and then follow it up with competitive home series against Pakistan and New Zealand. It's quite a relentless assault as they finish off with a home series against India and the tour to South Africa in March 2021. Even Bangladesh away will not be an easy team to ward off.

ENG: MOST TESTED TEAM
With 22 Tests, England play the most number of matches in this two-year cycle. Even though, they have held fort at home, it's the crucial away tours like the series against Sri Lanka next year and the big-ticket 5-match series against India in March 2021 that will decide their fortunes. Before that, however, they need to begin in earnest against Australia in the Ashes.

SA: HEAVY-DUTY CLASHES
From facing India on their dust bowls, to welcoming the rampant Englishmen on Centurion's green top, South Africa have a bevy of heavy-duty clashes lined up. Even quelling teams like Pakistan and West Indies in their away tours next year, can prove to be an arduous task.

SL: RELATIVELY EASY SCHEDULE
Such is the format of the World Test championship that Sri Lanka can possibly progress without facing India and Australia, arguably the two toughest teams. Despite a string of indifferent performances in recent times, they will still be quite a handful on their slow, sluggish tracks back home.

PAK: AWAY CHALLENGE
With 13 Tests, Pakistan and Sri Lanka play the least number of Tests in this period. They wouldn't be playing India but they do face tough away series against Australia, England and New Zealand. At home, they play Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

B'DESH: FEW HIGH HURDLES
They don't play England and South Africa, but the No.9 ranked team can at best be termed as party-poopers. Like Sri Lanka, they can be quite a handful on the turners back home. Bolstered with a new coaching staff, Bangladesh begin their campaign with the away series against India.

[SPORTS BAR]



Liverpool nominations crowd FIFA award

Liverpool coach Jurgen Klopp and three players — Mohamed Salah, Sadio Mane and Virgil van Dijk — headed nominations released Wednesday for the FIFA Best awards that will be presented in Milan on September 23. Klopp led Liverpool, and that vital trio of players, to the Champions League trophy and also second place to Manchester City in the Premier League. Juventus' Cristiano Ronaldo and Barcelona's Lionel Messi also make the shortlist for the men's award along with PSG's Kylian Mbappe, Tottenham's Harry Kane, Belgian Eden Hazard and Dutch duo Frenkie de Jong and Matthijs de Ligt. American Alex Morgan and coach Jill Ellis will be favourites for the female player and women's coach awards after spearheading the USA to the women's World Cup title in France last month.

Weightlifting tops dope chart, athletics second

Weightlifting contributed 41 dope positive cases in 2018-19 to become the dirtiest major sport in the country, followed by athletics at 18 as 187 sportspersons flunked dope tests during the year. In the Annual Report released by the National Anti-doping Agency on Wednesday, bodybuilding produced 60 dope positive cases but it was weightlifting which leads the chart among olympic sports. Powerlifting contributed 13 while Kabaddi produced five dope violations. Wrestling (6), judo (5), cycling (3), archery (2), boxing (2), shooting (2), tennis (2), golf (2), hockey (1), swimming (1), and football (1) are the other major sports which had dope positive results.

Solanki, Jangra enter quarterfinals

Commonwealth Games medal winners Gaurav Solanki (56kg) and Pinki Jangra (51kg) claimed comfortable victories to enter the quarterfinals of the Magomed Salam Umakhanov Memorial International Boxing Tournament in Kaspysk, Russia. Also making the last-eight stage was Neeraj (57kg) in the women's draw of the event which is into its 21st edition this year. Solanki, who won a gold at the Gold Coast CWG last year, defeated Russia's Murad Rabadanov 5-0, while 2014 CWG bronze-winner Jangra got the better of Belarus' Burim Yana by a similar margin.



Ponnappa and Rankireddy beat the Olympic silver medallists. File

Big win for Ashwini-Satwiksairaj

India's mixed doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Ashwini Ponnappa on Wednesday recorded one of the biggest wins of their career, stunning Olympic silver medallists Chan Peng Soon and Goh Liu Ying in the first round of Thailand Open. The unseeded Indian pair battled for one hour and two minutes to get past the fifth seeded Malaysian pair of Soon and Ying 21-18 21-17. It is only the second time that world number 23 Ponnappa and Rankireddy got the better of Soon and Ying, ranked 5th in the world. The Indian pair had defeated their Malaysian opponents in the mixed team event of Gold Coast Commonwealth Games last year. Ponnappa and Rankireddy will play Indonesia's Alfian Eko Prasetya and Marheilla Gischa Islami in the second round. Fifth seed Kidambi Srikanth was made to toil hard for one hour and seven minutes by Chinese qualifier Ren Peng Bo before the Indian came out victorious 21-13 17-21 21-19. Saina Nehwal returned to the court in style, registering a straight-game win over local hope Phittayaporn Chaiwan, to sail into the women's singles second round.

India U19 team suffers second loss

The India U-19 team suffered its second consecutive defeat in the Tri Nation 50-over tournament, losing to Bangladesh by two wickets in Billerica. Bangladesh U-19 won the rain-curtailed match under the Duckworth/Lewis method on Tuesday. Sent into bat in a match that was reduced to 36 overs per side, India posted a competitive 221 for five but their opponents, chasing 218 in 32 overs under the D/L method, completed the task with three balls to spare. For India U-19, skipper Dhruv Jurel top-scored with 70 off 66 balls, while Pragmesh Kanpillewar contributed 53 off 69 deliveries. apiece.

Captaincy came as a surprise: Harmanpreet

The captaincy announcement came as a surprise to him but India drag-flicker Harmanpreet Singh said on Wednesday he is up for the challenge in the upcoming Olympic Test event. In the absence of regular skipper Manpreet Singh, who has been rested along with a few senior players, Harmanpreet will wear the captain's armband in the Test event involving India, Malaysia, New Zealand and hosts Japan. The tournament starts on August 17. "When I was told that I would be leading the team, it was a pleasant surprise. It is an honour and big responsibility."



Mattek-Sands beats Venus Williams

Bethanie Mattek-Sands, playing her first WTA singles match since the Australian Open, rallied to beat Venus Williams 6-7 (4/7) 6-3 6-1 in the hardcourt tennis tournament in San Jose, California. Mattek-Sands, 34, notched her first singles match win in more than a year — since a first-round victory at the 2018 French Open. She dropped her serve to open the third set on Tuesday, but won the final six games to set up a second-round clash with Spain's eighth-seeded Carla Suarez Navarro. "I'm in for another match, so I'm pumped," said Mattek-Sands, who like seven-time Grand Slam champion Williams received a wild card into the draw. Mattek-Sands was sidelined for more than a year after suffering a ruptured Patella tendon and dislocated kneecap at Wimbledon in 2017.

'Parity prevails without Semenya'

IAAF welcomes Swiss court's decision to stop athlete from competing at Worlds in 800m

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
PARIS, JULY 31

A SWISS court ruling that blocks South African Caster Semenya from defending her world 800m title in Doha in September creates much-needed "parity and clarity" in athletics, the sport's governing body said Wednesday.

A judge at the Swiss Federal Tribunal on Monday revoked a temporary suspension on the IAAF's controversial testosterone-curb rules, meaning two-time Olympic champion Semenya can no longer compete in events between the 400m and mile, as she did in June and July.

"The IAAF welcomes the Swiss Federal Tribunal's decision today to revoke its Super-Provisional Order of 31 May 2019 after hearing the IAAF's arguments," the International Association of Athletics Federations said after the judge's ruling was made public Wednesday.

"This decision creates much-needed parity and clarity for all athletes as they prepare for the World Championships in Doha this September." Semenya had appealed to the Swiss court in May after failing to get the new IAAF regulations overturned by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

The IAAF added that it would maintain its position in the remainder of proceedings at the Swiss Federal Tribunal that "there are some contexts, sport being one of them, where biology has to trump gender identity, which is why the IAAF believes (and the CAS agreed) that the DSD (differences of sexual development) regulations are a necessary, reasonable and proportionate means of protecting fair and meaningful competition in elite female athletics".

Semenya is classified as a woman, was raised as a woman and races as a woman.

But for the IAAF, women like Semenya, with certain masculine attributes due to DSD, are classified, biologically, as men.

It is a position hotly contested by South African officials. In the build-up to the 2009 world championships in Berlin, where



Caster Semenya had appealed to the Swiss court in May after failing to get the new IAAF regulations overturned by CAS. Reuters

Semenya went on to win gold in the 800m, the South African had to undergo gender verification testing to confirm her eligibility to compete in the women's category.

She was subsequently put on medication to reduce her testosterone levels, spending six months sidelined by the IAAF.

Semenya, born with the "46XY" chromosome rather than the XX chromosome most females have, described the experience as like that of being treated like a "human guinea pig" and vowed never to again allow the IAAF to enforce medication upon her in order to compete.

The Swiss Federal Tribunal, in its ruling released Wednesday, was also not optimistic for Semenya's ongoing appeal. It concluded "in a first summary examination, that Caster

Semenya's appeal does not appear with high probability to be well founded".

"The CAS, after thoroughly evaluating the expert evidence, found that the '46 XY DSD' characteristic has a direct impact on performance in sport, which could never be achieved by other women," the tribunal said.

"Thus, with the participation of a female athlete with '46 XY DSD' in the 'protected class women', a basic principle of top-class sports, namely fair competition, is disregarded from the outset."

Semenya on Tuesday expressed her disappointment at being ruled out of defending her title, adding: "This will not deter me from continuing my fight for the human rights of all of the female athletes concerned."

ITF security checks stringent: AITA assures Davis Cup players

SHAHID JUDGE
MUMBAI, JULY 31

SHORTLY AFTER the All India Tennis Association (AITA) confirmed India's participation in the upcoming zonal Davis Cup tie in Pakistan last week, the team's non-playing captain Mahesh Bhupathi is said to have written to the AITA citing security concerns among players. The governing body's secretary general however, asserts that the International Tennis Federation's (ITF) recent survey of the venue in Islamabad, which produced satisfactory results in terms of the host nation's security arrangements, will be sufficient for the travelling Indian team.

"The ITF requires many provisions for security and it's all there in the Davis Cup manual," explains Hironmoy Chatterjee, AITA secretary general. "It's a world-wide scenario. Their rules are very stringent and they check every venue. Only after that will they clear a tie. So those checks are good."

Following a two-day inspection in Islamabad last week, the two-man ITF team asserted their approval of the arrangements made for the tie.

"It is a normal routine for high profile Davis Cup ties and the one between Pakistan and India is not an ordinary one," said ITF official Richard Gallagher to Pakistani newspaper 'The News'. His colleague Giles Robbins added: "We have visited all the places where the Indian team is to spend time. Since Pakistan has hosted a good number of ties in Islamabad, I believe the plan of the (Indian) team's stay has been well prepared. We as security experts are satisfied with the arrangements." After the AITA confirmed India's participation, Bhupathi had written to the AITA highlighting concerns from the players.

"Mahesh wrote a mail to me a few days back asking if security arrangements were made," he says. "It was a simple matter of a captain writing to his association general secretary. That's all."

In terms of the players' concerns, Chatterjee asserted that none were made from the players themselves.

"When the AITA approached them to check their availability for the tie, they all said they were good to go, except Sumit Nagal who has an ankle



Mahesh Bhupathi had written to AITA asking if security arrangements were made in Islamabad, where India are scheduled to play in a Davis Cup tie. Express

injury," Chatterjee says.

The five-man team, in the absence of Nagal, likely to be picked based on their respective world rank includes Prajnesh Gunneswaran (90), Ramkumar Ramanathan (182) and Saketh Myneni (264), along with doubles specialists Rohan Bopanna (45) and Divij Sharan (46).

Ever since the draw was made back in February, India's participation in the tie has been a doubt, especially after the Pulwama terror attacks led to another political stand-off between the two neighbouring countries. The sports ministry however, gave the AITA a go-ahead for the tie.

"We come under the sports ministry, and we have checked with them about going. They gave us the clearance so that's fine for us," Chatterjee adds.

CAS revokes CAF's decision to replay African Champions League final

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
PARIS, JULY 31

THE COURT of Arbitration for Sport on Wednesday overruled an African Football Confederation decision to replay the abandoned Champions League final between Esperance and Wydad Casablanca.

CAF last month ordered the second leg to be replayed at a neutral venue following the Africa Cup of Nations after Moroccan side Wydad walked off an hour into the return fixture in Tunis when a VAR malfunction meant a disallowed equaliser could not be reviewed.

Tunisia's Esperance, who led 2-1 overall at the time, were initially handed the title, but CAF later backtracked after determining that "play-

ing and security conditions were not met". Both clubs subsequently lodged appeals with CAS.

But CAS on Wednesday ruled that the executive committee of CAF "did not have jurisdiction" to order that the game be replayed.

CAS said it was now up to "competent CAF authorities", without giving further details, to "order the appropriate disciplinary sanctions, if any, and accordingly to decide whether the second leg... shall be replayed or not".

Requests by Wydad to be named champions and granted the winners' paycheck were rejected, with CAS adding that Esperance's appeal would be investigated at a later date.

The on-field fiasco prompted CAF to reduce both the Champions League and Confederation Cup finals from two legs to one match at a neutral venue from next season.

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RACING TOWARDS NEW MILESTONES.

Statement of Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results for the quarter ended June 30, 2019. (₹ in Crore)

Particulars	Standalone			Consolidated		
	Quarter ended June 30, 2019	Quarter ended June 30, 2018	Year ended March 31, 2019	Quarter ended June 30, 2019	Quarter ended June 30, 2018	Year ended March 31, 2019
	Un-Audited	Un-Audited	Audited	Un-Audited	Un-Audited	Audited
1. Total Income	8,249.10	8,925.55	34,341.79	8,410.41	9,030.52	34,658.96
2. Net Profit for the period before tax (before Exceptional item #)	1,136.35	1,342.74	5,010.73	1,152.41	1,363.22	5,104.30
3. Net Profit for the period before tax (after Exceptional item #)	1,873.83	1,342.74	5,010.73	1,889.89	1,363.22	5,104.30
4. Net Profit for the period after tax (after Exceptional item #)	1,257.34	909.17	3,384.87	1,256.69	924.74	3,466.35
5. Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	1,249.49	905.99	3,367.06	1,244.98	924.44	3,451.37
6. Equity Share Capital (face value ₹2/- per share)	39.95	39.94	39.95	39.95	39.94	39.95
7. Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	-	-	12,817.17	-	-	13,080.46
8. Earnings per share on net profit after tax - face value ₹2/- each (in Rupees)						
a) Basic	62.95	45.52	169.48	62.92	46.30	172.45
b) Diluted	62.95	45.52	169.47	62.92	46.30	172.44
# Refer note 2 for Exceptional Item						

Notes:-

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results is available on the Company's website www.heromotocorp.com and also on stock exchange websites, www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com
- The Company had deposited and created provision for "National Calamity Contingent Duty" ("NCCD") including applicable cess in its Haridwar plant during prior years, while contesting the same on the ground that NCCD is in nature of excise duty and should be covered by Area based exemption. Pursuant to favourable order from Hon'ble Supreme Court, the provision of ₹737.48 crore has been reversed as exceptional item in the current quarter and necessary refund applications already filed with the department.
- With effect from April 1, 2019, the Company has adopted IND AS-116 using the modified simplified approach and accordingly previous period information has not been reinstated. Under this approach, the Company has recognised lease liabilities and corresponding equivalent right-of-use assets. In the statement of profit and loss for the current quarter, operating lease expenses which were recognised as other expenses in previous periods is now recognised as depreciation expense for the right-of-use asset and finance cost for interest accrued on lease liability. The application of IND AS-116 did not have any significant impact in the financial results of the Company.
- Based on the guiding principles given in Ind AS-108 on 'Operating Segments', the Company's business activity fall within a single operating segment, namely automotive segment. Accordingly, the disclosure requirements of Ind AS 108 are not applicable.
- The above results for the quarter ended June 30, 2019 have been reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee meeting held on July 29, 2019 and approved by the Board of Directors in their meeting held on July 30, 2019.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors

PAWAN MUNJAL
Chairman, Managing Director & CEO
DIN: 0004223

New Delhi
30/07/2019

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