



Relief material being distributed in a flood-hit area of Sangli, in Maharashtra, on Sunday. The toll has gone up to 40 in Maharashtra, 40 in Karnataka and 27 in Gujarat. **PTI**

KERALA TOLL CLIMBS TO 72

Under a hill that flattened, they stepped out, their neighbourhood was gone

VISHNU VARMA & SHAJU PHILIP
KAVALAPPARA (MALAPPURAM), THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, AUGUST 11

AROUND 8 PM Thursday, when Thankamani heard a booming sound, she knew the hill was coming down. Seconds later, mud, trees and boulders swept down along the two sides of her

home. All night, she held on to her husband Velayudhan, as torrential rain pounded their village. On Friday morning, she stepped out. The neighborhood of around a dozen homes had disappeared. The landslide had wiped out everything — except for her home, a small temple and a clump of arecanut trees in the centre. All around were layers of muddy, brown soil. By Sunday, 50 people remained missing from



Rescue operations at the site of a landslide in Puthumala at Wayanad, Kerala. **Express**

Kavalappara in Kerala's Malappuram district, and 13 bodies had been retrieved by rescuers, including teams from National Disaster Response Force, Madras Regiment and state government, and local volunteers. "Everyone thought we were dead. We didn't think we would survive, either. If we were dying anyway, I wanted us to go together. But God saved us," said Thankamani, 49.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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I-T attaches Rs 300-crore Delhi bungalow linked to Kamal Nath's nephew

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 11

THE BENAMI Prohibition Unit of the Income Tax Department has provisionally attached a bungalow worth Rs 300 crore in Lutyens' Delhi and FDI of \$40 million as part of its investigation against Ratul Puri, nephew of Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath, and his father Deepak Puri, officials said Sunday.

The bungalow at 27A, APJ Abdul Kalam Road, attached under section 24(3) of the Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions Act, 1988, is registered in the name of Ramaa Advisors Pvt Ltd, a Moser Baer group company, officials said. The tax department claimed it was purchased utilising FDI of \$3 million from a British Virgin Islands-based shell company, Bronson Financial Inc, on a long-term basis for the purpose of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

THE GOVERNANCE PAGE



IN AKOLA, NOVEL EXPERIMENT TO TWEAK DIRECT BENEFIT TRANSFER

PAGE 12

FINGERS CROSSED FOR EID IN JAMMU & KASHMIR

Some easing of lockdown but curfew back in Srinagar

Srinagar DM meets Imams, administration lists 300 phone booths, delivery of vegetables

ADIL AKHZER & ARUN SHARMA
SRINAGAR, JAMMU, AUGUST 11

ON THE eve of Eid, even as the administration listed several measures taken to restore normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), curfew was re-imposed in Srinagar on Sunday afternoon.

Prohibitory orders were relaxed on Friday for the first time since the security lockdown, following the government's decision to revoke the state's special status and bifurcate it into two Union Territories. On Sunday morning, there was some movement of private vehicles and vendors set up bakery stalls along the streets of Srinagar city. Queues could be seen outside the ATMs that were working.

But by afternoon, J&K Police vehicles were seen driving around parts of Srinagar, announcing that curfew had been re-imposed, and asking people to return home. "Apne gharun main wapis jayein. Curfew doobara se nafiz huwa hai (Go back to your homes, curfew has been re-imposed)," they announced.

There was no official statement on why the restrictions were back in place.

Huge deployment of security forces, concertina wires and barricades were back on the roads

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

J&K AND THE WORLD

BY CRAJA MOHAN
PAGE 10



A locked Jamia Masjid, ahead of Eid, in Srinagar Sunday. **Reuters**

EXPLAINED Crucial week in the Valley

KEEPING BANKS open to door delivery of essential items, the government says these will bring normalcy back in the Valley. But strict curbs on movement and communication are still in place. Eid and August 15 will test how the lockdown plays out given the distrust on the ground.

BJP's favoured face Sajad Lone detained, his wife despairs of road ahead

MUZAMIL JALEEL
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 11



Lone had opposed decision on J&K

PEOPLES CONFERENCE chief Sajad Lone who, until recently was a close ally of the ruling BJP in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), and has been detained as part of the crackdown in the Valley in the wake of the abrogation of the state's special status and downgrade to a Union Territory, "will now have to do some tough and critical thinking on his future course of action," his wife Asma Khan Lone told *The Indian Express*.

Sajad Lone is detained at the Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre in Srinagar.

"The changes have impacted the core of our indigenous con-

sciousness and I'm sure his decision will be in keeping with the demand of the situation, **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

India, China foreign ministers to meet today

SHUBHAJITROY
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 11

DAYS AFTER China objected to India's decision to bifurcate Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and set up a separate Union Territory of Ladakh, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will meet Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Beijing on Monday.

Sources told *The Indian Express* that if Beijing raises the J&K issue, the Indian side will be very categorical in its response that it is an internal matter. Jaishankar's visit was scheduled before the government announced its decision on J&K.

Jaishankar arrived in Beijing on Sunday, days after Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi travelled to Beijing, on August 9, to garner China's support for Islamabad's bid to take New Delhi's decision to revoke J&K's

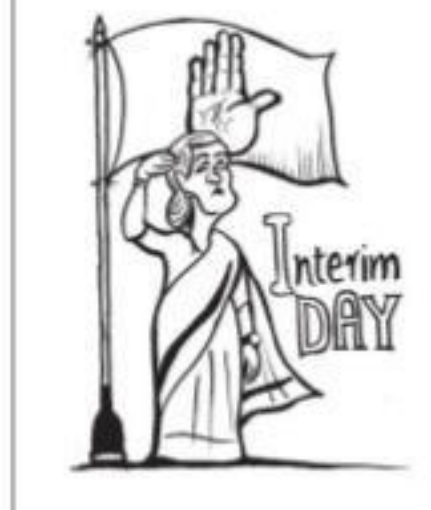
special status to the UN Security Council.

An official statement issued by the Chinese Foreign Ministry after Wang's talks with Qureshi identified both India and Pakistan as "friendly neighbours" and urged the two countries to resolve the Kashmir issue through UN resolutions and "bilateral agreement". There was no reference in the statement to China's response to Pakistan's decision to approach the UNSC.

Last week, China objected to the formation of Ladakh as a Union Territory, saying it undermined its territorial sovereignty. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



THE CITY

METRO EMPLOYEE LIVESTREAMS SUICIDE, FRIEND CALLS POLICE
SC PANEL FLAGS LAND SCHEME SCAM
PAGES 3, 5

At 92, key face in Ayodhya case is a trusted voice of many govts

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 11



K Parasaran is appearing in Ayodhya case for Ramlalla

LAST WEEK, a Supreme Court bench led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi made an unusual offer to the lawyer representing Ramlalla, the infant deity, in the Ayodhya land dispute case. "Do you want to sit and argue?" it asked.

"It's okay, Your Lordships are too kind. The tradition of the Bar has been to stand and argue, and I am concerned about the tradition," the lawyer replied.

That exchange sums up what K Parasaran, 92 years old, is all about.

Since 2016, Parasaran's appearances in court have been rare. But then, two big cases have brought the veteran senior lawyer and former two-time Attorney General of India back from Chennai to Delhi — the Sabarimala case and now, the

Ayodhya dispute. An erudite Hindu scholar and a quintessential government lawyer, Parasaran has enjoyed the trust of every administration since the 1970s. His courtroom orations are often lectures in Hindu scriptures. So much so, that Supreme Court judge and former chief justice of Madras High Court Sanjay Kishan Kaul referred to Parasaran as the "Pitamaha of the India Bar for his contribution to the law without compromising with his dharma".

In the Sabarimala case, Parasaran appeared for the Nair Service Society to defend the ban on the entry of menstruating women in the temple. His argument was that the court is asking the wrong question to begin

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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WEB EXCLUSIVE
OVERWHELMED BY FIRST FLOOD IN 50 YRS, NILAMBUR TRIES TO PICK UP PIECES

OVERWHELMED BY FIRST FLOOD IN 50 YRS, NILAMBUR TRIES TO PICK UP PIECES

The town, hidden in the Nilgiri range of the Western Ghats and loved by the British for its beauty and more so for its abundance of teak and rosewood trees, has been left broken by the floods, its shops and commercial establishments plundered and its people wanting for relief

VIDEO OF THE DAY



SONIA GANDHI INTERIM CONGRESS PRESIDENT

First challenge will be the Assembly elections in 3 states due this year

FULL COVERAGE



WITH UNABATED RAIN, MISERY CONTINUES

60 dead in Kerala; Amit Shah conducts aerial survey of Belagavi

EXPRESS AUDIO

Sonia Gandhi, NRC and Busting fake news on Whatsapp

In this episode of 3 Things, we look at why Sonia Gandhi was appointed as Congress' interim president, the sudden NRC hearings being conducted in Assam and how UP police is busting fake news on Whatsapp

Cong will not learn its lesson: Chouhan on Sonia as party chief

SAMPAD PATNAIK
BHUBANESWAR, AUGUST 11

A DAY after the Congress chose Sonia Gandhi as its interim president, BJP national vice-president and former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Sunday said the main opposition party is perpetuating dynastic politics.

"Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay, Atalji, Advaniji, Modiji, Amit Shahji. No one came from a family. But Congress will not learn its lesson. Or their leaders don't have the strength," he said at a press conference in Bhubaneswar. "Amar bel ki tarah ek parivar par chadhkar hum rajneeti karenge (Like a parasitic creeper, we will hang on to one family and do our politics). But that family has lost its charisma. The public has rejected them. It would be better for them to opt for a new leadership," Chouhan said.

The senior BJP leader was in Odisha on a two-day visit. At a time when the party is trying to boost its membership in the state, Chouhan renewed his party membership by enrolling from Khordha district.

Congress leader Narasingha Mishra hit back at Chouhan and the BJP: "I want to ask the ex-CM, have they been free of dynastic politics? Who is their mukhiya? Nagpur-based RSS. They dance to their tune. There are different types of dynastic control. Let them set their house in order first," he told reporters.



Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Chouhan also did not spare the BJD government. In the press conference, he said, "As per PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, every farmer should receive Rs 6,000 (per annum). I want to ask the Odisha CM why the farmers' list hasn't been given to the Centre? If you have given KALIA money, why not the Centre's funds?"

On the cooperation between the BJP and BJD after the Lok Sabha polls, he said, "BJP will on its own steam strengthen its organisation (in Odisha) and proceed forward. If there are certain issues of national interest, then we take everyone along. In the case of Article 370, we also explained our position to Congress and asked them to support us. If BJD gave a Raja Sabha seat or supported us on Article 370, we asked everyone for help. So whoever helped, we took it," he said.

Senior BJD leader Sashi Bhusan Behera responded, "He should consider how appropriate it is to interfere on matters about Odisha. The state government is managing KALIA scheme. KALIA scheme has been hailed by 15th Finance Commission and many agricultural economists."

FROM PAGE ONE

India, China

It also expressed "serious concern" about the current situation in the region and said "relevant sides need to exercise restraint and act prudently".

In response, the Ministry of External Affairs' official spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said, "India does not comment on the internal affairs of other countries and similarly expects other countries to do likewise." India has maintained that J&K is its integral part, and the issue is strictly internal to the country.

Jaishankar, who is the first Indian minister to tour China in the second term of the Narendra Modi government, will hold a bilateral meeting with Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi. The two ministers will also co-chair the second meeting of the High-Level Mechanism on Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges. The first meeting was held in New Delhi last year.

They are also scheduled to address the media at the closing ceremony of the 4th India-China High Level Media Forum, being organised by China Public Diplomacy Association, and attend a cultural gala being held by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chinese Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

Officials said Jaishankar's talks with Wang would cover a wide range of issues, including arrangements for President Xi Jinping's visit to India later this year for the second informal summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which is expected to set the tone for the bilateral ties between the two countries for the next five years.

Hill that flattened

The rains appear to have eased but the official death toll from this month's floods in Kerala, mainly in the northern districts of Malappuram and Wayanad, has risen to 72. Officials said as many as 2.51 lakh people from 73,076 families have been shifted to relief camps.

"Everyone is helpless before this tragedy," said State Minister K T Jaleel, who is overseeing rescue operations in Malappuram.

On the landslide in Kavalappara, he said: "Bodies are buried 50 feet down as earth from the hill has levelled an entire valley of habitation. The rescue teams have to dig deep to reach each house. Today, we searched the upper side of the valley, where we spotted houses under a few feet."

In the village, debris can be seen as far as half-a-kilometre ahead, burying acres of arecanut plantations. The concrete road leading to Thankamani's house has disappeared.

"We were rescued with great difficulty by some men who came from the other side of a rivulet looking for survivors. When they called out, I shouted back. Somehow, we made it. But I couldn't take my goats or any of our belongings," she said.

"The debris is 10-12 feet high and some bodies may be at the bottom. Forget survivors, it's so tough to even retrieve the bodies," said Ansar Ali, 35, a member of a rescue team affiliated to the Jamaat-e-Islami.

"We were told by some residents that there would be a few bodies at a spot where a house stood. We began digging with iron rods and pitchforks. Soon, we could smell the decay. After digging about five feet, we found the body of a young girl," said Ali.

On Sunday, two earth movers were deployed to move the sludge as rescuers used electric cutters to slice broken arecanut trees. Police put up barricades to restrict vehicular movement and officials dismantled the power lines. There was also a steady stream of cars and trucks carrying food, clothes and essential

Curfew back in Srinagar

and public movement was curbed. At several places, police asked vendors to close their stalls and return home. "We have received orders from senior officers to impose curfew again. No reason has been given. We are only implementing their order," a policeman told a resident at Jehangir Chowk.

A senior police officer told *The Indian Express* that Eid prayers may not be allowed at Jamia Masjid and Eidgah, which see the biggest Eid gatherings in the Valley. "We have made plans to deploy security forces in the Valley on Monday. We are keeping our fingers crossed," said the officer.

"I am conscious of the fact (that) it needs a lot more for a normal and enjoyable Eid. We are trying to reduce inconveniences and ease facilities. Just had an elaborate meeting with Imams for prayer arrangements. Visited venues," tweeted Shahid Choudhary, District Magistrate, Srinagar.

There are fears that large gatherings could trigger protests, after some incidents of stone-pelting were reported after the Friday prayers.

J&K Director General of Police Dilbag Singh told Reuters that 1,000-1,500 people were returning from praying at mosques on Friday when "some miscreants" started pelting stones at security officials. "It was a reaction to stone pelting by these miscreants that one or two rounds of pump ac-

tion gun was fired," Singh said, adding that four to five men suffered injuries. Around 300 local leaders had been detained, and some of them had been taken out of Kashmir, he said.

In Pir Panjal and Chenab Valley regions of Jammu division, the government announced a six-hour curfew relaxation on Sunday. Sources said day curfew was lifted in Rajouri, Kishtwar and Doda districts, as well as Banihal sub-district. In Poonch district, curfew was relaxed from 10 am to 4 pm.

However, cellphone services, including mobile internet, remained suspended in the curfew-bound areas. At other places, including Udhampur, Reasi, Jammu, Samba, Kathua and parts of Rajouri district, only mobile internet was suspended.

No untoward incident was reported during the relaxation of curfew. However, on Saturday night, two vehicles were set ablaze in Ari village of Poonch district.

In Jammu's Bhatindi and Talab Khatikan areas, shops remained closed a day ahead of Eid. A few traders who had brought sheep for sale could not find many buyers. Abdul Qayoom, who had got 50 sheep from Udhampur district's Latti area, said he could sell only 15 in the last three days. "This time, we may not even be able to cover the transportation cost," he said.

Yasir Ahmed of Nagrota said he sold 100 sheep last year, but could manage to sell only 30 this time.

Meanwhile, sources in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said the government was assessing the situation and would gradually lift restrictions. Listing the measures being taken to restore normalcy, the J&K administration, in a statement, said: "Treasury and banks are being made functional during this period even on holidays. ATMs are functioning smoothly, and it has been ensured that the cash is replenished on regular basis and people are drawing cash as and when required... Salary of all the employees and wages of DRWs/casual labourers etc. are being released... Payments for developmental works are also being cleared on priority."

It said mobile vans have been deployed for door-to-door delivery of vegetables, LPG cylinders, poultry and eggs, and "six mandies/ markets" have been established in Srinagar city. "Further, 2.5 lac sheep on hooves are available for public for Eid-ul-Azha sacrifice. In rest of the districts, the District Magistrates have made elaborate arrangements for the forthcoming Eid-ul-Azha," the statement said.

Ration 'ghats' in every district have started functioning to supply groceries. Of the 3,697 ration 'ghats' in Kashmir division, 3,557 have been made operational to provide ration to the general public, it said.

"Wheat has been stocked to suffice for 65 days, rice for 55 days, mutton for 17 days, poultry for 1 month, kerosene oil for 35 days, LPG for 1 month, High Speed Diesel (HSD) and MS for 28 days. All bakery/ poultry/ mutton shops are open today and long queues were seen outside these shops," the statement said.

As many as 300 special telephone booths are being established to help the public get in touch with their relatives, it said. It said special arrangements have been made for the safe return of Hajjis from Saudi Arabia, for which flights will commence on August 18. All deputy commissioners have nominated nodal officers to be stationed at the airport from August 18.

The administration said all health institutions in Kashmir division were functioning fully, with sufficient staff as well as medicine stock. Flights are operating as per schedule and air tickets are being treated as movement passes, it said.

Meanwhile, with its official helpline 14111 (called madadgar) not accessible in Srinagar due to the restrictions, the CRPF has notified a new number (9469793260) for assistance and updates on the situation. The helpline is also making available active phone lines of police stations across Kashmir.

— WITH DEEPTIMAN TIWARY IN NEW DELHI

Cong attacks Chouhan for calling Nehru a criminal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BHOPAL, AUGUST 11

THE CONGRESS on Sunday launched a scathing attack on former chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan for allegedly calling Jawaharlal Nehru a criminal while holding the country's first Prime Minister responsible for PoK.

The BJP leader alleged that Nehru called a ceasefire when Indian forces were pushing back Pakistan tribals out of Kashmir. "Had there been no ceasefire for few days the entire Kashmir would have been ours," he said while comparing Article 370 as Nehru's "second crime". "Ek desh me do nishan, do vidhan, do pradhan. It was not injustice to the

country but a crime against it," news agency ANI quoted him as saying.

Chief Minister Kamal Nath criticised Chouhan for the remarks. "He (Nehru) was called a maker of modern India. He struggled for freedom struggle. His work and contribution in nation's interest is unforgettable. Calling him a criminal 55 years after his death is highly objectionable and condemnable," the Chief Minister tweeted.

Former CM and senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh said the BJP leader is not even "pariiron ki dhool of Nehruji. He should be ashamed of himself."

Other Congress leaders and spokespersons demanded apology from Chouhan.

Lone detained, his wife despairs of road ahead

whatever that may be," she said. Sajad Lone, whose father Abdul Gani Lone was killed by militants in 2002, had met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in November 2014. He had called Modi his "older brother" and after the Assembly polls, was made a minister in the PDP-BJP coalition government from the BJP's quota.

Lone was also instrumental in the conduct of panchayat and local body polls after the NC and PDP decided to boycott the civic polls last year.

Lone, however, strongly opposed New Delhi's moves to tamper with J&K's status. Days ahead of New Delhi's move, he was part of the all-party meet in Srinagar that had called "any fiddling with J&K's special status an aggression against the people of the state."

Wife Asma Lone recalled

that she spoke to him last on August 4. "He was very tense. Though various possibilities were doing the rounds, I don't think he had an idea of the extent of the change."

"At great personal risk, against the prevailing narrative and in defiance of counsel by close quarters, Sajad decided to take the plunge and acquired the mantle of mainstream politics in Kashmir. He was convinced this would provide him the opportunity to make a difference, contribute and effect grassroots empowerment, ultimately creating a legacy of his own. He tried to deliver to the best of his abilities in his limited stint in power," she said. "Today, he finds himself in trying circumstances. To top it all off, the rumour mill of Kashmir is in overdrive, manufacturing stories of a fabricated role in an

imagined "sell out". I can clearly detect a pattern and ground-work, God forbid, similar to the conditions created in the run-up to the assassination of my father."

Saying she felt "let down and violated", Asma Lone said, "Though I was never part of Sajad's political decision-making, yet I was the foremost recipient of its fallout. It has been an arduous path riddled with challenges, the greatest being dealing with the safety of my young children. It is draining, living with threats, both real and perceived — the latest being conveyed just a few days ago," she said. "The price has been huge."

"The first thing my children do once they get back from school is to ask me about their father," she said. "They ask me whether I get to talk to Baba (fa-

ther)... does he get proper food? As innocent as they may seem, these are serious questions. I wonder at the optics it creates for a new generation of young Kashmiris," she said.

"Being a native of Gilgit-Baltistan and an ardent advocate of its indigenous rights," she said, "in keeping with precedents set by great nations, I hope India too will honour the will of the people of Kashmir."

"As to our future here, I was looking forward to building a life in Srinagar once the boys would have left for university and out of harm's way. Alongside my writing, I had planned to do social work at the grassroots level. There were many ideas I had discussed, promises I had made and hopes I had ignited. I still hope I'm given the chance and the legitimacy to go live that dream."

However, when the Indira Gandhi government ignored his opinion, he refused to defend the government in court and offered to resign if he was forced to appear. The government, despite his public statement, not only kept him in office but promoted him as Attorney General of India in two months.

Much later, in 1997, Parasaran's appearance at an unlikely location — a family court in the Tis Hazari complex in Delhi — showed the extent to which the Gandhi family still relied on him. Just days before Priyanka Gandhi was to marry Robert Vadra, a man who was later found to be mentally unstable had petitioned the court claiming that she was already married to him. "Senior Parasaran", as he is referred to in legal circles, did not have to make much of an effort to convince the judges that the case was frivolous.

Governments changed but Parasaran was still sought after. Former Prime Minister A B Vajpayee appointed him as member of the drafting and editorial committee tasked with reviewing the working of the Constitution. While the Vajpayee-led NDA government awarded him the Padma Bhushan, the Manmohan Singh led UPA-1 government awarded him the Padm Vibhushan and nominated him to the Upper House.

As member of Raja Sabha in 2014, he defended the National Judicial Appointments Commission. "Independence of the judiciary means institutional independence and is not related to each individual judge at the time of appointment. There is a great error in the thinking of the judges that if the executive appoints a judge he can never be independent," he said.

Last week, when senior advocate Rajeev Dhawan objected to daily hearings in the Ayodhya case before the Supreme Court, Parasaran said: "My last wish before I die, is to finish this case."

Delhi bungalow

software development in 2002. "Investigation revealed that unaccounted funds of promoters were round-tripped through BVI-based shell entity. The recipient company never commenced its business of software development. Instead, entire FDI was diverted for acquisition of house for use by the promoters Ratul Puri and his family," the department alleged, adding that the market value of this property is estimated to be more than Rs 300 crore.

The second asset to be attached under the latest order is an FDI amount of \$40 million that was kept in a company, Cobol Technologies Private Limited, and is claimed to have been infused from a Mauritius-based firm, Pangea Emerging Infrastructure Fund Ltd, it said.

Cobol Technologies is owned by the Puris, the I-T Department claimed. The department alleged its probe found that this fund was a benami of Ratul Puri and its shares were held by a Dubai-based operator, who is also accused in the AgustaWestland VVIP chopper probe case. "The said fund has also been used to route commissions from defence contracts through a web of shell companies in tax havens," it claimed.

In April, the department had conducted searches and seizures on Ratul and Deepak Puri's companies and businesses during which the documents of these alleged illegal transactions were reportedly seized.

Last month, the tax department had attached FDI of \$55 million in this case under the Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions Act, 1988, for alleged round-tripping of unaccounted funds generated through over-invoicing of solar panels and other receipts through the same Dubai-based operator.

3 THE CITY

MOVED TO CAPITAL IN JUNE TO TRAIN WITH DMRC

Metro employee livestreams suicide, friend calls police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 11

A 27-YEAR-OLD employee of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself early Sunday morning at his rented room in Shahdara's Teliwara. The man live-streamed the suicide on Facebook.

The three-minute video shows Subhankar Chakraborty, dressed in his blue DMRC T-shirt, getting on top of a cooler. He can be seen fixing his shirt, kissing an ID card in his pocket and saying *ami tomake bhalobashi* (I love you), directed at a person whose name is not audible, before putting a plastic rope around his neck and kicking the cooler.

Earlier in the day, he updated his cover photo on Facebook



Subhankar Chakraborty (27) hailed from West Bengal

with one that said "I Quit!!"

Chakraborty hailed from Palta in West Bengal and moved to Delhi in June, where he began working with the DMRC. "He was undergoing training and was to begin work soon," said a DMRC source.

DMRC did not comment on the alleged suicide.

Chakraborty is survived by his father and sister, who have been informed about his death. He had moved into the rented accommodation on the second floor two months ago.

Since it was a Facebook Live video, there were comments by his friends asking him not to go ahead with the act.

A PCR call was made at 9.05 am by Chakraborty's friend Suryakant Das.

DCP (Shahdara) Meghna Yadav said, "The caller said that he watched a video of his friend committing suicide by hanging on Facebook."

When police reached the spot, Das and the owner of the house, Sanjay Arora, were present. Police said his room was locked from the inside and when they peeped in through the window, they saw his body hanging

from a hook on the ceiling.

DCP Yadav said, "The room was closed from inside... Subhankar was found hanging from the ceiling fan hook in the room with a yellow plastic rope. No suicide note has been found."

The mobile phone used to stream the incident on Facebook was found at the window of the room.

"The victim's friend Das, who made the PCR call, said he received a call at 8 am from their common friend Akash about the live video of the suicide. Das informed their friend Rajender Ojha and the two rushed to the victim's house," said the DCP.

The body has been shifted to the Sabzi Mandi mortuary where the post-mortem will be carried out when his family members arrive.

Delhi education board to expand online teacher training to more subjects, grades

SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 11

FROM LESSON plans and topic-specific training to courses on child sexual abuse and corporal punishment, the Delhi State Council for Education Research and Training (SCERT) is working on adding in-service training for school teachers online.

Currently, SCERT provides topic- and lesson-specific training only for teachers of classes IX and X in mathematics, science and English, via a mobile app called ChalkLit, developed by NGO Million Sparks Foundation

in 2016. SCERT director Sunita Kaushik said efforts are now on to provide similar training for classes IV and V teachers in mathematics, and for subjects in classes XI and XII as well.

Kaushik said the push to train teachers online was prompted by limitations of time and space: "Through the app's modules, we are able to reach out to 6,000-7,000 teachers at a time. We lack the space to train so many teachers face-to-face. Also, training in large numbers can dilute the content. Here, teachers can respond individually to the training, and there's also a 'teachers' *chaupal*', where they can get

queries cleared by their peers. Their routine work is also not disrupted, which is important, given the large number of teaching vacancies in government schools."

The modules are generally for around 10-15 working hours, and teachers are given 15-20 days to complete them. They are then tested on the app and those clearing it with 40% and above are given a certificate of completion. Kaushik said the aim is not to substitute face-to-face training but to "supplement" it.

A teacher of classes IX and X said the app has useful teaching resources: "There are videos and other content for specific topics,

which we can use to make classes interesting. But it lacks space for teachers to discuss things, as the main issue we face is keeping students' attention."

SCERT has also given courses on child sexual abuse and corporal punishment, vetted by Delhi State Legal Services Authority, for teachers via the app.

However, some teachers are critical of using an app for developing teaching capacity. "The app is making the entire process faceless and is using a one-size-fits-all approach to teachers' and students' needs, especially for complex issues like child sexual abuse," said an English teacher.



PUBLIC NOTICE



PROHIBITION OF FLYING UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES

• Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) / Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UASs), para gliders, para motors, hang-gliders, micro light aircrafts, remotely piloted aircrafts, hot air balloons, small size powered aircrafts, quadcopters have been prohibited to fly **till 15.08.2019** vide prohibitory order issued specifically in this regard.

• Any person contravening this order will be liable for criminal prosecution.

All general public, shopkeepers, stockists, amateurs & professionals are requested to abide by the prohibitory order.

FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE HELP CALL 100

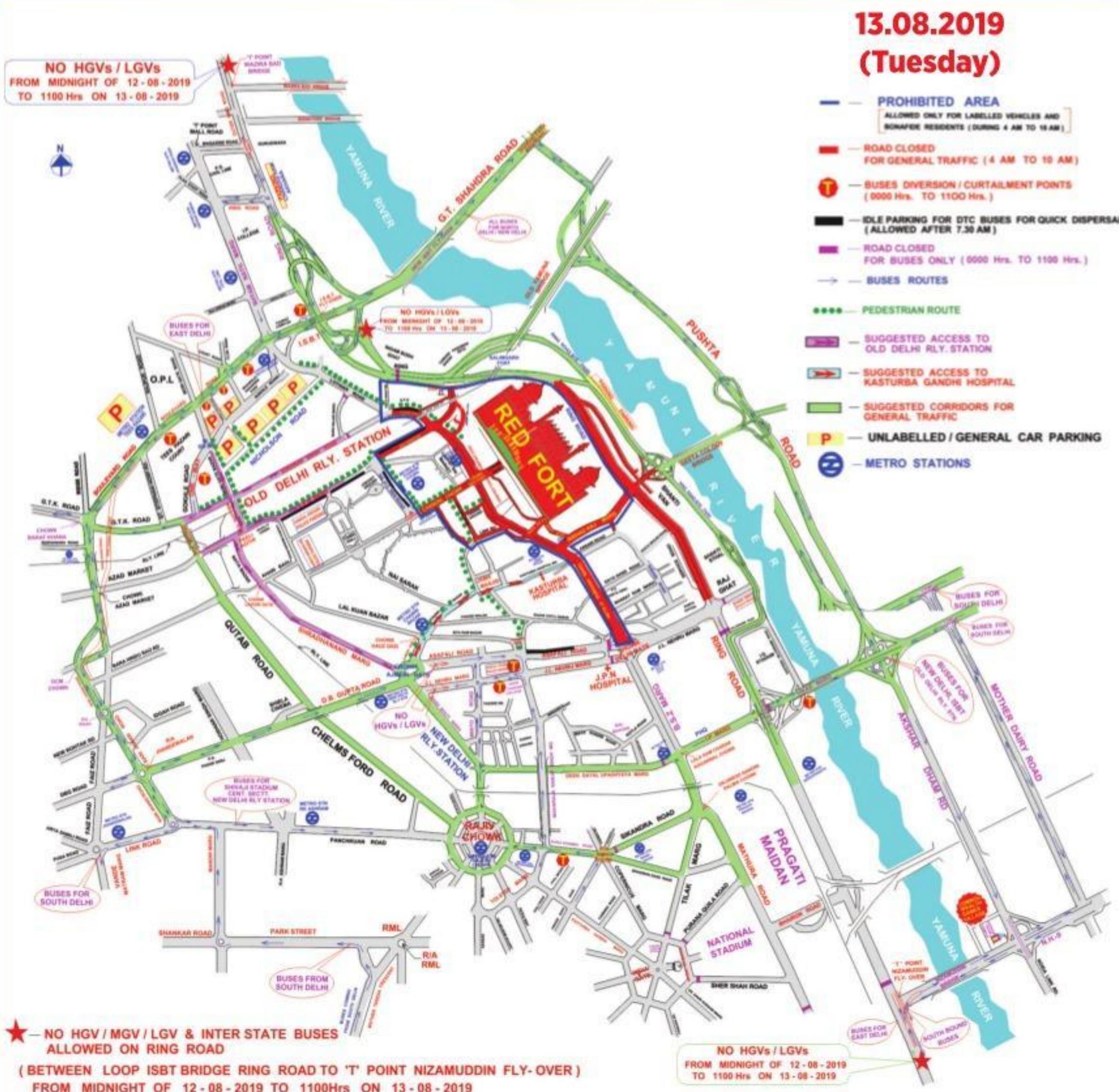
TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL 1090

DP/9135/19

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

TRAFFIC ADVISORY

Full Dress Rehearsal on 13th August 2019



TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS AROUND RED FORT

The following roads will be closed for general traffic from 0400 Hrs to 1000 Hrs and only labelled vehicles will be permitted:-

- Netaji Subhash Marg from Delhi Gate to Chhatta Rail.
- Lothian Road from GPO Delhi to Chhatta Rail.
- S.P. Mukherjee Marg from H.C. Sen Marg to Yamuna Bazar Chowk.
- Chandni Chowk Road from Fountain Chowk to Red Fort.
- Nishad Raj Marg from Ring Road to Netaji Subhash Marg.
- Esplanade Road and its Link Road to Netaji Subhash Marg.
- Ring Road from Rajghat to Y-Point-Hanuman Setu.

ROAD THAT MAY BE AVOIDED FROM 0400 Hrs to 1000 Hrs

Those vehicles which do not have parking labels for the rehearsal may avoid Tilak Marg, Mathura Road, BSZ Marg, Subhash Marg, J.L. Nehru Marg and Ring Road between Nizamuddin Bridge and ISBT bridge and take the route as advised.

(North-South Access)

- Alternative-1:** Aurobindo Marg - Safdarjung Road - Mother Teresa Crescent - Park Street - Mandir Marg - Panchkuian Road - Rani Jhansi Flyover and reach their destinations in North Delhi and vice-versa.
- Alternative-2:** Reach Connaught Place - Minto Road - Bhavbhuti Marg - Ajmeri Gate - shardhanand Marg - Lahori Gate Chowk-Naya Bazar - Peeli Kothi - S.P. Mukherjee Marg and reach their destination in North Delhi and vice-versa
- Alternative-3:** Ring Road ISBT (Kashmere Gate) - Salimgarh by-pass Road (Upper Ring Road) - IP Estate Flyover and vice-versa.
- Alternative-4:** Reach Nizamuddin Bridge to cross Yamuna - Pushta road - G.T. Road and cross over to ISBT and reach their destination in North Delhi and vice-versa.

East-West Corridor:

- DND- NH24-Vikas Marg-Shahdara Bridge and Wazirabad Bridge will remain open to reach Ring Road.
- Vikas Marg- DDU Marg - Bhavbhuti Marg - DBG Road
- Boulevard road - Barat Khana - Rani Jhansi Flyover - D B G Road - Panchkuian Road will remain open.

Geeta Colony Bridge will be closed towards Shantivan from 0400 Hrs to 1000 Hrs. Similarly, Traffic would not be permitted on lower Ring Road from ISBT Kashmere Gate towards Shantivan and from IP flyover towards Rajghat.

People are advised to reach early to avoid last minute rush & inconvenience.

SIGNAGES Adequate informative signages will be displayed for the guidance of vehicular traffic destined for the Red Fort at all important traffic junctions.

RESTRICTIONS ON MOVEMENT OF COMMERCIAL TRANSPORT AND INTERSTATE BUSES:

1. Goods vehicles will not be permitted between Nizamuddin Bridge and Wazirabad Bridge from the 0000 Hrs midnight to 1100 Hrs on 13.08.2019.
 2. INTERSTATE BUSES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED BETWEEN MAHARANA PRATAP ISBT AND SARAJ KALE KHAN ISBT FROM 0000 Hrs Midnight to 1100 Hrs on 13.08.2019.
- RESTRICTIONS ON MOVEMENT OF CITY BUSES APART FROM RESTRICTED ROADS:**
- Local city buses including DTC will not move on Ring Road from 0000 Hrs Midnight to 1100 Hrs on 13.08.2019 between ISBT to - NH-24/NH 'T' point (Nizamuddin Khatta) on Ring Road and take alternative route available.
- Buses ordinarily terminating at Red Fort, Jama Masjid and Delhi Main Railway Station will be curtailed/diverted as below:-
- 1) Opposite Ramliia Ground on J.L.N. Marg for buses approaching from South and West Delhi. Pedestrians can approach Red Fort via Nukkar Faiz Bazar and Subhash Marg.
 - 2) At Mori Gate and Tis Hazari for buses coming from North, North West and East Delhi via ISBT Bridge. Pedestrians can reach Red Fort via Pul Duffrin and S.P. Mukherjee Marg.
 - 3) At Boulevard Road opp. Maharaja Agrasen Park for buses coming from North Delhi side from Ring Road. Pedestrians can reach Red Fort via Lothian Road - Chhatta Rail - N.S. Marg Esplanade Road.
- Normal bus service will be restored after 1100 Hrs.**
- How to Approach/Reach Important places:-**
- 1) Old Delhi Railway Station:
 - a) From West and South Delhi: Mother Teresa Crescent - Park Street - Mandir Marg - Panchkuian Road - Rani Jhansi Flyover - Boulevard Road - Mori Gate - Pul Duffrin - S.P. Mukherjee Marg to reach the Railway Station.
 - b) From North: Mori Gate - Pul Duffrin - S.P. Mukherjee Marg to reach the Railway Station.
 - 2) New Delhi Rly. Station: There is no restriction.
 - 3) ISBT Kashmere Gate
 - a) From New Delhi and South Delhi:- Mother Teresa Crescent - Park Street - Mandir Marg - Panchkuian Road - Rani Jhansi Flyover - Boulevard Road.
 - b) From North Delhi: There is no restriction.
 - 4) J.P.N. Hospital: There is no restriction.
 - 5) Kasturba Hospital: Ajmeri Gate - Ajmeri Bazar - Chowk Hauz Quazi - Chawn Bazar - Chowk Barshabullah - Urdu Bazar.

E-mail to CP, Delhi at: cp.amulyapatnaik@delhipolice.gov.in | Write to : Cp. Delhi at P.O. Box No. 171, GPO, New Delhi

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4 HARDLOOK EWS ADMISSIONS



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

BATCH OF 2019

With the Centre reserving seats for EWS students for the first time in Delhi University, ARANYA SHANKAR speaks to seven college-goers who took admission under this category about navigating the campus and a new city

ELEVEN YEARS after 7,000 seats were added to Delhi University as part of an expansion to accommodate OBC students, 6,700 more seats have been added under the HRD ministry's plan to implement 10% quota for the economically weaker sections (EWS) of the general category in central educational institutions.

Students taking admission under this category are, in a sense, part of history now. *The Indian Express* spoke to seven of them about their journey to one of India's most sought after universities.

CHIRAG SHARMA (18)

Currently enrolled in B.Sc (Hons) Mathematics at Ram Lal Anand College, Sharma cleared the EWS cut-off for the course in the first list with a best of four score of 93.5%.

He's staying at a paying guest (PG) accommodation in Govindpuri, where he pays Rs 6,000 a month for a room that he shares with two other DU students also studying in the South Campus college. "It is expensive, but it includes everything from meals to laundry, so I suppose it's okay," said Sharma.

His parents live in Hapur, Uttar Pradesh, which is where he was till a month ago. "My father is a retired government school teacher and my mother is a housewife. The only source of income at home right now is my father's pension, which comes to around Rs 2.75 lakh per annum," said Sharma.

Even though Sharma got through the EWS quota in DU, he feels the implementation has been less beneficial as compared to other universities and institutes.

"We were expecting cut-off for EWS students would be significantly lower but there was hardly any difference between the general category cut-off and EWS cut-off. This is not true of other universities. We know, for example, that in Chaudhary Charan Singh University in Meerut, there was a significant difference between cut-offs. But I suppose in DU, because there are so many students vying for seats, the difference was minor," said Sharma.

He also feels it isn't fair for those from the EWS category to be paying the same fee as those from the general category: "There should be some concession."

TELAPATI MOHAN KRISHNA (18)

With dreams of becoming an IAS officer, Krishna has taken admission at Sri Aurobindo College's Political Science (Hons) course in the fourth cut-off.

Hailing from Kadapa in Andhra Pradesh, Krishna's father is a farmer and his mother a homemaker. "We have about 4-5 acres of land which we till. We earn around Rs 2 lakh a year and that's our only income. We usually grow rice and mustard," said Krishna.

While he originally wanted to study law, he could not get the requisite score in CLAT and shifted focus to the civil services. "While being enrolled in Political Science, I'm also preparing for UPSC. That is now my dream," said Krishna, who stays at a PG accommodation not far from college. He pays Rs 6,500 per month for a room to himself.

"I think it's important we get quota in education and jobs. Fee not being reduced is not a big problem as we only pay around Rs 7,000 per year. One thing that we should get, though, is a hostel," he said.

BRIJENDRA UPADHYAY (18)

The first-year BA (Hons) Hindi student at Hansraj College spends over an hour reaching his college every day from Noida, where he lives with his elder brother.

From Uttar Pradesh's Akbarpur, Upadhyay will soon shift closer to college to save time and money.

In January this year, he lost his father, a former government school teacher, to a heart attack. "My mother is a housewife so we have no fixed source of income right now. I have four maternal uncles in Akbarpur; she stays with them. They are also providing our family with some money," said Upadhyay, who got admission under the EWS category with a best of four percentage of 86.7%.

Having suffered a personal setback, he said the EWS quota helped him. "I was able to get through DU because of this quota, and I know other friends too who benefited. If not for EWS, I would have been studying in BHU or HSG University, Sagar. But it has only helped as an entry point. Beyond that, in terms of fee, we are paying the same as others," he said.

SHUBHAM KUMAR (17)

Originally from Saharsa in Bihar, Kumar is currently enrolled in History (Hons) at Ram Lal Anand College, and stays in a flat alone. "I stay in Samalka village near IGI Airport, from where I travel to college daily. My rent is around Rs 4,500 per month, including electricity and water charges," he said.

Kumar belongs to a family of farmers. "My father has land but he doesn't cultivate it himself. He has given it out for rent,

THE SEVENTH CUT-OFF

COLLEGE	COURSE	EWS (IN %)	GENERAL
DAULAT RAM	B.COM (HONS)	94.75	95.75
HANSRAJ	B.COM (HONS)	96	97.25
HINDU	B.COM (HONS)	96.6	97.5
IP COLLEGE	POLITICAL SCIENCE	92.5	95
KMC	ECONOMICS	96	97
LSR	B.COM (HONS)	96.5	97.5
GARGI	POLITICAL SCIENCE	94.25	95.5
RAMJAS	B.COM (P)	95.5	95.75
SRCC	ECONOMICS	97.25	98.62

The EWS implementation has come from the Centre. So if the UGC tells us that there should be a reduction in their fee, we will do it. But what is already happening is that many colleges are offering scholarship according to means basis, after students have taken admission."

A DELHI UNIVERSITY OFFICIAL

"We were expecting cut-off for EWS students would be significantly lower but there was hardly any difference between the general category cut-off and EWS cut-off."

CHIRAG SHARMA,
A STUDENT AT RAM LAL ANAND COLLEGE

and gets some share from the yield. I am not sure how much the land is, because my cousins and I have intentionally been kept away and are encouraged to focus on academics," he said.

Although he made it to the university through the EWS cut-off, he feels it was more of a hassle than help. "It has definitely benefited me so maybe I shouldn't complain, but I feel a minor difference in cut-offs between EWS and general categories hardly makes a difference. Plus the running around I had to do to get the EWS

certificate was quite a hassle. I had to travel to Bihar thrice in order to complete the process," said Kumar, who wants to work with the UNHRC in the future.

LAVANYA GUPTA (18)

A resident of Delhi's Palam area, her father works in a private firm while her mother is a housewife. Their annual family income is roughly around Rs 7 lakh per annum.

"I commute every day from home to college, but considering we are paying just Rs 16,500 per year as fee, it's not a big expense. Some students may complain about the fee, but in our country, I don't think students need to take a loan to do their graduation; so I think it's very affordable," said the BA Programme student from Daulat Ram College.

She said she personally knew several people who benefited from the EWS quota. "Not only me, many of my friends would have missed out on a good college by just 0.5% if not for the EWS cut-off. It has really helped people and I think it should be applauded instead of being seen as a political move," she said.

HIMANSHI CHHABRA (18)

Chhabra's father died more than two years ago, leaving her family without any source of income. The machine parts shop that he ran in Gurgaon, where the family also stays, is now being looked after and run by her cousin, who gives the family of three — Chhabra, her mother and her younger sister — whatever money comes from it.

"We get about Rs 80,000 per year as our income. That's about it. Somehow, we manage," said Chhabra, who is enrolled in B.Voc in Marketing & Management

Insurance at the College of Vocational Studies.

Since she got admission in the seventh cut-off list, the rigmarole of going to college will start on Tuesday. Taking the Metro from Gurgaon to Delhi every day will be a task, but she said will manage.

"This EWS quota is good but it also has limitations. I feel when other reserved categories get so much relaxation in their cut-offs, we should too. There was hardly any difference between the EWS and general cut-offs," she said, adding that she has plans to pursue an MBA in the future.

RITIK JAIN (18)

Enrolled in B.Com Programme at Sri Aurobindo College, Jain intends to use the Metro to travel from his home in Sadar Bazar to college once he begins attending classes Tuesday. He got admitted under the EWS category in the seventh cut-off list, even though he wanted to do B.Com (Hons).

"I had initially got admission in B.Com (Hons) in a college under IP University but I pulled out when they increased their fee to Rs 1.05 lakh per year. Now, I've taken admission in Sri Aurobindo College. Initially, I will take the Metro, but soon I hope to get a bus pass made so that the excess cost can be reduced," he said.

With the number of EWS students set to increase by another 10,050 next year, the university will have to see how it deals with the issue of hostel seats and fee.

Nearly half of the varsity's approximately 1.8 lakh strong student body comes from outside Delhi, and only a fraction are accommodated in hostels provided by the colleges or university. The rest depend on PG accommodation or rent apartments close to colleges, which often costs more than the college fee.

While Registrar Tarun Kumar Das did not respond to calls and texts, a DU official said, "The EWS implementation has come from the Centre. So if the UGC tells us that there should be a reduction in their fee, we will do it. But what is already happening is that many colleges are offering scholarship according to means basis, after students have taken admission."

"The Delhi L-G has asked colleges that if they want to construct girls' hostels, they can ask for it if they have enough residential space; so many colleges have shown interest. It should work out," the official said, adding that while there was no separate EWS Cell to cater to their grievances, the Grievance Redressal Cell of the university as well as colleges were catering to students' needs.

BRIEFLY

Two held for duping bank

New Delhi: Two men were arrested for allegedly duping a bank of Rs 10 lakh by opening accounts using forged documents and procuring loans by creating a fake company last year, police said on Sunday.

Three held for snatching

New Delhi: Three men were arrested in connection with snatching cases across the city, police said on Sunday. A country-made pistol, four live cartridges, six stolen two-wheelers, two gold chains and eight mobile phones were seized from them, police said.

Wanted man held from Agra

New Delhi: A 22-year-old man absconding in a murder case for more than a year was arrested from Agra, police said Sunday. The accused, Jeetesh, carrying a reward of Rs 25,000, was wanted in the case where he along with his associates had allegedly killed one Vijay Kumar in Nand Nagri last year, they said.

Power theft: Man ordered to plant trees

New Delhi: Delhi HC has directed a man to plant 50 trees as community service while agreeing to close criminal proceedings against him in a power theft case. The court said trees shall be planted within a month and asked him to report to the Deputy Conservator of Forest (West) for the task. **PTI**

INDIRA GOVT SCHEME: 22,076 PLOTS ALLOTTED BETWEEN 1981-89

SC panel flags multi-crore scam in land scheme started decades ago

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 11

A LAND distribution scheme for the poor in Delhi, launched by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, has turned into a "scam involving hundreds of crores of rupees", the Supreme Court-monitoring committee on sealing has said in a report.

The report, which was submitted to the SC on August 8, said efforts of the committee to look into irregularities pertaining to around 22,076 plots has hit a "dead end" due to lack of action on the part of authorities concerned, including the revenue department of the Delhi government and local bodies.

"The laudable scheme of the government for provision of small plots of land for residential purposes to the lower strata of

society in various parts of Delhi has been surreptitiously converted into commercial hubs without any authority, and the authorities concerned have apparently overlooked the 'scam' for reasons best known to them," the report states.

The report comes against the backdrop of the concerted push of the Delhi government and the Centre to regularise 1,797 unauthorised colonies in the capital.

The plots of land under scanner, some in Dwarka and Palam extension, were allotted under the 20-point programme launched by the Indira Gandhi-led government in 1975. The plots were allotted in two batches: 12,500 between 1981-85 and 9,576 between 1985-1989 for residential purposes.

However, not all owners eventually got ownership rights. Both the Sheila Dikshit and the

FOR THE POOR

Under the 20-point programme launched in 1975:

- 12,500 plots allotted between 1981-85**
- 9,576 plots between 1985-89**
- 10,583 plots in rural areas**
- 8,135 plots in urban villages**

AAP governments promised to accord ownership rights to those who were allotted land under the scheme. But in light of the monitoring committee's report to the SC, any hope of regularisation seems bleak.

The three-member monitoring committee has observed that

most of the plots have been amalgamated and turned into "huge commercial complexes without any legal amendments to the terms and conditions of allotment".

Large showrooms, restaurants and gyms have come up on such land across Delhi, the report states, pointing out how even roads passing through residential plots have been notified as commercial, encouraging such illegalities.

The revenue department sent a list of the original allottees to the committee on August 3. But "there is no clarity with respect to large-scale commercialisation, amalgamation of plots, apparent transfer of ownership and obvious dubious deals," the report said.

On January 14, 2019, the SC had directed the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC)

and the revenue department to act against violators within three weeks. The panel, which has retired IAS officer Bhure Lal, Maj Gen (retd) Som Jhingon and former Election Commission advisor K J Rao, has submitted that authorities did not act on the SC order. The SDMC has, however, told the committee that necessary action will have to be taken by the revenue department, DM and SDMs.

"The efforts of the monitoring committee to identify the defaulters for creating such a 'scam' involving hundreds of crores of rupees and the misuse of precious land in the hands of the non-entitled persons have come to a dead end," the report states.

The committee has now urged the apex court to issue orders to the revenue department and the civic bodies for a detailed survey of all such plots.

UP seeks infra check of police stations in Gautam Budh Nagar

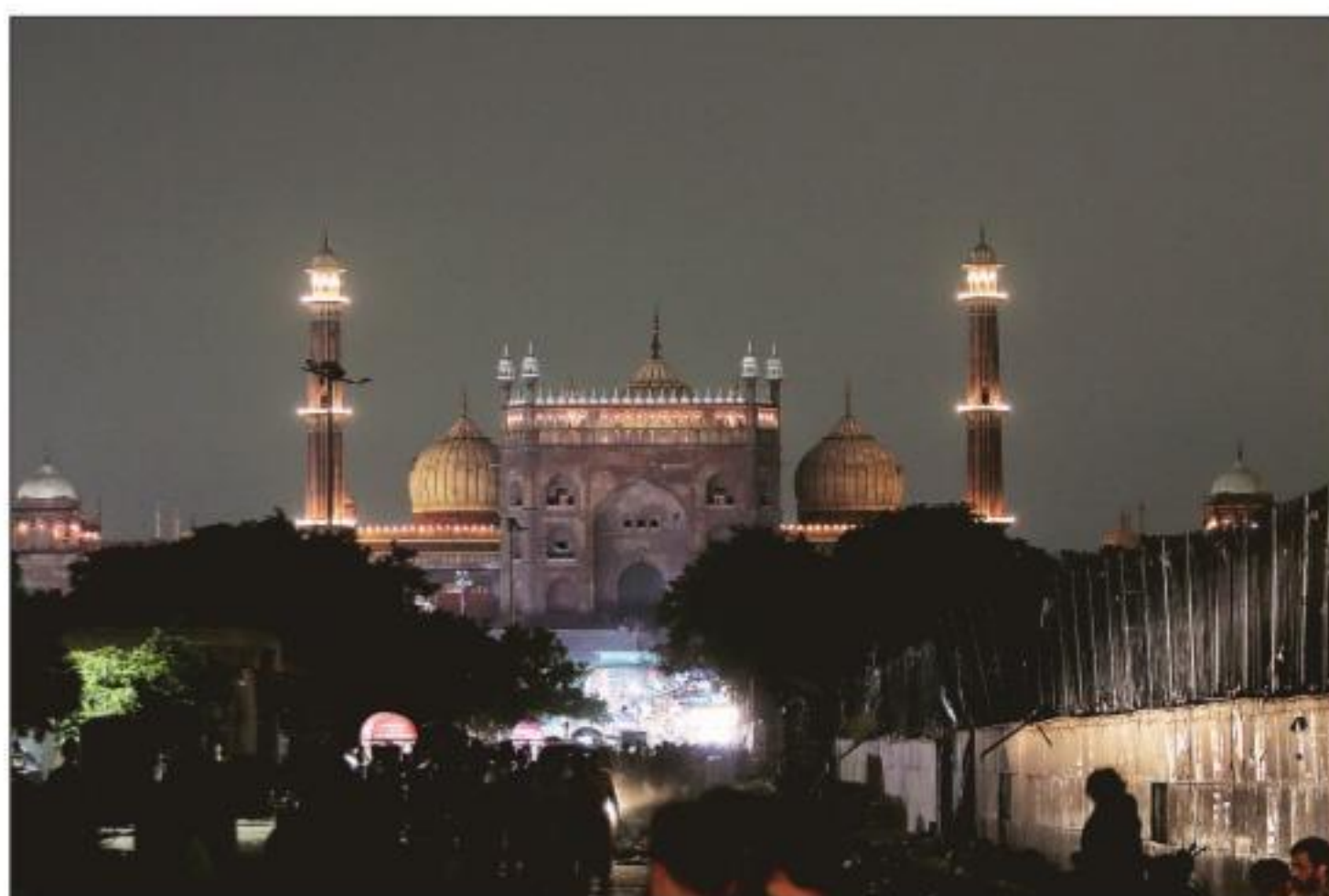
AMIL BHATNAGAR
NOIDA, AUGUST 11

THE UP government has sought a report from the Gautam Budh Nagar police on infrastructure deficiencies after a surprise inspection by Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Avanih Awasthi at Sector 20 police station Saturday midnight. A UP government official said Awasthi will also take feedback from Gautam Budh Nagar SSP Vaibhav Krishna on improving policing activities.

As per the official, Sector 20 police station — the biggest in the district — registers a large number of cyber crimes, ranging from 15-20 cases per month. But, the

official added, the station has only two computers for 28 sub-inspectors, which slows down feeding of information into CCTNS. "This is serious... a report must be submitted to ADG Technical Services within a week," wrote Awasthi in his report.

Police officers attributed the high number of economic offences to the presence of various MNCs and organisations in the jurisdiction of the Sector 20 station. Awasthi observed that police buildings were not well-maintained and sought a response. "No unfavourable comment was made and we will cooperate with reports and responses. We have also made certain requests for better policing," said Krishna.



BEFORE EID

Jama Masjid, a night before Eid. Gajendra Yadav

Men in car attack cop on patrol duty, snatch his pistol

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 11

WHILE ON patrolling duty early Saturday morning at Rohini's Aman Vihar, a constable was allegedly attacked and his pistol was snatched by two men and a juvenile travelling in a car which he had signalled to stop.

The accused dragged constable Kavinder a small distance after one of them snatched his pistol while in his moving SUV.

Two of the accused were arrested and the pistol was recovered. Police are on the lookout for the juvenile.

"A person under the Ears & Eyes scheme of the Delhi Police told constable Kavinder and constable Rajesh about the movement of a suspicious white-coloured Brezza in the area. The two police personnel approached the car but the suspects sped away. Later, they took a U-turn and attempted to hit the police personnel," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Rohini) S D Mishra.

According to Mishra, Kavinder and his colleague took out their pistols as a precaution-

ary measure. "Kavinder broke the window of the car and one of the accused grabbed his pistol. They dragged Kavinder some distance and released him only after they snatched his pistol," said Mishra.

Kavinder, who suffered injuries to his hand due to the broken glass, is back on duty, he said.

The accused have been identified as Sonu Dabas and Lala, and a case under sections 186 (obstructing public servant in discharge of duty), 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty), 392 (robbery) and 307 (attempt to murder) of the IPC has been registered at Aman Vihar.

While Lala has a case under the Excise Act and an accident case registered against him, Dabas is an accused in a murder case. "The minor is yet to be found," said a senior police officer.

"The three were looking for one Sanjay Rana in the area, with who they had some sort of enmity. They could have hurt him if they had found him that night," said a police officer.

DELHI UNDERGROUND

Breaking colonial ties

A judge in Delhi's trial courts is usually addressed as 'My Lord', 'Your Lordship', 'Your Honour' and sometimes even 'Huzoor'. In a bid to move away from this relic of the colonial era, the District and Sessions Judge of Tis Hazari court, Girish Kathpalia, has put up a notice outside his court asking people not to address him as 'My Lord'. Addressing him as 'Sir' or 'Judge Sahab' is sufficient, the

notice says.

A dip in 2022

Delhi Cabinet Minister Satyendar Jain said that in 2022, all ministers of the Aam Aadmi Party would bathe in the section of the Yamuna where the Najafgarh drain — carrying a heavy load of pollutants — meets the river to show people the river has been cleaned of pollutants completely. "Poora mantri mandal wahi (next to Najafgarh drain) dupki lagayega," Jain said Friday.

As demand brakes to a halt, lakhs of auto workers jobless in Haryana

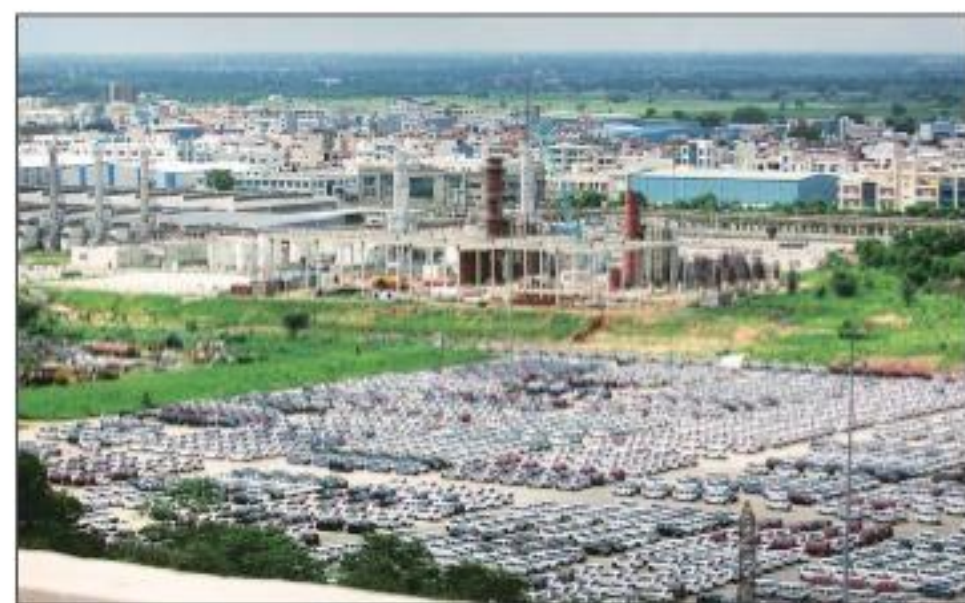
SAKSHI DAYAL
GURGAON, AUGUST 11

LAKHS OF contract workers, who earlier worked at automobile factories in Haryana, have, according to leaders of prominent workers' unions, lost their daily source of income. As automobile demand experiences a slump, retrenchment has increased over the last few months.

According to the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), vehicle sales across all categories fell by 12.35% between April and June this year. This continued in July, with leading automobile manufacturers revealing domestic sales have fallen by up to 50%. The Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) has found that almost 2 lakh jobs have been cut in the last three months because of the slowdown.

Among those now looking for alternate employment is Karamveer, a 25-year-old from Bhiwani, who lost his job at an auto components factory in March after working there for over a year. "I have been roaming around in search of another job for almost six months now. I am managing because of my brother, who is a cab driver in Gurgaon and with whom I am staying. If I do not find any work soon, I may have to return to my village and help my father in the fields," he said.

Others who lost their jobs have not been lucky enough to have such financial support and



According to SIAM, leading automobile manufacturers revealed domestic sales fell by up to 50% in July. Archive

have had to return to their villages. Jaspreet, a resident of Jalandhar, is among them.

"I completed an Industrial Training course before I secured a job with an automobile company three years ago. However, I was relieved around three months ago, with the company saying production had reduced and they did not have enough work for me," said Jaspreet.

"I did not have the money to pay rent and live in Gurgaon without a job for more than a month, so after I did not find alternate employment, I returned home and started managing my father's general store in the village. I am hoping to secure some proper work again soon, but nothing has worked out yet," he said.

Leaders of workers' unions of different companies said a reduction in demand for cars is re-

sponsible for the fall in production. They blamed this on factors ranging from increased rates of GST to a compulsory five-year insurance cover that has put vehicles out of reach for several consumers.

"The retrenchment has increased in the last three-four months. Around 15% of the contract workforce has been impacted; in all of Haryana, there are more than 2 lakh contract workers without jobs," said Kuldeep Janghu, general secretary of Maruti Udyog Kamgar Union.

"It is the skilled manpower in technical departments that has been most affected. At Maruti in Gurgaon, around 500-700 workers have been sent on leave. They have no choice but to return to their villages or look for alternate employment elsewhere," he said. Maruti did not respond to

calls and messages seeking a comment.

At another automobile company, similarly, union leaders said there has been an unusual rise in the number of contract workers who are finding themselves at home since November 2018. They, however, added that the company has hired 1,100-1,200 workers in the last month to meet production targets ahead of Navratri and Diwali.

"Production increases during Diwali and Navratri, so 1,100 to 1,200 people have been hired. But they have been told that it is only for three months. After that, the situation will be bad again," said Ramesh Pradhan, general secretary of the company's workers' union.

While Janghu blamed a high GST for this, Pradhan added that quick revision in emission standards is another factor.

"In 2017, the Bharat Stage IV emission norms had been enforced across the country and companies had to make investments to alter their equipment and technology to manufacture vehicles according to these regulations," said Pradhan.

"It takes around 10-15 years to recover the investments that have been made. But with BS-VI norms being enforced from 2020, companies have not had time to make that recovery," he said.

Janghu added, "There is a lot the government can do to improve the situation, such as reducing GST and interest on loans, but until that happens, it will be difficult for things to improve."

Kejriwal targets opposition over unauthorised colonies

New Delhi: Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Sunday hit out at opposition parties in Delhi, alleging that neither Congress nor BJP had done anything to regularise unauthorised colonies despite making promises.

The accused, Gautamdas (28), was arrested and taken into four days' transit remand. "During questioning, he said he and the labourer decided to murder the woman and steal her jewellery as they were having financial issues," Boken said. **ENS**



Kejriwal in Mundka, Sunday. Gajendra Yadav

ter supply in 14 villages and 27 unauthorised colonies, a statement said. **ENS**

Auto driver held for killing elderly woman in Gurgaon

Gurgaon: Almost 10 days after a 72-year-old woman was found dead in her house at Gurgaon's DLF Phase I, police arrested an auto driver for the crime. Another accused, who allegedly planned the murder and worked in the woman's house as a labourer, is still absconding.

Police said the victim, Indra Khanna, was found dead at her home on August 2. "An FIR was registered, and CCTV footage of all nearby cameras was checked.

INDEPENDENCE DAY 2019

Public visiting the Independence Day 2019 function at the Red Fort are requested not to bring the following prohibited items:

जनता से अनुरोध है कि लाल किले पर स्वतंत्रता दिवस 2019 के समारोह में निम्नलिखित वर्जित वस्तुएं साथ में न लाएं:

Prohibited Items	वर्जित वस्तुएं
Photo/फोटो Particulars / विवरण	Photo/फोटो Particulars / विवरण
Eatables खाने-पीने की चीजें	Cigarettes, Bidi, Lighter सिगरेट, बीड़ी, लाईटर
Bag, Briefcase थैला, ब्रीफकेस	Alcohol, Perfumes, Spray शराब, ड्रग्स, स्प्रे
Radio, Transistor, Tape Recorder, CD, DVD, MP3 Players रेडियो, ट्रांजिस्टर, टेपरेकार्डर, सीडी, डीवीडी, एमपी३ प्लेयर	Dagger, Sword, Cutting Material, Sharp/Pointed Edged Material, Screw Drivers नुकीला हथियार, चाकू, पेंचकस
Camera, Binocular, Handycam कैमरा, दूरबीन, हैंडिकैम	Umbrella, Replica Fire Arms, Toy Gun or Toys छाता, आग्नेयास्त्र, खिलौना पिस्तौल और खिलौने
Thermos Flasks, Water Bottles, Cans थर्मस, पानी की बोतल, कैन	Knives, Scissors, Razors, Blades, Wire, Pluckers चाकू, कैंची, रेज़र, ब्लेड, तार, प्लकर
Inflammable Items, Match Boxes ज्वलनशील पदार्थ, दियासलाई	Arms & Ammunition, Fireworks, Crackers Explosive etc. हथियार और गोला बारूद, पटाखे आदि
Various Electronic Gadgets, Devices e.g. I-Pad, I-Pod, Palm Top/Laptop, Computer, Tablets, Power Bank etc. विभिन्न इलेक्ट्रॉनिक उपकरणों जैसे आई-पैड, आई-पोड, पाम टॉप/लैपटॉप, कम्प्यूटर, टेब्लेट, पावर बैंक इत्यादि	Avoid keeping Mobile Phones, Remote Controlled Car Keys as it may delay your entry due to checking मोबाइल फोन, रिमोट कंट्रोल कार चाबी रखने से बचें क्योंकि इससे जांच के दौरान आपके प्रवेश में देरी हो सकती है।

Any unidentified object, if noticed, may be brought to the notice of the nearest Security Personnel.
यदि, कोई लावारिस वस्तु दिखाई दे, तो निकटतम सुरक्षाकर्मी के नोटिस में लाएं।

Please co-operate with the police for searching/frisking.
कृपया तलाशी देने में पुलिस के साथ सहयोग करें।

Please be alert to your surroundings.
कृपया अपने आस पास नज़र रखें।

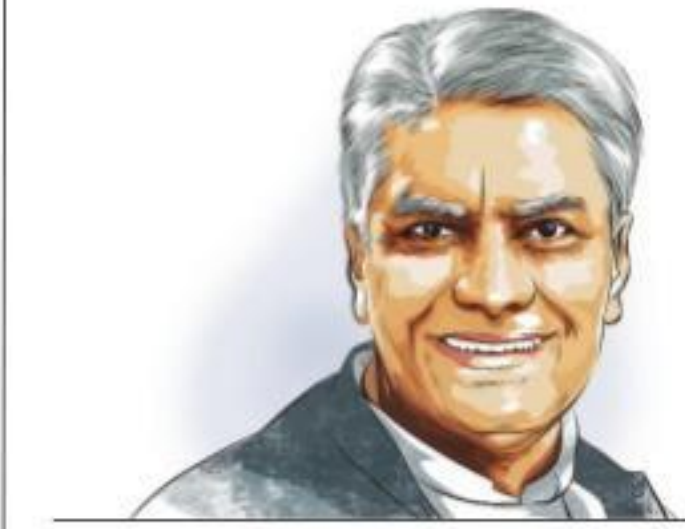
E-mail to CP, Delhi at: cp.amulyapatnaik@delhipolice.gov.in
Write to: CP, Delhi at P.O. Box. No. 171, GPO, New Delhi

FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE HELP CALL 100 **TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL 1090**

6 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



VOICE WITHIN

PUNJAB CONGRESS chief Sunil Jakhar made an unusual request when he met the CWC members' group, which included Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, which was listening to the views of MPs, state Congress chiefs and AICC secretaries. He asked the party leaders to replace Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury as the Congress leader in Lok Sabha with Shashi Tharoor. He said Adhir, no doubt was a street fighter and a man of conviction, but not suited for the job. He said articulation and communication were not his strength and suggested that Tharoor be appointed in his place. He said the party should deploy its personnel recognising their strength.

ONLINE SUCCESS

A YEAR ago, Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu had introduced a system for Rajya Sabha members to submit parliamentary notices online. The e-notice system, introduced in July 2018, seems to have been a success as in the recently concluded session, Rajya Sabha members filed 9,000 notices online. These were nearly 60 per cent of all the notices. This factoid is mentioned in the book on Naidu's two years in office titled 'Listening, Learning, Leading', which was launched by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Chennai on Sunday.

PERMANENT LIGHTS

PARLIAMENT BUILDING will soon get permanent lights. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the new permanent lighting on August 13. The colourful lights, which were used to mark special days like Independence Day and Republic Day, will now become a permanent feature, lighting up Parliament's exterior.

THE DELAY

THE NARENDRA Modi government, in its second term, is focused on filling up teaching posts in higher education. However, the government's track record in filling up vacancies in leadership positions across educational institutions continues to remain unimpressive. As many as 15 IITs out of 23 do not have a full-time chairperson at present. Curiously, one post — IIT Roorkee chairperson — remains vacant although the government had found someone for the job. Scientist Anil Kakodkar's nomination was approved by the President two years ago, but it still hasn't been notified by the HRD Ministry.

HARYANA ASSEMBLY ELECTION

BSP ties up with JJP, its 3rd alliance in eight months

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 11

THE BSP on Sunday announced that it will contest the upcoming Assembly polls in Haryana in alliance with the Indian National Lok Dal's splinter faction, the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP).

While the JJP will contest 50 seats, BSP will fight 40 seats in the election to the 90-member Assembly. While the numbers have been decided, the parties are yet to finalise the seats they will contest.

This is the BSP's third alliance in the past eight months. Before the Jind Assembly bypoll in January, it joined hands with the INLD and announced that the alliance will contest Jind bypoll and Lok Sabha polls in Haryana. However, the alliance did not last long and the BSP parted ways with INLD soon after the bypoll.

Before the Lok Sabha polls, the BSP entered into an alliance Loktantra Suraksha Party (LSP), led by BJP rebel and then Kurukshetra MP Rajkumar Saini. The alliance's candidates lost their security deposits in the election. Soon, the two parties went their own ways.

The JJP, on the other hand, contested the Lok Sabha polls in alliance with AAP. The alliance ended after the poll results.

Now, with the Haryana polls due in October, the BSP has again entered into an alliance with JJP, led by former MP Dushyant Chautala.

"I believe that the alliance with benefit both the JJP and BSP. Both parties have their vote bank that will help us jointly change the scenario of state politics," Dushyant told *The Indian Express*.

EXPLAINED A desperate measure

THE JJP-BSP alliance appears to be more of an alliance forged out of desperation. While the JJP is an upcoming party with not much of a cadre, the BSP has been struggling to find its feet in Haryana for long. In the current scenario, where the ruling BJP appears in a comfortable position in the state after winning all 10 Lok Sabha seats in the state with unprecedented margins, there is a possibility that other fringe political groups may also join the JJP-BSP alliance and they may act more as spoilers than game-changers.

Dushyant and BSP supremo Mayawati's close aide and Rajya Sabha MP Satish Mishra on Sunday held a press meet in Delhi and announced their alliance.

"The alliance has blessings of party supremo Mayawati and it will create a history in the state," Mishra told reporters.

Speaking on the current political situation in Haryana, Dushyant alleged that BJP had "damaged the social fabric" of the state.

"We will declare our candidates in the next press conference, which can be expected in another 5-10 days," Dushyant said.

Shah: No benefit to country, Kashmir from Article 370

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHENNAI, AUGUST 11

UNION HOME Minister Amit Shah said Sunday that he had "no confusion" in his mind about the removal of special status under Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, which was of "no benefit to the country...or for Kashmir".

Reiterating his argument in Parliament that the government's decision will put an end to terrorism in the state and lead to development, Shah said: "As a legislator, there was no confusion in my mind about the decision... I firmly believe there was no benefit to the country from it, or for Kashmir. It should have been removed much before. As Home Minister, I had no confusion on what will happen after Article 370."

Shah was speaking at an event to mark the release of the book "Listening, Learning & Leading..." on Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu's two-year term in office.

Speaking at the event, Naidu said the abrogation of Article 370 was in "national interest". "It was the need of the hour, people of the country should stand with Jammu and Kashmir... We should all think in terms of national interest rather than party interest. This should not be treated as a political issue but as a national issue as Kashmir is an integral part of India," he said. "Whatever problems are faced by the people of Kashmir, we have to stand



Union Home Minister Amit Shah releases a book that chronicles Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu's two years in office, in Chennai on Sunday. PTI

by them and assuage their feelings and see to it that steps are taken to restore normalcy," Naidu said.

Union Minister Prakash Javadekar, who participated in the event, claimed that Kashmir has been peaceful after the government's decision. "Not even a single tear-gas shell has been fired," he said.

Shah, meanwhile, praised the Vice-President's handling of the Rajya Sabha as its Chairman on the day the Jammu and Kashmir decision was taken up in the Upper House. Shah said his apprehension was whether it would lead to ugly scenes similar to those

during the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh. "We do not have such a majority there (Rajya Sabha)... Still I decided that I will take it to the Rajya Sabha first and then Lok Sabha... It was the appropriate handling of affairs of the House by him (Naidu)... I want to acknowledge his efficiency in handling the affairs of the House," Shah said.

Meanwhile, Tamil movie superstar Rajinikanth, who spoke at the event, praised Shah for his role as Home Minister on Article 370.

"My heartfelt congratulations for his Mission Kashmir operations. The way you conducted it, hats off. The speech you delivered

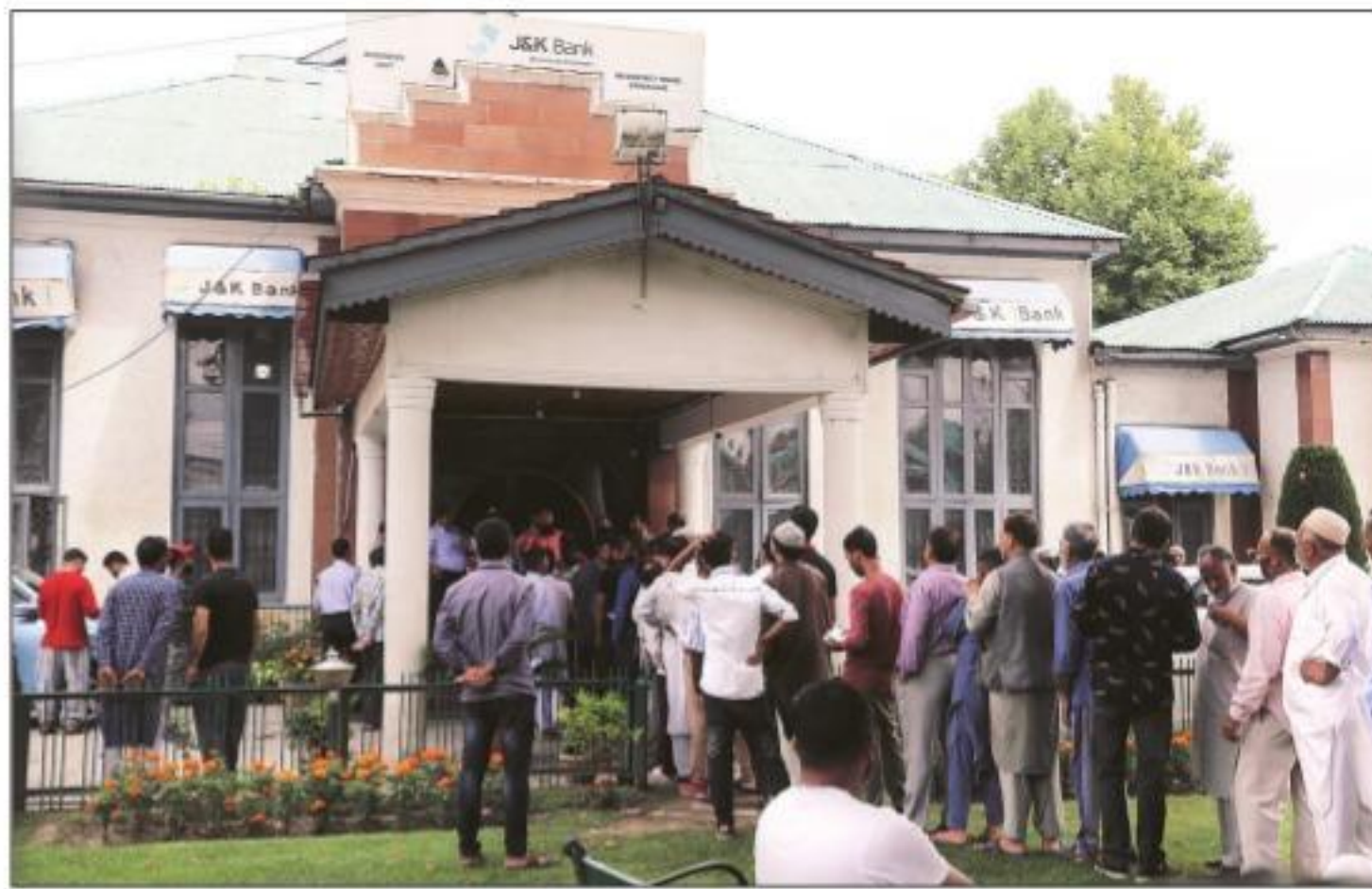
in Parliament was fantastic. Now people have come to know who is Amit Shah. I am happy about that," Rajinikanth said. "So Amit Shah ji and Modi ji are like the Krishna-Arjuna combination. We don't know who is Krishna, who is Arjuna, they only know," he said.

Rajinikanth had announced his plan to enter politics early last year but has since delayed action on the ground. On Saturday, DMK and other Opposition parties in the state had demanded that the Centre take a delegation of their leaders to Jammu and Kashmir to "assess the real situation" there.

Railways cancels Samjhauta Express

New Delhi: With Pakistan stopping it in light of "security concerns" a few days ago, Indian Railways on Sunday cancelled the Samjhauta Express from its side, which was scheduled to leave Sunday.

The "link" express train, that took passengers to Attari from where passengers could board the train to Pakistan, stands cancelled. The link express had two passengers booked on it, railway officials said. "In consequent to Pakistan's decision to cancel Samjhauta Express 14607/14608 running between Lahore and Attari... the link express train number 14001/14002 running between Delhi and Attari also stands cancelled," said Deepak Kumar, Chief Public Relations Officer of Northern Railway. ENS



People wait outside a bank at Lal Chowk in Srinagar on Saturday. Shuaib Masoodi

Don't cancel trains and hamper peoples' ties: Thar Express passengers to authorities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA JODHPUR, AUGUST 11

AMID AN uncertainty over continuation of the Indo-Pak train services after Pakistan downgraded its ties with India, 103 Pakistanis reached here Sunday on Thar Express while 81 Indians left for the neighbouring country a day earlier.

Both Indians and Pakistanis boarding the Thar Express here at Bhagat ki Kothi station voiced in unison the need to continue the international train service irrespective of the Indo-Pak ties, which, they said, must not be allowed to hamper the people-to-people links.

"The tension between these countries is not new, but the train service must be allowed to continue. If this train stops, the relation between people would stop flourishing," said Kusum, who married a man from Pakistan and moved there.

Among the Pakistani nationals, who dared to take the train to India amid uncertainty over the fate of its return, included Saifuddin, who came from Karachi.

"When I was leaving for India, some of my friends expressed fear that I might not be able to return, but I had to come here to meet my

relatives and I came," he said.

Saifuddin's co-passengers included Devji Bhai, who had come with his family from Pakistan's Mirpur Khas to visit his relatives in Gujarat. "If we could come here, we would also go back," said Devji Bhai. "People on both sides want peace and this train must not fall victim to the tension between the two nations. This is nothing but politics of ego which triggers tension," he added.

The Thar Express, which carries 165 passengers per trip, brought 103 Pakistani to India on Sunday, days after Pakistan's Railway Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed on August 9 announced

in Islamabad that the day's train would be the last one to Jodhpur.

Even as the people of the two countries dared to take the train to visit their relatives in the neighbouring country, the uncertainty over its fate bothered quite a few of them, prompting some of the Indians to cut short their stays and return to their respective countries.

"I had gone to Pakistan to see my relatives on a two month visa but decided to return considering the uncertainty over the fate of the Thar Express," said Gautam from Jodhpur.

Gautam came back with one month left for his visa to expire.

SOCIAL ACTIVIST and Ramon Magsaysay award winner Sandeep Pandey on Sunday alleged that he was briefly put under house arrest to prevent him from taking part in a dharna in Lucknow against the scrapping of Jammu and Kashmir's special status and the ongoing lockdown in the newly created Union Territory.

Police officers denied the charge that policemen went to Pandey's residence to prevent him from leaving his home.

Pandey and several other activists, including advocate Mohammad Shoaib, had planned a demonstration at the Gandhi statue in Hazratganj on Sunday evening. A police team visited

Indian envoy to Pakistan Ajay Bisaria returns

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, AUGUST 11

INDIAN HIGH Commissioner to Pakistan Ajay Bisaria has returned to India, days after Islamabad expelled him following its decision to downgrade diplomatic ties over the withdrawal of special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

Sources said Bisaria is back in Delhi as Pakistan did not heed to India's request to review its decision to downgrade diplomatic ties.

Pakistan has already made it clear that it will not send its newly-appointed High Commissioner Moin Ul Haque to India. Haque was appointed to the post three months after the previous Pakistani envoy Sohail Mahmood took charge as Pakistan's foreign secretary.

It is learnt that Bisaria left Islamabad on Saturday and arrived here via Dubai.

Pakistan on Wednesday expelled Bisaria, soon after deciding to downgrade diplomatic ties with India over what it called New Delhi's "unilateral" decision on Jammu and Kashmir.

India on Monday revoked provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution, withdrawing special status to Jammu and Kashmir, and bifurcated the state into two Union Territories —



Ajay Bisaria

Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

On Thursday, India urged Islamabad to review its decision to downgrade diplomatic ties with it. The External Affairs Ministry ministry said India regretted the steps announced by Pakistan, asserting its decision on Jammu and Kashmir was an internal affair.

India has been maintaining that its decision on Jammu and Kashmir was an internal affair aimed at ensuring overall welfare of the region.

"It is not surprising that such developmental initiatives that could address any disaffection in Jammu and Kashmir should be negatively perceived in Pakistan, which has utilised such sentiments to justify its cross-border terrorism," the Ministry of External Affairs said on Thursday.

In separatist stronghold Sopore: 'Don't misunderstand our silence as surrender'

BASHARAT MASOOD SOPORE, BARAMULLA, AUGUST 11

ASEPARATIST stronghold and red zone on the militancy map of Kashmir, Sopore is silent. Away from the gaze of paramilitary personnel, its men, young and old, are engaged in an animated conversation — they talk about the politics of Article 370, India and Pakistan.

"We are quiet but don't misunderstand our silence as surrender," says Altaf Ahmad, 38, a resident of Noorbagh in Sopore. "This silence is strategic. They want us to react. But we know; it is a long battle ahead."

As Ahmad talks, 73-year-old Nazir Ahmad joins in. "They (government) have put everything in place. They want us to react," he says. "We should be sensible and wait for the time of our choosing. We have to take them by surprise."

The people of Sopore, they say, are angry and the response would be damaging. "For all these years, if a tourist or a non-Kashmiri was killed by the militants, we felt bad. We apologised for every intentional and unintentional killing of a tourist or anybody from outside," says Rashid Nabi, a college student. "Now for us, every tourist or a non-Kashmiri labourer is a potential settler..."

While on Saturday, the gov-

ernment eased out restrictions in many parts of the Kashmir valley, the roads of Sopore, the home town of Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani, continued to be barricaded and Army allowed only selected vehicles to move.

While the people are preparing for a long haul, they are looking towards Pakistan as well. "It may be a blessing in disguise for us. After almost 50 years, Kashmir is back on the international agenda," says a Kashmiri University student from Arampora Sopore. "We are sure that Pakistan would intervene. They have no other choice — they have either to intervene or forget Kashmir."

Twenty kilometres from Sopore, Baramulla is deceptively calm. The people say they are tired of the daily battles of life and want a final solution. "We are waiting for what will happen at the UN. If nothing comes out, we would welcome Pakistan to wage a war. It is better to die once than die every day," says Ghulam Hassan, a 56-year-old resident of the town.

Some, like Ibtisam Nabi, take a positive out of the developments: the decimation of the mainstream in the valley. "They (mainstream) played the buffer between New Delhi and Kashmir. New Delhi used them to get a strong foothold here," says Nabi. "It is good for us that the buffer is gone. It would be a direct fight between Delhi and Kashmir."

Anurag Kashyap quits Twitter, cites threat to parents, daughter

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, AUGUST 11

FILMMAKER Anurag Kashyap deleted his Twitter account on Saturday, citing threats to his parents and daughter. Kashyap tweeted: "When your parents start to get calls and your daughter gets online threats you know that no one wants to talk. There isn't going to be reason or rationale. Things will rule and thuggery will be the new way of life. Congratulations everyone on this new India and hope you thrive."

The writer-director has often criticised the government for its actions. "This would be my last tweet as I leave Twitter. When I won't be allowed to speak my mind without fear, then I would rather not speak at all. Goodbye,"



Filmmaker Anurag Kashyap

he said in his final tweet. A couple of years ago, he had deactivated his Facebook account.

Known for his hard-hitting movies, Kashyap in a series of tweets had criticised the Centre's decision to scrap Jammu and Kashmir's special status. "You know what is scary, that one man thinks that he knows exactly what's the right thing to do for the benefit of 1,200,000,000 people and has the access to the power to execute it," he had tweeted.

The director didn't respond to messages regarding quitting the micro-blogging site.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi last month, expressing concern about the rising number of lynching cases.

Earlier, on May 23, Kashyap had shared a screenshot of a comment posted by one of Modi's supporters on his teenage daughter's Instagram page. The comment included a rape threat and profanities. The filmmaker had tweeted: "Dear @narendramodi sir. Congratulations on your victory and thank you for the message of inclusiveness. Sir please also tell us how do we deal with these followers of yours who celebrate your victory by threatening my daughter with messages like this for me being your dissenter." Kashyap had later filed an FIR in this regard.

The director didn't respond to messages regarding quitting the micro-blogging site.

Briefly put under house arrest over Art 370 dharna: Activist

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, AUGUST 11

SOCIAL ACTIVIST and Ramon Magsaysay award winner Sandeep Pandey on Sunday alleged that he was briefly put under house arrest to prevent him from taking part in a dharna in Lucknow against the scrapping of Jammu and Kashmir's special status and the ongoing lockdown in the newly created Union Territory.

Police officers denied the charge that policemen went to Pandey's residence to prevent him from leaving his home.

Pandey and several other activists, including advocate Mohammad Shoaib, had planned a demonstration at the Gandhi statue in Hazratganj on Sunday evening. A police team visited



Activist Sandeep Pandey

Shoaib's house in the morning.

"The policemen told me that they are busy with festival duty and requested me to call off the protest. I agreed to their demand and postponed it. The protest will now be held on August 16."

He added that after the policemen left, he called up others to inform them that the protest had been postponed. "Sandeep Pandey told me that a police team was deployed outside his house to prevent him from stepping out," said Shoaib.

Pandey said he was stopped by policemen when he stepped

out to buy bread around 1.30 pm.

"Policemen told me that I could not step outside the house until 4 pm. I told them that the protest had been postponed but even then, they did not allow me to go out. I called up my friends and informed them about this," said Pandey. He said the policemen left around 2 pm.

Circle Officer, Ghazipur, Deepak Kumar Singh and SHO, Ghazipur Police Station, denied that any police team went to Pandey's house. Circle Officer, Qaiserbagh, Sanjeev Kumar said, "A police team went to Mohammad Shoaib's residence to convey that there is a High Court direction that no one can hold a protest at the Gandhi statue. We advised him to go to Eco Garden, which has been made the official protest site."

7 EXPRESS NETWORK



NORTH

Man consumes poison in police station during mediation

Muzaffargarh: A man consumed poison inside a women's police station here when his wife refused to live with him during mediation, police said on Sunday. Pankaj Kumar (26) was rushed to a hospital in serious condition on Saturday, they said. According to Station House Officer (SHO) Preeti Rani,

Kumar was summoned by the police to attend the mediation in women police station. "During heated arguments between husband and wife, he consumed poison after she refused to live with him," the SHO said. According to a police officer, the woman had filed a complaint against Pankaj for harassing her. **PTI**



Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation workers use earth movers to remove hundreds of Dashama idols from the Sabarmati riverfront on Sunday. Javed Raja

EAST

CAF official commits suicide in Chhattisgarh

Raipur: A 42-year-old official of the Chhattisgarh Armed Force (CAF) allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself with his service weapon in Dantewada district, police said on Sunday. Assistant Platoon Commander Raju Gungur, from CAF's 9th battalion, shot himself with his service rifle on Saturday night

at his barrack in Dantewada, Superintendent of Police Abhishek Pallava said. When his colleagues heard the gunshot, they rushed to his barrack and found him lying in a pool of blood, he said. Gungur was immediately rushed to a local hospital where doctors declared him brought dead, he said. **PTI**

WEST

No formalin found in fish imported to Goa: Minister

Panaji: Goa Health Minister Vishwajit Rane has said no trace of formalin has been found in fish brought to the state from outside. Regular checks were being conducted on fish imported to Goa, Rane said in the state Assembly on the last day of its monsoon session on Friday. "The Directorate of Food and Drugs

Administration (FDA) has been regularly testing samples of fish brought to Goa from outside and sold in local markets. Till date, no added formalin has been detected in any sample," he said in a written reply. Last year, the state banned the import of fish, in view of the scare of formalin, a cancer-inducing chemical. **PTI**

SOUTH

Man attacks doctors after father dies, triggers protest

Tiruvarur: A doctor and house surgeons at the Government Tiruvarur Medical College were allegedly attacked by a man after his father, hospitalised for chest pain, died without responding to treatment, police said Sunday. This sparked off a demonstration by the doctors and house surgeons demanding

action against Tamarai Selvam for the alleged attack, they said. Selvam allegedly went on the rampage and broke the glass panes and window screens on Saturday night, they said. Cases have been registered against Selvam under four IPC sections including criminal intimidation, police said. **PTI**

KERALA

72 DEAD | **2.51 LAKH** PEOPLE IN CAMPS

MAHARASHTRA

40 DEAD | **4.14 LAKH** PEOPLE IN CAMPS

KARNATAKA

40 DEAD | **3.27 LAKH** PEOPLE IN CAMPS

BSY: Flood-related damage in Karnataka worth Rs 10,000 cr

Committed to helping people in distress, says Shah after aerial survey

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU, AUGUST 11

UNION HOME Minister and BJP president Amit Shah conducted an aerial survey of flood-hit parts of the Belagavi region in Karnataka on Sunday along with Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa, even as rain provided a respite to the region after nearly a week. Following the aerial survey, Yediyurappa said that the flood damage in Karnataka has been assessed to be in the range of Rs 10,000 crore and an immediate release of Rs 3,000 crore had been sought from the Centre. Yediyurappa said the Home Minister had assured full co-operation to the state in the rehabilitation efforts.

"Did an aerial survey of the flood-affected areas of Belagavi (Karnataka) and Kolhapur and Sangli (Maharashtra). Also held a meeting with senior officials to review the relief operations. Central and both state governments are totally committed to helping our people in distress," Shah said after the aerial survey. "Met and surveyed flood-affected areas with the Home Minister of India Amit Shah. Orders were discharged to senior officials concerned. Full support has been assured by the Home Minister to Karnataka in this hour of need," Yediyurappa said after the survey.

On Saturday, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman conducted an aerial survey of the Belagavi region. The Union ministers arrived to take a look at the flood-affected region on the Karnataka-Maharashtra border even as the BJP government in Karnataka faced criticism for being a one-man government with Yediyurappa functioning as the sole member of Cabinet since the government was formed on July 26. "Even though there is no Cabinet, all MLAs and MPs are working for flood relief along with all state officials," Yediyurappa said.

With rainfall abating in north Karnataka and Maharashtra over the past two days, emergency flood relief work has been neces-



Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Karnataka CM B S Yediyurappa take an aerial survey of flood-hit areas. ANI

sitated in coastal Karnataka and Malnad region of the state where heavy rainfall continued till Sunday, causing widespread damage to property and lives. Yediyurappa has termed the flood, which has affected 17 of the 20 districts in the state, the worst in more than 45 years. Kodagu region, which witnessed heavy rain damage last August, is among the regions severly hit by the flood this year with as many eight deaths reported in landslides in the hilly region till Sunday. Yediyurappa is scheduled to conduct an aerial survey of the coastal and Malnad regions on Monday and a few other parts of north Karnataka on Tuesday. "Rainfall intensity over upper Krishna Basin in Maharashtra re-

duced considerably yesterday (August 10). As per IMD, the rainfall is likely to reduce from tomorrow (August 12) in the Upper Krishna catchment area," the state government said. The state disaster monitoring cell said light to moderate rain is likely in the flood-affected parts of north Karnataka over the next five days. The coastal and Malnad regions is expected to receive heavy rain in some parts over the next five days. As many as 5.81 lakh people have been evacuated over the last week from marooned regions by fire and emergency services, SDRF, NDRF and Army teams. Four IAF helicopters were deployed to north Karnataka and one Indian Navy chopper to coastal Karnataka. According to official government data provided on Sunday, 40 people have died across the state and 3.27 lakh people are in relief camps across 80 taluks. Crop loss (as per preliminary assessment) is across 4.20 lakh hectares of land.

Water enters Hampi Unesco Heritage site Hampi, along the banks of Tungabhadra River in Ballari district, has been inundated after the release of water from a reservoir Sunday. Water has entered the heritage site and an Anjaneya temple in front of Kampli Fort has been partially submerged. Tourists have been shifted to safer places, officials said.

Two children drowned after they jumped in a river in Sanosara village in Manavadar taluka of Junagadh district to have a swim on Sunday morning. They have been identified as Kuldip Rathva (9) and Nilam Rathva (13), residents of Kavant taluka in Chhota Udepur district. While rain halted in most parts of the state on Sunday, several parts of central Gujarat and Saurashtra and Kutch regions experienced extremely heavy rain on Friday and Saturday. In the last 24 hours (till 8 am Sunday), Nakhtrana taluka in Kutch district received 321 mm rainfall, Tankara in Morbi district received 268 mm rain and Dhrangadhra taluka in Surendranagar recorded 209 mm downpour, according to data available with the state emergency operation centre. Heavy rainfall is likely at isolated places in Saurashtra and Kutch regions in the next 24 hours, an official of India Meteorological Department in Ahmedabad said. "Fishermen are advised not to venture into the sea as squally weather is likely to prevail along and off the Gujarat coast on Sunday and Monday due to active monsoon conditions," he said. **WITHTPTI**

8 more found dead in Saurashtra, death toll rises to 27 in Gujarat

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE RAJKOT, AUGUST 11

A DAY AFTER heavy rainfall lashed Saurashtra and Kutch regions of Gujarat, bodies of eight people, who were swept away by rivers in Surendranagar, Jamanagar and Rajkot districts, were recovered on Sunday. The death toll has in rain-related incidents in the state has now climbed to 27.

Surendranagar district collector K Rajesh said that the bodies of six out of the seven people who went missing while crossing a causeway across Falgu river in Surendranagar on Saturday, were found on Sunday. "Bodies of six of them were recovered from the river bank a few hundred metres downstream. A team of NDRF is still searching for the seventh person," he told *The Indian Express*. The Falgu river had swollen on Saturday following heavy rain. Ten agricultural labourers were swept away while they were trying to cross a causeway across the river at Vavdi village. Three of them have been rescued. The six found dead on Sunday have been identified as Sadaji Thakor (55), Gambhirji Thakro



The swollen Tapti river in Surat on Sunday. Hanif Malek

(33), Gambhirji's wife Jyotsana (30) and daughter Poonam (10), Avkash Rabari (17) and Vijay Ghanghar (19). Police said Sadaji was a resident of Valpura village in Banaskantha district and Gambhirji and his family were residents of Mota Jorapura village of neighbouring Patan district. Avkash was a resident of Vavdi and Ghanghar was from the neighbouring Isadra village. Police said Ravi Rabari is still missing. "We are using drones to locate the person who is still missing. The expanse of Falgu river is wide

and an NDRF team is still searching for him," Rajesh added. Sources said Thakors worked as labourers on Ghanghar's farm. With this, the number of deaths in rain-related incidents in the state has gone up to 27. Till Saturday, 19 deaths were reported in rain-related mishaps, including 16 in incidents of wall or building collapse, as Saurashtra and central Gujarat experienced heavy rain. Eight labourers were killed after a wall collapsed on their huts in Morbi town on Saturday.

As waters recede, Maharashtra stares at fear of disease, infra challenges

SANDEEP ASHAR MUMBAI, AUGUST 11

AS WATER levels in western Maharashtra recede, the government is shifting its focus to relief and rehabilitation work to assist lakhs of people affected by the worst flood the region has seen in recent times. The death toll climbed to 40 on Sunday, as rescue workers recovered five more bodies from the spot of last week's boat capsize in Sangli district. Five more deaths were reported from affected areas, said Deepak Mhaisekar, Pune Divisional Commissioner. The government said 4,14,000 people are currently staying in transit camps.

Even as the rain eased on Sunday and water levels started receding in the worst-hit areas of Sangli and Kolhapur, officials said that some places continue to remain inaccessible. As many as 203 roads and 94 bridges are still closed to traffic, officials said. An initial assessment revealed that 2,177 zilla parishad schools have been damaged.

"There is an improvement in the overall situation. Water levels have begun to recede. But we think it would take at least another couple of days for the flood waters to recede completely," said Relief and Rehabilitation Secretary Kishor Raje Nimbalkar. According to official information, the water level in Kolhapur on Sunday was 50.1 feet, and in Sangli it was 54.1 feet. The levels had risen to 57 feet in Sangli last week. In Kolhapur's Shirol, the situation continues to be grim with water level still at 62.9 feet. About 535 relief camps are now in operation, said Nimbalkar. As on Sunday, Maharashtra has recorded 802.7 mm of rainfall,

which is over 109 per cent of its seasonal average.

The threat of disease outbreak is now a primary concern, with carcasses in flood waters and contaminated drinking water sources raising fears. Local health workers have been asked to survey the risk of water-borne diseases, an official said. "We are stocking essential medical supplies. The focus is on ensuring cleanliness and medicine supply," said Nimbalkar.

On Sunday, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis undertook an urgent review meeting. He directed officials to airlift emergency medicines wherever required and put medical teams on standby. Directives were also issued to undertake cleanliness campaigns in affected areas. Fadnavis also directed engineers to restore damaged water supply lines on a war footing once the waters recede. He also ordered the restoration of essential services such as power, fuel, telecommunication and transport links on a priority. Norms for floating tenders are expected to be relaxed.

With 762 villages affected by the flood, damage to power supply lines is a major concern. The chief minister has empowered local officials to procure new transformers wherever necessary. Meanwhile, following the Opposition's demands, Fadnavis issued instructions to immediately distribute Rs 5,000 to flood-hit families in cash. The rest will be deposited in their bank accounts.

He also asked officials to propose construction of elevated roads on expressways and gave an in-principle approval to a proposal for expanding operations of the existing air strip at Kawlapur in Sangli.

IN OTHER STATES

TAMIL NADU

Tamil Nadu Local Administration Minister S P Velumani Sunday visited the rain-affected areas in and around Coimbatore on Sunday. He told reporters that the city was not much affected by the showers as the administration was geared up to tackle any emergency. Sixty sanitary workers have been sent to Nilgiris district, which bore the brunt of nature's fury.



In Mandya district of Karnataka. AP

HIMACHAL PRADESH

The meteorological department has issued a fresh 'yellow weather' warning for heavy rain in Himachal Pradesh on Monday and Tuesday, an official said on Sunday. The Shimla Met centre has forecast rainfall in the state till August 17. Heavy rainfall is likely to occur in the plains, low and mid hills of the state over the next two days, the official said.

ANDHRA PRADESH

Andhra Pradesh has benefited from heavy rain in the upper riparian states of Maharashtra and Karnataka as two major reservoirs on river Krishna, Srissaiam and Nagarjuna Sagar, have almost been filled to capacity after virtually being dry for months. Meanwhile, the flood fury in river Godavari has abated with the inflow at Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage at Dowaleswaram falling to 8,95,969 cusecs on Sunday. All warning signals have been taken off.

KERALA

Overwhelmed by first flood in half-a-century, Nilambur picks up pieces

VISHNU VARMA NILAMBUR, AUGUST 11

THE ELDERLY in Nilambur have unnerving memories of the kind of devastation that befell the town this week. In 1961, one of Kerala's wettest years, the town, although not as developed and popular as now, was said to be submerged for days by the floodwaters from the Chaliyar river. Fifty-eight years later, the memories have come back to haunt them.

On Saturday afternoon, as monsoon showers loosened up, the swollen waters of Chaliyar receded from the heart of Nilambur to leave a town brown in colour and steeped in sludge. The town, hidden in the Nilgiri

range of the Western Ghats and loved by the British for its aesthetics and more so for its teak and rosewood trees, has been left broken, its shops plundered and its people waiting for relief. As the waters receded, local residents came out on the streets to inspect their shops and talk about the way forward. Shopowners spent the afternoon cleaning their shops. On the outskirts of the town, distressing scenes of entire homes and acres of arecanut and banana plantations submerged under turbid floodwaters played out. Ashraf, who owns a hosiery shop, pegged his losses at nearly Rs 2 lakh. "When we saw the water reaching up till 500 m

away, we began packing our stocks and keeping it on higher shelves. But within minutes, the water gushed in and we had to shut shop and run," he said. Power and communication lines are still disrupted in many areas. The staff of Kerala State Electricity Board have been stretched to their limits across the state. For the past four days, Nilambur has been blacked out. At relief camps set up at schools in the town to accommodate people whose homes are partially or completely submerged, generators are deployed at night. Till late on Saturday evening, men and women at the Govt Upper Primary school sat around a candle as a few men rushed to the

neighbourhood ration shop to procure kerosene to run the generators. In the school's midday meal kitchen, a few inmates prepared to chop vegetables to cook dinner. "We have received orders from the government to procure all essentials, including rice, vegetables and kerosene from the ration shop. I think we will be okay," said Sheeja, a school teacher and regional president of the Kerala Sastra Sahitya Parishad, a voluntary organisation aiming to develop social and scientific temper among the masses. Till Friday, Sheeja couldn't come to help out at the relief camp as her home, a few kilometres away, was marooned. The waters came very close, but

eventually did not enter her home. She argued that the flooding of the town could not just be attributed to the accumulation of rainwater this week. "It has to be the landslides in Kavalappara, Mundakadavu and Meppadi. When the debris slides into Chaliyar, naturally the river cannot hold it," she said. At the relief camp, 60-year-old Ambujakshi is emotional when she talks about her home. "We lived there for 40 years. Today, it's gone..." her voice trails off. "Our house was nowhere near the river. But still, the river came into our house and swept it. Today we went to see it. People asked us not to go there. How can we not go?" she said.



The swollen Chaliyar has receded, leaving behind sludge. Vishnu Varma

72 cases filed, police to open Azam Khan's 'history sheet'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, AUGUST 11

DAYS AFTER declaring senior Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan a part of the "land mafia", the Rampur district administration and police are now looking to open a 'history sheet' of the Samajwadi Party Lok Sabha member.

As many as 72 cases have been filed against Khan since April this year.

"Since most cases lodged against Azam Khan are criminal, such as allegations of land grabbing and theft, we have decided to open his history sheet," said Rampur District Magistrate Aunjaneya Kumar Singh.

"Of the 72 cases, police have filed charge sheets in 15 cases and investigation is still pending in other cases," the DM added.

By naming the senior SP leader as a history-sheeter, the police will be monitoring his activities, sources in the police said.

The latest case against Khan was lodged on Thursday. He and a former executive officer of the district Municipal Board were booked for allegedly usurping



Azam Khan

land under Enemy Property and making it part of the Jauhar University. Khan is chancellor of the University. Meanwhile, police are conducting searches to trace Khan's close aide and retired deputy SP Aalay Hasan Khan, who is a co-accused with Khan in nearly 30 cases. So far, police failed to trace him.

Khan's son and SP MLA Mohammad Abdullah Azam Khan said, "The Rampur district administration and local police are targeting people close to us. As per my information, more than 65 cases have been lodged against my father since April this year. The cases have been lodged on false allegations, and we have moved the court seeking quashing of the FIRs."

ISRO's new commercial arm gets first booking for launch

JOHNSON T A
BENGALURU, AUGUST 11

NEW SPACE INDIA Limited (NSIL), the newly created second commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation, has bagged its first contract.

A private US space services provider has booked ISRO's Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV), which is yet to be tested, for launching a spacecraft.

The US provider, Spaceflight, announced on August 8 that it has clinched a deal with NSIL for using the second developmental flight of the under-development SSLV rocket to launch a spacecraft for an "undisclosed US-based satellite constellation customer".

"SSLV is perfectly suited for launching multiple microsats at a time and supports multiple orbital drop-offs. We're excited to add SSLV to our launch portfolio and manage many launches together — first to LEO (low earth orbit) mid-inclinations this year and SSO missions starting in the fall of 2020," Curt Blake, CEO and President of Spaceflight, said.

EXPLAINED Deepening ties with private industries

THERE ARE more than 500 industries contributing to ISRO programmes at present; more than half of the project budget outlay for space programmes flows to these industries. ISRO is looking at deepening these ties through NSIL with private players manufacturing some of the high turnover rockets like the PSLV and the SSLV, which has been indigenised 100 per cent over the years.

"We are taking advantage of the growth in the small satellite market to deliver more launch options with the mini-launcher, and look forward to many more launches with Spaceflight," NSIL director D Radhakrishnan said.

Spaceflight has had nine launches in the past with ISRO involving over 100 spacecraft on the workhorse Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV). Spaceflight has in the past tied up with Rocket Lab and SpaceX among others to provide launch services.

ISRO's SSLV was originally scheduled to have its first developmental flight in July but the

flight has been pushed to the end of the year. One of the mandates of NSIL is to mass produce and manufacture the SSLV and the more powerful PSLV with the private sector in India through technology transfers.

The SSLV can carry satellites weighing upto 500 kg to low earth orbit while the PSLV can launch satellites weighing in the range of 1,000 kg.

The SSLV "is the smallest vehicle at 110-tonne mass at ISRO. It will take only 72 hours to integrate, unlike the 70 days taken now for a launch vehicle. Only six people will be required to do the job, instead of 60 people. The

entire job will be done in a very short time and the cost will be only around Rs 30 crore. It will be an on-demand vehicle," ISRO chairman K Sivan had said earlier this year. In May, at an event to introduce NSIL to industry players, Sivan had said that the Indian industry had formed a consortium for the production of PSLV and that it should come together to produce the SSLV as well once it is tested. Sivan said about 15 to 20 SSLVs would be required every year to meet the national demand alone.

The aim of NSIL, which was mentioned in the Budget by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, is to use research and development carried out by ISRO over the years for commercial purposes through Indian industry partners.

While ISRO's existing commercial arm Antrix Corporation will handle ISRO's commercial deals for satellites and launch vehicles with foreign customers, NSIL will deal with capacity building of local industry for space manufacturing, ISRO officials said.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

7 of family booked for killing 18-yr-old over 'obscene message'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MEERUT, AUGUST 11

SEVEN MEMBERS of a family allegedly beat to death an 18-year-old man in Bijnor's Mandora village on Saturday evening after he reportedly sent an obscene message regarding a woman from the family.

Police have registered an FIR against all seven, but made no arrests so far.

According to the complaint lodged by the father of the deceased, Mohammed Salim, his son was returning home from their shop in the village on Saturday evening when 20-year-old Moinuddin and his family members dragged him into their residence and beat him up with sticks and iron rods.

"They then dropped a profusely bleeding Salim to my house and fled. We immediately took him to a local hospital where the doctors declared him 'brought dead'," Salim's father, Mohammed Nizamuddin, wrote in his complaint.

Police said Salim had allegedly sent an obscene message regarding a woman mem-

ber of Moinuddin's family to Adil, the 22-year-old brother of Moinuddin, several days ago.

"After receiving the message, Adil immediately contacted Salim and the two had a heated exchange over the phone. On Saturday, Moinuddin, who works in Delhi along with Adil, came to the village and on spotting Salim, he called his brothers and other family members who dragged the 18-year-old inside their house and beat him badly," Sanjay Kumar, in-charge of Sherkot Police Station told *The Indian Express* over the phone.

"We have deployed enough police personnel in the village to ensure that the deceased's family may not indulge in violence following the incident. We are also avoiding arrest because of the festival (Bakrid)," said Kumar.

The FIR has been lodged under IPC sections 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention), 145 (joining or continuing in unlawful assembly), 147 (rioting), 302 (murder), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt) and 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace), said police.

CBSE hikes Class 10, 12 exam fees after 5 years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 11

THE CENTRAL Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has increased the fees of Class 10 and Class 12 board examinations by up to Rs 1,150, the first hike in five years, according to board officials.

The fees for general category students for both Class 10 and 12 have been doubled from Rs 750 to Rs 1,500 for five subjects.

SC and ST students, who were paying Rs 350 earlier, will now pay Rs 1,200 for five subjects. In a special arrangement only for Delhi, SC/ST students were paying Rs 50, while the balance was paid by the Delhi government.

"The increase is after a gap of five years. The fees has been increased for all categories of students in all affiliated schools of CBSE in India and abroad by a resolution if the governing body of the board," a senior board official said. The hike is applicable from the 2019-20 session.

The board notified the changes last week and has asked the schools, who had already begun the registration process and charged students as per the old fee structure, to now collect the difference. To appear for an additional subject in the Class 12 board examination, SC and the ST students, who were earlier not required to pay an extra fee, will now have to pay Rs 300.

General category students will also have to pay Rs 300 for an additional subject, instead of Rs 150 earlier.

"Hundred per cent visually-impaired students are exempted from paying CBSE examination fees. The student who fails to deposit the difference in CBSE examination fee before the last date will not be registered and will not be allowed to appear in the 2019-20 exam," the official added.



CELEBRATING WITH NEIGHBOURS

Border Security Force personnel offer sweets to Border Guards Bangladesh personnel on the eve of Eid-al-Adha, at the border in Dawki, Meghalaya on Sunday. PTI

'DEMOLITION' OF RAVIDAS TEMPLE IN DELHI

Dalit outfits call for Punjab bandh on Aug 13, CM asks PM to step in

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, JALANDHAR, AUGUST 11

DALIT outfits called for a statewide bandh in Punjab on August 13 to protest the recent reported demolition of the Sri Guru Ravidas temple in Tughlakabad in Delhi, on the order of the Supreme Court, even as Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Sunday appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to personally intervene to resolve the tension.

The Chief Minister's appeal came after state-wide protests by members of the community, under the banner of the Guru Ravidas Jayanti Samaroh Samiti. The Samiti has also announced that it will observe 15th August as a "Black Day".

On Sunday, All India Ad Dharm Mission and Sadhu

Samaj president Satwinder Heera held a joint press conference with president of Sadhu Samperdaye, Sant Sarwan Das, in Jalandhar. Both announced that the Sadhu Samperdaye Society, Dr Ambedkar Sabhas and other Dalit organisations in the state will observe a bandh on August 13. They said they will also observe a one-day protest at the Jantar Mantar in Delhi on August 21. About the August 13 protest, they said that peaceful demonstrations will be held across the state.

On Saturday, National Highway-1 was blocked at several places by members of the Ravidasia community.

Taking serious note of these protests, the CM, in a statement said that while he did not wish to comment on the SC judgment and that he was personally not in favour of demolition of structures of historical importance.

He appealed to the community to call off their protests as his government was ready to extend its full support to them to get the matter amicably resolved with the Centre. While appealing to the Prime Minister to step in for a resolution, Amarinder also spoke to Union Urban Development Minister Hardeep Singh Puri to seek re-allotment of the same site, which reportedly belongs to the Delhi Development Authority, to enable the community to reconstruct the temple.

Extending legal and financial assistance to the community to take the matter forward, the CM constituted a five-member committee to meet religious and political representatives. The committee consists of MP Santokh Singh, and MLAs Charanjit Singh Channi, Raj Kumar Chabbewal, Aruna Chaudhary and Sushil Kumar Rinku.

HC sets aside life sentence awarded to JeM 'operative'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, AUGUST 11

CITING "A glaring example of lack of competence and sincere efforts" on the part of the prosecution, a Division Bench of the Allahabad High Court has set aside the life imprisonment sentence given by a sessions court to alleged Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) operative and Pakistan national, Mohammad Waris alias Raja, and a resident of Muzaffarnagar, Ashfaq alias Nannhey, on the grounds that the required sanction for prosecution was not obtained from the government.

The High Court, however, upheld the sentence awarded to the Waris under the Foreigners' Act, that entails three years imprisonment, and Ashfaq under the Arms Act and Foreigners' Act, for which he was sentenced to three years and two years, respectively.

Police had arrested Waris from Ashfaq's residence in Jaula village of Muzaffarnagar in March 2000. They had then claimed that Waris was a member of the JeM and claimed to have recovered weapons and

hand grenades from Ashfaq's house.

The two were booked under IPC sections 121 (waging, or attempting to wage a war against the Government of India), 121-A (conspiracy to commit offences punishable by section 121), 122 (collecting arms with an intention of waging a war against the Government of India) and 123 (concealing with intent to facilitate design to wage a war). Police had also invoked section 13/14 Foreigners' Act, section 3 Passport Act and Arms Act against them.

Three more local residents — Gayur, Mustaqeem and Sardar Ali — had been arrested as co-accused in the case.

In May 2007, a local court awarded life imprisonment to Waris and Ashfaq, while it acquitted Gayur, Mustaqeem and Sardar Ali.

Waris and Ashfaq then appealed the decision in the High Court, challenging it on the grounds that their prosecution and trial under IPC sections 121, 121-A, 122 and 123 was illegal and without jurisdiction as no sanction under section 196 of the CrPC was obtained either from the Central government or

Rs 1,700 for 2 boiled eggs: Patron tweets Mumbai hotel bill, social media abuzz

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, AUGUST 11

A PATRON'S revelation of being charged Rs 850 per boiled egg, excluding taxes, at a luxury hotel in the financial capital led to a social media furore on Sunday.

The incident comes days after actor Rahul Bose had complained about paying Rs 442 for two bananas in a luxury hotel in Chandigarh.

After paying Rs 1,700 for two boiled eggs and a goods and serv-

ices tax of 18 per cent at Central Mumbai's Four Seasons Hotel, author-photographer Kartik Dhar tweeted out a picture of his bill, further fuelling chatter on how luxury hotels price common items. Tagging Bose in his tweet, first posted on Saturday, Dhar asked if they should launch a protest on the subject.

Dhar's message on the micro-blogging site was retweeted or shared by 1,200 users and there were hundreds of comments on the same.

The bill copy shared by Dhar showed omelettes are also priced at Rs 850 each, while a Diet Coke goes for Rs 260.

A hotel spokesperson could not be reached for comments.

Following the controversy after Bose's tweet, the Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI) had justified the pricing saying, "a hotel offers service, quality, plate, cutlery, accompaniment, sanitised fruit, ambiance and luxury and not the commodity alone," FHRAI vice president Gurbaxish Singh Kohli had said.

showed omelettes are also priced at Rs 850 each, while a Diet Coke goes for Rs 260.

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The bill copy shared by Dhar

Howrah: Zomato execs protest against delivering pork, beef

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, AUGUST 11

OVER 15 delivery executives working for food app Zomato in Howrah district on Sunday called an indefinite strike from Monday refusing to deliver pork and beef to customers. The executives staged a protest on Howrah and raised slogans like 'Zomato ki dadagiri nah chalegi'.

According to the protesters, the company allegedly did not pay any heed to their reservations of delivering food consisting of pork or beef to customers. They also claimed that the company had stopped their payouts.

The protesting group, reportedly consisting of Hindu as well as Muslim members, demanded that the company refrain from "forcing" executives to deliver these items.

Mausin Akhtar, one of the protesters, said, "Instead of listening to our grievances, the company is forcing its executives to deliver beef and pork against their will. While Hindus have a problem in delivering beef, Muslims have a problem in delivering pork. We are not ready to deliver such things on any condition, but are forced. The company has also rolled back our payout. We have decided to call for an indefinite strike."

Another protesting executive said, "The company is playing with our religious sentiments. The company assigns us to deliver any kind of order to the customer. We, the Hindus, were asked to deliver beef, while in the coming days our Muslims brothers will be asked to deliver pork. This is not acceptable. We demand that the company not play with our religious senti-

ments." Zomato responded to the strike with a late evening statement saying it is looking into the grievances of the group.

"In a country as diverse as India, it is impossible to ensure that vegetarian and non-vegetarian preferences are factored into delivery logistics. Delivery partners are unequivocally made to understand the practical nature of the job as they choose to enter the workforce. All our partners understand this fully. There is a small group of partners in Howrah who have raised concerns and we are looking to resolve the issue as quickly as possible," said the company's statement.

The incident comes close on the heels of an incident in Jabalpur when a customer refused to accept an order from Zomato as it was assigned to a Muslim delivery executive.

TELLING NUMBERS

N-E crowds list of states with most dense tree & forest cover

A QUARTER of India's geographical area (24.49 per cent) is under forest and tree cover, according to data shared in Parliament by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. These assessments are done by the Forest Survey of India, whose findings are published in the India State of Forest Report (ISFR). The last report was published in 2017.

The lowest forest and tree cover in the country is in Haryana, at 6.79 per cent of its geographical area. Punjab follows with 6.87 per cent. Rajasthan's forest and tree cover is over 7.26 per cent of its geographical area while Madhya Pradesh's is 27.73 per cent.

At 97 per cent, the Union Territory of Lakshadweep is on top - its geographical area is only 30 square km. Among the six states with the highest forest and tree cover, four are in the Northeast - Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Meghalaya. Goa and Kerala are two other

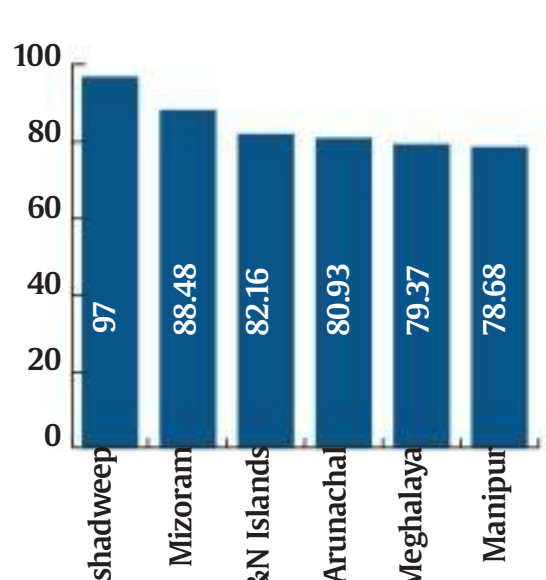


Tree planting drive in Chandigarh in 2016. File photo

states with more than 50 per cent of their geographical area under forest and tree cover.

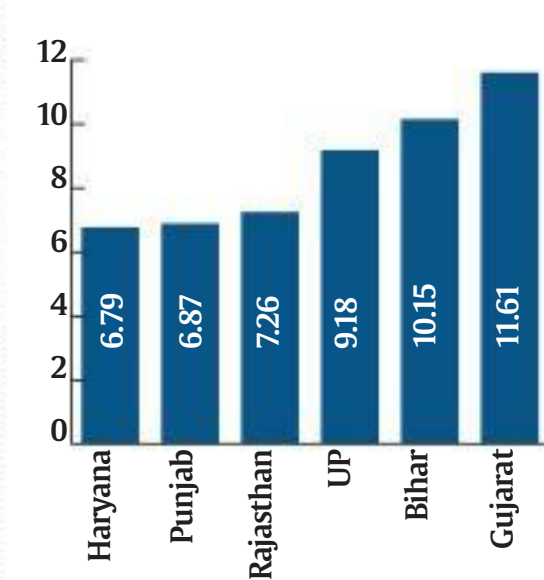
In terms of geographical area, the highest tree and forest cover is in Madhya Pradesh, with 85,487 sq km.

TOP SIX



Tree plus forest cover as a percentage of geographical area
 Source: Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

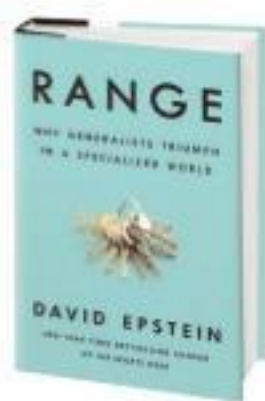
BOTTOM SIX



TIP FOR READING LIST

TRY ALL TRADES TO MASTER ONE

IF SOMEONE wants herself or her child to develop a skill and excel in it, say playing a musical instrument, how intensely do they focus? Experts would argue that they start early in life, practise for as long as possible, and specialise. Journalist David Epstein argues that it pays more to generalise than to specialise. In *Range: Why Generalists Triumph in a Specialised World*, Epstein uses data from surveys of individual cases of eminent musicians, inventors, scientists, artists, and athletes to argue that generalists, while they take longer to make their mark, tend to outshine specialists because of their varied interests, creativity, and their ability to see across domains. The path to excellence, therefore, lies not through early specialisation but in trying out multiple domains and broadening skills.



those who found their instrument of choice only after having tried other ones. Scientists who won a Nobel prize, as opposed to the scientists who didn't, were 22 times more likely to have also tried their skills as actors, dancers, musicians, or other performers. Epstein gives the example of tennis player Roger Federer, whose parents encouraged him to try various sports, including basketball, handball, skiing, skateboarding, swimming, table tennis, and wrestling, before he finally chose tennis.

Epstein not only argues in favour of experimenting with various skills, but also that one should quit frequently. He cautions, though, that it is critically important to know when to quit, and suggests premeditated possible scenarios that would warrant quitting a job before even accepting it.

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SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

How to read leaked NRC data

Data released by Assam government caused a storm in Assembly but NRC process stays on schedule. What trends was the govt trying to highlight, and what is their demographic and political significance?

KABIR FIRAQUE
 NEW DELHI, AUGUST 11

LAST WEEK, the Supreme Court refused to be drawn into a debate over the leak of National Register of Citizens (NRC) data in Assam, stressing that it wants the final NRC out on schedule (August 31) "irrespective of who likes it or who doesn't". This capped a week of controversy that began with the state government tabling the data in the Assembly, and demanding reverification.

What kind of data were presented in the Assembly?

According to the government, these are from the draft final NRC published in July last year. It showed the number of people included in and excluded from the NRC in each of Assam's 33 districts. In fact, sections of the Assamese vernacular media had published district-wise data last year itself, but the NRC authorities had never commented on their authenticity. Besides, the numbers of inclusions and exclusions will now have changed, following the processes of claims and objections.

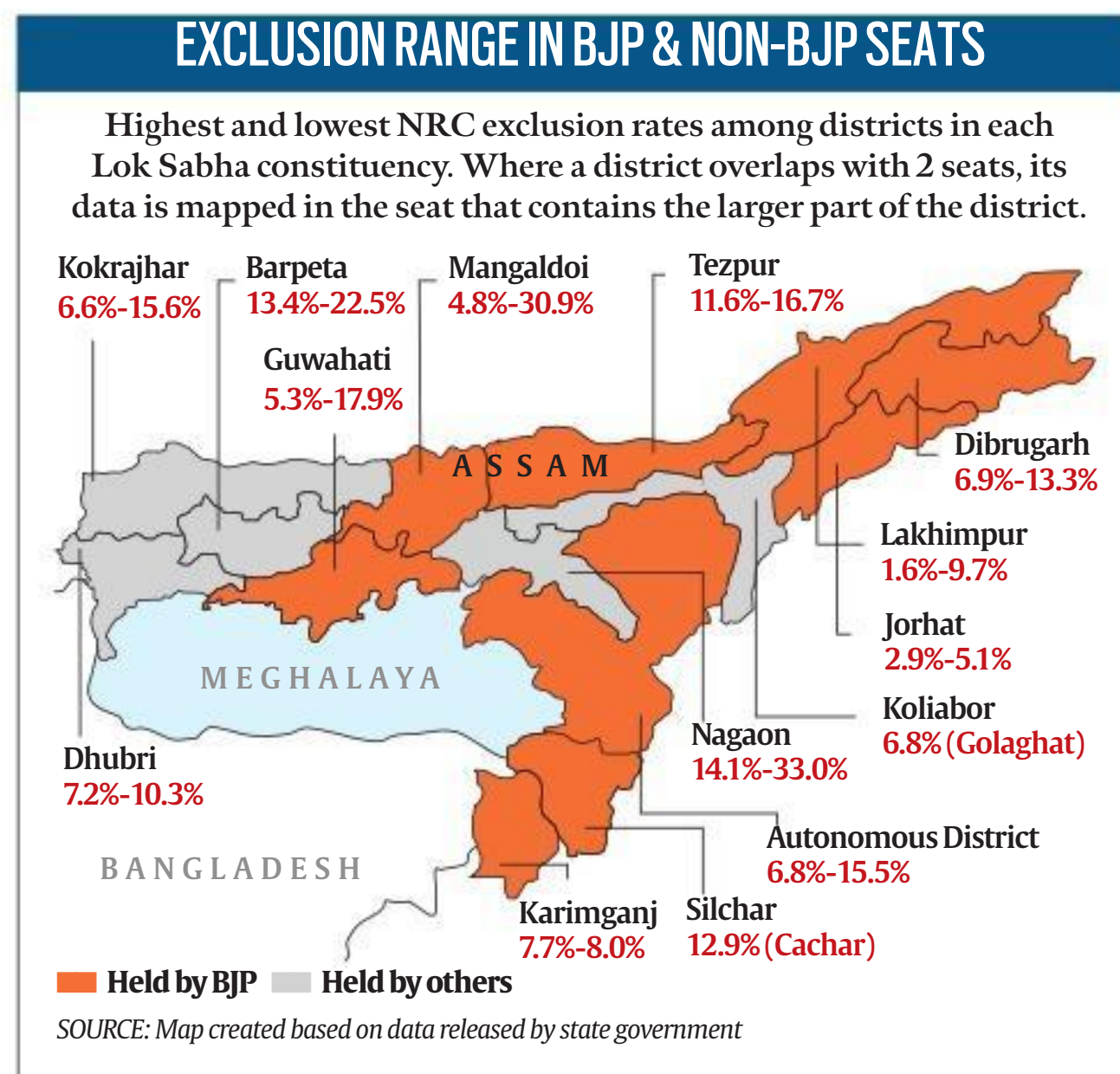
Last year, the NRC authorities did not give a district-wise breakup and only released all-Assam totals - 3,29,91,384 applicants, out of whom 2,89,83,677 were included as citizens and 40,07,707 were left out. In the data tabled in the Assembly, the totals are slightly different - 3,29,91,385 applicants, 2,89,83,668 inclusions and 40,07,717 exclusions.

What is the significance of data broken up district-wise?

It is about demographic profiles and geographic locations. BJP minister and government spokesperson Chandra Mohan Patowary, who presented the data, highlighted a trend - the inclusion rate is higher in Bangladesh-border districts, and lower in districts with a predominant indigenous population. The government cited these trends to claim the NRC is flawed. This argument presumes that the number of illegal immigrants will be higher in border districts. Migrants from East Bengal/East Pakistan/Bangladesh have, however, been settling in various parts of Assam for decades.

The three border districts - Dhubri, South Salmara and Karimganj - happen to be Muslim majority. On the other hand, the two districts with the highest exclusion rates - Hojai and Darrang - too have high Muslim populations but are far from the border.

What do demographic profiles tell us



about immigration?

While it is widely accepted that the migrant-origin population is predominantly Muslim, the counter-argument is that Bengali Muslims have been entering Assam since British rule. Migration is considered illegal only when someone has entered Assam after March 24, 1971. As such, the relationship between population profiles and immigration has been a subject of debate among demographers.

Dr Nandita Saikia, Assistant Professor of Population Studies at JNU, has analysed Census figures since 1891 to conclude that Muslims comprised 85 per cent of migrants from East Bengal during 1891-1951, and about two-thirds of migrants from East Pakistan during 1951-71. For the period between 1971-2011, she concludes that the Muslim population growth in Assam (from about 25% to 34%) cannot be explained as a natural increase.

Abdul Mannan, former professor of statistics at Gauhati University, has gone into the same population trends in his book *Infiltration: Genesis of Assam Movement* and concluded that the Muslim population growth has been driven by natural factors rather than migration. "A segment of the

Muslim population has a higher fertility rate, unfortunately, because of illiteracy, backwardness and other factors," Mannan said. Some districts have always had a high Muslim population, such as Karimganj since Independence, and undivided Goalpara district since the first census of 1871, he said.

Leave alone religious profiles, even the extent of overall migration is debated. "Over decades, scholars, activists and politicians have struggled, jostled and claimed vastly different figures for in-migration," noted Sanjoy Hazarika, journalist, author and International Director, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative. "The issues are far more complex than a simple sum game, much more than the demographics of religion. There are community growth rates, overall and group fertility rates (the number of children that women will bear between different ages), mortality data and replacement rates," Hazarika said. "... The fact of the matter is that no one has a clear idea. Bangladesh has denied for decades that any of its nationals migrate to India."

Won't the NRC clear the uncertainty?

Hazarika said the NRC, "if it had been done clearly and correctly, had been the best bet to

develop a reasonable figure. Now it is mired in so many controversies over data and who's on or off it and why, that it will continue to be a long and tortuous process. And the poorest and most vulnerable are bound to suffer the most. Ad hoc, knee-jerk rhetorical flourishes may make for good sound bites, but they often are far from reality, logic or facts."

Among researchers, Saikia questioned the NRC, saying it was not scientific as it was done without a pilot project (an attempt in 2010 was foiled by protests), adding there are fundamental flaws in the field verification process, and calling it unfortunate that the Supreme Court has not agreed to reverification. She said the total exclusion was lower than figures declared by the Centre from time to time. "During 1971-2011, the population growth of those districts which experienced established immigration trends before 1951 is unbelievably high. However, they have the highest inclusion in NRC. Whatever exclusion is happening, they too will be included in the final list as excluded people's close relatives are included," she said.

Mannan, on the other hand, described the government narrative around the NRC data as "sheer propaganda not supported by statistics". He said the cutoff date of 1971 is not acceptable to the government, which is trying various ways to delay the NRC. "If they cannot bring the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill (CAB) before the NRC, a large number of those who came after 1971 and who do not have documents... a majority of them will not find their names in the NRC."

Why should exclusion, and not inclusion, cause the government anxiety?

Higher Muslim inclusion also implies higher Bengali Hindu exclusion, a base that the BJP is trying to protect. Over the last one year, minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and other BJP leaders have publicly cited their estimates about a high proportion of Hindus among the exclusions. If they are still out of the NRC, the BJP is hoping that they would be eligible for Indian citizenship if the CAB is passed.

Ranjit Dass, state BJP president, told *The Indian Express*: "We have appealed to our central committee that unless a Foreigners Tribunal or a higher court declares a person a foreigner, one should not be declared as such only based on the NRC. Also, people who are eligible under CAB will be included as citizens once it's passed - and we are committed to passing it... There is no question of vote bank but it's all about a moral responsibility."

With inputs from Abhishek Saha in Guwahati

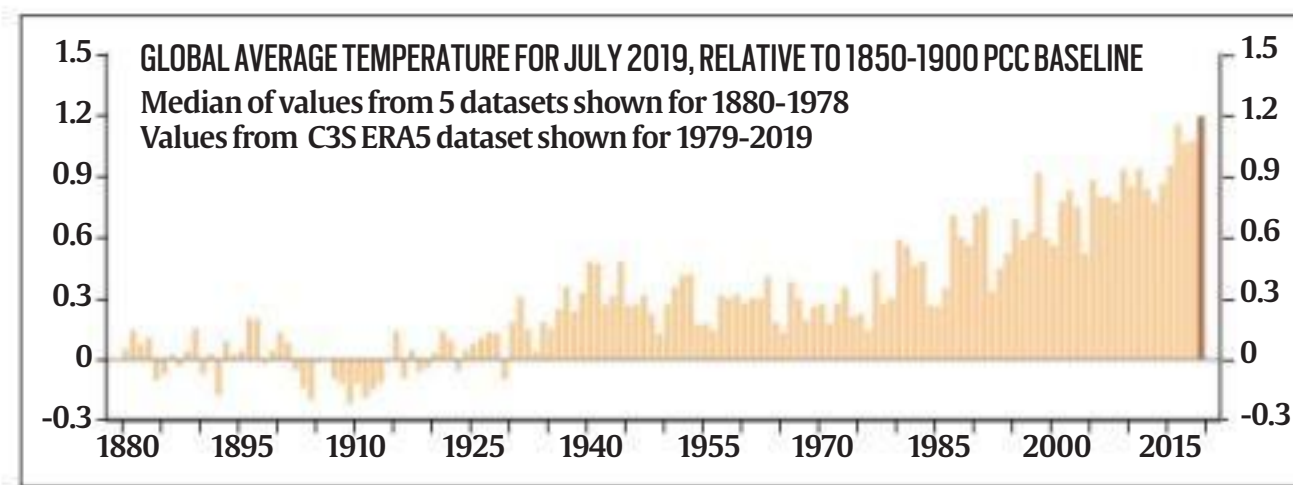
Hottest ever month on record: what now?

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, AUGUST 11

THIS MONTH, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) announced that July 2019 matched, and possibly broke, the record for the hottest month since analysis began.

Trends: The finding emerged from analysis of new data from the WMO and the Copernicus Climate Change Programme, run by the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts. The previous warmest month on record was July 2016, and July 2019 was at least on par with it.

Every month in 2019 has ranked among the four warmest for the month in question, and June was the warmest June ever recorded, the Copernicus Programme said in a state-



Source: Copernicus Climate Change Programme

ment. July 2019 was close to 1.2°C above the pre-industrial level. The Paris Agreement set specific 'temperature targets' with a goal to keep the increase in global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels; and to aim to limit the increase to 1.5°C.

Why it's a concern: Exceptional heat has been observed across the globe in recent weeks, with several European countries recording temperature highs. "The extraordinary heat was accompanied by dramatic ice melt in Greenland, in the Arctic and on

European glaciers. Unprecedented wildfires raged in the Arctic for the second consecutive month, devastating once-pristine forests which used to absorb carbon dioxide and instead turning them into fiery sources of greenhouse gases. This is not science fiction. It is the reality of climate change. It is happening now and it will worsen in the future without urgent climate action," WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas said in a statement.

The statement quoted UN Secretary-General António Guterres as saying: "This year alone, we have seen temperature records shattered from New Delhi to Anchorage, from Paris to Santiago, from Adelaide to the Arctic Circle. If we do not take action on climate change now, these extreme weather events are just the tip of the iceberg. And, indeed, the iceberg is also rapidly melting."

How PoK has featured in RSS, Jana Sangh discourse for nearly 7 decades

SHYAMLAL YADAV
 NEW DELHI, AUGUST 11

HOME MINISTER Amit Shah reiterated in Lok Sabha last week that the creation of the two new Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh did not mean the dilution of India's claim over the entire original state of Jammu and Kashmir, including the portions occupied by Pakistan and China. While this has always been India's position, for the RSS and the Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS), Kashmir and PoK have been especially important.

Jana Sangh

The BJP perceives an inalienable link between Jammu and Kashmir and its own inception, both as a party and as an ideology. Kashmir was one of the issues on which the founder president of the BJS - the predecessor and first avatar of the BJP - Syama Prasad Mookerjee, walked out of the Cabinet of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. The Jana Sangh was founded in 1951, and Mookerjee told Nehru that it would be "nothing short of national disgrace and humiliation" if India failed to recover the part of Kashmir that

Pakistan had illegally occupied. On June 23, 1953, Mookerjee died in jail in Srinagar, where he had been kept by the government of Sheikh Abdullah after he entered Kashmir in violation of prohibitory orders. The slogan "Jahaan hue balidaan Mookerjee, wo Kashmir hamara hai" has been raised by the BJS and BJP ever since.

■ In its first annual conclave in Kanpur in December 1952, the BJS under Mookerjee expressed concern over the central government's policies which had resulted in the "invader Pakistan's occupation of 1/3rd land of the state (Jammu and Kashmir)".

■ In its meeting in Allahabad (now Prayagraj) on August 15, 1953, the BJS passed a resolution saying "Bharat-Pakistan friendship" was not possible until the "return of 2/5th of Pak-Occupied-Kashmir".

■ In its third annual conclave in Jodhpur in January 1955, the BJS reiterated its demand that "Government must clearly and decisively declare that it will make all efforts to take back Kashmir's one-third part occupied by Pakistan illegally."

■ In its fourth conclave in Jaipur in April 1956, the BJS again demanded that Nehru's government should "make all possible efforts to take back PoK at the earliest".

■ In its national executive meeting in Jaipur in April 1957, the party asked the government to "make all efforts to take back Pak-Occupied-Kashmir". The BJS manifesto for the Lok Sabha elections in 1957 said India "should try to take the one-third part of Kashmir back".

■ This demand was reiterated in the sixth all-India conclave in Ambala in April 1958, and in its meeting in Surat in December 1959.

■ The BJS manifesto for the 1962 Lok Sabha elections promised to "make all efforts to take Pak-Occupied-Kashmir back."

■ The national executive meeting in Kota in May 1962 expressed concern over the Pakistan-China alliance against India, and demanded that "active steps must be taken to take back Pak-Occupied-Kashmir".

■ In January 1966, the BJS national executive meeting in Kanpur said: "It is the duty of the central government to get PoK back. It should be the only issue in the dialogue between India and Pakistan on Jammu and Kashmir."

■ The manifesto for the 1967 Lok Sabha elections did not mention PoK, but went a step further: "BJS believes in integration of Bharat and Pakistan".

■ The 1971 manifesto did not mention PoK. But the November 1972 meeting in Jaipur criticised the Simla Agreement, and the calling back of the Indian Army "without liberating the areas of Kashmir occupied by Pakistan since 1947".

RSS

The RSS's Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha (ABPS), Kendra Karyakari Mandal (KKM), and Akhil Bharatiya Karyakari Mandal (ABKM), too, have repeatedly raised the issue of PoK.

■ In 1960, the KKM said the government, "by giving its silent consent to the construction of Mangala Dam in Pak-occupied Kashmir, shown its mental preparedness to give up its claim over that strategic area".

■ In 1962, the RSS passed a resolution in its KKM opposing concessions to Pakistan on Kashmir and other issues: "Pakistan herself is an aggressor in Kashmir. If India acquiesces before one aggressor, it can't resist the other."

■ In 1963, the ABPS said the core issue in India-Pak talks on Kashmir should be "the question of getting Pakistan's aggression vacated from the one-third part of Kashmir".

■ In 1990, an ABKM resolution said

"Tension there (in Kashmir) could get defused only if Pakistan withdraws from the 2/5th part of Kashmir forcibly occupied by it."

■ In 1994, after Parliament unanimously resolved that "Pakistan must vacate the areas of the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir, which they have occupied through aggression", the ABPS said it "hopes that this timely expression of national solidarity will spur the government to abandon its hitherto ambivalent attitude towards the Kashmir issue".

■ In 1995, the ABKM said "It is very strange that all the brave talk on the floor of the Parliament and on various international fora about Jammu and Kashmir's irrevocable integration with Bharat and the declaration that the only problem that remains is one of vacation by Pakistan of its occupied parts in Kashmir should have evaporated so soon."

■ In 1997, in the light of discussions on greater autonomy for the state, the ABPS warned that greater autonomy "will close all options before our country to take steps in the light of the unanimous resolution of the Parliament".

■ In 2003, in a resolution on "International Scenario", the RSS's ABKM called upon the government "To draft our

policy towards our neighbours in the light of 1994 resolution of the Bharat's Parliament in the context of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir..."

■ In 2005, the ABKM reminded the government about the 1994 resolution, and said it expected "the government to stand firmly against any international pressure".

BJP

The BJP manifestos of 2019 and 2014 did not talk about taking back PoK. In its 2009 manifesto, the BJP had said, "The unanimous Parliamentary Resolution of 1994... shall remain the cornerstone of future decisions and actions of our Government." The 1996 manifesto had said the "BJP undoubtedly confirms sovereignty of India on Jammu and Kashmir, including Pak-Occupied-Kashmir."

But PoK was missing in the BJP's manifestos for the Lok Sabha elections of 1984 (the first after the formation of the party in 1980), 1989 (which the BJP fought in alliance with VP Singh's Janata Dal), 1991, 1998, 1999, and 2004. During the elections of 1977 and 1980, the BJS was part of the Janata Party, whose manifesto did not mention PoK.



WORDLY WISE
GREAT FLOODS HAVE FLOWN FROM
SIMPLE SOURCES.
— WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY
RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

J&K and the world

India's strategies for internal security, territorial defence and diplomacy will have to act in unison



C RAJA MOHAN

THE REWIND

Return of Sonia as interim president, Congress failure to look beyond its first family, signals its inadequacy in a challenging political moment

WHEN YOU CREATE new facts on the ground, especially in a contested terrain, you must be prepared for push back. As Pakistan mounts a political offensive against India's decision to alter the status of Jammu and Kashmir, there will surely be international ripples. The Indian diplomatic objective is to get the rest of the world to live with the new reality in Kashmir, if not accept it.

This is not the first time that India has created new facts on the ground. India's Pokhran tests of 1998 come readily to mind. It took about 10 years for the international system to move from a very harsh initial reaction to lifting by 2008 the four-decade-old nuclear blockade against India.

That is good diplomatic precedent for Delhi in coping with whatever Pakistan throws at India. But there should be no underestimating the complexity of the challenge. India's diplomatic response must be at multiple levels. One is the legal dimension. Realists might scoff at legal niceties. But legal arguments are important and Delhi must present a solid legal brief about its actions, since there is little international understanding of the complex historical evolution of Kashmir. That applies more broadly to the international public opinion, where the Pakistani narrative on Kashmir continues to prevail, thanks to the nature of the international media coverage of Kashmir. Of special interest are the Western legislatures that tend to generate policy pressures on their executive establishments.

Traditionally, Pakistan has been good at mobilising opinion in these quarters, especially in Britain and Europe. India has done quite well in the US over the years, where it has outsmarted separatist propaganda backed by Pakistan. But Delhi should note that Pakistan is learning from the Indian playbook in the US. It has mobilised the not insignificant Pakistani diaspora and won over small but key sections of the Congress.

Then comes the question of "internationalisation". Pakistan loves the idea and India deeply resents it. Going to the UNSC has been the instinctive first reaction of Pakistan. But neither Pakistan's faith in the UN nor India's concerns stand up to close scrutiny. The UN's ability to impose solutions on disputes between nations has rarely been impressive. But for India taking the Kashmir question to it, there was no way the UN would loom so large on Kashmir. During the Cold War, divisions

among major powers limited the UN Security Council's peace-making role. After the end of the Cold War, though, there was a brief moment when Russia and China seemed to acquiesce in the interventionist agenda that Western liberals had set for the UN.

Great powers are quarreling again and they are unlikely to agree on the Kashmir question. India's task is to simply prevent such an agreement.

This does not mean India's engagement with the UN and multilateral agencies is unimportant. Some multilateral activity can be quite useful. For example, the recent Indian campaign at the UN on designating Masood Azhar as a terrorist has been good at highlighting Pakistan's role as a safe haven for violent extremism. Even more valuable has been India's engagement with the Financial Action Task Force, which has ratcheted up the pressures on Pakistan to stop support for terrorism. What matters, therefore, is not the general principle of "internationalisation", but the specifics of the context and the nature of the forum.

Pakistan's proclaimed faith in mediation is touching because there is no evidence that third-party involvement in the Kashmir dispute has benefited Pakistan. Consider, for example, Islamabad's efforts to mobilise the international community for mediation in the Kargil War two decades ago. It ended up in the US compelling Pakistan to accept the sanctity of the Line of Control. Rather than getting rattled by Pakistan's posturing on mediation, Delhi should concentrate on the attitudes of the major powers to the current dynamic in the Subcontinent. Bilateralism is the key to outcomes on the multilateral domain. Consider the five permanent members of the UNSC.

China is a party to the dispute on Kashmir twice over. The border between India and China in Ladakh is disputed; China also occupies a piece of Kashmir that Pakistan ceded to it in 1963. China is certainly part of India's Kashmir problem. China, however, has problems of its own in Hong Kong and Xinjiang. Beijing surely knows that those living in glass houses should not be throwing stones.

Russia, once upon a time, was India's go-to veto-wielder at the UN on Kashmir. Delhi too has stood by Moscow when it is in some difficulty, for example when Russia changed the facts on the ground in Crimea during 2011. In recent times, Russia has drawn closer to China and is often tempted to take "even-

handed" positions between India and Pakistan. But dispelling all doubts, Moscow has come out last week in support of India's Kashmir move.

Over the last two decades, France has emerged as a reliable strategic partner — a sort of "new Russia" for India. In recent years, it has played a key role in the FATF as well as the UNSC on terror-related issues. Delhi can certainly bank on political support from Paris at the current juncture.

When it comes to Kashmir and Pakistan, Britain is always suspect in Delhi's eyes. There is speculation that London played a key role in facilitating the current US reset on Pakistan. As Britain defines its post-Brexit global strategy, Delhi must encourage London to take into account its long-term interests in India and end its persistent ambiguity on Kashmir.

In the end, though, it's really the US that has the most important role in shaping the international reaction to the developments in Kashmir. For nearly two years, it's been the relentless pressure from Washington that has forced Pakistan to count the costs of its support for terrorism. And it is the US decision to quit Afghanistan that seems to have emboldened Pakistan to ramp up pressures on Kashmir.

India can't quibble with the US decision not to spend more of its blood and treasure in Afghanistan. Beyond that, there is much room for discussion between Delhi and Washington on a range of issues relating to the future of Afghanistan and the sources of terror in Pakistan. It should not be impossible to find a way to secure the interests of both, especially since the India-US bilateral relationship has acquired much greater depth over the last two decades, and covers a much wider region than the Subcontinent.

The real test for Indian diplomacy, including with the US, comes when Delhi lifts the massive security blanket over Kashmir and Pakistan unleashes its terror proxies. That in turn sets the stage for a muscular Indian response, an inevitable escalation of the conflict with Pakistan and the intensification of great power interest in Kashmir. That is when India's strategies for internal security, territorial defence and diplomacy will have to act in unison.

The writer is director, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore and contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express

A FLOOD OF DOUBTS

Maharashtra floods revive questions of coordination and efficiency in water resource management

AFTER BEING BATTERED by unprecedented rains for over a week, nearly 4 lakh people have been rescued from flood-hit villages in the Pune, Sangli and Satara districts of Maharashtra and relocated to 300-odd camps. The state government, the armed forces and the NDRF completed commendable rescue missions, but around 30 lives were lost, including 10 who died tragically when a rescue boat capsized in Sangli. The Met department has predicted a slowing down of rains in the state over the next few days, and while lakhs of homes will need rebuilding, about 1.5 lakh hectares including some of Western India's most productive farmland, including sugar-producing regions, is now destroyed for this year's critical kharif season.

Running through the centre of this crisis is the river Krishna, which blesses agricultural land in south-western Maharashtra with bountiful harvests. The very heavy rains in the upstream areas of the Krishna began at the start of the month. By Monday, August 5, parts of Pune district experienced floods even as Kolhapur city faced a partial blackout as transformers and feeders went under. By Tuesday, very large parts of the region were flooded as the dangerously swollen Krishna breached its banks. On Tuesday, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis spoke to his Karnataka counterpart BS Yediyurappa, requesting that more water be discharged from the Almatti, the first dam across the Krishna in the neighbouring district, in order to provide some relief in the upstream regions in Maharashtra. But only on Friday did the discharge from Almatti cross five lakh cusecs, likely on account of the neighbouring state's bureaucracy, concerned about its own water stocks. By Saturday, parts of Sangli and Kolhapur had been flooded for six days and dozens of villages marooned as roads and major highways were inundated. Without a doubt, the rains were unprecedented — Pune has now received 140 per cent in excess of its average rain for this time of the year, while Satara and Sangli have recorded 81 per cent and 59 per cent in excess. But the upstream dams on the Krishna were discharging water from their reservoirs early last week, and the delay in coaxing more water to be released from Almatti was perhaps critical. Fadnavis has said the need of the hour is more accurate rain forecasts, more detailed warnings in place of the current categorisation as "heavy" or "very heavy". But in reality, while weather forecasting models will continue to develop, there was fair warning of last week's deluge. So the state must now look into whether there was adequate coordination between various arms of the bureaucracy in managing dam waters in the Krishna river basin, whether a pre-planned and controlled release of waters over a few days could have prevented some of the widespread destruction caused by sudden discharges.

Similar questions over whether reservoir waters should have been released in a controlled manner over several days were raised after previous Maharashtra floods too. Flood management can no longer be seen as minimising economic and physical losses. As plans get afoot to build more big dams and river linking projects, the state will need intelligent and nimble — and transparent — water resource management.



IN GOOD FAITH

ASHWINI MOKASHI

THE PURSUIT OF wisdom, virtue and happiness are lifelong goals, and the process of attaining these goals itself is a worthwhile experience. Such themes from ancient texts continue into contemporary conversation, while the quest for happiness is pursued anew with each generation.

The wise person of the Gita, Sthitaprajna, is concerned with what is right action and how to exercise right judgement. In doing so, the sage becomes a jnana yogi, and by performing the right actions, the Sthitaprajna also becomes a karma yogi. The Sthitaprajna must possess, according to the Gita, a number of characteristics. First, she/he engages and excels in one's own duties (svadharma). Second, the Sthitaprajna is a believer in the teachings of the Gita (shraddha). Third, she displays equanimity to pleasure and pain (samatvam). And finally, there is the development of non-attachment (anasakti) and tranquility (shanti).

Wise people abandon all desires. They have no sense of possessiveness, sense of "mine". They discard their ego (ahamkara). Their concern for the self is absorbed into a concern for the divine. They are tranquil and

THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

The Gita and philosopher Seneca provide a roadmap to tranquility

happy. This state is known as the state of wisdom (sthitaprajna) or the state of Brahman establishment (brahmi sthiti). This state is no doubt difficult to attain but once attained, it stays with the Sthitaprajna until the end.

The wise person of the Stoic, Seneca — Sapiens — embodies the ethical tenets of Stoicism, which bring them permanent happiness. Seneca describes how to be wise by incorporating the Stoic ethical concepts such as appropriate actions (kathekonta), what belongs to oneself (oikeiosis), virtue (arete), detachment (apatheia), telos (goal) of living in accordance with nature, knowledge of the laws of nature, which together lead to happiness (eudaimonia). For Seneca, happiness essentially means peace of mind, which results from a constant practice of virtue, and intellectual exercise, which is required to perform moral actions. Seneca's critique of emotions such as anger and grief highlights both the utility and futility of emotions.

In both systems, a wise person is one who has the capacity for making correct judgements when undertaking action, and for these she then assumes complete responsibility. Right thinking results in right action, essential for peace of mind and happiness: Right or moral actions lead to virtue. Happiness results from knowing one has done the right thing at the right time.

the right time.

There are, however, also significant differences between Seneca's vision and that of the Gita. The Gita's metaphysical concept of moksha has no parallel in Stoicism. The Sthitaprajna becomes a virtuous person, achieves moksha and becomes a part of the divine Brahman. The Sapiens becomes virtuous in preparation for death. The conceptual differences illustrate that while the definition of a Sthitaprajna or one with steady wisdom would be applicable to the Sapiens, the terms Yogastha (established in Yoga) or Samadhistha (wrapped in meditation) would not.

Seneca's treatment of various emotions is one of the most unique features of his philosophical writings. Seneca treats different emotions with the skill of a psychological therapist and shows the futility of those emotions in a logical and sensitive way, without making it sound like a Stoic mandate of denying passions to any individual. Seneca's great contribution is to make this concept available to everyone by giving people directions instead of merely asking them to rise to a high standard of the ethical expectations of Stoicism.

Mokashi is the author of Sapiens and Sthitaprajna: A Comparative Study in Seneca's Stoicism and the Bhagavad-Gita

AUGUST 12, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO

STRIKERS ARRESTED

VIOLENCE IN SEVERAL parts of the city, resulting in the arrest of around 300 persons, marred the strike called in Delhi by all the central trade unions. Industrial units, as well as buses, shops and hotels were stoned by groups of striking industrial workers. The bandh, called to express solidarity with the striking textile workers and to demand an increase in the minimum wage laid down by the Delhi administration, was only partially successful. Essential services such as water supply, electricity and milk were unaffected. However, these workers had in any case been exempted from the "bandh" call given by the trade unions.

NARMADA FLOODS

THE ARMY WAS called out in Broach to assist relief operations as the swirling waters of the Narmada entered the city and the help of the Air Force was sought to rescue over a thousand people marooned in the floods at Wankaner in Rajkot district in Gujarat. The flood waters entered the city last night, disrupting normal life. Narmada was flowing at 31.5 feet this morning after crossing the danger mark of 22 last night at Golden bridge near Ahmedabad. The low-lying areas of Broach were completely submerged.

FAVOURABLE DESTINATION

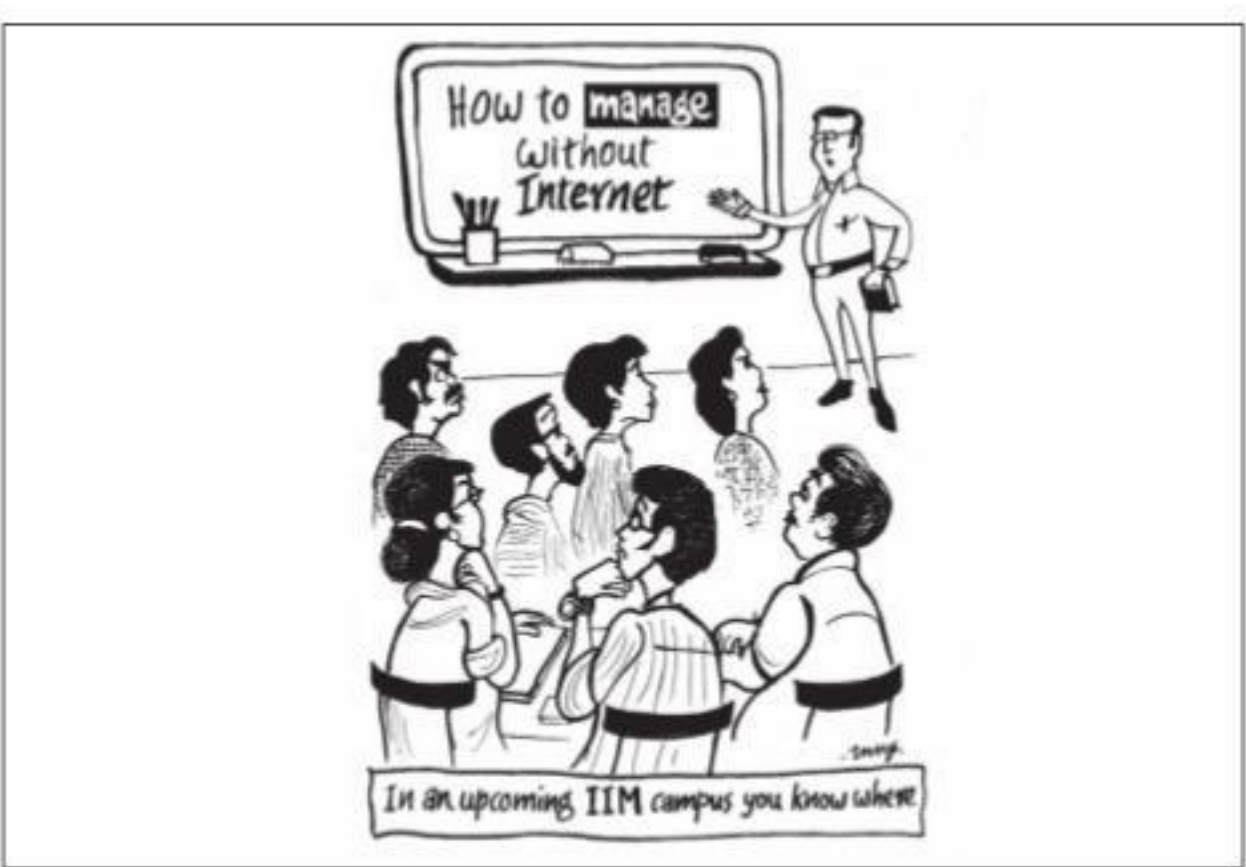
INDIA HAS BECOME the safest place in the

world for the members of the western underworld to change their identity. "Shedding skin" — as the process of changing identity is called in the underworld lingo — is as easy here as buying tickets at a railway booking window. A source in the foreigners regional registration office said that nowhere in the world can a Canadian Tony Wilson change himself into an American Jack Smith as early as in India. The modus operandi is simple. All that is needed is a passport and one or two other identity papers. The US social security card is among the hot favourites. The racket in passport trading, which was first exposed by *The Indian Express* in December 1975, has become active again with wider ramifications.



FREEZE FRAME

E P UNNY



THE IDEAS PAGE

A long night in the Valley

Who are we to teach Kashmiris the virtues of democracy? What is sought to be drowned out is the legacy of unflinching patriotism to India that the Kashmiri Muslim has displayed



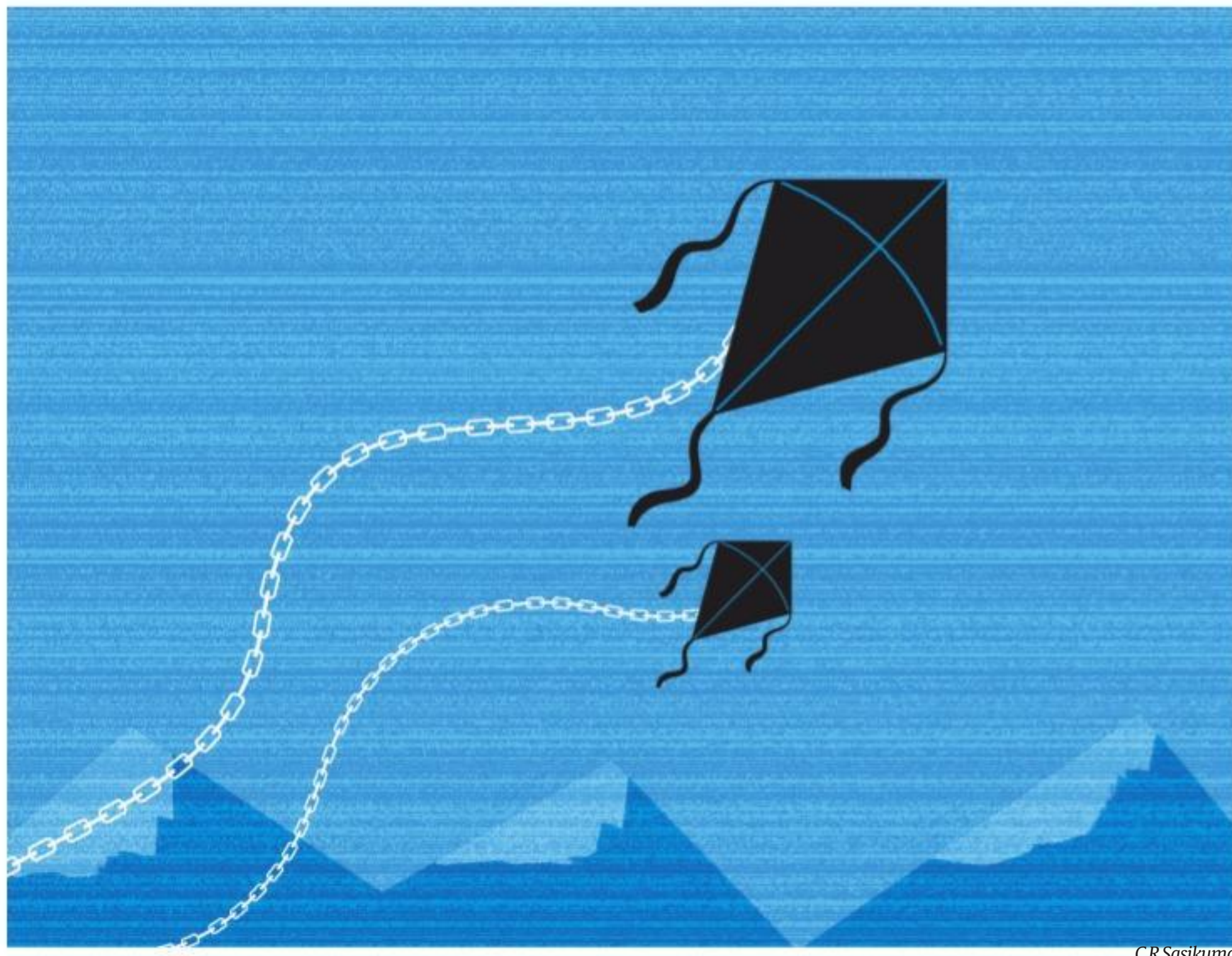
MANI SHANKAR AIYAR

NARENDRA MODI AND Amit Shah have just created a Palestine on our northern border. To do so, they first floated the deceitful rumour of an imminent massive Pakistani terror attack on the Valley to induct around 35,000 additional armed personnel into a region already bristling with lakhs of jawans. They then forcibly evacuated tens of thousands of Amarnath yatis and tourists from Kashmir. They have detained over 400 local leaders. They have shut down schools and colleges, shops and hotels, petrol pumps and gas outlets, and rendered the usually bustling streets of Srinagar and other Valley towns an empty wilderness. All communications have been severed other than those they do not have the technological capacity to cut. Parents in the Valley are unable to contact their sons and daughters in the rest of the country.

In the name of Fundamental Rights, the fundamental rights of the people of Kashmir are being extinguished. The Directive Principles of the Constitution are being enforced by transgressing the letter and spirit of the Directive Principles. A well-known Aya Ram-Gaya Ram of Uttar Pradesh is being paraded as the "voice of the people" of Kashmir. Why such suppression of seven million Kashmiris if they are in fact being "liberated" from the stranglehold of "three families"?

Modi-Shah have learned their lessons well from their mentor, Benjamin Netanyahu and the Zionists, including Menachem Begin, who preceded Netanyahu. They have learned how to trample on the freedom, dignity and self-respect of the Kashmiris even as Israel has tried to get away with seven decades of merciless oppression of the Palestinians. The Palestinians have retaliated by running a ceaseless insurrection ever since Al-Naqba ("The Catastrophe") of May 14, 1948, when they were crushed by the Zionist war machine, funded and supplied by western imperialism. Intifada has followed intifada. All have been mowed down but miraculously spring up again. That so many Arab allies have abandoned them and their own liberation movement has split down the middle has not ended Palestinian protest, however heavy the cost to the ordinary Palestinian in terms of death, injuries and incarceration.

Modi-Shah have promised the Kashmiris "development" in exchange for forced integration at the point of the rifle and pellet shots into the eyes of their children. Even as the Palestinians, whatever their internecine differences, have unanimously spurned the Manama package of US/petrodollars goodies in exchange for quiescence, so too are the Kashmiris spurning the Modi offer of an enslaved prosperity. Modi's political ancestors, of course, played no part in our freedom movement but had they done so they would have known that whatever the colonial investments made in railways and the telegraph, in industry and trade, in tea and jute,



CR Sasikumar

in "development" so-called, We the People of India (barring the Hindutva-ites) answered the British with the call of "Quit India".

What is sought to be drowned out is the legacy of unflinching patriotism to India that the Kashmiri Muslim has displayed, first in being the only Muslim-majority concentration in undivided India to close their ears to the siren call of Pakistan. They refused to believe that "Islam" was "in danger" because Independence was coming to secular Bharat. Mohammad Ali Jinnah was delivered a knock-out blow. In 1965, every single Pakistani intruder sent into the Valley under Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's notorious Operation Gibraltar was picked up and reported to the Indian authorities. By whom? By the Kashmiri aam aadmi, who else, almost all Muslim to the last man, woman and child. How betrayed must they be feeling now that "freedom" is being thrust down their throat, like castor oil to a recalcitrant child, by the largest deployment ever of armed might inside an integral part of the country? How must the Naga and the Mizo, protected by the Article following the now deleted 370, namely, Article 371 of the Constitution, be looking at the purses of gold being flung at them by a patronising central government driving a Faustian bargain to buy adherence to a contemptuous India?

What the full-fledged Constitution of India promises to the Kashmiri is but a pale shadow of the "Naya Kashmir" manifesto adopted by the National Conference 75 years ago, on September 29-30, 1944. The principal draftsman was B P L Bedi (the father of actor Kabir Bedi). The leading lights of the National Conference included Prem Nath Bazaz, Kashyap Bandhu, Jia Lal Kilam and

Modi-Shah have promised the Kashmiris 'development' in exchange for forced integration at the point of the rifle and pellet shots into the eyes of their children. Even as the Palestinians, whatever their internecine differences, have unanimously spurned the Manama package of US/petrodollars goodies in exchange for quiescence, so too are the Kashmiris spurning the Modi offer of an enslaved prosperity.

Pandit Sudama Sidhu, besides Sardar Budh Singh. It was a Naya Kashmir for all the religious communities of the Riyasat. Writing in 1966, the renowned scholar of Kashmir affairs, Sisir Gupta, in his magisterial study, had this to say: "Socialistic in its approach, the plan in New Kashmir has ever since 1944 provided the guiding principles of the National Conference's approach to the problems of Kashmir". In other words, left to themselves, the Kashmiris might have given themselves an even more liberal order than they are now being offered with a pistol to their temple. To quote Gupta again, the proposed constitution "envisaged equality of citizens irrespective of religion, race, nationality of birth", freedom of conscience and worship, (as well as) of speech, of the press, of assembly and meetings, and of street processions" and the "right to work", "equal rights to men and women" and even children, besides "cheap, quick, impartial justice". In particular, there was a huge emphasis on women's rights with separate sections detailing women's rights in the political, economic, social, legal, and educational spheres. Modiji, Shah sahib, they were there long before us. So, who are we to teach Kashmiris the virtues of democracy?

Instead of *achhe din*, what Parliament has ensured is a long, dark night in the Valley, and perhaps even the rest of the country, with simmering communalism, rising political tensions, unending hit-and-run terrorism, asymmetric armed struggle, and guerrilla insurrection. This is what happened in East Pakistan in 1971. We are now bringing a similar disaster upon our heads. Be warned.

The writer is a former Union minister

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Why did Pakistan appear to have been taken by surprise when the Indian government scrapped Article 370? After all, one of the main planks of Mr Modi's hyper-nationalistic re-election campaign was the promise to do away with Kashmir's special status." — DAWN

Creation of order

Consider the larger picture: Abrogation of Articles 370, 35A will help integrate the Valley



SARJAN SHAH

EVEN MORE THAN the obvious economic benefits of expanded private and public investment in the territories of the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir, the government's moves on Articles 370 and 35A shall strike at the heart of the festering politics of the Valley. Far from actually protecting any rights or privileges of the local people (who, if the critics are to be believed, have been living in tortuous circumstances under the jackbooted heels of Indian "occupation forces", even while having the proverbial shields of 370 and 35A), these temporary and conditional provisions of the Indian Constitution only served to extend and exacerbate an environment in which the people of the Kashmir valley felt an "otherness" towards their fellow Indians from the rest of the country.

Why, in a country that has the world's finest historical record on minority protections when adjusted for income, education and development levels, should a Muslim-majority state feel the need to have autonomy and special privileges? These "articles" had become little more than articles of faith for separatists to exploit, mainstream leaders to use when convenient and for all forms of nefarious influences to keep the Kashmiri Muslims in a constant state of "siege mentality". If, everyday, your leaders tout two provisions of the Indian Constitution as being the only reasons for the continued existence and viability of a Kashmiri civilisation; and, if those two provisions essentially limit the applicability of the very same Constitution of which they are a part — and from which they draw their authority and legitimacy — should it surprise outsiders that Kashmiris have at times been found as distrustful of the Indian state?

Considering the horrific circumstances that Indian security forces have had to endure since the start of militancy in the early 1990s, and without obfuscating the occasional lapses in judgment that have undoubtedly occurred, I feel proud that overall, the Kashmiri people have had to face far fewer deprivations than the Hindu, Sikh and Christian minorities in the western-most territories of united India (that is, West Pakistan). I am even more proud when the record of the Indian security forces in Kashmir is compared with the record of the Pakistani army in its own eastern territories, and against its own Bengali-speaking population.

There can be no doubt that the Indian state has spent more than 70 years attempting dialogue, cultural exchange and even rehabilitation of separatists and militants. Only when attacked by local or foreign militants have the Indian armed forces been compelled to respond with a heavy hand. Overall, the Kashmiri state has functioned — in fact, the very statistics being touted by

critics to show that J&K outclasses some hinterland Indian states along multiple development indices goes a long way to show that the Indian administration has provided education, nutrition and basic amenities to the local population in a relatively consistent manner, over a long period of time. And this, while constantly battling surprise hit-and-run attacks from heavily armed and externally-supported gunmen.

Given the circumstances, therefore, it seems that some form of drastic action was needed not only to accelerate the physical integration of the region with the rest of India — through investment in plant and machinery, expanded tourism and real estate, road, rail and air connectivity and the like — but also to accelerate the psychological and emotional integration of the Kashmiri people with the rest of India. In the post-370/35A era, even the maintenance of the same level of administration and governance, with the same level of judicial redress and other rights as the Kashmiris have enjoyed in the past, will be enough to finally drive home the point to every Kashmiri: That trusting the Indian state, its institutions and its secular fabric, is something they can do without fear.

Finally, a lot of criticism has been focused on the "means" used to conduct this sudden strike against the offending provisions of the Constitution. On this front, it is clear to me that maintenance of law and order, and the protection of our territorial integrity, are higher priorities than the temporary abeyance of certain rights and freedoms. A few days in detention for leaders who would have undoubtedly utilised this as an opportunity to stoke Kashmiri passion against the straw man of the tyrannical Indian state, a clampdown on avowed pro-Pakistani separatists and the prevention of mass media in an era of rampant fake news — these are patently sensible precautions for a state to take when attempting radical and far-reaching change. These precautions have to survive for weeks, not months.

The fact that the number of incidents of stone-pelting and militancy has been falling consistently since governor's rule began in Kashmir, and that there seem to have been no major or minor incidents of civil disobedience in the last week — while the administration has ensured smooth provision of basic amenities to the people — proves the tactical expediency of the "means" used. I am fully aware of the dangerous, slippery slope that curtailment of any kind of rights involves. However, I do believe that in dangerous times, in a dangerous neighbourhood (which South Asia undoubtedly is), and, when faced with one of the world's great intractable problems, "order" must take precedence over a superficial form of immediate justice. Only in the creation of long-term order, can we ever hope to have truly substantive justice for the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, who, I can say with the utmost conviction, are better off with us than they ever could be with our dear neighbours.

The writer is an alumnus of London School of Economics, Cambridge and Harvard, and lives and works in Mumbai



M M ANSARI

Was Kashmir listening to PM?

His contention that Article 370 is source of all misgovernance is belied by facts

IN HIS INDEPENDENCE Day speech from the ramparts of the Red Fort in 2017, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "Kashmir's problems can be solved only by embracing the people of Kashmir, not with bullets or abuses (*Na goli se, na gaali se, Kashmir ki samasya suljhegi gale lagane se*). The strategy of resolving the Kashmir imbroglio has changed.

In his speech on August 8, PM Modi justified his government's action on the abrogation of Article 370 by saying that the provision had outlived its utility. Major stakeholders in Kashmir were, however, not consulted before the government announced its move. Many important leaders were put under house arrest.

The communication system in Kashmir has been blocked and restrictions have been placed under Section 144. It is, therefore, difficult to gauge the extent to which the government's unilateral decision has hurt the sentiments of Kashmiris. But the lockdown in the Valley is unprecedented. After having blocked all telephone lines, the PM delivered a statesman-like discourse, one which sounded as a message of hope and harbinger of development. Its impact hasn't been assessed. But was anyone in the Valley listening to the PM?

Under Article 370, the Centre's legislative power was confined to three subjects — defence, external affairs and communications. And, the assembly of the erstwhile state had the power to decide which Central laws would apply to Jammu and Kashmir. Article 35A, also revoked, gave Jammu and

Kashmir's legislature the power to designate permanent residents and grant them special rights and privileges, including the right to own property. With the abrogation of special status, people of Kashmir would have rights enjoyed by the rest of the country, the PM said.

In 2010-11, then chief minister of the state, Omar Abdullah and the late Mufti Mohammed Sayeed told us that they were the most powerful CMs in the country because Article 370 gave them powers to execute development plans. In contrast, the PM dwelt at length on what he called the "discriminatory nature of these provisions" — a part of the compact with the Indian Union and Kashmir during the time of its accession. Necessary legislative changes have been made from time to time through democratic consultations.

In spite of perpetual turmoil, J&K's human development indicators compare favourably with other advanced Indian states. The trouble, however, is that confidence building measures were never implemented effectively. For instance, the Line of Control (LoC) trade, which offers opportunities to Kashmiris to promote business and employment, has been frequently disrupted by the Centre. Likewise, the PM's Special Scholarship Scheme for J&K students, of which a mention was made in the speech, has never been implemented in letter and spirit. Money was rarely disbursed on time to students and institutions. Therefore, the PM's criticism that Article 370 is a major source of misgovernance, including militancy, is un-

acceptable. He listed a number of welfare measures that could not be implemented due to Article 370. But it was the Centre, which did not do enough to effectively implement the BJP-PDP Agenda of Alliance. For instance, there was no headway in the rehabilitation of migrant Kashmiri Pandits, an important part of the agenda.

PM Modi made repeated reference to dynastic politics and said that leadership opportunities to the youth have been denied. He assured people in Kashmir of free and fair elections. The PM, however, did not explain as to why the state assembly elections were not conducted along with the recent parliamentary elections.

In fact, the government seemed to have made up its mind to abrogate Kashmir's special status and split it into two UTs. When PDP-NC decided to form the government, the assembly was dissolved on the pretext of failed communication.

The PM said that products of the state should be taken to the world but he was silent on why Srinagar could not have an international airport to facilitate exports. At the time of peak tourism when the Amarnath Yatra was on, visitors were told that the government apprehended terror attacks. This deprived many workers of their wages and livelihoods. The government knew what was going on, but the people were misled.

The PM commended the role of panchayats in delivering services to people. Unfortunately, the three-tier system for effective functioning of panchayats was never constituted, even when the BJP was a partner

in governance or when Jammu and Kashmir was under governor's rule. Elections at the block level have not been conducted. These omissions have nothing to do with the much-maligned Article 370.

While the PM has rightly said that J&K is an integral part of India, care should have been taken of international agreements, particularly the issues discussed with Pakistan from time to time. Under the Simla Agreement, India and Pakistan have agreed, *inter alia*, "Pending the final settlement of any of the problems between the two countries, neither side shall unilaterally alter the situation and both shall prevent the organisations, assistance or encroachment of any acts detrimental to the maintenance of peaceful and harmonious relations". The unilateral abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two UTs is tantamount to violation of the above provision.

The PM has made repeated commitments to follow Atal Bihari Vajpayee's principle of resolving Kashmir dispute within the realm of 'Insaniyat, Kashmiriyat and Jamhooriyat'. But the government has not bothered to follow this principle.

Abrogation of Article 370 and 35A could help the BJP in the upcoming state elections, divert attention from the sliding economy and cover up the failed attempts to contain militancy in J&K. But will these moves bring peace to Kashmir?

The writer is a former UGC member, CIC and interlocutor on Jammu and Kashmir

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WITHOUT PRINCIPLE
THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Silence of the successful' (IE, August 9). The parallels drawn by the author between the demolition of the Babri Masjid and revocation of Article 370 are shockingly true. The actions of the government which have unleashed emotional and passionate responses are an assault on the Constitution. The way the Presidential Order was passed to modify Article 367 may not be understood by lay people. But legal experts will know that it undermines the Constitutional spirit.

jasleen kaur, Delhi

UNHEALTHY VOID

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Coming apart' (IE, August 9). The entire Opposition was stumped by the government's move to scrap the special status of Jammu and Kashmir. When the Congress whip Bhubaneswar Kalita resigned on the day of this announcement and later, young leaders like Jyotiraditya Scindia and Milind Deora favoured the government's move, it was the Congress which stood exposed.

Bal Govind, Noida

HARD DECISIONS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Unlock the Valley' (IE, August 9). Much harm was done in Kashmir due to the insertion of Articles 370 and 35A. An impression had been created among Kashmiris that they were different from the other residents of the country. In order to bring them into national mainstream, hard decisions will have to be undertaken. A thorough check is to be

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

placed on anti-national elements. LR Gupta, Lucknow

STUMPED

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Self flagellation in Pakistan' (IE, August 8). The Narendra Modi government's decision to abrogate Articles 370 and 35A has come as a surprise to Pakistan. The Pakistan government's decision to halt trade with India looks to be reactive rather than proactive. It would be more of a bane for Pakistan than for India as India is doing better economically.

Atharva Kajwadkar, via e-mail

12 THE GOVERNANCE PAGE

SOCIAL INTERVENTION

How a district in Rajasthan shot to the top of 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' chart

Nagaur administration celebrates birth of girl children, felicitates mothers who undergo sterilisation

DEEP MUKHERJEE
NAGOUR, AUGUST 11

ANGANWADI WORKER Sumitra Charan recalls a day in the early 2000s, when she was surprised to hear curses and lament, instead of seeing happiness and laughter, in a home where a child had just been born.

In that house in Rajasthan's Nagaur district, a grandmother was on that day bitterly regretting the birth of her fourth granddaughter.

"It hurt me immensely that instead of celebrating the birth of a child, they were grieving only because it was a girl. But something like that no longer happens today. And we, people who work on the ground, know the immense significance of this change," Charan says.

It is the job of the 37-year-old to keep track of newborns in her area. Charan herself is the mother of a daughter.

Within a year of the launch of the central government's flagship Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme, Nagaur has become one of the country's 10 best performing districts in the awareness generation and outreach activities category under the scheme. These districts are being felicitated by the central government.

For the *Saathins*, workers and supervisors, mostly women from rural households, who are a part of the long chain of 2,715 Anganwadi centres across the district overseen by the state's Women and Child Development department, this feat has come as a validation of their work, which they often have to do under difficult circumstances.

Fifty-three-year-old Rukmani Choudhary and a handful of other women make their way down the alleys of ward number 4 in Nagaur's Sanjay Colony, playing *dhols* and utensils, to a home where a girl has been born recently.

"There was a time when the residents would get irritated when we celebrated the birth of a girl. But we persisted, and insisted on meeting pregnant women to ensure they were not being misled by their families. Initiatives such as the 'Chuppi Todo Abhiyaan' (Break the Silence) helped us to spread awareness about menstrual hygiene," says Choudhary.

Another initiative that has contributed towards building the new narrative is the celebration of the birth of girl children by the district administration.

"Whenever we get information from primary and community health centres about girls being born, the occasion is celebrated by the district administration. Women who have chosen to undergo sterilisation after giving birth to one or two girls are also felicitated in public programmes. This has helped a lot towards changing the conception of people," says Nagaur district collector Dinesh Kumar Yadav.



(Clockwise from top) Nagaur district collector Dinesh Kumar Yadav felicitates women who have given birth to daughters; the district administration has been cutting cakes on the birthdays of girls; Sarpanches interact with the district administration as part of the 'Coffee with Collector' programme. Their male relatives were not allowed in the programme. *Express*

He added that 'Ratri Chaupals' (night public hearings) are organised regularly and competitions and interactions are held to bring issues of women to the forefront. The first subject discussed in the public hearing is Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, he said.

Around 60 km from the district headquarters of Nagaur is Badi Khatu village. A resident, 26-year-old Chanda Sain, says that being honoured by the district administration for being the mother of a daughter, made her feel proud.

"It was a great feeling to be honoured by the officials. I have a son and a daughter but I will never discriminate between the two. I was called on the stage and presented a

shawl, which has led to my family seeing me in a new light now," she says.

According to Ashok Goel, deputy director, Women and Child Development department, Nagaur, the initiatives have resulted in the increase in the child sex ratio for the district, which he says improved from 897 in 2011 to the present figure of 965 girls to 1,000 boys.

Some of the challenges that the district administration faced while introducing the measures included the limited independence of women representatives such as Sarpanch.

"In many instances, it was seen that male relatives of a woman Sarpanch such as her husband or brother would do all the work and interaction on her behalf. We changed this by organising the 'Coffee with Collector' event wherein all women Sarpanches of the district were invited, and we insisted that the Sarpanch Pati (husband of sarpanch) or other

EXPLAINED

Focus on girls' development

The Ministry of Women and Child Development notes that the trend of decline in the Child Sex Ratio (CSR), defined as number of girls per 1,000 boys between the ages of 0 and 6, has been unabated since 1961. The Ministry acknowledges that the decline in the CSR is a major indicator of disempowerment of women. CSR reflects pre-birth discrimination manifested through gender-biased sex selection, and post-birth discrimination against girls.

The central government has announced the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme with the overall goal of celebrating the girl child and enabling her education. The declared objectives of this initiative are:

- Prevention of gender-biased sex selective elimination
- Ensuring survival and protection of the girl child
- Ensuring education and participation of the girl child

male relatives were not included in the interaction," says district collector Yadav.

Sunita Khatik, Sarpanch of Gram Panchayat Jayal, who had attended the event, says that it is important that elected women panchayat leaders should be independent.

"I have always acted independently and ever since I was elected Sarpanch back in 2015, I noticed that due to my direct interaction with people, more women have come up and confided in me about their issues. This wouldn't have been possible if a male relative had been handling things on my behalf. I started distributing congratulatory certificates after the birth of every girl since 2016 and have also emphasised on issuance of land *pattas* in the name of women of the family," says Khatik, 27, who has a bachelor's degree in science.

IN NUMBERS

STATUS OF KEY INDEPENDENCE DAY ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PM MODI

2014

JAN DHAN YOJANA: 36.48 crore accounts, total balance of ₹101,273.36 crore (as of July 31, 2019)

MAKE IN INDIA: India moved to 77th from 134th in the world on the Ease of Doing Business Index as of 2019

DIGITAL INDIA: The number of Internet users doubled to 50 crore by 2017

SWACHH BHARAT ABHIYAN: 9.2 crore toilets built in rural areas, 28 states and UTs declared open-defecation free

SANSAD ADARSH GRAM YOJANA: As of 22nd January, 2019, 51% i.e. 32,628 out of 83,586 projects under the scheme, were complete, with the deadline being March 2019

REPLACING THE PLANNING COMMISSION: The NITI Aayog was established in 2015

2015

STARTUP INDIA AND STANDUP INDIA: As of January 2019, 15,472 startups have been recognised under this plan, with 13,176 of those creating 148,897 jobs; 45% of these startups have women directing them

PM'S SURAKSHA BIMA YOJANA: As of April 2017, 10 crore people were enrolled in this programme, 12,975 claims were received, and 9,705 claims were disbursed

ATAL PENSION YOJANA: As of May 2018, 1.1 crore subscribers, ₹3,950

collected in total from subscribers, guaranteed minimum pension of ₹1,000

PM'S JEEVAN JYOTI BIMA YOJANA: As of May 2018, 5.33 crore people enrolled in this scheme, 63,767 claims received, and 60,422 claims disbursed

PM KRISHI SINCHAI YOJANA: ₹65,635 crore released for 93 projects, 75 projects already completed as of September 2018

2016

DECLASSIFYING FILES PERTAINING TO SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE: Done

2017

RUPAY CARD: 28.92 crore RuPay debit cards issued to beneficiaries as of 31st July 2019

BHIM APP: 46 million downloads as of April 2019

2018

GAGANYAAN: a manned space mission by 2022 confirmed by ISRO

PM JAN AAROGYA ABHIYAN AND AYUSHMAN BHARAT YOJANA: 10 lakh patients treated under these schemes as of February 2019, coverage extends to about 10.74 crore families

WOMEN OFFICERS OF THE SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION IN THE INDIAN ARMED FORCES TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR PERMANENT COMMISSION: Done



Source: Government of India data

In Akola, novel experiment to tweak Direct Benefit Transfer

KAVITHA IYER
MUMBAI, AUGUST 11

IN JUNE, Akola Zilla Parishad Chief Executive Officer Ayush Prasad managed a small yet significant victory. He ensured that 12 extremely poor households received a bank credit of Rs 12,000, so that these families could build toilets and claim the amount under the Swachh Bharat Mission. The trouble was, without the initial bank credit, they did not have the money upfront to build the toilet for themselves. Prasad's intervention meant that the lead bank manager extended a Rs 12,000 loan to the 12 beneficiaries. Later, the money received from DBT was used to pay off the loan. Prasad's innovation and persistence had saved the day — but he could help only 12 families when close to 6,500 other families were "left out".

Heartened by one bank's willingness to extend microcredit to such families to avail benefits of a government scheme or subsidy, the Zilla Parishad (ZP) has now requested banks to extend a line of credit to beneficiaries of all DBT-enabled schemes that require an upfront payment or contribution. A couple of weeks ago, in a letter to the lead bank manager for Akola, the district administration urged banks to extend such credit to prospective beneficiaries to ensure that nobody was left out of various Zilla Parishad-run government schemes.

After the ZP administration and bank representatives discussed the matter, a representative of the Akola District Central Cooperative Bank said, they view the request positively and will study how to accommodate bridge financing for prospective DBT



beneficiaries. Of the nearly 500 listed DBT-applicable schemes of the Central and state governments, Zilla Parishads run about 32 — such as subsidy for purchase of tractors, harvesters, and sewing machines, etc.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Prasad said, "The government cannot give DBT in advance because of the fear of diversion of funds for other purposes, or non-utilisation of funds within the time period. The aim of seeking loans for beneficiaries of government schemes is to facilitate the uptake of DBT, prevent borrowing from unauthorised sources/moneylenders, and to help beneficiaries give their contribution to avail benefits".

According to the ZP, no new loan product is to be created, for in the case of the 12 beneficiaries who in June received a credit facility from the Union Bank of India's Akola city branch in order to construct toilets, the bank extended Rs 12,000 as an available credit facility under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana accounts, paid in tranches. It was low-cost credit facilitation instead of credit from informal sources or MFIs where the rate of interest would be considerably higher.

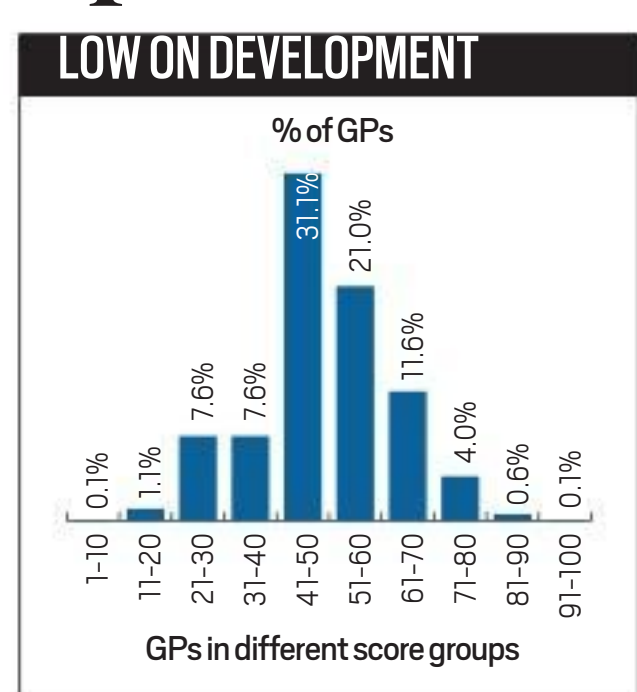
Coming, digital push to Gram Panchayats

THE SOLUTION

SHALINI NAIR
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 11

THE UNION government has decided to roll out its People's Plan Campaign, also known as "Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas", that aims to draw up a development plan for each Gram Panchayat (GP) in the country and place it on a website where anyone can see the status of the government's flagship schemes such as Swachh Bharat Mission, Pradhan Mantri Sadak Gram Yojana, and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, etc. After consultations with the representatives of 16 key ministries, the Union government, on July 23, decided to start this campaign in September. Between October 2 and December 31 last year, the government had conducted a similar exercise in 2.48 lakh GPs across the country.

The process of creating Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDs) requires each GP being scored on an array of 48 indicators covering various aspects such as health and sanitation, education, agriculture, housing,



roads, drinking water, electrification, poverty alleviation programmes, social welfare etc. After each GP is scored out of 100 — with 30 marks for infrastructure, 30 marks for human development, and 40 marks for economic activity — the GPs will be ranked. The data on the 48 indicators would come from Census 2011 (for physical infrastructure), Socio-Economic Caste Census 2011 (for Household-level deprivation data), and fresh survey starting September that will be carried out by local facilitators.

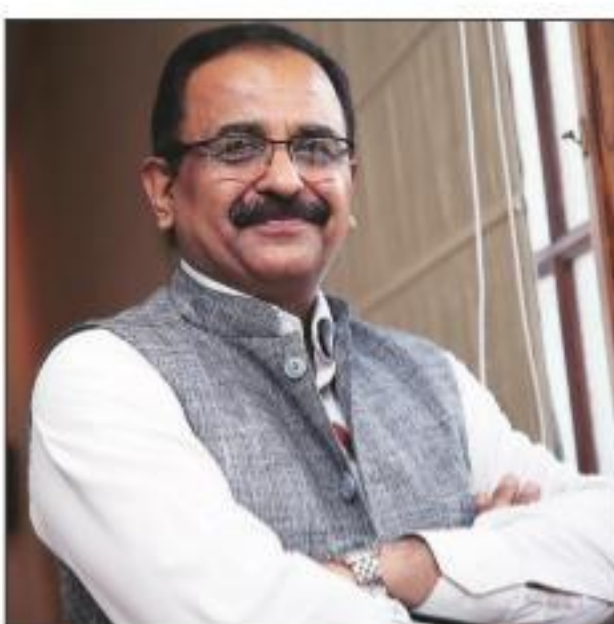
'Hydropower need of the hour... want projects with no baggage'

Average tariff for hydropower around Rs 3.34 per unit despite giving 12 per cent free power to states

STATE-OWNED hydropower generator NHPC Ltd is working on expanding its project portfolio at a time when hydel electricity generation is beginning to receive renewed policy attention. The focus on hydroelectric power comes in the wake of the government's attempts to scale up the share of the hydel sector in the country's overall energy mix and reverse the declining trend witnessed over the last 10 years in order to counterbalance the massive deployment of renewable capacity. A higher hydel generation in the energy mix makes it easier for grid managers to adjust to the vagaries of solar and wind generation on a daily basis. NHPC Ltd Chairman and Managing Director Balraj Joshi tells PRABHA RAGHAVAN that the company is also looking at devising some kind of mechanism to take over stranded private projects. Edited excerpts:

Has hydropower actually become more attractive to states following the announcement of tariff rationalisation under the new hydro policy? How many more states have approached NHPC since?

It certainly has become not only more attractive, but also the need of the hour for the economy. States like Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and even Himachal Pradesh (have been expressing interest). We have been asked that, in projects earlier given by the government to private (players), because nothing is moving there, would NHPC be interested. We (have told) the Ministry of Power that, yes, we would be interested, provided they do not carry any legacy baggage... We are certainly looking forward to more projects in Arunachal Pradesh and, in Jammu



THE POLICY INTERVIEW
BALRAJ JOSHI
Chairman and Managing Director, NHPC Ltd

and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh where we have already bagged one project each.

How competitive do you feel hydropower is compared to other renewable energy sources like solar and wind power?

Today, if you look at the average tariff for hydropower, it is around Rs 3.34 per unit. So, it is not costly at all. And this is despite giving 12 per cent free power to states.

Which private projects are you currently in discussions about?

There is the upcoming Jal Power Project Rangit IV (a 120 mega watt joint venture project of the Sikkim Government and Noida-based Jal Power Corporation Ltd that was being developed on BOOT — build-own-operate-transfer basis) that is now under the block, so we are interested in getting that. As far as the private projects in Arunachal Pradesh are concerned, they have been com-

ing to us unofficially and otherwise also (to take on those projects), but we have to devise some kind of mechanism to take them over, if at all. We are in talks with them.

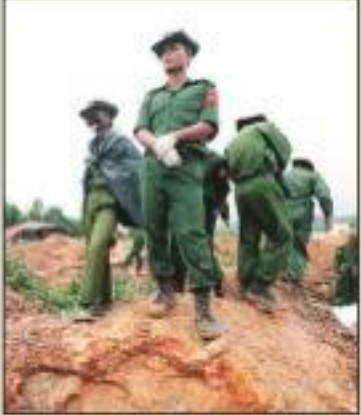
Demwe (Lower Hydroelectric Project) is there, which is also referred to National Company Law Tribunal... Attunli (Hydroelectric Power Project) is there...and Nafr. Let's see what the state government does, and then we'll see whether they are commercially viable or not.

What legacy costs will make a project unattractive for you?

(These are issues like) upfront payment made by these developers. If they ask us to return that money, we will not be able to do that. For example, some developer has given to the Arunachal Pradesh government. If they say, to have this project, you have to first return that Rs 200 crore, that we will not do. If they have some litigation or arbitration cases, we will not (take those up).

13 THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



Rescue workers in Mottama, Mon state, Myanmar. Reuters

MYANMAR

Troops help rescue after landslide kills 51

Mawlamyine: Myanmar troops deployed to flood-hit parts of the country on Sunday to help with relief efforts after rising waters left thousands stranded and the death toll from a landslide jumped to 51. Every year monsoon rains hammer Myanmar and other countries across Southeast Asia, submerging homes, displacing residents and triggering landslides. But this year's deluge has tested the government's ability to respond after a fatal landslide on Friday in southeastern Mon state was followed by heavy flooding.

HONG KONG

Teargas fired as protests continue

Hong Kong: Police fired tear gas late Sunday afternoon to try to disperse a demonstration in Hong Kong as protesters took over streets in two parts of the Asian financial capital, blocking traffic and setting up another night of likely showdowns with riot police. Protesters hurled bricks at officers and ignored warnings to leave the Sham Shui Po area before tear gas was deployed, police said, calling the march an "unauthorised assembly." Nearby, protesters wearing gas masks gathered outside a police station in Cheung Sha Wan, as officers wearing their own protective gear looked down at them from a tall wall around the station.

PAKISTAN

28 killed in heavy monsoon rain

Karachi, Peshawar: Heavy monsoon rain wreaked havoc in Pakistan, killing at least 28 people, and triggering flash floods and landslides in several parts of the country, officials said on Sunday. At least 12 people were killed and at least 22 others injured in different parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa due to flash floods, landslides and rain-related accidents, said the Provincial Disaster Management Authority. Rain and snowfall often cause landslides and flash floods in northern Pakistan where millions live in mountainous areas.



ISRAELI POLICE, PALESTINIANS CLASH AT HOLY SITE

Israeli police fired sound grenades to disperse Palestinians during confrontations on Sunday outside Jerusalem's al-Aqsa mosque where tens of thousands of Muslim worshippers gathered for the Eid al-Adha holiday, witnesses said. Facing off with police in the packed compound outside Islam's third-holiest site, Palestinians chanted "With our soul and blood we will redeem you, Aqsa". Scuffles ensued and the crowd fled as the sound grenades exploded and smoke wafted through the compound. Reuters

Lahore statue of Maharaja Ranjit Singh vandalised

MZULQERNAIN LAHORE, AUGUST 11

A STATUE of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, who ruled over Punjab for close to 40 years in the early 19th century, was vandalised by two men in Lahore on Saturday. The nine-foot statue, made of cold bronze, was unveiled at the Lahore Fort in June on the 180th death anniversary of Maharaja Singh, the first Maharaja of the Sikh Empire, died in 1839. Police have arrested two men and registered a case against them under the country's blasphemy laws. The two men were reportedly angry after India revoked the special status to Jammu and Kashmir last week. The suspects belonged to Tehreek-Labbaik Pakistan, of radical cleric Maulana Khadim Rizvi. The Walled City of Lahore Authority, which is responsible for the matters of the Lahore Fort, has expressed shock and vowed to repair the statue soon after Eid. "This is quite unfortunate incident. We will enhance security at the Lahore Fort so that no such incident should take place in the future," Walled City of Lahore Authority spokesperson Tania Qureshi said. "The statue's restoration will be carried out from next week. Once it is repaired it will be opened for the public again." It took eight months to complete the statue of the Sikh ruler sitting on his favourite horse. PTI

Epstein left alone, not closely monitored before jail 'suicide'

KATIE BENNER, DANIELLE IVORY & RICHARD A OPPEL JR NEW YORK, AUGUST 11

JEFFREY EPSTEIN, the financier who hanged himself in a federal jail in Manhattan, was supposed to have been checked by guards every 30 minutes, but that procedure was not being followed the night before he was found, a law enforcement official with knowledge of his detention said. In addition, the jail had transferred his cellmate and allowed Epstein to be housed alone in a cell just two weeks after he had been taken off suicide watch, a decision that also violated the jail's normal procedure, two officials said. The disclosures about apparent failures in Epstein's detention at the Metropolitan Correctional Centre deepened questions about his suicide and are very likely to be the focus of inquiries by the Justice Department and the FBI. Officials cautioned that their initial findings about his detention were preliminary and could change. The federal Bureau of Prisons has already come under intense criticism for not keeping Epstein under a suicide watch after he had been found in his cell on July 23 with injuries that suggested that he had tried to kill himself. A person with knowledge of the investigation said that when the decision was made to re-

DEATH FUELS CONSPIRACY THEORIES, ANGER

SOON AFTER Epstein's death was reported, many offered unsubstantiated speculation — including some retweeted by President Donald Trump — that Epstein's death wasn't a suicide, or it was faked.

THE CLAIM retweeted by Trump seemed to imply that there was a Clinton link to Epstein's death. The wealthy financier was friendly with an array of prominent personalities, including Trump himself, former US president Bill Clinton and Britain's Prince Andrew.

SOME OF Epstein's accusers have described being sexually abused by his friends and acquaintances.



VIRGINIA GIUFFRE, one of Epstein's accusers, said after his death that she's grateful he will never harm anyone again, but is angry there would be no chance to see him answer for his conduct.

SHE TOLD the *New York Times*: "We've worked so hard to get here, and he stole that from us, too."

move Epstein from suicide watch, the jail informed the Justice Department that Epstein would have a cellmate and that a guard "would look into his cell" every 30 minutes. But that was apparently not done, the person said. Senior law enforcement officials, members of Congress and Epstein's accusers have all demanded answers about why Epstein was not being more closely monitored.

Epstein, 66, was awaiting trial on federal charges he sexually abused dozens of teenage girls when he was found dead in his cell at the Metropolitan Correctional Centre at 6:30 am on Saturday. It is standard practice to place people who have been on suicide watch with a cellmate, two people with knowledge of Epstein's case said. But Epstein's cellmate was later moved out of the special housing unit, leaving him alone, the prison official said. NYT

It's official: Gotabaya Rajapaksa named Opp candidate in Lanka

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA COLOMBO, AUGUST 11

GOTABAYA RAJAPAKSA, the former Sri Lankan defence secretary, was named on Sunday as the presidential candidate of the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) party for the election scheduled for later this year. Brother of former strongman president Mahinda Rajapaksa, Gotabaya, 70, headed Mahinda's military campaign against the

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) between 2006 and 2009. Ending months of speculation, Mahinda on Sunday named his younger brother as the presidential candidate and additionally took over the leadership of the new political party formed by the Rajapaksa family, the SLPP. Mahinda thus ended his long association with the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) of which he had been a member since the mid 1960s. "My brother is your brother



Mahinda Rajapaksa (left) with his brother Gotabaya. Reuters

BRITAIN

PROBE INTO ILLNESSES IN SEASIDE TOWN

Police in England say they are responding to a "hazardous material incident" after people in a seaside town reported vomiting and sore eyes. The Sussex Police force said officers were investigating symptoms reported by "a small number of people" in Worthing, 80 kilometres south of London on England's south coast.

Saudi-led coalition launches strike after separatists seize Aden

'Coups' petering out as UAE-backed troops begin to pull back

AHMED AL-HAJ & SAMY MAGDY SANAA, AUGUST 11

YEMENI SEPARATISTS backed by the United Arab Emirates began withdrawing Sunday from positions they seized from the internationally-recognised government in the southern port city of Aden. Both the southern separatists and the government forces are ostensibly allies in the Saudi-led military coalition that's been battling the Houthis rebels in northern Yemen since 2015. But a major rift in the coalition was exposed during the four days of fighting for control of Aden, as the UAE-backed Southern Transitional Council wrested the city from government forces. More than 70 people were killed in the clashes.

The UAE is the dominant force in Yemen's south, where it has an estimated 90,000 allied militiamen and has long been at odds with the government, which is largely based in Saudi Arabia. The two US-allied Gulf monarchies appear to have diverging interests in Yemen, where the stale-mated war has spawned the world's worst humanitarian crisis and drawn mounting criticism in Washington. Saudi Arabia views the Houthi rebels in Yemen's north as a major national security threat, in part because the Houthis have launched



Members of southern Yemeni separatist forces during clashes with government forces in Aden on Saturday. Reuters

numerous cross-border missile attacks targeting the Saudi capital and other cities. The UAE, which recently began withdrawing troops from Yemen, appears more interested in securing its interests in the south — which lies along major trading routes linking Africa to Asia — than waging a war that appears increasingly unwinnable. Saudi Arabia had responded angrily to the takeover in Aden, calling for an immediate ceasefire and ordering the separatists to pull back as Saudi troops moved to secure government buildings. On Sunday, Saudi state TV reported that the separatists had begun withdrawing. The coalition said Sunday it struck a target that posed a "direct threat" to the government, and warned of further military action if the separatists did not pull back. AP

EXPLAINED

Cracks widen in Saudi-led alliance

THE TAKING of Aden by southern separatists illustrates the widening cracks in the Saudi-led military alliance that is supporting the Yemeni government in its war against the Houthi rebels. UAE, which has been part of this coalition, trained and armed 90,000 southern separatists who have also been fighting the Houthis. Despite being allies against the Houthis, the Southern Transitional Council (STC) has been hostile towards the Yemeni government and seeks secession. Their move to take Aden comes after the UAE already pulled its troops from Yemen, reportedly because of the international condemnation of the humanitarian crisis caused by the war. With the Houthis already in control of Sanaa and a large number of urban centres, the fighting within the Saudi-led coalition is likely to further prolong and complicate the war.

Afghan President rejects foreign interference as talks advance

ASSOCIATED PRESS KABUL, AUGUST 11

AFGHANISTAN'S PRESIDENT on Sunday rejected foreign interference as the United States and the Taliban appear to be closing in on a peace deal without the Afghan government at the table. President Ashraf Ghani spoke during the Muslim holiday Eid-al-Adha and as US and Taliban negotiators continue their work in the Gulf nation of Qatar, where the insurgents have a political office. Speaking after the Eid prayers, Ghani insisted that next month's presidential election is essential so that Afghanistan's leader will have a powerful man-



date to decide the country's future after years of war. "The fate of Afghanistan will be decided here in this homeland," he said. "We don't want anyone to intervene in our affairs." US envoy Zalmay Khalilzad is seeking a peace deal by September 1, weeks before the vote. The two sides are expected to agree on the

The fate of Afghanistan will be decided here in this homeland. We don't want anyone to intervene in our affairs.

— **ASHRAF GHANI** AFGHANISTAN PRESIDENT

withdrawal of US troops in return for Taliban guarantees that Afghanistan would not be a base for other extremist groups. Few details have emerged, but Khalilzad and the lead Taliban negotiator, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, have been travelling to several countries involved in the process.

Norway mosque shooting to be investigated as 'act of terror'

LEFTERIS KARAGIANNPOULOS SANDVIKA, AUGUST 11

AN ATTACK by a gunman at a Norwegian mosque on Saturday will be investigated as a possible act of terrorism, police said on Sunday. The suspected shooter at the al-Noor Islamic Centre near the Norwegian capital — a young, white male carrying several guns — had expressed far-right, anti-immigrant views online, assistant chief of police Rune Skjold told a news conference. "We're investigating this as an attempt at carrying out an act of terrorism," he said. The suspect had been apprehended after the attack, in which shots were fired but no one was hit, with one of the people inside the mosque having overpowered him before police arrived. "These people showed great courage," Skjold added. Only three people were present in the mosque at the time of the attack, preparing for Sunday's celebration of the Eid-al-Adha festival, mosque spokesman Waheed Ahmed told Reuters on Saturday. Mohammad Rafiq, a 65-year-old retired Pakistani Air Force officer, was the first of the three to approach the attacker, the mosque said. REUTERS

FAR-RIGHT GAINING TRACTION IN SWEDEN BASED ON ANTI-IMMIGRANT MESSAGING

Global disinformation machine behind Sweden's 'cautionary tale'

JO BECKER RINKEBY (SWEDEN), AUGUST 11

JOHNNY CASTILLO, a Peruvian-born neighbourhood watchman in this district of Stockholm, still puzzles over the strange events that two years ago turned the central square of this predominantly immigrant community into a symbol of multiculturalism run amok. First came a now-infamous comment by US President Donald Trump, suggesting that Sweden's history of welcoming refugees was at the root of a violent attack in Rinkeby the previous evening, even though nothing had actually happened. "You look at what's happen-

ing last night in Sweden. Sweden! Who would believe this? Sweden!" Trump told supporters at a rally on Feb. 18, 2017. "They took in large numbers. They're having problems like they never thought possible." The President's source: Fox News, which had excerpted a short film promoting a dystopian view of Sweden as a victim of its asylum policies, with immigrant neighbourhoods crime-ridden "no-go zones". But two days later, as Swedish officials were heaping bemused derision on Trump, something did happen in Rinkeby: Several dozen masked men attacked police officers making a drug arrest, throwing rocks and setting cars ablaze.



And it was right around that time, according to Castillo and four other witnesses, that Russian television crews showed up, offering to pay immigrant youths "to make trouble" in front of the cameras. "They wanted to show that President Trump is right about Sweden," Castillo said, "that people coming to Europe are terrorists and want to disturb society."

The square in Sweden where Russian journalists allegedly offered money to immigrants to make trouble. NYT

That nativist rhetoric — that immigrants are invading the homeland — has gained traction, and political acceptance, across the West amid dislocations wrought by vast waves of migration from West Asia, Africa and Latin America. In the nationalists' message-making, Sweden has become a prime cautionary tale. What is

even more striking is how many people in Sweden — progressive, egalitarian, welcoming Sweden — seem to be warming to the nationalists' view: that immigration has brought crime, chaos and a fraying of the cherished social safety net, not to mention a withering away of national culture and tradition. Fuelled by an immigration backlash, right-wing populism has taken hold, reflected most prominently in the steady ascent of a political party with neo-Nazi roots, the Sweden Democrats. In elections last year, they captured nearly 18% of the vote. To dig beneath the surface of what is happening in Sweden, though, is to uncover the workings of an international disinform-

mation machine, devoted to the cultivation, provocation and amplification of far-right, anti-immigrant passions and political forces. Indeed, that machine, most influentially rooted in Vladimir Putin's Russia and the American far right, underscores a fundamental irony of this political moment: the globalisation of nationalism. The central target of these manipulations from abroad — and the chief instrument of the Swedish nationalists' success — is the country's increasingly popular, and virulently anti-immigrant, digital echo chamber. A *New York Times* examination of its content, personnel and traffic patterns illustrated how foreign state and nonstate actors have helped give viral momen-

tum to a clutch of Swedish far-right websites. Russian and Western entities that traffic in disinformation, including an Islamophobic think tank whose former chairman is now Trump's national security adviser, have been crucial linkers to the Swedish sites, helping to spread their message to susceptible Swedes. The distorted view of Sweden pumped out by this disinformation machine has been used, in turn, by anti-immigrant parties in Britain, Germany, Italy and elsewhere to stir xenophobia and gin up votes, according to the Institute for Strategic Dialogue, a London-based nonprofit that tracks the online spread of far-right extremism. NYT

14 ECONOMY

MARKET WATCH

FPIs PULL OUT ₹9,197 CR IN AUG

New Delhi: Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) pulled out a net amount of Rs 9,197 crore in just seven trading sessions in August. As per latest data, FPIs withdrew a net of Rs 11,134.60 from equities while pumping in Rs 1,937.54 into debt during August 1-9. **PTI**

STRESS FUND TO DEAL WITH STALLED PROJECTS IN DISCUSSION, SOURCES SAY FM meets realtors, homebuyers; govt to tackle liquidity issues, stalled projects

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 11

THE GOVERNMENT will step in to address issues impacting confidence in the real estate sector, including the possible setting up of a stress fund to deal with stalled projects. Industry bodies and homebuyers met Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Sunday to flag their concerns regarding the ongoing liquidity crunch, demand slowdown and problem of stalled projects.

The Finance Minister on Sunday had two separate meetings — the first with the two apex realtors' industry bodies CREDAI and NAREDCO, and the second with homebuyer associations, to discuss the issues concerning the real estate sector and steps to be taken to strengthen the industry.

Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur and top officials from the departments of economic affairs, revenue, housing, Central Board of Direct Taxes, Corporate Affairs and RERA also attended the meetings.

Representatives of CREDAI and NAREDCO, who attended the meeting said that there is "unrest" in the sector because of liquidity crunch and poor sales, and demanded that banks and NBFCs should be encouraged to fund projects. They also expressed concern that the situation could become worse during the coming festival season, when

EXPLAINED

Festive rush could add to real estate sector's woes

MIRRORING THE downturn in the broader economy, the "unrest" in the real estate sector is because of liquidity crunch and poor sales, alongside the problem of huge inventory.

There are concerns that the situation could worsen during the coming festive season, when generally demand is higher.

generally demand is higher. There would be a separate high level meeting, under the chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary, in the next few weeks to discuss setting up of a stress fund to deal with stalled projects and bail out lakhs of stuck homebuyers, sources added.

Briefing the media after the meeting, Puri said: "Lot of useful discussions happened at the meeting with the real estate industry. We looked at a number of issues, clarified a number of issues and the government will be addressing these issues in the days to come." With these discussions, he said, the process of finding solutions to some of the problems that have affected the real estate industry has started.

"Whatever problems are there of the homebuyers, stalled projects etc, we are exploring ways to move forward on this. Many homebuyers have moved the Supreme Court and there are

judgements too. So it's a very complicated arena. But given the goodwill within the government, amongst the homebuyers and industry, whatever problems are there we will find solutions for them," Puri asserted. When asked about creation of a stress fund, he said several issues were discussed, but declined to give details.

CREDAI chairman Jaxay Shah said, "We had a great positive, patient hearing from finance minister. Government is cognisant about the matter affecting real estate industry including the liquidity crunch and taxation issues. We are very hopeful to have some good and tangible results in coming weeks." CREDAI president Satish Magar said the government wanted to know about all the issues affecting the industry.

NAREDCO president Niranjn Hiranandani said, "As you know, the real estate industry



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Housing Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and MoS for Finance Anurag Thakur with representatives of real estate sector in New Delhi. **PTI**

is going through a crisis, as is rest of the whole economy. So we are very glad that the Finance Minister and Housing Minister met us on a Sunday morning to understand the situation."

"The positive part is that the government understood that we need to take this thing forward and we need to do it quickly," he further said. Asked about the Centre's response, Hiranandani said, "No response in terms of what actions the government wants to take, we are not aware and nor was anything committed on behalf of the government."

NAREDCO vice chairman Parveen Jain said the issue of stalled projects in the National Capital Region was also discussed on Sunday. To boost demand and address liquidity issues, the industry bodies suggested various measures, including reduction of interest rates on home loans to 7 per cent

and withdrawal of the recent National Housing Board (NHB) circular prohibiting subvention scheme — where the interest is paid by the developer for certain fixed time.

They also said the real estate regulators established under the RERA, should be the first point of grievance redressal for homebuyers. Meanwhile, homebuyers body Forum for Peoples' Collective Efforts (FPCE) President Abhay Upadhyay said five lakh customers are stuck across the country due to delayed projects.

He demanded creation of a Rs 10,000 crore stress fund to complete such projects and provide relief to these homebuyers.

Homebuyers of Jaypee Group told the Finance Minister that projects are not getting completed despite promoters having huge land bank along with assets like the Yamuna Expressway project. **WITH PTI**

SPECIAL STATUS REMOVAL OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

NHPC 'hopeful' of recovering over ₹1,000 cr in dues from J&K power development PSU

PRABHARAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 11

THE GOVERNMENT'S decision to remove special status for Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcate the region into two Union Territories has state-owned hydropower generator NHPC Ltd hopeful of recovering over Rs 1,000 crore in dues from the Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation (JKSPDC) sooner, said chairman and managing director Balraj Joshi.

Dues from JKSPDC, a PSU, are currently valued at Rs 1,091 crore and, including the late payment surcharge, it owes NHPC Rs 1,491 crore, according to Joshi. This makes up over 50 per cent of the total Rs 2,001.74 crore owed to NHPC from various distribution companies as on May 2019, shows data on the PRAAPTI portal.

"We expect that, with the changed situation, the central government can have a larger say and we will recover our dues faster," Joshi told *The Indian Express*.

NHPC Ltd, which currently operates eight hydropower projects in J&K, has entered into agreements with JKSPDC and the Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Department (JKPDD) to execute projects like the Ratle Hydroelectric Project, which has a capacity of 850 MW.

NHPC CMD SAYS JKSPDC OWES ₹1,491 CRORE

■ Dues from Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation (JKSPDC) are currently valued at ₹1,091 crore and, including the late payment surcharge, it owes NHPC Rs 1,491 crore, as per NHPC Ltd CMD Balraj Joshi; this makes up over 50% of the total ₹2,001.74 crore owed to NHPC from various firms

■ NHPC Ltd, which currently operates eight hydropower projects in J&K, has entered into agreements with JKSPDC and the Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Department to execute projects like the Ratle Hydroelectric Project, which has a capacity of 850 mega watt

It also has a joint venture with JKSPDC and PTC India to develop the 1,000 MW Pakal Dul project and construct the 624 MW Kiru project.

According to Joshi, the J&K government's tussle with NHPC Ltd over control of older projects like the Salal hydroelectric power station has died out as such projects have become unattractive due to falling tariffs.

"Initially, there was talk that J&K government wanted those projects, but now they have come to realise that all those projects have become old and the tariffs have fallen substantially, so there is no point getting those projects in its kitty," he said.

The Salal project was a point of conflict because it was transferred to NHPC Ltd at a time when

the arrangement of memoranda of understanding (MoUs) and allotment were not practiced, according to Joshi.

"But, as far as Uri-II and their later projects are concerned, we have a properly, well-defined MoU in which we have said we will be able to return this project on reaching the acceptable terms and conditions," he said.

"But, you need a kind of capacity to run these projects. You have to have the technical capacity and the financial capacity also, because you have to keep on doing the maintenance works," he said. "Right now, I don't think J&K is very much poised to actually operate these projects, so there is no point (transferring the projects to them). They will not be able to run those projects nicely," he added.

Anil Agarwal's family trust seeks EoI for Jet, says 'no link to Vedanta'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, AUGUST 11

VOLCAN INVESTMENT, the family trust of Vedanta group chairman Anil Agarwal, has sought an expression of interest (EoI) for grounded Jet Airways.

"Volcan Investment, investment company for Anil Agarwal, in an exploratory move, has sought an EoI for Jet Airways, to understand the business scenario for the company and the industry. This EoI is in no way linked to Vedanta," said the trust.

Volcan, which owns 100 per cent stake in Vedanta Resources, is one of the three interested parties which have expressed interest in the airline. Sources said Panama-based investment company Avantulo Group, and Russian Fund Treasury RA Creator also showed interest in Jet. The deadline for EoI was August 10.

Etihaad Airways, which owns 24 per cent stake in Jet, has not yet submitted an EoI for the airline. Ashish Chhawchharia, Jet Airways' resolution professional

"Volcan Investment, investment company for Anil Agarwal, in an exploratory move, has sought an EoI for Jet Airways, to understand the business scenario for the company and the industry,"

VOLCAN INVESTMENT
FAMILY TRUST OF ANIL AGARWAL

(RP), will now evaluate the bids to decide on their eligibility and will shortlist names by early next week. The RP last month had invited EoIs to sell assets of the grounded Jet that stopped flying mid-April. The final bids are to be submitted by September 12.

The interim resolution professional (IRP) for Jet Airways had received claims worth Rs 24,887.93 crore against the carrier till July 4, according to the list of creditors uploaded on the company's website. Of these claims, the IRP has so far admitted claims worth Rs 8,462.78 crore and rejected claims

of over Rs 1,380 crore. Claims worth over Rs 15,000 crore are pending verification.

Domestic banks and financial institutions have claimed over Rs 6,441 crore, while foreign banks have claimed around Rs 1,569 crore. Claims of workmen and employees stood at Rs 443.56 crore. Operational creditors, other than workmen and employees, have submitted claims worth Rs 12,373.59 crore. These claims are yet to be verified by the IRP.

On June 18, two months after Jet Airways shut down its operations, banks decided to refer the airline to the bankruptcy court — National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) — for resolution under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, after the bidding process failed to identify a suitable "white knight".

The fate of the airline, which shut down operations on April 17, 2019 after it ran out of cash, will be decided as per the June 7 circular of the Reserve Bank of India. However, sources said the creditors are unlikely to get the full amount as the airline does not have many tangible assets left.

GSP roll-back: Exports of goods under tariff system to US up 32%

Exports of Indian goods to the US, which were enjoying benefits under the preferential tariff system GSP, saw a growth of 32 per cent this June, according to Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI)

>1,900: Indian goods that received export benefits provided by the United States under its Generalised System of Preference (GSP) programme, before it was removed on June 5

\$190 MILLION: Value of GSP benefit claimed by Indian exports in June 2018

\$28.26 MILLION: Difference between value of India's exported goods that increased year-on-year in June and GSP benefits claimed last June

VALUE OF INDIAN GOODS EXPORTED TO US THAT GOT GSP BENEFITS, AS PER USITC DATA, STOOD AT:

\$65742 million in June 2019 | \$495.67 million in June 2018



MEASURES FOR BOOSTING EXPORTS: TPCI has advocated phasing of subsidies and reducing government support

MAJOR PRODUCTS THAT SHOWED INCREASE IN EXPORTS:

- Plastics rubber
- Base metals
- Machines and equipments
- Transport equipment
- Hides and leather
- Pearls and precious stones

\$6.3 BILLION: Worth of goods India exported to US in 2018 under their export incentive programme

After SBI, BoB links home loan product to RBI's repo rate

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, AUGUST 11

AS THE Bank of Baroda (BoB) on Sunday announced a new home loan product linked to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) repo rate. In doing so, BoB has gone the State Bank of India (SBI) way.

Following the latest Monetary Policy Committee decision to cut rates by 35 basis points (bps), several state-run banks, including Union Bank of India, Allahabad Bank, Bank of India and Syndicate Bank, have expressed their intention to launch loan products linked to an external benchmark, which in most cases so far has been the repo rate. For the time being, the new products are largely restricted to home and auto loans.

BoB customers opting for the home loan product would have a choice between MCLR-linked rate — indexed to the bank's cost of funds — or a rate linked to RBI's repo rate.

The marginal cost of funds based Lending Rate (MCLR)-linked product starts at 8.45 per cent. Meanwhile, home loans availed at repo rate-linked interest rate start at 8.35 per cent, passing on a further benefit of 10

Bank of Baroda customers opting for the home loan product would have a choice between MCLR-linked rate — indexed to the bank's cost of funds — or a rate linked to Reserve Bank of India's repo rate

bps to the current MCLR-rated pricing.

Union Bank of India, which had held its asset liability committee meeting on Friday, said in order to facilitate better interest rate transmission, it would soon link its housing and vehicle loan portfolio to the repo rate.

Transmission of monetary policy has been a sticky point between banks and the RBI.

Despite a cumulative 75 bps cut in the repo rate between February and June this year, banks across the country have reduced their weighted average lending rates on fresh rupee loans by a mere 29 bps during the same period. Reserve Bank governor Shaktikanta Das had said last week. **FE**

Tesla car catches fire after hitting tow truck in Moscow

REUTERS
MOSCOW, AUGUST 11

A TESLA Model 3 electric car caught fire after crashing into a parked tow truck on a Moscow motorway late on Saturday, with the Tesla driver saying he had failed to see the vehicle with which he collided. Asked in a video published on REN TV website if he was using an Autopilot self-driving system, driver Alexei Tretyakov said he was in a drive assistance mode in which he was still holding the steering wheel.

Tesla Inc has stood by safety claims for its Model 3 in the face of regulatory scrutiny, while documents showed the top US automotive safety watchdog issued at least five subpoenas since last year seeking information about crashes involving the company's vehicles. Tretyakov said he was driving at around 100 km (62 miles) per hour — the speed limit — when the car crashed on its left side into the stationary tow truck that he had not noticed.

Footage of the incident on state TV channel Rossiya 24 showed the car by the side of the road engulfed in flames and thick black smoke.

GROWTH WELL BELOW 3% ANNUAL RATE TRUMP CLAIMED IT WILL HIT

US Fed remains a target as economy falls short of Trump's ambitious goals

HOWARD SCHNEIDER & GINGER GIBSON
NEW YORK, AUGUST 11

IT HAS become a jarring and frequent contradiction. President Donald Trump blames the Federal Reserve for putting the US economy at risk while data shows an economy in "reasonably good" shape, as the head of the central bank recently said. But behind that confusing dance between a norm-breaking Republican president and a stick-to-its-knitting Fed lies a dilemma for Trump.

"Reasonably good" is not what Trump promised to deliver during his 2016 campaign, and at this point he heads into a reelection year short of the key economic goals he set and worried a recession could undermine his bid for a second term.

Growth is ebbing and well below the 3 per cent annual rate he said his administration would hit; the trade deficit has widened and there is no sign of the "easy" victory he said would come in a trade war with China; far from the surge in investment he promised would follow a corporate tax cut, business capital spending of late has been a drag on growth overall.

Each month there are more



US President Donald Trump leaving the Rose Garden with Jerome Powell, chairman of US Federal Reserve at the White House in Washington, US, in November 2017. *Reuters File Photo*

jobs. But that has been true for nearly nine years, and as on many fronts the best days of "Trumponomics" may be in the past as the economy's performance reverts to an Obama-era trend of around 2 per cent annual growth. "He is so focused on the Fed because in terms of avoiding a recession that is truly in his eyes his biggest obstacle," to reelection, said a source in regular communication with the White House, explaining that Trump wants to take no chances, even if the risk of a downturn is low.

It's in that context that Trump

scorns a central bank whose longer-term approach to policy has clashed with his more immediate interests — the same tension apparent in other battles between the president and government agencies with their own institutional powers or culture.

In the Fed's case, while its chairman and Washington-based governors are appointed by the president, its responsibility is to a "mandate" established by Congress. The Fed's goals of "maximum employment, stable prices, and moderate long-term interest rates" are distinct from, and some-

times in conflict with, the economic or political priorities of the party in power, whether it's maximizing annual growth, gaining leverage in a trade negotiation or, gaining economic momentum in an election year with interest rates lower than the data would warrant.

Other things equal, lower interest rates can boost economic activity by encouraging households and businesses to borrow, spend and invest, but can also lead to financial excesses as happened in the early 2000s in the US mortgage market, and — less of a concern today — inflation.

Managing those mandated goals, Fed officials note, can require tradeoffs, involves looking further ahead than can be forecast with certainty, and always includes a judgment about whether the lower unemployment and other benefits that might come with easier monetary policy are worth the risks involved.

Trump's demands that the Fed stimulate the economy, by contrast, have covered a gamut of immediate needs, and moved well beyond convention to suggest, for example, that the Fed restart crisis-era asset purchases at a time of historically low unemployment. **REUTERS**

MASS SHOOTINGS

The definition of insanity

America grapples with a lethal mix of terrorism and lax gun laws



Amber Ruiz and Jazmyn Blake embrace during a vigil a day after a mass shooting at a Walmart store in El Paso, Texas, on August 4. Reuters.

THEY LOOKED like something out of Donald Trump's fever dream: a bunch of burly, bearded, tattooed Latinos massed outside a blood bank wielding metal objects. But the objects were spoons and spatulas, and the men were Christians on a mission. Soon after a gunman killed nearly two dozen people at a Walmart, Pastor Anthony Torres and members of his flock stocked their mobile kitchen and drove down from Alamogordo, New Mexico. In the two days that followed they served hundreds of meals to El Pasoans who donated badly needed blood to local hospitals. Asked why he brought nearly a dozen people, a mobile kitchen and hundreds of dollars-worth of food to another city to help people he had never met, Mr Torres just shrugs: "We felt we had to be here."

The El Paso massacre was the deadliest of three in less than a week—all perpetrated by young men using legally purchased semi-automatic weapons. The death toll, including two shooters, stood at 36: 22 in El Paso, four at a festival in Gilroy, California and ten in Dayton, Ohio, with dozens left injured. America has grown accustomed to such events. There have been 31 shootings with three or more deaths in 2019. On average, according to a research outfit called the Gun Violence Archive, this year has seen one shooting in which four or more people were

killed or injured every day.

Two of these attacks—in Gilroy and El Paso—are being investigated as domestic terrorism, raising questions about how police and politicians confront the threat from white-supremacist terror. On July 23rd Christopher Wray, the FBI director, said his agency had made around 100 domestic-terror arrests since October, most of them related to white supremacists. Yet even though, according to the Anti-Defamation League, an NGO, right-wing extremists were responsible for 70% of killings apparently motivated by some extremist ideology in America between 2009 and 2018, the counterterrorism apparatus remains geared more towards catching foreign terrorists than domestic ones.

That stems partly from a legal distinction. Providing money or personnel to a designated foreign-terrorist group such as al-Qaeda or ISIS is illegal. No such statute exists for domestic terrorism, and in any case white-supremacist attacks are carried out by individuals who buy their own guns and radicalise themselves online. Initiating a terrorism investigation based on opinions posted on web forums gets into murky First Amendment waters.

But the imbalance also stems from priorities set at the top. Former counterterrorism analysts say that the government does

not devote nearly as much intellectual energy to understanding the ideology of domestic white supremacists, and mapping out paths from ideology to action, as it does to jihadist terrorism—even though, as Clint Watts, a former FBI special agent who worked on terrorism, notes, the two ideologies are structurally similar. Both argue that they—Muslims in one case, white people in another—are superior, and need their own separate state ruled by their own people, and are justified in committing acts of violence in their people's name.

Despite that passing similarity, the path to radicalisation seems different. Jihadist groups recruited through mainstream platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, where they comprised a negligible share of these firms' revenue and users. That made it easy for companies and governments to kick jihadists off these sites. White-nationalist extremists use smaller platforms that have no interest in joining the mainstream. Sometimes their service providers step in: Cloudflare, for instance, withdrew its web-security protections from 8chan, a web forum popular with the far right. These sites then pop up elsewhere, hosted in an obscure jurisdiction.

Shortly before he began his attack, Patrick Crusius, the El Paso shooter, appears

to have posted a manifesto on 8chan. He wrote that his attack was "a response to the Hispanic invasion of Texas"—a state that until 1836 was part of Mexico. He railed against immigration and environmental damage, and advocated "decreas[ing] the number of people in America using resources. If we can just get rid of enough people, then our way of life can become sustainable." Towards that end, he travelled from the suburb of Dallas where he was brought up to El Paso, a majority-Hispanic border city, and opened fire in a store packed with back-to-school shoppers from Mexico. One survivor said he specifically targeted people he thought were Hispanic.

"The Hispanic community," he wrote, "was not my target until I read The Great Replacement." This refers to a conspiracy theory that blames feckless Western elites for "replacing" people of European ancestry with non-white immigrants. "The Great Replacement" was the title of a book by a French polemicist, Brenton Tarrant, an Australian man who earlier this year murdered 51 people in two mosques in New Zealand, used it as the title of his own manifesto, which Mr Crusius endorsed.

This is an updated version of an older conspiracy theory known as white genocide, which propounds that the world's white

population is being deliberately shrunk and diluted through mass immigration, low fertility rates, multiculturalism and miscegenation (Mr Crusius also inveighed against "race mixing"). Unsurprisingly, many on the far right believe this to be a Jewish plot.

These beliefs, notes Oren Segal of the Anti-Defamation League, "are not just on these fringe internet forums. If anyone operating there turned on Fox News, they would hear similar sentiments." Tucker Carlson, the second-most-popular host on cable news, has said that Democrats want "demographic replacement" through "a flood of illegals". Laura Ingraham, another host, has argued that Democrats "want to replace you, the American voters, with newly amnestied citizens and an ever-increasing number of chain migrants."

Prominent politicians have said the same thing. Steve King, a congressman from Iowa, famously wrote that "we can't restore our civilisation with somebody else's babies." On the House floor Ted Yoho and Louie Gohmert, both Republican congressmen, have compared immigrants to invaders. During a trip to Europe in 2018, Donald Trump said that immigration has "changed the fabric of Europe", and told a British tabloid, "I think you are losing your culture. Look around."

More recently, his Facebook campaign ads

have warned, "We have an INVASION... It's CRITICAL that we STOP THE INVASION." Take this literally and violence becomes a defensive measure.

Correlation is not causation, but FBI data show a recent uptick in reported hate crimes. Men who killed Jews in synagogues in California and Pittsburgh blamed Jews for immigrant "invaders" and the "genocide of the European race". Despite the president's occasional disavowals, these people really like him. The Christchurch shooter called Mr Trump "a symbol of renewed white identity and common purpose". One researcher who attends extremist rallies (in disguise) reports "unanimous support for Trump... These folks rallied around him. They saw large parts of their messaging getting into the mainstream."

To his credit, in a speech on August 5th Mr Trump denounced "racism, bigotry and white supremacy". He also advocated making it easier to commit the mentally ill to hospital, "stop[ping] the glorification of violence in our society" and develop "tools that can detect mass-shooters before they strike". Missing from the list was a commitment to moderate his own speech, or anything that would make it substantially harder for angry young men to obtain semi-automatic weapons.

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ENDANGERED SPECIES

The elephant in the room

The ban on trading ivory is unfair but necessary

NEARLY 6,000 species of animals and about 30,000 species of plants are listed in the various appendices of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) to protect them against over-exploitation. But as CITES convenes its three-yearly decision-making conference in Geneva this month, one animal, as so often in the past, will attract much of the attention: the African elephant.

The elephant is in many ways CITES's mascot. It was rescued in 1989 from what seemed inevitable extinction after half the population had been wiped out by poaching in just a decade. That year elephants were included in CITES's Appendix I, under which virtually all international trade in their products is banned. The slaughter slowed. This month's meeting will consider competing proposals about how absolute the ban should be, since in some countries elephant populations have recovered. Countries seeking a modest relaxation have a strong case to make. But it is not strong enough. The ban must stay.

Understandably, countries that have

done a good job protecting their elephants feel this is unfair. They point out that they have devoted huge resources to the elephant, through the costs of law enforcement alone. And the real burden of all this is borne by poor local people who are in competition with wildlife for resources, and sometimes in conflict with it—elephants can be destructive. People and governments, so the argument goes, need to have an economic stake in the elephants' survival. The ivory trade would give them one.

That's why Zambia wants its elephants moved to the slightly less restrictive Appendix II, which would allow some trade in, for example, hunting trophies. Four other southern African countries (Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe), whose elephants were moved to Appendix II 20 years ago, want to be allowed to trade in their products, which, despite the change in status, they have mostly been prohibited from doing.

To understand why these reasonable-sounding proposals should be rejected, consider what has happened to elephant num-

bers since CITES most recently authorised some legal trade, when Botswana, Namibia and South Africa were allowed in 2007 to sell a fixed amount of ivory to Japan, as a one-off. Elephant numbers started falling again. A survey conducted in 2014-15 estimated that elephant numbers had fallen by 30% across 18 countries since 2007; another estimated a decline of over 100,000 elephants, a fifth of the total number, between 2006 and 2015. Increased poaching was at least partly to blame.

These numbers suggest that the existence of even a small legal market increases the incentive for poaching. It allows black-market dealers to pass off illegal ivory as the legal variety, and it sustains demand. The biggest market is in China. Last year the government banned domestic sales of ivory, but its customs officials seize a lot of smuggled products—notably from Japan, which CITES licensed as a market in 2007. For the poachers, ivory is fungible. If it is hard to secure in Zambia or Botswana, another country's elephants will be in the gun-sights. Congo, Mozambique and, especially, Tanzania, have



A herd of elephants walk past a watering hole in Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe, in October 2014. Reuters

seen sharp declines. Unfair though it is, countries with better-run conservation programmes are, in effect, paying for the failings of those with feeble institutions.

In the long run technology can help make trade compatible with conservation. In better-resourced national parks, drones are used to make it easier for rangers to spot poachers.

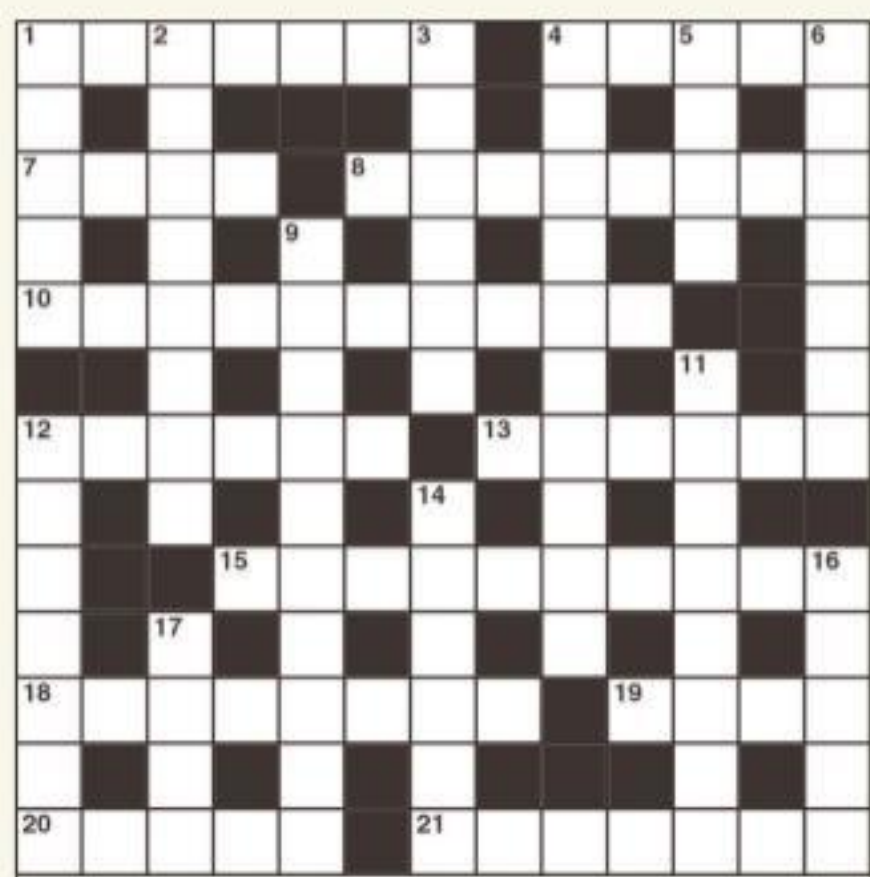
DNA testing of ivory shipments can establish where they came from, and thus whether they are legal. As prices fall and countries get richer, both technologies are likely to spread.

The objection to trade in products of endangered species is not moral, it is pragmatic. When the world is confident that it will boost elephant numbers rather than wipe them

out, the ivory trade should be encouraged. Regrettably, that point has not yet come. And until it does, the best hope for the elephant—and even more endangered species, such as rhinos—lies not in easing the ban on trading their products, but in enforcing it better.

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CROSSWORD 3881



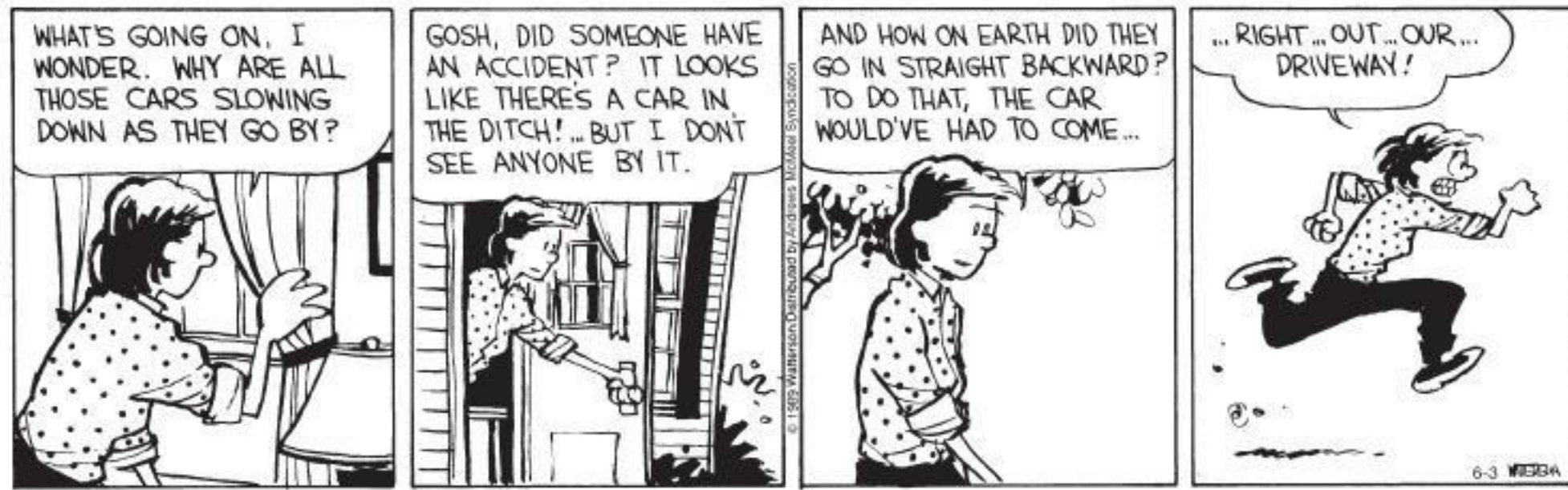
- ACROSS**
- Wild claim goes to company - that's funny. (7)
 - Decline to meet a composer (5)
 - Music circle (4)
 - Decline to see mother's certificates (8)
 - The first orphans (4,3,3)
 - The work it does is only skin-deep (6)
 - They're fired - spaces need to be filled (6)
 - Watercourse required for high speed (10)
 - Racket our family makes turning round gangleader (8)
 - Go on board? (4)
 - A searching examination, by all accounts (5)
 - Tried and tested (7)
- DOWN**
- It may strike out A, B or C perhaps (5)
 - Commands and the ship's officers who give them out? (8)
 - A number in beastly residences are landowners (6)
 - The whole book is in need of toning down (4,6)
 - 50 amp bulb (4)
 - Maintains a rising pressure (7)
 - Able to hold liquor but drunk on non-alcoholic drink (10)
 - One metal fused into many (8)
 - It puts an end to any ill feeling (7)
 - Carry on in summary fashion (6)
 - Free from fault (5)
 - Unlocked (4)

Solutions Crossword 3880: Across: Provocation, 9 Escheat, 10 Latch, 11 Dodo, 12 Whistler, 14 Fester, 16 Launch, 18 Rebelled, 19 Trio, 22 Exist, 23 Imagine, 24 Wedding ring, Down: 2 Raced, 3 View, 4 Catchy, 5 Talisman, 6 Ortolan, 7 Ready for bed, 8 Church tower, 13 Deflated, 15 Sublime, 17 Resign, 20 Reign, 21 Pair.

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 quip.

If you want to increase your success rate, double your failure rate. - Thomas J. Watson (B...6)

PTEEE **DOLNSU**

AROID **EEKBCD**

SOLUTION: TEEPE, RADJO, UNNSOD, BEDECK
Answer: If you want to increase your success rate, double your failure rate. - Thomas J. Watson

SUDOKU 3936

Difficulty Level 2s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.



Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

SOLUTION SUDOKU 3935



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
As long as the Sun is so helpfully placed, you are being encouraged to be lively and independent. Over the next two weeks one of your goals should therefore be to widen your social circle. There's no need to be discriminating at this stage - make friends with anyone and everyone.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
If you're one of those Librans who is absolutely happy with where you're living, you're in a tiny minority. Most of you, even those who have moved home recently, are still in a state of domestic uncertainty. That's a sign that there could be further improvements to come.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
If anything, the build-up of planets in philosophical regions of your chart has intensified, making it more necessary than ever that you continue to take a stand on your principles. Why not set an example to people who are lacking your wisdom and foresight?

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
There's something delightful about your serious-minded determination to ferret out the truth. Now that you're finding it easier to say what's on your mind, other people will at last have the chance to benefit from your wonderfully profound fund of wisdom.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Mercury, your ruling planet, is combining poetic beauty with a truly profound sense of practical possibilities. You can express whatever you want to say in the way you want to say it. It all looks pretty nostalgic as well! Just about right for the perfect day. Don't spoil it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)
The entire week is overshadowed by the emphatic and unambiguous relationship between the Sun and the Moon - in a profoundly positive sense. This will be entirely in your favour, and will encourage you to take whatever steps are necessary to better yourself.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
The odds certainly seem to be stacked against you this week, but I am confident that after recent experiences you can cope with just about anything. If you still see yourself as a soft little Cancer, stop it now. There are few people as tough as you when roused.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
You're still in the middle of a period of personal revolution that at times mirrors the dramatic changes on the global scene. Only another Capricorn will truly understand your dilemma. And only another Capricorn can understand how you need to re-arrange your finances.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
The Moon's current position in your chart is something of a special event. This simple fact means that you have every chance to implement whatever major improvements in your life have been brewing over the past year. But, and this is a big 'but', you must obtain partners' support.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
If you know what's good for you, you'll devote a great deal of attention to making sure that loved ones and colleagues are perfectly happy with your behaviour. You may lavish presents and attention on those whose favour you are seeking. You might get exactly the desired reaction.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
Influences over your creative fifth house bring us back to a theme which has been raising its head time after time over the past two years - the need to feel that you are doing something meaningful with your life, not just drifting along with the herd.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
Your social activities are becoming both broader and deeper. Some of you may rue the day you took on certain group commitments, but you have little option but to press on and fulfil your duties. Actually, you rather like it when you don't have any choice about what to do.

UTTARAKHAND TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY, DEHRADUN
Sudhowala P.O Chandanwari, Dehradun-248007, Uttarakhand
Email id : teqip@uktech.ac.in

Ref. No.: 474/TEQIP-III/2019 Date: 09.08.2019
IFB No.: TEQIP-III/2019/UK/utu/83

INVITATION OF BIDS UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

1. The Uttarakhand Technical University, Dehradun invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for supply of Package under TEQIP-III as listed below.

Package Name	Bid Document Sale Start Date	Bid Document Sale End Date	Prebid Meeting Date
Centre of Excellence in AI and ML Research Lab	10-Aug-2019 10:00 AM	10-Sep-2019 11:00 AM	19-Aug-2019 02:00 PM

2. Interested Bidders may obtain further information on purchase of bid documents, time table for issue of bids and submission, cost of bid and methods of payments, bid security and pre bid meeting, from the office of the TEQIP-III, Uttarakhand Technical University, Uttarakhand, India, or visit the University website <http://uktech.ac.in/>

3. Bids should be submitted along with Demand draft of Rs 2,000/- in favour of Uttarakhand Technical University TDS, payable at Dehradun.

Coordinator

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, NAVIN S/o Bhola Datt R/o AF-16C Shalimar Bagh Delhi-110088, have changed my name to NAVIN KHULBE for all purposes.
0040507414-8

I, Brijesh Rai S/o Raghupati Rai R/o-RZF-770/8, Raj-Nagar-2, Palam, Delhi-77, have changed my minor son's name from Vishal Rai to Umang Rai, for all future purposes.
0040507414-9

PERSONAL

I, Indu Sharma W/o, Mukesh Kumar R/o H. No. 525, Housing Board Colony, Sector 48, Nit Faridabad 121001 Have Changed My Name To Indu Shree.
0070669561-1

I, Rakesh Bhatia S/o Tirath Ram Bhatia R/o H. No. 2-E/50, NIT, Faridabad, Haryana have changed my minor son's name from Tanishq Bhatia to Tanishq Raj Bhatia for all purposes.
0040507406-2

I, Rakesh Bhatia S/o Tirath Ram Bhatia R/o H. No. 2-E/50, NIT, Faridabad, Haryana have changed my minor son's name from Pravit Bhatia to Pravit Raj Bhatia for all purposes.
0040507406-3

I, Aarti Tandan W/o Vishal Bhakhri R/o JU-1D Pitampura Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Aarti Bhakhri for all purposes.
0040507414-7

I, Krishan Kumar Mahto S/o Sehdev Mahto R/o.H.No.170, Peer Mohalla, Aali Village, Sarita Vihar, N.Delhi-110076, have changed my Daughter's name From Soni to Sony Kumari permanently.
00 40507467

Coal India Limited
(A Maharatna Company)

Notice for Global Trial e-Tender

1. Global Trial e-Tender No. CL/C2D/460 HP Wheel Dozer/R-81/Trial/347, dated 09.08.2019. 2. Item Description: Supply, installation and commissioning of 01 (One) no. of 460 HP Wheel Dozer along with Consumable Spares and Consumables for 36 months on trial basis and on being declared proven after successful performance during trial period of 36 months, supply of Spares & Consumables for a further period of 12 months on proven basis. 3. Estimated Tender Value: Rs. 3.80 Crores for Equipment only. 4. Tender Document: There will be no physical sale of tender document. The complete tender documents can only be downloaded from Coal India Limited website (www.coalindia.in). Central Public Procurement Portal (www.eprocure.gov.in) and CIL's e-Procurement Portal (<http://coalindiadenders.nic.in>). All necessary details may be seen from the tender document available in the above websites. General Manager (MM)

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JANAKPURI : TRIMURTI ADVERTISERS, Ph.: 9810234206, 25530307, **KAROL BAGH (REGHARPURA)** : K R ADVERTISERS, Ph.: 9810316618, 9310316618, 41547697, **KARAMPURA** : GMJ ADVERTISING & MARKETING PVT. LTD., Ph.: 9310333777, 9211333777, 9810883377, **NEW MOTI NAGAR** : MITTAL ADVERTISING, Ph.: 25178183, 9810538183, 9555945923, **MOTI NAGAR** : UMA ADVERTISERS, Ph.: 9312272149, 8800276797, **RAMESH NAGAR** : POSITIVE ADS, Ph.: 9891195327, 9310006777, 65418908, **TILAK NAGAR** : SHIVA ADVERTISERS, Ph.: 9891461543, 25980670, 20518836, **VIKAS PURI** : AAKAR ADVT. MEDIA Ph.: 9810401352, 9015907873, 9268796133

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EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

FOR APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR IN AGRA SMART CITY LTD

Smart City Mission (<http://smartcities.gov.in>) is a flagship scheme of Govt. of India conceptualized with the objective to promote cities that provide core infrastructure and give a decent quality of life to its citizens. Agra Smart City Ltd. (ASCL) (www.agrasmartcity.in), was set up under the Companies Act to implement the development work at the city level.

ASCL wishes to appoint an Independent Director as per Companies Act, 2013 who fulfils the following criteria:

- Person shall have relevant expertise and experience in any of the areas/fields coming under the scope of Smart Cities. (Refer Section 149(6)(b)(i) of Companies Act 2013)
- Person must have his/her name in the databank maintained by Ministry of Corporate Affairs with Department of Public Enterprises (www.dpe.gov.in)
- Preference will be given to those who have served as Independent Directors in Board of Companies fulfilling Clause 49 of the listing agreement of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) as per the Smart City Mission Guidelines (Point 3.4 of Annexure 5) ([http://smartcities.gov.in/upload/uploadfiles/files/SmartCityGuidelines\(1\).pdf](http://smartcities.gov.in/upload/uploadfiles/files/SmartCityGuidelines(1).pdf))

For any other details kindly refer Companies Act 2013, Smart City Mission Guidelines and related rules of Companies Act for the qualification of Independent Director.

Candidates fulfilling the above criteria must email detailed profile/CV and supporting documents which determine the conformity to points (1), (2) & (3) as mentioned above and also any sitting fees/charges if any to agrasmartcitylimited@gmail.com latest by 17th August 2019.

For any further clarification please contact: CS Sukhmeet Suri, Company Secretary, Agra Smart City Ltd, Mob: 8077496694

Chief Executive Officer
Agra Smart City Ltd, Agra

PunCom

Puncom invites sealed two part bid (Technical & Financial) from experienced & reputed contractors for indoor work for Transportation, To assist Installation of 200 AH battery, SMP5 sealed power plants, Multiplexer, STM-4, spare cards, Supply & Installation of Racks for EC Railway, Danapur. Detailed scope of work, eligibility criteria, other terms and conditions are available at our web site www.puncom.com Last date for submission of bid is 23-8-2019 at 11.30 PM. Email - projects@puncom.com. Contact: 0172-2237133.

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NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER Dated: 10.08.2019

NIT No. HSSC/AIMS /UG-Parking/2019

Online item rate bids are invited by HSSC (India) Limited on behalf of All India Institute of Medical Science, New Delhi through e-tendering from eligible contractors/firms who fulfill qualification criteria as stipulated in Vol-I of NIT/PQ document for the works Construction of additional work in Surgical Block, Basement connectivity from New OPD Block to UG Parking and road connectivity with Hostel at Masjid Moth Campus, AIMS, New Delhi. Estimated project cost is Rs. 16.62 Crore. Completion period is 12 Calendar Months & other details available on detailed NIT. Tender available from 17.08.2019 and Last Date of submission of Bids 30.08.2019 at 15:00 hrs.

The detailed NIT will be available on websites www.tenderwizard.com HSSC and CPP portal. Contingendum to this publication, if any, would appear only on said websites and not be published.

DGM (C), HSSC (India) Limited

17 TALK

ART, MUSIC, STYLE, FOOD



FAKE AND FINE

A couple of parody currency notes have been added to British Museum's collection of fake currency. The notes created by Bath for Europe, has faces of Jacob Reese Mogg and current British PM Boris Johnson. They have been added for their expression of anti-Brexit sentiments.

ON THE LOOSE



LEHER KALA

Hopeless Wanderers

Shame the crude tourist into behaving

IT WAS A cringeworthy and brutal example of the sheer ghastliness of the Indian traveller when a video of a family caught stealing from a hotel in Bali went viral two weeks ago. Distressingly, viewers could hear the Indians' aggressive stance with the Balinese authorities, even as they unearthened mirrors, jars and hairdryers from their bags. Eventually the family could be heard whimpering in embarrassment, offering to pay for the stolen ware. The video was viewed lakhs of times on Twitter, and the Indian tourist roundly condemned by the press and on social media.

A few days before this incident, industrialist Harsh Goenka had posted the welcome note Indian guests received when they checked into the Hotel Arc-en-Ciel in Gstaad, Switzerland. It went "Dear guests from India" and the first point was regarding their buffet: "Please do not take anything with you, the food is for breakfast only". The second point was even more damning: "The other guests want an appetising buffet also, please only use the cutlery provided." From this are we to infer that the Indians were carrying their own ladles and ferrying the food away? Anything is possible. The hotel has since apologised for this note after accusations of racism but clearly, the code of conduct needs to be spelt out if visitors from one particular country constantly disregard established rules of etiquette. Sadly, this is the image of the Indian traveller, an unscrupulous user who's always pushing the boundaries of decency.

The logic applied by a person of dubious values who thinks it's okay to pinch stuff from a hotel is banal and depressing: we've paid for the room and hence are entitled to pocket a few things that catch our fancy. One can always justify it's not stealing, exactly — more like really stretching the honour code. However, the hotel has allowed a stranger in, assuming the guest will consciously choose to be honest. The guest has a moral obligation not to break that trust, and especially not on the grand scale the Indians in Bali did. It's true only a minuscule few (staunch Gandhians probably) can claim to have never absconded from a hotel room without a miniature bottle of shampoo and a few tiny bars of soap. And those fluffy bedroom slippers, which are, in all fairness, the property of the wearer the minute they put them on. Surely for hygiene reasons the hotel can't reuse them, so, naturally, a guest may presume they're his. But who walks off with a hairdryer thinking they won't get caught?

Most hotels factor in a degree of thievery into their annual budget, as a cost of doing business. Pilfering isn't limited just to Indians. But our reputation abroad and with hoteliers in our country is that of uncouth hagglers, out for ourselves at the cost of everyone else's comfort. The hideous debacle of the Indian family in Bali has led to a lot of heated debate about what our responsibilities are as citizens when we step out of the country. In a larger sense, all of us are connected and affected by the actions of our fellow citizens. When an Indian passenger gets drunk on a flight, leers at the attendant waiting on him, it reflects on all of us. It shows up in a million, small, different ways, the inordinate delays in visa processing for Indians, being just one of them. It is ridiculous that Indians have to furnish bank statements for up to a year for entry to some European countries but it's because the general consensus is, they are not to be trusted.

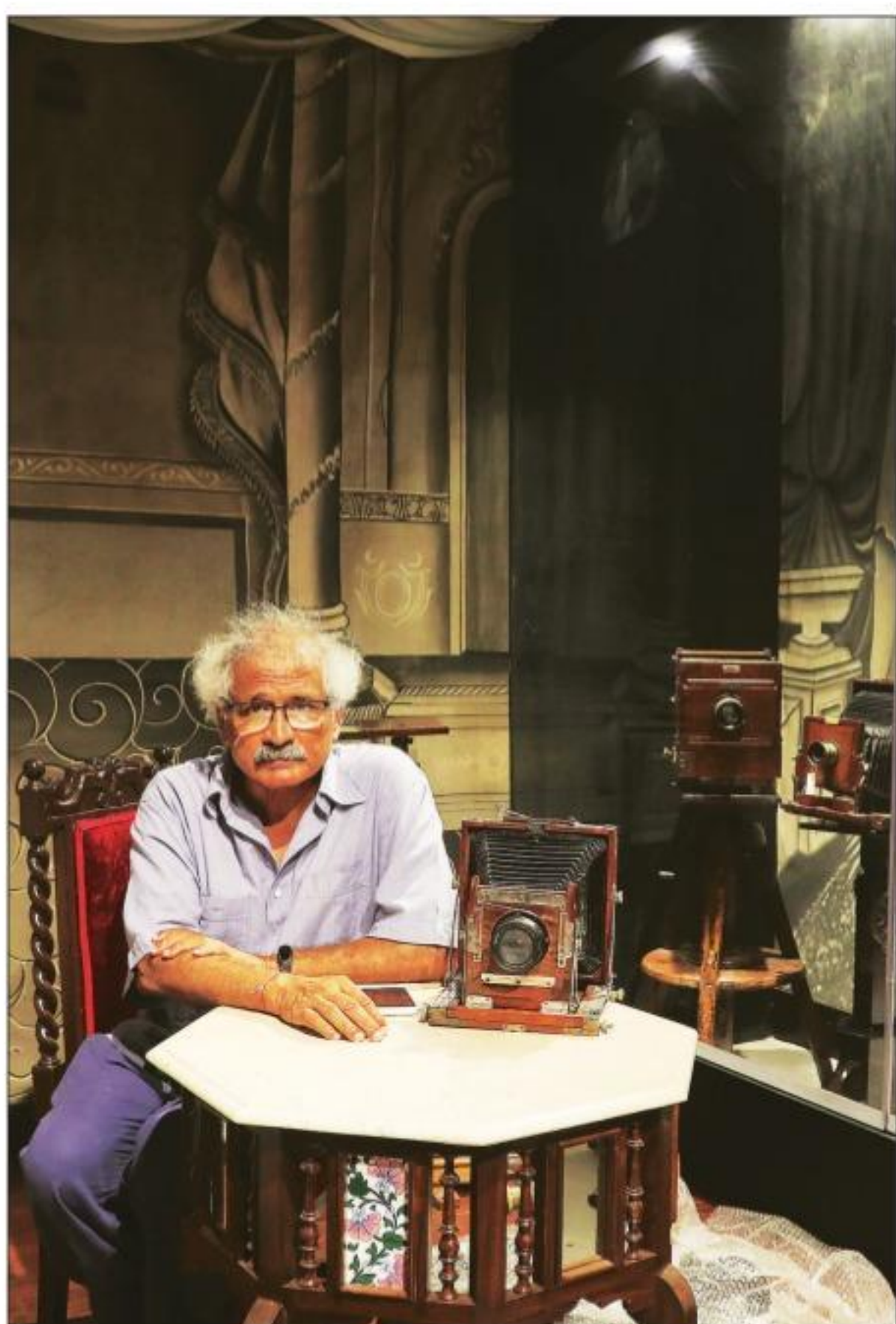
It's surprising that big hotel chains and airlines don't yet have systems like AirBnB and Uber where everybody rates everybody. It is a sad fact about human nature that in the absence of consequences, our narrow self interest tends to take over — and we cheat to get ahead. Since it's a given that people will behave unethically given half the chance, the solution lies in taking that opportunity away from them. Ratings force people to behave themselves. Since basic values have eroded so much, in the future it's the one-to-five scale that the world will be relying on to go back to a culture of integrity. Something like the nicely phrased and to-the-point board outside every departmental store — "You are under surveillance".

hutkanfilms@gmail.com



Museum of Memories

Photographer Aditya Arya has converted a badminton court into a camera museum in Gurgaon



The maharajas in India, who previously used to patronise artists, wanted to get family portraits as well. Hence, a number of studios sprung up in India. At the end of the day, everything ended up with the kabaadiwallah, and from various junk dealers, they heard for me

ADITYA ARYA



ASHNA BUTANI

PHOTOGRAPHER ADITYA ARYA was 15 when his father gifted him his first camera — a Zeiss Ikon. Forty four years later, in July this year, Michael Kaschke, President and CEO of Zeiss, the German pioneer in optical systems and optoelectronics, visited Arya's upcoming camera museum — Museo Camera in Gurgaon — and commented how it was no less than a marvel. "On August 19, 1839, the first photograph was announced to the world. I hope to inaugurate my museum the same day this year," says Arya.

Days before the opening, the 59-year-old graduate in history from Delhi University can be seen pacing around the 18,000 square feet museum, guiding carpenters and carefully unwrapping the 2,000 cameras he has collected in the last 40 years. "I do not have any favourites because each piece has its own place in history. There is a unique camera called Ticka from 1907 that looks like a watch but is actually a spy camera. People tell me stories like their grandfather used a certain camera on his first trip to Europe among others," he says.

Upon entering the museum, a chandelier made of old Yashica cameras catches immediate attention. "I used to exhibit my collection in my basement in Gurgaon. A few years ago, when officials from the Municipal Corporation of Gurgaon saw it, they decided to give me land. The project is in collaboration with the India Photo Archive Foundation," says Arya, who has arranged Rs 70 lakh through crowd-funding.

Chronologically displayed, the vintage cameras are meticulously placed in the shelves. The collection starts with Camera Obscura — world's first camera — to a modern-day Digital Single Lens Reflex (DSLR) camera. One of Arya's most iconic pieces is the Fairchild K20 that was used to shoot the Hiroshima bombings during the Second World War. "I found it at a junk shop in Delhi. It was not difficult to find it because American troops were trained in Kharagpur. So many of the cameras used during the war came back to India," he says.

Back in the day, portraits were the most famous genres of photography. "That is how so many of these cameras ended up here. Back then portraits were developed in England and France. The maharajas in India, who previously used to patronise artists, wanted to get family portraits as well. Hence, a number of studios sprung up in India. At the end of the day, everything ended up with the kabaadiwallah, and from various junk dealers, they heard for me. I am the ultimate parking spot for most antique pieces," says Arya with a laugh.

He has collected three studio cameras from Mumbai and Delhi junk dealers. He recalls spending hours with the local dealers till a few years ago. "The area around Jama Masjid was a treasure trove back in the '60s. I can still spend hours at Chor Bazaar in Mumbai," he says.



(Clockwise from above) Museo Camera in Gurgaon; photographers will be able to develop their prints at the museum; the exhibits at the museum; Aditya Arya Photos: Abhinav Saha

Efforts have also been made to interact with the audience. People can get their portraits clicked in a period studio, which features props from the early 1900s, which include white curtains that function as a giant light box. The ground floor has a dark room where workshops will be held regularly and photographers can develop their prints. "We are starting a photography institute on the first floor, where we will offer a year-long diploma course," said Arya. Exhibitions by professional photographers will be held on the first floor, while the second floor will be used to showcase works of budding photographers. The ground floor will be ticketed at a few hundred rupees while the first and second floors are open to all. The space will also house a cafe, library, seminar rooms and a gift shop.

The walls in the museum display old camera advertisements, such as that of a 3A Folding Pocket Kodak. "I have around a thousand advertisements and patents. They are important to the history of photography because they are only created when a new technology is being announced," said the photographer. In addition, Arya has been documenting the construction of the museum, which will also be exhibited near the entrance. "These are a tribute to those who have constructed the museum," says Arya, who, for many years, used to search for different kinds of cameras. "Even though I still do, they (people) find me now. While some sell their cameras, some gift it to the museum because they want the legacy to carry on," he concludes.

For visits, contact museocamera.org

WEEK AHEAD



Identity Quest

ATTEND A panel discussion on the key forces that have helped shape the modern Indian identity. Panelists include Urvashi Butalia (pictured), who will discuss women's identity in India and the impact of class and caste. Guneeta Bhalla will speak on the transformation and evolution of Indian identity as learned from history. The discussion is presented by the '1947 Partition Archive'. At Indian Habitat Centre, August 13, at 7 pm.



High Five

OBSERVE THE works of five masters from Bengal, in Kiran Nader Museum of Art's (KNMA) latest exhibition titled 'Over the edge, crossing the line — five artists from Bengal'. The show, curated by Roobina Karode, includes works of artists Ganesh Pyne; Meera Mukherjee; Somnath Hore, Ganesh Haloi and Jogen Chowdhury. The works span more than five decades and will feature more than 200 artwork from the KNMA collection, as well as loaned works from artists and private collectors. From August 13 onwards, KNMA, Saket.



Step by Step

WATCH *Khud Mein Kabir, Kabir Mein Hum*, a creative dance drama choreographed by Odissi exponent Ranjana Gauhar. The production is based on the life and literary works of Kabir as part of a two-day dance festival. The second day of the festival will feature performances by Aloka Kanungo and group (Odissi); Dr Anwesha Mahanta and Group (Sattriya) and Rani Khanam and Group (Kathak). At IHC, August 13-14, 7 pm onwards.

Second Innings

Actors Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Amruta Subhash on why fans should be excited about the second season of *Sacred Games* and the complexities of their characters

PARTH KHATAU

ACTOR NAWAZUDDIN SIDDIQUI takes a long puff from his vape pen, on a day packed with interviews ahead of his return in season 2 of popular Netflix series, *Sacred Games*. Wearing a checkered shirt and a tired look on his face, he managed a smile when asked about his effortless portrayal of Ganesh Gaitonde, his character in the series. "Gaitonde is not a real-life character unlike some of the roles I have played in the past. So, creatively, there was a lot of freedom as long as I stuck to the script, I could toy with him in season one. People often see me during promotions of other films and yell 'Gaitonde! Gaitonde!' as-if I'm him in real life," says Nawazuddin Siddiqui. When he was in Hyderabad for promotions of *Manto* (2018) fans kept yelling 'Gaitonde', "much to the annoyance of my director (Nandita Das)". "It is of course a good feeling because it means I have been able to execute a complex character and make him so believable in real life,"

I had to make sure I did not take advantage of the fact that I knew the character so well. Gaitonde is now framed in people's heads and I had to act within those parameters

NAWAZUDDIN SIDDIQUI

he adds.

Siddiqui, who set the bar quite high last year, insists that the expectations do not affect him. "I have gathered a loyal following but I block that out while acting as I don't want it to affect my performance. I just do my best on the sets and leave the rest for the others to judge," he says. The actor, however, stresses on the importance of character discipline that he had to follow in the second season, knowing the parameters he had to act within after last year's breakthrough season. "It definitely helps that I played the role previously. But I had to keep myself on a tight leash so that I don't go overboard and play to the gallery. I had to make sure I did not take advantage of the fact that I knew the character so well. Gaitonde is now framed in people's heads and I had to act within those parameters," says the 45-year-old actor.

The plot of the show unfolds backwards, picking up from where it left, showcasing various stages of Gaitonde's life and his relationship with Dilbagh Singh (Sartaj Singh's father) and other characters in the show. The story



Nawazuddin Siddiqui (left) and Amruta Subhash in stills from *Sacred Games* Season 2



also showcases Gaitonde's rendezvous with Guruji, a spiritual guru played by Pankaj Tripathi and his relationship with Jojo (Surveen Chawla).

Among new faces like Kalki Koechlin and Ranveer Shorey, who are on board this time, is actor Amruta Subhash. She starred in *Gully Boy*, earlier this year. Playing the character of a RAW agent, Subhash says how eye-opening it was while researching for the role. "It is intriguing because in most professions, if you do well, you get appreciation from your peers. A RAW agent is a secret agent and the only thing driving her/him is

love for their country. I really want to salute all RAW agents after playing this character," she says. Subhash, who appears in the first episode of the second season, says that the kind of character she plays, immediately commands Gaitonde's respect. "Very few people stand up to Ganesh Gaitonde and my character does that. She is a dominating woman. He does not like her but respects her," says Subhash.

When asked as to which character does he miss the most, Siddiqui, without blinking, says, "Cuckoo. I miss her a lot." "However, you will see more of my love interests as and

when the story unfolds," he says. The actor also says that the story unfolds at a faster pace in comparison to season one. "There is a lot more action. A lot of questions might be answered this time around," says Siddiqui, about the second season which has been shot in locations in Africa this time.

So rigorous was the show's shooting schedule that Siddiqui barely got time to travel. "It has been my dream to see giraffes and shoot with them," says Siddiqui. "I just never got the time. Amruta managed to go for a safari. I saw a video of giraffes on her phone and was happy," he says with a smile.

BRIEFLY

Anderson guilty and frustrated for letting team down in Ashes

London: England fast bowler James Anderson said he was filled with guilt and frustration after being ruled out of the second Ashes Test against Australia because of a calf injury that limited his participation in the series opener. The 37-year-old, who missed a four-day Test with Ireland and struggled to be fit for the series opener against Australia at Edgbaston, pulled up injured on Day One of the first Test, which the hosts lost by 251 runs. He was then ruled out of the second Test on Tuesday. "You feel lots of guilt (and you are) generally frustrated but you're trying to help the lads as much as possible without making them feel worse," Anderson, who apologised to team mates after pulling up injured at Edgbaston, told BBC Radio 5 Live. "I missed the Ireland Test as a precaution to make sure I was 100% for the Ashes. I felt angry having done all the work to get there. There's nothing else we could've done." The England and Wales Cricket Board has said that the chances their record Test wicket-taker playing in the rest of the series would be reassessed on "an ongoing basis". "All the tests they do... to see if it's OK, it just wasn't playing ball so it was hugely frustrating," Anderson added. "It settled down a bit when we were batting and I was planning on bowling in the second innings, but when I was batting, I pushed off for a run and it didn't feel right."

REUTERS

Imran vetoed Arthur's contract extension

Karachi: Former Pakistan head coach Mickey Arthur was assured by an influential group of cricketers that he would be retained for another two years after the World Cup, but Prime Minister Imran Khan rejected giving extensions to the coaching staff. According to a highly reliable source, an influential member of the Pakistan Cricket Board's Cricket Committee and some other officials in the board had assured Arthur he would be getting an extension as head coach despite Pakistan's failure to reach the knockout stages of the World Cup. "Arthur was very confident after these assurances, that is why he came down to Lahore and spent quite a few days in anticipation of an extension but was disappointed and shocked when the PCB announced they were not retaining him or the support staff," the source said. According to the source, PCB chairman Ehsan Mani had spoken to Imran Khan, who is patron-in-chief of the PCB, on the matter and the former skipper made it clear that a new team management set-up must be brought in after the World Cup.

PTI

Say sorry before career restart: PCB to Sharjeel

Karachi: Opener Sharjeel Khan completed a 30-month ban for spot-fixing on Sunday but Pakistan Cricket Board has made it clear that he has to admit his wrongdoing and attend an Anti-Corruption rehabilitation programme before resuming his career. Sharjeel was banned from all forms of cricket for five years in August 2017 for his role in the spot-fixing scandal that marred the Pakistan Super League earlier that year, but the PCB's Anti-Corruption Tribunal had said half of his ban would remain suspended. Sharjeel, playing for the Islamabad United franchise, was found guilty by the PCB's Anti-Corruption Tribunal headed by Lieutenant General (retired) Tauqir Zia, along with other players like Khalid Latif, Muhammad Irfan, Muhammad Nawaz, Nasir Jamshed and Shahzaib Hasan. A PCB official said Sharjeel could be allowed to resume playing as soon as September in the Qaid-e-Azam Trophy but he has to first admit his involvement in the spot-fixing and apologise for his actions. He recalled that Salman Butt and Muhammad Asif had to do the same when their spot-fixing bans expired in 2015.

PTI



42-TON HEAVYWEIGHT

Virat Kohli celebrates his 42nd ODI hundred on Sunday. During the course of his 120-run innings during the second match against the Windies at Port of Spain, Kohli went past Saurav Ganguly (11,363) to become the second-highest run-getter among Indian cricketers in ODIs. Globally, at 11,406 runs, Kohli is eighth in the tally led by Sachin Tendulkar (18,426). BCCI

Iyer's audition: India's got talent, temperament

With Kohli in the box seat, Shreyas impresses in his middle-order debut; shows maturity and game awareness during his 68-ball 71

SANDIP G
AUGUST 11

THE MOST instructive aspect of Shreyas Iyer's knock, a finely crafted 71 on his ODI return, was how he constructed those runs. A top-order batsman who had built his reputation on daz-zie, flowing drives and thumping cuts that saw him being hailed as the latest inheritor of Mumbai's batting legacy, he demonstrated considerable maturity to tailor his game to suit the situation.

Like his ability to rotate strike, smother and milk the spinners like the 90s subcontinental batsmen used to — as many as 45 of his 71 runs were hoarded through singles and twos. A push to the covers, an extended push to long-on, a tap to third man, a tinkle to fine-leg, the shots that are the staple of accumulators rather than aggressors.

The best of batsmen seamlessly combine both worlds. Like Virat Kohli, who was batting like a dream from the other end. So much so that when you filter through the highlights package, one would struggle for strokes that wow you for their daring or flamboyance, a stroke that you would archive. Maybe Iyer's rampor the clump of Kemar Roach towards the death might linger on, but not beyond these.

But Iyer's primary currency were strokes many of India's middle-order batsmen, tried in the prelude and through the World Cup, seemed to have forgotten, or not quite well-schooled at. Most of them seemed to oscillate between the blocking and blasting. Not the middle path, not the old-fashioned way of wearing the bowlers and fielders down with clever field manipulation and thus making it difficult to strangle the run rate.

MS Dhoni, at his peak, was masterly at that, but not any longer. Neither were Ambati Rayudu, Kedar Jadhav, Rishabh Pant and Vijay Shankar. All of them could accelerate but not accumulate. And accumulation, like acceleration, is such an integral part of the game.



Shreyas Iyer plays a rare flamboyant shot during his otherwise measured knock on Sunday. Iyer's innings included 33 singles and six doubles. BCCI

It's equally fascinating how Iyer does it. He doesn't try to manufacture a single or a two. Full outside off-stump, he just pushes it towards cover, slightly into the body, he drives them through mid-off. Anything on middle-and-leg, he crunches it through long-on. And on most instances, it doesn't matter where the fielders are, he seldom hits straight at them. With a tilt of the wrists at the last moment, he

directs the balls away from them. It's as if a surgical knife is somewhere fitted in his bat. All but seven off his 33 singles were accrued in front of the stumps. There was just one behind the stumps on the leg-side.

A singular player

Nothing reflects his strike-rotating proficiency than the dot-ball percentage. He soaked

Nothing reflects his strike-rotating proficiency than the dot-ball percentage. He soaked up just 23 dots off 68 deliveries. In comparison, Pant had the same in less than half the balls Iyer faced. Rohit Sharma ate up 24 dots. Even Kohli couldn't score off 58 balls.

up just 23 dots off 68 deliveries. In comparison, Pant had the same in less than half the balls Iyer faced. Rohit Sharma ate up 24 dots. Even Kohli couldn't score off 58 balls. In comparison, Iyer's numbers were magisterial, and the foundation of the challenging score India put on the board.

He's not just an adept single-predator, but also a good judge of it. The moment the ball leaves his bat, he knows whether it's a single or it could be converted into a double. And it doesn't bother him to disoblige the skipper either. There was an incident when Kohli tapped the ball and began running, but Iyer immediately sent him back and only a full-fledged dive (and a wayward throw) prevented a calamitous run-out. Several other youngsters would have felt hesitant to turn down the skipper's call. But Iyer was clear and firm in everything he did.

In between, he ferried boundaries, more through placement and precision than power. There was a gorgeous one off Carlos Brathwaite, when he rode the bounce of a short-of-length ball and precisely split the gap between backward point and gully. There also was a squarer third-man, but such was his placement that the boundary was unstoppable. Then the ramp off a short ball. The ball didn't rise as much as he expected, but Iyer didn't panic and arched his body further down to

middle the delivery. The skipper would have been mighty relieved too — after all, one middle-order spot seems to be getting closer to being solved.

But less so with the No. 4, where walked in Pant. In fact, Iyer's value only glows in the arc-light of Pant's failure. It was a ripe opportunity for the keeper-batsman to stake his claim, to show he's temperamentally as much as technically adept at handling the demands of what has been the most gaping vulnerability in the batting line-up. Pant came in just into the 16th over, after Rohit Sharma and Kohli had resurrected India from the damage inflicted by Sheldon Cottrell in the first over.

The strip was placid, the attack curiously flaccid despite encouraging bounce and a hint of lateral movement, and at the other end, Kohli was motoring along. It was neither too early for Pant to bat — as were a few instances in the World Cup — nor too late, when he's fundamentally expected to throw the bat around. But Pant was uncharacteristically cagey, like his 29-ball 0 at the Rose Bowl, when he batted with affected circumspection, trying hard to fit into the classical Test mould.

Like Iyer, he tried to manufacture himself into a No. 4, but at the peril of shacking his natural game and in the end. He played out as many as 23 dot balls, and it was a matter of time before his patience wore thin and he attempted a silly stroke, a flick-pull off a ball that kept marginally low. He was agghast with the stroke, but could be more appalled of his approach. Why tamper with a successful approach? Also suspect was his strike-rotation against spinners, which is such an indispensable part of a middle-order batsman's game. Sure, he can compensate with big strokes later in the innings, but the hard-run singles and twos are such an integral aspect of the game.

Later, Iyer showed exactly how to do it. The difference between the two batsmen was evident — one clear of the way he wanted to bat and the other cluttered. A re-run of Iyer's innings could be instructive for Pant.

SCORECARD >>

WI vs IND

2nd ODI | Port-of-Spain | Toss: India

IND 279/7 IN 50 OVS

- S Dhawan lbw b Cottrell 2 (3b)
- R Sharma c Pooran b Chase 18 (34b, 2x4)
- V Kohli c Roach b Brathwaite 120 (125b, 14x4, 1x6)
- R Pant b Brathwaite 20 (35b, 2x4)
- S Iyer b Holder 71 (68b, 5x4, 1x6)
- K Jadhav run out 16 (14b, 2x4)
- R Jadeja not out 16 (16b, 1x4)
- B Kumar c Roach b Brathwaite 1 (2b)
- Mohd Shami not out 3 (5b)

Extras: (b 1, nb 2, w 9) 12
 Fall of wickets: 1-2 (Shikhar Dhawan, 0.3 ov), 2-76 (Rohit Sharma, 15.3 ov), 3-101 (Rishabh Pant, 22.2 ov), 4-226 (Virat Kohli, 41.3 ov), 5-250 (Shreyas Iyer, 45.3 ov), 6-258 (Kedar Jadhav, 46.4 ov), 7-262 (Bhuvneshwar Kumar, 47.4 ov)



Rishabh Pant, batting at No. 4, struggled for timing during his 35-ball stay. AP

Bowling:

S Cottrell	10-0-49-1
K Roach	7-0-54-0
J Holder	9-0-53-1
O Thomas	4-0-32-0
R Chase	10-1-37-1
C Brathwaite	10-0-53-3

In search of cash, CAB takes reforms route

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, AUGUST 11

THE CRICKET Association of Bengal has decided to go ahead with the Lodha reforms and incorporate former international cricketers from the state as voting members of the association. Sourav Ganguly, CAB president, confirmed this to *The Indian Express* on Sunday.

The CAB is one of the associations to be classified as "partially compliant" by the Committee of Administrators (CoA). Although the state association has drafted its new constitution, it is yet to be sent for registration, with voting membership of the internationals being the bone of contention. At the July 31 Special General Meeting (SGM) of the CAB, the members decided to wait till the scheduled August 8 Supreme Court hearing on the BCCI matter. After the hearing was postponed, the CAB has decided to go ahead, as the general body authorised Ganguly to

According to a CAB insider, a waning fixed-deposit balance is a reason why the association has decided to fall in line.

take a decision in this regard as the state association president. The CoA has set September 14 deadline for the completion of elections in state associations, while the BCCI elections are scheduled on October 22.

According to a CAB insider, a waning fixed-deposit balance is a reason why the association has decided to fall in line. It is learnt that the CAB's fixed-deposit balance has shrunk from close to Rs 130 crore to less than Rs 55 crore over the past three seasons after the apex court stopped the BCCI funds to state associations till the acceptance of the Lodha Committee recommendations in "letter and spirit".

A former CAB joint-secretary, however,

contended that the state association has had been fighting to uphold a principle.

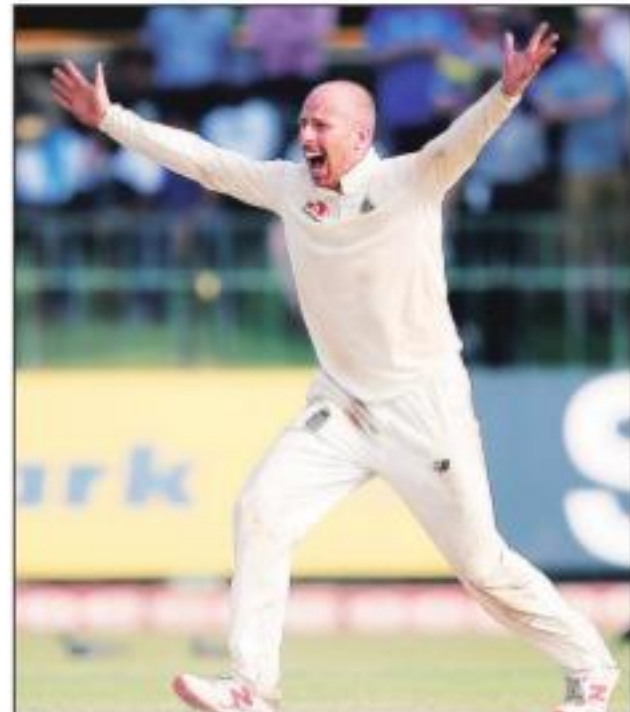
"Unlike other associations, no individual member — life member and/or associate member — has the voting right at the CAB. We have nothing against the former international cricketers from our state. But incorporating them as voting members would change the whole institutionalised voting pattern of the association and in that case we might also feel obliged to give voting rights to other individual members," he told this paper, adding: "Conflict of interest could be another issue, as the majority of ex-cricketers here are doing commentary and/or working as coaches, or running academies."

But now that the CAB president has decided to go ahead with the reforms, another emergent general body meeting is likely to be convened to rubber-stamp the Lodha compliance. The new constitution will be sent for registration, while the CAB will also appoint an electoral officer to begin the election process.

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
LONDON, AUGUST 11

JACK LEACH admitted on Sunday that he has "nothing to lose" after the England spinner was called up for the second Ashes Test against Australia at Lord's. Leach is in contention to start in the clash on Wednesday after replacing fellow spin bowler Moeen Ali in the squad following his team's first Test thrashing at Edgbaston, and he is ready to play with no fear after his earlier than expected role in the series. "It feels like I've got nothing to lose and a lot to gain," Leach said on BBC radio programme Sportsweek. "I just want to go and do my thing."

Leach will be key to the task of containing batting star Steve Smith, who scored a century in both Aussie innings last time out to help his side to a 251-run victory over England. The 28-year-old's last appearance at Lord's earlier this summer saw him score



Left-arm spinner Jack Leach comes into the England squad for the second Test in place of Moeen Ali.

'Nothing to lose' for Leach after Ashes call-up

'There has been a focus on his (Smith's) supposed weakness against left-arm spin...but there's 10 other guys as well and I'll be focusing on all of them.'

92 as a nightwatchman as England overcame a dismal first innings to beat Ireland in an Ashes warm-up. But this week all the focus will be on his bowling as England hope he can be the man to crack Smith.

"There has been a focus on his supposed weakness against left-arm spin," he said. "I suppose those stats are there but I've just got to — if I'm in the 11 — I've got to do my thing and bowl as well as I can and see what happens. It's the same for every batter. I want to get every batter out. Yes, there's Steve Smith but there's 10 other guys as well and I'll be focusing on all of them."

US Pan Am athletes stage political protests on podium

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LIMA (PERU), AUGUST 11

TWO AMERICANS used their medal-winning moments at the Pan American Games to draw attention to social issues back home that they feel are spiraling out of control.

During their medals ceremonies at the sports festival in Lima, fencer Race Imboden took a knee and hammer thrower Gwen Berry raised her fist. Both athletes could represent the U.S. less than a year from now at the Tokyo Olympics, where similar protests would be seen by a much wider audience.

"Racism, gun control, mistreatment of immigrants, and a president who spreads hate are at the top of a long list" of America's problems, Imboden said in a tweet sent after his team's foil medals ceremony. "I chose to sacrifice my moment today at the top of the podium to call attention to issues that I believe need to be addressed.

"I encourage others to please use your platforms for empowerment and change."

Berry raised her fist as America's national anthem was played to honor her win in the hammer throw. She called out injustice in America "and a president who's making it worse." "It's too important to not say something," Berry told USA Today. "Something has to be said. If nothing is said, nothing will be done, and nothing will be fixed, and nothing will be changed."

The history of high-profile protests at the Olympics dates to the 1968 Games in Mexico City, when sprinters Tommie Smith and John Carlos raised their fists during the medals ceremony for the 200-meter dash.

The issues haven't changed all that much in the ensuing 50 years.

Quarterback Colin Kaepernick has been out of a job since shortly after he started kneeling during the national anthem before 49ers games in 2016 to protest police brutality and social injustice in America.

Since then, athletes representing the U.S. have faced scrutiny about what, if any, signs of protest they might show if they land on the podium at an Olympics or other major event. Among the issues that have been fodder for possible protest have been race relations, the treatment of the LGBT community, social injustice and disagreements with President Donald Trump.

The actions by Berry and Imboden will test the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee's resolve to enforce rules that restrict political protests.

The USOPC said in a statement on Sunday that its leadership is reviewing possible consequences. Berry is on the U.S. team that will head to the track and field world championships next month.

"Every athlete competing at the 2019 Pan American Games commits to terms of eligibility, including to refrain from demonstrations that are political in nature," the statement said. "In these cases, the athletes didn't adhere to the commitment they made to the organizing committee and the USOPC. We respect their rights to express their viewpoints, but we are disappointed that they chose not to honor their commitment."

During their medals ceremonies at the sports festival in Lima, fencer Race Imboden took a knee and hammer thrower Gwen Berry raised her fist. Both athletes could represent the U.S. less than a year from now at the Tokyo Olympics, where similar protests would be seen by a much wider audience.



'PRIDE CUT SHORT BY SHORTCOMINGS OF COUNTRY'

Olympic fencing medalist Race Imboden took a knee in protest during his team's foil medal ceremony at the Pan American Games. *Twitter/@Race_Imboden*

Study break throws Hima off track?

Coaches believe 45-day gap for Board exams reason for U-20 champ's struggle to meet Worlds qualifying mark

NIHAL KOSHIE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 11

WORLD UNDER-20 champion Hima Das's inability to hit her stride in her pet event, the 400 metres, has been put down to the 45-day break the 19-year-old took to appear for Class XII examinations in February-March this year.

During the time away from the national camp, which is overseen by Russian-born coach Galina Burkharina, Hima did not train and this pegged her back to a level from which she is struggling to bounce back in time to meet qualification standards for the World Championships in Doha, the Athletics Federation of India's deputy chief coach Radhakrishnan Nair said on Friday.

Hima's season best in the 400 metres is 52.09 seconds, achieved at a competition at Nove Mesto nad Metuji in Czech Republic but the World Championship qualifying standard is set at 51.80 seconds.

According to another top Athletics Federation of India official, Hima's decision to take a break was ill-timed because it broke her training cycle but since the athlete insisted on appearing for the examinations, there was no option but to give in to her demand.

On her return, Hima pulled out of the heats of the 400 metres at the Asian Championships because of a lower back pain, which was diagnosed as spondylitis of the lumbar vertebrae. She, however, was part of the Indian women's 4x400 metre relay squad which participated in the World Relays at Yokohama in May.

Deputy chief coach Nair said the "back pain was not a big issue" for the young athlete and reasoned that the prolonged break from training had affected her chances of qualifying in the individual 400 metres for the World Championships.

"She was away for 45 days and she broke her training and did not do anything. Back pain was not a big issue. She could not train during this period because of her exams. This was in February and March and that has set her back. Otherwise she could have been in the same stage what she was last year,"



Hima Das's season best in the 400 metres is 52.09 seconds while the World Championship qualifying standard is at 51.80 seconds. *PTI*

Nair said.

In July last year Hima became the toast of the nation when she won the gold at the World Junior Championships in Tampere, Finland. Her timing of 51.46 seconds achieved with a breathtaking run in the home stretch was astounding given the fact that she participated in her first competitive race just 18 months prior.

A month later she broke the national record on way to winning a silver (50.79s) at the Asian Games.

Nair said that Hima and the rest of the 400 metre squad — 15 in all — are in the Czech Republic and will get "two or three" more competitions before to make the cut for the World Championships, "Nair added.

Between July 2 to July 20, Hima had participated in five races and won as many gold

The campers are based in Jablonec and are scheduled participate in three competitions — a 300 metres event on August 17, the Brno Grand Prix on August 28 and a Grand Prix in Berlin on September 1 in which only three male athletes will participate.

"She (Hima) will run two or three competitions more. She has time till September 6. We don't know exactly what level the competitions will be, but let us see. Hima still has time to qualify for the individual 400 metres. Yet, if she can't she will be part of the relay team. The Indian men, women and mixed 4x400 metre relay teams as on date have qualified for the World Championships," Nair added.

Between July 2 to July 20, Hima had participated in five races and won as many gold

According to a top Athletics Federation of India official, Hima's decision to take a break was ill-timed because it broke her training cycle but since the athlete insisted on appearing for the examinations, there was no option but to give in to her demand.

medals — four in the 200m and one in 400m. Though she ran in these 200 metre races to build speed, the level of competition was nothing to write home about.

This is not the first time an athletics coach has raised concern about Hima's form and her decision to take a break to appear for her board examinations in a year in which the World Championships are to be held.

In March, Burkharina, the coach in-charge of the 400 metres squad had conceded that Hima had lost precious time and would find it difficult to make up lost time.

"I know she jumped too high in terms of timings according to her age and there were expectations from her. To stay at this height, she needs one or two years of practice again and will have to start from scratch. After all those races and the packed schedule, she decided to sit for her exams. Even though such things are not good in the middle of the season, it is still a long route for the Olympics. To keep your focus, one should have everything in life settled. We allowed her a break of six weeks but believe me, six weeks is too much of time in an athlete's career," Burkharina had told *The Indian Express*.

Hima's return wasn't a smooth affair. She participated in the third leg of the Indian Grand Prix at Sangrur but finished fourth with a timing of 55.19 seconds, way off her personal best and national record of 50.79. At the Federation Cup, in mid-March, the selection trial for the Asian Championships, Hima won gold with a timing of 52.88 seconds but fell on the track and clutched her back in pain at the end of the race.

PTF rules out shifting of Davis Cup tie against India to neutral venue

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 11

THE PAKISTAN Tennis Federation (PTF) Sunday ruled out shifting of the Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Group-1 tie against India to be played in Islamabad on September 14-15 to a neutral venue.

PTF chief Saleem Saifullah told PTI that the federation was making all the preparations to host the tie at the Islamabad Sports Complex.

"We are sticking to our original programme of hosting the tie on 14-15 September and I don't see any problem or reason for the Indian team to feel unsafe to come to Islamabad," Saifullah said.

The escalating tension between the two countries in the aftermath of Indian government's scrapping of Article 370 which had accorded special status to Jammu and Kashmir has made the tie uncertain.

The Indian Tennis Federation has said it will ask the International Tennis Federation to move the Davis Cup tie to a neutral venue.

But Saifullah said the Indian tennis team will be perfectly safe in Pakistan.

"They will stay for four days in Islamabad which is a safe city. We have made top-level security arrangements for them at their hotel and at the venue. So what is the problem for them to play in Islamabad? If they want, we will not even have spectators for the tie," he said.

Saifullah said the ITF has not yet contacted the PTF on shifting the tie to a neutral venue.

Important to promote tennis

He said the tie was very important for Pakistan in terms of promoting tennis in the country and earning revenues.

He said the PTF was in already in touch with concerned ministries to ensure the Davis Cup tie was held on schedule in Islamabad.

"As it is after a long time we have started hosting our Davis Cup ties at home," the PTF chief noted.

The Indian tennis federation on Saturday confirmed that it will approach world governing body ITF, seeking a neutral venue for the Davis Cup tie against Pakistan, saying it's not an "unreasonable request" considering the escalating tension between the two nations.

"We have assessed the situation and feel that the atmosphere is not conducive to play in Pakistan. We have decided to write to the ITF on Monday to provide a neutral venue for the tie," AITA secretary general Hironmoy Chatterjee had told PTI.

"It's now up to the ITF. They will put it before the Davis Cup committee but it's likely that they will accept our request. We are not making an unreasonable request. It's a genuine request. In current circumstances, it is not conducive to play there," he said.

We are sticking to our original programme of hosting the tie on 14-15 September and I don't see any problem or reason for the Indian team to feel unsafe to come to Islamabad. They will stay for four days in Islamabad which is a safe city. We have made top-level security arrangements for them at their hotel and at the venue. So what is the problem for them to play in Islamabad? If they want, we will not even have spectators for the tie.

SALEEM SAIFULLAH
PAKISTAN TENNIS FEDERATION PRESIDENT

[SPORTS BAR]



Sharath leads Chennai to Ultimate TT crown

Chennai Lions glided away to a one-sided victory over Dabang Delhi to clinch the Ultimate Table Tennis crown in New Delhi on Sunday. The Sharath Kamal-spearheaded Lions demolished defending champions Dabang Delhi 8-1. Chennai cantered to the required eight tie points in the first three matches itself, rendering the final two inconsequential. The Lions' foreign imports, Germany's Petrisa Solja and Portugal's Tiago Apolonia proved to be the stars of the grand finale, taming Bernadette Szocs 2-1 and Sathiyam G 3-0 to take an unbeatable lead. Sharath and Petrisa then put up a masterclass in the mixed doubles, collating the last three points needed with utmost ease to clinch the title. "We played near flawless table tennis and came up with the perfect plan for the final," Sharath added.

Junior shuttlers clinch three gold in Bulgaria

Indian junior shuttlers impressed at the Bulgarian Junior International Championships, returning with six medals including three gold, a silver and two bronze. Samiya Imad Faruqi defeated second seed Anastasia Shapovalova of Russia 9-21 21-12 22-20 to win the gold medal in women's singles. The mixed doubles pair of Edvin Joy and Shruti Mishra also won gold beating No. 2 seeds British pair of Brandon Zhi Hao and Abbygael Harris 21-14 21-17. In women's doubles, the Indian pair of Tanisha Crasto and Aditi Bhatt also continued their fine run to pick a gold, beating top seed Bengisu Ercetin and Zehra Erdim from Turkey 21-15 18-21 21-18 in the final. In men's doubles, Ishan Bhatnagar and Vishnuvardhan lost in the final to the top-seeded British pair of William Jones and Brandon Zhi Hao 19-21 18-21.

Vinesh fails to grab fourth successive title

Top Indian woman wrestler Vinesh Phogat lost to N Malisheva of Russia in the 53kg final of the Medved event in Minsk, Belarus, on Sunday. The 24-year-old Vinesh, the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games gold medalist, suffered a 0-10 (technical superiority) defeat, which meant that she failed to win her fourth consecutive gold. She had bagged top honours at Grand Prix of Spain, Yasar Dogu International and Poland Open recently.



Patrick Reed during the third round of Northern Trust Open. *USA Today Sports*

Reed in lead going into Rd 4 of playoff event

Patrick Reed, without a win since his Major breakthrough at last year's Masters, tamed demanding conditions to earn a one-shot lead over Abraham Ancer after the third round at the Northern Trust in New Jersey on Saturday. While overnight frontrunners Dustin Johnson and Jordan Spieth were blown away in testing winds on the exposed Liberty National course within sight of the Big Apple, Reed carded a handy four-under-par 67 for a 14-under 199 total. Mexican Ancer vaulted to the front with a hat-trick of birdies from the 12th hole but then three-putted the 16th. He shot a 68 to be alone in second place in the first of three FedEx Cup playoff events on the PGA Tour. American Brand Snedeker had the round of the day, a 63 that lifted him within two strokes of the lead on 12-under along with Spaniard Jon Rahm (69). But it was tough sailing for half-way leader Johnson, who battled to a 74 and slipped five shots behind. Spieth, who teed off one shot from the lead, also carded 74 on a day when poor driving, which has dogged him for much of the year, reared its ugly head again.

Thai women win 17th straight T20I, a record

Unheralded Thailand women's cricket team has rewritten a world record by winning its 17th successive T20 International, the most in this format. In the fifth match of an ongoing quadrangular series in the Netherlands on Saturday, Thailand ripped through the host nation to bundle them out for 54, before running down the target in eight overs. The other two teams of the quadrangular series are Ireland and Scotland. Thailand broke the record previously held by the mighty Australia Women, who picked up 16 consecutive victories between March 2014 and August 2015, the ICC said. Three other teams have registered 10 or more successive wins in this format — England and Zimbabwe (14), and New Zealand (12).



Murray adds Zhuhai & Beijing to his schedule

Andy Murray has entered next month's Zhuhai Championships and China Open as the former world number one steps up his singles return. Murray will compete in his first singles event at next week's Cincinnati Masters, seven months after his tearful revelation in Australia that his career could be over due to injury. The two-time Wimbledon winner, back from hip surgery, is already planning further events on the Asian swing of the ATP Tour. "As I look to play more singles events later in the year, I'm happy to announce I'll be playing at the inaugural Zhuhai Championships in the week of Sept 23," Murray wrote on Facebook. Murray, 32, followed up his first Facebook post with another announcing his intention to take part in the China Open. "Some more good news for my Chinese fans... I'm also going to play Beijing the week after Zhuhai," he said.

India go down in u-23 Asian volleyball final

India on Sunday had to settle for a silver medal after suffering a 1-3 loss against Chinese Taipei in the final of the men's Asian U-23 Volleyball Championships at Nay Pyi Taw in Myanmar. India put up a brave fight after losing the first two sets to secure the third. However, blocking and reception errors in the fourth set allowed Chinese Taipei to seal a 25-21, 25-20, 19-25, 25-23 win. "It wasn't our best day in the office. But I am still extremely proud of the result," Indian coach Pritam Singh Chauhan said.

New Testament at Old Trafford

Manchester United's clinical counter-attacking performance help them register a 4-0 home win against Chelsea

UNITED 4	: CHELSEA 0
Rashford (18' minute pen)	
Martial (65' minute)	
Rashford (67' minute)	
James (81' minute)	

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MANCHESTER, AUGUST 11

MANCHESTER UNITED beat Chelsea 4-0 to ruin Frank Lampard's debut as a Premier League coach in their season-opening game on Sunday. Marcus Rashford scored twice, Anthony Martial grabbed another and substitute Daniel James completed the rout on his debut, but it was also an impressive defensive performance from United with the world's most expensive defender, Harry Maguire, playing his role in keeping the visitors at bay.

Maguire, who completed his 80 million pound (\$97 million) transfer from Leicester last Monday, played from the start on his United debut. Chelsea dominated possession, twice hit the post and had more efforts on goal, but the visitors were picked apart by counterattacks with United midfielder Paul Pogba showing his importance to the side with two assists. Tammy Abraham struck the left post early on for Chelsea, which had Mateo Kovacic involved in the thick of the action early on. The Croat also set up Pedro's effort almost straight afterward.

Chelsea goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga easily gathered Martial's effort after the French winger was gifted the ball by defender Kurt Zouma, whose day was about to get worse. While Chelsea looked confident, the side had a blow when Zouma brought Rashford down with a clumsy challenge in the 17th. Rashford took his time before sending the resulting penalty to the top left corner.

Momentum switched as Chelsea looked rattled by the setback. Martial continued to probe, having a shot blocked after good work from Pogba. The visitors recovered toward the end of the half, when Ross Barkley had an effort saved and Emerson was the next to hit the post. Chelsea maintained its pressure in the second half, when Emerson drew a smart save from David de Gea. Christian Pulisic came on for his Chelsea debut in the 58th and the American was given a tough welcome to the Premier League when his run was stopped abruptly by Pogba's shoulder.

United defended in numbers, frustrating the visitors' attack, and its second goal started with Maguire at the back after the 26-year-old won the ball from Abraham. Andreas Pereira crossed for Martial to convert from close range in the 65th, and

Chelsea was still recovering when Pogba floated the ball over and Rashford went through in the 67th for 3-0. Pogba set up James to make it 4-0 in the 81st with a deflected shot taking the ball past Kepa.

Arsenal's club-record signing Nicolas Pepe watched as Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang scored to give his team a 1-0 win at Newcastle in their Premier League opening game on Sunday. Aubameyang, who had been threatening intermittently in a game of few chances, finally broke the deadlock in the 58th minute when he stopped Ainsley Maitland-Niles' cross with his first touch and dinked it past Newcastle goalkeeper Martin Dubravka with his next.

Aubameyang's winner

Pepe, who joined from French side Lille for 72 million pounds (\$87.5 million) on Aug. 1, was given a warm welcome from Arsenal fans when he made his debut in the 71st. Spain midfielder Dani Ceballos was similarly welcomed in the 64th. Newcastle made the better start in Steve Bruce's first Premier League game in charge of his hometown club, albeit without creating a glut of goal chances. Club record signing Joellinton went close with a header in the 17th minute of his debut. Paraguay forward Miguel Almiron was booked for a dive shortly afterward, before Jonjo Shelvey had two efforts blocked and Joellinton another shot saved.

“They're (United) a counter-attacking team – it's a big strength of theirs, put it that way, and if you give them opportunities to run past you, they surely will.”

— FRANK LAMPARD, CHELSEA MANAGER

There was excitement at St. James' Park when Allan Saint-Maximin came on in the 67th for his Newcastle debut. The French forward, given the No. 10, immediately whipped in a dangerous cross, deflected out for a corner. Jetro Willems also came on for his Newcastle debut, while Brazilian defender Gabriel Martinelli came on late for the visitors.

VAR denies Wolves

Wolverhampton Wanderers had a goal by Leander Dendoncker ruled out by the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) in an entertaining 0-0 Premier League draw against Leicester City at the King Power Stadium on Sunday. Wolves thought they had scored six minutes into the second half when Dendoncker blasted in from close range but VAR deemed that the midfielder had headed the ball onto team mate Willy Boly's arm off a corner before taking the shot.

That was shortly after Raul Jimenez produced the game's first shot on target but Wolves failed to get the breakthrough as the Mexico striker's right-footed effort was easily dealt with by Leicester goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel. Wolves boss Nuno Espirito Santo said that VAR, which is making a debut in the Premier League this season, had the potential to “ruin the game” for some fans.



Marcus Rashford scored twice, on either side of a close-range effort from Anthony Martial. Reuters

Kane's late brace gives Spurs a winning start

REUTERS
AUGUST 11

HARRY KANE got straight into the groove with two late goals as Tottenham Hotspur recovered from an early setback to beat promoted Aston Villa 3-1 at home on Saturday.

Villa, back in the top flight after three seasons away, looked set to mark their return in style as they hung on tenaciously to John McGinn's ninth-minute opener. But Tottenham's record signing Tanguy Ndombele fired home a debut goal in the 73rd minute to break Villa's resistance.

With Villa visibly tiring, captain Jack Grealish conceded possession on the edge of his area in the 86th minute and when the ball fell to Kane he made no mistake. Kane rubbed salt into Villa's wounds with a classy finish in the 90th minute as Tottenham, playing their first opening fixture at home for eight seasons, took the points. Spurs had dominated possession but it was only when playmaker Christian Eriksen, who could still be on the move before the transfer windows close in Spain, Italy and Germany, replaced Harry Winks did Villa really start to creep.

“We came out in the second half with a high tempo, pressed well,” Kane said. “When Tanguy (Ndombele) got his goal, it was full throttle until the end. Thankfully, a couple of chances fell to me.” Villa signed 12 players for a total of £130 million (\$156 million) in the transfer window as they seek to establish themselves back with elite. But it was Scottish striker McGinn, a regular in last season's side who were promoted via the playoffs, who sparked delirium in the away end.

Latching on to a long ball by Tyrone Mings, he calmly fired past Hugo Lloris as covering defender Danny Rose slipped. Tottenham huffed and puffed and were far too slow in possession as Villa copped admirably before the break. Kane headed over just before the interval but Tottenham's frustration was clear as they trudged off at halftime.

Tottenham laid siege to the Villa goal and the equaliser finally arrived in the 73rd minute. Villa keeper Tom Heaton made a great save to deny Davinson Sanchez but when the ball was fed back to Ndombele by Lucas Moura he picked out the corner of the goal.

Eriksen tested Heaton with a free kick but Villa could not get out of their own area. Grealish was caught in possession by Erik Lamela and the Argentine's scuffed shot fell kindly for Kane who made no mistake.

Sissoko then found Kane who beat Heaton with a clinical finish. “It was a difficult first half,” Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino said. “The first 45 minutes wasn't the best. But in the second half we started to create more chances, but it was still difficult because they defended so deep.” Despite the dejection at the end, Villa will take heart from their display.

NUMBERS GAME

54 This was Manchester United's biggest home win against Chelsea in 54 years. This is also the first time that United have managed to win opening games in five consecutive seasons since 1910.

01 Arsenal kept just one clean sheet away from home for the whole of last season, and that only came in April. They took just one match in the new season to record one.

04 Frank Lampard suffered the heaviest defeat by any Chelsea manager in their first game in charge since Danny Blanchflower lost 7-2 at Middlesbrough in December 1978.

32 Percentage of Arsenal's Premier League goals scored by Aubameyang since his debut in February 2018.

Salah comforts fan who ran into lamp-post while chasing his car

London: A young Liverpool supporter's attempt to get a glimpse of his hero Mohamed Salah left him with a bloodied nose but the pain was quickly forgotten when the Egyptian striker showed his compassionate side by posing for photos.

Louis Fowler, 11, crashed into a lamp-post and fell to the ground with blood coming out of his nose after he and his younger brother Isaac ran beside Salah's car on Saturday while waving at the Liverpool player, Sky News reported.

Having spotted the youngster in pain, Salah circled round to check on him before offering to pose for pictures. “Mo was apologetic and caring and was really compassionate towards the boys and made them feel so much better,” Fowler's stepfather Joe Cooper told Sky News.

“@MoSalah thank you for coming back to check on my boys after Louis KO'd himself trying to get a wave,” Cooper added on Twitter with pictures of the forward with the two boys. “He loves you so much and the pain went away instantly



Mo Salah turned his car around and met Louis to check if he was okay.

when you came to give them a hug. A nose reset worth well worth it he said. You are a top man and a true gent! #EgyptianKing.” REUTERS

Andreescu, the first Canadian to reach Rogers Cup final in 50 years

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TORONTO, AUGUST 11

TEENAGER BIANCA Andreescu advanced to the Rogers Cup title match with a 6-4, 7-6 (5) victory over Sofia Kenin on Saturday, becoming the first Canadian in 50 years to make the women's final. The 19-year-old Andreescu, from nearby Mississauga, will face Serena Williams on Sunday.

“The crowd will obviously be for her, but it's really not about that,” Williams said. “It's just about going out there and playing your great tennis. Luckily, I've had some tough crowds in my career, so hopefully I will be used to it.” Canadians Faye Urban and Vicki Berner played in the 1969 final, with Urban winning the tournament that was played on clay and called the Canadian Open.

“For sure there's some pressure, but I have nothing to lose, really,” Andreescu said. “We'll see how it goes. I'm just going to try and stay in the present moment.”

Williams beat Czech qualifier Marie Bouzkova 1-6, 6-3, 6-3 in the second semifinal. “I just needed to be more consistent and not make so many errors and just mentally be ready to hit a thousand balls if I needed to,” Williams said. “In the first set, I was going for a little too much, so I just had to just play a different game. What was really important for me was to just change it up and move it around and not be so predictable. It's a good lesson for me in the future, as well, more than anything.”

The 37-year-old Williams is ranked 10th and seeded eighth in her first event since losing the Wimbledon final. She won in 2001, 2011 and 2013 – all in Toronto – and has a tournament-record 34 victories in 38 matches. The American won the last of her 72 singles titles in the 2017 Australian Open.

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