

Dear Brothers and Sisters of my Nation

Congratulations to all of us on our **Mother India's 73rd Independence Day.**

We arose to freedom at the dawn of **15th August, 1947**. We all had high expectations from a new India free from slavery. However, the nation moved at a very slow pace with many hurdles created by people in power and authority due to their personal needs and choices. India was crippling with many toothless Governments who felt short of majority and lacked conviction to make major changes.

This needed a drastic change and frustrated people decided to give full mandate and absolute majority to a single party in 2014. The people's choice seemed to have worked and finally India looked more resurgent and strong. India, it seemed, had started to realise it's true powers since the past five years.

We salute our strong, fearless and determined Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Bhai Modi for the bold initiatives and decisions taken by his Govt. both inside and outside Parliament be it through legislation or executive decision making.

The commendable steps taken by the Union Govt. under his leadership shall be written down in history in golden ink.

SOME OF THE BOLD ACHIEVEMENTS INCLUDE:

- 01) Demonetisation to curb black money.
- 02) Introducing GST to make trade in India borderless by doing away with state barriers, C forms and helping in widening the tax collection.
- 03) Surgical strikes at terrorist camps across the border to avenge the killings of our martyrs and to show the enemy we can fight back.
- 04) Abolition of special status granted under Article 370 and 35 A to solve the never ending Kashmir problem.
- 05) Tremendous work done on Rural electrification and building of highways.
- 06) Promoting Swadeshi manufacturing and industry.
- 07) Launching welfare schemes like Ayushman Bharat and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna for affordable housing.
- 08) Schemes like Swachh Bharat launched to clean the country.
- 09) Launching of Chandrayan to venture to the moon.
- 10) Promoting cashless economy to curb corruption by launching digital payment platforms.
- 11) Zero corruption regime in five years.
- 12) Relentlessly foreign tours to many nations to build goodwill with them and portrayed India as an international super power.
- 13) Tirelessly working towards making our country a global power.
- 14) Nurturing discipline in the Ministry and the official machinery/ bureaucracy.

The list is endless. But we still have much more to do to develop this nation into a World class country.

"Hon'ble Prime Minister, I personally thank you for your valiant efforts and tireless work. I would request you to please keep the good work going on as there is much more to be done on the ground for the **130 crore people** of the country.

Our wishes and support are there with you in every initiative of yours.

Jai Hind."

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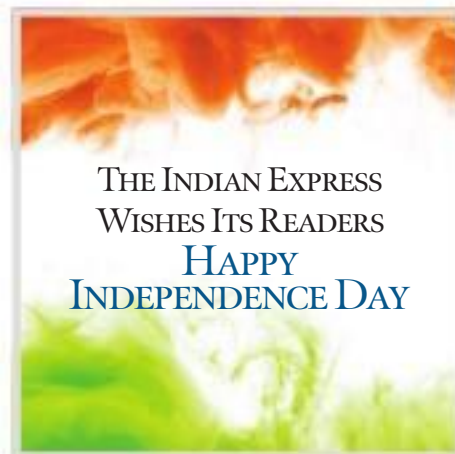
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EXPRESS NETWORK



J&K MOVE WILL BENEFIT ITS PEOPLE: PRESIDENT
PAGE 16

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY

Lynching accused
FRRREEED



LYNCHED ON APRIL 1, 2017

Pehlu attackers walk free, court slams probe for gross neglect

DEEP MUKHERJEE
JAIPUR, AUGUST 14

MORE THAN two years after Pehlu Khan was killed by a mob that accused him of smuggling cows, an Alwar court Wednesday acquitted all six men accused in the lynching. Giving all the accused the benefit of the doubt, the court observed that the Rajasthan Police probe had "serious shortcomings" and signified "gross negligence".

Khan (55), his two sons and others were stopped and assaulted by a mob of cow vigilantes near Behror in Alwar district on April 1, 2017. Khan died in hospital on April 3. Additional Chief Secretary, Home, Rajeeva Swaroop said that the government has decided to immediately appeal against the verdict. In ordering the acquittal, the



A video grab of the attack on Pehlu Khan near Behror

court of Additional District Judge Sarita Swami noted several discrepancies during the investigation to conclude that the accused should be given the benefit of the doubt.

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FMCG companies red-flag gathering rural slowdown

PRANAV MUKUL & ANIL SASI
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 14

THE IMPACT of the deepening consumption slowdown is being felt beyond discretionary purchases such as vehicles and durables with fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) companies manufacturing small-ticket items such as soaps, biscuits and other daily essentials reporting a steady slide in consumer sentiment.

There is an emerging consensus among FMCG majors that, like their automobile counter-

parts, the impact of the slump is more evident in rural India and that, in geographical terms, the north is the worst hit.

The volume growth, or the increase in number of units sold, of FMCG companies has slowed down perceptibly over the last one year and this trend is evident across companies.

For Hindustan Unilever Ltd, the country's biggest FMCG company, there was a 7 percentage point dip in volume growth between the June quarter this year versus the same period last year. Britannia Industries, India's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

EXPLAINED

E.

Rural distress deepens

BEHIND THE slowdown in rural India is a possible reduction in household savings — declining urban and rural wage growth. And farm distress, liquidity crunch.

Shah Faesal stopped from flying abroad, detained

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 14

AMID THE clampdown in J&K following the abrogation of Article 370, Shah Faesal, the Kashmiri IAS officer who resigned this year to take up politics, was prevented Wednesday from boarding a flight from Delhi to Istanbul, officials said. He was later taken to Srinagar, held under the Public Safety Act (PSA) and placed un-



He has been critical of the Govt move on J&K

der house arrest, they said. Home Ministry sources said

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Vir Chakra for Abhinandan

KRISHN KAUSHIK & DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 14

WING COMMANDER Abhinandan Varthaman, who was held captive by Pakistan after his MiG-21 Bison jet was shot down in a dogfight with Pakistani jets on February 27, has been conferred the Vir Chakra, India's third-highest wartime gallantry medal.

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Happy InDishpendence Day!



Milkman's son wrestles his way to gold at world meet

NITIN SHARMA
CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 14

ENDING AN 18-year wait for India in the World Junior Championship, Haryana wrestler Deepak Punia Wednesday clinched gold in the 86kg category event in the Estonian city of Tallinn.

The 19-year-old son of a milkman from Jhajjar became the best junior in the world with a comeback win over highly



Jhajjar's Deepak Punia wins World Junior Championship

rated Russian Alik Shebzukhov. He also overcame the heartbreak

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CELEBRATING WITH INDIA

Happy Independence Day

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EXPRESS TECHNOLOGY

Why is Samsung launching phones with graphene batteries?



MEET BANWANG LOSU, MAN WHO SCRIPTED HISTORY BY CREATING NEW ALPHABET

What started as a school boy's project turned into a landmark event in the history of the Wancho tribe in Arunachal Pradesh: an independent script for their language that now has a place in the Unicode. This basically means that the script now has a digital identity and can be used to type on computers world over

VIDEO OF THE DAY



UGC RELEASED A LIST OF FAKE UNIVERSITIES

Why they are called fake, curriculum and story behind 100% placement

FULL COVERAGE



WEATHER UPDATE FOR KERALA, OTHER STATES

IMD predicts thunder, lightning along coast; red alert in 3 districts

EXPRESS AUDIO

All acquitted in the Pehlu Khan case, Shah Faesal detained and Independence Day

In this episode, we look at why all 6 people were acquitted in the Pehlu Khan case, why Shah Faesal was sent back to Srinagar and why we celebrate Independence day

Caste oppression is reinventing itself: Dalit scholar at TISS



Suraj Yengde at TISS on Wednesday. Amit Chakravarty

ABHA GORADIA MUMBAI, AUGUST 14

THE INSTITUTIONS that the Constitution validates to fight caste oppression are inactive, underlines Dalit scholar and author Suraj Yengde in his book Caste Matters, which has gone for reprint within seven days of its publication.

The book, released on July 22, highlights several facets on tackling the problem of caste discrimination in contemporary times. It also highlights the need to dismantle the divisions created by a neo-liberal economy. Speaking at a discussion on his book at Tata Institute of Social Sciences on Wednesday, Yengde said: "There is a need to dismantle the oppressive measurements that work within the government, whose primary targets are Dalits and Adivasis, to whom they don't want to give the state's resources. A kind of neo-liberalism is operating against them (people considered to be from lower caste)."

Yengde, a PhD holder from University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, is a postdoctoral fellow at the Initiative for Institutional Anti-racism and Accountability, Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy in Harvard Kennedy School.

"Privatisation is at the helm of making people poorer and poorer. Multiple institutions today, including the police, judiciary and legislature, continue to remain ignorant of Dalit rights, pride and futurism. Rather, caste oppression is reinventing itself. At present, there is only a Dalit subaltern movement fighting at the grassroots level," he said.

"The notion of caste has to be hierarchically melted. How can

we have a normal dialogue when we are burdened with stereotypes and prejudices? I want prejudices to melt. Let me engage with another person on their human virtues."

Yengde said he wrote the book to focus on how to survive discrimination and take stock of the problem in contemporary times. By diving into structural and non-structural variables of caste, he said he wants to "make a call for action and intends to solidify certain conversations that don't get reported."

The book demands material resources be provided to the Dalit community. "Brahminism is deployed into the community. However, Ambedkarism is for (demanding) material resources. What do I do with my caste? Should I just wait for government money when I can be the owner of land? I want my people to be empowered and material resources provide empowerment," he said.

Maintaining that today, 70 per cent of all Dalits in rural areas are landless labourers, he said: "The land belongs to us and we deserve more than what we have got... Confines of political reservations do not liberate the people... It is limiting the sacrifices of our people."

Mumbai University Professor Ramesh Kamble, advocate Dr Suresh Mane and TISS Professor Dr Varsha Ayyer also addressed the event. Kamble pointed out that the book does not address why democratisation has failed in India and why have erstwhile Dalit leaders become a part of Brahminical pockets. Mane, however, lauded Yengde for staying connected with the Ambedkarite discourse and the quest for knowledge. Ayyer spoke about the lack of diversity among published Dalit writers.

FIR against scholar for 2-year-old FB post

ABHISHEK SAHA GUWAHATI, AUGUST 14

THE ASSAM police on Wednesday registered an FIR against a Gauhati University research scholar over a Facebook post she put up two years ago, allegedly about the consumption of beef. The post, which the student deleted soon after it was posted, has resurfaced on social media platforms.

Rehana Sultana (28) was booked under sections 153A of the IPC and section 67 of the IT Act, said a source. DCP, Guwahati West, K K Chowdhury, told The Indian Express, "We have registered a suo motu case. It is an old post but we took cognizance as it has surfaced again."

Sultana's original post, written in Assamese in June 2017, translates to: "Today I participated in Pakistan's joy by eating beef. What I eat is my tongue's choice. On reading the word

beef, please don't start a conspiracy and reveal your own nature."

Speaking to The Indian Express, Sultana said, "There is a controversy going on that I have written this post on this Bakrid. But I had written it over two years, back in June 2017, and then deleted it soon after my comment was misrepresented and people started targeting me. On June 19, 2017, I had also written a clarification, stating that my satirical post was misconstrued."

Asked why she had posted the comment, Sultana said, "There was an India-Pakistan match and India played badly. I had written that satirical post to express my sadness that India lost and Virat Kohli was out on a duck. And since the controversy regarding eating beef and people being attacked for eating beef was making news at that time across the country, I wrote it that way. I do not understand how the post has been taken out of context and a controversy created and a case registered."

FROM PAGE ONE

FMCG majors

second largest biscuit company, also recorded a 7 percentage point drop while for Dabur India, the slide in volume growth on a year-on-year basis during the April-June quarter was 15 percentage points.

The annual wholesale price inflation in July, according to data released Wednesday, eased to a 25-month low of 1.08 per cent, indicating manufacturers are losing their power to raise prices as the slowdown in the broader economy worsens.

Srinivas Phatak, Executive Director, Finance and IT and Chief Financial Officer of Hindustan Unilever Ltd said at the company's earnings call after the June quarter results that the FMCG major has "taken price reductions across-the-board in the range of about 4 per cent to 6 per cent" in the soaps section in a bid to counter the slowdown and also pass on the benefits of lower input costs to consumers.

Mohit Malhotra, Dabur India's CEO & Whole Time Director said that while the month of April and May were good for the company, they are seeing "a little bit tapering off on the secondaries in the marketplace" in June and "that's got to do with the headwind of the economic slowdown".

The worry is that the slowdown in June is "getting exaggerated... as we are going along... They are feeling the impact of the liquidity crunch in rural because of the agrarian crisis and the rural consumer doesn't have money and it's impacting the consumer staple sector as well," Malhotra told investors in an earnings call on July 19.

There's a geographical split too — while south followed by east is doing better, the west is tailing these two regions and the north is the worst impacted.

This correlates with syndicated data indicators. Market researcher Nielsen noted that the slowdown in growth was more pronounced in rural markets, forcing it to lower its annual sales forecast for India's packaged goods sector.

"Rural is slowing down at double the rate of urban," Nielsen said in its latest quarterly 'India FMCG Growth Snapshot' report. The slowdown in sales of FMCG products in the hinterland, accounting for 37 per cent of spends for the sector, occurred at a sharper pace compared to urban markets. Compared to the third quarter of 2018, FMCG growth in rural areas fell 9.7 per cent.

FMCG, tobacco and paper major ITC Ltd, while announcing its standalone results for the June quarter, admitted that its packaging and printing business was impacted by the "slowdown in the FMCG industry and exports" while in its hotels business, a steady performance during the quarter was largely driven by the recently commissioned hotels even as the performance of existing hotels was "relatively subdued" due to slowdown in the conferences and banqueting segment.

However, unlike the automobile sector — where the consumption slump is accentuated by the inability of companies to drive de-

Pehlu lynching: Accused walk free

The points the court cited included the accused not being named in Khan's statement to the police, the police not confiscating the mobile phone used to record the video of the lynching, which was also the basis of the chargesheet, and presenting the video to the court.

"The video, on the basis of which the accused were charged in this case, the mobile through which this video was shot, not finding and confiscating it also signifies gross negligence of the investigating officer," stated the verdict.

The court also noted that in a case when instead of the named accused, other people were made accused, who are also not named under 164 CrPC, the accused need to be identified but in the investigation the identification of the accused was not done.

"In this way, during the investigation, serious shortcomings were left, which brings the prosecution's case in the ambit of suspicion and the accused stand to benefit from that suspicion," stated the judgment.

The six men acquitted are Vipin Yadav, Ravindra Kumar,

Kaloram, Dayanand, Yogesh Kumar alias Dholia, and Bhim Rathi, and three other accused, who were minors at the time of the crime, are on trial at a juvenile court.

Apart from the juveniles, police, on the basis of video footage and other evidence, had arrested six men charging them under sections 147, 323, 341, 302, 308, 379 and 427 of the IPC, public prosecutor Khatana told The Indian Express. He said that the prosecution presented 44 witnesses in the case during the trial which concluded on August 7.

Following the verdict, Khan's eldest son, Irshad broke down while speaking to The Indian Express. "We had thought that they will be definitely convicted. We are not getting the justice we had hoped for. Even if I have to sell our house, I will see this to the end. We will appeal to the High Court and then if necessary, the Supreme Court. The whole country had seen these people assaulting my father in that video. What more evidence can there be?" said Irshad.

Incidentally, in 2017, the Rajasthan Police, under the pre-

vious BJP government, had given a clean chit to six people Khan had named as his assailants in his statement before dying. The clean chit had resulted in widespread criticism for the then BJP government in Rajasthan.

BJP Leader of the Opposition Gulab Chand Kataria said: "The allegations that the investigation was not done neutrally is absolutely wrong. The police had made those people accused and presented chargesheet against them in the court. Had the investigation been not done neutrally, would the accused spend so much time in jail? The police did a fair investigation and chargesheet was presented. The court order has to be respected by all." Kataria was the state home minister when Khan was lynched.

Hukum Chand Sharma, lawyer for the defence, said it was a "historic judgment". "The court has given benefit of doubt to the accused and after reading the full judgment we will be able to say that on what other bases the court acquitted them. The police had implicated innocent people in the case to

save themselves," he said. The case was initially on trial in Behror but was transferred to Alwar after witnesses in the case — Azmat (28) and Rafiq (25) and Pehlu Khan's two sons Irshad (28) and Arif (21) — alleged in September last year that they were fired upon while they were going for a hearing.

In a May 2019 chargesheet, after the Congress assumed power in Rajasthan, police charged Khan's sons and Khan Mohammed, the owner of the pickup truck carrying cattle on April 1, 2017, under sections of the Rajasthan Bovine Animal (Prohibition of Slaughter and Regulation of Temporary Migration or Export) Act.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot then had said the Congress government would determine if the investigation into the lynching was carried out with "predetermined intentions". The case will be re-investigated if any discrepancy is found, he had said. Following that, the Alwar police had submitted an application at a court in Behror to 'further investigate' the case, which was later granted by the court.

mand by cutting prices on account of regulatory reasons — FMCG firms have been able to pass on price reductions on account of softened raw material costs in an attempt to push demand.

This demand-led slowdown has been attributed to a possible reduction in household savings — a result of declining urban and rural wage growth. "We find that for the Indian economy there are clearly a host of structural factors that are holding back current consumption. A substantial decline in wage growth (both rural and urban wages) in recent times result in lower household savings (a result of conscious policy decisions to correct macro imbalances) has possibly slowed down the growth in real per capita income that is holding back demand," a study by SBI noted. It added that corporate wages — a proxy for urban wages — used to expand in high double digits is now down to single digits "as corporates are more conscious of cost in the midst of a massive de-leveraging cycle". Similarly, it pointed out, rural wages also declined from double-digit growth till 2014-15 to less than 5 per cent in the last three financial years.

Going ahead, while FMCG companies expect a demand pickup in the festive season, they are also implementing cost efficiency measures to rein in profitability. "With a focus on tightening our belt in this phase of low growths, we have accelerated the cost efficiency initiatives to maintain the shape of business. As we move forward, we are quite hopeful that the Government will take requisite measures to boost the economy and get it back on a high growth trajectory," said Varun Berry, managing director of

Britannia Industries.

In addition to measures to achieve cost-efficiencies, firms are also actively tracking consumer behaviour to look at tell-tale signs of the slowdown's extent. These include traditional indicators such as customers moving down the value-chain in daily essential items by opting for smaller size of unit purchases in the same brands or cheaper items in a same category. "We'll continue to monitor it (down-trading by customers). To be honest, we haven't seen it, but it's important for us to keep a close eye on that," Phatak pointed out in the July earnings call.

"Rural India has historically been growing around 3 to 5 percentage points faster than urban on account of increasing affordability, availability and demand. However, rural growth is slowing down at double the rate of urban in recent quarters. This has brought rural growth closer to urban growth in Q219," Nielsen noted in its quarterly update. The rural slowdown is most pronounced in north India, followed by the west. Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Assam are among the states leading the slowdown.

Nielsen has lowered its 2019 growth forecast for the FMCG sector to 9-10 per cent from its previous forecast of 11-12 per cent, citing macroeconomic factors such as slowing growth and the impact of a deficient monsoon.

Shah Faesal

Faesal was detained by immigration authorities at the Indira Gandhi International Airport around 5.30 am, and handed over to Delhi Police, which put him on a flight to Srinagar. Faesal had been in Delhi since

the government announced its decision on Article 370 this month. Sources said he was detained on the basis of a "perception of threat to public order due to his activities". The move was based on a report from the J&K administration, they said.

"There is a likelihood that political leaders will go abroad and try to foment trouble in the Valley from there. We can't have a situation of a government-in-exile," an official said.

In 2009, Faesal became the first Kashmiri to top the IAS exams. Early this year, he resigned to set up J&K People's Movement with the aim of joining mainstream politics.

Faesal has been vocal in his criticism of the government's decision on the removal of special status to Jammu and Kashmir, and its bifurcation. In an interview to The Indian Express published on August 10, he had said: "I see it as a catastrophic turn in our collective history, a day when everybody is feeling that it is a death knell to our identity, our history, our right to our land, our right to our existence."

With Faesal's detention, almost all known political leaders from Kashmir are behind bars. Former chief ministers Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti were detained on the night before the Article 370 announcement. Independent MLA Engineer Rashid was arrested by the NIA in connection with a terror-funding case.

Abhinandan

Before his MiG was hit, Varthaman downed an F-16 fighter jet of the Pakistan Air Force. He was released by Pakistan on the night of March 1.

Meanwhile, of the 180 gallantry awards announced by the government for Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) on the eve of Independence Day, 114 have gone to personnel deployed in the Kashmir Valley. Among state forces, J&K Police top the list with 62 medals.

The IAF got a total of 13 awards, including 5 Yudh Seva Medals and 7 Vayu Sena Medals. Squadron Leader Minty Aggarwal, who played a key role as flight controller during the aerial combat, has been awarded the Yudh Seva Medal. She played an important part in intercepting the retaliatory attack by Pakistan's Air Force on February 27, after IAF fighter jets targeted a Jaish-e-Mohammad terrorist training camp in Pakistan's Balakot on February 26, nearly two weeks after the Pulwama terror attack.

At least five Mirage fighter pilots who were part of the operation to strike the JeM camp in Balakot were also among the awardees.

The government announced 132 awards for armed forces and paramilitary forces — 2 Kirti Chakras, 1 Vir Chakra, 14 Shaurya Chakras, 8 Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry), 90 Sena Medals (Gallantry), 5 Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry), 7 Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry) and 5 Yudh Seva Medals.

The Kirti Chakra, the second highest peacetime gallantry award, has been awarded posthumously to Sapper Prakash Jadhav of the Corps of Engineers of the First Battalion of the Rashtriya Rifles, and to Harshpal Singh, a Deputy Commandant of the CRPF. Of the 14 Shaurya Chakras, five have been given posthumously to Army personnel, and two posthumously to police per-

Lalgarh movement leader to walk free

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, AUGUST 14

CHHATRADHAR MAHATO, convenor of the People's Committee Against Police Atrocities (PCAPA), is likely to be released in September along with three others after completion of his 10-year prison sentence in a sedition case. The Division Bench of the High Court on Wednesday commuted Mahato's life sentence to 10-year imprisonment.

The leader of the PCAPA, a group backed by Maoists in West Bengal's Lalgarh, was arrested on September 26, 2009 by police personnel posing as journalists who wanted to interview him.

The court on Wednesday also reduced the prison terms of Suksanti Basko, Sambhu Soren and Sagun Murrmu. Two others, Raja Sarkhel and Prasun Chatterjee, who were awarded life term on sedition charge by the trial court, were acquitted for want of evidence and will be released after completion of formalities. The six, including Mahato, were convicted under UAPA in 2015 in connection with several cases between 2008 and 2011, including Kantapahari bomb blast in Lalgarh. Jnaneswari Express case and the landmine blast targeting then West Bengal CM Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee.

However, Ranjit Sur, vice-president of the Association for Protection of Democratic Rights, demanded the immediate release of Mahato.

Former Kolkata mayor joins BJP

New Delhi, Kolkata: Ending months of speculation, former Kolkata mayor and Trinamool Congress MLA Sovan Chatterjee joined the BJP along with his close associate Baishakhi Banerjee in New Delhi on Wednesday.

Chatterjee was asked to step down as a minister and Kolkata mayor by TMC chief and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee last November following troubles in his personal life. He is the sixth TMC MLA to join the BJP since the Lok Sabha election results in May. Lauding PM Narendra Modi

and BJP president Amit Shah for their bold leadership, Chatterjee said that there should be no place for negative politics, in an apparent attack on the TMC chief.

Meanwhile, in Kolkata, TMC sources said that the party may expel Chatterjee from the party and is exploring legal procedures before finalising it. "A party leader has to shoulder a lot of responsibilities. A true politician is one who is responsible towards his party, his family and society," Mamata said at a party programme in Kolkata. ENS

sonnel. In an indication of the improved situation in areas affected by Left Wing Extremism (LWE), only 62 personnel from such regions have received the medals. The North-East, where violence has ebbed over the years, saw CAPF personnel bagging four gallantry medals.

Of the 180 medals for CAPFs, three are President's Police Medal for Gallantry (PPMG), while the rest are Police Medal for Gallantry (PMC). A majority of these medals (72) have gone to the CRPF, which also bagged one Kirti Chakra and two Shaurya Chakras for operations in J&K. In all, the CRPF bagged 55 medals for operations in J&K.

Of the three PPMGs, two have gone to the CRPF for operations in Kashmir — to Assistant Commandant Loukrakpam Ibomcha Singh and Constable Mohammed Majahid Khan for killing two LeT militants in an operation lasting two days in the Karan Nagar area of Srinagar.

The government also announced one President's Tatrakshak Medal (Distinguished Service), five Tatrakshak Medals (Gallantry) and two Tatrakshak Medals (Meritorious Service) for the Indian Coast Guard.

Wrestling

from the previous edition's final, where he had lost narrowly.

Speaking to The Indian Express from his home in Chhara village, Punia's father Subhash said: "Deepak has made my chest swell with pride. When he was a child, I used to take him to wrestling bouts in our village as I loved the sport. Apart from owning a three-acre farm, I also ran a business of managing 10 buffaloes and five cows, and would travel to Delhi daily to sell milk. Those days of struggle are worth it now."

In Tallinn, as the countdown clock ticked over, Punia was trailing 2-0. But then, he clawed back and drew level with a neat takedown just before the final whistle. The rules state that if both wrestlers end level, the one who claimed the last point would be adjudged winner.

With the win, Punia has become the first Indian to top this marquee tournament since 2001, when Palwinder Cheema (130kg) and Ramesh Gulia (69kg) both claimed gold. Punia's opponent, Shebzukhov, is considered one of the best in his age group and had claimed fifth spot in the senior national championship in Russia.

On his way to the final, Punia started with a 10-1 win over Hungarian Milan Koresog in the pre-quarterfinal before storming past Canada's Hunter Lee. He was a bit off-colour in the semifinal against Georgian Miriani Maisuradze, trailing 2-1 till the penultimate minute before wrapping up a 3-2 win.

Junior coach Parvesh Kumar Mann said: "His wins have come against strong opponents and some of the top junior wrestlers from Europe. Last year, he lost narrowly in the final but wanted to avenge that loss today. He remained aggressive right from the start."

FULL REPORTS ON www.indianexpress.com

After crucial manoeuvre, Chandrayaan-2 leaves Earth orbit

Bengaluru: Three weeks after its launch, India's Chandrayaan-2 left the Earth's orbit and started moving towards the Moon after a crucial manoeuvre carried out by ISRO scientists in the dark hours of Wednesday.

The spacecraft, now on "Lunar Transfer Trajectory", is expected to reach the Moon's orbit on August 20 with the soft landing of rover on the lunar surface planned on September 7. PTI

5 THE CITY

'Can't stifle minds of children': HC asks CBFC to revisit guidelines

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, AUGUST 14

THE BOMBAY High Court on Wednesday told the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) that they "cannot stifle the minds of the children" with their rules and need to revisit their own guidelines.

The court was hearing a petition filed by Children's Film Society, registered under Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. The petitioner had claimed that the CBFC had directed them to delete "certain violent scenes" from the movie, 'Chidiakhana', for it to be granted a 'U' (Universal) certificate. The petition was filed seeking directions to the CBFC tribunal to hear its appeal against the CBFC's decision to give the film a 'U/A' certificate — the certificate allows children below 12 years to see a film under parental guidance.

A division bench of Justices S C Dharmadhikari and Gautam Patel told the CBFC that they have no idea as to how much violence a 12-year-old child is exposed to. "You cannot stifle the mind of the child," Justice Patel said. He added that it was precisely why CBFC needs to revisit its guidelines.

Rajiv Chavan, senior counsel for the CBFC, told the court that the movie cannot be granted a 'U' certificate as there is "inherent violence" in the film. He further gave examples of two films, 'Slumdog Millionaire' and 'No Fathers in Kashmir', which were related to children and were still given an 'A' (adult) certificate.

Advocate Yashodeep Deshmukh, appearing for the petitioner, told the court that CBFC's refusal to grant the film a 'U' certificate was "unreasonable". He added that the movie doesn't fall under 'U/A' if it is watched as a whole.

FYJC ADMISSIONS

Special merit list out, 78,000 seats still vacant

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, AUGUST 14

OVER 78,000 seats remained vacant across junior colleges in the city after the special merit list was released on Wednesday. Moreover, the cut-offs in popular colleges also rose compared to the third list.

While 56,375 students appeared for the special round of admissions to first year junior colleges (FYJC), 48,664 students were allotted seats. The rest 7,711 students now have a chance to seek admission to colleges on a first come, first serve basis, which will be the last round of the admission process.

Of those who appeared for the special admission round, 51,971 students belonged to the SSC board. Of them, 44,757 were allotted seats.

The cut-offs have gone up in the special merit list. For Arts, St Xavier's College has the highest cut-off at 95.20 per cent from 94 per cent in the third list. It was followed by Ruia College at 92.20 per

cent from its earlier 92 per cent. VG Vaze-Kelkar's cut-off rose by 2 per cent to 89.20 per cent from 87.80 per cent. For Mithibai College, the cut-off came down by only one per cent from 86.80 per cent to 85.40 per cent. In Jai Hind College, the cut-off came down from 85.80 per cent to 83.20 per cent.

For Commerce, the cut-off in NM College rose by 6 per cent from 90 per cent to 96.20 per cent. In Mulund College of Commerce, the cut-off rose to 92 per cent from 89.40 per cent. In DG Ruparel College, it was 95.20 per cent from 87.40 per cent.

For Science, VG Vaze-Kelkar's cut-off rose by nearly 10 per cent to 98.20 per cent from 88.80 per cent. In Ruia College, it rose to 94.80 per cent from 87.60 per cent. In DG Ruparel College, it rose to 93.20 per cent from 85.60 per cent. However, the cut-offs dipped in several other colleges.

For a total of 3,22,116 seats across colleges this year for FYJC admissions, 1,55,328 students have secured admission till the third merit list.

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1. Online application available from 15/08/2019 from 12.00 noon onwards.
2. Closing date: 31/08 /2019 till 06.00 p.m.
3. Dates of Entrance Test: 18/09 /2019, 19/09/2019 & 20/09/2019

(Detailed Time Table and Hall Ticket downloading will be available on university website in due course of time.)

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epaper indianexpress.com

40,000 cops to be deployed on I-Day

Mumbai: More than 40,000 police personnel will be deployed across the city for Independence Day on Thursday.

Mumbai Police spokesperson, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Operations) Pranay Ashok, said armed police, riot police, State Reserve Police Force, traffic police, crime branch and home guards would be posted in sensitive areas like Juhu and Versova beaches, Girgaum Chowpatty, Gateway of India and Mantralaya.

The Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad will also be deployed at crowded areas, while hotels and lodges in the city would also be checked for suspicious individuals. Ashok said the traffic police would conduct nakabandis throughout the day. ENS



Schoolchildren at a Sion school on the eve of Independence Day on Wednesday. Prashant Nadkar

Man gets 6 years in jail for sexually abusing student

Mumbai: A sports teacher was sentenced to six years in prison Tuesday for sexually abusing a Class VI student in 2014. He was found guilty under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act. On December 24, 2014, the accused had asked the boy to accompany him to a mall after practise. He took him to an isolated spot and sexually abused the boy. A case was lodged after his mother filed a complaint. ENS

17-year-old teen detained for kidnapping girl

Mumbai: The Mumbai police has detained a 17-year-old boy for allegedly kidnapping an 11-year-old girl on Tuesday night. According to police, the boy was released from a children's home last month after he was picked up on charges of gangrape by police in January this year. The police had registered a case of kidnapping after the girl was reported missing on Tuesday night. On Wednesday morning, the crime branch following a tip-off rescued the girl from a slum, where the boy resides. ENS

Govt pulls the plug on infra think-tank MTSU

Govt circular issued Tuesday said MTSU would officially stand closed by August 31

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, AUGUST 14

THE STATE government has decided to shut down the Mumbai Transformation Support Unit (MTSU), a government think-tank, which was set up in 2005 to advise and monitor infrastructure projects in Mumbai.

A government circular issued on Tuesday said that the MTSU would officially stand closed by August 31. The government's contention is that the Chief Minister's War Room is already monitoring big ticket infrastructure projects in Mumbai and there is no need for another agency to do the same work.

The War Room, which was set up soon after the Devendra Fadnis government came to power, has been tasked to monitor major projects and ensure that they do not get stuck.

The Mumbai Transformation Support Unit was set up in 2005 to aid in the process of transforming the Mumbai Metropolitan Region by advising on and coordinating projects undertaken by the government infrastructure agencies, such as the city's development authority, civic body and the housing authority.

It was set up in association with the All India Institute of Local Self Governance (AIILSG),

The MTSU was set up in 2005 to aid in the process of transforming the Mumbai Metropolitan Region

the state government and global organisations such as World Bank, Cities Alliance and USAID (United States Agency for International Development). The World Bank has funded some of the studies taken up by MTSU.

The Mumbai Transformation Support Unit has largely focused on issues concerning physical and social infrastructure, environment, housing, governance, strategic planning and economic growth.

Apart from coordinating and advising on projects, it has conducted extensive research on topics such as cluster redevelopment, large revamp projects such as Dharavi and BDD chawls, amendments to the Rent Control Act, traffic improvement around station areas, infrastructure projects such as Navi Mumbai airport, Mumbai Metro and so on.

It was being led by retired IAS officer B C Khatua, who had two urban planners working with him.

New TB vaccine trial to start soon

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, AUGUST 14

IN WHAT will be a significant move to reduce new tuberculosis (TB) infections, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) will soon start vaccine trial against the infection as part of a national vaccination trial, and launch a pilot project providing preventive treatment to close contacts, mostly family, of TB patients.

An action plan for 2019-2025 was released by the Mumbai mayor Wednesday. Among the new initiatives planned, the civic body is tying up with Hinduja hospital to conduct free out patient services for TB patients. At least 200 to 250 patients are expected to benefit by free consultation from chest physicians in the private hospitals. TB treatment and control took a major leap in India with Prime Minister Narendra Modi announcing in 2018 that the infectious disease will be controlled by 2025.

"We plan to trace close family members of TB patients. These are at highest risk of infection. The pilot project will include two to three regimen that latent TB population will be administered based on national guidelines," said Dr Daksha Shah, in-charge of TB control programme in Mumbai.

A latent TB population is infected by the TB bacteria but the bacteria remains inactive, usually until the person's immunity goes down. Shah estimates at least 40 to 50 per cent population in Mumbai is latent TB.

In 2018, 46,513 TB patients were put on treatment by the BMC. At least 4,969 are multi-drug resistant and 526 are extensively drug resistant patients. The BMC has also begun random screening to detect new TB cases. In 2018, of 16.4 lakh people screened, 232 were diagnosed with the TB bacteria and put on treatment.

With active screening, the case notification of Mumbai has improved from 269 per lakh to 395 per lakh between 2013 to 2018. Meanwhile, Mumbai has also been short-listed for the anti-tuberculosis vaccine's third phase trial along with Delhi, Karnataka, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Telangana. "We are aiming to include close family members of existing TB patients for the trial," said BMC's executive health officer Dr Padmaja Keskar.

Woman booked under POCSO, accused of sexually abusing boy

SADAFMODAK MUMBAI, AUGUST 14

A 38-YEAR-OLD woman has been booked under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act after she allegedly eloped with a minor boy and sexually abused him. The woman, who was arrested by Nehru Nagar police, has been sent to police custody till August 21.

According to the complaint filed by the parents of the 16-year-old boy, on June 29, their son left home around 7 am saying he was going out for breakfast. When he did not return till afternoon, his family began looking for him, but could not find him. On July 2, they approached the police. After an FIR was filed, the police probed the CDRs of the boy's phone and found that he was in regular contact with one phone number over the past three months.

The police found the accused's address. At her residence, the police found that she too was missing from the same day as the boy and her husband had filed a missing complaint. The phone numbers of both the minor and the woman had been switched off. The police had received information on August 12 that the two were in Kurla area, and arrested the woman.

Police claimed that on June 29 the accused asked the boy to meet her. She then allegedly took him to Bandra station and then to Delhi where she tried to find a room on rent. On failing to do so, she went to Gujarat. Police claimed the accused sold off her jewellery and were staying in a rented house in Gujarat.

The police further claimed that the minor was sexually abused by the accused.

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Sealed Tenders are invited by the Tender Inviting Authority, TNMSC Ltd., from the bidders meeting the eligibility criteria in the tender document for the supply of Foot and Mouth Disease Vaccine to Animal Husbandry Department for the year 2019-2020.

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In the everlasting memory of the twenty eight Veer Biharis of 15th Battalion, The Bihar Regiment, who, in the highest traditions of the Indian Army, made the supreme sacrifice on this day in 1989 during Op Pawan at Mannar (Sri Lanka).

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Office of the Executive Engineer Road Construction Department, Road Division, Daltonganj. e-Procurement Notice 2nd Call (अल्पकालीन) Short e-Tender Reference no.- RCD/Daltonganj/1080 Dated :- 13.08.2019

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER WATER WAYS DIVISION NO.-1 SIMDEGA WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, JHARKHAND e- Procurement notice (SBD) e-Tender Reference No.- WRD/WWW No.- 1 SIMDEGA /02/2019-20

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झारखंड सरकार ग्रामीण विकास विभाग(ग्रा0का0मा0) मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय 102, द्वितीय तल्ला, अभियंत्रण भवन, कचहरी रोड, रांची ई- अल्पकालीन पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना ई-निविदा संख्या:- 08/RII/2019-20/RDD(RWA)/DALTONGANJ दिनांक :- 14.08.2019

Government of Jharkhand Directorate of Industries 3rd Floor, Nepal House, Doranda, Ranchi-834002 Short Tender Notice Selection of Creative Agency/Event Manager for Design, Erection, Conceptualization of "Annapoorna - Anufood 2019" During 29-31 August, 2019 at BEC, Mumbai .

PROTEST AFTER DOCTOR MANHANDLED

Doctors throng psychiatric ward in Sion hospital to 'cope with fear psychosis'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, AUGUST 14

IN AN unusual protest, over 200 resident doctors visited Sion hospital's psychiatric department on Wednesday, requesting consultation on "coping with fear psychosis while working in a government hospital".

The latest agitation comes two days after a first-year resident doctor was assaulted in the medicine ward of the hospital, following the death of a patient.

On August 12, Dr Pravin Shilkande from the medicine department was called to check on a senior citizen suffering from long-term kidney disease. "He resuscitated the patient and handed him over to the doctor in charge. Just when he was leaving, the patient passed away. Following this, the relatives of the patient hit him," said Dr Krishnapriya Manohar, a resident doctor attached with the psychiatry department.

Soon, a mob of over 20 people arrived at the hospital. While Shilkande fled, other doctors filed a complaint with the police on his behalf.

“The hospital authorities did not support our complaint. There was no security guard in the ward when the doctor was attacked. How can 20 relatives enter a ward when only two relatives per patient are allowed?”

— DR KRISHNAPRIYA MANOHAR
RESIDENT DOCTOR WITH PSYCHIATRY DEPARTMENT

Manohar said that all resident doctors from the medicine unit refused to work following the incident. "The hospital authorities did not support our complaint. There was no security guard in the ward when the doctor was attacked. How can 20 relatives enter a ward when only two relatives per patient are allowed?" he asked.

On Wednesday, the psychiatry department counselled the resident doctors who claimed they feared working in a hostile environment.

"They are scared of possible attacks by mobs if a patient is critical and may not survive. If there are no guards, the feeling of insecurity increases," said Dr Pawan Gadgile, psychiatrist and resident doctor, who counselled a few students.

The head of the psychiatry department, Dr Nilesh Shah, also counselled many.

Dr Prashant Chaudhari, president of the Maharashtra Association of Resident Doctors, said this time, the doctors decided to not go on a strike and adopted another method to agitate.

By afternoon, the hospital dean met the protesters and set up a committee of five resident doctors and senior professors each to prepare a standard operating protocol in such situations. "This will ensure that a doctor does not have to visit a police station himself to register a complaint," Chaudhari said.

The protest comes days after resident doctors staged a one-day strike across Maharashtra demanding leaves for maternity and tuberculosis treatment, along with timely payment of wages.

Venezuelan national held with 796 gm of cocaine in her stomach

KHUSHBOONARAYAN
MUMBAI, AUGUST 14

THE DIRECTORATE of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has arrested a Venezuelan national at the Mumbai airport with 796 gm of cocaine in her stomach.

The agency, sources said, has seized 80 capsules of cocaine worth Rs 4.77 crore from the stomach of Balzabaptista Karendralenny (27) after she was apprehended on her arrival at the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport from Sao Paulo on August 9.

DRI sources said that Karendralenny was taken to JJ Hospital after a court granted permission to the agency to conduct an X-ray of her body. She was admitted in the hospital for four days after the X-ray found presence of foreign bodies in her stomach. "Between August 9 and August 13, Karendralenny purged 80 capsules in 17 sittings at the hospital," said a DRI official.

The agency has found that Karendralenny, a former Venezuelan soldier, became a drug mule after a Nigerian national contacted her on Facebook in February and offered her \$ 5,000 to smuggle about 1,000 gm of cocaine to India.

Karendralenny, in her statement to the agency, has admitted to trafficking of banned psychotropic substance for money since did not have any other source of income. She has also said that her Nigerian friend used to supply drugs to various countries in Africa, Europe and Asia, among others, by using the services of mule smugglers travelling by air.

On Wednesday, a local court remanded Karendralenny to judicial custody till August 28. However, she has been allowed to inform her family about her arrest. DRI sources said that the agency is the process of locating Karendralenny's alleged associates in India, who were to receive the smuggled cocaine.

COASTAL ROAD

BMC corporators slam civic administration for not providing status report on project

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, AUGUST 14

CUTTING ACROSS party lines, BMC corporators on Wednesday slammed the civic administration for not providing any information on the current status of the coastal road project. The corporators, including those from the ruling Shiv Sena, demanded a detailed presentation on the project's status and what steps are being taken by the civic boss to fight the court stay on construction work.

The BMC is constructing a 9.98-km coastal road from Princess Street to Worli end of the Bandra-Worli Sealink.

At the Standing Committee meeting on Wednesday, leader of the House and Sena corporator Vishakha Raut asked administration to give details on how much work has been completed, what it is doing to get the court stay on construction work vacated, and how will it account for the daily losses being incurred due to the stay.

"Some parts of the reclaimed work was washed away due to high tide recently. Due to the stay, we are incurring daily losses. But we have no clue what the BMC administration is doing to put the project on track. It is not providing us any information. A detail presentation on the project should be given and a site visit

organised to check the current status," said Raut.

In April, the Bombay High Court had asked the BMC not to take up any fresh work like reclamation on the project, and to only continue with the ongoing work. In July, underlining "a serious lacuna in the decision-making process" and "lack of proper scientific study", the HC had quashed the Coastal Regulation Zone clearances granted for the southern part of the Rs 12,000-crore project. It had said that the BMC cannot proceed with work without obtaining environmental clearance under the Environmental Impact Assessment notification. Even the Supreme Court had refused to give immediate relief to the BMC and will hear the matter on August 20.

A proposal to continue posts created for the coastal road department was tabled in the meeting for approval. But the matter was put on hold.

Opposition leader Ravi Raja said, "We had been informed that the department had all clearances for the project, then how was it stayed by the HC? The BMC is incurring a loss of Rs 10 crore every day due to the stay."

Following this, Standing Committee Chairman Yashvant Jadhav directed the BMC administration to submit a detailed presentation on the project.

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Navy personnel cheated of Rs 7.5 lakh by woman he met on Facebook

SAGAR RAJPUT
MUMBAI, AUGUST 14

A 32-YEAR-OLD Indian Navy personnel was cheated of Rs 7.5 lakh by a woman he had befriended on Facebook.

According to the police complaint lodged by Ashwanikumar Trivedi, a seaman with the Navy, the woman claimed that the authorities had stopped her at the Delhi airport as she was carrying a demand draft of ₹10 lakh (about ₹9 crore).

Trivedi had befriended the woman, who gave her name as Sofiya Paolinho, on Facebook messenger and given her his phone number. "We had a common friend, so I thought the profile was genuine. So I accepted the request and gave her my number," Trivedi told the police.

The woman claimed she was from Bristol and that after her parents died in an accident, she looks after their business. "She said she would be coming to India on July 10 and required my guidance to invest here," he told the police.

According to the police, on July 10, Trivedi got a call from a woman who identified herself as an immigration officer at Delhi airport. She told him that his friend had been caught with a DD of ₹10 lakh and that he needs to pay Rs 65,000 to get clearances from the airport authorities. Over that, Trivedi was asked to pay another Rs 6.85 lakh.

"The fraudsters told Trivedi that the woman was asked to pay up for anti-terrorism certificate and GST tax, and allowed to go thereafter," a police officer said.

Trivedi not only borrowed from his friends, but also took a personal loan of Rs 2 lakh to pay the fraudsters, the police said. He also paid for her stay and food. The woman then sought his bank account details and email id, saying that she would credit Rs 9 crore in his account. For this, Trivedi was asked to pay another Rs 8 lakh. Suspecting that he had been cheated, Trivedi then approached the police.



NARIYAL PURNIMA

The fishing community in Worli celebrates Nariyal Purnima on Wednesday by offering coconuts to the sea. *Nirmal Harindran*

HC acquits man sentenced to death for 12-yr-old's murder

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, AUGUST 14

A YEAR after a man was sentenced to death for the murder of a 12-year-old boy in 2012, the Bombay High Court on Wednesday set aside the sentence and acquitted him of all charges. The court also acquitted his aide, who was sentenced to life imprisonment.

In May 2018, a sessions court had sent Imtiyaz Shaikh (27) to the gallows and sentenced Azad Ansari (27) to life imprisonment, holding them guilty of kidnapping a boy from Dharavi and murdering him. His body was later found at Shanti Nagar

in Bhiwandi.

Last year, when the trial court had convicted these two accused, it had also acquitted two persons and declared one accused as juvenile. The minor is set to be tried before the juvenile court.

A division bench of Justice B P Dharmadhikari and Justice Swapna Joshi on Wednesday observed that none of the circumstances have been proved beyond reasonable doubt. It added that the prosecution is unable to show that the cellphone number, from which ransom calls were made to the father of the boy, were used by any of the accused.

The court also said that the

prosecution has failed to provide satisfactory evidence that ransom calls were indeed made by the accused.

The prosecution has alleged that in May 2012, Imtiyaz had lured the boy with a treat and killed him the same day. The accused, after killing the boy, had pretended that he was alive and made a ransom call to his father demanding Rs 25 lakh, it had claimed. An FIR was registered at Shahu Nagar police station in Mahim.

In the trial court, the prosecution had examined 20 witnesses. The three crucial witnesses who deposed, included a *golawala* (crushed ice candy seller), who had seen the boy

with Shaikh and Ansari, when they got him an ice candy. The second witness, a hotel attendant, had seen Shaikh and the juvenile accused with the boy, having dinner at the hotel. The third witness was the juvenile's roommate, who had seen the boy in their room. The juvenile had said that the boy was Shaikh's nephew.

With no eyewitness, the prosecution's case had rested on circumstantial evidence. According to the prosecution, the father of the boy was engaged in the embroidery business and had allegedly fired Shaikh for his poor performance. Police had said that Shaikh killed the boy out of vengeance.

Prime accused in interstate child-selling racket gets bail

MOHAMED THAYER
MUMBAI, AUGUST 14

IN A setback to the Mumbai police crime branch investigating an interstate child-selling racket, one of the prime accused in the case, Savita Salunkhe, was granted bail on Friday. The Mumbai police had rescued six children sold in the racket and arrested a total of 14 people, including the couples who had reportedly bought children from poor families.

Salunkhe, 30, had also been arrested in 2016 in connection with a child-stealing racket and was out on bail when she allegedly became involved with the interstate child-selling racket. While the crime branch is yet to file a chargesheet in the case, they fear that six other accused, who are in judicial custody, may also seek bail on grounds of parity.

On July 1, the Mumbai police crime branch had claimed to have unearthed a racket where children from poor families, especially from Govandi-Deonar area, were sold by intermediaries to childless couples. The children were sold by the gang for around Rs 3-4 lakh each. Police had arrested 14 people in the case.

A police officer said, seven of the 14 people arrested in the case, who had earlier been



Savita Salunkhe

granted bail, were mainly people who purchased the children illegally. "Salunkhe is, however, one of the main accused in the case, as she was a vital link between buyers and those willing to sell their children. In the past too, she was arrested in connection with a child-stealing racket and was out on bail. However, she clearly did not mend her ways," the officer said. The other accused, the officer added, who were part of the racket may also soon apply for bail citing Salunkhe's case.

Salunkhe's lawyer, Anil Kamble, said that she was granted bail and asked to pay a surety of Rs 35,000. "The case does not come under trafficking. Poor women, who did not have the wherewithal to take

care of their children, voluntarily gave up their children so that they could have a better life," Kamble said.

Explaining Salunkhe's role, an officer said the woman worked as a security guard at a state-run hospital in Govandi. The maternity ward was located on the floor above the place where she was posted. "She would convince poor pregnant women admitted at the hospital to part with their children in lieu of giving them a better life. She would tell them that those 'adopting' the child would also pay them around a lakh for taking care of themselves," the officer said. He added that another person arrested in the case, Bhagyashree Koli, was in-charge of looking for couples who wanted children.

An officer said that the police are still on the lookout for another accused based out of Delhi, who played a key role in the racket.

While the police have tracked the biological parents of some of the children, they are yet to decide if they should be named as accused in the chargesheet. An officer said that the chargesheet will be filed in a month's time.

The six rescued children, aged between one-and-a-half and seven years, are currently under the care of a Specialised Adoption Agency in Chembur.

Woman, her lover arrested for attempting to burn husband alive

Palghar: A 28-year-old woman and her lover, also married, were arrested on Wednesday from Palghar district for allegedly trying to burn her 35-year-old husband alive. According to police, the husband had been protesting their relationship.

The incident occurred on Tuesday night, when the woman allegedly poured hot oil on her husband's head and face, while her lover attacked him with a hammer after tying his legs, said Rajendra Kamble,

senior inspector at Manickpur police station.

As the duo was preventing the victim from escaping, he started throwing kitchen utensils out of the window, which alerted his neighbours, who rushed to his aid, Kamble said. The police said the victim has been admitted to a hospital in Mumbai, and that he has suffered severe injuries.

The accused have been booked under section 307 (attempt to murder) of the Indian Penal Code. **PTI**

MAN CLIMBS OVERHEAD WIRE POLE, CENTRAL RAILWAY SERVICES HIT

Mumbai: A man, believed to be mentally ill, climbed an overhead wire pole on the Central Railway (CR) network on Wednesday, affecting services during peak hours as officials switched off the electricity supply to the line to bring him down. Commuters were forced to walk on the tracks. The incident took place around 5 pm, when the man climbed the pole between Mulund and Thane. He was brought down with the help of the fire brigade. **ENS**

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The Indian EXPRESS
— JOURNALISM OF COURAGE —

DSK's brother involved in embezzlement of Rs 184-crore in land deal: Prosecution

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, AUGUST 14

MAKARAND KULKARNI (66), brother of real estate developer DS Kulkarni, was involved in the embezzlement of Rs 184 crore in a land deal at Phursungi near Pune between 2006 and 2008, the prosecution told a court in Pune on Wednesday.

DS Kulkarni or DSK, who is facing charges of cheating thousands of investors of over Rs 2,000 crore, was arrested last year and is currently lodged in Yerwada jail. Makarand and other family members of DSK were named as accused in the chargesheet filed by police.

Makarand was detained from the Mumbai airport on Tuesday, while he was allegedly trying to flee the country, and put under arrest later. At the airport, Makarand was with his wife and grandson, who had tickets to Dubai and then London, said police officials. While Makarand was detained because of a Look out circular against him, his wife and grandson went ahead with the journey.

Makarand was produced before the Special Court of Additional Sessions Judge A S Bhaistry and remanded to police custody for four days till August 17.

Arguing for custodial remand, Special Public Prosecutor Praveen Chavan said, "It has come to light that the present accused was involved in a conspiracy by DS Kulkarni and his wife Hemanti, where under the garb of a land deal, Rs 184 crore was embezzled. We want to question the said accused in detail about it. In the said deal, the land was first purchased in the name of some family members and within a short span of one to two months, it was sold to a company of DSK Group at much higher price. The excess amount was embezzled. We want to find out who else is involved in this. For the said deal, forged documents were prepared. The said accused was detained at Mumbai airport while trying to flee the country and we want to investigate why he was leaving the country."

Defence lawyer Chinmay Inamdar argued that the alleged offence was being probed since 2017 and police have not only seized relevant documents but have already filed three chargesheets against various accused in the court. Police didn't need custodial remand of Makarand to get any documents, he said.

"I argued before the court that my client is a patient of a heart ailment and has complained of uneasiness and breathlessness outside courtroom too. Police have alleged that he was trying to flee the country. In reply, we have submitted a return ticket with a departure date of August 13 and return date of September 26," Inamdar said.

ASSEMBLY POLLS

Deshmukh's youngest son seeks ticket from Latur Rural

SANDEEP ASHAR
MUMBAI, AUGUST 14

DHIRAJ DESHMUKH, the youngest son of former chief minister Vilasrao Deshmukh, has reportedly sought the ticket from the Latur (Rural) Assembly constituency, sources in the state Congress said.

Dhiraj's elder brother Amit is the sitting MLA from the neighbouring Latur (City) seat. He is set to be renominated this time as well.

But there is opposition to Dhiraj's candidature. While the state Congress parliamentary board, which is at present screening aspirants for the upcoming polls, discussed his candidature, sources said that many among those present were not entirely in favour of the nomination. "Giving two tickets in the same family won't send the right message," said a former state party minister. Interestingly, Trimbakrao Bhise, the sitting MLA from Latur (Rural) and a staunch Vilasrao loyalist, also wants to run for a second term.

While Dhiraj has been active in the organisational set up for the last few years and has always been keen to follow in his father's footsteps, this is the first time when he has sought a ticket.

Sources, meanwhile, said that former CM Sushil Kumar

Shinde's daughter Praniti Shinde, who is the sitting MLA from Solapur City Central, has also evinced interest in being nominated from the neighbouring Mohol seat — currently represented by jailed NCP MLA Ramesh Kadam.

Party insiders said that the Congress would first have to examine if the NCP was willing to swap this seat. In the Lok Sabha polls, Sushil Kumar had suffered a second consecutive loss at the hands of the BJP in Solapur.

Two other former Congress ministers — Baba Siddique and Kripshankar Singh — have also reportedly sought tickets for their sons. While Siddique wants the Congress to nominate son, Zeeshan, from Mumbai's Bandra (East) seat, Singh has offered to relinquish his own claim on contesting from the city's Kalina seat to accommodate his son, Narendra Mohan Singh. But some senior leaders are of the opinion that the two former ministers should themselves enter the fray.

Meanwhile, the Congress parliamentary board on Wednesday decided to defer deliberations on the aspirants for the 36 Assembly seats in Mumbai. It has been decided that a smaller committee of city-based leaders will be tasked with the job of shortlisting probables for Mumbai seats.

DB REALTY LIMITED
REGD. OFFICE : DB HOUSE, GEN A.K.VAIDYA MARG, GOREGAON (EAST), MUMBAI - 400063
CIN : L70200MH2007PLC166818
Extract of Consolidated Unaudited Financial Result, for the quarter ended June 30, 2019

Sr No	Particulars	(Rs in lakh)		
		Quarter ended		Year ended
		30-Jun-19	30-Jun-18	31-Mar-19
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
1	Total revenue from operations	1,251.81	3,709.45	36,521.04
2	Other Income	2,192.55	2,314.96	9,545.96
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before tax and Exceptional items)	(4,262.75)	(10,657.37)	(15,737.76)
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional items)	(5,762.75)	(10,657.37)	(28,637.76)
5	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional items)	(5,835.15)	(10,977.43)	(23,723.95)
6	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(6,240.59)	(12,040.82)	(23,349.24)
7	Equity Share Capital	24,325.88	24,325.88	24,325.88
8	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve as shown in the Balance Sheet of previous year)	-	-	198,232.93
9	Earning Per Share (of Rs. 10/-each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)			
	a) Basic:	(2.25)	(5.13)	(11.41)
	b) Diluted:	(2.25)	(5.13)	(11.41)

Notes:-

- (a) The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at the meeting held on August 13, 2019. The Statutory Auditors have carried out Limited Review of the Unaudited Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results of the group, for the quarter ended June 30, 2019, as per the requirements of SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure requirements) Regulations, 2015, as amended.
- (b) The group is submitting the quarterly consolidated financial results for the first time in accordance with SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 as amended read with circular no. CIR/CFD/CMD1/44/2019 dated March 29, 2019 and accordingly the consolidated reported figures for quarter ended June 30, 2018 have been approved by Parent's Board of Directors and are not subjected to limited review by auditors.
- The above is an extract of the detailed format of the Financial Results for Quarter ended 30th June, 2019 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the websites of BSE Limited (www.bseindia.com), the National Stock Exchange of India Limited (www.nseindia.com) and the Company (www.dbreality.com.in).
- Standalone Financial results are summarised as below :

Sr No	Particulars	(Rs in lakh)		
		Quarter ended		Year ended
		30-Jun-19	30-Jun-18	31-Mar-19
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
1	Total revenue from operations	20.67	242.36	418.69
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax	(1,950.13)	(147.92)	(11,655.57)
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax	(1,991.68)	(467.92)	(12,049.98)

Dated:- August 13, 2019
Place:- Mumbai

For and on behalf of the Board
Vinod Goenka
Chairman & Managing Director
DIN 00029033

FORM NO. CAA 2
[Pursuant to section 230(3) read with Section 66 of the Companies Act, 2013 and rules 6 and 7 of the Companies (Compromise, Arrangements and Amalgamations) Rules, 2016]

Spoton Logistics Private Limited, a company incorporated under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 and having its registered office opp SEZ Naman Ind Estat, ATPO Matoda, Village Matoda, Taluka Sanand, Ahmedabad, Survey No. 520/1 & 520/2, Gujarat, Applicant Company or Transferee Company
Ahmedabad - 382213

NOTICE AND ADVERTISEMENT OF NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE UNSECURED CREDITORS OF THE TRANSFEE COMPANY

Notice is hereby given that by an order dated 08th August, 2019, the Ahmedabad Bench of the National Company Law Tribunal ("NCLT" or "Tribunal") has directed a meeting to be held of the unsecured creditors of the Transferee Company for the purpose of considering, and if thought fit, approving with or without modifications, the proposed arrangement embodied in the Scheme of Arrangement between Vankatesh Pharma Private Limited ("Vankatesh Pharma" or "Transferor Company") and Spoton Logistics Private Limited ("Spoton Logistics" or "Transferee Company") and their respective shareholders (hereinafter referred to as "Scheme").

In pursuance of the said order and as directed therein, further notice is hereby given that a meeting of the unsecured creditors of the Transferee Company will be held as under, at which time and place, the unsecured creditors are requested to attend.

Sr. No.	Class of Meeting	Date of Meeting	Time (IST)	Place of Meeting
1	Unsecured Creditors	19th September, 2019	11.00 AM	23/24, Thanavan, Infantry Road, Bangalore-560001

Copies of the said Scheme and of the explanatory statement under Sections 230(3), 232(1) and (2) and 102 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with rule 6 of the Companies (Compromise, Arrangements and Amalgamations) Rules, 2016 can be obtained free of charge at the registered office of the Transferee Company opp SEZ Naman Ind Estat, ATPO Matoda, Village Matoda, Taluka Sanand, Ahmedabad, Survey No. 520/1 & 520/2, Gujarat, Ahmedabad - 382213 and/or at the office of its Advocates, Ravai & Ravai Advocates having their office at 21-23, Laxmi Chambers, Navjivan Press Road, near Old High Court Railway Crossing, Ahmedabad - 380014. Person(s) entitled to attend and vote at the meeting, may vote in person or by proxy, provided that all proxies in the prescribed form are deposited at the registered office opp SEZ Naman Ind Estat, ATPO Matoda, Village Matoda, Taluka Sanand, Ahmedabad, Survey No. 520/1 & 520/2, Gujarat, Ahmedabad - 382213 of the Transferee Company at not later than 48 hours before the scheduled time of the commencement of the aforesaid meeting.

Forms of proxy can be obtained free of charge from the registered office of the Transferee Company.

The Tribunal has appointed Mr. Abhik Mitra, Director and failing him Mr. Abhishek Kabra, Director of the Transferee Company as the Chairman of the said meeting. The above-mentioned Scheme, if approved in the aforesaid meeting, will be subject to the subsequent approval of the Tribunal.

Further, the voting shall be carried out through the ballot/polling paper at the venue of the meeting. Mr. Madhresh K (Membership No: A21477), Practicing Company Secretary and failing him Mr. Ashok Maliya (Membership No: A54147), Practicing Company Secretary has been appointed as the Scrutinizer for the said meeting.

Dated 15th August, 2019
Sd/-
Chairperson appointed for the meeting

EIH Limited
A MEMBER OF THE OBEROI GROUP

Registered Office : 4, Mangoe Lane, Kolkata - 700 001, Phone : 91-33-22486751, Fax : 91-33-22486785
Website: www.eihltd.com, Email ID : isdho@oberoigroup.com
CIN : L55101WB1949PLC017981

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2019
(₹ in Crores)

	Standalone				Consolidated			
	3 months ended 30.06.2019 UNAUDITED	3 months ended 31.03.2019 AUDITED	3 months ended 30.06.2018 UNAUDITED	Year ended 31.03.2019 AUDITED	3 months ended 30.06.2019 UNAUDITED	3 months ended 31.03.2019 UNAUDITED	3 months ended 30.06.2018 UNAUDITED	Year ended 31.03.2019 AUDITED
Income								
a) Revenue from Operations	289.63	430.89	334.96	1,543.24	340.58	503.45	388.34	1,810.82
b) Other Income	13.36	39.15	8.50	84.02	17.64	27.76	12.01	68.79
Total Revenue	302.99	470.04	343.46	1,627.26	358.22	531.21	400.35	1,879.61
Expenses								
a) Consumption of Provisions, Wines & Others	41.25	58.82	48.39	212.09	47.96	67.31	55.56	244.48
b) Employee benefits expense	101.59	106.20	103.53	421.58	115.68	121.19	117.99	480.69
c) Finance Costs	12.12	11.36	10.14	46.36	13.51	12.20	11.23	50.44
d) Depreciation and Amortisation expense	33.57	30.31	30.64	123.01	36.31	33.29	32.78	132.56
e) Other Expenses	125.24	161.07	134.73	587.45	144.47	179.23	157.79	679.73
Total Expenses	313.77	367.76	327.43	1,390.49	357.93	413.22	375.35	1,587.90
Profit Before Exceptional items, Share of net profits of Associates and Joint Ventures accounted for using equity method and Tax	(10.78)	102.28	16.03	236.77	0.29	117.99	25.00	291.71
Share of net profit of Associated and Joint Ventures accounted for using equity method	-	-	-	-	(1.15)	7.70	(1.49)	12.30
Profit/(Loss) before Exceptional Items and tax	(10.78)	102.28	16.03	236.77	(0.86)	125.69	23.51	304.01
Exceptional Items- Profit/(Loss)	(0.47)	(84.75)	-	(73.07)	(0.47)	(84.75)	-	(73.07)
Profit/(Loss) before tax	(11.25)	17.53	16.03	163.70	(1.33)	40.94	23.51	230.94
Tax Expense								
a) Current Tax	(3.33)	30.29	3.03	61.03	0.12	40.86	5.96	86.23
b) Deferred Tax	(0.82)	(25.53)	2.81	(10.66)	(0.32)	(19.84)	2.85	(4.25)
Profit/(Loss) for the period	(7.10)	12.77	10.19	113.33	(1.13)	19.92	14.70	148.96
Other Comprehensive Income/(Loss)								
a) Remeasurement of defined benefit obligations	(0.34)	(1.81)	(2.74)	(1.36)	(0.36)	(2.08)	(2.72)	(1.64)
b) Share of other comprehensive income of associates and joint ventures accounted for using the equity method	-	-	-	-	(0.04)	0.05	(0.02)	0.05
c) Exchange differences on translation of foreign operations	-	-	-	-	-	(0.54)	-	(0.54)
d) Tax relating to these items	(0.11)	0.64	0.95	0.48	(0.10)	0.66	0.94	0.50
Total Comprehensive Income/(Loss) for the period	(7.55)	11.60	8.40	112.45	(1.63)	18.01	12.90	147.33
Profit attributable to:								
a) Owners of EIH Limited					(3.24)	13.23	12.79	131.54
b) Non-controlling interests					2.11	6.69	1.91	17.42
Other Comprehensive Income attributable to:								
a) Owners of EIH Limited					(0.50)	(1.55)	(1.80)	(1.30)
b) Non-controlling interests					-	(0.36)	-	(0.33)
Total Comprehensive Income attributable to:								
a) Owners of EIH Limited					(3.74)	11.68	10.99	130.24
b) Non-controlling interests					2.11	6.33	1.91	17.09
Paid-up Equity Share Capital (Face Value - ₹ 2 each)	114.31	114.31	114.31	114.31	114.31	114.31	114.31	114.31
Other Equity					2,740.78			2,879.08
Earnings per Equity Share (Face Value - ₹ 2 each) - ₹								
(a) Basic	(0.12)	0.22	0.18	1.98	(0.06)	0.23	0.22	2.30
(b) Diluted	(0.12)	0.22	0.18	1.98	(0.06)	0.23	0.22	2.30

Notes :

- The results for the first quarter are not indicative of a full year's performance due to the seasonal nature of the Indian hotel industry.
- These financial results have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement principles laid down in Ind AS 34 Interim Financial Reporting prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the relevant rules issued thereunder and the other accounting principles generally accepted in India.
- The Company has no reportable segments other than hotels as per Indian Accounting Standard.
- Exceptional Items for the 3 months ended 30th June, 2019 and 31st March, 2019 represent a provision of ₹ 0.47 crores and ₹ 84.75 crores respectively against receivable by the Company from a single customer in the flight catering business, due to uncertainty in business continuity of the afore-mentioned customer. Exceptional Items for the year ended 31st March, 2019 includes, in addition to this, profit of ₹ 11.68 crores on sale of Investments held in an associate company.
- The drop in revenue in the current quarter is attributable to a general slowdown in business activity, decline in air travel and a reduction in the airline catering business.
- The Company has adopted Ind AS 116 'Leases' effective April 1st, 2019 and applied the standard to lease contracts existing on that date by using modified retrospective approach with the cumulative impact recognised on the date of initial application. Accordingly, previous period information has not been restated. This has resulted in recognition of Right-of-Use asset of ₹ 333.80 crores and Lease Liability of ₹ 110.01 crores. The cumulative effect of applying the standard resulted in ₹ 0.67 crores (net of tax) being credited to retained earnings as on transition date.
- In the financial results of the Company for the current quarter, the nature of expenses in respect of operating leases has changed from lease rent to depreciation on right-of-use asset and finance cost for interest accrued on lease liability. Consequently, Finance costs and Depreciation for the quarter are higher by ₹ 2.25 crores and ₹ 3.11 crores respectively and Other Expenses are lower by ₹ 3.35 crores as a result of which, Profit before tax is lower by ₹ 2.01 crores.
- Current Tax and Deferred Tax figures have been computed based on Paragraph 30(c) of Ind AS 34 'Interim Financial Reporting', which requires income tax expense to be recognised in each interim period based on the best estimate of the weighted average annual income tax rate for the full financial year.
- Earnings Per Share are not annualised except for the year ended 31st March, 2019.
- Figures have been regrouped or rearranged, wherever necessary.
- Standalone figures for the quarter ended 31st March 2019 are the balancing figures between audited figures for the full financial year upto 31st March 2019 and the published figures upto 31st December 2018 which were subject to limited review by the Statutory Auditors.
- The Group is submitting the quarterly consolidated financial results for the first time in accordance with SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 as amended read with circular no. CIR/CFD/CMD1/44/2019 dated March 29, 2019 and accordingly the consolidated reported figures for quarter ended 31st March 2019 and quarter ended 30th June 2018 have been approved by the Board of Directors and are not subjected to limited review by the Statutory Auditors.
- The above Unaudited Financial Results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at its Meeting held on 13th August, 2019. The Statutory Auditors have carried out a limited review of these quarterly standalone Financial Results and of the consolidated Financial Results for quarter ended 30th June, 2019.

Kolkata
13th August, 2019

VIKRAM OBEROI
Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer
(DIN No. : 00052014)

SML ISUZU LIMITED
Regd. Office : Village Asron, Distt. Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar (Nawanshahr)-144 533, Punjab. CIN : L50101PB1983PLC005516, Website: www.smlisuzu.com, Email id : investors@smlisuzu.com, T : 91 1881 270255, F : 91 1881 270223

EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30 JUNE 2019
Rs. Crores, except per equity share data

Particulars	Quarter Ended		Year Ended	
	30.06.2019	31.03.2019	30.06.2018	31.03.2019
	Unaudited	Audited (Refer note 2)	Unaudited	Audited
Total income	472.09	431.04	453.43	1,413.71
Net profit for the period (before tax and exceptional items)	22.52	28.30	26.92	24.33
Net profit for the period before tax (after exceptional items)	22.52	28.30	26.92	24.33
Net profit for the period after tax (after exceptional items)	16.66	22.00	20.11	19.57
Total comprehensive income for the period (comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	16.48	19.21	21.66	18.15
Equity Share Capital	14.48	14.48	14.48	14.48
Other equity (excluding revaluation reserves)	-	-	-	399.11
Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)				
Basic (Rs.):	11.51	15.21	13.90	13.53
Diluted (Rs.):	11.51	15.21	13.90	13.53

Notes:

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly / Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly / Annual Financial Results are available on the websites of Stock Exchange(s) (www.bseindia.com, www.nseindia.com) and on Company's website (www.smlisuzu.com).
- The figures for the quarter ended 31 March 2019, as reported in these unaudited financial results, are the balancing figures between audited figures in respect of the full financial year ended 31 March 2019 and the published year to date figures upto the end of third quarter of the previous financial year i.e. 31 December 2018. Also, the figures upto the end of the third quarter had only been reviewed and not subjected to audit.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors
(Yugo Hashimoto)
Managing Director & CEO
DIN: 08165797

Place : New Delhi
Date : 14.08.2019

10 MAHARASHTRA

FLOOD-AFFECTED PEOPLE

Settle claims at the earliest: Govt to insurers

SANDEEP ASHAR
MUMBAI, AUGUST 14

WITH MORE than 8.7 lakh farmers suffering losses due to flood in western Maharashtra, the state government has directed speedy settlement of claims under its crop insurance scheme in the flood-hit areas.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has issued instructions that claims under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana should be settled on an immediate basis. Principal Secretary (Agriculture) Eknath Dawle said that directives in this regard have already been issued to the insurer and the concerned districts.

Dawle added that instructions have also been issued to the local district level officers of the agriculture department to settle insurance claims on an urgent basis. The flood damage is likely to take a heavy toll on the state's exchequer, which is already reeling under the financial strain. "Speedy settlement of claims will ease the burden," an official said.

Torrential rain and subsequent flood have left a trail of destruction in Maharashtra. According to preliminary estimates, the government on Tuesday had pegged the crop damages alone at Rs 2,088 crore, while the collective loss was estimated to be Rs 6,813.93 crore.

The flood has ravaged about 4.06 lakh hectare of farm area under kharif cultivation. Of this, about 1.81 lakh hectare is irrigated land, mostly under cane production. More than 1.2 crore farmers in Maharashtra have availed crop insurance — the highest number in India.

Meanwhile, on Wednesday, the state relief and rehabilitation department issued a series of resolutions releasing money for various rehabilitation activities in the flood-hit belts.

Following the tragedy, the government has also undertaken a risk assessment exercise for villages situated next to the flood plain in Kolhapur and Sangli. Officials said that a medium-term plan is to relocate villages found extremely vulnerable to flood. Strengthening measures will be undertaken in areas found to be moderately vulnerable. A civil engineering team from the IIT has been roped in for the mapping task, said officials.



Trail of devastation left by the flood in Ambewadi village, Kolhapur. Deepak Joshi



Declare drought in Beed, Osmanabad, Latur: Cong

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, AUGUST 14

CLAIMING THAT parts of Marathwada are still facing water scarcity and drought even as flood has wreaked havoc in Western Maharashtra, a delegation of the state Congress leaders, led by its state president Balasaheb Thorat, met Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday and urged the government to declare drought in Beed, Osmanabad and Latur districts of Marathwada.

"These parts are yet to receive adequate rainfall. There is severe water scarcity. The state should immediately declare drought in these districts," the Congress said in a memorandum submitted to the chief minister.

The Congress has also sought a complete loan waiver for farmers in the flood-hit belts and

compensation at the rate of Rs 60,000 per hectare for crop damaged. It has further sought enhanced compensation for livestock losses and said that the loss of agricultural farm pumps and electric meters should also be compensated for.

Reaching out to small and medium scale traders and industrialists, who have sustained losses due to the flood, the Congress, has demanded that the state government should provide them with cash credit for restoring their businesses. Contending that the handloom industry in Kolhapur's Ichalkaranji had taken a massive hit in the floods, the Congress has sought compensation for damages to machinery and raw material of handloom plants as well.

On Tuesday, the state Cabinet had announced special assistance for small traders and industries in flood-affected areas.

Minister: 2.73 lakh power connections restored

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, AUGUST 14

AROUND 2.73 lakh power connections of the total 3.90 lakh affected due to severe flooding in parts of the state following heavy rainfall have been restored, Energy Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule said Wednesday. The process of restoring residential connections, he said, was expected to be completed by Thursday.

"Around 3.90 lakh power connections were affected following floods in Western Maharashtra, Konkan and North Maharashtra. Of it, 1.97 lakh in Kolhapur and 1.33 lakh in Sangli were affected and around 2.15 lakh of these connections have been restored till now. Except for the agricultural connections, the rest of the residential connections will be restored by tomorrow

(Thursday)," Bawankule told mediapersons.

The minister added that 50 teams were working to restore the power connections in the flood-hit districts, while around 500 officials had reached Kolhapur and Sangli for supervising the work.

"The total damage amounts to Rs 523 crore approximately, of which Rs 350 crore is from Kolhapur and Sangli districts. A proposal for compensation has been sent to the Relief and Rehabilitation department," Bawankule added. He said the power department will give one-month time to consumers to pay electricity bills.

Officials from the energy department said soon electricity meters would be reinstalled at places where they were damaged for free. "Approximately, 40,000 meters have been damaged in the flood," an official said.

President's Medal for five police officers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, AUGUST 14

FIVE MAHARASHTRA Police officers have been awarded the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service this Independence Day.

The officers - Ramchandra Jadhav, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Pimpri Chinchwad; Rajaram Patil, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Karveer Division, Kolhapur; Milind Khetle, ACP Saki Naka Division, Mumbai; Harishchandra Kale, Assistant Commandant, State Reserve Police Force, Pune and Maruti Suryawanshi, Assistant Sub

Inspector, Special Branch, Kolhapur - will be honoured by President Ram Nath Kovind in New Delhi on Thursday.

In addition, 40 other police personnel have been awarded the Police Medal for Meritorious Service. Among them are Suresh Mengade, Superintendent of Police, Protection of Civil Rights, Thane; Vikram Deshmane, Superintendent of Police, Anti Terrorism Squad; Netaji Bhopale, ACP, Crime Branch, Mumbai; Mukund Hatote, ACP, Crime Branch, Thane; Avinash Dharmadhikari, ACP, Dongri Division, Mumbai and Gopika Jahargirdar, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Maharashtra Police Headquarters.

Forest dept, local body team up to conduct crocodile survey

SANJANA BHALERAO
MUMBAI, AUGUST 14

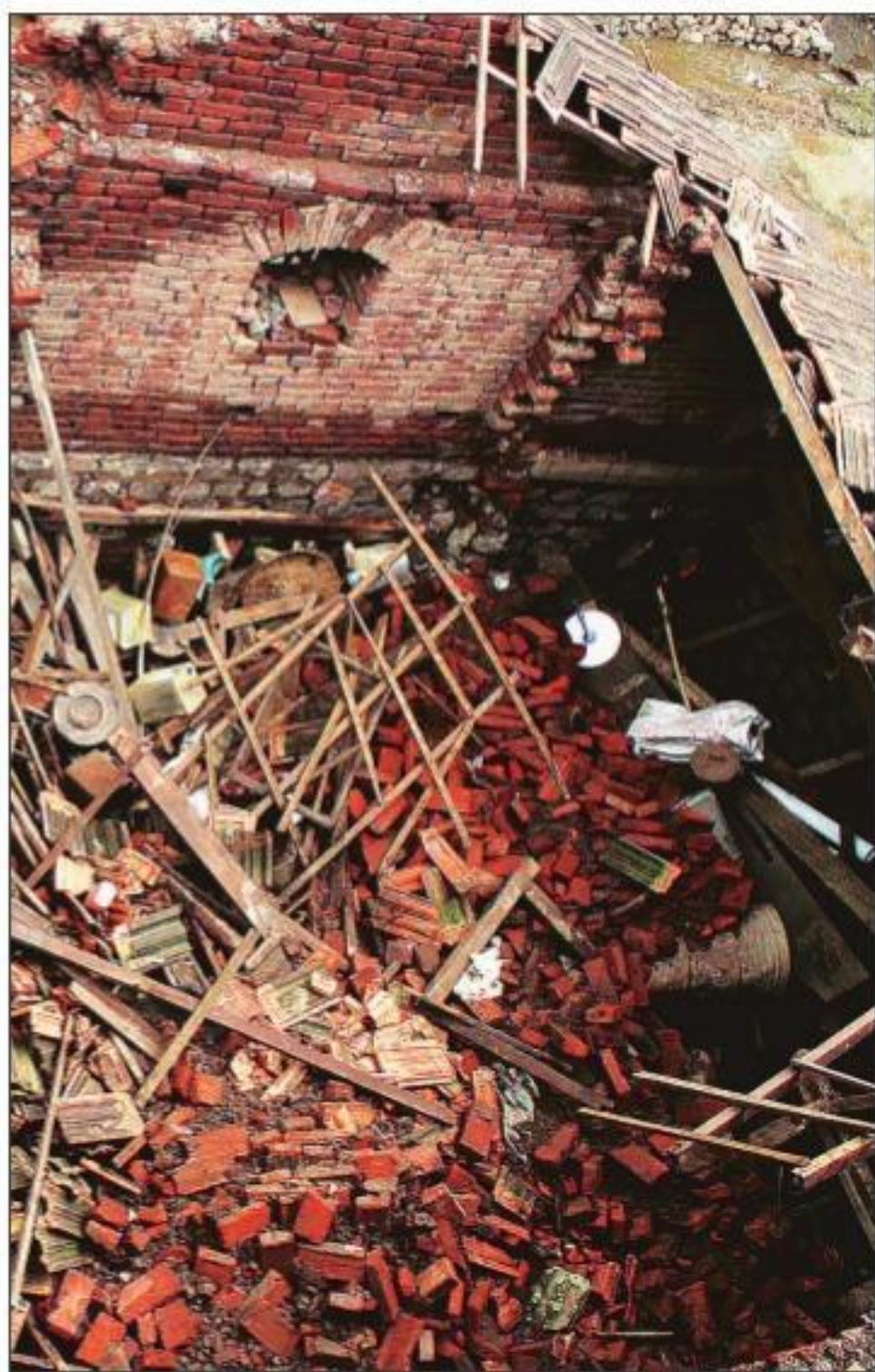
THE STATE forest department, along with a local organisation in Raigad district, has begun a two-year project to study the presence and congregation of crocodiles and their movement in and around the Savitri riverine system (Savitri, Kal and Gandhari rivers).

After crocodile sightings in the district increased in the last five years, the Organisation for Wildlife Studies (OWLS) began a crocodile survey on the 40 km stretch of the riverine system. The survey aims to obtain details on the population and habitat of

crocodiles. Starting in June, OWLS has completed a survey of 14 villages of 85 located on the banks of these rivers.

"The village survey includes educating the masses, finding details on where the crocodiles were spotted and in which month the sightings were high according to villagers," said Ganesh Mehendale, president of OWLS. "Despite the presence of many crocodiles in the Mahad taluka, there has been no man-crocodile conflict. We might gain some interesting findings, which can be implemented in areas where man-crocodile conflict is high."

After monsoon, volunteers will conduct the survey on either



In Vidarbha, developmental politics at heart of CM's yatra

SHUBHANGI KHAPRE
MUMBAI, AUGUST 14

HUDDLED WITH a group of 80 Muslim women at Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis' Mahajanadesh Yatra at Chandrapur on August 5, Ameena Sheikh did not shout slogans in favour of the ruling party.

"We are not rooting for the BJP or its politics, but we are happy with the Bachat Gat (Self Help Group (SHG)) scheme. We want to get into mainstream. It holds for our self reliance and alternate livelihood," Sheikh, who is in mid-30s, said. Bachat Gat is a government welfare scheme to provide micro-finance to women entrepreneurs and aims at women empowerment.

Farm worker Suresh Kisan Deovalkar, who attended the CM's rally in Amravati's Gurukunj Morjari on August 1, said his only concern was drought. "We use agriculture pump once a week or fortnight due to acute water crisis. I came to hear what the chief minister would say about water scarcity. I am glad he discussed our problems," he said.

In Gondia district, Devendra Meshram from Mundagoan Sargana village has been struggling to get an agriculture pump connection for last one year. The farmer, who owns four acres of land, said, he was at the August 4 rally at Arjuni taluka to find out what developmental projects the chief minister would announce for his district.

As the first leg of the Mahajanadesh Yatra covering Vidarbha region concluded on August 6, the BJP has claimed that there was a high participation of youths and women at it rallies that covered 1,069 km and 39 Assembly constituencies. The yatra, which commenced on August 1, heralded the unofficial kickoff of the BJP's election campaign for the Assembly polls, scheduled later this year.

At each of his rallies in the first phase of the yatra, Fadnavis tried to woo people, mostly farmers, by reiterating that his government has invested Rs 50,000 crore in agriculture sector in the past five years, which was much higher than the Rs 20,000 crore that the previous Congress-NCP government had invested during the 15 years they were in power in the state.

His second hook was the 1.5 lakh new agriculture pumps sanctioned by the BJP-led government since 2014, including those pending from the Congress-NCP regime. Fadnavis also drew attention to the industrial hubs — from textile to defence — that were set up in Vidarbha.

Yatra's chief coordinator Sujit Singh Thakur said, "Unlike in the past, where politics was the central theme, Fadnavis focussed on his developmental politics during the Mahajanadesh Yatra."

Claiming that it was for the first time that any chief minister had presented to the people an account of what the BJP-led government did in last five years, Agriculture Minister Anil Bonde said, "For the first time we have

SECOND PHASE FROM AUGUST 21

CHIEF MINISTER Devendra Fadnavis will resume the second phase of his Mahajanadesh Yatra from August 21 and cover 55 assembly constituencies in 14 districts across Marathwada, North Maharashtra and parts of Western Maharashtra. The second phase of the yatra will conclude on August 31 and stretch through 1,831 km. Commencing from tribal Nandurbar district in North Maharashtra, the yatra will conclude in Solapur. The first phase of the yatra in Vidarbha, which was supposed to be completed by August 9, had to be curtailed following floods in Sangli and Kolhapur districts of Western Maharashtra.

seen a CM who is presenting to the people audit of his five years' work district wise. At the same time, the CM has also revealed the shortcomings (of the government). People, especially in rural areas, can easily judge the his level of sincerity."

Earlier, till 2013-14, Maharashtra politics weighed around Gopinath Munde and Nitin Gadkari in Marathwada and Vidarbha, with their territories clearly demarcated - Munde in Marathwada, and Gadkari in Vidarbha. Five years later, Fadnavis forayed into Vidarbha, indicating that he is trying to redraw the in-house political boundaries. Interestingly, BJP's slogan at every rally or roadshow also projected Fadnavis as the undisputed leader of Maharashtra — "Devendra Fadnavis aage badho, Maharashtra aap ke saath hain".

On his part, Fadnavis ensured there was a mention of Gadkari at every rally, especially in the context of national highways. As a part of the strategy, ministers and elected representatives were seen sharing the limelight in their respective areas. For instance, Power Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule accompanied Fadnavis during the yatra in Nagpur district, while Finance Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar was seen alongside the CM at the Chandrapur rally.

Of the total 62 Assembly seats in Vidarbha region, BJP had won 44, Shiv Sena four, Congress 10, NCP one and Independent candidates bagged three in 2014 Assembly polls. To improve its tally this time, the yatra forayed not just through BJP's strongholds, but also constituencies held by ally Shiv Sena, and the opposition Congress and NCP.

Man dies in mishap, his organs save six patients

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NAGPUR, AUGUST 14

A 30-YEAR-OLD man, who died in a mishap, has given a new lease of life to six patients through organ donation.

Sharad Parteki had started out as an attendant at *The Indian Express* office in Nagpur. He then joined the Vijaya Bank in Nagpur as a peon. Later, he was transferred to the bank's Gondia branch in the same post. Subsequently, he cleared the bank clerical services exam and joined Vijaya Bank's Beed branch as a clerk.

On August 11, he met with an accident while going on a scooter in which he sustained head injuries. He was operated upon before being shifted to Nagpur, where he was declared brain dead on Tuesday.

His brother Vinod, who too

works at *The Indian Express*, and wife Sheetal took the decision to donate his organs the same day, which happened to be World Organ Donation Day.

A search through the Zonal Transplant Coordination Centre identified six matching patients, five from Nagpur and one from Pune. The transplant procedures were performed on Wednesday. While the heart was donated to a woman patient in Pune, the eyes, kidneys and liver were donated to patients in Nagpur.

Parteki leaves behind his wife, a seven-month-old son and his mother.

Pune Police to use hi-tech kits to track criminals

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, AUGUST 14

Pune: The Pune City Police on Wednesday introduced "SPOTter" (Surveillance of Potential Offender Through Technology) kits to help its personnel track criminals, suspects and persons of interest.

The kits were developed and deployed by the Pune City Police in coordination with Manipal Technologies Limited and Vjina Labs. It was introduced during a programme at the Pune Police Commissionerate in the presence of senior officers such as Commissioner K Venkatesham, Joint Commissioner of Police Ravindra Shisve and Superintendent of Pune Rural Police Sandip Patil.

ENS

How case fell: family blames 'poor' probe

Charges against Pehlu's sons helped arguments in court: defence lawyer

DEEP MUKHERJEE
JAIPUR, AUGUST 14

WHILE PEHLU Khan's son and the family's lawyer blamed an ostensible failure in investigation — the probe was carried out under the previous BJP government of Vasundhara Raje — for Wednesday's acquittal of all six accused of assaulting him on April 1, 2017, leading to his death two days later, the defence lawyer said charges filed against Khan's two sons under Bovine Animal Act helped his argument in court that Khan, too, was a cattle smuggler.



Wife and children of Pehlu Khan at their Jaisinghpur village residence in Haryana. Khan's son Irshad said the family will move a higher court. Express

Hukum Chand Sharma, lawyer for the six accused acquitted, pointed out that the chargesheet was filed against Khan's sons in May this year — after the Congress government of Ashok Gehlot assumed office — under Sections 5, 8 and 9 of Rajasthan Bovine Animal (Prohibition of Slaughter and Regulation of Temporary Migration or Export) Act, 1995.

"After the chargesheet was filed in May, I told the court that Khan's sons have been charged by the police for cow smuggling. Had Khan not been dead, he, too, would have been charged," Sharma maintained. "I told the court that this proves Khan was not a dairy farmer but a cattle smuggler."

According to Sharma, contradictions between statement of the doctors at the private hospital, where Khan was admitted after the assault on April 1, 2017, and his postmortem report also helped the defence team's arguments in court.

"Doctors at the hospital said

that he (Khan) had an old heart ailment and died of a heart attack. (But) the postmortem report stated that he had broken ribs (ostensibly following the assault) and died due to his injuries. This contradiction helped bolster our argument," says Sharma.

But Khan's son Irshad maintained that the case was weakened at the investigation stage itself. Alleging that the probe was not done in a fair way, Irshad told *The Indian Express* that they will appeal against the lower court's verdict.

Leader of Opposition in Rajasthan Assembly Gulab Chand Kataria, who was the state Home Minister when the assault was reported, said: "Allegations that the investigation was not done neutrally are absolutely

THE SIX WHO WALK FREE

VIPIN YADAV, 21
A resident of Behror, where Pehlu Khan was assaulted, he is currently studying. He was earlier the students' union president of the Government College in Behror.

works as a driver. He comes from Bansur in Alwar.

RAVINDRA, 31
Currently unemployed, he also comes from Behror.

DAYANAND, 46
A Behror resident, he works with a private company.

YOGESH KUMAR, 32
Also from Behror, he is unemployed.

CHIEF MINISTER ASHOK GEHLOT TWEETS

"... We are committed to ensuring justice for family of late Sh Pehlu Khan. State Government will file appeal against order of ADJ."

wrong. Would they (accused) have spent so much time in jail if the investigation had been not done neutrally? The police did a fair investigation and presented the chargesheet. The court order has to be respected by all."

Advocate Qasim Khan, who has provided legal support to Khan's family, however, pointed fingers at the probe. "The investigating officer of the case was changed thrice — first it was (probed by) the SHO of Behror police station; then the Circle Officer of Behror took over; and finally the CID-CB (CID Crime Branch). What was the need to change the investigating officer so many times in a murder case?"

He alleged that the probe was done in such a way "because of

political interests", and maintained that the two chargesheets filed in the case have "contradictions".

Qasim Khan said the case was weakened after CID-CB gave a clean chit to the six people whom Khan had named as assailants before his death. "If the police absolve the six people who were actually named as his attackers by the deceased, then automatically the case...gets weakened," the advocate said.

Defence lawyer Sharma said that no identification parade was done in jail to identify the accused and the video evidence — the video purportedly shot when Pehlu Khan was being assaulted — was not admissible in court since it could not be verified by the Forensic Science Lab.

FROM ATTACK TO ACQUITTAL



Media outside court in Alwar on Wednesday. PTI

APRIL 1, 2017: Pehlu Khan, his sons and two companions attacked by a mob of cow vigilantes while transporting cattle in Behror, Alwar district.

APRIL 2: Khan and his two sons booked under Rajasthan Bovine Animal (Prohibition of Slaughter and Regulation of Temporary Migration or Export) Act, 1995, for illegally transporting cows out of state.

APRIL 4: Khan succumbs to injuries. In his statement to police before death, Khan names six people as his assailants. Murder charge added in FIR against six people whom Khan named.

APRIL 8: Case transferred to Circle Officer, Behror.

JULY 9: Case transferred to CID-CB.

SEPTEMBER 2017: CID-CB closes case against all 6 named by Khan before his death. Nine others, including minors,

chargesheeted in the case by then on the basis of video footage and other evidence.

MAY 2019: Chargesheet filed against Pehlu's two sons in a case under in Bovine Animal Act.

JULY 2019: After reports that Khan's sons have been chargesheeted, Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot says the state government would determine if investigation into the lynching case was carried out with "predetermined intentions". Case to be re-investigated to find discrepancy, if any, he announced.

■ Alwar Police submit application at a Behror court to "further investigate" the case, given nod.

AUGUST 7, 2019: Trial concludes in the case; prosecution presents 44 witnesses.

AUGUST 14: All six acquitted — court gives them benefit of doubt.

UNNAO RAPE CASE

Court observes Sengar is public servant, frames fresh charges

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 14

A DELHI court on Wednesday framed fresh charges against Unnao rape accused and UP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar, observing that he has to be tried as a public servant since he occupied the position of a legislator. District and Sessions Judge Dharmesh Sharma said the examination of witnesses in the rape and POCSO case, which will

commence from August 16, will be in-camera proceedings. This comes after the CBI sought in-camera proceedings.

Earlier, the court had framed charges against Sengar and co-accused Shashi Singh under section 3 and 4 of the POCSO Act. With the charges being modified, to section 5(c) and 6 same Act, the offences now entail a minimum punishment of 10 years.

Dharminder Kumar Mishra, the counsel for the victim, sub-

mitted that Sengar and the co-accused must be tried under section 5(C) and 6 of the POCSO Act which deals with penetrative sexual assault committed by a public servant. This submission was supported by the CBI counsel Ashok Bhartendu.

Counsel for Sengar, Dhruv Gupta, urged that a comprehensive reading of section 5 (C) would show that it is only when a "public servant" commits such an offence in the course of his official or public duties that the

case can be brought within the four corners of the section.

The judge, in his order, said while interpreting section 5(C) of the act, the main objectives of the legislation need to be considered, that not only provide for enforcement of rights for children to safety, security and protection from sexual abuse and exploitation, but also, in the process, put checks on the exercise of control or domain over any person below 18 years of age.

Accounts of foreign travellers, historians establish birthplace claim, SC told

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 14



ACCOUNTS OF foreign travellers and historians have established beyond doubt the location of the Ramjanmabhoomi, and that the temple there was demolished to make way for the Babri Masjid, senior counsel CS Vaidyanathan, appearing for Ramlalla, told the Supreme Court on Wednesday.

Vaidyanathan told a five-judge Constitution Bench headed by CJI Ranjan Gogoi that the travelogue of English historian William Flinch, accounts of Jesuit missionary Joseph Tiefenthaler, and British surveyor Montgomery Martin prove the claim of Hindus over the disputed site.

Finch, who visited Ayodhya between 1608 and 1611, recorded the ruins of "Ranichand", or Ramachand castle in Ayodhya, but there was no mention of any mosque there in his account, Vaidyanathan told the bench, also comprising Justices S A Bobde, D Y Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and S Abdul Nazeer. He said this was significant since according to one version, the mosque was built by Mughal emperor Babur's commander, Mir Baiqi, in the 1500s.

He said the account of Tiefenthaler speaks about the "swarga-dwar (door to heaven)", from where Ram is believed to have ascended to heaven. He said according to Tiefenthaler, Aurangzeb or Babur demolished the house that Hindus believed where Ram was born in.

At this, Justice Chandrachud asked whether the two versions on who may have constructed the mosque will affect Ramlalla's claim to the site. Vaidyanathan replied, "It will not make any difference to the claim as regards the location of the temple, which itself is a deity... What is established is

that it (mosque) was constructed on the site which Hindus considered to be janmasthan (birthplace) of Lord Ram." He said, "What is important about the documents is identification of janmasthan and that at the site of the temple, a mosque was put up."

Vaidyanathan said the first mention that the temple was destroyed during the reign of Babur appears in the accounts of Montgomery Martin, a British surveyor. He also drew the court's attention to a document which referred to clashes between Hindus and Muslims in Ayodhya over the Ram temple in 1853. Historian Hans T Bakker had also, in his study on the history of Ayodhya, referred to the temple being destroyed by Babur and a mosque being constructed, the counsel submitted. He referred to a 1945 suit filed by UP Shia Wakf Board claiming rights over the mosque, which, according to it, was a Shia wakf (property). Vaidyanathan said the Shia board had stated in the plea that the mosque was built by Mir Baiqi during Babur's reign. Justice Bobde asked whether the Sunni Wakf Board, which was the respondent in the matter, had contested the Shia board's claim.

Senior counsel Rajeev Dhavan, appearing for the mosque side, said the Shia board has always maintained that the mosque was built on vacant land. The suit was dismissed in 1946 and the Shia Board filed an appeal against the dismissal in Supreme Court in 2017, Dhavan said.

Naveen scraps I-Day guard of honour for self, ministers

SAMPAD PATNAIK
BHUBANESWAR, AUGUST 14

A DIRECTIVE from the Odisha Chief Minister's Office on Wednesday abolished the Guard of Honour for the Chief Minister, state ministers and other state-based dignitaries. This is the second such directive against VIP culture. Naveen Patnaik was one of the first CMs to remove the red beacon from

his official car. The directive also states that the Guard of Honour, to be given on I-Day, R-Day and Utkal Diwas, will be accorded to the President, Vice-President, Prime Minister, Governor, Lokayukta, Chief Justices and judges of Supreme Court and High Court.

Earlier this month, the state government decided to change the venue and format of the I-Day celebrations.

EXPRESS Careers

श्री स्वामी विवेकानंद शिक्षण संस्था
2130, 'E' Tarabai Park, Kolhapur - 416 003
College of Education, Karad
(Affiliated to Shivaji University, Kolhapur)
Permanently Non Grant Basis

WANTED
Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the following post

Sr.No	Name of Post	Vacant Post	Open Post
1	Principal	1	1

Place: Kolhapur. Chairman: Shri Swami Vivekanand Shikshan Sanstha
Date: 14/08/2019
Note: For detailed information about post, qualifications & other terms and conditions please visit University website: www.unishivaji.ac.in

RAYAT SHIKSHAN SANSTHA, SATARA - 415 001

WANTED
Walk - In - Interview For Local Appointment (B.Voc.)
(On Purely Temporary basis for the year 2019-2020)
(Affiliated to University of Mumbai, Mumbai.)

Online application are invited for the various posts of Assistant Professor for non-aided Courses to be run by under NSQF Scheme of UGC in Rayat Shikshan Sanstha's **Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil College, Vashi, Navi Mumbai** affiliated to the University of Mumbai, Mumbai.
Note - For detailed information about various subjects and posts, qualification and other terms and conditions, please, visit Rayat Shikshan Sanstha's website : <http://rayat.erecruitment.co.in>

SECRETARY,
RAYAT SHIKSHAN SANSTHA, SATARA.

RAYAT SHIKSHAN SANSTHA, SATARA - 415 001

WANTED
Walk-in-Interview Senior College for Local Appointment
On Purely Temporary basis for the year 2019-2020
(Affiliated to University of Mumbai, Mumbai.)

Online applications are invited for the various posts of Assistant Professor for aided and non-aided courses (Computer Science, Bio-Technology, Information Technology, Bio-Analytical Science, BBI, BMS & BAF) in Rayat Shikshan Sanstha's various colleges affiliated to the University of Mumbai, Mumbai
Note - For detailed information about various subjects and posts, qualification and other terms and conditions, please, visit Rayat Shikshan Sanstha's website : <http://rayat.erecruitment.co.in>

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RAYAT SHIKSHAN SANSTHA, SATARA.

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1. Project Engineer	7. Catering Supervisor
2. Jr Engineer (Civil)	8. Estate-cum-Security Officer
3. Accounts Assistants	9. Finance & Accounts Officer
4. Office Assistants	10. Junior Engineer - Systems & ERP
5. Library Assistants	11. Drivers
6. Jr. Engineer (Electrical)	

For further details visit NIBM website: www.nibmindia.org

TATA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
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RECRUITMENT NOTICE
TISS invites applications for the following positions in the Institute:
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NAME OF POST	MC	TC	HC	GC	TOTAL
Registrar	1UR	0	0	0	1
Deputy Registrar	1UR	0	1OBC	1UR	3
Assistant Registrar	0	0	1UR	1ST	2
					TOTAL 6

For further details regarding pay, essential qualifications, etc please visit the website www.tiss.edu. Online application opens on 07.08.2019 and closes on 02.09.2019.
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Applications are invited from Indian nationals with exemplary track record for the post of

MANAGING DIRECTOR and CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER For
1. Punjab National Bank
2. Bank of India

Eligibility • Age: 45 to 57 years;
• Minimum experience: 15 years in mainstream banking of which at least one year should be at the Board Level.
How to Apply • Application form & other details, are available at <http://www.banksboardbureau.org.in/WhatsNew/Index>
Last Date • September 16, 2019
Secretary
Banks Board Bureau

NOTE: Further details including corrigendum, if any, will be published only on the Bureau's website.

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL
MUMBAI BENCH
CP NO. 4645 OF 2018
In the matter of Section 66 read with Section 52 of the Companies Act 2013 and the Rules framed thereunder:
AND
In the matter of Reduction of Preference Share Capital of Raymond UCO Denim Private Limited
Raymond UCO Denim Private Limited, a Company incorporated under the provisions of Companies Act, 1956 having its registered office at New Hind House, Narottam Morarji Marg, Ballard Estate, Fort Mumbai - 400001
CIN: U17115MH2006PTC162450
.....Petitioner Company
NOTICE OF REGISTRATION OF ORDER AND MINUTES
NOTICE is hereby given that the order of National Company Law Tribunal, Mumbai bench dated 6th August, 2019, confirming the reduction of Preference Share Capital, of the above Petitioner Company from Rs. 20,00,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Crores Only) consisting of 2,00,00,000 (Two Crores) Preference shares of Rs.10 (Rupees Ten) each fully paid up as on 31st October, 2018 amounting to Rs. 160,63,56,000/- (Indian Rupees One Hundred and Sixty Three Lakh Fifty Six Thousand Only), discharged for an aggregate consideration of Rs. 20,00,00,000/- (Indian Rupees Twenty Lakhs only). Further, there will be set off of debit balance of Profit and Loss Account as on 31st March, 2018 of Rs. 466,51,60,000 (Indian Rupees Four Hundred and Sixty Six Crores Fifty One Lakh Sixty Thousand Only) against the Capital Reserves of Rs. 160,43,56,000/- (Indian Rupees One Hundred and Sixty Crores Forty Three Lakh Fifty Six Thousand Only) generated on account of reduction of preference capital. Capital Reserves of Rs. 1,56,883/- (Indian Rupees One Lakh Fifty Six Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty Three Only) and Securities Premium Account of the Company to the extent of Rs. 306,06,47,117/- (Indian Rupees Three Hundred and Six Crores Six Lakh Forty Seven Thousand One Hundred and Seventeen Only), and the minutes approved by the Tribunal showing, with respect to the Share Capital and Securities Premium of the above company as altered, the several particulars required by the above Act, were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 13th August, 2019. Dated this 15th day of August, 2019
Sd/-
For, M/S HEMANT SETHI & Co.,
Advocates for the Petitioner
1602, Nav Parmanu, Behind Amar Cinema, Chembur, Mumbai - 400 071

BHANDARI CO. OP. BANK LTD., MUMBAI (IN LIQUIDATION)
REGN. NO.: 2577 Dt. 31.08.1952
Bhandari Bank Bhavan, P. L. Kale Gurujii Marg, Dadar (W), Mumbai-400028.
Phone No.: (022) 2432 7230, 2422 4458
Email Id :- bhandaribankunderliquidation@gmail.com

NOTICE FOR AUCTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY THROUGH E-AUCTION/RE-PUBLIC AUCTION
I, the Liquidator, Bhandari Co. Op. Bank Ltd., Mumbai, Bhandari Bank Bhavan, P. L. Kale Gurujii Marg, Dadar West, Mumbai- 400 028, State that as per provision under section 105 (c) of Maharashtra Co-operative Societies Act, 1960 the below mentioned property owned by the said Bank is in possession of Liquidator, Bhandari Co. Op. Bank Ltd., Mumbai, through e-Auction.
Schedule of property and details
Auction no.- MSTC/WRO/Bhandari coop bank Ltd in liquidation/1/ Dadar Mumbai/19-20/13596

Sr No	Property description	Reserve Price (In Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit [EMD] (Rs. in Lacs)	Increment Amount (Rs. in Lacs)
1.	Andheri Branch : Gr. Floor Shop No. 3 & 4, Sheeljeet CHS Ltd, Natwar Nagar Road No. 5/ Sr. No. 11, H. No. 15, CTS No. 240, Village Mogra, Andheri [E], Mumbai-400 060. Built Up Area - 580 sq. feet	1,24,99,000/-	12.50	5.00
2.	Goregaon Branch : Combined units A to F, Ground Floor, Aihant Apartments, bearing old survey Nos. 5 & 6, C. T. S. No. 42, off Arey Road, opp Anupam Cinema, Village Pahadi, Goregaon (E), Mumbai-400 063. Built Up Area-2355 sq. feet	5,88,75,000/-	59.00	5.00
3.	Bhandup Branch : Combined shop No. 3 & 4, Ground Floor, Pandavkund CHS Ltd, Nardas Nagar, Tembi Pada Road, C. T. S. No. 54, Bhandup (W), Mumbai-400 078. Built up Area-455 sq. feet	68,25,000/-	7.00	5.00
4.	Bhayander Branch : 1 st Floor, A Bldg., Sai Jagruti CHS Ltd, Near Maa Bharati School, B. P. Road, S. No. 136/4, Village Khari, Bhayander (E), Dist. Thane-401 105. Built Up Area-2667 sq. feet	2,47,02,699/-	25.00	5.00

Terms & Conditions :-
(1) The auction sale / bidding of the above property will be conducted "Online" on the website <https://www.mstcecommerce.com> On **16.09.2019** between **01.00 p. m. to 04.00 p. m.**
(2) The auction of the above property is "As is where is, As is what is and whatever there is basis" & will be conducted "Online" on the website <https://www.mstcecommerce.com>
(3) Before submitting the Bids, the Bidder should satisfy themselves about the rights, title, interest & dues payable by them in respect of the property in question and later on no objection of any kind shall be entertained in this regard.
(4) KYC should reach the undersigned at Liquidator, Bhandari co-op. Bank Ltd.(I.L) on above said address on or before **14.09.2019** before **5.00 PM.** and EMD is to be paid in MSTC's account using link PAY PRE BID available in your login on day prior to auction. Details are available in the auction catalog. However, undersigned reserves its right to receive Quotations after the due date on such a terms & conditions as deemed fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the Banks interest. The Bidder has to submit E.M.D. & K.Y.C. separately for respective property.
(5) Earnest Money Deposit is refundable, if the offer is not successful.
(6) Intending bidders may avail training for online bidding from **M/S. MSTC Limited, 607, Raheja Centre, 6th Floor, Nariman Point, Mumbai-400021, State Maharashtra.** Landline Phone No.022-22845130, 22874470. For auction details Contact Miss Archana Juneja Mobile No.96990673698 Mr. Anand Angane (Chief Manager) Mobile No 9619713666 MSTC Ltd. email id:- mstcwro@mstindia.co.in between 10.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. on any working days.
(7) Property inspection on appointment basis from **19/08/2019 To 11/09/2019** (for appointment contact Mob.No.9137133176 Landline - 022-24327230, 022-2422458)
(8) Offers/Bids below reserve price shall be not entertained
(9) Applicable Stamp Duty / Additional Stamp Duty / Transfer and Registration Charges, Fees etc. will have to be borne by the purchaser only.
(10) All statutory / non statutory dues, taxes, rates, assessments, charges, fees, claims etc. pertaining to above property will be the responsibility of the purchaser only.
(11) The Bidder has right to increase his bid during the e-Auction by minimum increment after the first bid. The successful Bidder shall deposit 25% amount excluding pre bid EMD paid by them for participation in the auction. Immediately or within 7 days from the date of confirmation of bid/auction and balance amount within 30 days after confirmation of the sale of above property from The Commissioner and Registrar Of co-operative Societies, Maharashtra State, Pune. If successful bidder fails to pay the above amount within the time prescribed herein above the amount deposited shall be forfeited without any notice.
(12) The Liquidator of the bank has absolute right to accept or reject any or all offer(s) or Adjourn/postpone/cancel the auction without assigning any reason therefor.
(13) The sale shall be subject to the Liquidation Rules/condition prescribed under **The Maharashtra Co-operative Societies Act, 1960 and Rules 1961.** The sale is subject to confirmation of **The Commissioner and Registrar Of co-operative Societies, Maharashtra State, Pune.**
(14) The sale procedure is followed as per the direction of the Hon'ble High Court, Mumbai.
(15) The sale certificate shall be issued after the approval of Commissioner for Co-operation and Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Maharashtra State, Pune. The Sale certificate will be issued in the name of Purchaser(s)/Applicant(s) only and will not be issued in any other Name(s).
(16) This Notice also is considered as **30 days** prior notice for the sale of own properties of the Bank.
SPECIAL INSTRUCTION & CAUTION:
Bidding in the last minutes/seconds should be avoided by the bidders in their own interest. Neither Liquidator of the Bank nor the service provider will be responsible for any lapses/failure (internet failure, power failure etc.) on the part of the vendor in such cases. In order to ward off such contingent situation, the bidders are requested to make all the necessary arrangements/alternatives such as back-up power supply and whatever else required so that they are able to circumvent such situation and are able to participate in the auction successfully.
Sd/-
Date : 15.08.2019
Place : Mumbai
Liquidator
Bhandari Co-operative Bank Ltd., Mumbai (Liquidation)



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

A blunt reminder

Since 1947, New Delhi has failed to learn anything from the past in Kashmir



ARUN PRAKASH

GROWTH PANGS

Its expansion through induction of leaders from other parties could trigger important political challenges for the BJP

IN ELECTIONS TO THE Sikkim legislative assembly in May, the BJP had finished at the bottom of the heap with just two per cent of the votes polled. On Tuesday, 10 MLAs of the Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF), a member of the BJP-led Northeast Democratic Alliance (NEDA), crossed over and turned the BJP into the state's main Opposition party. The SDF, which uninterruptedly ruled in Sikkim for a quarter century until May, is now left with just three legislators. Interestingly, the ruling outfit, the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha, has just 16 MLAs in the House of 32 members and its chief minister, Prem Singh Tamang alias PS Golay, is waiting for the Supreme Court to rule on his appeal against conviction in a corruption case. Sikkim is the only state in the Northeast where the BJP had no presence in government. Since 2014, the BJP has been expanding its footprint in the Northeast by inducting leaders and rebels from other parties, especially the Congress, and roping in regional parties as allies. In a region that was seen to be immune to the charms of Hindutva politics, the BJP is now in power in four states and is a partner in government in three others. In the 2019 general election, the NEDA won 18 of the 25 seats in the region.

Party hopping is not rare, especially among legislators in the restive Northeast. But what Sikkim has just witnessed is comparable only to the events in Arunachal Pradesh, where a ruling regional party split and merged with the BJP to form the government in 2016. Legislators, councillors and party functionaries have crossed over in large numbers to the BJP in Goa and poll-bound Maharashtra. Similarly, Rajya Sabha MPs from Telangana and UP have shifted loyalties. The BJP, of course, has been more than welcoming towards these leaders. With the party on the upswing and its leadership focussed on spreading its influence at all costs, the inflow of "outsiders" in the party has been steady and smooth. However, the induction of so many leaders untrained in the ideological habits of the BJP, has the potential to trigger dilemmas and frictions within. Its current expansive approach towards opportunists and careerists from elsewhere may force the party to blunt its own ideological edge to accommodate new interests. In states like UP, for instance, it has exploited the contradictions within OBC politics to form broadbased caste alliances that have helped the party in elections. But the party has so far not provided adequate representation to these new supporters in government or even in party structures. Similar contradictions could come to fore in the Northeast where the BJP's aggressive support to the citizenship amendment bill may force a realignment of allegiances.

The management of contradictions arising out of the party's own growth could turn out to be a major task for the BJP leadership in the coming days, especially in those parts where its expansion has not been organic. The biggest challenges to the BJP's consolidation of power could lie within.

OVER TO THE TEACHER

Success of Odisha's move to double teaching time for certain subjects will depend on autonomy to the educator

SINCE THE PAST 10 years, the Annual Status of Education Reports (ASER) have shone the light on a worrying issue: A large number of children in the country cannot read fluently or do basic arithmetic even after attending secondary school. Other studies, including those by the NCERT, have raised questions about teaching methods in Indian schools. Pedagogical interventions in response to these studies and surveys — in Punjab, Delhi, Kerala and Himachal Pradesh, for example — have produced mixed results at best. Now, the Odisha government has attempted to address this problem by doubling the teaching time of three subjects — English, Mathematics and Science — in all government schools in the state. On Tuesday, the state announced that it has asked schools to prepare routines in such a manner that these subjects get 90 minutes of teaching time every day while other subjects will continue to get 45 minutes.

The ASER surveys and several other studies have shown that a large percentage of children in the country's primary schools — including those in Odisha — are first-generation learners. It's also well-known that the school environment and the role of the teacher are crucial in providing support to children from non-literate homes and communities. But with pedagogical methods in most schools geared towards completing the syllabus, there is scarcely any scope for addressing the needs of students who are not moving ahead at the expected pace, or those who are falling behind. The Odisha government seems to believe that this shortcoming can be overcome if "students spend more time with English, Mathematics and Science teachers and get time to clear their fundamentals". This seems problematic for several reasons. For a child acquiring foundational skills in a language which is not her mother tongue — English in the case of students in Odisha — is a complex matter. It involves a number of faculties, ranging from comprehending letter-sound correspondence to making sense of texts. Doubling the teaching time could tax the attention span of students, and may end up doing more harm than good.

Science and Mathematics education has been dogged by the longstanding bete noire of the Indian education system — rote learning. Odisha's classrooms could become harbingers of change if teachers utilise the extra teaching time to stimulate students to discover the laws of nature and Mathematics. But, for that, teachers will have to be provided the autonomy to venture beyond bookish explanations. The litmus test for the Odisha government's experiment will be the difference it makes in teaching methods.

THE HUMAN FACTOR

Driver-less cars have hit a speed-bump. Turns out people don't follow the rules

THE FUTURE IS late. Since the 1950s, futurists and science fiction writers (including though not limited to Hanna-Barbera with *The Jetsons*) have been promising the imminent rise of the Machine Age, automated and AI-driven. Their contemporary counterparts, tech companies, are swallowing up billions in venture capital, promising the same future — trips to the moon, colonies on Mars, smart homes, and self-driving cars. But even this climbdown from *The Jetsons*, which had personal jetpacks and vacuum-tubes and flying cars, appears to be an impossibility.

While companies like Google, Tesla, Uber and Lyft have had partial success with pilot tests of driver-less vehicles, they haven't overcome the most important hurdle of all — the human factor. Imagine a society where no one breaks traffic rules. This dream of dictators is, of course, impossible. But machines can only account for so much imperfection, and the odd unforeseen variable can spell disaster. In the West, a far less imposing problem — jaywalking — is throwing a spanner in machine learning's ability to brake on time.

Technically, it is possible for AI-based predictive analytics to be sophisticated enough to account for rule-breakers. But such a system would require huge amounts of data to predict, for example, what possesses a particular teenager at a particular time to do a wheelie on his cycle while jumping a red light. Any system with that amount of information is at best a threat to privacy and at worst the beginning of a *Terminator*-like apocalypse. Some techies are suggesting "gates" at pedestrian crossings to ensure no one jumps a light. The problem is, people who can break a rule can jump over a gate to do it. The future will just have to wait.

THE GOVERNMENT'S PEREMPTORY actions of abrogating the special status under Article 370 and bi-furcating the state of J&K into two Union Territories, have received an enthusiastic, if conditional, welcome. This decisive step comes after 72 years of "strategic paralysis" vis a vis the J&K imbroglio. Apart from the legal wrangling that is likely to follow, the final verdict regarding the wisdom of this crucial step must await the reaction of the Valley's people.

By themselves, these two actions symbolise, merely, the attainment of a long-cherished dream of the BJP, and unless underpinned by a well thought out and long-term strategy, may turn out to be futile and even counter-productive. A peep into Kashmir's history is instructive.

On October 26, it will be 72 years since Maharaja Hari Singh, faced by a Pakistani tribal invasion, signed the Instrument of Accession, bringing the state of J&K into the dominion of India. The Pakistani hordes, heading for the Srinagar airfield, providentially, lingered in Baramulla, en route, to indulge in rapine and plunder, giving the Indian military time to pull off a minor miracle by airlifting enough troops to save the Valley.

Our army and air force fought gallantly for 14 months, in difficult conditions, to push back the invasion. It was a combination of our own naiveté, coupled with the duplicity of the British military rump in the sub-continent, that gave away Gilgit, Chitral and Swat, and thwarted the Indian Army's plans for recovery of the critical Muzaffarabad-Kotli-Mirpur belt, which now constitutes the Northern Areas and PoK respectively.

Having barely reconciled himself to a "truncated and moth-eaten" Pakistan, its founder, Mohammad Ali Jinnah, was bitterly disappointed at the turn of events in Kashmir. His "two-nation theory" was debunked at the moment of Partition because there were more Muslims in India than in their putative new "homeland". Furthermore, unlike the victimised minorities in theocratic Pakistan, these Muslims were full and equal citizens of a secular democracy. And yet, for 72 years, we have allowed Pakistan to harass, intimidate and bleed us, on the specious grounds that as a Muslim-majority state, Kashmir

belongs to them.

Having grown up in small towns of the Valley during the 1950s and '60s, this writer has idyllic memories of Kashmir. While harmony prevailed between Kashmiris of Muslim, Hindu and Sikh faiths — they ate in each others' homes and celebrated festivals together — it was clearly understood that Kashmir was not India. The average Kashmiri's attitude towards India remained ambivalent. India provided huge financial assistance to J&K; food, education, clothing and medicine were either free or heavily subsidised. Kashmiris accepted the largesse, but every evening tuned in to Radio Pakistan which never failed to play on their religious sentiments, spouting propaganda about the Indian Army's "atrocities" and harping on the Bharatiya "occupation" of Kashmir.

J&K flew its own flag and "Prime Minister" Sheikh Abdullah, the state's tallest figure and Nehru's friend, was Sher-e-Kashmir. In 1953, accused of conspiring with the Americans to become "King Abdullah" of independent Kashmir, he was arrested, and the Valley erupted in violence. I recall my father, then magistrate of Baramulla, coming home, bleeding from the head. There had been "patharao", or stone-pelting, in the old town, as agitators shouted anti-India slogans. The CRPF opened fire, and many were killed, before the Valley relapsed into sullen silence. Over the decades since 1953, little seems to have changed.

Ironically, the crores that India blindly poured into Kashmir were the biggest cause for resentment amongst the common people, because up to 95 per cent of these funds went to line the pockets of politicians and compliant officials. The average Kashmiri farmer lived in abject poverty, and come winter, there would be an exodus of Kashmiri labourers all over North India. The corrupt politicians and incompetent administrators of Kashmir were perceived as Indian stooges and exploiters, and resentment mounted, as successive elections were seen to be blatantly rigged.

By simply throwing money at the problem, and backing the wrong dynasties to rule the state, New Delhi steadily alienated Kashmiris. Thus, instead of crafting a national strategy for winning over Kashmir, we

created fertile ground in which Pakistan's ISI assiduously sowed the seeds of discord and sedition, till young Kashmiris started picking up Kalashnikovs.

India's maladroitness did not end here. A succession of Pakistani-orchestrated incidents, between 1963 and 1999, demonstrated the ineptness of our intelligence agencies and the complete strategic bankruptcy of New Delhi. This depressing sequence included: The theft of Prophet Mohammad's sacred relic, kidnapping of Rubaiya Sayeed, seizure of Hazratbal Shrine, capture and burning down of the Charar-e-Sharif shrine, persecution and expulsion of Kashmiri Pundits from the Valley, the Kargil incursions and hijacking of the IC-814. Add to this the self-inflicted wound of the rigged 1987 elections, which triggered armed militancy in Kashmir.

This historical review is a blunt reminder that the Indian state has, since 1947, failed to learn anything from the past. We have refused to admit that neither money, nor the jackboot nor bullets can convince a Kashmiri that he is an Indian. If the Pulwama bomber was, indeed, a local, we desperately need to find a way to stop the radicalisation of Kashmiri youth and their alienation from India.

Once the current restrictions in J&K are lifted, we should expect violence; from internal unrest, as well as external intervention. The state, while using all means to contain violence, has two alternatives to offer its Kashmiri citizens. Either the prospect of an inclusive, open and liberal India, on the road to economic prosperity, and as different from Pakistan as possible. Or an India which will use all the force at its disposal to quell any signs of dissent.

In these troubled times, let us remember the sacrifice of 19-year old Kashmiri hero, Maqbool Sherwani. In October 1947, Sherwani succeeded in delaying the advance of Pakistani tribals at Baramulla, giving valuable time to Indian troops landing in Srinagar. On discovering his subterfuge, the Pakistanis nailed Sherwani to a wooden cross and shot him. A grateful Indian army has erected a monument to him.

The writer is a former chief of naval staff, and chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee



MEENAKSHI ARORA AND PAYAL CHAWLA

EVERY ONCE IN a generation, there comes a leader who provides a beacon of hope. For our generation that leader was Sushma Swaraj. As women lawyers, her journey was so personally inspiring to us. But the truth is we, women, alone cannot claim her. What she represented was so much beyond gender. She truly was what we want our leaders to be, our politics aside.

She joined politics quite young, while she was only a student. For women, at the time, this was not the norm. She actively participated in Jayaprakash Narayan's Total Revolution movement, before joining the BJP. She became an MLA at a mere age of 25. Thereafter, she went on to become a seven-time Member of Parliament — and three times she served as a member of the legislative assembly. She also served as Chief Minister of Delhi, Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha. But then, those are only some of her achievements.

Her final stint was as Union minister of external affairs — a role she particularly thrived in. She used social media not merely as an outreach tool, but as an effective virtual "darbar".

AN INSPIRING LIFE

Sushma Swaraj belonged to all of us, she leaves behind a lasting legacy

Swaraj carried herself with grace and dignity. Her public life spanned an unblemished four decades. She will remain an inspiration for all young political aspirants that desire change through a mechanism of clean politics.

"All good things come in small packages" is a phrase she epitomised. She didn't just lend her voice to Twitter — she made it the instrument for the voiceless. Working round the clock to save Indians in distress, she once famously said "I do not sleep" and "I do not let Indian envoys sleep". Bestowed with a pleasing disposition and a humane personality, she was ever ready to help anyone on this planet or "Mars". But she could be equally combative on issues she felt strongly about — she was never afraid of the powerful.

Neither was she one to shy away from a fight, always ready to take one on the chin for the party. She agreed to take on Sonia Gandhi, in 1999, from Bellary, Karnataka. It was a seat she was widely expected to lose. While she did lose, it was not without a fight. And what a fight she put up! Losing only by a seven per cent margin, leaving a lasting imprint on the people through her public speeches which she made in Kannada.

Her powerful oratorical skills were enhanced not only by her command of the Hindi language, but also by her scholarship in Sanskrit and political science. But mostly, it was enhanced by sheer hard work and her acquired in-depth knowledge of every subject she touched upon.

Her daughter, Bansuri, at the memorial

service, said she alone could not claim Sushma as her mother. Bansuri's graciousness was also honest. She did indeed belong to all of us. *The Wall Street Journal* once described her as "India's best loved leader". But all that adulation came at a huge personal cost. Her husband, Swaraj, waited 41 years to spend just two months with her.

Swaraj carried herself with grace and dignity. Her public life spanned an unblemished four decades. She will remain an inspiration for all young political aspirants that desire change through a mechanism of clean politics.

"All good things come in small packages" is a phrase she epitomised. The image of her standing head and shoulders above ministers from other parts of the world, at the foreign ministers meet, in Beijing, will remain her lasting legacy. It is a matter of pride that the tallest figure of Indian politics came in the form of a woman. A woman who wore her Indianness and femininity, each day and everywhere.

Arora is a senior advocate at the Supreme Court of India. Chawla is the founder of JUSCONTRACTUS, an all-women firm specialising in commercial disputes

AUGUST 15, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO

PRESIDENT'S PLEA

AN IMPASSIONED PLEA for national reconciliation and a suggestion that the time had come to make a review of the provisions of the Constitution marked the President's broadcast to the nation on the eve of Independence day. This is no time for mutual recrimination or equally barren destructive criticism, said Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, reflecting over the current situation, "Indeed, this is the time and opportunity for national reconciliation". The President did not hide his anxiety over what he described as "the crisis of character" afflicting the nation but he added that he did not wish to point an accusing finger at any political party, or line of

political thinking "for the tensions under which we all live and work today".

PM'S GAG ORDER

RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE, general secretary of the Janata Party, criticised Prime Minister Charan Singh for issuing a directive to his ministers to not make public pronouncements on policy matters. Hegde described Charan Singh's directive as a "gag order". He also criticised Charan Singh and his coalition partner, the Congress, for not having come out with any agreed common programme.

BANGLADESH MARCH

THE MUCH PUBLICISED "long march" to

Pakistan by non-Bengali Muslims of Bangladesh through India did not come off because of tough security measures taken by the Bangladesh Rifles and the Indian Border Security Force. The Bangladesh Rifles informed K K Tiwari, DIG, BSF (northern range), that it had pushed the refugees out of Dinajpur town where they had gathered last week for the march. The BSF will, however, continue the vigil for two to three days before reducing the strength of its force on the north Bengal border, according to a top official. N C Pal, inspector general of BSF told UNI that there was no indication of any long march at any point along the 2,000 km India-Bangladesh border.



Let's draw lines in water

Reducing its use in agriculture is the most effective way of solving India's water problem



MIHIR SHAH

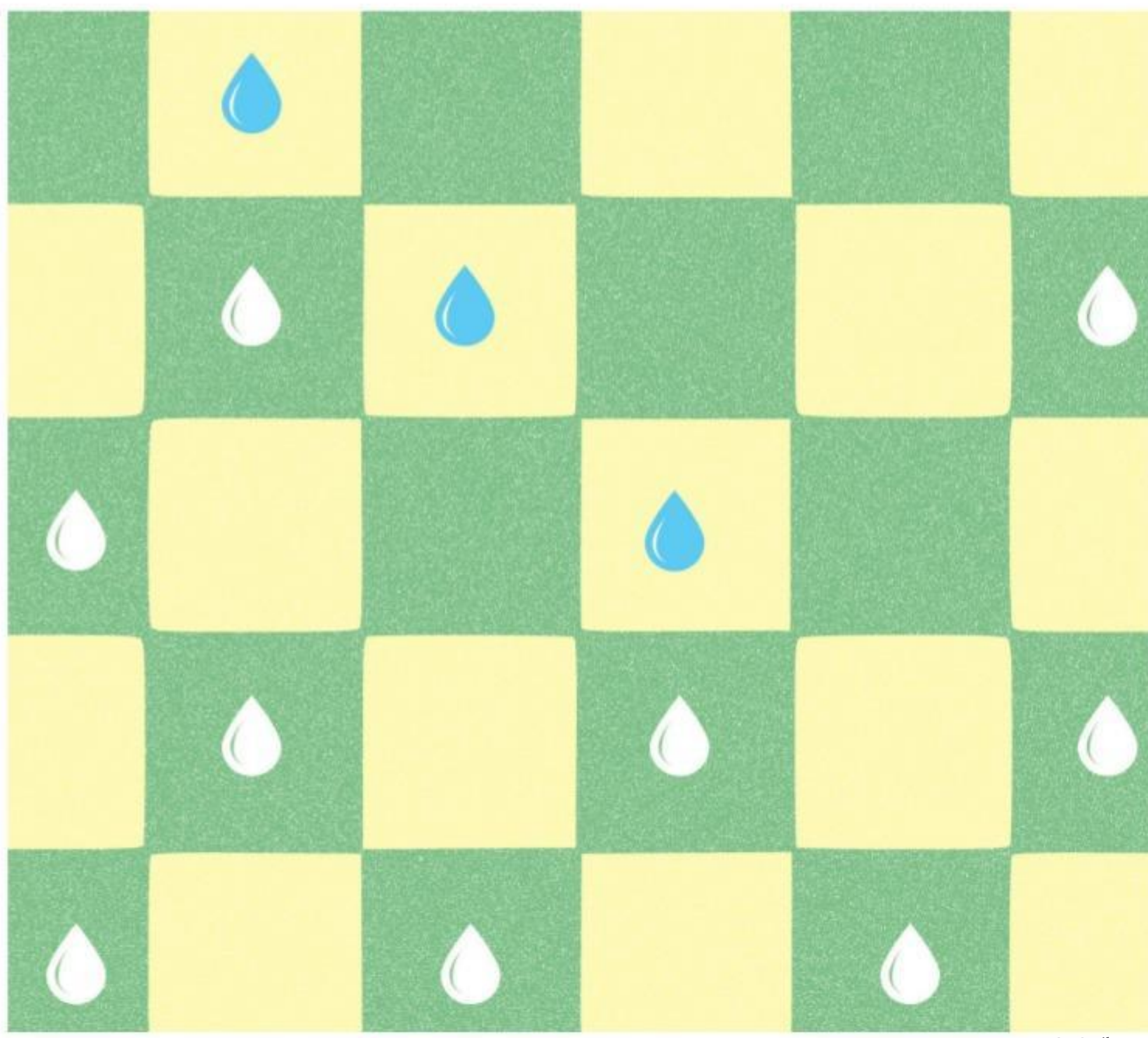
SPIRITUAL TEACHERS TELL us that if we stay calm in the face of a crisis, our response is more likely to be meaningful, effective and sustainable. Like good scientists, they also advise us to maintain a clear and steady view of the facts of the situation, and then act accordingly. Those trying to solve India's water crisis would do well to keep these pieces of wisdom in mind. That will help avoid resorting to gigantic Stalinist projects like the interlinking of rivers or needlessly expensive options like desalination. For there is no future in desperately and endlessly trying to increase the supply of water. Luckily, there are simple solutions on the demand side, which have not even been looked at. The formation of the Jal Shakti ministry is, indeed, a promising step in the right direction. Hopefully, the prime minister will provide greater substance to this initiative in his Independence Day speech.

The single largest fact about India's water is that 90 per cent of it is consumed in farming. And that 80 per cent of this irrigation is for water-guzzling crops — rice, wheat and sugarcane. Reducing this number is the most effective way of solving India's water problem. But can we do this without hurting our farmers, who are already in so much distress? Yes, we can. Indeed, it turns out that the solutions to India's water crisis and that of the farmers, lie in the very same direction.

India's farmers, even in drought-prone areas, grow these water-intensive crops because these are the crops that have a steady demand. Governments, over the past 50 years, have primarily procured wheat and rice. And, sugarcane is bought by sugar factories. If we diversify our procurement operations, to include less water-intensive crops, like millets, pulses and oilseeds, especially in India's drylands, farmers would have the incentive to grow them. But what will we do with these crops after procurement? Again, there is a simple answer: Introduce them in the mid-day meal scheme and the integrated child development services, which are the largest child nutrition programmes in human history. This would create an enormous and steady demand for these crops and farmers in the regions where it is ecologically appropriate to grow them would be incentivised to shift away from water-intensive crops.

Official estimates indicate that around 3,00,000 farmers have committed suicide over the past 30 years. Although there is no doubt that the Green Revolution played a key role in India's food security in the 1970s and 1980s, in the 21st century, the returns from chemical fertilisers and pesticides have steadily fallen. Meanwhile, the costs of cultivation have risen steeply. This has sometimes resulted in even negative net incomes.

Responding to this situation by raising minimum support prices for these very same crops or through loan waivers or cash transfers completely sidesteps the deeper crisis of farming in India. It was heartening to see the finance minister, in her maiden budget speech, showing the courage to at least speak of the need to move towards nature-based farming, even though this was not backed up by any change in the budgetary allocations, which continue to flow in support of chemical agriculture with a whopping Rs 80,000



C R Sasikumar

crore fertiliser subsidy.

The paradigm shift I am proposing would help secure multiple win-wins: Improvement in soil and water quality, higher and more stable net incomes for farmers, reduced malnutrition and obesity, and a simple solution to India's water problem through a huge reduction in the use of water in agriculture. As we diversify the cropping pattern, aligning it more closely with India's agro-bio-geo-ecological diversity, voluminous quantities of water would be released for meeting the drinking water needs in both rural and urban areas, and the demands of industry. As we move towards non-chemical agriculture, the dependence of farmers on high cost external inputs will decline and even if there is a slight drop in productivity in the transition phase, this would be more than made up by the reduced cost of cultivation and the steady demand for these crops through government procurement operations.

What is more, if our children were to eat these "nutri-cereals" with much higher protein, iron and fibre, with a significantly lower glycemic index, we would be better placed to solve our twin problems of malnutrition and obesity. Diabetes has increased in every Indian state between 1990 and 2016, even among the poor, rising from 26 million in 1990 to 65 million in 2016. This number is projected to double by 2030. A major contributor to this epidemic is the displacement of whole foods in our diets by energy dense and nutrient-poor, ultra-processed food products.

This has a clear relationship with the monoculture we adopted after the Green Revolution where farmers mainly grew

The single largest fact of India's water is that 90 per cent of it is consumed in farming. And that 80 per cent of this irrigation is for water-guzzling crops - rice, wheat and sugarcane. Reducing this number is the most effective way of solving India's water problem. But can we do this without hurting our farmers, who are already in so much distress? Yes, we can. Indeed, it turns out that the solution to India's water crisis and that of the farmers, lie in the very same direction.

wheat and rice. In an intensely risky enterprise such as farming, it makes no sense whatsoever to adopt monoculture. With high weather and market risks, resilience (as in the stock market) demands crop (portfolio) diversification. But we have subjected our farmers to exactly the opposite by creating incentives against diversification. This has broken the back of Indian farming, even as it has engineered an artificial water crisis in a land where water is plenty, if only we were to use it judiciously.

Allied to this paradigm shift in farming, we need to democratise water. Water, by its very nature, is a shared resource, which can only be nourished through participatory governance. Whether it is our rivers or India's most important resource — groundwater — we can protect them only if we recognise the integral inter-connectedness of catchment areas, rivers and rural and urban aquifers. Here again, there are countless examples all over India where stakeholders have come together to form democratic associations to manage their shared resource collectively, equitably and sustainably.

It is now for the government to take the necessary steps to learn from these pioneers and upscale their efforts through a respectful partnership with the primary custodians. This might be the hard part as governments tend not to find it easy to either respect, listen to or learn from practitioners on the ground. But, as a people, we have no choice left in the matter. Only a jan andolan on water can save us now.

The writer is former member, Planning Commission. He has worked on water and livelihood issues for three decades

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Territorial, ethnic and religious disputes are concentrated in Kashmir. It is not India's internal territory... New and old hatred toward New Delhi's unilateral decision will plant traps in the road ahead for the nation."

— GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

Curing the system

India needs more doctors. National Medical Commission will address the issue, transform medical education



AMITABH KANT

PARLIAMENT HAS JUST passed the National Medical Commission (NMC) Bill to replace the Medical Council of India (MCI), a body that has been held responsible for the short supply and inefficiency in medical education. It is also widely accepted that MCI has been unsuccessful in maintaining and enforcing uniform standards in medical education. With the passage of the NMC Bill, we can hope to see a significant transformation in the medical education system.

With around 70 per cent of the 100-plus-strong MCI comprising of elected members, the body has been afflicted with an inherent conflict of interest. Those being regulated would elect their regulators, with professionals who might have been better suited for the job often staying away. In contrast, the 25-member NMC will consist of doctors and experts from associated fields who can guide medical education in the country towards global excellence.

Moreover, several checks and balances will be put in place to ensure that the NMC functions in an objective, transparent and ethical manner. For instance, it will not be possible for the chairperson and other members nominated by the Centre to be re-nominated. Further, while in the MCI, the presence of merely 15 out of 100 plus members was adequate to make the decisions of a meeting valid, the NMC Bill necessitates the agreement of 13 out of 25 members for a decision to be taken. The NMC will also meet every quarter as opposed to a minimum of once a year for the MCI. Members of the NMC will be required to declare their assets and liabilities as well as any conflicts of interest.

The MCI assessed institutions on the basis of their adherence to a set of pre-defined criteria that focused overwhelmingly on inputs such as infrastructure and teacher salaries. There was little emphasis on ensuring the quality of teaching in medical colleges and delivering world-class learning outcomes. Under the NMC, the Medical Assessment and Rating Board (MARB) will develop a system for the assessment and ranking of medical colleges. MARB will also be responsible for granting permission for setting up new medical colleges and starting postgraduate courses.

A key feature of the NMC Bill is an all-India final-year MBBS examination that will test for common standards of knowledge and skills among doctors. This is crucial because only a common exam can ensure that doctors across the country have a shared minimum level of skills. The National Exit Test (NEXT) will serve as an entrance test for postgraduate courses as well as screening mechanism for foreign medical graduates. The composition of the NMC (75 per cent doctors representing central and state institutions and health universities) will ensure that adequate weightage is given to theoretical and clinical skills in NEXT. There is a three-year timeframe for operationalising NEXT, which provides ample opportunities to de-

fine the precise contours of the examination.

India has a doctor-population ratio of 1:1,655; the World Health Organisation standard is 1:1,000. Moreover, there is a considerable skew in the distribution of doctors, with the urban to rural doctor density ratio being 3.8:1. We are finding it impossible to engage doctors and specialists in Aspirational Districts.

The capital cost of setting up a new medical college is almost Rs 5 crore per bed. This is mostly because of extensive land and infrastructure requirements. The Minimum Standard Requirements mandated by MCI are irrational and have proved to be the biggest impediment in the establishment and expansion of medical colleges. The existing norms for infrastructure need to be rationalised to give an impetus to opening new medical colleges based on existing infrastructure. Further, we need to review the compliance requirements for establishing and operating medical colleges. A comparison with international benchmarks reveals that stipulations such as maximum number of medical seats allowed per medical college, OPD and IPD requirements as well as faculty norms are too rigorous in India.

The NMC Bill includes several path-breaking recommendations to provide greater flexibility to medical institutions, increasing the number of doctors while ensuring quality. For instance, a one-time permission will be required by medical colleges for establishment. It will also be possible for them to increase the number of seats on their own up to a cap of 250 and start postgraduate courses.

For expanding the number of private medical seats while balancing the interests of meritorious students who cannot afford the fees, the NMC will regulate fees for 50 per cent of seats in all private and deemed universities. In parallel, efforts to create more medical seats in the government sector will continue. Over the last five years, the government has invested more than Rs 10,000 crore in medical education and 21 new AIIMS are being established at a cost of Rs 30,000 crore.

Despite the best efforts, it could take up to 20 years to ramp up the supply of doctors. Currently, most of our rural and poor population is denied quality care, leaving them in the clutches of quacks. Self-styled doctors without formal training provide up to 75 per cent of primary care visits. Moreover, at present, 57.3 per cent of personnel practicing allopathic medicine do not have a medical qualification.

In this context, it is noteworthy that the NMC will have the authority to grant a limited licence to Community Health Providers (CHPs) who can deliver preventive and primary health services. Thailand, the UK and China permit CHPs to deliver health services, thereby reducing the burden on specialists and improving health outcomes. Similar results have been achieved in Chhattisgarh and Assam. Of course, the quality of CHPs will be regulated tightly.

Undoubtedly, the passage of the NMC Bill will prove to be a landmark moment in the process of fixing the flawed medical education system. Most importantly, its implementation will go a long way in augmenting the supply side for quality human resources in the health sector.

Kant is CEO, Niti Aayog. Views are personal



BIBEK DEBROY

The river must flow

Ascribing legal rights to rivers helps counter pollution, may revive water bodies

AT THE time of taking a bath, many people still recite a shloka. Without using diacritical marks, rendering a shloka in Roman is difficult. Nevertheless: "Gange cha Yamune chaiva Godavari Sarasvati Narmade Sindhu Kaveri jale asmin sannidhim kuru." "O Ganga, Yamuna, Godavari, Sarasvati, Narmada, Sindhu, Kaveri! Please be present in this water." Eric Newby's *Slowly Down the Ganges* also quotes this, with the comment: "Prayer to the Seven Sacred Rivers recited by every devout Hindu at the time of taking his bath". There are many more than seven rivers in India. How many? Since there is no proper definition of a river, it is impossible to answer this question. One way to list is in terms of river basins, so that the main river and its tributaries are both included. For Himalayan rivers, one will then list the Indus basin, Ganga basin, Brahmaputra basin, Barak basin and so on. Similarly, in the south, one will list the basins of the rivers flowing east (Godavari, Krishna, Kaveri, Mahanadi) and those flowing west (Narmada, Tapi). This still leaves some loose ends — minor rivers along the coast and rivers that don't drain into oceans. Depending on what is included, there can be more than 100 river basins and more than 600 rivers in the listing.

Because of news reports, most people know what Uttarakhand High Court said in March 2017, though there is now a stay because of an appeal before the Supreme Court: "All the Hindus have deep Astha in rivers Ganga and Yamuna and they collectively connect with these rivers. Accordingly, while exercising the *parens patrie* jurisdiction, the Rivers Ganga and Yamuna, all their tributaries, streams, every natural water flowing with flow continuously or intermittently of these rivers, are declared as juristic/legal persons/living entities having the status of a legal person with all corresponding rights, duties and liabilities of a living person in order to preserve and conserve river Ganga and Yamuna. The Director NAMAMI Ganga, the Chief Secretary of the State of Uttarakhand and the Advocate General of the State of Uttarakhand are hereby declared persons in loco parentis as the human face to protect, conserve and preserve Rivers Ganga and Yamuna and their tributaries. These Officers are bound to uphold the status of Rivers Ganges and Yamuna and also to promote the health and well-being of these rivers." The Ganga and Yamuna obtained legal rights, but as minors: They needed guardians. Granting legal rights to rivers (and water-bodies) opens up a new area of environmental jurisprudence.

Why did the Ganga and Yamuna need legal rights? The core issue is pollution. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) brings out reports on water quality in our rivers. Strictly speaking, these are measures of water quality along stretches of rivers. There is actually a hierarchy of pollution, based on levels of BOD (biochemical oxygen demand). However, one can legitimately argue that BOD is, at best, a partial indicator. There are other measures of a river's well-being. If BOD values exceed eight milligrammes per litre, the river will be regarded as severely polluted. Between Wazirabad and Okhla, Yamuna has a BOD level of 32, 55 and 70, at three different places. Between Kala Amb and Narayan Garh, the Markanda river in Haryana has a BOD value of 590.

Lists float around of the most polluted rivers in the world, and the Ganga and Yamuna will invariably figure on these lists. Without contesting pollution in the Ganga and Yamuna, one should be sceptical of lists and rankings, both because of data problems (there are good data only for OECD) and because of the way numbers are used. Similarly, there are also lists of most polluted rivers in India and these lists will typically include the Ganga, Yamuna, Sabarmati and Damodar. More often than not, these lists are based on CPCB findings and, therefore, mean stretches of rivers, not entire rivers. Somewhat more rarely, there are also lists of cleanest rivers in the world and cleanest rivers in India. For instance, stretches of the Chambal, Narmada, Brahmaputra, Umngot,

The writer is chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the PM. Views are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CHINA'S COERCION

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'In China's court' (IE, August 14). China's communist leadership rules the country with an iron hand, but, can it afford to unleash force on the Hong Kong protesters? Frequent infringement of the island's autonomy has made Hong Kong's residents sceptical of China's intentions. China will have to diplomatically defuse the tension in Hong Kong.

Vijai Pant, Hempur

NOT BY RULEBOOK

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The Constitution test' (IE August, 14). The central government, while dividing the state of Jammu and Kashmir, has undermined the will of the people by not listening to their elected representatives. The Presidents prompt approval and the apex court's stoic attitude are only helping the current regime compromise on some of the basic features of the Constitution.

Abhinaba Mitra, Kolkata

JAL SHAKTI'S TASKS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Face the deluge' (IE, August 14). In June, the government created an integrated Ministry of Jal Shakti. The prime minister has written to gram pradhans requesting them to conserve rainwater during the monsoon. Some states have received

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

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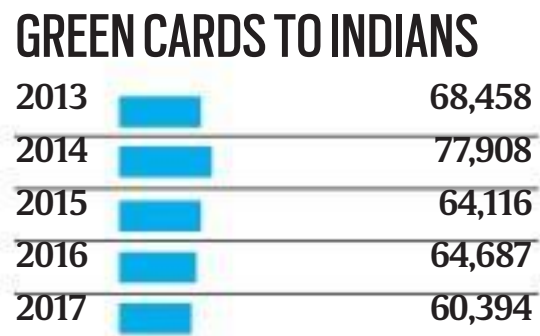
less rainfall while others face a deluge. Both the situations have to be addressed and any delay in decision making will have serious consequences. The Jal Shakti ministry should intervene in situations such as the one between Maharashtra and Karnataka. A lot of damage could have been avoided if the two states had agreed to a timely discharge of waters from the Almatti dam.

Krishan Chugh, Delhi

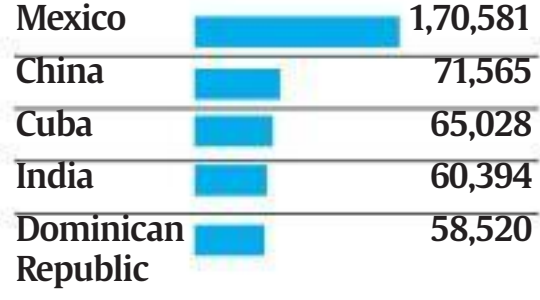
TELLING NUMBERS

Over 60,000 Indians get US green cards every year

ON MONDAY, the US government announced that it would make green card regulations more stringent, a move that will impact applicants from around the world, including from India. India-born immigrants in the US got the fourth highest number of green cards in 2017, government data show. Indians were behind applicants from Mexico, China, and Cuba in terms of number of green cards (lawful permanent resident status) obtained, according to the '2017 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics', the latest available on the website of the US Department of Homeland Security.



GREEN CARDS IN 2017, BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH

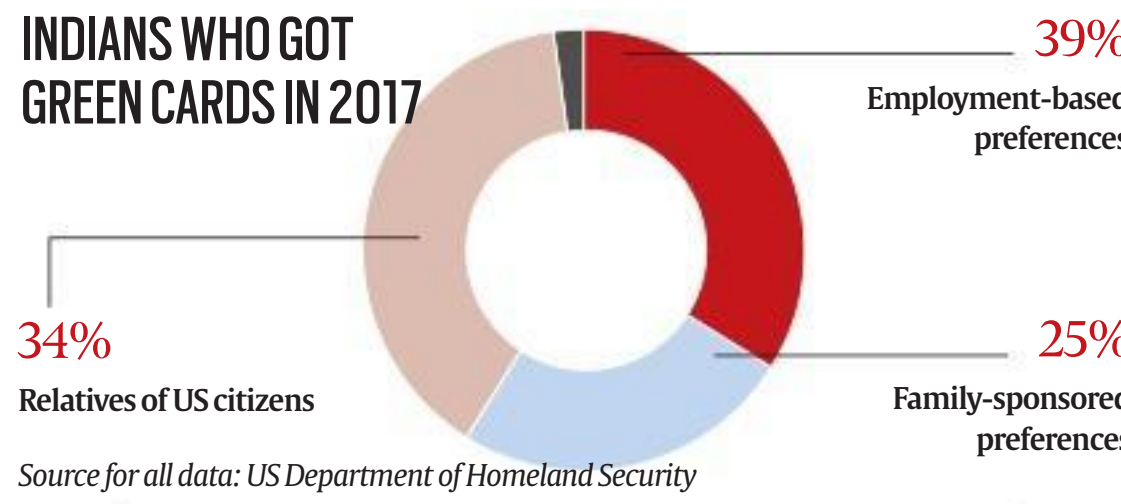


Indian citizens visiting the US, including tourists and business travellers, students and exchange visitors, temporary workers and families, diplomats and other representatives, among other classes, as per the Department of Homeland Security's I-94 Arrival/Departure information.

In 2017, 60,394 persons born in India obtained permanent resident status, of whom a third (20,549) were immediate relatives of US citizens, a fourth (14,962) were family sponsored, and over a third (23,569) were employed in the US. The remainder were given this status under the Diversity Immigrant Visa, refugee, asylee and other categories.

Also in 2017, 50,802 Indian-born US residents acquired American citizenship. The same year saw 2,055,480

INDIANS WHO GOT GREEN CARDS IN 2017



THIS WORD MEANS

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

Malaria set to be classified as one in Delhi. Who notifies a disease, and how does it help?

A MONTH after Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan asked the Delhi government to make malaria and dengue notifiable diseases, the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) has initiated the work to notify malaria in the capital (*The Indian Express*, August 14).



The process helps the government keep track and formulate a plan for elimination and control. In less infectious conditions, it improves information about the burden and distribution of disease.

The Centre has notified several diseases such as cholera, diphtheria, encephalitis, leprosy, meningitis, pertussis (whooping cough), plague, tuberculosis, AIDS, hepatitis, measles, yellow fever, malaria dengue, etc. The onus of notifying any disease and the implementation lies with the state government.

Any failure to report a notifiable disease is a criminal offence and the state government can take necessary actions against defaulters.

ASTHA SAXENA

What's behind recession fears

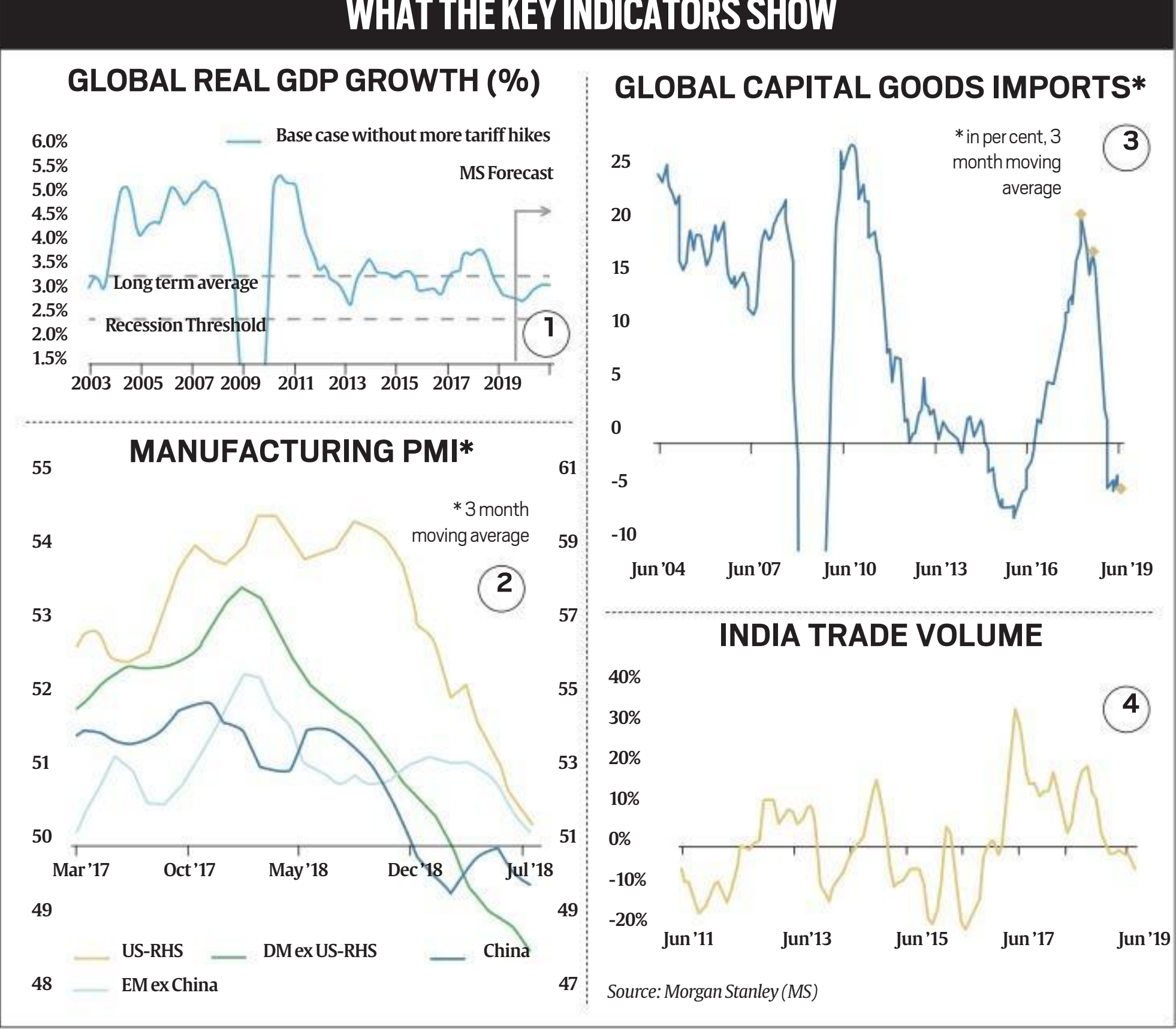
Trade and geopolitical uncertainties have hit all major economies. Is a global recession upon us? Where does India stand, and what can it do to insulate itself at this time?

UDIT MISRA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 14

THE GLOBAL economy continues to be hit by bad news as one big economy after another falters on economic growth. On Wednesday, data from Germany, the world's fourth-biggest economy, showed that its GDP contracted by 0.1% in the April-June quarter (Q2). Ongoing trade tensions between the US and China, and the uncertainty due to Brexit have impacted German exports badly. Germany is the world's third-biggest trader after the US and China.

The two biggest economies are already in some trouble. The US has grown by just 2.1% in Q2 of 2019 as against 3.2% in Q1. China's growth has been decelerating for longer. According to *The Wall Street Journal*, the unemployment rate in Chinese cities is now at the highest recorded level, and other key metrics such as factory production (which is the lowest since the 2008 financial crisis) have worsened. The Japanese economy may have surprised everyone by growing at an annualised rate of 1.8% in Q2, but it, too, is fighting to ward off a recession.

Investor sentiment is so bad that even the decision by the Trump administration to defer imposing a new set of tariffs on Chinese imports from September to December could not hold back the US bond (Treasury) yields from plummeting. The 30-year bond yield fell to its historic low as US markets opened Wednesday, even as the 10-year bond yields fell below the two-year bond yields. An inversion in bond yields such as this points to the likelihood of a recession in the near future. Simply put, investors are looking for safe options, and since US bonds are one of the safest bets, more of those are being bought. This has led to a spike in their prices, and a fall in their yields.



So, is a global recession likely?

Earlier this month, researchers at Morgan Stanley, a leading investment bank, warned that if the US and China continue to raise tariff and non-tariff barriers over the next four to six months, the global economic growth rate will fall to a seven-year low of 2.8% (*chart 1*), and worse still, the world economy could enter a recession within the next three quarters (that is, nine months). The last massive downward spiral in the global economy happened in the wake of the great financial crisis of 2008, and continued until 2010.

What is a global recession?

In an economy, a recession happens when output declines for two successive quarters (that is, six months). However, for a global recession, institutions such as the International Monetary Fund tend to look at more than just a weakness in the economic growth rate; instead, they look at a widespread impact in terms of employment or

demand for oil, etc. The long-term global growth average is 3.5%. The recession threshold is 2.5%.

What has triggered the alarm?

Earlier this month, the US declared China a "currency manipulator". In other words, Washington accused Beijing of deliberately weakening the yuan to make Chinese exports to the US more attractive and undercut the effect of increased US tariffs.

The intensifying trade war between the two has the potential to derail already weak global growth, and the signs are evident. For instance, the global manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (*chart 2*) and new orders sub-index have contracted for the second consecutive month in July; they are already at a seven-year low. Further, the global capital expenditure cycle has "ground to a halt" (*chart 3*); since the start of 2018, there's been a sharp fall-off in nominal capital goods imports growth. (That is, there's a

decline in capital investment in anticipation of reduced demand.)

How can this lead to a global recession?

The German slowdown is a very good example. The absolute volume of global trade has stagnated and, in terms of percentage change, trade is contracting. What is worse is the composition of trade that is being hit — and is likely to be hit further. According to Morgan Stanley, two-thirds of the goods being lined up for increased tariffs are consumer goods. Higher tariffs are not only likely to douse demand but, crucially, hit business confidence. The apprehension is global trade uncertainties could start a negative cycle, wherein businesses do not feel confident enough to invest more, given the lower demand for consumer goods. Reduced capital investment would reflect in fewer jobs, which, in turn, will show up in reduced wages and, eventually, lower aggregate demand in the world.

What makes this scenario trickier is the

fact that monetary policy is already loose — that is, borrowing money is cheap. A recession now will be more difficult to salvage.

What about India?

As *chart 4* shows, India's trade is already suffering, and jobs are being lost. For an economy that is struggling to find a domestic growth lever — government and businesses are overextended and household (that is, private family-level) consumption is down — exports could have provided a respite.

What can India do to boost exports?

A 2016 analysis by HSBC global research showed that domestic bottlenecks were more responsible for India's lack of competitiveness in exports than the lack of global demand and the overvalued rupee put together. In other words, addressing bottlenecks such as better roads, more electricity, easier rules of doing business etc., will go a long way in boosting exports.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GUWAHATI, AUGUST 14

ON TUESDAY, a kilogram of 'Golden Butterfly', a specialty tea from Assam's Dikom Tea Estate, sold for Rs 75,000 at the Guwahati Tea Auction Centre (GTAC) — a record Indian price for tea, according to Dinesh Bihani, Secretary of the Guwahati Tea Auction Buyers' Association.

RECORDS have been set and broken rapidly at the GTAC of late. Only days previously, on July 31, a variety of Assam tea known as 'Majjan Golden Tips' had sold for Rs 70,501 per kg. And on the day previous to that, Manohari Gold Special tea was auctioned for Rs 50,000 per kg.

In July 2018, the same Manohari Gold Special tea was auctioned for Rs 39,001/kg; GTAC had then said that the price — more than twice the previous record of Rs 18,801/kg held by a garden in Arunachal Pradesh — was a new record for Indian tea. However, in August itself, a variety from Arunachal went for Rs 40,000/kg.

WHAT'S SPECIAL about these teas? According to the growers of Golden Butterfly, only "the soft golden tips go into making this exceptionally rare and special tea". Lalit Kumar Jalan, the owner of Assam Tea Traders, one of the oldest tea shops in Guwahati, which paid the record price for Golden Butterfly, said that the tea has an "extremely mellow and sweet caramel flavour".

TEA IS AUCTIONED in India at six tea

auction centres — Kolkata, Guwahati, Siliguri, Kochi, Coimbatore, and Coonor. Kolkata is the oldest centre, set up by the British in 1861; the Guwahati centre has been functioning since 1970. Auctioning is considered the best way to know the value of a tea.

Assam accounts for nearly 55% of India's tea production. The GTAC has 665 sellers, 247 buyers, nine brokers, and 34 warehouses registered with it. Auctions are normally held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The GTAC has an auction hall, but the entire process has been online for close to a decade now.

BUYERS LOOK AT indicators such as appearance, quality/strength of the liquid form, aroma and "keeping quality" — i.e., how well the tea will keep if stored for a long time in a shop or godown.

The auction process consists of tea being taken from the garden to the warehouse, where brokers do tasting and sampling. The tea valuation data is then entered on the Tea Board of India's auction website.

IN CHINA, where drinking tea has been considered an art for some 1,500 years, a system of classification of the leaf exists that is elaborate enough to put French hauteurs about wine to shame. In a sale that was considered astonishing at the time it was concluded in 2002, a buyer had paid RMB 180,000 for 20 g of China's legendary Da Hong Pao tea, which works out to around Rs 18.3 lakh in today's money. The price gold in India was under Rs 38,000 for 10 g on Wednesday; however, not all varieties of Da Hong Pao tea are that expensive.

GS SCORE
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Who are protesting in Hong Kong? The young, highly educated middle class

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 14

SINCE JUNE, Hong Kong has witnessed an unprecedented series of protests in opposition to a Bill that allows extradition to mainland China. What is the profile of these protesters?

They are young, generally in their twenties, concludes a study that has sought to profile the participants of 12 protests between June 9 and August 12. Most of them have had a higher education, and those who identify themselves as "middle class" outnumber those who call themselves "lower class".

ents (50.5 to 64.2 per cent) was generally higher than that of female ones, except on June 26 (42.6 per cent male respondents).

Age: majority in 20s
In general, the majority of respondents belonged to the age group 20-29. The proportion aged 20-24 ranged from 16.3 per cent to 54.2 per cent, and the proportion aged 25-29 ranged from 11.6 to 34.2 per cent across the surveys. There were also younger respondents aged 19 or below, ranging between 6.0 and 15.6 per cent.

The paper divides the protests into mass rallies, fluid demonstrations and static demonstrations, and looks at the age profile of participants in each. In mass rallies, protesters were more evenly distributed across age groups — these often featured higher participation rates of those aged 30 or above (between 43.1 and 57.3 per cent). However, in fluid demonstrations, which often involved more confrontations, the



A participant at a protest held in Hong Kong on August 8. The survey covered 12 such protests since June 9. AP

MOSTLY BETWEEN 20 & 29

Date	U-20	20-24	24-29	30-34
June 9	10.5%	20.7%	11.6%	8.4%
June 12	6.3%	27.9%	34.2%	19.0%
June 16	15.6%	16.3%	18.3%	12.9%
June 17	15.5%	33.0%	25.8%	11.4%
June 21	14.6%	54.2%	16.4%	8.6%
June 26	11.2%	40.9%	23.7%	12.7%
July 1	12.9%	18.6%	18.3%	11.0%
July 14	7.3%	23.9%	18.5%	12.3%
July 21	11.9%	23.3%	17.5%	10.6%
July 27	6.0%	26.0%	19.6%	18.3%
Aug 4*	8.6%	27.9%	20.5%	10.5%
Aug 4*	6.8%	28.7%	21.4%	11.4%

* Two protests on same date
Source: 'Onsite Survey Findings in Hong Kong's Anti-Extradition Bill Protests', Centre for Communication and Public Opinion Survey, Chinese University of Hong Kong

proportion of protesters aged 30 or above significantly dropped (between 13.8 and 30.4 per cent). "That is to say, fluid demonstrations were mostly dominated by young people under the age of 30," the paper said. In static demonstrations, around 23 to 43 per cent of participants were 30 or above.

Education: generally high

While the education level of survey respondents was generally high, there were some variations among the types of protests. Participants of mass rallies were relatively less highly educated, but even in these protests, 68.2 to 76.8 per cent had completed tertiary education. For static demonstrations and fluid demonstrations, however, participants on average were more highly educated. More than 80 per cent of them reported to have received tertiary education.

Socio-economic status

Mindful of the likelihood that respon-

dents would be reluctant to reveal information about their income, the research team asked them to self-report their family's socio-economic status. The options to choose from were upper-class, middle-class and lower-class.

More respondents identified themselves as belonging to the middle class than as belonging to the lower class. But in some specific protests, especially those with a more confrontational atmosphere, the ratio of middle-class participants to lower class participants was close to 1:1.

Overall, a minimal number of respondents (less than 2 per cent) identified themselves as upper class. In the mass rallies, 46.9 to 54.0 per cent of the respondents identified themselves as middle class while 28.1 to 45.0 per cent identified themselves as lower class. In static demonstrations and fluid demonstrations, middle class and lower class participants were more or less equally represented.

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FLAG BEARERS OF THE NATION

Building a nation

“Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high, where knowledge is free. Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls.” - Rabindranath Tagore

INDEPENDENCE- it's not just a word to establish self-governance, it is a feeling of freedom of life, mind and thoughts; freedom of taking the authority to build something for development. India's Independence Day is annually celebrated on 15 August, to commemorate the nation's independence from the United Kingdom. On this day in 1947 the UK Parliament passed the Indian Independence Act 1947, transferring legislative sovereignty to the Indian Constituent Assembly. This day is also observed to remember the people who sacrificed their

lives for Independence. Independence Day is marked throughout India with flag-raising ceremonies, drills, and the singing of the national anthem. Various cultural programs are organised in every part of India. After the Prime Minister participates in the flag-hoisting ceremony at the Red Fort in Delhi, a parade ensues with members of the armed forces and police. The Prime Minister then delivers a televised address to the country, recounting the major accomplishments of India during the previous year and outlining future goals. Kite flying has also become an

Independence Day tradition.

But the story does not end here; rather it was the beginning of another fight, the fight for development of the nation. India is a country with diverse ethnicity and every section of people, by their ways of trade and socio-cultural practices, connect and strengthen the dots that make our country's map on the worksheet and put forward an image on the global platform, which looks at this country in awe of its survival instincts. When it comes to building a nation, there are various industries who have been contributing in a re-

lentless manner. The heavy industries, banking, the corporate giants, the private sector, the teachers, the universities, along with public and government sectors come into play with a harmony that is conducive to one and all. Real progress will happen when all sections develop.

Traditionally, India had six major industries. These were Iron and Steel, Textiles, Jute, Sugar, Cement, and Paper. Further, four new industries joined this list namely, Petrochemical, Automobile, Information Technology (IT), and Banking & Insurance. These industries are impor-

tant for India's economy. The industrial sector is one of the main sectors that contribute to the Indian GDP. The reasons for the increase of Industry Growth Rate in India GDP are that huge amounts of investments are being made in this sector and this has helped the industries to grow. Further, the reasons for the rise of the Growth Rate of the Industrial Sector in India are that the consumption of the industrial goods has increased a great deal in the country, which in its turn has boosted the industrial sector. Also the reasons for the increase of Industry Growth Rate

in India GDP are that the industrial goods are being exported in huge quantities from the country.

Hence, in the 73rd year of India's Independence, alongside remembering all those bravehearts who sacrificed themselves for the pride of the nation, we take the opportunity to thank all those great personalities who contributed towards the development of the country- the FLAG-BEARERS OF THE NATION. These are the people whose efforts and achievements make the world look up to a united India and its pride in its ethnicity and strengths.

An institute of excellence



"To build a great nation education is a most important factor and to provide a great healthcare service we should have Humane Doctors"

Dr. D. Veerendra Heggade
Hon'ble Chancellor

Shri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara University, Dharwad, is a private state university established in December 2018, with the intent of bringing out excellent graduates.

Each constituent college of the university has its own history and glory. The SDM institutes are renowned not only in the state of Karnataka, all over the nation as well as globally. The Hon'ble Chancellor of the University, Dr D Veerendra Heggadeji is committed to nation building through better education with adherence to human values.

The university offers a wide range of health-related courses, which aim to bring about improvement in the health of individuals and populations. The vision of the university is to set the highest standards of teaching and learning by awakening the intelligence of the students and nurturing the creativity hidden in them by creating an environment where the ancient wisdom blends with modern science, to transform them into whole human beings to face the challenges. With passionate teachers, innovative techniques, great infrastructure and lush-green campus, the University will transform the students to face challenges and produce "HUMANE DOCTORS" who have gone through training with a HOLISTIC approach.

SDM atmosphere strongly supports the individual academic needs of each student. The intent of Hon'ble Chancellor is to make every student of the university not only more knowledgeable and competent in the respective field but also considerate, confident and compassionate.

Jindal Aluminium Limited (JAL) Shaping the country for a better future

Aluminium, a versatile material integral to modern life, is found in every possible thing in today's world — from foils to cell phones to window frames to motor vehicles to light fixture and even to airplanes. In terms of metals, aluminium is perhaps the youngest. This wonder metal was discovered only in 1886. Since then, it has been an integral component in the journey of growth for the nation, and JAL has been one of the largest contributors to this industry. Being one of the largest manufacturers of aluminium extrusion and aluminium flat rolled products, with a legacy of 50 years (founded in 1968), JAL has been the largest supplier of quality extrusions and second largest supplier of flat rolled products in India. In their five-decade-old journey, it has been associated with some of the world's finest companies in their growth and success.

What started as a single extrusion press operation with a production of 5000 tons in 1968, the company has grown to a production of above 1.25 lac ton of extruded and flat rolled aluminium products in the fiscal year 2018-2019, clocking a turnover of Rs. 30 Billion. Founded by Dr. Sitaram Jindal, the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the company, JAL has always maintained its responsibility to share its growth with the society. Dr. SR Jindal nurtured this desire to give back to society by spending quality time and enormous funds for various social and charitable activities. He founded Sitaram Jindal Foundation and Jindal Naturecure Institute to further this cause. Across the country, JAL or its associated entities have established and run several philanthropic institutions in the field of education, health, social welfare. Taking the legacy forward, Pragun Jindal Khaitan was appointed as the Director of Jindal Aluminium in 2013 and promoted to Managing Director in the year, 2017. Under his leadership, JAL has grown at an attractive annual rate of 25 percent between the years 2013-2017.

The company's core manufacturing is in the production of aluminium extrusions and flat-rolled products. With 11 aluminium extrusion presses, JAL has India's largest installed capacity of 1, 20,000 MT per annum in extrusions. And with 5 continuous casters and a state of the art cold rolling and foil mill, JAL has India's second largest rolled products capacity of 48,000 MT per annum. JAL has also been a pioneer in the renewable energy sector, being the first company to set up both wind power (1997) as well as solar power (2013) plants in



Dr. S. R. Jindal – Chairman and Managing Director of Jindal Aluminium Limited (JAL) | Founder, Jindal Naturecure Institute & Sitaram Jindal Foundation; **Mr. Pragun Jindal Khaitan** – Managing Director of Jindal Aluminium Limited (JAL)



Karnataka. It has been a major contributor to nation building through its path-breaking manufacturing technologies that enable it to deliver international standard quality aluminium products to Indian consumers – who otherwise would have had to import it at much higher prices. Throughout the history of the country, major technological advances have required our aluminium to enable them to become a reality. From the first satellite made in India to the latest solar panels – JAL has supplied aluminium extrusions or flat rolled products to them all. Sectors such as building and construction which have experienced technological and customer-preference changes, have always counted on JAL to supply aluminium that meets their changing needs over time.

With a rich history and a glorious future, Jindal Aluminium Limited stands firm as the flag bearer of the nation, taking India on the path of development.

Aluminium Extrusions & Flat Rolled Products

ENGINEERING THE FUTURE, SUSTAINABLY

Jindal Aluminium Limited (JAL) started its journey from Bengaluru in the year 1968. Carrying a legacy of over 50 years, the company is now one of the largest manufacturers of Aluminium Extruded and Flat Rolled products in India. Since then, it has contributed to many of the landmark projects like Omkar1973 - Mumbai, Godrej BKC - Mumbai, Intel SRR 3 & 4 - Bengaluru and many others.

You can find JAL products everywhere. To mention a few areas in which our aluminium plays a role in your life, our company's products are used in Air Conditioning, House Foil, Cranes & Escalators, Defence Equipments, Doors & Windows, Engine Parts & Components, Housing & Gear Pumps, Lighting Solutions, Metro Rail Components, Office Partitions, Solar Lights & Water Heaters, Surgical & Dental Equipments, Turbines, Transformers and even in X-Ray Machines.

Jindal Aluminium Limited, Jindal Nagar, Tumkur Road, Bengaluru-560073
☎ +91-80-2371-5555 | www.jindalaluminium.com | jindal@jindalaluminium.com

Kurl-on, leaders in home comfort

The brand has evolved into a complete home comfort solutions provider today

From an idea that ignited during a visit to Germany to becoming India's leading mattress manufacturer and seller and on to venturing and extending its product range into the home comfort segment - Kurl-on's journey is a fine example of entrepreneurship and growth filled with effervescence.



Ashutosh Vaidya, CMO, Kurl-on

Kurl-on, the brand synonymous with mattresses is evolving into a 'complete home comfort solutions provider' today and is continuously expanding its product portfolio and offerings, making it a one-stop shop for those looking at home furnishings/décor.

Kurl-on was founded in 1962 by Ramesh Pai and T Sudhakar Pai, who has been involved with the company since its incorporation. T Sudhakar Pai officially took over the company in 2002 in his current role as Chairman and Managing Director.

Ashutosh Vaidya, Chief Marketing Officer, Kurl-on "At Kurl-on, innovation, zeal and passion is at the

heart of everything we do. From a mattress company to a complete home furnishings and décor solutions brand, the journey of Kurl-on has been nothing short of invigorating. Today, we offer everything that is needed for a home – from a pillow to mattresses to sofas to modular kitchens. Our thrust on R&D stems from our innovative team of passionate professionals. Unique products like the mattress-in-a-box, Cooler mattress top, music pillow, bear testimony to this".

Kurl-on's vision to go deeper and wider into the mattress space is evident from its recent acquisition of

Spring Air India, a leading international brand and among the top 10 manufacturers of bedding products. This acquisition will enable Kurl-on to grab a share of the premium and luxury bedding segment and penetrate the fast-growing demand in the hospitality sector.

The company has charted an aggressive growth plan for the 2019-20 and retail expansion, new product introduction especially in lifestyle segments will only further strengthen Kurl-on's leadership position in the home furnishings and décor space. This will help leverage achieve the growth trajectory plan of reaching INR 2,200 crore revenue mark in the next two years. A key growth driver will be Kurl-on's strategy to further expand its market share by increasing focus and catering to the next-gen, young Indian consumer with a slew of innovative products and technology, along with launching exclusive, high-end products for the premium and affluent market.

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Charges of plot against CJI, bench hunting: Probe seeks specifics

SEEMA CHISHTI
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 14

THE SUPREME Court-mandated inquiry into "allegations of a conspiracy to frame the Chief Justice of India", and on fixing of benches" in the top court, will submit its report in the first half of September.

The probe, being conducted by Justice A K Patnaik, a retired judge of the Supreme Court, is set to question advocate Utsav Bains on August 20, after some crucial information and records that the single-judge inquiry committee sought from the Registry of the Supreme Court are made available to it on August 18.

Sources said the inquiry is focussed on securing "actionable and specific details" to substantiate allegations of bench-fixing and the serious charge of there being a "conspiracy" against the CJI. The inquiry was ordered on April 19 by a special bench comprising Justices Arun Mishra, R F Nariman and Deepak Gupta. In its order, the bench said: "Considering the factual gamut and the affidavits filed by advocate Utsav Singh Bains, we are appointing Justice A K Patnaik, retired judge of this court, to hold inquiry into the allegations levelled in the affidavit filed by Bains." The bench had clarified that Justice Patnaik "would not deal with the allegations of misbehaviour by the CJI". As directed by the Supreme Court, chiefs of the CBI, IB and Delhi Police have been meeting Justice Patnaik to go ahead with a detailed investigation into the matter. The one-judge committee was formed in the wake of allegations of sexual harassment

EXPLAINED

Rows and the spotlight

SINCE JANUARY 2018, when the four most senior SC judges went public against the then CJI, especially on allocation of cases, controversies have kept the higher judiciary under the spotlight. The allegation of sexual harassment against the present CJI, his exoneration by an in-house committee and the complainant's protests have returned the spotlight to the Patnaik panel's probe, well ahead of its findings.

made by a member of staff of the Supreme Court against the Chief Justice, and after a Facebook post and an affidavit by advocate Utsav Bains claimed he had been offered money to hold a press conference to defame the CJI.

In an interview to The Indian Express after he was appointed to probe allegations by Bains, Justice Patnaik had said he would be proceeding, only "after" the in-house committee on allegations of sexual harassment against the CJI would complete its work.

The in-house committee, led by Justice S A Bobde and completed its report on May 7 and cleared the conduct of the CJI.

AGUSTAWESTLAND CASE

No coercive step against Ratul Puri till Aug 20: Delhi HC

PRITAM PAL SINGH
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 14

THE DELHI High Court on Wednesday asked the Enforcement Directorate (ED) not to take any "coercive steps" till next Tuesday against Ratul Puri, who apprehends arrest in a case for allegedly receiving kickbacks in the AgustaWestland chopper deal case through his companies.

Puri, nephew of Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath, moved the High Court after a special court, on August 6, dismissed his application for anticipatory bail.

On August 9, the special court issued non-bailable warrant against Puri after the ED moved the court, alleging that he did not join the probe and was neither accessible on the phone nor at his residence, and that his whereabouts were not known.

Appearing for Puri, senior counsel AM Singhvi and advocate Vijay Aggarwal submitted that "parameters governing grant of pre-arrest bail are of abscandence, tampering with the evidence and non-cooperation, which are ex-facie not attracted to the instant

case". He pressed for interim relief. Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Aman Lekhi and advocate Ajay Diggapal, representing the ED, opposed this and pointed out that a non-bailable warrant has been issued against the petitioner since he is absconding.

To this, Puri's counsels argued that he is not absconding, and that he could not join the investigation on only one date. They submitted that the ED had been informed about this.

Singhvi also said that Puri is ready to join the probe as and when called, provided interim protection is granted.

Justice Gaur said, "In the peculiarity of this case, it is deemed appropriate to call upon respondent (ED) not to take any coercive steps against the petitioner (Puri), with liberty to the respondent to direct petitioner to join further investigation, if required".

While listing the matter for August 20, to hear remaining arguments on Puri's plea challenging the trial court's order denying him anticipatory bail, Justice Gaur also asked the ED to file a status report apprising it on developments in the money laundering case in the deal.

Poll panel seeks legal powers to link voter cards with Aadhaar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 14

THE ELECTION Commission (EC) approached the Law Ministry this week, seeking legal powers to resume linking of voter cards with the 12-digit Aadhaar number, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

In a letter addressed to the Law Secretary, the EC has proposed amendments to the Representation of the People Act, 1950, and the Aadhaar Act, 2016, to empower the Commission to collect and use Aadhaar data for "cleaning" voters' list as a "back-end exercise".

Further, it is learnt to have argued that seeding of voter cards with Aadhaar will help weed out duplicate entries and bogus voters, and hence, serve national interest.

"This step will also pave way for exploring use of technology for voting and verification of voter identify in the future," the letter states.

The EC had first initiated the exercise of linking Aadhaar with the Electors Photo Identity Cards (or EPIC) in February 2015, when H S Brahma was the Chief Election Commissioner.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS TO THE NATION ON I-DAY EVE

'Changes in J&K, Ladakh will immensely benefit people'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 14

PRESIDENT RAM Nath Kovind on Wednesday said the "recent changes" made in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh will immensely benefit the people there and will allow them to get the same rights and privileges as their fellow citizens in other parts of the country.

Delivering his address to the nation on the eve of Independence Day, the President said, "The illustrious generation that led us to freedom did not perceive independence only in terms of transfer of political power. They considered it a stepping stone in a longer and larger process of nation-building and national welding. Their objective was to improve the life of each individual, each family and of society as a whole."

"In this backdrop, I am confident that the recent changes made in Jammu-Kashmir and Ladakh would be of immense benefit to those regions. They will enable the people to access



President Ram Nath Kovind at Rashtrapati Bhavan. PTI

and enjoy the same rights, same privileges and same facilities as their fellow citizens in the rest of the country. These include progressive, egalitarian laws and provisions related to the Right to Education; accessing public information through the Right to Information; reservations in education and employment and other facilities for traditionally deprived communities; and justice for our daughters by abolishing unequal practices such as instant triple talaq," he said.

Kovind said that in the recently concluded general election, vot-

ers "gave expression to their electoral right as well as their electoral responsibility". "Every election marks a new beginning. Every election is the renewal of India's collective hope and optimism—a hope and optimism that can be compared, I would say, to what we experienced on August 15, 1947. Now it is for all of us, everybody in India, to work together and take our cherished nation to new heights," he added.

The President said many Bills were passed in the Monsoon Session of Parliament, which concluded last week, "in a spirit of cross-party cooperation and constructive debate". He appreciated it as "an indicator of what the coming five years have in store" and urged that this culture percolates to all legislative Assemblies.

Kovind further said, "We are a young country, a society increasingly defined and shaped by our youth. The energies of our young are being channelised in so many directions—in a quest for excellence from sport to science, from scholarship to soft skills. This is heart-warming.

Nevertheless, the greatest gift we can give our young and our coming generations is to encourage and institutionalise a culture of curiosity—especially in the classroom. Let us listen to our children—for through them the future whispers to us."

He said he was confident that "India will never lose its capacity to listen to the feeblest voice" and "never lose sight of its ancient ideals", that it will neither forget "its sense of fairness nor its sense of adventure". "We Indians are a people who dare to explore the Moon and Mars. We are also a people who persevere to create a loving habitat for three of every four wild tigers on our planet, because it is characteristic of Indianness to empathise with nature and with all living beings," the President said.

Mentioning the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on October 2, Kovind said that though "contemporary India is very different from the India in which Mahatma Gandhi lived and worked", he "remains extremely relevant".

RESTRICTIONS EASED ON DAY 10 FOR PUBLIC MOVEMENT, CURBS BACK TODAY

Alert in Valley for I-Day, Governor will hoist Tricolour in Srinagar

ADIL AKHZER, BASHAARAT MASOOD & MUZAMIL JALEEL
SRINAGAR, AUGUST 14

SECURITY FORCES stepped up vigil across the Valley ahead of Independence Day as authorities prepared for the main event in Srinagar where Governor Satya Pal Malik will hoist the Tricolour Thursday.

On Wednesday, the tenth day of the lockdown, restrictions were eased in Srinagar to allow public and vehicle movement even as officials said the curbs will return Thursday. Barricades and concertina wire spools have come up on roads leading to the Sher-i-Kashmir stadium, the venue for the Independence Day event.

Principal Secretary Rohit Kansal, who is the spokesperson for the J&K administration, told reporters: "The restrictions were eased on Wednesday. The overall security situation continues to be calm and there are no reports of any major untoward incident... there will be some restrictions tomorrow."

"We are ready for the main function tomorrow. It will be held in Srinagar where the national flag will be hoisted by the Honourable Governor. In Jammu, the celebrations will be led by the Advisor to the Honourable Governor," he said.

Following the relaxation of curbs, private vehicles were seen plying on the roads of Srinagar but shops, business establishments, schools and offices remained closed. Public transport too was off the roads. The communication blackout also continued.

ADGP (Law and Order) Munir Khan said: "The situation in the whole of the state is completely under control... As far as Kashmir division is concerned, restrictions are in place at certain places. These are imposed after assessing the situation of that particular area. Relaxation is given after assessing the situation."

"There have been localised



A security person checks a car ahead of the Independence Day, in Srinagar on Wednesday. PTI

incidents... these have been dealt with locally. There have been a few pellet injuries." He said the main focus is on the Independence Day event and "all preparations and arrangements are in place to ensure peaceful celebrations".

To a query on the detention of JKPM president Shah Faesal, Kansal said, "We will not comment on individuals."

Asked whether mainstream party leaders would be invited to the Independence Day celebrations, ADGP (Armed) Syed Javaid Mujtaba Gilani said: "The list of invitees is being finalised by the Divisional Commissioner. Whoever gets the invite will be allowed to participate (in the event)." On the reopening of schools in the Valley, Kansal said "we will take a call on that".

The government's initial objective, officials said, was to keep the restrictions in place until the August 15 celebrations.

"Over the last nine days, we split it (the lockdown) in two phases. First, the aim was to keep things under control until Eid. Once that was achieved, we put in place an elaborate plan to en-

Civil society groups: Restore communication

New Delhi: A group of civil society organisations have implored the government to lift all restrictions on communication in Jammu and Kashmir and to refrain from doing so again in the future. Led by the "KeepItOn" campaign aimed to fight against internet shutdowns, the open letter is signed by Access Now, the Digital Rights Foundation, the Internet Freedom Foundation, PEN America, besides others.

sure Independence Day passes off peacefully," a senior official said.

"A clearer picture will emerge once we enter the new phase starting August 16. Over the past three days, we have tried to see how people react

when restrictions are relaxed... We are aware there is a lot of anger. There is a lot of tension in the air... We are aware this decision (on J&K) will have far-reaching implications. But currently, we are investing all our time, resources and efforts in not allowing any public protest," he said.

Night deployment of security forces is mostly concentrated around chowks, important junctions and main checkpoints.

Backing the government move, a police officer said the decision was "essential to root out" the separatists and the "mindset" of their sympathisers. "The idea of Azadi, autonomy, special status etc are the same. They are poison and we will keep adding water, keep diluting it till the water becomes safe to drink," he said.

With all eyes on the August 15 celebrations, the administration is leaving nothing to chance. At the dress rehearsal for the Srinagar event, local cultural groups were missing. Artists from Jammu and Ladakh, and troupes from the paramilitary forces led the cultural programme.

Art 370, 35A were like chains that kept people tied: PM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 14

ASSERTING THAT his government's decisions on Jammu and Kashmir were driven by national interest and not politics, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that abrogation of special status to J&K under Article 370 of the Constitution will "empower democracy" there "even more", as the provision had all along helped the local political class avoid transparency and accountability.

Modi slammed critics of the government's decision, and said, "Those who ruled Kashmir, thinking it is their divine right to do so, will dislike democratisation and peddle incorrect narratives. They do not want a self-made, younger leadership to emerge."

Articles 370 and 35(A), he said, were like "chains that kept people tied".

"Those who are opposing the decisions on Jammu and Kashmir should answer one basic question—what is their defence for Articles 370 and 35(A) remaining? They would have no answer to this question," Modi said in an interview to news agency IANS.

These critics, he said, are the same people who protest when it comes to anything that helps the common people. "There is a project to provide water to people, they will oppose it. There is a railway track being built, they will oppose that. Their heart only beats for Maoists and terrorists... Today, every Indian is fully stand-



'Those who ruled Kashmir... will dislike democratisation'

ing with the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. I am confident they will stand with us in the aim to boost development and bring peace."

Modi said opposing the decision are the "usual vested interest groups, political dynasties, those who sympathise with terror, and some friends in the Opposition".

"The people of India, irrespective of what their political preference is, have supported the steps taken in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. This is about the nation, not politics." The people of India, he said, are witnessing that "tough but essential decisions that were earlier assumed to be impossible are becoming a reality".

The Prime Minister said: "The status quo of seven long decades clearly could not fulfil people's aspirations. Citizens were kept away from the fruits of development. The greatest casualty was the lack of any proper economic avenues to increase earnings..."

Ready to visit J&K without any condition, Rahul tells Governor

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 14

ADAY after Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik accused Rahul Gandhi of trying to play politics by seeking to visit the region with a delegation of Opposition leaders, the senior Congress leader on Wednesday said he was willing to visit without any conditions.

Rahul had on Tuesday accepted Governor Malik's invitation to visit the Union Territory but had asked him to ensure that he and a delegation of Opposition leaders are given the "freedom to travel and meet the people, mainstream leaders and our soldiers stationed over there". The Governor said he had never invited the Congress leader with "so many pre-conditions".

On Wednesday, Rahul said he was willing to visit the Union Territory without any condition. "Dear Maalik ji, I saw your feeble reply to my tweet. I accept your invitation to visit Jammu & Kashmir and meet the people, with no conditions attached. When can I come?" he tweeted.

Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram, meanwhile, said the "J&K Governor's invitation to Rahul Gandhi was never a sincere invitation" and argued that "it was a tool of propaganda".

Real situation different: Dreze

New Delhi: Economist Jean Dreze and activists Maimoona Mollah, Kavita Krishnan and Vimal Bhai, who travelled to various parts of Kashmir from August 9-13, said that the "real situation" is "quite different" from what is being portrayed.

Releasing a report on their

CJI-led bench to hear pleas against curbs, Presidential order

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 14

A SPECIAL bench headed by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi will on Friday hear the petition challenging the Presidential order on Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir and another petition filed by the *Kashmir Times* editor that seeks removal of restrictions on the media in the region.

A special three-judge bench comprising the CJI, Justices S A Bobde and Abdul Nazeer will on Friday hear the separate petitions filed by Advocate M L Sharma and *Kashmir Times* editor Anuradha Janwal Bhasin, respectively.

On Tuesday, a bench comprising Justices Arun Mishra, MR Shah and Ajay Rastogi had directed advocate Vrinda Grover, representing Bhasin, to hand over a memo to the Supreme Court registry for urgent listing of her plea.

The directions by bench headed by Justice Mishra had come while hearing the petition filed by Tehseen Poonawala, seeking lifting of prohibitory orders, release of political leaders and restoration of communication services in Jammu and Kashmir.

The bench had on Tuesday declined to pass any order on a plea seeking relaxation of the restrictions on communication facilities.

Russia urges Pakistan foreign minister to resolve issues with India bilaterally

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 14

RUSSIAN FOREIGN Minister Sergei Lavrov on Wednesday asked his Pakistani counterpart Shah Mehmood Qureshi to resolve issues with India bilaterally, as Islamabad reached out to Moscow on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir.

A Russian Foreign Ministry statement said that Moscow "emphasised the need for de-

escalation of tensions, and that there is no alternative to resolve differences between Pakistan and India except bilaterally through political and diplomatic means."

Over the weekend, Russia became the first of the permanent five members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to back New Delhi's decision to remove the special status for Jammu and Kashmir. Moscow had also said, "Change in the status of the state of Jammu and

Kashmir and its division into two Union Territories are carried out within the framework of the Constitution of the Republic of India."

It had also recalled the Simla and Lahore accords and said, "We hope that the differences between them (India and Pakistan) will be resolved by political and diplomatic means on a bilateral basis in accordance with the provisions of the Simla Agreement of 1972 and the Lahore Declaration of 1999."

17 THE RURAL TRACKING THE CHANGING INDIA IN ITS VILLAGES

PLANT PROTECTION

The next blockbuster basmati

Breeding for resistance, rather than spraying pesticides, is the way ahead to secure a \$5-billion export industry

ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA & HARISH DAMODARAN

JALANDHAR/NEW DELHI, AUGUST 14

ONKAR SINGH has been cultivating Pusa-1121 — the basmati variety that, till recently, accounted for nearly three-fourths of India's exports of the aromatic rice (\$4.71 billion in 2018-19) — since 2008.

This year, the 53-year-old from Majitha village in the same tehsil of Amritsar district, has slashed his Pusa-1121 acreage to two acres, from 10 acres in 2018. Simultaneously, his area under Pusa-1718, a new improved basmati bred by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) in New Delhi, has expanded five-fold to 10 acres.

"Pusa-1718 is essentially Pusa-1121, which they (scientists) have made more disease-resistant. You don't need to spray any pesticides now. I tried it out first last year and got an average paddy yield of 23 quintals per acre, against 18-20 quintals from Pusa-1121. Also, the crop tillered better (more side stems produced from the initial parent shoot)," says Onkar, who grows the short-duration Pusa-1509 basmati variety on the remaining 33 acres of his total 45-acre holding.

Onkar Singh farms only basmati paddy, which has no assured government procurement at minimum support prices (MSP). "Pusa-1509 matures in just 115-120 days, from the date of nursery sowing to harvesting. I can transplant it from June 10 to June 25 and harvest between mid-September and early-October. It gives the flexibility, then, to plant *matar* (pea) in September and potato in October for harvesting by late-November/early-December. There is time to sow wheat, winter maize or *ajwain* (celery) even after that," he explains.

Pusa-1121 is a longer-duration basmati (140-145 days, seed to grain), mostly transplanted during June 10 to July-end for harvesting towards October-end and mid-November. It leaves scope only to sow wheat. "Yields, too, are lower than the 24-28 quintal/acre from Pusa-1509. The only advantage is price. Last year, I got Rs 3,600-4,000 per quintal for Pusa-1121, whereas Pusa-1509 paddy fetched Rs 2,600-3,000," he adds.

This is where the new variety could make a difference.

"Pusa-1121 was susceptible to bacterial blight. We have basically made it resistant to the pathogen by introducing two genes *Xa21* and *Xa13*, derived from a wild rice species (*Oryza longistaminata*) and a traditional land race (BJ1), respectively. The resultant variety (Pusa-1718) also possesses a non-lodging habit from a strong culm (stem). It is, hence, less prone to falling and can withstand heavy rain or water-logging better than Pusa-1121," A.K. Singh, head of IARI's Division of Genetics, tells *The Indian Express*.

Davinder Singh (30), of Khabba Rajputan village in Tarn Taran district and tehsil, agrees. This farmer has dedicated 20 acres to Pusa-1718 in the current season, from last year's two acres, while halving it from 40 acres to 20 acres for Pusa-1121.

"I did it after seeing how the new variety stood tall, despite being submerged under water for a week after incessant rains in September 22-24. And my yield was 27 quintals/acre, compared to 18-19 quintals of Pusa-



Farmer Davinder Singh at his basmati field in Tarn Taran district of Punjab. Anju Agnihotri Chaba

BASMATIRICEEXPORTS FROM INDIA

	QUANTITY (LAKH TONNES)	VALUE (US \$ MILLION)	VALUE (RS CRORE)
2013-14	37.54	4864.89	29291.82
2014-15	37.02	4518.25	27598.71
2015-16	40.45	3477.35	22714.37
2016-17	40.00	3222.35	21605.13
2017-18	40.52	4165.00	26841.19
2018-19	44.15	4712.62	32805.53

Source: APEDA, Ministry of Commerce.

1121," states Davinder, whose total 150-acre holding also includes 50 acres each under Pusa-1509 and non-basmati paddy varieties, and 10 acres of other crops (maize, vegetables and pulses).

Onkar and Davinder Singh are both bullish on Pusa-1718, which also matures 10 days earlier than Pusa-1121. "The traders are paying Rs 200-300/quintal lower for the new variety, just as they once tried to beat down the price of Pusa-1509. But the grain quality of Pusa-1121 and Pusa-1718 is just the same," claims Onkar.

According to Davinder, the economics of basmati cultivation today is superior to non-basmati. A yield of 25 quintals/acre from Pusa-1509 and Pusa-1718, at an average Rs 3,000/quintal rate, gives more return than from non-basmati varieties even at a guaranteed MSP of Rs 1,835/quintal on 34-35 quintals/acre. Progressive farmers like him are able to harvest high yields through practices such as incorporating crop stubble into the soil (rather than burning) and applying farm yard manure, in addition to granular sulphur and other secondary nutrients.

Talwinder Singh of Nauli village in Jalandhar district/tehsil is growing Pusa-1718

on three of his nine acres this time. Amarjit Singh from Viram in Amritsar's Majitha tehsil has, likewise, halved his Pusa-1121 area to five acres, while planting Pusa-1718 on five and Pusa-1509 on his balance 18 acres. Both have cited the same reasons — better disease resistance, less lodging-prone and more tillering ability.

Farmers in Punjab have sown a total basmati area of 6.29 lakh hectares (lh) this kharif season, 1.92 lh more than last year, while bringing it down under non-basmati varieties from 26.66 lh to 22.91 lh. They have also stepped up cotton acreage from 2.67 lh to 3.91 lh. The reduced non-basmati area would mean less pressure on government procurement agencies. Within basmati, a significant switch from Pusa-1121 to Pusa-1718 has taken place. G.S. Bal, chief agricultural officer of Amritsar, estimates the new variety to cover 30-35% of the district's basmati area of 1.39 lh this time.

Increased planting, of course, comes with price risk. Farmer realisations have been good in the last couple of years due to a rebound in basmati exports (see table). The value of shipments have marginally slipped during April-June (\$1,255 million versus \$

1,285 million in the same quarter of 2018-19), with the payment problems in Iran adding to the uncertainty.

One way to protect the country's export interests is by preserving basmati's premium quality attributes — aroma, long kernel length, linear elongation on cooking and fluffiness — and minimising use of chemical pesticides. The Punjab government, last month, issued an advisory to farmers not to spray formulations of five insecticides (acephate, thiamethoxam, triazophos, buprofezin and carbofuran) and four fungicides (tricyclazole, thiophanate-methyl, carbendazim and propiconazole).

An alternative approach to pesticide application is to "breed for disease resistance". This is what IARI scientists have sought to do through transfer of specific disease-resistance genes, from landrace cultivars and wild relatives of paddy, into existing high-yielding basmati varieties. Pusa-1718 is a result of such marker-assisted backcross breeding, which helps avoid use of streptomycin or tetracycline combinations to control bacterial blight.

A similar variety Pusa-1637 has been bred by incorporating a 'Pi9' gene, sourced from *Oryza minuta* (a wild relative of the normal cultivated *Oryza sativa* paddy), into the popular Pusa Basmati-1. This gene provides high-to-moderate resistance against leaf and neck blast, obviating the need to spray fungicides such as tricyclazole, azoxystrobin and picoxystrobin.

Vijay Setia, president of the All India Rice Exporters Association, feels Pusa-1718 is a "good variety". But he emphasises that farmers should not put all their eggs in a single variety, while advocating tough action against companies aggressively marketing pesticides. So long as an insect's population is below the "economic threshold level" — at which the value of the crop destroyed exceeds the cost of controlling the pest — there is no need to spray at all, he points out.

SCULPTING A LEGEND

A farmer in Punjab pays tribute to Swaminathan through artwork



Manjit Singh Gill (left) with his Swaminathan-and-farmer creation. Express

DIVYA GOYAL
LUDHIANA, AUGUST 14

"DURING ELECTION time, all political parties talk about implementing the Swaminathan Commission report in their manifestoes, but nobody actually does (after coming to power). Do you know what the Swaminathan report really is? And how do farmers benefit from it?"

These are the brief opening points and questions raised in the board behind the sculpture erected in one half of a two-acre piece of land belonging to Manjit Singh Gill. The person depicted in the 46-year-old's artwork is the Father of India's Green Revolution — Mankombu Sambasivan Swaminathan — himself, with one hand of his placed gently on the shoulder of a Sikh farmer and the other holding a copy of the National Commission on Farmers' report that was released nearly 13 years ago.

"Ask any farmer, he will tell you about the Swaminathan report without knowing fully what it is. All they are aware about is the suggestion that farmers receive prices for their crops, giving them a minimum 50% return over production cost. That basic idea has somehow stuck in their minds, thought they know nothing more about the report or even who Dr M S Swaminathan is," notes Gill.

This farmer-cum-sculptor from Ghal Kalan village in Punjab's Moga district, who has neither seen nor met the living legend, has made awareness about "Dr Swaminathan *saab*" and his report into some kind of a life mission. "I decided to do it after seeing my 70-year-old father, who has spent a lifetime tilling the fields, not being able to recognise the person whose report and earlier work as a scientist has made such a difference to our lives. My father did not have a clue even how Dr Swaminathan *saab* looks like; many people here thought he is a turbaned man who wears a dhoti," remarks Gill.

Gill spent about two months to make the carbon fibre sculpture that also has gunmetal, sandstone, cement, and plaster-of-Paris: "I collected about 20 photographs to get his features right. I ensured that he was shorter than the farmer. In real life as well, he isn't tall at all." The farmer portrayed is strikingly someone ploughing his field with a pair of bullocks, rather than tractors that are ubiquitous in the land of the Green Revolution.

"I did it deliberately to highlight the current status of the Punjab farmer. The wheat varieties that the scientists led by Dr Swaminathan *saab* bred during the 1960s and 1970s helped boost our per-acre yields more than five times. Today, the farmer is back to what he was before. But Dr Swaminathan *saab* is still there. He stood with farmers then and is supporting us even now. No one understands the pain and problems of the community like him," he says.

Gill feels "proud" to see farmers, including from neighbouring villages, visiting the "park" that is on a plot a few km away from his main five-acre paddy field. "It is open to all and I am charging no fees. Many farmers are even getting photographs and selfies clicked with Dr Swaminathan *saab* here. Further, they also read the information given on the board (detailing in Punjabi the Swaminathan report's main recommendations, including fixation of the minimum support prices for crops at 1.5 times the weighted average comprehensive cost of production)," he adds.

Gill — he worked as an art executive with the Punjab government's department of museums for four years, before taking voluntary retirement, in 2014, to pursue his farming and artistic passions — has also sculpted the former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri. "He was the one who coined the Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan slogan and empowered farmers the way Dr Swaminathan *saab* did," he points out. Gill is presently working on a sculpture of Mohinder Singh Randhawa, the man who helped in the resettlement of half-a-million displaced farmers from West Punjab after Partition and was vice-chancellor of the Punjab Agricultural University in Ludhiana from 1968 to 1976, at the height of the Green Revolution.

"Please convey my best wishes to this Punjab farmer," was Dr Swaminathan's response, when *The Indian Express* told him about Gill's artistic tribute. The renowned scientist, who turned 94 on August 7, also recalled a large get-together of farmers organised a few years ago near the Golden Temple in Amritsar, "to celebrate my first visit (to Punjab) with the new seeds of wheat in 1964". He, however, had a piece of advice for both the Punjab government and farmers: "The groundwater situation in the state isn't good. Free electricity should be avoided, as it promotes excessive pumping of water."

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Going beyond Soil Health Cards

A measurable and time-bound programme for increasing organic matter content in our soils is needed to preserve and boost crop productivity



AMIT MOHAN PRASAD

AGRICULTURE SUPPORTS roughly half of India's population and is the key to its food security. We have, indeed, avoided the spectre of food shortages, thanks to our farmers increasing production using modern inputs and technology developed by agriculture scientists. But there has been a collateral cost to this — in the form of overexploitation of our natural resources, especially soil and water — which has brought issues of sustainability to the fore.

To my mind, three pertinent issues relating to sustainable agriculture need addressing. The first is falling groundwater tables on which the Prime Minister himself has recently focussed attention. The second is the depleting organic matter content in our soils. The third one is a much broader concern of climate change; its impact on monsoon rainfall vagaries or temperature spikes during the cropping season doesn't require elaboration.

This article's focus is limited to the second issue. Soil organic carbon (SOC) is extremely important for agriculture. About 58% of organic matter mass exists in the form of carbon. The percentage of organic matter in

the soil can, thus, be estimated by simply multiplying the SOC% by a conversion factor of 1.72 (100/58). While farmers may apply urea or di-ammonium phosphate, adequate SOC levels is what makes the nitrogen and phosphorous from these chemical fertilisers bio-available to crops. Organic matter is also the source of food for the microorganisms that help increase the porosity and aeration of soils. The soil's moisture holding capacity, too, goes up with higher carbon levels, thereby reducing water runoff.

Simply put, SOC levels have direct correlation with soil productivity and, by extension, sustainability of agriculture. There is a link to climate change as well: Atmospheric carbon dioxide is stored in the form of SOC through the process of absorption in crop production and plant residue retention in soil. This sequestration of atmospheric carbon dioxide can, indeed, be a powerful mitigating measure for climate change.

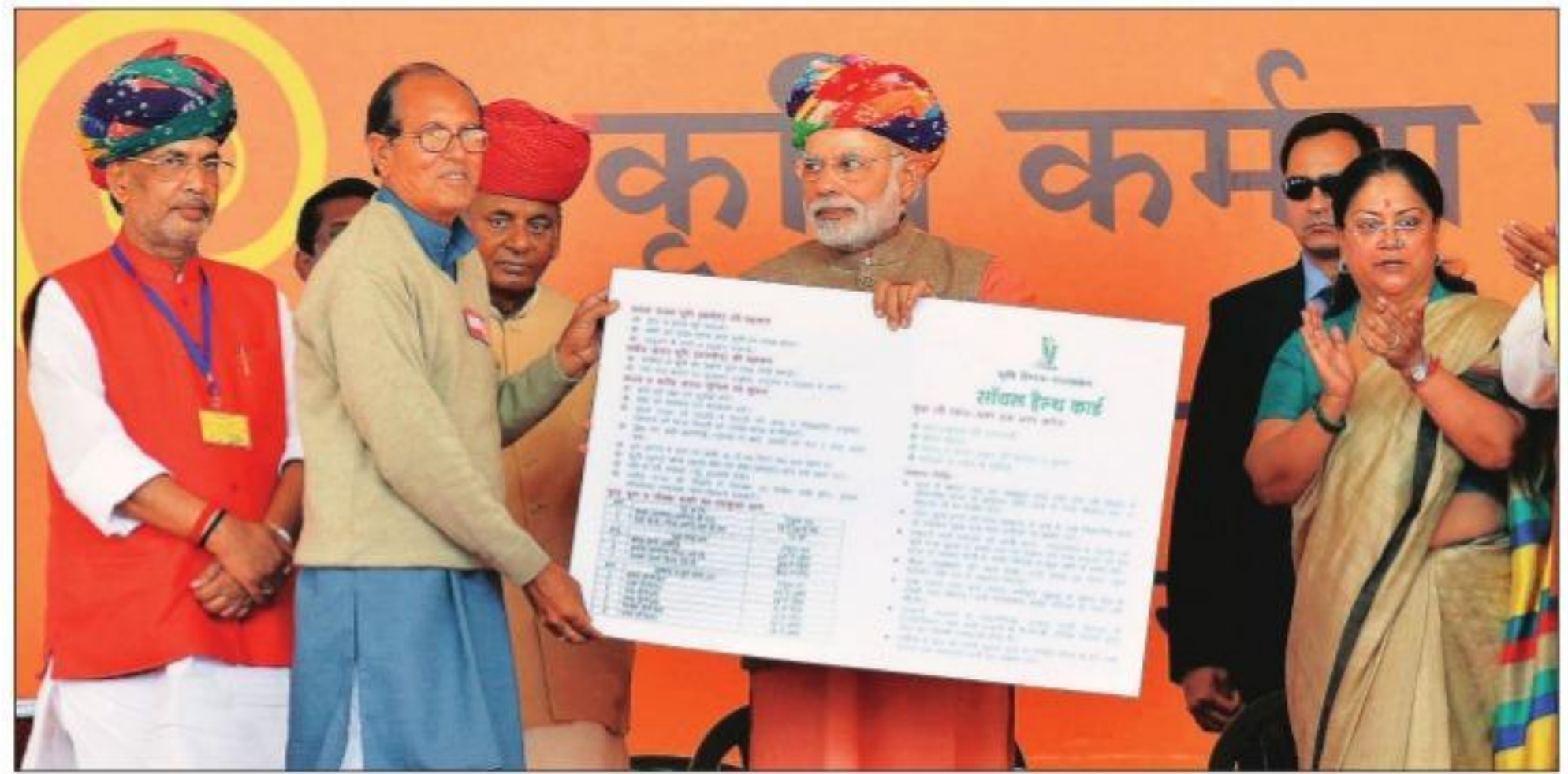
But in the last four years, based on sample testing results under the Centre's Soil Health Card Scheme, the picture emerging isn't all that encouraging, with SOC levels found to be very low in most parts of India. The soils in temperate climates have better carbon levels. It is quite the opposite in hot and tropical atmospheric areas such as ours, where the soils tend to lose carbon through decomposition (mineralisation) of plant residues. Rising temperatures from climate change further aggravates the situation.

SOC levels matter can be raised through higher retention of farm residue and adding

organic matter from outside. How can these be done?

The first step is proper crop selection. Plants, we know, take atmospheric carbon dioxide and convert it into food through photosynthesis process. Ideally, only crops producing more aboveground and root mass — which contribute to long-term productivity by enhancing soil organic matter — should be grown. But farmers, being rational economic agents, will go only for crops that give higher and assured returns, even if in the short run. A change in cropping patterns, to ensure high SOC and long-term productivity, will not take place unless the desired alternative crops are remunerative. It calls for appropriate policy intervention, including encouragement to set up agri-processing units for such crops, which will, in turn, make it profitable for farmers to grow them.

Second, even the aboveground mass remaining after harvesting of the grain and dried stalks needed for fodder should be returned to the soil as much as possible. This requires scientific crop residue management. Burning of crop stubble has a negative impact not just on environment and human health, but also on soil fertility. The crop residue when burnt, instead of raising SOC through mixing with the soil, gets converted into carbon dioxide. A strategy focused on both in situ and ex situ management of residue is necessary today. Farmers burn the leftover straw and stubble after harvesting of paddy mainly because of the narrow time window to prepare their fields for sowing the next wheat crop. Currently, it is being



Prime Minister Narendra Modi launching the Soil Health Card scheme in Suratgarh, Rajasthan. Archive

sought to address the issue through subsidised provision of implements such as Happy Seeder, Super-Straw Management System attachment, mulcher and chopper-shredder. But all this is mostly in areas closer to the national capital. For sustainable farming and improving soil health, we need all states to pitch in.

Third, to add organic matter from external sources, use of compost must be promoted. There is definitely a case to subsidise building of vermicompost pits or 'Nadeip' mud/clay brick tanks using money from MGNREGA and other schemes. Even urban green waste and manure from sewage treatment plants can be returned to farm soils. There is clear evidence that when nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium is used in conjunction with farm yard manure, the fertiliser response ratio itself goes up with rising SOC levels.

Fourth, crop rotation. In the rice-wheat system, planting of legumes, either as a summer or full replacement crop in the kharif/rabi season, is most needed. Legumes have root nodules harbouring rhizobium bacteria that fix nitrogen from the atmosphere. This nitrogen also helps bind and retain carbon in the soil for a longer time. Farmers, however, are hesitant to cultivate pulses for lack of a proper system of government procurement at minimum support prices, unlike that for wheat and paddy. Inclusion of pulses in the public distribution system would go a long way in promoting the cause of soil health as well as nutritional security for our masses.

Fifth, the use of no-till implements deserves a big push. Organic carbon is retained in large soil aggregates. Deep ploughing equipment that break these aggregates

cause SOC loss, whether through runoff with water or evaporation as carbon dioxide. Zero-till seed drills, Happy Seeders and Direct Seeded Rice machines will ensure minimal disturbance of aggregates and less depletion of organic matter.

Last but not the least, we need to launch a comprehensive awareness programme for enhancing the organic matter content of soils, with specified and time-bound targets. The very act of monitoring and measuring outcomes will help focus attention on this important aspect. Farming should, of course, be profitable. But it must also be sustainable. And who better to understand that than farmers.

The writer is Principal Secretary of Agriculture, Uttar Pradesh government. Views expressed are personal

18 THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



SWEDEN
A\$AP Rocky found guilty, but escapes jail term

Stockholm: US rapper A\$AP Rocky was convicted of assault by a Stockholm court on Wednesday but was spared time in prison after a high-profile trial that led President Donald Trump to question the fairness of Sweden's legal system. The court also convicted two members of A\$AP Rocky's entourage of the same crime in connection with a street brawl in the Swedish capital. None of the three, who had all pleaded not guilty, were in court for the hearing. "In an overall assessment the court finds that the assault has not been of such a serious nature that a prison sentence must be chosen," the court said in a statement. It also said the three were "not in a situation where they were entitled to self-defence".

UNITED NATIONS

UN: Halt civilian casualties in Afghanistan

Kabul: The United Nations said on Wednesday it was gravely concerned about reports indicating 11 civilians had been killed in an Afghan security force operation in an eastern province near the border with Pakistan. Civilian casualties in Afghanistan have been increasing, despite attempts by the US and the Taliban to negotiate an agreement to end the 18-year war. The government's main security agency said the operation in Pakia province had targeted a Taliban hideout.

PAKISTAN

Six killed in wall collapse amid 1-Day celebrations

Peshawar: At least five people died and 18 others injured on Wednesday after a wall collapsed amid Independence Day celebrations in northern Pakistan, officials said. The incident occurred at an helipad in Gilgit-Baltistan where an event under the supervision of the Pakistan Army was underway to mark the country's 73rd Independence Day, they said. Five people were killed and 18 others injured after a wall of the helipad compound suddenly collapsed, the officials said, adding the injured have been shifted to combined military hospital in Gilgit.



TEEN TAKES CLIMATE CAMPAIGN TO HIGH SEAS

Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg starts her trans-Atlantic boat trip to New York, in Plymouth, UK, Wednesday. Reuters

- Greta Thunberg, who shot to global fame last year after she started missing school every Friday to demonstrate outside the Swedish Parliament, is going to New York to take part in a UN climate summit.
- The 60-foot yacht, *Malizia II*, has been equipped with solar panels and electricity turbines to minimise its carbon footprint. It has no shower or toilet on board, and meals will consist of freeze-dried food.
- Thunberg is taking a year off school to travel around the Americas. She doesn't want to take a flight because of its carbon footprint, and said she didn't yet know how she would return at the end of her travels.

Expel Zakir Naik, say Malaysian ministers

ROZANNA LATIFF & KRISHNA NDAS
KUALA LUMPUR, AUGUST 14

MALAYSIA'S CABINET discussed the permanent residency of Indian Islamic preacher Zakir Naik on Wednesday, with three ministers demanding his expulsion for allegedly making racially sensitive remarks in the multi-ethnic nation.

Naik, who has lived in Malaysia for about three years and faces charges of money laundering and hate speech in India, has come under fire for his recent comments that Hindus in



Zakir Naik faces charges of money laundering and hate speech in India

the Southeast Asian country had "100 times more rights" than the

Muslim minority in India. Race and religion are sensitive issues in Malaysia, where Muslims make up about 60 per cent of its 32 million people. The rest are mostly ethnic Chinese and Indians, most of whom are Hindus.

The Malaysian ministers said Naik's comments may have been aimed at driving a wedge between Muslims and non-Muslims in Malaysia, an allegation that Naik denied.

"We have expressed our position, which is that action must be taken and that Zakir Naik should no longer be allowed to remain in Malaysia," Gobind

Singh Deo, minister of communications and multimedia, said in a statement.

"The Prime Minister has taken note of our concerns. We leave it to him to consider the position and to decide soonest possible what will be done to deal with the problem," he added.

M Kulasegaran, minister of human resources, and Xavier Jayakumar, the minister of water, land and natural resources, also released statements urging PM Mahathir Mohamad to expel Naik.

Naik, who has repeatedly rejected the charges against him, said his detractors were quoting him out of context. REUTERS

Trump official: Statue of Liberty poem, which welcomes the poor to America, is for Europeans

ZEKE MILLER & ASHLEY THOMAS
WASHINGTON, AUGUST 14

A TOP Trump administration official says that the famous inscription on the Statue of Liberty welcoming immigrants into the country is about "people coming from Europe" and that America is looking to receive migrants "who can stand on their own two feet".

The comments on Tuesday from Ken Cuccinelli, the acting director of US Citizenship and Immigration Services, came a day after the administration said it would seek to deny green cards to migrants who seek Medicaid, food stamps, housing vouchers or other forms of public assistance.

Cuccinelli said in an interview with CNN on Tuesday night that the Emma Lazarus poem emblazoned on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty referred to "people coming from Europe where they had class based societies..."



KEN CUCCINELLI
Acting Director, US Citizenship and Immigration Services

Lazarus' poem, written in 1883 to raise money to construct the Statue of Liberty's pedestal, reads, "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore."

Cuccinelli was asked earlier if the words "give me your tired, your poor" were part of American ethos. Cuccinelli responded: "They certainly are. Give me your tired and your poor who can stand on their own two feet and who will not become a public charge." AP

EXPLAINED
Rule likely to affect Europeans the least

THE TRUMP administration's move to deny Green Cards to immigrants on public benefits will affect people from Europe and Canada the least, according to a study cited in *The New York Times*. However, most of the recent arrivals from South and Central America are likely to be denied permanent residency under the new rule. While the number of Indians who apply for Green Cards while on public benefits is likely to be very small, what impact the move will have on Indians will depend on how the rule is implemented.

Indian jailed in US for damaging 66 computers in his college

LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON, AUGUST 14

A 27-YEAR-OLD Indian student was sentenced to one year imprisonment, to be followed by twelve months of supervised release, for intentionally damaging 66 computers at a college in New York.

The man, identified as Vishwanath Akuthota of Albany, was also ordered to pay \$58,471 as restitution charge, US Attorney Grant C Jaquith said Tuesday.

Pleading guilty, Akuthota admitted that on February 14 he inserted a "USB killer" device into 66 computers, as well as numerous computer monitors and computer-enhanced podiums, owned by the College of St Rose in Albany.

The "USB killer" can physically destroy the USB port and electrical system in a device.

Akuthota is a citizen of India and was residing in the US on a student visa. He has been in custody since his arrest in North Carolina on February 22. PTI



"There's a terrible collaboration going on between people who think they can block Brexit in Parliament and our European friends. They are not compromising at all on the withdrawal agreement..."

— BRITISH PM BORIS JOHNSON, on why Britain may be forced to leave the EU without a deal

Hong Kong airport reopens, China calls protests 'near terror'

Trump says Chinese troops moving to Hong Kong's border

FELIX TAM & MARIUS ZAHARIA
HONG KONG, AUGUST 14

CHINA'S HONG Kong Liaison office said on Wednesday that anti government protesters were no different to "terrorists", as US President Donald Trump said Chinese troops were moving to the border with Hong Kong and urged calm.

The Beijing-based Hong Kong and Macau Affairs office on Wednesday said extremely violent crimes must be severely punished in accordance with the law.

The strongly worded statements by China's central government follow violent clashes between black clad protesters and riot police at Hong Kong's international airport, which saw hundreds of flights halted for a second day in one of the world's busiest transit hubs.

A few dozen protesters remained at the airport on Wednesday while workers scrubbed it clean of blood and debris. Check-in counters reopened to queues of hundreds of weary travellers who had waited overnight for their flights.

Ten weeks of increasingly violent clashes between police and pro-democracy protesters, angered by a perceived erosion of freedoms, have plunged the Asian financial hub into its worst crisis since it reverted from British to Chinese rule in 1997.

China's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office said it strongly condemned the "near terrorism criminal actions" in Hong Kong including what it called a violent attack on a mainland Chinese journalist and tourist at the airport.

Police condemned violent acts by protesters overnight and said a large group had "harassed and assaulted a visitor and a journalist". Some protesters said

PROTESTERS APOLOGISE TO TRAVELLERS



A banner at the Hong Kong Airport on Wednesday says: 'Dear tourists, we're sorry about what happened yesterday. We were desperate and we made imperfect decisions. Please accept our apology.' Reuters

AUSTIN RAMZY
HONG KONG, AUGUST 14

PROTESTERS BEGAN issuing apologies on Wednesday for causing disruptions at the Hong Kong airport, as fallout from scenes of violence and chaos there, along with a court injunction, threatened to eliminate the transportation hub as one of their most effective venues for demonstrations.

Protests led the airport to suspend check-ins for two days in a row this week, causing hundreds of flight cancellations.

On Tuesday, a few scuffles broke out between protesters and travellers, who for the first time were being blocked from

the departure gates. In the evening, with tensions rising, some protesters surrounded, tied up and beat two men from mainland China — one of whom they suspected of being a security officer, while the other proved to be a reporter for a Communist Party-owned newspaper.

On Wednesday, protesters seemed well aware of the negative image they had presented. "We apologise for our behavior but we are just too scared," read one post on a messaging channel used by protesters, which gained wider distribution on other social media. "Our police shot us, government betrayed us, social institutions failed us. Please help us." NYT

Epstein's prison guards suspected of faking logs

JIM MUSTIAN, MICHAEL R SISAK & MICHAEL BALSAMO
NEW YORK, AUGUST 14

JAIL GUARDS are suspected of falsifying log entries to show they were checking on inmates in Jeffrey Epstein's unit every half hour when they actually weren't, according to a person familiar with the probe into his death.

Surveillance video reviewed after the 66-year-old financier's suspected suicide over the weekend shows guards never made most of the checks noted in the log, according to the person familiar with the investigation.

The development comes as the federal jail in Manhattan where Epstein was being held comes under increasing scrutiny in the wake of Epstein's suicide. Epstein is believed to have killed



He allegedly committed suicide on Saturday

himself early Saturday at the Metropolitan Correctional Centre in New York, where he was awaiting trial in a sex trafficking case.

An autopsy was performed Sunday, but the manner in which Epstein killed himself has not been officially announced.

His death prompted the Justice Department to place two guards assigned to watch Epstein on administrative leave and temporarily reassign the jail's warden to an office post pending the outcome of two investigations. Both the FBI and the Justice Department's inspector general are investigating Epstein's death. AP

Facebook paid contractors to transcribe users' audio clips

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NEW YORK, AUGUST 14

FACEBOOK HAS paid contractors to transcribe audio clips from users of its Messenger service, raising privacy concerns for a company with a history of privacy lapses.

The practice was, until recently, common in the tech industry. Companies say the practice helps improve their services. But users aren't typically aware that humans and not just computers are reviewing audio.

Transcriptions done by humans raise bigger concerns because of the potential of rogue employees or contractors leaking details. The practice at Google emerged after some of its Dutch language audio snippets were leaked. More than 1,000 recordings were obtained by Belgian broadcaster VRT NWS, which noted that some contained sensitive personal conversations — as well as information that identified the person speaking.

Facebook said audio snippets reviewed by contractors were masked so as not to reveal anyone's identity. It said it stopped the practice a week ago. The development was reported earlier by Bloomberg.

Google said it suspended doing this worldwide while it investigates the leaks. Amazon said it still uses humans, but users can decline, or opt out, of the human transcriptions. Published reports say Apple also has used humans, but has stopped. Irish data-protection regulators say they're seeking more details from Facebook to assess compliance with European data regulations.

Facebook is already under scrutiny for a variety of other ways it has misused user data. It agreed to a \$5 billion fine to settle a US Federal Trade Commission probe of its privacy practices.

TWO MALE PENGUINS AT BERLIN ZOO ADOPTED AN EGG

Gay penguins, and their hope for a baby, enchant Germany

LIAM STACK
BERLIN, AUGUST 14

SKIP AND Ping moved to the German capital in April and soon decided to start a family. They scrounged around for objects like a wet rock and a slimy fish they could nurture in the hopes that it would one day hatch into a chick, according to zookeepers.

But needless to say, neither the rock nor the fish ever hatched for Skip and Ping, who are both male king penguins at Zoo Berlin, said Maximilian Jäger, a spokesman. The zoo knew they were a couple when they arrived from Hamburg this year, and it became clear within weeks that they wanted to start a family, he said.

"It is very common that two

penguins of the same sex come together. I don't think it is the majority of penguins, but it is not rare either," Jäger said Tuesday. "We are sure they would be good parents because they were so nice to their stone."

So the zookeepers decided to give Skip — short for Skipper — and Ping a shot at fatherhood after a 22-year-old female, called The Orange because of the colour of her wings, laid an egg in July. She had never hatched a chick of her own.

"We just had to put the egg in front of one of them, and he knew just what to do," Jäger said. "He took his beak and put the egg on his feet and then put his stomach over it, which is the normal thing penguins do."

The prospect of two gay pen-



Homosexuality is common among penguins. Reuters file

guins adopting an egg and raising a chick has become a feel-good story in Germany in recent days. On Tuesday, penguin fans, journalists and a television crew from the country's public inter-

national broadcaster gathered to watch Ping sit on the egg.

"They were really the thing that pushed me to come to the zoo, because I really do not come to the zoo very often," said Anna

Schmidt, a 33-year-old gender studies researcher from Berlin who described them as "the happy couple."

Penguins are not the most expressive birds, but Ping and Skip seemed unfazed by all the attention. They sat on a rock and looked serenely out a window, their backs to the audience, while nearby The Orange groomed her wet feathers.

"I knew homosexuality existed in the animal world, but I had never heard of gay adoption in the animal world," Schmidt said. "I am not sure why they decided to adopt, but I am sure they had their reasons."

There may be one catch, though. Anja Seiferth, the penguin keeper at Zoo Berlin, said it was not clear if the egg had been fer-

tilized. That means it might never hatch. She said there was no way to know for sure until early September, when the zoo will either welcome a penguin chick or not. If it does, it will be the zoo's first penguin chick since 2002.

"I hope Ping and Skip get a little penguin baby and become the best parents you've ever seen," Seiferth said. "I hope that is what happens, but so far we do not know if it will."

Like many expectant parents, Seiferth said, the pair seemed different now that they were tending an egg. Skip is normally the "tough" one, she said, while Ping is "more smooth".

"They are a little bit angrier now, a little bit protective," she said. "They do not want us to come too close to them or too

close to their egg. Before they had the egg they were very cool and were more relaxed. But they have a job now."

Homosexuality has been observed in a number of animal species. But gay penguins seem to be unusually prominent in the world of animal homosexuality.

There have been same-sex penguin couples at many zoos, including the Central Park Zoo in New York, Sea Life Sydney Aquarium in Australia and regional zoos or aquariums in Denmark and Ireland.

And then there is the London Zoo, which in June celebrated Pride month — and its six gay Humboldt penguins — with a banner in the penguin exhibit that said, "Some penguins are gay, get over it." NYT

SECTOR WATCH PHARMACEUTICAL

Drug regulator flags Piramal's Supradyn, KAPL's painkiller as 'not of standard quality'

PRABHA RAGHAVAN NEW DELHI, AUGUST 14

INDIA'S TOP drug regulatory authority has flagged 18 batches of medicines, including Piramal Enterprises' multi-vitamin brand 'Supradyn' and a painkiller manufactured by public sector undertaking (PSU) Karnataka Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals Ltd (KAPL), for failing quality tests conducted last month.

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) this month labelled these batches as "not of standard quality" for failing tests conducted in July to prove the purity of their ingredients.

Piramal Enterprises, which markets Supradyn here, said it has not received any communication from CDSCO about this and that its products are released in the market "only after they have complied to all required specifications as per the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, and conform through their shelf life".

Emails sent to KAPL remained unanswered by press time Wednesday. CDSCO found at least one batch of Supradyn to have failed 'assay' tests to analyse the ingredient cyanocobalamin, which means there were less quantities of the ingredient than required in the approved combination.

Cyanocobalamin is used to prevent and treat low levels of vitamin B12. The samples tested were from batch number MH3080, according to CDSCO's drug alert.

It is not clear how many strips of Supradyn, which has 15 tablets in each strip, are to be recalled as part of this batch. "With reference to the mention of Supradyn in the list of drugs uploaded on the CDSCO website, we would like to state that Piramal Enterprises Limited has not received any communication from CDSCO on Supradyn failing quality tests, or as per your query, specifically due to assay of cyanocobalamin," a Piramal Group spokesperson told The Indian Express.

Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation this month labelled these batches as "not of standard quality" for failing tests conducted in July

The regulator also flagged at least three batches — 1511917, 1508318 and 1512117 — of KAPL's 50mg variation of diclofenac sodium, a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID) painkiller, for failing "disintegration" and "related substances" tests.

Disintegration tests are conducted to see how effectively a medicine breaks down into fragments or granules in order to improve their solubility, and is the first step towards making the drug ready for absorption into the patient's bloodstream. Tests for related substances are done to check for impurities and contaminants in the medicine that exist either from the process of manufacturing it or due to chemical changes from the medicine degrading, or breaking down, over time.

As on July 2019, Supradyn was the fourth largest multi-vitamin brand in its category, capturing 4.43 per cent of the Rs 1,433.50 crore market, according to data from pharmaceutical market research firm AIOCD PharmaTrac. However, its market share has dropped from 5.46 per cent in July 2018, according to the data. The regulator's latest alert lists a total of 18 batches of drugs, ranging from painkiller paracetamol to a batch of antibiotic ciprofloxacin.

However, PharmaTrac's data shows the manufacturers of the batches of the other drugs found to be substandard do not contribute a significant share of the overall sales of these formulations in the Indian market.

COMPUTER-GENERATED DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER FROM OCT 1

To end discretion of taxmen, I-T notices to carry unique number

Steps for 'better delivery of taxpayer services; ensuring accountability in official dealings'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, AUGUST 14

CUTTING DOWN on tax officials' discretion and moving to end taxpayers' harassment, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) Wednesday said all communications issued by the tax department to assesseees from October 1 will carry a Document Identification Number (DIN) in order to promote transparency.

The CBDT noted "that there have been some instances in which the notice, order, summons, letter and any correspondence were found to have been issued manually, without maintaining a proper audit trail of such communication."

In order to prevent such instances and to maintain proper audit trail of all communication, quoting of computer-generated DIN is being made mandatory in all forms of communication being sent by income tax authorities, the CBDT said.

Communication sent to taxpayer would include notices /letters relating to assessment, appeals, orders, statutory or otherwise, exemptions, enquiry, investigation, verification of information, penalty, prosecution, rectification and approval.

The CBDT also specified exceptional circumstances where the communication may be issued manually but only after recording reasons in writing and with the prior written approval of the Chief Commissioner/ Director General of Income-Tax concerned. Tax officials will have to specify with reasons for manual communication along with approval date of Chief Commissioner in a particular format.

"Any communication which

WILL MAINTAIN AUDIT TRAIL OF ALL COMMUNICATIONS

■ CBDT noted "that there have been some instances in which the notice, order, summons, letter and any correspondence were found to have been issued manually, without maintaining a proper audit trail of such communication"

■ Communication sent to taxpayer would include notices/letters relating to assessment, appeals, orders,

statutory or otherwise, exemptions, enquiry, investigation, verification of information, penalty, prosecution and approval

■ In exceptional circumstances where the communication may be issued manually but only after recording reasons in writing and with the prior written approval of the Chief Commissioner/DG of Income-Tax concerned

is not in conformity with the prescribed guidelines shall be treated as invalid and shall be deemed to have never been issued," the CBDT said.

Such manual communication will have to be uploaded on the system portal and regularised within 15 days, and intimated to the Principal Director General of Income-tax (Systems). The CBDT said this measure is being taken "towards better delivery of taxpayer services while ensuring accountability in official dealings".

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told The Indian Express in an interview last month that some instances of taxpayer harassment that were brought to her notice.

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

Incidentally, a purported letter released by the founder of Cafe Coffee Day, V G Siddhartha before his sudden death last month, referred to the "tremendous pressure" he was under from lenders and "harassment" from Income Tax officials. And that he was "very sorry to let down all the people that put their trust in me". The tax department had denied these allegations.

'More forced lending to NBFCs can land banks in trouble'

The recent steps by the Reserve Bank to encourage banks to increase lending to non-banking finance companies and retail borrowers are likely to rise risks for the sector, according to global rating agency Fitch

THREE MAJOR STEPS The central bank has announced steps to encourage banks to lend more to liquidity starved NBFCs

■ An increase in the single-exposure limit to 20 per cent of tier 1 capital (from 15 per cent)

■ Priority lending status for credit to NBFCs for on-lending to finance agriculture, small businesses and home-buyers

■ A reduction in the risk weight for consumer loans (except credit cards) to 100 per cent from 125 per cent



DESIGNED TO KEEP CREDIT FLOWING These initiatives are designed to help keep credit flowing to the real economy amid growing signs of a slowdown, as per the rating agency

than they previously had the appetite for, the agency said

IN CONTRAST TO GLOBAL TREND The constant nudging of banks to lend more to NBFCs is in contrast to the global trend of authorities trying to break the linkages between banks and NBFCs

■ Raises potential of NBFC risks spilling over to banks

■ The parallel banking sector has been under significant funding pressure as investors shy away following the default of IL&FS last September and the troubles at Dewan Housing early this year

Coffee Day to sell Bengaluru tech park to Blackstone for ₹2,600-3K cr

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, AUGUST 14

BOARD OKAYS SALE OF GLOBAL TECH VILLAGE

ANNOUNCEMENT comes weeks after the sudden death of Coffee Day Enterprises founder V G Siddhartha

THE BOARD of directors today approved the divestment of Global Village Tech Park in its subsidiary, Tanglin Developments, in favour of Blackstone, the company said in an exchange filing

THE SALE of the 90-acre technology park in Bengaluru will help the company reduce its debt burden

TWO WEEKS after the death of Cafe Coffee Day chain founder V G Siddhartha, the group's listed entity Coffee Day Enterprises (CDEL) has signed a non-binding agreement with US-based private equity giant Blackstone for its real estate property — Global Tech Village — in a deal valued at Rs 2,600-3,000 crore.

The sale of the 90-acre technology park in Bengaluru will help the company reduce its debt burden. "The board of directors today approved the divestment of Global Village Tech Park in its subsidiary, Tanglin Developments, in favour of Blackstone," the company said in an exchange filing.

The transaction is valued around Rs 2,600-3,000 crore and the company has entered into a non-binding letter of intent, it said. The deal is subject to completion of Blackstone's due diligence, documentation and receipt of requisite regulatory approvals, which is expected in the next 30-45 days. The park is spread over 120 acres with a total built-up area of 3.3 million sq ft and equipped with all modern facilities and greenery. The board has also approved divestment in its step-down subsidiary, AlphaGrep Securities Pvt, part of its wealth management subsidiary Way2Wealth, in favour of Illuminati Software Pvt for around Rs 28 crore. These transactions will significantly help in deleveraging the Coffee Day group, and ensure smooth opera-

tions while safeguarding the interests of all stakeholders, including investors, lenders, employees and customers, it said.

Blackstone's India investment is currently around \$6 billion involving over 34 transactions since it started investing in the domestic market in 2011. Coffee Day shares plunged 4.95 per cent to Rs 66.25 on March 31, 2018 and has steadily increased from 1.3 times as on March 31, 2016. Both standalone and consolidated entity have high repayment obligations in the near to medium term and are exposed to refinancing risk. The risk is however partly mitigated by track record of successful refinancing in the last few years. The debt availed by the company are typically backed by personal guarantee from promoters and pledge of shares of listed and unlisted group entities and associate companies.

Stress ahead: Domestic bond yields rise 10 bps

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, AUGUST 14

REVERSING THE uptrend witnessed in the last couple of weeks, yields on India's 10-year benchmark government bonds rose by 10 basis points to 6.63 per cent on Wednesday, a week after the Reserve Bank slashed the Repo rate by 35 basis points.

Yield has risen by 14 basis points in the last few days even as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) slashed the key policy rate last week. Yield on 10-year bond had fallen ahead of the RBI policy meeting on August 7. Normally when investors sell government bonds, prices drop and yields increase. A higher bond yield indicates greater risk and if the yield

offered by a bond is much higher than what it was when issued, there is a chance that the company or the government that issued it is financially stressed.

The 10-year benchmark bond yields fell by 40 bps during July 2019 to an average of 6.52 per cent from month ago and by 87 bps from April 2019. Corporate bond yields have fallen by 107 bps since September 2019 and that of commercial papers have fallen 111 bps. A number of factors led to the decline in yields of government and corporate securities — the pass through of the RBI rate cuts and expectations of further cuts, the liquidity surplus in the banking system (since June 2019), the government's decision to maintain the fiscal deficit target for the year and thereby lowering

Rupee rebounds from 6-month lows; up 13 paise to 71.27 vs USD

Mumbai: The rupee on Wednesday recovered from six-month lows and advanced 13 paise to close at 71.27 against the US dollar on Wednesday amid easing oil prices, low inflation and gains in the domestic equity market. On Tuesday, the rupee had plunged 62 paise to close at a nearly six-month low of 71.40 against the US dollar as global

market turmoil and Argentine currency crash drove investors to safe havens.

"The Indian rupee has now become Asia's worst performing currency so far this month... Chinese yuan depreciated amid trade worries and foreign investor outflows," said V K Sharma, Head-PCG & Capital Market Strategy, HDFC Securities. ENS

concerns of additional market borrowing, higher demand for government securities as well as

higher rated corporate bonds and commercial papers by mutual funds.

BOTH COUNTRIES NO LONGER 'DEVELOPING NATIONS', SAYS US PRESIDENT

Won't let India, China take 'advantage' from WTO: Trump

LALIT K JHA WASHINGTON, AUGUST 14

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump has said that India and China are no longer "developing nations" and were "taking advantage" of the tag from the WTO and asserted that he will not let it happen anymore.

Trump, championing his 'America First' policy, has been a vocal critic of India for levying "tremendously high" duties on US products and has described the country as a "tariff king". Earlier in July, Trump asked the

World Trade Organization to define how it designates developing-country status, a move apparently aimed at singling out countries like China, Turkey and India which are getting lenient treatment under the global trade rules.

Addressing a gathering at Pennsylvania on Tuesday, Trump said India and China — the two economic giants from Asia — are no longer developing nations and as such they cannot take the benefit from the WTO.

However, they are taking the advantage of a developing nation tag from the WTO, putting the US



"They (India and China) were taking advantage of us for years and years... We're not letting that happen anymore... Everybody is growing but us"

DONALD TRUMP, US PRESIDENT

to disadvantage, he said. "They (India and China) were taking advantage of us for years and years,"

Trump said. Under the global trade rules, developing countries claim entitlement to longer time-

Recession warning: US Treasury bond curve inverts for first time since 2007

■ German GDP contracts 0.1% QoQ in Q2 ■ China July industrial output rises 4.8% year-on-year, weakest since 2002

REUTERS LONDON/BEIJING/BERLIN, AUGUST 14

THE US Treasury bond yield curve inverted on Wednesday for the first time since 2007, in a sign of investor concern that the world's biggest economy could be heading for recession.

The inversion — a situation where shorter-dated borrowing costs are higher than longer ones — saw US 2-year note yields rise above the 10-year bond yield. The curve inverted to as much as minus 1.7 basis points by 1045 GMT.

Such an inversion, considered a classic recession signal, occurred last in June 2007 when the US sub-prime mortgage crisis was gathering pace. The US curve has inverted before every recession in the past 50 years, offering a false signal just once in that time.

"Historically the US curve was always thought of as a recession signal and it remains to see if that's still the case. The world certainly seems a less safe place," said Tim Graf, chief macro strategist at State Street Global Advisors.

Weak economic data and inflation, global trade tensions and risks such as the consequences of Brexit have driven concern about world growth, fuelling market expectations of central bank rate cuts and sparking hefty falls in government bond yields.

The US 30-year Treasury yield tumbled to a record low of 2.05 per cent on Wednesday. "The yield curve inversion is a bad omen for the economy," said Arne Petmezias, an analyst at AFS in Amsterdam. "Inversions in crucial segments of the yield curve have always heralded recessions."

Elsewhere, yield curves have been less accurate in predicting downturns but Germany's was at its flattest since 2008. In Germany, the 10-year bond yield fell to a record low of -0.64 per cent after data showed the euro zone's powerhouse economy shrank in the second quarter. Slumping exports sent Germany's economy into reverse in the second quarter.

Overall output fell 0.1 per cent quarter-on-quarter, data showed on Wednesday. On a calendar-adjusted basis, annual growth slowed to 0.4 per cent from 0.9 per

cent in the first quarter, the Federal Statistics Office data showed, and for 2019 overall Berlin expects growth to drop to just 0.5 per cent from last year's 1.5 per cent.

Britain's bond yield curve also inverted on Wednesday for the first time since the global financial crisis. Meanwhile, China reported a raft of unexpectedly weak July data on Wednesday, including a slump in industrial output to more than 17-year lows. Industrial output growth slowed markedly to 4.8 per cent in July from a year earlier, data from the National Bureau of Statistics showed.

Retail sales rose 7.6 per cent in July, well off consensus of 8.6 per cent and weaker than the most pessimistic forecast. Sales had jumped 9.8 per cent in June, which many analysts had predicted would be temporary.

In March, the inversion of the US yield curve hit 3-month T-bills for the first time in about 12 years when the yield on 10-year notes dropped below those for 3-month securities. That metric reverted back and then inverted again in May. Over that period, the 2-/10-year curve did not invert.

Graf said the backdrop now was not a "perfect apples to apples comparison" to the last curve inversion episode.

frame for the imposition of safeguards, generous transition periods, softer tariff cuts, procedural advantages for WTO disputes and the ability to avail themselves of certain export subsidies. Trump expressed hope that the WTO will treat the US "fairly". He said the WTO views certain countries like China and India as "they're growing". "Well, they've grown," he said and warned that the US will not let such countries to take advantage of the WTO. "We're not letting that happen anymore...Everybody is growing but us," he said. PTI

EXPLAINED What the US bond yields signals

THE RECORD fall in US 30-year Treasury yields, as well as the yields of the 10-year bonds falling below two-year yields, show that investors (both inside and outside the US) expect the global economic slowdown to worsen. As such, they are rushing to buy US bonds (which are a safer option), leading to a spike in their prices and a fall in yields.

BP drug complaints: Lantech Pharma gets USFDA warning

PRABHA RAGHAVAN NEW DELHI, AUGUST 14

A YEAR after concerns related to potential cancer causing impurities found in samples of blood pressure medicine Valsartan were raised in the US, issues with drug makers involved in the production of the drug continue. The US Food and Drug Administration has issued a warning letter to Hyderabad-based Lantech Pharmaceuticals over its failure to investigate quality complaints related to the drug.

Warning letters are issued when the US drug regulator finds that a manufacturer has "significantly" violated FDA regulations.

According to the letter to Lantech issued on August 8, the firm's quality unit had failed to thoroughly investigate and resolve complaints raised by a customer firm that used its contract solvent recovery services to make the valsartan active pharmaceutical ingredient (API). The firm's complaint to Lantech in December 2018 had stated that the solvent contained N-Nitrosodiethylamine (NDEA), a potential cancer causing impurity.

An API is a key ingredient that gives a medicine its therapeutic effect. The USFDA found Lantech's investigation into the contaminated valsartan API to be "inadequate" for several reasons. This includes its failure to investigate N-Nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA), another potentially cancer causing impurity, which was also identified in samples collected from equipment used by Lantech to recover the solvents.

LETTER OVER FAILURE TO PROBE COMPLAINTS

THE US Food and Drug Administration has issued a warning letter to Lantech Pharmaceuticals over its failure to investigate quality complaints

The company also conducted a limited investigation, failing to look at non-dedicated storage, receiving and charging tanks used in its solvent recovery operations, according to the regulator.

"Given that your firm does not maintain logbooks or documentation demonstration product use or cleaning associated with the use of these tanks, there is a potential for all products manufactured at your facility to contain nitrosamines through mix-ups or cross contamination," stated the warning letter.

It also failed to have adequate cleaning procedures to prevent contamination or carry-over of material that would "alter" the quality of the APIs produced, according to the FDA. "Additionally, during our inspection, solid and liquid material of unknown origin was noted pooling at the bottom of a non-dedicated receiving tank... Unknown residue was also observed in the external view glasses, a product contact surface, of non-dedicated receiving tanks..." it stated.

Lantech further failed to "adequately evaluate" risks associated with the valsartan, telmisartan

and olmesartan APIs, which belong to a class of hypertensive drugs known as Angiotensin II Receptor Blockers (ARBs), that it makes for "non-US" markets, according to the FDA.

"Your firm failed to adequately evaluate the potential of these ARBs to form nitrosamines and identify potential cross contamination risks for drugs...made using non-dedicated equipment and shipped into the U.S. supply chain," it stated.

"In your response, you stated that you were unaware of specific aspects of your customer's valsartan API manufacturing process which were important for predicting nitrosamine formation in the solvent recovery process. Your response is inadequate because it is your responsibility to understand all the potential risks associated with the drug manufacturing processes conducted at your facility," it added.

Lantech also displayed a failure to control and monitor its procedures to recover solvents in a manner that it ensures they meet "appropriate standards" before reuse. It also failed to exercise sufficient controls over its computerised systems to prevent "unauthorised access", changes to data and "omission of data".

"Your quality system does not adequately ensure the accuracy and integrity of data to support the safety, effectiveness, and quality of the drugs you manufacture," the letter added.

Queries sent to Lantech's official email identified on the Ministry of Corporate Affairs website remained unanswered by press time Wednesday.

RBI SURPLUS 'Jalan panel to stick to staggered transfer'

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, AUGUST 14

THE BIMAL Jalan panel, which was set up to examine the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) economic capital framework (ECF), would recommend the transfer of the central bank's excess reserves to the government over a period of three-five years, a source privy to the development told FE.

The committee held its meeting on Wednesday

The panel held its last meeting on Wednesday and is learnt to have retained its major recommendations despite a change in its composition after new Finance Secretary Rajiv Kumar had replaced Subhash Chandra Garg as a member.

The surplus transfer could help the government tide over any potential shortfall in its tax revenue and contain fiscal deficit unless the panel ties the transfers to specific use like retiring public debt or recapitalisation of state-run banks.

In February, the RBI decided to offer an interim dividend of Rs 28,000 crore to the Centre, driving up its total transfer in the last fiscal to Rs 68,000 crore. FE

COMPETITION LAW REVIEW COMMITTEE

'Green channel under competition law needed for faster M&A nod'

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, AUGUST 14

A COMMITTEE constituted to review competition law has recommended introduction of a green channel fast approval of mergers and acquisition, in effect proposing to move towards more of a disclosure based regime.

Under the Competition Act, combinations (mergers and acquisitions) beyond a certain threshold require clearance from the Competition Commission of India (CCI). The government had constituted a Competition Law Review Committee last October to review existing laws.

In its report, submitted to Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday, the committee suggested "introduction of a green channel for combination notifications to enable fast-paced regulatory approvals for vast majority of mergers and acquisitions that may have no major concerns regarding appreciable adverse effects on competition. The aim is to move towards disclosure based regime with strict consequences for not providing accurate or complete information."

EXPLAINED

Move likely to help financial creditors, resolution applicants

A GOVERNMENT-APPOINTED expert panel's suggestion to create a green channel under the competition law for faster approval of merger and acquisitions would be beneficial on two counts: a seamless platform for companies applying for approval from the Competition Commission of India in M&A cases. Second, for companies being acquired under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, the green channel would pave way for faster resolution of stressed assets. This will help the financial creditors to the companies undergoing resolution under the IBC as well as resolution applicants that bid to acquire them under an insolvency auction.

The Committee, chaired by Corporate Affairs Secretary Injeti Srinivas, has recommended said that "parties to the combination may self-assess, based on specified criteria and pre-filing consultation with the CCI, whether they qualify for notification under the green channel." Green channel route should be the de facto route for merger notification and approval for majority cases.

The government can formulate a detailed eligibility criteria in

consultation with the CCI.

"Combinations arising out of the insolvency resolution process under the IBC (Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code) should be eligible for the green channel," the panel said. The mandatory 30-day timeline for completion of the first phase of review of combination cases should be included in the Act itself, the report said. This timeline would continue to govern combinations that are not eligible for the proposed green channel.

'60% in US hold dim view of China amid trade war'

Nations that respondents consider as future threat: China 24%, Russia 24%, North Korea 12%

On China's growing economy: Bad for US 41%, Good for US 50%

On China's rising military power: Bad for US 81%, Good for US 11%

Opinion on China President Xi Jinping:

Rising tensions over trade have dimmed Americans' opinions of China, as a Pew Research Center poll found that 60 per cent say they have an unfavourable view of China — up from 47 per cent last year to the highest proportion since the organisation started asking the question 14 years ago



No confidence 50%, Age-wise proportion of respondents with negative view on China: 50 and older 67%, 30-49 58%, 18-29 49%, Respondents disapproving of China, based on qualification: With college degree 69%, Without college degree 57%, 1,503 adults surveyed by Pew Research Center from May 13 to June 18

Office of the Chief Executive Officer Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Katra

EXTENSION NOTICE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) The Expression of Interest (EOI) for the work "Design, Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning of Multipurpose Audio - Video System on the Track of SMVDSB at Katra on 'Turn Key Basis' including 05 years of Operation & Maintenance" invited vide No. CO/63-I/ 963 dated 29.07.2019 is hereby extended upto 30.08.2019 upto 03.00 P.M. IST. Another Pre-Bid Meeting shall be held on 20.08.2019 at 11.00 A.M. IST at S.G.C. SMVDSB, Katra. Other terms & conditions shall remain the same. No.: CO/63-I/1067 Dated: 14.08.2019 Sd/- (Manu Hansa), KAS Asstt. Chief Executive Officer

The Rajasthan Small Industries Corporation Ltd. (A Government of Rajasthan Undertaking)

Udyog Bhawan, Tilak Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur-302005 Phone: 0141-2227079, Fax: 0141-2227257 CIN: U91110RJ19619SG001118 E-tender BID Invitation Notice 06-08/2019 SUPPLY OF POLYTHENE BAGS, BARBED WIRE AND STEEL FURNITURE ITEM UBN RSI1920GLRC00007 UBN RSI1920GLRC00008 UBN RSI1920GLRC00009 RSI is inviting online competitive BIDS from SSI Units who are registered from Industries Department, Government of Rajasthan for supply of Polythene Bags, Barbed Wire and Steel Furniture Item to the Government of Rajasthan Departments, PSUs, etc. rate contract for the period of upto two years. The Tender/Bid shall only be submitted through online tendering system of eproc.rajabsthan.gov.in. Last date of submission of online bids:- For SUPPLY OF POLYTHENE BAGS, BARBED WIRE 30.8.2019 till 1 PM. For STEEL FURNITURE ITEM 9.9.2019 till 1 PM For further details visit our website: industries.rajabsthan.gov.in/rajisico or sproc.rajabsthan.gov.in or contact: Marketing section on 7875951778, 9511461323 SamwadiC/2010/2019-2020 Managing Director

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY INDORE

Khandwa Road, Simrol, Indore-453552 NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER E-tenders are invited by IIT Indore for the following works: Sl. NIT No. Name of Work Estimated Cost (Rs.) 1 IITV/Estate/Horticulture /Hub front/2019-20 Development work related to horticulture land preparation in front of HUB building and selected areas at IIT Indore Simrol Campus 39,87,489/- 2 IITV/Estate/horticulture/grassing/2019-20/38 Development of lawn in selected areas at IIT Indore Simrol Campus. 48,65,328/- 3 IITV Estate/Maint/ carpet faculty cabin/ Maths/2018-19 /35 Interior and development work (carpeting, roller blinds) in cabins for Mathematics Department Scandium Building IIT Indore. 24,39,840/- For complete details including last date for submission of tenders, please visit www.tenderwizard.com/ITI. Project In-Charge (Acting)

कार्यालय नगर निगम, जयपुर

कार्यालय नगर निगम, जयपुर (पब्लिक टेंडरिंग प्रणाली के माध्यम से) का ई-निविदा सूचना नगर निगम, जयपुर द्वारा सार्वजनिक स्थलों पर विद्युत के लिए विभिन्न स्थानों पर सार्वजनिक कार्य का ई-निविदा निम्नानुसार किया जाता है- क्र.सं. विद्युत का नाम संख्या ई-निविदा दिनांक संपादन तिथि 1. निविदा सूचना शीटिका पर विद्युत एवं संरक्षण (पुनर्स्थापना) (पुनर्स्थापना) का कार्य 19 28.08.2019 प्रातः 11:00 बजे से 5:30 तक (अंतिम 15 मिनट में बोली लाने की स्थिति में) की जायेगी। 2. निविदा सूचना शीटिका पर विद्युत एवं संरक्षण (पुनर्स्थापना) का कार्य 10 29.08.2019 प्रातः 11:00 बजे से 5:30 तक (अंतिम 15 मिनट में बोली लाने की स्थिति में) की जायेगी। 3. लघु विद्युत बोर्ड ई-निविदा (पुनर्स्थापना) का कार्य 50 4. नये बैटरीज टैंकर सार्वजनिक स्थलों पर विद्युत एवं संरक्षण का कार्य 15 5. नये बैटरीज टैंकर सार्वजनिक स्थलों पर विद्युत एवं संरक्षण का कार्य 59 29.08.2019 प्रातः 11:00 बजे से 5:30 तक (अंतिम 15 मिनट में बोली लाने की स्थिति में) की जायेगी। 6. विद्युत बोर्ड, सांभलपुर जिला, जयपुर का कार्य 2 जेन क्विटर का कार्य 50 7. लघु 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तिथि 1. निविदा सूचना शीटिका पर विद्युत एवं संरक्षण (पुनर्स्थापना) का कार्य 1

STARING INTO THE ABYSS

How will this end?

Deploying the army would have dangerous repercussions for China and the rest of the world

IT IS SUMMER, and the heat is oppressive. Thousands of students have been protesting for weeks, demanding freedoms that the authorities are not prepared to countenance. Officials have warned them to go home, and they have paid no attention. Among the working population, going about its business, irritation combines with sympathy. Everybody is nervous about how this is going to end, but few expect an outcome as brutal as the massacre of hundreds and maybe thousands of citizens.

Today, 30 years on, nobody knows how many were killed in and around Tiananmen Square, in that bloody culmination of student protests in Beijing on June 4th 1989. The Chinese regime's blackout of information about that darkest of days is tacit admission of how momentous an event it was. But everybody knows that Tiananmen shaped the Chinese regime's relations with the country and the world. Even a far less bloody intervention in Hong Kong would reverberate as widely.

What began as a movement against an extradition bill, which would have let criminal suspects in Hong Kong be handed over for trial by party-controlled courts in mainland China, has evolved into the biggest challenge from dissenters since Tiananmen. Activists are renewing demands for greater democracy in the territory. Some even want Hong Kong's independence from China. Still more striking is the sheer size and persistence of the mass of ordinary people. A general strike called for August 5th disrupted the city's airport and mass-transit network. Tens of thousands of civil servants defied their bosses to stage a peaceful public protest saying that they serve the people, not the current leadership. A very large number of mainstream Hong Kongers are signalling that they have no confidence in their rulers.

As the protests have escalated, so has the rhetoric of China and the Hong Kong government. On August 5th Carrie Lam, the territory's crippled leader, said that the territory was "on the verge of a very dangerous situation". On August 6th an official from the Chinese government's Hong Kong office felt the need to flesh out the implications. "We would like to make it clear to the very small group of unscrupulous and violent criminals and the dirty forces behind them: those who play with fire will perish by it." Anybody wondering what this could mean should watch a video released by the Chinese army's garrison in Hong Kong. It shows a soldier shouting "All consequences are at your own risk!" at rioters retreating before a phalanx of troops.

The rhetoric is designed to scare the protesters off the streets. And yet the oppressive nature of Xi Jinping's regime, the Communist Party's ancient terror of unrest in the provinces and its historical willingness to use force, all point to the danger of something worse. If China were to send in the army, once an unthinkable idea, the risks would be not only to the demonstrators.

Such an intervention would enrage Hong Kongers as much as the declaration of martial law in 1989 aroused the fury of Beijing's residents. But the story would play out dif-



Anti-government demonstrators sit in a designated area of the arrival hall of the airport, in Hong Kong on Wednesday. Reuters

ferently. The regime had more control over Beijing than it does over Hong Kong now. In Beijing the party had cells in every workplace, with the power to terrorise those who had not been scared enough by the tanks. Its control over Hong Kong, where people have access to uncensored news, is much shakier. Some of the territory's citizens would resist, directly or in a campaign of civil disobedience. The army could even end up using lethal force, even if that was not the original plan.

With or without bloodshed, an intervention would undermine business confidence in Hong Kong and with it the fortunes of the many Chinese companies that rely on its stockmarket to raise capital. Hong Kong's robust legal system, based on British common law, still makes it immensely valuable to a country that lacks credible courts of its own. The territory may account for a much smaller share of China's GDP than when Britain handed it back to China in 1997, but it is still hugely important to the mainland. Cross-border bank lending booked in Hong Kong,

much of it to Chinese companies, has more than doubled over the past two decades, and the number of multinational firms whose regional headquarters are in Hong Kong has risen by two-thirds. The sight of the army on the city's streets would threaten to put an end to all that, as companies up sticks to calmer Asian bases.

The intervention of the People's Liberation Army would also change how the world sees Hong Kong. It would drive out many of the foreigners who have made Hong Kong their home, as well as Hong Kongers who, anticipating such an eventuality, have acquired emergency passports and boltholes elsewhere. And it would have a corrosive effect on China's relations with the world.

Hong Kong has already become a factor in the cold war that is developing between China and America. China is enraged by the high-level reception given in recent weeks to leading members of Hong Kong's pro-democracy camp during visits to Washington. Their meetings with senior officials and members of Congress have been

cited by China as evidence that America is a "black hand" behind the unrest, using it to pile pressure on the party as it battles with America over trade (a conflict that escalated this week, when China let its currency weaken).

Were the Chinese army to go so far as to shed protesters' blood, relations would deteriorate further. American politicians would clamour for more sanctions, including suspension of the act that says Hong Kong should be treated as separate from the mainland, upon which its prosperity depends. China would hit back. Sino-American relations could go back to the dark days after Tiananmen, when the two countries struggled to remain on speaking terms and business ties slumped. Only this time, China is a great deal more powerful, and the tensions would be commensurately more alarming.

None of this is inevitable. China has matured since 1989. It is more powerful, more confident and has an understanding of the role that prosperity plays in its stability—and of the role that Hong Kong plays in its prosperity.



This satellite image on Monday appears to show Chinese security force vehicles inside a sports centre in Shenzhen, bordering Hong Kong. Maxar Technologies via AP

Certainly, the party remains as determined to retain power as it was 30 years ago. But Hong Kong is not Tiananmen Square, and 2019 is not 1989. Putting these protests down with the

army would not reinforce China's stability and prosperity. It would jeopardise them.

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LEXINGTON

Rowing about rights

Mike Pompeo's new commission looks like a partisan stunt

MARY ANN GLENDON is not used to having her bona fides questioned. The 80-year-old Harvard professor is an eminent legal scholar whose books on comparative law and human rights are widely respected. A former ambassador to the Holy See, she is also a conservative Catholic, whose opposition to gay marriage and abortion have drawn flak. But her view of abortion is nuanced; she is not for a blanket ban. And her contribution to human rights is significant. She was active in the civil-rights struggle (and had a child with an African-American) in the 1960s; her book on the conservative and Christian roots of the rights movement is seminal. Yet since her former student Mike Pompeo, the secretary of state, announced that she will lead a new "Commission on Unalienable Rights", both she and it have been savaged. Over 400 rights, religious and academic bodies, as well as Obama and Bush administration officials such as David Kramer and Susan Rice, signed a letter asking the panel to be scrapped before it has even met.

In a lengthy email exchange, Ms Glendon sounded understandably bruised: "I really hope that those who have rushed to judgment about the commission before it gets off the ground will one day understand how far off the mark they were." Yet that does seem unlikely. The opposition stems from a belief that Mr Pompeo launched the commission to promote religious liberty—with which evangelical Christians, the Trump administration's most important constituency, are obsessed—at the expense of reproductive and gay rights, which they abhor.

This is a fair deduction. Religious liberty

By contrast, many people, seemingly including Mr Pompeo, view more recent protections for gays and other minorities as mere "interests" or "goods", doled out by liberals for political gain.

is the only right in which Mr Pompeo, who is evangelical and highly ambitious, has shown any serious interest. He has also previously linked it to the archaic phrase "unalienable right", which conservatives use to denote the rights to liberty and property enshrined in America's founding documents. By contrast, many people, seemingly including Mr Pompeo, view more recent protections for gays and other minorities as mere "interests" or "goods", doled out by liberals for political gain.

Ms Glendon is also among them: she once called gay marriage a demand for "special preference". So are at least some of her fellow commissioners. They are a mainly conservative group of academics and faith leaders, few of whom have any expertise in human rights. And as if those were not sufficient grounds for scepticism, the commission is viewed with suspicion by the State Department's own human-rights division, which has had no hand in it. Still, Ms Glendon insists that the pre-emptive criticism is wrong: "Nowhere in our charge is there anything about reprioritising [rights]." And

someone of her stature deserves a serious hearing.

In her view there are many reasons to reappraise the rights agenda. It is widely recognised in the human-rights community that the great post-1945 human-rights project is in "crisis", she says. To underline that, she quotes a list of liberals, including Salil Shetty, a former boss of Amnesty International, and Samuel Moyn of Yale University, who have expressed similar concerns. One is that governments are not defending rights. The erosion of the fragile consensus that once supported the UN Declaration on Human Rights has benefited and been exploited by the world's worst rights violators, writes Ms Glendon. Like Mr Moyn, she has argued for recognising socio-economic rights, as European countries do but America does not, as well as civil and political ones.

Her emails also touched on her more controversial views. Pandering to "special interests" has led rights groups to disavow "established rights that do not suit their agendas", she wrote. Applied to gay rights, that is an illiberal view. Yet Ms Glendon can at least cite more history in support of it than her critics allow. With their conservative, Christian roots, the framers of the UN Declaration did not envisage gay marriage. Conservatives like her therefore believe they are not reactionaries, as liberals claim, but rather keepers of the rights movement's true flame.

"Crisis" may be too strong a word, but Ms Glendon is right to note the strain human rights are under, including from authoritar-



US President Donald Trump with Mike Pompeo in Virginia in January 2017. Even beyond Mr Pompeo's evangelical crowd-pleasing, the Trump administration has shown little interest in standing up to the worst rights-violators. AP

Unalienable, except when they're not

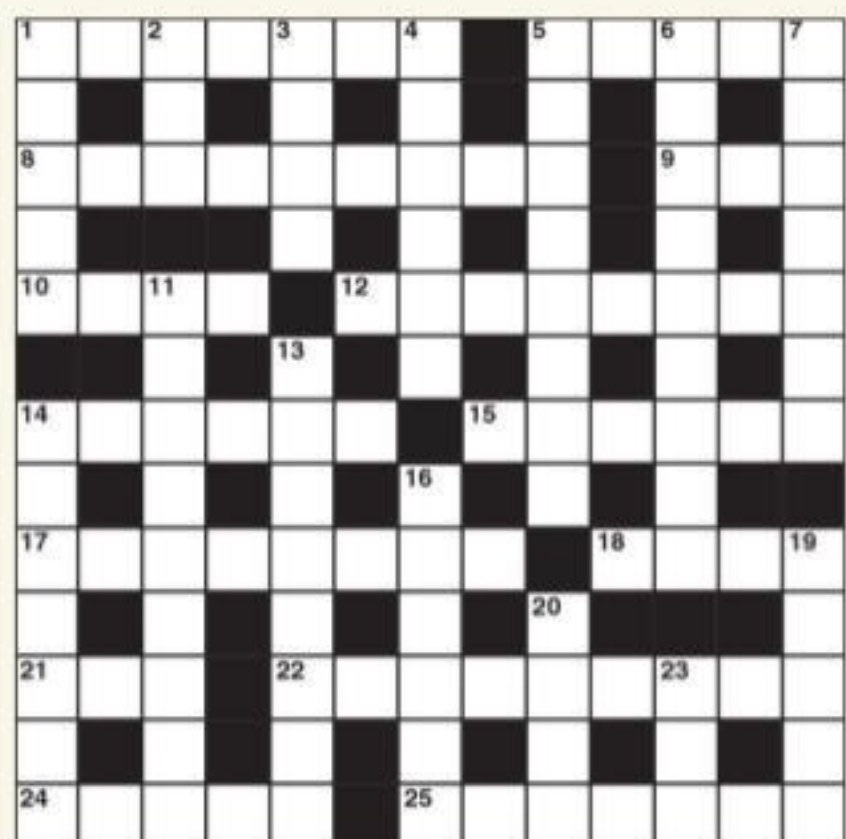
Even beyond Mr Pompeo's evangelical crowd-pleasing, the Trump administration has shown little interest in standing up to the worst rights-violators. Mr Pompeo only ever castigates abusers, such as Iran or Cuba, when it is politically convenient. Mr Trump appears to have no interest in the issue. And the administration's attacks on international rights institutions look equally self-serving. Its argument for pulling out of the UN Human Rights Commission—a troubled body that had nevertheless been improving under American influence—was bogus.

The administration has a record of con-

vening expert panels to score political points. One was given the impossible task of substantiating Mr Trump's claim that his election saw massive vote-rigging. Another has been proposed—under one of the few climate-change deniers in an Ivy League science faculty—on global warming. That Ms Glendon's panel looks like the latest example is, in a sense, nothing unusual. Despite the lofty ideals that attend them, rights claims are always made and resisted as part of broader political battles. Mr Moyn calls them "politics by other means". Yet what is depressing in this case is how small the politics seem.

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CROSSWORD 3884



- ACROSS**
- Pole and Russian fought together (7)
 - A capital position to be in (5)
 - Person transported by Dad's cooked greens (9)
 - She's a bit of a harridan (3)
 - Very popular winter sports range (4)
 - More safe somehow, but still terrifying (8)
 - Country song about a sailor (6)
 - Service charge (6)
 - How, initially, ownership may be established (8)
 - Golfing association (4)
 - I follow the Spanish priest (3)
 - Hawaiian garland no doubt put together without haste? (9)
 - Very distant until now (2,3)
 - One in charge is possibly a German (7)
- DOWN**
- Hybrid ape is brown (5)
 - A ship that carries goods overland (3)
 - A knotty problem for the ship's navigator? (4)
 - Its victim gets the point (6)
 - They are empowered to go over our heads (8)
 - Ideal trio to arrange daily work (9)
 - Sharpshooter employed in the rigging (4-3)
 - Simple enough difference of opinion, but he goes to court (9)
 - Unusual individual (8)
 - No object in bothering Melissa (7)
 - Elementary meal prepared to give inside information (6)
 - A customer or one of the staff (5)
 - Rising old city in complete collapse (4)
 - Thing laid on the table for breakfast, maybe (3)

Solutions Crossword 3883: Across: 1 Spaniard, 5 Pour, 9 Crowd, 10 Marines, 11 Single-handed, 13 August, 14 Strain, 17 Straightened, 20 Resolve, 21 Adage, 22 Yard, 23 Weakness. Down: 1 Sack, 2 Adoring, 3 Indigestible, 4 Rimmed, 6 Owned, 7 Resident, 8 Break the bank, 12 Passerby, 15 Average, 16 Cheese, 18 Riser, 19 Less.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given clue.

I started concentrating so hard on my ___ that I lost ___ - Robin Green (6,5)

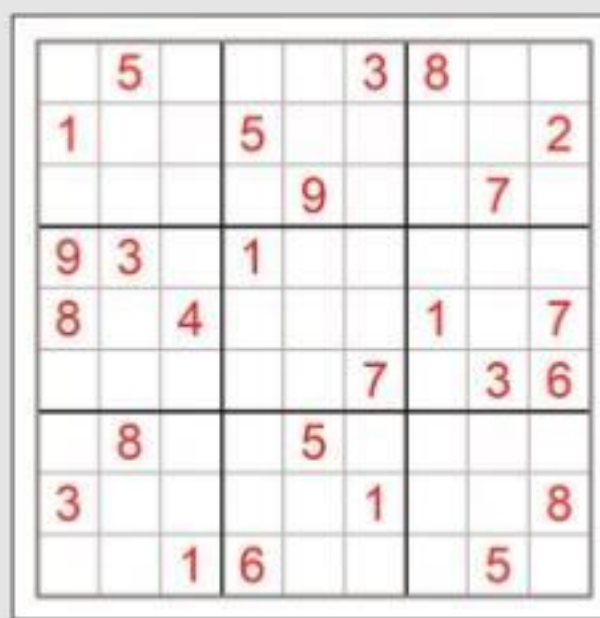
CNIIO **ERUHNT**

HUISS **EERRGV**

Answer: I started concentrating so hard on my vision that I lost sight - Robin Green

SUDOKU 3938

Difficulty Level 5s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.



SOLUTION SUDOKU 3938



Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Mercury, the planet of communication, has now picked itself up and dusted itself down after recent bruising encounters. Seldom have you been so determined to get your point across, and rarely have you been the proud possessor of such persuasive powers.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

You can be as self-interested as the next person, yet there's something noble and idealistic about your wisdom and genuine friendship. We will all gain if you continue to act with such generosity of spirit, even in ways which may not be clear for a very long time.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Your lot in life, at the moment, may be rather dull and many Geminians are quite frankly bored. You could do worse than rouse yourself and arrange an adventure, even if only a weekend break, to get away from your routine. There's nothing wrong with being an escapist.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Although, in astrological tradition, adverse and challenging aspects denote times of strife, discord and confusion, you must see such perils as the grit which eventually produces the oyster of great wisdom and success. In other words, you'll rise to the challenge.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

There is no escaping the fact that tension is mounting, as it always does before the Moon aligns with your sign. You can do no better than consciously maintain an optimistic and tolerant spirit in the face of whatever doubts or irritations afflict your daily life.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Suspensions about other people's actions may be countered by sadness over a recent event. Whatever your personal situation, you are approaching a short period when the answers will only be found by looking within. You'll soon discover the part you played in creating current conditions.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

Nostalgia seems to be an important ingredient at the present time. Many of you will gain from a sentimental trip to the past, not necessarily this week, but hopefully within a month. What you really have to do is recover old feelings and relive glorious memories.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Even those lucky Scorpios who are gentlemen or ladies of leisure will be caught up in the general rush to achieve a deeply-held worldly desire. This is no time for regrets or uncertainty, and you should try not to be distracted by irrelevant memories.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)

Today's stars really are excellent in that they encourage certain key Sagittarian aspirations, notably the instinctive desire for travel and adventure. Be warned, though, that entrenched positions and dogmatic battles are looming, and that you'd better be ready to change your mind.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

There is everything to gain from taking a calculated financial risk, just as long as you take full responsibility. Even if you incur a small loss you will have clarified your priorities and personal needs. After all, sometimes you have to learn from your mistakes.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Even peaceable Aquarians are sure to be involved in some sort of fracas over the next week. There may be no other advice than to raise the drawbridge and prepare a defensive position. But, while you're about it, there are other important actions you can take, like acquiring new practical skills.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Now is a perfect time to pay attention to your physical needs and well-being. Make a fresh start as far as diet and exercise are concerned and remember that the astrological approach to health has more to do with prevention than cure - and with maintaining a sensible balance in your emotions.

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Executive Engineer, Integrated Unit (P.W.) Division, Fort, Mumbai-400 001.
E-mail : integratedmumbai.ee@mahapwd.com ☎ 022-22016974/ Fax : 22016976
E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 19 OF 2019-2020

ONLINE E-Tender in "B" Form for the following works are invited by Executive Engineer, Integrated Unit (P.W.) Division, 2nd Floor, Bandhkam Bhavan, 25th Marzhan Road, Fort, Mumbai-400 001. Telephone No. : 022-22016974/ 22016976 from registered Labour Co-operative Societies. (Only Mumbai or Mumbai Suburban)

Name of Work	Estimate Cost
Repairs to and Repainting to High Court Judges various flats & Staff Quarters of Sarang and Vidhi Building at G.J. Bhosale Marg, Mumbai.	Estimate Cost Rs. 29,44,049/-
Repairs and Renovation of CET Cell at St. Georges Hospital Campus, Mumbai.	Estimate Cost Rs. 12,27,572/-
Providing M.S. grill of Apna Boys Hostel Building at Sir J.J. Group of Hospital Mumbai.	Estimate Cost Rs. 4,19,589/-
Repairs to Septic O.T. and Minor O.T. at Emergency Ward No. 4 on ground floor at Main Building.	Estimate Cost Rs. 14,00,357/-
MOW to Sir J.J. Hospital Compound, Mumbai- Repairs to Rebies patient room at M.I.C.U. Ward on first floor at Main Building.	Estimate Cost Rs. 4,55,342/-
MOW to Repairs to R.C.C. Water Storage Tanks on Terrace at Main Building in the Premises of Sir J.J. Hospital Campus, Byculla, Mumbai.	Estimate Cost Rs. 13,77,054/-
Repairing Mangloor tile roof Portion at 3 rd floor above Gram Vikas Office at Bandhkam Bhavan Building, Mumbai.	Estimate Cost Rs. 29,76,398/-
Repairing Mangloor tile roof Portion at 3 rd floor above Storage Room at Bandhkam Bhavan Building, Mumbai.	Estimate Cost Rs. 28,88,179/-
Repairs and Renovation to PGL Building 3 rd floor at J.J. Hospital Compound, Mumbai.	Estimate Cost Rs. 12,82,790/-
Repairs and Renovation to PGM Department of PGL Building at J.J. Hospital Compound, Mumbai.	Estimate Cost Rs. 12,88,063/-
Renovation of roofing to Watchmen Chauki & GMC Building at J.J. Hospital Compound, Mumbai.	Estimate Cost Rs. 17,65,460/-
Repairs to porch arch and support at St. Georges Hospital, Mumbai.	Estimate Cost Rs. 3,96,409/-
Repairs to Alluminium Window of Apna Boys Hostel Building at Sir J.J. Group of Hospitals, Mumbai.	Estimate Cost Rs. 7,41,984/-
Repairs and Renovation of Six Block Servant Quarters 'A', 'B' and 'C' Block at Sir J.J. Group of Hospitals, Mumbai.	Estimate Cost Rs. 10,59,685/-
Repairs and Renovation of Six Block Servant Quarters 'D', 'E' and 'F' Block at Sir J.J. Group of Hospitals, Mumbai.	Estimate Cost Rs. 5,11,265/-
Repairs and Renovation of w.c. and bath at Ward No. 33 and Ward No. 34 and Reconstruction of new toilet Ward No. 33 Skin V.D. Building at J.J. Hospitals, Mumbai.	Estimate Cost Rs. 13,63,975/-
Annual Maintenance of Sir J.J. Hospital Compound, Mumbai at main building, Ellappa Balaram Building, David Sassoon Building and Cowasji Jehangir Ophthalmology Building Cleaning of Water Storage Tanks.	Estimate Cost Rs. 2,82,931/-
Annual Maintenance of O.P.D., Low rise and Patients Kitchen at G.T. Hospital, Mumbai.	Estimate Cost Rs. 25,60,161/-
Annual Maintenance of Main, Administrative, Prince of Wales and Water Storage Tank at G.T. Hospital, Mumbai.	Estimate Cost Rs. 22,10,059/-
Annual Maintenance of at High Rise, Matron Qtrs., Old Dr's Qtrs. and Class IV Qtrs. at G.T. Hospital, Mumbai.	Estimate Cost Rs. 23,36,720/-
Annual Maintenance of at Old Nurses Qtrs., Servant Qtrs., L type, Canteen Servant Qtrs., near new hospital building, old radiotherapy, labour ward, new borns, M.T.P. Ward, Albless Hospital, laundry, servant Qtrs. at Cama and Albless Hospital, Mumbai.	Estimate Cost Rs. 23,80,410/-
Annual Maintenance of main building, blood bank, lady doctors qtrs., new nurses qtrs., dhobi ghat, laundry and godown, sweeper qtrs., O.P.D. Jannabai Desai, Pump Room at Cama and Albless Hospital, Mumbai.	Estimate Cost Rs. 28,68,449/-
Annual Maintenance of Metron Building and New Nurses Hostel Building at Sir J.J. Group of Hospitals, Mumbai.	Estimate Cost Rs. 25,64,214/-
Annual Maintenance of Bai Motalibai Building, D.M. Petit Building and OPD Building at Sir J.J. Group of Hospitals, Mumbai.	Estimate Cost Rs. 24,52,320/-
Annual Maintenance of Apna Boys Hostel Building and R.M. Bhatt Hostel Building at Sir J.J. Group of Hospitals, Mumbai.	Estimate Cost Rs. 24,60,586/-
Annual Maintenance of Doctor's Quarter's Building No. 6, 7, 8 (A) & 8 (B), New Establishment Quarters Building and Sharda Building at Sir J.J. Group of Hospitals, Mumbai.	Estimate Cost Rs. 18,69,634/-
Annual Maintenance of Ellappa Balaram Building at Sir J.J. Group of Hospitals, Mumbai.	Estimate Cost Rs. 6,94,293/-
Annual Maintenance of David Sassoon Building at Sir J.J. Group of Hospitals, Mumbai.	Estimate Cost Rs. 8,69,403/-

(Total 23 Works included in this Notice)
Tender Available Date : Date 12.08.2019 at 1030 hrs. to Date 21.08.2019 at 1400 hrs.
Opening Date (If possible) : Date 23.08.2019 at 1505 hrs.
All detail information is available on following web sites.
Visit Web Site for details : 1. <http://mahapwd.com> 2. <http://mahatenders.gov.in>
No. E.E./IUT/C/3939
Office of the Executive Engineer, Integrated Unit (P.W.) Division, Fort, Mumbai-400 001.
Date : 07.08.2019

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Integrated Unit (P.W.) Division,
Fort, Mumbai-400 001.
DGIPR/2019-2020/1921

CORRIGENDUM

Following rectification is made in E-Tender Notice No. 10 of 2019-20 (NCB-1/2019-20) of Executive Engineer Ukai Division, No. 1, Ukai Pin Code No. 394680, Phone No. 02624-233221, Dist. Tapi.

Event	Old Date	New Date
Pre-bid Conference Date	Dt. 19/08/2019 at 14.00	Dt. 16/08/2019 at 14.00

Further details please visit us at above stated office during office hours. Details are also available on website www.pnprocure.com and www.statetenders.com. All other conditions remains unchanged.
No. Mahiti/Surat/595/2019

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU - PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
BUILDING ORGANIZATION OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, P.W.D., BUILDINGS (CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE) CIRCLE, SALEM-7.
TENDER NOTICE - PRE-QUALIFICATION APPLICATION AND PRICE TENDER FORM OF CONTRACT : LUMP SUM (TWO COVER SYSTEM)
TENDER NOTICE NO. 07/2019-20/SE/9(C&M)/SILM, Dated : 13.08.2019
For and on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu, the Superintending Engineer, P.W.D., Buildings (Construction and Maintenance) Circle, Salem-7 invites tender for the following work, at his office upto 3.00 P.M. on 17.08.2019 in two sealed covers containing (i) Qualification details and EMD in a separate inner cover and (ii) Price Tender Schedule in another sealed cover and put into one common sealed cover from the experienced and competent contractors/firms as detailed below. The tender schedule can be downloaded at free of cost from the Govt. designated website (<http://www.tenders.in.gov.in>). The tender schedule can also available in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, P.W.D., Buildings (C&M) Circle, Salem-7, from 16.08.2019 to 16.09.2019 upto 5.45 pm.
Namakkal District
PACKAGE NO.1
Construction of School building in GHSS (Girls) at Slice No. 1 - Paramathy, Slice No. 2 - Tiruchengode, Slice No.3-Bodhupatti, (GHSS)
Slice No.4. Construction of Class Room and Workshop (Machines) including Power Wiring, Toilets and Placement Cell for Machinist Trade in Government Industrial Training Institute at Namakkal in Namakkal District.
Slice No.5 Construction of Quarters for the Judicial Magistrate (Special Court for land grabbing cases) and Judicial Magistrate (Mobile Court) in the Master Plan Complex at Namakkal.
Total Value of Package No.1 for 5 Slices : Rs.736.00 Lakh.
The E.M.D. remittance and other details can also be available from the Government designated website (<http://www.tenders.in.gov.in>) and office of the Superintending Engineer, P.W.D., Buildings (C&M) Circle, Salem-7.
Superintending Engineer, P.W.D., Buildings (C&M) Circle, Salem-7.
DGPR 2786/TENDER/2019

CENTRAL RAILWAY

Conversion of Ulhas Bridge Cabin into IBS

Divisional Railway Manager (S&T), 1st Floor, Parcel Office Building, above P.F. No. 14 & 15, Central Railway, Mumbai CSMT 400 001, for and on behalf of the President of India invites sealed Open tenders from the reputed contractors. The time, date and submission of tender up to 15.00 Hrs on 05/09/2019 and will be opened at 15.15 Hrs on the same day. **S.N.1. Name of work** :- Provision of MSDAC for the work of conversion of Ulhas Bridge Cabin into IBS between Dombivli and Bhiwandi stations. **Tender Notice No. CR/BB/SnT/2019/74.** Approximate Cost :- Rs. 76.33 LAKHS, EMD (Rs.) :- 1527000/-. **Cost of Tender Form in Rs.** :- 5,000/-. **Date of Opening** :- 05/09/2019, **Validity** : 45 days, **Completion Period** :- 09 Months. **S.N.2. Name of work** :- Conversion for Ulhas Bridge Cabin into IBS between Dombivli and Bhiwandi stations. **Tender Notice No. CR/BB/SnT/2019/75.** Approximate Cost :- Rs. 62.55 LAKHS, EMD (Rs.) :- 1251000/-. **Cost of Tender Form in Rs.** :- 5,000/-. **Date of Opening** :- 05/09/2019, **Validity** : 45 days, **Completion Period** :- 09 Months. This tender complies with Public Procurement Policy (Make in India) Order 2017, dated 15/06/2017. The tender form can be purchased from above office. Complete details of tenders are available at Central Railway. Official website www.irps.gov.in the complete tender documents can be downloaded from the website. The complete details of tenders are also available in the "Notice Board" of the Divisional Railway Manager (S&T)'s Office, Mumbai CSMT. **OPEN TENDER NOTICE NO. CR/BB/SnT/2019/74 AND 75**
518
All India Security Emergency Helpline 182

INDORE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, INDORE

Narayan Singh Saput Marg, Shivaji Market, Indore (M.P.)
NOTICE INVITING TENDER - SECOND CALL Date: 13.08.2019
IND/MC/19-20
Indore Municipal Corporation, Indore invites online bids from eligible bidders through www.mptenders.gov.in for "Construction, Operation and Maintenance of Unipole & lollytops on BOT Basis as detailed in RFP against Advertisement Rights for a License Period of 7 years". The successful bidder will be having rights to display advertisement on the media structures as per the detailed conditions mentioned in the RFP document.

S.No.	Name of Work	Cost of Tender Form	Earnest Money Deposit
1	* Construction, Operation and Maintenance of Unipole & lollytops on BOT Basis as detailed in RFP against Advertisement Rights for a License Period of 7 years, Group-1*	₹ 20,000/-	₹ 10 Lakh
2	Construction, Operation and Maintenance of Unipole & lollytops on BOT Basis as detailed in RFP against Advertisement Rights for a License Period of 7 years, Group-2*	₹ 20,000/-	₹ 10 Lakh
3	Construction, Operation and Maintenance of Unipole & lollytops on BOT Basis as detailed in RFP against Advertisement Rights for a License Period of 7 years, Group-3*	₹ 20,000/-	₹ 10 Lakh
4	Construction, Operation and Maintenance of Unipole & lollytops on BOT Basis as detailed in RFP against Advertisement Rights for a License Period of 7 years, Group-4*	₹ 20,000/-	₹ 10 Lakh
5	Construction, Operation and Maintenance of Unipole & lollytops on BOT Basis as detailed in RFP against Advertisement Rights for a License Period of 7 years, Group-5*	₹ 20,000/-	₹ 10 Lakh
6	Construction, Operation and Maintenance of Unipole & lollytops on BOT Basis as detailed in RFP against Advertisement Rights for a License Period of 7 years, Group-6*	₹ 20,000/-	₹ 10 Lakh
7	Construction, Operation and Maintenance of Unipole & lollytops on BOT Basis as detailed in RFP against Advertisement Rights for a License Period of 7 years, Group-7*	₹ 20,000/-	₹ 10 Lakh

Key Dates:
Last date for Purchase of Tender : 03.09.2019 till 1730 Hrs
Pre-Bid Meeting : 24.08.2019 at 1500 Hrs
Last Date for Submission of Tender (Online) : 03.09.2019 till 1730 Hrs
Last Date for Submission of Hard Copy of Technical Bid and copy of EMD : 05.09.2019 till 1700 Hrs
Technical Bid Opening (Online) : 06.09.2019 at 1600 Hrs
Tender Document and other details shall be available on: Website- www.mptenders.gov.in
Amendment to NIT, if any would be published on website only.
Deputy Commissioner (Market), Indore Municipal Corporation, Indore

23 TALK ART, MUSIC, STYLE, FOOD

Same Same, But Different

From the ubiquitous biryani to the many stories of Ram, from *padukas* that hint at Gandhian ideals to songs that hold the promise of a unified melody, this Independence Day, authors, chefs, artists, musicians, theatre artists and illustrators define what diversity means to them

EXPRESS FEATURES SERVICE

Raj Shekhar, lyricist

AYE MERE WATAN KE LOGON

The song *Aye mere watan ke logon*, which was sung by Lata Mangeshkar, and written by Kavi Pradeep, embodies everything diverse about our country. Written as a tribute to the martyrs of the 1962 war, it is a one-of-its-kind song that gained so much popularity without being a film song. It was sung at a public function on January 27, 1963, and was meant to raise funds for the Army Welfare Fund. The song brings in the varied backgrounds of the soldiers who have come together — *koi Sikh, koi Jaat, Maratha, koi Gurkha* — but the interesting thing is, the soldier doesn't really think that he is dying or fighting for a particular community or group. The song goes into *Sarhad pe marne wala, har veer tha bharatwasi, jo khood gira woh khood tha Hindustani*, tying in with the idea of one nation.

MILE SUR MERA TUMHARA

I think these PSAs (Public Service Announcements) from Doordarshan, set a value system in place, for people like me who grew up in the '80s. *Mile sur mera tumhara*, uses the diversity of Indian languages, dance and culture and added a liberal helping of cricketers and Bollywood stars. The song's first line is *Mile sur mera tumhara, toh sur bane hamara*. The *toh* is very important because there is the condition that only if the separate tunes come together, will the melody form.



MAA TUJHE SALAAM

This was at the height of the pop fever in India, and AR Rahman released his album *Maa Tujhe Salaam* and the title track 'Celebrating the true spirit of India' gives one goose bumps.

The video — those were the days of music videos — was shot across Rajasthan, Kutch, Ladakh, Kerala. Children from across the country are seen running with abandon, in the celebration of this one country, and they all gather around this giant Indian flag, looming over the horizon.

Anurupa Roy, puppeteer

AK Ramanujan and Stuart Blackburn's book, *A Flowering Tree and Other Oral Tales from India*, is a collection of stories from every state. Apart from popular folk tales, there is a foreword from Blackburn and Ramanujan that says that this is a culture that really understands the power of the story. We have so many stories in India and 300 versions of the Ramayana alone, which includes Akbar's commissioned Ramayana and the Bodhisattva's Ramayana and, across the seas, Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos have their own Ramayana. With the stories, be it Gopal Bhad, Mullah Nasruddin, Birbal or Tenali Ram, you have archetypes across the country that remind you that the underdog or the lowest guy in the food chain will have his say, the all-powerful will fall and the powers-that-be will be made fun of. Each time I read it, I am reminded that, no matter what mainstream narrative there is, there is also the other narrative.

Ranveer Brar, chef and television personality

To me, the one Indian dish that truly represents our diversity is the biryani. When it comes to food, what unites us all as Indians is our love for biryani, no matter where we come from. There are many variations, from the Moplah Biryani in Kerala to the Lucknow Biryani to the Hyderabad Biryani. Yes, there is a raging debate over which biryani is the best, and which is the best accompaniment, and if potato is a legitimate part of the dish. But I believe that these debates only keep the passion for biryani alive.

GR Iranna, artist

Naavu is an installation inspired by the Dandi March,



Illustrator-animator Priya Kuriyan's *This is Us, They are Us* presents quotidian scenes from the streets of India as she zooms in on communities and people

where everyone came together for a cause, irrespective of caste, creed, religion or profession. It turned out to be a deeply spiritual act. The word *naavu* literally means "we are together" in Kannada. Currently showing at the Venice Biennale, the work comprises more than 600 *padukas* or wooden slippers displayed on a wall that is 60 x 15 feet. Collected from across India, I have given a distinct identity to

each *paduka* and used objects such as *ghungroo* and scissors, to represent people from different professions. Though we belong to diverse backgrounds, we have shared common values and respect varied opinions, which is a Gandhian ideal.

Vivek Shanbag, author

The Picador Book of Modern Indian Literature, edited by Amit Chaudhuri, brings it all together,

Hanif Qureshi, artistic director and co-founder of St+Art India

In Lodhi Colony, Delhi, is a vibrant wall with portraits of Indian men and women from all walks of life. Painted by the transgender community this year, it is the best example of freedom of expression. Spearheaded by Bengaluru-based art collective Aravani Art Project, the mural provides a new way of looking at transgenders, especially as artists. It gives them a platform that is inclusive and everyone has a story to tell. The mural sums up diversity visually and depicts just how we are as a country and culture.



Pranav Gohil

with essays, stories and excerpts translated from different languages. From Rabindranath Tagore, Vaikom Muhammad Basheer, and Naiyer Masud, to Premchand, and Nirad C Chaudhuri, the stories present various cultures within the country. Through Masud's *Sheehsa Ghat*, one gets a flavour of Urdu, and through Basheer's words, you get a sense of the lyrical Malayalam prose. Each story in the book is so unique yet each feels connected to each other.

Aruna Sairam, Carnatic Vocalist

The concept of diversity needs to be understood as different paths with the same end goal. A few months ago, I did a concert with about 70 children, which

was a journey through India. We sang patriotic songs from different languages of India. There was Chinna Swami Subramania Bharathi's Tamil poetry, which translated into "This my country and it's called Bharat and I am so proud to be in this country that my eyes swell up with tears as I utter her name". Among various songs, there was Lata ji's (Mangeshkar) iconic *Aye mere watan ke logon* for Hindi and GD Madgulkar's famed war song in Marathi, *Jinku kinva maru* (Should I die for my country), and Bankim Chandra Chatterjee's *Vande mataram* in Bengali. Since I did this with children, who sing in their inhibited, pure voices, it gave the evening a completely different dimension. I believe that music is one of the most potent ways in which diversity can be understood.

Band of Brothers

How a film in the 1970s spoke of the idea of the nation as a robust, democratic, plural space

ONCE UPON a time, chilluns, there lived in La La Land, three brothers, who went by the names of Amar, Akbar, Anthony. That's right, Hindu, Muslim, Christian. Different religions? *Phir bhi bhai-bhai?* How was that even possible? Because it was Bollywood, silly.



A still from the film

The year, 1977. The film, *Amar Akbar Anthony* (AAA), directed by Manmohan Desai, the king of masala movies. Bouncing around a madcap plot, dreamt up by the peerless Kader Khan, Amar Khanna, Akbar Allahabadi and Anthony Gonsalves showed us that it was entirely possible to live happily together. That espousing different religions and belief systems had nothing to do with maintaining *bhachara*, goodwill, and amity, amongst each other and in society at large.

Lakshmi (Shabana Azmi), *qawali*-singer Akbar has eyes only for Salma (Neetu Singh), and the good-for-nothing *tapori* Anthony (Amitabh Bachchan) gifts his heart to Jenny (Parveen Babi). I used to wonder what would have happened if the guys and girls had got mixed up, too. But then I made peace with it, because the amount of subversion injected in the film through its male leads was good enough.

Logic was the weakest component in mainstream Hindi masala movies, especially those that came out in the '70s and '80s. *Naagins* taking on vengeful human avatars, the dead coming miraculously alive, bullets tracing a curve in the air: we took these things in our stride. But AAA took the cake, and everything else in the confectionary shop. In an iconic scene, which felt perfectly logical in the movie's scheme of things, three men are seen donating blood to an old woman lying injured on a hospital bed. No prizes for guessing who they are. The three *bhais*, of course. They don't know that the woman is their mother. We do. Who else would it be in a Manmohan Desai movie? The director was careful to get the brothers to fall in love with the 'right girls'. Upright cop Amar (Vinod Khanna) gets

We laughed our heads off, especially when Bachchan was doing his thing: oh that drunk scene in front of the mirror, and that unforgettable song in which he rises out of a mammoth Easter egg. We all wanted to live in Kholi number 420. There was non-stop laughter, and more than a few furious eye-roll moments. But we also recognised the importance of what the film said, in its campy, nutty, vastly entertaining manner: there could be diversity, but oh yes, there could be unity too. It was only a movie, but it spoke to the ideal idea of the nation, a robust, democratic, plural space. In a climactic song, a line goes, *Anthoni ko honi kar de, honi ko anthoni, ek jagah jo jamaa ho teenon, Amar, Akbar, Anthoneeee*. Can we ever go back to that India again?

MISSION MANGAL IN CINEMAS TODAY. Includes showtimes for INOX CR2 Nariman Point, METRO INOX Marine Lines, INOX ATRIA MALL Worli, PVR PHOENIX MILLS Lower Parel, PVR LE REVE Bandra, PVR DYNAMIX MALL Juhu, CINEPOLIS Andheri, SANGAM CARNIVAL CINEMAS Andheri, PVR ICON Andheri, PVR CITY MALL Andheri, PVR ICON OBEROI MALL Goregaon-E, INOX Malad, PVR PHOENIX MARKETCITY Kurla, CARNIVAL CINEMAS Mulund, INOX R-CITY Ghatkopar, CINEPOLIS VIVIANA MALL Thane, CARNIVAL SMS SARVODAYA MALL Kalyan, CARNIVAL CINEMAS Kharghar. SOUTH MUMBAI: METRO INOX Marine Lines, INOX CR2 Nariman Point, STERLING CST, REGAL Colaba, LIBERTY CINEMA Marine Lines, NEW EXCELSIOR MUKTA A2 CINEMA CST, ALANKAR Gol Derali, DREAMLAND E-SQUARE Grant Road, MARATHA MANDIR Mumbai Central, PREMIERE GOLD Sandhurst Road, PVR PHOENIX MILLS Lower Parel, CARNIVAL MATTERDEN CFC Lower Parel, ODEON CINEMA Worli, INOX ATRIA MALL Worli, JAI HIND MUKTA A2 Lalbaug. WESTERN SUBURBS: PLAZA Dadar, INOX Dadar, MOVIESTAR STARCITY Matunga, PARADISE E-SQUARE Mahim, MOVIESTAR SUBURBIA Bandra, GAITEYI Bandra, GOLD CINEMA Santacruz, MUKTA A2 Santacruz, SUNCITY MUKTA A2 Vile Parle, BAHAR E-SQUARE Vile Parle, CINEPOLIS Andheri, PVR CITY MALL Andheri, SANGAM CARNIVAL CINEMAS Andheri, PVR ICON Andheri, Jai Karat Jogeshwari, TOPIWALA MUKTA A2 Goregaon, MIRAJ ANUPAM Goregaon, CINEMAX Goregaon, MOVIESTAR HUB Goregaon, MOVIESTAR CARNIVAL CINEMAS Goregaon, CARNIVAL CINEMAS Oshiwara, PVR Malad, INOX Malad, MOVIESTAR Malad, GOLD Malad, SANGEETA Malad, KASTURBA Malad, PVR Milap Kandivali, MIRAJ CINEMA THAKUR Kandivali, PVR Kandivali-W, PVR GROWL Kandivali-E, INOX Kandivali, INOX THAKUR Kandivali, MAXUS Borivali, SONA GOLD Borivali, CARNIVAL CINEMAS Borivali, INOX THAKUR MALL Dahisar, MOVIESTAR Dahisar, PVR Mira Road, SASSAZ Mira Road, MAXUS Bhayander, CARNIVAL CINEMAS Vasai, K-MOVIESTAR MULTIPLEX Vasai, MIRAJ DATTANI DIGIPLEX Vasai, K.T.VISION Vasai, MIRAJ FUN FIESTA Nalasopara, ROCKSTAR NOVA CINEMAS Virar, WOODLAND Virar, GOLD CINEMA Palghar, PRAKASH Palghar, K.T.VISION Boisar, PURNIMA Dahanu Road. CENTRAL SUBURBS: PREMIERE Dadar, GOLD Dadar, AURORA Matunga, IMAX CARNIVAL Wadala, PVR Sion, MAXUS Andheri-E, PVR PHOENIX Kurla, BHARAT CINPLEX Kurla, KAMRAN Kurla, INOX NEELYOOG Ghatkopar, INOX R-CITY Ghatkopar, CINEMAX Ghatkopar, HUMA CARNIVAL CINEMAS Kanjurmarg, CINEPOLIS Bhandup, CARNIVAL CINEMAS Mulund, PVR NIRMAL LIFESTYLE Mulund, MEMUL Mulund, CINEPOLIS Chembur, MOVIESTAR Chembur, ASHISH Chembur, CINEMA STAR Thane, CINEPOLIS VIVIANA Thane, CINEMAX ETERNITY Thane, CINEMAX WONDERMALL Thane, INOX KORUM MALL Thane, GOLD PRASHAT Thane, HALKHAR Thane, MADHUBAN Dombivli, PVR XPERIA MALL Dombivli, POOJA Dombivli, GOPI Dombivli, INOX METRO JUNCTION MALL Kalyan, CARNIVAL SMS SARVODAYA MALL Kalyan, CINEMAX Kalyan, BHANU GOLD Kalyan, MIRAJ FUN CITY Uthasagar, MIRAJ CINEMA ASHOK-ANIL Uthasagar, MIRAJ STAR CITY Ambernath, 52 HASEEN Bhiwandi, RAJ NOVA CINEMAZ Karjat, GOLD CINEMA Khopoli. NAVI MUMBAI: INOX Vashi, INOX PALM BEACH Vashi, BALAJI MOVIEPLEX Koperkhairane, FUN SQUARE Sanpada, MAX CINEMAS Nerul, INOX GLOMAX MALL Kharghar, CARNIVAL LITTLE WORLD MALL Kharghar, MAX CINEMAS Kharghar, FUN SQUARE Khandeshwar, MUKTA A2 Panvel, MIRAJ CINEMA Panvel, PVR ORION Panvel, K K CINEMA Kamothe, MORESHWAR CARNIVAL CINEMAS Pen, K SERA SERA Mahad, CINELISS NEELKAMAL Lonavla, TRIOS CINEMA Lonavla.

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Archer gets England cap, rain washes out first day at Lord's

AGENCIES
LONDON, AUGUST 14

JOFRA ARCHER received his England Test cap but was still to make his debut as rain saw the first day of Wednesday's second Ashes match against Australia abandoned without a ball bowled at a soaking wet Lord's. Chris Jordan, a Sussex team-mate, presented Archer with the cap in England's pre-match huddle ahead of a revised toss at 3:00pm local time (1400 GMT) — only for further rain to delay the start once again.

With rain still lashing an increasingly gloomy 'home of cricket', umpires Aleem Dar and Chris Gaffaney finally abandoned play for the day after tea at 4:19 pm local time. When the match should have been getting underway at 11:00 am (1000 GMT), the square and pitch remained fully covered.

Further rain then meant hopes of any play before lunch soon disappeared as well. Now officials will hope the weather relents sufficiently for the match to begin at the scheduled 1000 GMT start of Thursday's second day.

Ashes-holders Australia lead the five-match series 1-0 after their 251-run win in the first Test at Edgbaston last week. It is 18 years since Australia last won an Ashes series in England. In 17 of the last 19 Ashes campaigns, the team that has led 1-0 has won the series. The exceptions were in 1997 when Australia lost at Edgbaston, but won the six-match series 3-2 and 2005 when England lost at Lord's but won the five-Test series 2-1.

Archer is set to play after James Anderson, England's all-time leading wicket-taker, was ruled out with a calf injury.

Hazlewood gets the nod

Meanwhile, Australian fast bowler Josh Hazlewood will play in the second Test, head coach Justin Langer said on Wednesday, edging out team mate Mitchell Starc as the side pick from a host of world-class pacemen.

Australia opted to rest Hazlewood throughout the World Cup, where Starc was the tournament's top wicket-taker, and for the first Test. But Hazlewood had been seen as the likeliest replacement for the dropped James Pattinson in the second Test, based on his performances in a tour match against Worcestershire last week.

'Be patient vs Smith'

Andrew Strauss believes patience if the key as England look to find a way to dismiss star Australia batsman Steve Smith. Smith returned to Test cricket following a 12-month ban for his role in a ball-tampering scandal with innings of 144 and 142 as Australia beat England by 251 runs in the Ashes opener at Edgbaston last week. Smith has scored five centuries in his past six Ashes Tests, averaging 139.

But former England captain Strauss, speaking to reporters at Lord's on Wednesday as rain washed out the first session of the second Test, insisted England were not up against a superhuman in Smith.

"If you look in that first innings, he played and missed a lot early on...I don't think it's a case of reinventing the wheel," he said. "You know, a good ball to other people is a good ball to him, but maybe just a little bit wider. He played brilliantly, fantastically well. But he's going to nick one at some point. Bowlers have to be prepared to be patient."

"I honestly believe James Anderson going off after four overs cost us the game (at Edgbaston) and there's no blame apportioned to anyone because these things happen, but we had them 120 for 8, we had a 90-run lead (on first innings) and then we were without your best bowler. Over the course of the game that counts more and more."

Boss has left the building

Chris Gayle signs off from international cricket with a typically aggressive 41-ball 72 against India at Port of Spain



Chris Gayle walks back to the pavilion after playing a whirlwind knock against India in the final ODI in Port of Spain on Wednesday. At the time of going to print, WI were 171/3 in the 25th over. AP

SRIRAM VEERA
AUGUST 14

BRIAN LARA interrupted Dean Jones's lazy musing about Chris Gayle. Jones is usually an insightful analyst but slipped in a trope about Gayle's batting that night in the IPL studio: how Gayle would come and just throw his bat around. Do what he does.

We have all heard that perception before and many of us carry it in our heads too. This is when Lara coughed up. "No, he thinks about the game more than people think. In fact, he has a very good method. He picks his bowlers from the opposition, areas to hit, shots he is comfortable with, and doesn't slog."

Words to that effect. Lara is right for one can't have the amazing record that Gayle has by just turning up at a ground for some hit and swagger. But the question is why do we carry that notion in our heads? Because it's Gayle who has himself carefully and deliberately planted that thought.

At times it seems, Gayle isn't a human but an emoji — of utter deliriousness, of a man punch-drunk on life. Go through his Twitter feed or press conferences or Instagram or wherever he is creating havoc — the image he wants the world to see is of a pirate attacker who loves life, loves hitting balls for sixes, and anoints himself with amusing monikers. That man isn't going to turn out to be Shivnarine Chanderpaul.

From the outside, Gayle seems like a bundle of contradictions though obviously he won't see it that way. He is certainly the

Bradman of limited-overs cricket but averages over 40 in Test cricket too. But he is the man who said he won't be crying if Test cricket dies. He is the man who has had a sexist episode with a lady journalist in Australia, says "don't blush, baby" and then a few months down the line, names his newborn daughter "Blush". He is the man who tweets that he is about to have sex. He also tweeted a picture of a strip pole and said you can't call yourself a cricketer if you don't have a strip pole in your bedroom.

He is also the one who suddenly says in a mundane press conference that he plans to use the millions from the shortlived Sanford league on his brother's heart surgery. Once in Bangalore, when he learnt that a six had crash-landed on a girl in the crowd, he visited her at the hospital. His life had turned on its head after a hole in his heart led to a surgery during a tour of Australia in 2005; it, he has said, changed his outlook — now he wanted to take it easy, enjoy every moment, be carefree.

Can we then, after all his virtual and real bytes, say he is an extrovert without any lingering doubt? Nope, he doesn't allow us to nail that too. Richie Richardson, a former West Indian dasher and later a coach of the team, called Gayle "a quiet guy who speaks very few words. Viv Richards had that presence, the booming voice and was an extrovert. Gayle is an introvert, a man of few words. You would hardly hear him speak."

Gayle was also dismissed as a 'good family man' in the autobiography of Tino Best, who chronicled how he had bed 650 women and called himself as a 'Man-whore' in that



Virat Kohli hugs Chris Gayle after the latter's knock. AP

book. Clearly, Best didn't buy Gayle's talks and tweets, and coming from him, 'good family man' seemed a dismissive remark.

There is no greater carefree image of a modern-day cricketer than Gayle swinging yet another six. But — and here is where Lara's insight comes in — he isn't a Shahid Afridi, the other great six-addict of our times. Watching Afridi was a visceral experience, a thrill that comes from seeing a man launch every bit of himself, every muscle and the soul itself into that heave. It was obvious that

we can't do what he did but Afridi made us feel that we could do it — it was just an extension of our evenings at maidans. Not Gayle, though.

If anything, it was Gayle who was one of the early prototypes of the modern-day big hitter, who developed a careful method to the six-hitting madness that has now become an epidemic. He wasn't the big tall hitter who came and swung through the line of the ball. His body would twist into position, hold the 'shape'; he would crouch, getting biomechanics and nerds to write about the positive effect of a low centre of gravity in big hitting; he would have a wide stance, legs

spread out, minimising the need for excessive footwork and maximising the chance of knifing through the line; he would clear his front foot but unlike the old days where it would also be accompanied with the head bobbing all over and the body contorting into positions that only the world 'slog' seemed apt. With Gayle, the head — more often than not — remained decently still.

He cared about ratings and stuff like that. As early as 2006, he talked about how he was languishing at No. 11 in the ICC batting rankings and wanted to push on to be No. 1. And he worked hard towards it. Along the way, he kept on building his own brand, using social media in his own myth-making until he became what he wanted to be: a man unapologetic about his life, a man in love with his life and sixes.

Those who know him back in Jamaica say much of his personality and fashion choices come from his wife Natasha Berridge, an ex-model and a successful fashion designer. A few months after the controversy in Australia with the journalist, Gayle and Natasha hit the annual carnival at St Kitts, dressed in traditional gear and twerking and 'daggering' — a dance form that simulates copulating. Videos circulated, a minor controversy erupted — more in Australia than in the Caribbean.

That is Chris Gayle, in love with life, in love with himself. For the world, he is the greatest Ronin of modern-day cricket, a talented batsman and above all, an entertainer. His former team-mate Lara had asked a question after his farewell game: 'Did I entertain?' Gayle doesn't even have to ask. We know it and he has never let us forget it.

Taylor, Dananjaya share honours on Day 1 at Galle

ASSOCIATED PRESS
GALLE, AUGUST 14

ROSS TAYLOR was approaching a 19th test century and holding New Zealand's innings together as the tourists ended a rain-shortened opening day of the first cricket test against Sri Lanka at 203 for five.

Only 34 deliveries were possible in the third session Wednesday after heavy rains accompanied by strong winds lashed across the Galle stadium from the Indian Ocean shortly after tea.

Taylor remained unbeaten on 86, having scored his 31st test half century. He had made his runs off 131 balls and including six boundaries. Mitchell Santner was batting with him on eight.

Sri Lanka spinner Akila Dananjaya took his fourth five-wicket haul in Tests and had 5-57 in 22 overs at stumps.

New Zealand openers Tom Latham and Jeet Raval gave the Black Caps a steady start, adding 64 runs for the first wicket. But three quick wickets fell to leave the visitors three wickets down for 11 at lunch.

Taylor and Henry Nicolls added 100 runs for the fourth wicket but New Zealand again lost two quick wickets close to the tea break.



Ross Taylor looks on as Sri Lanka's Akila Dananjaya celebrates the wicket of New Zealand's BJ Watling (not in the frame) on Day 1 of the first Test between Sri Lanka and New Zealand in Galle on Wednesday. AP

Nicolls tried to play a sweep to Dananjaya bowling around the wicket and was given out lbw. Nicolls made 42 from 78 deliveries.

BJ Watling (1) tried to pull a shorter delivery from Dananjaya but was too quick

on the shot and was also trapped lbw right before tea.

Dananjaya struck twice to remove opener Latham and skipper Kane Williamson for a duck in the same over in the first session.

Chandigarh officially inducted in BCCI family

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, AUGUST 14

THE COMMITTEE of Administrators (CoA) on Wednesday officially named Chandigarh the 38th domestic team that will play in all BCCI tournaments in the forthcoming season.

Confirming the development after a CoA meeting, BCCI general manager (Cricket Operations), Saba Karim said that Chandigarh were informed about the decision a day earlier. "They (Chandigarh) will be playing all BCCI matches from this season. We had already released the domestic schedule but will work on how to include them. They will be now playing every tournament across age groups," Karim told The Indian Express.

"We had to just see whether we can incorporate them or not. Once we figured out that we can do it and have resources to handle the number of matches, we included the team for domestic games. Now they have to come back with the home venue they want to play at," he added.

Chandigarh will be added to the Plate Group in the upcoming season and cricket

affairs will be run by Union Territory Cricket Association (UTCA). Former India pacer VRV Singh will be the coach. The city already has six grounds and UTCA is in talks to get the Sector 16 Stadium on lease from the Punjab government.

"We got the letter today and have started preparations. UTCA has appointed former India player VRV Singh as head coach and will soon appoint coaches for various age groups and categories. The selection committee will be formed in a week and this arrangement will be till December 31. We will form a panel of selectors and announce coaches as per BCCI directions next year onward," said UTCA president Sanjay Tandon.

Players who hail from Chandigarh, are studying or working there, or have played for Chandigarh (Affiliated with Punjab Cricket Association) are eligible to play for the new team.

"The Chandigarh team will play the JP Atray All India Invitational Tournament starting September 1 and the Vijay Hazare Trophy starting September 24. For the U-23, U-19 and U-16 and women's senior, U-23 and U-19 categories, we will soon have coaches," Tandon added.

ITF snubs AITA, refuses to postpone or move Pak Davis Cup tie

SHAHID JUDGE
MUMBAI, AUGUST 14

THE INTERNATIONAL Tennis Federation (ITF) on Wednesday rejected the All India Tennis Association's (AITA) plea to either shift India's upcoming Davis Cup tie in Pakistan to a neutral venue, or to delay it by two months. Instead, the world body asserted its satisfaction with the security arrangements the Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF) has made for the contest scheduled in Islamabad next month.

"The ITF is simply not listening to us," says AITA secretary general Hironmoy Chatterjee. "What they have done is share the details of the security arrangements that will be there in Pakistan. Basically, the Indian team's movement from the airport to the hotel, to the venue and back."

"The ITF feels that the arrangements

made do not warrant the tie to be shifted to a neutral venue," Chatterjee adds.

On Tuesday, AITA had written to ITF arguing that the breakdown in political ties between the two neighbours has made it unsafe for the Indian team to travel across the border. The AITA listed eight reasons for the ITF to consider in the letter — citing the "downgraded diplomatic relations," railway and road links being severed between the two countries along with Pakistan shutting off its air space to Indian planes, no Indian Ambassador in Pakistan anymore, and an "undercurrent of tension in Pakistan."

The ITF, in turn, has granted AITA a telephonic meeting with its security advisors on Monday. "We will explain to them our view and decide if we want to push for another venue," Chatterjee says. "We are also going to involve our Davis Cup captain Mahesh Bhupathi for the meeting. He's already listing



Non-playing captain Mahesh Bhupathi will be part of a telephonic interaction with the ITF. File

what he wants to say."

Bhupathi, on behalf of the players, had written to AITA asking the Indian federation to push the ITF to move the tie to a neutral venue after political ties between the two countries worsened over the Kashmir issue. ITF, though, has asserted that the organisers in Pakistan have passed all security checks the world body had put in place for a Davis Cup tie, and refused to move the tie to a neutral venue.

"The entire security arrangement is in the hands of the Pakistan government," Chatterjee says. "We are at their mercy. It'll take only one phone call for all those security arrangements to be cancelled. The relations between the two countries are not healthy. Nobody, in any sport right now, would be safe to travel there."

The AITA had also written to the ITF citing a precedent of postponing a Davis Cup tie. In

September 2001, India was scheduled to compete against the United States in North Carolina, just after the 9/11 attacks. The ITF subsequently delayed the tie by a month.

"Indian Team was already in USA (when) the unfortunate incident of 9/11 took place. Although there was no further security threat in USA or at North Carolina where the Davis Cup tie was to be held, it was decided by the ITF considering the overall mood in USA that it will not be appropriate to go ahead with the tie. ITF postponed the Davis Cup tie between India and USA even though there was no further security threat," Chatterjee wrote.

"In view of the current situation ITF should follow the example it had set up in the tie between India and USA and postpone this particular Davis Cup Tie for two months by which time the matters would have stabilised and the atmosphere will be conducive for holding a friendly tie."

BRIEFLY

Dutee to miss two meets despite getting visa

New Delhi: India's fastest woman Dutee Chand on Tuesday expressed regret for not being able to travel to Germany to participate in a couple of races in her bid to qualify for the World Athletics Championships due to some "technical problems". The athlete had last week requested the External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to help her get visa so that she could participate in a couple of competitions, and was subsequently granted the same after government intervention. However, on Tuesday, Dutee said despite all help from the government, she failed to make it to the races. "I'm unable to go to Germany because of some technical problems at the organisational level. I'm really sad for this. The Government of India is fully aware of this unexpected error and has extended full support to me. I'm really grateful to the Government of India. Thank you," Dutee tweeted in Oriya. The 23-year-old, who recently became the first Indian woman track and field athlete to clinch a gold medal in the World University Games, was slated to compete in 100m dash in two IAAF-approved races — one in Ireland on August 13 and another in Germany on August 19. PTI

Wrestling trials to be held on Tuesday

New Delhi: Struggling for form, double Olympic medalist Sushil Kumar will take the mat to prove his worth when the national federation conducts trials for the Wrestling World Championship in remaining men's categories, in New Delhi on Tuesday. After conducting trials for six Olympic categories except for the men's 74kg, the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) has now decided to hold trials in the remaining non-Olympic categories on August 19 for women in Lucknow and for men on August 20 in New Delhi. The trials in the men's 74kg were delayed due to non-availability of Praveen Rana and Jitender Kumar, who were injured. However, Rana has still not recovered from his shoulder injury and won't be part of the trials on Tuesday. Sushil's opponents are now expected to be Jitender and Amit Dhankar. Apart from the men's 74kg, trials will also be held in 61kg, 70kg, 79kg and 92kg. For women, the trials will be held in 55kg, 59kg, 65kg and 72kg. The winners will travel to Nur-Ul-Sultan, Kazakhstan for the World Championship, scheduled to be held from September 14 to 22. PTI

Steyn not ready for India T20s: CSA

Johannesburg: Cricket South Africa on Wednesday said Dale Steyn is not "medically ready" to be named in the T20 squad to face India, clarifying a day after the veteran fast bowler expressed his surprise at his exclusion. "He is not yet medically ready and our information makes that very clear," said Cricket South Africa's (CSA) acting director of cricket Corrie van Zyl. Van Zyl also stated that Vernon Philander (hamstring) and Theunis de Bruyn (back) are expected to be fit in time for the three-Test series against India in October. "Both are on track, but they will have to play one match before the tour to prove that they are fully fit," Van Zyl said. On Tuesday, Steyn, who recently retired from Test cricket after an illustrious career, expressed his surprise at not finding his name in the T20 squad. In a Twitter conversation with a local journalist, the 36-year-old informed that he had made himself available to the CSA but it may not have his number. "I did... Obviously lost my number in the reshuffling of the coaching staff," the pace great had written. PTI

Revamped Barca set for Champions League push

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BARCELONA, AUGUST 14

LIONEL MESSI has the support of new signing Antoine Griezmann in attack as Barcelona starts the new season with one mission: to lift the Champions League trophy again and end a five-year drought. Barcelona has won consecutive Spanish league titles and dominated with eight titles in the past 11 years.

But after back-to-back second-leg collapses in the knockout rounds of the Champions League, Barcelona's players, and above all coach Ernesto Valverde, are under immense pressure to reclaim that status as the best in Europe.

Even though Messi has changed the history of the Spanish club by leading it to 34 trophies, including 10 Spanish league crowns, some fans had started to complain the club has not done enough to provide him with the support he needs to fully exploit his unparalleled talent. Messi continues to churn out 50-goal seasons, but Barcelona hasn't won the Champions League since 2015, when the Argentine great claimed his fourth European crown with Barca.

Now, he has the help of Griezmann, who was instrumental in France winning the World Cup last summer and has joined from Spanish rival Atletico Madrid to link up with Messi and Luis Suarez in a potentially formidable forward line. "I believe in this squad, in these players and this coaching staff," Messi told Barcelona's fans at a preseason match at Camp Nou Stadium. "I have no doubt that together we will again fight to win it all."

Messi is now 32 years old, and even though he hasn't lost a step and has improved his passing, vision and leadership skills with each season, the clock is ticking on how long he can sustain his exceptional level of performance. Feeling that pressure, Barcelona president Josep Bartomeu agreed to two transfers that will potentially cost the club over 200 million euros for a pair of players the club believes will be difference-makers.

Major reinforcements

Forward Griezmann and Netherlands midfielder Frenkie de Jong will be expected to make an immediate impact for Barcelona this season. The 28-year-old Griezmann arrived after Barcelona triggered his 120-million-euro (\$134-million) buyout clause to free him from Atletico. He should add even more fire power up front after Messi and Suarez combined for 76 goals last season.

Griezmann's departure from Atletico will also hurt Barcelona's biggest rival in the Spanish league in recent years. Atletico was runner-up to Barcelona the last two seasons. De Jong is Barcelona's hope for now and for the future. At 22, he arrives after a breakout campaign with Ajax, which made it to the Champions League semifinals after upsetting both Real Madrid and Juventus.

Barcelona believes De Jong can become its leading playmaker in a midfield that has taken a step back since the exits of greats Xavi Hernandez and Andres Iniesta.

COA calls for 'conflict' congress

Top former players, including Dravid, to discuss rules; their views to be submitted to amicus curiae

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, AUGUST 14

THE COMMITTEE of Administrators (CoA) has asked former India captain Rahul Dravid, the current National Cricket Academy head of cricket, to call a joint meeting with the Supreme Court-appointed Committee and former India cricketers to discuss 'conflict-of-interest' rules.

The conflict-of-interest rule has had a major impact on cricketers who are holding multiple positions. The Lodha Committee recommendation, 'one-person-one-post', was accepted by the Supreme Court and subsequently drafted into the new BCCI constitution.

The decision to call a joint meeting has come after the BCCI ombudsman-cum-ethics officer Justice (Retd) DK Jain found Sourav Ganguly and VVS Laxman in positions of conflict, stressing upon the 'one-person-one-post' rule in his orders.

Sachin Tendulkar was cleared, as he recused himself from the BCCI's Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC). A few days ago, the ethics officer sent a notice to Dravid, asking him to respond, after he took cognizance of the 'conflict-of-interest' complaint filed by Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association member Sanjeev Gupta. The latter has also filed conflict-of-interest complaints against ad-hoc CAC members — appointed to pick the head coach of the Indian team — Kapil Dev, Anshuman Gaekwad and Shantha Rangaswamy.

"The CoA wants every top cricketer's view on conflict of interest, as players are the most affected by this clause. Dravid has been given the charge to call former cricketers and discuss about this. After hearing everyone, the CoA will file its report and submit it to the amicus curiae, PS Narasimha. The amicus will place it before the Supreme Court. Clarity needs to be sought on this," a BCCI official told *The Indian Express*.

It is also learnt that the CoA headed by Vinod Rai has decided that henceforth if any complaint is received with regards to conflict-of-interest charges, the BCCI's legal team will appear before the ethics officer instead of the person/party against whom the complaint is filed.

The decision was taken keeping in mind the complaints filed against Dravid and the ad-hoc CAC members. Before making appointments, the BCCI ensures that an individual submits a 'no-conflict' declaration. If an individual has disclosed everything and still a complaint is received, it will be the BCCI's responsibility to defend the person before the ethics officer.

"Once an individual has disclosed everything on the declaration form, then in the BCCI's view he/she is not conflicted. In Dravid's case, he disclosed everything, that he was part of India Cements. If he hadn't done that, then he would have come under the conflict-of-interest ambit. It is decided that in the future, after any appointment, if a complaint comes against any individual, it will be dealt by the BCCI. For us, disclosure is the antidote to conflict of interest," a top BCCI official told this paper.

A former India captain has already taken a jibe at the 'proliferation' of conflict-of-in-



Rahul Dravid, the Committee of Administrators and other former players will discuss the Conflict of Interest rules. File

terest complaints. "New fashion in Indian cricket... conflict of interest... Best way to remain in news... god help Indian cricket... Dravid Gets Conflict of Interest Notice from BCCI Ethics Officer," Sourav Ganguly tweeted a week ago. Harbhajan Singh concurred.

Even the CoA feels that the conflict-of-interest clause is "rigid" to the extent that if it is implemented, around 20 Indian commentators will be out of reckoning and the BCCI will have no option but to hire former players from overseas.

"The CoA thinks that it (the order) is very rigid; the interpretation of a commentator. Commentators are commentators, being used by the BCCI. Somebody is doing vernacular commentary, somebody is with Star, some other player is writing for vernacular papers. In this way, the CoA has to dump 20 of our own people and hire Ricky Ponting, for example, or somebody else from overseas," a source close to the CoA told *The Indian Express*.

Ganguly and Laxman have been found by Justice Jain to be in conflict of interest because of their roles as commentators and the positions they hold in Indian cricket. Ganguly and Laxman are members of the BCCI's (erstwhile) CAC alongside their posts with IPL franchises Delhi Capitals and Sunrisers Hyderabad respectively. Ganguly is also the president of the Cricket Association of Bengal.

Manager apologises, CoA not to call him back

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 14

THE BCCI on Wednesday went back on its decision to call back the national team's administrative manager Sunil Subramaniam after he tendered "an unconditional apology" for misbehaving with senior officials from the country's High Commissions in the West Indies. In what could have been a first in Indian cricket, the BCCI had contemplated calling back the manager midway from the ongoing tour, but Committee of Administrators (CoA) chief Vinod Rai let him off with a severe reprimand following his apology.

"Sunil Subramaniam didn't know that it was a request from the government of India. I had initially thought of recalling him back but in the evening, after he tendered an unconditional apology, I have decided to keep him for the remainder of the tour," Rai told PTI. "He will complete this tour as I have now accepted his apology," Rai added.

Earlier, Subramaniam was sent flight tickets for bringing him back at the earliest. He had indulged in high-handedness while

dealing with senior Indian Foreign Service officers, a top BCCI official told PTI. The IFS officials had reached out to him with the government's request for a video shoot by players to promote 'water conservation'.

"The Indian team had a fairly long shoot on 'Water Conservation' project and he needed to oversee that. Once that was over, he was sent an e-mail instructing him to choose the earliest available flight options," the senior Board official had said.

The former Tamil Nadu left-arm spinner has offered an unconditional apology for his alleged misbehaviour with officials from the Indian High Commissions in Guyana and Trinidad & Tobago. It has been learnt that Subramaniam cited stress as the reason for his alleged misbehaviour. "In his apology, he has said that he was sleep deprived and under stress which resulted in poor behaviour. But you have to understand that the matter had reached the highest levels of the government and the BCCI can't be seen doing nothing on the matter," the official had said earlier.

Subramaniam was also accused of repeatedly avoiding calls from senior government officials and then the BCCI brass.

Age no bar as Patel attempts big leap

NITIN SHARMA
PANCHKULA, AUGUST 14

POST HIS 15-9, 15-11 win over Irvin Arokia Walter in the final qualification round of the boys' under-19 category of the 28th Yonex Sunrise Smt. Krishna Khaitan Memorial Tournament, 16-year-old Shubham Patel walked across to the court where his friends from the sub-junior under-17 section were competing.

The Ajmer teenager, who won the u-17 silver medal at last year's Nationals, prefers the company of his old friends as he tries to find his feet in the higher age group. "I like spending time with my u-17 mates. But I know that I need to improve my u-19 singles rankings of 38. The focus is on improving my game to face tougher and stronger opponents. Even though the transition from u-17 to u-19 is not that big compared to the one from u-19 to the senior category, exposure in more junior tournaments will help me prepare for seniors too," Patel said.

Son of an automobile engineer, Patel got hooked onto badminton after watching his cousins play the sport in a park near his home. He became Rajasthan u-13 singles and



Shubham Patel trains at the Prakash Padukone academy in Bangalore. Jaipal Singh

doubles champion in 2014, and won his first national title in doubles pairing up with Denis Srivastava at the All India Sub-Junior Ranking Tournament in Jodhpur in 2017.

The same year, Patel paired up with Ayush Raj Gupta to win the bronze at the Asian Badminton U-15 Championships in

Myanmar. Last year, he combined with Gupta to win the silver at the sub-junior National Ranking Tournament in Nagpur and another in the U-17 singles at the Nationals in Bengaluru.

This year, Patel reached the final of the All India Ranking u-17 Tournament in Imphal.

"Like any other player, I also liked to compete in doubles. It helped me get better at singles. My first medal at the national level came in doubles and the same year, I won the bronze with Ayush in Myanmar. But my heart always lies in singles. The silver medal at last year's Nationals gave me confidence that I can focus on singles in the U-19 category as well and it has been one of my goals this year. I have suffered some close losses but have learnt from them. After the u-19 ranking tournaments, I will be playing in the Asian U-17 Badminton Championships in Sri Lanka in October," shared Patel.

The youngster has been training at the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy in Bengaluru for the last one year. Coach Umendra Singh Rana believes Patel has got the game to excel at the U-19 level.

"Shubham came to train under us last year. He was physically a bit weaker earlier but would practise with seniors like Lakshya Sen, which helped his game. His basics are strong, the length of his strokes is good and he is able to tire his opponents. Being a left-hander adds to his advantage and he also counter-attacks well. The only thing he needs to improve upon to excel at the U-19 and senior levels is his smashes," said Rana.

Hosts Thailand can't compete at world championships

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
BANGKOK, AUGUST 14

THAI WEIGHTLIFTERS will not be allowed to compete at the world championships despite the country hosting the event, the sport's global body confirmed on Wednesday, dashing hopes of a late reprieve after a doping scandal. Nine Thais including two reigning Olympic champions were suspended after positive drug tests since November, prompting Thailand to voluntarily ban itself from the September championships in Pattaya as well as next year's Olympics.

Last month the Thai Amateur Weightlifting Association (TAWA) changed tact, saying lifters who did not fail tests should be allowed to compete and have a shot at the Tokyo Games, while athletes and coaches were told to get ready.

But the International Weightlifting Federation has slammed the door shut after telling AFP that "no Thai athletes will be entitled to participate" in Pattaya.

"The IWF Executive Board will not be reviewing TAWA's decision at its meeting in

September and therefore TAWA's self-suspension and the suspension of Thai athletes from competing in weightlifting events will remain in place."

The Thai association was not immediately available for comment on the IWF statement, which deepens the crisis enveloping Thailand's most successful Olympic sport.

Thailand maintains its lifters were given a pain relief gel by a former coach that, unbeknown to them, contained traces of anabolic steroid. Intarart Yodbangtoey, the honorary president of the Thai weightlifting association, last month told AFP he wanted to lift the blanket ban because the source of the problem had been discovered. "I hope that executive board members will allow us to join and participate," he said at the time.

With five Olympic gold medals since 2004, all won by women, weightlifting has been a rare sporting success story for the Southeast Asian nation.

But the story turned sour last year, when Thailand was caught in a global doping crackdown by weightlifting authorities that was prompted by a threat to expel the sport from the Olympic Games.

