

SAYS ONE NATION, ONE CONSTITUTION AFTER J&K MOVE

Defence reform pending since Kargil gets I-Day okay: PM announces Chief of Defence Staff post

Modi says urgent need to address water crisis, calls for campaign against plastic use

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 15

SIGNALLING GREATER resolve in bringing decisive changes following the strong mandate for a second term, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday announced the creation of the post of Chief of Defence Staff, and flagged population growth while calling for a rethink. He said steps will be taken to address the water crisis, and a campaign should begin against single-use plastic.

Delivering his sixth Independence Day speech, the first of his second term, from the ramparts of the Red Fort, Modi also broached the subject of simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and assemblies, saying the issue must be discussed "democratically".

Referring to the abrogation of J&K's special status under Article 370, Modi said the move has ushered in the idea of One Nation, One Constitution. He said the special provision had only bred separatism, terrorism, dynasty and corruption in the Valley. He said intermediaries have been removed and people of J&K can now directly talk to Delhi.

"There is a specific character of this government. We neither defer problems, nor do we let them fester. What could not be done in the past 70 years, we did it in 70 days of the new government. The Parliament repealed both Article 370 and Article 35A with two two-thirds majority. It shows that everyone agreed with the decision but no one was ready to make the first move. The nation has given me this



Prime Minister Modi addresses the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort on Independence Day. Neeraj Priyadarshi PAGES 4, 6

Your identity not on the line, nor fiddled with: J&K Governor on I-Day



NSA Ajit Doval with Governor Malik in Srinagar. Shuaib Masoodi

BASHARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, AUGUST 15

IN HIS first public address after the government revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and announced its bifurcation into two Union Territories, Governor Satya Pal Malik Thursday assured the people of J&K that their identity is

neither at stake nor has it been tampered with.

After hoisting the Tricolour at the Sher-i-Kashmir stadium in Srinagar amidst tight security, Malik, the last Governor to make an Independence Day speech

JOURNALIST HELD IN VALLEY PAGE 7

PM flags population boom: Fertility rate falling, 7 key states over India average

RAVISH TIWARI
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 15

AS PRIME Minister Narendra Modi highlighted "population explosion" and underscored the need for "social awareness" to deal with this concern in his Independence Day address to the nation Thursday, trends indicate that the country has consistently made gradual improvements in curbing its fertility rates.

Currently, however, the national Total Fertility Rate (TFR), which measures the number of children born to a woman at the end of childbearing age, is estimated to be still marginally higher than the replacement rate, which is the average number of children a woman needs to have to keep the population at a constant size.

The latest estimates (for 2017) by the Sample Registration System (SRS) under the Registrar

EXPLAINED

FERTILITY RATE: WHAT THE DATA SHOW PAGE 9

General of India (RGI) has pegged the country's TFR at 2.2. This is only marginally more than the replacement rate which stands at 2.1.

This latest data also show that seven states — Uttar Pradesh (3.0), Bihar (3.2), Madhya Pradesh (2.7), Rajasthan (2.6), Assam (2.3), Chhattisgarh (2.4) and Jharkhand (2.5) — that account for about 45 per cent of the total population in the 2011 Census recorded a higher TFR than the national average.

Gujarat and Haryana, too, recorded a TFR of 2.2, which is above the replacement rate but is equal to the national average.

Army chief during Kargil defines role: CDS advisor to Cabinet

MANRAJ GREWAL SHARMA & KRISHN KAUSHIK
CHANDIGARH, NEW DELHI, AUGUST 15

WELCOMING THE Prime Minister's announcement that the country will have a Chief of Defence Staff, former Army chief General (ret'd) V P Malik Thursday said this was long overdue. He said the appointment of a CDS will make the three services more effective by improving jointmanship and inter-operability. In the long run, it will also make the forces more economical.

"The appointment of a CDS has been under consideration for the last 20 years. It was first recommended by the Kargil review committee and then again by the Group of Ministers in 2002. But for some reason or the other, it was not accepted," Gen Malik, who was Army chief during the Kargil war, said.

He said there were political leaders who had not understood the concept correctly. "Some even went to the extent of thinking that it will make the military too strong."

There were some differences among the three services, he said, and opposition from the bureaucracy. The appointment of the CDS, he said, will spell a major organisational change at the level of national security organisation, particularly for the defence services.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

CAPEX DOWN, NEW PROJECTS STALLED

Signals aplenty that slowdown is spreading across India Inc

PM holds meeting with FM, officials

PRANAV MUKUL & ANIL SASI
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 15

ALONGSIDE THE dip in consumption demand, the steady slide in investment activity has been progressively intensifying — evidenced by a nearly 30 per cent drop in capital expenditure by the government in the June 2019 quarter alongside a near halving of new project announcements by India Inc.

On Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is learnt to have reviewed the state of the economy with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and top officials of the Ministry to assess measures being planned to tackle the slowdown. There are indications that the slump in investment activity could be prolonged as a majority of manufacturing companies remained pessimistic about the near future.

Of the 1,231 manufacturing companies surveyed by the Reserve Bank of India in its April-June 2019 Industrial Outlook Survey of the Manufacturing Sector, only 31.6 per cent of manufacturers said they expected an increase in

WEALTH CREATION IS NATIONAL SERVICE...

“Wealth creation is a great national service. Let us never see wealth creators with suspicion. Only when wealth is created, wealth will be distributed. Wealth creation is absolutely essential. Those who create wealth are India's wealth and we respect them.”

— PM NARENDRA MODI
IN HIS I-DAY ADDRESS TO NATION
REPORT, PAGE 13

order books — the lowest number in nearly a decade.

New projects are not taking off while those under execution are hanging fire. Of the 65 ongoing projects under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode monitored by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, 37 were reported as delayed as on May 1, 2019.

Implementation delays have

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Chhattisgarh doubles OBC quota, hikes SC benefit; reservation total 22% over ceiling

DIPANKAR GHOSH
RAIPUR, AUGUST 15

IN A significant political and administrative move, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel announced Thursday an increase in reservations for OBCs and Scheduled Castes in state government jobs and education. Baghel said the government will increase the quota for Scheduled Castes by one per cent while nearly doubling reservation for OBCs from 14 per cent to 27 per cent. The quota for Scheduled Tribes remains at 32 per cent.

Once in effect, it will mean Chhattisgarh will have a total of 72 per cent reservation, the highest in the country and far above the 50 per cent cap on quotas mandated by the Supreme Court.

In his Independence Day speech in Raipur, Baghel said, "I am very happy to say that in our state, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes have been raising their demands in a peaceful manner for a long time. It is our duty to protect their Constitution given rights. In a big step towards that, today, I announce that in the state, that 32 per cent for STs, 13 per cent for SCs and 27 per cent reservation will be given to OBCs."

Last week, Baghel had told a



Baghel at I-Day function in Raipur, Thursday. Express

EXPLAINED

OBC votes, eye on local polls

THIS SERVES two purposes for the Congress. It assuages OBCs, who have been demanding more quota, and ceases the politics of CM Bhupesh Baghel. While questions remain on whether the move will stand in courts, the Congress hopes it will help improve its tally in local elections this year.

district-level programme that the government intended to raise the quota for SCs to keep it

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

China pushes Pak letter, UNSC to hold informal discussion on J&K move

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 15

THE UNITED Nations Security Council (UNSC) has decided to hold "informal consultations" on Jammu and Kashmir, *The Indian Express* has learnt. The meeting is likely to take place in New York at 10 am local time (7.30 pm IST) Friday, sources said.

The decision comes after China approached Poland, which holds the UNSC presidency this month, to discuss Pakistan's letter on India's move to revoke special status for J&K and bifurcate the state into two Union Territories.

New Delhi will be closely monitoring the situation, especially the shape and nuance of discussions within the UNSC since China is the only permanent member that has pushed for the consultation.

India will also track how the 15 UNSC members proceed on

the issue, and whether there are any statements issued later, especially by the five permanent members, that refer to restrictions in the Valley or human rights violations.

According to rules, the outcome of UNSC's informal consultations are "not binding". Delhi, however, is prepared to deal with any plea by the Council to hold "bilateral dialogue" since that has been its own position as well.

South Block feels the discussions will not have any bearing on the Constitutional change that India carried out while revoking special status to J&K under Article 370. It hopes that after discussing the issue, the matter will find closure in the international diplomatic space.

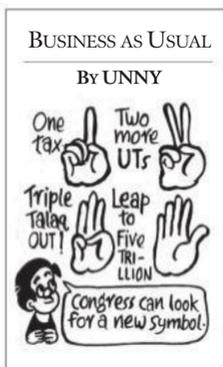
Pakistan is expected to be pleased that it has been able to get the UNSC to discuss J&K — that too, after more than four decades. Whether there is any outcome or not, this will be portrayed by

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

MANY SHADES TO PM'S I-DAY SPEECH

BY SUHAS PALSHIKAR
PAGE 10



THE CITY

FROM OCT 29, FREE DTC BUS RIDES FOR WOMEN IN DELHI, SAYS KEJRIWAL PAGE 3

Stuck in traffic, Pehlu's son got call on acquittal of accused: 'Will fight'

SAKSHI DAYAL
NUH, AUGUST 15

STUCK IN heavy traffic under the pouring rain, Irshad Khan was delayed on his way to the court in Alwar Wednesday evening, when his lawyer called him. Irshad was told that all six men accused of killing his father Pehlu Khan had been acquitted.

Irshad (28) said he was "shocked" by the verdict but held himself together so he could first call his mother, Jaibuna, who was waiting by the phone for the latest update at the family's home in Mewat's Jaisinghpur village.

"I was sitting near my phone ever since Irshad left, waiting to hear what happened in court. When he finally called me and told me all the accused had been acquitted, I was heartbroken. I started to feel giddy and had to lie down," said Jaibuna.

"All of us have been very troubled ever since the verdict was announced. The court was the only place where we thought



Pehlu Khan's wife Jaibuna and son Irshad at their home in Mewat's Jaisinghpur village on Thursday. Gajendra Yadav

we could get justice, but that has also not happened."

On April 1, 2017, another phone call changed Jaibuna's life. Then it was news of the attack on her husband and children. Pehlu Khan, his two sons and two companions travelling together were attacked by cow vigilantes while transporting cattle in Alwar's

Behror area. The incident was caught on camera and Khan was taken to hospital.

And two days later, Khan succumbed to his injuries but

MORE REPORTS PAGE 8

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

A Karnataka survival story: Couple stayed on roof, tree for 3 days

Before rescue by NDRF, landlord shone torch on them all night from other side of swollen stream to keep their courage up

JOHNSON TA
BELAGAVI, AUGUST 15

THE STORY of a couple — a differently abled man and his frail wife — who were stuck for three days amid pouring rain on the roof of a small house and then on a mango tree in Kabalapura village 15 km from Belagavi, has been one of the most poignant to emerge from the floods that hit north Karnataka last week.

When an NDRF team finally

glued to this survival saga. The visuals captured the couple's travails from the front of the farm house on Day 1 to the tiled roof on Day 2 — Kadappa pulling a plastic sheet over Ratnabai to shelter her from the rain. On Day 3, as the house collapsed, the couple perched precariously on a mango tree nearby.

Rescued and treated for three days for frost bite, physical injuries, shock and trauma at the government Belagavi Institute of Medical Sciences, the homeless



Kadappa and Ratnabai take shelter at a temple in Urbinahatti village, 15 km from rescue spot. Johnson TA

couple now live in a temple in Kadappa's native Urbinahatti village, 15 km from the farm.

"The only thing I was worried about was her. On the second day, she went down from the roof to retrieve a sheet, and a portion of the house collapsed on her leg. I climbed on the mango tree, which was beside the house, and hauled her up using a rope and we waited out the third night," said Kadappa, who has a polio-afflicted leg from childhood.

"I cannot sleep at night because the nightmare of the flood rages in my mind. On the first night, when I woke up to go

out and relieve myself, I saw that water had reached the front step. I did not expect it to rise further. By the next day, it had submerged our bed," he said.

"There was no food after the first day. We cupped our hands and collected rain water and drank it. We had a plastic sheet, which I used to shelter us on the roof of the house and the tree," Kadappa said.

The couple had been working and living on Jamadar's farm for five months and were regularly employed there for seasonal work over the past five to six years. For them, the house provided shelter and the work a

regular income. "We never harmed anyone, never cheated anyone. I think God helped us survive because we never hurt anyone," said Ratnabai at the Balajana temple, which is their home since a rented house in the village is crumbling.

Ratnabai said they considered trying to make it across the water since Kadappa could swim. "But the currents were too

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CM'S OFFER: WILL NAME VILLAGES AFTER DONORS PAGE 7

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PM MODI CALLED FOR 'ONE NATION, ONE ELECTION'. WHAT DOES THIS IDEA MEAN?

The Prime Minister has been committed to the idea for several years now, and he had announced soon after being reelected to office that a committee would be formed to discuss the idea with all political parties. One Nation, One Election would reduce the cost of holding elections, and limit all elections to a single season

VIDEO OF THE DAY



WHAT PM MODI SAID IN HIS RED FORT SPEECH

'Achievements of his government within 10 weeks of returning'

FULL COVERAGE



PM ANNOUNCES CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF POST

Modi also pushes for population control measures

EXPRESS AUDIO

Analyzing PM Modi's Independence Day Speech

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In this episode of 3 Things, we look at three different aspects of the PM's speech to understand what it signals about the coming 5 years of the Modi government

FROM PAGE ONE

Prime Minister announces Chief of Defence Staff post

responsibility and I am fulfilling it." He targeted the Opposition for its criticism of the government move, saying if they loved Article 370 so much, they should have made it permanent. "Why did you keep it temporary? If you had the conviction, you should have come forward and made it permanent. This means even you knew that the decision was not right, but you neither had the courage nor the intention to change it. Concerns about their political future kept coming up. For me, the country's future is everything, political future is nothing."

In his address, he made no mention of Pakistan but said those "spreading fear and fostering violence must be razed to the ground".

But it was the Prime Minister's announcement of the decision to appoint a CDS that made the three services sit up — they had been seeking it for years. Highlighting how modern warfare had become technology-driven and India could not have a fragmented approach on defence, Modi said, "Today we have decided that we will now have a Chief of Defence Staff, CDS, and after formation of this post, all the three forces will get effective leadership at the top level. The CDS system is very important, a compelling task in our dream to reform the strategic pace of Hindustan in the world."

He said there was a view among defence experts that there should be a CDS, and that it would go a long way in fostering better coordination between the

Army, Navy and Air Force. Urging the nation to check population growth, he said "the rapidly increasing population poses various new challenges for us and our future generations".

"In our society, there is a section which is very well aware of the consequences of the uncontrolled population growth... Before having a baby, they take a well-considered decision whether they will be able to take care of the child's needs and fulfil his/her dreams by playing the role of a responsible parent. Keeping these parameters in mind, this small section of responsible citizens is self-motivated to keep their family small. Not only do they contribute to the welfare of their family but also to the good of the nation."

"We should learn from them. Before a child arrives into our family we should think: have I prepared myself to fulfil the needs of the child? Or will I leave it dependent on society? Will I leave the child un-nurtured? No parent can continue to give birth to children who are forced to live this type of life and, therefore, social awareness is needed."

Declaring war on plastic as the next phase of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Modi urged people to rid the country of single-use plastic. "I would like to make a small request. On October 2, can we make India free from single-use plastic? Let us move around, form teams and move from homes, schools, colleges... I will request start-up organisations, technicians and entrepreneurs to see what we can do to recycle this plastic. Plastic is being used for making highways. Many such remedies can be there. But to get rid of such a problem, we have to initiate a mass movement, and think of alternatives. I will request all shopkeepers that with your

sign board, place another urging customers not to use plastic bags." Acknowledging the water crisis in the country, the Prime Minister said the Jal Jeevan Mission would be taken forward to ensure potable water in every house. "It is a fact that today almost half the houses in India do not have drinking water. People have to struggle to get drinking water. Mothers and sisters have to travel 2, 3, 5 km, carrying the water loads on their heads. A large part of their lives is spent in struggling for water. Therefore, this government has... to ensure availability of water in every house."

Army chief defines CDS role as advisor

Recalling the Kargil war, Gen Malik said he did not really miss having a CDS at that time though it would have helped at the lower level.

"It was a limited war over a front of 160 km. As chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee, I was able to ensure cooperation at the higher level though there were initial differences. But I did feel there wasn't enough jointness at the lower level."

On the future steps, he said, "We already have an integrated defence staff. The CDS, once appointed, will head it. He will be the military advisor to the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS). He will also head the nuclear set-up, the strategic command etc. He will be able to give a holistic approach to our defence planning which at present tends to be competitive and unecological."

Asked whether it will lessen interference of career bureaucrats in defence matters, Gen Malik said he hopes that the CDS will be part and parcel of the decision-making loop. "In the current environment, politico-military strategy is very vital and it cannot be dealt with in water-tight compartments. The armed forces require greater versatility and flexibility," he said.

Lt General (retired) Satish Dua called the appointment of a CDS a "game changer" and a "force multiplier". He said India is the only country where the military is "not integrated" even as "all other major militaries are". Today, he said, "we have a very weak system, a collegiate Chiefs of Staff Committee... a very weak system for security." The CDS, he said, will be the "single-point advisor".

Former Air Chief Marshal Fali Homi Major said the appointment of a CDS "is a great step forward in the reforms for higher defence management. It's a very good decision taken by the management and should be implemented as fast as possible".

The idea of a CDS was mooted in the aftermath of the Kargil war. An expert committee headed by strategic affairs expert K Subrahmanyam had recommended several structural reforms for the defence establishment. After the committee submitted its report, a Group of Ministers, headed by then Deputy Prime Minister L K Advani, mentioned the establishment of the office of a CDS because the Chiefs of Staff Committee "has not been effective in fulfilling its mandate".

The GoM said that "creation of a CDS would ensure provision of single point military advice to the civil political executive" and the CDS will consult the chiefs before advising the government.

Your identity not on the line, says J&K Governor

before the state becomes a Union Territory on October 31, said: "The changes brought in by the central government are not just historic but have opened new doors of development for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, and people of Ladakh."

"On this occasion, I want to assure the people of Jammu and Kashmir that their identity is not on line. Nor has it been fiddled with. The Constitution of India allows the flourishing of several regional identities. If you travel from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, you will see a variety of languages, cultures, religions and societies. So nobody should get worried that the decisions of the central government would end identity."

National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval was present at the function. But mainstream politicians and activists, barring those from the BJP, were missing — many have been placed under detention — for the first time in recent years. A security blanket was thrown over the city, all roads leading to the venue were closed and the communication blackout continued. Helicopters were also used for surveillance from the air.

In his speech, Malik said: "In the last 70 years, common people of the state had deviated from basic issues of development, peace and prosperity. Instead of paying attention to these issues, people were misled by issues which had no meaning in their life. It is surprising that even at the time of elections or anything else, the attention of the people was never directed towards *roti, kapda aur makaan*."

Referring to the revocation of the state's special status, he said: "With these changes, the obstacles coming in the way of development and prosperity have been removed. It will help governance, there will be self-reliance, employment will increase and the important thing is that people of Jammu and Kashmir will feel they are equal with the other parts of the country."

He said the administration is committed to the "safe return" of Kashmiri Pandits to the valley. "Kashmir is not complete without Kashmiri Pandits. My government is committed to the safe return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits... My belief is that that the complete return of Kashmiri migrants to the Valley will be possible only with the help and support of people of Kashmir and other stakeholders."

Fertility rates falling, 7 key states over India average

These nine major states with a larger replacement rate of fertility account for 52 per cent of the total population in the 2011 Census. This means that most states, barring these nine, have either achieved the replacement level (2.1) or gone below it.

While relatively well off states in the south — Kerala (1.7), Tamil Nadu (1.6), Karnataka (1.7), Maharashtra (1.7), Andhra Pradesh (1.6) and Telangana (1.7) — demonstrate fertility rates below the rate required for population replacement, the states of West Bengal (1.6), Jammu and Kashmir (1.6) and Odisha (1.9), too, were estimated to have lower TFRs in 2017.

"I would like to highlight the issue of population explosion in our country from the aegis of the Red Fort today. This rapidly increasing population poses various new challenges for us and our future generations," Modi said in his Independence Day address, highlighting the issue as he went on to suggest that keeping a small family is akin to patriotism.

"This small section of responsible citizens is self-motivated to keep their family small. Not only do they contribute to the welfare of their family but also to the good of the nation. They express patriotism."

Modi, in this context, lauded parents who have maintained small families and suggested that they should serve as an inspiration for families who have not paid attention to the issue of "population explosion".

"The people who have played this huge role need to be honoured, and by setting them as examples, we need to inspire the segment of society who are still not thinking on these lines. We need to worry about population explosion," said Modi.

The Sample Registration System (SRS) measured regularly reveals that the TFR has not only been improving for the country as a whole but even in states that register a TFR higher than the replacement rate.

The latest report of 2017 underlined that the TFR has declined from 5.2 to 4.5 between 1971 and 1981 and from 3.6 to 2.2 between 1991 and 2017. In fact, the data reveal that trends vary along the rural-urban divide as well as the literacy levels of women.

The SRS reveals that while an "illiterate" woman is likely to give birth to 2.9 children on average, a "literate" woman will produce fewer (2.1) children. Women

with education levels of Class 10 and above have been recorded to have a TFR below the replacement rate (2.1).

Data show that a Class 10-pass woman produces two children on average while a woman who has cleared Class XII will produce 1.8 children. The TFR for a woman with education levels of a graduate or above is 1.4 children.

Likewise, urban areas have been usually found to have a lower TFR than rural areas. While the TFR declined from 5.4 to 2.4 from 1971 to 2017 in rural areas, the decline in urban areas slipped below the replacement rate from 4.1 to 1.7 during the same period.

This decline in fertility rates is also reflected in the total population growth recorded in the Census.

The decadal population growth in the intervening period between the 2001 Census and the 2011 Census has seen a decline after the 1971 Census.

Incidentally, the 2011 Census recorded the sharpest decline in the percentage decadal population growth during 2001-11 since Independence. The decadal growth during 2001-11 stood at 17.64, a sharp dip of 3.9 percentage points against 21.54 growth recorded in the previous decade (1991-2001).

UNSC to hold informal discussion on J&K move

Pakistan as a major diplomatic victory.

However, China's move to push Pakistan's case has not yet found solid support among the remaining permanent members. Over the weekend, Russia became the first of the five to back New Delhi's decision on J&K.

Russian government sources told *The Indian Express* Thursday that Moscow's position remains the same as it proceeds from the understanding that differences between India and Pakistan shall be resolved on a "bilateral" basis. "If China has called for a meeting, we will be there for sure but our stand will be the same," the sources said.

The UNSC decision also comes on a day when US Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan reached Delhi and is expected to meet Indian officials Friday.

While statements from the US and UK have not been as forceful in India's support as the Russian line, they haven't been critical of the changes in the Constitution, either.

Earlier, PTI quoted a UN diplomat as saying that a request for such a meeting was submitted recently. "China asked for closed consultations on the Security Council agenda item 'India Pakistan Question'. The request was in reference to the Pakistani letter to Security Council President," the diplomat said.

Beijing, sources said, has taken up cudgels on behalf of Pakistan after its Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi wrote to the UNSC President for an emergency meeting. India has categorically conveyed to the international community that its move on Article 370 was an "internal matter" and advised Pakistan to "accept the reality".

The latest turn of events comes after Qureshi went to Beijing to meet the Chinese leadership on raising Kashmir at the UNSC. After his return to Pakistan, he said Beijing fully supported Islamabad.

Meanwhile, during his bilateral meeting this week with China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Beijing, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar conveyed that India's decision was an "internal matter".

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Man held for stabbing wife

New Delhi: A 40-year-old woman was stabbed, allegedly by her husband, in North West Delhi Thursday. The accused, a daily wage labourer, has been arrested while the woman, who sustained injuries to her legs, is undergoing treatment at Safdarjung Hospital, said police. According to police, the accused and his wife regularly fought over "his inability to earn". An officer said, "The injured person was unfit to give her statement. An FIR was filed after her daughter gave a statement. The weapon used by the accused has been recovered." **ENS**

55-year-old electrocuted

New Delhi: A 55-year-old man, who worked as a caretaker at an under-construction building in Delhi's Dwarka, was electrocuted while repairing a ceiling fan, police said Thursday. A case under IPC sections 287 (negligent conduct with respect to machinery) and 304A (causing death by negligence) has been registered at Dwarka North police station, police said.

Woman jumps off building

New Delhi: A woman allegedly committed suicide by jumping from a building in South East Delhi's Govindpuri Thursday, police said. According to a senior police officer, the woman was working as a domestic help in Gurgaon, but her employers brought her back to the placement agency claiming she was mentally unstable. **PTI**

TO BE TABLED IN CABINET SOON, SAYS GOVT

From October 29, women get free rides on buses: Kejriwal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 15

DELHI CHIEF Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced that rides on DTC and cluster buses will be free for women from October 29, while delivering the last Independence Day speech of his term at Chhatrasal Stadium on Thursday. "As a Raksha Bandhan gift for women, I would like to announce that our sisters and daughters would be able to ride for free on DTC and cluster buses from Bhai Dooj, which will ensure their safety. With this move, our sisters will be able to fulfil their dreams because they have to travel long distances for their studies and work," he said. Kejriwal, who had an-



Kejriwal at the Independence Day event, Thursday. *Amit Mehra*

nounced free rides for women in public transport in June, also said his government is working to provide free rides for women in the Delhi Metro.

"Some people oppose our scheme saying that everything is being made free. I want to tell them that I am not splurging or stealing money. I am working

hard and ensuring a corruption-free system through which we save money," he said.

Stating that he was being questioned by many on grounds of gender equality, the CM said: "Women account for only 11% of Delhi's working population, while around 90% are men. Currently, only 30% of women and 70% of men travel in buses and Metro trains. Our free ride scheme will significantly help women realise their dreams."

A government official said the proposal will soon be tabled before the Cabinet for approval. Meanwhile, on the occasion, three Delhi Police officers were selected for the President's Police Medals for distinguished services, and 16 police officers for meritorious services.

Pick only women from EWS category for waiver: Finance dept

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 15

ALLOWING FREE rides to women in buses is "not advisable", the Delhi Finance Department has observed, citing the sluggish growth rate of the city's tax revenue and Delhi Transport Corporation's losses. The department suggested that waivers, if at all, should be given only to women from EWS category.

The *Indian Express* has learnt that the department has recommended that Aadhaar-linked passes be issued to categories that qualify for free rides for better monitoring and proper calculation of subsidy amount payable to the DTC and DIMTS (Delhi Integrated Multi-Modal Transit System), which manages the fleet of cluster buses.

The observations and recommendations are part of the de-

ON THE ROAD	
DTC	
3,600 buses	
₹ 97.12 per km	Average operating cost
₹ 30.32 per km	Current earnings
DIMTS	
1,679 cluster buses	
₹ 52 per km	Average operating cost
₹ 30.39 per km	Current earnings

partment's response to the draft Cabinet note on the proposal — announced by CM Arvind Kejriwal on June 3 — prepared by the Transport Department.

The note submitted by the Finance Department refers to the growth in the tax revenue of Delhi in 2018-19 and the first quarter of the 2019-20 financial year. It states that since DTC is a loss-making corporation, "it is not advisable to allow free passes to female commuters in DTC and cluster buses" as it will put a "heavy burden" on the government, sources said. The note pointed out that the overall tax revenue of Delhi government has grown "only 2.54%" in 2018-19, and 1.71% in the first quarter of 2019-20. However, it is also learnt that the finance department has assured the government that notwithstanding its reservations, it "stands committed" to provide the requisite funds for implementing the scheme.

The department has suggested that if the scheme has to be implemented, it should be limited to women belonging to EWS/BPL/AYY category, so that the benefit can be availed by "deserving female passengers".

Cop named in DCP's suicide note suspended and arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GURGAON, AUGUST 15

A DAY after Faridabad's Deputy Commissioner of Police (NIT) Vikram Kapoor allegedly committed suicide, with police saying he shot himself with his service revolver, the Station House Officer (SHO) named in the purported suicide note has been suspended and placed under arrest. A Special Investigation Team has also been formed to probe the case.

"An SIT, headed by ACP (Crime) Anil Kumar and comprising three officers, has been formed to investigate the matter," said Sube Singh, PRO Faridabad Police. "The SHO named in the suicide note, who is also one of the two accused named in the FIR, has been suspended and placed under arrest," he said.

Police said the incident took place at 6 am Wednesday at the victim's home in Police Lines in Faridabad's Sector 30. In his complaint to police, Kapoor's son



Kapoor shot himself with his revolver, said police. *Gajendra Yadav*

claimed that the family woke up to the sound of a gunshot, and discovered the DCP's body on the sofa in a pool of blood with his service revolver lying close by.

The one-line suicide note he purportedly left behind alleged he was being blackmailed.

Kapoor's son reiterated the allegation, claiming that a civilian was also involved. "For the past one month, two men, including an SHO, had been troubling him daily with some false allegations,"

he had alleged in his complaint.

"The SHO will be produced in court Friday and taken into police remand for further questioning," said the PRO.

Kapoor had joined the police force as part of the Haryana Police Service in 1983, and had been promoted to Indian Police Service two years ago. He had been posted in Faridabad for the last three years and was due to retire in October next year. Kapoor is survived by his wife and two sons.

MoS Supriyo recommends 'stringent measures' at Delhi zoo

SHIVAMPATEL
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 15

MINISTER OF State for Environment Babul Supriyo has recommended "stringent measures" for Delhi's National Zoological Park, including suspension of a veterinary officer, in meetings with the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) and environment officials.

The minister also sought post-mortem reports regarding animal deaths and enquired about the possibility of bringing in mates for single animals in the Delhi zoo. "For the past several days, several reports have surfaced about irregularities in the zoo. I had to find out the reason," Supriyo told *The Indian Express*.

As many as 245 animals had died in the zoo in a span of 14 months till June 2019, as per a re-



Supriyo met CZA and zoo officials last week

veterinary officer was a "minuscule part" of a larger issue concerning the zoo, including its mortality rate, the MoS said.

A high-level committee probing allegations of mismanagement at the zoo had recommended disciplinary action against the veterinary officer. It found that the officer was allegedly negligent in dealing with a number of cases concerning animals in the zoo.

The suspension, however, will not be carried out until his replacement is found. A CZA official said there was confusion regarding who would carry out the suspension order. The official said, "A decision has to be taken by an appropriate authority. We can't take control of any zoo."

A meeting is expected to be held later in August to decide if the CZA can take administrative control of the Delhi zoo.

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Old World Theatre Festival

<p>Aug 16, 7:00pm The Stein Auditorium, IHC</p> <p>1..2..Tree (Puppetry/Eng/60 mins) Dir. Anurupa Roy</p>	<p>Aug 16, 7:00pm Amaltas, IHC</p> <p>Unravel: An Improv Play about Mental Health (Eng, Hindi & Giberberish/120 mins) Dir. Varoon P. Anand</p>	<p>Aug 17, 5:00pm Amaltas, IHC</p> <p>Hunger Artist (Eng/60 mins) Dir. Gurleen Judge</p>	<p>Aug 17, 6:30pm The Stein Auditorium, IHC</p> <p>Macbeth by William Shakespeare BLACK THEATRE LIVE BROADCAST (Eng/90 mins) Dir. Jatinder Verma</p>
<p>Aug 18, 4:00pm & 7:00pm The Stein Auditorium, IHC</p> <p>Gumm Hai (Hindi/75 mins) Dir. Neelam Man Singh Chowdhry</p>	<p>Aug 19, 7:30pm Amaltas, IHC</p> <p>Every Brilliant Thing (Eng/75 mins) Dir. Quasar Thakore Padamsee (Q)</p>	<p>Aug 19 & 20, 7:30pm The Stein Auditorium, IHC</p> <p>Gudamba (Hindustani/75 mins) Dir. Salim Arif</p>	<p>Aug 21, 7:30pm The Stein Auditorium, IHC</p> <p>Faqeer Nimaana (Music/Dance/Punjabi, Eng, Hindi/65 mins) Dir. Sanjukta Wagh</p>
<p>Aug 22, 7:30pm The Stein Auditorium, IHC</p> <p>Those Left Behind Things (Eng/105 mins) Wri. & Dir. Vikram Phukan</p>	<p>Aug 23, 7:30pm The Stein Auditorium, IHC</p> <p>Jam (Eng, Hindi/65 mins) Dir. Shivani Tanksale</p>	<p>Aug 23, 7:30pm Amaltas, IHC</p> <p>Under Pressure (Eng/90 mins) Dir. Aruna Ganesh Ram</p>	<p>Aug 24, 7:00pm The Stein Auditorium, IHC</p> <p>Head 2 Head (Eng, Kannada with Eng subtitles/65 mins) Dir. Shabari Rao</p>

WORKSHOPS & MORE

Audience Development for Festivals & Art Venues
Panellists: Vidyun M. Singh (IHC), Sharupa Dutta (Teamwork Arts), Pranamita Borgohain & Vikash N. Kumar (Shield Art Initiative), Suraj Prasad (Lightcube)
Aug 17, 3pm - 5.30pm
Register at habitatprogrammes@gmail.com
Supported by The British Council

Shakespeare The Indian
Panellists: Jatinder Verma & Claudia Mayer (Tara Arts), Poonam Trivedi (Asian Shakespeare Association)
Aug 17, 8pm - 9pm
Register at habitatprogrammes@gmail.com
Supported by The British Council

Improv for Wellness Workshop by Varoon P. Anand
Aug 17, 10am - 1pm
Register on www.bookmyshow.com

Master Class on Macbeth by Director Jatinder Verma & Designer Claudia Mayer | Aug 18, 2pm - 4pm
Register at habitatprogrammes@gmail.com
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CHARACTER ARC Workshop by Aditya Garg
Aug 24, 10am - 5pm
Register on www.bookmyshow.com

Hugely Unseen Workshop by The Big Fat Company
Aug 25, 9.30am - 5pm
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An Old World Culture Presentation

I-DAY, RAKHI RUSH HITS TRAFFIC
Services on Blue Line hit by kite strings



The area around India Gate was severely affected. Abhinav Saha

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 15

SERVICES ON Delhi Metro's Blue Line were severely affected as *manjha* from kites got entangled at multiple locations along the stretch Thursday. Meanwhile, Independence Day and Raksha Bandhan falling on the same day meant the city experienced heavy traffic snarls during the evening, especially around India Gate.

Services on the Blue Line were affected between 2 pm to 3.15 pm due to the overhead equipment (OHE) tripping at a section between Subhash Nagar and Rajouri Garden stations. The Blue Line connects Janakpuri West in Delhi and Electronic City in Noida.

"The cause of OHE tripping was found to be excessive kite threads getting entangled at multiple locations in this section. They were physically checked/removed by maintenance team by patrolling the affected section. All kite *manjha*/threads were removed by 3.15 pm and normal train movement was restored on entire Blue Line thereafter," a statement from DMRC said.

DMRC officials said that services were run on both up and down lines in one loop from Kirti Nagar to Noida/Vaishali; and on a single line between Kirti Nagar and Janakpuri West, as the other line was being checked for *manjha* by a maintenance team.

However, services remained slow late till evening due to bunching of trains.

"It usually takes me 1 hour 10 minutes to reach Noida from Dwarka. Today, it took me an hour longer. Because of the slow service and Raksha Bandhan, trains were very crowded," said Amita Prakash, who lives in Dwarka and had gone to Noida to meet her relatives.

DMRC records highest ridership on its lines on Raksha Bandhan. To meet the increased demand, it increases the frequency of its trains on this day.

Meanwhile, traffic was slow in Central Delhi as people gathered at India Gate in the evening and waterlogging was reported in a few parts of the city following heavy rain.

"Extra force was deployed around India Gate today and local police was present. This is done on days heavy footfall is expected in the area," said Meenu Choudhary, Joint CP, Traffic.

From making a Naya Bharat formation to mobbing Modi, children's day out at Red Fort

ASTHA SAXENA & ANANYA TIWARI
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 15

AT 4.30 am on Thursday, Kiran Singh (32) and her two children left their Uttam Nagar home to hear Prime Minister Narendra Modi speak as India celebrated its 73rd year of Independence.

"This is the first time we are going to watch Modi ji's speech live," said Singh, adding that he had done "a good job by scrapping Article 370 from Jammu & Kashmir". Like her, hundreds of people walked through the streets of Old Delhi to reach Red Fort.

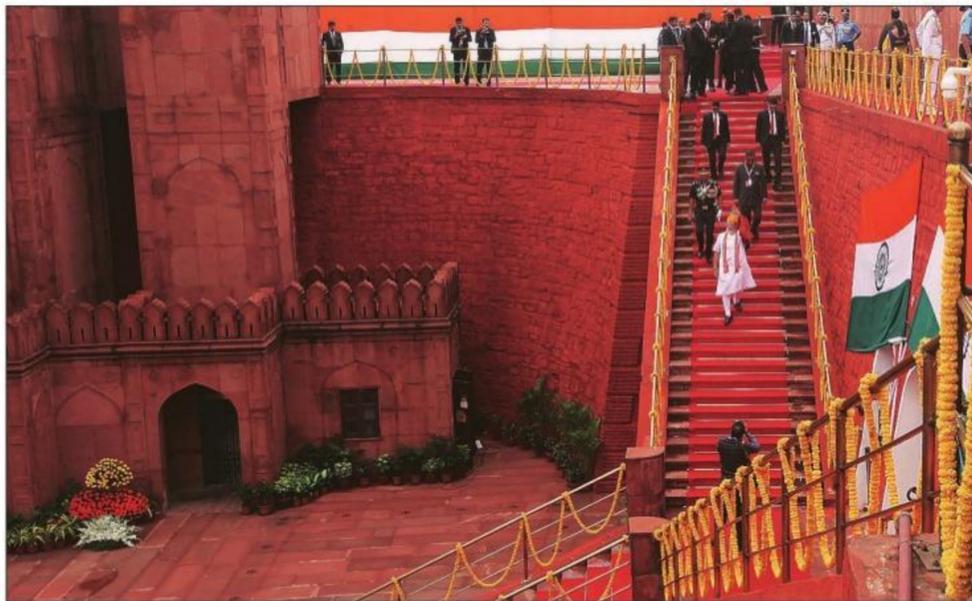
Clad in a white kurta pyjama and a colourful turban, the Prime Minister reached the venue at 7.30 am. Delivering his sixth Independence Day address, and the first under his second term, Modi spoke about how the abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 was a step towards 'one nation, one Constitution'.

The PM also made several other announcements in his 95-minute speech, like promising to provide piped drinking water to every household across the country.

Ganesh (30), an accountant from Azadpur, however, reserved his verdict on the speech. "We will wait and see how much work is actually done in the next five years," he said.

Students from around 41 government schools and MCD schools, wearing matching caps and carrying raincoats, also thronged the venue. Seated opposite the podium from where the Prime Minister addressed the gathering, the children — dressed in blue, white, saffron and green — created a formation spelling "Naya Bharat" against the backdrop of the Tricolour.

Antima (13), Urooj (12) and Babita (12) from Paharganj's Government Girls' Senior Secondary School, who sat at the edges and formed a boundary to the flag formation, were



(Clockwise from above) At the PM's sixth I-Day address at Red Fort, Thursday; meeting students from MCD and Delhi government schools. Neeraj Priyadarshi

excited about the event. "Fifty of us practised every day for the past 15 days. We even practised on Sunday... and we got here at 5 am," said Urooj. The students sang *Vijay Vishwa Tiranga Pyara*, a patriotic song, to commemorate Independence Day.

"We didn't sing continuously, we got a break for refreshments too. When it rained, we

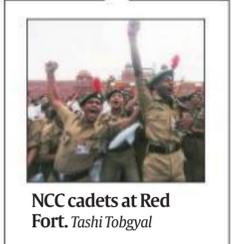
put on the raincoats," said Babita. As rains lashed the capital during the day, transparent raincoats were seen with teachers, children and the police alike.

Throughout the event, a stream of students filed to the back and formed long queues for a bottle of water and to use the makeshift toilet. A girl was

also sent to the medical ambulance outside as she fell ill. But their enthusiasm never dimmed as they were all too excited to witness the Prime Minister "in real life".

Seated away from the younger students on chairs were boys studying in higher grades. Yash Kumar (17), a humanities student from Government Boys'

Senior Secondary School in Preet Vihar, said, "A day after the Article 370 decision, my political science teacher explained its history. At the end of the discussion, she asked us our opinion. I think development will take place in J&K now. But a section of people are suffering as restrictions are in place... so the situation can turn bad."



NCC cadets at Red Fort. Tashi Tobgyal

ON THE SIDELINES
SETTING AN EXAMPLE
Acting on PM Narendra Modi's message to cut down on plastic use, several children who had come to Red Fort stayed back to collect plastic cups and banana peels strewn around the venue. During his address, Modi appealed to people to take a pledge on October 2 to make the country free of single-use plastic.

HELPING HAND
Like last year, around 123 differently abled children attended the celebrations at Red Fort. Among them were 30 children who were able to understand the PM's speech with the help of sign-language interpreters. Two interpreters from Sai Swayam Society were hard at work delivering the PM's speech, which was 95 minutes long.

SPOILSPORT
Heavy rain lashed the capital Thursday morning, leading to waterlogging on several roads, including those leading to Red Fort. Several people who came to attend the I-Day event had to walk through mud and sit on wet chairs.

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Dated : 13.08.2019										
TENDER OPENING DATE: 19.09.2019										
S. No.	Train No.	Station From	Station To	Complt. (SLR/SLRD)	CC (Tonnes)	Days of operation	R.P. (Rs.)	EMD (In Rs.)	Tender Cost Including GST @18% (In Rs.)	Tender No.
1	15060	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	LKU - Lal Kuan	4	F-I	Tue, Thu	4032	100000	1180	SLR-FI-15060-Aug19
2	15060	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	LKU - Lal Kuan	4	F-II	Tue, Thu	4032	100000	1180	SLR-FI-15060-Aug19
3	15060	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	LKU - Lal Kuan	4	R-I	Tue, Thu	4032	100000	1180	SLR-FI-15060-Aug19
4	14152	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	CNB - Kanpur Central	3.9	F-I	Sunday	8593	100000	1180	SLR-FI-14152-Aug19
5	12584	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	LJN - Lucknow NE	3.9	F-I	Tue, Thu, Fri, Sun	8593	100000	1180	SLR-FI-12584-Aug19
6	22438	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	ALD - Allahabad Jn	3.9	F-I	Tue, Thu, Sun	10616	100000	1180	SLR-FI-22438-Aug19
7	14014	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	SLN - Sultanpur	4	F-I	Mon, Sat	11052	100000	1180	SLR-FI-14014-Aug19
8	14014	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	SLN - Sultanpur	4	F-II	Mon, Sat	11052	100000	1180	SLR-FI-14014-Aug19
9	14014	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	SLN - Sultanpur	4	R-I	Mon, Sat	11052	100000	1180	SLR-FI-14014-Aug19
10	15058	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	GKP - Gorakhpur Jn.	4	F-I	Wednesday	12716	100000	1180	SLR-FI-15058-Aug19
11	15058	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	GKP - Gorakhpur Jn.	4	F-II	Wednesday	12716	100000	1180	SLR-FI-15058-Aug19
12	15058	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	GKP - Gorakhpur Jn.	4	R-I	Wednesday	12716	100000	1180	SLR-FI-15058-Aug19
13	12596	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	GKP - Gorakhpur Jn.	3.9	F-I	Tue, Wed, Fri	12809	100000	1180	SLR-FI-12596-Aug19
14	22420	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	GCT - Gazipur City	3.9	F-I	Tue, Thu, Sat, Sun	13506	100000	1180	SLR-FI-22420-Aug19
15	15026	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	MAU - Mau Jn.	4	F-I	Mon, Fri	14216	100000	1180	SLR-FI-15026-Aug19
16	15026	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	MAU - Mau Jn.	4	R-I	Mon, Fri	14216	100000	1180	SLR-FI-15026-Aug19
17	22434	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	GCT - Gazipur City	3.9	F-I	Mon, Fri	13861	100000	1180	SLR-FI-22434-Aug19
18	12572	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	GKP - Gorakhpur Jn	3.9	F-I	Mon, Thu, Sat, Sun	13861	100000	1180	SLR-FI-12572-Aug19
19	12428	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	REWA - Rewa	3.9	F-I	Daily	13861	100000	1180	SLR-FI-12428-Aug19
20	22428	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	BUI - Balia	3.9	F-I	Saturday	14557	100000	1180	SLR-FI-22428-Aug19
21	15274	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	RXL - Raxaul Jn.	4	F-I	Daily	16091	100000	1180	SLR-FI-15274-Aug19
22	15274	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	RXL - Raxaul Jn.	4	F-II	Daily	16091	100000	1180	SLR-FI-15274-Aug19
23	15274	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	RXL - Raxaul Jn.	4	R-I	Daily	16091	100000	1180	SLR-FI-15274-Aug19
24	14010	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	BMKI-Bapudham Motihari	3.9	F-I	Saturday	15689	100000	1180	SLR-FI-14010-Aug19
25	13258	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	DNR - Danapur	3.9	F-I	Daily	16055	100000	1180	SLR-FI-13258-Aug19
26	12558	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	MFP - Muzaffarpur Jn.	4	F-II	Daily	17438	100000	1180	SLR-FI-12558-Aug19
27	15280	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	SHC - Saharsa Jn.	3.9	F-I	Mon, Fri	18751	100000	1180	SLR-FI-15280-Aug19
28	14006	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	SMI - Sitamarhi	4	F-I	Daily	19231	100000	1180	SLR-FI-14006-Aug19
29	14006	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	SMI - Sitamarhi	4	R-I	Daily	19231	100000	1180	SLR-FI-14006-Aug19
30	12368	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	BGP - Bhagalpur	3.9	F-I	Daily	19059	100000	1180	SLR-FI-12368-Aug19
31	14016	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	RXL - Raxaul Jn.	4	F-I	Sun, Fri	19946	100000	1180	SLR-FI-14016-Aug19
32	14016	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	RXL - Raxaul Jn.	4	R-I	Sun, Fri	19946	100000	1180	SLR-FI-14016-Aug19
33	12236	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	MDP - Madhupur Jn.	3.9	F-I	Thursday	19448	100000	1180	SLR-FI-12236-Aug19
34	14008	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	RXL - Raxaul Jn.	4	R-I	Tue, Thu	19946	100000	1180	SLR-FI-14008-Aug19
35	12826	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	RNC - Ranchi	4	F-I	Wed, Sat	20662	100000	1180	SLR-FI-12826-Aug19
36	12826	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	RNC - Ranchi	4	F-II	Wed, Sat	20662	100000	1180	SLR-FI-12826-Aug19
37	12826	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	RNC - Ranchi	4	R-I	Wed, Sat	20662	100000	1180	SLR-FI-12826-Aug19
38	12818	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	HTE - Hatia	4	F-I	Mon, Thu, Sat	21060	100000	1180	SLR-FI-12818-Aug19
39	12818	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	HTE - Hatia	4	F-II	Mon, Thu, Sat	21060	100000	1180	SLR-FI-12818-Aug19
40	12818	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	HTE - Hatia	4	R-I	Mon, Thu, Sat	21060	100000	1180	SLR-FI-12818-Aug19
41	12874	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	HTE - Hatia	4	F-I	Tue, Wed, Fri	21364	100000	1180	SLR-FI-12874-Aug19
42	12874	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	HTE - Hatia	4	F-II	Tue, Wed, Fri	21364	100000	1180	SLR-FI-12874-Aug19
43	22488	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	RDP - Radhikapur	4	F-I	Daily	21680	100000	1180	SLR-FI-22488-Aug19
44	22488	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	RDP - Radhikapur	4	F-II	Daily	21680	100000	1180	SLR-FI-22488-Aug19
45	22488	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	RDP - Radhikapur	4	R-I	Daily	21680	100000	1180	SLR-FI-22488-Aug19
46	12488	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	JBN - Jogbani	4	F-I	Daily	21997	100000	1180	SLR-FI-12488-Aug19
47	12488	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	JBN - Jogbani	4	F-II	Daily	21997	100000	1180	SLR-FI-12488-Aug19
48	12488	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	JBN - Jogbani	4	R-I	Daily	21997	100000	1180	SLR-FI-12488-Aug19
49	13430	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	MLDT - Malda Town	4	F-II	Saturday	22325	100000	1180	SLR-FI-13430-Aug19
50	12330	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	SDAH - Sealdah	3.9	F-I	Wednesday	22076	100000	1180	SLR-FI-12330-Aug19
51	12324	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	HWH - Howrah Jn.	3.9	F-I	Sun, Thu	22076	100000	1180	SLR-FI-12324-Aug19
52	12444	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	HLZ - Haldia	3.9	F-I	Tuesday	23652	100000	1180	SLR-FI-12444-Aug19
53	13120	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	SDAH - Sealdah	4	F-I	Tue, Sat	24774	100000	1180	SLR-FI-13120-Aug19
54	13120	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	SDAH - Sealdah	4	F-II	Tue, Sat	24774	100000	1180	SLR-FI-13120-Aug19
55	13120	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	SDAH - Sealdah	4	R-I	Tue, Sat	24774	100000	1180	SLR-FI-13120-Aug19
56	12820	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	BBS - Bhubaneswar	3.9	F-I	Tue, Fri	25594	100000	1180	SLR-FI-12820-Aug19
57	12505	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	KYQ - Kamakhya	3.9	F-I	Daily	26315	100000	1180	SLR-FI-12505-Aug19
58	22806	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	BBS - Bhubaneswar	3.9	F-I	Monday	26554	100000	1180	SLR-FI-22806-Aug19
59	22806	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	BBS - Bhubaneswar	3.9	R-I	Monday	26554	100000	1180	SLR-FI-22806-Aug19
60	15622	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	KYQ - Kamakhya	3.9	F-I	Friday	26805	100000	1180	SLR-FI-15622-Aug19
61	22412	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	NHNL - Naharlagun	3.9	F-I	Sun, Thu	28966	100000	1180	SLR-FI-22412-Aug19
62	04401	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	UHP - Udhampur	3.9	F-I	Mon, Thu	7976	100000	1180	SLR-FI-04401-Aug19
63	20502	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	AGTL - Agartala	3.9	F-I	Wednesday	39748	100000	1180	SLR-FI-20502-Aug19
64	14020	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	AGTL - Agartala	4	F-I	Monday	33071	100000	1180	SLR-FI-14020-Aug19
65	14020	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	AGTL - Agartala	4	F-II	Monday	33071	100000	1180	SLR-FI-14020-Aug19
66	14020	ANVT-Anand Vihar Terminal	AGTL - Agartala	4	R-I	Monday	33071	100000	1180	SLR-FI-14020-Aug19

Interested bidders may please visit official website for E-tendering i.e. www.irps.gov.in for further details and submitting tender.
Important Notice :- 1. Bidders who wish to participate in the e-tendering will have to procure Class-3 valid Digital Security Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act, 2000. Bidders can procure this certificate from any of the certifying authority of Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA) Government of India. Details of certifying authorities can be obtained from www.cca.gov.in. 2. The bidders has to register, if not registered earlier with www.irps.gov.in using DSC to participate in tender process. Detailed procedure for registration, system requirements and bidding are also available on www.irps.gov.in
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2623/19

To decongest Qutub Minar area, Delhi govt plans two-km elevated road

ASHNA BUTANI
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 15

IN A bid to decongest roads near Qutub Minar, the Delhi government is planning to construct a two-kilometre elevated road which will connect Chhattarpur's 100 Feet Road to IGNOU, said officials.

The decision was taken at a review meeting held by PWD Minister Satyendar Jain, which also saw Forest Department officials, PWD engineers and Chhattarpur MLA Kartar Singh in



The road will connect Chhattarpur's 100 Feet Road to Indira Gandhi National Open University. Prem Nath Pandey

attendance, earlier this month. "An elevated road between 100 Feet road, Chhattarpur, and IGNOU will decongest choked

roads and divert traffic going towards Gurgaon and Qutub Minar. The road will be constructed over forest area. Roads are already be-

ing widened in Chhattarpur," said Singh.

Currently, vehicles travelling from Chhattarpur to IGNOU and vice versa have to pass through Qutub Minar and Saket Metro station. "Once the road is built, people will be able to avoid this stretch. The project is in its conceptual stage. Once the panel submits its assessment, we will allot budget for the same," said a government official.

Nitin, who travels on the stretch, said: "The stretch gets choked after a minor hiccup. This project will help clear up roads."

NORTHERN RAILWAY Tender Notice No.-01/2019-20									
1.1. General :- UMB division of northern railway invites Open tender through E-tendering system from eligible agencies who fulfill qualification criteria as stipulated in tender document for "Replacement of defective/missing cushioned and compreg slat seats, repairing and replacement of Rolling shutter, Vestibule foot plate, Grab Handle, Vestibule Bellow & M.S. junction B.D. box and supply and fitment of buff gear cover plate, seat handle, step rail & Sun-Mica of MEMU Coaches at MEMU Car Shed, Saharanpur".									
1.2 The key details are as follows:									
Open Tender No.	30-Elect./MEMU/SRE/T-02/2019-20								
Name of works	Replacement of defective/missing cushioned and compreg slat seats, repairing and replacement of Rolling shutter, Vestibule foot plate, Grab Handle, Vestibule Bellow & M.S. junction B.D. box and supply and fitment of buff gear cover plate, seat handle, step rail & Sun-Mica of MEMU Coaches at MEMU Car Shed, Saharanpur.								
Approximate Cost	₹ 10,96,780/-								
Earnest Money	₹ 21,900/-								
Completion Period	Two years from the date of issue of the letter of								

Javadekar says will chalk out concrete plan to rid India of single-use plastic

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 15

UNION MINISTER of Environment, Forests and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar, who is in Sao Paolo, Brazil, to attend the ministerial meetings of BRICS and BASIC countries, responded to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to make India free of single-use plastic and said that his ministry will review all initiatives and campaigns in this regard and "chalk out a concrete plan" to realise this target.

"In response to the Prime Minister's call on India's 73rd Independence day to make India free of single-use plastic, a massive public campaign will be launched engaging all stakeholders. In this regard, a series of meetings will be done with all stakeholders, including state governments, to chalk out a concrete plan to make it a people's campaign to realise the ultimate target," Javadekar said.

Modi, during his address to the nation on Independence Day, had urged citizens to eliminate the use of single-use plastic and also suggested that shopkeepers provide eco-friendly bags to customers.

"During my 2014 speech, I spoke about cleanliness. It became a movement in the country and the common man took it up with gusto. Today, I have another request. By October 2, on the birth anniversary of dear Babu (Mahatma Gandhi), I want to urge citizens to give up single-use plastic. Shopkeepers should sell jute and cloth bags. Customers should adopt ways to reduce plastic usage. We must also put technologies in use to abolish plastic usage," the Prime Minister said.

Single-use plastics are not just polythene bags but any plastic item which cannot be recycled.

More than 20 states in the country have so far notified a full or partial ban on single-use plastics.



AT HOME

President Ram Nath Kovind shakes hands with Chief of Army Staff Gen Bipin Rawat as First Lady Savita Kovind and Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Karambir Singh look on, during the At Home reception organised at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on the occasion of 73rd Independence Day on Thursday. PTI

I-Day speech: PM wishes Afghanistan ahead of 100 years of independence

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 15

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Thursday greeted Afghanistan which is all set to commemorate 100 years of its independence on August 19.

Marking the 73rd Independence Day of India, Modi, in his nearly 95-minute address to the nation, emphasised the ties between the two countries.

"We have a neighbour, Afghanistan, which will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its Independence in four days from now. From the ramparts of the Red Fort, I extend my hearty greetings to Afghanistan on this occasion," he said.

Afghanistan got its independence on August 19, 1919, and the country has lined up mega celebrations in Kabul to commemorate the day.

Afghanistan's Charge d'Affaires in India, Tahir Qadiry, at an interaction at the Foreign Correspondent Club of South Asia

Afghanistan got its independence on August 19, 1919, and the country has lined up mega celebrations

on August 5 had said a number of events are taking place to mark 100 years of the country's independence and the grand event will be held on August 19 in the capital city of Kabul. "Celebrations will be held in Kabul and restored Darul Aman Palace will be inaugurated, among other programmes," Qadiry said.

The country is presently working on meaningful dialogues with the Taliban, seeking to achieve lasting peace in the war-ravaged country.

India has been maintaining a policy of not engaging with the Taliban and has been pressing for an Afghan-owned and Afghan-led peace initiative to bring peace and stability in the country.

Modi mentions Vande Bharat Express even as Rlys fine-tunes project

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 15

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi's mention of the Vande Bharat Express in his Independence Day speech as a mark of people's growing aspirations has come at a time when the Railway Ministry is fine-tuning the way forward for this prestigious project.

As the second semi-high-speed Vande Bharat train is being readied to be launched between Delhi and Katra in Jammu, the process to bring in the next batches of the Train 18 trainsets has gone through a shift.

Instead of procuring the next batch of trainsets the same way as the first two, Railway Ministry has decided to go for standardising the components that go into making the product.

The Research Design and Standard Organisation (RDSO), after meeting vendors and other industry players, is preparing

standards and specifications of the subsequent trainsets to be manufactured under the Make in India programme.

The new tender for the trainsets will be floated as per these specifications.

"Once this process is complete, the tender will be floated and industry can participate as per the specifications laid out for the new trainsets," said a senior ministry official. "Care is also being taken to make sure that the specifications do not end up favouring any one particular vendor," he said.

In his speech, Modi said the people of India are no longer content with just a station or line.

"People's thinking has changed. Earlier, people were happy with merely a plan to set up a railway station. Now people ask when will Vande Bharat Express come to my area. People do not want only good railway stations or bus stations, they ask when is a good airport is coming," he said.

Spurt in indecorous behaviour in courts: CJI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 15

CHIEF JUSTICE of India Ranjan Gogoi on Thursday said there was a spurt in indecorous behaviour in the country's courts and called for urgent steps to end this.

Speaking at the Independence Day celebrations organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), Justice Gogoi said, "The Indian judiciary has since some time past witnessed an unprecedented rise of instances of indecorous acts which do not align with the charter of an institution."

The CJI did not specify what instances he was referring to but added that "such instances of inappropriate behaviour have raised their ugly head in all courts including the Supreme Court" and that "graceful and... pleasant discourses and deliberations are increasingly being replaced by loud and mo-

tivated conduct".

Calling for steps to control this, he said, "It is important that stakeholders quickly identify and isolate such elements and put them to quarantine. It is time for all of us to introspect and redraw the lines that ought to bind each of the stakeholders to ensure that the decorum and dignity of this great institution is not lost...so that the meritorious enjoy...space and are able to contribute to the good of the institution and steer it to new standards of excellence".

Speaking on the occasion, Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad was critical of the manner in which some High Courts entertained Public Interest Litigations.

He called for an in-house corrective mechanism in the judiciary with the Supreme Court at its apex "to ensure discipline, judicial propriety and in some way judicial accountability". This, he

pointed out, had become important today when the role of the judiciary has become a matter of great trust for the country.

Prasad also said there was "need for greater cohesion inside the judiciary". The minister said this "has to be addressed by the institution itself".

Attorney General K K Venugopal flagged the issue of pendency of cases and called for setting up intermediate courts of appeal in the four regions of the country so that the Supreme Court is not burdened with anything other than Constitutional matters.

Responding to Venugopal's call for setting up intermediate courts of appeal, Prasad said he was aware of the A-G's views on the matter and added "the government will have to await proper stakeholder consultation including from the Supreme Court". The CJI, too, said it "would require discussion with stakeholders".

J&K move has given Indians chance to enjoy full freedom there: Bhagwat

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, AUGUST 15

RSS CHIEF Mohan Bhagwat on Thursday said the scrapping of the special status of Jammu & Kashmir has given all Indians the opportunity to enjoy "complete freedom".

"We all desired that the way we experience the full extent of our freedom in this state be similarly possible in every state; that the way we enjoy the fruit of our independence be possible in that state too. And that there too citizens get the opportunity to live like we do, daring to protect our freedoms," Bhagwat said at a flag-hoisting event organised by Hedgewar Memorial Committee in Smriti Mandir, Nagpur.

He said while Independence Day has been observed for 73 years, some years have been more



RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat pays homage to K B Hedgewar. PTI

special than others, such as the first Independence Day.

On August 15, 1947, he said, Indians found that they had attained what could not be achieved at the end of the 1857 war. "Today too, on this 73rd birthday, along with the joy of our Independence Day, we have in our minds a faith that if we commit ourselves to something, then we can make

possible the impossible."

On Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said the general opinion that "woh hain to mumkin hain" is not misplaced, and that his determination had seen the decision through. In addition, he said, the decision on Article 370 could be taken because there was a strong desire in society backing the government's commitment.

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6 GOVT & POLITICS

73RD INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS IN THE STATES

Art 370 to development, farmers to soldiers: What CMs said



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



COMMON THREAD

ONCE A student activist, a politician never forgets those days. His days as a student activist keep coming up in Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad's speeches. Thursday was no different, with the minister briefly recalling the same while speaking at the Independence Day celebrations in the Supreme Court. While stating that he keeps travelling across the country, Prasad recalled that meeting people has been a part of his life as a student activist.

EYE ON POSTS

WITH THE leadership issue in the Congress settled, at least for the time being, everyone is waiting to see whether Sonia Gandhi will effect some changes soon. All eyes are on poll-bound Haryana, where former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda wants the party chief's post for himself or his son Deepinder. A buzz has already been created that he is contemplating leaving the party and forming a separate outfit. The Hoodas have called a rally in Rohtak next week. The social media department is also headless for some time, and many are vying for the post. Jharkhand Congress chief Ajoy Kumar has also resigned, leaving the state party headless months before elections.

MINISTRY BUZZ

THE MINISTRY of Home Affairs recently wrote to the HRD Ministry enquiring whether IIM-Calcutta's new director Anju Seth, an OCI cardholder, is eligible to head an Indian educational institution. The letter created quite a buzz in the HRD Ministry since there has been a precedent — Sushil Vachani, who headed IIM-Bangalore till a few years ago, was an OCI. The ministry is learnt to have replied to the MHA recently, stating that appointment of OCI as IIM director is permitted under the IIM Rules.

HARYANA

Unfurling the Tricolour in Sonapat, Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar appreciated the Centre's decisions on Jammu and Kashmir. "The duo of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah rid us of this pain (Article 370) like Krishna-Arjun, fulfilling the dream of Sardar Patel," he said. On his government's achievements, Khattar said, "Haryana's youth have sacrificed their lives for Kashmir. For soldiers and ex-servicemen, our government has taken several major steps. We ended an era of corruption. Literate panchayats, e-governance, online facilities helped Haryana rise. Today, Haryana's youths have visibly changed. Farmers have become more empowered."

MADHYA PRADESH

Chief Minister Kamal Nath announced that successful industrialists will be made brand ambassadors of the state and a three-day investment summit 'Magnificent Madhya Pradesh' will be organised in Indore in October. In his Independence Day speech at Lal Parade Ground in Bhopal, the CM said an atmosphere of confidence is being created to attract investment, and in seven months the state has attracted investment of Rs 6,158 crore. He said loans of more than 20 lakh farmers have been waived, farmers are getting electricity at half the rate, and the poor are getting 100 units at Rs 100.

BIHAR

In his Independence Day speech, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said he had fulfilled his 2012 promise of taking electricity to each household. He reiterated his government's commitment to maintain communal harmony and not compromise on three Cs — crime, corruption and communalism. He said the state's premier health institute, Patna Medical College and Hospital, would soon have 5,400 beds and Nalanda Medical College and Hospital would have 2,500 beds. Police have divided its functioning between law and order and investigation from August 15 and all police station vehicles are GPS-enabled, he added. Kumar announced residential schools for talented Muslim students.

PUNJAB

Chief Minister Amarinder Singh warned inimical forces against any attempt to destroy peace and harmony of the country, and called upon the people to join hands in fighting such forces. Addressing a gathering at Guru Gobind Singh Stadium in Jalandhar after hoisting the national flag, he said there were anti-national forces that were envious of the peace and development in Punjab. "Let us rededicate ourselves to work collectively to build a strong and prosperous Punjab," he said.

ODISHA

Paying homage to freedom fighters and soldiers who died on duty, CM Naveen Patnaik in his Independence Day address promised that he, his ministers and senior bureaucrats would personally interact with people to monitor government schemes and services. Bringing up his demand to include the word "ahimsa" in the preamble to the Constitution, he said, "We feel that Gandhi's principles are more relevant today."

GUJARAT

Chief Minister Vijay Rupani cred-



(Clockwise from top) Tri-Services personnel at the National War Memorial in Delhi; Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar during celebrations in Sonapat; Tripura CM Biplab Deb in Agartala; BJP MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal celebrates in Ladakh; Karnataka CM B S Yediyurappa in Bengaluru; Jharkhand CM Raghubar Das (centre) during a ceremony in Ranchi.

ited PM Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah with making this Independence Day a historic day with the decisions on Jammu and Kashmir. "The dream of Swarajya was accomplished by the two sons of Gujarat, Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Patel, and similarly from Gujarat, PM Modi and Home Minister Shah, after 73 years of independence in 2019 have fulfilled the dream of complete Swarajya again," he said. He emphasised that good governance was a priority for the central and state governments.

ANDHRA PRADESH
In his Independence Day speech at Vijayawada, Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy emphasised that his government was corruption-free and transparent, and that he gave equal priority to people's welfare and development. He listed welfare schemes and legislation his government had introduced, and launched the flag-shipping Village Volunteers System for taking governance to the doorstep of people by involving 2.8 lakh village volunteers. He said YSR Rythu Bharosa scheme will be started from October 15, under which power would be provided to farmers free of cost and each farmer would get Rs 12,500 per year for four years.

ASSAM
Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said his government had appealed for a sample re-verification in the update of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) for a correct and error-free register. "We hope that when the Supreme Court-monitored process is complete, the people of Assam will get

as the principles of the Constitution. Against the background of these factors, Independence Day is a time to introspect," he added.

TAMIL NADU
Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami announced trifurcation of Vellore district, one of the largest districts in Tamil Nadu. After unfurling the Tricolour at Fort St George, the state secretariat, Palaniswami said that Vellore will be divided into three districts with headquarters in Vellore, Ranipet and Tirupattur. Palaniswami said the decision was taken following demands from various ministers, MLAs and the public.

WEST BENGAL
Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee called for peaceful movements to preserve political and economic freedom, freedom of speech and democratic rights. "We must always strive for political freedom, economic freedom, freedom of expression, & preserve democratic rights. When these are not given, we should organise peaceful movements to preserve these rights," she tweeted. "We must unite India... Secularism is what identifies and unites us as a nation." Later, speaking at the

Independence Day celebrations, she said, "I love Kashmir. I don't want to get into the merits of Article 370 but let me say this again, the method was wrong. The way it was implemented is undemocratic, by terrorising people at gunpoint."

TELANGANA
Chief Minister K Chandrababoo Naidu unfurled the Tricolour at Golconda Fort. In his speech, he mentioned the welfare schemes launched by his government. He announced he had issued orders to waive crop loans of up to Rs 1 lakh, as promised during elections. "As part of our efforts to improve delivery of government services, we have enacted new Panchayat Raj and Municipal Acts as part of overall administrative reforms." He said that due to his government's fiscal discipline and practical policies and vision, the state's wealth had gone up from Rs 4 lakh crore in 2014 to Rs 8.66 lakh crore in 2018-19.

MAHARASHTRA
The government will strive to ensure that rehabilitation of flood-affected people is done in record time, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis said, adding that efforts will be made to make the state drought-free by diverting rain wa-

ter from Konkan region to North Maharashtra and Marathwada as well as water from Wainganga river to Vidarbha by constructing a tunnel. "An unprecedented Rs 1.5 lakh crore investment has been made in the agriculture sector. At least Rs 50,000 crore has been deposited in bank accounts of farmers under government subsidies and agriculture schemes," he said.

KARNATAKA
Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa said his government is committed to ensuring that employment opportunities of Kannadigas are never compromised. He called on those migrating to Karnataka to adapt to Kannada culture, lifestyle and language without compromising their identity. "At the same time, in the federal structure, we are ready to offer equal opportunities to all those who come to Karnataka seeking employment opportunities," he said.

UTTAR PRADESH
Claiming that in two years UP has established new heights of development, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed the state's commitment to achieve the target of \$1-trillion economy. Congratulating PM Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for scrapping J&K's special status, Adityanath said the dream of Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Patel, BR Ambedkar, SP Mookerjee and Subhash Chandra Bose has been achieved.

GOA
Leaders like SP Mookerjee and AB Vajpayee strived for years for a "single identity", what they called "Bhartivta", which was finally achieved under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said in his Independence Speech. "We can truly call ourselves Indian. That Bhartivta is finally complete and we are independent for the first time as one country with the complete integration of Jammu and Kashmir with the rest of the country. We always aspired to the philosophy of Ek Vidhan, Ek Pradhan, Ek Vichar," he said. Sawant thanked relief workers, volunteers and state disaster management units for helping out during the rain and floods.

RAJASTHAN
Previous Congress-led governments contributed a lot to India's development and infrastructure building, based on which the country reached where it is today, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said after hoisting the Tricolour. He said that an impression was being created that all development happened only after 2014, when the Narendra Modi dispensation assumed office.

ARUNACHAL PRADESH
Pema Khandu congratulated PM Narendra Modi on the decisions on J&K, and said, "The provisions of Article 371 are inclusive in nature, but those of Article 370 are primarily divisive... I assure the people of my state that the provisions of Article 371-H will continue to stay in force and the same had been categorically assured in Parliament by the Centre."

ENS CHANDIGARH, BHOPAL, PATNA, BHUBANESWAR, VADODARA, MUMBAI, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, HYDERABAD, GUWAHATI, CHENNAI, KOLKATA, PANAJI, LUCKNOW AND PTTI INPUTS

Jagan: All Andhra govt purchases above Rs 1 cr to be in public domain

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, AUGUST 15

TO BRING transparency in government spending, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Thursday said all government purchases exceeding Rs 1 crore will now be put in the public domain.

All purchases in government departments and public-private partnerships will come under this rule immediately.

"This will bring in much-needed transparency, accountability and ensure there is no corruption in government purchasing and spending," Jagan said.

During a review meeting on Thursday, Jagan claimed that there were several scams under the previous governments, but his YSRCP government has to ensure that all deals are done in a fair and transparent manner. "We have to stem the rot and guide governance in a proper way which will be acceptable to all. All purchases should be done only by bidding and the contractor's name should be displayed only after finalisation," he said, adding that the government would hold a review meeting on August 28 to discuss the matter.

The Chief Minister has asked officials to suggest ways to carry out purchases in the most effective and transparent manner.

During another review meeting of a cabinet sub-committee



Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy in Vijayawada, Thursday. PTI

that is probing alleged irregularities under the previous N Chandrababu Naidu government, Jagan said the probe should be conducted without any fear or favour.

The CM also ordered a comprehensive land re-survey before the distribution of house pattas by the Telugu New Year. According to officials, the re-survey has become necessary as most of the land records in the state have either been misplaced or lost after 1980.

Government land in the state will be identified through satellite imagery and GPS. These plots would be earmarked and ownership documents given to eligible beneficiaries as promised in the YSRCP manifesto.

"The comprehensive land re-survey is going to be a first of its kind in the state, with modern technology being put into use as done in the US, Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore," a Revenue Department official said.



Congress president Sonia Gandhi hoists the national flag at the AICC office in New Delhi on Thursday. Anil Sharma

Sonia skips Independence Day event at Red Fort

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 15

CONGRESS president Sonia Gandhi skipped the Independence Day event at Red Fort and the 'At Home' hosted by President Ram Nath Kovind at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Thursday.

She unfurled the national flag at the Congress headquarters here and said there is no place in India for bigotry and fanaticism, and asked the nation to stand against every act of injustice, intolerance and discrimination to

truly cherish freedom.

This is the second time Sonia has skipped the Independence Day event at Red Fort since the Narendra Modi government came to power. She attended the Independence Day events in 2014, 2015 and 2017, and Rahul Gandhi attended the event last year as he was Congress president then. In 2016, Sonia had skipped the event as she was unwell. Rahul, who was then Congress vice-president, had unfurled the Tricolour at the Congress headquarters.

There was no response from the Congress on why its chief

skipped the I-Day events.

Sonia unfurled the national flag at the Congress headquarters in the presence of top leaders like Rahul Gandhi, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, A K Antony, Ahmed Patel, Anand Sharma and Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad.

In her message, she appealed to all to "reinvigorate the principles of compassion, coexistence and inclusive development as the indelible features of our polity, society and economy". She said India has surged ahead exponen-

tially in all arenas "but at our core are the founding principles of truth, non-violence, compassion and unwavering patriotism".

"A democratic and resilient India at 73 has no place for bigotry, superstition, sectarianism, fanaticism, racialism, intolerance or injustice, yet millions of fellow citizens encounter discrimination every day," she said. "We must rise as a nation to stand against every act of injustice, intolerance and discrimination to truly cherish our freedom."

The Congress chief said the baton of nation-building as also

building a modern, equal, just and egalitarian society founded upon scientific temper is in the hands of the youth. Reminding the nation that independence was a result of immeasurable sacrifices of those who made India what it is today, Sonia asked citizens to observe the solemn duty of protecting and preserving the values of freedom, brotherhood, peace and equality. She said the country must also not forget the "supreme sacrifice of our armed forces in protecting the integrity of India".

7 EXPRESS NETWORK



EAST

6 killed as lorry hits stationary SUV in West Bengal

Malda: Six people were killed and 11 others injured when a speeding lorry rammed into a stationary SUV carrying wedding guests in Malda district in the wee hours of Thursday, police said. The accident occurred at Bakharpur under Kaliachak police station area when the SUV was waiting by the side of National Highway-34. The wedding

guests were on their way from Kaliachak to Gajol in the same district to attend a marriage, Superintendent of Police Alok Rajoria said. The SUV fell into a roadside ditch after it was hit by the lorry and three occupants were killed on the spot. Two others succumbed in the hospital. Those injured persons were under treatment, police said. **PTI**



Family members of the two girls found murdered in their PG in Chandigarh on Thursday. *Kamleshwar Singh*

NORTH

Two sisters found murdered at PG facility in Chandigarh

Chandigarh: Two sisters hailing from Abohar in Punjab were found murdered in their paying guest (PG) facility here, police said on Thursday. Rajwant Kaur and Manpreet Kaur, aged 22 and 23, respectively, worked at a factory in neighbouring Zirakpur, police said. When they were unreachable over the phone on Thursday, members of their

family contacted an acquaintance in Chandigarh. The door of their room was found locked from outside. The acquaintance broke open the door and found them lying in a pool of blood. Chandigarh SSP Nilambari Jagadale, along with other police officials, visited the spot. A forensic team also visited the spot, said a police officer. **PTI**

WEST

Nigerian national held with fake passport in Mumbai

Mumbai: The Police Crime Branch has arrested a Nigerian national for entering the country allegedly with a fake passport. The accused, Ndukwe Fidelis Ibe (35), was deported from India in 2015 for overstaying. Subsequently, a Look Out Notice (LOC) was issued against him. On August 2, Ibe arrived at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International

Airport here to take a flight to Turkey. His passport identified him as Kouame Aristide, an Ivory Coast resident. On examination, immigration officials found the passport fake. Police said he had visited India thrice using the fake passport he procured from Ivory Coast. "He is a cloth merchant with business interest in India," an officer said. **ENS**

SOUTH

Minor girl raped by three boys, cases filed, say police

Hyderabad: Two cases under the Nirbhaya Act and the POCSO Act were registered against three minor boys for allegedly sexually assaulting a minor girl in the Gadwal district of Telangana, police said on Thursday. The father of the victim had complained on Wednesday that one of the accused had called her on the pretext of playing and

raped her, police said. The father added in his complaint that the two others accused had raped the victim six months ago, police said. The girl was sent to a hospital and then to a state-run welfare home, said a police officer. The three accused would be produced before a juvenile justice board, the police added. **PTI**

BSY offers to name villages after donors giving over Rs 10 cr relief

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU, AUGUST 15

KARNATAKA CHIEF Minister B S Yediyurappa has offered to name flood-hit villages in the state after donors who provide more than Rs 10 crore for relief work.

Yediyurappa said this on Wednesday at a meeting with industrialists and corporates.

As many as 17 districts in Karnataka have been affected by flood following heavy rain between August 5 and 10. A total of 61 people are reported dead, 6.97 lakh people have been evacuated, 4.69 lakh hectares of crop land has been damaged and nearly 60,000 houses have collapsed.

Yediyurappa has sought Rs 3000 crore from the central government as an emergency meas-



B S Yediyurappa

ure to tide over losses that are assessed to be in the range of Rs 10,000 crore. On Wednesday, he held a meeting with around 59 business entities to seek donations for flood relief.

The Chief Minister said at the meeting that flood-hit villages will be named after entities that donate more than Rs 10 crore. Villages that benefit from such

donors will be considered to be adopted by the donors, he said.

Since August 9, when Yediyurappa issued a call for donations to the chief minister's relief fund, Rs 4.09 crore has been received, the CM has stated.

The JDS termed Yediyurappa's offer to name villages after donors "Tughlaq decision".

"By offering to rename villages after donors the government will be erasing the identities of people who have lost everything in the flood. Do not put Karnataka up for sale," the JDS said in a statement.

Yediyurappa has come under criticism for telling officials at a meeting in his home district that the government "does not have note printing machines" to address the flood situation.

The CM "does not have print-

ing machine to provide relief funds for those people who have lost their livelihood in natural disaster. But, he has Akshaya Patra to fund MLAs whose greed far exceeds the imagination of the common man," former chief minister Siddaramaiah said this week.

"Instead of providing relief to the flood-affected people, B S Yediyurappa has said he does not have machines to print currency. In that case who printed the notes to transport rebel MLAs on chartered flights and for their stay at five-star hotels," the JDS said on social media.

Yediyurappa is expected to travel to New Delhi on Friday to discuss the release of central funds for flood relief in Karnataka and expansion of his one-man cabinet to shoulder responsibilities of flood relief.

Journalist detained from South Kashmir, police say checking

ADIL AKHZER SRINAGAR, AUGUST 15

A 26-YEAR-OLD journalist working with a Srinagar-based English daily was detained by security forces in south Kashmir's Tral on Wednesday night, his family said. Irfan Malik, who works for *Greater Kashmir*, was picked up from his home and lodged at Tral police station in Pulwama, they added.

Irfan covers Pulwama district for the newspaper, sources in the daily said.

"They (security forces) arrived at our home at 11.30 pm. When Irfan came out, they told him to go with them. He was taken directly to Tral police station," Irfan's father Mohammed Amin Malik told *The Indian Express*.

"I met him at the police station today. He too is not aware why he has been detained," Irfan's mother Haseena said. "I appeal to police authorities to release him because he hasn't done anything wrong."

With communication lines down and Kashmir in lockdown, Irfan's family had to travel to Srinagar to inform the media about the action. As the newspaper office in which Irfan works was shut, the family visited the Media Facilitation Centre — which has been set up by the J&K government's information department to brief the media every day — to inform about the detention.

The family said they met

J&K govt spokesperson said they were informed about the detention only when they arrived for Thursday's briefing

Awantipora Superintendent of Police Tahir Saleem, under whose jurisdiction Tral falls, on Thursday morning.

"He asked us if he (Irfan) had done some wrong reporting," Haseena said. "We told him that *Greater Kashmir* newspaper is not publishing these days. SP Sahib didn't give a proper answer why my son was detained."

Asked why Irfan was detained, the SP told *The Indian Express* that he had no information about his detention. Asked about the family meeting him, Saleem said: "Yes, the family met me today and I am looking into the case."

On Thursday evening, J&K government spokesperson Rohit Kansal said they were informed about the detention only when they arrived for the briefing. "We are looking into it and will come back as soon as possible," he said.

Hundreds of people, mostly political leaders and activists across the mainstream-separatist divide, have been detained since August 5. This is the first instance when a journalist has been detained.

Pak troops violate ceasefire along LoC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, AUGUST 15

AFTER A lull of eight days, Pakistani troops on Thursday resorted to unprovoked mortar shelling and fire of small arms along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district.

Defence Ministry spokesperson Lt Colonel Devender Anand said that the shelling from across the LoC started at 7 am in the Krishna Garhu area. "The Indian Army retaliated befittingly," he said, adding that the firing stopped at 5.30 pm. There were no casualties on the Indian side,

he added. Sources said that Indian troops, in retaliatory action, inflicted heavy damage on the Pakistani side. Despite shelling from across the LoC, Independence Day celebrations went on smoothly in all the areas along the border, sources said.

Since July 15, Pakistani troops have been frequently resorting to ceasefire violations along the LoC in the Jammu region. Two Army men and 13-day-old infant were among the four people killed in Pakistani shelling and small arms fire along the LoC in Rajouri and Poonch districts last month.

India denies Pak claim of killing 5 Armymen in J&K

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, AUGUST 15

THE INDIAN Army on Thursday called as "fictitious" the Pakistan military's claim of killing five Indian soldiers during a cross-border firing along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir.

The response by the Army came after Pakistan military's spokesperson Major General Asif Ghafoor claimed that three of its soldiers and five Indian personnel were killed in the cross-border firing.

"The claim by Pakistan is totally baseless and fictitious. We strongly reject the claim," Indian Army spokesperson Col. Aman Anand said.

In a tweet, Ghafoor also al-

leged that the Indian Army has increased firing along the LoC in an effort to divert attention from the current situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

He claimed that a number of bunkers were damaged and "intermittent exchange of fire continues".

There have been reports of the Pakistan army increasing its deployment along the LoC after India's decision to withdraw special status to Jammu and Kashmir, and bifurcate the state into two Union Territories — Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

The Indian Army has also strengthened its vigil along the LoC and kept its personnel on high alert to effectively deal with any "misadventure" by Pakistan, a senior military official said.

TRIPLE TALAQ PETITIONER TIES RAKHI ON PM

Ishrat Jahan, one of the key petitioners in the instant triple talaq case, ties a Tricolour rakhi on the wrist of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday. Jahan said she was "delighted" to have got the opportunity to tie the rakhi on the PM, and thanked him on behalf of "Muslim sisters" for making instant triple talaq illegal. **PTI**

IIT BOMBAY HARASSMENT CASE

HC pulls up scholar for comments on complainant's personality

SAILEE DHAYALKAR MUMBAI, AUGUST 15

A RESEARCH scholar from IIT Bombay has moved the Bombay High Court, seeking his PhD degree which was withheld on account of an "unsatisfactory apology" in a sexual harassment complaint lodged by an assistant professor. On Wednesday, the court pulled up the researcher, stating that he can express his views but not make comments on the woman's personality.

The scholar has completed his Master of Philosophy and is designated as Senior Research Scholar.

The petitioner also raised a Constitutional question with regard to the validity of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act in a case in which there is no relationship of employer and employee and also when the IIT

Bombay cannot be regarded as workplace of the petitioner as he is only a student.

A division bench of Justice S C Dharmadhikari and Justice Gautam Patel was hearing the matter. "What is the question of making any comment on her personality?...It is a personal attack and it is uncalled for," said Justice Patel.

The court further said that it will pass orders.

According to petition, in December 2017, posters with slogan "Stop Hindutva Terrorism" were placed outside the boy's hostel mess. These posters were pasted by students calling themselves members of Ambedkar Periyar Phule Study Circle (APPSC).

The petitioner, by an email in April 2018 to the Dean, informed about activities of APPSC and objected to the tone and tenor of the speech by a professor, who had allegedly criticised Hindus and the caste system in a lecture.

The petitioner alleged that members of APPSC, conniving with an assistant woman professor, planned to silence him. He said the professor by an email on April 19, 2018, invited him for an informal meeting. To this, the petitioner replied that "she is a lady of virtues" and the petitioner is "full of respect for the virtuous women" and that he would not be afraid of meeting her.

He added that APPSC professors and other faculty members "wrongfully construed" the reply as sexist remarks and organised a signature campaign against him.

He alleged that with the "orchestrated campaign and signature drive" losing steam, the respondent no 9 (woman professor) lodged a complaint of sexual harassment at workplace" and it was referred to the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC).

While the complaint was lodged, the petitioner had suc-

cessfully appeared for viva-voce for his Phd thesis in April 2018.

The petition added that the chairperson of ICC then mailed the HOD of his department, directing to withhold all clearances of the petitioner pending inquiry.

The ICC last year recorded that "it finds merit in the complaint" and directed the petitioner to tender an apology in a manner prescribed.

The decision of ICC was upheld by the appellate authority, which asked him to apologise. In August, the petitioner submitted an apology. He was given his provisional degree, but during the convocation ceremony of PhD 2017-2018, the petitioner was not conferred his degree.

In December 2018, the petitioner was informed by Directorate of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievance that the apology was found to be unsatisfactory and, therefore, his degree is being withheld.

IMD starts forecast of water volume in river basins

ANJALI MARAR PUNE, AUGUST 15

IN A bid to ensure effective reservoir management, the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Pune, has started issuing water level forecasts for all river basins in India from August 1.

Last year, it was alleged that improper dam management aggravated the flood situation in Kerala. Nearly 80 dams, big and small, were on the verge of collapse and this forced the irrigation department to simultaneously open their gates, leading to flooding in several districts, including Ernakulam, Idukki, Thrissur and Wayanad.

The Experts at IMD, Pune, are now making use of real-time

EXPLAINED Effective dam management need of the hour

AN EFFECTIVE dam management mechanism has become the need of the hour, given the erratic nature of rainfall recorded in recent times. Often, improper and unscientific release of large quantities of water from reservoirs lead to augmenting the flood situation. Incidents triggered by extreme rainfall minus scientific dam management resulted in disasters in Kerala (August 2018), Maharashtra and Karnataka (2019). The move to utilise IMD's expertise in forecasting water volumes alongside rainfall can be a baby step towards dam management in India.

rainfall data from its own network of rain gauges to issue forecasts for water levels in river

basins. Under this new application, all 25 river basins and 101 sub-

river basins earmarked by the Central Water Commission (CWC) will be covered. CWC identifies river basins for Indus, Mahi, Narmada, Ganga, Krishna, Mahanadi, Cauvery, Tapi, Sabarmati and Godavari.

"We will make use of our forecasts and rainfall information to calculate the total volume of water expected to accumulate in every river basin and sub-river basin on the basis of its area expansion. This information will then be shared with CWC and other authorities, like the department of irrigation. It will be handy and can be decisive while deciding the release of water from time to time, especially during the monsoon," Pulak Guhathakurta, head, Climate Application and User Interface at Climate

Research and Service (CRS) at IMD, Pune, told *The Indian Express*.

All the water volume data will be provided in Thousand Million Cubic feet (TMC) as per CWC standards, said Guhathakurta. While all the river-basin information would be available on the website of IMD, Pune, officials also plan to share it with authorities concerned of the department of water resources or irrigation, as per requirement.

A senior IMD official said, "The idea is to offer services as per requirement of certain sectors. Had this been available last year, the flooding in Kerala due to release of water from dams could have been avoided."

Jaipur clash: Internet still suspended

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, AUGUST 15

INTERNET REMAINED suspended in 10 police station areas in Jaipur on Thursday following a clash between two communities earlier this week.

Hundreds of people had blocked the Delhi highway road on Monday night near Eidgah and Galta Gate areas before stone-pelting was reported from the area.

According to police, the mob jammed the road for several hours and people from colonies on both sides of the highway started pelting stones at each other on Monday night.

Buses going out of the city were also caught in the clashes.

Police on Tuesday night had imposed Section 144 in 15 police station areas of the city.

"The internet ban has been extended for another day. At present the situation is peaceful and heavy police deployment has been done. So far we have arrested around 125 people for the violence and four FIRs have been filed in the matter," said Additional Commissioner of Police (law and order) Ajay Pal Lamba.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot had on Wednesday issued an appeal to the people to maintain peace and communal harmony and asked them not to pay heed to rumours.

Surprising that video, photos not taken on record: court on Pehlu Khan probe

DEEP MUKHERJEE
JAIPUR, AUGUST 15

THE RAJASTHAN Court which acquitted six men accused of the April 2017 murder of dairy farmer Pehlu Khan on Wednesday expressed surprise in its judgment over the fact that the videos and photographs, on the basis of which the accused had been identified, were not taken on record.

Additional District Judge Sarita Swami noted that since the names of the six accused had not figured in the initial statements given to the police by Khan, his sons and his companions, the accused were charged solely on the basis of photographs prepared from videos shot on a mobile phone.

"This way, in this case, according to the prosecution, the accused were identified on the basis of two videos of the incident shot on mobile. But surprisingly, the video cited by Ramesh Sinsinwar and the photographs prepared from it were not taken on record and neither was the mobile which contained the video, confiscated," noted the court in its judgment.

Sinsinwar was the then SHO of Behror police station in Alwar district, and the first investigating officer in the case.

In his statement to the court,



A video grab of the attack on Pehlu Khan near Behror

Sinsinwar said that he had received one of the videos from an informant, but accepted that he hadn't sent the video to the forensic science laboratory (FSL). He also accepted that he didn't get a certificate from a nodal officer for the call details of the accused, nor were they verified from anyone.

He told the court that he didn't take any documents such as bills and SIM IDs from the accused which could show that the accused were the owners of the mobiles, and the phones were also not confiscated.

Advocate Qasim Khan, counsel for Khan's family, said, "The video evidence was not admissible in the court because due process, which needed to be followed in order to exhibit them as evidence in the court, was not fol-

lowed during the investigation by the police, which has resulted in all six accused walking out free."

In its verdict on Wednesday, the court had given all six accused the benefit of the doubt, but observed that the Rajasthan Police probe had "serious shortcomings". The court also reached the conclusion that another video cited by the prosecution too became suspicious after three crucial witnesses were declared hostile.

In the judgment, the court also slammed the police for a delay in lodging the FIR in the case, saying that it reflected "serious negligence" on part of the investigating officer.

"By studying the statement (of Pehlu Khan) it becomes clear that it was recorded on 11:50pm on 01.04.2017 but in order to lodge a case, that statement has been given to the police station next day 02.04.2017 on 3:54pm in the afternoon, after around 16 hours, which reflects the serious negligence of police official Ramesh Sinsinwar in the matter," says the judgment.

The court also noted that the investigating officer, before recording Khan's statement in the hospital, didn't take a certificate from doctors on whether he was in a state to record his statement or not, and that the statement was not attested by the doctor treating Khan.

Govt's clear position that mob lynching shouldn't happen, says CM Gehlot

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, AUGUST 15

RAJASTHAN CHIEF Minister Ashok Gehlot on Thursday said his government had a clear position that no form of mob lynching should take place.

"Since Rajasthan is the first state after Manipur to make a law on mob lynching, you can understand that it's the government's clear position that no type of mob lynching should happen. If two or more people start assaulting a person and a life is lost, what can be more condemnable than this? The government has done due deliberation and passed this law. In the Pehlu Khan case too, the government has decided that we will appeal against the verdict," Gehlot told reporters, a day after an Alwar court acquitted all the six accused in the Pehlu Khan lynching case.

Earlier, speaking at a function to mark Independence Day, Gehlot said if the government at the Centre is "weak", then the states too are affected.



Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot at Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur. Rohit Jain Paras

In the past five years, he said, slowdown has affected the economy and cited demonetisation and GST to criticise policies of the central government.

Gehlot spoke about the various initiatives and programmes launched by the previous UPA government at the Centre and said leaders such as Indira Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Rajiv Gandhi and Manmohan Singh built the foundation of the country.



The swollen river flows by Naidu's residence Wednesday

Krishna in spate, water enters Naidu home's compound

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, AUGUST 15

WITH THE Krishna river in spate, water entered the premises of the riverside house of former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu at Undavalli in Amaravati.

The water level in the river starting rising rapidly on Wednesday morning and dams and barrages upstream started releasing water after the catchment area received heavy rain. After the gates at Pulichintala Project on the Krishna were raised Tuesday night, the river's water level rose as it reached Vijayawada.

The floodwater inundated fields along the riverbank in Krishna district, especially in Undavalli and other villages in the Amaravati capital region.

Naidu's official accommodation, which is a guesthouse leased from infrastructure company Lingamaneni Estates, is on the bank of the Krishna river. According to Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority officials, portions of the guesthouse were constructed illegally by encroaching upon the river bank. "The swimming pool and steps on the back side that touch the river are illegal. We have been saying this is an illegal structure and should be demolished. What we have

been saying all through — that several buildings were constructed here by the TDP government by encroachment — has come true. Floodwater has already entered Naidu's house," APCRDA Chairman and YSRCP MLA from Mangalagiri A Ramakrishna Reddy said on Wednesday.

After water entered the parking lot at Naidu's residence, his security officials moved away his convoy of four cars to the TDP office at Mangalagiri. "We have placed sandbags and stone crush to prevent the water from entering into the house. Some furniture from the ground floor has been shifted to the first floor. Water has entered the compound, but not the house. However, if the water level rises further, it may enter the house," an official said.

Naidu is in Hyderabad to meet TDP activists and leaders at the NTR Bhavan. Before leaving, he procured sand and stone crush, which were filled by his staff in bags and placed on the back side of the house that faces the river.

The APCRDA had issued a showcause notice on June 28 to Ramesh Lingamaneni, the owner of the guesthouse, asking why it should not be demolished as portions of the huge bungalow were allegedly illegal. However, Ramesh did not respond.

Gujarat: Woman mauled to death by leopard

Ahmedabad: A 75-year-old woman was mauled to death by a leopard at a village in Gir-Somnath district of Gujarat early on Thursday, a forest official said.

Jahuben Khasiya was attacked by the animal when she was sleeping outside her house in Ebhalvad village, Chief Conservator of Forests, Junagadh wildlife circle, D.T Vasavada, said. "The leopard dragged her into the bushes and killed her. Her body was found by villagers in the morning," he said.

Deputy Conservator of Forest, Gir-West division, Dheeraj Mittal, said that following the incident, forest officials set up five cages in and around the village to capture the leopard.

Incidents of leopards attacking villagers living near the Gir forest have been regularly happening in Gir-West and Gir-East divisions.

On August 10, an eight-year-old girl was injured by a leopard at a village, which falls under the Gir-East division. PTI

CHHATTISGARH

3 cops suspended, booked for harassing boy

DIPANKAR GHOSE
RAIPUR, AUGUST 15

THREE POLICE personnel have been suspended and a criminal case lodged against them after a video surfaced, purportedly showing them assaulting, harassing and touching a boy inappropriately in Raipur.

Senior police officers told *The Indian Express* that the incident took place on August 9. They condemned the assault, and said

the policemen, identified as Anil Rajput, Mukesh Thakur, and Krishna Rajput have been arrested and are likely to face criminal prosecution.

In the video that started doing the rounds of social media on Tuesday night, a boy is seen being manhandled by three men, all of whom have been identified as police constables — one of them is in uniform in the video. As the child is heard screaming, the men pull him by his hair, twist his ears, one of them slaps him and another

seems to be touching his private parts.

SP Arif Sheikh said, "The three policemen were attached to the police lines immediately after the video emerged. We have taken cognizance and suspended them. A criminal case based on prima facie evidence of assault has also been registered."

Anand Chhabra, IGP, Raipur range, said, "I condemn this act. We are in the process of tracing the child and are looking at avenues of further action."

Senior police officers said preliminary probe has revealed that two young boys were chased out of a train by an unidentified man who accused them of stealing a mobile phone. While one of the boys ran away, the three policemen caught hold of the other.

DGP D M Awasthi told *The Indian Express*, "I have spoken to my colleagues and recommended filing of a criminal case. No criminality by men in uniform will be tolerated. There can be no excuse for such behaviour."

FROM PAGE ONE

A Karnataka survival story: Couple stayed on roof, tree for 3 days

strong. We decided if we are to live we will live together and we are to die we would die together. We lost all our belongings. We don't have even a vessel to cook food. At the temple, they are providing us with food, for now," she said.

"The farm owner stayed across the stream through the nights we were marooned, shining a torch on us to keep up our courage. This helped us believe that help would come soon," Ratnabai said.

Jamadar (38), who lost his mango and sugarcane crop, a tractor, as well as the farm house, said: "All the officials and TV crew would leave at night. I remained across the stream in the water all through the night. I got a torch and kept shining it on Kadappa and Ratnabai to let them know they had not been abandoned. I considered them as my own family."

Jamadar also got the couple discharged from hospital and back to Urbinahatti village after three days of care in the ICU. While they were in hospital, the couple had a steady stream of visitors: Former chief minister H D Kumaraswamy gave them Rs 10,000, Congress MLA Lakshmi Hebbalkar gave Ratnabai a saree and a shawl, which is among her only belongings at present.

"Before the flood, the farm provided us with income, food and shelter. Now, we have nothing," Kadappa said.

In Karnataka, 61 people died in the floods between August 5 and August 10 with the maximum number (15) reported from Belagavi. A total of 6.97 lakh people have been evacuated in the state, including 4.14 lakh in Belagavi, which is the worst-hit among 17 districts affected.

In this case, however, government compensation for losses is likely to accrue to Jamadar, and the couple may not get anything. "But I want to do something for them. I need to sort out my own issues first since I have lost a lot," said Jamadar.

"Kadappa and Ratnabai live like migrants, going wherever they find work. A permanent house, a regular job or something on a daily basis would help. We are proud of their story but they are going to be fighting for survival every day now if they don't get help," said Gulappa Hadiganar, a panchayat member of Urbinahatti village.

Signals aplenty that slowdown is spreading across India Inc

a cascading impact on payment schedules further risking viability of projects. For state-owned engineering major and the country's largest power equipment producer BHEL, the "non-collectible," or the deferred debt category where dues are paid by the customer only on achievement of milestones by the capital goods company has been steadily climbing — up from Rs 38,993 crore at the end of the September quarter in 2018 to Rs 39,700 crore in the December 2018 quarter.

Given the stress in the system and the inability of smaller firms to access capital, capital goods major Larsen & Toubro is resorting to handhold its small vendors and expedite payments to them, at the cost of expanding its own net working capital.

According to Arnob Mondal, L&T's Vice President, Investor Relations, the company is supporting smaller vendors "badly impacted by the tough liquidity conditions." In the June quarter, L&T has supported vendors by releasing "a significant amount of payments to vendors", which has brought down vendor credit and has, in turn, led to "an increase in net working capital" for the company, Mondal indicated in a July earnings call.

BHEL is banking on a new initiative — a dedicated 'Project Closure Synergy Group' — to ensure early wrapping up of projects and resolving outstanding issues with stakeholders.

The June 2019 quarter was one of the worst in terms of fresh projects by India Inc, with new announcements sliding to just Rs 71,300 crore compared to a

quarterly-average of Rs 2.7 lakh crore in 2018-19, according to CMIE estimates. New capacity expansion project announcements halved from Rs 21 lakh crore in 2014-15 to Rs 10.7 lakh crore by 2018-19, as per CMIE's CapEx database.

Investment sentiment is down as corporate India grapples with excess capacity, falling asset utilisation and shrinking returns on capital employed, alongside issues such as harassment by taxmen and the cost of funds for corporates continuing to stay high despite the RBI's cumulative back-to-back reductions in the repo rate this year to the tune of 110 basis points.

The anaemic June factory output data measured through the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) estimate and the contraction in 15 of the 23 sub-sectors of manufacturing further reinforces the slowdown narrative enveloping more sectors.

Factory output growth slipped to a four-month low of 2 per cent in June, lower than the 7 per cent growth recorded in the same month last fiscal while for the April-June 2019 period, the IIP was weighed down by poor show in manufacturing and mining sectors to grow 3.6 per cent as against 5.1 per cent in the same period last year.

RBI's Industrial Outlook Survey showed that 57.3 per cent of units do not expect any change in order books for the July-September quarter - the highest since 2000-01 (from when the historical data is available).

Industrial and consumer electricals manufacturer Havells India noted that the sluggish growth in its switchgears business was reflective of the slowdown in the construction sector and that recovery could be "stretched out," Anil Rai Gupta, CMD of Havells India, said during an analyst call post June-quarter earnings.

Freight transport — an indicator of economic activity — also pointed in the direction of a possible slowdown. During the first quarter of 2019-20, total air freight — domestic and international — in the country dropped 5 per cent year-on-year to 8.42 lakh tonnes. For the first quarter of the previous financial year, air freight volumes had grown 6.6

per cent.

Similarly, CARE Ratings data showed that growth in cargo handled by major sea ports during April-June 2019 also slowed down to 1.1 per cent on year, compared with a year-on-year growth of 4 per cent in the same quarter last year. "Fertiliser (including raw) volumes recorded a 14.4 per cent decline, followed by miscellaneous cargo which recorded 10.4 per cent decline and thermal coal which 4.7 per cent decline in volumes handled during April-June FY20 vs April-June FY19," the ratings agency noted in a research report. "The slowdown in (cargo) volume and passenger numbers across modes of transport does relate well with subdued economic activity (and) both domestic and foreign trade."

Chhattisgarh doubles OBC quota, hikes SC benefit

in line with the population demographic in the state. With 12.8 per cent of the population being Scheduled Castes, the reservation has been increased by one per cent.

But senior government officials also said that this was the justification for the major jump in OBC reservation, and would also form their basis for any forthcoming legal challenges, given the 50 per cent cap by the Supreme Court.

"The question of the cap by the Supreme Court is a complicated issue. It is not that states have not exceeded that. Look for example at Haryana, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. Each state is unique on this issue. We are prepared for any legal challenge. But in our state which is unique, the percentage of OBCs is close to 47 per cent, who along with STs form the major chunk of the population. Why should they be short-changed with only 14 per cent reservation? This has been a demand of OBC groups for well over a decade," said a senior government official.

The "unique" nature of the state is also why, officials said, the state government is still considering the 10 per cent centre man-

dated EWS quota for the general category. "It is true, if implemented, it would take the reservation to 82 per cent. But we have to look at the interests of our state. We are studying the proposal closely. But what if the percentage of general category people that would qualify under EWS is less than 10 per cent in the state? Would that not take away a seat from a poor tribal, or an OBC?" said another senior official.

The move also has a clear political dividend for the Congress, looking to reassert itself after a chastening defeat in the Lok Sabha polls. Chief Minister Baghel, a Kurmi, is an OBC face for the Congress.

And while the OBC votes are a traditional BJP bastion, some sections had shifted to the Congress during the Assembly elections in 2018, only to seemingly move back to the BJP during the Lok Sabha polls. "This move will cement Baghel, and the Congress, as someone who has listened to a long-standing demand," said a senior Congress leader.

Taran Prakash Singh, Secretary, DPR, for the Chhattisgarh government said that with the Chief Minister's announcement, the move is "as good as done." "The method this will be done is either through passage in the Vidhan Sabha, or through an ordinance," he said.

In another move with political significance, Baghel also announced the creation of a 28th district in the state, announcing that the "Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi" area would now be a district, carved out of Bilaspur district.

The move is significant because the region is considered the bastion of former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister with the Congress and now founder of the JCCJ Ajit Jogi and his family. Incidentally, the Jogis congratulated Baghel for both moves, and said that they had made these exact demands of the Chief Minister when they met him in December 2018, shortly after he took office.

In two other announcements, Baghel said that an "elephant sanctuary" called the Lemru Elephant Reserve would be created in Korba district, and that a scheme to give free nutritious food every day to those

malnourished or anaemic would be extended to the entire state.

Stuck in traffic, Pehlu's son got call on acquittal from lawyer

he had earlier named six persons as his assailants. But weeks later, the Rajasthan Police closed the case against all six men he named, and chargesheeted instead, nine others, including three minors, in September 2017. Six of the adults were acquitted Wednesday after the court gave them the benefit of the doubt and slammed police for "gross negligence" and "serious shortcomings".

Sitting in the family's single storey home, which is currently occupied by six of Khan's eight children, two of their wives, and his three grandchildren, Irshad, however, is quick to add that this is not the end of the road for the family in their pursuit of justice.

"Until there is breath in our bodies, we will pursue this case. We will appeal in the High Court and the Supreme Court if required, but we will not rest until the men who killed our father are punished," he said.

The road to this end though, the family acknowledges, will not be easy. With only two earning members, who also only take up temporary jobs, usually working as labourers for Rs 200 to Rs 500 a day, their finances are stretched.

Also, Irshad and Arif were chargesheeted by police in May 2019, months after the Congress assumed power in Rajasthan, under sections of the Rajasthan Bovine Animal (Prohibition of Slaughter and Regulation of Temporary Migration or Export) Act.

"The work that our father did is no longer an option. This is the case not just for us, but for everyone in this area. There is a lot of fear. We do not even keep cows anymore, forget transporting them from one place to another. Anyone can come into our house and claim we are going to slaughter them, and we cannot defend ourselves," said Irshad, adding that even when the incident leading to Khan's death occurred, his companions and he had all the required documentation to prove their work was completely legal, "but that was no protection".

When Khan was alive, his son said, the family had a monthly income of Rs 20,000 to Rs 30,000. Though he was the sole breadwinner, he worked as a dairy farmer as well as a cattle trader, they said. Following his death, however, most of the income that the family earns is spent on lawyer fees and travelling to and from Alwar for the court cases.

"We have to spend around Rs 5,000 to Rs 6,000 on lawyers, and another Rs 2,000 to Rs 3,000 in travelling to and from Alwar for work related to the case. We have so far ended up having to make this trip at least four or five times a month," said Irshad.

"It is going to be expensive, but we will continue to fight this case. We will stop the education of our children if we have to, but we will not give up," said Jaibuna.

Among the four children who are old enough for school, only one — aged 10 — actually attends. With education up to only Class 8 provided by government schools in the village, the only way for the children to pursue further education is to attend private schools in the vicinity, for which the family has little money.

The biggest change for the family since Khan's death, however, has been the difference in the "atmosphere" in the house, said Jaibuna.

"There has been no happiness since then, only worry and sorrow. Two of my grandchildren have been born since then, but his death has cast a shadow even over that. If we had got justice now, we may have been able to move on but, at this point, it seems we have many more battles to fight."

Fitness trainer arrested in POCSCO case for assaulting teen during exercise

SAGAR RAJPUT
MUMBAI, AUGUST 15

POLICE ON Wednesday arrested a 27-year-old fitness trainer accused of sexually assaulting a 16-year-old girl. The police said the accused allegedly touched the girl inappropriately on the pretext of helping her exercise.

According to police officers, accused Rahul Pardesi is a freelance trainer with a certificate from an international institute.

The victim had gone for morning walk on Monday, said a police officer. "While she was walking, the accused allegedly approached her and told her that she won't be able to reduce her weight as her form was incorrect," said the officer.

The accused told the victim that he was a freelance trainer, said the officer. "He started discussing the various exercise forms that she should follow. He then took her to a lawn," the officer added. Later, the accused allegedly started touching her inappropriately and when she confronted him, he told her that he did so to improve her form, said the officer.

"When the accused touched her private parts, she left the spot," said an officer.

The teenager narrated the incident to her sister and the two went to a nearby police station and registered a case of molestation under sections of IPC and Protection of Children against Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

"The accused had asked the victim to come to the same spot area the next day. We laid a trap and requested her to visit the area. But he did not come," said an officer.

The police then scanned the CCTV footage of the area. A day later, they learnt about his identity and also got a photo from other freelance trainers.

"Last year, a non-cognizable offence was registered against him for which we had got him to the police station for inquiry. I identified him and we went to his residence and arrested him," said an officer. The accused was produced in court and has been remanded in police custody.

TELLING NUMBERS

How the number and size of districts vary from state to state

ON THURSDAY, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami announced that Vellore district would be trifurcated to create two more districts, Ranipet and Tirupattur. In January and July this year, the Tamil Nadu government had created three new districts, and the latest move will take the total number of districts to 37. The idea behind creating new districts in any state is, generally, that it is expected to make governance easier; sometimes, the decision is driven by local demands.

The larger states predictably have a higher number of districts, with Uttar Pradesh (75) leading the count, followed by Madhya Pradesh (52), while the smallest state, Goa (2), has the lowest number. However, the number of districts in a state is not always a function of the area of the state, or of its population.

For example, Andhra Pradesh is the seventh largest state by area but has among the smallest counts of districts at 13. As such, it has only one district for every 12,000 sq km, which is the largest average size for a district in any Indian state. At the other end of the scale is

Tripura. Being a small state, it has only eight districts, but even that is high, when compared to any other states, in terms of the number of districts per unit area. Tripura has one district for every 1,300 sq km, the smallest average district size in the country. It means an average Andhra Pradesh district is more than nine times the size of an average Tripura district. An Andhra Pradesh district has an average population of 38 lakh while a Tripura district has only 4.5 lakh. Most of the Northeastern states have smaller districts — which means a higher number of districts per unit area.

Tamil Nadu's 37 districts will be the fourth highest count in the country, just behind Bihar's 38. The average size of a Tamil Nadu district will now be around 3,500 sq km, down from 4,000 sq km before January.

Behind UP, MP, Bihar and Tamil Nadu, the highest district counts are 36 in Maharashtra (average 8,547 sq km); 33 each in Assam (average 2,377 sq km), Rajasthan (10,371 sq km) and Gujarat (5,940 sq km); 31 in Telangana (3,615 sq km); and 30 each in Karnataka (6,393 sq km) and Odisha (5,190 sq km).

STATES WITH LARGER DISTRICTS

State	Districts	Area (sq km)		Population (lakh)	
		State	Avg/district	State	Avg/district
Andhra	13	1,60,205	12,323	496	38
Rajasthan	33	3,42,239	10,371	685	21
Maharashtra	36	3,07,713	8,548	1,123	31
Karnataka	30	1,91,796	6,393	611	20
MP	52	3,08,252	6,044	726	14
Gujarat	33	1,96,024	5,940	604	18

STATES WITH SMALLER DISTRICTS

State	Districts	Area (sq km)		Population (lakh)	
		State	Avg/district	State	Avg/district
Tripura	8	10,492	1,311	36	4.5
Manipur	16	22,327	1,395	28	1.8
Nagaland	11	16,579	1,507	20	1.8
Sikkim	4	7,096	1,774	6	1.5
Goa	2	3,702	1,851	14.5	7.3
Haryana	22	44,212	2,010	253	11.5

Source: Census 2011 and state government websites

TIP FOR READING LIST

THE LANGUAGE OF THE INTERNET

GRETCHEN MCCULLOCH describes herself as an "Internet linguist", someone who "live(s) on the Internet", and "analyze(s) the language of the Internet for the people of the Internet". She summarises her book, *Because Internet: Understanding the New Rules of Language*, as "a linguistically informed look at how our digital world is transforming the English language".

McCulloch asks — and answers — some questions that are likely to have struck most people at some point of their experience with the digital-virtual world. "Why did emoji become so popular so quickly? What's the deal with how people of different ages punctuate their emails and text messages so differently? Why does the language in memes often look so wonderfully strange?"

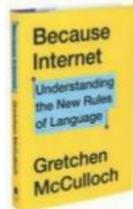
The official promo for the book asserts that "even the most absurd-looking slang has genuine patterns behind it". McCulloch, it says, "explains how your first social Internet experience influences whether you prefer 'LOL' or 'lol', why ~sparkly tildes~ succeeded where cen-

tures of proposals for irony punctuation had failed, what emoji have in common with physical gestures, and how the artfully disarrayed language of animal memes like lolcats and doggo made them more likely to spread".

A review of the book in *The New York Times* illustrates McCulloch's project through the LOL/lol distinction that most of us see frequently (and some of us wonder about). "As early Internet slang, 'LOL' meant 'laughing out loud', but then its definition softened, acquiring additional layers of meaning," says the review. The lowercase 'lol' is still a 'word in transition', signifying, as McCulloch says, "amusement, irony and even passive aggression".

"It can temper a statement that might otherwise sound confrontational ('what are you doing out so late lol') or gently poke fun at someone ('good morning lol' to a friend who woke up at noon)," she says.

The review describes the book as "insincere and entertaining", and McCulloch as "lucid, friendly, unequivocally excited about her subject".



SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

Understanding post of CDS

What is the office of Chief of Defence Staff that Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced in his Independence Day address? Where did the idea come from, and what is the CDS supposed to do?

NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN
 MUMBAI, AUGUST 15

IN HIS Independence Day address Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the creation of the post of Chief of Defence Staff to provide "effective leadership at the top level" to the three wings of the armed forces, and to help improve coordination among them.

What is the office of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)?

The CDS is a high military office that oversees and coordinates the working of the three Services, and offers seamless tri-service views and single-point advice to the Executive (in India's case, to the Prime Minister) on long-term defence planning and management, including manpower, equipment and strategy, and above all, "jointsmanship" in operations.

In most democracies, the CDS is seen as being above inter-Service rivalries and the immediate operational preoccupations of the individual military chiefs. The role of the CDS becomes critical in times of conflict.

Most countries with advanced militaries have such a post, albeit with varying degrees of power and authority. The United States Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCS), for example, is extremely powerful, with a legislated mandate and sharply delineated powers.

He is the most senior military officer and military adviser to the President, and his remit extends to the National Security Council, the Homeland Security Council, and the Defence Secretary.

The Chiefs of the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and National Guard too, are members of the JCSC. All, including the CJCS, are four-star officers, but by statute only the CJCS is designated as the "principal military adviser". However, the CJCS is barred from exercising any operational authority over combat commanders in varied theatres; this authority rests exclusively with the US President.

So, why had India not appointed a CDS until now?

India has had a feeble equivalent known as the Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee (CoSC); but this is a toothless office, given the manner in which it is structured. The senior-most among the three Service Chiefs is appointed to head the CoSC, an office that lapses with the incumbent's retirement.

The current Chairman CoSC is Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa, who succeeded the former Chief of the Naval Staff



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Red Fort on Thursday. Neeraj Priyadarshi

Admiral Sunil Lanba on May 31. When ACM Dhanoa retires at the end of September 2019, he would have served as Chairman CoSC for a mere four months.

In 2015, then Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar had described the CoSC arrangement as "unsatisfactory", and its Chairman as a "figurehead". The post did not further tri-service integration, resulting in inefficiency and an expensive duplication of assets, he had said.

The CoSC system is a leftover from the colonial era, with only minor changes being carried out over the years. Apprehensions in the political class about a powerful military leader, along with inter-Service bickering, have long worked to disincentivise the upgrade of the post.

The first proposal for a CDS came from the 2000 Kargil Review Committee (KRC), which called for a reorganisation of the "entire gamut of national security management and apex decision-making and structure and interface between the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces Headquarters". The Group of Ministers Task Force that studied the KRC Report and recommendations, proposed to the Cabinet Committee on Security that a CDS, who would be five-star officer, be created.

In preparation for the post, the government created the Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) in late 2002, which was to eventually serve as the CDS's Secretariat. However, over the past 17 years, this has remained yet another nebulous department within the military establishment.

But what happened to the proposal?

No consensus emerged among the Services, with the IAF especially opposed to such a move. The Congress, then in opposi-

tion, was against the idea of concentrating too much military power in the CDS's post. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) too, opposed it subtly for the same reasons, and because it could disrupt civil-military ties in the latter's favour.

"A CDS with direct access to the Prime Minister and Defence Minister was the last thing that the MoD wanted," said Lt Gen H S Panag (ret), who served as the GOC-in-C, Northern and Central Commands. According to Gen Panag, a major reason why the CDS idea could not be implemented was that the MoD bureaucracy was loath to relinquish its power over the three Services. Consequently, the MoD played one Service against the other.

"Besides," Gen Panag said, "each Service has its own ethos, and the Chiefs feel that under a CDS, they will be rendered virtual nonentities."

The smaller Air Force and Navy fear that the CDS would be from the Army, by far the largest Service. The IAF has long argued that unlike the United States and other western militaries, the Indian Services are not an expeditionary force, for which a CDS is a necessity. The appointment of a CDS would also lead to theatre commands, another aspect that the IAF opposes, fearing a diminution of its operational role.

In 2011, more than a decade after the KRC Report, the UPA government, led by the Congress, which had opposed the CDS proposal when in opposition, set up the Nares Chandra Committee on defence and security. The 14-member Committee, comprising retired Service Chiefs and other defence experts, suggested a watered-down version of the CDS proposal, in which the Chairman CoSC in the rank of a four-star officer would have a fixed tenure of two years. He would have significantly more authority and pow-

ers than the Chairman CoSC, and would be a CDS in all but name.

What is the case for having a CDS?

Although the KRC did not directly recommend a CDS — that came from the GoM — it underlined the need for more coordination among the three Services, which was poor in the initial weeks of the Kargil conflict.

The KRC Report pointed out that India is the only major democracy where the Armed Forces Headquarters is outside the apex governmental structure. It observed that Service Chiefs devote most of their time to their operational roles, "often resulting in negative results". Long-term defence planning suffers as day-to-day priorities dominate. Also, the Prime Minister and Defence Minister do not have the benefit of the views and expertise of military commanders, in order to ensure that higher level defence management decisions are more consensual and broadbased.

The CDS is also seen as being vital to the creation of "theatre commands", integrating tri-service assets and personnel like in the US military. India has 17 Service commands at different locations and duplicating assets, Gen Panag said. In 2016, China integrated its military and other police and paramilitaries into five theatres from the earlier seven area commands, each with its own inclusive headquarters, one of which has responsibility for the Indian border. In contrast, India's border with China is split between the Eastern, Western, and Northern Commands, Gen Panag said.

And what are the arguments against?

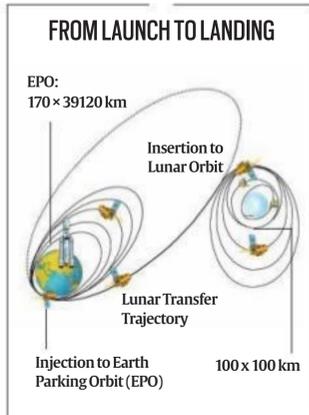
Theoretically, the appointment of a CDS is long overdue, but there appears to be no clear blueprint for the office to ensure its effectiveness. India's political establishment is seen as being largely ignorant of, or at best indifferent towards, security matters, and hence incapable of ensuring that a CDS works.

Militaries by nature tend to resist transformation. In the US, the 1986 Goldwater-Nichols Act elevated the Chairman from first among equals to the "principal military advisor" to the President and the Secretary of Defence. In the Indian context, critics fear, the absence of foresight and understanding might end up making the CDS just another case of "jobs for the boys".

Who at present advises India's Prime Minister on military matters?

In effect it is the National Security Adviser. This has been especially so after the Defence Planning Committee was created in 2018, with NSA Ajit Doval as its chairman, and the foreign, defence, and expenditure secretaries, and the three Service Chiefs as members.

Moon mission reaches key stage, what next?



at the nearest and farthest points. **ON WEDNESDAY**, the final orbit-raising manoeuvre was carried out. Chandrayaan 2 has now entered the Lunar Transfer Trajectory, and is now heading for its next orbit, which will be around the Moon.

ON AUGUST 20, Chandrayaan-2 will approach Moon and the spacecraft's liquid engine will be fired again to insert the spacecraft into a lunar orbit. Following this, there will be further four orbit manoeuvres to take the spacecraft into its final orbit, passing over the lunar poles at a distance of about 100 km from the Moon's surface (see table).

After that, the soft landing. The Vikram lander will separate from the orbiter on September 2. Two orbit manoeuvres will be performed on the lander before the initiation of powered descent on September 7.

Chandrayaan 2 will land on the Moon's south polar region, unexplored by science so

COMING UP, STAGE BY STAGE

Date	Time	Orbit around Moon* (km)
August 20	8:30-9:30 am	118 x 18078
August 21	12:30 - 1:30 pm	121 x 4303
August 28	5:30 - 6:30 am	178 x 1411
August 30	6 - 7 pm	126 x 164
Sept 1	6 - 7 pm	114 x 128

*The two figures represent nearest and farthest distances from Moon

Source for text, data and illustration: ISRO

far. ISRO said in a statement that the south pole is especially interesting because of the lunar surface area here that remains in shadow is much larger than that at the north pole. There is a possibility of the presence of water in permanently shadowed areas around it.

Fertility rate: What the data show

PM has flagged 'challenges' posed by India's 'population explosion'. While India is expected to soon overtake China as the world's most populous country, the total fertility rate has been falling almost everywhere in India

RAVISH TIWARI
 NEW DELHI, AUGUST 15

THE GRAPH shows trends for the total fertility rate (TFR) in various states. TFR, defined as the number of children born to a woman until the end of her child-bearing age, is a key indicator for population trends.

During his Independence Day speech Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi underlined challenges posed by population growth in the country. "I would like to highlight the issue of population explosion in our country from the aegis of the Red Fort today. This rapidly increasing population poses various new challenges for us and our future generations," the Prime Minister said.

The graph is based on TFR data from the Sample Registration System (SRS) under-

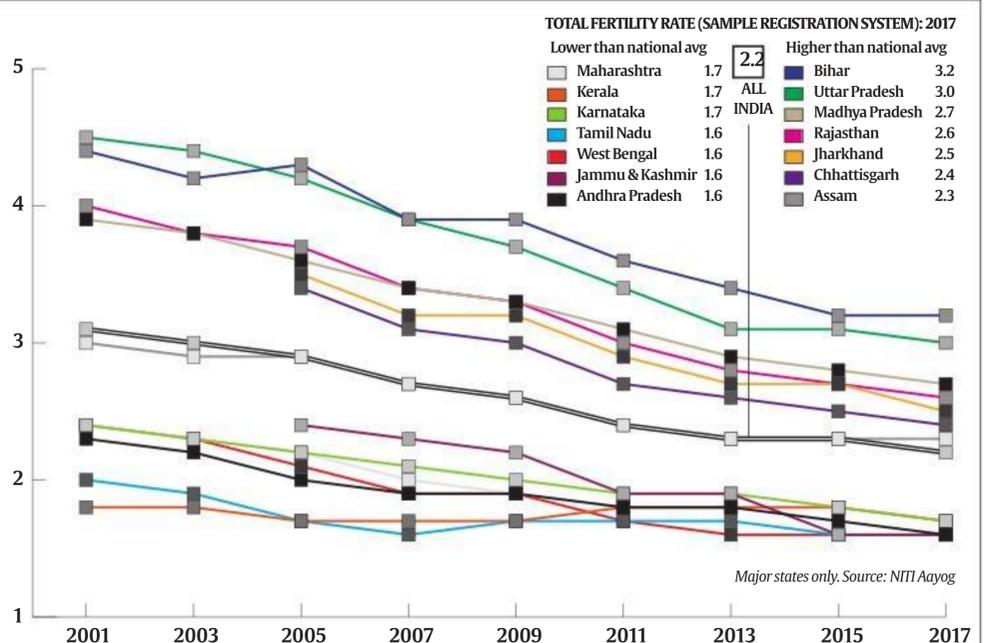
taken by the Office of the Registrar General of India. The SRS also looks at other indicators such as crude birth rate, general fertility rate, age specific/marital fertility rate, gross reproduction rate along with sex ratio at birth. While Census figures provide the total population every decade, the regular SRS estimates provide dynamic trends underlying the population growth.

After four successive years (2013-2016) when the TFR stagnated at 2.3 births per woman of child-bearing age, the latest SRS estimates (2017) show the TFR dropping to 2.2. This figure is only marginally higher than the fertility rate (2.1) required for replacement of the existing population.

SRS estimates over the last decade and more, meanwhile, show a declining trend across the country. Even the states that have a higher TFR — Uttar Pradesh (3.0),

Bihar (3.2), MP (2.7), Rajasthan (2.6), Assam (2.3), Chhattisgarh (2.4) and Jharkhand (2.5) — have been witnessing a declining trend in fertility rates. These seven states account for about 45 per cent of the total population in the 2011 Census. Two more states, Gujarat and Haryana, recorded a TFR of 2.2, which is above the replacement rate but is equal to the national average. Taken together, these nine major states account for 52 per cent of the 2011 population.

This means that in the states barring these nine, and accounting for almost half the population, the replacement level is either 2.1 or has gone below it. These states with a lower TFR include Kerala (1.7), Tamil Nadu (1.6), Karnataka (1.7), Maharashtra (1.7), Andhra Pradesh (1.6), Telangana (1.7), West Bengal (1.6), Jammu and Kashmir (1.6) and Odisha (1.9).



Major states only. Source: NITI Aayog



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY
RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

THE PM'S MESSAGE

One speech, many PMs

On I-Day, we heard the aspiring statesman, the man of ideas, the debater, the polemicist, the ruthless executive



SUHASH PALSHIKAR

RIGHT FROM HIS first Independence Day speech, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been struggling to present himself as a visionary, a statesman, a dreamer, and someone striving to rise above the partisan and the momentary. This year's speech was no exception. His speeches follow an implicit template: Touching upon ideas and dipping into the mundane, floating big plans and getting lost in small matters, highlighting problems but exhorting citizens to do things on their own. This template allows the faithful to detect elements of the extraordinary, leaving behind the ordinary or the controversial as only memory.

But the aspiring statesman got easily overshadowed by three other personas. The PM began as a debater defending an argument. Claiming that his second government has done in 70 days what could not happen in 70 years, he listed out the accomplishments of the past couple of months, three in particular: A passing reference to the changes made in existing anti-terror law; a proud claim of abolishing triple talaq; and a defence of changes made in J&K. Of course, he did not bother to reconcile democracy with the intimidating changes in the terror law; he did not find it necessary to explain the need to criminalise triple talaq; he was not interested in assuaging the fears over central interventions in federal features when talking about what was done in J&K.

But in defending these actions, another personality of the PM (and his government) came to the fore: The ruthless executive. As the PM proudly pointed out, his government does not avoid problems, nor entertains them. He went on to say that the government will set aside whatever obstacles come in the way. It is these qualities of the PM — debating skills and a show of strength and ruthlessness — that have endeared him to many Indians. But he also probably gets carried away by these characteristics to the extent of sidelining the more ambitious project of writing himself into history as a visionary.

Therefore, a third persona kept making its appearance in the speech: Modi himself. Five minutes into the speech, the PM slipped from the more vague "hum" (we) to the more personal "mein" (I), saying "mujhe awsar diya" (people have given me the opportunity). This was not a one-off mention in the first person

singular. Phrases such as "mein", "mujhe", "mera" kept popping up — along with the inevitable reference to his selflessness ("mera apna kuchh nahin"). It is not easy to dismiss this recourse to the first person as a slip; rather, it reminded of his natural connect with the 130 crore Indians. In the course of the speech, the PM made a reference to the union between him and the people by saying that the election was fought not the party, nor the leader, but 130 crore Indians. Conflating the individual with the larger category of "people", showing off ruthlessness and defending policies of the government, took the PM to what he excels in — polemics. Modi the polemicist could not avoid the temptation of mentioning "parivarwad" somewhat out of context, and taking a snipe at previous governments over not making Article 370 permanent, while seeking to delegitimise opposition to his J&K policies as politics for votes (chunavi rajniti).

The PM and his PR machine would like us to remember his speech for the ideas, vision and dreams. These touched a wide range of topics, some particularly close to the middle classes such as tourism or the five trillion dollar economy. And included many non-controversial subjects, such as plastic waste, infrastructure etc. Like the Swachh Bharat Mission in his first I-Day speech in 2014, the PM would want to be remembered for the mission on water now. He also spoke of poverty, but instead of elaborating a road map for poverty eradication, he hedged the issue by saying that the poor had the courage and capacity to fight for their own wellbeing.

Four ideas from the speech need to be engaged with more seriously for their problematic nature. First, and not entirely new, is the penchant for linking everything to "one nation" — GST, common electricity grid and simultaneous elections. While India has been moving towards many policies and initiatives that are common (or similar) across states, the PM's emphasis on uniformity as the underlying value is problematic, suggests a clear preference for the non-federal approach.

Two, the PM's somewhat long exposition on population was deeply problematic. It is one thing to argue that the idea of demographic dividend is debatable but the way the PM lauded the "small sections" who have

adopted the small family norm could easily put the poor in the dock and humiliate them. Already, ill-conceived ideas of penalising government servants if they give birth to a third child or disqualifying such families from being representatives in local bodies have gained ground. The PM's exhortation from the pulpit would further encourage non-democratic measures for pushing "population control" as a service to nation.

Third, the PM spoke about giving a fillip to the rural economy by supporting local initiatives. This sentiment would be attractive to many, but in economic terms, it is unclear how the government would reconcile its search for growth and foreign investment with the protectionist idea of localisation of consumer practices. In the political context, it would be interesting to watch how this idea would be received by the aspirational middle class the PM is so enamoured of. In any case, it could be seen as a tactical response to complications that globalisation is bringing. But is this not an abdication of governmental responsibility to ensure a fair balance between global capital and local entrepreneurship?

Finally, repackaging his earlier idea of maximum governance-minimum government, the PM spoke about "ease of living". This goes much beyond the industry-driven idea of ease of doing business and it would certainly get him headlines in international circles. He theorised that government should be there to help but it should not cramp the citizens. This sounds interesting but with increasing bureaucratic interventions in individual lives, with non-regulated intrusions into citizens' privacy, with controversial attempts of allowing surveillance and with government's track record of using all regulatory mechanisms for allegedly partisan action, the idea of a friendly but non-interfering government is bound to remain only a chimera.

So, even if we discount the debater, the polemicist and the self-consciously self-centred leader, the PM's ideas remain short on promise, high on word play and potent with controversial takes on what we mean by democracy, nation and governance.

The writer taught political science and is currently chief editor of Studies in Indian Politics

It was most powerful for invitation to the people to own their change, will resonate when curbs are lifted in the Valley

RUNNING THROUGH PRIME Minister Narendra Modi's first Independence Day speech in his second term, were themes that have come to be identified with his political personality. One, he sought to portray himself as a changemaker. While it attached easily to him in 2014, when he projected himself as an outsider and a challenger of the certitudes and corruptions that Congress regimes had presided over in national politics, his continuing courtship of the image of change agent, despite a five-year incumbency, is remarkable. On August 15, he spoke for making big leaps and against incrementalism, and drew stark oppositions to make his case: 70 years vs five years, even 70 years vs 10 weeks of his second term so far. In the PM's picture, the past is a place of darkness, while the last five years were an effort to fulfill the people's necessities, and the next five will be dedicated to meeting their aspirations. Two, he exhorted the people to own the change and participate in it — be it Swachh Bharat then, or the Jal Jeevan Mission now, he spoke of an abhiyan (campaign) that engages jan samanya (ordinary people), does not remain sarkari (government-driven). And three, even as the PM seemed to throw the ball to a diverse people, he also, paradoxically, underlined a sharply unitary message: One-nation-one-tax (GST), one nation-one-election (simultaneous polls), one-nation-one-constitution (in J&K).

The PM also announced significant policy and institutional shifts. A chief of defence staff, a long standing proposal to ensure better coordination and more efficient decision-making in the defence forces, will finally be appointed. The PM promised to go beyond "ease of doing business", which, incidentally, has had debatable success so far, to "ease of living", which would presumably reorient the relationship between government and citizens across a range of arenas and sectors. This also raises questions, given that, for all the promises of "minimum government and maximum government", the Modi regime is yet to make government less intrusive in matters ranging from tax policy to data privacy. The PM announced a new campaign against single-use plastic, and expressed the hope that it would be promoted by a range of stakeholders, from shopkeepers, who will start selling cloth/jute bags to people who will gift these bags to each other on Diwali. More controversially, PM Modi announced a shift in the conversation on population policy from "demographic dividend" to "population explosion" ("jansankhya visrot"). This is tricky terrain, given the unhappy spectres invoked by the latter formulation from another regime that spoke of the need to control the population.

Most controversial was the part of the PM's speech where he spoke of the decision to downsize Kashmir, abrogate Article 370. Here, the PM's message hit a wall of his government's making — the continued lockdown of people and detention of leaders, in the wake of its consequential August 5 move. If the most engaging part of the PM's message to the nation was the invitation to the people to take ownership of the change, it will resonate across the country when restrictions on the people in the Valley are lifted.

INJUSTICE SYSTEM

Acquittals in the Pehlu Khan lynching case point to subversion of due process. Gehlot government must urgently make amends

THE ACQUITTAL OF all six persons accused of lynching Pehlu Khan, a cattle trader, near Alwar, is an indictment of the Rajasthan government and its law enforcement agencies. The trial court judge gave the benefit of doubt to the accused and ordered their release because the Rajasthan Police probe had "serious shortcomings" and signified "gross negligence". Simply put, due process was subverted by shoddy investigation, procedural infirmities and poor monitoring of the probe by state authorities. The Ashok Gehlot government in Rajasthan government is appealing against the verdict, but it still needs to answer for the derailment of a high-profile probe that was seen as a test case of the state's commitment to ensuring justice.

A mob had attacked Khan in Alwar on April 1, 2017, following a rumour that he was smuggling cows. He died in a hospital two days later, after naming six persons in his dying declaration to the police. Onlookers made recordings of the attack and circulated them on social media. On TV, persons in the mob proudly claimed responsibility for the murder. However, the police seems to have ignored due procedures when Khan made his statement, and did not authenticate the videos before submitting them in court. Not surprisingly, then, the admissible material proved insufficient to prove the crime. In fact, controversies have stalked the case right from the beginning. First, Rajasthan Police cleared the persons named by Khan. Later, in May 2019, the police charged Khan's sons and the driver of the pick-up truck that Pehlu Khan had hired to transport cattle, with violating the provisions of the Rajasthan Bovine Animal Act. The Congress chief minister, Ashok Gehlot, had then said his government would probe if the investigation was biased.

The Pehlu Khan murder is among the earliest lynching cases involving cow vigilantes — the first incident was reported from Jharkhand in March, 2016. The spree of mob lynchings since then — from UP, Assam, West Bengal, Bihar and Jammu and Kashmir — provoked the Supreme Court to ask the government to formulate a law specific to the crime in July, 2018. But law can be a deterrent only if the law enforcers are keen to implement it in letter and spirit. Now, the Gehlot government will be tested on its commitment to justice.

GODDESS OF SMALL THINGS

Vidya Sinha will be remembered for being part of a cinema that eschewed formula, struck a chord with the people

VIDYA SINHA, WHO passed away on Thursday, will be remembered for her roles in films that had none of the trappings of Bollywood blockbusters. She made her mark in an interesting period in the history of Hindi films. In 1973, Prakash Mehra's *Zanjeer* announced the arrival of the angry young man, Amitabh Bachchan's Vijay. A year later, Basu Chatterjee's *Rajnigandha* made its mark at the box office and swept the Filmfare Awards. In several ways, *Rajnigandha* was a counterpoint to *Zanjeer*: Centred on a woman starting out in her career, caught between the affections of two lovers, Chatterjee's film was an ode to a world very different from the predominantly masculine troposphere of the Mehra-Bachchan potboiler. *Rajnigandha* was Sinha's debut. She did not eschew playing Bollywood's formulaic characters. But Sinha was at her best in films where lovers could be painfully shy and loved blossomed during bus rides.

There was nothing larger than life about the characters of such films. Sinha's second film, *Chhoti Si Baat*, depicted the everyday life of an office-going woman. The world in such films was far gentler than the violent landscapes of Bollywood potboilers. But this was no escapist cinema. Bombay, the locale of most films in which Sinha distinguished herself, placed its demands. As a character in *Chhoti Si Baat* remarks, "You can escape the queue system in Delhi or Calcutta but not in Bombay". Getting a job often meant negotiating layers of nepotism, a delay in getting to work would result in a stern reprimand from the boss and finding a house was tough for a newly-married couple with limited means.

This was also cinema that subtly depicted the intricacies of human relationships. They brought out the best in Sinha, even when she spoke very little. Like in *Rajnigandha*, when in a taxi with an ex lover, the character she plays sits glued to the door and yet can't resist from looking furtively at him.



ALOK BANSAL

ONE OF THE most significant announcements made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Independence Day is the creation of a Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) to ensure better coordination between the three services. This has been a long pending demand of the defence forces and was recommended by both the Kargil Review Committee led by K Subrahmanyam in 1999, as well as the Committee of Experts set up by Ministry of Defence under the chairmanship of General D B Shekatkar. Although, the exact terms of responsibility and assignment of the CDS have not been made public, in all probability it would be a four-star military officer, who would act as the single point adviser to the government on military matters. The CDS would also coordinate amongst the three services and bridge the differences.

Modern military battles cannot be fought by each service fighting independently. The present Indian Armed Forces are colonial constructs and were configured primarily to serve the interest of their colonial masters during the great wars. The restructuring of armed forces, therefore, has been a crying need as future wars are going to be short intense affairs where all organs of the state are likely to be employed simultaneously. Such a scenario would require unity of command, which is feasible only when the country has a unified command structure led by the CDS. However, political insecurities and bureaucratic stranglehold over the Ministry of Defence prevented this important void from being filled.

UNIFYING THE COMMAND

Appointment of chief of defence staff will fill a void in India's defence system

The appointment of the CDS will make the armed forces more effective. However, the mere creation of the office is not enough. This will need to be augmented by restructuring of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and creating integrated theatre commands.

After the recommendations of the Kargil Review Committee which had recommended a CDS as well as a Vice Chief of Defence Staff (VCDS), a group of ministers headed by the then Deputy Prime Minister L K Advani examined it and recommended CDS with a tri-service joint planning staff. Accordingly, the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQIDS) was created in October 2001. But, bureaucrats succeeded in stalling the appointment of the CDS by creating the perception that it would be far easier for a CDS to stage a coup. Consequently, an anomalous situation was created wherein an organisation was created, which has been functioning without a head for the past 18 years.

The VCDS was reconfigured as Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC). The absence of the CDS has limited the ability of CISC to mediate between the three services. More significantly, being lower in rank, he was never accepted as the sole adviser to the government in a rigidly hierarchical organisation like the military. Consequently, HQIDS was mostly duplicating the jobs being undertaken by service headquarters, rather than performing the tasks the office was meant for.

The appointment of the CDS will make the armed forces more effective. However, the mere creation of the office is not enough. This will need to be augmented by restructuring of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and creating integrated theatre commands. The CDS has to be a cerebral warrior with good under-

standing of the global security environment and functioning of the three services. It should not be a rotational appointment; the government must select one after interviewing top officials of the three services.

Despite the PM's announcement, it is not going to be a smooth affair. First, the bureaucrats afraid of losing their salience will create bottlenecks. On top of that, individual services, afraid of losing their turf, are bound to resist the CDS's involvement in their affairs. The government may have to take a leaf out of the US Goldwater-Nichols Act and push the three services. To begin with, all defence land and capital budget must be put under the CDS and appointments in inter-service organisations must be made essential for further promotions. For the CDS to be effective, he must have direct access to the defence minister and through him to the prime minister.

After the reorganisation of MoD and establishment of theatre commands, they should directly be responsible to the defence minister through the CDS for all combat operations. Each service chief should only be responsible for equipping, organising and training of the forces. The creation of the CDS will need to be followed up with further reforms to reconfigure the armed forces to meet India's aspirations to be a global power.

The writer is a former naval officer and is currently director, India Foundation and adjunct professor at New Delhi Institute of Management. Views are personal.



AUGUST 16, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO

PM'S I-DAY SPEECH
PRIME MINISTER CHARAN Singh declared in New Delhi that if Pakistan makes an atomic bomb, India will have to reconsider its decision not to make one. Addressing the nation from the ramparts of Red Fort on the 32nd anniversary of Independence, the prime minister said Pakistan's sole aim in going in for the bomb was to use it against India. "Pakistan has friendly relations with China, it has no serious differences with the Soviet Union and it is absurd to think that the bomb will be used against Afghanistan. The bomb is obviously aimed at us and it poses a dan-

ger to our peace and security," Singh declared. In his 21-minute speech, Singh dealt with issues ranging from foreign policy, economy, the people and, of course, politics. It was his first major speech since he took over as Prime Minister last month.

BANGLA BORDER QUIET
THE INDIA-BANGLADESH border in West Bengal was quiet today after the threatened long march to Pakistan by non-Bengali Muslims flopped. But the vigil mounted by BSF continued without any let-up. Official sources said border officials were in constant

touch with Bangladesh Rifles to ascertain the movement of the refugees since they had made no formal announcement to abandon the march. Reports from across the border had indicated that they might attempt to revive their march again on August 25 after Eid.

MNF ARMS SEIZED
SECURITY FORCES CHANCED upon a hide-out of the banned Mizo National Front rebels in north western Mizoram near the Cachar boundary and captured a large number of rebels with arms and ammunition following an encounter.

11 THE IDEAS PAGE

Why Article 370 had to go

The constitutional, democratic, historical and moral arguments being marshalled against the Centre's move are unfounded



ABHINAV KUMAR

IT IS NOT always that a writer has to quickly deal with the practical consequences of what he wrote about recently. My last article ('A New Deal for Kashmir,' July 5), published in these pages, looked at the difficult choices India faced in Kashmir and suggested that we should have a wider debate about repealing Article 370 as one of the options. Predictably, it caused a furore amongst a section of our intelligentsia for whom Article 370 was more an article of faith than anything else.

Around midnight on August 4, when we received our orders to go on high alert and prepare for some important announcement in Parliament the next day, little did I realise that what I had advocated for debate, had actually been decided. Starting midnight, we began to go into lockdown mode. The communication blackout was total. It would be a few days before one would get access to a mobile phone — voice only, no data. And a few more days before one had limited access to internet at speeds that brought back memories of the dial-up modem era.

As one watched the home minister stand up to speak in Parliament to announce the intended changes in the relationship of the state of J&K with the Union of India, one realised that one was witness to something of profound historical significance. A decision that would create immediate professional challenges for all of us serving in positions of responsibility in Kashmir. In the last two weeks of July, all of us had expected that some important decision about J&K was going to be taken. However, the direction and scope of the decision came as a complete surprise.

The first week has seen a whirlwind of activity. On Monday evening, the NSA himself arrived to take charge of the situation. He quickly spelt out the expectations of the Government of India. Our first task was to ensure that the prohibitory orders were effectively enforced to ensure that there was no widespread unrest or violence. We were asked to mitigate the worst effects of the lockdown for those citizens in genuine need, such as for medical emergencies. It is too early to comment on how well these directions have been implemented on the ground, but, so far, so good.

As contact with the rest of the world was reestablished, one began to engage with the public response to this decision. The usual suspects on the Left have gone apoplectic for the usual reasons. Some self-styled nationalists have welcomed this decision with a most offensive and inappropriate display of bigotry and hate-filled language. They deserve the condemnation of all right-thinking Indians and where possible should be booked for inciting hatred and trying to inflame an already explosive situation. One group of critics shows a poor understanding of our national interest and the other is patently oblivious to our civilisational values that celebrate diversity and tolerance.

Broadly speaking, the criticism of the decision to alter 370 and scrap 35 A, takes four main approaches.

First, there is the Constitutional argument that there is serious legal infirmity in the manner in which this was done. Second, the democratic argument that the will of the people of J&K was not ascertained. Third, the appeal to the historical argument that even if these Articles can be legally modified, the Constitutional guarantees offered by Nehru at the time of accession of Kashmir to India must be honoured in perpetuity. The fourth is the moral argument that the harsh security crackdown in Kashmir is unjust and immoral. This kind of curtailment of civil liberties and communications is simply unacceptable in a modern democracy. Each of these arguments deserves serious analysis.



C R Sasikumar

The legal argument is already before the Supreme Court. I would like to see the legal logic that will persuade the SC that Article 370 is somehow part of the basic structure of the Constitution, and therefore, cannot be altered in any way. With regard to the specific wording of 370, it would be interesting to see if the Court rules that amongst all the articles of the Constitution, 370 alone has the privilege of choosing the mechanism of its own repeal. Article 368 is for commoners of the Constitution. Article 370 is some kind of royalty. Is the will of an extinct constituent assembly of J&K somehow expected to prevail in perpetuity over the will of Parliament? I am sure these issues will come up before the Court.

Coming to the democratic argument, the changes announced by the home minister have been passed by both houses of Parliament and have received the assent of the President of India. They were enacted by a government which has just won a sweeping majority in a general election where Kashmir was a central issue. Should the purported wishes of the Valley somehow override the wishes of the people of India? And the wishes of the people of Jammu and Ladakh? This is an extraordinary claim of democratic entitlement.

Coming to the historical argument — there is plenty of evidence to question that the conventional wisdom about these guarantees is misplaced. What was the original intent of Nehru behind offering these guarantees over the objections of Patel and Ambedkar? Did he genuinely want to leave an opening for Kashmir to secede from India? Or did he see these guarantees as a necessary stopgap measure to eventually secure Kashmir's complete assimilation with India? Were these guarantees a one-way ticket to flirt with azaadi? Or were they a bargain that also required Kashmir to offer something in return? It is hard to believe that Nehru intended Article 370 to be some kind of a blank cheque with no expiry date. And people conveniently forget that our

neighbour has been shuffling the legal status of PoK like a deck of cards.

The last argument, namely, the appeal to morality and civil liberties, comes in the context of a land that has seen 30 years of terrorism and ethnic cleansing. The concerns of public order and public safety are paramount. Abrogating these articles was a difficult decision, bound to have a violent reaction in the valley. Trying to pre-empt large-scale violence is not immoral, rather, it is the duty of a responsible government. The restrictions in place are quite sensitive to ground realities. As and when the situation improves, they will be eased. We simply cannot allow jihadis to have free run to incite mob violence. It is entirely understandable that our civil society has concerns about the present curbs on civil liberties. They are harsh but not unprecedented. It remains the primary concern of all of us enforcing these restrictions to ensure that they are lifted as early as possible with minimal violence and loss of life. Kashmiris too have an obligation to express their sentiments about these decisions without letting their protests be hijacked by violent unrest or terrorism. The fact that Friday prayers, Eid and Independence Day have passed off peacefully is extremely encouraging and I am sure that we will see a calibrated lifting of restrictions and minimisation of inconveniences faced by all Indians in the Kashmir valley.

It is, of course, an extremely challenging time to serve in Kashmir. I, for one, regard it as an extraordinary privilege and honour to be a part of this historical exercise.

While we cannot satisfy all the prophets of doom and gloom, we are sure that an overwhelming majority of the citizens of India appreciate the challenges ahead and we have their confidence and support. There was never a better moment to serve India in uniform.

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The author is a serving IPS officer posted in Kashmir. Views are personal.

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The tyranny of snobbery is bad enough when it comes to taste. Let's not add the tyranny of computers too". — THE GUARDIAN

The girl from Barabanki

Her truth-telling recalls Gandhi's scepticism about the state's ability to protect democracy



KRISHNA KUMAR

CONSTANT HUMIDITY MAKES the air feel heavy in August, but memories too have a lot to do with that feeling. Some of these memories refer to the distant past which, for many, extends back to the Gandhi decades. We who were born after freedom and Partition, learnt about them at school. As usual, the school was quick to give us the news, but took a while to explain it. By that time, our parents' memories of freedom and Partition had mutated into the nation's dreams and fantasies.

Whose dreams were they? Not everyone today seems excited about them. Many want to alter the content of those dreams. For instance, the dream of equality does not please a lot of people, including the young. Quite a few of them feel that they have been tricked by the idea of equality. When the reservation policy and minority rights are taught in a school, teachers warn the students that their personal feelings will spoil their marks.

Another dream that irks many is that of a secular India. It is argued sometimes that the term was not part of the original text of the Constitution. Legal debates have clarified that although the term "secular" was inserted during the Emergency, a secular outlook was embedded in the basic structure of the Constitution. However, the debate continues on what it means for India to be secular. Must every Indian be secular or only the state? Some teachers do point out that the idea of a secular state is reflected in all the rights guaranteed in Part III of the Constitution. It forms the edifice of a non-discriminating state.

How keen some of today's children are to practice these fundamental rights was reflected in a gathering of schoolgirls in Barabanki in Uttar Pradesh. A video showing one of them asking a few questions is a testimony to the effect of mass education. The occasion was a senior-level police officer's visit to raise awareness about the guarantee of protection available to women. He emphasised the value of their protest when they face threats. After his speech, a Grade XI girl asked him whether a girl's protest is treated differently when the person threatening her is politically powerful. She cited the Unnao case to show that her doubt is valid. The police officer was apparently speechless. All he could quote was the helpline number.

In the media, colleges and universities, the freedom and space to discuss things without fear of consequences has been shrinking. Why has it not shrunk in a Barabanki school?

There can be several answers to this question. One that I find plausible points to adolescent idealism. It is intact despite the learning crisis some literacy fundamentalists are projecting as a national concern. If you watch the one-minute long Barabanki video, you notice the girl's awareness of her audience, which includes the visiting officer

and her classmates. They applaud when she elaborates on her basic query and uses proper nouns instead of vague indicators. During each applause, you can notice a faint momentary smile on her face. It disappears when she elaborates on her question in stern Hindi. You are left in no doubt that she is voicing a collective distrust in the police and political power. Equally clearly, you realise that she knows why she is right.

She can be compared to Olga Misik, the 17-year old Russian girl who read aloud the constitution of her country to the riot police in the middle of a demonstration in Moscow last month. Like her, the Barabanki girl — who cannot be named in the prevailing ethos — conveys the spontaneous confidence that only the very young can feel in a complex political situation. Unawareness of the difficulties awaiting them is their strength.

This quality of mind is hardly adequate to sustain the will to assert one's rights. Nor can it suffice for a whole nation to maintain its progress towards democracy. Its value lies in the solace it offers to adults in a moment of pervasive anxiety. It lightens the load of humid, polluted air pervading our public ethos, promising that Constitutional values do have a future. Apart from the Supreme Court, schools have succeeded in promoting these values despite the many weaknesses of the education system.

The ideals listed in the Preamble and the rights listed in Part III of the Constitution portray an individual in whose character and outlook India was destined to be reborn as a free country. The Barabanki girl fits the portrait. The question she posed to a police officer is essentially Gandhian. It asks him to either acknowledge or to deny the truth. That he does not challenge her is more important than his inability to come up with an answer. His official role puts him in a dilemma. It reminds us of Gandhi's anticipatory disillusionment with the process of Constitution-making. Having played a massive role in pushing India to freedom, Gandhi had little hope that the state by itself will suffice to protect democracy and civilisation.

Gandhi was deeply sceptical about the state, especially about the power vested in its colonial apparatus. Yet, he and the Constitution have so far served as two key objects of appreciative national consensus. Both are now being subjected to fresh debates. Not everyone appreciated Gandhi's focus on the village and self-reliance, but no one had so far won an election after praising his murderer. As for the Constitution, it enjoyed a status above religious faith.

As an annual memoir, August reminds us to ask why Gandhi entertained doubts about so many things that we take for granted. He had doubts about the pursuit of material progress for its sake, about the role it might play in choking provinciality and its regenerative vitality. If we look at contemporary life through Gandhi's window, we can figure out why a schoolgirl who speaks the blunt truth in a small provincial town must now feel scared. That is the news we are receiving. Let us hope that the voice we have heard will survive the passage of adolescence and its idealism.

Kumar is a former director of NCERT and a writer

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

INVEST IN FARMS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Let's draw lines in water' (IE, August 15). Debates on agricultural crisis have been going on for years. Direct Benefit Transfers instead of subsidy on fertilisers and food grains, diverting the water guzzling crops from dry areas, focusing on food processing sector and investment in agri R&D will double farmers income and eradicate agri-distress. Moreover, it would create a "new middle class" which could be the harbinger for a large market for goods and services. This could rectify the demand side slowdown of the economy.

Anish Manchanda, via e-mail

CLASSROOM MATTERS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Over to the teacher' (IE, August 15). Mathematics is a cause for panic for several students. English, a foreign language, could be imposing to a first-generation learner. These subjects require special teaching arrangements. So Odisha's move to extend the teaching hours for these subjects is not unscientific.

Tapomoy Ghosh, Burdwan

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Over to the teacher' (IE, August 15). Odisha's move to increase teaching time of Mathematics, English and Science is imprudent. The state government should create a conducive environment for education in terms of better infrastructure and a improved student-teacher ratio. Teachers should be competent to gauge the strengths and weaknesses of their wards and promote critical thinking.

Deepak Singhal, Noida

LETTER OF THE WEEK AWARD

To encourage quality reader intervention, The Indian Express offers the Letter of the Week award. The letter adjudged the best for the week is published every Saturday. Letters may be e-mailed to editpage@expressindia.com or sent to The Indian Express, B-1/B, Sector 10, Noida-UP 201301.

Letter writers should mention their postal address and phone number.

THE WINNER RECEIVES SELECT EXPRESS PUBLICATIONS

DYNASTY CONTINUES

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Ringing in the old' (IE August 13). The selection of Sonia Gandhi as an interim chief of the Congress Party has come at a time when after the Lok Sabha elections, the party has been relegated to the margins of the country's political firmament. It's not that the party lacks talent, but it seems that Congress leaders hesitate to take initiatives for fear of incurring the wrath of the Gandhi family. Sonia Gandhi's task would be to introspect on the party's fortunes and take measures to plug the faultlines.

Ravi Mathur, Ghaziabad

Compiled by Seema Chishty

THE Urdu PRESS

KASHMIR, ARTICLE 370

Munsif, on August 6, has an editorial titled, 'Kashmiriyat, Insaniyat aur Jamhooriyat ka qatl' (the annihilation of Kashmiriyat, Insaniyat and Jamhooriyat). Another editorial in the paper, on August 7, raises several questions. "Why just Kashmir?... 10 states benefit from special provisions," it points out. The editorial notes that in parts of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Nagaland, Assam, Manipur, Sikkim and Mizoram "residents get reservations in jobs and special land purchase options." It cites the case of Sikkim, "where elections are held once every four years." The editorial asks: "Why is it that the special measures are questioned only in the case of Kashmir. Is that because Kashmir is a Muslim majority state?... LK Advani said the cancellation of Kashmir's special status marked the fulfillment of the Jana Sangh's old promise. So should we consider this a decision as one for the benefit of the Kashmiri people?"

AIMIM's daily, Etemaad, on August 6 views the revocation of Kashmir's special status as the fulfillment of the BJP's "electoral agenda". It traces the plan's origins to the time when

the BJP ended its alliance with Mehbooba Mufti's People's Democratic Party (PDP). The editorial notes that in spite of Article 370 and 35A, the people of Jammu and Kashmir were "mired in poverty, illiteracy and educational backwardness." It talks of a complex global situation, and points out that the US president's statement about PM Modi asking him to mediate in Kashmir had created a complicated situation for the latter. It speaks of "India's friend, Afghanistan" witnessing a change with the withdrawal of the US on the cards. The editorial points out that that India must manage its home and external situation carefully, after seriously taking stock of developments in the rest of the world.

Siasat's editorial on August 6 notes that "now that Jammu and Kashmir's special status has been revoked, the government must brace up to answer queries of common people". The editorial goes into the question of land being available for people outside the state to buy. Land prices may ease, but locals could be rendered as "employees (mulaazim)" on their own land, the editorial notes. It also argues that "businessmen and people from outside J&K will benefit."

However, people may take "to the courts" to try and stop the new laws from taking effect, the editorial contends.

Inqilab and Roznama Rashtriya Sahara, in a marked shift of tone, welcome the move. Sahara, so far circumspect, expresses happiness, in its editorial on August 14, about the Supreme Court refusing to interfere in the matter. It urges the people of J&K to not get embroiled in khaamakhaa (frivolous) matters and "not give an opportunity to militants to take advantage of the situation." Inqilab, on August 10, speaks of the PM's address on the matter as a "marham" (balm). It says that "the Kashmiri leaders raising hell on the revocation of Article 370 must answer, how have these articles helped the people? Articles 370 and 35A "pushed the state into a morass and kept it separate from the rest of India." The editorial builds a case for "successful central schemes to be pushed into J&K for improvements in education and progress in economic and social life." Akhbaar-e-Mashriq, on August 10, also uses the phrase "soothing balm" for PM Modi's address. It also says that "it was significant for the PM to say that if terror ends, the present status of J&K will be restored."

AYODHYA

Roznama Rashtriya Sahara, on August 3, welcomes the decision of the Supreme Court to conduct daily hearings on the Ayodhya title suit matter and is hopeful that the Court will come to a haatami faisla (final judgement). The paper's editorial says this should have happened much earlier.

Etemaad on August 3, has an editorial on the failed mediation on the Ayodhya issue. It writes, "It is believed that all the participants did not think that a compact was possible in the prevailing political atmosphere." It makes a significant observation: "The Modi government has managed to convince the majority that irrespective of the Court order, a law in Parliament will facilitate matters... Any party that refuses to go with this will be labeled 'anti-Hindu' and the doors of its political future will be shut" It contends that "the way the BJP has been able to push several pieces of legislations in the current session of Parliament raises questions about the sincerity of the secular parties."

12 THE WORLD

CLIMATE CHANGE

JULY 2019 HOTTEST MONTH ON RECORD

July 2019 temperatures were the hottest ever recorded globally, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) said Thursday. According to the NOAA, the average global temperature in July was 0.95 degrees Celsius above the 20th century average of 15.8 degrees Celsius, making it the hottest July in its records, which go back to 1880.

TOP OF THE WORLD



Steve King

USA
GOP lawmaker: Would humanity exist without rape, incest?

REPUBLICAN US Representative Steve King wondered aloud whether the human race would still exist without rape and incest, setting off calls by Republicans and Democrats alike for him to step down, months after he was condemned for remarks regarded as racist. King made his remarks as he explained his anti-abortion position at an event in his home state of Iowa, the *Des Moines Register* reported. "What if we went back through all the family trees and just pulled out anyone who was a product of rape or incest? Would there be any population of the world left if we did that?" King said.

CHINA
Beijing detains critic of online censorship

Beijing: China has detained a former journalist who gained prominence after urging the US to help "tear down" Beijing's online censorship regime during a 2014 meeting with John Kerry. Police detained Zhang Jialong Tuesday for "picking quarrels and provoking troubles," according to an official detention notice. The vague accusation is often used to detain human rights activists and dissidents in China's opaque justice system. "Police came to our house at about 9.40 pm on Monday and said they had to take him to the station for questioning," Zhang's wife, who only offered her last name Shao, said.

MALAYSIA
Police say no foul play in Irish teen's death

Seremban: Malaysian police on Thursday ruled out abduction as a motive in the disappearance of an Irish girl found dead near a jungle stream after a 10-day search, saying they had found no signs pointing to foul play. The naked body of Nora Anne Quoirin, 15, who suffered from learning difficulties, was found Tuesday after she went missing from a rainforest resort in Seremban, 70 km from the Malaysian capital. Police found no evidence pointing to foul play, they said.

AMID ANTI-BEIJING PROTESTS

In 'clear warning', Chinese forces conduct drills near Hong Kong

BRENDA GOH & GREG TORODE
SHENZHEN, AUGUST 15

HUNDREDS OF members of China's People's Armed Police could be seen conducting exercises on Thursday at a sports stadium in Shenzhen, as the US State Department expressed concern that they could be deployed across the border in Hong Kong to break up protests wracking the city.

But Western and Asian diplomats in Hong Kong said Beijing has little appetite for rolling the PAP or the People's Liberation Army onto Hong Kong's streets.

On Thursday men in fatigues could be seen in a stadium and shouts and whistles could be heard by a *Reuters* journalist.

Parking spaces at the stadium were filled with more than 100 dark-painted paramilitary vehicles, including troop trucks, armoured personnel carriers, buses and jeeps. At least three were armoured wheel-loaders, and two vehicles carried water cannons.

Ten weeks of increasingly violent confrontations between police and protesters have plunged Hong Kong into its worst crisis since it reverted from British to Chinese rule in 1997. The protests represent one of the biggest challenges for President Xi Jinping since he came to power in 2012.



Military vehicles on the grounds of the Shenzhen Bay Sports Centre on Thursday. *Reuters*

Chinese state media have made several mentions of exercises in Shenzhen.

The state-run *Global Times* published a slick video early this week showing columns of trucks and armoured personnel carriers rolling through the city.

The paper said the vehicles belonged to the People's Armed Police and had gathered for "apparent large-scale exercises". Its editor, Hu Xijin, described it on Twitter as "a clear warning to rioters in Hong Kong." **REUTERS**

HONG KONG GOVT OFFERS SWEETENERS AS ECONOMY STALLS AMID PROTESTS

Hong Kong: Hong Kong's government unveiled HK\$19.1 billion (\$2.44 billion) worth of economic relief measures and downgraded its growth forecasts on Thursday as the international hub reels from simmering pro-democracy protests and the US-China trade war.

Financial chief Paul Chan announced a raft of sweeteners in a surprise "mini-budget", but denied the move was linked to the roiling unrest. The measures included financial breaks for small businesses, more generous student subsidies and goodies for low-income households. **PTI**

Trump urges China's Xi to meet protesters

DAVID BRUNNSTROM & MAKINI BRICE
WASHINGTON, AUGUST 15

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump on Thursday urged Chinese President Xi Jinping to meet personally with the protesters in Hong Kong, saying it would lead to an end to tensions that have seized the territory for weeks.

"If President Xi would meet directly and personally with the protesters, there would be a happy and enlightened ending to the Hong Kong problem. I have no doubt!" Trump tweeted.

Trump's tweet came a day after he tied a US trade deal with China to a humane resolution of the protests wracking Hong Kong. He made that comment hours after the State Department said it was "deeply concerned" about reports of movement of paramilitary forces on the Hong Kong border.

Trump, who has been seeking a major deal to correct trade imbalances with China ahead of his 2020 re-election bid, has faced criticism from Congress and elsewhere for not taking a stronger line on Hong Kong. **REUTERS**

Captain hailed as hero after bird strike disables Russian passenger jet

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MOSCOW, AUGUST 15

THE CAPTAIN of a Russian passenger jet was hailed as a hero Thursday for landing his plane in a cornfield after it collided with a flock of gulls seconds after takeoff, causing both engines to malfunction.

While dozens of people sought medical assistance, only one was hospitalised.

The event drew comparisons to the 2009 "Miracle on the Hudson," when a captain ditched his plane in New York's Hudson River after a bird strike disabled his engines.

The Ural Airlines A321 carrying 226 passengers and a crew of seven hit the birds as it was taking off Thursday from Moscow's Zhukovsky airport en route for Simferopol, in Crimea.

Russia's Rosaviatsiya state aviation agency chief Alexander Neradko told reporters that the



The plane landed in a cornfield. *AP*

crew "made the only right decision" to land immediately after both of the plane's engines malfunctioned, landing in a field about five kilometres from the runway.

The airline said the pilot shut down the engines to avoid fire as the plane landed with its fuel tanks fully loaded.

Ural Airlines lauded the crew for making the emergency landing and arranging a quick evacuation. The company said the captain, 41-year old Damir Yusupov, is a highly experienced pilot who has flown over 3,000 hours.

Urged by Trump, Israel bars visit by 2 US congresswomen

RAMI AYYUB & JEFFREY HELLER
JERUSALEM, WASHINGTON, AUGUST 15

ISRAEL WILL bar a visit by two of its sharpest critics in the US Congress, Democrats Rashida Tlaib and Ilhan Omar, who planned to tour the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem, the country's deputy foreign minister said on Thursday.

"The decision has been made, the decision is not to allow them to enter," Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Tzipi Hotovely told Israel's Reshet Bet Radio.

US President Donald Trump had earlier urged Israel not to allow the visit by Tlaib and Omar.

Trump has vented in recent months against Omar, Tlaib and two other lawmakers of colour, accusing them of hostility to Israel in what has widely been seen as a drumming up of Republican votes for his 2020 reelection bid.

"It would show great weak-



Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib. *AP*

■ Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib are the first two Muslim women to be elected to the US Congress.

lawmakers who have been outspoken critics of the Trump administration.

■ Along with Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Ayanna Pressley, they make up a group informally called The Squad — a quartet of progressive, first-time

■ Tlaib, who is of Palestinian descent, and Omar have also been vocal critics of Israel and are backers of the boycott movement which seeks to isolate Israel over its actions in Palestine.

ness if Israel allowed Rep. Omar and Rep. Tlaib to visit," he tweeted on Thursday. "They are

a disgrace!" No date had been formally announced for the congresswomen's trip. **REUTERS**

NARUHITO'S FIRST SPEECH AT ANNUAL CEREMONY TO MARK JAPAN'S SURRENDER

Japan's new emperor expresses deep remorse over WWII

REUTERS
TOKYO, AUGUST 15

JAPAN'S NEW emperor, Naruhito, expressed deep remorse over the country's wartime past and prayed for global peace on Thursday, echoing his father's words in remarks at an annual ceremony marking Tokyo's sur-



Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako at the ceremony on Thursday. *Reuters*

render in World War Two.

Naruhito, 59, became Japan's first monarch born after the war when he inherited the throne in May. His father, Akihito, stepped down in the first abdication by a Japanese emperor in 2 centuries.

"Looking back on the long period of post-war peace, reflecting on our past and bearing in mind the feelings of deep remorse, I

earnestly hope that the ravages of war will never be repeated," he said. "Together with all of our people, I pay my heartfelt tribute to all those who lost their lives in the war..." Naruhito said, echoing his father's message a year ago.

Naruhito is a grandson of Emperor Hirohito, in whose name Japanese troops fought World War Two.



Grace 1 anchored off the coast of Gibraltar on Thursday. *Reuters*

Seized Iran tanker, its Indian crew released by Gibraltar

Ship released on court order despite a last-minute US bid to claim vessel

ADITI KHANNA
LONDON, AUGUST 15

AN IRANIAN oil supertanker, its Indian captain and three other Indian crew members have all been released on Thursday by authorities in Gibraltar, despite a last-minute claim on the vessel by the US Department of Justice.

"I am grateful and thankful for my release. And I am grateful to all who have facilitated my release in my legal team," the Captain of the *Grace 1* tanker said in a statement.

A spokesman for Gibraltar's government also confirmed that police proceedings against four members of the crew had ended.

The arrested Indian crew members were aboard the Panama-flagged supertanker that was detained off Europa Point in Gibraltar, a British Overseas Territory on the Spanish coast, last month. The Gibraltar authorities had said the vessel is loaded to capacity with crude oil en route to Syria, in breach of European Union sanctions. But after a hearing in Gibraltar on Thursday, the local Supreme Court of the region ruled that the tanker should be released after formal written assurances from Iran that the ship would not discharge its cargo in Syria.

"On 13 August, I received written assurance from the Republic of Iran that, if released, the destination of *Grace 1* would not be an entity that is subject to European Union sanctions. I welcome that assurance. This is an important material change in the destination of the vessel and the beneficiary of its cargo," said Fabian Picardo, Chief Minister of Gibraltar, a semi-autonomous British Overseas Territory.

EXPLAINED
E. Boosting hopes of de-escalation

THE *GRACE 1*, an Iranian tanker, was seized by Gibraltar on July 4. Days later, Iran seized a British tanker in a tit-for-tat move. This happened during heightened tensions between Iran and the US, triggered by the US's exit from the 2015 nuclear deal and Iran's counter-measures, including raising uranium enrichment. While Britain and Europe have been trying to de-escalate tensions, the tanker seizures opened a new front for Iran-West tensions. But now, with the release of the Iranian tanker, it is expected that Tehran will release the British tanker, and de-escalate tensions regarding tankers' movement in the Strait of Hormuz.

He added: "Separately, the US Department of Justice has requested that a new legal procedure for the detention of the vessel should be commenced. That is a matter for our independent Mutual Legal Assistance authorities who will make an objective, legal determination of that request for separate proceedings." **PTI**

Cops rescued after six officers wounded in Philadelphia shootout

ANDREW HAY
AUGUST 15

A SWAT team rescued two police officers and three civilians trapped inside a Philadelphia house with an active gunman after a shootout in which six officers were wounded, police said on Wednesday.

The suspected gunman, who was barricaded inside the house, was finally taken into custody after a seven-hour standoff. He was reportedly armed with a semi-automatic rifle similar to the popular AK-47 style and several handguns.

Police moved in about five hours into the standoff that began after the gunman opened

fire on officers as they served a drug warrant inside the north Philadelphia home.

SWAT officers used stealth to rescue the officers and three suspects inside the house without the gunman knowing they had entered the home, said Philadelphia Police Department Commissioner Richard Ross. He said it was "astounding" there had not been a greater tragedy. All six wounded officers were released from hospital on Wednesday night, one officer surviving after a bullet grazed his head and another after a bullet hit body armour on his back. "Many of them had to escape through windows and doors to escape from a barrage of bullets," Ross said. **REUTERS**

CORDELIA SCAIFE MAY WENT FROM AN ENVIRONMENTAL-MINDED SOCIALITE TO AN ARDENT NATIVIST

An heiress spent a fortune to help create modern anti-immigration movement

NICHOLAS KULISH & MIKE MCINTIRE
AUGUST 15

SHE WAS an heiress without a cause — an indifferent student, an unhappy young bride, a miscalculation. Her most enduring passion was for birds.

But Cordelia Scaife May eventually found her life's purpose: curbing what she perceived as the lethal threat of overpopulation by trying to shut America's doors to immigrants.

She believed that the United States was "being invaded on all fronts" by foreigners, who

"breed like hamsters" and exhaust natural resources. She thought that the border with Mexico should be sealed and that abortions on demand would contain the swelling masses in developing countries.

An heiress to the Mellon banking and industrial fortune with a half-billion dollars at her disposal, May helped create what would become the modern anti-immigration movement. She bankrolled the founding and operation of the nation's three largest restrictionist groups — the Federation for American Immigration Reform, NumbersUSA and the Center for



A 1980s advertisement, by a group bankrolled by Cordelia Scaife May (right) calling for a sharp drop in migration. *NYT*

Immigration Studies — as well as dozens of smaller ones, including some that have promulgated

white nationalist views. Today, 14 years after May's death, her money remains the



lifeblood of the movement, through her Colcom Foundation. It has poured \$180 million into a

network of groups that spent decades agitating for policies now pursued by US President Donald Trump: militarising the border, capping legal immigration, prioritising skills over family ties for entry and reducing access to public benefits for migrants, as in the new rule issued just this week by the administration.

"She would have fit in very fine in the current White House," said George Zeidenstein, whose mainstream population-control group May supported before she shifted to anti-immigration advocacy. "She would have found a sympathetic ear with the present occupant."

May's unpublished writings reveal her evolution from an environmental-minded Theodore Roosevelt Republican to an ardent nativist.

Chatty, handwritten notes to John D Rockefeller III, philanthropist Helen Clay Frick and the head of the National Audubon Society about luncheons and overseas trips gradually gave way over the years to darker exchanges with fringe figures who believed that black people were less intelligent than white people, Latino immigrants were criminals and white Americans were being displaced.

But May disputed the notion that she was racist, writing to a

grant recipient in November 1994. "Can we not put imaginary paper bags over the immigrants' heads, see them as colourless consumers, and count only their deleterious numbers?"

Restrictionist groups she financed have blocked attempts at amnesties and immigration reform bills in Congress over the years. They fought for Proposition 187 in California to deny education, routine health care and other public services to immigrants in the country without permission; they also argued against in-state tuition for the children of undocumented workers in Utah. **NYT**

13 ECONOMY

GOLD	RUPEE	OIL	SILVER
₹37,945	₹71.27	\$58.61*	₹44,310

*Indian basket as on August 13, 2019

SENSEX: 37,311.53 ▲ 353.37 NIFTY: 11,029.40 ▲ 103.55 NIKKEI: 20,405.65 ▼ 249.48 HANG SENG: 25,495.46 ▲ 193.18 FTSE: 7,092.60 ▼ 55.28 DAX: 11,455.07 ▼ 37.59

Indian stock, bullion and rupee markets were closed on Thursday on account of Independence Day. International market data till 1900 IST

SECTOR SCAN REINSURANCE

GIC Re increases single property cover to ₹3,500 cr

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, AUGUST 15

INA bid to provide larger support to the \$5 trillion-bound Indian economy, state-owned reinsurer GIC Re has raised its capacity for a single property cover to ₹3,500 crore from ₹2,500 crore in the Indian market. Effectively, it means the GIC Re can now itself through its reinsurance mechanism provide cover up to ₹3,500 crore to any single asset in the Indian market.

"With our growing financial strength, we have decided to raise our capacity for the Indian market to ₹3,500 crore in 2019-20. Going forward, this will help us providing reinsurance cover to large Indian companies," said a GIC Re official. The reinsurer has used its new capacity to provide renewal cover to India's largest private sector corporate account — Reliance Industries' refinery and petrochemical plants at Jamnagar and Hazira in Gujarat, during 2018-19. A cluster of international reinsurers led by the Munich Re, the world's largest reinsurer, and GIC Re recently renewed the RIL cover.

From the primary insurers' point of view, New India Assurance — the largest general insurance company — has been the main insurer for the enhanced mega risk policy of RIL. RIL's refinery has the highest asset value at a single location in the world, and is also one of the largest refining complexes, with an aggregate capacity of 1.24 million barrels of oil per day.

Other public sector general insurance companies, such as Oriental Insurance and United India Insurance, also shared the cover with National Insurance Company.

RIL also changed its insurance brokers KM Dastur, which has been the insurance intermediary for the most sought after account in the country and has been replaced by Marsh India, a joint venture

RENEWAL COVER TO RIL REFINERY

■ GIC Re has used its new capacity to provide renewal cover to India's largest private sector corporate account — Reliance Industries' refinery and petrochemical plants at Jamnagar and Hazira in Gujarat, during 2018-19

■ A cluster of international reinsurers led by the Munich Re, world's largest reinsurer, and GIC Re recently renewed the RIL cover

between the largest global insurance broker Marsh and a clutch of Indian investors including Sanjay Kedia, who is the CEO of Marsh India.

GIC Re, the 10th largest global insurer, is emerging as a global leader by providing significant support to other large players in the oil and petroleum sector, such as ONGC, Bharat Petroleum, Mangalore Refinery, Indian Oil and Cairn Energy. This practice also applies to infrastructure, airlines, oil and energy risk, exposures and agriculture insurance, or any exposure that goes beyond the balance sheet strength of an insurer.

GIC Re accounted for around 44 per cent of the premiums passed on by Indian insurers to reinsurers during FY19. Its gross premium increased to ₹44,238 crore, a rise of 6 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y). India's largest reinsurer reported a profit of ₹2,224 crore in FY19, a decline of 31 per cent y-o-y. Increase in tax provision on account of change in law impacted the bottom line. Excluding tax, performance was much better with profit before tax down by 6 per cent in FY19.

INDEPENDENCE DAY ADDRESS TO THE NATION

Wealth creators are India's wealth, don't see them with suspicion: PM

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 15

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Thursday asserted that wealth creators should not be eyed with suspicion and that wealth creation was essential for money to be distributed in the economy.

"Wealth creation is a great national service. Let us never see wealth creators with suspicion. Only when wealth is created, wealth will be distributed. Wealth creation is absolutely essential. Those who create wealth are India's wealth and we respect them," Modi said in his address to the nation on the 73rd Independence Day. Modi's remarks come in the wake of the government's decision to levy a surcharge on HNIs in the budget, which has been seen by industry and the investing community as a dampener to sentiment.

The PM, in his speech, also committed to a five-year vision of investment-led growth, saying a massive ₹100 lakh crore will be spent on developing infrastructure that will help in achieving the target of \$5 trillion economy. He said the fundamentals of the economy are strong and a stable government coupled with predictable



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the nation on the occasion of 73rd Independence Day. Tashi Tobgyal

policies can become a catalyst including in attracting other nations to invest in India. "We are targeting a \$5 trillion economy. Many think it is difficult. But if we don't do difficult things how will we progress?" he asked. "It took 70 years to reach \$2 trillion economy size, and in the last one year alone we added \$1 trillion. And this gives us confidence that in the next 5 years, we can take it towards \$5 trillion," the Prime Minister said.

This goal can be achieved through investing more, particularly, in infrastructure, Modi

added. "We have decided to invest ₹100 lakh crore in developing world-class infrastructure in the country. This investment will be in building roads, railways, airports, ports, hospitals and educational institutions," he said.

He said the world is eager to trade with India. "Over the years we watched people making India a market (for their products). We too should reach the markets of the world. Why can't every district be an export hub?... If we aim for the global markets and make local products attractive, it will give

employment to our youth." He saw tourism as a potential for not just propelling the local economy but also for creating jobs. As many as 100 new tourist destinations should be developed while the North East becoming a major tourist hub, he said adding citizens should visit at least 15 tourist destinations within the country by 2022, which will help in expansion of economic activities.

The GST, which subsumed nearly one-and-a-half dozen central and state taxes, brought to life the dream of 'One Nation, One Tax' and the country has also achieved 'One Nation, One Grid' in the energy sector while attempt is being made for 'One Nation, One Mobility Card' for seamless travel across the country, he said.

The government, he said, has scrapped obsolete laws to make it easier to do business in the country and is now targeting a position in top 50 nations on the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business ranking. He, however, wanted businesses to shun cash and go accept only digital payments in an attempt to bring transparency and root out black money. Shops, he said, should put up signs of 'Digital Payment ko haan, nakad ko na' (Yes to digital payment, no to cash).

'Red' IL&FS entities account for more than two-thirds of group's overall debt

SUNNY VERMA & SANDEEP SINGH
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 15

OUT OF total debt of more than ₹89,000 crore held by Indian entities of the IL&FS Group, as much as ₹61,375.6 crore was held by 82 entities which were not able to meet payments to even senior secured financial creditors. These companies have been classified as 'red' entities by the IL&FS resolution consultant. Red entities are those which cannot meet their respective payment obligations towards even senior secured financial creditors as and when they fall due in the testing period.

Of the total 302 IL&FS entities, 169 are Indian entities carrying total external fund based debt of about ₹89,246 crore, as per the fifth progress report on the group's resolution process and the way forward, submitted to the Mumbai-bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on Wednesday.

Among the 169 Indian entities, the resolution consultant has classified 158 entities into 'red', 'amber' and 'green' categories — based on a 12-month cash flow based solvency test. Classification for remaining 11 entities is underway.

Green entities are those which are able to meet their financial and operational payment obligations through their operations and existing cash flows. These entities do not rely upon other IL&FS Group entities for any financial support to service its debt obligations.

Amber entities, meanwhile, are those which were unable to meet all their respective obligations — financial and operational — during the testing period but can only meet operational payment obligations to senior secured financial creditors.

The progress report shows that entities classified as red and amber comprise over 87 per cent of the total outstanding debt of over ₹89,000 crore. Apart from red entities, 13 amber entities carry debt of ₹16,372.6 crore. A total of 55 entities have been classified as green, which carry debt of ₹11,022.9 crore.

This reveals the scale of the challenge at the hand of new board of Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS) which is trying to deal with the collapse of IL&FS engulfed the entire NBFC sector, leading to a broader slowdown in the economy and forcing the government to supersede its board.

Separately, as per a March 22, 2019 Reserve Bank of India inspection report on IL&FS included in the progress report, the group did not declare bad loans in the four fiscal till March 31, 2018.

The RBI inspection report also found that non-performing assets (NPAs) on IL&FS' books were as high as 70 per cent of its total loans and advances by March

EXPLAINED Question marks over lending practices of financiers

WHILE THE quality of loan book of a finance company is key to its liquidity, it has now come to light that over two thirds of IL&FS debt has been in its group companies that are not in a position to repay their obligations, thereby rendering the lenders at liquidity risk.

This not only reflects on financial health of IL&FS group companies but also raises question marks over the lending practices of its financiers.

31, 2018. It further noted said that "wide divergences observed" between the reported and the assessed position of asset classifications and provisions at IL&FS.

"The erstwhile Board failed to exercise oversight over the functions of the entity. They did not monitor the affairs of the downstream entities in which investments were made," RBI said in its report, adding that that serious deficiencies in credit appraisal, and loans were given to unrated or poorly rated borrowers.

As per the progress report, IL&FS has started process of sale of assets, group companies, real estate, cars and other cost cutting measures to put its house in order. For instance, in the case of IL&FS Engineering & Construction Company Ltd, the manpower on rolls of the firm has reduced by 57 per cent from October 1, 2018 till June 30, 2019, leading to 58 per cent reduction in the wage bill. Cost of contract staff was also fell by 90 per cent in the same period.

Across the group, head count decreased by 43 per cent from October 1, 2018 till June 30, 2019, leading to savings of nearly 47 per cent in annualised wage bill, the progress report said, without specifying the number of employees that were laid off.

However, the process for sale in the case of IL&FS Securities Services Ltd (ISSL) was put on hold due to regulatory scrutiny. The group had invited expressions of interest for a potential acquisition of the company on November 13, 2018. "However, the sale process of ISSL was kept on hold inter alia in view of the investigation of Sebi and EoW (Economic Offences Wing) in relation to certain mutual fund units provided as collateral for trades (in Option Contracts) conducted by Allied Financial Services Pvt. Ltd (a client of ISSL)," the report said.

'Incomplete: ₹1.56 lakh cr worth flats launched in 2011 and before'

Nearly 2.2 lakh housing units, worth ₹1.56 lakh crore, launched in 2011 and before across seven major cities are yet to be completed by real estate developers, property consultant JLL India said

DELHI-NCR REALTORS BIGGEST DEFAULTERS:
Real estate companies of Delhi-NCR are biggest defaulters as their contribution in delayed housing units accounts for: 71% in volume terms 56% in value terms

ANAROCK'S APRIL REPORT:
In April this year, property consultant Anarock came out with a report on housing units launched in 2013 and before in these seven cities, which were running behind delivery timelines: 5.6 LAKH housing units ₹4.5 LAKH CR in value



City	No. of delayed units	Value
Delhi-NCR	1,54,075 units	Rs 86,824 crore
Mumbai	43,449 units	Rs 56,435 crore
Chennai	8,131 units	Rs 4,474 crore
Bengaluru	5,468 units	Rs 2,768 crore
Pune	4,765 units	Rs 3,718 crore
Hyderabad	2,095 units	Rs 1,297 crore
Kolkata	384 units	Rs 288 crore

HOUSING DELAYS IN VARIOUS CITIES:
Status of delays in real estate projects in the 7 cities

2,18,367
housing units delayed and at various stages of completion

30,000
units confirmed to be scrapped among the nearly two lakh units

₹1,55,804 CR
value of delayed units

CAUSE OF SLOWDOWN
Significant delay in giving possession of apartments to homebuyers is a reason for demand slowdown

United States 30-year Treasury yields drop below 2%

GERTRUDE CHAVEZ-DREYFUSS
NEW YORK, AUGUST 15

US 30-YEAR Treasury yields fell to a record low below 2 per cent and benchmark 10-year notes dropped to a three-year trough on Thursday amid persistent worries about global trade tensions and economic slowdowns around the world.

A day after inverting, the US yield curve steepened a little. Curve inversion, which occurs

when long-term yields dip below short-term ones, is widely considered a warning that the economy is headed for recession.

"I don't think we have seen a bottom in yields yet. We'll likely have a reaction from the Federal Reserve at the next meeting," said Gary Pzgego, head of fixed income at CIBC Private Wealth Management, in Boston. "That could be something that fuels further moves lower in parts of the yield curve depending on how aggressive a stance they take."

Data showing US retail sales

increasing by more than expected last month pushed yields a little higher than their lows. The retail numbers suggested fairly robust consumer spending that should help ease worries about a potential US Recession.

US retail sales rose 0.7 per cent in July. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast retail sales would rise 0.3 per cent. Excluding automobiles, gasoline, building materials and food services, retail sales jumped 1.0 per cent last month after advancing by an unrevised 0.7 per cent in June.

Other economic reports were not so upbeat, with initial jobless claims worse than expected and the Philadelphia Federal Reserve business conditions data having mixed details. But the market's focus has been on retail sales.

In morning trading, yields on the US benchmark 10-year Treasury note were last down at 1.558 per cent, from 1.581 per cent late on Wednesday. Yields on 30-year bonds, which fell earlier from record lows at 1.941 per cent, were last at 2.0 per cent from 2.027 per cent on Wednesday. **REUTERS**

UK 30-year bond yields fall below 1% for first time on record

London: British 30-year government bond yields fell below 1 per cent for the first time on record on Thursday, after investors flocked into safe fixed-income assets on growing fears of a global recession.

Lower bond yields reduce cost of new government borrowing, but also act as a signal that financial markets expect

slower growth and cuts in Bank of England interest rates.

Yields on 30-year gilts hit a low of 0.988 per cent at 11:39 GMT, down 8 basis points on the day, and remained around 1 per cent at 14:00 GMT. Ten-year and 20-year gilt yields also hit record lows of 0.414 per cent and 0.85 per cent respectively. **REUTERS**

BRIEFLY RCEP nations' officials meet next week

New Delhi: Senior officials of 16 countries that are negotiating the mega free trade agreement Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) will meet next week in Indonesia to iron out differences in areas such as goods and services, an official said Thursday. **PTI**

Vistara FY19 net losses nearly double

New Delhi: Net losses at Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines joint venture Vistara nearly doubled to ₹831 crore in 2018-19 due to costlier fuel and weaker rupee. **FE**

China to counter latest US tariffs as Trump vows deal on America's terms

REUTERS
BEIJING/WASHINGTON, AUGUST 15

CHINA ON Thursday vowed to counter the latest US tariffs on \$300 billion of Chinese goods but called on the United States to meet it halfway on a potential trade deal, as U.S. President Donald Trump said any pact would have to be on America's terms.

The Chinese finance ministry said in a statement that Washington's tariffs, set to start next month, violated a consensus reached between Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping at a June summit in Japan to resolve their disputes via negotiation.

In a separate statement, China's foreign ministry spokeswoman, Hua Chunying, said, "We hope the U.S. will meet China halfway, and implement the consensus of the two heads of the two countries in Osaka." China hopes to find mutually

Manufacturing output in July falls 0.4% in US

Washington: U.S. manufacturing production dropped in July, ending a run of two months of growth. The Federal Reserve Thursday said manufacturing output shrank 0.4 per cent in July.

Overall industrial output was down 0.2 per cent in July, after analysts had anticipated a 0.1 per cent gain. The data may add to concerns about the U.S. factory sector strength amid worries about a slowing global economy. The July decline was the largest since April. **REUTERS**

acceptable solutions through dialogue and consultation on the basis of equality and mutual respect, she added.

Oil slides more than 1% over recession fears; stocks under pressure

REUTERS
NEW YORK, AUGUST 15

OIL PRICES fell over 1 per cent Thursday, extending the last session's 3 per cent drop, pressured by mounting recession concerns and a surprise boost in U.S. crude inventories. In a sign of investor concern that the world's biggest economy may be heading for recession, weighing on oil demand, U.S. Treasury bond yield curve inverted on Wednesday.

China's threat to impose counter-measures in retaliation for the latest U.S. tariffs on \$300 billion of Chinese goods also weighed on oil prices.

Brent crude fell as much as \$1.81, or 3 per cent, to \$57.67 a barrel. The international benchmark was \$123, or 2.1 per cent, lower at \$58.25 and West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude lost 75 cents, or 1.4 per cent, to \$54.48 by 12:32 p.m. ET (16:32 GMT)

"Oil is getting whacked again as risk-aversion again kicks in and fears of a trade war inflicted slow-down grip traders. WTI had enjoyed a decent rebound over the last week but failed at the first hurdle, running into resistance around the mid-July lows before plunging once again," said Craig Erlam, analyst at OANDA.

Meanwhile, a gauge of global equity performance edged lower on Thursday as concerns about global growth offset investor optimism over a surge in US retail sales last month. MSCI's gauge of stocks across the globe shed 0.28 per cent, while the pan-European STOXX 600 index closed down 0.3 per cent. Stocks on Wall Street trended lower after earlier gains. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 8.38 points, or 0.03 per cent, to 25,471.04. The S&P 500 gained 1.73 points, or 0.06 per cent, to 2,842.33 and the Nasdaq Composite dropped 14.23 points, or 0.18 per cent, to 7,759.71.

'WTO to rule on India sugar export subsidies'

REUTERS
GENEVA, AUGUST 15

THE WORLD Trade Organization (WTO) set up panels on Thursday to rule on complaints by Australia, Brazil and Guatemala against India's export subsidies for sugar and sugarcane producers which they assert are illegal, a trade official said. The decision was automatic upon the complainants' second request at a closed-door meeting of the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body (DSB).

India will keep its sugar export subsidies despite complaints to the WTO from rival producers, though it will tweak how it provides them, four sources directly involved in the matter said told Reuters in Mumbai last month.

Meanwhile, WTO also dispute panel requested on Thursday by China to rule on U.S. safeguard duties imposed on imports of solar cells, a Geneva trade official said. The decision, automatic upon its second request at a meeting of the WTO's DSB, came as the two

Fall in quarterly trade growth indicator

Geneva: The WTO said Thursday that its latest economic barometer showed that growth in merchandise trade was likely to weaken further in the third quarter.

Its quarterly trade growth indicator showed growth in global goods trade was likely to weaken, with a reading of 95.7 in its previous quarterly report in May. WTO said growth would likely be weak, at 96.3. A below-100 score indicates below-trend growth. **REUTERS**

countries seek a major trade deal to calm simmering tensions.

China charges that the U.S. measure, in the form of a tariff-rate quota on imports of solar cells and a rise in duties on imports of modules, violates WTO rules.

Investment of ₹83,000 crore in 25 projects: ONGC CMD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 15

ENERGY MAJOR Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) is investing around ₹83,000 crore in 25 major projects to boost oil and gas production, which has stagnated over last years, its chairman and managing director Shashi Shanker said on Thursday.

Addressing ONGC employees on the 73rd Independence Day, he said: "15 of these projects currently under execution will directly contribute to oil and gas production."

"The cumulative oil and gas gain from these projects is expected to be over 180 million tonne of oil and oil equivalent gas in their life cycle," he said.

The firm produced 24.23 million tonne of crude oil in the 2018-19 fiscal year and 25.81 billion cubic metres of natural gas from its domestic fields.

MIGRANTS IN ITALY

Turning into a trickle

Migrant arrivals in Italy have tumbled



Italy's deputy prime minister and interior minister Matteo Salvini's policy of closing Italy's ports to NGOs' rescue boats has helped more than double support for his party, the Northern League. Reuters

ABDUL AZIZ, a tall, strongly built young man, falls silent and looks down. He has been describing how the Taliban spread their influence through his part of the tribal areas bordering Afghanistan. His father defied them. "They killed my father," he says, tears welling up in his eyes.

The 24-year-old Pakistani farmer is standing in the courtyard of Malala Yousafzai House, a few hundred metres from the border between Italy and Slovenia. The house, a former revenue-guard barracks, is an initial reception centre for Italy's unnoticed migrants: the thousands who enter the country by slipping across the heavily wooded nearby frontier after a gruelling journey from Asia that sometimes takes years. Abdul Aziz's most frightening moment was on the Iranian-Turkish border when he came under fire. "They shoot people there," he says.

Once in the Balkans, migrants become counters in a game of snakes-and-ladders: Slovenian police who catch people trying to go across the country send them back down to Croatia, where they are once more expelled, to either Serbia or Bosnia. Undeterred, most of

them simply turn round and try again. Marco Albanese, who runs the centre for the Italian Consortium of Solidarity (ICS), an NGO, says some people he has taken in have been pushed back across a frontier 15 times.

While Italy's deputy prime minister and interior minister, Matteo Salvini, has focused attention on the arrival by sea of mostly sub-Saharan African migrants on the southern coast, larger—though still modest—numbers have been entering the country from the other end. Mr Salvini's policy of closing Italy's ports to NGOs' rescue boats has helped more than double support for his party, the Northern League. But his achievement is less significant than he makes out. The previous, centre-left government had already drastically reduced the number of arrivals from the Mediterranean, and some still manage to get to Italy, usually on fishing boats or yachts. According to the International Organisation for Migration, a UN body, in the year to July 20th, 3,365 people had reached Italy's southern shores.

At the ICS's headquarters in Trieste, its president, Gianfranco Schiavone, says that

over the same period his organisation alone took in 1,192 people—most of them from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iraq. That was almost double the number in the first seven months of 2018. In June, the increase prompted Mr Salvini to talk of building a wall (the frontier is, however, a not inconsiderable 230km, or 140 miles, long). "We'll launch mixed patrols with the Slovenians in July but, if the flow of migrants doesn't stop, then extreme evils require extreme remedies," he declared.

The ICS is not the only voluntary group receiving migrants in the area, and Mr Schiavone notes that their combined total of perhaps 2,000 arrivals so far this year takes

no account of the many who seek to avoid all contact with either NGOs or the authorities for fear of being registered in Italy. Under the EU's so-called Dublin Regulation, asylum-seekers are the responsibility of the first country to record their presence. "Invisible migrants", as Mr Schiavone calls them, try to slip unnoticed through Italy to countries with more of their compatriots, or to richer countries with better job opportunities and welfare provision. But even among those who are registered in Italy, many still prefer to leave for other EU member states.

That explains a second migrant flow that has passed almost unnoticed: that of the dublinati, as they are known in Italy. These

are migrants who were registered in Italy, moved on to other EU states, were picked up and returned to Italy.

At dusk, in the shadow of Rome's hyper-modern Tiburtina railway station, volunteers from another NGO, Baobab Experience, have just finished doling out food from a makeshift soup-kitchen to scores of Africans who are starting to bed down in the open. There was until recently an encampment on a nearby disused bus park where the migrants could pitch tents, but it was broken up on Mr Salvini's orders. Most of the migrants are without papers. Some have dodged registration. Others have failed in their bid for asylum. Many are heading north. But not all: one man, who declined to give his name, said he had been caught without papers in France and returned to Italy. Andrea Costa of Baobab Experience says that in the previous 12 months the number of dublinati turning up at the soup-kitchen has increased tenfold.

According to the EU, there were 6,351 transfers to Italy last year. But that was less than a tenth of the number Italy was actually asked to take back. As Matteo Villa, of Italy's

Institute for International Political Studies, wrote in an article for Politico, a website, "Once migrants move to another EU country... it is very hard to send them back." Many go to ground after being stopped. Officials in the country of arrival (Italy, in this case) can use bureaucracy to slow the process. And after six months the migrants become the responsibility of their new host state, giving a strong incentive for foot-dragging.

According to Mr Salvini's own ministry, more than a quarter of a million immigrants who have entered the EU since 2015 through Italy (out of a total of around 480,000) have already been found in other member states, having somehow managed to cross borders ostensibly closed by France, Austria and Switzerland. He and other Italian politicians rail incessantly at the Dublin regime, arguing that it places an unfair burden on the EU's frontier nations and that what is needed is a comprehensive system for the redistribution of migrants. In fact, despite Mr Salvini's rhetoric, the "burden" is quietly shifting itself.

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EGYPT'S AUSTERITY

Poverty on the Nile

Egypt is reforming its economy, but poverty is rising

EXCEPT FOR the glow of a mobile phone behind the watermelons, the fruit-and-vegetable shop on a busy Cairo street looks deserted. The owner says his wares are 25% more expensive than last summer. As prices rise, buyers skimp: regulars who used to buy a kilogram of fruit now settle for half. He keeps the lights off between shoppers to save a few pounds. There are no lights either at the butcher's next door, who reckons revenues are down by 20%. "I sell a lot of bones for soup," he says.

Last year Egypt vowed to halve poverty by 2020 and eliminate it by 2030. It is going in the wrong direction. On July 29th the national statistics agency released a long-delayed report on household finances. It found that 33% of Egypt's 99m people were classified as poor last year, up from 28% in 2015. Even that dismal finding may not be dismal enough. The government has fixed the official poverty line at just 736 pounds (\$45) a month, a figure that many economists say is too low. The World Bank said in April that 60% of Egyptians were "either poor or vulnerable".

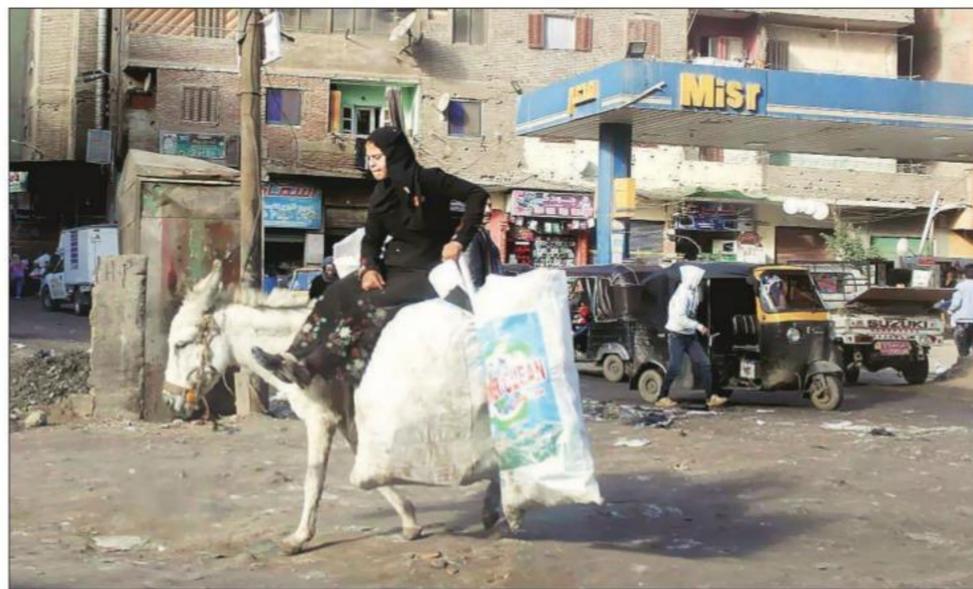
The numbers are a stinging assessment of the economic reforms overseen by the president, Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi. Backed by the IMF, which approved a \$12bn loan in 2016, his government cut fuel subsidies, let the currency depreciate and imposed a 14% value-added tax. These gave Egypt a primary sur-

plus and cut its deficit to 8.3% of GDP, from 12.5% three years ago.

But macroeconomic gains came at the expense of Egyptians themselves. Cuts to fuel subsidies have pushed up transport costs. For an Egyptian on the official poverty line, a short daily trip on Cairo's metro would now consume 25% of their monthly income. Average household expenditures have increased by 43% since 2015. Income rose by just 33% during the same period, while household debt to banks jumped by 58%. Adjusted for inflation, which peaked at 33% in 2017 (see chart), Egyptians are earning less than they did three years ago.

Though inflation has cooled, the IMF expects it to remain in double digits until at least 2021. The poorest Egyptians, who spend up to 48% of their income to eat, are hardest hit.

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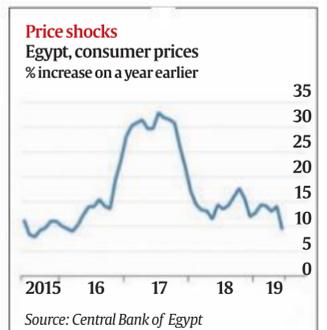
The World Bank said in April that 60% of Egyptians were 'either poor or vulnerable'. Reuters

Meat is an unaffordable luxury: a kilo of beef costs 9% of an average week's pay. Even a humble plate of koshari, the mixture of lentils, chickpeas, rice and pasta that is a staple lunch for many, is becoming expensive. A small plate used to cost three pounds. Now restaurants charge at least five, and often more.

Add to that a government determined to squeeze every pound out of its citizens. The price of almost every service, from driving li-

centences to gun permits, has gone up. Public-school fees have jumped by 20-50%. Taxi drivers at the airport grouse about new charges: 2,000 pounds a month for a permit, plus parking fees that have quadrupled. Their passengers are being squeezed too, with a new \$25 departure tax. For businesses, there is a proposed 0.25% levy on revenue that would be used to fund a new national health-care scheme.

Many of these changes are long overdue. (Fuel subsidies were regressive, inefficient and unaffordable; hospitals need investment.) But Mr Sisi's government seems oblivious to their impact on the poor. It points to the expanding economy—a 5.6% rise in GDP last year gave Egypt the fastest growth in the Middle East. But the jump is mostly due to a boom in oil and gas. Other sectors look stagnant. Though jobs are be-



ing created, many are in low-wage or informal sectors.

Subsidies were the heart of Egypt's social safety-net. Nothing has adequately replaced them. The main cash-transfer schemes for the poor, Takaful and Karama, cover an estimated 9.4m people, less than 10% of the population. A monthly payment to families with children barely covers a tin of baby formula. Ration cards give access to cut-rate staples, but no one can live on cooking oil and rice alone.

Faced with bad news, the government has done what it does best: blame the messenger. The poverty report should have been released in February. It was delayed twice, with the authors told to revise their findings. Mr Sisi needs to move beyond fiscal reforms by cutting red tape, removing barriers to trade, and pushing the army out of business. Unless he does this, the only way for him to meet his goals on poverty will be to define it out of existence.

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BUYING AND SELLING

Spanish businessman Tatxo Benet has bought *Statue of a Girl Of Peace* symbolising 'comfort women', a euphemism referring to many Korean women who were forced to work in Japanese military brothels during World War II.

AROUND TOWN



Stage Act

Recognised as one of the oldest theatre festivals in Delhi, the Old World Theatre Festival will bring on stage a original scripts from August 16 to 25 at India Habitat Centre. *1.2.tree*, a puppet theatre production about a 7-year old boy, his cat Bruce Lee and a plant which they have befriended directed by award winning puppeteer Anurupa Roy, will open the festival on August 16, 7 pm at The Stein Auditorium, along with *Unravel: An Improv Play About Mental Health*, directed by Varoon Anand. For details: www.oldworldculture.com.



Music Mania

RONOJIT CHALIHA, or Ron Cha, a jazz pianist who trained in western classical piano before crossing over to jazz and improvised music, has performed alongside artists such as Loy Mendonsa, Floyd Fernandes, Sheldon D'Silva. He recently collaborated with contemporary dancer and ethnomusicologist Dr Menaka PP Bora. He will be accompanied by Nathan Thomas on bass and Dhir Mody on drums and percussions on August 17, 9 pm, at Piano Man Jazz Club, Safdarjung Enclave. Tickets on bookmyshow.

SNAP SHOTS



What Lies Beneath

An "abandoned sketch" by master artist Leonardo da Vinci has been discovered beneath the *Virgin of the Rocks*, an artwork which is often termed as one of the Italian artist's most talked about works. The unfinished version of the artwork was unearthed after scientific research was being conducted into the *Virgin of the Rocks*, at the National Gallery, London.



New Ideas

PHOEBE WALLER-BRIDGE (pictured), the creator of the pathbreaking show *Fleabag*, has revealed her future plans. She is working on a new feature film which she will direct and 'blatantly will end up in it'. Other details are yet to divulge, but this time the production is being made keeping a theatrical release in mind and not a streaming service. In the meanwhile, she is keeping busy with her stint on a 007 film where she is helping to 'liven up the script'.



Back to School

ST ELMO'S FIRE, the cult coming-of-age film of the Eighties, is now being rebooted for a TV series. The film, which starred Rob Lowe, Demi Moore, Andrew McCarthy, and Emilio Estevez, showed them as college graduates struggling with life after school. The film, along with John Hughes's *The Breakfast Club* has been credited for starting the 'brat pack' — a group of young actors who all starred in the coming-of-age movies of that decade.

VIDYA SINHA (1947-2019)



(Clockwise from top) Vidya Sinha, who passed away in a hospital in Mumbai on Thursday, was seen mostly in TV shows in her last few years; with Sanjeev Kumar in *Pati Patni aur Woh*; with Amol Palekar in her debut film *Rajnigandha*

The Fragrance Lingers

Making her debut in an unassuming film called *Rajnigandha* in 1974, Vidya Sinha typified a new kind of heroine in Hindi cinema

SHUBHRA GUPTA

IN 1974, a small, unassuming film called *Rajnigandha* came out, and Hindi cinema lovers fell in love with it.

It was a 'love triangle', starring unknown faces, and it was truly different. Directed by Basu Chatterjee, it had an actual plot, depth, and real characters. Deepa and Sanjay are in a steady relationship, in itself a radical thing for a Bollywood besotted by love-at-first-glance callow couples who sang a few songs, bickered over a few more, and then rode into the sunset, happily ever after.

Deepa and Sanjay are, refreshingly, adults, inhabiting a world of middle-class concerns jobs, incomes, ambitions, life goals. And then one day Deepa bumps into old flame Naveen, and things get complicated. Who is it to be? Sanjay, a happy-go-lucky carefree, feckless fellow, or the organised, disciplined Naveen?

Deepa was played by newcomer Vidya Sinha, who typified a new kind of heroine in Hindi cinema: a working woman. Like her compatriot Jaya Bhaduri who had entered the film industry almost at the same time (*Guddi*, 1971, *Uphaar*, 1971, *Abhimaan*, 1973), as well as Moshumi Chatterjee and Rakhee, Sinha was your regular girl-next-door, but one who also goes daily to work, cleans up after herself, and is thrilled when the love of her life gets her flowers, a fragrant bunch of *rajinigandha*.

Instead of the skin-tight churidar-kurtas worn by the popular leading ladies of the time, Sinha, like Bhaduri, favoured cotton saris, and bindis. Instead of sharp fringes and tremblingly tall up-dos, she wore her hair in a single plait, and yes, in the movie, she tucked a white *rajinigandha* blossom in it. The inevitable happened: the song, *rajinigandha phool tumhare...*, acquired a permanent slot on every single radio network. And white tuberose started being seen in every cor-

ner flowershop.

We were witnessing something big in Bollywood: a leading lady who has a chance to exercise a choice. Sinha got a great partner in Amol Palekar, another debutant who made as much a mark: so good was Palekar in his average Joe role which he made his own, that he got to play it over and over in his career, post-*Rajnigandha*. And the intense, bearded Dinesh Thakur as Naveen added a layer of welcome unpredictability.

Rajnigandha's box-office success gave a filip to the 'middle-of-the-road' cinema being made by Chatterjee and Hrishikesh Mukherjee. Two years later, in 1976, Chatterjee made another winsome romance, *Chhoti Si Baat*, in which Palekar plays a hesitant lover who needs a bolt of courage to confess all to Sinha, and finds an avuncular godfather in Ashok Kumar. The film had, like its precursor, lovely, foot-tapping music, and cemented the reputation of its director and actors.

The 70s was a very eventful decade, full of memorable Hindi cinema. Rajesh Khanna fell. Amitabh Bachchan rose and rose. Multi-starrer films became all the rage. Masala-laden escapist fare reigned. It was the time of Prakash Mehra and Manmohan Desai. Raj Kapoor made a come-back with a sixteen year old Dimple Kapadia playing Bobby, and every single young girl began dreaming of the baby-faced Rishi Kapoor. Yash Chopra and Salim-Javed created Bachchan's furious young man persona, and the star became the face of the decade, whose blockbusters were wrought in larger-than-life 70 mm cinemascopes.

But when we yearned for something real, for something we could relate to, and characters that would let us breathe, we fell back upon the wlds created by Chatterjee and Mukherjee. (Occasionally, when we felt up to a more nuanced palate, we could reach out for the mature relationship dramas (*Anubhav*, 1971, *Avishkar*, 1974), directed by Basu Bhattacharya. But there was really nothing to



beat the pleasures of being in the company of men and women who felt familiar, who had weaknesses and warts, just like us: when we loved, all we wanted was to be loved back. And give us a bunch of *rajinigandhas* while they were at it.

Sinha had come to the movies from mod-

elling, but unlike so many other young women who followed the same route only to never really shed the ramp (both Zeenat Aman, Praveen Babi, were guilty of that stiffness even though they loosened up as they went along), Sinha turned out to be a consummate actress. And continued to fill up the



ROLE CALL

RAJNIGANDHA (1974): Her debut film, directed by Basu Chatterjee. Based on Mannu Bhandari's short story *Yeh Sach Hai*, it brought middle-class India onto the big screen. Sinha played Deepa Kapoor, an urban woman, struggling to choose between two men.

CHHOTI SI BAAT (1976): Amol Palekar, Basu Chatterjee and Sinha came together again for this romantic comedy where a shy Palekar tries to woo Sinha who plays Prabha, a young working woman in Bombay.

INKAAR (1977): A remake of Akira Kurosawa's *High and Low*, this starred Sinha with Vinod Khanna.

PATI PATNI AUR WO (1978): A comical take on extra-marital affairs, it had Sanjeev Kumar play Sinha's husband while Ranjeeta was the 'other woman'.

TV ROLES (2005 ONWARDS): Sinha was last seen in TV shows—*Kavyaanjali*, *Qubool Hai*, *Chandra Nandini* and *Kulfi Kumar Bajewala*.

screen, till she left. It wasn't a Bollywood that had anything for her anymore.

She did return, decades later, and was seen in Salman Khan's *Bodyguard* (2011). But this was not a good time for an older actress who needed real stories. And flowers with a lingering, heady fragrance.

Building Matters

A conference in Goa on modern heritage will focus on the challenges of legacies across the subcontinent

SHINY VARGHESE

ONLY THAT change is worthwhile which humanises man," wrote journalist and political commentator Romesh Thapar, in his treatise 'Design for Living' in 1966. Over the last few years, we have seen the Indian landscape change, both in structure and political will. Buildings have fallen and legacies erased. In a search for new identity post-Independence, architects and engineers drew from the world but had their feet firmly planted on the reality of India. An international conclave in Goa, titled "Modern Heritage", organised by Studio Matter, will reflect on the years between 1935 and 1995, when ideas were challenged and a new vocabulary for design melded the old and the new.

The three-day programme, beginning today at the National Institute of Oceanography, includes presentations, talks and films by international speakers, documentary filmmakers, architects and academicians. Below are the highlights:

Catching them Young

India perhaps began to lead the world in design education when the National Institute of Design was established in 1961. "It boasts a value-based system that is dedicated to service," says Chatterjee, who led NID for nearly 25 years. He adds, "We were once leaders in design pedagogy, now we are followers under the rubric of 'world-class' education. We believed in staying relevant on our own terms."



ALSO ON THE DIAS

■ UK-based David Robson will share his perspective on the legacy of well-known Sri Lankan architect Geoffrey Bawa

■ Professor Mary Norman Woods will present Women Architects in Modern India

■ The Indian Express Deputy Editor Seema Chishti will speak about how political histories shaped the modern landscape

■ Architect-professor Shamsul Wares will offer insights into the contemporary architecture of Bangladesh

Paving the Way

With Bauhaus master Walter Gropius on his mind and armed with skills taught by Claude Batley, architect Achyut Kanvinde built ATIRA (Ahmedabad Textile Industries Research Association) in the '50s—a building that showed the way for modernist architecture. Speaking about his works from the '50s to the '70s, architect Sanjay Kanvinde will share where the modernist idiom began in his father's career. Sanjay will also draw parallels with works of Joseph Allen Stein and Habib Rahman, who came to be known as the modernist trio in the capital.

ATIRA in Ahmedabad that paved the way for modernism in India

Giants in Conversation

Architect Riyaz Tayyibji will attempt a dialogue between two important figures who shaped the discourse of modernity — Mahatma Gandhi and Le Corbusier. "For Gandhi, a building was a part of a larger 'spiritual' endeavour, it was an experiment in physically giving form to his ideas of the 'ashram'. On the other hand, Corbusier looked at the physical space affecting behaviour," says Tayyibji.

Threat to History

Photographer Ram Rahman will talk of his father Habib Rahman's early buildings in Calcutta and Delhi. Drawing from recent demolitions of modern buildings, including those in New Delhi's Pragati Maidan, World Health Organisation and the imminent threat to Goa's Kala Academy, Ram will share insights on the "importance of preserving modern heritage as markers of our own modern movement which is so linked to forging a new post-colonial cultural identity".

Structurally Sound

Architects Rohit Raj Mehndiratta and Vandini Mehta will present the works of well-known structural engineer Mahendra Raj, who created structurally expressive forms despite the technological limitations of the building industry in India.

For details, visit: www.frameconclave.com

Bringing out the Baskets

An advertising professional-turned-chef reinvents the idea of picnics in Mumbai

PARTHKHATAU

IT WAS in the area surrounding Dimna Lake near Jamshedpur where Rajat Mendhi, 39, recalls going on picnics with his family as a 10-year old. Those were the days when families would venture into the outdoors on weekends, packing their baskets with delicious food and stuffing their vehicles with bedsheets. "Puri aloo, chutney sandwiches and peeled oranges were some of my favorites. My cousins, uncles, aunts, mother and grandparents would head out together in my uncle's Matador van on weekends. My mother and aunt would cook on portable gas stoves," recalls the advertising professional-turned-chef.

Memories of such outings inspired Mendhi to revive the concept of picnics. He has given a contemporary touch to popular picnic food after experimenting with them. Always fond of food and cooking, Mendhi, 39, cleared the entrance examination at Mumbai's Dadar Catering College in 1997 only to drop the idea and take up advertising instead. He was 18 then. He chose to do his Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and an MBA in advertising before joining Lowe Lintas and later BBDO. In 2015, Mendhi took a sabbatical and joined Le Cordon Bleu in London. Three years later, he quit his job to pursue a full-time career in food.

Mendhi's initial year was a journey of exploration. He regularly posted pictures of his cooking on Instagram and launched his first food pop-up called 'The Tight Slap' where he showcased his love of cooking eggs and breakfast. "The idea of such picnics came about in March this year and I have organised three since then," he says. The first was at a rented bungalow called Lifafa, which Mendhi's close friends and family attended. "The picnic was such a hit that I rebooked the space for my second picnic before having my third one at my residence," says Mendhi.

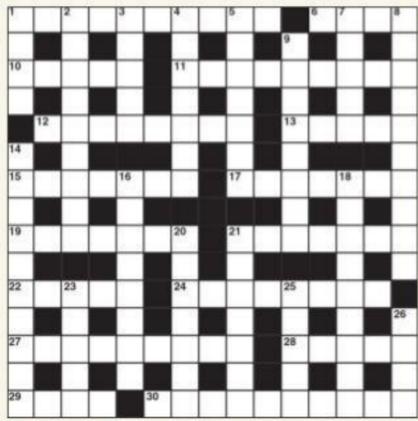


Rajat Mendhi (above); guests at his picnic in Mumbai

These picnics usually get going with a couple of starters followed by the main course and desserts. The beverages include sangrias, tea and coffee. The first couple of picnics had food such as citrus frozen salad. The third picnic had items such as cheddar crackers filled with plum jam, eggs, mayo and sesame, a lemon semi-freddo (semi-frozen dessert) with virgin olive oil, topped with crackling candy and chilli-lime crumble. "I wanted to play with my food a bit for this picnic," says Mendhi.

Those interested to join in have to register on the 'Bombay Picnics' Instagram page, after which Mendhi sends out personal invitations.

CROSSWORD 3885



ACROSS
1 Fairy tales may give a sort of security for children (6,4)
6 Slight lump on Sidney's head (4)
10 Fabric I mend somehow (5)
11 Dominant old lady upsets Rita in a month (9)
12 Here's hoping I spring a surprise (8)
13 A number make money and gain experience (5)
15 Taking the offensive is a help in the boxing arena (7)
17 Improve, though in a negative way maybe (7)
19 Metal of quiet origin, perhaps (3,4)
21 Found on a billiard table, it may be used for a rest (7)
22 Spin a yarn (5)
24 Enforcing payment may be hard (8)
27 Held thus, the victim of a hoax is a mere puppet (2,1,6)
28 Detect only a very small amount (5)
29 Some tissue that is fat (4)
30 Gear manufacturer (10)

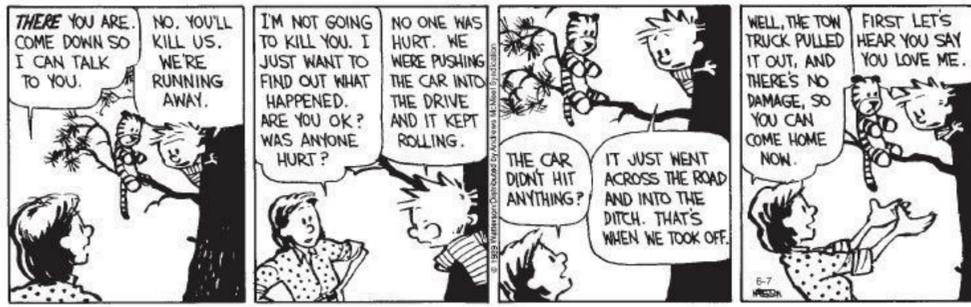
Down
1 Bias shown by the team (4)
2 Polish is taught at this school (9)
3 Speeds that vary according to direction (5)
4 Striking sign on porcelain (7)
5 Being at home possibly greet a number (7)
7 Girl from the manor (5)
8 Where to yawn when it's late (10)
9 Set up after an instrument breaks (8)
14 Support it over debts, being well disposed (10)
16 Trite air may result in anger (8)
18 Organised workers have means of raising car standard (5,4)
20 To want that is right, though comparatively broke? (7)
21 Bank fees for advances that are offensive (7)
23 Deserter that is put out and angry (5)
25 Symbol revered in Shinto temples (5)
26 Shoulder and stomach (4)

Solutions Crossword 3884: Across: 1 Spared, 5 Ahead, 8 Passenger, 9 Ida, 10 Alps, 12 Fearsome, 14 Arabia, 15 Office, 17 Monogram, 18 Club, 21 Eli, 22 Leisurely, 24 So far, 25 Manager. Down: 1 Sepia, 2 Ass, 3 Reef, 4 Dagger, 5 Aircraft, 6 Editorial, 7 Dead-eye, 11 Plaintiff, 13 Singular, 14 Aimless, 16 Barium, 19 Buyer, 20 Ruin, 23 Egg.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



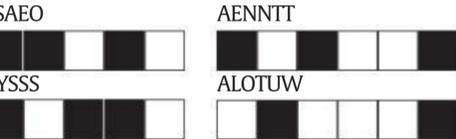
MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

We build ___ out of ___, and weep to see them melt - Walter Scott (7...4)



Answer: We build **STATUS** out of **SNOW**, and weep to see them melt - Walter Scott

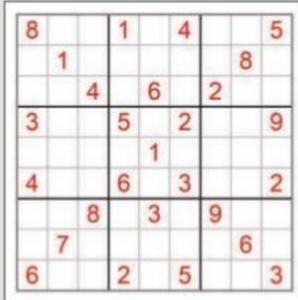
Difficulty Level 5s

Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

SUDOKU 3940



SOLUTION SUDOKU 3939



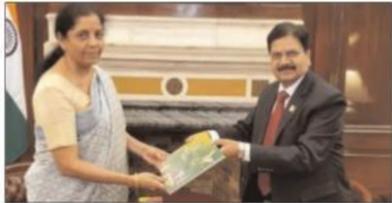
NOTICE BOARD

CORPORATE ASSOCIATE DIARY EVENTS, HONOURS



RELEASE-INDIANOIL

M/o Petroleum & Natural Gas & Steel Dharmendra Pradhantoday released the Expression for Interest (EOI) by National Oil Marketing Companies (IOC, HPCL & BPCL) for procurement of Biodiesel, made from Used Cooking Oil (UCO).



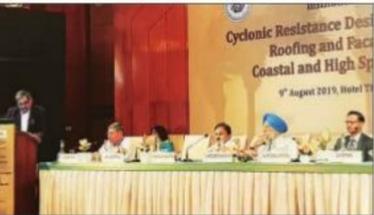
MEETING-ORIENTAL BANK OF COMMERCE

OBC MD & CEO Mukesh Kumar Jain met Finance Minister Nirmla Sitharaman recently and briefed various initiatives inter alia in the field of Retail, MSME, Digital banking. Mukesh Kumar Jain presenting the Bank's Coffee Table Book to the Finance Minister.



PLANTATION DRIVE-NMCG

NMCG actively participated in the biggest plantation in Uttar Pradesh on the 77th anniversary of Quit India Movement, in Gangavan of Chandanpur Ghatiyari village of Kasganj district.



WORKSHOP-AAI

AAI organized a One Day Workshop on Cyclonic Resistance Design Consideration for Roofing & Facade System in Coastal & High Speed Wind Zones in association with The Institution of Engineers. HS Puri, MoS for Civil Aviation (I/C) inaugurated the workshop.



EVENT-EPCH

The 4 day hospitality event held from 7-10 August 2019 at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida Expressway becomes the most powerful networking forum by witnessing an astounding line up of trade discussions, awards night and more.



TOURNAMENT-CWC

CWC Regional office Delhi Organised a badminton tournament on the occasion of Independence Day it yielded good participation and was great success.



MoU-NSIC

NSIC signed MoU with State Bank of India recently to promote Credit facilitation for sustainable development of MSMEs. The MoU was signed by AK Mishra, GM (BT/FFC), NSIC & Ved Prakash, Deputy General Manager of SBI.



MoU-NDIM

The Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry signed an MoU and partnered with New Delhi Institute of Management, and set up a World Class Incubation Centre at NDIM campus for the benefit of NDIM and students from institutions across the country.



AWARD-CCL

In yet another recognition to its CSR initiative, CCL, Ranchi was conferred with "SCOPE Corporate Excellence Award 2019", during the SCOPE Corporate Communication Summit 2019. AK Singh, GM (CSR) & others received the award on behalf of CCL.



APPOINTMENT

NABARD K Venkateswara Rao has taken charge as the MD of NABARD Consultancy Services -NABCONS (a wholly owned subsidiary of NABARD) on 1st August 2019 on superannuation of Naresh Gupta, the former MD, NABCONS on 31 July 2019. Prior to his appointment, he was heading Farm Sector Policy Department in National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development, Head Office, Mumbai as Chief General Manager. He has been steering designing of policies for Agriculture and Rural Development & Climate Change initiatives of NABARD.

NTPC The Country's largest power generator - NTPC Ltd., declared its unaudited financial results for Q1 FY20. The gross generation of NTPC Group, with an installed capacity of 55786 MW, in Q1 FY20 was 76.63 Billion units as against 76.92 Billion units during the corresponding previous quarter. NTPC Coal stations achieved PLF of 73.91% in Q1 FY20 as against the National Average PLF of 62.83%. On consolidated basis, in Q1 FY20, the Total income was Rs. 26,272.24 cr as against the Total income of Rs. 24,148.50 cr during the corresponding previous quarter, registering an increase of 8.79%.

SAIL Announcing the Q1 performance for the FY 2019-20 (Q1 FY20), SAIL declared profit before tax of Rs 103.93 cr and profit after tax of Rs 68.84 cr. The volatile market conditions, which have led to subdued demand as well as realisations, have impacted the performance of the entire Steel Industry including SAIL. Accordingly, SAIL witnessed a reduction in its top-line as well as bottom-line despite having consistent physical performance. Meanwhile, SAIL is maintaining the tempo of improving its physical performance & has registered its best ever Hot Metal and Saleable Steel performance for Q1 at 4.323 MT & 3.653 MT respectively.

ANDHRA BANK has informed that the Marginal Cost of Funds based Lending Rate (MCLR) effective from 16.08.2019 will be reduced by 25 bps across all five tenors (Overnight, One month, 3 months, 6 Months & 1 year). MCLR for these tenors are 7.95% for overnight, 8.00% for 1 month, 8.20% for 3 months, 8.35% for 6 months & 8.45% for 1 year.

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, PARVEEN GOEL, R/o F-22/94, Sec-3, Rohini, New Delhi, changed my name as PARVEEN GOYAL, S/o MAHINDER GOEL 0130012136-1

I, Krishan Kumar, S/o Sh. Mam Chand, R/o House No 416, Chirag Delhi, New Delhi-110017, informs that I have changed my son's name from KABIR to KABEER SANDILYA for all future purpose. In future my son will be known as KABEER SANDILYA. 0040507864-1

I, BABITA RANI, R/o F-22/94, Sec-3, Rohini, New Delhi, changed my name as BABITA GOYAL, W/o PARVEEN GOYAL 0130012138-1

I, Amit Sharma S/o Shri. R.L. Sharma R/o B-16, Sector-48, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201301

LOST & FOUND

have changed my name to **AMIT KUMAR** permanently. 040507889-1

I, Suman Gupta W/o S.P. Gupta, have lost original-Reservation Letter dt.31/07/1990 and Allotment-Letter no.740

"IMPORTANT"

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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE No. L7195588
Dated: 08-08-2019
Invites to participate in E-Tender through IREPS only for supply of following item.

Description in Brief	EMD
2092 Nos. of Waterproof Rain Coat.	Rs. 51,130/-

Last date for submission of bids: 30-08-2019 upto 14:00 Hrs.
For details log on to website: www.ireps.gov.in
Divisional Railway Manager / Stores Branch
South Western Railway, Hubballi-580 020
Pub/193/AS/PRB/SWR/2019-20

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice
Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India invites open e-tenders for the works mentioned below for which the bids will be received only through Railway website www.ireps.gov.in upto 15:00 hours of 12.09.2019.

Tender No.	Date of opening proposed	Name of work
ET-19-PAY & USE-ASR-204	12.09.2019	Amritsar
ET-19-PAY & USE-PGW-205	12.09.2019	Phagwara
ET-19-PAY & USE-LDH-206	12.09.2019	Ludhiana
ET-19-PAY & USE-JRC-284	12.09.2019	Jalandhar Cantt.
ET-19-PAY & USE-MOGA-285	12.09.2019	Moga
ET-19-PAY & USE-KTHU-286	12.09.2019	Kathua
ET-19-PAY & USE-PHR-287	12.09.2019	Phillaur
ET-19-PAY & USE-JAT-288	12.09.2019	Jammu Tawi

For further detail, please login Railway's website www.ireps.gov.in No: MC/38040/Pay & Use/2019 Date: 13.08.2019 2617/2019

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NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

CONCOR invites E-Tender in Two Packets system of tendering for the following work:

Tender No.	CON/EP/VIZAG/PHASE-II/Rail Side Warehouse/T-1/2019
Name of Work	Construction of Rail Side Warehouse, including development of surrounding area by CC Block pavement and approach road. Firefighting works in existing Warehouses and other allied works in c/w development of Phase-II at MMLP-Vishakhapatnam.
Estimated Cost	₹ 3759.67 lakhs
Completion Period	18 Months
Earnest Money Deposit	₹ 20,29,840/- (through e-payment)
Cost of Tender Document (Non-refundable)	₹ 1,000/- (inclusive all taxes & duties through e-payment)
Tender Processing Fee (Non-refundable)	₹ 5,310/- (inclusive all taxes & duties through e-payment)
Date of sale of Tender (online)	16.08.2019 (11:00 hrs.) to 07.09.2019 (up to 17:00 hrs.)
Date & Time of submission of Tender	09.09.2019 up to 17:00 hrs.
Date & time of opening of Tender	11.09.2019 at 11:30 hrs.

For financial eligibility criteria, experience with respect to similar nature of work, etc, please refer to detailed tender notice available on website www.concorindia.com, but the complete tender document can be downloaded from website www.tenderwizard.com only. Further, Concorindia/ Addendum to this Tender, if any, will be published on website www.concorindia.com, www.tenderwizard.com and Central Procurement Portal (CPP) only. Newspaper press advertisement shall not be issued for the same.

OFFICE OF JOINT DIRECTOR AND SUPERINTENDENT CHHATTISGARH INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

CIMS HOSPITAL, BILASPUR -495001
Fax (O)-07752237400, Phone (O)-07752-230030

No./Pur/MS/CIMS/ 5189 Bilaspur, Date: 14/08/19
THIRD TENDER INVITATION NOTICE

CIMS Hospital is inviting tender for cleaning, plumbing and carpentry item from interested general supplier, distributors & authorized dealers. Tender form cost in 1000-00 cash for each category separately and with an application in own letter head. Purchase of tender form is till 22-08-2019 from publication of tender and submission of tender is 06-09-2019 till 3:00 pm and opening of tender is 06-09-2019, 4:00 pm. (venue- Joint director and superintendent Office, CIMS Hospital Bilaspur). (Annual purchase cost app.- 10-20 Lacs)

Sd/-
Joint Director and Superintendent
Cims Hospital, Bilaspur C.G.
R.O. G-72557/1

17 SPORT



SHASTRI THE FAVOURITE

India's head coach Ravi Shastri is a runaway favourite to retain his post when the Kapil Dev-led Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) interviews the six short-listed candidates in Mumbai on Friday.

Kohli reserves high praise for Iyer

PTI/AP
PORT OF SPAIN, AUGUST 15

SHREYAS IYER'S superb form in the ODI series against West Indies has impressed Indian captain Virat Kohli who said the Mumbai batsman can be a "regular feature in middle order" if he continues taking responsibility like he did during this contest.

Kohli smashed back-to-back centuries to lead from the front in the 2-0 series win in the three-match contest against the West Indies while Iyer hit aggressive yet composed 71 and 65 to also play a big role in the victory. The duo had partnerships of 125 and 120 in the second and third ODIs under tricky situations. "Both times he was batting with me. I have been around for a while and he was not intimidated at all, he was very confident, very sure of his game. At no stage he looked like getting out, that is great to see," Kohli said on Wednesday after India beat West Indies by six wickets under D/L Method to clinch the three-match ODI series 2-0.

"He has suddenly presented a role for himself, coming in and playing according to the situation. Hopefully he builds on this and keeps performing like this for the team... he can be a strong contender and a regular feature in the middle order," the Indian captain said.

The Indian team is still trying to figure out its middle-order puzzle and the 24-year-old Iyer's ability to handle pressure with calm and composure can offer a solution to the problem. "We were under a bit of pressure but his (Iyer's) knock was game-changer (in the third ODI). I think Shreyas, the way he played took all the pressure off me and I could just play with my usual tempo and control the game from one end," said Kohli who hit 114 not out off 99 deliveries in the third ODI here.

"He understood the value of performing in these situations. It will only boost his confidence further," he added.

The 30-year-old Kohli said Iyer reminded him of his own early days in the India side. "I was exactly the same when I came in - any opportunity I got I wanted to win games for my team and play according to the situation and you have to take risks. He (Iyer) was brave under pressure. You need to reveal your game to realise who you are, what your game is and what kind of a player you are."

Kohli said his experience helped him overcome pressure situations in both the matches against the West Indies. The first ODI was called off after 13 overs due to rains.

"I have been around for a while. Experience counts in pressure situations, understanding where the game is heading and



Kohli 114 (n.o.), Shreyas Iyer 65 added 120 runs for the fourth wicket in the third and final ODI. AP

I didn't announce retirement: Gayle

Port of Spain: West Indies' third one-dayer against India here appeared to be the last international match for Chris Gayle but the 'Universe Boss' has suggested after the game that he has not yet retired. The Jamaican, who made 72 off 41 balls, was applauded by the Indian players as he walked off after being dismissed in the 12th over of West Indies innings. He raised his bat, helmet perched on top of it, and the crowd continued to cheer, wondering if it was the last time they would see him bat. But after the game, Gayle dismissed suggestions that this was his farewell game. "I didn't announce anything...any retirement," he said in a short video posted by Cricket West Indies, when asked whether he has retired from ODI cricket or not. Asked if he will still be around, he said, "Yeah, until further notice." REUTERS

what I need to do in terms of the tempo. So, you obviously want to take a lot of pride in stepping up for the team as much as you can and I definitely take a lot of pride in that," said the prolific batsman who now has an average of above 60 in the ODI format.

BRIEF SCORES: West Indies 240/7 in 35 overs (Gayle 72 in 41 balls with 8x4 & 5x6, Evin Lewis 43 in 29 balls with 5x4 & 3x6; Khaleel Ahmed 3/68) lost to India 256/4 in 32.3 overs (Kohli 114 not out in 99 balls with 14x4, Shreyas Iyer 65 in 41 balls with 3x4 & 5x6) by 6 wickets via D/L method.

After rain, sunshine for Aus

Australian bowlers combine to bowl out England for 258 on Day Two of the second Ashes Test

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON, AUGUST 15

AUSTRALIA'S FAST start to the second Ashes Test was slowed by Jonny Bairstow's half-century that pushed England to 258 all out and the latest cheap dismissal of David Warner early in the reply at Lord's on Thursday. The Australians were 30 for 1 at stumps on an intriguing day two that helped to make up for the washout on the opening day of the Test. With England stuttering at 138 for 6 after being put in to bat, Bairstow put on 72 for the seventh wicket with Chris Woakes (32) before oversteering more valuable runs from the tail which nudged the team to a respectable total.

Bairstow was eventually dismissed for 52, giving Nathan Lyon a third wicket of the innings to move the spinner to 355 in Tests — tying paceman Dennis Lillee in third place on Australia's all-time list. Quicks Josh Hazlewood (3/58) and Pat Cummins (3/61) also took three wickets apiece.

Opener Rory Burns was England's top scorer with 53, following up his century in the first test won by Australia by 251 runs at Edgbaston. It left Australia with an hour to get through and Warner (3) again fell quickly, removed by England fast bowler Stuart Broad for the third time in this series. The left-handed opener, who was clean-bowled, managed only 2 and 8 in the first Test.

Fellow opener Cameron Bancroft survived and was unbeaten on 5 off 35 balls, and was in the middle with Usman Khawaja (18). Australia trailed by 228 runs.

Recalled in place of fellow paceman James Pattinson, Hazlewood was the pick of the bowlers with his consistent line and length, and took the first three wickets of England's innings.

Having removed Jason Roy (0) off the third ball of his first over and then trapping Joe Root (14) lbw also before lunch, Hazlewood took the first wicket of the second session by finding the edge of Joe Denly (30) to give wicketkeeper Tim Paine one of his four catches of the day.

Bancroft then sent Burns back to the pavilion with a stunning catch at short leg, diving low to his left and managing to hold on to the ball with his fingertips off a delivery by Pat Cummins. Burns was extremely watchful, making his 53 off 127 balls.

Jos Buttler and Ben Stokes, England's dangerous middle-order batsmen, went cheaply for 12 and 13, respectively, to leave the hosts really struggling at 138 for 6 before Bairstow and Woakes launched the rebuilding job.

Roy, a white-ball specialist who was one



Australia's Josh Hazlewood celebrates taking the wicket of England's Joe Denly during the 2nd day of the second Test AP

Recalled in place of fellow paceman James Pattinson, Hazlewood was the pick of the bowlers with his consistent line and length, and took the first three wickets of England's innings.

of the star performers in England's World Cup-winning campaign this summer, is playing only his third test, after making 5 and 72

in a warmup against Ireland, and 10 and 28 in the first test against Australia at Edgbaston.

His place in the team — at least as an opener — might come under scrutiny after lasting only three balls on Thursday, waiving at Hazlewood's first ball and then pushing hard at a delivery outside off stump two balls later to edge to Paine. Warner is also struggling for runs and he was again snared by Broad, who steamed in from around the wicket and beat the opener for sheer pace. Broad had 1 for 13 off five overs. England gave a Test debut to Barbados-born fast bowler Jofra Archer, who replaced the injured James Anderson, and he had six overs before stumps.

Lord's was awash with red in support of the Ruth Strauss Foundation, a lung cancer charity set up to honor the late wife of Andrew Strauss, the former England captain and director of men's cricket. Fans were asked to wear red and both teams wore limited-edition caps and shirts to be auctioned off, one of several fund-raising initiatives in place. Strauss' two sons rang the five-minute bell before play started.

BRIEF SCORES: England 258 all out in 77.1 ovs (R Burns 53, J Bairstow 52; P Cummins 3/61, J Hazlewood 3/58, N Lyon 3/68) vs Australia 30 for 1 in 13 ovs D Warner 3; S Broad 1/13)

Former India opener VB Chandrasekhar passes away

PTI/ENS
NEW DELHI/CHENNAI, AUGUST 15

FORMER INDIA opener and national selector VB Chandrasekhar passed away in Chennai on Thursday. While news reports said the Tamil Nadu veteran had died of a heart attack, police sources said they are looking into the circumstances of his death, including the possibility of suicide. Sources said they "suspect he had suffered setbacks in his cricket-related business".

The dashing Tamil Nadu left-hander of yesteryears, who owns a Tamil Nadu Premier League team and runs an academy, was only six days short of his 58th birthday. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

Chandrasekhar played 7 ODIs between 1988 and 1990, scoring only 88 runs, but at the domestic level he was prolific for a few seasons, aggregating 4999 runs in 81 games with a highest score of 237 not out.

A qualified engineer, Chandrasekhar made his first-class debut at the age of 25 and played in a formidable Tamil Nadu team, which comprised WV Raman, Diwakar Vasu, Laxman Sivaramakrishnan and Bharath Arun.

Till a few seasons back, he held the record for the fastest hundred in the Ranji Trophy — a 56-ball ton for Tamil Nadu against Rest of India in an Irani Cup game — that brought him into national reckoning.

Unfortunately, his technique was found out during a tri-series in New Zealand in 1990, ensuring that he never played for India again. An astute reader of the game, he was later a national selector when Greg Chappell was the coach and in his later years also did commentary in domestic cricket.

"I have done two years of commentary with him and I can vouch that I became better simply interacting with him. His game reading, grip on technical aspects was mind blowing and it is memory I would always



VB Chandrasekhar, 57, scored 4999 First-Class runs with a highest score of 237 not out.

cherish," former India stumper Deep Dasgupta said. "His passion was unmatched and I know he used to spend a lot from his own pocket in a running a team in the Tamil Nadu Premier League (TNPL) known as VB Kanchi Veerans. It will take some time for this tragic news to sink in," said Dasgupta.

India and Chennai Super Kings player Suresh Raina consoled the death of Chandrasekhar. "Extremely sad & shocked to hear about the passing away of VB Chandrasekhar sir. His consistent efforts made it possible to set the right foundation of the CSK team. He always encouraged & believed in us since very beginning. My deepest condolences to the family," Raina tweeted. India and CSK off-spinner Harbhajan Singh also expressed his sadness. "Very shocking to hear VB Chandrasekhar indian cricketer is no more... very sad news... very young to go... rest in peace VB.. condolences to the family," Harbhajan wrote on his twitter handle.

Patel takes five as Lankans get taste of own medicine

KRISHAN FRANCIS
GALLE, AUGUST 15

SPIN BOWLER Ajaz Patel took five wickets to help New Zealand restrict Sri Lanka to 227 for 7 at stumps on the second day of the first Test on Thursday. Sri Lanka trails New Zealand by 22 runs with three wickets remaining after the tourists were bowled out for 249 in the morning session.

Sri Lanka was well placed on 143 for 2 in its first innings just before tea when Patel had Kusal Mendis caught by Ross Taylor at slip. Mendis' dismissal for 53 ended a 77-run partnership with Angelo Mathews (50) and opened the gates for four more wickets to fall within 40 minutes after tea. Mendis hit seven boundaries and a six. Kusal Perera (1) was confused by a rising ball from fast bowler

Trent Boult and was caught at cover by Mitchell Santner, and Dhananjaya de Silva (5) stepped out to drive but gave a sharp return catch to Patel.

Angelo Mathews made 50 and edged a sharp turning delivery from Patel to Taylor at slip. He also hit seven boundaries and a six.

Sri Lanka slumped to 161 for 7, losing five wickets for 18 runs, before Niroshan Dickwell and No. 9 batsman Suranga Lakmal added an unbeaten 66-run partnership for the eighth wicket. Dickwell is on 39 and Lakmal 28 not out. Patel had bowling figures of 5 for 76, his second five-wicket haul only in his sixth Test. AP

BRIEF SCORES: New Zealand 1st innings 249 (Taylor 86, Nicholls 42; Akila Dananjaya 5/80, Lakmal 4/29) lead Sri Lanka 1st innings 227/7 (Kusal Mendis 53, Mathews 50; Ajaz Patel 5/76) by 22 runs.

[SPORTS BAR]



Rankireddy-Shetty pull out of Worlds

India's new doubles sensation Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy (in pic) on Thursday pulled out of the upcoming Badminton World Championship owing to injuries. The Indian duo became the first men's doubles pair from the country to win a BWF Super 500 title last Sunday, helping them break into the top 10 ranking. However, injuries dashed their hopes of a good performance at the upcoming prestigious tournament, scheduled to begin from August 19 in Basel, Switzerland. "Satwik's shoulder injury which he suffered at Thailand Open didn't heal as quickly as we expected, and I also had pulled up my abs during the semifinals, so we decided to skip the World Championship," Chirag told PTI.

US women's football team heads to court

The female players who sued the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) for equal pay reported that talks broke down on Wednesday and said they were now turning their attention to the courts where they are "eagerly look forward to a jury trial". Some 28 players took USSF to court in March alleging they were consistently paid less than their male counterparts even though their performance has been superior to the men's team. The lawsuit outlined years of institutionalized gender discrimination, claiming travel conditions, medical personnel, promotion of games and training are less favorable for female players, who have won the World Cup four times, than for their male counterparts.

Dry day for India wrestlers in jr Worlds

On a disappointing day for India at the Junior World Championship, the country's female wrestlers endured a medal-less outing with the talented Anshu Malik getting outclassed in the fight for bronze by Ukraine's Kateryna Zelnykh, here on Thursday. Considered India's next big hope, Anshu lost the 59kg bout by technical superiority, unable to find a way to handle Kateryna's superb counter-attacking moves. It was Anshu who opened up a two-point lead with a takedown but after that it was a one-way traffic in favour of the Ukrainian.



The team gold medal was sealed with a final lap of 12.915 seconds.

Esow adds individual bronze to team gold

Esow Alben added a second medal to India's tally with a bronze in the keirin event after helping the junior men's team to win the country's first ever gold medal at a global meet. The team comprising of Alben, Ronaldo Singh and Rojit Singh achieved the historic feat by topping the Team Sprint event at the Junior Track Cycling World Championships in Frankfurt on Thursday. The world No.2 ranked junior team, that clocked a total of 44.625 seconds, beat Australia by a thin margin of 0.056 seconds in the deciding lap. The gold medal was sealed with a final lap of 12.915 seconds. India had top timings in the qualifiers and quarterfinals as well. For 18-year-old Esow Alben this his second major break on the international circuit. Alben, who tops the junior rankings in sprint and keirin events, came into the limelight when he won India's first ever junior cycling World Cup medal by finishing second in the keirin event in Aigle, Switzerland last year.

'Unfit' Messi rested for Barca season-opener

Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde said he would not risk an unfit Lionel Messi in Friday's La Liga opener against Athletic Bilbao and continued to non committal about Neymar re-joining the club from Paris St Germain. Barca's all-time top scorer and captain Messi injured his calf in training before his side's brief pre-season tour of the United States and has not yet returned to full training a day before his side visit Athletic. Videos emerged on Thursday of the Argentine getting up to speed in individual training sessions on sand but Valverde said there was no chance he would gamble with Messi's fitness.



KKR name McCullum as new head coach

Kolkata Knight Riders appointed the recently retired Brendon McCullum as their new head coach for the next edition of Indian Premier League in 2020. McCullum has been very closely associated with the KKR as a player first from 2008 to 2010 and again from 2012-2013 and was part of the IPL winning squad in 2012. He was also part of the Trinbago Knight Riders (TKR) squad in the CPL from 2016-2018, during which TKR won back-to-back championships in 2017 & 2018. "It's a great honour to take on this responsibility. The Kolkata Knight Rider franchises in IPL and CPL have become iconic and have set the standard in franchise cricket. We have fantastic squads in both KKR & TKR and I along with the support staff will be looking to build on the successes both franchises have enjoyed."

Van Dijk in contention for UEFA top award

Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo and Virgil Van Dijk have been shortlisted for the UEFA Player of the Year award, the sport's European governing body said on Thursday. While Ronaldo, a three-time winner, has been ever-present in the final three since the award was created in 2011, centre back Van Dijk makes his first appearance after helping Liverpool win the Champions League title last season. Van Dijk was voted both the Premier League Player of the Season and the Players' Player of the Year, and was instrumental in the Merseyside club's sixth European Cup triumph.

Neighbours, on and off the court

Hailing from the same village, top doubles pair Khwairakpam and Konthoujam put Manipur back on the badminton map

NITIN SHARMA
PANCHKULA, AUGUST 15



Manjit Singh Khwairakpam (left) and Dingku Singh Konthoujam after their 21-14, 21-11 win over Nitin Kumar and Harsh Rana.

POST THEIR 21-14, 21-11 win over the pair of Nitin Kumar and Harsh Rana in the Yonex Sunrise 28th Smt. Krishna Khaitan Memorial All India Junior Ranking Prize Money Badminton Tournament at Tau Devi Lal Stadium, the top seed men's doubles pair of Manjit Singh Khwairakpam and Dingku Singh Konthoujam bowed towards the wooden court. The Manipuri duo belong to the same village called Ningthoukhong in Bishnupur district and with their village having only one cemented court, every time the top ranked U-19 pair in the country plays in a tournament, they make it a point to bow to the wooden courts.

In 2017, the duo made one final appearance in All India U-19 Ranking Tournament and semifinal appearance in U-19 Junior Nationals at Guwahati before claiming their first U-19 national ranking tournament at Tirupur where they also scored a win over Dhruv Kapila and Sai Krishna, the then top ranked U-19 pair in India in 2018. Last year also saw the Manipuri duo reaching the quarterfinals in Asian Junior Badminton Championships at Jakarta, where they lost to the top seed pair of Di Zijan and Wang Chang of China.

village celebrated," shares 18-year-old Konthoujam.

This year, the duo has reached in the final of All India U-19 Ranking Tournament in Chennai and also reached the quarter-finals in the Senior Ranking Tournament at Bengaluru, where they lost to Kapila/Sai Krishna. Gopichand Academy coach Arun Vishnu believes that the duo has been improving with time.

"When we won the silver medal in the junior nationals in 2016, my parents and Khwairakpam's parents were very excited and told all the village residents about our win. We always wanted to play doubles and when we were selected for the Gopichand Academy, it meant that we had to leave our village. It was tough initially but with time, both of us learnt to stay away. Even though we had known and played with each other since long, we faced some differences when we got proper doubles training at Hyderabad."

"When both of them came to the academy, they did not have much idea about the strategies of doubles. But since they came from the same village and played together, they had good understanding of each other's game. They also got opportunity to train with senior players in the camps and learnt a lot. While they are good in attacking and good in keeping the shuttle low, they need to work on their defense," shares Vishnu.

"After rectifying and a lot of apologies (laughs), we learnt how to play doubles the right way. Winning the title at Tirupur was special for us as we scored a win over Kapila/Sai in the quarters. Competing in Asian Junior Championships also helped us to understand our game better and even though we lost in the quarters, the whole

As for Khwairakpam and Konthoujam, they still remember their meeting with the duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, India's only doubles pair to win a Super 500 Badminton title. "Rankireddy likes to play close to the net and I also manage the net play while Khwairakpam manages the court better. At the academy, we train with them as their sparring partners and we often seek tips from them. Last week also, we met them and spent some time talking to them. Hopefully we can play like them one day," says Konthoujam.



SPECIAL STATUS FOR JAMMU AND KASHMIR: CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE REMOVAL OF ARTICLES 370 AND 35A

with
Dr Aman Hingorani
Lawyer and author of 'Unravelling the Kashmir Knot'

in conversation with
Apurva Vishwanath
Assistant Editor, The Indian Express

Explained by The Indian Express is the event at which experts make sense of current issues in the news that impact our lives and our world.

Parliament has voted to remove provisions of the Constitution that were central to the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to India. A special-status state has been split into two Union Territories. As a blanket communications blackout has ensured only limited coverage of the reactions that have followed in the Valley, the government's move has been challenged in the Supreme Court. What was the legal and constitutional basis of the change of Jammu and Kashmir's status in the Union of India? On what grounds does the challenge in the Supreme Court rest?

23 AUG 2019 **06:00 PM** **Viceroy, The Claridges Delhi**

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