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SUNDAY STORY PAGE 11

The other Ayodhya trial

As the national spotlight is on daily hearings in Ram Janmabhoomi title dispute in the SC, the criminal trial in demolition case is crawling

BIG PICTURE PAGES 12-13

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MAJOR FIRE IN AIIMS, PATIENTS SAFE



FOUR FLOORS OF TEACHING BLOCK SUFFER DAMAGE

DOCTORS FEAR RESEARCH WORK MAY BE LOST

AMID CHAOS, A BABY GIRL IS BORN



PM IN BHUTAN
PM Narendra Modi with Bhutan's PM Lotay Tshering in Paro Saturday. MEA India PAGE 6

RELAXATIONS IN 35 POLICE STATION AREAS

Landlines back in parts of Valley, some movement curbs relaxed

Stone-pelting at some places; govt wants schools, offices open Monday

BASHAARAT MASOOD & ADILAKHZER
SOPORE, SRINAGAR, AUG 17



Srinagar's Lal Chowk on Saturday. Shuaib Masoodi

THE JAMMU and Kashmir government eased restrictions in parts of the Valley Saturday, and began restoring landline services in some areas.

Kashmir has been under an unprecedented communication blackout since August 5, the day the Centre moved to end the special status of the state. "Since morning, relaxations have been provided in 35 police stations across the breadth and length of the Valley," J&K government spokesman Rohit Kansal

said at the daily briefing at the Media Facilitation Centre in Srinagar on Saturday afternoon. There are 105 police stations in the Kashmir Valley — 34 in North Kashmir, 32 in South Kashmir, and 39 in Central Kashmir.

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In security lockdown, lessons from 2016 Wani killing protests

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 17

THE CURRENT lockdown in Kashmir reflects lessons learnt during the massive violence that rocked the Valley in the days immediately following the killing of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani in July 2016, officials in the security establishment told *The Sunday Express*.

In the first 10 days after Wani's killing in an encounter in

Trial in South Kashmir on July 8, 2016, the Valley saw as many as 257 incidents of stone-pelting. In comparison, in the first 10 days following the removal of special status and bifurcation of the state into two Union Territories, 166 incidents of stone-pelting were recorded.

Importantly, the incidents that followed Wani's killing were much more deadly. Between July 8 and July 18, 2016, security forces suffered 1,369 injuries, and 185 of their vehicles were damaged.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Freedom's become an avenue to spew venom on those who are different: Justice Chandrachud

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, AUGUST 17

UNDERLINING THE importance of art in creating a more inclusive society, Justice D Y Chandrachud on Saturday said, "The freedom for art to expand in all directions is necessary for humanity's collective progress.

The danger lies when freedom is suppressed, whether by the state, by the people or even by art itself. Ironically, a globally networked society has rendered us intolerant of those who do not conform. Freedom has become an avenue to spew venom on those who think, speak, eat, dress and believe differently." Delivering the Literature Live



'All art is political. If it were not, merely an ornament'

"Far more disturbing to my mind is the suppression of art by the state...Whether it be *Bandit Queen*, whether it be *Me Nathuram Godse Boltoy*, whether it be *Padmaavat* or just two months back, *Bhobhishyoter Bhoot* banned by the West Bengal government because it was a spoof of ghosts

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IDEA EXCHANGE PAGE 10



'I SEE NO FUTURE (FOR OMAR, SAJAD, MUFTI)... END FOR THOSE THRIVING IN VACUUM'

JITENDRA SINGH, MoS, PMO

'ON WHAT GROUNDS HAVE CONG LEADERS IN J&K BEEN ARRESTED?... IT'S NOW 15 DAYS SINCE EX-CMs HAVE BEEN UNDER ARREST...'



PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA, PAGE 6



The underground wall, with its arches and columns, is believed to be part of the Old Central Jail. Praveen Khanna

Part of 19th century jail wall dug up at hospital in Delhi

SOMYA LAKHANI
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 17

OVER A month ago, construction labourers at work outside the mortuary at Delhi's Maulana Azad Medical College (MAMC), stumbled upon what seemed like remnants of an un-

derground wall. The wall, historians and archaeologists now say, is part of a 16th century serai (inn), which was turned into a jailhouse by the early 19th century.

An Archeological Survey of India (ASI) official told *The Sunday Express*, "We received a call a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Too many workers, too few jobs as automobile sector slowdown hits ancillaries hub in Jharkhand

ABHISHEK ANGAD
JAMSHEDPUR, AUGUST 17

ABOUT 9 o'clock on weekday mornings, some 200 daily wage labourers can be seen at Jamshepur's Imli Chowk, waiting for a contractor to hire them for a day's work.

There are evidently too many of them — and not enough work. Only three months ago, things were different — Imli Chowk wouldn't be this crowded.

Labourers from places such as Saraikela and Rajnagar, around 30 km from Jamshepur, who were employed in auto-ancillary units in the steel city, have joined the crowd of daily wagers. With demand slumping in the

EXPLAINED

Job losses across auto value chain

MAJOR AUTOMOBILE manufacturers have announced declines of up to 50 per cent in their domestic sales in July, with market leader Maruti Suzuki reporting a 36.2 per cent drop in sales. Hit by the liquidity crunch for non-banking financial companies and a dip in consumer sentiment, July became the twelfth out of the last 13 months in which the auto sector has seen a decline in domestic sales. Manufacturers are now going for cuts in production, and the industry is staring at a deep-rooted slowdown and job losses.

automobile industry over the last few months, these ancillary units need less labour now. Jamshepur is home to Tata

Steel and Tata Motors, which contribute significantly to the economic activity in the region.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

WORLD



US ISSUES WARRANT TO SEIZE IRANIAN TANKER OFF GIBRALTAR

SIGNS OF RECESSION WORRY TRUMP AHEAD OF 2020 ELECTION PAGE 13

INSIDE

ALERT IN PUNJAB AFTER RAIN LASHES NORTH INDIA

SOLDIER KILLED IN PAK LOC FIRE PAGES 7, 8

Kalburgi targeted over speech at meet against superstition, say police

JOHNSON TA
BENGALURU, AUGUST 17

KANNADA SCHOLAR and writer M M Kalburgi was killed on August 30, 2015, by a radical right-wing group over a speech he made in June 2014 in which he referenced an essay by Jnanpith award winner U R Ananthamurthy, a Special Investigation Team of the Karnataka Police has stated.

The SIT, which filed a chargesheet in a Dharwad court on Saturday against six persons linked to the right-wing Sanatan Sanstha group for the killing of the scholar, said in a statement that Prof Kalburgi, 77, was targeted by the group over a June 9, 2014, speech made in Bengaluru

at a conference to debate a law on banning superstitious practices in Karnataka.

"In his keynote speech, he (Kalburgi) had referenced a passage from a book written by Dr U R Ananthamurthy and had made certain observations," the SIT said.

"On the basis of this speech, the accused persons identified Dr M M Kalburgi as a "durjan" (evil person) as preached in the *Kshatra Dharma Sadhana* (a book published by the Sanatan Sanstha). They all jointly hatched a conspiracy to murder Dr M M Kalburgi in furtherance of the achievement of their goals and executed it," the SIT said in an official statement placed in the chargesheet filed Saturday.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

How Punjab govt school went the smart way to woo children, funds

RAAKHI JAGGA
MOOSA (MANSA), AUGUST 17

IN 2002, when Jagjit Singh Walia joined as an elementary teacher, the sight that greeted him at the Government Primary School in Moosa, in Punjab's Mansa district, was of children sitting in corridors, a few others in the sun, and still others running around in the open ground. There were not enough classrooms, no toilets, and the building didn't inspire confidence. Walia knew exactly where to start — the school didn't have a gate, and stray animals and tres-

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passers walked in and out. So he, along with the other teachers, approached then sarpanch Balwinder Singh and sought donations to install a gate. Today, the school — brightly painted with eight rooms for classes 1 to 5, including a computer lab/library and a cluster re-

source centre, and with teaching aids, lush green lawns and a playground — is one of 3,400 smart schools in Punjab.

While the official school timings are until 2 pm in summer and 3.15 pm in winter, the school is open from 8 am to 8 pm through the year. After the regular classes, students go home for about an hour, eat their lunch, take a break, and come back to school at 4 pm. They then do their homework for about an hour — and from 5 pm, there are classes for kabaddi and athletics for the students. The school also runs an evening music class in association with Pracheen Kala



The school has 235 students from Classes 1-5. Gurmeet Singh

Kendra, an educational organisation, with its students consistently winning state-level competitions.

Walia, who is now in charge of the school, says, "We also train them for debate, painting, bhanga and giddha competitions. A few of our ex-students, who are now in high school, come here to do their homework, after which they too assist us. The students go home only by 7-7.30 pm."

Kabal Singh, a farmer and resident of Moosa village who is chairman of the School Management Committee, says, "Walia and the other teachers

turned the school around. After they came to the village seeking a gate and the village panchayat installed one, they were inspired to do more. For instance, there were no toilets in the school, a major reason why we never enrolled our children here. Walia initially began with free bhanga classes after school hours, which drew a lot of youngsters. Once he built a rapport with them, these youngsters gathered bricks from the village and got masons to volunteer and build toilets. The youth club of school had Rs 3,500 in its kitty which they contributed to paint the school." Kabal's three children studied

here, of whom two are now in the Government High School in the village while the youngest is in Class 5 in the primary school. Around 2003, funds started coming in under the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan and construction of new rooms started. Today the school has five regular teachers for the primary classes (Class 1-5), two volunteers for the pre-primary sections (nursery and KG) and one Inclusive Education Volunteer for 10 special children. As the condition of the school improved, villagers moved their children from private schools to the Moosa primary school.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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FAREWELL ATHI VARADAR: KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF ONCE-IN-40-YEARS FESTIVAL

The deity, Lord Athi Varadar will be immersed in the tank at the Varadaraja Perumal temple in Kancheepuram district Saturday at nightfall. The festival saw a turnout of over 1 crore people visiting the Varadaraja Perumal and Devarajaswamy temples in Kancheepuram this year

VIDEO OF THE DAY



RAVI SHASTRI RETAINS HEAD COACH POST

Kapil Dev-led Cricket Advisory Committee interviewed five people

FULL COVERAGE



PM MODI VISITS BHUTAN

Talks on series of issues, including bilateral cooperation

EXPRESS AUDIO

Was Mary Kom unfairly selected for the World Boxing Championship?

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In this episode of Express Sports, hosts Daksh and Gaurav debate whether Mary Kom should be made to participate in the trail scheduled against Nikhat Zareen

Slowdown hits ancillaries hub in Jharkhand

The plants offer opportunities to labourers from rural areas in industrial and construction jobs. Agriculture is often not a sustainable option in largely rain-fed Jharkhand — and even the Rs 171 per day under MNREGA is not reliable, given late payment cycles and implementation issues in the scheme.

Raju Kumar travelled from Aurangabad, Bihar, to Jamshedpur in search of a better livelihood and worked in a forging unit for the last two years, earning Rs 450 on a 12-hour shift. "Today I will be happy if I get even Rs 250 per day," he said. Bablu Pradhan from Rajnagar, who was among the dozens waiting for work on the day The Sunday Express met him this week, said he was no longer required in an auto ancillary unit where he had a job until recently.

That same day, Badal Marandi hung around until 1 pm, but could get no work. Janki Devi, who had travelled 73 km from Barambo with a tiffin box in hand, said she was in despair.

Ashok Bhalotia, president of the Singhbhum Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), one of the oldest industry associations which represents about 600 MSMEs, said: "As per our analysis, at least 10,000 people have been rendered jobless across small units, mostly auto ancillaries, in Jamshedpur. If Tata Steel and Tata Motors are impacted, the labour market goes for a toss."

SCCI estimates the MSME segment has suffered losses of about Rs 1,000 crore in the last five months. Bhalotia, who also owns a company that builds automobile bodies on chassis, said he had lost "crores of rupees" in the last four-five months. "I have retained skilled workers, but had to ask 200 labourers to go," he said.

Tata Motors in Jamshedpur manufactures heavy vehicles, and employs about 10,000 workers, about half of them on contract. According to sources in the industry, the company has sharply cut monthly production to about 2,500-3,000 units from the earlier 10,000-12,000 units.

Tata Motors declined to comment on numbers. A spokesperson said: "As indicated earlier, external environment remains challenging, leading to demand contraction. We have aligned our production to actual demand and adjusted the number of shifts and contractual manpower."

Tata Motors Workers' Union president Gurmeet Singh said: "Jamshedpur and Lucknow together are producing 4,000 units per month compared with 10,000-12,000 a few months ago... The government needs to intervene and start more work in the mines so that the demand for the vehicles increases."

The sources said Tata Motors has gone for block closures of 10-14 days since July. "For those on contract, no work means no pay. Permanent workers receive half

their salary during block closures. The auto ancillary industry in the area which supplies components to Tata Motors has been the worst hit," said Prakash Kumar, a former Tata Motors' union general secretary. Outside the premises of TMF, a company that manufactures axle spindles, a notice in Hindi informs staff that "due to lack of requirement from the customer, the company will remain shut from August 7 to August 18". Another note says the company is trying to pay salaries, but advises the workers to call the management to check before coming.

TMF owner Rupesh Katriar, who is also the president of Laghu Udyog Bharati, Jamshedpur and Adityapur, said: "The auto ancillary market is like an outsourcing business; there is no creativity. We get designs and we have no option but to supply the products in a fixed range of rates. Where are the other large industries to support us?"

Inder Aggarwal, president of the Adityapur Small Industrial Association, said: "There are around 800 auto ancillary units in Jamshedpur that are heavily dependent on Tata Motors and Tata Steel. We used to run three shifts, but now we work just one shift. Our business is down by two-third. Tata Steel supplies inputs for many ancillary companies. Due to the slump, even the demand for steel has dropped."

Aggarwal also has an iron casting unit. Ancillary units manufacture components of brakes, suspensions, axles, electrical parts, body and chassis, and various other components, and supply to Original Equipment Manufacturers such as Tata Motors.

Sameer Singh, owner of Singhel Enterprises, which supplies sheet metal press to Tata Motors, said business has shrunk by 70 per cent. "At the same time, our fixed costs remain the same — interest, electricity charges, increased security in the plant for asset protection, overheads like payment to skilled labourers despite lack of work, land rent, etc. Any mid-sized company has to spend at least Rs 2.5-3 lakh a month, when there is absolutely no work. Where will this money come from?"

Singh, who is also the general secretary (Jamshedpur and Adityapur) of the RSS-affiliated Laghu Udyog Bharati, an all-India organisation of Micro and Small Industries, said Tata Motors has sent drawings of BS-VI complaint auto components for which investment has already been made.

"The company is planning to roll out BS-VI emission norms compliant vehicles in October-November for which we will give components. If we don't invest, we will be out of business. Again, where will the money come for paying the interest? We haven't yet recovered the investments made earlier for BS-IV technology," he said.

Dabholkar murder case: Pune court rejects bail plea by Vikram Bhawe

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE PUNE, AUGUST 17

A SPECIAL court in Pune on Saturday rejected the bail application filed by Vikram Bhawe, an accused in the Narendra Dabholkar murder case who was arrested by the CBI in May. The order was passed by Additional Sessions Judge R M Pande.

Bhawe and lawyer Sanjiv Punalekar, who was also arrested in May, have been accused of playing a role in the conspiracy to kill Dabholkar and helping his killers.

Punalekar was granted bail on July 5. Bhawe had subsequently applied for bail before the special court in Pune.

FROM PAGE ONE

Kalburgi

In June 2014, participating in a discussion on the topic 'Towards a superstition-free society', as part of a debate on 'Enactment of Karnataka Prevention of Superstitious Practices Bill, 2013' held at Vigyan Bhavan, Bengaluru, Kalburgi had started by quoting U R Ananthamurthy that urinating on idols of Gods would not attract retribution.

Kalburgi was shot dead at his house in Dharwad on the morning of August 30, 2015, by a person who knocked on the door and asked for him. The shooter escaped with a motorcycle rider who was waiting at the gate while the murder was carried out.

The SIT has identified Ganesh Miskin, 27, a resident of the neighbouring Hubli town, as the shooter of the scholar and Praveen Prakash Chatur, 26, a resident of Belagavi city, located around 150 km away, as the rider of the motorcycle.

The others named for the murder in the SIT chargesheet are Amol Kale, 37, a former convenor of the Sanatan Sanstha's Hindu Janajagruti Samiti and key leader of the extremist group; Vasudev Suryavanshi, 29, a motorcycle mechanic who stole a bike used for the murder; Sharad Kalaskar, 27, the alleged shooter in the Dabholkar murder who dumped the guns used for the murder; and Amit Baddi, 27, a close Hubli associate of the alleged shooter Miskin who provided logistics for the murder.

Kalburgi's identification as a 'durban' or evil person by the radical group followed on the lines of police findings in the murders of the Maharashtra nationalist Narendra Dabholkar, 67, and Karnataka journalist Gauri Lankesh, 55, who were also allegedly identified as 'durban' by the extremist group for speeches and statements deemed to be inimical to their belief system.

The probe in Karnataka and Maharashtra of the murders of Kalburgi, Dabholkar, Lankesh and the leftist thinker from Maharashtra, Govind Pensare, 81, between 2013 and 2017, were first linked together by ballistic evidence which revealed that Lankesh, Kalburgi and Pensare were fired at with one 7.65 mm country gun while a second gun used in the Pensare murder was used to shoot the nationalist Dabholkar in Pune.

Other than the motorcycle rider Praveen Chatur, the five others named in the Kalburgi chargesheet are among 18 charged in the September 5, 2017, murder of Lankesh. Miskin, the alleged shooter in the Kalburgi case, was earlier identified as the rider of the motorcycle used in the Gauri Lankesh shooting.

Chandrachud

among politicians. Politicians were deeply disturbed by the fact that here was this director who had the audacity to talk about the ghosts among politics."

Justice Chandrachud observed, "Art which challenges the status quo may necessarily appear radical from the view point of the state but that is not a reason to suppress art... We increasingly witness today a world of intolerance, where art is suppressed, defaced, and co-opted. Attacks on art are attacks on freedom itself... Art grants a voice and narrative to oppressed communities, resisting majoritarian hegemony... This is to be cherished and protected," he said.

Delivering his nearly 50-minute lecture before a room packed with prominent members of the legal, theatre and art fraternity, he said the "lived experiences of oppressed communities" are often excluded from mainstream art. "The threat to restricting art may arise within art itself as a result of dominance of privileged groups over the domain of art and literature... By

Landlines back in parts of Kashmir

"While the situation is being closely watched, there has been no report of untoward incident so far. Public transport has also started plying and we are getting encouraging reports of normal movement from lot of rural areas," Kansal told the press conference.

However, as the restrictions were relaxed, protests erupted in several parts of the Valley. Protesters threw stones at several places, forcing the re-imposition of restrictions. At least eight protesters were injured in action by police and paramilitary forces.

In North Kashmir's Sopore, large number of youths took to the streets to protest against the abrogation of Article 370. They threw stones at security forces, who responded with heavy tear-smoke shelling. Restrictions were re-imposed in parts of Sopore town.

Protests also erupted at Singhpora, on the Srinagar-Baramulla national highway. A large contingent of police and paramilitary forces was re-deployed in the area, and restric-

tions imposed. Paramilitary forces fired dozens of tear smoke shells to disperse the protesters.

Protests were also reported from other parts of the Valley, such as Chadoora in Central Kashmir.

"We have reports of seven to eight incidents of stone pelting," Kansal said in the evening press briefing. "We have reports that eight people have been injured." He had no information about the nature of the injuries, Kansal said.

Business establishments, government and private offices, and schools and colleges remained closed, and public transport largely remained off the roads. The few private vehicles, however, plied in parts of the Valley.

On Saturday, the government also started to ease the communications blackout, starting with restoring landline connections in some parts of the Valley.

"On communication, as we speak, 17 telephonic exchanges out of 96 total exchanges in

Kashmir Valley are functional, enabling functionality of landline phones," Kansal said. "It is our endeavour and attempt that by today evening, at least half of the total exchanges are made functional and carry forward this process."

"We hope by tomorrow evening, barring a very few vulnerable areas or exchanges, all the telephone exchanges shall be made functional," he said. Landlines and cell phones are already functional in the Jammu region, the spokesman said.

In the evening, Kansal said that about 23,000 landline connections, roughly 50 per cent of the total in the Valley, would be restored by Saturday evening. However, landlines were not restored in the city centre of Lal Chowk, where most media organisations have their offices.

In Sopore, people were asked to get clearance from the police for their landline connections to be restored.

In the areas like Jawahar Nagar in Srinagar, where land-

line connections have been restored, people said services appeared to be restricted.

"We are not able to call every number," said a resident of Jawahar Nagar. "We have unhindered access to telephone numbers outside the Valley, but as of now, we are able to make calls only to a few numbers inside the Valley."

Kansal said the government was looking forward to opening schools from Monday. However, to prevent protests by older children, schools would be opened only until Class 5.

"We are looking forward to opening of schools beginning with primary schools, and as we mentioned yesterday, there will be full functionality of government offices beginning Monday," the spokesperson said.

Responding to a question on the release of political detainees, Kansal said: "I reiterate these are directions which are to be taken by local authorities based on their assessment of the law and order situation."

In security lockdown, lessons from 2016 protests

In the 10-day period after the removal of Article 370 by contrast, only 45 security personnel were injured, and 18 vehicles were damaged.

As many as 42 civilians were killed in the protests in the first 10 days after Wani's killing. Now, the death of only one civilian has been reported.

"The reason for the comparatively less violence this time is the near complete shutdown we effected in the first few days following the Article 370 decision. Unlike in 2016, all communication, including landlines, was cut. Except in medical emergencies, people were not allowed to move out of their neighbourhoods. This ensured there was never an assembly of people large enough to create significant trouble," a senior security officer said.

After Wani's killing, government did clamp down on communication for almost two months, but both landlines and postpaid mobile phones were working.

What has also helped, sources in the Ministry of Home Affairs said, that separatist leaders, who often call bandhs and organise protests, were already in jail, thanks to arrests made by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) over the past couple of years.

Almost all top separatists barring Syed Ali Shah Geelani and Mirwaiz Umer Farooq are behind bars in connection with a case of terror funding. Yasin

STONE PELTING IN THE AFTERMATH

BURHAN WANI PROTESTS (2016)				ARTICLE 370 PROTESTS (2019)			
DATE	Stone pelting incidents	Injuries to security forces	No. of vehicles damaged	DATE	Stone pelting incidents	Injuries to security forces	No. of vehicles damaged
07/08/19	8	21	4	08/06/19	45	21	4
07/09/19	43	521	48	08/07/19	30	5	5
07/10/19	45	351	53	08/08/19	19	8	6
07/11/19	46	222	30	08/09/19	27	6	3
07/12/19	21	49	6	08/10/19	15	0	0
07/13/19	21	48	16	08/11/19	5	0	0
07/14/19	19	26	8	08/12/19	4	0	0
07/15/19	25	61	3	08/13/19	9	1	0
07/16/19	15	69	14	08/14/19	6	0	0
07/17/19	14	1	3	08/15/19	6	4	0
TOTAL	257	1369	186	TOTAL	166	45	18

Malik, Shabbir Shah, Asiya Andrabi and Masarat Alam are among over a dozen leaders currently lodged in Tihar jail in Delhi.

"Preparations were made in advance, and people were taken into preventive custody before the announcement was made. Security forces had been deployed well in advance, and all key political leaders were put under house arrest. So all that we saw was a handful of people protesting or throwing stones in their neighbourhoods. More and bigger injuries occur when a thousand or more people gather at one place and throw stones," the officer said.

The administration has begun to ease restrictions after 12 days of severe clampdown. Schools are scheduled to reopen on Monday, and the communication blackout is likely to be gradually removed. Some phone lines have begun working.

"You can't impose severe restrictions for too long. It can lead to spontaneous protests that may be difficult to control," the officer said.

According to government data, stone-pelting incidents, and resulting injuries, have been going down steadily since the abrogation of Article 370. While on the first day — August 6 — there were 45 incidents of

stone-pelting, it fell to 30 on the following day. Subsequent days saw 15, 27, and 19 incidents respectively. Since then, the figures have been in single digits.

All vehicles were damaged in the first four days. Injuries to security forces personnel too, were reported the most on the first day — 21 personnel were injured. Since then, the figures have been in single digits.

Following Wani's killing too, the first four days saw the most protests — 142 of the 257 stone pelting incidents were reported during that period. In the first four days, 1,115 security forces personnel were injured.

denying certain communities a voice and a narrative, art can itself be oppressive and enabling of a hegemonic culture," he said.

"Let's not forget all art is political. If it were not, art would be merely an ornament of colour, words or music," he said.

Justice Chandrachud, who was one of the five judges of the Supreme Court who, in a landmark judgment in September 2018, decriminalised homosexuality among consenting adults, also said, "When were hearing the challenge to our earlier verdict on the issue of LGBTQ rights, one of the lawyers mentioned that in the earlier round before the Supreme Court, one of the questions which came from the bench was, 'Have you ever met somebody who is homosexual?' We had to right a wrong after several decades."

Finding mention in Justice Chandrachud's lecture were, among others, Carnatic musician T M Krishna's 'Performing the Periphery' concert with the transgender community of Jogappas, the Dalit Panther movement, British graffiti artist Banksy, and Chittaprosad Bhattacharya, whose 'Hungry Bengal' illustrations in 1943 "highlighted the role of colonial rule and global capitalism in creating a deadly food crisis".

Later, in a chat with leading corporate lawyer Zia Mody, Justice Chandrachud was asked if a case like the Ayodhya dispute should be before the court. He said, "I will not talk on the merits of the case for the simple reason that I am a part of the bench still hearing the case. But... every citizen has a right to access to justice... a lot of cases which otherwise

come to the court - and sometimes you wonder how did this come to the Supreme Court or High Court - are just a part of the process of ensuring access to justice in the widest possible terms."

Punjab school

"Villagers realised that government schools can be as good as, even better than, private schools. Today, we have 235 students in our school, including 49 in the pre-primary classes. No child in the village studies in a private school and this is the badge of honour that we wear with pride," says Walia, who travels 10 km to the school from Mansa city where he lives.

"Since 2002, approximately Rs 32 lakh has been spent on the school building, including on the construction of new class rooms. Of this, Rs 17 lakh was spent by the

government while the rest came through donations," he says, adding that every year, around "2-3 students from the school clear the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya entrance test".

Early 2018, the Punjab government declared it a smart school, another validation of its efforts. The concept of smart schools was introduced by the state government in 2018 to empower government-run primary and secondary schools.

Binder Singh, a brick kiln labourer whose daughter Jyoti Kaur is in Class 5 at the Moosa school, says, "My daughter used to skip classes regularly and we never pushed her either. She would help her mother at home or accompany us for NREGA work. She could sing well, but we thought what use is it to anyone? But for the past one year, she has

been regularly going to school and stays back for music classes. Her teachers have also told us that they will support Jyoti."

Last year, Kaur won the second prize in the folk-song category at a state-level inter-school music competition.

Walia says, "Earlier, Jyoti hardly came to school and we had to counsel her as well as her parents. But once she started coming, she began doing well in academics and we helped her hone her singing skills too. She scored more than 80 per cent marks in Class 4."

Talking about the initiatives of the Moosa school, Punjab School Education and Public Works Minister Vijay Inder Singla said, "I am overwhelmed to know that people prefer the government school in Moosa village to private ones. The Moosa school has set an example for other schools by becoming a smart school even before the government could give it the tag. Under our smart school policy, which is proposed to be implemented next week, the government will revamp all the 19,000 government schools in the state by providing 50 per cent of the financial support needed to revamp schools, with the community pitching in with the remaining 50 per cent."

19th century jail

month ago about a wall that had been discovered at MAMC. Construction work has been stalled and we are preparing a report. The wall is believed to be a part of the Old Central Jail that existed here till the mid-20th century."

The portion of the underground wall, with arches, is now surrounded by red bricks, muddy water and tarp.

It was in the Old Central Jail, spread across 30 acres, that the conspirators of the 1912 assassination attempt on then Viceroy of India, Lord Hardinge, were lodged before they were executed.

Historian Sohail Hashmi said his father was lodged in the jail during the Quit India Movement in 1942. "My father was imprisoned in the Old Central Jail for two years. The prison shifted from here to Tihar jail but the cells at MAMC were not preserved. It's a portion of the jail's underground chamber that has been discovered now," said Hashmi.

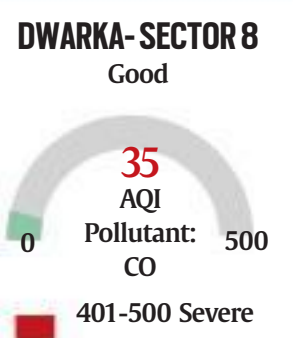
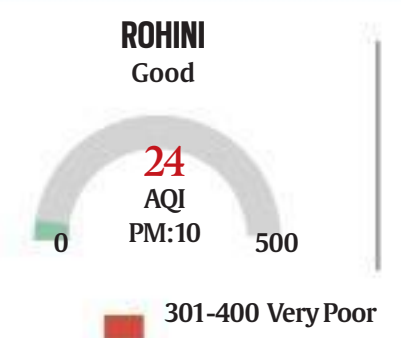
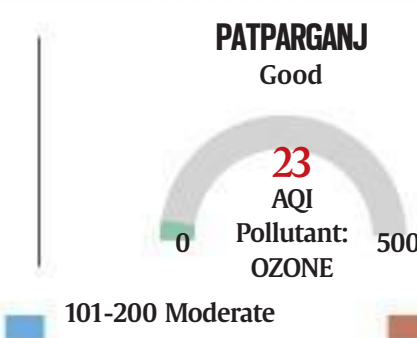
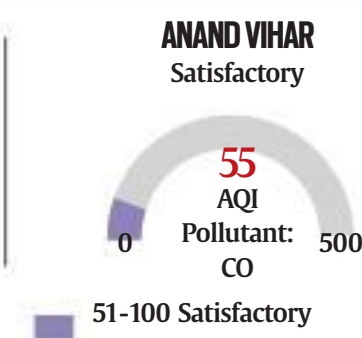
Before it became Old Central Jail, the structure was a serai (inn), believed to have been built during the reign of Mughal emperors Akbar and Jehangir in the late 16th-early 17th century. "The caravanserais were resting places and some had tekhana or underground cells. They were built to beat the heat," said Hashmi.

Shama Mitra Chenoy, Associate Professor of History at Delhi's Shivaji College, said the serai was built by Shaikh Farid, who was governor of Gujarat and later Punjab during Jehangir's reign. She said, "Shaikh Farid built a mosque in Tughlaqabad and this serai too. He was Mughal emperor Akbar's bakshi (paymaster) as well. It was a common practice to build underground chambers for serais to escape the heat. At the time, subterranean apartments did exist."

According to Delhi in Transition, 1821 and Beyond, Chenoy's translation of Mirza Sangin Beg's Sair-ul-Manazil, "there was a jailhouse there by 1821". She said, "It's to be noted that the serai was so strong and sturdy that a jail could be built, and it remained one till the mid-20th Century."

An ASI official said, "The area comes under the ASI Delhi mini-circle, and the report being readied will tell us what has to be done with the wall."

MAMC is a Delhi government hospital that came up in 1959 on Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, near Delhi Gate. Before the foundation stone was laid in 1959, MAMC was located at the Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan Hospital.



BRIEFLY

Water supply to be hit in Gurgaon

Gurgaon: Water supply in parts of Gurgaon will be affected for 28 hours between Monday and Tuesday, due to "special repair" of a pipeline near Garhi Mor in Basai Road.

Minor girl found dead

Ghaziabad: The body of a seven-year-old girl was found floating in a sack in a drain at Indirapuram Saturday. Police said a case on the minor's kidnapping had been filed a few days ago. The cause of death is yet to be ascertained.

25-year-old chef dies in hit-and-run

New Delhi: A 25-year-old chef died after his motor-bike was allegedly hit by an unknown vehicle in the South Campus area. Though the victim's family alleged he was murdered, police are awaiting the autopsy report.

Police chief lauds efforts of personnel

New Delhi: At the police HQ on Independence Day, Delhi Police chief Amulya Patnaik lauded the efforts of police personnel in maintaining law, order and traffic, especially during the recent Lok Sabha polls. **ENS**

ADMITS TO BLACKMAILING HIM FOR THREE MONTHS: POLICE

'Day before DCP committed suicide, accused SHO paid him visit at home'

SAKSHI DAYAL
GURGAON, AUGUST 17

THREE DAYS after Faridabad's Deputy Commissioner of Police (NIT) Vikram Kapoor committed suicide, leaving behind a one-line note accusing a Station House Officer (SHO) of blackmail, the Special Investigation Team claimed that the accused, Abdul Shahid, has confessed to blackmailing the DCP for the last three months.

According to police, investigation into the matter has revealed that Shahid was pressuring Kapoor remove the name of his nephew from an FIR registered at Mujesar police station in an attempt to murder case. Police said he also confessed to trying to pressure the DCP to

favour a woman friend in a property dispute case.

Shahid, police said, admitted that he visited the DCP at his home the evening before the suicide to reiterate these demands.

"During questioning, the accused said the woman is a friend of his, and has a property dispute against her father-in-law. Her husband had filed a complaint with police at a station that fell under the jurisdiction of DCP (NIT). The SHO had been pressuring the DCP to investigate the matter in her favour," said Sube Singh, PRO of Faridabad Police.

Apart from Shahid, a journalist, Satish Malik, has also been named as an accused in the case. Police said he is at large.



DCP Vikram Kapoor shot himself on Wednesday

"Shahid told the DCP if he didn't release his nephew and conduct an investigation into the woman's complaint, he would trap Kapoor in a false case using the woman, and would use Malik to publish defamatory reports against him in a local newspaper," Singh said.

Malik works for a Hindi language newspaper which had published two articles in June, without a byline, making allegations of Kapoor accepting money from wine smugglers and bookies.

Police said Shahid also revealed that he had gone to the DCP's house on multiple occasions, including on August 13, the evening before the suicide. He allegedly told Kapoor to do as he said, but the DCP refused, police said. In anger, the accused raised his voice, because of which Kapoor's wife also came into the room, police said.

"Despite her being in the room, Shahid reiterated his threats, telling the DCP that he and Malik had published reports against him earlier as well, to taint his reputation. He told

him that this time, he would publish something the DCP would not be able to tolerate," said the PRO.

ACP (Crime) Anil Yadav who is heading the SIT added, "It seems the DCP committed suicide because he was troubled by the threats of Shahid and the other accused, Satish."

The incident took place around 6 am Wednesday. In his complaint, Kapoor's son claimed the family woke up to the sound of a bullet being fired, and found Kapoor lying on the sofa in a pool of blood, with his service revolver close by.

In a one-line suicide note, Kapoor accused Shahid of blackmailing him. His son also named Malik in the complaint. Shahid was formally arrested on Thursday.

Death by manjha: No closure for families as police say most such cases remain unsolved

SOMYA LAKHANI
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 17

AS RELATIVES waited for Manav Sharma (28) and his sister Monika (21) to join the annual Rakhi festivities, the two siblings were at the Balaji Action Cancer Hospital in blood-soaked clothes on the afternoon of August 15.

"I thought he would make it, but he was declared dead on arrival... I called up a relative, but didn't inform my mother till 5 pm," said Monika, minutes after her brother was cremated on Saturday.

Manav died after a Chinese *manjha* (kite string) allegedly slit his throat in Paschim Vihar. The civil engineer, who joined a firm 10 days ago, was on his way to Hari Nagar to celebrate Rakhi with his sister, who was riding pillion. A case under IPC sections 336 (endangering life) and 304A (causing death by negligence) has been registered. No arrest has been made so far.

Additional DCP (Outer) Rajender Singh Sagar said, "We don't know if someone was flying a kite or if it was a stray string. The *manjha* is in our custody. We are looking at footage from



Manav Sharma died when his throat was slit by a manjha while on a scooter

CCTVs, and for eyewitnesses in nearby buildings." He, however, added that the

chances of the *manjha* being caught on CCTV is slim.

On Independence Day, at least nine people were arrested from Outer Delhi for allegedly selling banned Chinese *manjha*.

Across Delhi, at least 17 cases were registered under IPC section 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant).

On July 11, a 33-year-old man and his three-year-old niece fell off the Badarpur flyover, after a *manjha* allegedly got stuck in the man's neck while he was riding a motorcycle.

While Mohan Kumar survived, his niece Dipti died. DCP

(South East) Chinmoy Biswal said no arrest has been made.

"It's hard to establish evidence... Who will you arrest?" an officer said.

DCP (North West) Vijayanta Arya stressed on the need to "spread awareness about the dangers of using *manjha* for sport... sensitise youth about how it can affect human beings and animals".

At the Sharma residence in Buddh Vihar, Monika said: "The scooter in police custody is the only memory of our brother. My elder sister saved money to gift it to him last year."

Cong leader's murder accused held in Dubai

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GURGAON, AUGUST 17

OVER A month after Congress's Haryana spokesperson Vikas Chaudhary was shot dead outside a gym in Faridabad, notorious gangster Kaushal, believed to be the mastermind behind the murder and several other crimes in Haryana, was arrested from Dubai on Saturday.

Although police officers refused to elaborate on the arrest, a source said, "A team had been in Dubai for the last month, trying to nab Kaushal. He was arrested in a joint operation by Faridabad and Delhi Police."

Kaushal first came to the attention of police in 2004. His gang has several cases of murder, attempt to murder and extortion, among other crimes, registered against them in

Haryana. Kaushal was arrested in 2015, but jumped parole in 2016. He is believed to have fled to Dubai around that time.

His involvement in the murder of the Congress spokesperson had emerged two days after the crime took place in June, when his wife and her domestic help were arrested from Gurgaon. Police said his wife Roshni allegedly plotted the murder on the directions of her husband, who had a rift with Chaudhary over a financial transaction between them.

Police sources said Kaushal will be brought back to Faridabad for further questioning in the coming days.

Chaudhary's murder, which had been caught on CCTV, took place outside a gym in HUDA market. Several police teams had been set up to probe the murder.

WISHES DO COME TRUE... UNLIMITED OPTIONS FOR LIMITED TIME

LAKEVIEW, APARTMENTS
SECTOR-48, FARIDABAD
4 BHK & 3 BHK Flats are ready to move
22 KM. from Gurgaon

STONECORP, APARTMENTS
SECTOR-78, FARIDABAD
2 BHK, 2+1 BHK & 3 BHK Works is going on.
Applied for RERA Registration.

STONECORP-II, APARTMENTS
SECTOR-89, FARIDABAD
3 BHK finishing works is going on.
Applied for RERA Registration.

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STRIVING FOR HEALTHY, HALE & HEARTY NEW GENERATION...

Battle against malnutrition STATE WIDE PROGRAMME From Gandhi Jayanti (October 2, 2019)

- Pilot project already started from Bastar, where anganwari centers are providing nutritious meals
- On 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, "Suposhan Abhiyan" to start across the state
- Free nutritious meals to be provided every day as per the identified beneficiary by each of the gram panchayat
- Inculcated DMF to provide fruits, milk, eggs, soya chunks etc., as per preference
- Participation of government - non-government-charitable organisations
- PDS strengthened to provide rice, sugar, salt, grams and kerosene
- Initiated to provide per month 2-kg jaggery in Bastar

An initiative to take health services to all Scheduled Tribe Areas

CHIEF MINISTER HAAT-BAAZAR YOJANA

- Weekly camps at Haat-Bazaar to provide health facilities
- Mobile health teams to provide pathology, portable x-ray facility
- Check-up for diseases as well as treatment and free medicines
- Health units to be upgraded under the Universal Health scheme
- Neo-natal intensive care units started at Narayanpur, Sukma and Kondagaon districts
- Free testing and treatment of several diseases

BHUPESH BAGHEL
Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh

Visit us: @DPRChhattisgarh @DPRChhattisgarh @ChhattisgarhCMO @ChhattisgarhCMO

OVER 200 FIREFIGHTERS INVOLVED, NO CASUALTIES REPORTED

Patients evacuated as AIIMS blaze fans panic

Spread to several floors through the shaft; minister takes stock

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 17

A MAJOR fire broke out on the second floor of the teaching block at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in the capital Saturday evening. While no casualties were reported, the Delhi Fire Services (DFS) dispatched at least 42 fire tenders and 200 firefighters to douse the flames. The fire quickly spread to the third, fourth and fifth floors of the block and was largely doused by 11 pm.

Fire Chief Atul Garg said, "A call was received at 4.50 pm; by 6.25 pm, the fire on the second and third floors had been brought under control. The fire broke out in the teaching block... there are a number of doctors' offices and teaching labs there."

Garg said the cause of the fire can only be determined once cooling operations are over.

Rajinder Atwal, Additional Divisional Officer, DFS, said: "The fire travelled to the fourth and fifth floors through the shaft where the electric cables are."

As the fire raged for several hours, panic struck the hospital and patients from the emergency department were asked to move to Safdarjung Hospital, said a source at AIIMS. Patients from other wards were also moved later.

At 9.30 pm, two teams of the National Disaster Response Force also reached AIIMS. "Around 70 personnel are deployed in case the building weakens, as it is such a major fire. It's a precautionary measure... personnel are carrying self-contained breathing apparatus. In such situations, wind can play havoc and the fire can spread quickly... since it's a hospital with inflammable chemicals, we have to be ready in case more evacuation is needed," said P K Srivastava, NDRF commandant. AIIMS said in an official statement: "There has been no loss or damage to life. As a precautionary measure, patients admitted in adjoining AB Wing were moved to other wings. They will be moved back by tomorrow."

It added that Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan monitored efforts towards extinguishing the fire on-site and also regarding patient care. Vardhan also discussed the need to conduct a special fire audit of the hospital.

Dr Randeep Guleria, Director, AIIMS, said, "No fire at any ward. The emergency lab has been affected. There were no patients inside." During the night, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal tweeted: "The fire in AIIMS will be brought under control at the earliest. Fire Service trying its best to extinguish the fire."



The fire broke out on the second floor of a building in the teaching block and spread to other floors. Patients were initially evacuated from the emergency ward

Those in emergency ward asked to move to Safdarjung — but many wait

ASTHA SAXENA & SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 17

STANDING OUTSIDE the emergency department of AIIMS on Saturday evening, Kamlesh Kumari (32) held up a blood bag for her brother Anil Kumar (25) who is undergoing treatment for hemorrhoids at the medical institute. Her brother was among the many patients who were moved out of the emergency ward after a massive fire broke out on the second floor of a building in the PC and Teaching Block. It then spread to other floors.

The AIIMS administration closed the emergency department as a precautionary measure as it was close to the building that caught fire.

"We did not see any fire but were told to leave the ward immediately. Guards and doctors asked us to go to Safdarjung Hospital for further treatment," said Kumar, sitting on a stretcher outside the emergency ward.

SPECIAL FIRE AUDIT PLANNED AT INSTITUTE

New Delhi: As the fire broke out, AIIMS director Dr Randeep Guleria, heads of departments and senior officials from the Health Ministry held a meeting to chalk out a patient-friendly plan and conduct a fire audit. Union Health Minister Dr Harsh

Vardhan was also in attendance. In March, a fire broke out at the AIIMS trauma centre. Although the fire was doused within minutes, it took around three hours to clear smoke from the basement. No casualty was reported. ENS

The family, however, decided to stay outside the hospital. "We are not sure if we will get treatment in the other emergency ward. We will stay here and wait for the situation to return to normal," said Kamlesh.

Security staff at the hospital hurriedly helped patients vacate the emergency ward. With the capital receiving rain in the evening, patients and their attendants crowded under the awning of the ward block, undecided whether they should pro-

ceed to Safdarjung. Among them was the family of Savita Devi (52) from Sambhal in Uttar Pradesh. Devi is bedridden due to renal complications. By 6.40 pm, she and her family had been waiting with her on a stretcher outside the block for half an hour.

"We have not received any referral from AIIMS to go to Safdarjung. My wife is unable to walk, so we'll have to take her there in an auto. We don't want to go there only to be turned

away, so we are waiting for a confirmation on the referral," said her husband Devender Kumar.

Unsure of the crowd at Safdarjung, other families made arrangements. "There are so many patients here; it will get too crowded so we are waiting for an ambulance to go to Kailash Hospital in Noida," said Neha, whose mother-in-law Rajkali (70) had suffered a brain haemorrhage in the morning.

According to patients waiting outside, the line for the emergency section kept moving forward even after the smell of smoke began entering it around 4 pm.

"We could see smoke outside. The corridor outside was filled with water because of fire service operations," said Amarnath (54), who was at the hospital because of renal complications. At the hospital since 2 pm, he said he was just one patient away from being let into the emergency ward when patients were evacuated.

Amid chaos, doctors help 30-yr-old deliver a healthy baby girl

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 17

AMID THE chaos and smoke at AIIMS, doctors at the institute successfully delivered a baby girl late Saturday night. The mother, who was admitted in the gynaecology ward Saturday morning, went into labour while hospital staff was rushing from one ward to another to evacuate patients in the emergency ward.

According to doctors, the mother was then moved to the operation theatre at Dr Rajendra Prasad Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences of the institute. Around 9.30 pm, as firefighters were still dousing the flames, the 30-year-old woman gave birth to a healthy baby girl.

"Attending to the patient is our duty and we cannot ignore it under any situation. The life of this patient and her child was more important than anything. We immediately took her to the

RP centre OT for delivery," said a senior doctor who helped deliver the baby.

The mother and child are both doing well, doctors said.

The medical institute witnessed one of the worst fire incidents on Saturday — and while no casualty was reported, the fire damaged multiple floors.

The origin of the fire is suspected to be from the under-construction areas of the teaching block, doctors said.

The hospital immediately made temporary arrangements and transferred patients from the AB wing. While some patients were asked to go to Safdarjung Hospital, others waited outside.

"This patient was crucial. We could not take the risk of referring her to another hospital. We had to perform the surgery," said the doctor. The mother has been moved to an in-patient ward and the baby is being monitored by the medical staff.

Doctors fear their research may be lost

ASTHA SAXENA & SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 17

THE FIRE at the AIIMS teaching block on Saturday evening has left several senior faculty members anxious over loss of crucial research work. The fire that started from the second floor soon spread to other floors that house offices of faculty members.

While the AIIMS administration was quick enough to take preventive measures by evacuating patients and staff, faculty members said they are hopeful their research work and other important documents are not lost in the incident.

"Most faculty offices are in the teaching block; we have our data, research work and important files stored in the computer systems. We are yet to find out about the situation of the offices and other losses," said a senior faculty member.

The virology unit of the microbiology lab, which stores samples for testing, was also impacted. "The lab also performs testing for dengue. We will definitely make some arrangements for patients coming for the test on Monday," said another faculty member.

As the fire spread across the institute, doctors and paramedical staff swung into action to evacuate the premises at the earliest. Since most faculty rooms were locked at the time, the fire spread through the duct.

The administration from AIIMS immediately coordinated with Safdarjung Hospital to accommodate a few critical patients. "We are accommodating 12-15 emergency patients from AIIMS at our hospital. We are coordinating with doctors there and moving patients," Dr Sunil Gupta, medical superintendent, Safdarjung Hospital told *The Indian Express*.

According to a resident doctor on duty at the ward block, the evacuations had started with just the emergency ward. "Once the fumes began to spread, we began evacuating patients from other wards as well. There are just a couple of wards with patients now, especially because the oxygen supply had been cut off to prevent the spread of fire."

"There are other labs such as electro-physiology lab, TB lab, pathology, cochlear lab, ENT lab, psychiatric neuromodulation, etc that look into relevant and crucial investigation that could be impacted," said another doctor.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD
E-Tender No.: JHS-Engg-HQ-2019-108 Date: 09/08/2019
E-Tendering Tender Notice.
Divisional Railway Manager (Works) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work.

E-Tender No.	Description of work.	Approx Cost	Earnest Money
JHS-Engg-HQ-2019-108	JHS: East-Heavy repairs to Barrack no.3 and 4 at RPF LINE in connection with 100 days action plan.	Rs. 2061607.21	Rs. 412000.00

1-Cost of tender form: 3150.00, 2-Date of Closing tender :- 09.09.2019 at 15.00 hrs., 3-Date of Completion/period from issue acceptance letter-90 Days., Tender online can be submitted upto 15.00 hrs. on 09.09.2019 for full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in.

पश्चिम मध्य विद्युत वितरण निगम लि.
निविदा निरस्तकरण सूचना
इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित की गयी अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सं.- 02/ वि. कार्यशाला खं./ मेरठ/ अप्रैल/ 2019-20 एवं अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सं.- 03/ वि. कार्यशाला खं./ मेरठ/ कार्य/ 2019-20 को अपरिहार्य कारणों से निरस्त किया जाता है। पत्रांक 765 दिनांक 17.08.2019 अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत कार्यशाला खण्ड, प.वि.नि.लि. मेरठ

Meghalaya Power Transmission Corporation Limited
Office of the Chief Engineer (Transmission)
Lumjingshai : Shillong - 793001
Phone No: 0364-2590122 email: cetranzemepctcl@gmail.com

Notice Inviting Tender
No. MePTCL/CE(T)/TT-179(Tender)/2019-20/30 Dated: 14th August, 2019.
Meghalaya Power Transmission Corporation Limited (MePTCL) is inviting tender (e-tendering) from interested eligible contractors for construction of Control Room Building at 132 KV Grid Substation, Mawlai in Meghalaya under the scheme 'Augmentation of the 132 KV Mawlai Substation from 3x20 MVA to 3x50 MVA, along with Re-engineering of the 132 KV Busbar' funded under North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS). Tender details are available in www.meghalayatenders.gov.in. Last date and time for submission of the bid is on 26.08.2019 at 13:00 hrs and will be opened at 15:30 hrs on the same day.

(A Kharpan)
Chief Engineer (Transmission)

MIPR NO 681

SALUTE THE SOLDIER
18 JUL 1961 - 18 AUG 2002
In proud memory of Col KJ Singh, SC*, SM of 6th Battalion The Dogra Regt who made the supreme sacrifice while serving the Nation at Nowshera (J&K). Your act of valour, raw courage & devotion to duty always remains a constant source of inspiration and motivation to all of us.

COL KJ SINGH SC*, SM
CO & ALL RANKS 6 DOGRA.

18 AUG 1998
On this day the following JCO/ Other Ranks of 1/11 Gorkha Rifles (BATALIK) made the supreme sacrifice during 'OP PAWAN' in 1989 in a true act of valour. These brave soldiers will always be remembered for their indomitable spirit and raw courage. To these bravehearts we pledge that we shall always be guided by immortal spirit and make their names proud. Hav Amir Rai, Rfn Suk Bir Limbu, Rfn Nab Raj Limbu, Rfn Dewan Singh Rai.

NB/SUB HARISH CHAND SAWAN
CO AND ALL RANKS, 1/11 GORKHA RIFLES (BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE) (BATALIK)

2 Armymen held for 'killing colleague'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 17

TWO ARMY personnel have been arrested from Delhi Cantonment area for allegedly killing their colleague inside their barrack after a heated argument on August 14. The arrest was made after police found the victim's bloodstained vest in the barrack and questioned 16 officers who were at the spot.

DCP (South West) Devender Arya said, "We have arrested havildars Roshanlal (57) and Ranvir Singh (54) on charges of murder and destroying evidence."

Police said the victim, Ramesh Singh (52), was staying in a barrack of the central vehicle depot in Delhi Cantt. "The incident took place when Ramesh was drinking with Roshanlal... they got into an argument, which turned into a scuffle. Others intervened and broke up the fight. As they prepared to sleep, Roshanlal stabbed the victim seven times..." a senior police officer said.

Investigation revealed their commandant, Ranvir Singh, was informed. "... The duo claimed Singh died after falling from the building. The victim was taken to hospital, where doctors said he died of stab injuries... Other officers were questioned and they revealed what happened," the officer said. Police have informed senior Army officers about the incident and that other jawans tried to hide it from their seniors.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD
E-Tender Notice No. 14/2019 Date: 14.08.2019
E-Tendering Tender Notice
Sr. DSTE/North Central Railway, Agra for and on behalf of President of the India invites "Open Tender" through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following works:

Sr. No.	E-Tender No.	Name of work	Approx. Cost of work (₹)
1	AGRA-ST-2019-40	Hiring of A.C. motor vehicle ARIA/Innova/Safari/Similar make not be more than Three (3) Years old & in good working condition, including Driver, Fuel, Crew and maintenance etc. for 12 months for official use of ADRM (Infra) AGRA for running of 2500 Kms per month. (Nature of work: 24 hours per day without any holiday/rest)	4,42,936.68
2	AGRA-ST-2019-42	"Hiring of A.C. motor vehicle ARIA/Innova/Safari/Similar make not be more than Three (3) Years old & in good working condition, including Driver, Fuel, Crew and maintenance etc. for 24 months for official use of ADRM/OP/AGRA for running of 2500 Kms per month. (Nature of work: 24 hours per day without any holiday/rest)"	8,43,688.80

Tender Closing Date: 09.09.2019 for each tender. For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways Website www.ireps.gov.in. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids through web portal www.ireps.gov.in up to 15.00 hrs. on above mentioned date. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

North central railway www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in railwaynorthcentral@CPRNCR 1172/19 (A)

Rajasthan State Health Assurance Agency Bhamashah Swasthya Bima Yojana Swasthya Bhawan, Tilak Marg, Jaipur-302005.
No.F- 1008(159) / TPA selection/ 1258 Dated: 16/08/19
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
Government of Rajasthan through Department of Medical, Health and Family Welfare under Rajasthan State Health Assurance Agency (RSHAA) is inviting bids for selection of TPA for processing of claims under Ayushman Bharat Yojana. The work shall be awarded to the TPA eligible as per the Technical Capacity mentioned in the RFP document. For the selection of the agency, the RSHAA is adopting a single stage in two parts bidding process part A for technical bid and part B for financial bid, under which applications are invited from the interested bidders. The RFP document can be viewed and downloaded from the departmental website <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, www.rajswasthya.nic.in.
Cost of RFP document is Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only) shall be payable by way of DD/Banker's cheque in favor of Chief Executive Officer, RSHAA Rajasthan before the last date and time prescribed for submission of online proposals. Estimated cost of the RFP is Rs. 25.00 lacs (Rupees Twenty Five Lakhs Only).
NIB Code : MHS 1920A1028 Sd/-
UBN: MHS 1920SLOB1320 (Dr. Khushaal Yadav)
Joint Chief Executive Officer, RSHAA

पश्चिम क्षेत्र सांस्कृतिक केन्द्र
ब्राम्हो की हवेली, यमगौर घाट, अजमेर (राज.)-313001
दूरभाष : 02094-2523858, 2422567
एफ- 10/प्रलेखन/2019-20/1164 दिनांक : 16 अगस्त 2019
निविदा सूचना संख्या- 05
इस कार्यालय द्वारा विंडियों प्रलेखन कार्य एवं डॉक्यूमेंटरी निर्माण कार्य जिसमें फुल एच.डी. सोनी फॉर्मेट FX7 विंडियों शूटिंग, एडिटिंग, वॉइस ओवर इत्यादि कार्य हेतु मुहर बंद लिफाफे में निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। इच्छुक निविदादाता निर्धारित प्रपत्र इस कार्यालय से दिनांक 4 सितम्बर 2019 को सायं 5.00 बजे तक राशि रु. 500/- अदा कर प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। भरी हुई निविदाएं दिनांक 5 सितम्बर 2019 को अपराह्न 1.00 बजे तक मय धरोहर राशि रूपये 3000/- के डिमांड ड्राफ्ट के जमा कराई जा सकेंगी। निविदाएं इसी दिन सायं 4.00 बजे उपस्थित निविदादाताओं के समक्ष खोली जावेगी। निविदा स्विकृत, अस्वीकृत अथवा निरस्त करने का अधिकार केन्द्र निदेशक को होगा।

Man makes hoax call to stop wife's flight abroad

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 17

A 29-YEAR-OLD man was arrested Thursday from North West Delhi's Bawana for allegedly making a hoax call to a Gurgaon-based call centre of the Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) to stop his wife from travelling to Kuwait. Police said the accused, Mohd Nasrudeen, stitched bags for a living in Chennai for the last 10 years.

DCP (Special Cell) Sanjeev Yadav said, "On August 8, the airport control room got a call from a man, claiming that a woman passenger was carrying a bomb, and that it would explode on a Dubai- or Saudi Arabia-bound flight from Chennai. Security was beefed up at the Chennai airport, and a red alert was issued."

Police said Nasrudeen also provided the phone number of his wife, who was stopped at the IGI Airport, and security agencies questioned her. "She provided all the details, and suspected her husband could be behind the call. She was released and police began searching for her husband, who went missing after making the call. A team led by ACP Sanjay Dutt arrested him on Thursday from Bawana," Yadav said.

Yadav said Nasrudeen moved to Bawana Industrial Area with his parents in 2007, and then moved alone to Chennai the following year. "He started dating one of his co-workers there, who was already married. Later, she left her husband, and married Nasrudeen in 2017. They often fought over financial issues. On July 10, he left for his village and she decided to go abroad to work," he added.

The accused told police that while he was returning to Chennai on August 8, his wife told him she was going to Kuwait for a better life. "He requested her to stay, but she refused. That evening, he reached her maternal house in Chennai, where her mother informed him she was in Delhi. He got rattled and made the hoax call," police said.

NOIDA SECTOR 10

Zomato delivery staffer crushed under DTC bus

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NOIDA, AUGUST 17

A FOOD delivery person died after his bike was hit by a Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) bus in Noida's Sector 10 Friday. The victim, Dileep Das (44), had been employed with Zomato for the past 11 months.

"We received information of the accident Friday evening. The man was on his bike to make a delivery when it was crushed under the left tyre of the bus. It appears Das was dragged before the bus halted. The incident took

place near the Sector 10 depot. The bus driver, Vipin Gautam, was arrested from the spot, and a case of rash driving was registered," said Rajveer Singh Chauhan, SHO, Sector 20. Gautam was operating on route number 392, and driving towards Sector 62.

DTC officials said the accident took place a few metres from the bus stand, as the vehicle was picking up speed. A huge crowd gathered and a PCR call was made. The victim was rushed to a hospital in Sector 10. "We take such accidents very seriously. There were no prior

complaints against Gautam, but a showcause notice for his termination will be issued against him Monday. The case's facts will be argued and action on his employment will be taken," said a DTC official. He had been employed with DTC for the past one-and-a-half years on a contractual basis.

Hailing from West Bengal, Das joined Zomato as a delivery person for the Noida region in December last year.

"We provide life insurance to all our delivery partners, and are extending full support to Das's family," said a Zomato official.

For 'alternative' brand of politics, AAP women wing chief joins BJP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 17

RICHA PANDEY Mishra, who was heading the AAP women's wing, switched over to the BJP Saturday, citing her discomfort with the Arvind Kejriwal-led party's "tilt towards anti-national policies".

Mishra, who was on the panel of AAP spokespersons, claimed she was drawn towards the BJP because of its "alternative brand of politics".

She joined the BJP in the presence of the party's Delhi chief Manoj Tiwari and Rajya Sabha MP Vijay Goel among others. "I am a common woman from Poorvanchal. I had embraced politics inspired by Anna Hazare. But I have now realised the alternative brand of politics I was looking for is being practiced by BJP. AAP is a party of khaas aadmi now," Mishra said.

AAP spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj said: "It is unfortunate that she broke the trust re-



Richa Pandey Mishra with Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari on Saturday. Praveen Khanna

posed in her by the party. However, we warmly wish her a good, peaceful life wherever she goes."

In a statement, Mishra added: "I do not subscribe to anti-national policies. AAP continuously seemed to side with these people... they invited people like Jignesh Mevani, Prakash Raj to be star campaigners... a brilliant mandate was trampled on by the big egos of small men."

Disqualified AAP MLA Kapil Mishra also formally joined the BJP Saturday.


3 enter Red Fort before I-Day, held

New Delhi: Three men allegedly barged into the Central Industrial Security Force's camp at Red Fort on August 13 before being arrested and handed over to police.

Police said investigation revealed they were travelling without a ticket on a train heading to Old Delhi railway station. While tickets were being checked, they got out at Salimgarh bridge and entered Red Fort after jumping over an iron grill. Police said the men have been identified as Vicky, Arjun and Chander Mauli. "The arrest was made after police received a complaint from CISF inspector Narendra Gupta. An FIR has been lodged at Kotwali police station," a senior officer said.


In his complaint, Gupta said he was informed by his subordinates that they have detained three men on charges of trespassing. "Security personnel found them walking inside. When asked to stop, they started running and reached the CISF camp, where they were caught," a senior police officer said.

During questioning, they said they are working with a contractor at a factory in Shahdara. ENS



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6 GOVT & POLITICS

In Cong video, youth question govt's J&K move; party leaders slam detentions

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 17

A DAY after Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief Ghulam Ahmad Mir was placed under house arrest in Jammu, and the party's chief spokesperson was detained for nearly three hours, the Congress put out a video clip that showed several individuals, including apparent college students, questioning the continuing lockdown in J&K and expressing sympathy and support for the state's people.

The video was posted on the official Twitter handle of the Congress. The main opposition party has been critical of the government for the security lockdown and communications blackout, and the detention of political leaders such as Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti. The arrest of Mir and detention of spokesperson Ravindra Sharma had stunned the Congress, especially since Sharma was taken away from the party headquarters in Jammu when he was about to address a press conference.

The three-minute video clip said, "Since the government has silenced the people of Jammu & Kashmir, we asked Indians what message they would have for the government and for the people of J&K; this is what they had to say".

In the video, young people refer to the people of Kashmir as "our brothers and sisters", and call for peace in the state. Many

ask for the clampdown to be lifted and communication links restored, so that Kashmiris living elsewhere in the country are able to contact relatives in the state. Some say the government should take the people of Kashmir into confidence and allow their views to be heard.

"Our social media team sent people to three-four areas — North and South campuses of Delhi University, Connaught Place, and JNU — who randomly asked people about what they thought was happening in J&K," AICC secretary in charge of communication Pranav Jha said.

Meanwhile, senior Congress leader P Chidambaram called the arrest of Mir "outrageously illegal". "There was no written order of detention. Outrageously illegal. The State has no right to deprive a citizen of his liberty for even one moment without authority of law. That is Article 21 of the Constitution," he tweeted.

Congress leader Manish Tewari tweeted, "When was the last time you heard or saw that the Chief Spokesperson of the State unit of a National Party being illegally abducted by the Police from the party office without cause or a warrant. This outrageous insult to Article 19&21 is a harbinger of the darkness ahead."

Party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra tweeted, "Is it a crime to speak to the media? It's now 15 days since ex CMs who respected and abided by the Constitution of India just like our leaders, have been under arrest."

Former J&K interlocutor, others go to top court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 17

A GROUP of petitioners which includes Radha Kumar, who was a member of the panel of interlocutors on Jammu and Kashmir appointed by the central government in 2010, has approached the Supreme Court to challenge the amendments to Article 370 revoking the special status of J&K, and the Bill that reorganised the state into two Union Territories.

The petition says the amendments "strike at the heart of the principles on which the State of J&K integrated into India... especially as they had no affirma-

tion/sanction from the people of J&K", which "is a constitutional imperative as far as the State of J&K is concerned".

The other petitioners are Hindal Haidar Tyabji, a former chief secretary of J&K, Air Vice Marshal (ret'd) Kapil Kak, Major General (ret'd) Ashok Kumar Mehta, Amitabha Pande, a former Secretary of the Inter State Council, and the former Union Home Secretary, Gopal Pillai.

The apex court is already seized of at least six other petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the Presidential Order amending Article 370, as well as the J&K Reorganisation Bill.

BASIC can play significant role for Paris agreement: Javadekar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 17

The BASIC group of countries can play an important role in making all the countries accept the Paris agreement in letter and spirit, Union Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar has said.

The minister was attending the BASIC group's 28th ministerial meeting on climate change in Brazil's Sao Paulo, in the run-up to the United Nations Framework for Climate Change Conference of Parties meet in December.

On the last day of the three-day meet on Friday, the BASIC countries emphasised the need for developed countries to meet



Prakash Javadekar

their climate change commitments by shouldering the financial burden of reducing emissions, especially in light of their historical responsibility.

"Brazil, South Africa, India and China put together have one-third of world's geographical area and nearly 40 per cent of the world's population... the BASIC Group could play an important part in making Paris agreement accepted by all the countries in its true letter and spirit," he said.

PM's Bhutan visit: Slew of MoUs inked, RuPay launched

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 17

ON HIS first visit to Bhutan in his second term, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Bhutan's Prime Minister Lotay Tshering on Saturday, and promised that India's support for Bhutan's five-year plans would continue in the future, based on Thimphu's priorities.

After the talks, Modi said, "India is fortunate to be one of the key partners of Bhutan. India's support for Bhutan's five-year plans will continue in the future as based on your wishes and priorities."

Modi, who is on his second visit to Bhutan, and the first since his re-election in May this year, inaugurated the 740 MW Mangdechhu hydroelectric power plant, and launched stamps to commemorate five decades of India-Bhutan hydropower cooperation.

"Hydropower is an important area of cooperation between our two countries. Together, the two



PM Narendra Modi with Bhutan counterpart Lotay Tshering at Simtokha Dzong, in Thimphu. PTI

countries have transformed the power of the rivers of Bhutan into not only electricity but also mutual prosperity. Today we have achieved another historic milestone of this journey with the inauguration of the Mangdechhu project," Modi said.

"With the cooperation of both countries, hydro-power generation capacity in Bhutan has crossed 2000 MW. I am confident that we will also take

other projects forward very fast," he added.

The Mangdechhu project is funded by India through a 70 per cent loan and a 30 per cent grant. It is expected to generate 2,923 GWh of electricity.

The two countries signed 10 Memorandums of Understanding in the fields of space research, aviation, IT, power and education.

Modi also launched the RuPay

card in Bhutan by making a purchase at Simtokha Dzong, built in 1629 by Shabdrung Namgyal. One of the oldest dzongs in Bhutan, it functions as a monastic and administrative centre.

"I am very happy that today we have launched RuPay card in Bhutan. This will further enhance our relationship in digital payments, and trade and tourism. Our shared spiritual heritage and strong people-to-people relationship are key of our relations," he said.

On increasing the currency swap limit for Bhutan under the SAARC currency swap framework, Modi said India's approach is "positive". He said an additional USD 100 million will be available to Bhutan under a standby swap arrangement to meet the foreign exchange requirement.

The two leaders also unveiled a plaque of the interconnection between India's National Knowledge Network and Bhutan's Druk Research and Education Network. **FULL REPORT ON** www.indianexpress.com

Former Bihar CM Manjhi backs MLA booked under UAPA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PATNA, AUGUST 17

FORMER BIHAR Chief Minister and Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) president Jitan Ram Manjhi on Saturday came out in support of Anant Singh, the Independent MLA from Mokama, who was booked under provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and Arms Act after recovery of an AK-47, a magazine with 26 live cartridges and two hand grenades from his home in Mokama on Friday.

Mokama Police, who have booked two people in the case, on Saturday arrested Singh's caretaker Suni Ram. Police have not initiated the process of arresting Singh, who is said to be in Patna.

Manjhi on Saturday said, "It smacks of political vendetta. It is quite possible that the arms were planted in his house to falsely implicate him... Such things did happen when several Dalits were arrested and dubbed Maoists during the height of caste war in the state."

Patna (Rural) SP Kantesh Kumar Mishra told PTI that it cannot be ruled out that the sophisticated weapon found from Singh's residence may have been used in "some big incidents". The case is being probed and the police will act as per evidence that comes up during the investigation, he said to questions whether the MLA will be arrested.

The MLA had alleged that a conspiracy was hatched against him at the behest of JD(U) MP Lalan Singh. "Weapons not belonging to me are being shown as having been recovered from my house. The house has also been badly vandalised during the raid," Singh had said.

Singh's wife Nilam Devi had unsuccessfully contested from Munger in this Lok Sabha polls against JD(U)'s Lalan Singh.



Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi with Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal and Deputy CM Manish Sisodia at convocation of the National Law University, in New Delhi. Amit Mehra

Time to ask if 5-yr course shaped socially conscious lawyers: CJI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 17

THERE IS a need to overhaul legal education to bring about social change in the country, Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi said on Saturday.

"It is time to question whether the five-year Law course has shaped socially conscious lawyers. Even today, corporate practice is the preferred career path for most graduates, and we must understand why this is the case," CJI Gogoi said.

The CJI was speaking at the seventh annual convocation of National Law University in Delhi. CJI Gogoi is visitor of the university, while the Chief Justice of Delhi High Court is its chancellor. The university handed out graduate and postgraduate degrees in Law to students on the occasion.

CJI Gogoi, the chief guest at the convocation, also said that national law universities, the pioneers of modern legal educa-

"Say no, and a big no, to anything and everything that appear to your mind to be morally and actually regressive. Say yes to everything which you think can be offered to anybody."

RANJAN GOGOI, CJI

tion in India, were set up to strengthen the Bar and bring out lawyers to serve the country. He criticised law universities that often charge a high fee for students choosing to practice law in corporate firms over practising in courts.

"Legal practice is also highly lucrative. Most judges to higher judiciary are drawn from the Bar. Let me tell you, the experience on this side of the Bar is ex-

remely satisfying," the CJI said. "In a country like ours, a barrier to access to education because of a shortage of funds is nothing short of a tragedy."

Justice Gogoi also said that a degree is not just a certificate but a "call of duty" to Law graduates. "Say no, and a big no, to anything and everything that appear to your mind to be morally and actually regressive. Say yes to everything which you think can be offered to anybody," he said.

The CJI said lawyers act as advocates and advisers to litigants and help them secure their rights under the law. While working for clients, they interpret and mould the law and help judges in laying down legal propositions that have binding effects on future generations.

The CJI shared the stage with Justice DN Patel, the Chief Justice of Delhi High Court, NLU Vice Chancellor Ranbir Singh, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and Delhi Chief Secretary Vijay Kumar Dev.

management, BJP's core ideology and where it stands on key issues, and a specific briefing on the national issues — especially Article 370, triple talaq and Ram Mandir. These are important for every MLA to know to understand," Cabral said.

Govind Gaude, an independent legislator who supports the BJP, said he attended an hour-long session where BJP leaders asked the participants to go "deep into constituencies" and look for ideas to solve local issues. "We have roughly two years to perform. We were told that the period towards the end (of the government's term) will go towards election campaigns, so we have to go and look to resolve all issues in our constituencies in this small period," he said.

Tendulkar said the camp is usually meant for BJP karyakartas and mandal-level workers, but this time it included MLAs, specifically given the large number of new entrants. "There needs to be circumstances created for them to bond and discuss and exchange ideas," he said. "We have a different way of functioning; our response mechanism is different. We told them minute things about behaviour in offices they hold, with the electorate, with the party karyakartas."

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant posted photographs of the workshop and tweeted, "An intriguing two day session conducted by @BJP4Goa, where we discussed our roadmap for good governance."



Participants at the two-day workshop for Goa BJP MLAs, which concluded on Saturday. Twitter

said these meetings, held annually, are meant to ensure that leaders and workers understand

the party's points of view and spread them among people. "We had three main categories: stress

DON'T MIX POLITICS WITH RELIGION: BJP

Cong announces Rs 300-cr plan to develop Mahakal temple in Ujjain

MILINDGHATWAI
BHOPAL, AUGUST 17

ARGUING THAT the BJP only paid lip service to the cause of religion when it ruled Madhya Pradesh for 15 years, the Congress government on Saturday announced an ambitious Rs 300-crore plan to develop and expand the famous Mahakal temple in Ujjain.

The Kamal Nath-led Congress government constituted a three-member ministerial committee to finalise the plan to expand the temple and improve facilities. Chief Minister Nath, who chaired a meeting at the secretariat to maximise facilities for devotees, asked the committee to hold its first meeting in the next three days.

The CM asked the committee to put up a proposal to amend the legislation that governs the temple before the Cabinet by the end of this month, and finalise the plan to develop the temple by the end of September. He said the original structure should remain untouched during expansion and improvement of facilities, and that the chief secretary will monitor the progress of the work to improve existing facilities for devotees.

Improvement in entry and exit at the temple, extension of

Nandi hall, Mahakal theme park, Mahakal corridor, construction of Maharaj Bada complex, Kumbh Museum, display of stories associated with Mahakal, landscaping of Rudrasagar, beautification of Ramghat Marg and development of facilities for the pilgrims were among the development and expansion topics presented before the Chief Minister on Saturday.

The ministerial committee will include PWD Minister Sajjan Verma, Law and Spiritual department Minister P C Sharma and Urban Development Minister Jaivardhan Singh.

"The BJP government did not take any steps to develop Ram Van Gaman Path or improve facilities at Mahakal temple. They used to call themselves gaubhakt but did not build even one gaushala," said the CM's media coordinator Narender Saluja. He said Saturday's meeting was the first ever to be chaired by a chief minister for improving facilities at the temple.

BJP spokesman Rahul Kothari said the Congress should stop mixing politics with religion. Referring to the Congress debacle in the Lok Sabha elections, Kothari said Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra have suffered the consequences of visiting temples only ahead of elections.

Jaitley on life support, top leaders visit AIIMS

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 17

FORMER UNION Finance Minister and senior BJP leader Arun Jaitley has been put on life support system and a multidisciplinary team of doctors at AIIMS, in the national capital, is monitoring his condition, sources said on Saturday.

Several leaders, including Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan and Railways Minister Piyush Goyal visited the cardio-neuro centre at AIIMS on Saturday to enquire about Jaitley's health.

Among others who visited the hospital are J&K Governor Satyapal Malik, BSP chief Mayawati, BJP leader Satish Upadhyay, Congress leaders Abhishek Singhvi and Jyotiraditya Scindia, and Air Force chief Air Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa, sources said.

Former Uttar Pradesh Chief



Arun Jaitley

Minister Mayawati tweeted, "I visited AIIMS today to enquire about the health condition of former finance and defence minister, and senior BJP leader Shri Arun Jaitley. I met his family and consoled them and prayed to the almighty that he recovers soon."

Jaitley, 66, was admitted to the hospital on August 9 after he complained of breathlessness and restlessness. On Friday, Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan had said, "Doctors at AIIMS are doing the best they can."

Khattar, Hooda set to launch their Haryana poll campaigns today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 17

IT WILL be a high-voltage political-action packed Sunday as an incumbent and a former chief minister launch their respective campaigns in poll-bound Haryana.

While Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar will start a 2,100-km road journey (rath yatra) covering the length and breadth of Haryana, his predecessor and senior Congress leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda will be holding a show of strength in Rohtak, his home turf, in what is being seen as sending out a wake-up call to the party high command to acknowledge his stature.

While Khattar has named his journey the "Aashirwad Yatra", Hooda has termed his political show of strength "Pariwartin Rally".

State BJP president Subhash Barala said, "The journey will be carried out in five phases, each phase of three days. The yatra will commence from Kalka and conclude in Rohtak on September 8. The CM will pay obeisance at Kali Mata temple and then begin his journey from Kalka Mandi in presence of Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. Several

EXPLAINED
E Battle of survival for Congress

HARYANA GOES to polls in October this year. While BJP aims to increase its 2014 tally of 47 seats to over 75 in the 90-member House, it may turn into a battle of survival for the Congress, which is struggling to regain ground it has lost in state and nationally.

other Union ministers apart from all the state cabinet ministers will remain present."

PM Narendra Modi is expected to address a rally in Rohtak on September 8.

Hooda will hold what his supporters expect will be a mega show of strength, amid speculation of parting ways with the Congress and joining hands with another national party or floating a new political outfit.

Although Hooda had vehemently been denying such speculation, other Congress leaders of his camp had been throwing ample hints suggesting that something is brewing.

7 EXPRESS NETWORK



NORTH

Man kills sister in Muzaffarnagar after fight

Meerut: An elder brother stabbed his 22-year-old sister to death on Friday following a row in Muzaffarnagar's Jadora village. The police said Ashish Singh (24) had an argument with his sister, Kavita when she was talking to someone on the mobile and refused to give water to his brother. "Irate by her behaviour, Ashish has tied hands

and legs of his sister with a rope and then stabbed her multiple times. Her parents, younger brother and sister were not in the house when the incident took place," said Mamraj Kumar Chahal, the in charge of Mansoorpur police station. The father lodged an FIR. "We have arrested the killer and have also recovered the knife," said Chahal. **ENS**



Zoroastrians in Ahmedabad celebrate Parsi new year at the Khamasa Agriya on Saturday. *Javed Raja*

EAST

Body of professor and wife recovered from NIT-Rourkela

Bhubaneswar: The bodies of an assistant professor working with the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Rourkela and his wife were recovered on Saturday from the campus by police. The institute's Registrar P K Das identified the deceased as R Jayabalan, who worked in the Life Sciences Department,

and Malini Keshavan. "We came to know about it last night at 11:45 pm after our security personnel discovered them. A suicide note has been recovered," he said. "They were childless and in a bit of distress.... We have asked their family members to come here", said Rourkela SP Sarthak Sarangi. **ENS**

WEST

Woman killed in road mishap at Kondhwa

Pune: A 50-year-old woman died and her husband was injured when a speeding dumper knocked down the scooter they were on, in Shivneri Nagar area of Kondhwa on Saturday morning. The victim, Nasrin Jafar Sayyad, and her husband were riding on the two-wheeler when a dumper hit the vehicle from the rear, in front of Sant Gadge Maharaj

school in Shivneri Nagar in Kondhwa. Due to the impact of the accident, the scooter fell on the ground, and a tyre of the dumper ran over Nasrin. Her husband also sustained injuries. An offence of negligence has been lodged at the Kondhwa police station against the dumper driver and police are trying to identify him, said officials. **ENS**

SOUTH

Eight-member gang of burglars held in Mangaluru

Bengaluru: Eight suspected members of a gang, which was allegedly planning to carry out a heist in Mangaluru were arrested, police said Saturday. The gang members who were moving around in an SUV, were arrested Friday night. "Based on the information, we tried to nab the gang of eight people. They were stay-

ing in a room in a hotel. They tried to run away from the scene. We surrounded them, picked them up and questioned them," Mangaluru Commissioner P S Harsha said. The kingpin, Sam Peter, claimed he was from Kerala but a preliminary investigation revealed he was from West Bengal, the officer added. **PTI**

All in a day: Kerala CPM leader turns from 'villain' to flood hero

SHAJU PHILIP

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, AUGUST 17

A CPI(M) local committee member turned from villain to the humane face of flood relief operations in Kerala overnight after he got a clean chit in a case of allegedly collecting money from inmates of a camp in Alappuzha.

Besides the clean chit, a senior IAS officer also apologised to him. A video circulated on Friday purportedly showed S Omanakuttan collecting money from inmates of a camp at Cherthala. Acting on a complaint, police then booked Omanakuttan, who was also an inmate. He was also suspended by the CPI(M).

However, Omanakuttan's interest towards relief efforts was revealed when Principal Secretary (Revenue) Dr V Venu looked into the matter.

When the stock of rice ran out at his camp, Omanakuttan voluntarily went to the government godown and brought the supply to his camp on an autorickshaw, but he did not have enough money to pay the driver. Hence, he went for a collection round.

Venu said the Revenue Department would withdraw the complaint. "As the head of the disaster management authority, I tender apology to Omanakuttan. Me, my department and all those who are affected by the flood, share among us the pain Omanakuttan had faced," Venu wrote on Facebook. The CPI(M) also revoked Omanakuttan's suspension.

"I am happy that the government has realised my honesty. When I faced an allegation, my party initiated disciplinary action. Vested groups hurled charges against me only because I am a CPI(M) worker," Omanakuttan said.

32-yr-old killed for harassing woman: police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NOIDA, AUGUST 17

A 32-YEAR-OLD man was beaten to death for allegedly harassing a woman in Hapur on Friday.

The victim, identified as Mansharam, allegedly climbed over the wall of a house to meet a woman, when her brothers caught him and assaulted him. He was rushed to the hospital where he died.

"We received information that a man was beaten up in Shehla village by a family as they alleged he had entered their house to molest a woman. An FIR under section 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) has been filed against four members of the family and three people were arrested," said Hapur SP Sankalp Sharma.

According to the police, Mansharam's family claimed that the family of the accused attacked him arbitrarily. During investigations it was confirmed that he scaled the wall of the house. Mansharam worked odd jobs in the village having been mentally challenged for the past few years, police said.

Rain batters N India, Punjab put on alert

ENS & PTI

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 17

HEAVY RAIN lashed most states in North India on Saturday, with an alert sounded in Punjab following release of excess water from Bhakra dam and the Chambal river in Rajasthan flowing 12 metres above the danger mark.

Life is, meanwhile, returning to normalcy in both Kerala, where more than 110 people died in flood situations, and in Maharashtra's Pune division, where 55 lives were lost in Pune, Solapur, Satara, Kolhapur and Sangli districts and wiped off property and crop worth hundreds of crores.

With water levels receding, 28 villages in Sangli district that were cut off due to the floods are now reachable by road, officials said. In neighbouring Kolhapur, one of the worst-hit districts, three of 18 villages that were cut off, are still inaccessible.

On Saturday, Andhra Pradesh received heavy showers, with a swollen Krishna river leaving 87 villages and hundreds of acres of farmland under water in two districts. NDRF personnel retrieved the body of a girl who drowned in Krishna district, making it the second death in the state.

According to the India Meteorological Department,



The flooded Beas river in Kangra district on Saturday. *Express*

heavy to very heavy rain is likely in Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana and Delhi in the next 48 hours. There were flash floods in Kathua and Samba districts of Jammu, while the Yamuna was nearing warning level.

The body of a 17-year-old boy was found floating in the overflowing dam in Himachal Pradesh, where several roads were blocked following multiple landslides and flash floods.

In Punjab, an alert has been sounded in several districts following release of excess water from Bhakra dam.

Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) officials said they may decrease the outflow from Sunday if there is very heavy rain downstream. On Saturday, the

level of Bhakra dam was 1,674.82 feet, barely 5.18 feet below the maximum limit of the dam.

In Rajasthan, Gegal in Ajmer district recorded 150 mm rain, followed by Mount Abu in Sirohi district with 140 mm, according to the IMD.

Several rivers and dams are overflowing in the state, with the Chambal flowing at 140.5 metres, 12 metres above the danger mark, in Dholpur district, PTI reported. Twelve roads were cut off due to heavy showers and 40 villages are facing flood-like situation, PTI quoted an official.

Life was thrown out of gear in most parts of Kolkata on Saturday, after the city received 186.1 mm rain in the last 24 hours, the Regional Meteorological Centre said.

2 schools get barbers on board to snip that mop

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA

KOLKATA, AUGUST 17

UNHAPPY WITH "stylish and quirky" haircuts of students, two schools in Bengal have started unprecedented initiatives against the "trend".

While Nayapat Sudhir Kumar High School in East Midnapore issued notices to barbers, New Farakka High School in Murshidabad organised a counselling session for 40 local barbers.

According to the headmaster of Nayapat Sudhir Kumar High School, Basanta Gharai, the "problem" of trendy haircuts began a year ago, but has recently "spread like fire".

"Last year, we saw a few students with weird haircuts. We were shocked..." said Gharai.

"Initially, we appraised the parents of the situation. On August 2, we sent notices to three shops and



Counselling for local barbers at New Farakka School. *Express*

asked them not to offer stylish haircuts to students from classes 5 to 12," said Gharai.

The notice, a copy of which is with *The Indian Express*, said: "Under no circumstances the students are to be given two types of haircuts, including stylish ones. Please discourage them. They are your children. Help them get dis-

ciplined."

The barbers were then called to school and given a warning.

However, barbers said that they just follow instructions of their customers. "The boys used to come to us with pictures of their desired haircuts. What could we have done? If we had said no, they would have gone some-

22-yr-old runs over two Bangladesh nationals in Kolkata

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

KOLKATA, AUGUST 17

TWO PEDESTRIANS were killed after a speeding luxury car hit another vehicle before crashing into them in Kolkata early on Saturday, the police said.

The deceased were Bangladeshi nationals who had come to the city for medical treatment.

The 22-year-old who was allegedly driving the luxury car, was arrested. He is the son of the owner of a popular restaurant-chain, a police officer said.

Two people, who were in the other car, were also injured in the accident.

The deceased have been identified as Kazi Mohammed Mainul Alam (36) of Jhenaidah district and Farhana Islam Tania (30) of Dhaka.

Tania, who worked as a banker in Bangladesh, was accompanying Alam for medical treatment in Kolkata, said the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata.

"The incident took place at 1.50 am when the Jaguar, driven at a speed of 100 km/hour, rammmed into a Mercedes. The Jaguar was coming from Shakespeare Sarani road, the Mercedes from Loudon Street. After hitting the Mercedes, the Jaguar dashed into three pedestrians, including the two

The Bangladesh High Commission is coordinating with the Ministry of External Affairs and the West Bengal government to send the bodies back

Bangladeshi nationals. The duo were taken to SSKM Hospital where they were declared dead, while a third pedestrian escaped unhurt. Two persons who were travelling in the Mercedes were also injured," said the police officer.

He added that the three pedestrians were standing under a traffic police booth shed to protect themselves from rain.

A case has been registered under sections 279 (rash driving), 427 (mischievous causing damage) and 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

The Bangladesh High Commission is coordinating with the Ministry of External Affairs and the West Bengal government to send the bodies back to Dhaka. Two days ago, BJP MP Roopa Ganguly's son, Akash Mukhopadhyay, was arrested for rash driving after his car hit a wall in Golf Garden area. He was released on bail on Saturday.

Man arrested for flashing on video call in Mumbai

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

MUMBAI, AUGUST 17

A 29-YEAR-OLD man has been arrested for allegedly flashing his private parts to a woman on a video call.

The police said that while the incident took place in November 2018, the accused, Ravikant Ramdas Tiwari, was arrested in Mumbai on Friday.

Tiwari allegedly got the cellphone number of the woman, a 32-year-old homemaker, from Facebook, following which, he started making video calls to her. However, as the number was un-

known, the complainant did not answer the calls, said police.

On November 8, last year, the woman received another such video call, which she answered. "The accused started flashing his private parts to her... The woman passed on her phone to her husband, who took screenshots of the man," said an officer.

Following this, the woman filed a complaint with the police. A case was registered on charges of stalking under the IPC and the Information Technology Act.

The police started scrutinising the call data records of the accused and traced him eight months later.

IIT-Kharagpur to lead project to tap waste water, treat it

ESHARAOY

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 17

IIT-KHARAGPUR will steer Saraswati 2.0 — a multi-institutional and multi-core project funded by the European Union, and the departments of Science and Technology and Biotechnology of the Central government — to treat waste water and make it potable.

The project is set to begin at IIT Kharagpur next month.

"IIT-Kharagpur is the overall Indian coordinator and partner for three pilot projects. While there was a Saraswati project in which we treated waste water, the aim of this project is to treat waste water to a standard that it can be potable. We are experimenting with different technologies... Of course, once we reach this stan-

EXPLAINED

How project plans to raise water sources

OFFICIAL FIGURES show India's waste water treatment is not only a low 33 per cent, but it is disposed of in rivers, lakes or groundwater. The two main sources of water contamination are sewage and industrial waste, and with the population and the industrial landscape likely to grow, the quantity of waste water is also likely to multiply. The Saraswati project aims at converting waste water into potable quality, therefore increasing water sources.

dard, the water will not be used for drinking, but for horticulture and other such uses. Three plants — an anaerobic digester with bio-electro chemical filter, another with photoheterotrophic bioreactor and one for ultrasonic treatment of sludge — will be set up at IIT-Kharagpur," said Prof

Makarand Madhao Ghangrekar, Professor in-charge of IIT-Kharagpur's Aditya Choubey Center for Re-Water Research.

While construction of these pilots is expected to begin soon, the plants themselves will be commissioned by January 2020. The overall objective of Saraswati

2.0 is to identify the best available and affordable technologies and provide solutions to challenges in both rural and urban areas, said the professor.

The technologies are to be provided by various universities and research institutes in Europe and will then be adopted by IIT and its other partner institutes. Seven other pilot plants will be set up in the partnering Indian institutes. At a household decentralised level, septic tanks are used for removal of 35-40 per cent organic matter and around 50-60 per cent solids from sewage. The cost of wastewater treatment hovers around Rs 7-10 per KL for secondary treatment in centralised treatment plants, however they are unable to produce safe reusable quality treated water, except for restricted irrigation, and further tertiary treatment is required. This

tertiary treatment will add on the treatment cost... which could be in the range of Rs 10-50 per KL," said Prof Ghangrekar.

With an overlay of Rs 15 crore, Saraswati 2.0 has been selected under the EU-India Joint Call on Research and Innovation for Water. The EU, through its research and innovation programme "Horizon 2020", will invest a total of upto Rs 323 crore on various projects, which have an average duration of 4 years. IIT Kharagpur will manage the project with its lead European partner — BOKU (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna).

Among other Indian partners are IIT-Madras, IIT-Bhubaneswar, IIT-Roorkee, NITIE, Mumbai, MNIT Jaipur and TERI School of Advanced Studies.

Department of Art, Culture & Languages, Govt. of Delhi

Urdu Academy, Delhi organises

Five day literary and poetic meet

NAYE PURANEY CHIRAGH

Date : 21st to 25th August, 2019

Venue:

Qamar Rais Silver Jubilee Auditorium,
Urdu Academy, Delhi CPO Building, Kashmir Gate,
Delhi-110006.

Inaugural Session
21st August, 2019 (Wednesday) at 5.00 p.m.

Chief Guest:

Prof. **Shamim Hanafi**, Professor Emeritus, Jamia Millia Islamia

Guests of Honour:

Prof. **Ibn-e-Kanwal**, Former Head, Department of Urdu, Delhi University

Welcome Address by:

Prof. **Shehpar Rasool**, Vice-Chairman, Urdu Academy, Delhi

Vote of Thanks: **Secretary**, Urdu Academy, Delhi

Comperre:

Dr. Shafi Ayyub

Mehfil-e-Mushaira on 21st August 2019 at 6.30 p.m.

On 22nd to 25th August, 2019

Sessions of Research & Criticisms and Creative writings from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. daily

Poetic Meet (Mushaira) at 6.30 p.m. daily

You are cordially invited.

C.P.O. Building, Kashmere Gate, Delhi	Phone: 23863858 23863697	S.M. Ali Secretary
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DIP/SHABDARTH/0540/19-20

Paan vendor dies after 'assault by UP constable over payment'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, AUGUST 17

A 32-YEAR-OLD paan vendor succumbed to his injuries a day after he was allegedly beaten up by a Mathura Police constable for asking the latter to pay for paan masala. The constable was arrested on Friday.

A head constable of Highway Police Station here was suspended for not informing his seniors about the alleged assault by the accused, Yogendra Chaudhary, who is a resident of Mathura and posted at Firozabad Police Lines.

According to police, the constable attacked the vendor, Rahul Bansal, on the head with a blunt object at Dholi Pyahu-lo-

cality on Tuesday. "Head constable Dharmendra Kumar settled the matter without consulting senior officials. No case was lodged and the duo were sent home. The next day, Bansal complained of stomach pain and was taken to a hospital where he died during treatment at a hospital," said a police officer. Bansal's family and local residents protested demanding action against the constable and a compensation.

The autopsy report stated Bansal died due to ante-mortem injuries.

Chaudhary was booked on charges of culpable homicide on Thursday. He was arrested near his house on Friday.

"We are verifying the allegation that the paan vendor was assaulted for asking for money," said Alok Dubey, Circle Officer of Refinery Area.

In MP, 11 complain of loss of vision after cataract surgery at private hospital

State govt seals operation theatre; 18 people had lost vision after surgery in 2010 at same hospital

MILIND GHATWAI BHOPAL, AUGUST 17

THE MADHYA Pradesh government has sealed an operation theatre and ordered an inquiry after 11 people, who underwent cataract operations at a private hospital in Indore as part of a government programme, complained of loss of vision.

Fourteen people were operated upon at Indore Eye Hospital on August 8. Barring three, the others were asked to stay back after they reported diminishing vision, it learnt. The patients — 13 from Dhar and one from Indore — are aged between 45 and 85.

In 2010, 18 people had complained of loss of vision after a similar surgery camp at the same hospital.

The authorities had then reopened the hospital after keeping it closed for six months.

Indore Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr Praveen Jadia told *The Sunday Express* that the patients contracted pseudomonas infection in their eyes but it was not clear how it spread, as initial tests on equipment used during the operations have not found them to be infected. He said the patients' eyesight had diminished but there was a fair chance of improvement.

Dr Jadia said the 11 patients had been moved to another private hospital and some of them had reported improvement in their vision. He said the private hospital was on a government panel and no irregularities had been reported between 2010 and 2019.

According to Dr Jadia, registration of Indore Eye Hospital had been cancelled under the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act but it was allowed to reopen after it was found that there was no negligence on the hospital's part and it was monitored for a few months. He said two experts from Sankara Hospital have been invited to Indore.

Indore Eye Hospital's senior eye surgeon, Dr Sudhir Mahashabde, said the hospital had set up a new advanced operation theatre after the 2010 incident by following norms under the national accreditation board for hospitals. He said the hospital follows all protocols and norms established by the government and the 14 operations were performed by qualified doctors. He claimed it

was not proper to say 11 people had lost their vision because there is a chance for improvement. He said the hospital is run by a society and it conducts 3,500 operations free of cost every year.

Asked about the government's claim that the OT had been sealed, Dr Mahashabde said the hospital had stopped surgeries on its own from August 9. He claimed the hospital had volunteered to inform the government authorities about the patients' complaints and it was yet to get any order from the administration (about cancellation of registration).

Referring to the 2010 episode, Dr Mahashabde said his and other doctors' statements had been recorded by a probe committee but it did not find any evidence to support allegations of negligence. He said he does

not remember whether an FIR had been lodged against the hospital management.

While ordering an inquiry, Chief Minister Kamal Nath questioned how the hospital was allowed to reopen after the 2010 incident. He said the government will bear the cost of treatment of 11 patients and also promised cash assistance of Rs 50,000 each.

Opposition BJP demanded compensation of Rs 25 lakh each and said they belong to poor families and it will be difficult for them to make ends meet. "Mere cancellation of registration will not help improve the patients' vision," said state BJP chief and Jabalpur MP Rakesh Singh while demanding that criminal action should be initiated against the doctors who conducted the operations.

EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME (ECHS) EMPLOYMENT NOTICE (DEHRADUN)

- ECHS invites applications to engage following staff on contractual basis in ECHS Polyclinic Vikasnagar:
 - (a) Medical Officer -01
 - (b) Dental Officer -01
 - (c) Laboratory Assistant -01
 - (d) IT Network Technician -01
- For terms & conditions, application form, remuneration kindly see website www.echs.gov.in. For details please contact Stn. HQ Cell (ECHS) Dehradun at Tele No. 0135-2751526.
- Last date of submission of application at Stn. HQ Cell (ECHS), Dehradun is **05 Sep. 2019 by 1200 PM**. Individual having computer knowledge, multi tasking ability and positive orientation will be factored. Candidate will attach Photostat copies of all certificate / degree, testimonials / experience, attempt certificate and medical fitness certificate duly signed by SEMO/CMO failing which applications will be rejected on technical grounds. Incomplete applications will not be accepted. Interview will be conducted on **13 & 14 Sep., 2019 from 0900 AM** onwards at MH Dehradun conf. hall.
- Candidates will bring original certificates / degree, photocopy of testimonials / experience and attempt certificate as applicable and two PP size photographs at the time of interview.

Water Resources Department
Tembhu Lift Irrigation Project Management Division, Oglewadi
e-TENDER NOTICE NO. 10 FOR 2019-2020
Main Tender Portal : <https://mahatenders.gov.in>
CIRCLE : SANGLI IRRIGATION CIRCLE, SANGLI
DIVISION : TEMBHU LIFT IRRIGATION PROJECT MANAGEMENT DIVISION OGALEWADI

Online electronic bids in B-1 form for below mentioned works is invited by Executive Engineer, Tembhu Lift Irrigation Project Management Division, Oglewadi Water Resources Department Maharashtra Government from non registered or registered contractors with Public works department, Government of Maharashtra contractors. Tender documents are download from Government website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>. Executive Engineer, Tembhu Lift Irrigation Project Management Division, Oglewadi reserves the right to reject / accept of tender. Tender is not accepted with any condition.

1. Name of Work	Construction of Mechanised C Pover Lining and Manual Lining of Arphal Canal Km 105, Km 173 Km 174 Km and Km 176 to Km 191 (For Balance Selective Length) Tal Palus Dist Sangli
2. Cost Put to Tender	Rs. 6,24,19,330/-
3. E-Tender period	Dt 16/08/2019 to 09/09/2019
4. E-Tender Opening	Dt 12/09/2019

All information of above E-tender is available on below link.
1. <https://mahatenders.gov.in> 2. Any changes in E-Tender will inform on above website 3. Name of officer and Address : Executive Engineer, Tembhu Lift Irrigation Project Management Division Oglewadi Tal-Karad, Dist-Satara Ph.No. 02164-271327
Sd/-
E-mail - eeitlpd2@gmail.com Executive Engineer
Tembhu Lift Irrigation Project Management Division
(dgjpr 2019/2020/2004) Oglewadi Karad

कार्यालय अधिसूची अभियन्ता, जल विद्युत उत्पादन खाण्ड
उपरो जल विद्युत निगम लि सादा-बादशाहीबाग, सहारनपुर ३०३०१
पंजीकृत एवं कारपोरेट कार्यालय- 12वां तल, शक्ति भवन बिल्डार, 14 अशोक मार्ग, सखनक

पत्रांक: 695 दिनांक: 17.08.2019

सरकारी विभागों/निगमों में कार्यरत, समान कार्य के अनुभवी ठेकेदारों/फर्मों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु दिनांक 19.09.2019 तक अपरान्ह 3:00 बजे तक वेबसाइट e-tender.up.nic.in पर e-tendering के माध्यम से निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा सम्बन्धी समस्त अभिलेख e-tender.up.nic.in की वेबसाइट पर दिनांक 19.08.2019 अपरान्ह 03:00 बजे से दिनांक 19.09.2019 तक अपरान्ह 03:00 बजे तक उपलब्ध रहेंगे, जहाँ पर ठेकेदारों द्वारा वेबसाइट पर ऑन लाईन अपनी निविदा दर्ज (मय टेकनिकल/फाइनल) जाली जायेगी। निविदा हेतु निर्धारित चरित्र ब्यवस्था FDR/RTGS/NEFT के रूप में तथा निविदा मूल्य DD/RTGS/NEFT के माध्यम से अधिशासी अभियन्ता जल विद्युत उत्पादन खाण्ड खासा-बादशाहीबाग, सहारनपुर के (Punjab National Bank के खाता संख्या 1019001100000016 एवं IFSC-PUNB0101900) में जमा कर साख्य के रूप में यूपीआईआर सं 00 की प्रति ई-टेंडर प्रपत्रों के साथ ई-टेंडर पोर्टल पर अपलोड करना अनिवार्य होगा। टेकनिकल बिड/प्रीक्वालीफिकेशन से सम्बंधित प्रपत्र सहित दिनांक 20.09.2019 को सायं 02:00 बजे तक अधिशासी अभियन्ता, जल विद्युत उत्पादन खाण्ड के कार्यालय रुक में रखे टेंडर बॉक्स में डालने होंगे। टेंडर बॉक्स से निविदा की मूल कापी दिनांक 20.09.2019 को सायं 04:00 बजे यह जाँचने हेतु खोलने जायेगी कि निविदा में भाग लेने वाले निविदाक ने टेंडर मूल्य, घोषित राशि जमा कर साख्य के रूप में यूपीआईआर संख्या की प्रति व अफिर से सम्बंधित नोन जुडिसियल रु 100 के स्टैम्प पेपर पर सहमति पत्र दिया है। ऑन लाइन टेकनिकल बिड दिनांक 21.09.2019 को अपरान्ह 12:30 बजे केवल उन्ही निविदाको की खोली जायेगी, जिसकी निविदा की मूल कापी में उपर्युक्त बर्णित प्रपत्र पाये जायेगे। टेकनिकल बिड क्वालीफाइ करने वाले ठेकेदारों की ही फाइनलीयल बिड खोली जायेगी। निविदाओं को बिना किसी कारण बताये निरस्त करने का अधिकार अधोस्तक्षारकर्ता के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा। निविदा से सम्बंधित विवरण निम्नवत् है:-

क्रम सं०	निविदा संख्या	कार्य का नाम	आगमन की धरनाशि (लाख रु० में)	घरोहर राशि (रु० में)	टेंडर का मूल्य (रु० में कर सहित)	कार्य अवधि
1	T-17/जाविउउउउउ/2019-20	Electrical Maintenance of Badshahibagh Colony, Khara Saharanpur	4.73	9500.00	590.00	01 वर्ष
2	T-18/जाविउउउउउ/2019-20	Cleaning of Draft Tube Gallery, Drainage well, Trenches in Penstock gallery by excavation of deposited mud, sand etc., throw the excavated mud outside of Khara Power House including transportation & painting of old painted and rusted pipe lines of Dewatering pumps & Drainage pumps in draft tube gallery and drainage pit respectively, complete in all respect	0.86	1750.00	295.00	30 दिन
3	T-19/जाविउउउउउ/2019-20	Annual Mechanical Maintenance work of Machine no. 1, 2 and 3 of Khara Power House (24 x 3 MW) during Financial Year 2019-20	07.05	14100.00	950.00	90 दिन
4	T-20/जाविउउउउउ/2019-20	Fixing of UPVC drainage water pipeline for turbine pit of M/c no. 1, 2 and 3 at Khara Power House to Prevent Leakage	0.42	850.00	118.00	30 दिन
5	T-21/जाविउउउउउ/2019-20	Sealing of Intake Gates of machine no. 1, 2 and 3 of Khara Power House	2.17	4400.00	360.00	30 दिन
6	T-22/जाविउउउउउ/2019-20	Annual Electrical Maintenance work of Machine No. 1, 2 and 3 of Khara Power House (24 x 3 MW) during Financial Year 2019-20	8.30	17000.00	1180.00	120 दिन

अधिसूची अभियन्ता

Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited (PuVVNL) (A subsidiary of UP Power Corporation limited)
Purvanchal Vidyut Bhavan, Vidyut Nagar, P.O.- D.L.W., Varanasi - 221004 Website: <http://www.etender.up.nic.in>

Tender Date Extension The tender invited for through e-tender no. EAV-124, 145, 146/18-19 & EAV-06, 07, 08, 09, 10/19-20 the date of bid submission and opening is hereby further extended and details for the same have been mentioned below. **SI. No. 1, Tender Specification number EAV-124/18-19, Material Name 11 KV PPMC (Different Ratio), Last Date & time for submission of tender documents** Date: 29.08.2019 Time: 15:00 PM, **Tender opening date & time** Date: 30.08.2019 Time: 15:00 PM **SI. No. 2, Tender Specification number EAV-145/18-19, Material Name 11 KV TVM (Type-C), Last Date & time for submission of tender documents** Date: 29.08.2019 Time: 15:00 PM, **Tender opening date & time** Date: 30.08.2019 Time: 15:00 PM **SI. No. 3, Tender Specification number EAV-146/18-19, Material Name LT TVM (Type-A), Last Date & time for submission of tender documents** Date: 29.08.2019 Time: 15:00 PM, **Tender opening date & time** Date: 30.08.2019 Time: 15:00 PM **SI. No. 4, Tender Specification number EAV-06/19-20, Material Name Supply & Installation of Energy Meter Single Phase two wire (10-60 Amp.), Last Date & time for submission of tender documents** Date: 29.08.2019 Time: 15:00 PM, **Tender opening date & time** Date: 30.08.2019 Time: 15:00 PM **SI. No. 5, Tender Specification number EAV-07/19-20, Material Name Supply & Installation of Energy Meter Single Phase two wire (10-60 Amp.), Last Date & time for submission of tender documents** Date: 29.08.2019 Time: 15:00 PM, **Tender opening date & time** Date: 30.08.2019 Time: 15:00 PM **SI. No. 6, Tender Specification number EAV-08/19-20, Material Name Supply & Installation of Energy Meter Single Phase two wire (10-60 Amp.), Last Date & time for submission of tender documents** Date: 29.08.2019 Time: 15:00 PM, **Tender opening date & time** Date: 30.08.2019 Time: 15:00 PM **SI. No. 7, Tender Specification number EAV-09/19-20, Material Name Supply & Installation of Energy Meter Single Phase two wire (10-60 Amp.), Last Date & time for submission of tender documents** Date: 29.08.2019 Time: 15:00 PM, **Tender opening date & time** Date: 30.08.2019 Time: 15:00 PM **SI. No. 8, Tender Specification number EAV-10/19-20, Material Name Supply & Installation of Energy Meter Single Phase two wire (10-60 Amp.), Last Date & time for submission of tender documents** Date: 29.08.2019 Time: 15:00 PM, **Tender opening date & time** Date: 30.08.2019 Time: 15:00 PM Other terms and conditions shall remain same. Sd/-(Rajesh Kumar) Superintending Engineer (MM-I) "SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION" पत्रांक : 2293 / पू.वि.वि.नि.लि.(वा.) / सा.प्र. / अञ-1/विज्ञापन दिनांक 16.08.2019

Soldier killed in Pak firing along LoC, father says will groom grandson for Army

LALMANI VERMA SELAQUI (DEHRADUN), AUGUST 17

A SOLDIER was killed on Saturday morning as Pakistani troops, after a lull of about 36 hours, resorted to unprovoked firing of mortar shells and small arms along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district.

Identifying the deceased soldier as Lance Naik Sandeep Thapa, 35, from Dehradun, Defence Ministry spokesperson Lt Colonel Devender Anand said in Jammu that Pakistani troops started firing around 6.30 am in Nowshera sector. The Indian Army retaliated befittingly, he added.

Lance Naik Thapa was a fourth-generation soldier from his family, and the first one to die on duty, his father, Bhagwan Singh Thapa, who retired from



Lance Naik Sandeep Thapa with his wife Nisha. Express

the Army as a Havildar in 2007, said.

At their home, in Rajawala village of Selaqui area on the outskirts of Dehradun, Thapa senior said he will now groom his grandson, Satvik, who is just over three, to join the Army. "I and my three brothers, my father as well as his four brothers - we are all retired

soldiers. Our families groomed generations for the Army," he said.

Sandeep, he said, had joined the Army in 2003 as Sipahi. Sandeep and his younger brother, Naveen, were both in Gorkha Rifles and posted along the LoC in Rajouri district for the last three years.

Thapa said he saw on TV on Saturday morning that a jawan was injured in firing along the LoC but had no way of ensuring it was his son. "Around 2.30 pm, I received a call from Sandeep's friend from his unit. He said Sandeep was killed. The Army Headquarters confirmed the news. His body will be brought here on Sunday," he said.

Thapa said his son had come home on leave in June and left for duty towards the end of the month. "He called up home after reaching Jammu and Kashmir -

that was our last conversation with him. Mobile network is not available at the place where he was posted."

Thapa said as tension gripped J&K and all means of communications were stopped, he and Sandeep's wife, Nisha, tried to call him several times each day. But in vain.

"We had no contact with him for the last one-and-a-half months," Thapa said.

He said Sandeep was to retire from Army in 2021 and had started planning about his next job. He was to come home on leave in October for Diwali, Thapa said.

In Jammu, sources said Pakistani troops also targeted residential areas in Nowshera. There were no reports of civilian casualties or damage to property.

INPUTS FROM ARUN SHARMA IN JAMMU

SHAURYA CHAKRA

Three J&K cops who fought militants, two of them with their lives, honoured

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, AUGUST 17

IN A first, three Jammu and Kashmir Police personnel were honoured with Shaurya Chakras in a year, two of them accorded posthumously.

A release by the J&K Police on Saturday said Sub Inspector Imran Tak and SPO/Follower Ashiq Hussain Malik were honoured posthumously. Head Constable Subash Chander is the third awardee.

The state police also got one President's Police Medal for gallantry, 60 police gallantry medals and 15 President's Medals for meritorious service this Independence Day, according to the police department.

Sub Inspector Imran Tak was killed during an encounter with militants on November 17, 2017 in Srinagar, the J&K Police stated. Having received a tip-off about movement of terrorists in a vehicle in the area, Tak and a police team established a checkpoint on the outskirts of the city. When they tried to stop the vehicle in which the militants were approaching, the occupants opened fire, the statement said. In the ensuing shootout, Tak shot at the vehicle's driver but got injured in the shootout.

As the vehicle's occupants tried to flee, Tak and his team chased them down and confronted them at close quarters, killing one militant. Another was arrested after the gunbattle. Tak succumbed to injuries.

SPO Aashiq Hussain Malik of Chittertal, Anantnag, was part of a joint operation launched against militants hiding in a house in Bijbehara area on June 22, 2018, according to the statement. Under heavy fire from those inside, SPO Malik was able to get close to the structure and engage the militants. Four militants died in the operation. Malik was also killed, the police stated.

Head Constable Subash Chander, according to the statement, was deployed at a joint checkpoint in Kralhar, Baramulla district, in view of the impending counting of votes during the urban and local bodies elections in the state last year. During checking, an SUV was stopped and the passengers asked to prove their identity. One of the men in the vehicle took out an AK-47 rifle and fired on Chander, who by then had taken a defensive position. There were eight others in the vehicle, making it difficult for the policeman to engage the militant, the police stated. In the melee, civilians attempted to flee but the militants — two, including the first attacker — tried to take them as hostages.

Chander gunned down the first militant and distracted the second by throwing a stun grenade in front of the vehicle. He then shot and killed the militant. A huge cache of arms and ammunition was recovered from the vehicle, the statement said. Chander was previously honoured with Sher-i-Kashmir Police Medal for gallantry for killing a Lashkar-e-Taiba militant in Sopore district.

Tiger cub dies in Bandhavgarh

Bhopal: A four-month-old cub, abandoned by its mother, died in the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh on Friday.

The cub was being treated at an enclosure since August 11 after it was found in a weak condition by the patrolling team in Magdhi range of the reserve.

Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd., JAIPUR
No. NIT/2019-20/15875-85
अवकाशित ई-निविदा सूचना सं. 147/2019-20
New Executive Hostel Building at HCM, RSPA, Jaipur में एकल बिडिंग सिस्टम की रूप में एक लॉटिडिग प्रस्तावों के अन्तर्गत अर्ली एवं संशोधन करके बिडिंग सिस्टम के बिडिंग सिस्टम (एकल बिड सिस्टम) अधिनियम दिनांक 19/08/2019 में ई-टेंडरिंग सिस्टम के अन्तर्गत अधिनियम की संज्ञा है।

बिड का विवरण: **शुभ अड्डासि (नगर रु०)**
Supply & Fixing of Plumbline at New Executive Hostel Building at HCM, RSPA, Jaipur. 1900000 Rupees
UBN No.: RRC1920WS0806300

अधिनियम सिस्टम में अर्ली बिडिंग करके की जाने बिदिनांक 16/08/2019 से 22/08/2019 तक 02:00 बजे तक

बिडिंग में प्रवेशित करने बिदिनांक पर बिदिनांक <http://www.parsvnath.com>, <http://www.tenders.gov.in>, <http://www.tripurainfo.com> पर बिडिंग करके बिडिंग सिस्टम के अन्तर्गत अधिनियम की संज्ञा है। बिडिंग सिस्टम के अन्तर्गत अधिनियम की संज्ञा है।

TRIPURA HOUSING & CONSTRUCTION BOARD
(Constituted under Tripura Act-2 of 1979)
Agartala, Tripura (West)

Press NIGRFP No:29/DEO(PD-II)/HCB/2019-20
dated : 16-08-2019

Notice Inviting e-Request for Proposal

Subject: **Construction of Ownership flat at New Capital Complex (near new Secretariat Complex), Agartala, Tripura / Construction of (G + 14) storied apartment tower, accommodating tentatively 140 (one hundred forty) no's, 56 Snos 3 BHK flats and 84 nos 2 BHK flats, on Design & Build Basis.**

1. Tripura Housing and Construction Board invites e-Request for proposal (RFP) from experienced **EPC firms / construction organizations** who have adequate experience in preparing Detailed Architectural Drawings, Detailed Structural Drawings using latest software's, simultaneously holding requisite credentials for construction of high rise buildings, following all relevant BIS Codes on **Design & Build Basis.**

2. The details of RFP can be seen in : <http://www.tripura.nic.in>, <http://www.tenders.gov.in>, <http://www.tripurainfo.com> & the Interested bidder can participate & bid in the only website <https://tripuratenders.gov.in>

SD/-
Chief Executive Officer
Tripura Housing and Construction Board

Parsvnath Developers Ltd.
Regd. & Corporate Office: Registered Office : Parsvnath Metro Tower, Near Shahdara Metro Station, Shahdara, Delhi - 110 032
CN : 14520101D1990PLC040945; Tel. : 011 43010500, 011-43050100
E-mail: mail@parsvnath.com; website : www.parsvnath.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, M/s Parsvnath Developers Ltd., is in the process of undertaking of development of a residential Township in Sector 33 & 33a Rohtak over an area measuring 104.038 Acres in the revenue estate of village kasba Bohar Rohtak in accordance with the provision of Licence No. 36 of 2010 granted by Director, Town & Country Planning Haryana, Chandigarh. And whereas, several individuals have made booking/entered into purchase agreement for allotment of plot/property in the said colony (hereinafter referred as allottees).

And whereas the layout plan earlier approved at the time of grant of licence for the said colony is now proposed to be revised.

And whereas the office of Director, Town & Country Planning Haryana, Chandigarh has required seeking of objection against the revision of layout plan as a pre-condition for allowing such revision in the layout plan. Accordingly, vide this public notice objections are hereby invited from any of the allottees in the said colony on the proposed revised of Layout Plan of the said Colony. A copy of the earlier approved layout plan bearing drawing No. DTCP-2080 dated 16.04.2010 & the layout plan now proposed to be revised bearing drawing No. DTCP 7057 dated 18.07.2019 is available for perusal on website www.parsvnath.com. The said layout plan can also be perused at our office at Parsvnath Metro Tower, Near Shahdara Metro Station, Shahdara, Delhi - 110 032 as well as in the office of District Town Planner (Planning), Rohtak.

Any allottee having any objection on revised Layout Plan, may file his objection in the office of District Town Planner (Planning) Rohtak within 30 days of the publication of notice, failing which it shall be assumed that there are no objection to the proposed revision of the Layout Plan.

Place: Delhi For Parsvnath Developers Ltd.
Date: 17 August, 2017 SD/-

PROVISION OF LIFTS AT LUMDING AND BADARPUR

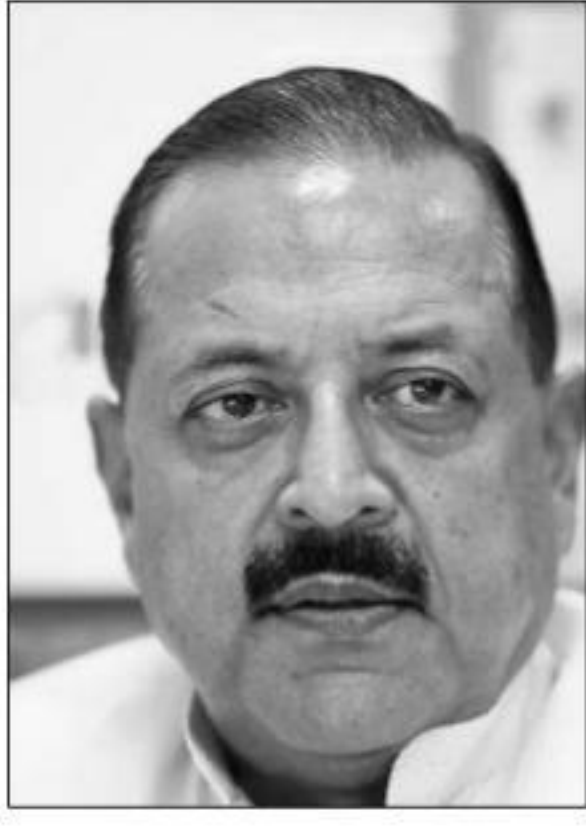
E-Tender Notice No. LMG/Engg/08 of 2019 Dated 14-08-2019. Work tender through e-tendering system are invited for the following works: Name of works: Provision of Lifts one at Lumding & One at Badarpur. Tender Value: ₹29,68,057.50/- Earnest Money: ₹59,400/-. Date & Time of closing of Tender: 02-09-2019 and opened at 03-09-2019. The complete information with tender documents of above e-tender will be available up to 15.00 hrs of 02-09-2019 in the website www.irops.gov.in (DRM /W, Lumding)

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

10 IDEA EXCHANGE

NEWSMAKERS IN THE NEWSROOM

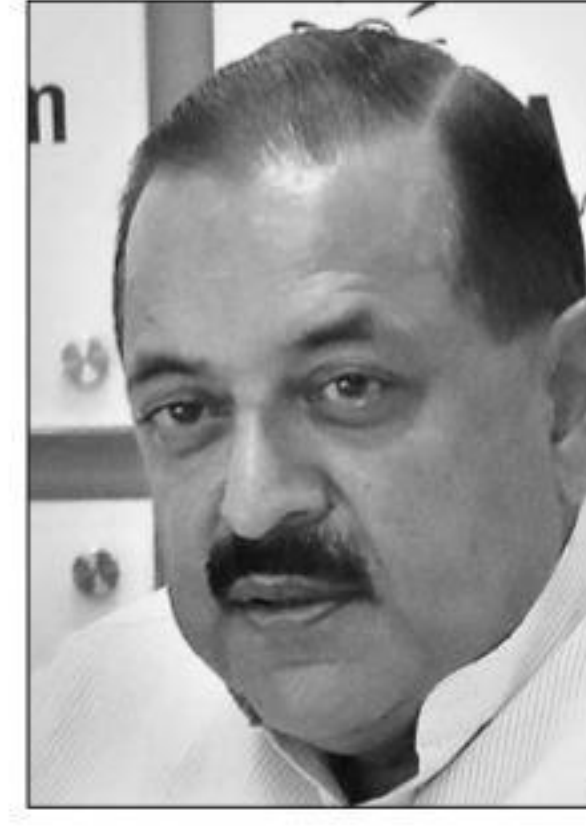
"The restrictions this time are much milder... Most of us forget that mobiles came to India in mid-1990s and were not introduced in J&K as the government did not feel it right. They came in 2003, under Vajpayee"



WHY JITENDRA SINGH

The abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, after both Houses passed the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019 — which also paved the way for the bifurcation of J&K into two Union Territories — has been accompanied by a clampdown in the state, with schools and shops shut and phone and Internet services suspended

for nearly two weeks. As Minister of State for the Prime Minister's Office, Jitendra Singh is privy to the government's decision-making process. This is also an issue close to the heart for the former chief spokesperson of the party's J&K unit, who represents Jammu's Udhampur constituency in Parliament for the party



"There are concerns... that demography will change because terrorism will disallow others to enter (Kashmir). But we see terrorism on its way out... There are safeguards in every state and UT. It should not be a concern"

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY: Kashmir has been facing unprecedented restrictions for over 10 days now. How long will these restrictions continue?

First of all, let me challenge the contention that this is 'unprecedented'. The restrictions this time are much, much milder than they have been in preceding years... Most of us have forgotten that mobile services were introduced in India sometime in the mid-1990s, and not introduced in Jammu and Kashmir because the government then did not feel it would be right. Many years later, in 2003, during the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government, mobile services were introduced in J&K. These have been suspended temporarily now. But we have had times, and governments, that were averse to even introducing the services in J&K. Restrictions in the form of temporary suspension of Internet or even mobile services have happened virtually every year on occasions such as Independence Day, Republic Day and Eid for the last 30 years in the Valley... And, despite that there has been violence (in the region). Compared to when the same or bigger restrictions were put in place earlier, we have had one of the most peaceful Eid festivals.

Secondly, the duration of restrictions has been longer in the past — when there were Congress or Congress-supported governments at the Centre, or when there were Congress and National Conference governments in J&K, which will be a Union Territory after October 31. The (present) restrictions were imposed only about a week or so before Independence Day and Eid. Because we are looking at it through the subconscious prism of Article 370 abrogation... if you look at it per say, it would not stand the scrutiny of facts.

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY: I said this is unprecedented because not only are Internet and phone services suspended, even landlines are not functional. When Afzal Guru was hanged, even then restrictions were imposed for about 10 days, but landlines were working.

Why are you connecting it with Afzal Guru...? Why are you seeing it (the restrictions) through the subconscious prism of these incidents? This has happened again and again, and for days together... There was a long spell of violence in 2010, there was a long spell of unrest during the Amarnath land agitation in 2008... There was protracted Governor's rule up to 1996. There were occasions when the governments of the day earned the dubious distinction of being curfew governments — the Farooq Abdullah government before 1984... Delink it (restrictions in J&K) from Afzal Guru, from Article 370, and let's then look at it. You will realise that statistically you are not right.

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY: Almost all key political leaders, in the Valley at least, are under house arrest. How long can this incarceration continue?

The expression 'incarceration' is very subjective. I hold objection to this. Sheikh Abdullah was in prison for more than a decade. And he was not under house arrest in the cool climes of the Kashmir Valley, he was in Kodaikanal. It was not this government (that did it), it was (former prime minister Jawaharlal) Nehru's government. If we start talking about incarceration, in the way you define it, it then means that the first incarceration in independent India was of Sheikh Abdullah, and of Syama Prasad Mookerjee, who was kept under house arrest for 44 days without any chargesheet or FIR... He was mercilessly thrown into solitary detention.

You can also check the meaning of incarceration. What I am talking about is incarceration... 44 days... House arrest in a person's place of residence or some town, as preventive detention for a few days, cannot be described as incarceration.

RAVISH TIWARI: On abrogation of Article 370, what is also being questioned is the manner in which it was done. The way the entire country was hoodwinked... (Chinar Corps Commander) Lt Gen KJS Dhillon held a press conference to say there was imminent danger to the Amarnath Yatra, and that is why 45,000 security personnel were being brought. You had the Governor say that nothing is going to happen. Then in Parliament, the J&K Reorganisation Bill was tabled at 11 am and passed by 8 pm...

First of all, the expression 'hoodwinked' is being used on the assumption that what was said was a lie. What makes you assume that there wasn't an imminent threat from Pakistan and that it does not exist now? We as responsible citizens — leave aside being office-bearers — must trust the security forces when they say there is imminent danger, that we have discovered IEDs, guns,

'I see no future (for Omar, Sajad, Mufti)... Story has ended for those thriving in vacuum, 8% turnouts'

MoS, PMO, Jitendra Singh says curbs in J&K are nothing new and should not be seen through the prism of Art 370, says questioning J&K Reorganisation Bill is questioning will of Parliament, and says scene in Valley will change once 'shroud of fear' is lifted. Edited excerpts:



Union Minister Jitendra Singh with Senior Assistant Editor Deeptiman Tiwari in *The Indian Express* newsroom. Abhinav Saha

Secondly, the Bill was brought in Parliament, debated and passed. Parliament has representation of all political parties and thoughts. It was passed as per due procedure. Somebody also went to court and the court also had the same view. So is Parliament of India wrong, is the Supreme Court of India wrong? Just because we think we have been hoodwinked, they are wrong? There have been occasions where Bills have been passed in two hours... It is amazing that a Bill which has been debated, which was voted upon, and there was a vote by division, two-thirds (majority) in one House, and three-fourths in another House... So then are we challenging, questioning the supremacy of Parliament?

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY: What is it that worries you so much about Kashmir, that the clampdown continues?

Nothing worries me. Rather, I am relieved. A, we have had one of the most peaceful Eid festivals, one of the most peaceful Independence days in the last three decades. We must compliment the people and the administration of J&K. B, about how long will the detention last... It is for the Home Ministry to answer this. There are security and intelligence inputs that are coming in every moment, which you and I are not privy to. These decisions are taken in a highly discreet manner after meticulous deliberations, which can be done only by those who are privy to that information. They will decide.

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY: The Home Minister has said that the politics of J&K has been appropriated by three families. But these leaders will be let out from preventive detention at some point. A lot of them are young politicians, such as Sajad Lone, Omar Abdullah, Shah Faesal... Do you see a future for them in Kashmir politics?

No, no. Actually I don't see any future for them. They are also realising that their political innings has come to an end. It is only some section of the media that wants to see some future, so that the story can carry on. The story has ended. For these handful of politicians who have survived, thrived and flourished in an atmosphere of vacuum, with 8, 10 per cent voter turnout, which enabled them to make it to the Lok Sabha, to make it to the state Assembly, to form state governments, generation after generation, for three-four generations, and thus perpetuate their dynasty rule... They tried to make the whole country and the world believe that if we are not there, there will be no one to take up the political responsibility. I say this with full confidence, that the common man, regardless of

whether he is a Hindu or Muslim, on the streets of Srinagar, is rejoicing in his heart of hearts... Just let the atmosphere open up, and just let the enormous benefits that had eluded him because of Article 370 (come in)... I think if you are objective observers, you will realise that now we are not dealing with three-four names that you are saying — one or two of them have never even contested elections.

Let's first understand that we are dealing with third-generation Indians, which includes third-generation Kashmiris, the post-1990s generation. Seventy per cent of the population is below the age of 40. It is they who will determine the course of the future for India and for J&K. The majority of the Kashmiri population, which is below the age of 40, is highly, highly aspirational. It is very well-connected, globally connected, very well-informed... I sometimes believe, and I am not saying this without evidence, that the average Kashmiri youth is more aspirational perhaps than his counterparts in other areas of the country. In the civil services exam, every year, you have a topper, or someone in the top 20 list, from the most terror-affected districts of the Kashmir Valley. About 30-40 Class 12 pass-outs from terror-affected districts qualify in the IIT-JEE exam. About two years ago, when we were in the Valley as part of an all-party delegation... at least 50 people had qualified for the NEET exam, the all-India entrance for medical colleges. These children are conscious of the enormous avenues in contemporary India, in Modi's India. They don't want to miss the bus.

The names (of politicians) which you mentioned, they also stand exposed because these children are very scrutinising, very investigative, very interrogative... They would not even trust their parents if they

said something without conviction. They have seen these handful of leaders, whose names are being mentioned time and again, whose own children are lodged in safe havens, getting education in the best institutions, and then getting best jobs in the corporate sector, and shamelessly even in civil services... They do not subscribe wholly or partly to the Constitution of India, but make best use of it, while pushing the neighbour's or poor man's children to become stone-pelters. I think one generation lost out on that. Now this third generation, after 30 years of terrorism, has begun to realise the duplicity and bluff...

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY: But who will represent the people of Kashmir politically now?

A, the time of the 8 per cent, 10 per cent voter turnout beneficiaries is over. B, the time of dynasty is over. C, this is the third generation of Kashmiris, and they will come out and decide their future. In a democracy, all the names that you mentioned, can again contest... But they can't hold the country and J&K to ransom and say that only we are the master political players, and we will determine the future. As time passes, and the shroud of fear is lifted, we will have a scenario where change will happen on its own, regardless of whether these players are there or not.

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY: So when can we expect elections to happen?

We in the Modi government do not interfere in the working of the constitutional institutions — the Election Commission of India, the CBI. You can ask this question to the EC. The BJP is a 24x7, 365-day party. We are not an election-season party, nor do we start visiting temples during elections. We

"We are dealing with post-1990s generation... It is they who will decide J&K's future. Young Kashmiris are highly aspirational... conscious of the avenues in Modi's India. They don't want to miss the bus"



are ready for any election, any time.

KRISHN KAUSHIK: You say that the common man on the streets of Srinagar is rejoicing. Why then do all the images emanating from the Valley show empty streets...?

See, the restrictions have been put so that the right-thinking citizen can live to rejoice. So that they do not die before rejoicing. Pakistan and sponsors of terrorism are always up to mischief, particularly on such momentous occasions. Not just this time, this has always happened. If the restrictions were imposed only for the abrogation of Article 370, why did earlier governments, Congress governments, impose these restrictions? So, this (present restrictions) is in the interest of the safety of the common man, who is in a vulnerable situation, where mischief-mongers supported by Pakistan can find soft targets.

VANDITA MISHRA: In many of your answers — on why the restrictions have been imposed, the detentions etc — you point to these things being done by the earlier Congress regimes as well. But surely for a government it can't be a moral or political argument to say that this has been done before. Also, you say that we should delink the current situation from Article 370. But why should we do that? You have taken a very consequential decision for the people of the Valley while keeping them under lock and key.

I did not say 'delink', and I agree with you. Why should you (not link the situation with the Article 370 abrogation)... There is a proverb in English, that two wrongs don't make a right... I am not saying what is happening is ideal. But it is unfair to hurl all this criticism on the present government on the basis of what is happening. If you do so, you have to check records and see if you do the same in earlier years. Did you make so much noise when restrictions were imposed on Independence Day in 2018, Republic Day in 2019? So in your case too the same rules would apply, that two wrongs don't make a right. You cannot have different standards, look at it with a bias... The abrogation of Article 370 is a correction of the wrong course taken by the Congress party. Please do not judge us on the basis of this last one week because then you will have to judge yourself and see your response in the preceding years.

AAKASH JOSHI: Are former CMs Mehbooba Mufti or Omar Abdullah a security threat? Is that the reason why they are under preventive detention?

Again, we will have to correct our mind-

set. I may be a security threat without carrying a gun. There have been detentions in Jammu region also. Again, our mind is hooked onto these two-three names. It is our tragedy not theirs, because it helps them thrive and flourish. The call is to be taken by security agencies... depending upon their inputs... If they feel there can be some kind of negativity, statement or provocation, they take these decisions. They must have had enough inputs to take these decisions, and it is not being done only in the case of two or three individuals.

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY: What are some of the challenges you expect to face in the Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh regions?

The first is to break the psychological barriers. The physical barriers have been enormous, in terms of development, (Central) laws not being applicable... There was a psychological barrier for Ladakh, which felt subjugated... Its land area is much larger in comparison to both the regions, but they were not treated as equal citizens. The regional imbalance was both physical and psychological. Over the years, in the Jammu region, it got ingrained in minds that everything was going to the other side because of certain political parties maintaining their hegemony... For them to realise that they too are claimants to the avenues and opportunities as their fellow peers and counterparts (in Kashmir)... That might take some time.

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY: Do you think concerns about demography change in Jammu, fears that settlers will prefer it over Kashmir because of terrorism there, are legitimate? Also, you talk about low turnouts, do you think it will increase when elections are held now?

There are concerns in certain quarters... You are assuming that demography will change because there is terrorism today, and it will disallow others to enter (Kashmir). But we are optimistically visualising a scenario where terrorism will be on its way out. This is the last stage of militancy because of the decisive action, clarity and conviction of the Modi government. The Kashmir Valley is a land of unexplored opportunities like the Northeast. Once the potential is realised, it will benefit the locals as much as the others.

As far as demography is concerned, there are safeguards in every state and Union Territory. It should not be a concern... We are foreseeing a situation where peace will prevail. This will be the beginning of J&K coming on a par with other parts of the country. And when peace prevails, voting percentage will go up on its own... The key voter today is the youth voter, they have a mind of their own. The young want to express themselves.

THE OTHER AYODHYA TRIAL

As SC begins daily hearings in Ram Janmabhoomi dispute amidst national spotlight, the criminal trial in the Babri Masjid demolition, against L K Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi and Uma Bharti among others, is crawling. APURVA VISHWANATH spends a day at the Lucknow trial where an overburdened judge is racing against time, as well as decaying evidence, and ailing, lost or dead witnesses

ON AUGUST 5, as the Supreme Court began its daily hearings in the civil case in the Ram Janmabhoomi dispute, a special judge took his place unobtrusively 550 km away, in a dimly lit, empty room, with stacks of decaying papers, in the Old High Court complex in Lucknow. Without a battery of senior lawyers, curious visitors or national media swarming the corridors, and with a lone constable, Shatrughan Singh, chasing boredom away at the door, there was little to indicate that in this room was on one of India's most-anticipated criminal trials — apart from a small, chipped wooden board at the door declaring 'Ayodhya *Prakaran* (episode)'.

The criminal trial, to fix liability of those who conspired and brought down the Babri Masjid on December 6, 1992, covers two separate cases — FIR No. 198 against senior BJP leader L K Advani and seven leaders of the Sangh Parivar, including Murli Manohar Joshi and Uma Bharti, for making incendiary speeches; and FIR No. 197 against "lakhs of unknown *kar sevaks*" for tearing down the mosque. The *kar sevaks* also face charges of dacoity, promoting enmity between religions, robbery and rioting.

Like the civil case, which the Supreme Court said last week it would be hearing five days a week (breaking a convention), this criminal case too has been "fast-tracked" several times by the apex court. It now has a time limit of April 2020.

But, like the civil case, the criminal trial too is racing against a deadline of another kind. In the Supreme Court, the bench is headed by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, whose retirement in November could necessitate hearings all over again if the judgment is not delivered by then, Special Judge S K Yadav, who is hearing the criminal trial, is on an extension past his retirement on September 30.

The judgment in one case would have no bearing on the other.

But this muggy August morning, little of this urgency is evident at the District and Sessions Judge courtroom in the Old High Court complex. Since Judge Yadav is also the administrative head of the district court since November 2018, there are other cases and managerial duties requiring his attention. The Babri trial moves to the special courtroom reserved for it only when the court has to examine video or audio evidence. Most days, Judge Yadav hears the arguments in the main courtroom, which is the busiest in the complex, with fresh cases being listed before it.

Today, amidst hearings in the Babri case on one end of the podium, on the other side, a clerk is furiously typing away the testimony of a woman, who is sobbing quietly reflecting how her nephew bludgeoned her husband to death under the influence of alcohol.



The first to arrive at the court is former police officer S P Singh, dot at 10 am. Retired in 2015 and now settled in Delhi, Singh was a Deputy Superintendent of Police posted in Lucknow in 1992 and, as part of the CBI team investigating the demolition, seized certain documents that the agency hopes to use as evidence. Some of those documents are prescriptions and medical records of those injured in the incidents of December 6, maintained by the medical camp set up by the Uttar Pradesh government then.

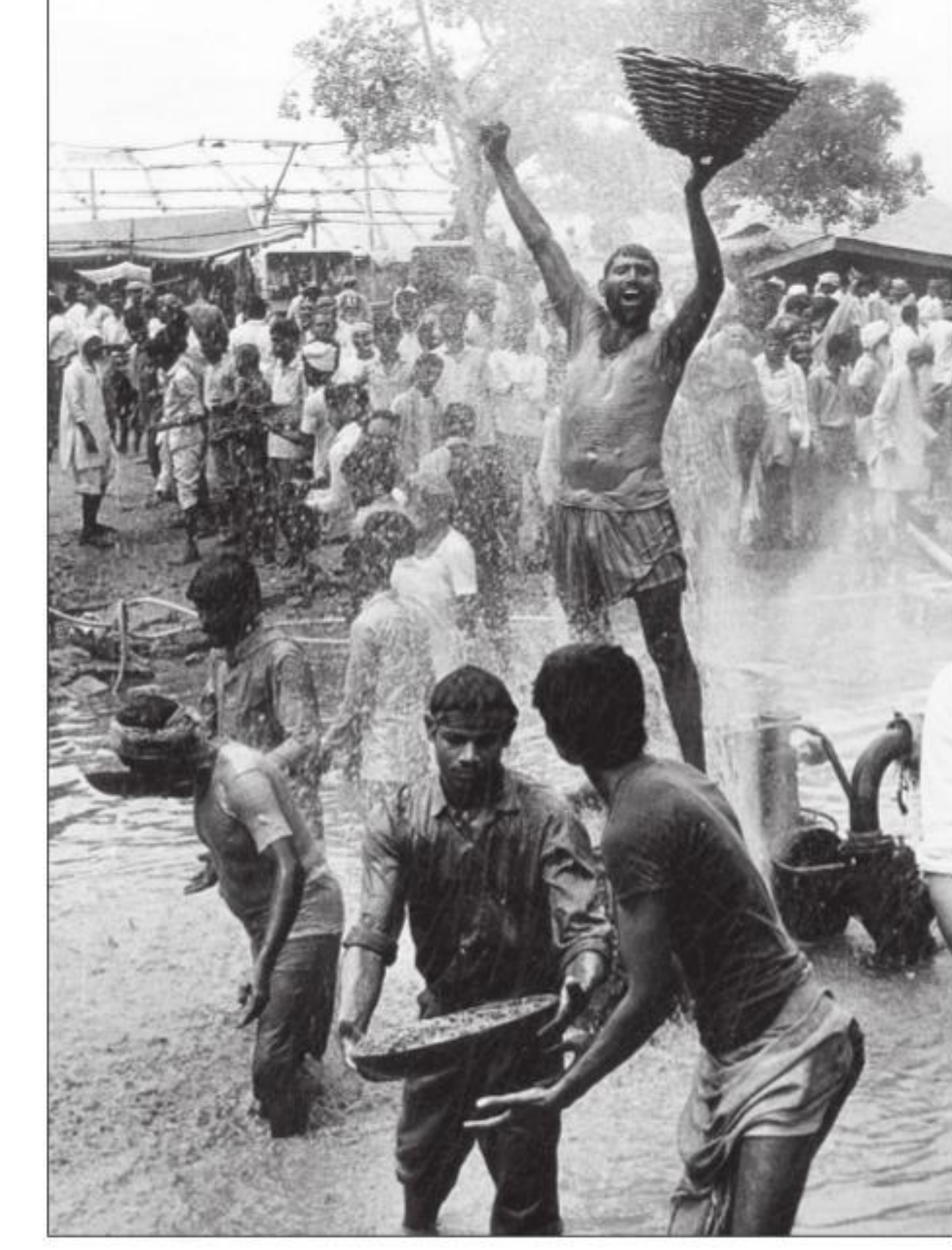
Singh's cross-examination is scheduled for 11 am. However, the defence team does not show up, and the court has no information why.

Judge Yadav goes about his day, hearing other cases.

At 3 pm finally, advocate Abhishek Ranjan, who mainly represents VHP leader Champat Rai Bansal, turns up and asks for the judge's permission to examine the prosecution witness. After borrowing the prosecution's set of documents, he begins questioning Singh.

"The defence deliberately begins the trial this late so that they can delay the proceedings," prosecution lawyer R K Yadav, representing the CBI, laments. The judge does not react.

Standing at one end of a long raised platform before the judge, S P Singh answers Ranjan's questions, which all begin with "Kya yeh kehna sahi hoga ki" (would it be correct to say that...?) Singh is expected to reply in a yes/no first, and then explain. The elaborate



(Anti-clockwise from above) Kar sevaks at the disputed Ayodhya site; atop the Babri Masjid before its demolition on Dec 6, 1992; and L K Advani on the Somnath-Ayodhya Yatra, leading up to the razing of the mosque. Express Archives

answer is to be then condensed, translated into legalese and dictated to the clerk by the defence lawyer himself.

Copies of the deposition are not public records and not attached to the verdict. Judges quote relevant paragraphs from the depositions to substantiate the conclusions that have been drawn.

It is by now 4 pm, and a court staff begins bringing piles of files for Judge Yadav to sign, who clears them even as he is trying to hear witnesses in the murder case as well as the Ayodhya case simultaneously. The files range from sanctioning leave of judges to allotting cases to them.

At regular intervals, CBI lawyer R K Yadav objects to the questions posed or the dictation. Judge Yadav continues to sign administrative files until the argument between the prosecutor and defence lawyers grows loud enough to demand his attention.

At 5 pm, the court rises for the day, with the cross-examination spilling over to the next day.

S P Singh would eventually take three days to record his testimony.

The criminal trial began in 1992. In the nearly three decades since, 134 witnesses as well as eight of the 48 accused have died,

over a hundred witnesses are now "untraceable", and 40 either too old or too sick to appear before the court to testify what they saw on December 6, 1992. In 2017, the CBI list had 1,026 prosecution witnesses, with only about 200 having deposed since the trial began in 1992.

Two years later, the number of prosecution witnesses examined by the court stands at 291, almost entirely journalists and police officers who investigated the case. About a month ago, the CBI moved an application saying it will not produce any further witnesses. So, now, at least 10 more witnesses are expected to be produced, before the court starts the examination of the accused.

So far, the accused, including Advani, have personally appeared before the court only when the charges were to be framed against them, in 2017. However, the hearing was not held on the court premises but in the conference room of a management college in Lucknow.

In the list of VIP accused, VHP leaders Giriraj Kishore and Ashok Singhal are among those dead, with the proceed-

ings against them abated.

The defence's main line of argument is that the then P V Narasimha Rao-led Congress government instructed the CBI to build a case against top BJP leaders and fabricate evidence for political gains.

For the 13 accused, lawyers K K Mishra and Mankeshwar Tripathi, apart from Abhishek Ranjan, appear. On paper, Ranjan represents VHP leader Bansal, but he cross-examines the witnesses on behalf of all the accused. "It's the same case and the same arguments work for all the accused. There's no need for many lawyers," Ranjan says.



Rapped by the Chief Justice of India as recently as August 13 for failing to meet "judicial standards" in cases involving political leaders, the CBI has been struggling to stitch its Ayodhya case together, in more ways than one. In 2017, two members of the prosecution team, KS Negi, the CBI officer who assists the prosecutors, and Lalit Singh, one of the two special prosecutors, had an accident while driving back from Ayodhya after picking up some documents. Both were severely injured, and appeared for subsequent court hearings in bandages and leaning on sticks.

Singh still walks with a limp, which makes it difficult for him to step onto the podium during arguments.

CBI teams have had trouble locating witnesses, with many changing addresses. In other cases, the CBI has traced an address only to find the witness dead. Of the 134 witnesses for whom death certificates have been filed, the CBI has had to itself obtain certificates in case of at least 15 since the kin of the deceased had not applied for the same.

Despite the Supreme Court monitoring, there have been days when the Special Court has not functioned for the day as summoned witnesses have failed to show up. As per the law, the prosecution can seek warrants against such witnesses. However, court records show the CBI has not made any such application so far.

The defence has said in court that many witnesses have requested to be relieved. "There is a professional risk to deposing now, after 27 years. If a court ruling records that a journalist is not credible as a witness, it damages her entire career," defence lawyer K K Mishra points out. What he leaves unsaid is that in a criminal trial, the defence lawyer's endeavour is to discredit prosecution witnesses by highlighting inconsistencies in their testimonies.

The prosecution has been raising this, saying that testifying journalists are being asked to recall minute details from 26 years ago such as the precise time they saw the first *kar sevaks* on the dome of the Babri Masjid, the specifics of the cameras they were carrying, and their bills for the travel and stay in Ayodhya.

While the prosecution says this only dissuades journalists from testifying, Mishra scoffs, "Those who participate in holding remembrance meetings on the anniversary of the dispute say they don't remember the specifics of the case in cross-examination!"

Apart from the testimonies of eyewitnesses, the CBI case is largely built on the footage of the incident and in all these years, it has not obtained a single forensic report clarifying whether the video evidence is raw footage or edited. "I can tell you what the CBI has done. I cannot answer why it has not done something," says Negi.

The VCRs (video cassette recorders) submitted to the court have been in the same box in evidence rooms of the Special Court for over two decades. The cassettes were not sealed when they were seized at ground zero or subsequently. Despite VCRs now being largely obsolete, neither have they been digitally stored nor converted to a different format.

"Ask the CBI why they are only relying on the tapes given by journalists. A lot of these tapes were edited in the newsroom. How can

any court rely solely on that?" Ranjan asks.

The courtroom has witnessed at least six incidents where the tapes could not be played for technical reasons. "In one of the testimonies, they played a video that showed the demolition for the first few seconds and then suddenly an interview of Manmohan Singh popped up on the screen," a court staff who did not wish to be identified recalls.



To ensure that the Ayodhya criminal trial was not derailed due to change of the Special Judge, the Supreme Court resorted to an unusual move in July. It invoked its powers under Article 142 of the Constitution, which allows it to pass any order to ensure complete justice, and extended Judge Yadav's retirement date by six months from September 30. Yadav was an Additional District Magistrate in April 2017 when appointed Special Judge for the Ayodhya case. Now, when he retires, Yadav will focus solely on this case and will be relieved of his administrative roles.

The trial against unknown *kar sevaks* began initially in Lalitpur in Uttar Pradesh. The state government transferred the case to Lucknow in September 1993 when Uttar Pradesh was under President's rule. The other case, against political leaders, was transferred a month later and the CBI filed a consolidated chargesheet in 1995.

As governments changed both at the Centre and state, the court made no progress till 2017. In April that year, the Supreme Court revived the criminal trial in the demolition case by allowing the CBI to add a fresh charge of criminal conspiracy against BJP leaders, including Advani, Joshi and Uma Bharti. In a 40-page decision, Justices P C Ghose and Rohinton F Nariman also set a two-year deadline for the court to complete the trial, and added for good measure that the Special Judge could not be transferred until the trial was completed.

The Supreme Court also berated the CBI for allowing a "fractured trial" till then and said it would monitor the proceedings now. "We grant liberty to all parties to approach us in case our orders are not fully followed in letter and spirit," the Supreme Court said.

So, the renewed trial began in June 2017, with two years to frame charges, as well as to examine over a hundred prosecution witnesses. Each of the accused was granted bail on the condition that they furnish a bond of Rs 20,000.

In June this year, Judge Yadav sought more time to conclude the trial, and a month later, the Supreme Court extended the deadline by another nine months.

This week, the examination of the prosecution witnesses is expected to end. The court will next move to question the accused as per Section 313 of the CrPC, who will then be given an opportunity to reply and be allowed to bring their own witnesses and lead evidence.

Finally, both sides will argue on the evidence before the judge can pronounce the verdict. If all goes well, that would be six months from now.

However, a key development is expected on September 4 that could extend this timeline once again. That day, the accused No. 3 in the chargesheet, Kalyan Singh, under whose tenure as Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh the Babri Masjid was razed, is set to demit office as the Governor of Rajasthan. Since he is entitled to immunity under the Constitution as long as he holds the post, the Supreme Court in its 2017 order had directed the Special Court to "frame charges against him as soon as he ceases to be Governor".

Which means the process will have to be repeated for Kalyan Singh, including framing of charges, examination of new witnesses and arguments against the evidence.

In short, another delay.

EXPLAINED E Watershed cases

LIKE THE Supreme Court trial in the century-old civil case over the Ram Janmabhoomi dispute, the criminal trial in the Babri Masjid demolition may have entered its last lap. While the two decisions would be independent of each other, both would be watershed in India's legal history in determining how religion and politics interact with the law.



CRIMINAL DISPUTE

ACCUSED

48

plus lakhs of unknown *kar sevaks*

PROMINENT ACCUSED

- BJP leaders L K Advani, Vinay Katiyar, Uma Bharti, Murli Manohar Joshi, Kalyan Singh (now Rajasthan governor)
- VHP leaders Ashok Singhal (dead), Giriraj Kishore (dead), Vishnu Hari Dalmia, Champat Rai Bansal
- Shiv Sena leaders Bal Thackeray (dead), Moreswar Save (dead), Satish Pradhan
- Hindu Mahasabha's Mahant Avaidyanath (of Gorakhnath temple, dead)
- Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Nyas president Mahant Nriyaya Gopal Das
- Sadhvi Ritambhara

TIMELINE

- Trial against unknown *kar sevaks* begins in Lalitpur, UP; case moved to Lucknow in Sept 1993 when state under President's rule
- Case against political leaders shifted to Lucknow a month later
- CBI files chargesheet in 1995
- No progress till April 2017, when SC revives criminal trial, allows CBI to add criminal conspiracy charge against Advani, Joshi, Uma Bharti
- Court sets a two-year deadline, says it will monitor the trial
- At end of two-year deadline, Special Judge Yadav seeks more time; SC gives time till April 2020

CIVIL DISPUTE

Supreme Court is holding daily hearings into a batch of 13 appeals against a 2010 High Court verdict mandating a three-way division of the disputed site between Sunni Waqf Board, Nirmohi Akhara and Ram Lalla, represented by Hindu Mahasabha. The HC had dismissed claims filed by both Ram Lalla in 1989, Sunni Waqf Board in 1961





(Far left) As part of the ground tests, candidates ran a 1.6-km race and competed in high jumps and long jumps; (left) the women had to be at least 152 cm in height to qualify



With floods hitting Belagavi hard, there were unexpected showers on all days of the recruitment rally, and many ran their races bare feet; (left) M Paavani from Secunderabad, Telangana, and A Ruksana from Guntakal, Andhra Pradesh, shared a room at Pushpa Lodge in Belagavi with their relatives

Her Turn

For the first time, women are being hired for Corps of Military Police in the Indian Army. At the Belagavi recruitment centre in Karnataka, over 800 have competed for barely 100 places in history. MAYURA JANWALKAR found young women and parents determined to let little come in their way — from chicken pox to rejection, *salwar-kameez* to no running shoes

PHOTOGRAPHS: AMIT CHAKRAVARTY

NOTHING, NOT even the angry, red eruptions on her face and body, will stop Sneha N S from aiming for her "dream job". "I love the Indian Army," says the 18-year-old, chin cupped in her palm as she sits by herself under one of the three large canopies at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Stadium of the Maratha Light Infantry Regimental Centre in Belagavi, Karnataka.

Outside the enclosure, around 35 women run on the 400-m track that's glistering after a sudden, heavy shower.

A day earlier, Sneha had cleared her ground tests — a 1.6-km race that had to be completed in eight minutes or less, high jump and long jump — and physical fitness tests, when she was diagnosed with chicken pox. Now on medication for the pox, she is back at the stadium for a medical examination as part of the recruitment process.

As she waits for her turn, isolated from the other women, Sneha, dressed in a navy blue T-shirt and track pants, a white thorax tossed across her shoulder, says, "I had no fever when I left home in Kerala. Even when I reached Belagavi and got these pimples, I did not think much of it. So I came for my physical and ground tests."

Accompanied by her mother and uncle, Sneha, who is pursuing a computer course at her hometown Itty, about 41 km from Kannur, made the 611-km journey from home to Belagavi even as she was coming down with the infectious disease, spending eight hours in a bus and three hours on a train.

She is among the 850-odd women, many of whom have travelled several hundred kilometers, to turn up at the first-ever recruitment rally for women to the Indian Army's Corps of Military Police.

The recruitment of women as Soldier General Duty (Women Military Police) marks the first time that women will be commissioned only as officers, but as soldiers, going them



Amikha K, who cleared her tests, is greeted by her father with a spontaneous hug; Sneha N S was diagnosed with chicken pox after clearing her ground and physical tests

an opportunity to be involved in active military duties. As personnel of the military police, the women soldiers will be responsible for investigating offences such as molestation, theft, and rape; "assisting in the maintenance of good order and discipline"; and a custody and handling of prisoners of war —

essentially combat-support operations.

The move is part of a slow opening up of avenues for women in the armed forces. In his Independence Day speech last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said women officers recruited into the armed forces under the Short Service Commission would be given the option of taking up permanent commission — a "gift" to India's "brave daughters".

Following a notification issued by the Army on April 25, around 15,000 women registered for the recruitment rally at Belagavi, the first of five such to be held across India to fill 100 positions in the Military Police. The Belagavi centre catered to candidates from the southern states of Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and the Union Territories of Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar and Puducherry. Of the 15,000 aspirants, about 3,000 were short-listed on the basis of their Class 10 marks, with the cut-off set at 86 per cent. Of the shortlisted candidates, only about one-third turned up at the Belagavi centre between August 1 and 5 at the date and time assigned to them.

Just then, outside the enclosure where Sneha is sitting, a shrill whistle pierces the air and another batch of girls takes off — feet on the wet ground, mostly bare, making a dash for their place in history.

"Does everyone understand English?" asks Major Sneha Chaudhary and the group of about 30 women, sitting on red carpets spread out on the ground in one of the enclosures, below in unison: "Yes". "If anybody touches you inappropriately, does everyone understand what 'inappropriately' means? If somebody touches you in a bad way, you can come and tell me or any other woman staff here," continues Major Chaudhary.

"With increased awareness, it has become easier to talk to women candidates about these things (sexual harassment). They are not taboo anymore. While we have minimised physical contact between the candidates and male officers and everything is transparent and open, we still have to brief them about gender issues," a senior Army officer says later.

After the briefing, the girls, one of four groups, are led to the starting line of the running track for the first of their challenges — four laps of a 400-m track.

The whistle goes off and seconds later, gliding ahead in an orange jersey is P Mounika, 19, a national-level sprinter from Yalitiyapattam. After finishing first in her group, the hazel-eyed athlete says, "I want to serve the country and the military is my passion. If I don't get selected the first time, I will try again... and again and again."

After the race, there are more ground tests — long- and high-jumps — after which the candidates are sent for physical tests to assess if they meet the required height, weight and chest-expansion criteria. Those who qualify proceed for medical examination the following day, where candidates undergo both routine and, if required, specialised screenings.

Army sources said candidates who clear the medical examination will sit for a written test in October, results of which are expected to be declared by the second week of November. Those selected will finally undergo a 31-week training session at the Corps of the Military Police Centre and School in Bengaluru, to be arrested in the rank of sepoy.

According to officials, those se-

lected as Soldier General Duty will start at a salary of Rs 37,000-Rs 39,000 — including their basic salary and various allowances — on a par with their male colleagues.

As she oversees the physical tests, Major Himika Kalyani says what shines through the whole exercise is the spirit of the young women. "Most of them were running bare feet. The fastest runner we saw clocked under six minutes to complete the 1.6-km run," says Major Kalyani. In between, constructing some of the women to untie their hair for accurate breast measurement.

Outside the gates of the centre, eager parents and relatives have been waiting for their children since morning.

An Amikha K, 18, walks out of the gates of the centre after clearing her ground and physical tests, her father Gopi K, who has been waiting with other parents since morning, greets her with a spontaneous hug and a peck on the cheek. Gopi, a driver with the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation, and his wife Dhanya T, a bank employee, had accompanied Amikha from Kozhikode to Belagavi.

"We would have been happy with anything our daughter wanted, but the Indian Army is the best," says Gopi, after he has taken a selfie with his wife and daughter.

Drapping behind them are kabaddi players Amrutha P K and Safa Ameena, both 19. The athletes had both passed the physical tests, but with a miss-

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Outside the gates of the centre, eager parents and relatives have been waiting for their children since morning.

An Amikha K, 18, walks out of the gates of the centre after clearing her ground and physical tests, her father Gopi K, who has been waiting with other parents since morning, greets her with a spontaneous hug and a peck on the cheek. Gopi, a driver with the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation, and his wife Dhanya T, a bank employee, had accompanied Amikha from Kozhikode to Belagavi.

"We would have been happy with anything our daughter wanted, but the Indian Army is the best," says Gopi, after he has taken a selfie with his wife and daughter.

Drapping behind them are kabaddi players Amrutha P K and Safa Ameena, both 19. The athletes had both passed the physical tests, but with a miss-

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Women in Army: A long battle

MAN AMAN SINGH CHHINA

TWENTY-SIX YEARS after women were first inducted into the Indian Army as Short Service Commission officers in 1993, the Army has taken the first tentative steps to induct them into other ranks as well, beginning with the Military Police.

The first major step towards giving permanency to the position of women officers in the Army came in 2008 when it was decided that those serving in the Judge Advocate General department and Army Education Corps would be offered Permanent Commission. While the two branches hardly have any troops to command and are mostly administrative appointments, the move meant women could now rise above the rank of Lt Colonel.

Women officers have been in active service in supporting arms such as Signals and Engineers, and services such as Army Ordnance Corps, but not in combat arms such as the Infantry and Armoured Corps and the Regiment of Artillery.

In his Independence Day speech last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced Permanent Commission for women in all branches of the Army. However, it was clarified later that women officers would be offered Permanent Commission in staff appointments only. This meant that it would be a while before a woman officer could be seen commanding an Engineer or Signals Regiment or an ASC Battalion.

Army officers say it is inevitable that more roles will be opened up for women in the rank of soldiers. They could be inducted as technicians, clerks, drivers etc. However, they agree that a position in combat arms is unlikely to be offered to women officers or soldiers anytime soon.

Sushma Galkwad, 19, had her documents in order, had impressed the officers with her performance in the ground tests, but when she stood against the ruler of the stadium, her heart sank — she was 150 cm, 2 cm short. As she waits for a train back home to Taki Big village, in Telangana's Nizamabad district, Galkwad, daughter of a banana farmer, says, "An Army job or nothing. There is one Army man in our village. Everyone looks up to him. Why can't a girl be like that? I wanted to show the people of my village that a girl can also be a role model. But I won't be disappointed. I will come back next year."

As the girls compete to shatter another glass ceiling, there are many who will have to wait for their chance.

At the Belagavi railway station, eight young women from Maharashtra's Osmanabad sit on the floor. Sporting track pants and T-shirts, hair pulled back in buns, they have laid out old newspaper sheets and are sharing the bhakri, pickle and puffed rice they had packed from home before they set out on the 600-km journey to Belagavi.

Now they are on their way back. "We didn't know we had to register online before coming here. Also, we didn't know that the recruitment rally for candidates from Maharashtra will be held in Jalapur (Madhya Pradesh). But it's okay. We will go there. We are determined," says Nikita Panchal, 18.

Like the girls from Osmanabad, Nisha Anjum from Harihara in Karnataka's Devanagere district showed up in Belagavi without registering online. But unlike them, the 19-year-old will have to wait longer for another chance. "I always wanted to serve the country... joining the Army meant everything to me," says the burqa-clad Anjum. "But there is one more thing. I am the eldest of three daughters. My father always wished for a son. I wanted to show him that I was no less. Here was my chance and now it has all come crashing down now. But I will try again next year."

Sushma Galkwad, 19, had her documents in order, had impressed the officers with her performance in the ground tests, but when she stood against the ruler of the stadium, her heart sank — she was 150 cm, 2 cm short. As she waits for a train back home to Taki Big village, in Telangana's Nizamabad district, Galkwad, daughter of a banana farmer, says, "An Army job or nothing. There is one Army man in our village. Everyone looks up to him. Why can't a girl be like that? I wanted to show the people of my village that a girl can also be a role model. But I won't be disappointed. I will come back next year."

(Left) At the Maratha Light Infantry Regimental Centre in Belagavi, where over 850 candidates turned up for the first of five recruitment rallies for inducting women into the Military Police

MALLICA JOSHI

IT IS barely 11 on a foggy, rainy morning at an apple orchard in Matiana, over 40 km from Shimla, but half of Suhail Chauhan's working day is over and he is now headed home. "Which other job can give you such returns? I live with my family and can give them time and attention. I breathe the clean air and eat fresh food. And most importantly, I now make more money than I did while in a regular job," says Suhail, who held a regular 9-to-5 job at a private university in Shimla until a little over a year ago but who is now an apple farmer.

Suhail, 29, is among several young men who have quit their jobs in metros to return to their villages and orchards in Himachal Pradesh's Shimla district to grow apples.

Apples make up over 80 per cent of Himachal Pradesh's Rs 3,300 crore fruit economy, with the fruit primarily grown in Shimla, Kullu, Kinnaur and Mandi districts. With 39,460 hectares, Shimla accounts for the highest area of the crop under cultivation.

Like with most other things in the state, the apple too comes with a colonial legacy. Captain A A Lee, a British Army soldier, is said to have planted the first apple tree in Kullu Valley in 1870. The apples, however, turned out sour and not many took to them. In the late 1880s, a few apple trees were planted by the British in Mashobra, 10 km from Shimla, then the summer capital of British India, but these were restricted to small private orchards.

It was Samuel Evan Stokes, an American missionary, who unwittingly introduced commercial apple cultivation in the state. Stokes brought a few grafts of the Red Delicious — then the most popular variety of apple in the US — to Kotgarh village, about 70 km from Shimla, in the early 1920s. Stokes married a Himachali woman, had children, converted to Hinduism and became Satyanand Stokes.

"When he brought the Red Delicious to Kotgarh, it was still patented in the US. No one knew it was being grown in a small village in Himachal Pradesh. In the 1940s and '50s, the fruit gained acceptance. And after 1958, when the import of apples was regulated by then prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, there was a boom in apple cultivation," says 83-year-old Kotgarh resident Harichand Roach, among the few people to have interacted with Stokes. Roach owns a five-acre orchard in Kotgarh and an eight-acre orchard in Matiana, about 31 kilometres away.

Suhail says his grandfather was among those who worked on Stokes's farm. "Because apple cultivation was successful early on and there was good money, people were able to afford quality education for their children and started moving out to bigger cities. Some even bought land in nearby areas," says Suhail, a third-generation apple orchard owner who owns three orchards — one each in Kotgarh, Kumarsen and Matiana, where he lives.

Speaking about what motivated him to quit his job as assistant registrar (administration) at APG University in Shimla and return home, Suhail says, "I used to live in a crowded part of Shimla and spent all the money I earned. Sometimes, I had to ask my parents for more. Today, I wake up at 6 am and stay in the orchard till 11 am. Then I am back at the orchard between 4 and 8 pm. But one needs to spend at least 300 days in a year in the orchard to get good returns," he says.

While Suhail's decision to come back to the orchard was a conscious one, 31-year-old Kunal Chauhan returned to his village in Kotkhai in different circumstances. After his degree in Computer Application from Chandigarh, he worked with Dell Technologies for eight months, before returning in 2010.

"My mother was unwell and I decided to return for a while to take care of her. But while I was here, I realised that there was a lot that I could do," says Kunal, who has an ancestral farm of 57 bighas (one acre in Himachal Pradesh equals five bighas) in Kotkhai.

In 2014, he along with two other orchard owners started a group called Progressive Growers Association (PGA), which was then turned into a cooperative. "For our parents, the orchards were just another source of income while they worked in towns and cities. But for the people who are now returning, it is a full-time profession," he says.

The cooperative grew from 88 members in the first year to 248 in five years, of whom 120 are below 35 years. The cooperative, which signed a memorandum of understanding with the Netherlands Embassy's Agricultural Department and the Indo-Italian



An apple farm a day

What prompted a bunch of youngsters to quit their jobs and come back and grow apples on their family orchards in Himachal? Low input costs, good returns, allied revenue opportunities, and a nose for business



(Clockwise from top) Suhail Chauhan at his apple farm in Matiana, about 40 km from Shimla; a labourer at work at an orchard in Kotkhai in Shimla; Kunal Chauhan (centre) along with two other orchard owners started a group called Progressive Growers Association in 2014, which was later turned into a cooperative. Abhinav Saha

Chamber of Commerce and Industry, offers its members regular training sessions on pruning, cultivation techniques and the use of technology. Last year, the members sold six lakh boxes (each box of 25 kg) of apples in all.

"The bargaining power of a cooperative is more. We get fertilisers and machinery at a cheaper price. We now have a store of our own where we sell pesticides and fertilisers. A small percentage of the revenue is ploughed back into the cooperative. We have assets worth Rs 50 lakh. Our aim is to open a cold storage and a packaging unit," says Kunal, who is general-secretary of PGA.

But the younger generation of apple growers realised that it was not feasible to stick to old methods of cultivation. The trees, planted in the 1960s and 70s, were witnessing a decline in productivity. Besides, with China promoting apple cultivation — the country is the largest apple cultivator in the

world — and imports eased, high-quality varieties of the fruit from the US and China started flooding the market. With the competition also came knowledge and newer varieties.

"For us, the easing of apple imports was a blessing in disguise. In the early 2000s, a box of our apples (25-30 kg) was selling for Rs 400-Rs 500. But when imported apples hit the market, their box sold for Rs 1,400-Rs 1,500. That meant our apples also sold for a price around three times higher than before. That is when the money started flowing in," says Kunal, who earns over Rs 32 lakh from his orchard every year. The input cost, he says, is only a fraction of that amount.

Young blood also meant newer ideas. While the older generation was happy growing the traditional Royal Delicious, the younger orchard owners are moving to newer varieties such as the Super Chief and Gala apple



varieties. In his farm, Suhail has around 200 trees of the Super Chief and 175 of the Royal Delicious. In all, he grows around 35 varieties, many of which are in the testing phase.

"If we use newer techniques such as spreading out the branches and making sure there is only one main shoot that grows upwards, we can ensure that more sunlight reaches the tree. This means more buds and thus more fruits," says Suhail, adding that his 20-bigha orchard produced 2,000 boxes of apples last year, earning him around Rs 30 lakh. His input cost stood at only about Rs 4 lakh.

But it is not just apples that young growers are looking at as a source of revenue. Stone fruits such as cherries, apricots and peaches are fast becoming major revenue-generation options.

"The input cost for these fruits is negligi-

ble. Not much work is required and we barely spray any pesticides as there aren't many pathogens in the area. In fact, they are almost organic. This year, Himachal saw a bumper cherry crop," says Kunal, adding, "I have started growing blueberries and blackberries. It is difficult but the returns are very high. A kilogram of fresh blueberries sells for around Rs 1,500."

The leaps in the transport industry have helped in ensuring that more of these perishable fruits reach the market on time. Over the last two decades, several cold storages have also come up in the region, but Arun Sharma, a 39-year-old orchard owner who earlier worked in hotels in Agra and Abu Dhabi before returning to Kotkhai in 2009, says only around 5 per cent of the produce is kept in storages.

Sharma, who has 10 bigha of ancestral land in Kotkhai, says his father was never in-

FRUITY BUSINESS

AREA UNDER HORTICULTURE (2017-18) IN HIMACHAL PRADESH: **2,30,852 hectares**

APPLE: **1,12,634 ha**

OTHER TEMPERATE FRUITS: **28,370 ha**

TOTAL FRUIT PRODUCTION (2018-19) IN STATE: **4,95,362 metric tonnes**

APPLE: **3,68,603 MT**

OTHER TEMPERATE FRUITS: **37,146 MT**

VALUE OF FRUIT PRODUCE (2018-19): **Rs 3,313.68 crore**

Apples make up over 80 per cent of Himachal Pradesh's Rs 3,500 crore fruit economy, with the fruit primarily grown in Shimla, Kullu, Kinnaur and Mandi districts. With 39,460 hectares, Shimla accounts for the highest area of the crop under cultivation

terested in farming and the orchard lay unused for long. "I came home in 2009 as my mother fell ill. After she passed away, I decided to stay back," says Sharma.

The youngsters are also exploring the opportunity of converting their ancestral homes amid orchards into homestays.

Parishrut Jhina left his job at a prominent patisserie in New Zealand to take care of his orchard in Domehar village, Kotkhai, where he started The Apple Farmstay. Set in the apple and pear farm owned by the Jhina family, the 100-year-old house has been renovated in the traditional *pahadi* style.

The 34-year-old is currently visiting New Zealand for a few months to complete the documentation process for permanent residency in the country.

"My son studied in Chandigarh and Mumbai, and then went to New Zealand. He stayed there for a few years but I am glad he decided that he found his calling," says Parishrut's father Digvijay Singh Jhina.

Over the years, while the area under fruit cultivation in Himachal Pradesh has grown, challenges loom in the form of ageing trees, climate change, non-availability of labourers, water shortage and poor accessibility.

"In many villages, connectivity is an issue. There is still no metalled road that leads to my orchard," says Kunal. Suhail's orchard, too, can only be accessed via a *kuchcha* road.

The effect of climate change is also being felt. According to many research papers, the belt viable for apple growth is shifting northwards.

"As a result, apples are now becoming the primary crop in areas like Chanshal and Rohru, which are at an altitude of 5,000 to 8,000 feet — higher than the ideal elevation. In the lower reaches of Kotkhai (around 5,500 feet), we are growing varieties that don't require long chilling hours in winters," says Kunal.

Shimla also faces an acute water shortage. "Orchards are still mostly rain-fed and there is little government support," complains Sanjeev, who spent Rs 2 lakh on a rainwater harvesting pit near his orchard.

Nine years after he returned, Kunal says he has few regrets. "The only thing I miss a bit is meeting friends over the weekend," he says. But what he rues is the societal pressure.

"A few years after I returned, my grandmother told me to go back and get an MBA degree. For her, qualification is still more important because that's what people talk about. If someone thinks we are wasting our time here, they don't understand the growth potential. I believe the best time is still ahead of us," he says.

Suhail has a regret, though. "I should have come back sooner," he smiles.

A night at a police station

Accused of torturing 5 tribals, forcing urine on them, 4 police officials have been suspended in MP. Will CCTV footage, medical tests prove enough?

MILINDGHATWAI

JUST BEFORE midnight on August 9, Aaditya Chouhan says, he was taken by police from lock-up at the Nanpur Police Station in tribal-dominated Alirajpur district of Madhya Pradesh, to a room on the premises. There, police reportedly tied the 18-year-old's hands and legs, suspended him between two tables using a thick rod, and took turns beating him up using pipes, rods and belts.

Sometime later, when he asked for water, one of the policemen urinated in a bottle and made him drink it, Chouhan alleges. "I threw up immediately," says the son of Alirajpur block Congress president Kailash Chouhan, who spent nearly a week at Alirajpur District Hospital before he was discharged on Thursday. Also hospitalised were four other tribal youths, including a

minor, who were allegedly also beaten up by police for nearly one-and-a-half hours.

They included Aaditya's elder brother Vikas, 19; two cousins Yashwant Chouhan, 20, and Rahul Chouhan, 18; and a minor, who is in Class 10.

The five had injuries all over their bodies, while three suffered fractures in their hands and legs. On Saturday, Vikas and Aaditya's family took them to Dahod for further tests to rule out head injuries.

Sub-Divisional Police Officer R C Bhaskar, who is heading a probe into the alleged torture, said CCTV footage at the police station and the medical examination confirmed that the five had been assaulted. However, he said, no evidence had been found so far to support the allegation that at least one of the youngsters was made to drink urine.

The youths had been arrested a few hours earlier, on the charge of assaulting po-

lice station in-charge Dinesh Chongad and constable Rahul, who were at the time in plain clothes. The five say they had gone to see the release of water from a nearby dam when they had a scuffle with Sandeep Chandrasingh, a youngster, who had allegedly teased the sister of one of them.

Aaditya's elder brother Vikas, 19, allegedly held Sandeep by the collar. Sandeep approached police, and when Chongad and Rahul confronted Vikas, the others intervened thinking the two policemen were Sandeep's friends. Two other constables in uniform, who were nearby, rushed in to help their senior.

Vikas, who has cleared first year at an Indore college, says what followed was a nightmare. "I did not know they were police officials because they were in T-shirts. When I started apologising, Chongad said, 'Police ko maaroge (You will hit police)?', be-



Aaditya Chouhan at the government district hospital in Alirajpur. Express

fore taking us to the police station. There, we were subjected to torture of the kind I have not seen even in films." He claims one of the police officials wanted to staple his penis, but that his colleague stopped him. Yashwant, who is set to enter his second

year at MS University in Vadodra, Gujarat, says that all through, the policemen kept drinking. "They would finish a peg and thrash us again. They banged the head of (the minor) against the wall. They tortured us as if we had committed murder. They also accused us of tearing their *vardi* (uniform), though they had not been wearing one." He says he was also suspended like Aaditya, and then asked to urinate. "I would have ended up soiling myself had I done so."

The five youths say they spent a horrific night at the police station, scared the officials would return to torture them.

After their family members, who came to meet them the next day, realised what had happened and lodged a complaint of torture, senior officials rushed to the police station. Once the officers had gone through the CCTV footage at the station, Chongad and the three constables who were allegedly involved were placed under suspension and a departmental inquiry initiated, while the youths were taken to the district hospital.

The five identified eight police officials, from the CCTV footage, as having tortured them.

Police officer Bhaskar, who has submitted his probe report, said the guilty officials

needed to be punished strongly. The departmental inquiry will take a month or so.

Alirajpur SP Vipul Shrivastava too said it had been proved that the five youths were beaten up in custody, though there was no CCTV in the room where the alleged torture took place. He also said the youngsters had beaten up Chongad, but admitted that the police officer was in civil clothes at the time.

Kailash Chouhan says he can't understand why police had beaten up his sons, adding that he didn't have any rivalry that could have led to this. His links with the district Congress president are believed to have spurred action against the police officials.

The youngsters, who are equally puzzled, say there were hundreds of onlookers when the scuffle with police took place, and while they may have pushed Chongad around in the heat of the moment, they drew back immediately when they realised he was a police officer. They also said that before August 9, they had never been to a police station.

Having borne hours of beating, Vikas says their worst moment came when the policemen "abused" their family members who had come to give them food. "I cried when they insulted my family," he says.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF SMITA MALHOTRA, A DUBBING ARTIST



Malhotra at an Andheri recording studio. She has over 20 years of experience behind the microphone, dubbing for films as well as advertisements. Photos by Nirmal Harindran

Malhotra a.k.a Leone

Judgementall Hai Kya centres around a dubbing artist who can't separate herself from characters she voices for. Malhotra talks about the effort it takes

DIPTI NAGPAUL

She is wary of revealing her age. But it's not out of vanity, Smita Malhotra clarifies. Three years ago, she was called to lend her voice for the Hindi dub of the blockbuster movie *Baahubali 2*. In the studio, a member of the production team pointed out that the character is a young, 23-year-old girl. And then, with a note of scepticism, asked Malhotra her age. "Had I told her my age, she may have viewed my performance through that lens. And as voice artistes, we train ourselves to be versatile enough to sound six, 16 or even 60," explains Malhotra. So she ignored the question and went on to deliver what was expected of her as the voice of the feisty Devasena, played by Anushka Shetty in the film. Based in Mumbai, Malhotra, a native of Delhi, has over 20 years of experience behind the microphone.

The world of dubbing artistes was recently in the spotlight after the film *Judgementall Hai Kya* had actor Kangana Ranaut essay the role of someone who dubs in Hindi for films from the South. Malhotra admits she hasn't watched the film. "I rarely watch any, including the ones I work on," she explains.

It's 3.30 pm and Malhotra is on a forced break as the production team of the ad film for which she is recording a voice-over awaits feedback on the parts that she has already completed. Seated in the lobby of the Andheri sound studio, she looks at her

watch. She has plenty of time for an evening tea at her Oshiwara residence before leaving for her second recording session, scheduled at 7 pm in Jogeshwari, followed by a third in Bandra at 8 pm. It will be an hour's work before she can head home.

A graduate in Political Science (Honours) from Delhi's LSR College, her journey into the profession started with acting and singing for theatre, leading up to Mumbai, where she moved after receiving a call from advertising guru Prahlad Kakkar.

"My then boyfriend and now husband Howard Rosemeyer was working with Prahlad and told him that I sing well. When I landed in the city after receiving a call from the adman, I realised he had not even heard the CDs Howard had left for him... He had called me from Delhi on a whim," Malhotra says.

Kakkar, however, liked her voice and Malhotra made her voice-over debut with Pepsi's *Dil Maange More* campaign. Since then, she has lent her voice to advertisements for brands such as Dettol, Google Pay, Canon, Colgate, Puma, Sunsilik and Titan, among others. She has also dubbed for actors such as Katrina Kaif, Ileana D'Cruz and



"To act, one has to feel and, because films have a gamut of emotions, one has to go through them all... We are, in fact, actors, except that we are never seen on screen"

Yami Gautam, apart from lending her voice to lead characters in Hindi dubs of Hollywood animation films, including *Shrek* and *Beauty and the Beast*.

However, Malhotra now prefers ads over films, often recording several in a day. She is also the official voice of a mascot for a Viacom 18 channel. "These smaller assignments allow me to play multiple characters in a single day. And what can be more fun?" she smiles.

However, unlike most others from her fraternity, Malhotra doesn't insist on being referred to as a voice-artist. She believes it is time people moved on from calling them dubbing artist and recognised their nature of work. "We are, in fact, actors, except that we are never seen on screen. We have to express everything they perform on screen through our voice," she points out.

What Malhotra finds taxing about films is the extensive schedule often lasting weeks, and the need to be in character for that entire duration. "To act, one has to feel and, because films have a gamut of emotions, one has to go through them all in order to lend the perfect voice," she points out. So she lets herself feel the pain, with an added touch of glycerin, when she has to cry or feel the anger rising within her when the scene demands.

"You have to deliver that crack in the voice, the sobbing and so on. And to get

those right, one has to go through the emotions," she says. Malhotra recounts how sound engineer Resul Pookutty once made her jog on the spot till she started huffing and panting enough to record a scene that had the character running.

Films, however, have taught her a lot. The official voice for Sunny Leone over the years, Malhotra recounts this one time she was recording for *Ragini MMS 2*, where Leone plays a porn actor whose talent is being questioned by a bunch of young men. "In order to prove her acting prowess, the character proceeds from sounding aroused to sounding like she has reached an orgasm. At the studio where I was supposed to record, there were three production people, all men. I took some time and told myself that I can do it. When I turned around to cue them in, I saw 15 men were standing, waiting for me to perform," Malhotra recounts, laughing.

Her range of work has given Malhotra the confidence and experience to be proficient at her job, sometimes more than the production team that sits in the studio, monitoring her performance. Around 3.45 pm, within minutes of receiving the approval for the previous recording, Malhotra is back in the live room, her headphones in place. She leans closer to the mic, script in one hand and cues in the sound engineer. Within the next five minutes, Malhotra has delivered three variations of the punch line, corrected a grammar error in another line and then gone on to voluntarily record the same punch line with a focus on the brand name because "I know how the client thinks".

'The girl who was meant to go places'

Three have been sentenced for the murder of a 2015 Class 12 Assam rank-holder. But for her parents, two years later, there are few answers

ABHISHEK SAHA

On May 30, 2015, Sweta Agarwal, then 18, was all over the news in Assam. She had secured first position in the Class 12 state board examinations in the commerce stream. Two and a half years later, on December 4, 2017, she made it to the headlines again, after her half-clothed, half-burnt body, with sharp cut wounds, was found in the toilet of House No.119, J P Agarwala Road, in Guwahati's Santipur area.

On August 3, Sessions Judge Kamrup (Metro) A Chakravarty sentenced Govind Singhal (23) to death, and his sister Bhabani Singhal (25) and mother Kamala Devi Singhal (50) to rigorous life imprisonment, for hatching a conspiracy and murdering Sweta.

The court upheld the prosecution argument that Govind had picked up Sweta from college and taken her to his house with the conspiracy to kill her. And that Sweta had been stabbed, bludgeoned and burnt to death for continuing to resist him.

For parents Om Prakash (50) and Sunita Agarwal (47), living in a joint family in an apartment complex in Guwahati, the judgement solves just one of the puzzles surrounding the death of the elder of their two children, who had always done well in stud-

ies. "Everyone would say 'Aage jayegi yeh ladki (This girl will go places)'," says Om Prakash, who works as a sales tax consultant.

After clearing Class 12 among the state rankers, Sweta had enrolled at Guwahati's K C Das Commerce College, and was simultaneously doing 'Articleship', a three-year training course mandatory for becoming a chartered accountant.

The office of O P Chandak, where Sweta was doing the CA course, is located less than a kilometre from KC Das college. Govind was a fellow trainee there.

Chandak, who still remembers her, says, "Sweta was a bright and sincere girl, very focused on her work. She used to call Govind *bhaiya*... Once someone said the two often quarrelled and so I asked them to be allotted separate work. Govind was not very bright and I had told his father once it could be difficult for him to become a CA."

Describing her life as "simple", Om Prakash says Sweta's schedule was fixed. "She would attend college and then head to the CA's office."

On December 4, 2017, Sweta left home at 8.30 am to appear for her fifth semester exams. "She was to get back by 1.30 pm, but didn't. I got worried and called her repeatedly. But there was no answer. At around 3 pm, the phone was switched off," says Sunita.



Sweta Agarwal's parents at their home in Guwahati. Behind them is a photo of Sweta, who was stabbed and burnt to death at the age of 21. Abhishek Saha

She adds that between 5 pm and 5.30 pm, both she and Sweta's uncle Jagdish Agarwal received calls from an unknown number, with a woman saying at the other end, "Sweta has died due to burns" at her house.

Rosie Kalita, then Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police, Crime, Guwahati, and now Additional SP of Nagaon district, says Sweta's body was found on the evening of December 4. A statement made by a barber, Pankaj Kumar, scribbled by Govind on a tissue paper of Cafe Coffee Day found in Sweta's purse, and a status on messaging platform Hike by Sweta had "nailed the case against Govind, his sister and mother", Kalita says, acknowledging the support provided by then Guwahati Commissioner of Police Hiren Nath and the work done by Sub-Inspector Sudip Choudhury.

"Pankaj worked in a saloon near Govind's

house. He said he had seen Govind that afternoon tying a sack to his motorbike, from which a red liquid dripped. On being asked, he said the liquid was from the *agarbatti* (incense sticks) inside," says Kalita. Pankaj had no cause to suspect anything as Govind ran an incense stick factory.

After he was arrested, Govind reportedly confessed to police that inside the sack he was carrying was Sweta. "After stabbing Sweta, he was taking her to a secluded municipality public dustbin nearby to set her afire. But then Govind's mother and sister called. The mother told Govind he was a fool for trying to do this in public, and asked him to bring her back to the house — we were able to obtain the call detail records. It should be noted that the half-burnt Sweta was alive then. The mother, sister and Govind then poured kerosene on Sweta, set her on fire

and raised an alarm that the girl had committed suicide," says Kalita.

The scribbles on tissue papers found in Sweta's purse were confirmed by a handwriting analysis as written by Govind. In his order, the judge noted that the scribbles appeared to warn her to think about their "relationship" a "final time" and said she might "regret later".

In his defence, Govind said he had written those notes "just like that", "to scare Sweta". The court also threw out the Singhal's defence claiming Sweta had committed suicide, and calling her a "psychopath", as "baseless and defamatory".

J I Barbhuyan, the counsel for the Singhals, said they would appeal to the Gauhati High Court. "It was a media trial, just like the Talwars (in NCR's Aarushi murder case). Sweta was a topper but Govind too was a meritorious student, had completed his M.Com."

Kalita has no doubt that Sweta's rejection of Govinda's advances led to the killing. Special Public Prosecutor Abhijit Bhattacharjee quotes Sweta's status on social media platform Hike, from November 2017: "My answer is no and always is no." Among those who testified in court were Hike executives.

In its order pronouncing the sentencing, the court said, "The deceased Sweta Agarwal paid the ultimate price for falling in love... with the criminal Govind Singhal."

While they deny this, her parents admit they knew little of her life away from home.

Om Prakash adds he will always wonder why Sweta went with Govind that day. "Only God and my daughter know."

But, Kalita believes she has a fair idea. "A dead person cannot talk and taking advantage of that, Govind said she had been his girlfriend and there was an affair. There was no affair at all. On the day she was murdered, he had asked her to come home with him, to help out regarding some professional queries. She went because she trusted him."

In Valley, a separation

Clampdown in Kashmir came in post-Ramzan wedding season.

Among those who have to wait now are Zubair Guroo and his bride

Invitation Cancelled

Due to unavoidable circumstances the marriage ceremony of Mr. Zubair Hassan Guroo which was scheduled on 17th & 18th August, 2019 has been deferred and will be rescheduled after improvement in prevailing situation. Inconvenience is highly regretted.

GH. HASSAN GUROO
H.NO 11- ALFAROOQ LANE JAWAHAR NAGAR

ADIL AKHZER

THE tautly worded advertisement announcing the postponement of Zubair Hassan Guroo's wedding, headlined 'Invitation Cancelled' and with black lines framing it, was one of many that have been filling the classified pages of local newspapers in Srinagar ever since the Valley came under an unprecedented lockdown on the night of August 4, hours before the Centre announced in Parliament that Article 370, granting special status to Jammu & Kashmir, had been abrogated.

Sitting at his home in Jawahar Nagar, a neighbourhood in Srinagar, Ghulam Hassan Guroo says he doesn't know if his relatives living outside Srinagar have seen the advertisement, announcing the cancellation of his son Zubair's wedding. "Anyway, I don't think any of our relatives will be able to reach here, and even if someone does, we will tell them the marriage had to be cancelled," says Guroo.

On the night of August 4, Guroo and his wife were in South Kashmir to distribute invitation cards for the wedding when the clampdown happened. Internet and phone lines — landline and mobiles — were snapped and unprecedented security was put in place across the Valley. Around midnight, mainstream political leaders were detained or put under house arrest, and Section 144 was imposed. As the night wore on ominously, for the Guroos, the biggest concern was the wedding that was less than a fortnight away. "We were stuck in South Kashmir, at the home of one of our relatives, for four days after that. When we finally returned home, we had to take a call on whether it was possible for the two families to go ahead with the ceremony. And we finally decided there was no way we could go ahead with the wedding in these circumstances," says Guroo.

The Guroos considered all options — even looking at whether they could go ahead with a scaled-down version with a few, select guests.

"But there was a communication blockade and there was nothing we could do, nobody we could get in touch with. We couldn't even reach the bride's family. And even for a small-scale wedding, there are things that would be needed to be bought last minute. How could we have done that with every shop in the city shut? Also, our relatives were to come from different villages to be part of the *baraat*, but how could they have come and how could we have taken the wedding procession to South Kashmir," says Guroo, adding that they had fixed the wedding date in January and soon after, booked a hall for the ceremony.

"Everything was ready from our side. We had even distributed most of the invitation cards; only our immediate neighbours were left. We were expecting around a thousand guests," says Guroo, adding that they had spent around Rs 3 lakh on the wedding, including on advance payments.

Once the Guroos decided they had no option but to cancel the wedding, they had to consult the bride's family in Awantipora, in Pulwama district of South Kashmir. But with no means to communicate, the Guroos again had to send word through someone. "Both families have for now decided that we can take a call in a month or two, depending on the situation," says Guroo.

The family next went to a local newspaper office and put out the advertisement on the cancellation. The family also sent a person to inform the *waza* (who cooks the wedding *wazwan* and whose availability often determines the date of the ceremony) and the marriage hall management about the cancellation.

The man at the centre of it all, groom Zubair, 31, is disappointed, but more so that he can't talk to his fiancée.

Zubair, who works at a bank in Srinagar, says, "I haven't spoken to her since August 4. I was looking forward to the day... But who can change the situation?"

ACROSS THE AISLE



P CHIDAMBARAM

Forgotten: the flagging economy

THE RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN is the symbol of the seat of power of the government. Within a one-kilometre radius are Parliament, the Prime Minister's Office, and North Block and South Block that house the key ministries of Home, Finance, Defence and External Affairs. The Prime Minister's official residence is also within the radius of one kilometre as are the homes of the Vice-President, the Speaker, the three Defence Chiefs and most members of Parliament.

MULTIPLE CONVERSATIONS

What is the conversation in this power circle? It is about the dismembering of Jammu & Kashmir, the passage of controversial Bills in both Houses of Parliament, the capitulation of regional ruling parties, the dominance of Mr Narendra Modi, the laboured resolution of the issue of the leadership of the Congress party, and the sad passing of Sushma Swaraj. It is about everything except the economy.

Beginning barely 50 kilometres away in all directions from the centre, in practically every village and every poor urban neighbourhood, the conversation is radically different: it is mainly about the economy — the decline or stagnation in real wages and real incomes, the lay-offs and retrenchments, the search in vain for jobs, the death and devastation caused by flood or drought, the crippling shortage of water and electricity, and the fight for survival in

an unequal and harsh world.

About 1,150 kilometres away in Mumbai, the city that is home to the RBI, SEBI, the stock exchanges and corporate headquarters of many listed companies and banks, the conversation is about only one thing — money, or the lack of it. It is about the steep decline in the BSE and NSE indices, the depreciation of the rupee, the rising yield on bonds, the mounting losses in public sector banks, the stiff taxes (and the heavy-handed enforcement), the pull-out by FPIs (foreign portfolio investors) and the suicide by V G Siddhartha, promoter of Cafe Coffee Day.

AN UNCARING GOVERNMENT

In my view, a caring government will pay the highest attention to the conversation among the working people and the poor. The working classes may share other concerns and even vote according to popular perceptions, but they place their hope only in one thing — the economy. Unfortunately, the economy seems to be the last of the concerns of the government which is barely able to conceal the triumphalism after Operation J&K.

HERE IS A SNAPSHOT OF THE ECONOMY:

1. GDP growth rate continues to decline. After 6.8% for the whole year and 5.8% in the last quarter of 2018-19, the first

quarter of 2019-20 doesn't seem too promising. RBI and others have lowered the forecast for the whole year 2019-20 to 6.9%; hence we will be lucky if the first quarter produces another 5.8%.

2. Core sector growth has dropped to a 50-month low of 0.2%. Capacity utilisation in all manufacturing segments is, on average, below 70%.

3. The rupee is now Asia's worst performing currency. It has fallen 3.4% against the US dollar in August.

4. Investment in new projects (private and government) announced in the quarter ending June 2019 declined to a 15-year low of Rs 71,337 crore. The value of projects completed in the quarter fell to a five-year low of Rs 69,494 crore. Revenue earning in rail freight (that comes from carrying coal, cement, petroleum, fertiliser, iron ore, etc) grew by 2.7% in April-June 2019, down from 6.4% in the same period last year.

5. In April-July 2019, exports (merchandise and services) grew by 3.13% over the same period last year while imports declined 0.45%, pointing to depressed economic activity.

6. Consumption is down as never before. In Q1 of 2019-20, car sales were down 23.3%, two-wheeler sales were down 11.7%, commercial vehicle sales were down 9.5% and tractor sales were down 14.1%. July was worse. Industry associations (SIAM and FADA) have reported that 2,30,000 jobs have been lost and 286 dealerships have been shut. In the construction industry, 12,80,000 units remained

unsold at the end of March 2019.

7. Consumption of fast moving consumer goods (FMCGs) was no better. Hindustan Lever, Dabur, Britannia Industries and Asian Paints, among others, have reported volume growth rate in April-June 2019 that is one half or less than the volume growth rate in the same period last year.

8. WPI in July stood at 1.08%. Within the index, the manufacturing sector inflation stood at 0.34%. These are not good signs, they are signs of low demand.

9. Gross tax revenue of the Central government grew by 1.4% in Q1 of 2019-20 as against 22.1% in the same period last year. What this tells us is that incomes are lower for corporates and individuals and spending is less.

WHERE IS THE PLAN?

We go back to the mantra of four drivers of growth: government expenditure, private investment, private consumption and exports. Evidently, none of the engines is revving up and driving growth. This has been said so many times and by so many people (including acknowledged economists), but the government is unwilling to hear or understand or act. The economy is one area where muscular nationalism will not work. On the contrary, it may work to the detriment of the economy.

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FIFTH COLUMN



TAVLEEN SINGH

What scares Pakistan most

SOME YEARS ago when relations with Pakistan were in a good season, the Indian cricket team went on tour to the Islamic Republic. When they played in Lahore, many Indian cricket fans crossed the border to lend the team support. The Indian economy in those days was bursting with animal spirits. So among these fans were Indian industrialists who descended in private jets. A Pakistani friend said later that it was when they saw those private jets arrive that they first realised how far ahead of Pakistan the Indian economy had gone. It was good to see, she added, that it was not just Arab billionaires who were having all the fun. But, I knew from the way she said this that actually most Pakistanis were not happy about this.

As someone who knows Pakistan well, I learned long ago that nothing frightens Pakistanis more than the possibility that India could succeed and Pakistan fail. It may seem from Imran Khan's recent rantings about the 'fascist, Hindu Supremacist Modi government' that it is Kashmir that Pakistanis care about more than anything. This is not true. Kashmir is not the 'core problem' between India and Pakistan as military men and jihadists next door like to say. The core problem is that if India becomes a mighty economic superpower and Pakistan remains a bankrupt nuclear power, then the whole exercise of breaking India to make a nation for the 'pure' could become meaningless.

India is already stronger economically, but we would have been much, much stronger if we had not reverted to economic policies that seek to redistribute wealth without first creating it. This is why for me the most important point that the Prime Minister made in his Independence Day speech was his tribute to India's 'wealth creators'. They are 'the wealth of the country', he said. True. And, they have been treated like criminals by regulators and tax inspectors who have been emboldened because of the search for 'black money' getting more importance than the creation of wealth.

The Prime Minister is now showing signs that he has noticed why the economy is in gloomy mode. He gave his first interview after winning his second term to a financial newspaper last week and said, 'I want to motivate our industrialists to believe in the India story and in the long-term potential of the Indian market... I reassure all honest and law-abiding businesses of all possible support from our end.' There is a catch in the latter part of this message that he would do well to think about. The officials who adjudicate on which businessmen are 'honest' are often dishonest, greedy extortionists who revel in harrassing people who create wealth.

This is why we have seen businessmen publicly humiliated. They like to arrest people at airports. They like to conduct tax raids with TV reporters following their every move. What seems to add spice to their jobs is the fifteen minutes of fame they get from being momentarily in the public eye. This is probably why they never investigate why black money exists in the first place. If they did, they would quickly discover that at the root of it lie bad laws, asphyxiating red tape and intrusive regulations. Since the Prime Minister has now made it clear that he respects the men who create India's wealth, it could be time for him to set up a task force in his own office to examine these things.

India has the capacity to become the richest country in the world if the business of doing business is left to businessmen. When Atal Bihari Vajpayee was prime minister, he unleashed the private sector and it was in that happy time that those private jets landed at Lahore airport, making Pakistanis nervous about what us infidels were up to. When they saw that it was prosperity that we were in search of, the planning for 26/11 began. It was no accident that it was Mumbai that was attacked and that Hafiz Saeed's jihadists were sent to attack the Oberoi and the Taj. No accident that they had orders to target foreign tourists.

There is nothing that the military men next door would like more than to see the Indian economy collapse once more into that socialist sluggishness that kept us behind Pakistan right up to the end of the Licence Raj. I remember that when I first went to Lahore in 1980 I was stunned by how prosperous it looked compared to Delhi. At the height of those bleak socialist days, our capital city was defined by those bhavans at the foot of Raisina Hill. In their smelly, ugly corridors, officials beavered away at making India a place in which no businessmen would want to invest and no tourists would want to come. Those were times that were the exact opposite of 'aache din'.

Follow Tavleen Singh on Twitter

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INSIDE TRACK



COOMI KAPOOR

SAVARKAR NO RSS FAN

Vinayak Damodar Savarkar is today venerated as the father of Hindutva by the Sangh Parivar. They seem unaware that some of Savarkar's beliefs fly in the face "of conservative political opinion, but would find a resounding echo in liberal chambers". This dichotomy is brought out by Vaibhav Purandare in his recently released insightful book on the Hindutva hero. For instance, Savarkar firmly opposed cow worship, Purandare writes. He chatted frequently with Left icon M N Roy while showing little patience for holy men who claimed special powers, and advised them to stop collecting money for religious rituals and donate to the poor instead. Savarkar felt strongly that people should eat what they liked and what they could afford. During the famine of the 1950s, he advocated that vegetarians should take to eating fish and eggs. The radical reformist Savarkar and RSS chief M S Golwalkar never really got along. Savarkar did not appreciate Golwalkar's posturing as a bearded ascetic since he felt that India's spiritual greatness lay in the past and it could not be assumed simply on the basis of outward appearances. He also felt that Golwalkar had appropriated his brother Baburao's theories and passed them off as own. He once commented caustically on RSS volunteers that apart from joining the RSS they seemed to have accomplished little in life.

WHY NOW

Abolition of Article 370 was on the government's agenda, but it was at Amit Shah's insistence that it was pushed through in the Budget Session itself. Some in the PMO advised caution and suggested that, to begin with, only Article 35A be deleted by an executive order. Shah got his way because of several factors. National Security Advisor Ajit Doval warned that there was a narrow window of opportunity. US President Donald Trump's decision to pull out American troops from Afghanistan and install a Taliban government would give Pakistan leverage. It would also trigger repercussions in the neighbourhood, with Pakistan most likely deploying the cache of weapons left behind in Afghanistan and using unemployed jihadis for mischief in Kashmir. The chief of army, R&AW and IB were confident they could handle the possible fallout in the Valley at the moment

OUT OF MY MIND



MEGHNAD DESAI

ONE LESSON for those in politics is never to believe your own propaganda but pay special attention to what your opponents are saying rather than just call it fake news. The government managed a swift and unanticipated surgical strike on Article 370. But that done, it has been unable to keep the initiative. Why not say that a week- or fortnight-long curfew is not unusual in Kashmir as has happened

since the Pakistan army is currently struggling on many fronts and Prime Minister Imran Khan's position is weak. Shah was confident of securing a majority in the Rajya Sabha for the Bill, but argued that even if the numbers fell short, Article 370 would remain a potent issue in the coming Assembly polls.

MUMMY RETURNS

While the Congress old guard is accused of manoeuvring the process of selecting an interim party president, it was not possible without the support of two members of the Gandhi family. Rahul Gandhi reportedly did not want to backtrack on his resignation and categorical assertion that no family member would replace him as party president. But Rahul's sister and mother felt he had acted impulsively and persuaded him that there was no alternative to the family since otherwise the party would split. The old guard, led by Ahmed Patel and Ghulam Nabi Azad, got the message. The names earlier floated, Mukul Wasnik and Mallikarjun Kharge, were not proposed by any member of the 400-odd informal electorate; though Jyotiraditya Scindia and Sachin Pilot's names were reportedly suggested orally by one or two stray state delegates. All CWC members and almost all others favoured a Gandhi; most opting for Rahul followed by Sonia and then Priyanka.

EVERYONE'S SISTER

Cutting across party lines, politicians paid glowing tributes to the late Sushma Swaraj, praising her as the ever helpful big sister. The Prime Minister recalled that he had worked together with Swaraj for many years and she put all her energy into whatever task was assigned to her. He added that despite her soft mannerism, she could also take a blunt 'Haryanvi' approach to get her point across. Narendra Modi did not, however, allude to the fact that there was a time Swaraj bitterly opposed his candidature as the party's PM candidate and that she had once suggested that Amit Shah be removed as a primary member of the BJP. All present at a tribute function though were struck by the thank you address of Bansuri, Swaraj's daughter, who has inherited her mother's skills as an orator.

SPECIAL GUESTS

At the President's At Home at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Independence Day, two invitees who stood out were Tamil Nadu actress Gautami and actor R Madhavan. Some guests speculated that the BJP might be keen to rope in the two stars since the party has few well-known faces in the state. Gautami, incidentally, was till recently linked with actor Kamal Haasan, who is highly critical of the BJP.

HISTORY HEADLINE

Aksai Chin, from Nehru to Shah



RAKESH SINHA

37,244 SQUARE kilometres of land. That's almost Bhutan, almost Kerala, almost Manipur and Nagaland put together.

That's Aksai Chin, the north-eastern end of India's crown under Chinese occupation for many decades now, the first move made much before the Sino-Indian war of 1962. It's a cold desert of salt flatlands called the Soda Plains, watered by the Karakash, the Black Jade river. China claims much of it lies in Hotan County of Xinjiang. The China National Highway 219, running over 2,000 km, connects Yecheng in Xinjiang to Lhatse in Tibet via Aksai Chin. An asphalt road since 2013, it was a gravel track when it was completed in 1957.

Adjoining Aksai Chin is Shaksgam Valley, the strategic trans-Karakoram tract close to the Siachen glacier. In 1963, some 5,100 sq km of the valley was ceded to China by Pakistan under a boundary agreement.

So, on August 5, when Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced in Rajya Sabha that the state of Jammu and Kashmir was being bifurcated into the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh, it made Beijing sit up. Because Ladakh, on Indian maps, includes Aksai Chin.

And the Chinese were bristling when the very next day Shah told Lok Sabha that Aksai Chin has always been Indian territory.

"I wish to place on record that whenever I mention Jammu and Kashmir in the House, it means both Pak-occupied Kashmir and Aksai Chin... And the borders of Jammu and Kashmir, as decided by our Constitution and the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir, include both Pak-occupied Kashmir and Aksai Chin."

Sixty years ago, from the very spot Shah reiterated the Indian position on Aksai Chin, prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru had informed the nation, belatedly, about what the Chinese had been up to in Aksai Chin, "where not even a blade of grass grows".

Making a statement in Lok Sabha on August 28, 1959 (Jawaharlal Nehru: Selected Speeches, Volume 4, by Publications Division), Nehru said: "There is a large area in eastern and north-eastern Ladakh which is practically uninhabited. It is mountainous, and even the valleys are at an altitude generally exceeding 13,000 feet. To some extent, shepherds use it during the summer months for grazing... The Government of



(From left) Nehru with Chinese premier Chou en-Lai, Chinese foreign minister Chen Yi and Union minister Swaran Singh in New Delhi in April 1960. Archive

India have some police check-posts in this area but, because of the difficulties of terrain, most of these posts are at some distance from the International Border."

"Some reports reached us between October 1957 and February 1958 that a Chinese detachment had crossed the international frontier and visited Khurnak Fort, which is within Indian territory. The attention of the Chinese Government was drawn to this, and they were asked to desist from entering our territory... there is no physical demarcation of the frontier in these mountainous passes, although our maps are quite clear on the subject. Thereafter, at the end of July 1959... a small Indian reconnaissance police party was sent to this area. When this party... was proceeding towards Khurnak Fort, it was apprehended, some miles from the border inside our territory, by a stronger Chinese detachment. This happened on July 28."

"...the Chinese claimed that that part of the territory was theirs, but added that they would release the persons who had been apprehended. We sent a further Note to them expressing surprise at this claim and giving them the exact delineation of the traditional international frontier in this sector... No reply has yet been received to this Note. Our party was released on August 18."

Three days later, Nehru confirmed the worst Indian fears — the Chinese had built a road via Aksai Chin. "According to an announcement made in China, the Yecheng-Gartok Road, which is also called the Sinkiang-Tibet Highway, was completed in September 1957... Two reconnaissance parties were accordingly sent last year. One of these parties was taken into custody by a superior Chinese detachment. The other returned and gave us some rough indication of this newly constructed road in the Aksai Chin area," he informed Rajya Sabha.

At the heart of these contesting claims were boundary lines drawn by British sur-

veyors and officers during the 19th century. These lines changed as Britain and Russia, fearful of each other's ambitions and expansionist designs, played the Great Game while the hold of the Qing imperials weakened.

In 1865, the line proposed by surveyor William Johnson placed Aksai Chin firmly in Kashmir. The Johnson line stretched as far as the Kunlun mountains. Following explorer-officer Francis Younghusband's visits to the region, John Ardagh, a military engineer and intelligence officer, drew a boundary line which was not very different from the one proposed by Johnson — so, it became the Johnson-Ardagh line.

In 1899, the British proposed a new boundary in Aksai Chin. The Macartney-MacDonald line, named after the consul in Kashgar and the envoy to the imperial court in Peking, placed much of Aksai Chin, essentially the areas north of the Lakstang range, in China. The Qing administration never responded to the proposal.

India's claim line is very similar to the Johnson line while the Chinese, at least until 1959, had pointed to the Macartney-MacDonald line.

In April 1960, Premier Chou en-Lai came to Delhi for extensive talks over a week. Aksai Chin, he told Nehru, had been Sinkianese for centuries and then Chinese: "We do not impose maps on India and we would like India to do likewise. If we must reach a settlement, then both our maps will have to be changed accordingly. Broadly speaking, may be after settlement, the Chinese map will be changed more; but this will be done when China settles the boundary question."

Two years later, the Chinese pushed the line in Aksai Chin to what is now the Line of Actual Control. Even here, perceptions differ.

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Govt must control narrative on J&K

before at times of security emergency? Instead we have the Governor saying it is all peace and quiet while the military and the administration say curfew will continue. It is no good saying a majority of J&K citizens are in favour but a few trouble-makers are not. Political activists in every country and every party are always a minority. Astute politics lies in letting the activists expose themselves as representing a minority.

The opposition, when it comes, will be angry and out in the streets. That is not news for Kashmir either. There are sufficient troops to be able to contain the opposition without resorting to shooting. But there is also the need to humour the local police who feel they have been di-

minished by the control over police passing to the Centre as J&K is a Union Territory now. If that is to be temporary, then the same personnel should be retained. Why court dissatisfaction from previous allies?

The real opposition is virtual — online, on social media and in serious print and TV media, especially abroad. Here the need is to clarify the legal technicalities of what happened and to recapture the narrative on J&K which has been sadly allowed to be taken over by people who assert extreme bad intentions on part of India (always Hindu India nowadays) and spread forecasts of ethnic cleansing.

First, strike at the root of the idea that a Muslim-majority Kashmir is the sine

qua non of a secular India. The over 150 million Muslims who live in India are mostly in a minority situation. Does that make India not secular? Of course, the same people who argue about a Muslim-majority Kashmir being the jewel of India are against its integration into India. Thus India can be secular only when Kashmir is not a fully integrated part of India!

Fight the allegation that Modi (Hindu Modi) will resort to ethnic cleansing by allowing Indians from other states to settle in Kashmir. Ethnic cleansing stands for selective killing as happened in Yugoslavia. It does not and cannot mean changing proportion of population of different ethnicities.

If Hindus outnumbered Sikhs in

Punjab, would that be ethnic cleansing of Sikhs? If Kashmir is no longer a Muslim-majority province, it will become more like secular India than before.

The strangest argument I have read about the need to keep Kashmir as it is has been that Kashmiri Muslims are distinctive. Being sufis and having much interplay with Hindu holy teachers, they should be prized by Modi as virtually Hindu Muslims! Does that imply that not only Hindus but even Sunni or Shia Muslims should be stopped from migrating to Kashmir to preserve the majority of Kashmiri special Muslims?

Warn the thousands rushing to settle in Kashmir just to prove they can do it — Kashmir gets very cold in winter!

TOP OF THE WORLD



Jeffrey Epstein

US
Epstein hanged himself, autopsy report confirms

New York: An autopsy on disgraced US financier Jeffrey Epstein — who was found dead in his jail cell — has concluded that he committed suicide by hanging, a coroner said Friday, answering one of the questions surrounding his death. New York's chief medical examiner Barbara Sampson said in a statement emailed to AFP that "after careful review of all investigative information, including complete autopsy findings" it was determined that Epstein killed himself. *NYT* cited officials as saying Epstein had used a bedsheet to hang himself.

PAKISTAN
Day after blast, mosque prayer leader shot dead

Quetta: Pakistani police say a second mosque's prayer leader has been killed in as many days near the southwestern city of Quetta. Shafiqat Mahmood, a police officer in Kuchlak, where the attacks occurred, said Mohammad Azam was shot dead Saturday in front of a grocery store. On Friday, a bomb planted in a mosque under the prayer leader's wooden chair killed him and three other worshippers and wounded 20. The prayer leaders targeted this week were both Sunni.

SYRIA
Air strikes kill mother, six of her children

Dayr Sharqi: Regime air strikes on Saturday killed a woman and six of her children in northwest Syria, a war monitor said, a day after Russian bombardment pummeled a nearby displacement camp. The air strike hit the family's one-story home in the village of Dayr Sharqi in Idlib province, killing everyone inside, said the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. A photographer collaborating with AFP said he saw a man leaving the site of the blast, carrying the bloody corpse of a young girl, her hair streaked with blood.

US issues warrant to seize Iranian tanker off Gibraltar

Evidence to show tanker was due to arrive in Syria, says court document

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, AUGUST 17

NEWLY RELEASED US court documents show the United States issued a warrant for the seizure of an Iranian tanker that British Royal Marines had seized last month in Gibraltar, citing evidence that it was transporting oil to Syria in violation of U.S. sanctions.

The oil tanker Grace 1, the more than 2 million barrels of oil it carries and \$995,000 are subject to forfeiture based on a complaint by the United States government, US Attorney for the District of Columbia Jessie Liu said in a news release on Friday.

The tanker was seized by British Royal Marines at the western mouth of the Mediterranean on July 4 on suspicion of violating European Union sanctions by taking oil to Syria, a close ally of Iran.

In a court document obtained by *Reuters*, it said there was evidence that showed that the tanker was scheduled to ar-

rive in Syria in early July.

"Charts and electronic equipment recovered from on-board the Grace 1, WhatsApp messages recovered from crewmembers' mobile devices, and crewmembers' statements revealed that the Grace 1 was destined for Port Banias, Syria in violation of US sanctions," the document said.

Iran has repeatedly denied that tanker's destination was Syria. "As we said earlier ... Syria was not its destination and we have upheld the same ... and reiterated that it was nobody's business even if it was Syria," Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi was quoted as saying by Tasnim news agency on Friday.

Gibraltar authorities said on Thursday the U.S. Department of Justice had applied to seize the tanker.

"The scheme involves multiple parties affiliated with the IRGC and furthered by the deceptive voyages of the Grace 1," Liu said. "A network of front companies allegedly laundered millions of dollars in support of such shipments."

The *Gibraltar Chronicle*



THE WARRANT, THE REACTIONS

■ The US had attempted to detain the Grace 1 on the grounds that it had links to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), which it has classified a terrorist organisation

■ The US State Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment on how the warrant may be enforced

■ Asked about Washington's intervention, Gibraltar's chief minister, Fabian Picardo, said that would be subject to the jurisdiction of Gibraltar's Supreme Court.

■ Iranian state TV quoted an official as saying the tanker would depart after being reflagged under the Iran's flag and renamed

"A seizure warrant and a forfeiture complaint are merely allegations. The burden to prove forfeitability in a civil forfeiture proceeding is upon the government," the news release said. The *Gibraltar Chronicle*

newspaper reported that the vessel was unlikely to sail before Sunday, citing an unnamed source who added that it was waiting for six new crew members including a captain to arrive. **REUTERS**

FRANCE

WAITER KILLED IN 'SANDWICH SPAT'

A waiter at a restaurant near Paris was shot dead by a customer angry at having to wait for a sandwich, a source said Saturday. Colleagues of the victim called police after he was shot him with a hand gun. The gunman, who witnesses said lost his temper "as his sandwich wasn't prepared quickly enough" for his liking, fled the scene.

Signs of recession worry Trump ahead of 2020 polls

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, AUGUST 17

PRESIDENT DONALD Trump is warning of an economic crash if he loses reelection, arguing that even voters who personally dislike him should base their ballots on the nation's strong growth and low unemployment rate.

But privately, Trump is growing increasingly worried the economy won't look so good come Election Day. The financial markets signalled the possibility of a US recession this week, sending a jolt of anxiety to investors, companies and consumers.

That's on top of concerns over Trump's plans to impose punishing tariffs on goods from China and word from the United Kingdom and Germany that their economies are shrinking.

Though a pre-election recession here is far from certain, a downturn would be a devastating blow to the president, who has made a strong economy his central argument for a second term.

Much of the uncertainty in the markets stems from his own escalation of a trade war with China, as well as weakened economies in key countries around the world.

Some of Trump's closest advisers have urged him to lower the temperature of the trade dispute, fearing that further tariffs would

Trump knows his own survival hinges on voters believing that he alone can prolong the US economy's decade-plus expansion

only hurt American consumers and rattle the markets further. The president blinked once this week, delaying a set of tariffs in an effort to save Christmas sales. Aides acknowledge it is unclear what steps the White House could take to stop a downturn.

A new stimulus spending program could spark intraparty fighting over big deficits. The hope among administration officials is that a mix of wage gains and consumer spending will power growth through 2020.

"You have no choice but to vote for me because your 401(k), everything is going to be down the tubes," the president said at a Thursday rally in New Hampshire. "Whether you love me or hate me, you've got to vote for me."

He is also skeptical about some of the weaker economic indicators, wondering if the media and establishment figures are manipulating the data to make him look bad, according to two Republicans close to the White House.



THE DILEMMA

TRUMP ADVISORS fear that a weakened economy would hurt him with moderate Republican and independent voters

HE HAS taken to blaming others for the recession fears, mostly the Federal Reserve

THE US president's 2017 tax cut proved so politically unpopular that many Republicans ran away from it during last year's midterm

TRUMP IS also skeptical about some economic indicators, wondering if media and establishment figures are fiddling with the data to make him look bad

Houthi claim attack on Saudi oil facilities

REUTERS
DUBAI, AUGUST 17

YEMEN'S HOUTHIS movement said on Saturday that it had launched 10 drones in the "biggest attack" on oil facilities in Saudi Arabia since the Saudi-led coalition intervened in Yemen in 2015, but a Saudi official said it had caused only a "minor" fire and no casualties.

Speaking to Houthi-run television station, Al Masirah, a Houthi spokesman described the attack on Shaybah, close to the United Arab Emirates border, as being launched "in the depths" of Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter. The report did not say when the attack took place. "We promise the Saudi regime and the powers of aggression bigger and wider operations if the aggression continues," the spokesman was quoted as saying.

Video footage published by the semi-official Iranian news agency Mehr showed what it said were drone attacks on Saudi facilities.

The attack caused a "minor" fire at a gas plant, a Saudi industry official told *Reuters*. The attack was carried out "most probably" by three drones, the official said, adding that it had had no impact on oil production.

The state oil giant Aramco said in a statement to reporters that it had "controlled a limited fire this morning at the Shaybah NGL facility," which produces about one million barrels of crude oil a day, after the drone attack. "There were no injuries and no interruptions to Saudi Aramco's oil operations."

DIVIDE IN HONG KONG

Protests for democracy, rally for China

ASSOCIATED PRESS
HONG KONG, AUGUST 17

PRO-DEMOCRACY protesters marched on one side of Hong Kong's famous harbor on Saturday to demand the government heed their demands. Across the water, a pro-government rally called for an end to the often violent protests.

The dueling demonstrations highlighted the political divide in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory, which for 10 weeks has been rocked by protests that show no signs of relenting.

"The government right now doesn't listen to the people, and the police are too violent," said Bobby Tse, a 76-year-old retiree



Police officers armed in Hong Kong Saturday. AP

who watched the pro-democracy march from a bridge. "It didn't used to be like this. We didn't have to protest every week. But now even though we have protests every week, the government still gives no response."

At the pro-government rally, speakers on a stage said they love both Hong Kong and China and asked the protesters why they are afraid of China.

Supporters gave a thumbs-up to police officers and posed for photos with them. Leo Chen, a 47-year-old driver, said he came out because he wants peace in his city of 7.4 million people.

"Before, everyone in Hong Kong helped each other, it was very harmonious," he said. "Now to see it become like this, I'm not happy, so I've come out to show a little strength."

AMID PROTESTS, CHINA FLEXES

Shenzhen: Members of China's paramilitary People's Armed Police marched and practised crowd control tactics at a sports complex in Shenzhen across from Hong Kong.

The sound of marching boots and synchronized shouts echoed from the grounds on Friday. Officers in green camouflage stood guard at closed entrances. A stadium security guard said "it wasn't clear" when the paramilitary police would leave the grounds. **PTI**



'THEY DON'T PROTECT ME, THEY RAPE ME'

Women at a protest called 'They Don't Protect Me, They Rape Me' to demand justice for two teenage girls who were reportedly raped by policemen, in Mexico City, on Saturday. *Reuters*

Afghan women fear losing rights in peace deal

LARA JAKES
WASHINGTON, AUGUST 17

ROYA RAHMANI is neither royalty nor from a powerful family, so she was initially surprised when she was appointed as the first woman to be Afghanistan's ambassador to the United States. Now she understands why: to signal Kabul's commitment to women's rights as the Trump administration pushes for a peace deal with the Taliban.

Rahmani, a longtime women's rights activist, remembers all too well what Afghanistan was like during the 1990s, under the Taliban's rule, when women were beaten for leaving their homes and barred from attending school or holding jobs.

But as the Taliban and the United States move toward a preliminary peace agreement — which could be released in days — there are growing fears that Afghan women will lose the gains they have made over nearly two decades.

"When we are talking about peace, and a peaceful environment for all of us, we are not only talking about the absence of guns and bullets and bombs," she said. "We are talking about an environment where human security is present, where people will live free of all forms of violence — not only physical, but emotional, too."

"If the Taliban says, 'We can find a way to address each other's concerns,' that is fine," Rahmani said. "But given the past experiences, it's extremely alarming for the women of Afghanistan." **NYT**

EXPLAINED
E.

Mixed message

THE TALIBAN had in February given both positive and negative signals on the subject of women's rights. It accepted that women have certain rights under Islam, but went on to describe "immoral" and "indecent" influences of the West.

The Taliban said its policy was to protect the rights of women without threatening Afghan values, as per an *NYT* report. "Legitimate" rights, according to its statement, included access to education and jobs. However, its mention of "the corruption" of Afghan women has led to fears about the state of women's rights after the peace deal is finalised.

FONDA EARNED TWO OSCAR NOMINATIONS, ALMOST THREE DECADES APART

Peter Fonda, star of 'Easy Rider' and counterculture symbol, is dead at 79

ANITA GATES
AUGUST 17

PETER FONDA, the tall, lanky actor who became a star and a counterculture sex symbol in the film "Easy Rider," carrying on the Hollywood dynasty begun by his father, Henry Fonda, died Friday in Los Angeles. He was 79.

The death was confirmed by his family, who said the cause was respiratory failure because of lung cancer.

During his acting and filmmaking career, Fonda earned two Oscar nominations, almost three decades apart. He shared, along with Dennis Hopper and

Terry Southern, a best original screenplay nomination for "Easy Rider," the story of two hippie bikers on a cross-country trip fueled by drugs and the thrill of youthful freedom.

From the time Fonda made his first Broadway and television appearances in the early 1960s, his looks and style — piercing blue eyes, firm jaw and imposing frame — were inevitably compared to his father's, and it seemed that he might be the breakout star of his generation. But his career cooled — while that of his sister, Jane Fonda, flourished — and his next appearance on the list of Oscar nominees was in 1997 for "Ulee's

Fonda's family said he died of respiratory failure. *NYT/FILE*

Gold." He was nominated for best actor for his role as a widowed beekeeper with grandchildren.

"Peter is all deep sweetness, kind and sensitive to his core," Jane Fonda wrote in "My Life So

Far," her 2005 memoir. "He would never intentionally harm anything or anyone. In fact, he once argued with me that vegetables had souls. It was the '60s."

Peter Henry Fonda was born on Feb. 23, 1940, in Manhattan, the younger of two children of film star Henry Fonda and Florence Seymour (Brokaw) Fonda, a New York socialite. His mother committed suicide in 1950, when he was 10 and Jane was 13.

Less than a year later, Fonda shot himself in the stomach with a pistol. Interviewed by *The New York Times* decades later, he insisted that it was an accident, not a suicide attempt or even a warning. "You shoot yourself in the

hand or foot if you want attention," he said, "not the way I did."

Hollywood saw him as a sort of male ingénue at first, casting him as a boyish, clean-cut physician in "Tammy and the Doctor" (1963), opposite Sandra Dee. He starred with Warren Beatty and Jean Seberg in "Lilith" (1964), a drama set at a psychiatric hospital. But it was a very different genre in which he seemed to find his true persona.

In 1967, Roger Corman, then the king of low-budget movies, directed "The Trip" from a script by an up-and-coming actor, Jack Nicholson. Alongside Bruce Dern, Dennis Hopper and Susan Strasberg, Fonda starred as a

mild-mannered television commercial director who uses LSD for the first time and makes the most of it. "Easy Rider," which he also produced, came two years later.

Decades later, *The Times* asked him about his personal experience with the drug. "For me, it solved a great deal," he said. "However, I didn't take it and go out running through the city looking at lights. I was very circumspect and lay down on a couch." Luckily, he added, "I don't have an addictive character, and nothing except pot stayed with me."

That period was the height of Fonda's fame, but he maintained a busy screen career over the next

50 years. He starred in television movies, including "The Passion of Ayn Rand" (1999) and "Back When We Were Crown-Ups" (2004). His films included "Futureworld" (1976), Steven Soderbergh's crime drama "The Limey" (1999) and the 2007 remake of "3:10 to Yuma."

Fonda appeared never to abandon his 1960s attitudes and openness, even as he prepared for the 50th anniversary this fall of "Easy Rider," which will include a Radio City Music Hall screening. The "about" section of his current website includes this thought: "I believe that one is only truly free when learning, and one can only learn when one is free." **NYT**

18 ECONOMY

CORPORATES BATTLING LEGACY LOAN ISSUES, SLUGGISH ECONOMY

India Inc's Q1 profit takes a hit amid high interest costs, demand slowdown

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, AUGUST 17

THE CORPORATE sector ended up paying higher interest costs in the June 2019 quarter, even as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cut the key policy interest rate by 75 basis points (bps) between February and June this year and banks went slow in passing on the benefits of rate reduction to their customers.

Interest costs soared by 22.16 per cent to Rs 65,485 crore during the first quarter ended June 2019 even as demand slowdown started hitting India Inc.

On the other hand, a 11.97 per cent fall in the net profit of the corporate sector led to a 10.48 per cent decline in tax payment by corporates to Rs 49,895 crore during the June quarter, according to figures available from a sample of 2,179 companies. Operating margins of these companies were down by 34.30 bps to 14.84 per cent as the slowdown took its toll.

"The 75 basis points cut in the first half of the calendar year wouldn't have made any impact on the corporates in the near term as these were old loans priced earlier. These loans would have been given years ago at a higher interest rate. Fresh loans issued to corporates would be priced lower according to their credit rating," said a senior official of a nationalised bank.

The RBI had cut the repo rate by another 35 bps in its latest

EXPLAINED

Rate transmission by banks yet to pick up pace

INCLUDING THE 35 bps cut announced in August by RBI, the total reduction in repo rate has been 110 bps in 2019. However, the lower rates will be applicable only on fresh loans and will vary for companies as per their credit rating. Moreover, banks have been slow in transmitting the reduced repo rate on to their fresh loans. In addition to faster transmission, government intervention is the need of the hour.

monetary policy meeting earlier this month, thus making the total reduction to 110 bps in 2019.

A softening interest rate regime does not mean lower tax outgo for corporates which are battling legacy loan issues and slowdown in the economy. On top of this, some of the big corporates are in the defaulters list and banks were hesitant to lend, leading to choking of credit to some sectors. "Banks had tightened their lending norms to many sectors after the surfacing of the NPAs and the liquidity crunch in the NBFC sector," the official said.

While addressing the annual general meeting of HDFC recently, chairman Deepak Parekh had said "banks are reluctant to lend and there has been a flight to safety where a select, few, high-rated NBFCs (non-banking finance companies) and HFCs

(housing finance companies) have access to funding while for several others, access to credit has been choked".

The central bank and the government have been pushing for faster transmission of rate cuts, but banks are taking their own sweet time to pass on the benefits. "The stance of policy was changed from neutral to accommodative in June. These policy impulses have been transmitted through financial markets fully. The weighted average call money rate (WACR) has declined by 78 bps, market repo rate by 73 bps and 10-year benchmark G-sec yield by 102 bps," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had said in his monetary policy statement.

Banks, on the other hand, have reduced their interest rates on fresh rupee loans by 29 bps so far (February-June 2019). "Our

HOW INDIA INC FARED IN APRIL-JUNE (Rs IN CRORE)

	2019-Jun	2018-Jun	% change
Net Sales	18,12,757	17,12,309	5.87
Other Income	40,433	41,335	-2.18
OPM%	14.84	15.18	-34.30 bps
Depreciation	87,213	72,406	20.45
Interest	65,485	53,606	22.16
Tax	49,895	55,734	-10.48
Net profit	103,899	118,026	-11.97

Sample of 2179 companies (excluding banks and financials)
Source: FE

interactions with various stakeholders, including both public sector and private sector banks, indicate that steps are being taken by them on an ongoing basis to progressively lower their interest rates so that the benefits of the policy rate reductions are passed on to the economy.

Accordingly, we expect higher transmission of monetary policy actions and stance by the banks in the weeks and months ahead," Das said.

Though bankers are optimistic about bringing down the interest rates, it won't give much benefit to old borrowers. "With improvement in liquidity position and reduction in deposit rates offered by banks, further reduction in lending rate are expected," Sunil Mehta, managing director, Punjab National Bank, said. However, overall economic activity in the global market has

slowed down and India is no exception.

Arun Singh, chief economist, Dun & Bradstreet India said, "In India, the manufacturing sector's performance was a drag to the economic growth and will now have to brace for a further slowdown in services sector as well. In this regard, a series of rate cuts will provide required impetus to the economy."

"The focus has to be more on transmission of the rate cut to the lending rate as a 75-bps cut in the repo rate has only translated into a 29-bps reduction in lending rate on fresh rupee loans during February-June 2019. Continued weak credit growth to the micro and small sector and negative export credit growth for more than two years will require special interventions which the government is trying to address," he added.

BANKING WATCH

20 BPS CUT IN MCLR BY PSB

New Delhi: Punjab & Sind Bank (PSB) Saturday said it has lowered its marginal cost of funds based lending rate (MCLR) by up to 0.20 per cent for various tenors. The state-owned bank has cut the benchmark one-year MCLR to 8.50 per cent from 8.70 per cent earlier. PTI

CBDT SENDS LETTER TO ZONAL CHIEFS

Checklist to be made for verifying taxpayers who made suspicious deposits during demonetisation

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 17

IN WHAT is expected to assist assessing officers in further analysis, the Income Tax Department would now make a verification checklist for taxpayers who were found to have made suspicious cash deposits during demonetisation. The verification checklist aims to break down thousands of such cases into a few categories, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said in a letter to zonal chiefs.

The checklist would gather information regarding a taxpayer's compliance in filing regular income tax returns, total income and percentage of cash deposit to gross total income.

Further, taxpayers would be classified based on the nature of deposit — whether it was out of loan received, out of repayment of loan, gift and cash in hand, among others.

For taxpayers engaged in business, the information regarding nature of businesses, use of cash in a normal year and whether books of account are properly maintained or not will be filed in the checklist. Further, cash deposit made by these assessee in earlier years and its comparison with their yearly sales will also be recorded.

This is another attempt by the Department to streamline information gathered from taxpayers who were shortlisted as potential tax evaders because of their activities during demonetisation in 2016.

The checklist would gather information regarding a taxpayer's compliance in filing regular income tax returns, total income and percentage of cash deposit to gross total income

In March, CBDT had asked senior I-T officials to go after over 87,000 people who were yet to file I-T returns in response to the notices issued to them. The assessment in all these cases should be completed by March-end, the board had said, in a missive to the field formations.

Tax officials were instructed by the Board to gather additional information about the above persons and establish a trail of the funds deposited by them.

"Further, a detailed analysis of any past income tax returns of these people should also be made to ascertain the nature of their transactions during the demonetisation period (November 8 to December 31, 2016)," the CBDT had said.

As had been reported earlier, the I-T Department had identified 23.5 lakh permanent account numbers (PANs) for post-note ban cash deposits being inconsistent with income profiles under the Operation Clean Money (OCM) programme.

Subsequently, the department issued statutory notices to three lakh among these. Of these three lakh PANs, "a total of 2.1 lakh persons filed income-tax returns and total amount of self-assessment tax was Rs 6,560.88 crore," the department had told FE, in response to a RTI filed by

the paper earlier. Some 90,000 of these people have not filed returns despite receiving statutory (Section 142-1) notices, whose cases are now being followed up.

The department had further said that of the original 23.5 PANs, over 17 lakh filed e-returns after receiving communication. Out of these, over 14.5 lakh PANs filed their I-T returns for last three assessment years — AY2015-16, 2016-17 & 2017-18.

As on January 7, 2019, out of the 23.5 lakh persons, a total 4.15 PANs had never filed I-T returns.

Just before demonetisation, the government had launched the Voluntary Income Disclosure Scheme which ran from June 1 to September 30, 2016. It managed to mop up Rs 12,700 crore in tax from 71,726 persons who had declared undisclosed income of Rs 67,382 crore under the scheme.

Additionally, coinciding with demonetisation, the government had launched another income disclosure scheme namely the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana which was open from December 2016 to March 31, 2017. However, the response to this scheme was lukewarm as only 21,000 persons declared Rs 4,900 crore of undisclosed income, eventually yielding Rs 2,451 crore in tax. FE

BRIEFLY

Two RCom promoters pledge stake

New Delhi: Two promoter entities of Reliance Communications (RCom) have pledged 11.5 per cent more stake in favour of Axis Trustee Services, said filings. Reliance Communications Enterprises and Reliance Telecom Infra invest on August 16 pledged about 11.51 per cent of their holding in Reliance Communications amounting to 31.82 crore shares in favour of Axis Trustee Services acting as security/debenture trustee. A BSE filing on pledge of RCom shares in favour of Axis Trustee Services showed that fresh pledge of 31.82 crore shares was created on August 16, 2019.

Ujivan Bank files DRHP with Sebi

Bengaluru: Ujivan Small Finance Bank, which caters to the unbanked urban poor and young middle-class customers, filed its draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) for its proposed IPO (initial public offering). As per the DRHP, the company seeks to raise Rs 1,200 crore, including reservation of equity shares of upto Rs 120 crore. PTI

'Indian firms operating in China to ramp up investments in 2019'

Most Indian companies present in China are planning to continue to invest there in 2019, the second edition of the 'Business Climate for Indian Companies in China' survey by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Evalueserve said

57 Number of Indian companies in China that took part in the survey

98% Proportion of respondents who plan to make some investments in China in 2019

66% Percentage of firms that said their business was profitable in 2018, with higher EBIT than in 2017

30% of companies generated revenues higher than 100 million yuan from China in 2018



72%: Proportion of Indian companies that are invested in Shanghai, the most popular destination

72%: Percentage of respondents that have up to 50 employees and hire over half the workforce locally

74%: Percentage of companies that said the US-China trade friction has had no impact on their business

CHALLENGES FOR INDIAN FIRMS IN CHINA:

- Rising labour cost
- Finding and retaining talent
- Stricter regulations

ADVANTAGES FOR INDIAN FIRMS IN CHINA:

- More innovation, favourable than worldwide average
- Quality of products and services

Debt to fall to ₹1,000 cr post tech park sale: CDEL

PRESSTrust OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 17

CAFE CHAIN operator Coffee Day Enterprises (CDEL) on Saturday said its total debt is expected to reduce to around Rs 1,000 crore after adjusting the proceeds from sale of its Global Village Tech Park in Bengaluru to Blackstone.

"The company has already announced the divestment of Global Village Tech Park held by its subsidiary Tanglin Developments Ltd

for an aggregate consideration of Rs 2,600-3,000 crore. On receipt of the consideration for the sale of Global Village after payment of required Statutory payments, the debt position of Coffee Day Group will reduce around by Rs 2,400 crore," Coffee Day Enterprises said in a regulatory filing.

The debt position of Coffee Day Group post repayment of debt out of proceeds from sale of Global Village is expected to be around Rs 1,000 crore in the next 45 days, it added.

M&M sets up assembly plant in Colombo

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
COLOMBO, AUGUST 17

Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) has set up an assembly plant in Colombo, Sri Lanka, as part of its initiative to push more volumes in the international market, at a time when domestic demand has been weak over the past one year.

The Mumbai-based automaker will from Saturday start assembling compact SUV KUV100 at the new plant, with a production capacity of 5,000 units per annum. In collaboration with Ideal Motors of Sri Lanka, the plant

has been built with an investment of over Rs 80 crore. The resultant entity has been christened Mahindra Ideal Lanka.

While Ideal Motors will own 65 per cent of the joint venture, M&M will own the remaining.

Pawan Goenka, managing director of M&M, said the company would roll out more products over the next three years from the plant. "This is the first passenger car assembling plant in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka is a key strategic market for us and we are now fully equipped to deliver products customised to local needs, on time," Goenka said. FE

TVS Motors arm buys US analytics firm

Chennai: TVS Motor Company's subsidiary TVS Motor (Singapore) has picked up an undisclosed stake in US-based Predictronics Corporation, a specialist in providing end-to-end predictive maintenance analytics solution, for an investment of \$3.2 million. FE

Trump says Apple will spend 'vast sums' in US

REUTERS
BEDMINSTER, AUGUST 17

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump said he was having dinner on Friday with Chief Executive Officer Tim Cook of Apple Inc, a company the president has criticized for not manufacturing more of its products in the United States.

"Having dinner tonight with Tim Cook of Apple. They will be spending vast sums of money in the US Great!" the US President,

who is currently on a working vacation at his golf club in Bedminster, New Jersey, said in a Twitter message. The White House did not immediately respond to a question about the agenda for the dinner and what Trump was referring to when talking about 'vast sums' in the US.

Apple did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Trump has said he wants manufactures to move their production from China and other countries to the United States.

CENTRAL BANK WILL IMPROVE MECHANISM USED TO ESTABLISH LOAN PRIME RATE (LPR) FROM THIS MONTH

China unveils rate reform to steer funding costs lower for companies

LUSHA ZHANG & KEVIN YAO
BEIJING, AUGUST 17

CHINA'S CENTRAL bank unveiled a key interest rate reform on Saturday to help steer borrowing costs lower for companies and support a slowing economy that has been hurt by a trade war with the United States.

The People's Bank of China (PBOC) said it will improve the mechanism used to establish the loan prime rate (LPR) from this month, in a move to further lower real interest rates for companies as part of broader market reforms. Analysts say the move, which

came after data that showed weaker than expected growth in July and followed a cabinet announcement on Friday, underscores the government's attempts to use reforms to support a slowing economy.

"By reforming and improving the formation mechanism of LPR, we will be able to use market-based reform methods to help lower real lending rates," the central bank said in a statement published on its website.

The PBOC will "deepen market-based interest rate reform, improve the efficiency of interest rate transmission, and lower financing costs of the real economy," it fur-

ther said. Chinese banks' new LPR quotations will be based on rates of open market operations, and the national interbank funding center will be authorised to publish the rate from August 20, the Chinese central bank said.

It added the rate will be published every month on the 20th, effective this month.

Banks must set rates on new loans by mainly referring to the LPR and use LPR as the benchmark for setting floating lending rates, the PBOC said, adding that banks will be barred from setting any implicit floor on lending rates in a coordinated way.

The central bank said five-year

AMONG REFORMS TO SUPPORT ECONOMY

■ Analysts say the move, which came after data that showed weaker than expected growth in July, underscores the government's attempts to use reforms to support a slowing economy

■ Banks must set rates on new loans by mainly referring to the LPR and use LPR as the benchmark for setting floating lending rates, PBOC said

■ The move followed pledges from China's State Council on Friday that the country will rely on market-based reform measures to help lower real interest rates for companies

■ The central bank said five-year and longer tenors will be added to the existing one-year LPR, which will help banks set rates on long-term loans such as mortgages

and longer tenors will be added to the existing one-year LPR, which will help banks set rates on long-term loans such as mortgages.

China will add eight small banks, including two foreign-funded banks, to the existing 10 nation-wide banks that will be allowed to submit LPR quotations, the central bank said.

The move followed pledges from China's State Council on Friday that the country will rely on market-based reform measures to help lower real interest rates for companies.

The central bank said that it will strengthen its supervision on banks' rate quotations and punish

banks for irregularities that disrupt the market order.

The PBOC will incorporate LPR application into its macro-prudential assessment (MPA) to urge banks to use LPR pricing.

This week's data broadly showed China's economy stumbled more sharply than expected at the start of the third quarter, as the intensifying trade war with the United States took a heavier toll on businesses and consumers. Second-quarter economic growth slowed to a near 30-year low.

Tang Jianwei, an economist at Bank of Communications in Shanghai, said the reform could be seen as a guided rate cut as

PBOC can guide rates of its open market operations, which will be closely followed by the LPR. "The tool (LPR quotation reform) equals to a guided rate cut, and is only pushed out by the PBOC at crucial moments," said Dai Zhifeng, analyst with Zhongtai Securities Co.

The central bank has pledged to gradually unify two interest rate "tracks" — its market-based rates developed in recent years and its benchmark bank deposit and lending rates.

Analysts say the new LPR rate will be lower than the current level, but they are divided over the scope of reductions on borrowing costs for firms. REUTERS

BRIDGE

At times in order to retain control of a hand, you must establish a side suit before drawing trumps. The idea being to eventually void both your hand and the dummy in the force suit so that the dummy (or the shorter trump hand) can take the impending force.

DLr: North; Vul: None
NORTH SOUTH
AKQ6 KJT097
KQ7 AJ3
432 5
A752 8643

WEST EAST
Dbl 3 Pass
Pass 4 Pass
Pass 2 Pass

OPENING LEAD: DK East continues with the DA (king from ace-king in supported suits). Plan the play. (Spades are 3-2)

You have 9 tricks (it's never a bad idea to count your notrump tricks) and need one more. That 'one more' can be scored if clubs break a civilized 3-2—as long as you don't run out of trumps before you set up your fourth club!

For example, if you were to draw trumps before attacking clubs, you would be a goner. After giving up one club trick, you would be forced to use your last trump to ruff the diamond continuation. Now when the opponents get in with a second club trick, their diamonds are all winners! What you have to do is trump the second diamond and play the ace and a club. Assuming the opponents continue with a third round of diamonds, ruff, and concede a second trick. The difference is that now both your hand and dummy are fresh out of diamonds and if a 4th diamond is played you can trump it high in dummy, draw trumps, and take the balance.

THE WEST HAND: ♠42 ♥965 ♦AKQ107 ♣Q109
THE EAST HAND: ♠853 ♥10842 ♦J976 ♣KJ

DLr: West; Vul: Neither
NORTH SOUTH
AQ732 KJT0984
KQ642 6
A7 83
A853 AQ2

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
1♥ Pass Pass 2♣
3♥ 4♣ Pass Pass
Pass

Opening lead: HA (A from AK). East plays the H9 and West shifts to the ace and a spade, East discarding the DJ on the second spade. Plan the play.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2230

QUICK CLUES

ACROSS
7. Artillery soldier? (6)
8. Consider or discuss whole aspect of a subject, in a way? (8)

9. In the open air? (8)
10. Ex-Aussie paceman Lillie? (6)
11. Underground cemetery? (8)

12. Disturbs or annoys? (6)
13. What a person goes for and gets when he spends his time on a hill station? (6,2,3)

18. Wood prepared for building, carpentry, etc. (6)
20. Total forgetfulness? (8)
22. Nepalese porter? (6)

23. Sending out? (8)
24. Suitably, appropriately or fruitfully? (6)
25. Draw idly? (6)

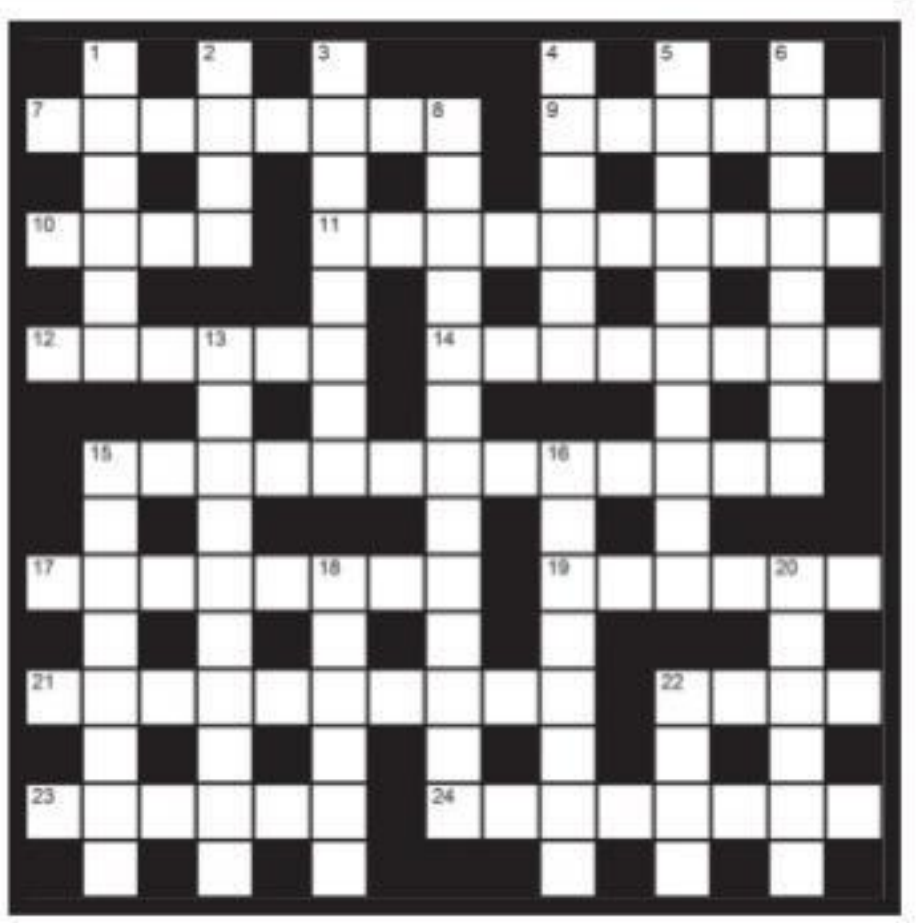
DOWN
1. Type of fission? (7)
2. Go beyond what is natural or right? (8)

3. Painting made on plaster? (6)
4. Manacle? (8)
5. Court sport? (6)

6. Helps or gives a helping hands? (7)
8. In a vexingly inconveniencing way? (13)

14. As a rule, customarily or generally? (8)
15. Military intrusion? (8)
16. Wealthiest? (7)

17. Lens for a single eye? (7)
19. Deprived, perhaps of reason? (6)
21. Scottish landlords? (6)



13. Soothing voices let cot stray in sandhills? (6,5)
18. Turning points in beautiful Craigieburn? (6)

20. The banning of spirits? (8)
22. Group hug? (6)
23. The end of the road for one who saw the light? (8)

24. Mother-pig followed by any timber? (8)
25. Band around a member? (6)

14. The private tutor? (8)
15. An apology for a dance? (6,2)
16. A burden upon the spirit? (4,3)

17. Promises certain to be kept by a fool? (7)
19. Fruit of revision in Corinthians 1-6? (6)
21. Energy conceals a sound from band? (6)

Solutions to 2229

QUICK CLUES Across: 7 Shanghai, 9 Couple, 10 Bony, 11 Lots of luck, 12 Stucco, 14 Elsinore, 15 Peregrination, 17 Kalyanji, 19 Schism, 21 Laundering, 22 Hull, 23 Strove, 24 Yielding. Down: 1 Throat, 2 Only, 3 Shilling, 4 Across, 5 Outlandish, 6 Electron, 8 In the vicinity, 13 Carrying on, 15 Passants, 16 Assigned, 18 Nieces, 20 Saline, 22 Hods. CRYPTIC CLUES Across: 7 Waste bin, 9 Archer, 10 Ida's, 11 Desecrated, 12 Gloria, 14 Aquiline, 15 Talking-points, 17 Periodic, 19 Torpid, 21 Workaholic, 22 Gram, 23 Brunet, 24 Yearbook. Down: 1 Vandal, 2 Otis, 3 Abu Dhabi, 4 Manchu, 5 Ocean liner, 6 Demesnes, 8 Nostalgically, 13 Rolling, 15 The board, 16 Optician, 18 Dahlia, 20 In a row, 22 Goby.

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given clue.

A man who lives, not by what he... but what he... is a sick man. - Archibald MacLeish (5..5)

MNAEE IMSULT
AIOSS AELSHV

SOLUTION: ENMA, OASIS, LITMUS, HATVES
Answer: A man who lives, not by what he hates, but what he loves is a sick man.

SUDOKU 3942

Difficulty Level 2s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.



Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy;
3s = Medium; 4s = Hard;
5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

SOLUTION SUDOKU 3941



If it's your Birthday

Sunday August 18
If you lay the foundations for your future enterprises firmly and fairly, then you can head for success. Life will be more fun when an old friend walks back into your life.

Monday August 19
You've got a choice, but you're not certain what exactly to go for. Perhaps you're waiting for a push from a partner. It would be better if you took the initiative yourself.

Tuesday August 20
If you do make firm decisions at the moment, you should do so in a spirit of experimentation, and in the full understanding that there is no one course of action which is right.

Wednesday August 21
Not only is today filled with positive trends, but so is the coming year. Whatever happens, you'll be seeking to expand your horizons and broaden your experience.

Thursday August 22
It's time to dream a little. Let your mind wander wherever it likes and see where it comes down. Perhaps that's where you should make your next move.

Friday August 23
You're able to charm people with your winning ways or threaten them with a proverbial big stick. Both strategies are central to your success. You should also check out professional offers.

Saturday August 24
With a little commonsense you'll be able to achieve a perfect balance between pleasurable activities and your highly-developed sense of responsibility.

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
The Moon indicates that this is a pleasant period for small-talk and chit-chat.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
However, there are also more profound movements in your chart and, given that major questions concerning career or other ambitions are still unresolved, you should consider spending a little extra time pondering the future.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
You need to stand back from the normal concerns of material success: it is time to think not only of shopping trips and investment plans, but also of your values.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
According to your planets, there's a ninety percent chance of a personal misunderstanding. Make sure that one hundred percent of the time you take the maximum effort to make yourself clear. Plus, in matters of the heart, a little generosity will become you.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
You may be about to make a rash promise or a sudden emotional commitment. Such things always require an extra second or two's thought, especially when other people seem to understand what's going on better than you.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
It seems that you are only prepared to do your best when your goal is self-fulfilment, and financial considerations or blind obedience to the rules will play little part in achieving your ambitions.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
This is a fine moment for all competitive and sporting Leos and, no matter whether your preferences are personal or professional, there's much to be said for playing to win.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
Your stars are moving on and this is one of the best times of the year for tackling domestic arrangements. This doesn't mean that everything should work out exactly as planned, but that in all personal matters your success rate may be higher than expected.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
The Moon is extra helpful and its supportive alignments should coincide with a burst of confidence and enthusiasm. Professional Pisceans will begin to see the possibilities which are in view for next year. Just keep a close eye on even trivial developments.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
The Moon is extra helpful and its supportive alignments should coincide with a burst of confidence and enthusiasm. Professional Pisceans will begin to see the possibilities which are in view for next year. Just keep a close eye on even trivial developments.

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED (A Government of Karnataka Undertaking) (CIN - U04010KA2002SGC030438)

BRIEF SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

BESCOM invites tender for the following work:
Enquiry No. & Date Description of work
BESCOM/DGM(TIC)/BC- 01/18-19/03/01.02.19/CALL-5 AMC of BESCOM Mobile APP - BESCOM Mithra

Availability of Bid document : 20-08-2019 at 16.00 Hrs. Last date for Receipt of bids : 03-09-2019 at 16:00 hrs

The detailed notification can be obtained from the Website : https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in. Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

For Electricity related Complaints Call : 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP
Sd/- The Deputy General Manager, Ee., T.I.C., BESCOM, Bengaluru.

JAI PUR VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LTD. Office of The Superintending Engineer (TW), Old Power House Premises, Near Ram Mandir, Jaipur-302006, TELE FAX NO. 0141-2201022

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-bids are hereby invited in two parts (Techno-commercial bid and Price bid) for eligible bidders for Earthing of various identified 33/11 KV Sub stations on Turn-Key basis under TN-485 in the jurisdiction of Jaipur Discom. Participating bidders can download complete set of bidding documents from e-procurement portal http://www.eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in from 20.08.2019 onwards.

For Electricity related Complaints Call : 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP
Sd/- The Deputy General Manager, Ee., T.I.C., BESCOM, Bengaluru.

RAJ SAMWAD/CI/2068/2019-20 SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (TW) For Electricity Complaints Toll Free No. 1800 180 6507

DEISEL LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI- 221004
Bid No. E-29/2019-2020 E-Tender Notice Date: 16.08.2019
E-Tenders are invited for & on behalf of the president of India for the supply of following items.

1. Diesel Locomotive, 2. Diesel Engine, 3. Diesel Generator, 4. Diesel Pump, 5. Diesel Motor, 6. Diesel Fan, 7. Diesel Compressor, 8. Diesel Valve, 9. Diesel Gasket, 10. Diesel Seal, 11. Diesel Ring, 12. Diesel Piston, 13. Diesel Crankshaft, 14. Diesel Camshaft, 15. Diesel Flywheel, 16. Diesel Gearbox, 17. Diesel Clutch, 18. Diesel Brake, 19. Diesel Axle, 20. Diesel Wheel, 21. Diesel Tire, 22. Diesel Spring, 23. Diesel Shock, 24. Diesel Suspension, 25. Diesel Steering, 26. Diesel Brake Pedal, 27. Diesel Clutch Pedal, 28. Diesel Gear Shift, 29. Diesel Horn, 30. Diesel Bell, 31. Diesel Light, 32. Diesel Indicator, 33. Diesel Wiper, 34. Diesel Mirror, 35. Diesel Exhaust, 36. Diesel Muffler, 37. Diesel Catalytic Converter, 38. Diesel Air Filter, 39. Diesel Oil Filter, 40. Diesel Fuel Filter, 41. Diesel Water Filter, 42. Diesel Air Cleaner, 43. Diesel Oil Cooler, 44. Diesel Fuel Cooler, 45. Diesel Water Pump, 46. Diesel Fuel Pump, 47. Diesel Oil Pump, 48. Diesel Water Pump, 49. Diesel Fuel Pump, 50. Diesel Oil Pump.

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY Electrical Department (TRD Branch), Jabalpur E-TENDER NOTICE: No.- JBP/TRD/Tender/2019/09, 2019/10 date: 09/08/2019

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD) West Central Railway, Jabalpur for and on behalf of the President of India invite sealed tenders from the reputed and experienced contractors having valid Electrical License issued in the name of firm by State Government as required under IE rules, 1956 with one of the partner or in his own name if sole proprietor. (1) T.No. 2019/09, Name of work- OHE/TRD work against interlocking of level crossing gate no. 18 & (B) TRD work for extension of existing FOB at Gadawara station by WCR in ET-JBP section of Jabalpur Division. Place of work- Jabalpur Division, Completion Period- 06 months. Tender Value (Cost of the work)- Rs. 2208877.91, Earnest Money- Rs. 44200/-. Tender Fee- Rs. 3,000/-, (2) T.No. 2019/10- Name of work- TRD work for construction of 5 Nos. FOB at BJK, KYE, ISH, NOI, LDA stations in BINA-KTE section under IIIRD line. Place of work- Jabalpur Division, Completion Period- 09 months. Tender Value (Cost of the work)- Rs. 60,85,793.83, Earnest Money- Rs. 1,21,700/-, Tender Fee- Rs. 5,000/-, Date & time for submission/ opening of all tenders- 09/09/2019, 15.00 Hrs./ 09/09/2019, 15.30 Hrs., Website address- https://www.iireps.gov.in. Tenderers are advised to regularly visit IREPS website "http://www.iireps.gov.in" to note any changes/corrigendum. Minimum eligibility criteria as per tender form shall be applicable for the tender.

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/ TRD, West Central Railway, Jabalpur

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER SHRI MATA VAISHNO DEVI SHRINE BOARD, KATRA

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

For and on behalf of the Chairman, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board Katra. Expression of Interest is invited from eligible Principal Companies or their authorized Distributors/Franchisees for running of Refreshment Unit on leave & license basis from available platforms near Material Check Post of the Shrine Board (3 Km. from Banganga) & at Ardhkuwari Complex, both located on the old track leading to the Holy Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji. The EOI should reach the office of the Chief Executive Officer, Katra upto 1500 hrs. on 30th of August, 2019.

The detailed terms and conditions of the EOI can be downloaded from our official website (www.maavaishnodevi.org), free of cost.

Sd/- (Dr. J.C. Mehra), KAS, Dy. Chief Executive Officer.

UJVN LIMITED (An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprise) R.O. "JULAHARI" BHARATPUR ROAD, CHINA ROAD, BHARATPUR - 244001, UTTARAKHAND, INDIA. Tel: 9135-2783008 Fax: 9135-2783588 website: www.ujvn.com

TIME EXTENSION NOTICE

Due to unavoidable circumstances the date of submission and opening of E-tender notice No-30/EE (M)/MB-II/18-19: (Procurement of 02 Nos HVOF coated Runners for 76MW Francis Turbine.) is invited by the office of the Executive Engineer (Maintenance), MB-II, Chinyalisaur (Uttarkashi) is hereby extended as follows:-

Last date of downloading the tender - 11.09.2019 up to 16:00 Hrs
Last Date for submitting of bid in the portal - 11.09.2019 up to 16:00 Hrs.
Last date of submitting hard copy of documents: 16.09.2019 up to 11:00Hrs
Last date for opening the tender - 18.09.2019 at 11:00 Hrs.

Other Terms & Conditions shall be remain unchanged. Details of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be obtained from the e-procurement portal http://uktenders.gov.in

पत्रांक सं 435 / दिनांक 16.08.2019 Executive Engineer "Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE No. 20-29-NIT-NFR-19 Date: 14.08.2019

निविदा सं: 20; कार्य का नाम एवं स्थान: Commercial Publicity contract at Merta Road station at Platform Area. कार्य की अनुमानित लागत प्रथम वर्ष के लिए: 80,640. बयाना राशि: 8,600. निविदा सं: 21; कार्य का नाम एवं स्थान: Contracting out the Commercial Publicity Rights in Circulating Area at Marwar Bhnimal Station of Jodhpur Division. कार्य की अनुमानित लागत प्रथम वर्ष के लिए: 41,200. बयाना राशि: 4,400. निविदा सं: 22; कार्य का नाम एवं स्थान: Contracting out the Commercial Publicity Rights at Station Platform of Pali Marwar Station at Jodhpur Division. कार्य की अनुमानित लागत प्रथम वर्ष के लिए: 29,900. निविदा सं: 23; कार्य का नाम एवं स्थान: Commercial Publicity contract at Dhanera station at Circulating Area. कार्य की अनुमानित लागत प्रथम वर्ष के लिए: 19,600. बयाना राशि: 2,100. निविदा सं: 24; कार्य का नाम एवं स्थान: Commercial Publicity contract at Merta Road station at Circulating Area. कार्य की अनुमानित लागत प्रथम वर्ष के लिए: 16,45,400. बयाना राशि: 1,74,800. 1. NIT no 20 to 24 Last date and time for purchasing tender form : Up to 15.00 hrs. on 17.09.2019. NIT no 25 to 29 Last date and time for purchasing tender form : Up to 15.00 hrs. on 18.09.2019. 2. NIT no 20 to 24 Date and time for receiving tender form in this office : Up to 15.00 hrs. on 17.09.2019. NIT no 25 to 29 Date and time for receiving tender form in this office : Up to 15.00 hrs. on 18.09.2019. 3. NIT no 20 to 24 Date and time of tender opening : 15.00 hrs. on 17.09.2019. NIT no 24 to 29 Date and time of tender opening : 15.00 hrs. on 18.09.2019. 4. Website or office from where information could be obtained : www.iireps.gov.in 793-AD/19

Please join us on NWR/Laws

Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd., JAIPUR No. NIT/2019-20/14969-78 Date: 16.08.2019

NOTICE INVITING E-BID

Short Term E-bids are invited upto 6.00 PM of 02.09.2019 for Rate Contract cum Supply and Empanelment of drug and medicines. Details of NIB may be seen in the Bidding Documents at our office or at the website of State Public Procurement Portal http://sppp.raj.nic.in (UBN- MSC1920GLRC00016 www.dipronline.org, http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in, http://rpsc.health.gov.in and may be downloaded from there.

Note:- If any amendment is carried out in the tender specifications and terms & conditions following pre-bid meeting, the same will be uploaded on the Departmental website http://rpsc.health.rajjasthan.gov.in/, sppp.raj.nic.in and https://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in. In case any inconvenience is felt, please contact on telephone number e. 0141-2228064

Executive Director (Procurement) RMSL

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Government of Rajasthan RMSCL "Mukhyamantri Nishulk DavaYojana" Gandhi Block, Swasthya Bhawan, Tilak Marg, Jaipur - 302005, India

Indian Overseas Bank आपकी प्रगति का सच्चा साथी Good People to grow with

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Overseas Bank under Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notice dated 25.02.2019 calling upon the borrower/mortgagor/guarantor mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general, that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act, read with rule 8 of the said rules.

The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property herein below and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Indian Overseas Bank for the amount mentioned against their names and interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time, available to them to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Borrower:-M/S New Glass King, New Bypass Road, Opp PNB Anisabad, Opp-Bhinal Raj, Enclave-B, Near Herichack, Anisabad PNB Anisabad-080002. Proprietor:-Shri Lalu Prasad, S/o Mohan Singh Residential Address: Behind BSNL Office, BSNL Road, Madhusadar Colony, Herichack, Anisabad, PNB Anisabad-080002. Guarantor/Mortgagor: Mr Chandra Bhushan Yadav, Add-S/O Late Ramdhar Singh, Bairagiabagh, PO-Bharthua Thana-Jehanabad, Bihar, Pin-804408. Date of Demand Notice:-25.02.2019. Date of Possession:-14.08.2019. Outstanding amount as per demand notice:- ₹22,68,978/- as on 25.02.2019 with further interest at contractual rates and rests, charges etc till date of realization. The dues payable as on the date of taking possession:- ₹15,12,501.52/- payable with further interest, charges etc till date of realization. Description of the Immovable Property:-All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Equitable mortgage of commercial land and building Registered in the name of Mr Chandra Bhushan Yadav S/O Late Ramdhar Singh vide sale deed no 27629 dated 14.12.2013 in Book No.-1, volume 608, on pages from 105 to 117 and CD 93/12/13 situated at Mohalla- Chitokhara, P.S - Gardaniabagh, Dist- Patna, Sab & Sadar Registry office, patna bearing TDU No-5243, Revenue Thana NO-17, Khata No-204, Cadestral Survey Plot no-315, (PMT), Ward no- 8, Zone-3 near no-114, Circle- Patna Sadar, under PWC, Patna. Total area of Plot-0.50 dismi (217.76 Sq Ft.). Bounded: North-11' wide Rasta South-Late Payer Singh, East-Vacant Land, West-Shri Pranab Kumar

Date : 14.08.2019 Authorized Officer Indian Overseas Bank

20 SPORTSLINE

Raju Tolani was scared out of his wits when someone had patted him on the shoulder soon after winning the men's team bronze at the Jakarta Asian Games. The 58-year-old medallist in bridge's debut Games at Asiad, was prepared with all the paperwork and permissions, had altered his lifestyle and was forewarned about procedures and the necessity (and likelihood) of anti-doping measures should he get onto the podium. A tap on the back still stopped him in his tracks with trepidation.

"We were hyper-cautious as soon as we knew bridge would be part of Asian Games program and our sport community wanted to ensure none of us brought disrepute to the country. I knew they can come and ask for samples after a medal. When someone stopped me, it was still scary. It turned out to be a volunteer telling me I'd forgotten to collect the box in which medals are kept! But dope testing is important and here to stay," Tolani says, recalling the panic it caused.

Like most in their late-50s, he was prepared with his hypertension pills. Like many other bridge players, it was this very blood-pressure medication that posed the biggest challenge to these unique athletes who play firmly under WADA regulations.

A sedentary sport, played seated and often by seniors, steroid-violations weren't exactly the muscle-bulging, eye-popping worry. Though a Washington Post report quoting a 2016 WADA summary of that year's drug-test results pegs the number of positives returned at a staggering 22 percent of the total tests done on bridge players - up 3.6 percent from 2014. Diuretics and other masking agents were top of that list, though those were early days of testing and bridge's unique playing demographic had not been factored in.

This last fortnight has witnessed cricket being finally leashed by the country's anti-doping apparatus after a reckless young cricketer, Prithvi Shaw failed a test after admittedly taking a cough syrup.

For bridge players in India, who were ordered to get Games-compliant about 3 years ago if they wanted their sport to come under the Olympics umbrella, dealing with the changes was a non-negotiable. Bridge will continue in the Asiad programme when a cards-crazy China hosts it next edition - Taicang in Jiangsu province boasted a 70 percent bridge-playing population in 2012; the 2022 Hangzhou Games are not about to strike it out anytime soon. This means WADA will need to cater to a sport that is rushing into the mainstream.

Even as high-ranking IOA officials scoffed at bridge's inclusion at last year's Jakarta Games (calling it a 'matka' gambling game ignorantly), bridge players themselves with an average age of 57, had shown meticulous preparation in ensuring they were within the confines of Olympian ethics. It wasn't of course as simple as not ingesting a banned substance. Tolani, for instance, gave up on pain-killers for a few months. "I could endure pain for some time if it meant my sport had a chance of being at the Asian Games," he explains.

The bridge player of 35 years though sheds light on an all-encompassing challenge for what's almost always a seniors demographic in India. "Most above 40 are dealing with diabetes and blood pressure. Some of our pills are even life-saving medicines so we had to prepare in advance," he says.

An exhaustive list of banned substances - the root salts - were sent to all bridge players at the start of 2018. Both Tolani and partner Ajay Khare then went to their physicians who ran their medication list, prescribed for BP through the fine WADA tooth-comb.

In certain cases, medications were changed to fall in line with permitted substances, while Tolani and Khare sent the entire list to the world bridge body's coordinator Anna Gudge.

"The world bridge body checked every medicine with their doctors, found them to be in compliance and we continued," Tolani

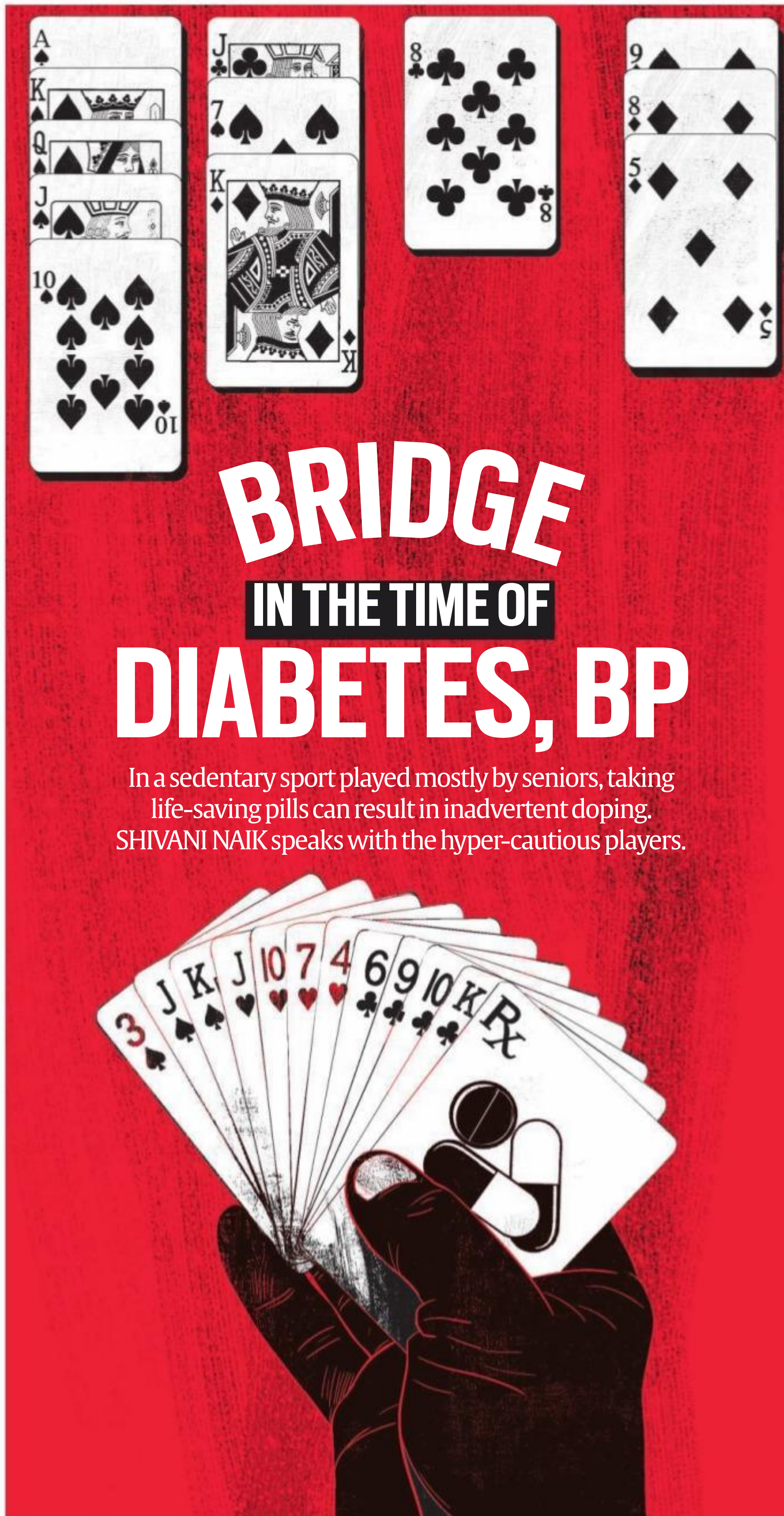


Illustration: Suvajit Dey

BRIDGE IN THE TIME OF DIABETES, BP

In a sedentary sport played mostly by seniors, taking life-saving pills can result in inadvertent doping. SHIVANI NAIK speaks with the hyper-cautious players.

says. Khare though needed more than the physician's consult. "My BP medicine had a certain diuretic which came under the list. It wasn't a performance enhancer directly, but was more a masking agent. So I sought a therapeutic exemption," says Khare, who had immediately accepted that being in the Olympic movement meant extra caution if he had to play the sport. "Of course there are performance enhancers in our sport. And if we want a level playing field and for fairness we have to come under anti-doping," he explains.

When the two started bridge many years ago when the sport was popular in engineering and medical college hostels,

B FOR BETA BLOCKERS

■ They block the effects of adrenaline, slowing the heart rate, reducing blood pressure, anxiety and muscle tremors, and improving the ability to focus.

■ They are 'performance enhancing' to athletes in sports which require focus and a steady hand such as shooting, archery, darts, snooker, golf and bridge.

■ More than 20 kinds available. Can be taken orally, via injection or (in the treatment of glaucoma) as eye drops.

the cash-rich circuit in Europe and America was all that was there to aim for. Tolani played at IIT Varanasi and Khare at IIT Mumbai and the duo would combine only 10 years ago just as the buzz over bridge mainstreaming into Olympic recognised sports, began.

Tolani recalls the early talk in Jordan 15 years ago where Bridge Federations of middle East and Asia (with some of the richest men of the region playing) were sounded out on the possibility of imminent anti-doping regulations coming into the sport.

"We were very conscious that country *ka naam kharaab nai hona chahiye* because of a silly mistake. Of course I was a bit

shocked that my lifestyle would be affected. I consciously cut down on alcohol and pain killers. Alcohol the previous night before competition (which is easily part of club culture) was a strict no-no. As players besides battling stigma attached to our sport, we wanted to be proactively honest," Tolani says, some opting to play at considerable risk.

"Our 3 medals did push the Indian tally towards 70, the target they'd set," he says, adding that bridge players also got used to the double takes from younger athletes in food lines at Games Village who'd stare at their badges saying 'Athlete' when what they expected was manager or coach.

Maneesh Bahuguna, who took on the mantle of ensuring all Indian bridge players ensured anti-doping compliance, reckons Atenolol, a beta blocker used for blood pressure treatments, will be at the centre of a bridge-specific banned substances list once it's zeroed down by WADA. "It's still an evolving process though the world bridge federation is constantly in touch with WADA to cater typically to the bridge populace with its predominance of BP, diabetes and other cardiac ailments."

"Look, some players took a risk carrying inferior medicines and a few took the decision to stop medication and go. There tends to be extrapolation with chess, but this is more like shooting. A BP medicine won't really lend a competitive advantage like increasing RBC but beta blockers will definitely be a problem," he reckons, adding that given the money purse on the international circuit, WADA will eventually be forced to focus on a sport with many 70-year-olds.

Beta blockers can help one concentrate for longer periods - relevant to bridge if a tournament runs 6-7 days and fatigue sets in.

Bridge in fact had the most high-profile positive test when former World No 1 Geir Helgemo was banned after last September's World Bridge Series event in Orlando. *The Guardian* quotes "synthetic testosterone and fertility drug clomifene (which further pushes up testosterone secretion)" as the substances for which he was docked though the much-loved athlete from Norway had accepted his breach of anti-doping regs and "provided details of how the prohibited substances may have come to be present in his system", according to the world federation.

Besides a 3154 GBP refund for cost of hearing, Helgemo was also expected to take full responsibility. "It is his responsibility not to take substances that are on the doping list, even though in this instance they are not performance enhancing in bridge. I feel for Geir in this situation and hope he will come back stronger after his ban ends," the Norwegian bridge head Kari-Ann Ospal had said, as quoted by Guardian.

"Helgemo was a ridiculous victim of stupidity because those drugs had no bearing on the game. But it was only after that case that players got very vigilant," Bahuguna says.

The bridge community might want to brush it off as a freak happening, but the sport is not immune to non-dope cheating.

Sly signalling, manipulating boards on which bids go back and forth, lying about respiratory disorders after being caught mock-coughing and communicating even with a little footsie under the table - all the video monitoring technology has managed to catch geriatric grifters. But just the thought of an elderly bridge player trickstering beta blockers into his body to enhance mental capacity will need to be believed even as diabetes and BP conditions are woven in.

Bahuguna recalls a bemused 70-year-old lady player from India quipping she would continue taking her medicine, though she doubted it helped either at winning or in completely reversing her ailment. At that age, bridge wasn't solely about winning anyway. Those with Olympic aspirations though, will continue to pester physicians to find medication that passes muster for bridge in time of Diabetes and BP.

Not just bridge, stress-relieving beta blockers on shooting blacklist too

SHAHID JUDGE

THERE'S A specific section in the 'Prohibited List' of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Code dedicated to 'Beta Blockers.' It's essentially a blocking agent that reduces blood pressure in times of extreme stress. This becomes relevant for precision sports, like shooting. A steady hand, free of nervous twitches is crucial for success in shooting. And beta blockers can provide that in pressure situations.

But it remains a substance banned for all sports in-competition, but prohibited for out-of-competition use by only archery and shooting - both precision sports.

"Shooting is not dependent on enhancing physical performance," says ace rifle shooter Gagan Narang. "It is all about control, and hence different set of banned substances are prohibited in this sport called beta blockers."

The 36-year-old belongs to a sport that, in the current era of doping scandals, has a remarkably clean record. Till date, shooting has recorded just two doping episodes - North Korean Kim Jong-su and Russian Sergei Alifirenko tested positive in separate

incidences in 2008. Kim, incidentally, was banned for the use of propranolol - a beta blocker.

"Shooting as a sport is not physical nor very strenuous where you need stuff for recovery or muscle gain," says the 2012 London Olympics bronze medallist. "Shooters in general don't really use supplements unless you want to build muscle or want to be fit. Sports-wise nobody uses anything. The nature of the sport reduces any use of high performance supplements, thereby curtailing the confusion or ambiguity on whether the supplement is safe to have or not."

That's not to say that shooters tend to take anything lightly. Having such a clean record in the sport means that shooters keep a strict watch on everything they have to consume, be it food or prescribed medicines.

Just last year, ahead of a vacation to Leh, Narang remembers being handed a set of pills used to prevent altitude sickness. The medicines are a staple precaution for anyone travelling to Leh, situated 3500 m above sea level. Only Narang checked and realised the pills featured on the list of banned substances.

"I just couldn't take it, as simple as that," Narang says. "Anyway, we decided to just go ahead with the trip. It was a week-long trip,



A steady hand, free of nervous twitches is crucial for success in shooting. And beta blockers can provide that in pressure situations.

so I decided that if I feel uncomfortable, I'll just cut it short. But luckily nothing happened."

Over time, knowledge of the drugs, both legal and illegal in one's home country becomes well known. But for a sport that in-

volves widespread travel for competitions, athletes find the desired information of foreign alternatives online. One website in particular, GlobalDro (short for Global Drug Reference Online), keeps a track of the WADA prohibited list and provides information to

athletes about which drugs are legal for them in specific countries, and also the equivalent for each drug in different countries. For example, Paracetamol in India might be known by a different name abroad.

Still, there are more measures that have to be taken.

"Shooters are very careful especially when they travel abroad," Narang says. "When it comes to using something like a pain relieving cream or supplement, the language written on products abroad is not easily understandable. So we often consult that website, or check with a doctor. There's always someone to help, and the knowledge is always available in shooting."

Just like in all sports, shooting, despite its clean record, remains under constant scrutiny. And Narang was duly called for a urine test moments after he won bronze in the 10m air rifle event at the London Olympics. Those tests though, sometimes provide quirky anecdotes.

"It took me a good one or two hours until I could give the sample and come out," he recalls. Narang goes further to recite another such incident, back at the 2002 Nationals in Hyderabad. "I had to go drop a shooter to the railway station after the match. It took me so

long to give the sample that he almost missed the train."

He's long been used to the protocol now - it's become a part of exceeding in the sport.

"It's a usual process that winners are used to," he says. "When you are clear in your head, there is nothing to worry about."

For long, there has been no cause for shooters to worry. The WADA guidelines have been followed well, and every shooter has been made aware of it, along with the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) handbook.

One intoxicant the ISSF hasn't banned though, is alcohol. But there are strong checks in place.

"Alcohol is not included on the Prohibited List as being prohibited in shooting sport," reads the ISSF Rule Book. "However, alcohol is dangerous to the health of Athletes, and more importantly can pose a serious safety risk at the shooting range when misused. Any Athlete showing signs of intoxication with alcohol or other drugs shall immediately be expelled from a shooting range."

But control and self-discipline is the basic fundamental of shooting. These are values that have extended to what a shooter does outside of the sport as well.

Rusty Rahane fails to get going in Tour game

SANDIP G
ST JOHN'S, AUGUST 17

HALF AN hour into the first session of the practice game, Virat Kohli lugged his kitbag and walked across the ground into the nets behind the stadium, a characteristic palm-fringed, canopied enclosure overlooking the manicured garden of the Antigua Athletics Club. The skipper, who has abstained from the match, spotted a warm smile, as he watched Mayank Agarwal and KL Rahul set about their knocks meticulously. When he returned through the same path, nearly an hour of throw-downs later, he was glum-faced, as India had lost both their openers in succession.

And before he settled down at the patio of the dressing, the face turned gloomier, as he just saw Ajinkya Rahane perish to hideous dab outside the off-stump.

His mode of dismissal summed up the dismal opening session for the Indian batsmen against a crew of bowlers who were disciplined more than destructive, probing than preying. Right from the start, he looked as fidgety as a man who hasn't clocked much international hours or runs in the game this year, whose last hundred came nearly two years ago, in a dead-rubber against a dispirited Sri Lanka in Kandy, who hasn't had the best of times in the shorter versions either. He did have a reasonably profitable county stint with Hampshire, rattling out a hundred against the Notts, and here was an opportunity wherein he could grit and graft it out, as the Rahane of the past — when he would hang in by the skin of his teeth, and reacquaint with the deserted confidence.

But the Rahane on evidence was flighty, unsure. A touch tenuous even. After missing out on a couple of leg-side slanting full-balls, which he could have creamed effortlessly, he played a nothing shot, a marriage between a late cut and a typical limited-overs dab through third man.

His feet were crease-trenched, just his arms swishing aimlessly at nothing more than a routine dibbly-dobbly delivery of Jonathan Carter. All it resulted in was a faint nick to the keeper. With better discretion, he could have dealt with it differently. He could have left it, Carter is not someone gifted with Anderson-like swing or Bumrah-like back-bender.

He could have even cut it, he had could unfurled the conventional cut—he had ample time and it was one of his strokes that first served notice of his talent. But this time, he was confused, cluttered, unsure and caught in two minds, as is often the case when you're not in the best frame of mind.

If Rahane's scalp stemmed from uncertainty, Rahul's bore from smugness. He like Rahane needed those runs that could have

If Rahane's scalp stemmed from uncertainty, Rahul's bore from smugness. He like Rahane needed those runs that could have emboldened him before the first Test.

emboldened him before the first Test. His was batting serenely, timing the ball as crisply as he was during the tour of 2016, when he seemed he couldn't err at this level. Much though has changed since, too many vulnerabilities have crept into his game against the new ball.

Good bowlers could set him up with the in-swing as well as the out-swing. He could be nailed in front as much as he could be nicked off. At other times, he has contrived to chop the ball back into the stumps, misjudging the bounce as well as the line.

These vulnerabilities shouldn't trouble him in the West Indies, as the once fast and unpredictable surfaces have long made way for anodyne batting beauties. And neither of their opening bowlers Marquino Mindley or Romario Shepherd swung or seamed. They weren't the rapidest either.

Rahul could just pick them through the line — he began cautiously before he expanded. All that could distract him seemed to be the screeching airplanes taking off from the VC Bird International Airport in the vicinity. Crunched drives, forced back-foot strokes, streaming flicks, Rahul seemed to boss around until he found a new method to get out, by playing the hook.

He was forewarned early in the innings, when a hook had narrowly evaded the deep-fine leg fielder.

A well-timed but poorly-placed stroke. But the second time around, he genuinely misused the stroke, Keon Harding's effort ball hastening him to imprudence.

Or maybe, he took the bowler lightly. Like his long-time friend and opening partner Mayank Agarwal, who after looking resolutely stable ventured for an extravagant straight-drive, to be beaten by the length.

It was a touch fuller than he had expected and was beaten for pace to be bowled off the first ball of Carter, who let out so loud a shriek that it seemed to stop the traffic beside the Airport Road.

Finally, it took a firm partnership between Rohit Sharma and Cheteshwar Pujara to bring the smile back on the Indian skipper's face. A half-smile rather.

BRIEF SCORES: India 206/4 in 60 ovs (KL Rahul 36, M Agarwal 12, A Rahane 1, Cheteshwar Pujara 82 batting, R Sharma 68 batting) vs West Indies A



BEAUTY OF CRICKET

A long shot of the action on Day One of the Tour game between India and West Indies 'A' in Coolidge, Antigua, on Saturday. Pics: Sandip G

Caribbean, a starting point

Kohli & Co. will kick-off their world Test championship campaign with a two-Test series versus Windies



EXPRESS IN WEST INDIES

SANDIP G
ST JOHN'S, AUGUST 17

A HERD of goats is grazing on the grass mounds that hug the entrance of the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium. A bunch of youngsters is wandering in the wilderness that swamps the stadium, a concrete maze in the middle of nowhere. The gates are firmly locked. Through the grills of the gate, though, you could see the recent swish of the paint-brush and the mega-roller. Evidence that the stadium will, in a week's time, transform into a buzz of cricketing blaze when the World Test Championship featuring the West Indies and India reels off.

The intimation of such a marquee event though is confined to a couple of rectangular maroon-painted boards that hang from the grills of gates on the northern and southern entrances: "Welcome to the World Test Championship match. Tickets are priced at 25 EC\$ and 50 EC\$."

The first sentence has little resonance with the public, while the second is subject to much derision, as the local newspaper *Antigua Observer* notes: "The tickets, that too for a Test match, are way too expensive. Even if it were a Caribbean Premier League it wouldn't have been sold off. And then to expect crowds is unreasonable."

The words reflect the increasing disconnect and discontent of the island with the game, so much so that some of the islanders have even misconstrued that the inclusion of off-spinning all-rounder Rakheem Cornwall, the local boy, is solely attempted to woo local crowd to the stadium.

Just as they think Alzarri Joseph, when he's injury-free, features in every single international match in the island. And unlike most other islands, they can't hide in the CPL venter, as the Antigua-based Hawksbills were disbanded in 2015. That they hardly get cricketing action at a consistent clip should have been an all the more compelling a reason to flock the stadium, but the tide to cricket that has gone from empathy to detachment. And hence, there's hardly any whir, least of all anticipation.

Not that these variables would disenchant Virat Kohli and Co, who begin the preparations for the two-match Test series, with a three-day fixture against the West Indies Board President's XI at the Coolidge Ground, the venue famously nurtured by the controversial billionaire Allan Sanford, then neglected after his detainment, before the WICB restored it back into a playable surface.



A promotional poster for the India versus West Indies Test series. Ticket prices are as high as 55 Caribbean dollars, about 1500 rupees, which could be a dampener.

WHY THE SERIES MATTERS

■ The two Test series between India and West Indies is the start of the World Test Championships for the two sides.

■ The nine top-ranked Test teams will each play six series — three at home and three away — during the two-year championship cycle.

■ As every series (between 2 Tests and 5 Tests) will be worth a total of 120 points, a Test win for a side in the India vs West Indies series will be worth 60 points.

SCHEDULE

FIRST TEST Aug 22 to Aug 26; at North Sound

SECOND TEST Aug 30 to Sept 3; at Kingston

After the maddening whirl the World Cup was, the peace of the island, sometimes stillingly so, should be a perfect getaway, as much as relieving as it is rejuvenating.

The glare from back home and the World Test Championship at large though, would be persistent, if not omniscient. One of the objectives of the championship is to contextualise the often un-contextual bilateral series, like the recent exchanges between these two nations, which to put it mildly, has merely helped in filling calendar spaces. The contests have been predictably patterned-reflecting the times both sides are treading, India tracing the upward curve and West Indies flickering sporadically but largely plummeting. Heck, West Indies haven't beaten India since Jamaica in 2001.

So much so that, if this series weren't part

of the ambitious Test-Championship, it would be hard to imagine India not resting some of their regulars and taking this opportunity to blood in fresh faces and mould the reinforcements squad. Such fixtures could have eventually dwindled, once the game's commerce and economics took precedence. And in the past the opportunity has been utilised to audition new players-in fact, Virat Kohli made his Test debut in the tour of 2011, when a host of senior batsmen refrained from the series.

It still is the theme in limited-over games, but it could be less so in the five-day games of the future. As a consequence, flawed and lengthy though the design might be, it has woven a narrative thread and intrigue, artificial but attractive. It has infused a sense of order and purpose to every game (and numbers and names to Test-match whites, much to the conventionalists' scoffing).

Now, every Test match becomes important and there are more numbers to crunch, because there are points involved. To the effect that the dead-rubber concept could be flushed out of cricket's lexicon, and it automatically means that a team will be forced to play its best eleven for any given match, even if it's the fifth match of a dead-rubber.

For example, Kohli would think twice before resting his gun-bowler Jasprit Bumrah, even if he might want to keep him fresh for a more important series or tournament. Or maybe himself. For winking at him is not just a Test-series win, but 120 points that are up for grabs (one Test win brings 60 points). It could see India draw level with Australians, provided they clean-sweep England, but having played three games fewer.

He could still give him a breather-India's bowling is pedigreed enough to still pose threat-but at the back of the mind, the grand prize will be glistening at the horizon. So a bit of conservatism at the beginning can't be blamed.

Now that he will have to wait for another four years for a tilt at the 50-over World Cup,

claiming the Test championship would be his defining legacy. Even before the installation of the Championship, Kohli had reiterated his desire and ambition to carve and helm a world-beating Test side, his motivation to be ranked not just as one of India's finest skipper but as one of the best in the world. With the Waugh and Pontings. Hence, the agony he felt after losing a close series in South Africa, the dismay at conceding a nervous one in England and the euphoria that seized him after he led India to their maiden series win in Australia. "It could hopefully be the start to a great era of Indian Test cricket," he had said after claiming the series.

His side definitely has the bowling ammo to be one-history teaches that it's the first and biggest tick in achieving world domination. Lloyd's West Indies had it. So had Waugh's Invincibles and Pontings' mavericks. While India's bowlers have yet to breath from that rarified air, they have, since the addition of Bumrah, evolved into a multi-skilled, all-weather bowling firm.

The versatility of the ever-evolving Bumrah, the seam and smarts of Mohammad Shami, the swing and guiles of Bhuvneshwar Kumar, the gung-ho and deriding-do of Ishant Sharma, the deception of their twirly-men Ravindra Jadeja and Ravichandran Ashwin. Not to discount their depth, the likes of Kuldeep Yadav, Navdeep Saini and Yuzvendra Chahal.

The quality of batsmen, indispensable as they are, is mostly a corollary. A valid case in point is India's own fab-four era, when they had a high-class batting unit, who, despite their valour and skills, couldn't taste as many Test wins as they would have liked, or their stature merited. Contrastingly, the batting line-up of Kohli's team is still a work in progress. There obviously is the skipper and Cheteshwar Pujara, both a cut above the rest. There is the precious other all-round commodity in Hardik Pandya. But there are other headaches, not throbbing but lingering.

KL Rahul's touch is a worry. His partner Mayank Agarwal has played only a handful of games. Ajinkya Rahane has waned, his last hundred coming exactly two years ago. Rohit Sharma, despite the intermittent breaks, hasn't quite exploded into this format. Sorting out the mess could be one of India's largest takeaways from the series.

Sharma and Rahane reasserting themselves — there's no better opportunity — and no more a romantic feature than Pujara, Kohli, Rahane and Sharma donning the middle-order, as was anointed at the nascence of their career.

Such a settled and classily top-order would be the fuel for Kohli's world-conquest endeavours.

The journey would begin when the cast-iron locks of the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium are unlocked.

Want to leave with team in a happier place: Shastri

PRESS TRUST OF INDA
COOLIDGE (ANTIGUA), AUGUST 17

THE REAPPOINTED Ravi Shastri says his primary endeavour will be facilitating a smooth transition by the time he leaves the scene.

There will also be room for experimentation, he said, as the team looks to leave a lasting legacy. Shastri, 57, was on Friday reappointed for a second term. As per BCCI's constitution, the national team's head coach has to be below 60 years, the age Shastri will be approaching by the time his current tenure ends. The 2023 World Cup still a long way and winning 2021 World T20 is the realistic goal for the team.

"Next two years is to see that smooth transition happens because you will get a lot of youngsters coming, especially into the white ball setup. There will be youngsters coming into the Test match setup as well," Shastri told BCCI tv.

"You will need to identify another three-four bowlers to add to the pool, those are the challenges. So that the team, at the end of our tenure, in 26 months, my endeavour would be to leave the team in a happier place. So that they can leave a legacy for the time to come," the former India all-rounder said.

He wants the team to leave the kind of

I had the belief that this team could leave a legacy very few teams have left behind in years to come, not just for the moment they are playing but at the end of it all... the kind of legacy other teams going down decades will want to try and emulate."



legacy that future generations would find it difficult look to emulate.

"I had the belief that this team could leave a legacy very few teams have left behind in years to come, not just for the moment they are playing but at the end of it all... the kind of legacy other teams going down decades will want to try and emulate. That is the desire, we are on track. There is always room for improvement. And with youth coming in through the ranks, I think it's very exciting time. When you strive for excellence and you strive to raise the bar day in, day out, then you got to pay attention to that detail."

Chasing 268, Lankans steady at 133 for 0

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
GALLE, AUGUST 17

SRI LANKA'S batters set the stage Saturday for a thrilling final day, reaching 133 without loss at stumps on day four as they chased 268 to beat New Zealand in the first Test in Galle.

Openers Dimuth Karunaratne and Lahiru Thirimanne were involved in a record opening stand of 133 runs and benefited from some sloppy fielding by the tourists.

It leaves Sri Lanka needing a further 135 runs to record their first win in the World Test Championship. Karunaratne was unbeaten on 71 off 168 balls with two boundaries while Thirimanne was on 57 having faced 132 deliveries and hit four fours. They were in no mood to withdraw to the dressing room but bad light ended play 34 minutes before schedule. Batting fourth in Galle is not the prettiest thing for batsmen and the highest successful run chase here is 99. But this track held together and there weren't any demons for batsmen making life difficult.

Both openers were slow off the blocks with the first boundary coming in the 22nd over. Karunaratne was the first to reach half-



Dimuth Karunaratne (in pic) was dropped twice on way to 71. AP

century with a cut shot off William Somerville. It was the Sri Lankan skipper's 23rd Test fifty. Thirimanne reached his sixth half-century with a flick for four off Ajaz Patel. After a series of low scores, he was under pressure to post a decent figure and the half-century will have saved his place for the next Test in Colombo.

A bat pad chance off Thirimanne when he was on 29 fell just short of short leg fielder Tom Latham. But the luckier of the two openers was Karunaratne, who was put down twice. Latham spilled a chance at short leg when he was on 58 off the bowling of Patel and in the very next over BJ Watling missed a stumping chance off Somerville.

The duo went onto establish the highest partnership by a Sri Lankan opening pair in the fourth innings. The previous best was 110 by Roshan Mahanama and Chandika Hathurusingha against Australia at R. Premadasa Stadium in 1992.

It is also the highest partnership by a Sri Lankan pair for the first wicket against New Zealand. Mahanama and Hathurusingha had posted 102 in 1992 at SSC against the late Martin Crowe's side. Earlier, resuming from the overnight score of 195 for seven, New Zealand posted 285 with Watling top scoring with 77 runs. He was well supported by the tail with William Somerville hitting his highest score in first class cricket — 40 not out.

BRIEF SCORES: Stumps Day 4 Sri Lanka 133 for 0 (Karunaratne 71*, Thirimanne 52*) and 267 need 135 more runs to beat New Zealand 249 and 285 (Watling 77, Embuldeniya 4-99)

Smith gets hit on neck, rises again

ED OSMOND
LONDON, AUGUST 17

AUSTRALIA'S STEVE Smith was out for 92 after resuming his innings having been forced to retire hurt when he was struck by a short ball from England fast bowler Jofra Archer on the fourth day of the second Ashes Test at Lord's on Saturday.

Smith was on 80 when he was hit on the neck by Test debutant Archer, who bowled a hostile spell from the Pavilion End during which his deliveries reached speeds of well over 90 miles per hour.

Smith, who made 144 and 142 in Australia's emphatic victory in the first test, had defied the England attack again as the touring side replied to the hosts' first-innings total of 258.

He was given a standing ovation by the crowd at the home of cricket as he walked off the ground before returning to the crease about 40 minutes later following the dismissal of Peter Siddle.

Smith, who was also struck on the arm by an Archer delivery, showed he was suffer-



Steve Smith was hit on the arm and then the neck but fought hard to make 92 valuable runs. Reuters

ing no serious ill-effects by hitting Chris Woakes for successive boundaries, but he misjudged a straight ball from the same bowler and was adjudged lbw.

He reviewed the decision but walked towards the pavilion as the replays were being studied by the video official who confirmed that the ball would have hit the stumps.

Smith did not come out to field at the start of England's second innings. Cricket Australia said he had suffered a bruised left forearm and had gone for a precautionary X-ray. It was the seventh Ashes innings in a row that Smith has passed fifty, a record in Test matches between England and Australia. The former Australia skipper was stripped of the captaincy and served a 12-month ban for his role in a ball-tampering scandal during the test series in South Africa last year.

England were 96 for 4 in their second innings after Peter Siddle and Patt Cummins picked up two wickets each. **BRIEF SCORES:** England 258 and 96 for 4 in 32.2 ovs (R Burns 29, J Denly 26; P Cummins 2/16, P Siddle 2/19) vs Australia 250 (Steve Smith 92, U Khawaja 36; S Broad 4/65)

Anatomy of a (broken) champion

Last September, Naomi Osaka became the toast of the town with her memorable first Grand Slam win at the US Open. A year plagued with injuries and withdrawals since — latest in Saturday's Cincinnati Open quarterfinal — means the title defence might be over before it begins.

LOWER BACK OCTOBER 2018

Osaka required treatment to her lower back during a semi-final defeat to Anastasija Sevastova at the China Open. The 21-year-old suggested it was more a case of fatigue and pulled out of the Hong Kong Open week later.

"I have been playing through pain in my back this whole week... the doctors have advised me that I need to rest to ensure the injury is not further aggravated and become more serious."

BACK FEBRUARY 2019

During the second round win at Australian Open, Osaka called for the trainer and took medication. She ended up winning her second straight Major but pulled out of the Qatar Open a week later because of a back injury.

"I was able to finish and win the match, so it's not that big of a deal. It's something that I have to keep an eye on. I'm not telling you, though."

RIGHT HAND MAY 2019

The world No. 1 pulled out of the Rome Open quarter-finals because of a "pain in her right hand". Osaka played twice the day before.

"I didn't feel anything yesterday. That's why I'm confused right now because I literally woke up in the morning and couldn't move my thumb."

The US Open alarm bells were ringing for Naomi Osaka less than two weeks before the start of her title defense at Flushing Meadows after a left knee injury saw her retire

against Sofia Kenin — sending the American into the semis with a 6-4, 1-6, 2-0 victory.

Osaka had won the second set when she first

complained of apparent knee pain and after one game of the third set called for the physio. With the knee heavily taped Osaka played one more game before packing it in.

After winning the Australian Open, Osaka had struggled for several months, but she appeared to be rediscovering her form in recent weeks. AGENCIES

I don't know what's going on with my leg right now. It sucks, especially since I didn't want to get injured this close to the US Open... The thing is, my pain tolerance is really high, so that's usually why I play through things that apparently I shouldn't. This might have that one per cent chance of me not being able to play, and that's what's concerning me. In the end, I'm going to play even if the doctor says no, probably

NAOMI OSAKA, ON HER INJURY



ABDOMEN APRIL 2019

Osaka's withdrew from the Stuttgart Open semifinal due to an abdomen injury. She said she felt pain during the quarterfinal and had to "roll out of bed" next morning.

"I couldn't lift my upper body. I don't expect that I will be able to serve... Thankfully, because I've had it so many times I am able to tell what it is and I know what to do."

LEFT KNEE AUGUST 2019

Less than two weeks before the start of her title defense at Flushing Meadows, a left knee injury saw Osaka retire against Sofia Kenin in the Cincinnati Open quarterfinals at 4-6, 6-1, 0-2.

LEFT LEG OCTOBER 2018

Osaka's breakthrough season came to a disappointing end as she quit her final group game of the WTA Finals against Kiki Bertens. Down 5-3 in the first set, she called for a medical time out for treatment on her left leg and lower back and retired.

Champs get off on wrong foot

Bilbao's 38-year-old Aduriz's overhead-kick hands Barca loss in La Liga opener

REUTERS/AFP
BILBAO, AUGUST 17

BARCELONA TURNED up for Friday's La Liga opener at Athletic Bilbao parading a fresh-faced side containing expensive new recruits but they left cursing a strike from a rival player they know all too well.

Aritz Aduriz was on the pitch for no more than a minute when he swivelled his body to meet an arching cross from Ander Capa and smashed the ball into the net with an overhead kick in the 89th minute, giving Bilbao a 1-0 win over the champions.

The 38-year-old striker famously scored a hat-trick against Barca in a thumping 4-0 win in the 2015 Spanish Super Cup and this time he upstaged the debut of Barca's new signings Antoine Griezmann and Frenkie de Jong. Barca coach Ernesto Valverde worked with Aduriz for four seasons while at Athletic and he knew exactly where the ball was heading when it came towards the towering Basque striker, who is to hang up his boots at the end of the season. "When I saw him shaping to shoot I knew exactly what would happen, it's an area of the game he utterly dominates and I wasn't surprised by the strike at all," said Valverde.

"With Aduriz on the pitch any ball crossed into the area is deadly and he scored a brilliant goal." Athletic coach Gaizka Garitano described Aduriz as "a competitive animal".

"He is the first to arrive at training and the last to leave. You might lose some sharpness with age but you never lose your hunger or your competitiveness," he added. "It was an incredible goal. Even though he is 38 he has a unique ability at striking the ball and he has won us the game. He is a player that no matter how old he is he makes the difference."

It was the 15th consecutive season in which Aduriz has scored in La Liga and his 158th strike overall. The striker savoured the moment, recognising it might be one of his last. "It's incredible when the fans cheer for you like they did today, it's impossible that I won't end up missing that but everything must come to an end," he said. "Sometimes football is so beautiful and when you least expect it a ball like that comes to your feet and goes into the net."

Aduriz's goal inflicted a first opening day defeat on Barca since they were beaten 1-0 at minnows Numancia in 2008. "We did not play like we usually do and they put us under a lot of pressure and if you're not at your very best then a team like Athletic walks all over you,"



Aritz Aduriz, 38, famously scored a hat-trick against Barca in a thumping 4-0 victory in the 2015 Spanish Super Cup. Reuters

said Barca defender Gerard Pique.

"We have just come back from pre-season, we have new people in the team and this defeat could serve us well because it's better to lose now than at the end of the season. Now we can start charging our batteries."

Suarez injured

Barcelona striker Luis Suarez suffered a right leg injury during his side's defeat at Athletic Bilbao in Friday's La Liga opener, the Spanish champions have confirmed. Suarez joins Lionel Messi on the sidelines after hobbling off in the 37th minute at San Mames, leaving Barca without their two premium strikers. Messi sustained a calf injury in training earlier this month and was not deemed ready for the match. Barcelona did not reveal how long Suarez would be out of action for, saying on Saturday he had a "right leg" injury and that his availability depended on his recovery.

The Uruguayan was replaced in the central striker's role by new signing Antoine Griezmann, but Bilbao veteran Aritz Aduriz stole the show by coming off the bench and

snatching a 1-0 win with a spectacular scissor kick.

Neymar left out

Neymar has been left out of the Paris St Germain team for the second week running, coach Thomas Tuchel said on Saturday, as speculation continues over whether or not the Brazilian will remain at the French champions. "He won't be with us," Tuchel told reporters ahead of Sunday's league match away at Rennes, adding that the forward was still not fully fit having missed last week's season opening win over Nimes.

Tuchel said Neymar's future at PSG remained undecided, but that he remained one of the club's most important players.

"If I think of a strong PSG team, I think of a team with 'Ney' in it," the German coach said. Neymar joined Qatari-owned PSG from Barcelona in 2017 in a deal valued at a record 222 million euros (\$246 million).

However, injuries have kept him out of key Champions League matches and media reports have linked him with a transfer to Barcelona or Real Madrid.

Deepa Malik for Khel Ratna, Jadeja in Arjuna list

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 17

RIO PARALYMPICS silver medallist Deepa Malik was on Saturday nominated for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, the country's highest sporting honour, joining Asian and Commonwealth Games champion wrestler Bajrang Punia.

The name of 48-year-old Deepa, who won a silver in the shot put F53 category in the 2016 Rio Paralympics, was added for the Khel Ratna by a 12-member selection committee on the second day of the two-day meeting. World No. 1 wrestler in 65kg, Punia was nominated for the prestigious award on Friday, by the panel headed by Justice (Retd) Mukundakam Sharma.

Six-time world champion and Olympic bronze medallist boxer M C Mary Kom recused herself from the meeting to avoid conflict of interest as her personal coach Chhotelal Yadav was in contention for the Dronacharya Award. She attended the selection panel meeting, which nominated Bajrang for the Khel Ratna, but skipped the whole of second day's proceedings.

Deepa became the first Indian woman to win a medal at the Paralympics when she bagged a silver in the shot put F53 category (for para-athletes who make seated throws and have full muscle power at their shoulder, elbow and wrist in the throwing arm) at 2016 Rio Paralympic Games.

She became paraplegic when a spinal tumour made walking impossible for her 17 years ago. She was previously honoured with the Arjuna Award in 2012 and Padma Shri in 2017. Last year, she shifted to javelin and discus throw and created a new Asian record in Jakarta, becoming the only Indian woman to win medals in three consecutive Asian Para Games (2010, 2014, 2018). She won a bronze each in the discus throw (F51-52-53) and javelin throw (F53-54) in the 2018 Asian Para Games.

The Khel Ratna is given for the most spectacular and outstanding performance by a sportsperson over a period of four years immediately preceding the year during which award is to be given.

The awardee is given a medal, a certificate, ceremonial dress and cash prize of Rs 7.50 lakh.

The committee also picked 19 sportspersons for the Arjuna Award, including the likes of cricketers Ravindra Jadeja and Poonam Yadav, track and field stars Tejinder Pal Singh Toor, Mohammed Anas and Swapna Barman, footballer Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, hockey player Chinglensana Singh Kangujam and shooter Anjum Moudgil.

Maisnam enters U-19 finals, makes coach-dad proud

NITIN SHARMA
CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 17

SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD top seed Maisnam Meiraba Luwang walked towards the training area after his 21-17, 21-11 win over Rohan Gurbani in the boys' U-19 singles semifinals of the 28th Smt. Krishna Khaitan Memorial All India Junior Ranking Prize Money Badminton Tournament at Tau Devi Lal Stadium. The youngster was followed by his father, 51-year-old Maisnam Romesh Luwang.

The senior Luwang is a coach with the Manipur Sports Department in Imphal and had competed at the junior and senior level in the '80s along with the likes of current national chief coach Pullela Gopichand.

His best finish at the nationals was the third-round results. But his son is faring better. Maisnam Meiraba's win on Saturday paved his way to his fifth junior ranking final this year. He won each of the previous four finals he had competed in.

"My son was three years old when he started playing badminton. He would always be fascinated by the idea of the shuttle crossing the net. Some years later, when he decided to take up the sport seriously, he would travel to the MBA Indoor Stadium in Imphal. I used to train players at the Khumanlampak Stadium. It was only when he won at the district level, that I started training him. In my playing days, I never reached beyond the third round, be it the junior nationals or senior nationals. When I completed my diploma from NIS, Patiala, I told my fellow players that my son will be a better player than me. Seeing him win four titles this year was great," the proud father said.

After training at Imphal under his father, Maisnam shifted to the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy in Bangalore six years ago. The youngster bagged his first international medal when he won the U-10 title in the Israel junior International in 2013 before becoming the National U-13 champion in sub-junior nationals at Cuttack.

After winning the title in U-15 category in the Swiss Junior Open in 2015, the youngster became the the sub-junior U-15 national champion in 2016, a feat which he repeated in the U-17 category in the junior nationals at Guwahati in 2017. Last year, Maisnam became the U-17 champion in the Khelo India Games apart from winning four titles in the All India U-19 rankings tournaments, a feat which he has matched this year also to climb to the top of U-19 national rankings.

Last year, Maisnam also won the bronze medal in the Asian Junior U-17 Badminton Championships in Myanmar where he lost to eventual champion Yong Jin of Korea. "Initially, I played the sport as a leisure activity. But with my father being the coach and seeing him train players, I wanted to win medals. He was very happy when I became the national U-13 champion in Cuttack but it also meant that he made the decision to send me to train at Bangalore.



Maisnam Meiraba Luwang with coach and father Maisnam Romesh after his semis win at the Smt. Krishna Khaitan Memorial Tournament. Jaipal Singh

The senior Luwang is a coach with the Manipur Sports Department in Imphal and had competed at the junior and senior level in the 1980s along with the likes of current national chief coach Pullela Gopichand.

But that has not stopped him from keeping a track of my mistakes too (laughs). Whatever chances I have got to compete at the international level, my aim is to win medals and last year's bronze medal in the Asian Junior Championships was a special moment for me. Competing at the U-19 ranking tournaments and winning titles means that I can now aim for the senior level and it will be my target," Maisnam said.

This year, the youngster won the U-19 singles title in the White Night Russia International Open in St Petersburg, apart from claiming a bronze medal in BTY Junior International Challenge in Thailand. Maisnam also competed in the Asian Junior U-19 Championships in China, where he lost to the eventual winner Kunlavut Vitdsarn of Thailand in the second round.

"His strength has been his fitness and the ability to retrieve the shuttle from tough situations. When he is playing well, it also shows in his defense and that's the key for him to perform consistently. In the Asian Junior Championships, he scored wins over top seeded Korean and Chinese players in the team event and it shows that he is among one of the best juniors in the world at this moment. He needs to improve on his finishing strokes and net game to have a smooth transitions from junior to senior level and he will improve with more exposure," shares coach Sagar Chopda of Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy.

EXPLAINED
by The Indian EXPRESS

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?

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Viceroy, The Claridges
Delhi

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