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KHAN SPEAKS WITH TRUMP: PAK FOREIGN MINISTER Trump dials PM who calls out Imran: His anti-India talk doesn't help peace

Call as Afghan talks enter key phase, Pak Army chief gets 3-year extension

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19

IN THE first phone conversation between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump since the special status of Jammu and Kashmir was revoked two weeks ago, Modi told Trump that "extreme rhetoric and incitement to anti-India violence" by certain leaders in the region was "not conducive to peace". This was clearly aimed at Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan who has ratcheted up the rhetoric against India in the last two weeks.

Hours later, Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi told reporters in Islamabad that Khan, too, had spoken to Trump.

Over the last fortnight, Khan threatened to "teach Delhi a lesson", told Pakistan's parliament that "incidents like Pulwama are bound to happen again".

"What will happen then?"



His call with Trump Monday lasted 30 minutes. File

GOVT & POLITICS

MODI IN FRANCE: MARITIME SATELLITES IN INDO-PACIFIC IS KEY AGENDA PAGE 8

They will attack us and we will respond and the war can go both ways... But if we fight a war till we shed the last drop of our blood, who will win that war? No one will win it and it will have grievous consequences for the entire world. This is not nuclear blackmail," he had said. In a series of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



An empty school in Srinagar Monday. 11 of 13 schools in Civil Lines were locked. Shuaib Masoodi

Schools in shuttered Valley re-open but parents fearful, kids stay away

ADIL AKHZER & NAVEED IQBAL
SRINAGAR, AUGUST 19

AS PRIMARY schools re-opened in the Valley for the first time in over a fortnight since Jammu and Kashmir was placed under an unprecedented security blan-

ket, teachers reported to work across Kashmir as restrictions were eased Monday, but classrooms were empty with most students staying away.

And with the security lockdown continuing in most parts of the Valley, parents expressed concerns about the safety of

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GOVT & POLITICS

DMK PLANS OPP PROTEST TO DEMAND RELEASE OF J&K LEADERS MORE REPORTS, PAGE 7

Barely 10 days to deadline, Assam CM keeps the door open for law on NRC count

DEEPTIMANTI WARY
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19

ASSAM CHIEF Minister Sarbananda Sonowal indicated Monday that while the final National Register of Citizens (NRC) would be published on August 31, as mandated by the Supreme Court, the government could later enact a legislation on the enumeration process — if questions are raised over it.

Asked about the possibility of such a move, after the Supreme Court rejected a joint plea by the Centre and state for extending the NRC deadline to enable a



Sonowal with Home Minister Amit Shah Monday. Renuka Puri

sample reverification, Sonowal said: "After the NRC final list is published on August 31, you know that under our democracy

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED

Post-NRC plan

THE COMMENT is an indication of how the state aims to deal with the NRC aftermath. It is yet to devise a plan for those who could be rendered stateless. There are also fears in the BJP-led establishment that many Hindus could be among those excluded.

Charges are serious, says Supreme Court, asks Tejpal to face rape trial

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, PANJIM, AUGUST 19

THE SUPREME Court Monday rejected former Tehelka magazine editor Tarun Tejpal's plea to quash the charges against him in

a case of rape, assault and sexual harassment of an ex-colleague and asked him to face trial.

A bench of Justices Arun Mishra, M R Shah and B R Gavai directed the trial court in Goa, where the case is pending, to complete proceedings in six months. The court said that "the

charges are serious" and that "there is already delay in the trial." The bench said that the case related to an offence which was "morally abhorrent" in nature. Tejpal had initially moved the Bombay High Court which declined to interfere in the matter.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Tale of 2 NHPC projects: Bhutan on, India off

ANIL SASI
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19

AS PRIME Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Mangdechhu hydroelectric power plant in Bhutan Saturday, on this side of the border, there was a sense of irony.

In 2010, the year in which the 720 MW Mangdechhu Project was appraised, the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for a project of similar size was wrapped up on the Indian side of the border — the 520 MW Teesta IV project in Sikkim. But despite starting off the blocks together exactly nine years ago, while

Mangdechhu's first unit has now come on stream, Teesta IV still remains on the drawing board.

This is despite Teesta IV being developed by a state-owned utility in India even as Mangdechhu, one of the major projects under Bhutan's initiative to generate 10,000 MW hydropower by 2020 with India's

support, is being developed almost entirely by Indian utilities in a foreign country.

NHPC LTD, the state-owned company executing the project, currently brackets the Teesta IV project in the "awaiting clearances" category. Incidentally, NHPC was the design and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Five Ministers are special guests at first Express Governance Awards

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19

TO CELEBRATE a wide range of what excellence in governance means, five Union ministers will present the inaugural The Indian Express Excellence in Governance Awards Wednesday in New Delhi to district magistrates for outstanding work in 16 categories.

From Agriculture to Education and Technology and from Health to Women Development and Inclusive Innovation, the biennial awards celebrate the finest work done by the women and men at the forefront of governance, who script change that touches countless lives.

Five Union ministers are special guests at the awards: Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways; and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; Ram Vilas Paswan,

Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union Minister of Law and Justice; Communications;

Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union Minister of Law and Justice; Communications;

Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union Minister of Law and Justice; Communications;

Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union Minister of Law and Justice; Communications;

Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union Minister of Law and Justice; Communications;

Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union Minister of Law and Justice; Communications;



Clockwise from left: Singh, Gadkari, Paswan, Prasad, Goyal

Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union Minister of Law and Justice; Communications;

Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union Minister of Law and Justice; Communications;



'He created songs and melodies like a craftsman carves wood and stone'

PAGE 1
ANCHOR

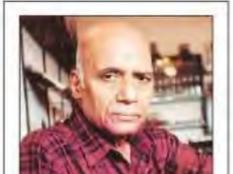
SUANSHU KHURANA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19

Kabhi kabhi mere dil mein khayala aata hai
Ki jaise tujhko banaya gaya hai mere liye
Tu ab se pehle sitaaron mein bas rahi thi kahin
Tujhe zameen pe bulaya gaya hai

mere liye
Kabhi kabhi mere dil mein khayal aata hai...

IF POET and lyricist Sahir Ludhianvi managed to weave the pangs of separation and intensity into these words, the kaafiya (rhyme) needed a Khayyam and his magic melody to be immortalised.

The raga was the heptatonic night beauty, Yaman, and the poet and the composer seemed to have poured their hearts into



MOHAMMED ZAHUR "KHAYYAM" HASHMI
1927-2019

It wasn't just another piece of poetry, which is why it was difficult to set it along the seven notes. In crafting this piece for Yash Chopra's *Kabhi Kabhie* (1976), the two found each other to create what's nothing short of sublime.

Mohammed Zahur Hashmi, or Khayyam, the composer who took us through that journey and many others, died Monday due to septicemia and lung infection in Mumbai. He was 92.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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EXPRESS TECHNOLOGY iPhone XR is now half of Apple's numbers in India



HOW BAUHAUS DESIGN SCHOOL INFLUENCED ART, ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN ACROSS THE WORLD

Bauhaus, a German art school founded by German architect Walter Gropius after World War I, is now a hundred years old. The Bauhaus school influenced and changed what is now known as modern design and its influence was not only limited to art, furniture and design in Germany

VIDEO OF THE DAY



MOST IIT DROPOUTS FROM RESERVED CATEGORY Nearly 48% students dropping out of IITs are from reserved category

FULL COVERAGE



KASHMIRI LEADERS DETAINED DMK to protest at Jantar Mantar, invites other parties to join

EXPRESS AUDIO

What is causing the economic slowdown in India?

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

Examining key signs that indicate a consumption slowdown, what factors contribute to this slowdown and what reforms are needed to energise the economy

FROM PAGE ONE

Schools in Valley

Their children. Despite the poor attendance, the administration has also decided to re-open the Valley's middle schools starting Wednesday.

Communications and movement restrictions were announced across the state on August 4, a day before the Centre revoked the state's special status under Article 370 of the Constitution and bifurcated J&K into two Union Territories.

On Monday, The Indian Express visited 13 schools in Srinagar - all in the city's relatively peaceful Civil Lines area. Of these, 11 schools were locked while security guards at the two remaining schools said neither students nor the staff had arrived.

At uptown Rajbagh, the gates of Presentation Convent, the elite missionary school for girls, were open but security guards said no school buses were pressed into service as communication with drivers and parents was not possible. "A few teachers have come today," said a security guard, adding, "But not a single student turned up."

Aijaz Ahmad lives less than 50 meters from the school but he decided against sending his daughters. "I live next to this school. But I will not send my kids to school. The situation is tense. Will the Srinagar Deputy Commissioner ensure safety of my kids? No. The daughters of who's who in the government study in this school but see, none of them have sent their children today," he said.

While the gates of Presentation Convent were open, the Burn Hall School at the high security zone of Sonwar, Woodland School at Gupkar and St. Paul's International School in Sonwar - that also has primary classes - remained shut.

"We have more than 25 school buses but we didn't send any of them out today. We couldn't reach out to the drivers," said a Burn Hall School employee. "No student has come here today." The road leading to the main gate of the school has been barricaded with spoils of concertina wire.

In the morning, Lal Chowk in Srinagar was closed for civilian movement and barely 100 meters from the iconic clock tower, the Tyndale Biscoe and Mallinson Girls School were closed. A watchman at the school didn't even open the gate. "The school is shut," he said, peering through a peephole.

At the Government Girls High School Chatabal at Karan Nagar, a few teachers turned up in the morning. "They (teachers) waited

for some time but no student came here... When students didn't come, the teachers also left for home," said a security guard.

According to parents, the government's decision to open schools was just optics. "Do you think any parents will risk the lives of their children?" said one parent outside the school at Chatabal. "The government's decision to open the school is just to show normalcy in the Valley. Why would we put the lives of our children on the line to satisfy the government?"

The Delhi Public School at Athwajan, the first school to open after the militant Burhan Wani was killed in 2016, was also closed.

Inside the Badami Bagh military cantonment, the Kendriya Vidyalaya, located at Shivpora, was the only exception but few students turned up even here. An official at the school said that less than 100 students out of a 1,000 attended school Monday.

Director School Education Mohammad Younis Malik said during a J&K administration briefing that out of the 196 primary schools that the government had decided to re-open Monday, "30 per cent to 50 per cent attendance of staff was recorded while attendance of students remained thin."

Malik admitted to poor attendance in schools across the Valley with at least two areas - Shopian and DH Pora - recording zero attendance in its primary schools. "Primary schools in Budgam saw an attendance of between 4 to 11 students. There was nil attendance at Shopian and no attendance at DH Pora (Kulgam)," he said.

Director Information Dr Sehrish Asgar said at the briefing that 98 per cent of employees at the Civil Secretariat in Srinagar were present. "Attendance figures in all the government office is picking up rapidly," she said.

According to DIG Central Kashmir Range VK Virdi, "no major" incidents were reported from the Valley barring "some minor incidents at Nigeen and Safakadal areas of Srinagar city".

Meanwhile, in Jammu, most educational institutions in five sensitive border districts reopened, too, after a fortnight with "full attendance" as authorities lifted curbs in large parts of the region, officials said. Educational institutions reopened in the border districts of Rajouri and Poonch and Chenab Valley districts of Ramban, Doda and parts of Kishtwar, reported PTI, quoting officials.

NRC count

we have that right. You can also

Trump dials PM who calls out Imran

tweets on Sunday, he called the Indian government "fascist", "racist", following "Nazi ideology" and accused it of "ethnic cleansing & genocide ideology". Significantly, the phone call came as US-Taliban peace talks enter a crucial phase.

And on the day Pak Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa's term was extended for "another three years" in view of the "regional security environment", according to an announcement by Islamabad Monday. Bajwa was due to retire in November this year.

Sources told The Indian Express that it was Trump who "initiated" the phone call on Monday and they described the conversation as a "good exchange" between the two leaders.

After the conversation, the PMO statement said: "In the context of the regional situation, the Prime Minister stated that extreme rhetoric and incitement to anti-India violence by certain leaders in the region was not conducive to peace. He highlighted the importance of creating an environment free from terror and violence and eschewing cross-border terrorism without exception."

The statement said the Prime Minister reiterated "India's commitment to cooperate with anyone who followed this path, in fighting poverty, illiteracy and disease."

A White House statement on Monday night said: "Today, President Donald J. Trump

spoke with Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India to discuss regional developments and the United States-India strategic partnership." It added: "The President conveyed the importance of reducing tensions between India and Pakistan and maintaining peace in the region. The two leaders further discussed how they will continue to strengthen United States-India economic ties through increased trade, and they look forward to meeting again soon."

The White House statement did not mention anything about a bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan which is different from the readout of the Trump-Khan phone call on Friday where the US President had conveyed to Khan about the importance of India and Pakistan "reducing tensions through bilateral dialogue" regarding the situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

By underlining the importance of a "terror-free" atmosphere, the Prime Minister has made it clear to the US President about the pre-condition for any bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan. Last week, India's envoy to the UN Syed Akbaruddin had said, after the UNSC consultations on Jammu and Kashmir, "Stop terror to start talks".

A statement from the Prime Minister's Office said that the conversation between the two leaders took place for 30 minutes. To put this in perspective, the bilateral meeting between

Modi and Trump in Osaka in June on the sidelines of the G-20 summit lasted for about 35 to 40 minutes.

This was also the first call since Trump had suggested last month that Modi had asked for mediation on Kashmir, a claim denied by Delhi. Trump has back-pedalled on the issue since then.

The PMO statement said that the call covered bilateral and regional matters and was marked by "warmth and cordiality" which characterises relations between the two leaders.

Interestingly, the Prime Minister recalled their meeting in Osaka on the margins of G-20 summit in end-June earlier this year.

Referring to this, Modi expressed the hope that the Commerce Minister of India and the US Trade Representative would meet at an early date to discuss bilateral trade prospects for mutual benefit, the PMO statement said. In Osaka, the two leaders had discussed the issue of trade in detail, and they had agreed that officials and ministers will meet and resolve the issues.

According to sources, the Indian side feels that the issues can be resolved between the two countries with a meeting between the two sides.

During the phone conversation, recalling that today marked 100 years of the Independence of Afghanistan, the Prime Minister reiterated India's long-

standing and unwavering commitment to work for a united, secure, democratic and truly independent Afghanistan, the PMO statement said.

It added that the Prime Minister appreciated remaining in regular touch with President Trump. The two leaders are scheduled to participate in the G-7 in Biarritz, France on August 25-26.

Meanwhile, in Pakistan, Bajwa, 58, who was appointed as the Chief of Army Staff by former prime minister Nawaz Sharif in November 2016, was "given another term of three years from the date of completion of current tenure," read the brief notification issued by the Pakistan PM's Office.

"The decision has been taken in view of the regional security environment," the notification said apparently referring to the fresh tension in India-Pakistan relations and the ongoing Afghan peace talks between the US and the Taliban militants, facilitated by Islamabad.

Commenting on the extension given to the Army chief, Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said that it was essential due to the regional situation. Bajwa has served as corps commander of Rawalpindi.

On August 14, in his Independence Day message to the nation, Bajwa said: "Reality of Kashmir was neither changed by an illegal piece of paper in 1947 nor will any other do it now or in future."

raise a question. If it is necessary to take a step in that direction, we will discuss it."

Sonowal was speaking to reporters in Delhi after a meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah during which the two are learnt to have discussed measures to handle the law-and-order situation in Assam after the publication of the NRC.

"You are aware that the Supreme Court has fixed a deadline for publication of the final NRC on August 31. When the draft NRC was published earlier, a lot of questions were raised. But people of Assam maintained peace. We are certain that when the final NRC is published, people will again maintain calm. The Home Minister has assured full support. All our requirement for (security) forces would be fulfilled, we have been told," Sonowal said.

On July 16, the Centre and the Assam government had moved the Supreme Court seeking a sample reverification of 20 per cent of names included in the final draft in districts bordering Bangladesh. They had also sought an extension of the July 31 deadline set by the court for the final NRC.

Raising doubts over the enumeration, an affidavit of the Home Ministry had indicated that genuine citizens may have been excluded and foreigners included in the list. It also raised the possibility of a law-and-order situation in the state.

The Supreme Court, however, did not grant the plea for reverification but extended the deadline to August 31. On August 1, the Assam government released partial data from the draft final NRC in the state Assembly, and claimed that the inclusion rate is higher in districts bordering Bangladesh, and lower in those with a predominant indigenous population.

Responding to a Zero Hour notice in the Assembly, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary said in a written statement: "According to data, 12.15% applicants' names were excluded from the final draft. In districts close to the Bangladesh border, like South Salmara, 7.22% applicants were excluded from the draft NRC. This

figure in Dhubri is 8.26% and in Karimganj 7.67%. But districts where indigenous people live, like Karbi Anglong, the figure is 14.31% and in upper Assam's Tinsukia, where sons of the soil have been living for ages, this figure is 13.25%."

According to Census 2011, the percentage of Muslim population in Dhubri was 79.67%, and in Karimganj 56.36% - South Salmara was carved out of Dhubri in 2016.

The state government went on to claim that the reports "suggested wrongful inclusions and exclusions in the NRC". This was the reason the state demanded a 20% reverification in districts closer to the Bangladesh border and 10% reverification in others, it said.

On August 13, however, the Supreme Court refused to be drawn into this debate and stressed that it wants the final NRC out on schedule "irrespective of who likes it or who doesn't". Currently, over 41 lakh people have been excluded from the complete draft of the NRC.

Tejpal

He then approached the Supreme Court claiming that he had been framed and sought to rely on CCTV footage of the hotel where the alleged incident took place as well as messages exchanged with the woman to argue his case.

On August 6, when the court reserved its order on Tejpal's plea, his counsel urged the court to look at the CCTV footage from the hotel lobby, showing the woman emerging from the lift in which she was allegedly assaulted.

Senior Advocate Vikas Singh who appeared for him contended that "her conduct does not support her statement that says she ran out of the lift. The footage shows no such attempt. Anybody can make allegations of this nature and get away."

But the argument did not cut ice with the court which said "this is not the stage to consider all this." Singh argued that the charges were "tailor-made"

against the former editor.

The woman had accused Tejpal of sexually assaulting her inside a lift at a five-star hotel in Goa during an event in 2013. Tejpal is currently on bail in the case and has denied the allegations.

He was arrested on November 30, 2013, by the crime branch after his anticipatory bail plea was rejected by the court.

The Goa Police claimed there was ample material in the form of "contemporaneous" WhatsApp messages and e-mails which showed that the Tehelka magazine founder should face trial.

The trial court framed charges against Tejpal under various sections of the Indian Penal Code: Sections 341 (wrongful restraint); 342 (wrongful confinement); 354 (assault or criminal force with intent to outrage modesty); 354A (sexual harassment); 354B (assault or use of criminal force to woman with intent to disrobe); 376 (2)(f) (person in position of authority over women, committing rape) and 376(2)(k) (rape by person in position of control).

Of the 155 witnesses cited in the chargesheet, only the victim has been examined until date with the next trial date expected to allow for cross examination. North Goa district Magistrate Vijaya Pol fixed September 23 as the date where the prosecution has to report on the Supreme Court verdict. The date of the trial's resumption will be decided subsequently.

2 NHPC projects

engineering consultant for the Mangdechhu hydropower project while Jaiprakash Associates was contracted for the construction of the dam, diversion tunnels, underground powerhouse, shafts and the intake structures and another state-owned company, Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd, supplied the four 180 MW turbines for the project in Bhutan.

The reason for Teesta IV not taking off is attributed to NHPC not managing to get the requisite clearances in time and the FRA (clearance under Forest Rights

Act) not getting done.

Such is the frustration with the lack of progress that a senior company official, while deposing before a parliamentary panel late last year, contrasted the state of progress of both projects.

Delays in projects such as Teesta IV also bring into focus the role of state governments in committing to expediting clearances. In the case of Teesta IV, NHPC has not been able to hold FRA meetings "on one pretext or the other," an official indicated. "With great difficulty," now the utility has come up to the level that in all the gram panchayat units, meetings have been held.

Of the 10 GPUs, it is only in two GPUs where 50 per cent of the people have said they do not want the project whereas in an overwhelming eight GPUs, almost 100 per cent people have said that this project must come up, officials indicated. Despite that, the project is hanging fire.

The fate of Teesta IV is not an isolated one.

Up to the mid-1960s, the share of hydropower as a proportion of India's overall installed electricity generation capacity was 46 per cent which meant that nearly one in two units powering the country's electricity grid was a hydro unit. Half a century later, despite the advancement in civil engineering technology and the increasing pressure on governments to reduce the country's carbon footprint by harnessing clean energy sources, hydropower's share has plummeted to under 15 per cent, a record low.

The continuing slide comes despite the NDA government's stated resolve to increase the share of renewables in the country's overall energy mix, something that is focused overwhelmingly on solar and, to some extent, wind power.

A scaling up of the share of the hydel sector in the country's overall energy mix is seen as an important pre-requisite in counterbalancing the massive deployment of other renewable capacity. A higher hydel generation in the energy mix makes it easier for grid managers to adjust to the vagaries of solar and wind generation on a daily basis. According to government data updated till April 2018, there are at least 19 hydro power projects in India that are facing time over-runs of five or more years.

The Rs 4,500-crore hydroelectric plant in central Bhutan, presented as a Bhutan-India friendship project, is a run-of-river power plant built on the Mangdechhu River in Trongsa Dzongkhag district of the Himalayan nation. It was developed by the Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project Authority, jointly constituted by the Indian and the Bhutanese governments. Construction of the hydropower project began in June 2012 and the first of the four units of the power plant was commissioned in June 2019.

India and Bhutan signed a protocol in April 2019, formalising the tariff at Rs 2.4 per unit (kWh) for a period of 35 years. The tariff will be increased by 10 per cent every five years until the loan is repaid and 5 per cent thereafter.

Express Awards

and Electronics and Information Technology; Piyush Goyal, Union Minister for Railways and Commerce and Industry; and Dr Jitendra Singh, Ministry of State (Independent charge), Development of North Eastern Region, Minister of State in the PMO; Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; and Departments of Atomic Energy and Space.

As many as 249 entries were received from 84 districts in 24 states for the awards. The winning entries include projects like an anti-corruption drive along the international border, a district hospital which now boasts of new

operation theatres and an initiative to bring farmers together and enable them to get aid from banks and benefits of the under government schemes.

An eminent jury headed by former Chief Justice of India R M Lodha and comprising Wajahat Habibullah, former chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities and the first Chief Information Commissioner of India, Nirupama Rao, India's Foreign Secretary from 2009 to 2011 who was also India's Ambassador to the United States, China and the High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, and K M Chandrasekhar, former Cabinet Secretary, chose the winners from among entries that came in from across the country.

The entries were submitted by district magistrates and the detailed reports of the project and its implementation were screened by the jury. KPMG, the knowledge partner for the awards, conducted an exhaustive check on the parameters of innovation, impact, implementation and people participation for all the entries.

The shortlist was then verified by reporters and editors of The Indian Express by field visits and an audit after which the jury chose the winners.

Hashmi

Khayyam was admitted to hospital on July 28 with pneumonia and suffered multi-organ failure. The composer is survived by his wife and playback singer Jagjit Kaur.

"He created songs like a craftsman carves his wood and stone. The immaculate knowledge of ragas and a wondrous understanding of lyrics resulted in songs like Kabhi kabhi. Composers like him come once in a lifetime. You pick any piece by him, they are all so melodious," said composer Lalit Pandit, who used to be one half of the famed Jatin-Lalit duo and has worked closely with Khayyam.

Another film that showcased Khayyam's music was Muzaffar Ali's Umrao Jaan (1981), starring Rekha. The ghazal-based compositions, such as Zindagi jab bhi teri bazm mein laati hai humein, Dil cheez kya hai and In aankhon ki masti, among others, were interspersed with the story of a young girl who is forced to become a courtesan in 19th century Lucknow.

Every piece by Khayyam was unique, and established Asha Bhosle as a serious singer - until then, she was known more for her fast-paced numbers.

Director Rajeev Goswami, who recently recreated Umrao Jaan for theatre, said, "He had come to Delhi for the premiere of our show in May. He was very weak when we met him but he still made it as Umrao Jaan was close to his heart...It's a huge loss."

Born in Nawanshahr, Khayyam ran away to Delhi to learn music but was brought back. A film fan, he later went to Lahore to learn music from Baba Chishti and reached Delhi to learn from Pandit Amar Nath. He moved to Mumbai (then Bombay) and made his debut with Heer Ranjha (1948).

At a time when his contemporaries like R D Burman were working with Western sounds and scales, Khayyam stuck to what was quintessentially Indian. One of his first hits was Jaane kya dhoondti rehti mein ye aankhen mujhmen, sung by Mohd Rafi.

"He was quite short-tempered in his early years, which is why he could only get along with a few composers. But that said, no one could create a melody like he could. There won't ever be another Khayyam saab," says Pandit.

SALUTE THE SOLDIER



LT NAVDEEP SINGH, AC (POSTHUMOUS) (08 JUN 1985 - 20 AUG 2011)

Lt Navdeep Singh, Ashok Chakra laid down his life while fighting against an infiltrating terrorist column during "OPERATION BAGTOR" in J&K. In the truest tradition of the Indian Army, Lt Navdeep Singh led from the front and displayed exemplary courage and conspicuous bravery. He will always be remembered and missed by all of us in the Ordnance Corps for his supreme sacrifice and gallant act.

DG OS & Sr Col Comdt and All Ranks of the AOC MARTYRS OF 206 COBRA



CT/GD CHANDRA SHEKHAR SURESHBRA

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IG & All Ranks of COBRA



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L-G's opinion needed on govt decisions, law secy asserts

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19



L-G Anil Bajjal with CM Arvind Kejriwal. Archive

DRAWING A new red line on allocation of powers within the Delhi government, the city's Law Secretary has opined that it is "clear as cloudless sky" that the elected government cannot implement decisions without taking the Lt-Governor's opinion, violating which would amount to "consciously creating road blocks and hurdles" for him.

Law Secretary Sanjay Kumar Aggarwal has rendered his opinion, which goes against his immediate predecessor Sanjay Garg's views, to Lt-Governor Anil Bajjal, Law Minister Kailash Gahlot and Chief Secretary Vijay Kumar Dev.

The Indian Express has learnt that Aggarwal, in a 24-page note, has categorically conveyed that the Supreme Court Constitution bench judgment of July 2018 — which had held that the L-G's

concurrency is not required on issues other than police, public order and land — does not mean that the elected government can inform the L-G of decisions only after implementing them.

"Therefore, this is clear as cloudless sky that information to the L-G can't be taken to mean that he is simply required to be informed about the decision of council of ministers or that the notification can be issued without his views under Article 239-AA of the Constitution. As per

last two lines of para 277(XXI) of the majority judgment 2018, the file is required to be put up before him so as to enable him to exercise powers under Article 239-AA(4) and the proviso thereof," Aggarwal has stated.

He was responding to Law Minister Gahlot's note which said that a notification appointing Additional Solicitor General Sanjay Jain as the chairperson of Advocates Welfare Fund Trustee Committee of Delhi be issued without sending the file concerned to the L-G first.

Aggarwal stated that there is no disputing the fact that the L-G's concurrence is not required for matters which fall within the legislative competence of the Delhi Assembly, which can make laws under Article 239 of the Constitution.

"However, the word 'concurrency is not required' as highlighted by the Hon'ble Minister in his note in para 218 cannot be taken to mean that the L-G is

simply required to be informed about the decision taken by the executive. By not placing the file before the L-G, we shall be deemed to be consciously creating road blocks and hurdles in the exercise of powers vested unto him under Article 239-AA(4) and its proviso and consequently also the powers of His Excellency the President of India," Aggarwal wrote.

Aggarwal's predecessor Sanjay Garg, who was repatriated to his parent cadre within two months of his appointment, had, in a separate opinion, upheld the primacy of the elected government. In June, the government used that opinion in getting a string of proposals cleared, including hike in auto fares, notification of a draft parking policy and appointment of additional public prosecutors.

A government spokesperson said the matter is in court. When contacted, Aggarwal refused to comment.

25 buses with CCTVs to be added to fleet

New Delhi: The city's bus fleet is set to register an addition after eight long years with the induction of the first lot of 25 standard-floor buses. These will be flagged off by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Tuesday. Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot said this is the first lot of 1,000 buses that are to be procured. He said the buses, which will come under the cluster scheme, are equipped with CCTVs, panic buttons, GPS, and hydraulic lifts for the differently abled.

According to official estimates, Delhi requires at least 11,000 buses to meet its current requirements. However, the fleet stands at around 5,200, with 3,600 coming under the DTC and 1,679 orange cluster buses managed by the DIMTS. ENS

Out for a walk, Solicitor General's wife targeted by snatchers on bike

SOMYA LAKHANI
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19

APARNA MEHTA (47), wife of Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta, was targeted by two bike-borne men, who snatched her purse near Mandi House. The incident took place Sunday evening, when Aparna was returning home from a walk. She said her purse had a Samsung Galaxy Note phone and a few hundred rupees.

The incident took place outside the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) auditorium around 8 pm. "A case was registered Sunday night and we are investigating the matter," DCP (New Delhi) Dr Eish Singhal said. Asked about police presence

and barricading in the area, where FICCI, Triveni Kala Sangam and Bengali Market are, Singhal refused to comment.

Police said CCTV footage from the area will be examined.

Aparna told The Indian Express, "I walk daily from our house in Canning Lane to the temple in Bengali Market. On Sunday, I was walking back around 8 pm and was next to the pavement outside FICCI auditorium when two men on a bike came from the opposite direction and snatched my purse. It had some money and my phone, which is two months old."

She claimed the men were not wearing helmets and weren't speeding either. "The pillion rider snatched my purse, and they rode away. I couldn't raise an alarm as I was shocked.

Plus the area is usually deserted on Sunday and there weren't many people there anyway."

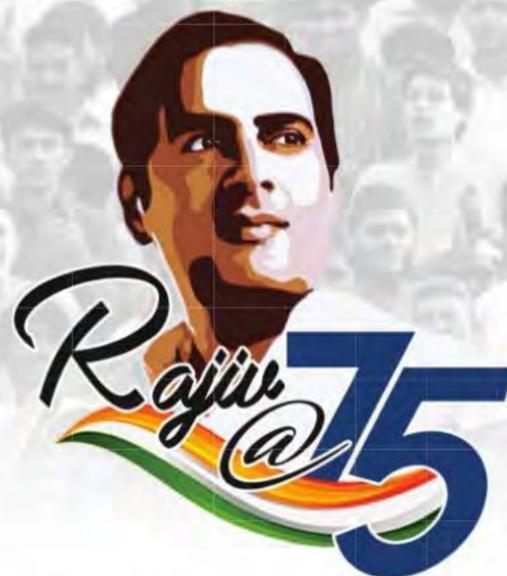
Once Aparna returned home, she wrote a complaint after which an FIR was filed at Barakhamba Road police station.

In the FIR, she stated that "the miscreants were on an unknown motorbike and I do not recognise them or the bike".

A day after the incident, Aparna said she skipped her daily evening walk. "I never expected that such an incident would happen in this area, which is considered quite safe. I am disturbed, taken aback and quite zapped by the incident," she said.

A case under IPC sections 356 (assault or criminal force in an attempt to commit theft) and 379 (theft) has been registered.

EMPOWERING INDIA



Lowered voting age to 18

Over 5 Crore new voters in 2019

Revived Panchayats and Nagar Palikas through Constitution

30 lakh elected representatives in 2019, 14 lakh are women

Launched computer and telecom revolutions

India is now an IT superpower

Restored democracy through accords

Punjab, Assam, Mizoram, Tripura are peaceful



INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

INDIAN SPINNING INDUSTRY FACING BIGGEST CRISIS, RESULTING IN HUGE JOB LOSSES



The Cotton & Blends spinning industry is passing through biggest crisis similar to last seen in 2010-11

State & Central level Taxes & Levies being exported in prices resulting Indian yarn Non-competitive in Global Markets.

High Interest Rates.

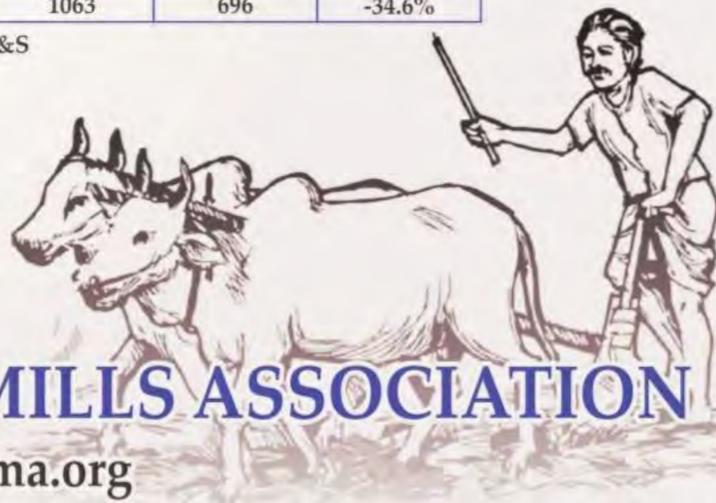
High cost of Raw materials as compared to Global prices, resulting in loss of Rs 20-25 per Kg. to Indian Mills.

Cheaper imports of Garments and Yarn from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka & Indonesia, etc. due to their lower cost of raw materials as compared to India.

Export of Cotton Yarn - Value in (April - June)

EXPORT OF COTTON YARN - VALUE			
	2018	2019	% Change
Month	Million US \$	Million US \$	2019 / 2018
April	337	266	-21.0%
May	349	241	-30.8%
June	378	188	-50.1%
(April - June)	1063	696	-34.6%

Source : DGCI&S



Effects on India's Spinning Sector:

- Resulted in closure of approximately one third of spinning capacity across India
- Currently running mills are incurring huge cash losses
- Mills are not in a position to buy and consume the Indian cotton
- Upcoming Cotton Crop of about 40 mn. bales valued at Rs. 80,000 cr. wouldn't find any buyer in India and abroad as India still has not moved to globally adopted purely market driven Agri-commodity markets with Government directly supporting farmers at MSP level

The Indian textile industry employing over 100 million people directly and indirectly hereby seeks immediate attention of Government of India to prevent job losses and avoid the spinning industry from becoming Non Performing Assets (NPA).



NORTHERN INDIA TEXTILE MILLS ASSOCIATION

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CCTV



Panic Button



GPS



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Venue: Rajghat Cluster Bus Depot, New Delhi

Chief Guest

Arvind Kejriwal

Chief Minister, Delhi

Guest of Honour

Kailash Gahlot

Transport Minister, Delhi

दिल्ली सरकार

आप की सरकार

Transport Department, Government of NCT of Delhi

Lesson learnt: Fire tenders at AIIMS, new safety protocol

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19

THE MASSIVE fire at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has prompted the administration to adopt several preventive measures — from releasing a revised set of standard operating procedures (SOPs) to having a fleet of its own fire tenders on campus. The SOPs, which are being finalised, were reworked after a fire broke out at the AIIMS Trauma Centre in March this year.

"The SOPs were already in place but after the fire incident in March, we decided to add a few things keeping in mind patients' safety and security. The SOPs are ready and will be released by next week," Subhashish Panda, deputy dean (administration), AIIMS, told *The Indian Express*.

On Saturday, the fire broke out near the emergency ward at the country's top medical institute, leaving four floors of the teaching block partially damaged. As many as 40 fire tenders were pressed into service to control the blaze.

According to officials, in the revised SOPs, the institute has chalked out guidelines to shift patients from one ward to another. This means staff will be well informed about which ward to go to if any such incident occurs in the future.

"This is extremely important to avoid any confusion. The hospital staff will know where to take the patients immediately in an emergency. We will first release model SOPs which will be common to all the centres. These SOPs can later be modified depending on the needs of every centre in the institute," said Panda.

A special officer will be ap-



The fire gutted four floors of the teaching block at AIIMS Saturday

pointed in every department, responsible for keeping a check on fire-related equipment and guidelines. The role of the officer will be to coordinate with the fire department. The institute is also going to have separate fire tenders; these can be used in coordination with tenders of the

Delhi Fire Services in case of an emergency, said officials.

"We have a well-coordinated team working with the DFS; however, having extra fire tenders will not affect anything. Sometimes, the fire services vans are not able to enter through the hospital lanes due to the facilities we have for patients. In such cases, our own fire tenders can immediately rush to the spot to douse the fire," he added.

The Microbiology department's virology unit on the second floor of the teaching block, which was completely gutted, has been shifted to various departments so as to continue with testing facilities.

On Sunday, the institute initiated an internal inquiry to look into the cause of the fire and formed a committee headed by the medical superintendent, Dr D K Sharma, to assess what caused the incident.

Ministry wants 'Metrolite' to reach interior areas

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NOIDA, AUGUST 19

THE MINISTRY of Housing and Urban Affairs has sought a response from the Noida Metro Rail Corporation (NMRC) for establishing a cheaper transit rail system, akin to the Metro rail, in Gautam Budh Nagar area.

According to officials, the Centre is planning to take feedback from Metro corporations across the country to set up Metrolite, a light rail transit system, to provide accessibility to areas not covered by the Metro.

According to NMRC officials, Metrolite will target remote areas in Noida. "We have been asked for feedback for setting up Metrolite in Gautam Budh Nagar. While there is nothing on paper yet, it will be an elaborate tram system which will navigate



NMRC's response sought on setting up transit rail system in Gautam Budh Nagar

through the city. We will start estimating the cost of the project soon," said an NMRC official.

As per ministry specifications, the Metrolite system will comprise three non-separable coaches and trains will run at a speed of 25-60 km/h.

"The specifications for the light rail transport were under discussion for two years... The planning lies with the state government," said a ministry official.

Man gives triple talaq to wife who delivered girl

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NOIDA, AUGUST 19

A GHAZIABAD resident was arrested Sunday for allegedly giving triple talaq to his wife, police said, adding that the woman had given birth to a girl a month ago.

"An FIR was filed at Masuri police station under relevant sections of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019, on Sunday. As per the complaint, the accused had been harassing his wife for dowry since their wedding. A month ago, the woman gave birth to a girl... The accused has been arrested and sent to custody," said Neeraj Jadaun, SP, Rural, Ghaziabad.

According to police, the man is a farmer and the couple got married in Hapur in 2018. They

moved to Ghaziabad recently.

The complainant alleged her in-laws had been asking for a vehicle in dowry, said police.

The woman alleged that after she gave birth to a girl, she was asked to leave home and not return without a vehicle. Both families were called by authorities to resolve the issue, but the man remained adamant, said police.

On Saturday, the woman returned to her village, following which the husband allegedly announced triple talaq.

"The woman has also alleged she was beaten up by her in-laws and husband," said the SP.

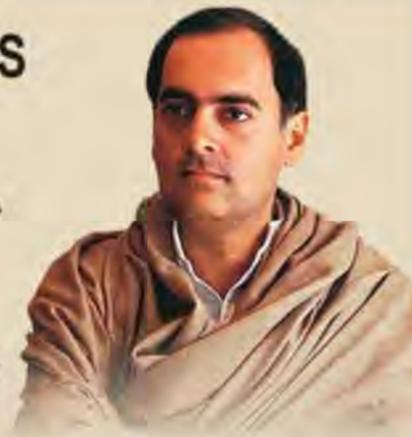
Triple talaq was criminalised last month with the passage of Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019, which imposes a maximum punishment of three years for announcing instant divorce.

SADBHAVANA DIVAS

20 August 2019

REMEMBERING
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- Amended constitution to strengthen Panchayat Raj
- Empowered youth with voting rights from 18 years of age
- Universal immunisation programme to create a healthier India
- Revolutionised new India by introducing IT
- Enabled installation of India's first Super computer Param 8000
- Revamped primary education through operation Black-board



Anniversary events

- Memorial programmes in Tribal areas Kulhadighat and Dugli
- Gram sabha to be conducted in all village panchayats
- Various programmes will be organised in schools till 2nd oct 2019
- Plantation drive in all Navodaya Vidyalayas
- Marathon at Raipur & other programmes in districts
- Exhibition by Public Relations Department at Raipur



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ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
Ansari Nagar, New Delhi-110 029.
(An autonomous organization under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)

VACANCY NOTICE

Applications are invited in the prescribed proforma for filling up the 01 post of Executive Engineer (Elect.) and 01 post of Executive Engineer (A/C&R) for National Cancer Institute, Hajar in the Level-11 of Pay Matrix at AIIMS, New Delhi on deputation basis. For essential eligibility conditions & other details, please visit Institutes website: www.aiims.edu under the head 'Recruitment'. Duly filled application form alongwith attested photocopies of ACR for the last 5 years and Vigilance Clearance should reach the undersigned on or before **10.09.2019**.

-sd-
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (RECTT.)
davp 17112/11/0040/19-20

Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Science and Technology
No. A-12024/01/2019-Estt.II

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for engagement as Consultant in the Department of Science and Technology on contract basis initially for a period of one year. Persons fulfilling eligibility criteria may apply in the prescribed format details of which can be downloaded from the Department's official website www.dst.gov.in and completed application may be sent to Under Secretary, Estt.II, Department of Science & Technology, Technology Bhawan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi, 110016 within 21 days of publication of this Advertisement.

B.K.P. Angam
Under Secretary, Estt.II
davp 3610/11/0008/1920

EXPRESS Careers

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(iii) **Pilot (on Regular basis)** - 7 posts (SC - 1, ST - 1, OBC - 5), General Candidates may also apply.
(iv) **Pilots (on Contract basis)** - 14 posts.

For Sr. No. (i) and (ii) the Last Date of receiving application will be **07/09/2019**. For Sr.No. (iii) and (iv) the advertisement shall remain open and applications will be considered in case vacancies remain unfilled and/or in case additional vacancies arise.

For details regarding educational qualification, age, experience etc. interested candidates may visit our website www.mumbaiport.gov.in (media / vacancy) and submit their applications in the prescribed format by downloading the same from our website. The number of posts may vary.

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Last Date

- September 23, 2019

Secretary
Banks Board Bureau

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

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by The Indian EXPRESS

with

Dr Aman Hingorani
Lawyer and author of 'Unravelling the Kashmir Knot'

in conversation with

Apurva Vishwanath
Assistant Editor, The Indian Express

Inform your opinion at this special session of Explained by The Indian Express, where Dr Aman Hingorani walks us through the political, socio-cultural and legal intricacies of the issue and the course ahead.

23 AUG 2019 06:00 PM Viceroy, The Claridges Delhi

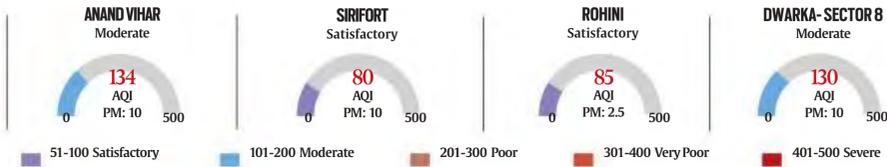
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Don't give order political colour: SC on Ravidas temple

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19

THE SUPREME Court Monday said that its orders on the Guru Ravidas Temple in Tughlaqabad forest area cannot be given a "political colour". A bench comprising Justice Arun Mishra and Justice M R Shah asked the governments of Punjab, Haryana and Delhi to ensure that no law and order situation is created politically or otherwise during the protests over the demolition of the temple.

"Everything cannot be political. Our orders can't be given a political colour by anybody on earth," the bench said.

The Delhi Development Authority had demolished the temple pursuant to the SC's orders, which had, on August 9, observed that "serious breach" had been committed by Guru Ravidas Jayanti Samaroh Samiti by not vacating the forest area as ordered earlier by the top court.

Following the demolition of the 500-year-old temple, protests have been staged at several places in Punjab and Delhi by political parties and members of the Dalit community.

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Police probe case of 2 women who allegedly duped over 350 people, discover that they bought customer data from call centre employees

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19

INVESTIGATION INTO two women arrested for allegedly duping more than 350 people on the pretext of providing health insurance at a low premium has revealed they were procuring database of customers from employees of call centres after paying 5 paise to 50 paise per contact.

Last week, two women identified as Suman Lata (34) and Jyoti (33) were arrested from West Delhi's Vikaspuri after a fake call

centre was busted by the cyber cell. "After failing to get a good appraisal at her previous job, Suman, the alleged kingpin, decided to create fake websites selling healthcare services and cheat people by offering insurance at a low premium. She earlier worked with a call centre related to healthcare services, which is where she met Jyoti," DCP (South West) Devender Arya said.

During questioning, Suman told police she approached employees of several call centres and procured data from them in exchange for money. "They stole data from their call centre records and sold it to her. She paid them



The two women were arrested from Vikaspuri

depending on the profile and details of each contact, such as property assets, vehicle, family profile and whether a family member was undergoing treatment in a

hospital. If they got details of someone with a high income whose relative was hospitalised, she would pay 50 paise. For a middle class contact, the price

was 30 paise," a senior officer probing the case said, adding that the most basic details like a contact number would go for 5 paise.

Sources said she would meet the call centre employees at a public place, where they would hand her the database of customers in a pen drive. She would make an online payment after verifying the details. Police are now scanning bank transaction details to identify the employees.

During questioning, she told police she approached a website developer who had made several websites for call centres, and a telecaller fluent in English and Hindi. "She first started a website

by the name www.rakshahealthcare.com, followed by www.paramountmax.com and www.apollohealths.com," Arya said.

The *Indian Express* checked one of the websites, which was found to be active hours after the arrests, and found that it displayed services for various kinds of health insurance packages.

"The website appeared authentic and the packages promised full cover for medical expenses, diagnostic tests and medicines, operation theatre charges and the cost of prosthetics as well as other devices or equipment, along with ICU charges. The accused frequently

changed the websites, office address and SIM cards to evade arrest," an officer said.

The arrests were made after police received a complaint from one Shibui Chakraborty, who alleged that he got a call from a woman who offered him a policy for Rs 25,000.

"Chakraborty's brother needed regular dialysis. They offered him a plan which covered the entire expense. Chakraborty paid Rs 25,000 through their website and was told three OPD bills would be reimbursed in a week. When that didn't happen and he called them, their phones were off," Arya said.

CM asks those on floodplains of Yamuna to leave

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19

WATER LEVEL in the Yamuna breached the danger mark of 205.33 metres Monday, touching 205.36 metres. According to officials, the level could breach 207 metres on Tuesday evening.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal appealed to everyone living on the floodplains to evacuate the area and move to tents set up across the city.

Each year, the Delhi government undertakes a mammoth task of evacuating thousands of people from low-lying areas along the river till the water abates. This year, 2,120 shelters have been set up already. Kejriwal said the government has to evacuate 23,860 people from low-lying areas.

"I appeal to everyone living in these areas to move out and shift to tents. The government is providing all facilities possible there. Many times, people shuttle between tents and their houses but this is dangerous as the water level will rise suddenly," he said.

Over 50 boats have also been stationed at critical points to prevent cases of drowning, officials said.

On Sunday evening, Haryana had released 8.28 lakh cusecs of water from Hathni Kund Barrage. This is the highest quantum of water released in the recent past, officials said. On Monday evening, another 1.47 lakh cusecs were released.

"Normally, water from Hathni Kund Barrage takes 72 hours to reach Delhi. The highest

WATER RELEASED FROM HATHNI KUND BARRAGE

SUNDAY	
5 am	62,840 cusecs
7 am	1.55 lakh cusecs
9 am	3.25 lakh cusecs
11 am	5.10 lakh cusecs
1 pm	6.56 lakh cusecs
3 pm	7.60 lakh cusecs
6 pm	8.28 lakh cusecs
MONDAY	
5 am	4.27 lakh cusecs
5 pm	1.47 lakh cusecs

amount of water is expected to reach the national capital on Wednesday evening. Water level had started increasing at the barrage on Sunday morning," said Haridev Kamboj, executive engineer of the water services division, Haryana's irrigation department.

"Rains in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand contribute to water in the Yamuna. This time, a cloud burst coupled with heavy rains in Uttarakhand, apart from heavy rains in Himachal Pradesh, has led to highest flow of water in the river," said Kamboj.

In 2013, the Yamuna's water level had reached 207.32 m. At that time, Haryana had released 8.06 lakh cusecs in one go.

As the level rose, the Old Yamuna Bridge was also closed for traffic on Monday.



A makeshift boat used to transport goods between two blocks in Kirari. Abhinav Saha

In Kirari, filthy water at home forces residents out

ABHINAV RAJPUT
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19

INCESSANT RAINFALL for the past three days has turned Kirari's Agar Nagar in Outer Delhi into a "living hell" for residents, with water entering homes, knee-deep water in some lanes, and even makeshift boats being used to connect two blocks.

With many people leaving their homes or moving to upper floors, the situation has punctured claims by several agencies that the capital was prepared to deal with the monsoon.

The two-room home of Manoj Singh (23) has knee-deep water, forcing the family to shift to a rented accommodation nearby. "The water stinks, my father is sick and because we don't have rooms on the first floor, we had to shift," he said.

Bharti's home faced a similar problem, but she and her family of six had built a single room on an upper floor especially for such a situation. "My husband is undergoing treatment at RML ever since an accident. He can't walk but each time we call a cab, the driver refuses to come here," she said.

The *Indian Express* visited at least 30 homes in the area where dirty water had entered. Locals said the number of such houses in the area is more than 300.

Many fear for their children's safety while going to school, and spread of diseases due to a nallah nearby.

Area councillor Poonam Prashar Jha said boats were being used to travel between blocks E and F since only the former has a major market.



Some lanes in the area have knee-deep water. Abhinav Rajput

She said she has asked engineers of the North MCD to expedite work of pumping out water but their response has been slow. "There is no sewer line here, AAP keeps announcing new sewer line work, but you can see the situation on the ground."

Area MLA Rituraj Govind, however, said the Delhi government has started work on a sewer line in the area. "While work has been finished in some blocks, it is in progress elsewhere,"

He said the area being low lying and the model code of conduct coming into force during the Lok Sabha polls had impacted work, which should be finished this year.

North MCD commissioner Varsha Joshi said she was supposed to hold a meeting with the irrigation and flood control department to find a solution, which was deferred due to the rising levels in the Yamuna. "We pump (out water) as and when needed," she said.

Flight with 59 passengers makes emergency landing

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19

A JAIPUR-BOUND Alliance Air plane with 59 passengers on board made an emergency landing at the Indira Gandhi International Airport Monday evening, after it was forced to turn back due to a nose landing gear problem.

Officials said no one was injured in the incident, and that Air India later arranged another flight for all passengers.

"Due to a problem in the nose landing gear and some material failure, the Delhi-Jaipur Alliance Air flight made an emergency landing. All passengers were de-boarded safely and we arranged another flight for them. An inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the reason behind the failure," said Air India spokesperson Dhananjay Kumar.

A passenger on board the flight said, "Our flight was already delayed... It departed from Delhi only at 8.13 pm. But within 10 minutes, we turned back... no announcement was made... We were informed about the emergency landing just as we landed



Passengers disembark the plane at IGI airport

and the crew performed an emergency evacuation. I saw the smoke when I got out."

DCP (airport) Sanjay Bhatia said, "At 8.37 pm, we received a call from the CISF at our control room that Alliance Air flight 9X 643 is coming back for an emergency landing due to a technical fault. The plane landed safely at 8.45 pm."

Officials said the Airport Operations Control Centre (AOCC) declared the full emergency for the flight at 8.21 pm. The AOCC informed that the flight landed safely in Delhi at 8.25 pm.

Man claims family beaten up inside home

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19

SEVEN MEMBERS of a family, including five women, were allegedly attacked by a group of men in East Delhi's Preet Vihar on August 15. Police said the accused allegedly barged into the victim's house and beat them up.

The incident took place around 10 pm. "The family informed us about the assault and an FIR was registered. We found out that the three accused men got into a fight with the victim and later assaulted him and his family. We have arrested one of the three accused, and two others are absconding," said Jasmeet Singh, DCP (East Delhi).

In his complaint, the 63-year-old man said he went out to buy bread from a nearby shop when a drunk man approached him and hurled abuses. "The man

lives near my house and was drunk at the time. My daughter was standing outside the house and saw him threatening me. She came towards us and tried to stop him, but he slapped her and pushed her violently. Two of his friends joined him and beat us up," he alleged.

The man alleged that the accused then barged into his house and hit him, his wife, son and four daughters.

"We have identified the other accused and registered a case against them under IPC sections 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 341 (punishment for wrongful restraint), 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 509 (act intended to insult the modesty of a woman), 506 (criminal intimidation), 448 (house trespass) and 34 (acts done by several persons with a common intention)," said Singh.

RESTORATION BEGAN IN MARCH

At Humayun's Tomb complex, 17th Century baoli is given life

SOMYA LAKHANI
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19

DEEP INSIDE the Humayun's Tomb complex and hidden by lush foliage is a 17th Century baoli (stepwell) — neglected for centuries and ignored by visitors. Early this year, however, the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) began restoring the baoli, which was built during Mughal emperor Jahangir's reign.

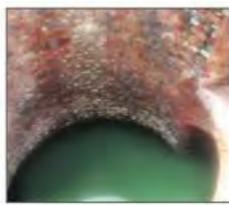
Professor Shama Mitra Chenoy said that in the 17th Century, a mandi (market) was built by Mihir Bano Agha, a transgender in Jahangir's court.

"Opposite the mandi, Agha built the baoli, with a gate which opens into the Nizamuddin East area," said Chenoy.

The baoli and the mandi were built inside the 16th Century Arab ki Serai.

Ratish Nanda, project director, AKTC, said, "The baoli was in a ruinous state with a lot of cracks. We began restoration work in March. We have removed the structural cracks and are rebuilding the collapsed vaulted roof."

The AKTC has received funding for the project from the German government. The baoli is expected to be restored by



The baoli is expected to be restored by early 2020

early 2020.

In his book on baolis of Delhi, author Vikramjit Singh Roprai wrote, "To the south of this serai,

a fruit and vegetable market was built during Jahangir's reign."

The baoli has three entrances and two storeys, and is at least 20 feet deep.

At the site, debris pulled out of the baoli lay in a corner as craftsmen and labourers replaced cracked stone.

Nanda said, "The baoli has a unique L-shaped plan, enclosed by walls on the north, south and west, with descending steps on the east. There is a series of chambers on the upper levels."

This is a part of the AKTC's ongoing restoration project at the Humayun's Tomb complex,

as there are at least 70 heritage structures inside.

The remnants of the baoli and the mandi have always been accessible to visitors. As it is further away from the restored heritage structures, and due to lack of signages, the mandi and baoli rarely see visitors. Once restoration of the baoli is done, signages will be put up.

Nanda said, "To revive the original function of the baoli, we will re-grade the earth within the Arab ki Serai bazaar to collect rainwater within the baoli, which has a capacity of 1.5 lakh litres."

7 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



TRENDING SHOW

THE EPISODE of Discovery Channel's popular *Man Vs Wild* show with Prime Minister Narendra Modi was aired last week. The episode, it seems, broke a record on social media. The host of the show, Bear Grylls, tweeted on Monday that the episode with Modi was "officially the world's most trending televised event". He claimed that it had 3.6 billion impressions on Twitter, which left behind the Super Bowl, a sporting event, which had 3.4 billion impressions. Grylls tweeted with the hashtag #PMModionDiscovery.

HEARING ON

WITH THE Constitution Bench of Supreme Court hearing the Ayodhya case not sitting on Monday, there was speculation on whether the hearing would be affected for more days. But it is learnt that the bench will convene on Tuesday. With Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi set to retire on November 17, the attempt will be to complete the hearing and pronounce a judgment before that.

ON LAST LAP

AS ELECTIONS draw closer, incumbents are trying to rush in order to launch or inaugurate schemes to project achievements of their governments. Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das, for instance, is learnt to have headed to Delhi to meet top functionaries, soliciting their time to inaugurate projects before the model code of conduct kicks in. On his list is also the inauguration of the state's new Assembly building, for which Das is keen to make it a memorable event for the state.

DMK plans Oppn protest to demand release of J&K leaders

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19

THE DMK is rallying the Opposition parties for a protest to demand the immediate release of political leaders, including three former chief ministers, who have been detained in Jammu and Kashmir for a fortnight now.

Senior DMK leader T R Baalu has reached Delhi, at the direction of his party chief MK Stalin, and is reaching out to like-minded Opposition parties for the protest at Jantar Mantar on August 22.

Baalumet Congress president Sonia Gandhi and spoke to Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad. He has also spoken to CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury and his CPI counterpart D Raja — both have agreed to be part of the protest.

The Congress, sources said, could join the protest too. While the Congress is divided on the



T R Baalu is reaching out to Opposition leaders

Centre's decision to revoke special status to J&K under Article 370, the party is united on the issue of demanding the release of political leaders.

The Trinamool Congress and a couple of other parties are also likely to take part.

"We cannot simply keep silent. We cannot remain a mute spectator when leaders are kept under detention. My leader, MK Stalin, has asked all the MPs of the DMK to participate in the demonstration. We are giving a call to the

government to see that the leaders are released forthwith. It has been 14 days since all of them have been under detention," Baalu told *The Indian Express*.

The Opposition too is divided on Article 370, but the DMK hopes that many of them will join the protest since the main demand is the release of the detained leaders.

While the Congress, DMK and Left parties had opposed the revocation of special status and bifurcation of J&K in Parliament, parties like the Trinamool Congress and NCP did not vote against it. Some like the AAP sided with the government.

"Parliamentarians from like-minded parties will participate in the meeting at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi at 11 AM on 22nd August to demand the immediate release of Kashmiri political leaders who have been detained by the Union Govt," Stalin tweeted on Monday. In a statement, he ac-

cused the central government of having imposed "undeclared Emergency" in J&K.

"Everything is normal in J&K. Schools open, no students. Everything is normal in J&K. Internet shut down once again. Everything is normal in J&K. Mehbooba Mufti's daughter under house arrest. She asks why? No answer. If you are wondering what is going on, please understand, this is the new normal," senior Congress leader P Chidambaram tweeted.

In Kolkata, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee asserted that human rights had been "totally violated" in Kashmir. "Today is World Humanitarian Day. Human rights have been totally violated in Kashmir. Let us pray for human rights and peace in Kashmir. Human rights is a subject very close to my heart. In 1995, I was on the road for 21 days to protect human rights violations against deaths in lock-ups," she tweeted.

13-14 ministers to take oath today: BSY

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, AUGUST 19

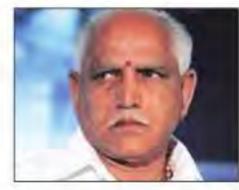
AFTER FORMING a one-man government headed by Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on July 26, the BJP will carry out its first cabinet expansion in Karnataka on Tuesday by inducting 10-15 ministers, while balancing caste and regional equations.

With the BJP central leadership — party president Amit Shah, working president JP Nadda and organising secretary B L Santhosh — vetting all candidates who are going to be made ministers before obtaining final approval from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, many of Yediyurappa's favorites may not be inducted, according to party sources.

"Caste and regional balance will be a key focus, but there will also be an emphasis on bringing in new people who have not been in the cabinet in the past," said a BJP source. The party leadership has issued a clear directive that everyone must fall in line if they want to remain in power, sources said.

"The cabinet expansion will take place at 10:30 am tomorrow. I have written to the Governor in this regard. I have asked the chief secretary to make all arrangements," Yediyurappa said. "Around 13 to 14 people are likely to be inducted in the first phase, there may be plus or minus one or two; we have now recommended 13 to 14," he said.

While the names of a few former senior ministers who have travelled with Yediyurappa over the past few days to meet the party high command are doing the rounds, BJP leaders said there is no guarantee that the central



B S Yediyurappa

leadership will stick by previous choices.

Among those being said to be in the reckoning are: Jagadish Shettar, Basavaraj Bommai, J C Madhuswamy (all members of the dominant Lingayat community like Yediyurappa), R Ashoka (Vokkaliga), Govind Karjol and Arvind Limbavalli (Scheduled Caste), Srinivas Poojary (backward caste from coastal Karnataka).

With the Lingayat community forming the bulwark of the BJP's support in Karnataka, most of the ministers are likely to be from the community.

Yediyurappa is keen to leave at least 12 of the 34 cabinet positions available to him vacant in order to enable some of the nearly 15 rebels from the Opposition Congress and JD(S) to join the cabinet as a reward for helping the party topple the Congress-JD(S) coalition government last month. The rebels have been disqualified by their parties and are fighting a legal battle in the Supreme Court.

With as many as 17 districts suffering major flood damage since August 5, the expansion of the cabinet is expected to allow Yediyurappa to focus more energy and capital in flood relief and rehabilitation work, which he has been shouldering alone over the past fortnight.



Educational institutions in Rajouri and four other border districts of Jammu reopened after a fortnight on Monday as authorities lifted curbs in large parts of the region, officials said. ANI

Pakistan suspends cross-LoC bus service

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, AUGUST 19

IN A new low in relations between India and Pakistan following the Centre's move to scrap Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan on Monday suspended the weekly Poonch-Rawalakot bus service.

Official sources confirmed that the bus, with 27 residents of Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir on board, returned to Poonch from Chakkani Da Bagh as Pakistani officials did not permit its entry.

The cross-LoC bus had plied on August 5, the day the Centre moved to scrap Article 370 and bifurcated J&K into two Union Territories.

However, the bus service could not operate on August 12 in view of Eid, sources said, adding that it was resumed on Monday to enable PoK residents to return home after the expiry of their permit.

Sources said officials connected with the cross-LoC bus operation and Indian army officials tried to contact their counterparts in Pakistan to allow the entry of the bus but they received no response.

The bus service started in 2006 to facilitate travel between families living on both sides of the LoC.

'Army was ready for conventional war in run-up to Balakot airstrike'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19

IN THE run-up to the Balakot airstrike, Army Chief General Bipin Rawat very categorically conveyed to the top brass of the government that his force was fully ready to deal with any ground offensive by Pakistan and take the battle into enemy territory, top military sources said.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) bombed terror group Jaish-e-Mohammed's biggest training camp near Balakot, deep inside Pakistan on February 26, in response to the Pulwama attack.

The Indian Army was prepared for conventional warfare



General Bipin Rawat

with Pakistan, which would have included going inside Pakistan, sources told PTI.

The Army chief informed the government about the force's preparedness when New Delhi was considering its options — including an aerial raid — to retaliate against Pakistan for the February 14 Pulwama terror attack.

Explaining General Rawat's comments, a military official said that the Army Chief meant was

that the Army was ready to take the battle into Pakistan. Sources said the Army had finalised contracts to procure ammunition worth Rs 11,000 crore after the Uri terror attack in September 2016, and so far, 95 per cent of that order has been supplied.

The military has also finalised 33 contracts worth Rs 7,000 crore for procuring critical armaments, while another set of purchases at a cost of Rs 9,000 crore is at an advanced stage, they said.

Sources said the Army has significantly improved availability of key armaments and ammunition over the last over two years, admitting that their shortage was a major issue earlier.

Complaint against Shehla Rashid

New Delhi: The Delhi Police's Special Cell is looking into a complaint filed against Jammu and Kashmir People's Movement leader Shehla Rashid by a Supreme Court lawyer accusing her of spreading fake news with the intention to malign the image of Indian Army.

In his complaint to Delhi Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik on Monday, Alakh Alok Srivastava said the allegations made by the former JNU student leader in her tweets against the Army in Kashmir are "absolutely false and concocted". **ENS**

HC seeks Centre, J&K stand on Shah Faesal's plea against his detention

PRITAM PAL SINGH
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19

THE DELHI High Court on Monday sought to know the Centre's and the Jammu and Kashmir administration's stand on a plea by Shah Faesal, the IAS officer from J&K who resigned earlier this year to take up politics, alleging that he was detained illegally at the New Delhi airport and later sent to the Valley against his wishes.



Shah Faesal

While seeking the court's directions to the authorities to "immediately set him at liberty", Faesal submitted that his life is at "risk", and the "illegal detention amounts abduction".

Taking note of this, a bench of Justices Manmohan and Sangita

Dhingra Sehgal directed the Central government's Bureau of Immigration, the State of Jammu and Kashmir and the J&K Police to file their replies to his habeas corpus plea, which also urges that his wife be allowed to meet him.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the government, opposed Faesal's contention and said that he will file a detailed response.

The court has fixed the matter for further hearing on August 23.

Three-time Bihar CM Jagannath Mishra dies at 82



JAGANNATH MISHRA
1937-2019

Mithilanchal, who accused him of neglecting Maithili and resorting to appeasement politics.

cially his decision to bring the Bihar Press Bill in 1982. He was accused of attempting to curb press freedom and the decision led to nationwide protests. Later, Mishra had told *The Indian Express* that he had brought the Bill "to keep Indira Gandhi in good humour". He had also expressed regret over the decision.

Although the Bill was passed by the state legislature, the government moved a motion to withdraw it in 1983 while it was waiting for President's assent. During his second term, Mishra also questioned the Centre's powers to fix royalty on minerals when mineral-rich Jharkhand was part of Bihar. Soon after, he was replaced as CM by Chandrashekhar Singh.

Mishra became CM for the

third time in 1989 when then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi removed Satyendra Narayan Sinha for his failure to properly handle the Bhagalpur riots. By that time, however, the era of Mandal politics had begun and Lalu Prasad had emerged as a new force in Bihar. In the 1990 elections, the Congress lost power in the state.

Mishra then served as Union Minister in the P V Narasimha Rao government. He parted ways with the Congress in 1997 after his old adversary Sitaram Kesri took over as party president.

Mishra floated a forum called Bharatiya Jan Congress in 1999. He merged this forum with the NCP in 2001. He subsequently joined the JD(U) and his son Nitish Mishra went on to serve

as a minister in the NDA government headed by Nitish Kumar.

Mishra was convicted in a fodder scam case along with Lalu Prasad and was out on bail.

The Bihar government has announced state mourning for three days. Governor Phagu Chouhan called Mishra "a scholar of economics, able administrator and sensitive politician". Chief Minister Nitish Kumar remembered him as "an able administrator and politician".

Congress president Sonia Gandhi said Mishra always stood for the interests of the deprived and the marginalised minorities. Mishra's mortal remains will be cremated at his village Balua Bazaar in Supaul district on Wednesday.

Manmohan Singh elected unopposed to Rajya Sabha

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, AUGUST 19

FORMER PRIME Minister Manmohan Singh was elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan on Monday.

The election in Rajasthan was necessitated following the demise of BJP's state president Madan Lal Saini on June 26. Having been elected to the Rajya Sabha in March last year, Saini's tenure was till April 3, 2024. Singh, 86, will now serve the remainder of the tenure.

Leader of the Opposition in the Rajasthan Assembly Gulab Chand Kataria had earlier announced that the BJP will not field any candidate against Singh. Monday was the last day for withdrawal of candidature.

Had BJP fielded a candidate, the polls would have been held on August 26.

"We congratulate former PM Dr Manmohan Singh on being elected as a Rajya Sabha MP from Rajasthan. His repository of knowledge, dedication to his work and years of experience will benefit all," the Congress party tweeted.

Congratulating Singh, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said, "Dr Singh's election is a matter of pride for entire state. His vast knowledge and rich experience would benefit the people of Rajasthan a lot."

With his election, Singh becomes the only Congress representative in Parliament — the other nine Rajya Sabha MPs and 24 of the



Manmohan Singh

Neeraj Shekhar elected to Upper House from UP

Lucknow: Neeraj Shekhar, son of former prime minister Chandra Shekhar, was on Monday elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh.

No other nomination had been filed from the seat. Shekhar has been elected unopposed, a senior official declared here.

He had filed his nomination on August 14 as the BJP candidate for the August 26 Rajya Sabha bypoll from UP in the presence of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and the party's state unit chief Swatantra Dev Singh. **PTI**

25 Lok Sabha MPs from the state are from the BJP, while the remaining Lok Sabha MP is from the Rashtriya Loktantrik Party, an NDA ally.

On August 13, Singh filed his nomination while flanked by Gehlot and Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot and thanked the Congress party, Gehlot, Pilot and other leaders for nominating him.

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, AUGUST 19

AT JAGANNATH Mishra's home in Patna, there is a bust of Indira Gandhi on one hand and a portrait of Atal Bihari Vajpayee on the other, summing up the dichotomy of his politics.

A three-time Chief Minister who could not complete a single term and a Congress stalwart whose son served as a minister in an NDA government, Mishra died Monday at a Delhi hospital after prolonged illness at the age of 82.

He is survived by three sons, including former Bihar minister Nitish Mishra, and three daughters. His wife died last year. A professor of economics,

BSY govt issues order for CBI probe in phone-tapping case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, AUGUST 19

THE BENGALURU police on Monday registered a formal complaint over the alleged tapping of phones of political leaders, their associates and government officials during the tenure of the Congress-JDS coalition government in Karnataka, and the government issued an order transferring the case to the CBI as announced by Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on Sunday.

The CBI has been mandated to carry out investigations regarding tapping being done over the past one year.

"It has come to the notice of the government that there are apprehensions that phones of several ruling and Opposition political leaders, their relatives

and other government officials have been intercepted in an illegal/unauthorised/unwanted manner," the state home department stated on Monday in its preamble to the order directing transfer of the case to the CBI.

An FIR has been registered at the Bengaluru City Cyber Crime police station by the Crime Branch. According to the government order, the case is being transferred to the CBI on the recommendation of the state police chief Neelamani Raju for a probe by an independent agency. The CBI will conduct a probe "into all illegal/unwanted/unauthorised interceptions of telephones of political leaders belonging to the ruling party and opposition parties as well as their associates relatives and also government servants from August 1, 2018 to the date of this order," states the August 19 order.

Oppn rallies behind Raj Thackeray after ED notice

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, AUGUST 19

THE COMBINED Opposition in Maharashtra has rallied behind Raj Thackeray after the MNS chief was summoned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

An ED notice dated August 16 has been issued to Raj Thackeray asking him to present himself before Rana Banerjee, Assistant Director, ED, on August 22.

The ED is probing IL&FS Group's loan and equity investment on charges of money laundering. The group had invested Rs 860 crore in Kohinoor CTNL, a company founded by former Maharashtra CM Manohar Joshi's son Unmesh Joshi.

In 2005, Joshi's son along with IL&FS and Raj Thackeray-owned Matoshree Construction jointly bid for the NTC's Kohinoor Mill, buying the 4.8-acre property for Rs 421 crore. Raj Thackeray had subsequently exited the consortium in 2008.

The ED had earlier this month recorded the statements of senior officials of Kohinoor in the case.

"The ED notice issued to Raj Thackeray is a deliberate action by Narendra Modi and Amit Shah. The two are running the government in a dictatorial manner, tearing down democracy,



Former CM Manohar Joshi's son Unmesh also received ED summons. Ganesh Shirsekar

Agencies like the ED, CBI and Income-Tax are being let loose on anyone who criticises the wrong policies of this government," state Congress president Balasaheb Thorat said.

The NCP also came out in support of Raj Thackeray with party leader Vidya Chavan holding a meeting with the MNS chief at his residence.

The BJP, meanwhile, took a swipe at Raj Thackeray with senior BJP leader and minister Vinod Tawde asking him to face the inquiry. "If there is no wrongdoing then no one should have any fear of facing the agencies," Tawde said.

Meanwhile, Unmesh Joshi, who was also served a similar notice, was questioned by ED officials for over six hours at their office in Mumbai. The ED is likely to question Joshi further on Tuesday.

Cong says RSS anti-Dalit after Bhagwat calls for conversation on reservation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19

A DAY AFTER RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat called for a conversation between those in favour of reservation and those against it, the Congress on Monday called the RSS "anti-Dalit" and alleged that it wants to scrap the reservation system.

In response, RSS called the controversy needless and asserted that it fully supports reservation for SCs, STs and OBCs.

RSS prachar pramukh (publicity head) Arun Kumar said the organisation has made it clear time and again that it fully supports reservation.

"A needless controversy is being created over a portion of RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's address at a programme in Delhi. While stressing on the importance of finding solutions to all issues in the society through mutual discussion in a harmonious way, he had said sensitive issues like reservation should be considered in a similar manner," Kumar said.

Addressing a press meet, Congress leaders P.L. Punia, Pawan Khera and Udit Raj hit out at the RSS. Khera said the BJP and RSS have a habit of "raking up issues and creating conflict in the society about issues on which opinions are sharply divided, issues that can divert the attention of the voter from the day-to-day problems that they are facing under this government."

Punia alleged that BJP and RSS want to scrap the reservation system.

"The anti-Dalit-backward face of the RSS-BJP has been exposed. The conspiracy to end reservation for the poor and the policy of changing the Constitution have been uncovered," Congress communication department in-charge Randeep Surjewala said.

Invites gone and withdrawn: No media entry to Kao lecture

RITU SARIN
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19

JOURNALISTS INVITED to attend the annual R N Kao Memorial Lecture at the Research & Analysis Wing (R&AW) headquarters in New Delhi have been informed they are not allowed at the event.

The memorial lecture, to which a select group of journalists covering internal security are invited, is this year being delivered by Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday, August 20.

Invitations for the event, followed by numbered identity tags and parking labels, were delivered to the journalists, earlier in the month. Only to be followed by a telephone call from a R&AW official on Sunday that the invitation was being recalled and the media was not being permitted to cover the event.

The R&AW official emphasised that each journalist on their list was being contacted individually.

The lecture series was inaugurated in 2007 on the death anniversary of R N Kao, the founder of the external intelligence agency. Over the years, the memorial lecture has become a keenly awaited event in the calendar of serving and retired intelligence officials. It also became the only occasion when a section of the media was allowed to enter the high-security zone of R&AW headquarters near Lodi Road, ask questions of the speaker and freely interact with other invitees over high tea.

The high-profile lecture series has always been attended by members of the Kao family and several "Kao boys", retired R&AW officials, are known to fly in to the capital especially to attend it.

Prominent persons, who have in the past, delivered the R N Kao Memorial lecture include diplomats, bureaucrats, even industrialists. Among them have been Shashi Tharoor, Kumaramangalam Birla, N N Vohra, Piyush Pandey, Raghuram Rajan, Naresh Chandra and Pratap Bhanu Mehta. This is the first year that a serving minister has been invited to deliver the prestigious lecture.

This comes shortly after restrictions were imposed on the entry of PIB-accredited journalists into the Finance Ministry.

MODI VISIT TO FRANCE

Launch of satellites for maritime surveillance in Indo-Pacific key agenda

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19

IN A bid to keep an eye on Chinese moves in the Indo-Pacific region, India and France are likely to sign a pact on maritime surveillance when Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets French President Emmanuel Macron on August 22 in Paris.

Both countries have planned the launch of 8-10 satellites as part of a "constellation" for maritime surveillance in the region. This will be India's largest space cooperation with any country so far, sources said. They said the

satellites will focus on the Indian Ocean, a region that has been witnessing increasing Chinese presence. The purpose of the constellation is monitoring sea traffic management, sources said, adding that it would take less than five years to launch the satellites.

French Space Agency CNES, in collaboration with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), is also setting up a maritime surveillance centre in the country.

Several crucial sea lanes of communications pass through the Indian Ocean, a region critical to the strategic interests of India

and France. While the Indian Ocean region is the prime focus for New Delhi, Paris has its territories spread across the Indian Ocean, the Pacific Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean, sources said.

This will be among the key takeaways from Modi's two-day visit to France. During his visit, Modi will hold talks with French President Emmanuel Macron to strengthen strategic ties in key sectors such as defence, nuclear energy, maritime cooperation and counter-terrorism.

The discussions are expected to broadly focus on reaffirming France and India as the key strategic and like-minded part-

ners, strengthening of the defence partnership — including future defence acquisitions, progress on set up of the Jaitapur nuclear power plant, convergent, strategic and political priorities in the Indo-Pacific and related operational needs, Secretary (Economic Relations) in Ministry of External Affairs T S Tirumurti said at a media briefing on Monday.

From France, Modi will proceed for bilateral visits to the UAE and Bahrain, and will return to the French city of Biarritz on August 25 to attend the G7 Summit where India has been invited as a partner country.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla at the inauguration of flats for MPs in Delhi, Monday. Anil Sharma

New Parliament building or an upgrade?: PM says issue under consideration

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Monday said that officials are considering whether to upgrade facilities within the present Parliament House, or to construct a new building.

Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla had both pitched for the construction of a new Parliament House in their valedictory addresses to the two Houses on the conclusion of the Budget Session.

Modi, who was addressing a gathering after inaugurating 36 new flats for Members of Parliament in North Avenue area of the national capital, said that he had told officials that if possible, the task (of upgrading the

existing structure or the construction of a new building) should be completed by 2022 — on the 75th year of Independence.

"Though very little time is left, still, effort should be made (to execute it)", the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister, who was welcomed by Speaker Om Birla, also saw one of the duplex flats from inside.

The 36 flats have been built using fly-ash and waste bricks from the demolition of old buildings. The new flats have four bedrooms and offices for the MPs.

Besides, they have rainwater harvesting pits and are earthquake-resistant. The occupants are mandated to adhere to green building norms specified by the government.

House panel to ex-MPs: Leave bungalows or water, power supply will be cut

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19

WHILE ASKING 200 former members to vacate their official accommodation within a week, the House Committee of the Lok Sabha on Monday resolved to get their power, water and gas connections disconnected within three days.

The committee, headed by CR Patil, BJP MP from Navasari in Gujarat, met on Monday to take stock of the situation arising out of the unauthorised occupation of government accommodation by former members. Members of the committee include Kalyan Banerjee of the Trinamool Congress, Prataprao Jadhav of the Shiv Sena, K Kanimozhi of the DMK, G M Siddeshwara, Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo,

Jaskaur Meena, Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma, Sudheer Gupta and Gopal Shetty, all from the BJP, P Midhun Reddy of the YSR Congress Party and Manickam Tagore of the Congress.

Former members are required to vacate their houses within one month of the dissolution of the Lok Sabha. President Ram Nath Kovind had on May 25 dissolved the 16th Lok Sabha with immediate effect on the recommendation of the Union Cabinet after the Narendra Modi government was formed for a second term.

While some former members may have genuine reasons for holding on to government houses, the government is charged with the responsibility of expeditiously providing accommodation to new MPs.

Eye on polls, Maharashtra govt's package for real estate industry

SANDEEP ASHAR
MUMBAI, AUGUST 19

AHEAD OF Assembly polls, the Maharashtra government has unveiled a Rs 2,200-crore fiscal package for Mumbai's real estate industry, offering significant cuts in premiums that builders pay for availing additional buildable area or floor space index (FSI) for their projects.

With Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis sanctioning the package on Monday, the BJP government is likely to roll it out on Tuesday.

Scrambling to stem the slowdown in the construction sector, leading industry bodies — includ-



Devendra Fadnavis

ing Maharashtra Chamber of Housing Industry and National Real Estate Development Council and Practising Engineers Architects and Town Planners Association — had last month appro-

ached the state government and the Centre, seeking lowering of the construction premiums. The state government has now slashed premiums across segments.

But while the move will significantly reduce construction cost of projects, public exchequer will take a big hit. According to Mumbai municipality's initial estimate, the dole will cost them Rs 1,260 crore. The state's exchequer will take a hit of Rs 800 crore.

With premiums also slashed for redevelopment of buildings in Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority colonies, the government stands to lose another Rs 140 crore in estimated revenue.

Fresh FIR against Azam, wife & son for 'usurping' land

Lucknow: Another FIR was lodged against Rampur MP Azam Khan on Monday for allegedly usurping around 86 bighas of land classified as Enemy Property.

In the FIR lodged at Azim Nagar police station, Khan's wife Tanzeen Fatima and MLA son Abdullah Azam Khan have also been named along with six others, including chairman of UP Shia Central Waqf Board Wasim Rizvi.

SHO Amreesh Kumar said the case has been lodged for getting around 86 bighas of Enemy Property land transferred to the Shia Waqf board and then to the Jauhar Trust, of which Azam is the president. **ENS**

Pragya backs Chouhan's comments on Nehru

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BHOPAL, AUGUST 19

AFTER FORMER Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, BJP's Bhopal MP Pragya Singh Thakur has called the country's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru a "criminal" responsible for a part of Kashmir being occupied by Pakistan.

A few days ago, Chouhan had called the former PM a criminal and said that had Nehru not declared a unilateral ceasefire, PoK would have been a part of India.

Asked about Chouhan's remark, Thakur on Monday said

there is no doubt that anyone who harms the country or tries to disintegrate it is a criminal. In reply to another question, she said those criticising the scrapping of J&K's special status are not patriots.

Responding to Thakur's remark, Chief Minister Kamal Nath's media coordinator Narendra Saluja tweeted, "One who has spent days in jail in the Malegaon blast and Sunil Joshi murder cases, one who is out on bail, one who has described Nathuram Godse as patriot and made fun of the martyrdom of Hemant Karkare, is calling Nehru, who went to jail for freedom, a criminal. Who is a criminal?"

Upper caste staff group slams MP govt, warns to hit streets

MILIND GHATWAI
BHOPAL, AUGUST 19

ACCUSING THE Congress government in Madhya Pradesh of being prejudiced against those from general castes, an organisation representing upper caste employees and officers, along with their supporters, has passed a resolution condemning Chief Minister Kamal Nath for not accepting their demands and failing to grant them time to hear their point of view.

A top office-bearer of the organisation, acronymed SAPAKS, told *The Indian Express* on Monday that members of the outfit will hold street protests unless the government acts on its demands.

For the last few months, SAPAKS had sought time with Nath to air its grievances, arguing that thousands of general caste employees and officers have retired without promotion, and that many more will retire over the next few years.

The outfit sharpened its attack after Nath and more than half-a-dozen Cabinet ministers attended a regional convention organised by AJAKS, a Hindi acronym for the association of Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) employees and officers, in Bhopal on Sunday. "We have come to power after 15 years. Our main challenge is to create an atmosphere of justice. When we meet the next time you may not need to

After Hooda assertion, Haryana Cong chief says none above party

MANOJ CGG & VARINDER BHATIA
NEW DELHI, CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 19

A DAY after former Haryana Chief Minister Bhopinder Singh Hooda showed signs of rebellion, intensifying speculation that he could leave the Congress ahead of Assembly elections in the state, state Congress president Ashok Tanwar on Monday hit back and said Hooda's actions fall in the realm of "indiscipline" and that no one, howsoever tall a leader, is above the party.

Tanwar and Hooda have been at loggerheads for long, and at the heart of the latter's unhappiness is the Congress high command's reluctance to replace Tanwar with a person of his choice as the state unit chief.

Hooda is also seen as seeking complete autonomy in selection of candidates for the Assembly elections, which are just months away.

Tanwar on Monday told *The Indian Express*: "The way some announcements were made there (at Hooda's Rohtak rally on Sunday), and the kind of things which were said there...I can only say that whosoever it may be, howsoever big he or she might be, nobody is above the party."

At the rally, Hooda virtually declared himself the CM candidate for Haryana, with or without the party's support, and announced that there will be four deputy CMs, including one from the backward classes, a Dalit and a Brahmin. He also criticised the Congress leadership for not supporting the Central government's decision to revoke special status to Jammu and Kashmir under



Ashok Tanwar

EXPLAINED History not with Hooda

IT MAY not be a cakewalk for Bhopinder Singh Hooda if he quits the Congress. In the past, leaders such as Devi Lal, Bansilal and Bhajan Lal had quit Congress and formed their own parties, but except Devi Lal, who successfully formed Lok Dal (now called Indian National Lok Dal), parties of the others failed to make any substantial mark in Haryana politics.

Article 370 and said the party has "lost its way", and is no longer the Congress of yore.

Tanwar said, "People must think 100 times before saying such things from a public platform. There are certain things which amount to discipline. I will bring this to the notice of the leadership."

Probe into aviation deal: ED summons Chidambaram

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) has summoned former finance minister P Chidambaram in connection with its money-laundering probe into the Air India case.

Sources said the senior Congress leader has been asked to depose before the case investigating officer on August 23 and record his statement.

The ED case is based on four FIRs registered by CBI with regard to alleged irregularities in the merger of Air India with Indian Airlines, purchase of 111 aircraft by the government carrier from Airbus and Boeing, alleged ceding of profitable routes to foreign airlines, and alleged corruption in opening of certain training institutes with foreign investment.

Chidambaram is expected to be interrogated on a decision taken by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) with regard to purchase of aircraft. The conditions of the deal were allegedly changed by Ministry of Civil Aviation later, leading to loss to the exchequer. According to ED, when the proposal to buy 43 aircraft from Airbus was sent to the Cabinet, CCS put a condition that the French company would have to build training facilities and MRO (Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul) centres at a cost of \$175 million. However, when the purchase order was placed with Airbus, ED sources said, this condition was dropped.

"This effectively led to a loss of Rs 1,000 crore to the exchequer. We are already questioning officials from both the civil aviation ministry and Indian Airlines. More will be questioned in the days to come," a senior ED official said.

The agency earlier summoned top Airbus officials for questioning. In a report tabled in Parliament in January 2012, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) had flagged these irregularities and called the decision to acquire 111 planes by Air India "a recipe for disaster", which should have raised alarm in the government. It said the acquisition through debt had "contributed predominantly" to the airline's massive debt liability.

Former aviation minister Praful Patel has been questioned by the ED in connection with these decisions, and it is understood that the agency now wants to question Chidambaram on their leads in this case.

They said Chidambaram was heading an empowered Group of Ministers for these deals and hence it was important to talk to him to know the decision-making process undertaken by the government.

The Congress leader is also being probed by ED in two separate money-laundering cases of Aircel-Maxis and INX Media and has been questioned in these cases multiple times in the past.

Chidambaram had earlier described the ED action in the Aircel-Maxis case as a "crazy mixture of falsehoods and conjectures".



Kamal Nath

present this charter of demand," Nath had said at the AJAKS event, referring to the organisation's 31-demand charter.

SAPAKS president, Hiralal Trivedi, a former IAS officer, told *The Indian Express* that Nath has

Tanwar, who was in Sirsa on Monday, addressing the Congress's "booth samrat" programme to strengthen the party's organisation structure at the grassroots, told the media on the sidelines of the event, "Indiscipline has been going on for long. It is time to put an end to it. I do not think the party high command tolerates such challenges or pressure tactics."

On Hooda's remarks that the party is not the same, Tanwar said, "The Congress is the same as it always was. It is the same Congress that had given so much to everyone; the same Congress that kept people as Chief Minister for 10 years."

He said Hooda will have to explain his remarks that the Congress has lost its way. "He has said that the Congress is no longer the old Congress. What does he mean? That needs to be explained to the top leadership," he said.

Many Haryana Congress leaders believe Hooda could be on his way out. "He may want to leave now. Otherwise, he wouldn't have gone so far...he has even announced four deputy chief ministers," a senior party leader said.

With Assembly polls round the corner, Hooda's open rebellion has posed a challenge to Sonia Gandhi, who is back as Congress president. The Congress, party leaders admitted, now finds itself between a rock and a hard place. "Hooda, no doubt, has considerable clout among the Jats. He brings to the table a major chunk of Jat votes. But giving the party's jets to him would once again help the BJP rally the non-Jats," a member of the Congress Working Committee said. "Hooda's patience, I understand, is also wearing thin. So it is a tough situation," the party leader added.

MP govt inks MoU with Centre for metro in Indore, Bhopal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BHOPAL, AUGUST 19

THE MADHYA Pradesh government on Monday signed an MoU with the Centre and Madhya Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation (MPMRC) in New Delhi for metro rail projects in Indore and Bhopal.

The cost of the Bhopal project that has two corridors — from Karond circle to AIMS of 14.99 km and from Bhadbhada Square to Ratnagiri Square of 12.88 km — will be Rs 6,491 crore. A ring line of 31.55 km from Bangali Square to Palasia via Vijaynagar, Bhanwar Shala and Airport at a cost of Rs 7,500 crore will be constructed as part of the metro project in Indore.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and MP Urban Development Minister Jaivardhan Singh. The project has been already approved by the Centre.

The project will be implemented by MPMRC, and will be converted into a 50:50 joint venture between the state and central governments. The Centre will nominate five directors, including the chairman, while the state government will nominate five directors, including managing director.

An official release said the MP government will bear the entire cost of land acquisition, restoration and rehabilitation. Loan for Bhopal project will be taken from European Investment Bank and Asian Development Bank and loan for Indore project from New Development Bank.

neither given time nor accepted demands of employees affected by the policy. He claimed it was possible for the government to promote employees despite the SC order but it is not doing so.

Trivedi said 40,000 employees and officers retired between 2002 and 2016 without promotion while their SC/ST counterparts benefited from it. He said memorandums will be submitted to the Governor and the Chief Secretary against the government's stand on reservation in promotion, and these will be followed by streets protests after giving the government a month's time.

J N Kansotia of AJAKS said SAPAKS is free to do what it wants. He said filling up backlog, promo-

tions and representation of SC/ST candidates at top positions are among the major demands AJAKS put forth before the CM. He said Nath has promised them justice.

While AJAKS is a registered organisation, SAPAKS, formed in 2016 to protest against the then BJP government's stand on reservation in promotion and to wage a legal battle, is not. SAPAKS had come into being after the state government moved the Supreme Court to challenge the Madhya Pradesh High Court order on the policy of reservation in promotion.

Former CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan had then said that "no mai kalla" can end reservation as long he was alive, and that his words are etched in stone.

9 EXPRESS NETWORK

Unnao case: CBI gets two more weeks to finish accident probe

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19

THE SUPREME Court on Monday granted two more weeks to the CBI to complete its probe into the accident which left the Unnao rape victim and her lawyer critically injured, and resulted in the death of her two aunts.

A bench of Justices Deepak Gupta and Aniruddha Bose, which perused a report submitted by the agency, said, "We find that the CBI has done extensive investigation but some loose ends need to be tied up."

The CBI had sought four more weeks, saying the material already collected, especially the electronic records, had to be collated and analysed. It also submitted that the statements of the victim and her counsel could not be recorded.

The court, while granting time till September 6 to complete the investigation, however took exception to certain statements allegedly made by members of the rape victim's family. The bench said such remarks may end up helping the accused. The bench told the woman's counsel, "If you have any grievances, feel free to tell us. We are here to help you. Some members of her family are going to the media. It may rather help the accused."

Senior Advocate V Giri, who is the amicus curiae in the case, told the bench that though the injured lawyer too had been shifted to AIIMS from Lucknow pursuant to its order, "yet his condition is still far from satisfactory", and that a lot of money is required for his "treatment and attendance".

Though treatment has been provided to him free at AIIMS, money was required for various other expenditures, he said, urging the court to consider granting him interim compensation.

Agreeing, the court directed the Uttar Pradesh government to give Rs 5 lakh to the injured lawyer's wife within three days.

Expressing strong displeasure over the handling of the Unnao rape case and the road accident, the top court had on August 1 transferred all cases related to the matter from UP to Delhi, while ordering interim compensation of Rs 25 lakh for the victim and CRPF security cover for the woman, her family and their lawyer.

BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar, who represents Bangar Mau in the UP assembly, is the accused in the rape case and has been booked for murder in the accident case. After the controversy erupted, BJP announced it had expelled him.

Transferring the cases, the top court asked the Delhi court to conduct day-to-day hearings and complete the trial in 45 days. It also asked the CBI to complete the probe into the accident case "preferably" within seven days and not later than 14 days. However, acting on the CBI's request, the court later modified the order and kept in abeyance the shifting of the accident case till the probe was completed.

The agency had said that due to shifting of the case, the local court was facing hurdles in passing orders for the remand of the accused in connection with the investigation.

ARSALAN OWNER'S SON HELD FOR ACCIDENT

Car caught speeding 43 times in 9 months

Kolkata Traffic Police's database shows 48 'citation cases'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, AUGUST 19

THE JAGUAR car allegedly being driven by Arsalan Parvez, 22, son of the owner of Arsalan, a Kolkata-based restaurant chain, was speeding at 100-120 km per hour before it was involved in the accident that left two people dead on Friday night, initial investigation has revealed.

Kolkata Traffic Police's database shows that the same vehicle was caught by speed guns on 43 occasions over the last nine months, according to police sources. It is also learnt that between November 2018 and July 12 this year, the car has accrued as many as 48 "citation cases".

Police sources said scrutiny of CCTV footage near the accident site revealed the car had jumped red lights on Russel Street, Middleton Street, Jawaharlal Nehru Road and Theatre Road before the acci-

dent. It is also learnt that a team of experts and technicians from Jaguar may soon examine the vehicle to retrieve data.

The case, earlier being investigated by the Fatal Squad of Kolkata Police, was on Monday handed over to the homicide division of the Detective Department of Kolkata's Lalbazar Police. While the police's fatal squad usually investigates serious road accident cases involving deaths, a senior police officer, explaining why the probe was transferred, said, "There are many angles in the case which needs to be probed in detail. It is not a regular accident case."

Deputy Commissioner (Special), Detective Department of Kolkata Police, Bandana Varun Chandra Shekhar said, "Further investigation is on. Today our scientific wing also examined the vehicle."

Parvez was arrested on Saturday after the Jaguar he was allegedly driving at very high

speed crashed into a Mercedes the night before. The Mercedes car subsequently hit a traffic kiosk, where a group of three Bangladeshi tourists, who were waiting there trying to save themselves from a downpour, took the full impact. Two of the tourists were killed and the third, along with occupants of the Mercedes, were injured.

Parvez is in police custody until August 29. He had left home at 11.30 pm on Friday, and the police are trying to find out who else was with him, and in what condition the accident took place, according to officials.

His family has claimed that the 22-year-old was not on a night out and was instead returning to the family's home in Beck Bagan after checking accounts at the family-owned restaurant's Taratala branch. His family also told the police that Patvez lost control of the car following a mechanical fault.

Amid NRC talk, big question in Kendrapara: Who is Bangladeshi?

SAMPAD PATNAIK BHITARKANIKA, AUGUST 19

"DONT LABEL me Bangladeshi," says Ruma Mandal, 36, as she wears a *bindi* before posing for a photograph. "I am Odia. I have forgotten to speak Bangla."

According to a 14-year-old partial list shared by Kendrapara administration, Ruma is one of the "Bangladeshi infiltrators" settled in Banipal village. The list was prepared in 2005. At the time, BJD ruled Odisha in alliance with the BJP. In a written response to *The Indian Express*, the district administration has said no methodology was applied to ascertain "Bangladeshis" in 2005.

The names of Ruma's husband Sajaya, her eldest daughter and now dead parents-in-law are on the list. Since then, she has had four more children.

Amid reports that the National Register of Citizens (NRC) may be implemented in Kendrapara, Ruma fears she will be deported. "It won't be fair," she says, adding, "I am from Bhadrak, married someone from Bangladesh. My children and I are Indian citizens." Earlier this month, a court-endorsed committee, which oversees wetland conservation and protection in the state, suggested to the Home Department to initiate processes to implement NRC in the district.

Documents accessed by *The Indian Express* indicate the suggestion was proposed by amicus curiae Mohit Agarwal, who is assisting Odisha High Court on monitoring and protection of Bhitarkanika and Chilika wetlands. Ruma's village falls under Bhitarkanika.

Then Director, Environment, and Special Secretary, Forest, K Murugesan Murugesan had told *The Indian Express* that the com-



Ruma Mandal and two of her children. Sampad Patnaik

EXPLAINED Move creating fissures

FOLLOWING THE SC's direction to Chief Justices of high courts of 15 states to monitor ecological conservation of wetlands, the Orissa High Court had taken up restoration of ecology of Bhitarkanika National Park and Chilika Lake. The issue has now started creating fissures between the Odia and Bengali population in the area. The latter had come to the place as seasonal labourers who helped with local agriculture.

Additional Chief Secretary, Forest and Environment Department, S C Mahapatra, said.

Answering a query as to why wetland protection is turning into a hunt for illegal settlers, Agarwal says he has no political agenda. "But I am concerned about national security."

Citing "unofficial sources", he said the number of "Bangladeshis" in the state has gone up to seven lakh.

Collector Samarth Verma refused to put a figure to the number of "Bangladeshis" in the district.

Meanwhile, local residents have started speculating on who can be identified as a Bangladeshi. But replies differ based on who is answering. "All Bengali speakers here are Bangladeshi," says Sambhu Das, 60, from Sir-Jendrapur village, next to Banipal. "We only speak Odia."

Many Bengali speakers deny such claims. "We are from (West Bengal's) Medinipur district," says one, refusing to give his name. "Just because we speak Bangla does not make us foreigners."

Among those designated "Bangladeshis", Ruma is the only one to come on record. She lays out the family's voter and Aadhaar cards.

"How can I be given all these documents if I am an outsider?"

Even if you shoot us, we will carry on: Dabholkar's son

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE PUNE, AUGUST 19

AHEAD OF the sixth death anniversary of anti-superstition activist Dr Narendra Dabholkar, several activists on Monday took out a "candlelight march" on the bridge near Omkareshwar temple in Pune, where he was shot dead on August 20, 2013.

Holding banners of "Jawab Do, Who Killed Dabholkar", activists condemned the murder and said they will continue to enlighten the masses against superstitions in the society.

Dabholkar's son Hamid and daughter Mukta, along with activists of the Maharashtra Andhashraddha Nirmulan Samiti (MANS) and several supporters



Hamid Dabholkar and other activists during a candlelight protest in Pune on Monday. Arul Horizon

were present on the occasion. Hamid said, "Even if you shoot us dead, we will continue to work. We are disappointed that in the last six years, four murders have taken place and the investigation

has still not concluded. But still the main conspirators who brainwashed the assailants are not yet arrested. The threat to the lives of rationalists in the society continues," he said.

Probe agency wants to conduct narco test on driver, helper

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19

THE CBI has decided to conduct a narco-analysis test on the driver and helper of the truck that hit the Unnao rape victim's vehicle in Gurubakshganj area of Rae Bareilly on July 28.

According to media reports, a relative quoted the victim as saying that the truck had deliberately sped towards their vehicle. The victim and her lawyer were critically injured while both her aunts were killed.

CBI sources said the agency is likely to petition the appropriate court for a narco-analysis of the accused after they give their consent. The duo have already been subjected to a lie detector test and brain mapping, and the reports are awaited.

The agency is yet to speak to the victim, who had alleged rape by expelled BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar, and her lawyer who are both undergoing treatment at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences.

The CBI is depending on expert opinion and eyewitness accounts to re-create the sequence of the accident, said sources.

In narco-analysis, a person is injected with chemicals known as barbiturates, commonly called truth serum, to bring out repressed thoughts and memories. The polygraph test meas-



The truck hit the victim's car in Rae Bareilly on July 28. PTI

ures vital body parameters when a question is put before a person.

The variations in these parameters indicate whether a person is truthful or not.

Brain mapping uses neuroscience techniques to see the reaction of a person's brain when pictures and information related to an event are placed before them. All the three techniques do not have any value as evidence in courts, but they are used to bring forth hidden information which could lead to recovery of material or information to be used during the trial or apprehension of an accused.

"We are hopeful of completing the probe within two weeks as directed by the Supreme Court. We are moving in the right direction," a CBI official said. The CBI has booked Sengar and nine others on murder charges in connection with the truck-car collision.

Ex-IPS officer gets 15 years in jail for heroin possession

Mumbai: Former IPS officer Sajji Mohan was sentenced to 15 years in prison on Monday by a special court for illegal possession of 37 kg of "good quality" heroin. The court also sentenced police constable Rajesh Kumar Kataria to 13 years in prison. One more accused, Vicky Oberoi, who had turned approver, was acquitted.

Mohan (52), a 1995-batch IPS officer, was arrested in 2009 and has spent the last 10-and-a-half years behind bars. In 2013, he was convicted by a court in Chandigarh that sentenced him to 13 years in prison for pilfering 60 kg heroin, while he was posted as the zonal officer in the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in 2007-08.

Mohan was also convicted in Chandigarh in a disproportionate assets case in 2014 and sentenced to five years. Monday's sentencing will be added, which means he will serve another four-and-a-half years in jail.

ARMY INSTITUTE OF NURSING, GUWAHATI
Amendment to cutoff date for submission of application for the post of Registrar & Head of Administration
Reference to the original advertisement published in our Newspaper on 04 Aug 2019. Army Institute of Nursing, Guwahati extends the cutoff date for submission of application for the post of Registrar and Head of Administration till 28 August 2019 (till 1200 hours)

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Corrigendum-1
Name of Work: "Supply and Filling of River Sand cleaned, sieved, dried & clay free conforming to specification AAR-M 916-51, packed in 10 kg waterproof bags to be supplied for filling in Diesel Locomotive at GZB and SSB yard round the clock in 20772 Diesel Locomotive for a period of two year from the execution of work" may be read with Corrigendum-1. Date of opening of tender is rescheduled and will open on 13.09.2019 at 15:00. All terms and conditions will remain same. No.: 116-SI/42/Sanding DSL Loco/SSB-GZB (2019)/ML-IV. Date: 19.08.2019 2653/19. SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

CENTRAL WAREHOUSING CORPORATION
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Corporate Office: 4/1, Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016, Telephone-011-26566107
Extn. 257/336. Website: www.cwacorporation.in

ELECTION NOTICE
Notice is hereby given, that the election of a Director to fill up the casual vacancy under rule 4(4) of the Central Warehousing Corporation Rules, 1963 i.e. for term upto 17.05.2021 representing shareholding institutions under Section 7(1) (d) of the Warehousing Corporations Act, 1962 viz.
Other Scheduled Banks of Shareholding Institutions registered with the CWC, will be held on 21.10.2019 Monday (02.30 P.M. to 04.30 P.M.) at New Delhi in the Auditorium of the Central Warehousing Corporation, "Warehousing Bhawan", 4/1, Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110 016.
• The last date for receipt of nomination is 03.09.2019 (Tuesday) upto 5.00 P.M.
• The last date for receipt of proxies /ARs thus will be 27.09.2019 (Friday) upto 5.00 P.M.
For detailed information please log on to www.cwacorporation.in (Sd/- Amit Puri) Secretary

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY
General Public is hereby informed that one male **Namely: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, Address: Unknown** was found dead at Deepali Chowk near Kali Mata Mandir, Mangolpuri, Delhi in the area of P.S. Mangolpuri, Delhi at 08:18 A.M. on 28.07.2019. In this regard a case has been lodged vide **DD No. 24-A dated 28.07.2019** at P.S. Mangolpuri, Delhi. The description of the dead person is as under- **Age: 28-30 years, Sex: Male, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Shallow, I.D. Mark: Tatoo (OM) on right hand and bichhoo tatoo, Wearing: Sports Pazama and Baniyaan.** If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned. **SHO P. S. Mangolpuri, Delhi DP/2579/OD/19 Ph.: 011-27922186, 7065036121**

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION
General public is hereby informed that an unknown dead body was found at **NR Gas Agency, Shamshan Ghat Road, Vijay Vihar, Delhi.** Dated 04.08.2019. In this regard a **DD No. 43-A Dated 04.08.2019**, has been lodged at **P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi.** The Description of the dead body is given as under: **Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Sex: Male, Age: 35 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Black Colour T-Shirt.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local Police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone having any information about this dead person, please inform undersigned. **SHO P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi DP/3173/RD/19 Ph: 011-27521294, 08750870329**

Lucknow: A day after six murders took place in a day across Prayagraj district Sunday, the state government suspended SSP Atul Sharma on Monday and replaced him with SSP STF, Satyarth Anirudh.

The government initially issued transfer order of SSP Atul Sharma Monday morning and then ordered his suspension later in the day.

Of the six murders, three occurred in Dhoomanganj area, a married couple was killed in Tharwai area and a youth was killed in George Town area.

ONLINE E - AUCTION SALE OF ASSET
Phoenix ARC Private Limited
Regd Office: Dani Corporate Park, 5 th Floor, 158, C.S.T Road, Kalina, Santacruz (E), Mumbai - 400098, Tel: 022- 67412314, Fax : 022- 67412313 CIN: U67190MH2007PTC168303; Email: info@phoenixarc.co.in Website: www.phoenixarc.co.in / http://phoenixarc.co.in/saleauction.php?id=NDY4

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR ONLINE E- AUCTION
(In terms of the provisions of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act) read with Rules 6, 7, 8 & 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and to the borrower and guarantors in particular, that the under mentioned property mortgaged to Phoenix ARC Private Limited acting in capacity as Trustee of Phoenix Trust FY17-09 (Phoenix) (pursuant to assignment of debt by Dena Bank in favour of Phoenix vide Assignment Agreement dated 24.03.2017) will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS" basis and "AS IS WHAT IS" condition, by way of "online e-auction" for recovery of dues and further interest, charges and costs etc. as detailed below in terms of the provisions of SARFAESI Act read with Rules 6, 7, 8 & 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002) through website <http://www.bankauctions.com>

Name of the Borrowers/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors	(i) Dash Exports Private Limited registered office at: 1102-B, Pearls Business Park, Netaji Subhash Palace, Pitampura, New Delhi. (ii) Mr. Kewal Krishan Kumar resident of 15/61, Punjab Bagh (West), New Delhi - 110 026. (iii) Mr. Siddharth Kumar resident of 15/61, Punjab Bagh (West), New Delhi - 110 026. (iv) Mrs. Sunanda Kumar resident of 15/61, Punjab Bagh (West), New Delhi - 110 026. (v) Shakti Bhog Foods Limited at S11-11033, Pearl Business Park, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, New Delhi - 110034; Also at: 24 S. 1 Industrial Area, G. T. Karnal Road, Delhi - 110 033; and at: 403-405, 4th Floor, Krishna Apra Business Square, Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi - 110034
Amount due/Secured Debt as per Notice under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002	Rs. 64,49,00,000/- (Rupees Sixty Four Crores Forty Nine Lakhs Only) as on 15.01.2016 with further interest from 16.01.2016 at contractual rates till the entire dues are paid.
Possession taken under SARFAESI Act, 2002	Physical
Date of Inspection	4.09.2019 (Fourth September Two Thousand and Nineteen) (Wednesday) - Between 12:00 PM to 2:00 pm
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 4,60,27,500/- (Rupees Four Crores Sixty Lakhs Twenty Seven Thousand and Five Hundred Only) The Earnest Money has to be deposited either by way of RTGS Favouring "PHOENIX TRUST FY17-9", Current Account: 0812529157; Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited, Branch: BKC, IFSC Code: KKBK0001368. If the EMD is paid by way of Cheque/DD/Pay-Order, then the cheque/DD/Pay-order shall be drawn in favour of PHOENIX TRUST FY17-9 and to be deposited into Current Account No.: 0812529157 with Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited Branch BKC and the Cheque/DD/Pay-order shall be realised and clear credit should be received in the account of Phoenix Trust FY 17-9 on or before the date of submission of Bid.
Date of submission of Bid (E- Auction)	17.09.2019 (Seventeenth September Two Thousand and Nineteen) (Tuesday) before 8:00 PM
Reserve Price	Rs. 46,02,75,000/- (Rupees Forty Six Crores Two Lakhs Seventy Five Thousand Only)
Bid Increment	Rs. 5,00,000/- & in such multiples
Date of E- Auction	18.09.2019 (Eighteenth September Two Thousand and Nineteen) (Wednesday) between 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Mode of E- Auction	Online E-Auction

Description of the Secured Asset being auctioned: Property Owned by Mrs. Sunanda Kumar: All the piece and parcel of part admeasuring 1000 Sq. yards and part admeasuring 1609.26 sq. yards i.e., totally admeasuring 2609.26 sq. yards of Plot No. 17, Road No. 77, West Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi 110026 together with all constructions, existing thereupon, fittings, fixtures, water and electricity connections, plantations etc. and bounded as below: North: Property No. 15, South: Road No. 74, East: Road No. 77, West: Lane.

Terms & Conditions:
1. The Auction Sale is being conducted by the Authorised Officer under the provisions of SARFAESI Act with the aid and through e-auction. Auction/ Bidding shall be only through "Online Electronic Mode" through the website <http://www.bankauctions.com> M/s C1 India Private Limited is the service provider to arrange platform for e-auction.
2. The Auction is conducted as per the further Terms and Conditions of the Bid Document and as per the procedure set out therein. Bidders may go through the website of Phoenix, www.phoenixarc.co.in and website of the service provider, www.bankauctions.com for bid documents, the details of the secured asset put up for auction/ their choice of the bid form.
3. The bidders may participate in the e-auction quoting/ bidding from their own offices/ place of their choice. Internet connectivity shall have to be arranged by each bidder himself/herself. The Authorised Officer/ Phoenix service provider shall not be held responsible for the internet connectivity, network problems, system crash down, power failure etc.
4. For details, help, procedure and online training on e-auction, prospective bidders may contact M/s C1 India Private Limited, Contact Number: 91-124-4888888, +91-124-4302020/2021/2022/2023/2024, 99594597555 email id: support@bankauctions.com
5. Bidders may also go through the website of Phoenix, www.phoenixarc.co.in for verifying the details of the secured asset put up for auction/ obtaining the bid form.
6. The e-auction will be conducted on the date and time mentioned herein above, when the secured asset mentioned above will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS" basis and "AS IS WHAT IS" condition.
7. All the intending purchasers/ bidders are required to register their name in the portal mentioned above as <https://www.bankauctions.com> and get user ID and password free of cost to participate in the e-auction on the date and time as mentioned aforesaid.
8. For participating in the e-auction, intending purchasers/ bidders will have to submit the details of payment of refundable Earnest Money Deposit of 10% of the Reserve Price of the Secured asset along with copies of the PAN CARD, Board Resolutions in case of Company and Address Proof on or before 17.09.2019.
9. The successful purchaser/ bidder shall deposit the 25% (inclusive of EMD) of his/ its offer by way of RTGS to the account mentioned hereinabove on or before the close of banking hours on 18.09.2019 i.e., the day of Auction, which deposit shall have to be confirmed by Phoenix, failing which the sale will be deemed to have been failed and the EMD of the said successful purchaser/ bidder shall be forfeited.
10. The EMD of all other bidders who did not succeed in the e-auction will be refunded by Phoenix within 48 hours of the closure of e-auction. The EMD shall not carry any interest.
11. The balance amount of purchase consideration shall be payable by the successful purchaser/ bidder on or before the fifteenth (15) day of confirmation of sale of the said secured asset or such extended period as may be agreed upon in writing. In case of default, all amounts deposited till then shall be forfeited.
12. For inspection of the property or more information, the prospective bidders may contact Mr. Suresh Varyyam / Mr. Parth Mishra, at above mentioned address or at suresh.varyyam@phoenixarc.co.in / parth.mishra@phoenixarc.co.in (email) or on 07506490368/08291950363 (Mob).
13. It shall be the sole responsibility of the intending bidders to inspect, verify and satisfy themselves about the secured asset encumbrances, title of property put on auction and claims/rights/dues affecting the secured asset, including the statutory dues and specifications before submitting the bid.
14. The particulars specified in the auction notice published in the newspapers have been stated to the best of the information of the undersigned; however, the undersigned shall not be responsible / liable for any error, misstatement or omission.
15. At any stage of the auction, the Authorised Officer may accept/reject/modify/cancel the bid/offer or post-pone the auction without assigning any reason therefor and without any prior notice.
16. The successful purchaser/bidder shall bear any statutory dues, taxes, fees payable, stamp duty, registration fees, etc. that is required to be paid in order to get the property conveyed in his/her favour as per the applicable law.
17. The successful bidder/purchaser shall be solely responsible for any cost/expenses/fees/charges etc payable to the society/any other authority towards the transfer of the rights in its/his/her favour.
18. The Borrower/ Guarantors, who are liable for the said outstanding dues, shall treat this Sale Notice as a notice under Rule 9 Clause (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, about the holding of the above-mentioned auction sale.
19. In the event the auction scheduled hereinabove fails for any reason whatsoever, Phoenix has the right to sell the secured asset under auction through this Notice by way of PRIVATE TREATY under the provisions of the SARFAESI Act, 2002.
*For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link <http://phoenixarc.co.in/saleauction.php?id=NDY4> provided in Phoenix ARC Private Limited's website i.e. www.phoenixarc.co.in.

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Phoenix ARC Private Limited,
Phoenix Trust FY17-9
Place: New Delhi
Date: 20-8-2019



RESCUE OP An IAF chopper rescues fishermen trapped in the swollen Tawi river in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday. ANI

UTTARKASHI 12 dead, many missing after cloudburst

LALMANI VERMA DEHRADUN, AUGUST 19 TWELVE PEOPLE including a nine-month-old child are reported dead and many are still missing following a cloudburst in Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi district on Sunday, as rescue teams started operations to help people stranded in the affected areas on Monday. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivedra Singh Rawat met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on Monday and apprised him of the losses due to heavy rain and other natural disasters in the state. Shah has sought a detailed report on the disaster and has assured full cooperation to the state from the Centre, officials here said. "Helicopters that were pressed into action have reached the affected village with communication equipment, relief material and rescue teams. Four injured people have been airlifted to Dehradun and admitted to hospital," S A Murugesan, Secretary (in-charge) Disaster Management, said. In the meeting with Amit Shah, Chief Minister Rawat informed that more than 32 people have died in natural disasters in different parts of the state so far this, and losses due to these disasters are pegged at approximately Rs 175 crore. But according to data provided by Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA), at least 35 deaths had been recorded in the current monsoon season till Friday last week. Including the 11 deaths in the Uttarkashi due to cloudburst, the toll so far this monsoon would be 47.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON See Section 82 Cr. P.C. Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused namely Suraj, S/o Ram Das, R/o 2103/2C, Gali No. 15, Prem Nagar, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence of FIR No. 425/15 u/s 323/341/308/34 IPC, P.S. Patel Nagar, Delhi, and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the accused Suraj, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Suraj, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant), Processing U/s 82 Cr. P.C. has been initiated in the case. Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Suraj, FIR No. 425/15 u/s 323/341/308/34 IPC, P.S. Patel Nagar, Delhi, is required to appear in this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 30.09.2019. By Order Ms. Bhawani Sharma, ACMM (West), Room No. 145, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi DP/6501/CD/19-(Court Matter)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL The Chairman Mani Mahesh Trust-cum- ADM Bharmour is interested for Helicopter Operations between Chamba to Gourikund (Mani Mahesh) (up & down) during Shri Mani Mahesh Yatra, 2019 w.e.f. 24.08.2019 to 07.09.2019. Interested parties can submit their RFP's on or before 22.08.2019 (3PM). For more information/ details please read terms & conditions hosted at District Chamba's website:- hpchamba.nic.in Sd/- (Prithi Paul Singh) HPAS, Chairman MMT-cum-ADM, Bharmour, Distt. Chamba, HP-176315

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE Sr. DEE/EMU/GZB for and on behalf of President of India. Invites open e-tender under single packet system for the under noted work. 1. N.I.T. No.: 232-Elect-EMU-WC-02-19-20 2. Name of the work: Provision of Guidance, Assessment & Implementation and Certification Work of Green Co Rating at EMU Car Shed, Ghaziabad. 3. Tender cost: Rs. 2360.00 (online payment mode available on IREPS website) 4. Approximate cost: Rs. 530000.00 5. Earnest Money: Rs. 1000.00 (online payment mode available on IREPS website) 6. Completion period: 06 Months 7. Validity of offer: 45 days 8. Date & Time from tender advertised on IREPS website: 17.08.2019 (11:52 hrs.) 9. Date & Time from tender submission start and end: 30.08.2019 (00:00 Hrs.) to 13.09.2019 (15:00 Hrs.) 10. Tender closing Date & Time: 13.09.2019 (15:00 Hrs.) 11. Date & Time of tender Opening (immediately when tender submission ends): 13.09.2019 (15:00 Hrs.) Note 1: All participant Tenderers will submit their requisite documents along with their tender offer. Note 2: Duplicate documents should not be enclosed/up loaded. Tender Notice is available on website of www.ireps.gov.in No. 232-Elect-EMU-WC-02-19-20 Date: 17.08.2019 2650/2019 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

MODERN COACH FACTORY, RAEBARELI E-Tender Notice On behalf of the President of India, Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/PS, Modern Coach Factory, Raebareli is inviting open e-tender based on single packet system from capable & experienced tenderers through Indian Railways portal www.ireps.gov.in for the under mentioned work. Details:- 1. Name of work: Provision of Lighting on New pathway Near Mathana rsta. 2. Place of work: Modern Coach Factory Lalganj, Distt Raebareli. 3. Approx Cost: ₹ 723597.00 (Seven lac twenty three thousand five hundred ninety seven only). 4. Cost of tender: ₹ 2,000.00 (Two thousand only). 5. Earnest Money: ₹ 14500.00 (Fourteen thousand five hundred only). 6. Date & Time of closing of tender: 16.09.2019 at 15:30 hrs. 7. Term & Conditions: Other details, terms & conditions are available in tender documents on www.ireps.gov.in Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/PS

E-Tender Notice Tender Notice No.: MCF-MD4261-2019-OT-01 Due Date: 06.09.2019 Chief Design Engineer, Modern Coach Factory, Raebareli acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open E-Tender through Indian Railways portal www.ireps.gov.in from reputed firms based on two packet system against e-tender no. MCF-MD4261-2019-OT-01 closing date 06.09.2019 at 15:30 hrs. Description of work: Procurement and fitting of Wheel Shelling Prediction System (WSPS) for LHB AC Coaches to find out exact cause of wheel shelling so as to eliminate the problem of wheel shelling in the LHB coaches as per scope of work. Approx Value: ₹ 41,37,000.00 (₹ Forty One Lakhs Thirty Seven Thousand Only). Earnest Money rounded off to nearest multiple of 10: ₹ 82,700.00 (₹ Eighty Two Thousand Seven Hundred only) Cost of Tender document: ₹ 3000.00 Completion period from the date of commencement of work: 15 Months. Date & Time of closing of tender: 06.09.2019 at 15:30 hrs. Detailed Tender Notice, Eligibility criteria, Terms & conditions are available in tender document at Indian Railways portal: www.ireps.gov.in Dy. CME/Design-II

e-Tender Notice OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, TEXT BOOK PRODUCTION AND MARKETING KHARAVEL NAGAR, BHUBANESWAR-751001 TEL. NO. 0674-2380871/72 Bid letter No. 4903 Date: 19/08/2019 1. Description of tender:- National Tender for Transportation of Nationalised Text Books & Allied Books from Truck Owners/ Transport Agencies/ Transport Contractors having registered "Agent License" for transportation of N.T.Books & Allied Books to different district headquarter/ blocks all over Odisha for the Academic Session -2020-21 2. Date & Time of availability of bid documents in the portal Start Date & Time: 21/08/2019, 10.00 AM Closing Date & Time: 20/09/2019, 5.00 PM 3. Name and address of the O.I.T.: O/O the Director, Text Book Production & Marketing, Kharavel Nagar Bhubaneswar- 751001 Further details regarding downloading of bid documents, online participation can be seen from the e-procurement portal https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Subsequent addendum/corrigendum if any will be hosted on same website. The Director reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender(s) without assigning any reason thereof. Sd/- DIRECTOR TEXT BOOK PRODUCTION AND MARKETING 02005/11/0005/1920

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems) N.I.T. No.: 04/19-20 dated 19.08.2019. (1) Name of work with its location: Proposal for establishing, operating, managing & maintaining CT/MRI centre in already built up space in Northern Railway Central Hospital (NRCH), New Delhi. (2) Approx. Cost of work: Rs. 10,000. (3) Earnest Money: (It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note:- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 2015/CE-ICT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016). Rs. 6,50,600/- (4) Completion period of work: 120 Months. (5) Cost of tender on cash/bid post: (It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note:- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 2015/CE-ICT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016). Rs. 29,500/- (6) Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender: Upto 15:00 hrs. on 13.09.2019 Opening of tender at 15:00 hrs. On 13.09.2019 (7) Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen: Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. No.: 128-W/269/OET/19-20/NRCH/NIT04 Dated: 19.08.2019. 2659/2019

DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN, CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL SECURITY (DIRECTORATE OF SOCIAL SECURITY) 2nd FLOOR, ENGINEERS' HOSTEL, H.E.C., SEC-III, DHURWA, RANCHI - 834004 JHARKHAND TENDER CANCELLATION NOTICE Due to Unavoidable reason, Tender Ref No.: PRO-01/2019-20 Dated-13/08/2019 which was published in daily newspaper (Tender Notice NO. PR214366 Social Welfare Women and Child Development (19-20) D) for Supply and Distribution of Woolen Blankets in the State of Jharkhand is hereby Cancelled. Sd/- Assistant Director Social Security, Govt. of Jharkhand. PR. 214745 (Social Welfare, Women and Child Development) 19-20 (D).

CHENNAI METRO RAIL LIMITED (A Joint venture of Govt. of India and Govt. of Tamil Nadu) Admin Building, CMRL Depot, Poonamalle High Road, Koyambad, Chennai - 600107, India. NIT No.: CMRL/CON/CCS-LW-03/2019 E-PROCUREMENT TENDER e-Tender No.: CCS-LW-03/2019 CMRL invites digitally signed tender through e-procurement bids on National Competitive Bidding for the works on "HORTICULTURE & LANDSCAPING WORKS, SITE REINSTATEMENT & DEVELOPMENT WORKS INCLUDING CIVIL, ARCHITECTURAL, MEP, MISCELLANEOUS PEDESTRAIN FACILITIES, PAVING WORKS, ROAD RESTORATION, SIGNAGE ETC. AT EVR PERIYAR SALAI AS A PART OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF CENTRAL SQUARE". Tender Documents can be downloaded from E-procurement website. For further details, please visit e-procurement website: http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app Chief General Manager (UG-C) D/PR/2808/TENDER/2019

NMDC Limited (A Govt. of India Enterprise) 'Khanji' Bhawan', 10-3-311/A, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad-500 028. CIN: L13100TG1958 GO1001674. OPEN TENDER ENQUIRY-CONTRACTS DEPARTMENT HQ (Contracts)/MSS Consultant/NISP/2019/210 dated: 20-08-2019 Tenderers are invited from experience, qualified consultant for "Consultancy services for formulation of marketing strategy for sale of 3.0 million tons per annum of flat products produced from NMDC's integrated Steel Plant located at Jagadapur, Chhattisgarh". The tender document including pre-qualification requirement can be viewed and/or downloaded from NMDC's website http://www.nmdc.co.in and CP Portal http://www.eprocure.gov.in from 20-08-2019 to 18-09-2019. For accessing the bid document from NMDC website: on-line registration is required at http://www.nmdc.co.in/nmcdcenter/default.aspx. Prospective bidders may visit NMDC website http://www.nmdc.co.in; CPP Portal http://www.eprocure.gov.in; MSTC website: http://www.mstccommerce.com and may download the documents. For further clarification, JGM (Contracts), NMDC Ltd., Hyderabad can be contacted on fax 040-23534746/23531828, email: contracts@nmdc.co.in JGM (Contracts)

BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD (Power Wing) Corrigendum No.-1 Notice Inviting E-Tender Dated 13.08.2019 N.I.T. No: 461/PHD/Bhakra-II/460-B Dated 18.07.2019 Name of Office: Chief Engineer / System Operation, Planning & Design (Power Plants) Dte. BBMB (PW), Flat No. 69, SLDC Residential Complex, Industrial Area, Phase-I, Chandigarh - 160002, Tel. Fax: 0172-2637035 Name of Work: Online Tender for Supply of Hardware fittings of various sizes for different types of Water Supply Systems for Bhakra Left Bank Hydro Power House. Document download Start Date & Time online: 23.07.2019 from 0900 Hrs Last date & time for online uploading of complete Pre-qualifying documents: 10.09.2019 upto 1700 Hrs Document download End Date & Time online: 19.09.2019 upto 1200 Hrs Last Date & Time of Online Bid Submission at: 19.09.2019 upto 1400 Hrs https://bbmbeproc.abcpocure.com Due Date & Time of Online Bid Opening at: 19.09.2019 from 1500 Hrs. https://bbmbeproc.abcpocure.com onwards The Bids are to be submitted online. For cost of tender document, earnest money deposit and detailed NIT, please visit BBMB website: https://bbmbeproc.abcpocure.com, www.bbmb.gov.in 356-PR-S0-6 For Your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT MEGHALAYA, SHILLONG No. SPMU(NHP)/PROCUREMENT/5/2019-20/201 Dated Shillong, the 19th Aug. 2019 NOTICE INVITING E-BIDDING The Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department, Meghalaya invites online bids for The Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning and Maintenance of Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers (ADCP) for Discharge Measurement of Rivers in Meghalaya under the World Bank funded 'National Hydrology Project'. Document publish date & time: 28 August 2019; 14:00 hours. Bid submission closing: 27 September 2019; 14:00 hours. Details may be obtained from website: https://meghalayatenders.gov.in Sd/- Chief Engineer (WR) Meghalaya, Shillong MIPR NO 694

UJVN Limited H.O.: 'UJJAWAL', Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006 Tel/Fax: 0135-2763508, 2763808 & Fax: 0135-2763507 CIN No. U40101UR200120C025866 | www.uttarakhandjvnl.com Short Term "e" Procurement Notice Tender no: 07/EE(E&M)/PB/2019-20 Office of the Executive Engineer (E&M) Virbhadra Barrage, Pashulok, Rishikesh, Dehradun invites on line bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tenders is given below: 1- Name of Work: Repairing & Overhauling of 50 Ton Capacity Gantry Crane Mkr Waker MVI at Virbhadra Barrage, Pashulok, Rishikesh. Rs. 33,80,000/- (GST Extra) 2- Estimate Cost: 33,80,000/- (GST Extra) 3- Period of Completion: 45 days 4- Earnest Money: Rs. 67,600/- 5- Tender Cost: Rs. 2360/- (inclusive of 18% GST) 6- Date/Time of availability of bid document in the portal: 19-08-2019 from 17:00 Hrs. 7- Last date/Time of receipt of bid in the portal: 02-09-2019 upto 11:00 Hrs. 8- Date/Time of opening of the bid on website: 02-09-2019 at 15:00 Hrs. 9- Name & address of the officer inviting the bid: EE (E&M.), Pashulok Barrage, Rishikesh. 10- Detail of subsequent addendum/corrigendum (if any) will be obtained from the website 11- Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal http://uktenders.gov.in. Executive Engineer (E&M) Virbhadra Barrage, Rishikesh Letter No. 447 Dated 19.08.2019 "Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

HARYANA VIDHAN SABHA SECRETARIAT Advertisement No. 1/2019 Published on 9th August, 2019 in the Indian Express Newspaper Post: Media and Communication Officer CORRIGENDUM In the column of 'Qualification/Experience' at (i) 'Matric Degree in Hindi or English' may be read as "Master Degree in Hindi or English".

SBI Operational Risk Management Department, Corporate Centre, 6th Floor, Air India Building, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400 021. REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL State Bank of India (SBI) invites applications from interested parties for appointment of Consultant for Operational Risk Management Department. Last date for submission of bid is 11.09.2019 up to 3:00 PM. For further details, interested parties may visit our website https://www.sbi.co.in or https://bank.sbi Sd/- Deputy General Manager (Operational Risk) No.: CO/Cat/333/628 Dated: 19.08.2019 (Dr. J.C. Mehra) KAS Dy. Chief Executive Officer

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER SHRI MATA VAISHNO DEVI SHRINE BOARD, KATRA EXTENSION OF TENDER NOTICE In reference to Abridged Tender Notice No. No. CO/Cat/333/430 dated 09.07.2019 & extension issued vide no. CO/Cat/333/569 dated 05.08.2019, the last date for submission of tender from Principal firms/authorized franchisees/firms/any individual, for providing Catering Services from the premises of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, is hereby further extended upto 29th of August, 2019, 1500 hrs. The other terms and conditions of the tender shall remain the same. The NIT along with detailed terms & conditions can be downloaded from official website of the Shrine Board (www.maavaishnodevi.org.), free of cost. In case of lack of internet connectivity, prospective bidders can obtain a copy of NIT free of cost from the Central Office of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board located at Katra (J&K). Sd/- (Dr. J.C. Mehra) KAS Dy. Chief Executive Officer No.: CO/Cat/333/628 Dated: 19.08.2019 राजस्थान राज्य मातृ स्काउट व गाइड, मण्डल मुख्यालय, जयपुर (राज.) टेलीफोन नं. व फीक्स नं. 0141-2202810 ई-मेल - div_jaipur2008@rediffmail.com साक, मुद्रा/पं. (.) / संस्थान / निविदा / लॉट / 2019-20 / 2031 अंशु देविका 18/8/2019 ई-बोली सूचना क्र. 3 (वर्ष 2019-20) "सामाजिक कार्यों हेतु लॉन मय तटपताल को टेके पर टेके हेतु ई-निविदा" राजस्थान राज्य मातृ स्काउट व गाइड जयपुर मण्डल, बीबीपीएस परिसर में स्थित लॉन मय तटपताल को सामाजिक कार्यों हेतु कम से कम चार वर्षों के लिये अनुभव पर देने हेतु पैंतीस लाख रु. मात्र न्यूनतम वार्षिक राशि पर अनुभवी व इच्छुक पंजीकृत फर्म / कम्पनी से ऑनलाइन निविदा दिनांक 30.08.2019 तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। विस्तृत जानकारी वेबसाइट www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, www.spppp.rajasthan.gov.in, http://education.rajasthan.gov.in/ scoutsguides व http://bharatcoutguidejaipur.com पर देखें। (डॉ. आदेश चतुर्वेदी) मन्त्र सचिव, जयपुर adeshchaturvedi@hotmail.com U/BN : BSG1920SL0B0001 9414068014

PRESS NOTICE Water Resources Department Tembhu Lift Irrigation Project Management Division Ogalewadi 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. Ogalewadi 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, Ogalewadi reserves the right to reject/ accept of tender. Tender is not accepted with any condition. 1. Name of Work : Construction of Mechanised CCPaver Lining and Manual Lining of Arphal Canal Km 105, Km 173 Km 174 and Km 176 to Km191 (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, Ogalewadi, Tal- Karad, Dist-Satara Ph.No. 02164-271327 e-Mail: eetlpdn2@gmail.com Sd/- Executive Engineer, Tembhu Lift Irrigation Project Management Division, Ogalewadi, Karad (dgjpr/2019-2020/2031)

Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Department Office of the Executive Engineer, EM&RE Div.-II, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu PHONE NO. 0191-2458521, E-mail: eemred2@gmail.com NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER e-NIT NO.: 52 of 2019 Dated: 14.08.2019 For and on behalf of the Governor, Jammu and Kashmir State, e-Tenders (In Two Cover System) are invited for Replacement of ACSR LT Conductor with LT AB Cables of Sizes 120/50mm² Erection of New LT Line Insertion/ Replacement of Poles on LT/HT Lines & Creation of Isolation Points on Feeder G-4 on turn key basis under Langulishing Projects Sanctioned by JKIDFC for Industrial Complex, Gangyal from Self Help Groups/ A-Class Electrical Contractors of J&K having Valid Registration Certificate for the year 2019-20 and Meeting Eligibility Criteria as per terms, conditions, Technical Specifications and Schedules forming part of this Tender Document. Sr. No. Name of Work Cost of Document (In Rs.) Earnest Money Security Deposit (In Rs.) Date & Time of Downloading of Bidding Documents Last Date of e-Bid Submission Time and Date of Opening of Tender 1. For Replacement of ACSR LT Conductor with LT AB Cables of Sizes 120/50mm², erection of New LT Line, Insertion/ Replacement of Poles on LT/HT Lines & Creation of Isolation Points on Feeder G-4 on turnkey basis under Langulishing Projects Sanctioned by JKIDFC for Industrial Complex, Gangyal 500/- 45,000/- 17.08.2019 from 04.00 PM. 02.09.2019 at 04.00 PM. 03.09.2019, 03.09 PM. 1. Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications. 2. The Tender Document is available at website: http://ktenders.gov.in. Interested Bidders may view, download the e-Bid Document, seek Clarification and Submit their e-Bids Online upto the Date and Time mentioned in the Table below. No. EMD-11/3420-26 Dated: 14.08.2019 DIPJ-2150 Sd/- Executive Engineer, Elect. Maint. & RE Division-II, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

Malegaon blasts: Journalists' plea can't be allowed, says NIA EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, AUGUST 19

THE NATIONAL Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday said the application filed by journalists against its plea, to make the proceedings in the 2008 Malegaon blast in-camera, cannot be allowed as they have no locus in the case. The agency's reply came on an application by the NIA filed by journalists, including from The Indian Express, on August 5, opposing the restrain sought on publication of any proceedings in the trial. The agency further said while it is "in favour of freedom of speech and expression, freedom of the press and right to information", considering the "sensitive" nature of the case, the NIA has filed the plea for in-camera hearing. "It is submitted that these journalists are not party to the proceedings of this case; therefore, they have no locus in the matter for interference at this stage. The intervention has been sought to delay the proceedings and to disturb the smooth working of the court," the NIA reply staes.

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Katra Abridged Notice Inviting Tender For and on behalf of the Chairman, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Sealed Tenders are invited on the prescribed format, duly affixed with Revenue Stamps worth Rupees Six only for the Supply of "1121 Steamed Basmati Rice in 50 Kg./10 Kg. Packing" for a period of One Year F.O.R. at Non-Engineering Store, Banganga, Katra. The Tender should reach this office by or before 09.09.2019 upto 03.00 PM. IST. The Tender Documents containing detailed terms and conditions and Tender Format can be had from the Central Office of the Shrine Board, Katra against Cash payment of Rs. 300/- (Non-transferable and Non-refundable) on any working day and same can be downloaded from our website: www.maavaishnodevi.org. Sd/- (Amit Vermani), KAS, Dy. Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Katra. No.: Co/Pur/NE/168-V/5537 Dated: 19.08.2019

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY E-Tendering Notice Divisional Railway Manager (Electrical), North Eastern Railway, Varanasi, for and on behalf of President of India, invites Online (E-Tendering) "open tender" for the following work: S.No.1:- Tender Reference No.: E-Tender-L-06-19-20. Name of Work : Electrical work connection to existing of covered shed (42x10M) for provision sick line at Azamgarh Coaching depot. Approx Cost (in Rs) : ₹ 1500270.21, Earnest Money (in Rs) : ₹ 30000/-, Cost of Tender documents : ₹ 2000/-, Completion period : 90 Days. S.No.2:- Tender Reference No.: E-Tender-L-07-19-20. Name of Work : Electrical work connection to Provision of Modern Divisional training institute at BSB. Approx Cost (in Rs) : ₹ 1500270.21, Earnest Money (in Rs) : ₹ 30000/-, Cost of Tender documents : ₹ 2000/-, Completion period : 90 Days. For S. No. 1 & 2 Date & Time of Closing Tender : 23.09.2019, 15.00 Hrs. For S. No. 1 & 2 Date & Time of Opening Tender : 23.09.2019, 15.30Hrs. Full details of E-Tendering shall be seen in Website www.ireps.gov.in Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/CPRO/EL-53 General, Varanasi About any passenger amenity complain SMS on Mobile No. 05734849505 Never travel on roof and foot boards

Hyderabad businessman Satish Babu gets bail in money laundering case

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19

HYDERABAD BUSINESSMAN, Satish Sana Babu was on Monday granted bail by a special court in Delhi in a money laundering case which involved controversial meat exporter Moin Qureshi.

The court observed that the businessman has been "assisting the agency since his arrest in 2017" and that there was nothing on record to show that he "interfered with the investigation all this time in any manner except for the allegation that he did not cooperate in the investigation".

Babu was the prime witness in a corruption case against former CBI special director Rakesh Asthana. Sana's allegations against Asthana last year had triggered a war within the CBI, particularly between then Director Alok Verma and Asthana.

"In view of the facts that they are, since Moin Akhtar Qureshi has already been granted bail and the role of the applicant is no graver than his role in the case, the application of accused Satish Sana Babu seeking bail is allowed," said Special Judge Bhardwaj. The judge also directed the Babu to furnish a personal bail bond of Rs 5 lakh and surety of the same amount.

During the hearing, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) told the court that Babu made payments to Qureshi to influence public servants, and, during the course of his custodial interrogation, he was evasive and non-cooperative, as a result of which, investigation on crucial aspects of the case could not be completed.

Babu, on the other hand filed the application seeking bail on the grounds of parity (since co-accused Moin Akhtar Qureshi was granted bail), violation of legal provisions while converting his status from a witness to accused, no risk of him absconding, and no threat of tampering with evidence.

Judge Bhardwaj agreed with Babu's counsel while granting bail and said, "The ground of parity being pleaded by the counsel for the accused, therefore is the most relevant factor as being argued by Senior Counsel KPS Tulsiani and in his words the bridegroom (Moin Akhtar Qureshi) has already been granted bail, the applicant (Babu) was merely a *barati* (wedding procession member)".

Woman dies after being set on fire, husband, father-in-law booked

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, AUGUST 19

A 22-YEAR-OLD woman died on August 16 after she was set on fire, allegedly by her husband and father-in-law over dowry, in Gagra village of Shravasti district. The family members of the woman, identified as Saeda Begum, have alleged that her husband Nafees (25), had given her triple talaq last month and their complaint was

not lodged at the police station. The investigating officer (IO), Jang Bahadur Yadav, denied the allegation. "In the statement given by the father, of which we have a video recording, triple talaq was not mentioned. The matter is being probed by the Additional SP. We will wait for him to complete the probe before we comment further," said Yadav. Saeda's father, Ramzan Khan (55) said, "Nafees had given instant talaq to Saeda. On August 6, we had gone to lodge a complaint and had given the application to a head constable at Bhinga police station. But he sent us away."

Police said a case has been lodged under various IPC Sections including dowry death. "We have booked eight persons, including the husband Nafees and father-in-law Azeezullah. Nafees and Azeezullah have been arrested," said SP Ashish Srivastava.

Convent authorities locked me in, denied freedom to pray: 'Sacked' nun to police

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, AUGUST 19

THE CATHOLIC nun, who protested against her congregation's directive asking her to quit the order, complained to police on Monday that she was locked inside the convent and denied the freedom to pray. Lucy Kalapura, a member of Franciscan Claret

Congregation, hit the headlines last year when she supported an agitation demanding the arrest of then Jalandhar bishop Franco Mulakkal, who was accused of rape by a nun. She was served a dismissal order earlier this month under several charges. Defying the decision, Kalapura stayed at her convent at Karickamala village in Wayanad district. On Monday, the 53-year-old nun found that the gate of the

convent was locked and the other nuns had left for prayers at the local church. Kalapura, also a teacher at a government-aided school, informed local police who made the convent superiors open the gate. Later in the day, police registered a case on a complaint by Kalapura, alleging that the convent denied her freedom for prayer. "I wanted to attend the Mass. But others went to the church after locking the gate. The

convent authorities were denying my freedom and right for prayer," she said. According to the congregation's dismissal order, the nun should have quit the convent on August 7. The congregation's superior-general had written to Kalapura's mother, who lives in Kasaragod, and urged the family to take her back. Kalapura said she would stay back as she has appealed to the Vatican against the dismissal order.

MANAPPURAM FINANCE LTD.

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

The pledges, in specific and the public, in general, are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted at the following branches on 16/08/2019 from 10.00 am onwards. We are conducting gold ornaments defaulted customers who have failed to make payment of his/her loan amount despite being notified by registered letters. Unauctioned items shall be auctioned on any other days without further notice. Changes in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at auction centre and on website without any further notice.

List of pledges-

DELHI, BHOLENATH NAGAR DELHI. 12157070008797, 8232, 9286, 9295, 9301, 9306, 9318, 9343, 9370, 9380, 9409, 12157070003247, 3273, 3327, 3328, 3367, 3409, DWARAKASECTOR7, 113760700009671, 9695, 9738, 9749, 9785, 9786, 9838, 9930, 113760700010290, 0297, 0374, 0375, 0378, 0390, 0394, 0402, 0416, 0427, 0428, 0429, 0438, 0439, 0440, 0447, 0451, 0457, 0458, 0467, 0468, 0484, 0485, 0486, 0494, 0496, 0499, 0507, 0508, 0512, 0513, 113760700002361, 2979, 3005, 3064, 3080, GEETHACOLONY, 107590700017814, 9192, 9239, 9381, 9392, 9514, 9514, 9599, 9716, 9754, 107590700020374, 0422, 0426, 0446, 0457, 0473, 0477, 0486, 0487, 0492, 0521, 0524, 0525, 0538, 0539, 0550, 0551, 0556, 0557, 0561, 0665, 0574, 0581, 0588, 0606, 0619, 0668, 0689, 0673, 0674, 0679, 0682, 0689, 0692, 0693, 107580700030410, 3437, 4068, 4089, 4104, 4114, 4115, 4143, 4144, 4153, 4183, KAKKARDOOMA, 102760700009367, 9452, 9543, 9737, 9738, 9739, 9747, 9748, 9757, 9777, 9778, 9795, 9807, 9809, 102760700002482, 3225, 3237, 3284, 3285, 3286, 3367, 3434, 3452, 3454, 3457, KALKAJI, 1008707000052230, 2874, 4175, 4418, 4668, 4717, 4794, 4812, 4886, 4934, 5008, 5039, 5215, 5391, 5490, 5571, 5594, 5595, 5663, 5688, 5709, 5736, 5771, 5810, 5890, 5892, 5909, 5959, 5978, 5991, 5998, 6068, 6073, 6126, 7389, 7390, 7447, 7448, 7449, 7454, 7457, 7466, 7469, 7493, 7498, 7522, 7541, 7544, 7548, 7551, 7552, 7557, 7572, 7573, 7580, 7592, 7593, 7595, 7600, 7601, 7605, 7609, 7628, 7636, 7647, 7658, 7664, 7669, 7673, 7677, 7678, 7679, 7680, 7684, 7686, 7695, 7697, 7702, 7714, 7724, 7728, 7737, 7738, 7748, 7749, 7758, 7759, 7774, 7780, 7781, 7783, 7787, 7788, 7793, 7795, 7803, 7810, 7821, 7825, 7826, 7827, 7828, 7833, 7849, 7860, 7862, 7864, 7866, 7876, 7877, 7878, 7879, 7885, 7892, 7893, 7894, 7895, 7896, 7897, 7898, 7899, 7925, 7930, 7932, 7936, 7938, 7946, 7958, 7968, 7978, 7980, 7985, 7987, 7988, 7991, 8002, 8015, 8016, 8021, 8022, 8023, 8028, 8030, 8031, 8046, 8054, 8056, 8058, 100870700009728, 100870700010837, 1270, 1313, 1324, 1330, 1428, 1451, 1453, 1552, 1623, 1748, 1810, 1811, 1823, 1851, 1855, 1924, 1928, 1936, 1982, KRISHNANAGAR, 108530700014344, 5748, 6749, 6753, 5763, 5774, 5784, 5800, 5807, 5835, 5844, 5846, 5874, 108530700006594, 6644, 6954, 7028, 7149, LAXMINAGAR, 1008907000050637, 2476, 2495, 2537, 2667, 2725, 2740, 2741, 2871, 2920, 2993, 3045, 3135, 3248, 3339, 3415, 3424, 3524, 3563, 3608, 3668, 3700, 3726, 3745, 3769, 3820, 3952, 3900, 3964, 3995, 3998, 4738, 4827, 4955, 5056, 5063, 5068, 5087, 5091, 5098, 5109, 5123, 5124, 5142, 5144, 5145, 5148, 5152, 5155, 5161, 5165, 5170, 5181, 5185, 5187, 5205, 5212, 5223, 5227, 5228, 5235, 5239, 5241, 5254, 5256, 5275, 5281, 5289, 5294, 5296, 5298, 5300, 5304, 5309, 5314, 5316, 5317, 5319, 5321, 5338, 5344, 5345, 5346, 5352, 5356, 5362, 5363, 5378, 5381, 5383, 5389, 5396, 5401, 5405, 5407, 5409, 5411, 5415, 5422, 5429, 5453, 5474, 5480, 5488, 5503, 5506, 5509, 5512, 5525, 5532, 5552, 5555, 5557, 5558, 5559, 5561, 5565, 5575, 5822, 100890700008813, 9051, 1008907000011185, 1259, 1267, 1340, 1390, 1404, 1513, 1536, 1568, MANGOLPURI, 109040700034786, 5146, 7304, 7459, 7477, 7712, 7952, 8305, 8526, 8930, 8965, 9030, 9087, 9091, 9118, 9188, 9196, 9198, 9203, 9249, 9273, 9275, 9295, 9301, 9318, 9329, 9336, 9337, 9348, 9368, 9375, 109040700041029, 0445, 0641, 0482, 0471, 0478, 0489, 0497, 0500, 0504, 0512, 0533, 0537, 0541, 0542, 0548, 0550, 0552, 0587, 0588, 0594, 0604, 0605, 0606, 0617, 0618, 0627, 0648, 0654, 0669, 0677, 0679, 0708, 0717, 0718, 0722, 0723, 0734, 0755, 0736, 0740, 0741, 0743, 0745, 0747, 0748, 0756, 0758, 0777, 0778, 0779, 0781, 0782, 0789, 0790, 0791, 0805, 0818, 0823, 0827, 0828, 0832, 0833, 0834, 0838, 0851, 0852, 0853, 0854, 0857, 0860, 0884, 0871, 0876, 0897, 0902, 0904, 0911, 0912, 0913, 0923, 0928, 0929, 0931, 0933, 0936, 0940, 0947, 0959, 0961, 0980, 1010, 1015, 1017, 1018, 1039, 109040700002135, 2872, 2905, 2906, 2968, 2993, 2996, 3001, 3022, 3063, 3171, RANIBAGH, 108720700010363, 0366, 0367, 0516, 0566, 0953, 7006, 1017, 1025, 1030, 1038, 1069, 1078, 1068, 1092, 1093, 1094, 1095, 1106, 1117, 1122, 1124, 1134, 109707000300224, 3234, 3235, ROHINI, 10090700014619, 4424, 4279, 4432, 4469, 4750, 4751, 4761, 4762, 4763, 4764, 4768, 4769, 4785, 4788, 4794, 4795, 4804, 4806, 4807, 4809, 4816, 4820, 4826, 4841, 4832, 4833, 4837, 4839, 4848, 4857, 4858, 4859, 4860, 4874, 4879, 1009070003003222, 3648, 3996, 4044, 4046, 4057, 4059, 4060, 4068, 4085, 4093, 4109, 4110, 4112, SHALIMAR BAGH, 102780700013269, 3397, 3438, 3468, 3506, 3962, 3864, 3865, 3889, 3870, 3884, 3887, 3888, 3896, 3902, 3909, 3911, 3915, 3922, 3934, 3943, 3948, 3955, 3966, 102780700003913, 3939, 3944, 3945, 3994, 4014, SHAH ANGAD NAGAR, 108450700016515, 6530, 6531, 6532, 7758, 7790, 8145, 8264, 8404, 8486, 8565, 8597, 9293, 9298, 9299, 9305, 9306, 9316, 9317, 9324, 9326, 9331, 9334, 9340, 9350, 9351, 9352, 9353, 9361, 9371, 9376, 9380, 9388, 9396, 9398, 9407, 9410, 9414, 9417, 9429, 9446, 9447, 9486, 9469, 9470, 9475, 9479, 9484, 9487, 9490, 9494, 9495, 9499, 9509, 9512, 9513, 9515, 9526, 9528, 9530, 9531, 9532, 9534, 9535, 9541, 9542, 9549, 9551, 9552, 9555, 9556, 9560, 9565, 108450700004322, 4331, 4336, 4536, VISHWANAGAR DELHI, 123330700015990, 6675, 7055, 7063, 7279, 7286, 7287, 7336, 7392, 7393, 7420, 7421, 7484, 7508, 7551, 7569, 8048, 8148, 8159, 8182, 8218, 8318, 8320, 8321, 8326, 8328, 8332, 8336, 8343, 8344, 8345, 8346, 8347, 8357, 8361, 8370, 8372, 8386, 8404, 8412, 8421, 8422, 8423, 8426, 8434, 8438, 8459, 8463, 8470, 8475, 8476, 8477, 8481, 8492, 8497, 8498, 123330700004533, 4591, 4660, 4661, 4687, 4688, EAST DELHI, BHAJANPURA DELHI, 1220407000030612, 4342, 5093, 7446, 7761, 7798, 7782, 7879, 7880, 7928, 8070, 9097, 9161, 9630, 9710, 9712, 9763, 9815, 9874, 9887, 9920, 9941, 9943, 9959, 9964, 9997, 122040700002023, 0024, 0057, 0058, 0083, 0147, 0230, 0263, 0334, 0427, 0375, 0420, 0448, 0474, 0505, 0511, 0545, 0554, 1922, 2223, 2625, 2663, 2743, 2756, 2766, 2768, 2778, 2787, 2797, 2802, 2818, 2819, 2828, 2832, 2853, 2854, 2856, 2860, 2862, 2864, 2867, 2872, 2882, 2884, 2886, 2889, 2896, 2898, 2912, 2913, 2915, 2926, 2930, 2942, 2950, 2951, 2980, 2974, 2981, 2988, 2989, 2992, 2995, 3000, 3022, 3030, 3035, 3048, 3049, 3051, 3061, 3094, 3099, 3104, 3105, 3108, 3113, 3115, 3118, 3121, 3124, 3127, 3135, 3141, 3151, 3162, 3163, 3164, 3165, 3170, 3178, 3189, 3209, 3212, 3213, 3218, 3221, 3229, 3229, 3271, 3287, 3288, 3288, 3304, 3309, 3326, 3337, 3341, 3343, 3345, 3354, 3359, 3364, 3365, 3366, 3367, 3372, 3375, 3379, 3380, 3384, 3385, 3387, 3389, 3393, 3394, 3401, 3402, 3403, 3412, 3422, 3423, 3426, 3440, 3448, 3449, 3451, 3465, 3472, 3476, 3477, 3480, 3482, 3484, 3486, 3494, 3495, 3502, 3509, 3513, 3516, 3519, 3530, 3531, 3538, 3541, 3543, 3544, 3546, 3553, 3561, 3576, 3577, 3585, 3590, 3592, 3594, 3595, 3601, 3603, 3610, 3611, 3617, 3621, 3622, 3623, 3625, 3630, 3634, 3638, 3639, 3641, 3650, 3658, 3666, 3669, 3670, 3682, 3683, 3685, 3686, 3707, 3732, 3732, 3741, 3740, 3739, 3757, 3759, 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6121, 6122, 6123, 6124, 6125, 6126, 6127, 6128, 6129, 6130, 6131, 6132, 6133, 6134, 6135, 6136, 6137, 6138, 6139, 6140, 6141, 6142, 6143, 6144, 6145, 6146, 6147, 6148, 6149, 6150, 6151, 6152, 6153, 6154, 6155, 6156, 6157, 6158, 6159, 6160, 6161, 6162, 6163, 6164, 6165, 6166, 6167, 6168, 6169, 6170, 6171, 6172, 6173, 6174, 6175, 6176, 6177, 6178, 6179, 6180, 6181, 6182, 6183, 6184, 6185,

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Ranjeet Kumar Singh S/o Keshav Kumar Singh R/o H.No. SK-209B Sector-110 Noida district-GB Nagar UP have changed my name to Ranjit Kumar Singh. 0040508630-1

I, Ravupalli Usha Rani W/o Pratap Patla Singh R/o H.No.46 C-Block G.T.B. Hospital Campus Shahdara Delhi-95 changed my name to Usha Rani Patla Singh. 0040508298-5

I, Aparajita W/o Ambrish Johari R/o BE-10A, First-floor Hari Nagar, Delhi-110064, have changed my name to Aparajita Johari. 0040508596-1

NORTHERN RAILWAY OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE The Sr. Divisional Engineer-IV, Northern Railway, Delhi Division for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender on prescribed form for the following work: Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-procurement Systems)

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPED General public is hereby informed that a person (depicted in the photo), Namely : Sh. Ranvir S/o Ramesh Chand R/o H. No. 243/4 Back Side, near Budh Bazar L-1st Sangam Vihar, New Delhi has been missing/ kidnapped since 20.12.2018 from the area of P.S. Neb Sarai, Delhi. In this regard vide a case DD No. 42-A, dated 16.06.2019 has been lodged at PS Neb Sarai, New Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

SH. RANVIR Age : 30 Years, Height: 5'11", Complexion : Shallow, Build : Medium, Face : Round, Wearing : Purple Colour shirt and black colour pant. Any person is having any information/clue about this missing/ kidnapped person, may inform SHO, Neb Sarai, New Delhi at E-mail : cjc@cbi.gov.in or Website: http://cbi.nic.in.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C. Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused (1) Riyazuddin, S/o Nooruddin, R/o H.No. 1662, Kucha Dakhini Rai, Darya Ganj and (2) Farhaal, S/o Riyazuddin, R/o H.No. 1662, Kucha Dakhini Rai, Darya Ganj has committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 140/19 u/s 304/34 IPC, P.S. Darya Ganj, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said (1) Riyazuddin, (2) Farhaal cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said (1) Riyazuddin, (2) Farhaal have absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused (1) Riyazuddin, (2) Farhaal of FIR No. 140/19 u/s 304/34 IPC, P.S. Darya Ganj, Delhi are required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 21.09.2019.

By order Sh. Sunil Gupta Metropolitan Magistrate-10, Room No. 345, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi DP/6504/CD/19(Court Matter)

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION General public is hereby informed that one male was found dead at Footpath Near Bus Stand, Nigam Boudh Ghat, Kashmir Gate, Delhi on 01.08.2019. In this regard a DD No. 50-A Dated 01.08.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Kashmir Gate, Delhi. The description of the dead body is given as under: Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 30 years, Height: 5'8" Feet, Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Black T-Shirt & Black Cafry. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform the undersigned. S.H.O P.S. Kashmir Gate, Delhi. Ph. No. 011-23967899, 23968730 DP/329/N/19

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED (See Section 82 Cr. P.C.) Whereas complaint has been made before me that Amar @ Arun S/o Mahender Singh R/o H.No. A-2/549, Gali No.22, Harsh Vihar, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 205/19 U/s 498A/304B/34 IPC at P.S. Harsh Vihar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Amar @ Arun can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Amar @ Arun has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Amar @ Arun of FIR No. 205/19 U/s 498A/304B/34 IPC at P.S. Harsh Vihar, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 26.09.2019. By Order Sh. Prayank Nayak Metropolitan Magistrate Karkardooma Courts, Delhi DP/725/NE19

NORTHERN RAILWAY Open E-Tender Notice The Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer/Chg., Northern Railway, Delhi Division for and on behalf of President of India invites sealed e-tender on "TWO PACKET SYSTEM" for following work from experienced and capable tenders:

PROPERTY RENTAL Urgently Required ON RENT BIG HALL with ONE/TWO ROOM KITCHEN close to Metro Station, Places preferred Dilshad Garden, Rohini, Mayur Vihar, Janakpuri, Dwarka, Preferable Ground/First Floor, Contact: 9820712460/ 9819647998 0040508216-3

PUBLIC NOTICE It is for general information that I Deepak Kumar S/o Shyam Lal Jain Residing at 2081/164, Ganesh Pura-B, Tri Nagar, Delhi-110035 declare that the name of mine has been wrongly written as Deepak Jain is my minor daughter Ranjya Jain aged 15 years and minor son Sanyak Jain Aged 13 years in school record. The actual name of mine is Deepak Kumar respectively which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

PROPERTY RENTAL It is for general information that I, Anil Kumar Singh (Advocate) Ch.No.192, CMI Wing, Tejapuri Courts, Delhi-110016, have changed my name to Anil Kumar Singh (Advocate) Ch.No.192, CMI Wing, Tejapuri Courts, Delhi-110016. My clients Sh. Nanender Kumar S/o Lal Pamanand & Smt. Shamesh Rani W/o Sh. Nanender Kumar, both R/o & D-101, Shanti Nagar, Delhi-110028 have obtained & deeded their son Arun Arora, his wife Preeti Arora & their children Sanyak Arora & Sanyak Arora from their all immovable and immovable properties and severed their relations with them as they are despondent, uneducated & irresponsible persons. My personal dealing with them, shall be at their/her/their own responsibility and my clients shall not be responsible for their any act.

PUBLIC NOTICE My clients Sh. Nanender Kumar S/o Lal Pamanand & Smt. Shamesh Rani W/o Sh. Nanender Kumar, both R/o & D-101, Shanti Nagar, Delhi-110028 have obtained & deeded their son Arun Arora, his wife Preeti Arora & their children Sanyak Arora & Sanyak Arora from their all immovable and immovable properties and severed their relations with them as they are despondent, uneducated & irresponsible persons. My personal dealing with them, shall be at their/her/their own responsibility and my clients shall not be responsible for their any act.

PUBLIC NOTICE It is known to all that I BHAL SINGH, S/O SH. RAJINDER SINGH, R/O H.NO. 176/B, WARD NO. 2, MEHRALI, NEW DELHI-110030 declare that name of my minor son HARSH DAGAR aged 14 years has been wrongly written as HARSH KUMAR in his Birth Certificate No. 008515. The actual name of my minor son is HARSH DAGAR, which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirement in this connection.

PUBLIC NOTICE It is for general information that I RAJINDER SINGH S/O LATE SHRI BHAGWAN SINGH, RESIDING AT H.NO 176/B, WARD NO. 2, MEHRALI, NEW DELHI-110030 declare that name of my minor son HARSH DAGAR aged 14 years has been wrongly written as HARSH KUMAR in his Birth Certificate No. 008515. The actual name of my minor son is HARSH DAGAR, which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirement in this connection.

PUBLIC NOTICE The general public is hereby informed that my clients Harsh Goyal, S/o Ganga Ram Goyal & Kirpa Goyal both residing at H.No. 03/157/58, 1st Floor, Flat No. 109, Block-VI, Phase-I, Suburban Block-Delhi-110086 have obtained their son namely Amar @ Arun, his wife Gauri Goyal & their son and daughter from their all immovable properties and severed their relations with them as they are not according to their temperaments & both of them are beyond their control & supervision. So, my clients sever all connections with them, absolutely and irrevocably and my clients will be going to take over the responsibility & our clients will not liable & responsible for the same in any manner.

PUBLIC NOTICE The general public is hereby informed that my clients Harsh Goyal, S/o Ganga Ram Goyal & Kirpa Goyal both residing at H.No. 03/157/58, 1st Floor, Flat No. 109, Block-VI, Phase-I, Suburban Block-Delhi-110086 have obtained their son namely Amar @ Arun, his wife Gauri Goyal & their son and daughter from their all immovable properties and severed their relations with them as they are not according to their temperaments & both of them are beyond their control & supervision. So, my clients sever all connections with them, absolutely and irrevocably and my clients will be going to take over the responsibility & our clients will not liable & responsible for the same in any manner.

PUBLIC NOTICE As per instruction by my client Dharampal and Smt. Raju Bala both resident of 1748, Near Rajal Nagar, Ajmer, Rajasthan, District-110036, I hereby inform that my client have deeded and debarred their son Mr. Anil Kumar and daughter-in-law Smt. Shweta from their immovable and movable properties with immediate effect causing their misbehavior and disobedient act. My client will be going to take over the responsibility & our clients will not liable & responsible for the same in any manner. Place: New Delhi, Dated:- 18.08.2019

PUBLIC NOTICE The general public is hereby informed that my clients Harsh Goyal, S/o Ganga Ram Goyal & Kirpa Goyal both residing at H.No. 03/157/58, 1st Floor, Flat No. 109, Block-VI, Phase-I, Suburban Block-Delhi-110086 have obtained their son namely Amar @ Arun, his wife Gauri Goyal & their son and daughter from their all immovable properties and severed their relations with them as they are not according to their temperaments & both of them are beyond their control & supervision. So, my clients sever all connections with them, absolutely and irrevocably and my clients will be going to take over the responsibility & our clients will not liable & responsible for the same in any manner.

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IMPORTANT! Whilst card is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with our members, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any copy or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

LOST & FOUND I, Kanta Kumari W/o Shri. Ramesh Gosain R/o-392 Dr. Mukherjee Nagar Delhi-110009, have lost my Property-Peppar Perpetual-Lease Of Property, No.392 Dr Mukherjee Nagar Registered.No.6646 Book.No.1 Volume.No.407 On Pages 168 To 173 Dated-11/8/1997. 0040508596-9

LOST & FOUND It is for general information that I, Ranjya Jain aged 15 years and minor son Sanyak Jain Aged 13 years in school record. The actual name of mine is Deepak Kumar respectively which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

LOST & FOUND It is for general information that I, Anil Kumar Singh (Advocate) Ch.No.192, CMI Wing, Tejapuri Courts, Delhi-110016, have changed my name to Anil Kumar Singh (Advocate) Ch.No.192, CMI Wing, Tejapuri Courts, Delhi-110016. My clients Sh. Nanender Kumar S/o Lal Pamanand & Smt. Shamesh Rani W/o Sh. Nanender Kumar, both R/o & D-101, Shanti Nagar, Delhi-110028 have obtained & deeded their son Arun Arora, his wife Preeti Arora & their children Sanyak Arora & Sanyak Arora from their all immovable and immovable properties and severed their relations with them as they are despondent, uneducated & irresponsible persons. My personal dealing with them, shall be at their/her/their own responsibility and my clients shall not be responsible for their any act.

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HC seeks Centre's response on plea seeking abolition of different marriage age for men and women

PRITAMPAL SINGH
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19

THE DELHI High Court on Monday sought to know Centre's stand on a plea seeking abolition of the different minimum age for marriage of men and women on the ground that it is "completely against the global trends".

A bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice C Hari Shankar also issued a notice to the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Law Commission of India on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) alleging that the "distinction is based on patriarchal stereotypes and has no scientific backing".

The bench directed the government to file their affidavit by the next date of hearing on October 30.

The PIL was filed by Advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, who apprised the court that "while men in India are permitted to get married only at the age of 21,

The PIL stated that this differential age bar discriminates against women, thus contravening the fundamental principles of gender equality, gender justice and dignity of women

women are allowed to get married when they are 18."

Challenging the "discriminatory minimum age limit for marriage for men and women in India", the advocate said in his plea that the "Law Commission of India in its 205th report had observed that there exists no scientific basis for such a distinction".

"The Law Commission of India in its Consultation Paper on Reform of Family Law has stated that the differential ages for marriage simply contributes to the

stereotype that wives must be younger than their husbands," stated the report.

The PIL stated that this differential bar discriminates against women, thus contravening the fundamental principles of gender equality, gender justice and dignity of women and breaches Articles 14, 15 and 21 of the Constitution.

The petitioner claimed that more than 125 countries in the world have a uniform age of marriage for men and women. Noting this fact, the National Human Rights Commission, pursuant to the National Conference on Child Marriage held in New Delhi on August 29-30 2018, recommended that India follow suit and bring uniformity in the minimum age limits.

"That the right to live with dignity implies the right to not be perceived as unequal or inferior individuals in the society. In other words, it implies the right to an equal social standing and perception," the PIL said.

LEGISLATION AGAINST TRIPLE TALAQ

Plea in Delhi HC says law violates rights of Muslim husbands

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19

A PETITION before the Delhi High Court on Monday alleged that the new legislation which makes instant triple talaq a punishable offence is a violation of the fundamental rights of Muslim husbands.

The petition by Advocate Shahid Ali, which came up before a bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice C Hari Shankar, said the legislation criminalising the

practice of instant triple talaq and making it a non-bailable offence punishable with three years of imprisonment would shut down all room for compromise between the husband and wife.

The plea argued that since instant triple talaq has been declared void by the Supreme Court, the act of its pronouncement cannot be construed to be a criminal offence or even as a simple wrong or a civil wrong. Ali said the Act is violative of Articles 14, 15 and 21 of the Constitution and is liable to be struck down.

The court, after hearing contention of the counsel, listed the matter for further hearing on October 18.

A similar challenge is pending consideration before the Supreme Court where a Kerala-based Muslim organisation has alleged that The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019 violates fundamental rights of Muslim husbands.

Both the petitions were filed a day after President Ram Nath Kovind gave assent to the new legislation.

TN sets 3 months time to set up rain water harvesting units in all premises

Chennai: To deal with the ongoing drinking water crisis and declining ground water tables, state Rural and Municipal Minister S P Velumani on Monday said the government has made it mandatory for all establishments and individual premises to construct rainwater harvesting systems.

Speaking to the media after a

review meeting on the status of rainwater harvesting systems in the Greater Chennai Metropolitan area and ongoing work of lake rejuvenation projects across the state, Velumani said these systems should be set up within three months and those who fail to do so will face action from the concerned authorities. **ENS**

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
Ansari Nagar, New Delhi-110029.
F. No. 1-29/2018-Estt. (RCT) PF

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi intends to engage one Medical Physicist for Department of Nuclear Medicine through walk-in-interview to be held on 18th September, 2019 at 08:15 A.M. The engagement will be purely on contract basis for a period of 06 months, or till such time an alternative arrangements is made, whichever is earlier. The details that is essential qualifications, experience, remuneration, place of walk-in-interview, terms & conditions etc, are available at institute's website www.aiimsexams.org or www.aiims.edu.

Sd/-
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (RECTT.)
davp 17112/11/0039/1920

Office of the Commissioner of Customs, Airport & General
New Customs House, New Delhi-110037 Fax: 011-25652420, Tel. : 011-25656532

Public Notice for Pension Adalat
Pension Adalat will be held on 23.08.2019 from 11:00 hours to 13:30 hours in the Conference Hall, Room No. 103, First Floor, New Customs House, New Delhi-37, to reduce grievances of the Pensioner retired from Preventive, ACC (IMPORT) ACC (EXPORT), Airport & General, Customs Audit and Appeal Commissionerate, New Customs House, New Delhi-110037. Concerned person may write to the Nodal Officer as details below:

S.N.	Name of the Nodal Officer (S./Sh./Ms)	Designation	Office Addresses
1.	Dr. Amandeep Singh	Additional Commissioner	Office of the Commissioner of Customs (Airport), IGI Airport, T-3, New Delhi-110037
2.	Jayant Sahay	Additional Commissioner	Office of the Commissioner of Customs (ACC Export), New Customs House, New Delhi-110037
3.	S. Vijayarani	Joint Commissioner	Office of the Commissioner of Customs (ACC Import), New Customs House, New Delhi-110037
4.	Dinesh Kumar Meena	Joint Commissioner	Office of the Principal Commissioner of Customs (Preventive), New Customs House, New Delhi-110037
5.	Santosh Mishra	Joint Commissioner	Office of the Commissioner of Customs (Customs Audit), New Customs House, New Delhi-110037
6.	Anand Prakash	Assistant Commissioner	Office of the Commissioner of Customs (General), New Customs House, New Delhi-110037

The last date for submission of grievances by the pensioner is before 21.08.2019. The application Form for redressal of Grievance can be obtained from the respective Administrative Office, O/o the Commissioner of Customs in New Customs House and IGI Airport, New Delhi-110037. The application may be sent by post. The representation/Grievance will be acknowledged.

Admissibility of cases in Pension Adalat.
1. Case involving purely legal points e.g. succession etc cannot be taken up in the Adalat.
2. Grievances involving policy matters shall not be taken up in the Adalat. For any difficulty, the respective Nodal Officers may be approached or the undersigned may be contacted.

Manish Kumar
Commissioner of Customs, Airport & General

Central Record Office, ITB Police (Ministry of Home Affairs/Govt of India) 9A-East Block, RK Puram, New Delhi-66

Third ITBP Pension Adalat

Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) Force, Ministry of Home Affairs, is holding third pension adalat and interaction session to address the grievances of ITBP pensioners as per the details given below:

- Venue :** TPT Battalion, ITB Police
PO: Airport Chowk, Chandigarh (UT)-160003.
Ph: 0172-2641069/2652829/2640093
- Date :** 23 August, 2019 (Friday)
- Time :** 0930 hrs (AM) onwards

ITBP pensioners, who have pension related grievances, are requested to avail the opportunity to attend the session on 23 August, 2019 with the following documents:

- Pension Book/ Discharge Certificate
- Revision Pension Authority
- A copy of Aadhar Card
- Bank Pass Book
- DOB of NOK in case of family pension and Death Certificate
- Income Certificate obtained from Notary Public or Village Tehsildar in case NOK is other than the spouse of the pensioner
- FIR copy in case of loss of Pension Book
- Residential proof in case of stoppage of medical allowance
- Any other relevant documents supporting their grievance

The pensioners, who want to attend the pension adalat on 23 August, 2019 may please intimate their willingness to Control Room, ITBP on Phone No (011-24368237/24363940) by giving their name, PPO Number and nature of grievance(s).

ITBP buses would be stationed for pensioners at Chandigarh Railway station as well as at bus stand. For any assistance regarding buses, please may call TPT Bn control room No-0172-2641069.

Note: Pensioners who would register their grievances through control room well in advance will be given priority at the pension adalat. Please note that no TA/DA will be admissible to the pensioners/serving personnel for attending the pension adalat.

Sd/
(Chief Admin. Officer)

Visit us:
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FOR SESSION 2019-20

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in
Aerospace Structural Design and **Aerospace Technical Publication**

Admission Schedule: August 22, 2019
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• Security and Surveillance
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FOUNDED BY
RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

A NEW PLAYBOOK

Defence Minister's remarks on no-first-use signal to Pak, China, that old rules constraining India in Kashmir don't hold

IT IS NOT surprising that Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's comments last week that India's commitment to "no first use" of nuclear weapons is not cast in stone have elicited widespread reaction in the Subcontinent and beyond. A number of factors make the minister's statement a major departure in the evolution of India's nuclear strategy. One is the choice of place and occasion. For his statement, the minister chose the site of India's nuclear weapon tests on the death anniversary of former prime minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who had declared India as a nuclear weapon power after the 1998 tests. That it comes in the middle of an unfolding political crisis with Pakistan lends greater salience to the statement.

A similar statement was made in 2016, by one of Singh's predecessors in the defence ministry — Manohar Parrikar. But the government quickly intervened to insist that there was no change in policy. This time, there has been no denial or correction. Domestic and international critics have underlined the dangers of creating a credible first use policy. They suggest that abandoning no-first-use increases the danger of using nuclear weapons, especially in military crises of the kind that have become frequent on India's borders with Pakistan and China. Others point to the demanding requirements of a first-use policy — a large inventory of nuclear weapons and missiles to deliver them, strong intelligence and reconnaissance capabilities, and a sophisticated command and control system. If no-first-use offers a simple, robust and relatively inexpensive basis for deterring atomic adversaries, the structure to support a first-use doctrine is costly and inherently unstable. Some have argued that the steady accretion of India's nuclear and related capabilities in recent years may be giving the NDA government the confidence to abandon the no-first-use policy.

The immediate motivation appears to be less technical, and more political. It is about managing India's ties with Pakistan and China following Delhi's decision to revoke the special constitutional status of J&K and the bifurcation of the state into Union Territories. Delhi is warning Pakistan and China — both of whom have nuclear weapons — that India will not be intimidated by Rawalpindi's threats to trigger violence in Kashmir and then limit India's responses with the threat of a nuclear escalation. Delhi is signalling its readiness to go to any extent, including the first use of nuclear weapons, in defending the changes it has initiated in Kashmir. This tough message is of a piece with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision to launch air strikes on Pakistan's territory last February, for the first time since the 1971 war, following the terror attack in Pulwama. In reorganising the political structures of Kashmir, demonstrating that it will use conventional force against terror camps in Pakistan, and affirming that it will not accept nuclear blackmail, Modi is declaring that the old rules that constrained India in Kashmir are no longer valid. We may be in uncharted waters until there are new rules to regulate the triangular nuclear dynamic between the three nations and their contestation in Kashmir.

WRONG CALLS

Phone tapping controversy in Karnataka reveals absence of checks and balances in state's political and police systems

THE PHONE-TAPPING CONTROVERSY involving senior police officers in Karnataka has exposed the deep mistrust between the JD-S and Congress leaderships that led to the collapse of the coalition government. It has also cast the spotlight on former chief minister, HD Kumaraswamy, who is now suspected of misusing the state police to spy on politicians, legislators, bureaucrats and even journalists. Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa has said that he will ask the CBI to investigate the allegations of illegal surveillance. It is necessary that the administration comes clean on this and action is taken against officials if there has been any transgression.

It was an internal feud within the Karnataka police that brought out how officers apparently gamed the system for personal gains. The allegation is that Alok Kumar, who was appointed Bengaluru Police Commissioner by Kumaraswamy after superseding 21 officers, had ordered surveillance of several persons illegally. This came to light after a police probe, ordered after a TV channel broadcast an audio clip, allegedly of the present commissioner, Bhaskar Rao, pleading with a political fixer for favours. The police can claim it has the authority to tap the telephones of persons suspected to be a threat to the state. However, there are clear norms that regulate this authority. The preliminary probe in this case points to its gross misuse, purportedly to serve the interests of those wielding power. The fractured verdict in the assembly elections last year had forced rival political parties to stitch coalitions of convenience to form government. Bitter rivals, Congress and JD-S, had outsmarted the BJP to form a government. But soon, the JD-S and Congress started to undercut each other, which left the government exposed to the manipulations of politicians and officials. Institutions failed to act when rumours started to float about posts in the administration being auctioned and fixed for patronage and cash being offered to legislators.

Karnataka politics has been rocked by allegations of illegal phone tapping in the past as well. In 1988, then chief minister Ramakrishna Hegde had to resign over a telephone tapping allegation. But the system seems to have neither put in place checks and balances nor internalised the need to respect norms in the case of surveillance.

THIS ISN'T CRICKET

The relentless jeering of Steve Smith showed a mirror to the dark underside of the game

ONE WOULD HAVE thought that the English cricket fans would stop booing a bruised Steve Smith, returning to fight for his team after he was felled by a bouncer, but they didn't. The relentless jeering showed a mirror to the dark underside of the game. Smith's stupendous knocks in this series deserve grudging respect even from the most hostile fan — even though he was returning after a year away from the game, following his ban by Cricket Australia for ball tampering in 2018.

The orchestrated booing doesn't even seem to have been an authentic emotion of displeasure. It didn't appear to stem from a genuine feeling of betrayal and anger at an opponent who has indulged in skulduggery. For long, football fans in England were tagged with hooliganism. But it seems to have now caught on in cricket in a land that prides itself as the game's home.

Smith has responded by piling up the runs. Every little act he does at the crease is contrary to what batsmen are expected to do. Stillness is demanded of them; he twitches, walks, and at times teasingly leaves the middle and leg stump exposed. They are expected to stretch forward to drive; he retreats and drives off the back foot. Calmness is expected; he can be a furious blur of energy. He is a counter-intuitive batsman; a contrarian who should make any open-minded fan curious. By their relentless booing, the English fans may have achieved the opposite effect of what they set out to do. The crowd behaviour may have hastened forgiveness, even triggered sympathy and respect for the player at the receiving end.



RAJAT KATHURIA

It takes many

For all its current troubles, WTO may still emerge as the lynchpin of global trade governance

ANOTHER SALVO FROM Washington, on our Independence Day, strips us (and China) of the "developing nations" status. At any other moment, both India and China would have been pleased to rid themselves of this tag, but not at this time. For, there is a catch. President Donald Trump has reiterated his long-standing belief that India and China have benefited immensely by misusing the developing country tag, thereby profiting unduly from privileges conferred on such countries. He blamed the World Trade Organisation (WTO) for this lapse, and reiterated his threat to leave the world's largest multilateral trade forum.

Meanwhile, the narrative from China is one of injury to the national psyche due in part to the "centuries of humiliation" they claim to have suffered at the hands of western powers. Their growing economic and military might presents the Chinese, in their own words, an opportunity to set the historical record straight. For the US, these are anxious times for fear of losing the mantle of the world's preeminent power after at least three decades of unchecked hegemony. Chinese rise and US fears are straining their bilateral trade and causing serious collateral damage to the institution that has served well the cause of trade, growth and stability of the world economy in the post-WWII period.

A question uppermost on trade economists' minds is whether the WTO is worth saving. One way to evaluate the question is to investigate its achievements, with the obvious caveat that the past is an imperfect guide to the future. Since the WTO came into being in 1995, the world has witnessed massive changes, some deeply structural in nature. New technologies have transformed the way we live, communicate, and trade. In 1995, less than 0.8 per cent of the world's population used the internet; in June 2019 it was around 57 per cent. Communication technologies and containerisation lowered costs and boosted volumes of components moving in and out of countries allowing production chains to become increasingly international and also much more complex. An iPhone, for example, has about 14 main components that are manufactured by 7-8 multinational companies with branches in more than 40 countries. Overall trade in goods has nearly quadrupled since 1995, while WTO members' import tariffs have declined by an average of 15 per cent. Over half of world trade is now tariff-free

There is no doubt that the multilateral process needs to be fortified and it cannot happen until the strongest member is vested in it. Multilateralism implies that every country agrees to bind itself to the same rules as other (smaller) countries even when it conflicts with self-interest. Admittedly, trade is much more complex now; negotiation among 164 members on standards to generate consensus is at best hard, and at worst, impossible. The alternative, regionalism, involves a limited number of countries and ostensibly relies less on 'altruism' of the members and more on mutual gain. But it suffers from an exclusionary bias.

(WTO, 2015). Growth in trade has exceeded growth in world GDP and has been associated with improved standards of living. Today, the WTO regulates more than 98 per cent of global trade flows among its members.

It also monitors the implementation of free trade agreements, produces research on global trade and economic policy, and serves as a forum for settling trade disputes between nations. An alternate way to look at the WTO's success is not to focus on how much trade it has helped create and the corresponding tariff reductions, but the damage in trade value it has helped avert. One estimate puts the value of avoided trade wars at \$340 billion per year.

When the US-China trade conflict began in July 2018, many were lulled into believing that the sabre-rattling was temporary and the aggressive unilateralism that defined US actions would die a natural death. The US had earlier used Super-301 legislation to designate specific countries as unfair traders, and to threaten them with higher tariffs unless they fell in line. Some countries complied with US pressure to avoid escalation, while others such as India and Brazil refused to negotiate under threat of US sanctions.

In the current instance, however, it does not seem likely that the US will back off. Neither does it seem that the Chinese (or India) will agree to negotiate under duress. In all likelihood, the Chinese will not brook another humiliation, while India at the current juncture is little more than collateral damage. Moreover, it is not possible for India to trade in the developing country status in the WTO without a fight.

In any case, a unilateral finding of unfair trading practices and subsequent action by the US ignoring their own WTO commitments, places other countries on higher moral ground. Under the rules, a measure is defined as unilateral if it is imposed by a country without invoking the WTO dispute settlement procedures or other multilateral international rules and procedures, and which is based solely upon invoking the country's own criteria. Unilateral measures are inconsistent with the letter and the spirit of multilateralism. Article 23 of the Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU) explicitly prohibits members from doing so.

A gracious explanation is that the US is using its power to discipline the trading system for the benefit of all. China (and India), they

claim, has been a free-rider for long having taken advantage of the open trading regime while itself being opaque on subsidies, state owned enterprises and intellectual property. And since dispute settlement in the WTO has become dysfunctional and appeals to the appellate body (AB) are taking longer than the prescribed 90 days, the US has taken matters in its own hands, playing the part of benign dictator for the common good.

While this view might have some isolated resonance, it is extremely charitable. There is no justification for subverting the multilateral process, especially by the country that was instrumental in putting it together in the first place. Further, the AB will cease to function in December unless the US agrees to appoint a replacement to maintain the required quorum of three members. Without the AB, the law of the jungle will replace the rule of law, hurting the weak and destroying the credibility of the entire process.

There is no doubt that the multilateral process needs to be fortified and it cannot happen until the strongest member is vested in it. Multilateralism implies that every country agrees to bind itself to the same rules as other (smaller) countries even when it conflicts with self-interest. Admittedly, trade is much more complex now; negotiation among 164 members on standards to generate consensus is at best hard, and at worst, impossible. The alternative, regionalism, involves a limited number of countries and ostensibly relies less on "altruism" of the members and more on mutual gain. But it suffers from an exclusionary bias.

Multilateral agreement is still the best, and when reasonable men and women sit around the table, a solution can be found. In the absence of pure multilateral negotiations, interested members could negotiate plurilaterally with the aim of achieving multilateral outcomes. But burden-sharing, as opposed to altruism among the big players, will remain an integral part of the multilateral approach. The WTO may still emerge as the lynchpin of global trade governance. For, as the Mirza Ghalib said: Ranjh se khugar hua insaan to mit jaata hai ranj/ Mushkilein mujh par padi itni ki aasaan ho gayeen.

The writer is director and chief executive, ICRIER. Views are personal. Neha Gupta, Fellow, ICRIER, contributed to the article



SHAH ALAM KHAN

BAD PRESCRIPTION

National Medical Council Act offers little change, brings in a host of new problems

THE NATIONAL MEDICAL COMMISSION (NMC) Bill 2019 was passed by the Lok Sabha on July 29 and the Rajya Sabha on August 1. Reading this important Act, which will decide the future course of medical education and medical ethics in this country, one gets a feeling that it offers little when compared to the Indian Medical Council Act 1956 (which saw multiple amendments), that led to the formation of the Medical Council of India (MCI), a body which was accused of rampant corruption. The NMC Act, in the garb of change, has some provisions which are far more problematic than those in the amended MCI Act.

The constitution of the medical commission as proposed in the Act has issues of subjugating federalism at multiple levels. The nomination of important functionaries of the NMC will rest exclusively with the Centre: This will give rise to nepotism and the promotion of a lackey culture, that had infested the MCI. Even the Medical Advisory Council, proposed in the Act, has nominated members from the states, thereby reducing the role of states to being consultative.

The other contentious point in the NMC Act is the creation of a cadre of Community Health Providers with the limited licence to practice medicine at the mid-level. This provision is a means to promote quackery within

The NMC bill is an opportunity for positive change, but unfortunately it fails to address the deficiencies in medical education and healthcare in this country. It fails to learn from the 65 years of past experience with the MCI. A robust bill would have been one that would have taken out medical education from the silos of traditional blocks and incorporated a culture of democratic practice in the field.

the scientific practice of medicine. In recent times, anti-scientific remarks by the political leadership of the country have already significantly eroded scientific temper. By providing the licence to practice medicine in such manner, the credibility the scientific community will be further eroded among citizens. There is no doubt that at the current doctor-patient ratio of 1:10,189 (WHO recommendation is 1:1,000), India is in dire need of doctors. Successful models incorporating allied healthcare professionals/alternative systems into allopathic medical practice are present throughout the globe, but their involvement — and quality — is thoroughly regulated. The NMC Act does not propose any means to ensure this. Also, there is ambiguity on which alternative health professionals will be allowed a licence.

The Act has proposed a common exit examination — National Exit Test (NEXT), at the end of the MBBS course. This test shall be held to grant a licence to practice and will also be the basis of admission to postgraduate courses. It appears that this provision is based on the premise that exit examinations produce good students. This premise has been under scrutiny the world over. More so, evaluating an MBBS student at the end of the final year through multiple choice questions (MCQs) is not a good idea: Existing evidence

from across the world clearly favours subjective clinical evaluation as the best means to evaluate an upcoming doctor. It would have been better if a common exit exam had been held after ensuring that the level of medical education throughout the country is uniform.

Besides failing to address people-centric issues like recommendations for retention of doctors in rural health services, the NMC Act appears to heavily favour private medical colleges. Allowing the private medical colleges to "sell" 50 per cent seats is a serious threat to healthcare. It sets a dangerous precedent of usurping deserving students from becoming doctors merely on the basis of money.

The NMC Act fails to learn from the 65 years of experience with the MCI. A robust law would have been one that would have taken out medical education from the silos of traditional blocks and incorporated a culture of democratic practice in the field. Medical pedagogy is different from non-medical education. It is dependent on both didactics as well as clinical training. Evaluation of doctors should be a logically-regulated moral process, not a cruel retribution.

The writer is professor of orthopaedics, AIIMS, New Delhi and author of Announcing the Monster. Views are personal



AUGUST 20, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO

ODDS AGAINST CHARAN

ON THE EVE of the crucial debate on the confidence motion the odds seemed to be weighted against Charan Singh tonight. The Lok Sabha will tomorrow discuss for seven hours at a stretch the Prime Minister's motion seeking confidence of the House. At 6 pm sharp, 533 members will be asked to cast their vote to decide whether Charan Singh can continue in office. Only Indira Gandhi, who commands 74 Congress-I votes in the Lok Sabha can bail out Charan Singh, but taking into account the Party Working Committee yesterday and the Parliamentary Party today, it is highly unlikely that she will rescue Charan Singh.

MINISTERS RESIGN

ALL THE FIVE Punjab Janata ministers submitted their resignations from the state cabinet following the Akali Dal's decision to support Charan Singh on the vote of confidence in the Lok Sabha. The Akali Dal had taken the decision last night to support the Charan Singh Ministry without joining it. The Punjab Janata Party ministers, the deputy speaker of the state vidhan saba and about half a dozen Janata legislators had come to Delhi to watch the Akali Dal's decision unfold. The resignations of the Janata ministers were handed over to the chief minister, Parkash Singh Badal, by the state Janata president, Yagya Dutt Sharma this afternoon.

MORVI DISASTER

The Indian Air Force helicopter hovers over Morvi, then dips suddenly, like a roller coaster hurtling down at a sharp angle, according to a first-person account by Saeed Naqvi. From the air, Morvi looks like a still from an old war movie — devastated and desolate. There are rows upon rows of houses without roofs. What were once streets are now covered with heaps of rubble. A sample of the tragedy is available even in Rajkot, in the 10 odd refugee camps, in the voiceless wailing of women sitting huddled in a corner — they have lost all the members of their family. But the real tragedy is in the expressionless eyes of the people.

15 THE IDEAS PAGE

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The US president has enlisted Benjamin Netanyahu in his campaign for re-election. That is an alarming development for both countries."
—THE GUARDIAN

What India has to offer in the Gulf

Delhi should support the region's reform agenda, deepen economic and security cooperation



RAJA MANDALA
BY C RAJA MOHAN

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi's visit to the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain this week underlines Delhi's continuing commitment to the transformation of India's relations with the Gulf region. Although, the Gulf's value for India has steadily risen for more than four decades, Modi is the first one to pay sustained high-level political attention to the region.

If no prime minister of India had travelled to the UAE for more than three decades, before 2015, Modi is about to head to the Emirates for the third time since then. That Modi is being honoured with the Zayed Medal, the highest civilian honour in the Emirates, underlines the new good will, trust and personal intimacy between PM Modi and the UAE leadership. The Zayed Medal is named after the founder of the kingdom, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

If India tended to see the Gulf region through the prism of Pakistan in the past, it has now learnt that the conservative Gulf Kingdoms are quite eager to develop an independent relationship with Delhi. Three areas highlight the region's new approach to India.

First, some Gulf countries have expanded counter-terror cooperation with Delhi, extending support to India in the unfolding conflict over Jammu and Kashmir, and have sought to open the OIC platform for India despite Pakistan's objections. Delhi has long chafed at Pakistan's routine mobilisation of the Organisation Islamic Cooperation against India.

Second, recognising Modi's special interest in the welfare of the Indian diaspora and expatriate labour, the Gulf Kingdoms have begun to address many of the long-standing Indian concerns. Third, the oil rich Gulf has begun to see India, one of the world's leading energy importers, as a major economic partner. The recent Saudi decision to pick up 20 per cent stake in the oil business of Reliance Industries Limited and UAE's support for the construction of India's Strategic Petroleum Reserve are two examples of deepening energy interdependence.

Modi's non-defensive and non-ideological approach to the Gulf has been a major contribution to India's foreign policy. But there is one weakness that remains to be overcome. If the focus of Modi's first term was on what India can get from the region, the emphasis in the second must be on what Delhi can do for the Gulf. Three opportunities present themselves for India.

The first is about paying greater attention to the domestic dynamics in the different kingdoms of the Gulf amidst the region's deepening political turbulence. One important new trend has been the effort to promote moderate Islam in the region. The

UAE has been at the forefront of this effort aimed at modernising and stabilising the Arab Gulf societies. In Saudi Arabia, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has taken some small but significant steps to liberalise the economy and society.

While the West has reacted with scepticism or is demanding faster pace in these reforms, Delhi should offer strong public support for the reform agenda in the region. No country has a higher stake in the efforts to reclaim the legacy of peaceful co-existence of religions in the Gulf. Supporting positive reform will lend greater weight to India's concerns about the continuing negative trends in the region, such as the support for extremist ideologies.

Second, Delhi must reciprocate more productively to the enthusiasm in the Gulf region for strategic economic cooperation with India — ranging from energy and digital innovation to arms production and space technology. While the region is ready to deploy its considerable amounts of capital in India's growth story, Delhi has been tardy in facilitating investments from the Gulf.

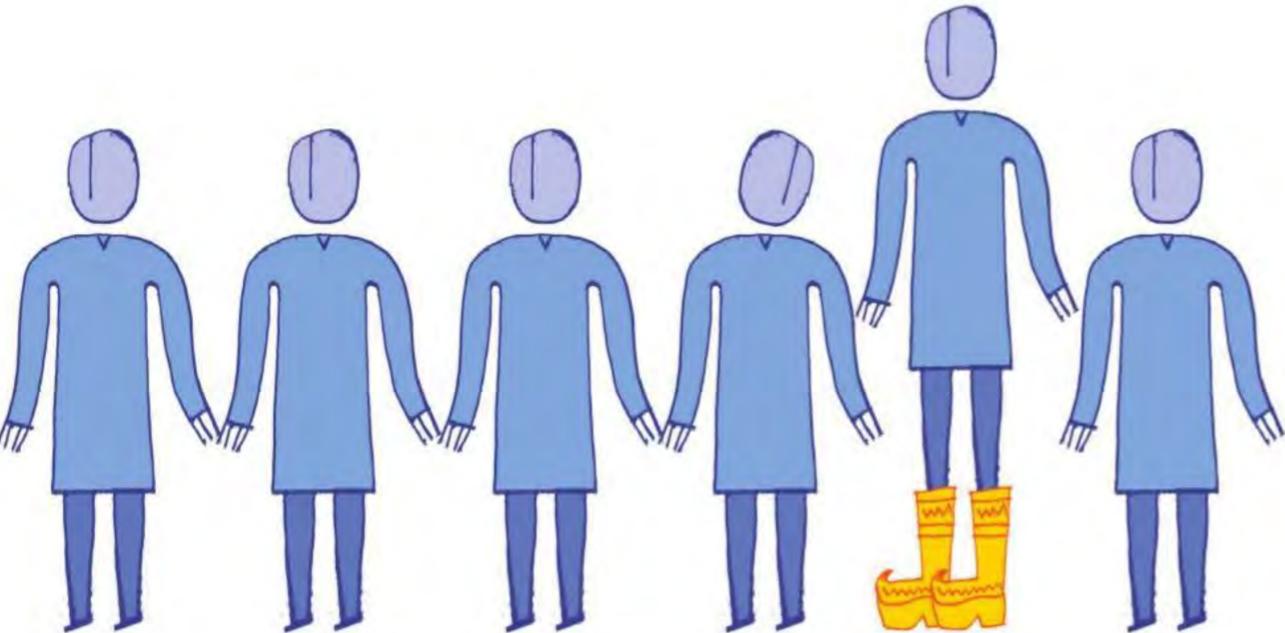
China, in contrast, has moved quickly to elevate its economic and commercial profile in the region. As India begins to take the dangers of an economic slowdown seriously, it should try and unplug multiple bureaucratic and policy obstacles to investments from the Gulf.

Third, security cooperation, where the unrealised potential remains huge. The highly vulnerable Gulf regimes have long depended upon Britain and the US to protect themselves from threats — internal, regional and international. Amidst the current domestic turmoil in the Anglo-American world, President Donald Trump's talk on downsizing America's role in the Gulf is encouraging the region to diversify its security partnerships.

It is time Delhi showed some initiative to develop a more pro-active strategy for defence cooperation in the region. Inaction now will necessarily lead to reaction as other Asian powers like China carve out a larger security role in the Gulf. Russia and France have already stepped up their involvement in the Gulf region's security affairs.

As the internal conflicts within the Gulf region — the intra-Arab, as well as between the Arabs and the Iranians — sharpened in recent years, Delhi's instinct was to avoid getting drawn into these. But ducking can't be a permanent Indian security strategy in the Gulf. Thanks to the potential American retrenchment, the Gulf powers are recognising the importance of engaging each other. The recent talks on maritime security between UAE and Iran, who have had a troubled relationship for long, could be a sign of things to come. The question for India is no longer about taking sides; it is about contributing to the regional security in whatever manner it can.

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



CR Sasikumar

Babasaheb and Article 370

BR Ambedkar opposed the special status for Jammu and Kashmir. He would have agreed with its abrogation now



ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL

Essary legislation to grant special status to J&K. On May 27, 1949, Ayyangar introduced a motion which contained an alternative method of selecting the representatives from J&K for the Constituent Assembly. Ayyangar recommended that all four persons from the state be nominated by the ruler on the advice of his prime minister. After a brief debate, the measure was adopted by the members of the Constituent Assembly. The interim government led by Abdullah nominated Mirza Mohammed Afzal Beg, Maulana Mohammed Syed Masoodi and Moti Ram Baigra, in addition to Abdullah himself. Ayyangar came up with the draft of Article 306 A in consultation with these four National Conference leaders.

On October 17, 1949, Nehru was in the US and Ayyangar was entrusted with the motion for the insertion of Article 306A in the constituent assembly. After the introduction of the motion, Maulana Hasrat Mohani tried to oppose the special provision, but he didn't get much time. The motion was adopted on the same day and Article 306A was renumbered Article 370 at the revision stage. Ambedkar's opposition to this move is evident from the fact that he had refused even to attend the session that passed the motion.

From time to time and on various platforms, Ambedkar had opposed the policies of the Nehru government related to J&K. In 1951, the election manifesto of the Scheduled Caste Federation, a party formed by Ambedkar stated: "The policies if continued will lead to perpetual enmity between India and Pakistan, and the possibility of war between the two countries." It was his farsightedness that his words became reality and there have been three wars between India and Pakistan. While criticising the Nehru government on the J&K issue on the floor of the House during the Budget (General) 1952-53 discussion, Ambedkar meticulously made the point confronting the additional Rs 50 crore in the defence budget because of the Kashmir imbroglio. Ayyangar was the defence minister during this time and Ambedkar reminded him

Ambedkar realised that J&K's special status would create another layer of sovereignty within sovereign India, which can be detrimental to the unity and integrity of the Republic. Article 370 led to the creation of a separate flag and separate constitution, which engendered feelings of separatism and regional autonomy, misleading the youths and ultimately gave birth to terrorism, corruption and misgovernance. The state had to face isolation from mainstream development programmes and policies brought in by central governments.

that a permanent solution to the Kashmir problem was related to the abrogation of Article 370. Under Nehru's influence, the government did not pay any heed to this advice. In another instance, during a debate on Article 370, Nehru told the House that it is a temporary provision and its erosion will happen gradually. But Article 370 did not erode. It became stronger, making the lives of common citizens difficult in the erstwhile state of J&K.

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Ambedkar and Syama Prasad Mookerjee were the two non-Congress ministers in the interim government (1947-52) led by Nehru. It is important to note that on the issues related to J&K, the concurrence in the views of both intellectuals is clearly visible. During the first general election (1951-52), the Praja Parishad and Jana Sangh, led by Mookerjee, adopted a stand similar to that of Ambedkar — to bring J&K fully under the Constitution of India by repealing Article 370. In 1964, a few Congress parliamentarians also supported the move to abrogate Article 370.

Now, with the scrapping of Article 370, the country has taken a historic decision and a new era has begun in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. It appears that the measure taken by Narendra Modi to correct a historic blunder is a humble tribute to Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar.

The writer is Union Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises

Spy who came in from the cold

RN Kao, R&AW's first chief, laid the foundations of Indian espionage



VAPPALA BALACHANDRAN

allowed them to gain influence in the game of power politics. Kao was groomed by Mullik in undertaking these external intelligence tasks.

Kao's first overseas assignment was helping the Hong Kong police in investigating one of the earliest cases of aviation terrorism. On April 11, 1955 Air India's "Kashmir Princess" to Jakarta, carrying delegates for the Afro-Asian Conference in Bandung, crashed into the sea. China's Prime Minister Zhou Enlai, who was to have been on the flight, escaped since he cancelled his trip at the last moment. Investigation revealed suspected Taiwanese involvement through an airport cleaner, who planted American made MK-7 detonator. Years later, a French source revealed that Zhou, who was the founder of Chinese intelligence, was alerted in advance by his sources.

The 1971 Indo-Pak war which split Pakistan was the high point of Kao's career. However, the task was not easy as Kao had to face bureaucratic hurdles at every stage in 1968 to create a separate foreign intelligence unit. He used to tell me that apart from old colleagues' obstructive tactics, he also had to overcome a scheming deputy secretary in the Cabinet Secretariat, who would whittle down all higher level decisions on financial, administrative and operational issues.

Kao founded the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) in 1968 and headed it till 1977. Within a short time after setting it up, he was able to recruit a large number of persons with special skills, not available through nor-

mal bureaucratic channels, with great results. He hired a retired army officer whose unit could intercept advance intelligence on Pakistan's pre-emptive air attack on December 3, 1971. The satellite monitoring facility set up by his part-time aide, who was working full-time in another technical department, came in handy even later during the Pakistan's clandestine nuclear bomb project period.

Kao would not agree to record his significant role in creating Bangladesh. Former minister Jairam Ramesh has done a great service in unearthing the historical record of the 1971 operations while writing his seminal biography of P N Haksar (PNH). He could find from PNH's archives the latter's proposal to the prime minister to make Kao the coordinator of a high-level committee on deciding aid to Bangladesh freedom fighters. Indira Gandhi issued the order on March 2, 1971, constituting this committee designating Kao as the convener.

Kao was at his best while interacting with foreign intelligence chiefs with whom he cultivated personal bonds. Volumes could be written on his silent contribution in building up high-level relationship to protect and expand our strategic interests, achieving what normal diplomacy could not. Mossad chief Nahum Admoni has told me that he was an admirer of Kao. I was a witness to Kao's personal friendship with the then French external intelligence chief, Le Conte Alexandre de Marenches, the colourful aris-

ocrat, nick named "Porthos" because of his size, who held the longest tenure of directorship of the French external service DSECE, now called DGSE.

It was Marenches-Kao-Nematollah Nassiri (of Iran's Savak) who conceived the idea of "Trilateral cooperation" between France, India and the Shah's Iran in the mid Seventies to carve out an independent role, to offset the growing US-USSR rivalry in the Indian Ocean. Unfortunately, this secret project could not last as Kao demitted office in 1977, Nassiri was killed by the Khomeni regime in 1979 and Marenches was sacked by President Mitterrand.

When Indira Gandhi returned to power, she made Kao the senior security advisor in 1981. Kao was the first to conclude that it was not enough that intelligence is collected through different agencies but that somebody should coordinate and arbitrate the output before presenting it to the policy makers. He thus set up the foundations of a future National Security Council system by establishing a "Policy and Research Staff" (PARS) to function as a think tank and policy adviser to the government. In doing this, he practised what Henry Kissinger said much later: "The Security Adviser's contact with media and foreign diplomats should be to the minimum. Conduct of foreign policy should be left to the Secretary of State".

The writer is a former Special Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DIALOGUE NEEDED

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'World and Valley' (IE, August 19). That we need to engage with the world over the current and past issues in Jammu and Kashmir with more alacrity and less reservation is evident from the nuanced responses from both our traditional friends and foes. Domestically, too, there is a need for dialogue and transparency with respect to the Opposition. Kashmir is just one among many issues that will test us as a polity. A healthy attitude towards the Opposition, and an internal dialogue, can only add to our standing in globally.

R Narayanan, Navi Mumbai

A MIRAGE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Valley's new dawn' (IE, August 19). It is surprising that Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad has not mentioned the "new dawn" of a sense of alienation and betrayal in the Valley, which has been consolidated by the short-sightedness of the current government on August 5. Just talking about some success stories and building a narrative that a new dawn of development has come constitute a mirage. The government does not seem to realise that armies can win territories but not hearts.

Mohsin Ilahi, Aligarh

AFTER MONSOON

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'A game of

LETTER OF THE WEEK AWARD

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

THE WINNER RECEIVES SELECT EXPRESS PUBLICATIONS

change' (IE, August 19). The monsoon and Indian agriculture have been connected for a long time. The farmers' cropping cycle is also a result of this relationship. Before the era of artificial irrigation, most of our cropland were rain-fed. So, the farm community dug ponds as reservoirs of water and kept the water for use in the non-monsoon season. Those practices must be revived and strengthened, especially as climate change is making the monsoon more unreliable.

Tapomoy Ghosh, Katwa,

THIS WORD MEANS

TARDIGRADE, THE WATER BEAR

They can survive the most difficult conditions. Have they now populated the Moon?



Getty Images

ON APRIL 11, the Israeli spacecraft Beresheet attempted to land on the Moon, but crashed on the surface. It was carrying a number of items — including thousands of specimens of a living organism called tardigrade. The tardigrade, also known as water bear, is among the toughest and most resilient creatures on Earth. The question is: did the thousands of dehydrated tardigrades on Beresheet survive the crash? And if they did, are they now living on the Moon?

The tardigrade can only be seen under a microscope. Half a millimetre long, it is essentially a water-dweller but also inhabits land and, a 2008 study found, can survive in the cold vacuum of outer space. In 2017, another study found that if all other life were to be wiped out by a cataclysmic event — a large asteroid impact, a supernova or a gamma-ray bursts — the tardigrade would be the likeliest to survive. The tardigrade can endure extreme hot and cold temperature levels.

Although the tardigrades on the spacecraft were dehydrated, the organism is known to “come back to life” on rehydration. In fact, they themselves expel water from their bodies and set off a mechanism to protect their cells, and can

still revive if placed in water later. However, there is no evidence of liquid water on the Moon, although there is ice. Without liquid water, it is possible that the tardigrades will remain in their current state, unless future astronauts find them and revive them in water.

The tardigrade derives its name from the fact that it looks like an eight-legged bear, with a mouth that can project out like a tongue. Its body has four segments supported by four pairs of clawed legs. A tardigrade typically eats fluids, using its claws and mouth to tear open plant and animal cells, so that it can suck nutrients out of them. It is also known to feast on bacteria and, in some cases, to kill and eat other tardigrades. Although they are famed for their resilience, they are destructible too. Should a human being swallow a tardigrade with her food, her stomach acid will cause the flesh of the tardigrade to disintegrate.

On the Moon, should they find liquid water and revive, the tardigrades might not last very long in the absence of food and air, according to *Live Science* magazine, which quoted Kazuharu Arakawa, a tardigrade researcher at Keio University in Tokyo.

UDIT MISRA
 NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19

BOND YIELDS have featured in news reports both globally and within India in recent months. In India, government bond yields fell sharply in the wake of the Union Budget, although they have come off the lows in the past few weeks. Internationally, US treasury bond yields plummeted last week, but they too have moderated after it became clear that governments almost everywhere have shown the desire to boost economic growth.

What are bonds?

A bond is an instrument to borrow money. It is like an IOU. A bond could be floated/issued by a country's government or by a company to raise funds. Since government bonds (referred to as G-secs in India, Treasury in the US, and Gilts in the UK) come with the sovereign's guarantee, they are considered one of the safest investments. As a result, they also give the lowest returns on investment (or yield). Investments in corporate bonds tend to be riskier because the chances of failure (and, therefore, the chances of the company not repaying the loan) are higher.

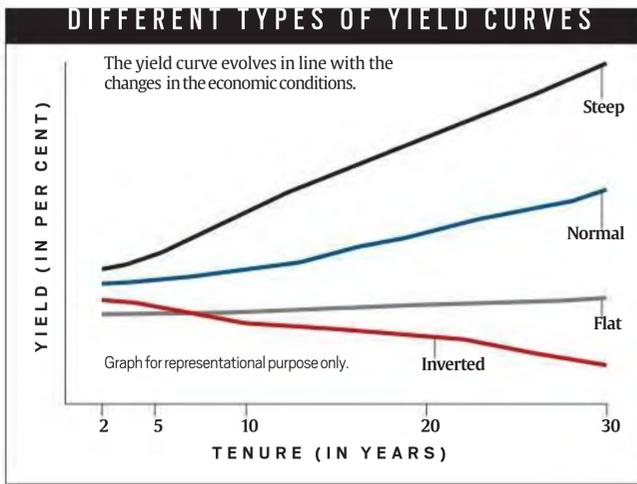
What are bonds yields?

Simply put, the yield of a bond is the effective rate of return that it earns. But the rate of return is not fixed — it changes with the price of the bond. But to understand that, one must first understand how bonds are structured. Every bond has a face value and a coupon payment. There is also the price of the bond, which may or may not be equal to the face value of the bond.

Suppose the face value of a 10-year G-sec is Rs 100, and its coupon payment is Rs 5. Buyers of this bond will give the government Rs 100 (the face value); in return, the government will pay them Rs 5 (the coupon payment) every year for the next 10 years, and will pay back their Rs 100 at the end of the tenure. In this case, the bond's yield, or effective rate of interest, is 5%. The yield is the investor's reward for parting with Rs 100 today, but for staying without it for 10 years.

Why and how do yields go up and down?

Imagine a situation in which there is just one bond, and two buyers (or people willing



to lend to the government). In such a scenario, the selling price of the bond may go from Rs 100 to Rs 105 or Rs 110 because of competitive bidding by the two buyers. Importantly, even if the bond is sold at Rs 110, the coupon payment of Rs 5 will not change. Thus, as the price of the bond increases from Rs 100 to Rs 110, the yield falls to 4.5%.

Similarly, if the interest rate in the broader economy is different from the initial coupon payment promised by a bond, market forces quickly ensure that the yield aligns itself with the economy's interest rate. In that sense, G-sec yields are in close sync with the prevailing interest rate in an economy. With reference to the above example, if the prevailing interest rate is 4% and the government announces a bond with a yield of 5% (that is, a face value of Rs 100 and a coupon of Rs 5) then a lot of people will rush to buy such a bond to earn a higher interest rate. This increased demand will start pushing up bond prices, even as the yields fall. This will carry on until the time the bond price reaches Rs 125 — at that point, a Rs-5 coupon payment would be equivalent to a yield of 4%, the same as in the rest of the economy.

This process of bringing yields in line with the prevailing interest rate in the economy works in the reverse manner when interest rates are higher than the initially

promised yields.

What is happening to US govt bond yields at present? What does it signify?

The global economy has been slowing down for the better part of the last two years. Some of the biggest economies are either growing at a slower rate (such as the US and China) or actually contracting (such as Germany).

As a result, last week, US Treasury bond yields fell sharply as there was confirmation of slowdown in Germany and China. Reason: investors, both inside the US and outside, figured that if growth prospects are plummeting, it makes little sense to invest in stocks or even riskier assets. It made more sense rather, to invest in something that was both safe and liquid (that is, something that can be converted into cash quickly). US Treasury bonds are the safest bet in this regard. So, many investors lined up to buy US Treasury bonds, which led to their prices going up, and their yields falling sharply.

The fall in the yields of 10-year government bonds showed that the bond investors expected the demand for money in the future to fall. That is why future interest rates are likely to be lower. A lower demand for money in the future, in turn, will happen only

when growth falters further. So government bond yields falling typically suggests that economic participants “expect” growth to slow down in the future.

Of course, the bond yields are just “suggesting” this — they do not “cause” the growth to “reduce” in the future.

And what is a yield curve, and what does it signify?

A yield curve is a graphical representation of yields for bonds (with an equal credit rating) over different time horizons. Typically, the term is used for government bonds — which come with the same sovereign guarantee. So the yield curve for US treasuries shows how yields change when the tenure (or the time for which one lends to the government) changes. If bond investors expect the US economy to grow normally, then they would expect to be rewarded more (that is, get more yield) when they lend for a longer period. This gives rise to a normal — upward sloping — yield curve (see chart).

The steepness of this yield curve is determined by how fast an economy is expected to grow. The faster it is expected to grow the more the yield for longer tenures. When the economy is expected to grow only marginally, the yield curve is “flat”.

What then is yield inversion, and what does it mean?

Yield inversion happens when the yield on a longer tenure bond becomes less than the yield for a shorter tenure bond. This, too, happened last week when the 10-year Treasury yield fell below the 2-year Treasury yield.

A yield inversion typically portends a recession. An inverted yield curve shows that investors expect the future growth to fall sharply; in other words, the demand for money would be much lower than what it is today and hence the yields are also lower.

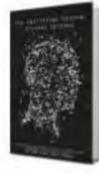
How good is yield inversion at predicting a recession?

Although US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross was quoted as saying Monday that “eventually there'll be a recession but this inversion is not as reliable, in my view, as people think”, yet US data show historically that barring one episode in the mid-1960s, a yield inversion has always been followed by a recession.

TIP FOR READING LIST

A MACHINE CALLED SOCIAL MEDIA

IN 1922, the Swiss-German painter Paul Klee sketched “Twittering Machine” in watercolour and pen-and-ink oil transfer on paper, showing some birds on a wire (or branch) connected to a hand-crank. It has been interpreted in various ways — including as a depiction of machinery lurking nature to its ruin. In an online presentation, New York's Museum of Modern Art describes the relationship between birds and machines: “The ‘twittering’ in the title doubtless refers to the birds, while the ‘machine’ is suggested by the hand crank. The two elements are, literally, a fusing of the natural with the industrial world...”



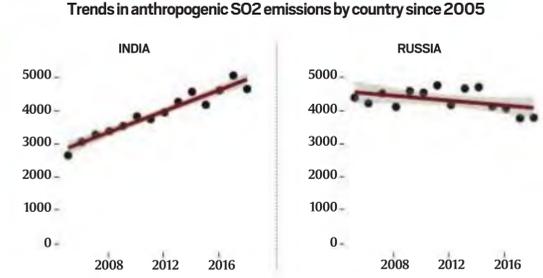
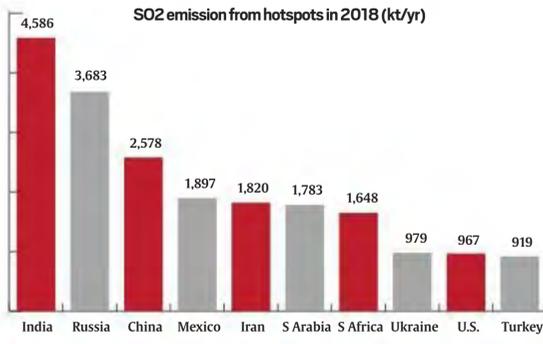
Political writer and broadcaster Richard Seymour argues that the artwork is a metaphor for humans' present-day relationship with social media. His new book has the same name as Klee's sketch.

The Twittering Machine uses insights from users, developers, security experts

and others to probe what we are getting out of the social media machine, and what we are getting into. It argues that the system is an addiction-machine. “We are users, waiting for our next hit as we like, comment and share. We write to the machine as individuals, but it responds by aggregating our fantasies, desires and frailties into data, and returning them to us as a commodity experience,” the publisher's description says.

In its review of the book, *The Guardian* says: “The twittering machine, as Seymour calls it, has no innate morality, but it preys on our weaknesses to monopolise our attention and modify our behaviour. We are left jangled, needy, constantly alert for the chirp that announces some new and unnecessary missive, ever ready to resume our chore of clicking the ‘like’ button, surrendering to the advertisers who gather up the personal data we so guilelessly provide.”

TELLING NUMBERS



Source: Greenpeace Environment Trust

India biggest emitter of sulphur dioxide: report using NASA data

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 BEIJING, AUGUST 19

A NEW report by Greenpeace India shows the country is the largest emitter of sulphur dioxide in the world, with more than 15% of all the anthropogenic sulphur dioxide hotspots detected by the NASA OMI (Ozone Monitoring Instrument) satellite. Almost all of these emissions in India are because of coal-burning, the report says.

The vast majority of coal-based power plants in India lack flue-gas desulphurisation technology to reduce air pollution.

The Singrauli, Neyveli, Talcher, Jharsuguda, Korba, Kutch, Chennai, Ramagundam, Chandrapur and Koradi thermal power plants or clusters are the major emission hotspots in India, the report says.

In a first step to combat pollution levels, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change introduced, for the first time, sulphur dioxide emission limits for coal-fired power plants in December 2015. But the

deadline for the installation of flue-gas desulphurisation (FGD) in power plants has been extended from 2017 to 2022.

The report also includes NASA data on the largest point sources of sulphur dioxide.

The largest sulphur dioxide emission hotspots have been found in Russia, South Africa, Iran, Saudi Arabia, India, Mexico, United Arab Emirates, Turkey and Serbia.

Air pollutant emissions from power plants and other industries continue to increase in India, Saudi Arabia and Iran, the report says.

In Russia, South Africa, Mexico and Turkey, emissions are currently not increasing — however, there is not a lot of progress in tackling them either.

Of the world's major emitters, China and the United States have been able to reduce emissions rapidly. They have achieved this feat by switching to clean energy sources; China, in particular, has achieved success by dramatically improving emission standards and enforcement for sulphur dioxide control.

From American Wild West to Europe war theatres, evolution of razor wire

SMITA NAIR
 PANAJI, AUGUST 19

AT A number of places in the Kashmir Valley, security forces have put coils of concertina wire on roads to enforce restrictions on movement. Concertina wire fences are used along territorial borders and in theatres of conflict around the world, to keep out combatants, terrorists, or refugees.

The Nomenclature

The expandable spools of barbed or razor wire get their name from concertina, a hand-held musical instrument similar to the accordion, with bellows that expand and contract. Concertina wire coils were an improvisation on the barbed wire obstacles used during World War I. The flat, collapsible coils with intermittent barbs or blades were designed to be carried along by infantry, and deployed on battlefields to prevent or slow down enemy movement.

The early avatars

The Englishman Richard Newton is credited with creating the first barbed wire around 1845; the first patent for “a double wire clipped with diamond shaped barbs” was given to Louis François Janin of France. In the United States, the first patent was registered by Lucien B Smith on June 25, 1867, for a prairie fence made of fireproof iron wire. Design innovations and more patents followed; Michael Kelly twisted razor wires together to form a cable of wires.

The American businessman Joseph F Glidden is considered to be the father of the modern barbed wire. His design of two strands of intertwined wire held by sharp prongs at regular intervals, won a famous legal victory against the US Patent and Trademark Office in 1874.

Non-military uses

Barbed wire was initially an agrarian fencing invention intended to confine cattle and sheep, which unlike lumber, was



A coil of concertina wire in Srinagar last week. PTI

largely resistant to fire and bad weather. An advertorial published in the US in 1885 under the title “Why Barb Fencing Is Better Than Any Other”, argued that “it does not decay; boys cannot crawl through or over it; nor dogs; nor cats; nor any other animal; it watches with argus eyes the inside and outside, up, down and lengthwise; it prevents the ‘ins’ from being ‘outs’, and the ‘outs’ from being ‘ins’, watches at day-break, at noon-tide, at sunset and all night long...”

Barbed wire soon became a symbol of power and property, changing the sociopolitical and economic landscape of the American West, converting the undefined prairies into private properties, and making the roaming cowboy on horseback increasingly redundant.

Evolution of concertina

Barbed wire was put to military use in the Siege of Santiago in 1898 during the Spanish-American War, and by the British in the Second Boer War of 1899-1902 to

confine the families of the Afrikaans-speaking Boer fighters.

World War I saw extensive use of barbed wire — and German military engineers are credited with improvising the earliest concertina coils on the battlefield. They spun barbed wire put up by the Allied soldiers along the Hindenburg Line on the Western Front into circles, making it more effective against infantry charges. Both sides eventually used concertina wire, which did not, unlike traditional barbed wire, require too much support infrastructure or nailing down, and could simply be spread on the battlefield.

Use in Jammu and Kashmir

The fence erected by India along the Line of Control to keep out terrorist infiltrators consists of rows of concertina wire coils held by iron angles. Concertina coils have long been deployed during curfews in the Valley. They are now commonly seen elsewhere in India too, and are used to secure private properties as well.

17 THE WORLD



RUSSIA PUTIN: NO RADIATION THREAT AFTER BLAST

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Monday there was "no threat" of contamination after an explosion at a Russian missile testing site last week. "There is no threat and no rise in the radiation level there. We sent experts there and they are controlling the situation now. Preventative measures are taken so nothing unexpected happens," he said.

TOP OF THE WORLD



Mette Frederiksen

DENMARK Trump's idea of buying Greenland absurd: Danish PM

Copenhagen: Greenland is not for sale and US President Donald Trump's idea of buying the semi-autonomous Danish territory in the Arctic from Denmark is "an absurd discussion", Denmark's Prime Minister said. Mette Frederiksen, who was visiting the world's largest island to meet Premier Kim Kielsen, told reporters: "Greenland is not Danish. Greenland is Greenlandic. I persistently hope that this is not something that is seriously meant." Frederiksen said Sunday that the Arctic, with resources that could be exploited for commercial gain, "is becoming increasingly important to the entire world community".

Iranian oil tanker leaves Gibraltar with Indian crew after release

Local authorities say unable to get court order to detain vessel despite last-minute effort by US

ADITI KHANNA LONDON, AUGUST 19

AN IRANIAN oil supertanker released from detention by Gibraltar last week has set sail with its crew — a majority of them Indians — on board soon after the local authorities said that they were unable to seek a court order to detain the vessel on a US warrant.

Grace 1, which had been detained in the semi-autonomous British Overseas Territory of Gibraltar on the Spanish coast early last month, was renamed the *Adrain Darya 1* based on the Persian word for sea, and re-branded under an Iranian flag.

According to the Marine Traffic monitoring website, the tanker lifted anchor on Sunday evening and the vessel was tracked moving into the Mediterranean and listed Kalamata in Greece as its destination.

The crew on board the vessel



The tanker lifted anchor on Sunday evening. It has been listed to be heading towards Greece. Reuters

includes Indians, Russians, Latvians and Filipinos. They spent over a month in detention on board the ship since it was seized on July 4.

The Indian captain and three other senior officers were

arrested on suspicion of a breach of the EU sanctions. They later got bail. They were released of all charges last week, with the captain expressing relief and gratitude.

Earlier on August 15, V

EXPLAINED Diplomatic challenge for new Greek govt

THE IRANIAN tanker was seized by Gibraltar because it was allegedly headed to Syria in breach of EU sanctions. The ship was released after Iran reportedly gave assurances to Gibraltar that it would not go to Syria. Now, the ship is reportedly heading to Greece. However, the US has imposed strict sanctions against buying oil from Iran, and if the tanker's oil is unloaded in Greece, the country could face penalties imposed by the US. Washington may also urge Greece to seize the ship, although it was unsuccessful with a similar request to Gibraltar. What happens once the ship reaches Greece will likely prove to be one of the major diplomatic challenges faced by the new Greek government, which was formed just last month.

Muraleedharan, Minister of State for External Affairs & Parliamentary Affairs, tweeted, "All 24 Indian crew aboard *VLCG Grace 1* have been released by Gibraltar authorities and are free to return to India."

Iran issued a warning to the US against any attempt to seize its tanker in the open seas after it left Gibraltar at the end of weeks of standoff over its previously intended destination of Syria, which Tehran has denied.

Zakir Naik set to be questioned by Malaysian authorities

PM Mahathir says Naik not allowed to participate in any political activities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA KUALA LUMPUR, AUGUST 19

ZAKIR NAIK has been summoned for a second time by Malaysian authorities after his allegedly racist remarks against Hindus and Chinese, hours after Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad told the controversial Indian televangelist that he is not allowed to participate in political activities in the country.

The official Bernama news agency reported on Monday that Naik, wanted by Indian authorities since 2016 for alleged money laundering and inciting extremism through hate speeches, has been called for the second time to have his statement recorded at Bukit Aman, The Royal Malaysia Police's headquarters here.

Naik is being questioned under laws against intentional insult with intent to provoke a breach of the peace, according to CID director Huzir Mohamed. The 53-year-old preacher,



who is a permanent resident in Muslim-majority Malaysia, had his statement recorded for the first time on August 16, the report said.

Naik is alleged to have made controversial remarks against Malaysian Hindu and Malaysian Chinese during a talk in Kota Baru on August 3, prompting calls for him to be deported to India.

Responding to calls for his deportation from Malaysia, he suggested that Malaysian Chinese should leave the country first as they were "old guests". He also said Hindus in Malaysia enjoyed "100 times more rights" than Muslims in India and that they believed in the Indian government more than the Malaysian one, media reports said.

General accused of rights abuses named Lanka Army Chief; US, UN slam move

REUTERS COLOMBO, AUGUST 19

SRI LANKA'S President on Monday named war veteran Lt Gen Shavendra Silva as its Army Chief, drawing sharp criticism from the United States and the United Nations over the appointment of an officer who has been accused of serious human rights violations.

Silva, 55, is credited with successfully leading an army division against dissident Tamil Tigers in the final phases of the island nation's 26-year-long brutal civil war.

His victory, however, was highly controversial. Thousands of civilians were killed in the last phases of the armed conflict, including in areas declared by the government to be a 'no fire zone' which came under sustained army shelling, including hospitals.

A United Nations panel has accused Silva's division of suspected extrajudicial executions of unarmed rebels in the final week of the war which ended in 2009 and systematic torture of people in custody. Silva has denied the accusations.

"I am deeply troubled by the appointment of Lieutenant-General Shavendra Silva as Commander of the Sri Lankan Army, despite the serious allegations of gross violations of international human rights and humanitarian law against him and his troops during the war," UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet said in a statement on Monday.

His promotion "severely compromises Sri Lanka's com-



Lt Gen Shavendra Silva

'SERIOUS AFFRONT,' SAYS TAMIL GROUP

Colombo: A political alliance of Sri Lanka's minority Tamil community criticised on Monday the appointment of Lt Gen Shavendra Silva as the country's new Army Chief, calling it a "serious affront".

"An individual who stands accused of grave crimes (appointed) as Army Commander is a serious affront to the Tamil people," Tamil National Alliance spokesman MA Sumanthiran said. "We are deeply disappointed by this appointment," he said. PTI

mitment to promote justice and accountability", she said, adding that it also set back security sector reform.

Washington expressed its disapproval of Silva's appointment in a strongly-worded statement. "The allegations of gross human rights violations against him, documented by the United Nations and other organisations, are serious and credible," the US Embassy in Colombo said in a statement. REUTERS

Afghanistan vows to crush IS havens after attack

Day after suicide bombing at Kabul wedding, series of explosions injure at least 66 in Jalalabad

AP & REUTERS KABUL, AUGUST 19

AFGHANISTAN'S PRESIDENT on Monday vowed to "eliminate" all safe havens of the Islamic State group as the country marked a subdued 100th Independence Day after a horrific wedding attack claimed by the local IS affiliate.

President Ashraf Ghani's comments came as Afghanistan mourns at least 63 people, including children, killed in the Kabul bombing at a wedding hall late Saturday night. Close to 200 others were wounded.

Many outraged Afghans ask whether an approaching deal between the US and the Taliban to end nearly 18 years of fighting — America's longest war — will bring peace to long-suffering civilians.

Ghani on Monday asserted that the Taliban, whom the US now hopes will help to curb the IS affiliate's rise, are just as



A wounded person being carried to the hospital after a blast in Jalalabad on Monday. Reuters

much to blame.

The Taliban "have created the platform for terrorists" with its own brutal assaults on schools, mosques and other public places over the years, the president said.

"We will take revenge for every civilian drop of blood," Ghani declared. "Our struggle will continue against (IS), we will take revenge and will root them out." He urged the international community to join those efforts.

Meanwhile, a series of bombings struck restaurants and public squares on Monday in the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad, wounding at least 66 people, officials said. No group claimed responsibility.

The Jalalabad bombs were planted near a market where hundreds of people had congregated after attending Independence Day events. Senior health official Fahim Bashari said at least 66 people were wounded, including 20 children enjoying the public holiday.

Ties with Pak improved after aid cut: Trump

LALIT K JHA WASHINGTON, AUGUST 19

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump has said the US' ties with Pakistan have improved after he cut \$1.3 billion in security assistance to Islamabad for not doing enough to rein in terror groups operating in the country.

Trump announced last year that the \$1.3 billion aid to Pakistan would remain suspended as long as the country did not act against militant safe havens inside its territory.

In his first tweet of the year last year, Trump said US had "foolishly" given Pakistan more than \$33 billion in aid over the last 15 years, and got "nothing but lies and deceit" in return. In September, the Trump ad-



So, what happened: I cut back \$1.3 billion (for Pakistan). We have a better relationship now... I also cut it back on the Palestinians because they speak very badly about our country." — DONALD TRUMP US PRESIDENT

ministration cancelled \$300 million in military aid to Islamabad for not doing enough against terror groups active on its soil.

"I cut back \$1.3 billion a year to Pakistan. When I cut it back, I have a better relationship with — as you know, we have a great relationship. The Prime Minister came in," Trump told reporters at

Bedminster, New Jersey Sunday. Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan visited the US last month. Trump hosted Khan for a meeting at the White House.

"We have a great relationship with Pakistan now. We had a really good meeting," Trump said, referring to his meeting with Khan.

"So, what happened: I cut back \$1.3 billion. We have a better relationship now," he said, arguing that foreign aid has little relevance to a relationship with a country.

"I also cut it back on the Palestinians because they speak very badly about our country. So I cut it back on the Palestinians. We were paying \$500 billion (sic) a year, and now we're paying nothing. I think we're going to get further because I could see them opening that up again," Trump said.

Ties between the US and Pakistan strained after Trump hit out at Pakistan for providing safe havens to "agents of chaos" that kill Americans in Afghanistan and warned Islamabad that it has "much to lose" by harbouring terrorists. PTI



Daniel Pantaleo

Officer fired over 2014 death of Eric Garner, which fuelled a movement in US

JONATHAN ALLEN NEW YORK, AUGUST 19

THE NEW YORK Police Department on Monday fired the white officer who used a deadly chokehold on Eric Garner, an African American, while trying to arrest him in 2014 as Garner repeatedly said "I can't breathe".

The incident helped fuel the "Black Lives Matter" movement in response to multiple incidents of white police killing unarmed black men across the US.

The officer, Daniel Pantaleo, was suspended earlier this month after a departmental judge ruled that the officer should be fired. He had previously been on desk duty since he was seen in widely viewed cellphone videos using a banned chokehold on Garner on a Staten Island sidewalk during an attempted arrest.

Police believed Garner was selling loose, untaxed cigarettes. Commissioner James O'Neill said he struggled with the decision, which he made after considering how Garner resisted arrest and, in his view, Pantaleo acted properly up until the moment he applied the chokehold. REUTERS

THE FORMER US FIRST COUPLE'S PRODUCTION COMPANY TO RELEASE FILM ON NETFLIX AND THEATRES

Obamas' first film charts life in US factory under China bosses

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA LOS ANGELES, AUGUST 19

"THEY REFER to us as the foreigners," says a downbeat employee at the Ohio car glass factory where hundreds of Chinese labourers have come to work, far from their wives, children and homeland.

But the worker in question is American, not Chinese, and is finding life very different under new management after billionaire "Chairman Cao" swept into town to reopen the shuttered, iconic former General Motors factory in 2014.

This is "reverse globalisation," say Oscar-nominated directors Steven Bogнар and Julia Reichert,

who filmed the GM plant's closure in 2008 and returned to chronicle its reopening by Fuyao corporation for the documentary *American Factory*.

The film charts a Midwestern rust belt community's journey from optimism at the giant plant's reopening — bringing back vital jobs — towards creeping anger and disillusionment as the Chinese management imposes its strict, exhausting demands on workers and sacks those who don't comply.

The all-access look at how both American and Chinese workers, from blue-collar to management, had their lives transformed by powerful global economic forces caught the eyes of none other than Barack and



Barack and Michelle Obama have acquired rights to the documentary *American Factory*. Reuters

Michelle Obama.

The former first couple acquired *American Factory* at January's Sundance Festival, and will release it on Netflix and in se-

lect theaters from August 21 as the first offering from their Higher Ground Productions company.

"Mrs Obama said it resonated with her because her father had

done an intense, hardworking job for decades just to provide for his family, and she felt the Midwesternness of the film in what she saw on screen," Bogнар said.

"She felt her own family in the film, and I think the President felt there was a certain amount of policy issues and big broad globalisation" themes in the documentary, added Reichert.

The battle for economic supremacy between the US and a rising China is perhaps the defining geopolitical story of the 21st century.

The filmmakers set out to understand what that rivalry looks like on a human level, and were granted extraordinary access by Fuyao founder and chairman Cao Dewang, who was as inter-

ested in bridging the cultural divide and showcasing Chinese capitalism as making a profit.

"The chairman's a maverick — he's very much his own person, an independent self-made business guy," said Bogнар.

"He'd seen our earlier film and liked it, and so he took a chance on us," he added, referring to 2009's *The Last Truck: Closing of a GM Plant*.

In the new documentary's early scenes, genuine attempts by the US and Chinese workers to bond with their new colleagues, including fishing and shooting lessons and shared Thanksgiving dinners, appear to bear some fruit.

But as the new Chinese owners become alarmed by heavy financial losses, they fire the

RISING SEAS

A world without beaches

One way or another the deluge is coming

THE OCEAN covers 70.8% of the Earth's surface. That share is creeping up. Averaged across the globe, sea levels are 20cm higher today than they were before people began suffusing the atmosphere with greenhouse gases in the late 1800s. They are expected to rise by a further half-metre or so in the next 80 years; in some places, they could go up by twice as much—and more when amplified by storm surges like the one that Hurricane Sandy propelled into New York in 2012. Coastal flood plains are expected to grow by 12-20%, or 70,000-100,000 square kilometres, this century. That area, roughly the size of Austria or Maine, is home to masses of people and capital in booming sea-facing metropolises. One in seven of Earth's 7.5bn people already lives less than ten metres above sea level; by 2050, 1.4bn will. Low-lying atolls like Kiribati may be permanently submerged. Assets worth trillions of dollars—including China's vast manufacturing cluster in the Pearl river delta and innumerable military bases—have been built in places that could often find themselves underwater.

The physics of the sea level is not mysterious. Seawater expands when heated and rises more when topped up by meltwater from sweating glaciers and ice caps. True, scientists debate just how high the seas can rise and how quickly and politicians and economists are at odds over how best to deal with the consequences—flooding, erosion, the poisoning of farmland by brine. Yet argument is no excuse for inaction. The need to adapt to higher seas is now a fact of life.

Owing to the inexorable nature of sea-swelling, its effects will be felt even if carbon emissions fall. In 30 years the damage to coastal cities could reach \$1trn a year. By 2100, if the Paris agreement's preferred target to keep warming below 1.5°C relative to preindustrial levels were met, sea levels would rise by 50cm from today, causing worldwide damage to property equivalent to 1.8% of global GDP a year. Failure to enact meaningful emissions reductions would push the seas up by another 30-40cm, and cause extra damage worth 2.5% of GDP.

In theory minimising the damage should be simple: construct the hardware (flood-walls), install the software (governance and public awareness) and, when all else fails, retreat out of harm's way. This does not happen. The menace falls beyond most people's time horizons. For investors and the firms they finance, whose physical assets seldom last longer than 20 years, that is probably inevitable—though even businesses should acquaint themselves with their holdings' nearer-term risks (which few in fact do). For local and national governments, inaction is a dereliction of duty to future generations. When they do recognise the problem, they tend to favour multibillion-dollar structures that take years to plan, longer to erect, and often prove inadequate because the science and warming have moved on.

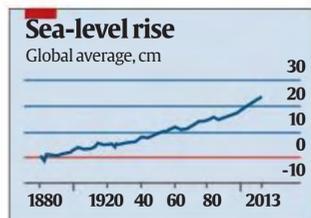
As with all climate-related risks, governments and businesses have little incentive to work out how susceptible they are. Some highly exposed firms are worried that, if they



One in seven of Earth's 7.5bn people already lives less than ten metres above sea level; by 2050, 1.4bn will. Low-lying atolls like Kiribati may be permanently submerged. Reuters

disclose their vulnerabilities, they will be punished by investors. Governments, notably America's, make things worse by encouraging vulnerable households to stay in harm's way by offering cheap flood insurance. More foolish still, some only reimburse rebuilding to old standards, not new flood-proof ones.

However, there are ways to hold back the deluge. Simple things include building codes that reserve ground levels of flood-prone buildings for car parks and encourage "wet-proofing" of walls and floors with tiles so as to limit the clean-up once floodwaters recede. Mains water, which is desirable in its own right, may stop people without access to it from draining aquifers, which causes land



to subside; parts of Jakarta are sinking by 25cm a year, much faster than its sea is swelling. If more ambitious projects are needed to protect dense urban centres, they

Governments, notably America's, make things worse by encouraging vulnerable households to stay in harm's way by offering cheap flood insurance

ought to be built not for the likeliest scenario but for the worst case, and engineered to be capable of being scaled up as needed. The New York region has funnelled \$1bn out of a reconstruction budget of \$60bn to such ex-

periments in Sandy's wake.

Authorities must also stop pretending that entire coastlines can be defended. Unless you are Monaco or Singapore, they cannot. Elsewhere, people may need to move to higher ground. Bangladesh, for instance, is displacing 250,000 households.

All this requires co-ordination between different levels of government, individuals and companies, not least to prevent one man's levee from diverting water to a defenceless neighbour. Market signals need strengthening. Credit-raters, lenders and insurers are only beginning to take stock of climate risks. Making the disclosure of risks mandatory would hasten the process. And poor, vulnerable places

need support. Just \$70bn a year of the \$100bn in pledged climate aid to help them tackle the causes and impact of global warming has materialised. Less than one-tenth of it goes to adaptation. This must change.

Open the floodgates

Actuaries calculate that governments investing \$1 in climate resilience today will save \$5 in losses tomorrow. That is a good return on public investment. Rich countries would be foolhardy to forgo it, but can probably afford to. Many developing countries, by contrast, cannot. All the while, the water is coming.

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FOOLING BIG BROTHER

Face off

As face-recognition technology spreads, so do ideas for subverting it

POWERED BY advances in artificial intelligence (AI), face-recognition systems are spreading like knotweed. Facebook, a social network, uses the technology to label people in uploaded photographs. Modern smartphones can be unlocked with it. Some banks employ it to verify transactions. Supermarkets watch for under-age drinkers. Advertising billboards assess consumers' reactions to their contents. America's Department of Homeland Security reckons face recognition will scrutinise 97% of out-bound airline passengers by 2023. Networks of face-recognition cameras are part of the police state China has built in Xinjiang, in the country's far west. And a number of British police forces have tested the technology as a tool of mass surveillance in trials designed to spot criminals on the street.

A backlash, though, is brewing. The authorities in several American cities, including San Francisco and Oakland, have forbidden agencies such as the police from using the technology. In Britain, members of parliament have called, so far without success, for a ban on police tests. Refuseniks can also take matters into their own hands by trying to hide their faces from the cameras or, as has happened recently during protests in Hong Kong, by pointing hand-held lasers at CCTV cameras, to dazzle them. Meanwhile, a small but growing group of privacy campaigners and academics are looking at ways to subvert the underlying technology directly.

Put your best face forward

Face recognition relies on machine learning, a subfield of AI in which computers teach themselves to do tasks that their programmers are unable to explain to them explic-

Training one algorithm to fool another is known as adversarial machine learning. It is a productive approach, creating images that are misleading to a computer's vision while looking meaningless to a human being's.

itly. First, a system is trained on thousands of examples of human faces. By rewarding it when it correctly identifies a face, and penalising it when it does not, it can be taught to distinguish images that contain faces from those that do not. Once it has an idea what a face looks like, the system can then begin to distinguish one face from another. The specifics vary, depending on the algorithm, but usually involve a mathematical representation of a number of crucial anatomical points, such as the location of the nose relative to other facial features, or the distance between the eyes.

In laboratory tests, such systems can be extremely accurate. One survey by the NIST, an America standards-setting body, found that, between 2014 and 2018, the ability of face-recognition software to match an image of a known person with the image of that person held in a database improved from 96% to 99.8%. But because the machines have taught themselves, the visual systems they have come up with are bespoke. Computer vision, in other words, is nothing like the human sort. And that can provide plenty of chinks in an algorithm's armour.

In 2010, for instance, as part of a thesis for

a master's degree at New York University, an American researcher and artist named Adam Harvey created "CV [computer vision] Dazzle", a style of make-up designed to fool face recognisers. It uses bright colours, high contrast, graded shading and asymmetric stylings to confound an algorithm's assumptions about what a face looks like. To a human being, the result is still clearly a face. But a computer—or, at least, the specific algorithm Mr Harvey was aiming at—is baffled.

Dramatic make-up is likely to attract more attention from other people than it deflects from machines. HyperFace is a newer project of Mr Harvey's. Where CV Dazzle aims to alter faces, HyperFace aims to hide them among dozens of fakes. It uses blocky, semi-abstract and comparatively innocent-looking patterns that are designed to appeal as strongly as possible to face classifiers. The idea is to disguise the real thing among a sea of false positives. Clothes with the pattern, which features lines and sets of dark spots vaguely reminiscent of mouths and pairs of eyes (see photograph), are already available.

An even subtler idea was proposed by researchers at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Indiana University Bloomington, and Alibaba, a big Chinese information-technology firm, in a paper published in 2018. It is a baseball cap fitted with tiny light-emitting diodes that project infra-red dots onto the wearer's face. Many of the cameras used in face-recognition systems are sensitive to parts of the infra-red spectrum. Since human eyes are not, infra-red light is ideal for covert trickery.

In tests against FaceNet, a face-recognition system developed by Google, the researchers found that the right amount of in-



Protesters use laser pointers during a rally in Hong Kong. AP

fra-red illumination could reliably prevent a computer from recognising that it was looking at a face at all. More sophisticated attacks were possible, too. By searching for faces which were mathematically similar to that of one of their colleagues, and applying fine control to the diodes, the researchers persuaded FaceNet, on 70% of attempts, that the colleague in question was actually someone else entirely.

Training one algorithm to fool another is known as adversarial machine learning. It is a productive approach, creating images that are misleading to a computer's vision while looking meaningless to a human being's. One paper, published in 2016 by researchers from Carnegie Mellon University, in Pittsburgh, and the University of North Carolina, showed how innocuous-looking abstract patterns,

printed on paper and stuck onto the frame of a pair of glasses, could often convince a computer-vision system that a male AI researcher was in fact Milla Jovovich, an American actress.

In a similar paper, presented at a computer-vision conference in July, a group of researchers at the Catholic University of Leuven, in Belgium, fooled person-recognition systems rather than face-recognition ones. They described an algorithmically generated pattern that was 40cm square. In tests, merely holding up a piece of cardboard with this pattern on it was enough to make an individual—who would be eminently visible to a human security guard—vanish from the sight of a computerised watchman.

As the researchers themselves admit, all these systems have constraints. In particular,

most work only against specific recognition algorithms, limiting their deployability. Happily, says Mr Harvey, although face recognition is spreading, it is not yet ubiquitous—or perfect. A study by researchers at the University of Essex, published in July, found that although one police trial in London flagged up 42 potential matches, only eight proved accurate. Even in China, says Mr Harvey, only a fraction of CCTV cameras collect pictures sharp enough for face recognition to work. Low-tech approaches can help, too. "Even small things like wearing turtle necks, wearing sunglasses, looking at your phone [and therefore not at the cameras]—together these have some protective effect".

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ED INVESTIGATION IL&FS TRANSPORTATION NETWORKS

‘IL&FS official routed funds to subsidiary, took commission’

KHUSHBOONARAYAN
MUMBAI, AUGUST 19

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) has said that the current Chief Executive Officer of IL&FS Transportation Networks Ltd (ITNL), Dilip Bhatia, not only helped IL&FS Financial Services (IFIN) fund ITNL despite a Reserve Bank of India (RBI) directive, but also earned commission for placing the funds with ITNL and its subsidiaries.

Bhatia has denied the charge.

In April this year, Bhatia was elevated to the post of CEO at ITNL by the new board of IL&FS headed by banker Uday Kotak. Bhatia was the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) at ITNL before the collapse of the IL&FS Group.

A prosecution complaint filed by the ED in a special court in Mumbai on August 16 said Bhatia had, in March 2018, “structured” a deal that involved financing of two firms — Empower India Ltd and Avance Technologies Ltd that had no business activity — by IFIN to the tune of Rs 320 crore, at an interest rate of 12 per cent per annum. These two firms were then made to transfer the loan availed to ITNL and its subsidiaries at an interest rate of 13.5 per cent.

Of the difference between the cost of borrowed funds and deployed funds, Empower and Avance paid tax deducted at source of 1 per cent and made a profit of 0.35 per cent. According to the statement given by Devang Master, owner of Empower India and Avance Technologies, to the ED, 70 per cent of the profit of the two companies were routed to Bhatia and an IL&FS consultant, Padam Singhania, as commission. Devang Master’s statement in July is a part of the ED’s prosecution complaint.

“On being asked, he (Devang Master) stated that it was decided that from the profit earned by EIL and ATL, 70 per cent of the said profit to be given to Padam Singhania and Dilip Bhatia as commission,” the ED said in its prosecution complaint.

The ED said that IFIN loaned money to ITNL using third parties like Empower India, Avance Tech and many others to bypass the injunction issued by the RBI in November 2017, directing IFIN not to finance its Group companies. The ED has termed this routing of money to ITNL as proceeds of crime under PMLA.

Denying the charge, Bhatia, in an email response to *The Indian Express*, said: “I vehemently deny any such allegation against me and categorically state that the same is incorrect and false. There has been no discussion at all of any such kind and I will be immediately taking up the matter with appropriate forum to get the same clarified. This statement is being made in my per-

“I vehemently deny any such allegation against me and categorically state that the same is incorrect and false... This statement is being made in my personal capacity”

DILIP BHATIA,
CEO, IL&FS TRANSPORTATION NETWORKS LTD

sonal capacity.” An IL&FS spokesperson declined to comment on the issue in an email response.

“Investigation has revealed that IFIN was fully aware that loans given to the aforesaid third parties would be transferred to ITNL or its SPVs (special purpose vehicles),” said the ED report.

The ED complaint said the committee of directors (CODs) of IFIN “siphoned” money from the IL&FS Employee Welfare Trust (EWT) “in the garb of distribution of shares of IL&FS and other Group concerns and also sale of shares and distribution of profits to the employees” at a time when the Trust was running in operational losses.

It said that Ravi Parthasarathy, former chairman of IL&FS, made Rs 20.86 crore from the EWT, while vice chairman Hari Sankaran made Rs 15.34 crore. Other CODs — Arun Saha, K Ramchand and Ramesh Bawa — made Rs 14.42 crore, Rs 13.07 crore and Rs 11.40 crore respectively. The ED has issued lookout circulars (LOCs) against these five directors of IFIN.

According to the ED complaint, the agency has provisionally attached two properties of Parthasarathy in Mumbai and Brussels together worth Rs 50 crore, three properties of Hari Sankaran of about Rs 68 crore, six Mumbai properties of Saha worth Rs 24 crore and three properties of Ramchand worth Rs 8 crore.

On June 19, ED arrested Saha and Ramchand in connection with its money laundering investigation. The two officials are currently in judicial custody.

The IL&FS Group, that has total liabilities of Rs 91,000 crore, has also come under the scanner of the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO). The SFIO has found several irregularities across corporate governance and financial parameters that led to a default crisis at IL&FS. It also arrested Hari Sankaran and Bawa in connection with the case. Both are in judicial custody.

The alleged financial irregularities at IL&FS came to light last September, after some Group entities started defaulting on debt repayments. The entire Group has been defaulting on repayments since then. The government subsequently superseded the company’s board, and appointed a new management to work on a resolution plan.

‘WE DO REALISE ... CHALLENGES COMING FROM EXTERNAL & DOMESTIC SOURCES’

Mood of doom and gloom is not going to help anyone: RBI Guv

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, AUGUST 19

RESERVE BANK of India Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday said “growth is a matter of highest priority” even as he admitted the economy is slowing down and advised the stakeholders that the “mood of doom and gloom is not going to help anyone”.

“When I read newspapers or watch business channels the mood is not sufficiently positive and optimistic. One does realise that there are challenges in the economy, there are sectoral issues, and there are severe external global headwinds and that we cannot live in isolation,” he said in the wake of reports of deepening slowdown in many sectors of the economy. Urging everyone to look at the opportunities ahead, Das said, “the mood today ranges from existential angst to a positive attitude. I think the sentiment is very important... please look at the opportunities ahead of us. We do realise that there are challenges and difficulties coming from external and domestic sources but one has to look at the opportunities and capitalise on that.”

Growth is a matter of highest priority and every policymaker is concerned with it, Das said. “I am not saying we maintain a



RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das in Mumbai. *Ganesh Shirsekar*

Panglossian (excessive optimism) countenance and smile away every difficulty. But, in any real economy the mood is very important. There are several opportunities amid the challenges we face today and together with the financial sector, the business community, the policymakers and the regulators we should address the challenges and look ahead with greater confidence,” Das said while addressing the Ficci-Indian Banks Association banking summit.

Das’s comments have come at a time when many sectors of the economy, including automobiles, have been witnessing a slowdown. GDP growth had fallen to 5.8 per cent in the March quarter

EXPLAINED Central bank points to coordinated steps to lift sentiment

ACCORDING HIGHEST priority to revival of growth, the RBI has made an important point of business community and regulators working in coordination to lift sentiment and to address challenges facing the economy. In the wake of uncertainties emanating from global and domestic factors, the RBI highlighted the principle of “regulator never sleeps” — indicating that the central bank will be proactive in taking steps to put the economy on high growth path.

and the corporate sector had witnessed a 12 per cent fall in net profit for the June 2019 quarter. The auto sector had cut down production and laid off temporary workers. The RBI had slashed the GDP growth rate from 7 per cent to 6.9 per cent. Industrial production growth had fallen to 2 per cent in June 2019 as against 7 per cent in June 2018. Industry leaders like Larsen & Toubro chairman AM Naik and HDFC chairman Deepak Parekh had spoken out about the slowdown in the economy.

“The headwinds to financial stability could emanate from various sectors of the economy, namely, the credit market, financial markets, external sector and

the payment system. It may emanate from some other sources as well,” he said. According to Das, much progress has been made in maintaining a stable financial system. “However, as we have seen, the financial landscape is continuously changing, and new challenges are emerging. The Reserve Bank is continuously harnessing the regulatory and supervisory framework to better adapt to the evolving scenario,” he said.

Das said a weaker than expected growth with signs of slowdown in major economies, as projected by multilateral institutions like the IMF, is one of the key risks to global financial stability at this juncture.

For faster transmission of cuts, RBI plans to formalise linking of new loans to repo rate

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, AUGUST 19

THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) has decided to formalise the linking of new loans to external benchmarks like repo rate as the transmission of the benefits of the repo rate reduction by banks to their customers was not up to the “expectations”.

“I think the time has now come to formalise this linking of new loans to external benchmarks like repo rate. We are monitoring this and will be initiating necessary steps,” RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said. The RBI has been pushing banks for greater transmission of the rate cut benefits as a 75 basis points cut in the Repo rate has only translated into a 29 basis points reduction in lending rate on fresh rupee loans during February–June 2019. “It can be better,” Das said at the Ficci-IBA conference.

“This process (transmission)

“... time has now come to formalise this linking of new loans to external benchmarks like repo rate. We ... will be initiating necessary steps”

SHAKTIKANTA DAS,
GOVERNOR, RBI

needs to be faster. Today, the economy requires a certain amount of push not just from the monetary policy but also from its transmission,” he said. Public sector banks started cutting the marginal cost-based lending rate (MCLR) after the Reserve Bank decided to slash its repo rate by an unconventional 35 basis points to 5.40 per cent in the bi-monthly monetary policy review on August 7. Several banks also announced that they will soon come out with repo rate linked deposit and loan products.

On May 1, State Bank of India first linked its interest rates on savings bank deposits and short term loans to the repo rate. SBI went

ahead even though the RBI had then deferred the plan to link rate of interest to external benchmarks like the repo rate or Treasury Bill rate following opposition from other banks. Savings account deposits with balances less than Rs 1 lakh will continue to earn 3.5 per cent interest — the same as the old rate fixed for these accounts.

In its December 2018 monetary policy meet, which was also the last policy of former Governor Urjit Patel, the RBI had proposed the benchmarking of fresh floating-rate retail loans and loans to micro and small enterprises to an external benchmark like repo rate or Treasury Bill rate, effective April 1, 2019. According to the RBI, the spread over the benchmark rate — to be decided at banks’ discretion at the inception of the loan — should remain unchanged through the life of the loan, unless the borrower’s credit assessment undergoes substantial change.

However, on April 4, the RBI announced that it has put on hold

its proposal to link interest rates on deposits and short-term loans to an external benchmark like the repo rate or Treasury Bill “taking into account the feedback received during discussions held with stakeholders on issues such as management of interest rate risk by banks from fixed interest rate linked liabilities against floating interest rate linked assets and the related difficulties and the lead time required for IT system upgradation”. Many banks were earlier lobbying against linking loans to an external benchmark rate, fearing a fall in margins.

According to a Ficci-IBA Survey of Bankers, spreads kept by banks under the proposed external benchmarking of new floating rate loans could be higher to protect themselves adequately in case of high volatility of benchmarks. Lack of depth in T-Bill and CD (Certificate of Deposit) markets can make such benchmarks potentially susceptible to manipulation, the survey said.

TASK FORCE SUBMITS REPORT TO FM

Key suggestions of DTC panel: Rejig of personal I-T slabs, cut in corporate tax

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19

THE ‘TASK Force for drafting a New Direct Tax Legislation’ submitted its report and a draft of the new proposed version of the Income-tax law to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday.

A rejig of personal income tax slabs, roadmap of corporate tax rate cut to 25 per cent for companies, suggestions to reduce compliance burden by simplification of procedures, and litigation management are some of the key recommendations which are learnt to have been outlined by the panel in its report.

“Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. @sitharaman received the report submitted by Shri Akhilesh Ranjan, Convener of the Task force constituted by the Government to draft New Direct Tax Law, in New Delhi today,” Finance Ministry said in a tweet Monday. The report of the Task Force is yet to be made public. Sources said Finance Ministry will take the final call about further action on the report and the timing to make the draft public. In the four slabs of personal income tax currently, the panel is learnt to have suggested a rejig in rates between 5 per cent to 20 per cent. As of now, for taxpayers below 60 years of age, there’s nil tax on income up to Rs 2.5 lakh, 5 per cent tax rate for income between Rs 2.5-5 lakh, 20 per cent tax rate for income between Rs 5-10 lakh and 30 per cent for income above Rs 10 lakh.

Some tweaks have also been suggested for dividend distribution tax and minimum alternate tax. The Task Force has been mired with delays since its constitution in November 2017. The Finance Ministry had recently extended the deadline for submission of the report to August 16, which had further got extended to August 19. The Task Force, headed by former CBDT Member (Legislation) Arbind Modi, was constituted in November 2017 in order to review the Income-tax Act and to draft a new Direct Tax Law. Then, in November 2018, the Finance Ministry appointed Akhilesh Ranjan, Member (Legislation), CBDT, as convener of the task force after the retirement of the earlier convener Modi.

Corporate tax to be cut gradually to 25% for all

New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Monday that the government would trim the corporate tax rate gradually to 25 per cent for all companies, including the large ones with an annual turnover of over Rs 400 crore.

She, however, did not give a time frame for this move. The government has, over the last five years, trimmed the rate to 25 per cent from 30 per cent in a phased manner for 99.3 per cent of companies.

However, the 0.7 per cent large companies that don’t enjoy this benefit make up for almost 80 per cent of the total corporate tax collection and are subject to as much as a 30 per cent tax.

Sitharaman also promised all possible help to “wealth creators”. **FE**



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman receives the report of Direct Tax Code panel from Akhilesh Ranjan, a Member of the CBDT in New Delhi on Monday. *P77*

‘No proposal to conduct asset quality review of NBFCs’

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, AUGUST 19

RESERVE BANK of India Governor Shaktikanta Das has said the RBI’s endeavour is to “ensure that no large NBFC collapses” and bring about an optimal level of regulation and supervision so that NBFCs are financially robust.

“It is our endeavour to ensure that no large NBFC collapses,” Das reiterated and said the objective of the RBI is to harmonise the liquidity requirements for banks and NBFCs. “It is our endeavour to have an optimal level of regulation and supervision so that NBFCs are fi-

nancially resilient and robust. We will not hesitate to take whatever steps are required to maintain financial stability in the short, medium and the long-term.”

Das said there was no proposal to conduct an asset quality review of non-bank finance companies (NBFCs) which were facing a liquidity crunch. “No at the moment there is no such proposal to have an asset quality review. Around 50 odd NBFCs and housing finance companies are being closely monitored. Our monitoring and supervision includes all aspects of the functioning of NBFCs including their capital adequacy, stability, their cash inflow and outflow,”

TO ENSURE NO LARGE NBFC COLLAPSES

■ It is our endeavour to ensure that no large NBFC collapses, Das reiterated and said the objective of the RBI is to harmonise the liquidity requirements for banks and NBFCs

Das said on the sidelines of the Ficci-IBA conference. “We are also looking at governance and risk management

structures in NBFCs” Das said and recalled that as late as in May 2019, the RBI had asked NBFCs with a size of over Rs 5,000 crore to appoint functionally independent chief risk officers with clearly specified role and responsibilities with a view to bring in professional risk management system.

On the housing finance companies, some of which are also in trouble following the NBFC crisis, and whose regulatory remit has been vested with the RBI after being taken away from the National Housing Bank since the July budget, he said all the regulations put in place by the NHB will continue for HFCs, but RBI is in the

process of reviewing some norms.

“As we have seen in the recent past, the build-up of risks among regulated entities due to interconnectedness, exposure concentration, non-transparent market practices, governance deficiencies, and their contagion effects have repercussions for financial stability,” he said at the Ficci-IBA meet. The RBI is keeping a close watch on the interconnectedness of banks and non-banks, Das said. The Working Group on Core Investment Companies has started its deliberations and based on its recommendations, RBI proposes to carry out changes in the regulatory architecture for CICs.

Slowdown ‘very worrisome’, new reforms needed: Rajan

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19

FORMER RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan has called slowdown in the economy “very worrisome” and said the government needs to fix the immediate problems in power and non-bank financial sectors and come out with a new set of reforms to energise private sector to invest.

Rajan, who was Governor of the Reserve Bank of India from 2013 to 2016, also called for a fresh look at the way GDP in India is calculated as he referred to research by Narendra Modi government’s former chief economist Arvind Subramanian about overestimation of growth rate. “There are a variety of growth projections from the private sector analysts, many of which are perhaps significantly below government projections and I think certainly the slowdown in the economy is something that is very worrisome,” Rajan told CNBC TV18.

Rajan said “a fresh set of reforms” are now needed to boost the economy and growth rate. “I also think that we should pay attention to some of the arguments made by the former chief economist Arvind Subramanian that in fact we may be overestimating growth with some of the new GDP data...”, he said.

DELHI AIRPORT

IndiGo, SpiceJet to shift operations to T3

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19

BUDGET CARRIERS IndiGo and SpiceJet, which together account for about two-thirds of India’s domestic market share, will partially shift their operations from Delhi Airport’s terminal-2 (T2) to terminal-3 (T3) from September 5. This is being done due to capacity enhancement work that will be carried out at T2. The terminal’s capacity is being increased to 18 million passengers per annum from the current 15 million passengers per annum.

“The move comes as part of DIAL’s efforts to enhance passenger experience at Delhi Airport at

a time when SpiceJet, IndiGo and GoAir, operating from terminal-2, have witnessed steep traffic growth compounded by the re-allocation of Jet Airways traffic,” Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) said in a statement.

IndiGo will shift a part of its flights to T3 from T2, while SpiceJet will shift its full operations at T2 to T3. GoAir, which operates only out of T2, will continue to do so. For IndiGo, flights with numbers in the 5000 series will shift to T3, while its terminal-1 (T1) flights will remain unaffected.

Upon shifting of operations, the passenger load at T2 is expected to reduce by 27 per cent, DIAL said. “Meanwhile, DIAL has started phase 3A expansion works

of airside as well as terminal-1 and terminal-3...”, it noted.

With the move, IndiGo will become the only airline to operate domestic flights out of all three terminals at Delhi Airport, while SpiceJet will operate out of T1 and T3. GoAir will operate only from T2, and AirAsia India will continue to operate only out of T3. Full-service carriers Air India and Vistara, too, will continue to operate only from T3. In a statement, SpiceJet’s CMD Ajay Singh said, “With this, our flight operations would be restricted to just two terminals — T1 and T3 — of the Delhi airport. This move will enhance convenience of passengers travelling with us and provide them greater comfort...”

‘July M&A value dips to \$4.3 bn amid trade tensions’

Corporate India announced merger and acquisition (M&A) deals worth \$4.3 billion in July, down by 52.74 per cent compared to the year-ago period, Grant Thornton’s monthly M&A Dealtracker said

39: M&A deals in July 2019, amounting to \$4.3 billion

49: Number of M&A deals in July last year, which were worth to \$9.1 billion

MAJOR M&A DEALS IN JULY:

\$2 billion: Stake acquisition by Oyo Rooms

\$162 million: Dhanuka Laboratories’ takeover of Orchid Pharmaceuticals

- FACTORS THAT AFFECTED DEALS:**
- Subdued global growth
 - Continued Brexit-related uncertainty
 - Rising geopolitical tensions
 - Lack of big ticket deals
 - Headwinds in financial services space
 - Slowdown in core sectors

- FACTORS THAT MAY HELP BOOST M&A ACTIVITY:**
- Emphasis of Budget on liquidity concerns in NBFC sector
 - Sustained efforts to streamline IBC norms



Need floating rates on deposits for more transmission: SBI Chairman

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, AUGUST 19

STATE BANK of India (SBI) chairman Rajnish Kumar said Monday that while the bank had linked home loans and cash credit facilities to the repo rate, there would be a need to simultaneously have floating rates on deposits.

"For any transmission to happen, it has to happen on both sides. And, as we create flexibility on the liability side to link our liabilities to repo, which is an external benchmark and of all the benchmarks we studied, we decided that this is the most work-

able benchmark," he explained. If such flexibility is created on the liabilities side, the bank will pass on all rate cuts to its borrowers. Since existing liabilities cannot be repriced, only new borrowers will get the benefit of repo-linked loans.

Speaking at Fibac 2019, an annual event organised by the Fici and Indian Banks' Association (IBA), Kumar further said that the Centre and the banking regulator have done all they could to ease the flow of credit to non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and it is now up to banks to implement the policies laid out.

"Consultations are on (with regard to the stimulus package) with bankers and different industries. I think the government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have done all they could for NBFCs. So, it is now only the execution and the rollout by the banks or the lenders," he added.

There is nothing further the government can do, Kumar said, adding that there is liquidity, partial credit enhancement and interest rates have moderated. Asked about the progress made in the resolution of stressed NBFC Dewan Housing Finance (DHF), Kumar said: "That you should ask the company." **FE**

NITI relying on experts with no knowledge of Indian realities: BMS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19

RSS' TRADE union arm Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) on Monday hit out at the government over the state of the economy and slammed the NITI Aayog saying it was not consulting trade unions but relying on "Harvard university experts who have no knowledge of Indian realities".

The national executive meeting of BMS, held in here from August 16-18, flagged issues of job loss in the automobile sector and urged the Centre to "change the direction of economic and labour reforms".

"At present, the economy does not look inspiring in spite of various programs initiated to boost it. India's growth phenomenon had been promoting inequality. Over-dependence on FDI as a panacea for all economic maladies is wiping out many of our traditional MSME hubs. India's manufacturing sector is in a bad shape. All the burden common man has to bear. The automobile sector that contributes about half of India's manufacturing output is in a crisis", the resolution adopted at the end of the meeting stated.

The meeting, chaired by BMS national president CK Saji

"Over-dependence on FDI as a panacea for all economic maladies is wiping out many of our traditional MSME hubs"

BHARATIYA MAZDOOR SANGH
RSS' TRADE UNION ARM

Narayanan attacked the "liberalisation, privatisation, and globalisation" (LPG) initiated when Manmohan Singh was Finance Minister in 1991. Terming it a "failure", the Sangh said "now a time has come to look back and rethink about the impact the LPG reforms had made on our economy".

The economic reforms played havoc in the labour sector and reforms in labour law have contributed in damaging the economy, the resolution said, adding that even "new technologies imported are job displacing including artificial intelligence".

"The failure of LPG reforms was first identified after 10 years when the growth it created was termed as 'Jobless Growth'", BMS said, adding "but the government had no mechanism to assess the impact of reforms". The trade union body also called for a 'white paper' on the impact of

globalisation, LPG reforms, WTO, FTA and FDI on India's economy

"Successful governments have been pursuing a failed capitalist paradigm which lacks human element," BMS said, adding "India needs to discover an India-centric paradigm" to cater to its conditions.

BMS added that "Planning Commission as well as its successor NITI Aayog have been notoriously refusing to consult stakeholders like social organisations, including trade unions which are connected to the ground-level realities. Instead they have created readymade NGOs as advisors who are mostly related to foreign agencies. Harvard University experts who have no knowledge about Indian realities are the last word for them".

The resolution also hit out at the Centre for releasing the 'Report of the Expert Committee on Determining the Methodology for Fixing the National Minimum Wage' without consulting trade unions, who it said are real stakeholders. It did have some pat for the government, saying that while it was trying "its level best to boost economy, employment, skill developments... all such efforts are negated by wrong direction of such policy making bodies".

CoC HAD AWARDED ₹25 CR AGAINST THEIR CLAIMS OF ₹444 CR NCLAT rules against operational creditors' claim for Monnet Ispat

Bharat Petrosources, GAIL India and BHEL had moved NCLAT earlier this year

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19

THE NATIONAL Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) on Monday ruled against operational creditors of Monnet Ispat and Energy, appealing the committee of creditors' (CoC) decision to award them only Rs 25 crore against claims of Rs 444 crore. The company's operational creditors, including Bharat Petrosources, GAIL India and Bharat Heavy Electrical Ltd (BHEL), had moved the NCLAT earlier this year.

A plea filed by Industrial Financial Corporation of India (IFI), a financial creditor, against treating of its secured loans as unsecured debt was also dismissed by the appellate tribunal. Monnet Ispat owes IFCI around Rs 158 crore. The company's CoC had assigned a nil liquidation value to BHEL's Rs 15 crore claims, while claims of Bharat Petrosources' stand at Rs 19 crore.

BHEL contended that though

IL&FS: Deloitte moves NCLAT against NCLT order on 5-yr ban

New Delhi: Deloitte Haskins & Sells on Monday moved the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) against the order of the Mumbai bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) that ruled that it had jurisdiction to hear a plea by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) praying for a five-year ban on the auditor for allegedly col-

luding in the IL&FS case. The appellate tribunal is likely to hear the pleas on Tuesday.

The Mumbai bench of NCLT had on August 9 dismissed the plea made by the former auditors of the debt-ridden IL&FS group challenging the tribunal's jurisdiction to ban them under Section 140(5) of the Companies Act 2013. **FE**

of the proceeds, than had been given to them by the CoC, thereby negating the CoC's decision.

Under IBC's waterfall mechanism, in the event of liquidation, dues to secured financial creditors and workmen's wages are to be paid fully before payments are made to unsecured financial creditors and operational creditors.

Financial creditors of Monnet Ispat & Energy had taken a huge 74 per cent haircut when in July 2018, the Mumbai bench of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) approved a Rs 2,875-crore proposal by the AION-JSW Steel consortium. Monnet Ispat owed lenders Rs 11,000 crore while the liquidation value of the distressed steel manufacturer was pegged at Rs 2,365 crore. Section 30 (2) of the IBC says payments of debts of operational creditors should be made in such a manner as specified by the board. Monnet Ispat is among the major stressed assets from the first list of the Reserve Bank which were taken up under the resolution process in 2017. **FE**

the minimum value to be provided to operational creditors in a resolution plan is the liquidation value due to operational creditors, it cannot be limited only to liquidation value. "... thus, prescription of liquidation value as minimum amount to be given to operational creditors can in no way be construed to mean that the operational creditors at all times shall

be provided with only liquidation value," BHEL said in its petition.

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) was amended last month to empower the CoC to have the final say on the distribution of funds to various classes of creditors. It may be recalled that in the Essar Steel case, NCLAT had ruled that operational creditors should get a larger share

'PE/VC investment at all time high of \$8.3 bn in July'

Private equity and venture capital (PE/VC) investments in India crossed \$8 billion in July – the highest fund infusion in a month by PE/VC funds – EY's private equity deal tracker said

- \$4.7 billion:** Worth of mega deals in infrastructure sector in July
- \$7.1 billion:** Previous historical monthly high of PE/VC investments, recorded in March 2019
- \$12 billion:** Cumulative PE/VC

- investments in Indian infrastructure sector so far this year; greater than total investments received by sector in previous seven years put together
- 106:** Number of deals that recorded investment worth \$8.3 billion in July, as against 70 deals worth \$1.8 billion in July 2018



MAJOR PE/VC DEALS IN JULY:

- Brookfield-Reliance Jio's \$3.7 billion deal
- Baring PE Asia's \$800 million buyout of Citius Tech

14 Number of large deals – with value greater than \$100 million – recorded in July, aggregating \$7 billion, as against three large deals worth \$402 million in July 2018

Debtore reserve requirement for HFCs and NBFCs removed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19

THE CENTRE has removed the redemption reserve requirement for issuance of debentures by non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), housing finance companies (HFCs) and listed firms, a move aimed at reducing cost for raising capital. Under the Companies Act, these entities raising money had to create Debenture Redemption Reserve (DRR) and that requirement has now been done away with.

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) on Monday said the requirement for a DRR of 25 per cent of the value of outstanding debentures issued by listed companies, NBFCs and HFCs has been removed.

The changes would be applicable for public issue as well as private placements.

In the case of unlisted companies, the DRR requirement has

been reduced to 10 per cent from 25 per cent of the outstanding debentures. "The measure has been taken by the government with a view to reducing the cost of the capital raised by companies through issue of debentures and is expected to significantly deepen the bond market," the release said.

The MCA has amended the Companies (Share Capital & Debentures) Rules to effect the changes. Till now, listed companies had to create a DRR for both public issue as well as private placement of debentures. In the case of NBFCs and HFCs, they had to have DRR when they opted for public issue of debentures.

The amendments are aimed at "creating a level-playing field between NBFCs, HFCs and listed companies on the one hand and also between them and banking companies and all India financial Institutions on the other, which are already exempted from DRR," the release said.

Ikea India opens online store in Mumbai

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, AUGUST 19

SWEDISH HOME furnishings major Ikea on Monday said it has launched its online store in the city offering more than 7,500 products. It said the online store is part of its new multichannel approach to reach 100 million customers in the next three years. Mumbai will see a multichannel offer including smaller format stores, and a big format store in Navi Mumbai, the company said in a statement.

"India's retail landscape is changing at a scale and pace not seen before driven by increasing urbanisation and changing customer behaviours. Today marks an important occasion in our history as we roll out our multichannel, digital first approach with Mumbai being amongst the first few markets worldwide, where we are bringing alive this transformation," Peter Betzel, chief executive officer of Ikea India, said.

Fresh default by DHFL on ₹,571 cr bond repayments

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19

DHFL ON Monday said it has defaulted on its financial repayment obligations worth Rs 1,571 crore with regard to issuance of bonds and commercial papers.

The defaults pertain to three cases with regard to interest pay-

ment on non-convertible debentures and commercial papers (CPs), Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd (DHFL) said in a regulatory filing.

In a break-up, the non-banking financial company (NBFC) said it has defaulted on Rs 46.92 crore towards interest amount on secured NCDs (9.92 per cent and 9.40 per cent/10 year tenor); on

NCDs issued through a public issue for multiple tenors of amount involving interest of Rs 363.77 crore and principal amount of Rs 1,059.91 crore. Besides, defaults of Rs 100 crore occurred on CPs.

The beleaguered NBFC has not been able to fulfil its obligations towards debt repayment in the recent past and there have been several cases of defaults on commer-

cial papers and bonds.

The company is estimated to be sitting on a debt-pile of over Rs 90,000 crore. The NBFC sector has been reeling under stress since the unfolding of the IL&FS liquidity crisis in September 2018 due to alleged fraud and mis-management issues.

Stock of DHFL closed 6.86 per cent up at Rs 49.05 on BSE.

Disclosure lapses: Stricter norms set for listed firms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19

MARKETS REGULATOR Sebi on Monday said companies in violation of disclosure regulations will have to pay a penalty of Rs 20,000 per day till the date of compliance. Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said that stock exchanges will impose fines in case of non-compliance with certain provisions of Issue of Capital and Disclosure (ICDR) Regulations.

The fine will be applicable if the bonus issue is delayed beyond 15 days from the date of approval of the issue by the board of directors in cases where shareholders' approval for making the bonus issue is not required.

While in the cases where issuer is required to seek shareholders' approval for making the bonus issue, the fine will be applicable if bonus is not issued within two months from the date of the meeting of board of directors, Sebi said.

With respect to delay in bonus issue, Sebi clarified that "the ap-

provals for the listing and trading of promoters' bonus shares may be granted by the stock exchange, only after payment of the requisite fine by the listed entity. "However, the approvals for the listing and trading of bonus shares allotted to persons other than the promoter(s) may be granted in the interest of the investors, subject to compliance with other requirements," Sebi said in a circular.

The fine will also be levied on entities that do not complete the conversion of convertible securities and allot the shares within 18 months from the date of allotment of such securities.

Meanwhile, top officials said that the regulator is planning to ease its norms for buyback of shares by listed companies, especially those having subsidiaries in housing finance and NBFC sectors.

A proposal in this regard is expected to be discussed by Sebi's board at its meeting this week, they added. The repurchase of shares by listed companies is governed by the Buyback Regulations of the Sebi as well as by the Companies Act.

M&A approvals: CCI lays out green channel route

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19

PUTTING IN place a speedier approval mechanism, Competition Commission has introduced a green channel route for clearing certain categories of mergers and acquisitions. The green channel concept – recommended by the high level panel that reviewed competition law – would allow for an automatic system for speedy approval of combinations subject to certain conditions.

"Under this process, the combination is deemed to have been approved upon filing the notice in the prescribed format. This system would significantly reduce time and cost of transactions," Competition Commission of India (CCI) said in a release on Monday.

Mergers and Acquisitions (M&As) or combinations beyond a certain threshold are required to have mandatory approval from the fair trade regulator.

The watchdog has also revised its pre-filing consultation guidance note to assist the parties in

WILL FACILITATE SPEEDY APPROVAL

- The green channel concept would allow for an automatic system for speedy approval of combinations subject to certain conditions
- CCI has also revised its pre-filing consultation guidance note to assist parties in determining their eligibility for green channel route

determining their eligibility for green channel route.

"The green channel is aimed to sustain and promote a speedy, transparent and accountable review of combination cases, strike a balance between facilitation and enforcement functions, create a culture of compliance and support economic growth," CCI said. So far, CCI has cleared 666 combinations, the release said.

BRIEFLY

G-secs worth ₹17,000 crore to be sold Friday

New Delhi: The Reserve Bank of India will sell five government securities worth Rs 17,000 crore on Friday, the central bank said in a statement. The move will suck out liquidity from the financial system. "Subject to the limit of Rs 17,000 crore being total notified amount, (Government of India) will have the option to retain additional subscription up to Rs 1,000 crore each against any one or more of the above securities," RBI said Monday.

Re plunges to over 6-month low of 71.43

Mumbai: The Indian rupee tumbled 29 paise to close at an over six-month low of 71.43 against the US dollar on Monday amid growing worries over economic slump and sustained foreign fund outflows. Further, rising crude oil prices and strengthening of the US dollar vis-à-vis other currencies overseas also took toll on the Indian currency.

'FinMin thinking over stress fund for infra sector'

New Delhi: The Finance Ministry is contemplating to set up stress fund for various infrastructure sectors, including real estate and power, Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary Durga Shanker Mishra said at an event organised by NAREDCO here on Monday.

PV retail sales down 11% in July: FADA

New Delhi: Retail sales of passenger vehicles (PV) declined by 11 per cent to 2,43,183 units in July as compared to the same period last year, hit by weak demand across the country, automobile dealers' body FADA said on Monday. Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) said PV sales stood at 2,74,772 units in July 2018. "Consumer sentiment and overall demand continued to be quite weak across all segments and most geographies," FADA president Ashish Kale said.

KP Singh quits as DLF whole time director

New Delhi: DLF Ltd patriarch KP Singh has stepped down as whole-time director but will remain its non-executive Chairman, the firm said Monday. In a filing, DLF told that shareholders' approval has been sought on a resolution through postal ballot for "appointment of KP Singh for continuation as a non-executive director." **PTI**

Balesh Sharma quits as CEO of Vodafone Idea

Mumbai: Balesh Sharma has resigned as CEO of Vodafone Idea. A company statement Monday said Ravinder Takkar, currently Vodafone Group's representative in India, would take over from Sharma with immediate effect as the new MD and CEO of Vodafone Idea. **FE**

Apple CEO warns Trump about China tariffs, Samsung competition

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, AUGUST 19

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump said on Sunday that he had spoken with Apple Inc's chief executive Tim Cook about the impact of US tariffs on Chinese imports as well as competition from South Korean company Samsung Electronics Co Ltd.

Trump said Cook "made a good case" that tariffs could hurt Apple, given that Samsung's products would not be subject to those same tariffs. Tariffs on an additional \$300 billion worth of

Chinese goods, including consumer electronics, are scheduled to go into effect in two stages on September 1 and December 15.

By contrast, the United States and South Korea struck a trade agreement last September. "I thought he made a very compelling argument, so I'm thinking about it," Trump said of Cook, speaking with reporters at a New Jersey airport. US stock futures rose upon opening on Sunday after Trump's comments. In addition to his comments on Apple, Trump said on Twitter earlier in the day that his administration was "doing very well with China."

Google cuts some Android phone data for wireless carriers

New York/San Francisco: Alphabet Inc's Google has shut down a service it provided to wireless carriers globally that showed them weak spots in their network coverage, people in the know told Reuters, because of Google's concerns that sharing data from users of its Android phone system might attract the scrutiny of users and regulators. The withdrawal of the service, which has not been previously reported, has disappointed wireless carriers that used the data as part of their decision-making process on where to extend or upgrade their coverage. Even though the data were anonymous and the sharing of it has become commonplace, Google's move illustrates how concerned the company has become about drawing attention amid a heightened focus on data privacy. **REUTERS**

Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd., JAIPUR
New Delhi, August 19, 2019

अवकाशिन ई-निविदा सूचना सं. 153/2019-20
Date: 19.08.2019

निम्न निविदा पत्रिकाया पर शक्य सूचित हेतु ई-निविदा प्रक्रिया में अर्जितकर्ता निविदा अर्जित को जारी करें।

बिना का शिर्षक

आवृत्ति (क्र. सं.)

Collection of Toll Tax on Salimbar-Keeer KI Chalki & Dehri-Kurath-Bankura Road for the period of 02 years. UBN No. RRC1320VLOB8002

05000 Lacs

अर्जितकर्ता निविदा पत्रिका के बिना का शिर्षक 17.08.2019 से 09.09.2019 तक 24 घंटे की अवधि में उपलब्ध रहेगा।

निविदा में संबंधित सामग्री के लिए कोडिंग संख्याएं: <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://spp.rajasthan.nic.in> तथा <http://roads.rajasthan.gov.in> पर दिए जा सकेंगे। सूचना से संबंधित को अर्जितकर्ता द्वारा जारी की जायेगी।

<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> पर निविदा करवाना आवश्यक है।

सहायक

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
SATISH DHAWAN SPACE CENTRE SHAR
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP
SRIHARIKOTA-524124.

E-TENDER BRIEF NOTICE

e-Tender Notice No. CMG/C/R 1987026 Date: 19.08.2019

1. On Behalf of the President of India, Group Director, Construction & Maintenance Group, SDSC SHAR invites applications from bidders for sealed, item-rate e-Tenders for the following work as a "COMPOSITE TENDER".

Sl. No.	Description	Details
1	Title of Work	Package (A): SPP Augmentation Project (SPAG) at SDSC SHAR (Civil, Electrical & Air Conditioning works for 7 buildings)
	NIT No & Date	CMG/C/R 1987026, Dt:19/08/2019
2	Estimated Cost put to tender	₹ 7436 Lakhs
3	Period of Completion	16 Months
4	Period during which the tender documents can be requested	From: 22/08/2019, 10:00 Hrs. To: 04/09/2019, 14:00 Hrs.
5	Last date and time for uploading of tenders	09/09/2019, 14:30 Hrs.

2. Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) from website www.isro.gov.in / www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO. For further details and purchase of tender documents visit www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO. Ph:08223 228447, 226420. Group Director, CMG, SDSC SHAR

कुल्गांव बदलापुर नगर परिषद

नगर परिषद दुबे कृपालय इमारत, पहिला मजला, आदर्श विद्यार्थी रोड, बदलापुर रेलवे स्टेशन (पूर्व) कुल्गांव, पिन-४२१५०३, ता. अंबेरनाथ, जि. जालंधर

ईमेल :- coud.kulgaonbadalapur@maharashtra.gov.in, वेबसाइट :- <http://kbcmc.gov.in>

Outward No.KBMC/PWD/7185/2019-20 Date: 19.08.2019

Corrigendum (E-Tender Notice No.2)

KULGAON Badapur Municipal Council has invited E-Tender for Planning and Designing construction of flat type high rise buildings cum commercial units including onsite development with all infrastructures services for economical weaker section (EWS) scheme at Belavali, Badlapur for 2298 housing units (EWS) vide published E-tender Notice No. 02 (Tender No. 2019_DMA_459536_1) Dated 10.07.2019.

The last date of downloading online Tender is 23.08.2019 which is extended to 26.08.2019, similarly last date of online submission is extended from 23.08.2019 to 29.08.2019 up to 3.00 pm. The technical bid will be opened on 31.08.2019 at 11.30 am.

Sd/-
Chief Officer
Kulgaon Badlapur Municipal Council

21 TALK

ART, MUSIC, STYLE, FOOD



ALL LAUGHS

Swedish comic Olaf Falafel's one line gag has been awarded Dave's "Funniest Joke of The Fringe" at the Edinburgh Fringe. The joke, a pun on vegetables, is as follows: "I keep randomly shouting out 'Broccoli' and 'Cauliflower' — I think I might have florets".

SNAP SHOTS



Bird in a Box

ACTOR, DJ and music producer Bjork has released a *Utopia* boxset, based on the 2017 album of the same name. It comprises 14 handmade birdcall flutes and an instruction booklet. "Utopia is so much about bird-song and sonically the mutation between synth/bird, bird/flute, flute/synth... so I got very excited when I found these handmade wooden flutes imitating precisely particular birds, and I guess wanted you guys to have an opportunity to share that with me," read a statement by Bjork.



Playing Indira

ACTOR VIDYA BALAN is making her digital debut with a series directed by Ritesh Batra, best known for his debut film *The Lunchbox*. Balan has brought the rights to Sagarika Ghose's book *Indira: India's Most Powerful Prime Minister*, on which the series will be based. It will be produced by Ronnie Screwvala. "It is taking a long time to put it together, as there is so much material," said Balan, whose film *Mission Mangal* released last week.

Power of the Grayskull

STREAMING SERVICE Netflix is bringing the story of He-Man on screen in an animation series. Titled *Masters of the Universe: Revelation*, the show promises to answer all the unresolved questions from the 1980s television series. He-Man was a

popular animated superhero in the '80s. An alter-ego of Prince Adam, he sought to defend the kingdom of Eternia from Skeletor. Kevin Smith is the showrunner for the series, which is being produced by Mattel TV. Rob David, vice president of Mattel TV, is the author of the comic book *He-Man: The Eternity War*. The series will be written by Eric Carrasco, Tim Sheridan, Diya Mishra and Marc Bernardin.



GETTING BOLDER

They have left the muted, sedate pastels behind, and moved onto the bigger, bolder world of scarlet reds, statement pieces and embellishments that are hard to miss. One of the few female designer duos in India, sisters Gauri and Nainika have for long catered to the young, doe-eyed urban girl demography. With the campaign "#Freeyourlips" they are now focussing on bolder designs. "We have brought in big sleeves, voluminous skirts, high-low hemlines, fit and flare dresses and a lot of dramatic colours, trademark of the eighties," state the duo, adding, "We have pushed ourselves to the hilt for this collection. We have used pure silks, organza, satin and tulle. Additionally, we have gone overboard with the dramatic motifs."

The duo has used creations by two artists — Alpesh Dave and Travis Black — and created motifs and embroideries to be used as embellishments on their designs. "These motifs and symbols reflect the spirit of our times. The feel of our clothes is almost couture-esque. Sequins, velvet flowers, ruffles and layers, all these would not look out of place at a red-carpet event in Hollywood," they add.

The two sisters recall how they loved dressing up as kids. When they started their label in 2004, the thrust was on more lady-like, demure designs. "We and our designs have evolved with the times. Look at the women of today, they are more fun-loving and ready to experiment. They are happy to pair a flowy dress with a statement belt to make it edgier and even wear it to a casual do," share the Delhi-based designers. "We feel that these changes are a direct reflection of the world around us. Now Indian fashion is international and vice versa. We didn't grow up in the digital age, and it's been a fun challenge to keep up with technology and social media. It has made us more relatable to the country at large, and not a select few," they say.

Once Upon a Time in Hollywood

Rohit Gandhi-Rahul Khanna and Gauri-Nainika on invoking the Hollywood of yore at the Lakme Fashion Week and staying relevant with the times

EKTAA MALIK

THIS IS that time of the year when the Indian fashion fraternity goes into overdrive, having just wrapped up the India Couture Week and setting the tone of the wedding season that follows. The Winter-Festive 2019 edition of the Lakme Fashion Week (LFW) begins in Mumbai today. It will open with

"Maahrumysha", a collection by Bollywood's go-to designer Manish Malhotra.

The six-day lineup includes names such as Amit Aggarwal, Rina Dhaka, Kunal Rawal and Antar Agni. We spoke to two designer duos: Rohit Gandhi and Rahul Khanna, who are coming back to LFW after a hiatus of 15 years; and Gauri and Nainika, who are presenting the Lakme Absolute Grand Finale with the theme "#FreeYourLips". The two are bringing old-school glamour and vintage Hollywood-inspired designs to the ramp.



SPACE CADET

"It's not been deliberate, Mumbai just didn't happen by chance," says Rahul Khanna of Rohit Gandhi and Rahul Khanna, on their 15-year-hiatus from the LFW, Mumbai. "We would be showing at Paris, and would often have end-to-end collections showcased in Delhi. But we are happy to be back in Mumbai, the energy is so different in this city. People are more open to experimentation and ideas," he adds. The duo's latest collection titled "Interstellar" — no connection to the movie — invokes the various hues of our starry galaxies. "It's like a starry night. You will see lot of greys, gunmetal black, platinum and blue. There are a lot of sharp cuts and flowy silhouettes, and a very edgy feel to the whole thing," he shares. The influence of the '80s on the collection is evident. "We grew up in the '90s on shows like *Dynasty*. So we have used opulence that was a signature of that era. It includes dresses with big billowy sleeves, power shoulders, wrap-around dresses and simple dresses infused with shoulder pads. We have used satin, silk and light-weight materials. We have tried to get inspiration from the past and take it into the future," says Khanna.

Monochromes and the colour black has been the cornerstone of the design sensibility of the duo, since their pret days. Even when they ventured into couture, they didn't fall prey to the seduction of bright Indian bridal hues. "It's quite difficult to showcase intricate detailing in monochrome. Loud colours can easily detract attention from it. With solid, staple colours, you can mix and match and also repeat clothes," says Khanna.

The two feel say these are interesting times for the fashion fraternity in India, given how Instagram has altered how fashion reaches people. "We are all on our toes. It's constant work to be relevant and be in with the now. We are all planning way in advance, we are already on our next show, which we showcase in Paris next month. Instagram has changed everything," he says, adding that it has also helped give birth to inherent individualism. "Now everyone wants to give a unique take on clothes, no one wants to copy the look completely off the ramp. People now take a western silhouette and pair it with an Indian blouse," says he.



(Clockwise from left) A design from "#Freeyourlips"; a sketch by Gauri-Nainika; the designer duo; Rohit Gandhi and Rahul Khanna; a sketch by Khanna and Gandhi

Breaking Barriers

Unravel, an improv theatre performance, hopes to encourage discussions on mental health

PALLAVI CHATTOPADHYAY

BEFORE ENTERING the Amaltas Hall at India Habitat Centre, the audience were handed slips of paper to fill in information about their favourite songs and what makes them happy, on the condition of anonymity. This formed the premise of *I Will Be Happy When...* — where eight performers read out some of the answers — that was one of the many games that featured in the improv theatre performance *Unravel*, presented by Delhi-based theatre collective Kaivalya Plays.

As the play's director, Varoon P Anand, read the numerous answers, one left him in tears. It read, "I will be happy when I die". Subsequently, Anand recalled how hopeless he felt back in 2015, when he shut himself off from the world, started eating a lot, avoided talking to friends and went through a depressive phase after a heartbreak.

With no prior script, and dialogues created in front of live viewers, two-hour-long *Unravel*, staged on August 16, made an attempt to share the experience of those suffering from depression and other mental health issues. Dressed in casuals, the performers stood in the midst of the audience with an aim to create a safe place for discussions. The audiences' favourite songs were sung and jokes were interspersed to lighten the mood. "What is interesting about an improv show is that anybody can do it. Comedy is the root. You don't need to have props or costumes. We haven't written the stories we tell. It is impromptu," said Anand. He was introduced to spontaneous improvisation in 2008 at Theatre Guild of Ancon in Panama, where he co-founded Improv8, one of Panama's first improv groups.

Each performer was free to share personal experiences. Dravya Chawla, for instance, spoke about the struggles he faced to find a job after completing his MBA. Also pursuing theatre simultaneously, he was successful in neither. He shared how he was the sole earning member in his family, but his friends were only



A scene from the play *Unravel* Sanjana Chopra

concerned about his dating life. "I had so much going on. Dating was not a priority," he said. Actor Gaurav Singh, meanwhile, spoke about how caregivers for those who are battling depression also need care. He spoke about the challenges he faced while taking care of a close family member, who suffered from depression.

Towards the end of the act, the lights were turned off and the performers posed questions before the audience. A clap would mean 'yes' for an answer. Most questions received thunderous claps — from "Are you depressed?" to "Has your trust been broken so many times that you find it hard to trust anyone?" and "Are there days when you struggle to go to work?"

With this being *Unravel's* 14th performance in Delhi, Anand noted that the improv scene in the city is "exploding but worrying". "Suddenly, there are several improv groups. I have attended a show where they said 'let's go and shoot some kids'. You don't do that in an improv. Rules are required. We don't allow jokes about gender or someone's sexual orientation. One has to aim for a better quality of comedy," he said.

'My father was the ultimate humanist'

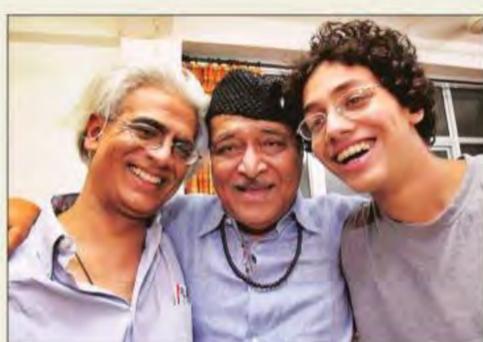
Tej Hazarika on receiving his father Bhupen Hazarika's Bharat Ratna and taking his legacy forward

TORA AGARWALA

SINGER-MUSICIAN Bhupen Hazarika and his son Tej Hazarika led parallel lives in India and America — their meetings were occasional but significant. Yet, after his father's death, Tej — a 68-year-old Brooklyn-based publisher — feels closer to the maestro than ever before. He now runs a foundation in Bhupen Hazarika's name to carry on the lasting legacy of the singer, posthumously conferred with the Bharat Ratna. Last week, Tej was in India to receive the honour. Edited excerpts from an interview.

In February, you made headlines in India for 'rejecting' the Bharat Ratna the Government of India awarded your father. Later, you issued a statement of clarification saying that you never had. What happened there?

The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill came to me through the grapevine. I heard that the government was trying to introduce this unpopular bill which most Assamese thought was detrimental to Assamese language and culture. In my old age, I have become quite a nationalist, as far as Assamese (language) is concerned. While I might not have grown up with it,



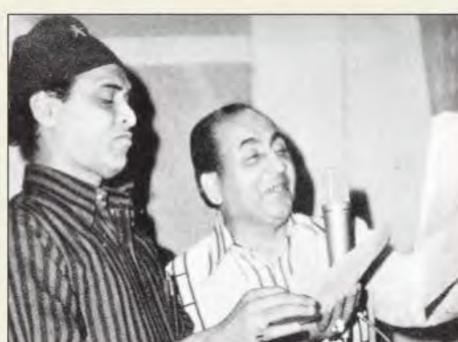
Tej Hazarika, Bhupen Hazarika and Sage Akash Hazarika; (right) Bhupen with Mohammed Rafi

this was the language my father thought in, spoke in, wrote in. He, in all likelihood, wouldn't have approved of the bill either. While I stand by that, the Bharat Ratna comment was misquoted — somebody just made it up. And as is the nature of news these days, it spread. Anyway, I had not even received the invite to accept the Bharat Ratna when the controversy broke. So, how could I even 'reject' it.

Recently, you were at the Rashtrapati Bhavan to accept it. How was that?

It was like a fairytale honour. At one point, I looked all around me — I was in the Rashtrapati Bhavan, there were all these dignitaries, the top officials, the Presidential guard. I had to pinch myself to believe it.

But another controversy followed right after you left on the 'whereabouts' of



the award. A section in Assam feel that the Bharat Ratna should be kept in Assam.

Both the Padma Vibhushan from the GOI and Friends of Bangladesh Award from the Government of Bangladesh, which I received on behalf of my father in 2012, are on display at Guwahati's Kalakshetra Museum. This time I was in Assam for five days but received no official communi-

cation from the Government of Assam about the Bharat Ratna. Once they send me an official letter, I will be happy to do the needful and display the award in a safe place for public viewing in Assam.

Many, including you, refer to your father as a 'global citizen'. Why do you feel that way?

I spent most of my life first in Uganda, with my mother's family and later in America, where I live today. In the late '50s, my grandfather brought home a plush new sound system. It was then that I first heard my father's songs — booming through those speakers, magnified. However, it was only when I was much older that someone sent me translations of his songs in English. That was an eye opener. I realised the depth of what this man was saying, not only the language, but the scope of his vision. My father was the ultimate humanist — across denominations and borders.

He had this uncanny habit of connecting to people, no matter what background, community or social standing they came from. Did you experience that?

Back in the day, when I would travel with him for shows in Upper Assam, I saw

firsthand how villagers treated him — with awe. I saw gangsters in Calcutta touch his feet. Now, after his death, whenever I visit Assam, people come to me with the same respect and adoration they had for my father. They want to take pictures with me, form some sort of connection with me, all drawn from the love they have for my father. I try to reciprocate this — I wish them luck, I say something positive. My dad was very good with that, he was a people's person and connected with them very directly.

How do you intend to take his legacy forward?

Till before his death, we led parallel lives. After I cremated him, his world flooded mine. I set up a foundation in my father's name. The main aim is to promote his ideals through art, music and culture. While the pace of activities slowed down in between, we are back on track now. In New York, I founded an independent book publishing imprint called Cool Grove Press — we have now branched out to publishing authors from Northeast India. Soon, we will release in Assam, *The Winged Horse*, a book of 76 of my father's songs translated by Syed Ahmed Shah. The project has been six years in the making.

CROSSWORD 3888



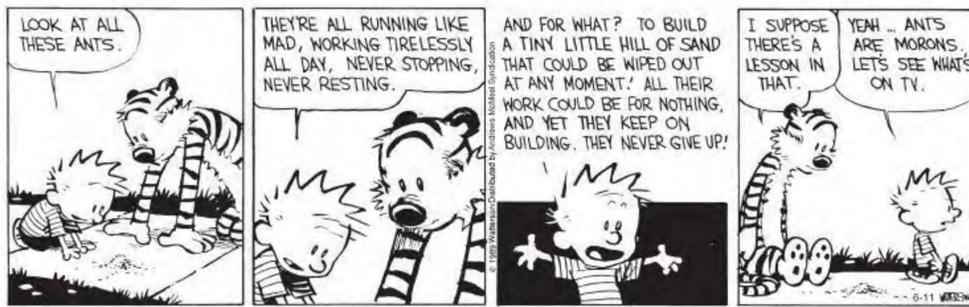
- ACROSS**
- Burning waste on a huge scale (6)
 - Rank I can change in a way (6)
 - Pass gone astray in German city (7)
 - Kind of support a painter may need (5)
 - Rod, pole or perch (5)
 - Breathe fire (7)
 - Such appearances are immaterial (11)
 - The mantle of sleep is (7)
 - A pie's turned brown (5)
 - Pacific islands named after a doctor in South Africa (5)
 - Prayer for one who may supply money to us (7)
 - Dennis did the wrong thing when he made a comeback (6)
 - Emphasise it's a cause of tension (6)
- Down**
- Guard dog - watch out! (6)
 - He will shortly get a ring and reply (5)
 - Great at organised water sports (7)
 - Helps a beast in distress (5)
 - A comfortable lead on a pool table (7)
 - Digs occupied by a lot of sprites (6)
 - He may have brave patients (8,3)
 - Attract a fellow coach (7)
 - Visible discernment? (7)
 - Fits and starts (6)
 - Circulates free tickets (6)
 - Disturb for a moment (5)
 - Fits and starts (6)
 - Vegetables taken by nurses (5)

Solutions Crossword 3887: Across: 1 Refugee, 5 Neigh, 8 Standing order, 9 Te-hee, 10 Skilful, 11 Punish, 12 Martyr, 15 Exhaust, 17 Right, 19 Impracticable, 20 Range, 21 Hothead. Down: 1 Reset, 2 Flash in the pan, 3 Goddess, 4 Ernest, 5 Naomi, 6 Indefatigable, 7 Hurdler, 11 Premier, 13 Apricot, 14 Stitch, 16 Usage, 18 Tweed

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given clue.

The amount of _____ coming your way depends on your willingness to ____ - Barbara Sher (4,4,...,3)

FTAOO AIICCD

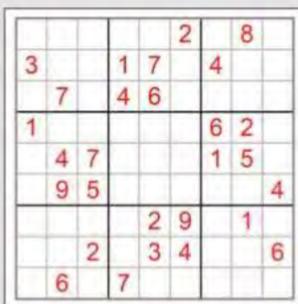
UPTIL EMSUCK

SOLUTION: - AFOOT, TUPUR, ACIDIC, MUSKES. Answer: The amount of good luck coming your way depends on your willingness to act.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL 5s

INSTRUCTIONS
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



SOLUTION SUDOKU 3943



NOTICE BOARD

CORPORATE ASSOCIATE DIARY APPOINTMENTS, MOVEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS, HONOURS



SEMINAR-PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK
PNB Central Delhi circle, organized a branch level conclave at its Zonal Training Centre, Rajendra Place, New Delhi to stimulate ideas aimed at alignment of banking sector to help Indian economy reach \$5trillion scale in next 5 years. The seminar was attended by Sh. Sunil Mehta MD & CEO.



SEMINAR-PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK
PNB Circle Office Noida is organizing a bottom-up Pan India consultative process from the branch level upward on 17th and 18th August 2019. This will cover re-regional level group consultations involving all branches. Dr Rajesh Kumar Yaduvanshi ED graced the meeting and addressed the participants.



SEMINAR-PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK
Punjab National Bank, Circle Office, North Delhi Rajindra Place organized a bottom-up Pan India consultative process. It will involved discussions at the branch/regional level, SLBC/State level and the national level. Senior officials from Head office visited various Zones and were part of the meetings.



SEMINAR-BANK OF MAHARASHTRA
BOM conducted the first stage of the bottom-up consultation process to generate ideas and review performance, in alignment with national priorities, on 17th August, 2019 involving all branches within Delhi Zone's. Mr. Subhash S. Jat, DGM from Head Office & Mr. P. R. Datar, GM & ZH, participated in the process.



SEMINAR-PUNJAB & SIND BANK
P&SB initiated the first stage of the bottom-up consultative process designed to generate ideas and review performance of branches and their alignment with national priorities. Sh. S.Harisankar, MD & CEO interacted with the Bank officials, while its ED Dr. Fareed Ahmed interacted with the Bank official Delhi.



SEMINAR-PUNJAB & SIND BANK
Punjab and Sind Bank initiated the first stage of the bottom-up consultative process designed to generate ideas and review performance of branches and their alignment with national priorities. Meeting of Branch manager's under the Zonal Office, NOIDA.



SEMINAR-BANK OF BARODA
Bank of Baroda, India's second largest public sector lender, had initiated a unique consultation where all branches in Delhi Metro Regions I, II & III-region reviewed their performances, deliberated on issues before the banking sector and ideated on future strategy.



SEMINAR-CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA
Two-day Seminar organized by Central Bank of India on Bottom-up Consultative & Ideation Process at Zonal Office, New Delhi. This two-day workshop was inaugurated on 17th August 2019 by Mr. A K Mishra, Field General Manager, Central Bank of India, Delhi Zone.



SEMINAR-ORIENTAL BANK OF COMMERCE
The first stage of the bottom-up consultative process designed to generate ideas and review performance of branches and their alignment with national priorities, was conducted at the Circle Office, Faridabad of OBC on 17th and 18th of August, 2019, involving all branches within the Circle's jurisdiction.



SEMINAR-ORIENTAL BANK OF COMMERCE
The first stage of the bottom-up consultative process designed to generate ideas and review performance of branches and their alignment with national priorities, was conducted by the Circle Office, Noida. The consultive meeting was presided by Sh. Sunil Chugh, General Manager, Corporate Office, Gurugram.



SEMINAR-CANARA BANK
The first stage of the bottom-up consultation process designed to generate ideas and review performance of banks was conducted at the Regional Level on 17th of Aug. 2019 by Canara Bank, Regional Office Noida. The meeting was addressed by Sri KalyanMukharjee, DGM, Circle Office Delhi.



SEMINAR-CORPORATION BANK
Corporation Bank organised a Regional meeting on the bottom-up consultative process designed to generate ideas and review the performance of the Bank vis-à-vis national priorities, at Bank's Circle Office in Delhi on 17th August 2019, attended by the Zonal Heads in the Circle with all their branches.



SEMINAR-ALLAHABAD BANK
Allahabad Bank successfully conducted a 2 day 'Branch Level Consultation & Ideation' towards aligning the business to the Bank and the national level mission mode projects through peer review covering all Branches on Pan India basis. GM & DGM's were designated as 'MENTORS' of the process.



SEMINAR-INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK
The first stage of the bottom up consultative process designed to generate ideas and review performance of the Branches and their alignment with the national priorities, was conducted at the Regional level on 17th & 18th August 2019 by IOB, Delhi Region, involving all the Branches within the Region's jurisdiction.



SEMINAR-INDIAN BANK
The agenda of Reforms in the Public Sector banks, DFS has initiated a Multi-level consultation process starting from the branch level. The consultative meeting was conducted on 17.08.2019, ideas were generated from various branch managers in the presence of our ZM Shri R K Agarwal, Shri Narendra Kumar, DZM.



SEMINAR-BOI
The opening phase of the bottom-up consultative process designated to generate ideas and review performance of banks and their alignment with national priorities was conducted at the Zonal level on 17th and 18th August 2019 by Bank of India at Zonal Office, Ghaziabad.

Rahane squanders start, Vihari pushes his case

SANDIP G
ST JOHN'S, AUGUST 19

AS HIS reverse-sweep landed in the short third-man's hand, Ajinkya Rahane banged his bat on the ground and admonished himself. With his place in the Test side looking increasingly shaky, the Mumbai batsman needed more than the 54 he logged to make a valid case for himself.

It was a bizarre knock, as most of Rahane's outings these days have been. He didn't look particularly scratchy for someone who hasn't been among the runs. But he didn't always look fluent either. Time and again, whenever he exuded assurance, would arrive a bad stroke or misjudgment. There was a classic instance soon after he had carved left-arm spinner Khary Pierre for a six over long-off. He seemed to have located the timing that had eluded him in the first innings, but off the next ball, a long hop of the most abysmal kind, he under-edged onto his thighs. At one moment he would look gorgeous, especially when driving through the covers, and the next rickety.

Nonetheless, he laboured on for 162 deliveries, most of his runs coming through nudges, pushes and mistimed late cuts. He is dexterous with his late cuts, but here he repeatedly mistimed those, though he didn't feel like he needed to cut out the stroke. One stroke he did abstain from — one that had been his undoing of late — was the outside the off-stump dab, a nothing shot in the longer format. Rather, he was more judicious outside off-stump, leaving a third of those deliveries on the fourth-fifth stump line. And the West Indies A bowlers incessantly probed him in the channel.

Strangely, it was the humble spin of Perry and Akim Fraser that hassled him more than pace. He was often jumpy against them, eager to rotate strike but squinting the ball more often to the fielders. In fairness to him, there was a bit of inconsistent bounce that made some balls leap from a good length and others to scoot along the ground. So he tried using his feet to smother the spin, but several times was beaten in flight. But he did his best to banish the demons that have been tormenting him for a while, and that was precisely the reason he felt gutted when he perished.

Rahane's hard times had triggered speculation of Hanuma Vihari displacing him in the Test side, more so since Rohit Sharma is a surety. Both Vihari and Rahane featured in India's last three Tests in Australia. But that was more incidental than out of choice. In Sydney, it was because Sharma had skipped the Test to be with his newborn daughter. In Perth, Rohit was injured. And in Melbourne, Vihari was drafted in as a contingency opener.

The Andhra batsman, though, did little to harm his burgeoning reputation as a resolute middle-order alternative. His 64, in stark contrast to Rahane's 54, was all poise and fluency. A classic long-form knock, wherein he batted as batting is traditionally meant to be in this format. All through, the tempo was the same, neither striking a boundary-spreed nor getting into a shell. Apart from a couple of Perry's sharp away-turning deliveries, nothing tormented Vihari. He seemed impregnable before Fraser's off-break took off from a crack to graze his edge en route to the short-leg fielder.

While these two outings might not turn out to be definitive in deciding between them, the figures could be factored in. Vihari's read 37 and 64. Rahane's 1 and 54.

BRIEF SCORES: India 297/5 declared and 174/5 in 70 overs (Hanuma Vihari 64, Rahane 54), West Indies A 181 all out in 56.1 overs and 47 for three. Match drawn.



KL Rahul, Cheteshwar Pujara and Rohit Sharma didn't bat in the second innings against West Indies A as the Indians declared the innings at 188 for five. BCCI

A Lara-Sarwan partnership

They had several fruitful stands in their heyday; now the duo are helping the current WI batsmen step up



EXPRESS IN WEST INDIES

SANDIP G
ST JOHN'S, AUGUST 19

EVEN FROM 30 yards out, the silhouettes in sky blue were distinctly identifiable. A short man with a slouchy gait accompanied by a shorter, tauter one. Brian Lara and Ramnaresh Sarwan are back together. Rated among the best from this region, they belong to West Indies cricket's twilight zone — late broadcaster Tony Cozier called their era the interlude between their vaulting heights and the dizzy fall.

West Indies cricket's plunge to the pits is perhaps complete, but the two old pals are stitching together another rescue act. They are running a week-long camp to fine-tune their Test batsmen and share their collective experience of 17,795 runs and 49 hundreds.

Soon after discussing the finer points of the game with the batsmen, Lara lumbered back to the sight-screen and plunged into a chair. Sarwan called out Jason Holder. He grabbed the bat from the West Indies captain and told him he was getting way too forward, making driveable deliveries less so. Holder has a big forward press, a trait that makes a batsman suspect against inward-bending deliveries. "A couple of inches back would be fine," said Sarwan.

Holder trudged back, marked a patch on the ground where his front foot should be and pointing out a spot further up, requested Sarwan to bowl there. "Think the bowler would tell you where he's gonna bowl?" Sarwan ribbed the batsman. He followed it with a short



Ramnaresh Sarwan oversees a West Indies training session on Sunday.

ball assault on Holder's rib-cage.

Sarwan then sprinted back to Lara. He still retains a spring in his step. At 39, he is a year younger than Chris Gayle. Then something stopped him in his stride. It was an airy shot from West Indies cricket's big hope, the technically sound Shai Hope. "Did you play it intentionally?" he queried. The batsman nodded his head. "Good shot, but next time keep it through the ground! That looks better," Sarwan chimed in.

Sarwan himself wasn't averse to playing a few air-borne strokes. Lara played those dime a dozen. But the present crop of Caribbean batsmen does it more frequently and less effectively. Sarwan agreed with the assessment: "They can definitely improve their shot-selection in Test matches. That's one of the areas we are trying to tell them. We are not looking to change their technique or anything, not any-

'There are some exceptionally gifted batsmen amongst us, and it would be a shame if they don't scale the heights.'

thing majorly, but advise them about the little things in their batting that could make them better Test batsmen, give them inputs regarding how to pace a Test innings, how to score big runs, based on our experience."

To an extent, Sarwan himself can relate to this fallacy, his tendency to play an unwarranted extravagant shot, a reason his 50s count is twice the number of his Test hundreds. He could bat long, as evident during his 291 against England in 2009, but not always did he meet the required level of application. In an interview to *Trinidad Guardian*, he blamed it for plateauing in the second half of his career: "I wish I was more careful with my shots. I would have got more 100s and my average would have been in the higher 40s."

It's this regret that made him all the more motivated to help the next generation of Caribbean players out. "You feel you can help them fulfill what you couldn't. There are some exceptionally gifted batsmen amongst us, as it always had been, and it would be a shame if they don't scale the heights. A bit of direction and polishing would go a long way," Sarwan said.

A cursory skim through their records adequately reveals their failing. The eight capped batsmen they've picked have eked out only 29 hundreds in a combined 459 innings, which is an underwhelming conversion rate by any yardstick. Consequently, none of them have their averages in the 40s or above — Darren Bravo's 38 is the highest. And only Bravo and Kraigg Brathwaite have scored dou-

ble hundreds. It sums up the plight as much as their cricket director Jimmy Adams' desperate SOS to his old friends. "The good thing is most of them are young and still early in their careers. So they have time to learn and improve," said Sarwan.

At the core of his coaching philosophy is a deep understanding of the various subcultures in Caribbean cricket, often loosely typecast as Calypso cricket. "In our days, we all batted differently. Lara, Shiv, (Marlon) Samuels and myself, we were all different. It has been the West Indies way, and a lot of factors play in it. So we should always work in this framework. We should understand that different batsmen have different techniques and we should work within it and try to maximise the possibilities," he pointed out.

Sarwan was a predominantly off-side player, because the off-side was shorter on his club ground. "In the yard, the boundaries on the offside were much shorter than the ones on the legside. Even when we used to practice at club level, they used to put us close to the boundary on the offside, and generally I favour the offside a bit. So I turned out to be a better player on the off-side," he said.

Just then, Roston Chase approached him with another doubt, this time pertaining to his bowling. Sarwan told him to get more shoulder into the action, so that he could get more bite out of the surface. He made the required correction immediately, and the next delivery at Holder spat back viciously into him, battering into the knee-roll of Holder's 6-feet-6 frame. A visibly pleased Holder placed his request: "More of these, please!"

All ears to the doubts, apprehensions and insecurities of the batsmen, Sarwan, however, said he and Lara aren't miracle workers.

At this point, the greatest miracle man of West Indies cricket, Lara, walked in. So did a new pair of batsmen.

Heated debate as players & CoA meet over conflict of interest

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, AUGUST 19

WHEN THE likes of Sourav Ganguly, Sanjay Manjrekar, Dilip Vengsarkar and Irfan Pathan met the Committee of Administrators to discuss the conflict-of-interest rule, it threw up a few heated moments. While Ganguly led the argument that the board should rethink the rule, at least one former Mumbai player disagreed with him. While Ganguly's — and the majority of the players' — view was that they should be allowed to don multiple roles as administration and commentary stints don't result in any untoward influence, the former Mumbai player said that a player should choose one role and stick to it. It triggered an argument before the CoA informed them that the board will take a final call on the matter.

The meeting was called by Diana Edujji and Ravi Thodge, part of the Supreme Court-appointed panel, to understand the players' concerns. Rahul Dravid was absent from the meeting and VVS Laxman pulled out due to ill health, but others like Ajit Agarkar, Parthiv Patel, and Rohan Gavaskar attended.

The conflict-of-interest rule has had a major impact on cricketers holding multiple positions. Dravid is has been served a notice from BCCI's Ethics Officer DK Jain in regards to a conflict-of-interest case and a reply has been sought after a complaint by Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association member Sanjeev Gupta. Laxman and Ganguly too were hit in the past with conflict-of-interest charges and asked to choose between roles in the Indian Premier League, Cricket Advisory Committee, and other posts.

The Lodha Committee recommendation of 'one-person-one-post' was accepted by the Supreme Court and subsequently drafted into the new BCCI constitution. The rule means an individual will attract a potential conflict-of-interest case if he/she holds two positions at the same time.

Most of the cricketers felt commentary shouldn't fall under the conflict-of-interest clause. Another senior player argued how the board needs to clear Dravid as in the past, players have taken leave from their respective companies to take on assignments with the board. "Many felt if you get a long-time contract from BCCI, you can't hold two positions at a time and that individual can come under the conflict-of-interest rule, but if a player get a short-time contract, that individual should not come under a conflict-of-interest rule," a player present in the meeting said.

It was cited that BCCI, in the past, had sacked or not handed new contracts to former players after new regimes took over, and that there is no job security in the Indian board.

One former player argued: "Coaching stints are always short in BCCI but to be an employee with any company is lifelong. Tomorrow if the regime in BCCI changes, there is no guarantee that BCCI wants the same set of coaches to continue."

Parthiv, Rohan, Agarkar and Pathan spoke on behalf of current players doing commentary which, as per BCCI constitution, can be deemed as conflict of interest. Players argued how many don't play IPL and are non-contracted cricketers playing only a few months of domestic cricket. Ganguly is the mentor for Delhi Capitals, which has players like Rishabh Pant in the squad. Ganguly is also president of the Cricket Association of Bengal and also did commentary during the World Cup.

Pathan suggested that BCCI should allow cricketers to hold two or three posts at one time "but only one post should be of decision-making that can make or break careers."

After the discussion, Edujji said that a paper will be compiled for the amicus curiae to put forward to the Supreme Court.

Crumbled Stanford empire left Antigua on a Sticky Wicket

SANDIP G
ST JOHN'S, AUGUST 19

THE STICKY Wicket. There couldn't have been an apter epitaph for the fall of the Allen Stanford empire than the name of the once-swanky — but now locked and empty — bar that he installed at the entrance of the Coolidge Oval, not long ago the Stanford Cricket Stadium. First came the bar, and then the cricket, and the story of the bar is as much the story of the American billionaire's doomed dalliance with the game.

The bar was set up at the stroke of the millennium, just in front of what once was the Bank of Antigua, owned by Stanford. Straight ahead is a colonial mansion with majestic columns and cascades of flowering bougainvillea, home of the Stanford International Bank where the alleged bank fraud of \$8 billion is said to have occurred. To the left is a huge empty building that once housed Antigua's largest newspaper, *The Sun*, owned by the Texan billionaire himself. Walk a further down the road, there's a desolate port which Stanford had plans to develop. The grand plan was to connect the port to a private arrivals centre at the airport, allowing Stanford to walk straight from his private jet to a deep-sea marina where his superyacht would be waiting to carry him across to Maiden Island — which he also happened to own. Like with the cricketing dreams,



The bar at the Coolidge Oval — a reminder of the heady Stanford days — now stands locked and empty. Sandip G

it too crumbled.

Back to the Sticky Wicket, the most opulent bar ever on the island. Recollects Samuel Rodrigues, one of the Coolidge Oval ground-staff crew: "They got the most expensive brands of liquor, imported from everywhere in the world. They got the best crowd in there, politicians, industrialists, celebrities, some of them he used to fly from different parts of the world. It was party day in and out," he says.

Overlooking the bar were mostly bushes. "But there was a tiny open space in the middle

of it, where kids played football and sometimes cricket. At night it used to be a den of drunkards and sometimes gamblers. Not quite anti-socials, but problem creators. The police were always patrolling in the vicinity," he remembers.

But one evening, when Stanford was having drinks with his friends, the idea struck him — buy the land, build a cricket stadium and invite teams from all over the world. It was around the same time his friendship circle had begun to foray into the West Indies Cricket Board. Impoverished as the board was then, the dollars he splashed made infiltration easy. Recollects Anita Kentlish, a veteran local journalist who covered the fiasco: "He pumped in a lot of money into the cricket board so much so that they obliged all his wishes. It was his typical business operation. If he had set his mind on acquiring something that caught his fancy, from the oil company that he first set up to everything he had," she says.

Some of them wondered why an American banker was so interested in cricket. But it didn't matter because his empire was the second-most influential institution in the country. Stanford was the second largest employer on the island after the government, and in terms of wealth he towered them. His net worth was around \$2.5 billion, the country's was around half of that, says Kentlish. From a British colony, the island was about to be a Stanford Colony. So set off his cricketing aspirations. In less

than six months, the construction began. He didn't hire the Chinese company who were overlooking the construction of the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in North Sound. "He got a Latin American firm and with the help of local manpower, build the stadium in double-quick time. It wasn't as massive as Sir Viv, but the businessman in him realised it needn't be. So before Sir Viv was ready, the Stanford Stadium was up and running," remembers Rodrigues.

He built just one stand and a couple of corporate boxes attached to the Bar. But all that were immaculately state-of-the-art. Nothing reflects it better than the two-story high, aluminium stumps he had installed there. The outer walls of the clubs were adorned with bronze profiles include of legends such as Clyde Walcott, Frank Worrell, Wes Hall and Richards. He then shelled out a million dollars for the sound system alone. He named it, understandably, Sir Allen Stanford Stadium, though the locals began calling it The Sticky Wicket Stadium. It was both a shrine to cricket and a stately monument to Stanford.

The jackpot game

The completion of the construction coincided with the T20 boom, and Stanford had his grand scheme ready. In 2006, he launched the Stanford League, handing out exponential wages to the players. It was a timely fillip for a lot of players on the island. Back in the day, when franchisee-based T20 leagues hadn't

sprouted, and when the board and several players were at loggerheads, it was a blessing for them. "They used to earn something around \$250-300 per four-day match and around \$150 for List A games. Now they were getting around \$1000. So that was a big positive," says Rodrigues.

Then in 2008, he announced the winner-takes-all one-off T20 between England and Stanford XI, comprising entirely of Antiguan players for a jackpot of \$20 million. "It was the biggest carnival the country had ever seen. Players, celebrities, booze, music, it was like Hollywood. As tourists flocked the island, tourism too boomed," says Rodrigues who was among the ground-staff during the game.

Six months later, the news of his money-laundering and fraud came to light and he ended up in the cellars of a Florida prison. The fear that gripped the island then was diabolical. "Nearly 1,500 lost their jobs. This is a substantial figure for a country of 80,000. Three or four times as many had their bank accounts frozen. Around the clock, you could see depositors waiting outside the bank to withdraw their money. It was chaos," says Kentlish.

As he was detained, the stadium too was shut and it was nearly back into its old bushy days, before the WICB took over the land from the government and brought a semblance of life back to it. They have has rechristened the ground as the Coolidge Oval, but for the locals it still remains "The Sticky Wicket Ground."

Stand for Kohli, awards for Delhi's best: DDCA

New Delhi: The best age-group cricketers in the national capital will be recognised and awarded by the Delhi and District Cricket Association during a felicitation ceremony for the Indian team on September 12, during which a stand will be named after captain Virat Kohli. The Indian skipper will become the third cricketer from Delhi to have a stand named after the Feroz Shah Kotla stadium after him, following Bishan Singh Bedi and Mohinder Amaranth.

"Apart from Virat Kohli and the national team, we will also give awards to the best cricketers of Delhi on the basis of their batting and bowling performances during last season. DDCA will invite all its members for the award ceremony. All international cricketers associated with Delhi cricket will also be requested to join to cheer Virat and Team India," DDCA president Rajat Sharma confirmed.

Home minister Amit Shah will be the chief guest for the felicitation function. Shah is a former president of the Gujarat Cricket Association. Sports minister Kiren Rijji will also attend the function. "Home minister Amit Shah is a keen cricket watcher," Sharma added.

September 12 has been chosen because it marks 11 years since Kohli made his international debut. The felicitation ceremony will be held at the weightlifting auditorium of the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. **ENS**

'First Indian ever to win motorsport world title' ended last in 3 out of 4 races

NIHAL KOSHIE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19

LAST WEEK, the Federation of Motorsports Clubs of India put out a celebratory newsflash. It said: "Aishwarya Pissay of TVS clinches the Fim Baja World Cup 2019 Women's Category... #Fmsci congratulates India's first #FIM World Cup champion."

Subsequently, Aishwarya made it to the front pages of newspapers and trended on social media. The media release that was to follow had more details about 23-year-old Pissay's performance in the cross-country rally-raid arena with overall and women's categories spread across four events.

"She became the first Indian ever to win a world title in Motorsport... Aishwarya, who won the first round in Dubai and was placed third (Portugal), fifth (Spain) and fourth (Hungary) in the subsequent outings."

Here are some facts, confirmed by the Federation International de Motocyclisme (FIM) - the global governing body for motorcycle racing - that put Aishwarya's performance in perspective.

■ Aishwarya did finish with most points in the women's category but was the only one who participated in all four rallies.

■ In the Dubai race, which the press statement

says she won, she was the only woman rider.

■ In Portugal, she was third among three women riders. In Spain, she was fifth among five women participants, and in Hungary, she was fourth among four riders.

The big advantage Aishwarya had over others was that she competed in all four races, which helped her stock more points and eventually finish on top.

An FIM media spokesperson told *The Indian Express* that most other riders, unlike the Bangalore-based Indian two-wheeler star, didn't have much support.

"For most riders, the FIM Bajas World Cup is a question of budget. As most of the riders are not professionals, it is not easy to compete in the whole season as they prefer to attend events in Europe. Aishwarya is part of the TVS team and that is why she was able to attend the four rounds of the World Cup. Other riders are not under contract with a team as they are private riders," the spokesperson said.

Besides, auto giants TVS, Aishwarya is supported by Sidvin, Mountain Dew, Scott Motorsports India, K&N, Cult Sport and BigRock Dirt Park.

Multiple attempts to reach Aishwarya, via TVS Racing, went futile. It was said her media interactions were 'put on hold'.

The FIM confirmed that Aishwarya com-



Aishwarya Pissay (standing centre) competed in all four races, which helped her stock more points and eventually finish on top.

pleted all stages of the rounds but received a time penalty in some of them.

In the three rallies, apart from Dubai where she was the only participant in the women's category, Aishwarya finished between approximately 50 minutes and an hour and 40 minutes behind her nearest competitor, according to information on the FIM website.

In the release, Aishwarya spoke about the challenges of finishing a race. "Without a doubt, the Hungarian Baja was one of my best races though I didn't win. It wasn't an easy race. Given the nature of the terrain, it was more of endurance than just pace. I was riding a smaller bike (250cc) as against the 450cc bikes other girls were on. So, there was always a difference

EXPLAINED

Dakar Rally ultimate challenge for motorsport enthusiasts

THE FIM Baja World Cup is a rally-raid championship for two-wheelers and quads, held over asphalt and non-asphalt surfaces, including desert sand and dirt tracks. The rider who takes the least time to complete the stages in a round is ranked No.1 and gets 25 points. For a motorsport enthusiast, the Dakar Rally is the ultimate challenge and championships like the FIM Baja World Cup are one of the stepping stones. Others like the Pan Africa Rally and the Silk Way Rally are where riders and drivers cut their teeth before attempting the ultimate challenge for man/woman and machine. Each of the four rounds of the FIM Baja World Cup is typically held over two days. The rounds are spread across five months. The distance covered during a round is less than that in the Dakar Rally. For example, the timed sections of the Dubai event were about 407 kilometres. The 2019 Dakar Rally was 3,000-km long, held over 10 special stages with 70 per cent of it over sand.

of 20-25 minutes between me and the other riders. However, it was more about finishing the race and I was focused on that. It's an honour to be the first athlete to bring home a World Championship and put India on the Map of International Motorsports."

Last season, Aishwarya competed in the Baja Aragon in Spain. However, she suffered a

crash and had to undergo surgery and months of rehabilitation for a ruptured pancreas.

"It's absolutely overwhelming. I am out of words. After what happened last year, my first international season, when I crashed in Spain Baja and suffered career-threatening injuries, to come out and win the championship, is a great feeling," Aishwarya said in the release.



Esow (right) bagged silver and bronze in the individual sprint and keirin event.

On a medal spree: Andaman's Esow breaks new ground for India at junior track cycling

ANDREW AMSAN
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19

INDIA FINISHED its campaign at the World Junior Track Championship in Frankfurt with three medals, including two individual medals from 18-year-old Esow Alben - their best performance ever at a global event. India also won its first gold at the world level at the same competition when the trio of Esow, Ronaldo Singh and Rojit Singh topped the men's sprint event.

Esow bagged a silver and bronze respectively in the individual sprint and keirin event to help India secure an overall sixth spot. Social media is ablaze with congratulatory messages for the cycling team and the man of the hour is obviously Esow.

But back home in the Andaman and Nicobar islands, where internet and telephone services aren't functioning well due to heavy rains, mother Lelly Alben is almost oblivious to the magnitude of her son's achievement.

"I haven't spoken with him yet. His coach sent me a message saying he's won another medal. But since then there has been no communication. I am sitting glued to my phone They must have left Germany now but I can't sleep until I get an update," she said late Monday evening.

She was ecstatic about her son and India's impressive show in Germany, but the first thing she said she would ask when Esow calls is if he's been washing his clothes properly and eating well. The jam-packed training schedule keeps her son

away for months and phone calls are extremely rare. But whenever Esow does find a window for a call, he puts forward his prayer requests.

"There was one competition where he had won a bronze and he called me and wept on the phone. He was complaining that I did not pray enough and that's why he got a bronze (laughs)," Lelly said.

Apart from prayer requests, the other main topic of discussion is food. And what Esow misses the most while on tour is her mom's non-veg preparations. "He loves it. He has a few friends from Kerala and Manipur and they feed him meat. But I don't know if they cook it well. So whenever he comes home, we'll have a huge feast and of course visit the church for thanksgiving," said Lelly, who works with the Andaman forest department.

Esow was gifted his first cycle at six after he coaxed his parents to get him one. All his elder siblings had a cycle each but his parents thought he was too young for one then. "He was really upset so we got him one. But not even in our dreams did we think he would become a professional cyclist. Now when I go to the market, people recognise me and ask about my son. Everything happened due to God's grace."

Esow first burst onto the scene last year, when he won India's first-ever junior cycling World Cup medal, finishing second in the keirin event in Aigle, Switzerland. Esow and the team will arrive in the national capital in a couple of days from now and will train at the Indira Gandhi stadium for the upcoming Asian Track Event.

Thumb rule applies

Sai Praneeth is beginning to merge his deceptive shot-making with the required discipline & fitness

SHIVANI NAIK
AUGUST 19

B SAI PRANEETH, India's latest Arjuna awardee in badminton, has the mythical Eklavya's non-existent thumb when he plays his backhand.

That is to say that when he switches, in a split-second, his racquet grip from forehand to backhand, the digit that lends that particular stroke power - the thumb - hardly comes into play. To Canadian Jason Anthony Ho-Shue's naked eye, the tweak in the grip with the thumb jutting out when Sai smacked his backhand would've been utterly absent.

Clearing the first round at the Basel World Championships on Monday with more than a few hiccups, the Indian, seeded 16th, won 21-17, 21-16 foxing his opponent repeatedly. There were scary lapses of focus alright, but the 39 minutes were also a feast of strokes and deceptions, including the last point where he had Ho-Shue diving the wrong way after a furious exchange of flat strokes, as the Indian smashed straight.

But more on that "no-thumb", as close friend and academy-mate Gurusaidutt calls it. The two belong to Gopichand's first batch of trainees, along with Parupalli Kashyap and Saina Nehwal. Sai would in fact, pack breakfast and lunch tiffins at 3.30 am in the morning, setting off from Hyderabad's Adarsh Nagar to go to Gachibowli in their early teens. Guru recalls Sai Praneeth's freakish talent from even back then.

"He was just very stroky always and his wrist was very strong," Guru says. So strong that he could play the backhand without changing the grip on his racket. "It looked just like the normal grip on the forehand. There was no thumb! We would wonder where he gets the power from. But he was always talented and smooth and tricky always," Guru adds.

Against Ho-Shue, Sailed 17-7 in the opener, before allowing a 8-point rally from his opponent and holding off to pocket the first game. In the second, he pressed on the pedal at 11-10 to not let things dawdle any further.

Broad range of strokes

It was in this phase that Sai would unveil his broad range of strokes, not allowing his unfancied opponent a toe in the door thereafter. The 26-year-old, who will pick the Arjuna later this month, will hope the announcement of what he reckoned was belated recognition, gives him a fresh lease of confidence.

It's been a sobering acceptance over a decade of the fact that the boy bustling with talent as India's top junior had to adjust to a new normal where Kidambi Srikanth and HS Prannoy had nosed well ahead of him. Sai was accustomed to medalling since the u-13s and then the World Juniors even as his precocious style filled with a candy store of strokes gave him big wins against Taufik Hidayat and Lee Chong Wei.

He'd crib about training for fitness, but end up doing what was needed eventually.



Sai Praneeth defeated Canada's Jason Anthony Ho-Shue of 21-17, 21-16.

"It's in the last three years that he started focusing diligently on fitness over and above what was told to him," Guru recalls.

Winning the Singapore Super Series would strengthen his resolve. "Once you near the Top 20, you get that maturity. In fitness, you know how much to push yourself to get the balance between training consistently and staying injury-free," he adds.

An ankle injury prior to 2017 with shooting pain in the leg would drive Sai to tears. But the boy who was pushed by his maternal grandfather - who funded, nurtured and carted him around the country for junior meets - was taking his time. The artistic game, that could keep opponents guessing with net tricks, needed the solidity that can only come with fitness. He'd keep his even temper though even as the start-stop career needed recalibration.

His grandpa would keep stressing that he ought to listen to his coach and work on his deficiencies and even when the Arjuna didn't show up after a good season, he'd go about his gigs. "Now we're flying in the sky after the Arjuna. Two years ago, he must've been disappointed but wasn't allowed to crib," says the grandfather.

Opponents have always tried to hit back, fire him out - a position from where he crumbles. All of Guru, Kashyap, Srikanth and Prannoy play gully cricket in their downtime, and Sad is notorious for getting partners run out like a lazy Inzamam-ul-Haq. This week, exhausting Sai will again be a ploy used generously. But on a good day, rivals will be on their toes, wary of strokes played seamlessly from tough positions even as Sai tries to play steady. The flick grip on the backhand with the hidden thumb will stay busy.

Srikanth wards off spirited challenge from Nguyen

SHIVANI NAIK
AUGUST 19

THE SECOND biggest wonder of the first round match between Kidambi Srikanth and Irish crazyball Nhat Nguyen was how coach Pulella Gopichand managed to stay stoic through what was a 66-minute long 17-21, 21-16, 21-6 nervous carnage. The eye-popping figure though was how Srikanth went from a wretched 17-21 error-strewn botched opening set to a 21-6 mince-pie of the third set.

Srikanth's reading of the court conditions (rather negotiating the drift) was terrifyingly abysmal, as the sixth seed Indian kept netting his pushes and taps and acute cross-courts to fail to close out a 15-9 lead.

There is intense speculation over what drives Srikanth's mind melancholy on the court, given he's been off colour of late. The simple answer is the man loves to attack, and feels cramped when he's denied that savage flair. A complex answer is awaited. Yet, Nguyen worked up such a frenzy with his speedy returns that Srikanth was blitzed through the end of the first and start of the second, before he found his footing.

Chip-charging at the net thereafter on down the lines and attacking Nguyen's fore-court backhand with some crisp cross unfettered smashes, Srikanth would slowly lose

Srikanth was stretched and at one point - down 8-10 and 13-all in the second - was in real threat of the match spinning out of his control. The confident smashes were back soon, and the 21-6 decider margin might even convince him what preceded was just a bad dream.

his stalker. Nguyen has the bustle but not the brisk shot-making accuracy, and it would be cleaved open in the decider as Srikanth stormed after the calm. Picking 11 straight points, he'd race away to restore normalcy and get his taut coaches to smile and breathe eventually. Nguyen is ranked World no. 81, and carried the rookie's enthusiasm into the match - attempting to crowd Srikanth with returns, even as he spilled some blood from diving around madly.

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ITF has to guarantee comfort, security: Amritraj

SHAHID JUDGE
MUMBAI, AUGUST 19

AS THE All India Tennis Association (AITA) prepares for its meeting with the International Tennis Federation (ITF) on Tuesday, former Davis Cup player and captain Vijay Amritraj wants the Indian body to make a decision purely on sporting and security grounds. In the wake of the Indian government stripping Jammu and Kashmir off its special status, the relations between the two countries have been downgraded.

The Indian sports ministry however has made it clear that the government will in no way interfere with the AITA's decision to send a team for the Asia/Oceania Group 1 tie scheduled to take place in Islamabad on September 14-15.

"Since that's the case, then you're really left with one clear sporting group (AITA) that is making the call," Amritraj says. "And as far as the sporting group is concerned, I

would assume the only issue on the table would be the security of the team, specifically from a sporting aspect. That's it, everything else is immaterial."

Concerns from the Indian team emerged after the Pakistani government decided to send back the Indian ambassador to Pakistan and to recall their own envoy based in New Delhi, while also severing railway and road links between the two countries. Amid all the tensions however, the ITF has asserted that the security arrangements the Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF) had made for the tie continues to remain sufficient.

"What is important, and I think the ITF is fully aware of it, from the tennis perspective, the ITF would have to guarantee comfort and security for the visiting team," says Amritraj. "They guarantee security with Pakistan's backing, and Pakistan will and should make the right security arrangements."

Last week, the ITF had shared with the AITA details of the security measures in

place for the Indian team's visit. Additionally, the ITF has granted the AITA a telephonic meeting with the ITF security advisors, which has now been postponed till Tuesday. "We will explain to them our view and decided if we want to push for another venue," AITA secretary general Hironmoy Chatterjee had told *The Indian Express*. "We are also going to involve our Davis Cup captain Mahesh Bhupathi for the meeting."

On behalf of the five-member team selected for the tie, Bhupathi had written to the AITA making clear the players' reservations about travelling to Pakistan, and asking the Indian body to push for a neutral venue for the tie. "Under normal circumstances, everything would be fine," Amritraj says about the prospect of an Indian Davis Cup team travelling to Pakistan for the first time in 55 years. "But there have been issues all the way from Pulwama to now. The sad part is that we are, by so many lengths, the better team. If the tie does happen, the team has a 90-10 chance of winning."



"I would assume the only issue on the table would be the security of the team, specifically from a sporting aspect. That's it, everything else is immaterial."

VIJAY AMRITRAJ,
FORMER DAVIS CUP PLAYER & CAPTAIN

Decision on Davis Cup tie in Pakistan postponed by a day

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
KOLKATA, AUGUST 19

THE INDIAN Davis Cup team non-playing captain Mahesh Bhupathi will join the All India Tennis Association (AITA) officials during the conference/video call with the International Tennis Federation (ITF) Davis Cup board on Tuesday. The meeting that was originally scheduled on Monday has been postponed to 2.30pm BST (7pm IST) Tuesday, although the AITA has requested the world tennis body to bring it forward by a few hours.

"Mahesh Bhupathi will be part of the discussion, because players' view is very important," AITA secretary-general Hironmoy Chatterjee told *The Indian Express*. "We requested him (Bhupathi) to be part of the process," he added. India are slated to play against Pakistan in the Asia/Oceania Group I Davis Cup tie in Islamabad on September 14-

15. But given the present political situation in the wake of the Indian government's decision to abrogate Jammu and Kashmir's special status, the Indian players are reluctant to travel across the border due to security reasons. "Bhupathi has already told us that the players would prefer to play outside Pakistan. As of today, Pakistan is not a very conducive place for the Indian team to go and play," Chatterjee said.

The AITA has already asked the ITF to relocate the tie to a neutral venue. Postponement has been presented as an option as well. The ITF, on the other hand, has shared its security plans with the AITA following a recce of the venue. Tomorrow's meeting will discuss security arrangements for the Indian team in Pakistan for the tie, while the AITA will make another push to move it to a neutral venue.

"Today's meeting was supposed to be held at 1pm BST. Now it has been postponed, we have sent an email to the ITF, requesting them to start the meeting at 10.30 BST," Chatterjee said.

Third time's the charm for Medvedev

After losses on last two Sundays, Russian beats Goffin in Cincinnati final to win his first Masters title

REUTERS/AFP
AUGUST 19

RUSSIAN DANIIL Medvedev survived cramps and tantrum where he cracked a racquet to clinch his first Masters 1000 title on Sunday with a 7-6(3) 6-4 win over David Goffin in the final of the Cincinnati Masters.

Medvedev saved two breaks points while serving for the match at 5-4 in the second set before winning the next four, three of them with aces to close out his dogged Belgian opponent. It was the second title of the year for Medvedev, who had lost on the past two Sundays, to Nick Kyrgios in Washington and Rafa Nadal in Montreal.

"It would be not a good feeling if I lost three finals in a row so it's just a relief and I'm so happy," he said in a courtside interview with ESPN after playing his 16th match in 20 days.

"I started feeling cramps at 5-3 (in the second set), first time in three weeks I started cramping, probably because of the nerves and it's been 24 days in a row I played tennis.

"I started cramping quite hard, so last game, 15-40, I know if it's going to be five-all I'm in a bad position. I made four serves that he didn't return and three of them were aces. It's just unbelievable."

The pressure perhaps showed in the final game when Medvedev hurled his racquet to the ground after losing a point, but the temper tantrum was short lived and he regrouped quickly to clinch his fifth title in two years.

Earlier, Goffin did well to force a first set tiebreak by holding serve, including winning a 29-rally point.

But the Belgian, without a victory since 2017, lost the tiebreak on a double-fault.

"He played unbelievable the last three weeks," Goffin said. "He's super solid. He doesn't miss. It's like playing against a wall. That's why everybody is struggling, because he's so consistent, now with more confidence."

Medvedev, who beat world number one Novak Djokovic in the semi-finals, plans a short rest before the U.S. Open starts in eight days.

"I need some days off," he said. "I've been playing tennis for so long in a row. I just need to stay in the bed for a few days watching the TV 24 hours a day.

"Hopefully I can regroup and get to the U.S. Open fresh."



Russian Daniil Medvedev won the Cincinnati Masters after settling for runner-up finishes to Nick Kyrgios in Washington and Rafael Nadal in Montreal. USA Today

SOLID RUN IN 2019

PLAYER	MATCH WINS
Daniil Medvedev	44
Rafael Nadal	41
Roger Federer	39
Novak Djokovic	38
Stefanos Tsitsipas	37

5 Medvedev is the fifth Russian to win an ATP Masters 1000 title, joining Marat Safin (5), Nikolay Davydenko (3), Andrei Chesnokov (2) and Karen Khachanov (1).

31 Medvedev has the most wins on hard courts this year.

Keys beats Kuznetsova

Madison Keys came from a break down in both sets to defeat Svetlana Kuznetsova 7-5, 7-6 (7/5) on Sunday to win the WTA Cincinnati crown. The 2017 US Open finalist notched her fifth career title and second this season after a win in Charleston in April.

She'll return to the top 10 in the world rankings with the US Open a week away.

Kuznetsova, a two-time Grand Slam champion working her way back up the rankings after a series of injuries, was broken back in the 10th game of each set by 16th-seeded Keys — who fired 13 aces on the way to victory.

"If my team had told me a week ago that I would be here, I would have laughed in their face," admitted Keys, who had endured two opening-match defeats since a second-round exit at Wimbledon.

Keys belted a total of 43 winners with 33 unforced errors and broke Kuznetsova three times. Despite leading both sets, Kuznetsova

never had a set point in either, Keys winning the final four games of the first set before dropping her serve in the third game of the second.

Keys broke Kuznetsova to level at 5-all and ran out the winner in the ensuing tiebreaker as the Russian sent a service return long on Keys's second match point.

Former world number two Kuznetsova, who received a wildcard into the draw, beat top seed Ashleigh Barty, world number three Sloane Stephens on her way to the final.

The Russian veteran will jump from 118th to 31st in the rankings and said she'd had a "great week."

"I want to thank the tournament for giving me a wild card for the second years in a row," she said.

"I certainly did better than last year. Thanks to the American people who supported me and pulled me through many matches in this tournament."

Coutinho gets No. 10 after Robben approves

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MUNICH, AUGUST 19

ARJEN ROBBEN has given his permission for Philippe Coutinho to wear his old No. 10 jersey while on loan at Bayern Munich.

The 27-year-old Coutinho passed a medical examination on Sunday and signed a contract through June 2020, when Bayern has the option of making the loan permanent.

"Arjen had no problem with it. He said Philippe was a worthy successor," Bayern chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge said Monday at the Brazil playmaker's presentation in Munich.

Rummenigge said Bayern had not planned to use Robben's No. 10 or Franck Ribery's No. 7 this season as a tribute to both retired wingers, but the club changed its mind as the negotiations with Barcelona over Coutinho's loan deal began to progress.

"We had a chat with Robben. We wanted to give his number to Philippe as a sign of esteem," Rummenigge said.

Bayern announced earlier in the day that the loan move had been completed, saying financial details wouldn't be disclosed. But Barcelona said the German club "will pay 8.5 million euros (\$9.4 million) and the player's wages."

"The agreement also sees an option to buy for Bayern fixed at 120 million euros (\$133 million)," the Spanish club said.

Rummenigge said 8.5 million euros (\$9.4 million) was "a price among friends."

"We have had a very good relationship for years with Barcelona," Rummenigge said. "Apart from that, Barcelona didn't want to hinder the transfer as Philippe very much wanted to come to us."

Although Coutinho failed to live up to expectations after joining Barcelona in January 2018 for a club-record transfer from Liverpool worth 160 million euros (then \$192 million), his arrival in Germany has also been welcomed by Bayern's club rivals.

"You can only congratulate Bayern. It's good when such a name plays in the Bundesliga," Borussia Dortmund chief executive told German daily Bild.

Dortmund player Julian Brandt, Fortuna Dusseldorf coach Friedrich Funkel and Borussia Monchengladbach sporting director Max Eberl also welcomed the transfer.

Coutinho said he was looking to stay longer at Bayern than the initial season on loan.



We had a chat with (Arjen) Robben. We wanted to give his number to Philippe as a sign of esteem. Arjen had no problem with it. He said Philippe was a worthy successor."

KARL-HEINZ RUMMENIGGE, BAYERN MUNICH CHAIRMAN, ON COUTINHO GETTING THE NO. 10 JERSEY OF RETIRED ROBBEN

"I have a huge challenge in front of me here, and hope to stay a long time and win many titles," Coutinho said.

The Brazil playmaker scored 21 goals and set up 11 more in 75 appearances for Barcelona but was criticized by fans for not playing his best in decisive games. Coutinho was the second most expensive player in the world after Neymar when signed from Liverpool.

After coming through the youth teams at hometown club Vasco da Gama in Rio de Janeiro, Coutinho was signed by Inter Milan, loaned back to Vasco and later to Spanish club Espanyol before he joined Liverpool.

Bayern had been pursuing Germany winger Leroy Sane as its No. 1 target to help fill the void left by Robben and Ribery, but turned to alternatives after Sane injured his knee while playing for Manchester City.

Coutinho has 15 goals in 55 appearances for Brazil and helped the team win this year's Copa America.

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