

FIRST INDIAN EXPRESS EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNANCE AWARDS

'A good officer can script a miracle... governance is democracy's backbone'



The award-winning District Magistrates with Union Ministers Nitin Gadhkari, Ram Vilas Paswan, Ravi Shankar Prasad and Jitendra Singh; also in the frame are Express Group Chairman Viveck Goenka and Executive Director Anant Goenka. *Abhinav Saha*

4 Union Ministers give awards to 16 finest DMs across the country — and underline power of change on the ground

KAUNAIN SHERIFFM
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

FROM BUILDING bridges for children to go to school in Jammu and Kashmir to an early warning system in Gujarat that has brought flood casualties to zero, from upgrading district hospitals in Chhattisgarh to a village in Himachal Pradesh where a garbage dump is now a park —

such transformative change scripted by the District Magistrate was celebrated at the first The Indian Express Excellence in Governance Awards Wednesday evening, a biennial event that cel-

brates the finest work done by DMs across the country.

As many as five Union Ministers were present to celebrate the awards — Union Minister for Road Transport and

Highways Nitin Gadhkari said that while an "audit of performance" is important, a good officer can "make miracles".

Apart from Gadhkari, Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan; Union Minister of Law, Communications and IT Ravi Shankar Prasad; Minister of State (Independent charge) PMO Dr Jitendra Singh and Union Minister for Railways, Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal were the special guests at the event.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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The Indian EXPRESS EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNANCE AWARDS
THE WINNERS PAGE 8

CBI SCALES WALL TO ENTER DELHI HOUSE

P Chidambaram is arrested, appeals to court's conscience

Taken into custody after he addresses press; no relief from Supreme Court which will hear his plea tomorrow

MANOJCG
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

IN A dramatic turn of events Wednesday night, personnel of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) scaled the boundary walls of the New Delhi residence of senior Congress leader and former Union Minister P Chidambaram and arrested him, in full media glare, in connection with its probe into alleged charges of corruption in the INX Media case.

A team of the Enforcement Directorate, probing alleged money laundering charges, also showed up at Chidambaram's Jor Bagh residence who was taken away in a CBI vehicle at 9.45 pm. Congress leaders and lawyers Kapil Sibal and Abhishek Manu Singhvi were with Chidambaram when he was placed under arrest.

The former minister, also a member of the Congress Working Committee, was taken into custody soon after he addressed a press conference at the AICC headquarters on Akbar Road where he claimed innocence.

Flanked by the top leadership of the Congress, he said neither he nor any member of his family had been made an accused in the INX Media case. He said no chargesheet had been filed in the case and the FIR by the CBI did not impute "any wrongdoing" by him. He said he will respect the law even if it is applied with an "unequal hand" by the investigating agencies.

Earlier in the day, Chidambaram failed to get immediate protection from arrest from the Supreme Court which decided to hear Friday his petition seeking stay of the



The CBI team leaves with Chidambaram from his Jor Bagh residence in New Delhi Wednesday night. *PTI*

Assault on his rights, says Cong, reaches out to others in Opp

MANOJCG
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

WITHIN HOURS of the arrest of senior Congress leader and former Union Minister P Chidambaram, the party's top leadership reached out Wednesday night to other Opposition parties to mount a coordinated protest against the BJP-led government. Agitated over the way Chidambaram was arrested from his residence in full media glare, the party said the objective was to humiliate him while playing to the gallery.

Referring to the manner in which the CBI team scaled walls to arrest the former minister, Congress leader Anand Sharma told *The Indian Express*: "These

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

ONLY DUE PROCESS

Case against P Chidambaram must proceed strictly according to the law, and must be seen to do so too **PAGE 14**

DRAMA IN SC

PAGE 8
visuals will shock the democratic world that India can allow this to happen with state support. Chidambaram is a respectable law-abiding citizen which he has vindicated. But to go in this dramatic manner is a total assault **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

Latest Trumpism on India-Pakistan: Will do best I can to mediate

SHUBHAJIT ROY
PARIS, AUGUST 21

TWO DAYS after he spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Pakistan PM Imran Khan, US President Donald Trump suggested — for the third time in a month — that he will do the best he can to "mediate" on the Kashmir issue.

Speaking at the White House Wednesday, Trump called the situation in Kashmir "very explosive" and a "very tough situation". "I will do the best I can to mediate or do something," he said.

The US President's latest remarks have set the stage for a **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

EXPLAINED
E.
Balancing act

THE US needs Pakistan's help to keep the Taliban on the talks table for it to exit Afghanistan. At the same time, it sees India as a key strategic partner in the region to counter China's influence. It's a delicate balancing act, which is reflected in Trump's repeated offers to mediate on Kashmir.

BUSINESS AS USUAL
By UNNY
Don't counter China's Great Wall with an endless bridge into India
EXPRESSION ATG-7

Paris push for India at UN, Modi ready to meet Macron



SHUBHAJIT ROY
PARIS, AUGUST 21

AS PRIME Minister Narendra Modi lands in Paris on Thursday,

he will head straight to the Château de Chantilly, 60 km from Paris, for a bilateral meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron, four days before the G-7 summit in Biarritz.

The meeting between Modi and Macron takes place days after French diplomats played a **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

First reforms to check dodgy doctorates: no degrees for monitors

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

SHYAMLAL YADAV
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

OVER A year after an investigation by *The Indian Express* showed how those holding powerful posts were conferred honorary doctorates by public universities when many of them were in charge of monitoring those institutions, the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has come up with a code of conduct that bars its officials and their



The Indian Express report on February 6, 2018

immediate family from accepting such degrees.

Based in Bengaluru, the NAAC is an autonomous body **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

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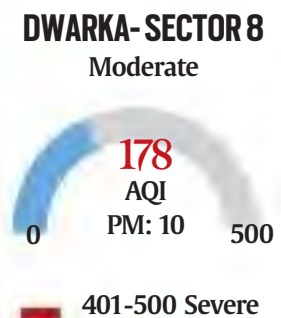
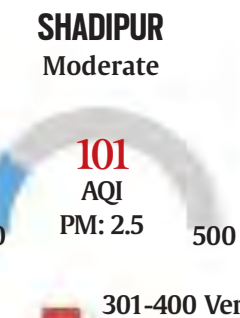
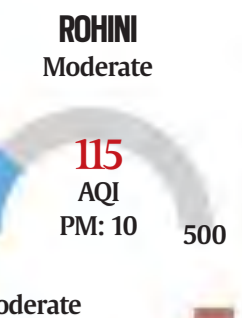
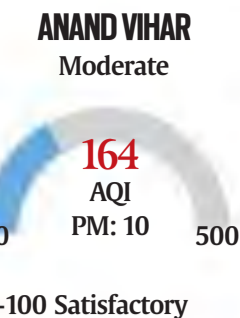
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DU YET TO DECIDE ON NEXT STEP

Busts still up, ABVP distances itself from DUSU president

SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

A DAY after the ABVP-led Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) installed busts of V D Savarkar, Bhagat Singh and Subhas Chandra Bose at the varsity's North Campus, the structure remained planted outside the Arts Faculty, despite criticism from both the university administration and the ABVP itself.



The busts of Savarkar, Bose and Bhagat Singh were installed and garlanded by DUSU president Shakti Singh outside the Arts Faculty in North Campus Tuesday. *Abhinav Saha*

Proctor Neeta Sehgal stated that the university is deciding on what action can be taken against the union and its president Shakti Singh, who installed the pillar with the three busts without permission from university authorities.

However, she did not specify the nature of the action being considered or whether Singh and the union will be asked to remove the pillar.

"Obviously, what has happened is not good. Students can't just take matters into their own hands like this, and there has been some kind of security lapse. We are trying to understand how to deal with this, as these are students who are acknowledging that they have done something wrong, and are saying that they have done it anyway," Sehgal said.

"Moreover, students' union elections are just around the corner (September 12), and we do not want anything to precipitate because of this. We have new students on the campus, and we want peace and safety for them," she added.

ABVP state secretary Siddharth Yadav himself criticised the move by Singh and DUSU.

"...ABVP is of the clear view that the busts should be installed in Delhi University campus only with the permission of the administration and other authorities concerned... the busts should be kept in the DUSU office till the permission is granted..." read a statement by him.

However, the DUSU office was sealed on Wednesday, with the outgoing union's term coming to an end.

Asked if they would move the statue following criticism from the organisation's leadership, DUSU president Shakti

Singh said they were trying "discuss" with the university, but expressed no intention of immediately moving the pillar.

"We are trying to get the university's permission to install the busts in the DUSU office instead. We will put the pillar anywhere on the campus where the university grants us permission," Singh said.

The North Delhi Municipal Corporation, meanwhile, said the matter does not come under their jurisdiction.

"Our officers checked the site to determine the status of the land. It is not under our jurisdiction, since it falls within the university gardens," said North civic body commissioner Varsha Joshi.

As water rises, family of 4 finds safety atop a tree

EXPRESSNEWSERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

A COUPLE and their two children, living at Zero Pushta Road in Shastrri Park were forced to spend Tuesday night taking refuge from the flood atop a tree, after they failed to evacuate their house on time, police said.

Rickshaw puller Mohd Jahangir (32) his wife Noor Jahan (30) and their children were rescued by an NDRF team after police received a call at 10.50 am.

Jahangir told police that he came back home late on Tuesday night. His wife had collected all



Over 16,000 people have been evacuated so far. *Amit Mehra*

the household goods in order to leave the place but was waiting for him. "By the time he got back, it was too late to leave. The water level was increasing and finding

no other way out, they took refuge on a nearby tree. He called police in the morning and the police and NDRF rescued him and his family," a senior officer

said. Water level in the Yamuna, which has been rising since the last three days, dipped a little Wednesday, but remained well above the danger level, said officials. At 5 pm, water level was recorded at 206.5 metres, down from 206.6 metres at 2 pm. The danger mark is 205.33 metres.

Delhi government officials said the situation may improve Thursday as the quantum of water being discharged at the Hathni Kund Barrage by Haryana

is low. Over 16,000 people living on the floodplains and low-lying areas have been evacuated so far. As per an official estimate, over 23,000 people reside in areas that have been flooded.

CM Arvind Kejriwal inspected a relief camp at Usmanpur Wednesday. "We have made arrangements for tents, food, water, medicines for all. If there's any other requirement, we will immediately ensure it is arranged," he tweeted after the visit.

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-Arvind Kejriwal
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DEPT GETS NOD TO FILL VACANCIES ON ITS OWN Heartburn over order for Lok Nayak doctors

ASTHA SAXENA NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

A RECENT order by Delhi government's department of health to Lok Nayak hospital has left the administration and teaching staff flummoxed.



Current order is for neurosurgery department

doctors in the hospital—specialists and teaching doctors. The hospital's senior faculty members, who teach at Maulana Azad Medical College, are employed under the Central Health Services (CHS) cadre, while non-teaching specialists, responsible for clinical care of patients, report to the medical director of the hospital.

Senior specialist doctors and teaching doctors working in Lok Nayak hospital will work independently in the hospital, said the order dated August 20, marked to the Health Minister as well.

But doctors working in the hospital have raised questions

over the decision to allow a certain section of the hospital to work autonomously. "The directives seem to create anarchy in a government institution. How can a group of doctors work on their own? The role of a medical director is to coordinate with the departments and other staff of the hospital. If the government wants to give autonomy to one section, other doctors will also demand the same," said a senior doctor from the hospital.

Another senior doctor said the decision will create "chaos" in the hospital, and may hamper overall functioning. "Why would a senior faculty member under CHS cadre report to a Delhi government officer? Such decisions should have been taken in consultation with the L-G of Delhi," said a doctor.

The medical director of the hospital Dr Kishore Singh told The Indian Express: "The order seems to be for the neurosurgery department. But singling out a department from the hospital might affect teamwork. We will try to manage it to the best of our effort."

Forest dept probes claim of damage to trees with QR tags

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

THE DELHI forest department is investigating possible damage to trees caused by the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), after it fixed QR code tags to around 100 trees in Lodhi Gardens earlier this year.

A notice was issued to the civic body under the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994, and an inquiry is underway. If a violation is found, the NDMC would have to pay a fine of Rs 10,000 for causing damage to trees under the Act.

A Delhi forest department official said, "Attaching a chip to a tree in itself is not against the law, but if the tree is damaged in the process, there is an issue."

Verhaen Khanna, founder of non-profit New Delhi Nature Society, said he complained about the issue to the forest department in January.

He also expressed concern over the municipal body's plan to further fix QR tags to 4,000 trees in its jurisdiction over the next six months, claiming it is in violation of a National Green



100 trees in Lodhi Gardens were tagged earlier this year

Tribunal (NGT) directive.

"NDMC should be penalised for damaging the trees. The process has a lot of issues. The tree can dry up or get infected. If a band is put around the tree, its growth is impacted," Khanna claimed.

NDMC planned the initiative as an educational exercise to inform people about the age, species, medicinal values and other details of the trees. It also plans to use bands and hooks to fix the QR codes.

SChellaiah, director of horticulture at NDMC, said, "Our intention is right. Everybody wants us to give information about the trees..."

President can't exercise control based on half-baked communication: Law Secy

SOURAV ROY BARMAN NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

THE DELHI Law Secretary has conveyed to the elected government that the President of India cannot "exercise control" over the national capital based on "half-baked communication".

Law Secretary Sanjay Kumar Aggarwal took this position while emphasising that the elected government is expected to apprise the Lt Governor of decisions before they are implemented, in keeping with Article 239-AA(4).

"How could the President be expected to exercise his constitutional powers if the file containing all the relevant information, on the basis of which the council of ministers took a particular decision, is not even placed before the L-G to form his views?"

"The President, who is empowered to govern Delhi, would be devoid of actual information in case the L-G is unable to gather information in entirety from information sent to him after implementation of decision of council of ministers," Aggarwal wrote.



The June 20 note was marked to L-G Anil Bajjal

The note was sent to Lt Governor Anil Bajjal, Law Minister Kailash Gahlot and Chief Secretary Vijay Kumar Dev on June 20. It has allegedly "stalled" a number of policies, including a welfare scheme for advocates in Delhi for which Rs 50 crore was allocated in the annual Budget, a senior lawyer said.

Article 239-AA(4) stipulates that in case of differences of opinion between the L-G and the council of ministers on any matter, the former "shall refer to the President for decision and act according to the decision given

thereon by the President".

Under the Constitutional arrangements, the President is expected to administer Delhi through elected representatives for the business being assigned to the legislative assembly or through Lt Governor for business exclusively in his domain, namely police, public order and land.

On August 19, Bar Council of Delhi Chairman K C Mittal wrote to the Delhi HC Chief Justice raising the issue of stalled welfare funds meant for advocates. "We had pursued the matter with the L-G and other higher authorities, but that has also failed to cut the ice. This has led to great anguish and anger amongst members of the bar, who are quite agitated..."

In his note, Aggarwal stated that the SC Constitutional bench judgment of July 2018 does not mean that the elected government can inform the L-G of decisions after implementing them. His response came on the issue of appointing Additional Solicitor General Sanjay Jain as the chairperson of Advocates Welfare Fund Trustee Committee of Delhi without sending the file to the L-G first.

Hindu outfits write to Haryana CM over inter-faith couple

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE GURGAON, AUGUST 21

THREE DAYS after tension gripped Nuh's Ferozpur Jhirka following an inter-faith marriage between an 18-year-old woman and a 28-year-old man, the Sanyukt Hindu Sangharsh Samiti, an umbrella body of Hindu outfits in Gurgaon, Wednesday submitted a letter addressed to the Chief Minister, to the Deputy Commissioner of Gurgaon, calling for the return of the teenager to her family.

In the letter, the Samiti also demanded the "arrest of the accused": "We hope that you will take necessary action by... August 22... If justice is not done, Sanyukt Hindu Sangharsh Samiti will have... to carry out demonstrations at the state level and the responsibility for this will be on the administration."

Rajeev Mittal, national general secretary of the Akhil Bharatiya Hindu Kranti Dal, said: "In the first phase, on August 23, there will be a protest at the Deputy Commissioner's office and, if needed, markets will be closed and the highway blocked. If the matter is not resolved by August 27, we will also look to acquaint the CM about the situation..."

On August 14, the woman, whose father owns a shop, went missing after college. Her family registered a complaint, but it was only on August 19 that they discovered their daughter had eloped with the tailor, who is from another community.

With the area on edge, locals sat on a protest and shops remained closed for the third consecutive day Wednesday. An official from the district administration said: "The aim is to bridge the communication gap and prevent spread of rumours..."

The whereabouts of the couple are unknown. Since Tuesday, a purported video of the woman has been circulating on social media, where she confirms the couple had a court marriage on August 17.

"My family had come to court in Chandigarh and we were married in front of them. They... said they would kill me if I got married to him, but I love him a lot," the woman purportedly said in the video.

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ICMR NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NUTRITION Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION Application are invited from the eligible candidate in the prescribed format for filling up of the following Posts under Direct Recruitment at ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, Telangana, on or before 25-09-2019 upto 5:00 P.M., as detailed below:



MANOHAR SARKAR
VIKAS APAAR



**Women
Police Station
in Haryana**

33



**Women
Helpline
1091**

Durga Shakti App



Women Security - Haryana's Priority

Durga Shakti App and Durga Shakti Vahini Service started for ensuring safety of women

Durga Shakti Rapid Action Force constituted for school, college going girl students and other women

Capital Punishment under Criminal Law Bill-2018 for rape of girls up to the age of 12 years

'Sakhi' One Stop Centre established in Karnal, Rewari, Faridabad, Gurugram, Bhiwani, Hisar and Narnaul





DELHI CONFIDENTIAL

MAKING A POINT

FORMER UNION minister P Chidambaram's dramatic press conference at the Congress headquarters on Wednesday evening was carefully planned by the Congress leadership. Chidambaram himself was keen to appear before the media to dispel the perception that he was absconding. The party's top leadership also felt that his disappearance was sending a wrong political message. So a little after 6 pm, top Congress leaders and legal minds of the party met at senior leader Ahmed Patel's residence to review the situation. It was decided that Chidambaram should appear before the media and then let himself be arrested, rather than be seen as running away from law.

NOT READY, MY LORD

RIGOROUS LEGAL arguments gave way to hearty laughter in the Supreme Court on Wednesday as the lawyer appearing for Hindu Mahasabha president, when called to argue, 'confessed' to the Constitution bench that he had not come ready with all the documents since he was not expecting his turn to come today. The bench had called upon the Mahasabha's counsel to argue after cutting short the lawyer who appeared immediately before him for Ram Janmabhoomi Punarudhar Samiti and asked him to come better prepared.

ON FAST LANE

NITIN GADKARI'S Road Transport Ministry has written to state governments and asked them to provide space for banks to open counters at Regional Transport Offices to sell Fastags, the RFID sticker for contact-less digital payment of toll on highways. After nudging people to get these tags installed in cars for the last few years, the proliferation of Fastags has now assumed urgency, as the government has decided that all lanes in toll plazas will be designated as Fastag lanes starting December 1. Moreover, the ministry had earlier made it mandatory for commercial vehicles such as trucks to get Fastags to obtain national permits from October 1 this year.

MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

In Delhi HC, Vadra denies ED charge of suppressing facts

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

SEEKING THE quashing of a money laundering case against him, Congress president Sonia Gandhi's son-in-law Robert Vadra on Wednesday opposed the ED's contention before Delhi High Court that he has deliberately suppressed material facts which were within his knowledge.

Senior advocate K T S Tulsi, representing Vadra, contended before Justice Manmohan and Justice Sangita Dhingra Sehgal that his client has disclosed all facts which were in his knowledge. "There is no suppression of facts on my (Vadra) part," Tulsi said, adding that "they (ED) do not give the copy of ECIR (enforcement case information report) and then they say I (Vadra) have suppressed facts. They provided me the ECIR copy only after court's order".

The advocate made his submission while referring to the ED's affidavit by which they have opposed Vadra's plea to quash



Robert Vadra

the case on the ground that if any relief is given to him, it would "inure" the benefit to absconding co-accused Sanjay Bhandari. The senior counsel, however, sought some time to file the rejoinder to ED's affidavit. The court listed the matter for further hearing on November 18.

The agency, in their affidavit filed through their counsel Amit Mahajan, has said Vadra's petition deserves to be dismissed as he has not made any reference to the investigation going on here which was under jurisdiction of Delhi High Court and he has mainly referred to the probe in a Rajasthan land case which was not the subject matter of this ECIR.

ON CARDS: CELL TO LOOK INTO HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Defence Ministry approves reorganisation of Army HQ

KRISHN KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

IN A significant move, the Defence Ministry headed by Rajnath Singh has announced that a cell to look into allegations of human rights violations will come up at the Army headquarters.

A vigilance cell will also be constituted at the headquarters and it will report to the Army Chief. The vigilance cell will have representatives from the Navy and Air Force too.

The moves are part of the reorganisation of the Army Headquarters approved by the Defence Ministry on Wednesday.

The vigilance cell will bring in more transparency, sources in the Army said. It will be headed by a senior ranking officer and the two other services — Navy



Vigilance cell will bring in transparency, sources in the Army said. It will be headed by a senior ranking officer and Navy and Air Force will have its representatives in the cell

and the Air Force — will have its representatives in the cell. These

representatives will have the rank equivalent to that of a colonel in the Army.

Army spokesperson Colonel Aman Anand said the moves are being made on the basis of "one of the four studies initially conducted as part of the major reforms of the Indian Army" and that it would "make for a more efficient set-up and also cut out the overlaps and the flab, and remove duplication".

The study started in early 2018 and a report was submitted in January this year.

Also, an umbrella organisation under the Vice Chief of the Army will be looking into human rights issues.

"To give high priority to observance of human rights convention and values, it has been decided to set up a special Human Rights Section" which will be headed by an officer of Major General rank, a statement

issued by the Defence Ministry said. The unit will be "the nodal point to examine" any reports of human rights violations, the statement said and added that "to enhance transparency and ensure the best of investigative expertise is available to the section", an SSP or an SP-rank police officer will be on deputation.

To make the Army headquarters leaner and more efficient, it has also been decided to relocate 206 officers from the headquarters to formation and units across the country.

The reform initiatives were finalised by top commanders of the Army in October last year to usher in transformative reforms in the force.

The reforms will also include restructuring the Army's officer cadre, bringing down age of key commands, arresting rising revenue expenditure and "right-sizing" the force.

Court refuses to cancel NBW against Ratul Puri

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

A DELHI court on Wednesday refused to cancel a non-bailable warrant (NBW) against Ratul Puri, the nephew of Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath, in a money laundering case related to the AgustaWestland chopper scam. This comes a day after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested Puri in a fresh case of money laundering linked to an alleged Rs 354-crore bank loan fraud.

On Tuesday, the High Court rejected Puri's anticipatory bail plea in the AgustaWestland case, saying his "custodial interrogation" was necessary. Later in the day, Puri was sent to ED custody for six days by a special court in Delhi.

On Wednesday, special judge Arvind Kumar dismissed Puri's application for cancellation of the NBW, saying there was no ground to grant the relief.

Puri had approached the court, saying there was no need for the NBW as he was willing to cooperate in the probe.

"I do not find any ground for cancellation of NBW issued against accused Ratul Puri. The application filed by accused Ratul Puri for cancellation of NBW issued against him is dismissed," the judge said.

The court took note of the fact that Puri had not joined the probe on different dates despite repeated notices of the ED. "Accused had left the ED office on July 26 without signing his statement. He has made himself unavailable and his whereabouts could not be ascertained," the court observed.

The counsel for Puri told the court that his client has joined the investigation and his statement under Section 50 of PMLA Act was recorded, and that Puri sent two e-mails to the investigating officer that he was available to join the investigation.



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Governor Anandiben Patel with the newly inducted ministers in Lucknow on Wednesday. Vishal Srivastava

In first rejig of UP Cabinet, Yogi inducts 18 ministers

MAULSHREE SETH
LUCKNOW, AUGUST 21

IN THE first Cabinet reshuffle of the Yogi Adityanath-led government in Uttar Pradesh, 23 ministers took oath of office on Wednesday, including 18 fresh faces, with some ministers getting promotions, too.

The Cabinet expansion that took place two-and-a-half years of the formation of BJP government in the state, saw the BJP strike a regional as well as caste balance. This was done by including not just Brahmin, Kshatriya and Vaish leaders and also ensuring representation from the Dalit community and the Gujjar, Jat, Patel, Lodh as well as Mallah communities. The reshuffle also included two women ministers as Cabinet minister and Minister of State.

However, there is no representation of ally Apna Dal in the reshuffle, which is said to wield considerable influence among the Patel community in eastern Uttar Pradesh and despite long-pending demand for the same.

Sources in the party said its senior leadership was not happy with the bargaining tactics adopted by the ally before the Lok Sabha polls

by meeting senior leadership of Congress. Instead of giving representation to its ally, the party chose its own leaders such as Anil Rajbhar to represent Rajbhar community and Ram Shankar Singh Patel from Mirzapur as reward to Patel community. Apna Dal leader and former union minister Anupriya Patel is MP from Mirzapur.

In the reshuffle, apart from due significance being given to Varanasi from where two ministers were promoted and one MLA was inducted into the Cabinet, BJP MLA from Shamli Suresh Rana, who is an accused in the 2013 Muzaffarnagar riots, was promoted as Cabinet minister, whereas another Muzaffarnagar riot accused MLA from Muzaffarnagar, Kapil Dev Agarwal, was inducted into the Cabinet as Minister of State with independent charge.

The reshuffle included six new Cabinet ministers, six Ministers of State with independent charge as well as 11 Ministers of State.

While Yogi and Governor Anandiben Patel gave bouquets to the new ministers, chants of "Bharat Mata ki jai" were raised by some of the members, while chants of "Har har Mahadev" was

made by family members and supporters at Governor House during the oath-taking ceremony.

The six Cabinet ministers who took oath of office Wednesday include four ministers who were already serving as Ministers of State with independent charge and have been promoted as Cabinet Ministers.

These include Muzaffarnagar riot accused MLA from Thana Bhawan Assembly constituency in Shamli Suresh Rana, Mahendra Singh and Bhupendra Singh Chaudhary, both of whom are members of Legislative Council and MLA from Shivpuri Assembly constituency in Varanasi Anil Rajbhar. So far serving as Minister of State with independent charge, Rajbhar is seen as a replacement of former Cabinet Minister Om Prakash Rajbhar, who is chief of former ally of BJP Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party but had left the post after breaking ties before recent Lok Sabha elections.

The two new faces as Cabinet Ministers include Kamal Rani Varun, MLA from Ghatampur in Kanpur who belongs to the Dalit community.

Sources in the BJP said Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's choice prevailed in the selection of his team.

SEVERAL KARNATAKA BJP MLAS UPSET DAY AFTER CABINET EXPANSION

Excluded from BSY ministry, senior BJP MLAs ask why

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, AUGUST 21

A DAY after expansion of the B S Yediyurappa Cabinet in Karnataka, some dissidence seems to be brewing among a section of ruling BJP legislators who were expecting to be made ministers, with many of them expressing unhappiness over being left out even as the Chief Minister tried to assuage feelings of some.

Yediyurappa, who was running a one-man government since July 26, inducted 17 new members into his Cabinet on Tuesday — several ministers are seen as his loyalists.

On Wednesday, as many as six MLAs who failed to find a place in the ministry expressed disappointment in public. Overlooked in favour of Laxman Savadi, who lost the 2018 Assembly polls, eight-time MLA Umesh Katti from Belagavi region has emerged as a rallying

EXPLAINED In House, hopes to raise numbers

WITH 106 MLAs (including the Speaker) in the 224-member Karnataka Assembly, the BJP currently has a thin majority. The Congress, JD(S) and other opposition parties combined have 101 legislators, after disqualification of 17 Congress-JD(S) rebels for anti party activities last month. The BJP is hoping to increase its numbers by getting many of the disqualified MLAs reelected to the Assembly in the event of the Supreme Court delivering a verdict in favour of the ousted MLAs.

point for party legislators MLAs who are disappointed over their exclusion.

"I don't know how this (exclusion) happened," said Katti. The MLA and his brother, former MP Ramesh Katti, are considered to be dominant figures but are seen as having been sidelined by the party in recent times. But Katti claimed to be a loyal member of the BJP despite his disappointment.

Chief Minister Yediyurappa

on Wednesday said he had reached out to Katti, who had been linked to a possible move to the JD(S) for several months. "I spoke with him (Katti) for an hour yesterday. He is obviously pained at not featuring (in the Cabinet). I will work to resolve the issue," Yediyurappa said.

Former minister M P Renukacharya, who has been linked to rebellions against Yediyurappa in the past and did not find a place in Tuesday's

As workers protest, govt says no final decision on OFB yet

KRISHN KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

ON A day thousands of workers of ordnance factories went on a strike against "corporatisation" of Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), top government sources told The Indian Express that no decision has been taken on the matter yet and "whether to do it or not was being examined".

Sources in Defence Ministry said the matter "was to be examined under the 100-day agenda of the government", but no final decision has been taken. In fact, top sources said, "there is only a proposal" for a high-level committee to look into it.

Although the protests have been launched against "privatisation" of ordnance factories, the sources said there is no such proposal.

Top sources said there has been no decision on whether to keep the 41 ordnance factories under one organisation or under several divisions. Instead, the sources said, they are "looking at in principle decisions to corporatise".

The sources said they are proposing formation of a high-level panel that will study the whole issue and take a call.

Defence Ministry sources

said several issues have affected the OFB. One of them is that as a department of the ministry, the OFB has had several leadership changes in the last few years. Sources said that in the last four years, there have been six or seven chairpersons as the service officers at the post would retire. In fact, there has been a demand for a fixed two-year tenure for the chairperson, but that hasn't been agreed to yet, said sources.

Sources said that unlike Public Sector Enterprises "who have Memorandums of Understanding with the secretaries" of their respective ministries "within which they have full functional autonomy", OFB is still working as a department.

Though the ministry wants the OFB to export, it doesn't have the budget as the "Army won't give them the money to export" and as "a government department, they cannot raise funds from outside", the top sources said.

"The present structure does not allow it," a source stated and that this has "put natural constraints on the working" of the OFB.

The current strike, the ministry sources said, was not "worrisome" as the discussions with labour outfits were still on.

STRIKE BY ORDNANCE FACTORY WORKERS

RSS-linked outfit: Isn't vikas of defence workers part of Sabka Saath slogan?

SUSHANT KULKARNI
PUNE, AUGUST 21

AGAINST THE backdrop of the ongoing nationwide strike of ordnance factory workers, Mukesh Singh, general secretary of Bhartiya Pratiraksha Mazdoor Sangh (BPMS) — an arm of RSS affiliate Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh — questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday whether the "vikas" of civilian defence workers were not part of his "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas" slogan.

Over 80,000 workers from across the 41 ordnance factories in India went on a month-long strike from Tuesday against the proposed "corporatisation" of the Kolkata-headquartered Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), the umbrella body for these factories.

The Ministry of Defence is currently considering a proposal to convert OFB, a subordinate office of the ministry, into one or more than one government-owned corporate entities registered under the Companies Act, 2013.

Along with BPMS, two other all-India labour federations which have joined the strike are the All India Defence Employees' Federation (AIDEF) affiliated to the CPM's CITU and the Indian National Defence Workers'

Federation (INDWF) of the Congress's INTUC.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Singh said, "On this proposal of corporatisation, we want to ask Prime Minister Narendra Modi that when he gives the country a slogan of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas', doesn't the mean the 'Vikas' of over 80,000 defence civilian workers? Doesn't he want the 'saath' of these workers anymore?"

Asked about questions raised regarding BPMS's affiliation to the RSS, Singh said, "Why would that limit our right to raise a voice for the welfare of the labour? Our strike is against the policy being considered by the government. The strike the three key labour organisations have called has been successful throughout the country. Our discussions with the Ministry of Defence are currently on."

In a joint letter to Defence minister Rajnath Singh, general secretaries of the three organisations — CSrikumar of AIDEF, R Srinivasan of INDWF and Mukesh Singh of BPMS — had said, "Converting the Ordnance Factories into Corporation is not commercially viable because of fluctuations in orders, long gaps between orders, uneconomical order quantity and life cycle support required for 30-40 years after introduction of equipment..."

not given entry. I am a disciplined soldier of the party and have age on my side."

Haladi Srinivas Shetty, a five-time MLA from coastal Karnataka, said, "If people elected me five times, am I not worthy of being made a minister?"

Goolihatti Shekhar, BJP MLA from central Karnataka who was part of a rebellion against Yediyurappa in 2009 (then as an Independent MLA) also expressed dismay.

Among other legislators who are upset over losing out are C P Yogeshwar, who played a role in luring Congress-JD(S) MLAs to defect in order to topple the previous coalition government; Muruges Niranani, a close associate of Yediyurappa; S Angara, a party veteran from coastal Karnataka; Balachandra Jharkiholi, one of four brothers dominant in Belagavi region; Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, a former MP; and CM Udasi, a former minister under Yediyurappa during his 2008-11 tenure as CM.



NORTH

Man kills sister's fiancée in Meerut; arrested

Meerut: A 24-year-old man was shot dead by his fiancée's elder brother in Kurmal village on Wednesday, police said. The body of the victim, Rohit Singh, was spotted by local residents. "We lodged the initial report against unidentified assailants after handing over his body to the family members following the post-mortem... We have arrested Sanjeev (26), the elder brother of the girl with whom the deceased was engaged. He confessed and said his family members had been advising the couple to part ways but they did not pay heed," said Mool Chand Singh, in-charge of Babri police station. **ENS**



Sikhs offer prayers after International Bhajan Kirtan vans arrived from the Nankana Sahib in Pakistan, the birthplace of Guru Nanak Dev, in Lucknow on Wednesday. Vishal Srivastava

EAST

Man found hanging in police lockup in Bihar

Sasaram: A 45-year-old man was found dead on Wednesday in police custody in Bihar's Rohtas district, a senior official said. Shrikant Singh allegedly hanged himself from the ceiling of the lockup of Indrapuri police station, Additional SP Sanjay Kumar said. Singh was arrested on Tuesday in connection with the theft of a tractor, along with his son Abhishek, who was later let off as he was a minor, the police officer said. Meanwhile, Singh's wife Reena Devi suspected foul play and alleged he was tortured to death. "We will take necessary action if any complaint is registered by the family," the officer said. **PTI**

WEST

22 children, headmistress fall ill after mid-day meal

Pune: A total of 22 children of a school in the city and the headmistress were admitted to the hospital after they fell sick from eating khichdi served as part of the mid-day meal scheme. Dr Sanjay Lalwani, Medical Director of Bharati hospital said that they had immediately treated the children and one teacher. "Four children were admitted in the paediatric ward of our hospital, of which, one is in the ICU as the child suffered from dehydration," said Lalwani. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) team collected samples of the khichdi and issued orders to the vendor to stop business activity. It supplies mid-day meals to 9,600 students across 23 schools. **ENS**

SOUTH

Duo stabs taxi driver, steals car; one held, other at large

Coimbatore: Two people, hailing from Andaman and Nicobar, allegedly stabbed a taxi driver and took away his car in the early hours of Wednesday, police said. One of them was caught while the other was absconding, they said. The two had booked the car to go to Madurai. As the car reached Sular, about 20 km from here, one of them stabbed the driver Vasanthkumar, pushed him out of the vehicle, police said. Passersby took the injured driver to the hospital. Police intercepted the car near Tirupur. One of them escaped, while the other was taken into custody, police said. **PTI**

TWIST IN KOLKATA CAR CRASH CASE

Elder Arsalan scion held, cops say he was driving Jaguar

Both siblings admitted elder brother was at the wheel, say police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, AUGUST 21

IN A twist to the fatal accident allegedly involving the scion of Kolkata's renowned Arsalan chain of restaurants, the homicide department of Kolkata Police on Wednesday said that the man driving the Jaguar that triggered the crash that night was not Arsalan Parvez, who was earlier arrested in the case, but his elder brother Raghib.



Jaguar engineers inspected the vehicle on Tuesday. Express

"Arsalan Parvez's elder brother was driving the car at the time (late in the night of August 16). He has also confessed it during preliminary interrogation. He was arrested today (Wednesday afternoon) along with their maternal uncle (Mohammed Hamza)," Joint CP (Crime) Murlidhar Sharma said. Parvez, 22, is also learnt to have confessed that he was not at the wheel that night. Another officer with knowledge of developments said that after the accident, Raghib, 25, allegedly called his uncle, who helped him escape. "He took a flight to Dubai the same day (Sunday) when Arsalan visited the DC (South) office and was arrested."

turned to the city late Monday night. Late Friday night, the SUV, allegedly being driven at 100-120 km per hour, rammed into a Mercedes, which then crashed into a police kiosk on a pavement near Park Street, where three Bangladeshi nationals had taken shelter from the rain. Two of them died on the spot; the third is injured. The occupants of the Mercedes — Amit Kajoria and wife Kanika — who were also injured in the accident, are still in hospital. A senior officer said the open airbag in the Jaguar SUV after the

incident led them to probe the possible involvement of a person other than Parvez. "In 99 per cent cases, the person on whom the airbag opens receives injuries due to a thin layer of silicon (present in the airbag). We didn't find any such marks on Arsalan Parvez. We continued to probe the car's dashboard." "The police procured the car's infotainment data and found that the person who interacted with the vehicle before the accident was Raghib," the officer said. Armed with a picture of

Raghib, found from his social media accounts, the police scanned footage from 40-45 CCTV cameras around the accident site to trace the accused. CCTV cameras, according to the officer, had captured a man running towards Kala Mandir, and cameras placed near Bhagirati Neotia crossing captured Raghib's face clearly, he said. Parvez broke down after sustained interrogation and admitted that he wasn't in the car when the accident occurred, the officer said. The police are finding out why Arsalan didn't reveal the truth in the beginning. Sources said while Raghib is the prime accused, Parvez and their uncle will face action under IPC Section 201 for causing disappearance of evidence, or giving false information. "Raghib has confessed that he was at the wheel when the accident took place, and whatever he revealed matches our findings so far," an officer said. Sources also said CCTV footage scanned from the family's Beck Bagan residence showed Raghib leaving the house around 11.30 pm on Friday. The cameras did not capture any movement of Parvez. Both accused will be produced in court on Thursday.

Rajiv Gauba appointed next Cabinet Secretary

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

HOME SECRETARY Rajiv Gauba was appointed Cabinet Secretary for a two-year term on Wednesday.

Gauba has been appointed Officer on Special Duty in the Cabinet Secretariat till the time he takes over the top post, according to a decision of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, headed by Prime minister Narendra Modi. Gauba will replace P K Sinha whose three-month extension, after a four-year term, runs out this month. Gauba will take charge on August 30, said the order.



Rajiv Gauba

A 1982-batch IAS officer from the Jharkhand cadre, Gauba was Urban Development Secretary before assuming the Home Secretary post for two years. In other major changes, 1985-batch IAS officer Ajay Kumar has been appointed Defence Secretary. He is currently Secretary, Defence Production. Himachal Pradesh cadre IAS officer from 1985 batch Brij Kumar Agarwal was appointed Secretary to the Lokpal. 1986 batch Subhash Chandra from Karnataka cadre was made Secretary, Defence production.

BREWING IN BENGAL

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee prepares tea at a stall in Digha, West Bengal on Wednesday. She was on her way back from a meeting in East Medinipur district where she came down heavily on the state police, saying several officers had been using civic volunteers to harass people and file cases in the name of a traffic initiative, 'Safe Drive Save Life'. Express

Mumbai auto driver claims assault, says told go to Pakistan; cops book 3 teens

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, AUGUST 21

THREE TEENAGERS allegedly assaulted an auto driver in Mumbai on Monday after reportedly asking him to "go to Pakistan", police said on Wednesday.

him on a scooter. "They kept going back and forth around my auto. One of them said 'tum Pakistani idhar nahin rehneka Pakistan jao, Kashmir hamne le liya hain' and made several derogatory remarks. I kept riding my auto till they obstructed my path. They then beat me up," Qureshi said.

Personnel of the Vikhroli police station reached the spot and escorted Qureshi to the station and registered an FIR against the three boys. An official familiar with the matter, however, said

the minors — aged around 17 — told the police that Qureshi had knocked down their bike, and so they beat him up. "One of the minors does have an injury mark near his eye. Hence, their version cannot be completely ruled out. We are awaiting the hospital reports," said the official. Sanjay Joshi, senior inspector at the Vikhroli police station, said, "The three were allowed to go as they were minors. Based on the sections that were applied against them, as per law, they do not have to be arrested."

Ram Janmabhoomi divinity not lost despite mosque over temple, SC told

No one thus can claim title over the site by adverse possession, Ramlalla's counsel tells court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

THE DIVINITY of Ram Janmabhoomi was not lost even though Babri Masjid was built over the temple which predated it, and thus no one could claim title over the site by adverse possession, the counsel for Ramlalla told the Supreme Court on Wednesday.



Senior advocate C S Vaidyanathan, appearing for the deity, told a five-Judge Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi that the legal position has been that the deity is immortal, and that even if an idol is broken or stolen, another image can be consecrated since divinity is not lost. He was replying to Justice S Abdul Nazeer, who had asked, "What happens to a Wakf property which is vested in God? Can it be alienated?"

Justice Chandrachud asked how he was stating that if there was a temple at the site, its title cannot pass. Vaidyanathan replied that "sanctity of a temple will remain even if it was destroyed". "The temple", he contended, "is invested with a character, or Res extra commercium (Roman law doctrine that refers to things beyond commerce, which cannot be brought or sold)". Justice Chandrachud then pointed out that the Calcutta High Court had in a decision said that alienation of property of a Hindu deity was all right if it was for the benefit of the deity. Vaidyanathan said that "property cannot be taken out of an idol if it amounts to extinction of the deity itself". Justice Bobde remarked in a lighter vein that he should be careful that this argument that property of deity cannot be alienated is not raised when courts have to deal with unauthorised places of worship on public roads, etc. Vaidyanathan replied that he was only referring to places "which are deemed to be 'punya sthala', which have divinity, such as a 'tirtha', which cannot be changed".

Vaidyanathan told the Bench, also comprising Justices S A Bobde, D Y Chandrachud and Ashok Bhushan that as per Mohammedan law recognised by courts in India, the Wakf property can be alienated. "Mohammedan law in India does not accept the inalienability of a mosque," he said. But that was not so in the case of a Hindu deity, whose property cannot be alienated, he added. The senior counsel said a Privy Council decision to this effect had been upheld by the Supreme Court. On the Ayodhya temple, Vaidyanathan said the Sunni Wakf Board was claiming title by adverse possession. "I am saying there was a temple there, and no one else can claim title," he sub-

mitted. Justice Chandrachud asked how he was stating that if there was a temple at the site, its title cannot pass. Vaidyanathan replied that "sanctity of a temple will remain even if it was destroyed". "The temple", he contended, "is invested with a character, or Res extra commercium (Roman law doctrine that refers to things beyond commerce, which cannot be brought or sold)". Justice Chandrachud then pointed out that the Calcutta High Court had in a decision said that alienation of property of a Hindu deity was all right if it was for the benefit of the deity. Vaidyanathan said that "property cannot be taken out of an idol if it amounts to extinction of the deity itself". Justice Bobde remarked in a lighter vein that he should be careful that this argument that property of deity cannot be alienated is not raised when courts have to deal with unauthorised places of worship on public roads, etc. Vaidyanathan replied that he was only referring to places "which are deemed to be 'punya sthala', which have divinity, such as a 'tirtha', which cannot be changed". "This place (Ram Janmabhoomi) is divine because of the birth of Ram. That can't be changed," he argued.

ENVIRONMENTAL THINK TANK STUDY

90 pc of lead batteries reach informal sector, triggering pollution

ESHA ROY
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

A STUDY by environmental think tank Toxic Links has found that 90 per cent of lead acid batteries (LABs) reach the informal recycling sector where they are recycled crudely and without any regulation, releasing toxins into the air, water and soil. The study — "Loaded Batteries: Mapping the toxic waste trail" — released on Tuesday was conducted across Rajasthan, Delhi, Jharkhand and Andhra Pradesh.

The findings show that the transportation of LABs to the informal recycling sector are in direct contravention of the Batteries Management and Handling Rules (2001) under which, either battery manufacturing companies should take the LABs for recycling, or they should be recycled by registered recycling units. LABs are usually transported to neighbouring areas such as Ghaziabad and Alwar from Delhi, where strict environmental regulations for hazardous industries are in place. Jharkhand and Rajasthan are badly affected with most LABs reaching small unmonitored 'bhattis'.

The study also found that the findings show that the transportation of LABs to the informal recycling sector are in direct contravention of the Batteries Management and Handling Rules (2001) under which, either battery manufacturing companies should take the LABs for recycling, or they should be recycled by registered recycling units. LABs are usually transported to neighbouring areas such as Ghaziabad and Alwar from Delhi, where strict environmental regulations for hazardous industries are in place. Jharkhand and Rajasthan are badly affected with most LABs reaching small unmonitored 'bhattis'.

"According to the Battery Rules which were set up in 2001, the target was that by 2003, 90 per cent of LABs were to be sent back to the manufacturer for recycling. But even after 18 years this has not been achieved which shows a failure of the regulatory authorities," said Priti Mahesh, one of the authors of the study. The study has found that of the 36 agencies (State Pollution Control Boards and PCCs), not even half have filed reports on the status of implementation of rules to the Central Pollution Control Board. Lead industries are globally

The study has found that of the 36 pollution control boards in the country, not even half have filed reports on the implementation status of rules to the Central Pollution Control Board considered one of the most hazardous industries and India has, over the years, phased out leaded petrol and lead based paint for this very reason. According to a study conducted by Pure Earth and Green Cross Switzerland, the battery recycling industry puts 1 million people at risk globally. The Indian lead acid battery market was valued at \$4.47 billion in 2016 and was expected to grow at a CAGR of 8.36 per cent in terms of value, to reach close to \$8 billion by 2022. "This rate of growth has been predicted on the basis of the expansion of the market of automobiles, telecommunication infrastructure, solar power projects and the ever-growing IT industry... According to Central Pollution Control Board, based on data received from State Pollution Control Boards, the amount of new batteries sold in 2016-17 was 198,250 tonnes (from 17 states)," says the report. The study points out two broad problems in the disposal of the LABs. The first is the lack of regulation by authorities such as the CPCB and the SPCBs. And the second is the nature of recycling in the informal sector, in which lead is melted on furnaces and the acid in the batteries is often dumped in nearby drains or fields — polluting water as well as soil.

NASA REPORT

Debris created by India's anti-satellite test still in space

AMITABH SINHA
PUNE, AUGUST 21

A MAJORITY of the debris created by India's anti-satellite test of March 27 seem to have disintegrated, though more than 40 pieces are still moving around in space, according to the latest assessment of space debris by NASA. A report in the Orbital Debris Quarterly News, published by NASA's Orbital Debris Program Office, states that of the 101 pieces of debris that were big enough to be tracked, 49 continued to remain in orbit as of July 15. It was possible that more pieces, smaller ones, created from that test are floating around but these were not being

tracked, it stated. India had shot down its 740-kg Microsat-R satellite on March 27 this year in a demonstration of its capability to destroy the space-based infrastructure of an enemy country. That anti-satellite test made India only the fourth country in the world to have demonstrated this capability. The Microsat-R satellite was launched on January 24 this year by the Defence Research and Development Organisation, the same agency that carried out the test. The destroyed satellite had disintegrated into several small and big pieces, and added to a large amount of debris in space, which is considered a threat to functional satellites and other space assets. At that time, India had said that since the test was carried out in the lower atmosphere, it did not expect to add any significant amount of space debris. "Whatever debris is generated will decay and fall back on to the earth within weeks," a

EXPLAINED India's claims not entirely off the mark

THIS IS the first credible estimation in public domain of the amount of debris created by India's anti-satellite test and what remains of it four months down the line. Indian agencies do not have any independent method to track debris. But the numbers now show that India's claim about the debris falling off quickly and disintegrating was not entirely off the mark. Large number of fragments created by a similar test by China in 2007 are still floating in space.

statement by Ministry of External Affairs had said. A few days later, an official DRDO source had told *The Indian Express* that the expectation was that all the pieces created by the test would re-enter the Earth's

atmosphere and burn up within a maximum of 45 days. The bigger pieces were expected to start decaying earlier. However, NASA administrator Jim Bridenstine had claimed that some of the pieces created by India's test actually posed a risk to the International Space Station — the world's only permanent facility in space. He had said that nearly 400 pieces of debris from that test had been identified, out of which 60 were being tracked. He had said 24 of them had ventured near the International Space Station. The latest assessment also states that nearly 400 pieces were created from India's test. "A total of 101 debris have entered the public satellite cat-

alogue, of which 49 fragments remain on-orbit as of July 15, 2019. However, over 400 fragments were initially tracked... and cataloging is complicated by the low altitude of the event and the concomitant rapid orbital decay," the report in the publication states. The publication stated that India had 97 functional, and non-functional but intact satellites in space as on June 30, and 157 pieces of trackable space debris, including fragments of rockets that become junk after delivering their payloads in their specified orbits. This was a very small proportion of the total of 19,404 large objects in space sent by all countries, of which 14,432 were debris and junk parts of used rockets.

5 dists, 26 schools, most closed: zero attendance

Attendance 2-3% in S Kashmir, 50% in some areas of N Kashmir: info director

ADIL AKHZER
SRINAGAR, AUGUST 21

TWO DAYS after primary schools reopened to empty classrooms in the Valley after days of being closed amid a communication lockdown in Jammu and Kashmir, the administration reopened middle schools on Wednesday, and the result was largely similar. While most institutions *The Indian Express* checked across five Kashmir districts remained closed, most teachers and nearly all students stayed away in the few that opened their gates.

The administration said attendance of students and teachers has improved in over the last two days.

The Indian Express went to 26 primary and middle schools — both government and private institutions — in Srinagar, Budgam, Baramulla, Bandipore and Ganderbal districts and found that no student attended classes. While some teachers reported for duty at a few schools, most of them stayed away.

In the evening media briefing, Director (Information) Syed Sehrish Asgar, accompanied by Director (Education) Mohammad Younis Malik and DIG (Central Kashmir) VK Birdi, said, "Student attendance was 2 to 3 per cent in south Kashmir and 50 per cent in some areas of north Kashmir."

A few among the handful of teachers who reported for duty maintained that the administration is putting their life in danger by opening schools amid tension in the region.

At New Era Public School in Srinagar's Rajbagh, for instance, while the school gate was open, no student turned up. School of-

ficials said eight staff members reported for duty. At Delhi Public School, Budgam, the gate was bolted from inside, and the security guard said no teacher or student turned up.

The Indian Express found the school gate open — or bolted from inside in a few instances — but no student or teacher present at New Convent School, Gogji Bagh, Srinagar; J-K Public School Humhama, Srinagar; Government High School, Government Boys High School and Girls High School (all housed on same premises); Government Primary School, Reshipora, Budgam; Government Middle School, Sebdan, Budgam; Pioneer School, Pattan, Baramulla; International Islamic School, Rawalpora, Srinagar.

Other schools *The Indian Express* visited and found locked from outside are Prime Public School, Barzulla, Srinagar; Government Primary School, Sheikhpura, Budgam; Government Primary School, Karpura, Budgam; Kashmir Public Vidyalaya, Mirgund, Baramulla; Government Girls Middle School, Hanjiveera, Baramulla; Government Primary School Singhpora, Baramulla; Primary Middle School, Ahan, Ganderbal; Government Middle School Barsoo, Ganderbal; Girls Middle School Repora, Ganderbal; Government Middle School Lar, Ganderbal; Royal Public School, Badampora, Ganderbal; Qureshia Model High School Zaznar, Ganderbal; Boys Middle School Shadipora Payeen, Bandipore; Primary School Wagnipora, Sumbal, Bandipore, and Kindergarten School, Wagnipora, Sumbal, Bandipore.

Lawyers write to Madras HC CJ on 'communal' remarks by judge

Don't post cases on minorities, women before Justice Vaidyanathan, CJ urged

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, AUGUST 21

A DAY after Justice S Vaidyanathan of Madras High Court agreed to withdraw part of his controversial remarks about Christian institutions and "conversion" they ostensibly undertake, as also purported misuse of laws such as anti-dowry law by women, a group of senior lawyers wrote to High Court Chief Justice Vijaya K Tahilramani and demanded that no litigation related to Christian institutions and women should be posted before Justice Vaidyanathan's bench.

The representation was signed by 64 senior lawyers, including R Vaigai, Anna Mathew, Sudha Ramalingam, K Prema, B Anitha,

and Akila R S. They maintained that his conduct is "unbecoming of a judge who has sworn to uphold the Constitution and laws".

On August 16, while hearing an internal sexual harassment committee's proceedings against a faculty member of Madras Christian College, Justice Vaidyanathan had said in his order that "there is a general feeling amongst parents, especially (of) female students, that co-educational study in Christian institutions is highly unsafe for future of their children."

Justice Vaidyanathan said that although Christian institutions "impart good education", there are "several accusations against them (Christian missionaries) for indulging in compulsory conversion of people of other religions".

On Tuesday, the judge agreed

to withdraw a paragraph referring to Christian institutions. He did not withdraw other controversial portions in the same order.

Dealing with the sexual harassment case, Justice Vaidyanathan had written in the order that it may be time for the government to think of suitable amendment in laws to "prevent misuse" of laws meant to safeguard women in the "interest of the innocent masculinity". He cited instances of misuse of the anti-dowry law, as he observed, "women will find it hard to resist the temptation to 'teach a lesson' to male members and will file frivolous and false cases".

Stating that Justice Vaidyanathan's observations in the court order amount to "transgression of judicial discipline," the representation before

Chief Justice Tahilramani cited another "unfortunate" instance from the judge when he imposed dress code for all temples in Tamil Nadu, even though the case before him was only about permission to conduct a cultural programme in a temple.

Noting that Justice Vaidyanathan often expresses his opinions and issues directions on matters that were not subject of adjudication, the lawyers noted that his observations amount to "abuse of office", "propagation of communal hatred", "gender bias", and "judicial bias".

Quoting some of the controversial remarks, the petition stated that Justice Vaidyanathan reveals that he believes most women misuse laws intended to protect them and it is time to amend them to protect men.

Water from Pak has doubled, border villages flooded: Ferozepur DC

RAAKHI JAGGA
LUDHIANA, AUGUST 21

TWO DAYS after Pakistan alleged that India had released 2 lakh cusecs of water into Sutlej without any intimation from Harike Head Works in Punjab's Ferozepur district, causing a flood-like situation in various areas of the neighbouring country, the Ferozepur DC has denied the charge. The DC also said that the amount of water coming from Pakistan had doubled and this was flooding border villages in India.

Ferozepur DC Chander Gaiand told *The Indian Express*, "We are not releasing any water towards Pakistan. In fact, it is a natural course of the river that water first goes towards Pakistan via Harike Head Works and then comes back to India. However, Pakistan has created trouble for villages of Punjab by opening six gates of Kasur district (in Pakistan). Hence, polluted water from tanneries in Pakistan mixed with the river water coming to India. So, double the water is coming to India and this is polluted and foul-smelling water. This has affected 17 villages

in border areas of Ferozepur."

Officials from the canal department revealed that out of the 2.5 lakh cusecs of water released from Ropar Head Works, only 1.6 lakh cusecs reached Harike Head Works. "When only 1.6 lakh cusecs water reaches Harike Head Works, how can India release 2 lakh cusecs water to Pakistan? Out of this 1.6 lakh cusecs, water first goes towards Hussainiwala, scatters within Ferozepur, and a part of it goes towards Pakistan through a creek and comes back as well because of the natural course of the river," said a canal department employee.

Ferozepur MLA Parminder Pinki said, "Villages like Gatti Rajoke, Gatta Badshah, Gatti Harike and, in fact, the entire Gatti area has been affected. We rescued many villagers using Army boats. This area is low-lying and when excess water is released, it leads to flooding."

The Ferozepur DC said, "We had made advance arrangements. Army, BSF and NDRF personnel are rescuing people. Till Wednesday, nearly 368 villagers have been rescued by NDRF men."



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar arrives in Kathmandu on Wednesday. AP

Jaishankar calls on Nepal PM, takes part in bilateral meet

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE
KATHMANDU, AUGUST 21

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday called on Nepal's Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli in Kathmandu ahead of the fifth joint commission meeting between the two countries.

Following the meeting, Jaishankar tweeted, "A warm and in-depth conversation with PM @kpsharmaoli. Really appreciate his receiving me amidst his many preoccupations."

Jaishankar and his Nepal

counterpart, Pradeep Gyawali, subsequently saw the handing over of a cheque of approximately Rs 153 crore towards reimbursement to the Nepal government for housing reconstruction in Nuwakot and Gorkha districts that were badly hit by the April 2015 earthquake. The Indian side handed over another cheque as part of strengthening road infrastructures in the Terai region.

Jaishankar, who flew in from Dhaka after a two-day visit to Bangladesh on Wednesday morning, will call on Nepal's President

Bidya Bhandari on Thursday. Meanwhile, the Nepal-India joint commission meeting started in Kathmandu on Wednesday afternoon, with Jaishankar co-chairing the meeting with Gyawali, PTI reported.

"Both leaders will take stock of the entire gamut of India-Nepal bilateral relationship," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar tweeted.

The joint meeting will review the overall state of bilateral relations, and various areas of cooperation.

WITHPTIINPUTS

NSA Ajit Doval meets Russian counterpart

New Delhi: In the backdrop of renewed focus on Kashmir issue, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval visited Moscow on Thursday and held talks with his Russian counterpart Nikolai Patrushev during which both sides underlined support for principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference of third parties.

The reference of non-interference by third parties is seen as Russia strongly coming out in support of India's position on Jammu and Kashmir.

The talks between Doval and Patrushev also covered a range of key issues including ways to intensify counter-terror cooperation between the two countries and preparations for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Russian city of Vladivostok next month to attend the Eastern Economic Forum. PTI

Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts
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Vocal by Ustad Wasifuddin Dagar
Odissi by Ranjana Goswami & Ranjana's Dance Academy.
August 25 | 6 pm
Manipuri by Gani Singhali Singh
Classical Vocal by Sudha Raghuraman
Kathak by Shovana Narayan & Aazadi Repertory
Auditorium, C.V. Mess,
Janpath, New Delhi - 110001
All are cordially invited

SPO, militant killed in J&K

ADIL AKHZER
SRINAGAR, AUGUST 21

A SPECIAL Police Officer (SPO) of the Jammu and Kashmir Police and a militant were killed in an encounter following a cordon and search operation in Ganiehamam area of Baramulla district on Wednesday.

The SPO was identified as Bilal Ahmad. The identity of the militant is being ascertained, officials said.

The operation was launched in Baramulla on Tuesday evening, according to a government statement. "During the search operation, the hiding terrorists fired on the search party. Security forces retaliated," a police spokesperson said.

SPO Ahmad and sub-inspector Amardeep Parihar were injured. "SPO Bilal Ahmad succumbed to his injuries while SI Amardeep Parihar continues to receive treatment at the Army hospital," police said.

Police stop film screening at Hyderabad university

Hyderabad: Police stopped the screening of *Ram ke Naam* — a 1992 documentary by Anand Patwardhan — in a classroom at the University of Hyderabad on Tuesday evening after the college administration informed them of a possible law and order situation with some students protesting against the screening.

Students belonging to Left wing organisations like the All India Students Association (AISA) and Students Federation of India (SFI) wanted to screen the documentary in the sociology department and had been granted permission for the same. "We applied for permission and the administration did grant it but then called the police. They not only stopped the screening but also took away the laptop and other equipment used for the screening," a representative of AISA said.

UoH Registrar P Sardar Singh said they were forced to call the police as they apprehended the situation would go out of control when other students started protesting against the screening.

Gachibowli Police Station Inspector R Srinivas said they received a call from the university administration apprehending a law and order situation. He said the students who wanted to screen the movie also protested and wanted to lodge a complaint so they were called to the police station for their statements. "We did not detain or arrest anyone. The university felt that there could be a clash between the students so we intervened," Srinivas said.

The film captures the campaign by right-wing organisations to build a Ram temple in Ayodhya and the communal violence triggered by the same. It was released before the demolition of the Babri Masjid in December 1992. ENS

Government of India
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Department of Social Justice and Empowerment
VAYOSHRESHTHA SAMMAN (National Awards for Senior Citizens) 2019 - (extension of date for inviting nominations in selected categories)
The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has decided to once again open the window for inviting nominations in respect of the following categories:

Category No.	Category	Description/ Eligibility	Nature of Awards
INSTITUTIONAL CATEGORY			
1.	Best Institution for Research in the field of Ageing	For institutions with a record of outstanding work in research and dissemination of knowledge in the field of ageing.	(a) Citation; (b) Memento; (c) Cash award of five lakh Rupees.
3.	Best District Panchayat in providing services and facilities to Senior Citizens	To the district Panchayats, which have done outstanding work for senior citizens.	(a) Citation; (b) Memento; (c) Cash award of ten lakh Rupees.
6.	Best Private Sector Organisation in promoting the wellbeing and welfare of Senior Citizens	Corporate Houses, addressing the problems of elderly either by providing them gainful employment, or utilising their skills and experience to the benefit of the society or creating infrastructure in geriatric medical care or any other similar step for the benefit of senior citizens as a community. The activities taken for benefit of senior citizens should be away from the mainline business of the organization.	(a) Citation; (b) Memento;
7.	Best Public Sector Organisation in promoting the wellbeing and welfare of Senior Citizens	Public Sector Undertakings undertaking service to the community through activities under corporate social responsibility and also through programmes for retired employees.	(a) Citation; (b) Memento;
INDIVIDUAL CATEGORY			
13.	Courage & Bravery (one each for Male and Female)	To senior citizens who have displayed extra ordinary courage in the face of grave danger.	(a) Citation; (b) Memento; (c) Cash award of Rs. two lakh and fifty thousand

2. The last date for receiving nominations in respect of the above mentioned categories is 30.08.2019. The detailed information in this regard are available on the website of the Department: www.socialjustice.nic.in

(S.S. Kumar)
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India
davp 38101/11/0018/1920
Tel: 011-23388837

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF COMMISSIONER, CENTRAL GST DELHI ZONE

PUBLIC NOTICE
Attention: GST Taxpayers
GST Annual Return Mela
22.08.2019 to 31.08.2019

31st August, 2019 is the Last Date to file Annual Returns (GSTR-9, GSTR-9A & GSTR-9C) for 2017-18
Taxpayers can visit any of the CBIC GST Help Desks to seek guidance or for clarifying any doubts related to Annual Return Filing.

CBIC GST Help Desk	Jurisdiction	Name & Designation of the Nodal Officers	Contact No. & E-mail
CR Building, ITO, I.P. Estate, New Delhi-110002	CGST DELHI NORTH Headquarters	Ephrem Horo, AC	011-23370579 epherem.horo@gov.in
4/10, OPG House, Asaf Ali Road, New Delhi-110002	CGST DELHI NORTH Karol Bagh, Model Town and Kamla Nagar Divisions	Vivek Kumar, AC	011-23279042 vivekkumar.99@gov.in
17B IAEA Building, I.P. Estate, New Delhi-110002	CGST DELHI NORTH Badli, Bawana, Daryaganj, Jahangirpuri, Narela and Old Delhi Divisions	Kanika Dua, AC	011-23379106 kanika.dua@gov.in
CR Building, ITO, I.P. Estate, New Delhi-110002	CGST DELHI EAST Headquarters	Vikram Wannare, AC	011-23705991 vikram.wannare@gov.in
CORE 4 First floor Scope Minar Laxmi Nagar, New Delhi-110092	CGST DELHI EAST Laxmi Nagar & Shahdara Divisions	Arun Kumar, AC	011-22516101 arun.kumar62@gov.in
5 th Floor, Farm Bhawan 14-15, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019	CGST DELHI EAST Nehru Place, MCIE & South Extn. Divisions	Manish Mishra, AC	011-26224327 manishdeo.mishra@gov.in
164, FIE, 1st floor Patparganj Industrial Area, Delhi-110092	CGST DELHI EAST Mayur Vihar & Mandawli Divisions	Hriday Singh, AC	011-22146436 hriday.singh@gov.in
EIL Annexe, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi - 110066	CGST DELHI WEST Headquarters	Pradeep Kumar, AC	011-20865181 drpradeep.rohilla@gov.in
C-19, DDA Community Centre Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058	CGST DELHI WEST Uttam Nagar & Janakpuri Divisions	Rahul Kumar, AC	011-25505324 rahul.19@gov.in
4th Floor, Ambedkar Bhawan, Rohini, Sector-16, New Delhi-110085	CGST DELHI WEST Rohini, Pitampura, Mangolpuri and Mundaka Divisions	Jaya Kumari, AC	011-21700291 jaya.kumari@gov.in
CGO Complex, BSF Building, floor, Lodhi Road New Delhi-110003	CGST DELHI WEST Wazirpur and Kirti Nagar Division	M N Sharma, AC	011-24369495 mukeshnath.sharma@gov.in
EIL Annexe, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi - 110066	CGST DELHI SOUTH Headquarters & Vasant Kunj, Naraina, Palam, Dwarka & Hauz Khas Division	SS Chauhan, AC	011-40785800 s.chauhan@icegate.gov.in
2nd Floor, 14-15 Farm Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019	CGST DELHI SOUTH Connaught Place, Okhla, Malviya Nagar & Chhatarpur Divisions	Kuldeep Jakhar, AC	011-40738026 kuldeep.jakhar@gov.in

GST OUTREACH PROGRAMME DETAILS @cgstdelhizone 8447131215
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Andhra Pradesh Medical Services & Infrastructure Development Corporation APMSIDC, Plot No.9, Survey No.49, IT Park, Mangalagiri, Guntur District-522 503

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER INVITING NOTICE NO 150/ELECT-CR-400

Government of Odisha Department of Sports & Youth Services C-1, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751012

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, KALAHANDI RWS&S DIVISION, BHAWANIPATNA.

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NOTICE INVITING e- TENDERS

AB-PMJAY saved Rs 12,000 crore for beneficiaries since launch: Health Minister

दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि., कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल,

दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि., कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल,

दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि., कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल,

for beneficiary families since its launch, Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan said on Wednesday after chairing a review meeting of the programme.

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JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, MEDICAL EDUCATION & TRAINING, UTTAR PRADESH

BEFORE DEBT'S RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-III, DELHI

Harsh Vardhan calls for change in discriminatory laws against leprosy patients

eliminated leprosy. In March 2016, 551 of the 669 districts in the country had a prevalence of less than one per 100,000 population, which is defined by WHO as elimination.

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EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-Tender Notice

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY Open Tender Notice

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY Mechanical Branch OPEN TENDER

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY Mechanical Branch OPEN TENDER

No SC relief for judicial officer accused of sexual harassment

A SUSPENDED judicial officer, facing disciplinary proceedings on allegations of sexually harassing a woman court employee, failed to get relief on Wednesday from the Supreme Court which dismissed his plea seeking quashing of the inquiry initiated against him.

A bench comprising Justices Ashok Bhushan and Navin Sinha delivered the verdict on a plea by the officer, who was working as an Additional District Judge at a district court in Delhi, challenging the jurisdiction of the high court in initiating inquiry and placing him under suspension.

The apex court said there was "no error" in the July 13, 2016 decision of the full court of the Delhi High Court by which the judicial officer was suspended and inquiry proceeding initiated.

Freshers with shaved heads parade at Saifai medical varsity

DM says ragging, university authorities deny charge

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, AUGUST 21

A DAY after a video clip of a group of students with their heads tonsured went viral, a probe by the Etawah administration in Uttar Pradesh has found that the first-year students of Uttar Pradesh University of Medical Sciences at Saifai were paraded as part of a ragging exercise.

However, the authorities of the university have claimed that the allegation of ragging is false and that the students got their heads shaved on their own and for different reasons. The matter came to light with the emergence of a video that showed the students, in white coats and with bags on their backs, moving in a queue and saluting. The video, in which the heads of the students were tonsured, went viral on Tuesday. In the video, the students are seen passing a security guard. District Magistrate of Etawah, Jitendra Bahadur Singh, told *The Indian Express* on Wednesday, "The allegation of ragging has been found to be true in the preliminary inquiry and it has been found that the university authorities are hiding the incident. The report has been sent to the government." The preliminary inquiry was conducted by a committee comprising Sub-Divisional Magistrate Hem Singh and Circle Officer Massa Singh. "I had ordered an inquiry on the basis of media reports. The committee submitted its report



A video grab of the students on way to the university

this evening," said the DM. The university's registrar Suresh Chandra, however, said those seen in the video are first semester students of MBBS and they joined the college this month. Their hostels are some distance away from the hostels of senior students, he said. "The Vice-Chancellor had asked me to conduct an inquiry and submit a report at the earliest. As part of the preliminary inquiry, we spoke to all the freshers. They denied that their heads were shaved as part of ragging. There is no question of ragging on the campus because every hostel has a warden and a security guard. No student has lodged any kind of complaint with the warden," said the registrar. "I have directed the university's anti-ragging committee to conduct a detailed inquiry and submit a report at the earliest," said the registrar. The registrar also said that it had come to light during the preliminary inquiry that all students got their heads shaved at different times. "Some of them got their head shaved before joining the campus. Except for one, no other student got his head tonsured at Saifai," he said. There are nearly 1,200 students in the university, the registrar said. The university's associate professor Dr Nares Pal Singh, who is also a member of the anti-ragging committee, said, "Few students claimed that they got their heads shaved because of the summer heat and some cited hair loss. So far, no one has said he got his head shaved because of ragging." Circle Officer Massa Singh said, "During inquiry, no student admitted to getting his head shaved due to ragging. Since there is no complaint, no action could be taken. No student submitted a complaint during inquiry. We recorded statements of almost all freshers and found their heads shaved." SSP, Etawah, Santosh Kumar Mishra said they have not received any complaint from the university so far.

UTTARAKHAND

3 killed as chopper engaged in relief op crashes

LALMANI VERMA
DEHRADUN, AUGUST 21

THREE PEOPLE were killed when a helicopter engaged in rescue operations in cloudburst-hit areas of Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi district crashed at Moldi village in Arakot on Wednesday. The helicopter was owned by a private agency. The pilot, co-pilot and a villager have been killed in the mishap, the state government confirmed.



The crash site at Moldi, Uttarkashi, Wednesday. Virender Singh Negi

According to a statement by the state government, the helicopter crashed after colliding with a mountain while it was trying to avoid a wire. However, Uttarkashi

Sub-Divisional Magistrate Anurag Arya said the cause of accident will only be ascertained after a technical inquiry. "Nobody was

there when the incident took place. All three persons in the helicopter are dead. So it is not clear whether the helicopter crashed

due to collision with the mountain or due to contact with the wire. Prima facie it appears that the incident occurred because the helicopter came in contact with the wire. But the cause will be clear only after technical inquiry."

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat has announced an ex-gratia of Rs 15 lakh for the kin of each deceased. Owned by Heritage Aviation, the helicopter had carried relief material to flood-hit areas on Wednesday morning, officials said.

An official of Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority said the helicopter landed safely in Moldi around 11.30 am and it had to fly back to the base

camp in Arakot after dropping relief material and then to Dehradun. The crash took place around 12.20 pm when the helicopter was taking off. Teams of the NDRF and SDRF were sent to the spot. The three people onboard the chopper died on the spot. They have been identified as pilot Ranjeev Lal (54), a resident of Delhi, co-pilot Shailesh Kumar Singh (34) from Kolkata, and Rajpal Rana (30), a resident of Kharsali village in Uttarkashi district.

As many as 15 people were reportedly killed due to the cloudburst in Uttarkashi on Sunday. The state government had engaged four helicopters of civil aviation and Air Force for relief work.

ISRO performs 2nd lunar-bound orbit manoeuvre for Chandrayaan-2

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, AUGUST 21

CHANDRAYAAN-2, which entered a lunar orbit on Tuesday, moved into a lower orbit around the Moon on Wednesday. In an orbit-lowering manoeuvre that lasted for over 20 minutes on Wednesday, Chandrayaan-2 moved into an elliptical orbit that, at its nearest point from the Moon, was 118 km from the lunar surface, and 4,412 km at its farthest. When it had entered the lunar orbit on Tuesday, Chandrayaan-2 had placed itself in an orbit that was 114 km from the Moon at its nearest and 18,072 km at its farthest.

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said the spacecraft was functioning normally. Chandrayaan-2 is India's first attempt to land a spacecraft on the Moon. The lander and rover components of Chandrayaan-2, named Vikram and Pragyaan, respectively, are scheduled to make a soft landing in the early hours of September 7. But before that, Chandrayaan-2 composite module has to move much closer to the Moon, in a near-circular orbit of 100 km x 100 km. For this, it would have to carry out three more orbit-lowering manoeuvres.

80% paddy crop feared damaged in Goa due to heavy rain

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PANAJI, AUGUST 21

OVER 1,900 hectare of farm land has been affected due to water collected in Goan fields due to heavy rain. While the initial estimate of loss is around Rs 9 crore, the actual loss is yet to be calculated because in many areas, water levels finally receded early this week. Banana and Areca nut plantations have also been affected.

According to the weather department, the average monsoon rainfall for the state is 96 inches spread over three months. This time, it received 120 inches in just 10 days of August.

In a state which suffers from low paddy production due to fallow land, agriculturists say the situation is grim.

"This essentially means 80 per cent of paddy crop is damaged," said Madhav Kelkar, director of the state Agriculture Department.

The major loss has been suffered by farmers in the north with over 1,000 farmers hit from one taluka alone - Sattari. "In Pernem, the loss to banana plantation has been huge and it will

require a second cycle to do good to what is lost," said Kelkar. He said the compensations will soon be worked out and the state is also looking to ask for funds from the Centre.

Minister Chandrakant Kavlekar is now expected to forward the report to the state cabinet before Chief Minister Pramod Sawant seeks help from the Centre.

Agriculturist Dr Sachin Tendulkar says the damage to crops this year was massive compared to any other year. Tendulkar has lost over 80 per cent of his Areca nut produce. In south Goa, farmers continue to wait for water levels to decrease.

Bicholim and Pernem are the worst affected due to rainwater flooding and several other fields suffered due to the tidal functions with the sluice gates unable to handle the excess water.

"This means roughly 3000 kg of paddy from each hectare is lost. This is a major loss," said Kelkar. The other drawback is that the price of paddy sold in retail is expected to increase, feel farmers. Most of the produce in Goa comes from other states, with paddy mostly consumed by Goans themselves.

Telangana: Dalit sarpanch, husband assaulted at temple

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, AUGUST 21

A DALIT sarpanch and her husband were assaulted, allegedly by a group of upper caste villagers, when they tried to break coconuts at a temple during a festival.

The incident occurred in Tukuguda village of Ranga Reddy district in Telangana on August 18, but came to light on Wednesday after the couple lodged a police complaint and eight people were booked under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

Two of those booked were arrested and sent to judicial custody, said police.

Katthula Pavitra was elected sarpanch in the panchayat elections in January. As per tradition in Tukuguda, the sarpanch makes the first offering of fruits and coconuts to the deity during Bonalu, celebrated across Telangana.

On August 18, Pavitra and her husband reached the temple to

2 cops killed in Saran gunfight

PATNA: Two policemen were killed in a gunfight with criminals at Maraura in Bihar's Saran district on Tuesday evening.

Those killed have been identified as Inspector Mithilesh Kumar Sah and constable Farooq Ansari. The police team had gone to conduct raids at Awari village of Maraura after received a tip-off about some criminals hatching a plan.

As the police team was about to return, some criminals opened fire, killing inspector Sah and constable Ansari. A police driver who tried to make a call to alert seniors about the attack was also shot at. Police retaliated but the criminals managed to escape.

Sources said Sah was on the target of the Nat gang of Saran after he recently arrested several members of the gang.

DIG Vijay Kumar Verma said police teams are trying to identify the suspects. ENS

CANCELLATION /SHORT TERMINATION / DIVERSION / REGULATION / RESCHEDULING AND CHANGE OF STOPPAGE OF TRAINS DUE TO NON-INTERLOCKING WORK AT BALLABH GARH STATION

In order to further strengthen the infrastructure, Northern Railway will undertake the Non-Interlocking work at Ballabh Garh Station in connection with 4th line between Tughlakabad - Palwal Section. To execute this work, Northern Railway will take appropriate traffic blocks from 30.08.2019 to 11.09.2019. Consequently, The following trains will temporarily be affected on the dates shown against each:-

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS	
Train No. & Train Name	Date(s) of Cancellation (from originating station)
14211 Agra Cantt - New Delhi Agra Cantt Intercity Exp.	06, 07, 08.09.2019
14212 Agra Cantt - New Delhi Agra Cantt Intercity Exp.	05, 06, 07.09.2019
14317 Indore Jn. - Dehradun Express	07 & 08.09.2019
14318 Dehradun - Indore Jn. Express	06 & 07.09.2019
12191 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Jabalpur Superfast Express	03.05.06.07.08.09.2019
12192 Jabalpur - Hazrat Nizamuddin Superfast Express	02.04.05.06.07.09.19
12189 Jabalpur - Hazrat Nizamuddin Mahakoshal Express	02.04.05.06.07.09.19
12190 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Jabalpur Mahakoshal Express	03.05.06.07.08.09.2019
19023 Mumbai Central - Firozpur Cantt. Jn. Express	02.04.05.06.07.09.19
19024 Firozpur Cantt. Jn. - Mumbai Central Express	04.06.07.08 & 09.09.19
12059 Kota Jn. - Hazrat Nizamuddin Jan Shatabdi Express	03.05.06.07 & 08.09.19
12060 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Kota Jn. Jan Shatabdi Express	03.05.06.07 & 08.09.19
22457 Hazur Sahib Nanded - Amb Andaura Superfast Express	on 07.09.2019
22458 Amb Andaura Superfast Express - Hazur Sahib Nanded	on 05.09.2019
22125 Nagpur - Amritsar Jn. AC Superfast Express	on 07.09.2019
22126 Amritsar Jn. - Nagpur AC Express	on 09.09.2019
22941 Indore Jn. - Jammu Tawi Superfast Express	on 02.09.2019
22942 Indore Jn. - Jammu Tawi Superfast Express	on 04.09.2019
12617 Ernakulam Jn - Hazrat Nizamuddin M. Lakshadweep Exp.	01.03.04 & 06.09.2019
12618 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Ernakulam Jn M. Lakshadweep Exp.	04.06.07 & 09.09.2019
12647 Coimbatore Jn. - Hazrat Nizamuddin Kongu Express	on 01.09.19
12648 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Coimbatore Jn. Kongu Express	on 04.09.19
12421 Hazur Sahib Nanded - Amritsar Jn. Superfast Exp.	on 04.09.19
12422 Amritsar Jn. - Hazur Sahib Nanded Superfast Exp.	on 02.09.19
12629 Yasvantpur Jn. - Hazrat Nizamuddin Sampark Kranti Exp.	on 03.09.19
12630 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Yasvantpur Jn. Sampark Kranti Exp.	on 06.09.19
12907 Banda Terminus - Hazrat Nizamuddin Sampark Kranti Exp.	on 04.09.19
12908 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Banda Terminus Sampark Kranti Exp.	on 05.09.19
12807 Visakhapatnam - Hazrat Nizamuddin Samta Express	04 & 05.09.19
12808 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Visakhapatnam Samta Express	06 & 07.09.19
12449 Madgaon - Chandigarh Goa Sampark Kranti Express	on 04.09.19
12450 Chandigarh - Madgaon Goa Sampark Kranti Express	on 02.09.19
12643 Thiruvananthapuram Central - H. Nizamuddin Exp.	on 03.09.2019
12644 H. Nizamuddin - Thiruvananthapuram Central Exp.	on 06.09.2019
11449 Jabalpur - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Express	on 03.09.2019
11450 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra - Jabalpur Express	on 04.09.2019
12409 Raigarh - Hazrat Nizamuddin Gondwana Express	07 & 09.09.2019
12410 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Raigarh Gondwana Express	05 & 07.09.2019
12549 Durg Jn. - Jammu Tawi Superfast Express	on 03.09.2019
12550 Jammu Tawi - Durg Jn. Superfast Express	on 05.09.2019
12279/12280 Jhansi Jn. - New Delhi Jhansi Jn. Taj Express	on 08.09.2019
22415 Visakhapatnam - New Delhi Andhra Pradesh Express	on 06.09.2019
22416 New Delhi - Visakhapatnam Andhra Pradesh Express	on 08.09.2019
13007 Howrah Jn. - Shri Ganganagar Udyan Abha Toofan Exp.	on 04, 05.09.2019
13008 Shri Ganganagar - Howrah Jn. Udyan Abha Toofan Exp.	on 06, 07.09.2019
12485 Hazur Sahib Nanded - Shri Ganganagar Express	on 05.09.2019
12486 Shri Ganganagar - Hazur Sahib Nanded Express	on 03.09.2019
12687/22687 Madurai Jn. -Dehradun/Chandigarh Superfast Exp.	on 04.09.2019
12688/22688 Dehradun/Chandigarh/Madurai Jn Superfast Exp.	on 09.09.2019
12405 Bhusaval Jn. - Hazrat Nizamuddin Gondwana Express	on 08.09.2019
12406 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Bhusaval Jn. Gondwana Express	on 06.09.2019
22705 Tirupati - Jammu Tawi Humsafar Express	on 03.09.2019
22706 Jammu Tawi - Tirupati Humsafar Express	on 06.09.2019
12823 Durg - Hazrat Nizamuddin Sampark Kranti Exp.	on 05.09.2019
12824 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Durg Sampark Kranti Exp.	on 06.09.2019
22633 Thiruvananthapuram Central - Hazrat Nizamuddin S. Exp.	on 04.09.2019
22634 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Thiruvananthapuram Central S. Exp.	on 06.09.2019
12641 Kanniyakumari - Hazrat Nizamuddin Express	on 04.09.2019
12642 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Kanniyakumari Express	on 07.09.2019
11901/11902 Mathura Jn. - Kurukshetra Jn. - Mathura Jn. Exp.	on 06.09.2019
18215 Durg - Jammu Tawi Express	on 04.09.2019
18216 Jammu Tawi - Durg Express	on 06.09.2019
18507 Visakhapatnam - Amritsar Jn. Hirakud Express	05 & 06.09.2019
18508 Amritsar Jn. - Visakhapatnam Hirakud Express	08 & 11.09.2019
22209 Mumbai Central - New Delhi Duronto Express	on 06.09.2019
22210 New Delhi - Mumbai Central Duronto Express	on 07.09.2019
11077 Pune Jn. - Jammu Tawi Jhelum Express	on 06.09.2019
11078 Jammu Tawi - Pune Jn. Jhelum Express	on 08.09.2019
12917 Ahmedabad Jn. - Hazrat Nizamuddin Sampark Kranti Exp.	on 06.09.2019
12918 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Ahmedabad Jn. Sampark Kranti Exp.	on 07.09.2019
12247 Banda Terminus - Hazrat Nizamuddin YUVA Express	on 06.09.2019
12248 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Banda Terminus YUVA Express	on 07.09.2019
12269 Chennai Central - Hazrat Nizamuddin Duronto Express	on 06.09.2019
12270 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Chennai Central Duronto Express	on 07.09.2019
12121 Jabalpur - Hazrat Nizamuddin Sampark Kranti Exp.	on 06.09.2019
12122 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Jabalpur Sampark Kranti Exp.	on 07.09.2019
22181 Jabalpur - Hazrat Nizamuddin Superfast Express	on 05, 06.09.2019
22182 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Jabalpur Superfast Express	on 06, 07.09.2019
12627 Bengaluru - New Delhi Karnataka Express	on 05.09.2019
12628 New Delhi - Bengaluru Karnataka Express	on 07.09.2019
12963 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Udaipur City Mewar Express	on 06, 07.09.2019
12964 Udaipur City - Hazrat Nizamuddin - Mewar Express	on 05, 06.09.2019
64012 Shakurbasti - Palwal EMU	30.08, 02 to 08.09.2019
64013/64014 Palwal - Shakurbasti - Palwal EMU	30.08 & 02 to 08.09.2019
64052 Ghaziabad - Palwal EMU	30.08.2019
64015 Shakurbasti - Palwal - Shakurbasti EMU	30.08 & 02 to 08.09.2019
64017 Palwal - Shakurbasti EMU	30.08 & 02 to 08.09.2019
64493/64494 Palwal - Hazrat Nizamuddin - Palwal EMU	30.08 & 06 to 08.09.2019
64011 Palwal - Shakurbasti EMU	02.09.2019 to 08.09.2019
64051/64052 Palwal - Ghaziabad - Palwal EMU	02.09.2019 to 08.09.2019
64167/64168 Palwal - Tundia Jn. - Palwal EMU	02.09.2019 to 08.09.2019
64906 Ghaziabad - Palwal - Ghaziabad EMU	06.09.2019 to 08.09.2019
64053 Palwal - Ghaziabad EMU	06.09.2019 to 08.09.2019
64084 New Delhi - Ghaziabad EMU	02.09.2019 to 08.09.2019
64910 Shakurbasti - Mathura Jn. EMU	02.09.2019 to 08.09.2019
64080 New Delhi - Palwal EMU	02.09.2019 to 08.09.2019
64427 Ghaziabad - New Delhi EMU	02.09.2019 to 08.09.2019
64903/64904 Mathura Jn - Ghaziabad - Mathura Jn EMU	08.09.2019 to 08.09.2019
64908 Shakurbasti - Ballabgarh MEMU	02.09.2019 to 08.09.2019
64075/64076 New Delhi - Palwal - New Delhi EMU	02.09.2019 to 08.09.2019
64062 Delhi - Palwal EMU	06.09.2019 to 08.09.2019
64492 New Delhi - Palwal EMU	02.09.2019 to 07.09.2019
64074 New Delhi - Kosi Kalan EMU	02.09.2019 to 08.09.2019
64078/64077 New Delhi - Palwal - New Delhi EMU	02.09.2019 to 08.09.2019

Train No. & Train Name	Trains to Short Terminate/ Originate at/From Station	Train Partially Cancelled Between Stations	Date of Cancellation (from originating station)
64496 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Kosi Kalan MEMU	at Palwal	Palwal- Kosi Kalan	02 to 08.09.2019
64953 Agra Cantt. - Hazrat Nizamuddin MEMU	from Palwal	Palwal- Hazrat Nizamuddin	02 to 07.09.2019

DIVERSION OF TRAINS			Date (from originating station)
Train No. & Train Name	Diverted Route	Diverted Route	Date (from originating station)
12715 H. Sahib Nanded - Amritsar Jn. Sachkhand Exp.	Agra Cantt. - Mitawali - Khurja Jn. - Chhipyana Buzurg - New Delhi	02, 04, 05.09.2019	
12431 Thiruvananthapuram Central - H. Nizamuddin Rajdhani Exp.	Mathura Jn. - Alwar Jn. - Rewari - New Delhi - H. Nizamuddin	03.06.09.2019	
12432 H. Nizamuddin - Thiruvananthapuram Central, Express.	H. Nizamuddin - New Delhi - Rewari Jn. - Alwar Jn. - Mathura Jn.	08.09.2019	
18477 Puri - Haridwar Jn. Utkal Exp.	Agra Cantt. - Mitawali - Khurja Jn. - Meerut City - Tapri Jn.	01, 03, 04, 05, 06.09.2019	
18478 Haridwar Jn. - Puri Utikal Exp.	Meerut City - Khurja Jn. - Mitawali Agra Cantt.	06, 07, 08.09.2019	
22413 Madgaon Jn. - H. Nizamuddin Rajdhani Exp.	Mathura Jn. - Alwar Jn. - Rewari Jn. - New Delhi - H. Nizamuddin	02.09.2019	
22414 H. Nizamuddin - Madgaon Jn. Rajdhani Exp.	H. Nizamuddin - New Delhi - Rewari Jn. - Alwar Jn. - Mathura Jn.	06, 07.09.2019	
12926/22926 Amritsar Jn. - Mumbai Central, Paschim Express	New Delhi - Chhipyana Buzurg - Khurja Jn. - Mitawali - Agra Cantt.	06, 07.09.2019	
22685 Yasvantpur Jn. - Chandigarh Sampark Kranti Exp.	Agra Cantt. - Mitawali - Khurja Jn. - Chhipyana Buzurg - New Delhi	04.09.2019	
12903 Mumbai Central - Amritsar Jn. Golden Temple	Agra Cantt. - Mitawali - Khurja Jn. - Meerut City - Tapri Jn.	05.09.2019	
18237 Gevra Road - Amritsar Jn. Chattisgarh Exp.	Agra Cantt. - Mitawali - Khurja Jn. - Meerut City - Tapri Jn.	05.09.2019	
14624 Delhi Sarai Rohilla - Chhindwara Jn. Patalkot Exp.	Patel Nagar - Rewari Jn. - Alwar Jn. - Mathura Jn.	08.09.2019	
12442 New Delhi - Bilaspur Jn. Rajdhani Exp.	Chhipyana Buzurg - Khurja Jn. - Mitawali - Agra Cantt.	06.09.2019	
12952 New Delhi - Mumbai Central Rajdhani Exp.	Chhipyana Buzurg - Khurja Jn. - Mitawali - Agra Cantt.	07.09.2019	
12954 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Mumbai Central August Kranti Rajdhani Exp.	H. Nizamuddin - New Delhi - Rewari Jn. - Alwar Jn. - Mathura Jn.	07.09.2019	

REGULATION / RESCHEDULING OF TRAINS	
Train No. & Train Name	Regulation / Rescheduling Details
12625 Thiruvananthapuram Central - New Delhi Kerala Express	will be regulated by 65 Minutes on 01.09.2019 and 180 Minutes on 03 & 06.09.2019 and 300 Minutes on 04.09.2019.
12626 New Delhi - Thiruvananthapuram Central Kerala Express	will be regulated by 90 Minutes on 06.09.2019 and 180 Minutes on 07.09.2019 and 360 Minutes on 08.09.2019.
12485 H Sahib Nanded - Shri Ganganagar Express	will be regulated on 02.09.2019.
12707 Tirupati - Hazrat Nizamuddin A P Sampark Kranti Express	will be regulated by 30 Minutes on 04.09.2019
12724 New Delhi - Hyderabad Decan Telangana Express	will be regulated by 90 Minutes on 06.09.2019 and 60 Minutes on 07.09.2019
12816 New Delhi - Chennai Central Grand Trunk Express	will be rescheduled by 30 Minutes on 06.09.2019.
12920 Jammu Tawi - Indore Junction Malwa Express	will be regulated by 45 Minutes at Delhi Ambala Section on 06.09.2019
11077 Pune Jn. - Jammu Tawi Jhelum Express	will be regulated by 60 Minutes on 05.09.2019
11078 Jammu Tawi - Pune Jn. Jhelum Express	will be regulated by 120 Minutes on 05.09.2019 from Jammu Tawi.
22656 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Thiruvananthapuram Central Express	will be regulated by 180 Minutes on 06.09.2019 from Hazrat Nizamuddin
12137 Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus - Firozpur Cantt. Jn Punjab Express	will be regulate by 30 Minutes on 05.09.2019
12484 Amritsar Jn. - Kochuvaji Express	will be regulated by 30 Minutes at Delhi Ambala Section on 08.09.2019
12715 H Sahib Nanded - Amritsar Jn Sachkhand Express	will be regulated by 180 Minutes on 07.09.2019
12716 Amritsar Jn. - H Sahib Nanded - Sachkhand Express	will be regulated by 120 Minutes on 07 & 08.09.2019
12780 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Vasco Da Gama Goa Express	will be regulated by 420 Minutes on 09.09.2019
16032 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra - Chennai Central Andaman Express	will be regulated by 120 Minutes on 06.09.2019.
12952 New Delhi - Mumbai Central Rajdhani Express	will be regulated by 30 Minutes on 05.09.2019 from Hazrat Nizamuddin

For the convenience of passengers during the blocks, the trains that stop at Ballabgarh Railway Station are being stopped at Faridabad New Town Station as per following details:-

Train No. & Train Name	Dates
11057 Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus - Amritsar Jn.	31.08.19 to 06.09.19
12721 Hyderabad Decan - Hazrat Nizamuddin Express	31.08.19 to 06.09.19
12919 Dr Ambedkar Nagar - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Malwa Exp.	01.09.19 to 07.0



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY
RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

BJP's caste play

Caste politics is being reinvigorated by actors who traditionally opposed it



CHRISTOPHE JAFFRELOT AND HAIDER ABBAS RIZVI

ONLY DUE PROCESS

Case against P Chidambaram must proceed strictly according to the law, and must be seen to do so too

BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT could rule on the plea of former Union minister and Congress leader P Chidambaram against Delhi High Court's denial of anticipatory bail in the INX Media case on Friday, he was arrested by the CBI. The prosecution has argued that it is a money-laundering case of "monumental magnitude". And yet, the scenes that led up to the arrest, late Wednesday evening, were unseemly and unprecedented. Multiple CBI teams converged, some personnel even scaled the walls of the Rajya Sabha MP's Delhi residence, after he addressed the media at the Congress headquarters where he claimed that there was no case against him. The spectacle, captured live on TV, raises serious questions about the CBI's conduct: Was the high drama necessary, given that the agency was not dealing with a declared absconder or a heinous crime? The Congress has termed it a show of political vendetta. Indeed, while the allegations against Chidambaram will stand, or fall, in a court of law, the sequence of events so far has raised disquieting concerns. No person, however high the office he or she may hold, or may have held in the past, is above the law. Yet, due process needs to be followed, and it must be seen to be followed too, especially in a case as politically sensitive as this one.

The allegations against Chidambaram have to do with his tenure as Union finance minister in the Manmohan Singh government. The CBI registered an FIR in May 2017, alleging irregularities in the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) clearance given to the INX group for receiving overseas funds of Rs 305 crore in 2007. In 2018, the ED registered a case of money laundering, and the CBI called Chidambaram for questioning. The former minister's lawyers have pointed out that he has cooperated with the investigating agencies. On Tuesday, Justice Sunil Gaur of Delhi High Court, however, while vacating the anticipatory bail order issued in July last year, observed that "custodial interrogation" of Chidambaram "is required for an effective investigation". In a sweeping order, he wrote that "grant of bail in cases like the instant one will send a wrong message to the society" and recommended to Parliament "to suitably amend the law to restrict the provisions of pre-arrest bail and make it inapplicable to economic offenders of high-profile cases like the instant one". In its zeal, the court seemed to have forgotten that bail is a fundamental right of every citizen, and that it can be denied only in exceptional circumstances. There are other questions, too — for instance, the person who has turned approver in the case against Chidambaram is herself an accused in a murder case.

It is important that the justice process proceeds lawfully and with utmost transparency, so that this case does not invite allegations of vendetta in a polarised political moment.

PRIVACY RIGHTS, WRONGS

In hearing clutch of petitions concerning Aadhaar and social media, Supreme Court must be guided by its own ruling

THE SUPREME COURT has rightly agreed to hear together multiple public interest litigations pending in the Madras, Bombay and Madhya Pradesh high courts, calling for the linking of Aadhaar with social media accounts. There can be no room for conflicting rulings in a matter with international implications, which could inspire litigation or influence attitudes in other nations. Privacy is at stake here, and the Supreme Court is its most appropriate guardian, having clarified it and defined it as a "guaranteed fundamental right" in 2017. In its deliberations, the Court will no doubt be guided by that landmark judgement, which was celebrated, among others, by the Electronic Frontier Foundation, the pioneering digital civil liberties group.

As it stands now, the court is expected to strike a balance between the imperatives of privacy and security. Obviously, this is an impossible choice, since the right to privacy is fundamental and cannot be reduced under normal circumstances. By way of a parallel, the right to life is absolute until a death sentence is pronounced, and the right to liberty can be conditional only in a state of unrest or emergency. Logically, therefore, the question of striking a balance with an absolute right cannot arise under normal circumstances. It also involves a question of scale. Why is Aadhaar indispensable? Wouldn't the phone numbers associated with social media accounts suffice? They identify owners with complete accuracy, since sim cards are issued against identity documents. While the data security of Aadhaar remains so contested that it is not mandatory even for banking purposes, insistence on Aadhaar would simply invite more lawsuits.

Death threats, criminal intimidation, smearing and stalking are commonplace in social media, and the dark satanic mills of rumour and fake news have the capacity to spark violence and conflict. But a technical solution would be as effective as legal remedy, without trespassing upon privacy. For instance, artificial intelligence can identify dubious content by textual analysis and flag it like spam or malware. And this week, Twitter proactively swept away Chinese accounts spreading disinformation about the Hong Kong protests. The Supreme Court has been admired for standing up for privacy. Now, it should mandate a technical solution, because it cannot possibly consider encroaching upon the very value that it upheld and protected.

MAN VS TIME

Jagannath Mishra was the last stalwart from a time when Bihar could conceive of an upper-caste Congressman as CM

IN 1990, WHEN Jagannath Mishra's final stint as chief minister of Bihar concluded after just 95 days in office to make way for Lalu Prasad, it was seen as the end of a political era. Mishra, who died at 82 on Monday after a long ailment, was the last Congress chief minister of Bihar as well as the last Brahmin leader to have claimed the office. Bihar, along with Uttar Pradesh, had been, at least since the Sixties, the epicentre of the social and political churn in north India that resulted in the gradual decline of the "Congress system" and waning of upper-caste dominance. With the implementation of the Mandal Commission's recommendations in 1990 and the rise of subaltern leaders, it was thought that the era of upper caste dominance of politics in the Hindi belt was dead and buried.

Mishra was the last stalwart of the old order. "Dr Sahib" was a leader from the time when the Congress was to its supporters an "umbrella party" and to its opponents a dominant feudal force. In Bihar, the party was seen by many as a regressive force, particularly in terms of its treatment of OBCs and Dalits. The assertion of the OBCs, led by the likes of Lalu and Nitish Kumar, was about stitching a social coalition that was both ideologically coherent and numerically powerful. Muslims, Yadavs, OBCs as a whole and Dalits, became a politically dominant force that saw the rise to power of a discourse of dignity and social justice.

While Mishra, who was charged in the fodder scam, and the Congress, have been unable to resurrect their fortunes in Bihar, and the backward caste coalition has splintered, the BJP has emerged as a force in the state. Though the junior partner in the Nitish Kumar government, its influence has steadily grown. While the BJP has sought to expand its social base by offering posts to members from a cross-section of communities, many party and RSS leaders have questioned caste-based reservations. Thirty years after Jagannath Mishra was CM, the prospect of an upper-caste CM no longer seems as faraway.

THE RESERVATION QUESTION is back in the Sangh Parivar. A few days ago, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat called for a "conversation in a harmonious atmosphere between those in favour of quota and those against it": "Those who favour reservation should speak keeping in mind the interests of those who were against it, and similarly those who opposed it should do vice versa," he said. It seems that the conversation should take place first within the Sangh Parivar, where everybody does not seem to be on the same page on caste-based reservation.

Traditionally, the Sangh Parivar has opposed caste-based politics and criticised the use of *jativad* as an electoral tool in its two incarnations, reservation and vote banks. Hindu nationalists denounced the Mandal report and VP Singh's decision to implement it. In August 1990, *Organiser* protested: "The havoc politics of reservation is playing with the social fabric is unimaginable. It provides a premium for mediocrity, encourages brain-drain and sharpens caste-divide". Two decades later, the situation has changed on both fronts, not only reservation, but also elections.

In the last Lok Sabha elections, the BJP factored in caste as a major variable in its candidate-selection. Its standard strategy consisted in federating smaller castes against the larger ones, which were often more affluent. This was in tune with the party's policy regarding chief ministers' selection: The BJP appointed a non-Maratha CM in Maharashtra, a non-Patel CM in Gujarat, a non-Jat CM in Haryana. In the last general election, this strategy was applied to candidate selection in the OBCs and SCs. In UP, the BJP targeted the non-Yadav OBCs, who often belong to the poorer strata of society and usually resent Yadav domination, particularly the way they corner most of the quotas.

While the Yadavs are traditionally associated with the SP, the BJP successfully wooed the non-Yadavs. Whereas 27 per cent of SP candidates were Yadavs in 2019, Yadavs represented only 1.3 per cent of the candidates of the BJP which gave tickets to 7.7 per cent Kurmis and 16.7 per cent "other OBCs", who often came from small caste groups (data drawn from the Social Profile of the Indian National and Provincial Elected Representatives, created by Ashoka University and Sciences Po). This strategy translated into votes if one goes by the National Election

Survey of CSDS-Lokniti: While 60 per cent of Yadavs voted for the SP-BSP alliance, 72 per cent of "other OBCs" supported the BJP, showing that the OBCs were polarised along jati lines. In the same way, the BJP has become the rallying point of non-Jatav voters against the BSP. Once again, the BJP cashed in on the resentment of smaller Dalit groups, accusing the Jatavs of monopolising reservation. In UP, the BSP gave more than 20 per cent of its tickets to Jatavs, whereas the BJP nominated 5 per cent of Jatavs only, 7.7 per cent of Pasis and 9 per cent of "other SCs". Certainly, the BSP-SP got 75 per cent of the Jatav vote, but it received only 42 per cent of the "other SCs" vote, against 48 per cent which went to the BJP — the winner of 15 of 17 "SC seats".

After the election, the BJP has continued with the same strategy in UP by appointing a Kurmi as party chief and promoting small OBC groups at the expense of the Jatavs. The Yogi Adityanath government has included 17 small OBC castes (Kahar, Kashyap, Kewat, Nishad, Gond, Bhar, Prajapati, Rajbhar, Batham, Bind, Turha, Manjhi, Mallah, Kumhar, Dheevar, Dheemar and Machua) in the list of SCs. These castes, which represent about 15 per cent of the state's population, have been asking for this change. Now, they will have more opportunities as they will not have to compete any more with Yadavs and Kurmis. The Dalits, on the contrary, resent this move which is bound to intensify competition for quotas within the SC category. Not only did Mayawati object that only Parliament and the president had the power to do so, but the BJP minister for social justice and empowerment, Thawarchand Gehlot, said the same thing before the Rajya Sabha. Even if this decision is eventually declared unconstitutional, these jatis may be grateful to the BJP during the coming by-elections in UP.

The same reasoning applies to the policy of the BJP Chief Minister, Devendra Fadnavis, regarding the Marathas. In 2014, during the last Maharashtra election campaign, the BJP slammed the Congress government's decision to reserve 16 per cent of government jobs and seats in educational institutions for Marathas. After forming government, the party changed its mind. In November 2014 the Bombay High Court stayed the ordinance regarding reservations for the Marathas because, according to the court, they were not

backward. Immediately, Fadnavis declared: "We will appeal in SC on the HC ruling. We will take measures to ensure that the quota remains". Fadnavis first appointed a new "Backward Classes Commission", the Gaikwad Commission, which declared that "The Maratha class of citizens having been declared socially and educationally backward class of citizens are entitled to reservation benefits and advantages enshrined in Article 15(4) and 16(4) of the Constitution of India".

Following the Commission's recommendation, the Fadnavis government decided to grant a 16 per cent quota to Marathas in government jobs and educational institutions run by the state. This decision was approved unanimously by the legislature. The BJP innovated only on one ground: It had a law passed to create a new group called "Socially and Educationally Backward Class", made only of the Marathas, which was granted a 16 per cent quota outside existing reservations for SCs, STs and OBCs in order not to alienate the BJP voters from the non-dominant Dalits and OBCs that the party was wooing in Maharashtra like elsewhere.

This time, the Bombay HC upheld the decision of the Maharashtra government in spite of the fact that Marathas had not suddenly become more backward and the additional quota took reservation up to 68 per cent (well beyond the 50 per cent threshold the SC laid down decades ago). The judges — who simply reduced the 16 per cent quota to 12-13 per cent — had to consider "exceptional circumstances and an extraordinary situation". On July 12, the Supreme Court did not stay the HC order, simply sought the Maharashtra government's response on pleas challenging the quota. This move may help the Fadnavis government to show its goodwill to the Marathas till the state elections.

Thus, caste politics has been reinvigorated by two kinds of actors who, traditionally, opposed it. One, the BJP is implementing it at the time of candidate selection and in expanding caste-based reservations. Two, the judiciary is making it easier by relaxing aspects of past jurisprudence.

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TARADATT

THE RECENT TRANSFER of Subhash Chandra Garg as finance secretary heading the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) led to speculation. Transfers/postings and superannuation define the life of a public servant. However, the displacement of the architect of a core aspect of the Union Budget (the proposal to raise \$10 billion from the sale of sovereign bonds overseas), during the Budget Session of Parliament, is definitely not routine.

Extraneous considerations in effecting transfers/postings, though hardly new to the bureaucracy, affect the administration in multiple ways. It is not that those holding key positions are any less competent than others, but merit simply seems incidental in such appointments. What else explains appointments and extensions of retired and retiring bureaucrats to key positions by amending laws and statutory rules?

It is increasingly difficult to find civil servants holding key positions on the strength of their transformative contributions in engineering and improving delivery systems or writing defining policy papers. The administrative reform and policy domains are considered shelters for incompetent officers, while those with even a discredited past can be found holding top posts due to their carefully honed skills to be their masters' voice.

MUSICAL CHAIRS

Extraneous factors in transfers and postings hamper administration

In this context, though there exist numerous examples, let me cite two which illustrate how administrative sanctity is affected, from my time as joint secretary in the cabinet secretariat. In one instance, even after damaging inputs were brought to the notice of the prime minister and President, a person was appointed as chairman of the ST commission (2010). In another case, when a cadre and batchmate of the successor cabinet secretary was appointed as secretary to the PM (in 2011), a proposal was prompted by the PMO asking the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to place the newly-appointed secretary at 10th position in the Warrant of Precedence, above the cabinet secretary.

The sole justification supporting the decision to elevate the new aspirant was that his predecessor had enjoyed that position. The approval granted by the cabinet secretary was also contrary to the apex court ruling that any change in rules or placements in the Warrant that interfered with the positions of the chief justices or judges of the Supreme Court and high courts, could be done only with prior concurrence of the CJ. In this case, the secretary to the prime minister was positioned at 23 after the secretary to the President and before other secretaries to the Government of India. His re-position-

ing at number 10 would decidedly affect the chief justice and other judges of high courts positioned hierarchically at 14 and 17.

The approval overstepped other proposals held long in abeyance. It disregarded the fact that the previous principal secretary to the PM had been conferred the status of minister of state by the prime minister and that his placement above the cabinet secretary was *ad personam* to him. Then too, approval had been taken by the incumbent cabinet secretary in the last fortnight of his tenure without seeking the concurrence of the CJ. The new secretary had neither been designated a principal secretary nor conferred a rank equivalent to minister of state.

I resubmitted the file to the cabinet secretary elaborating the rules and procedures. Most reluctantly, the proposal was returned to the MHA but was resubmitted by the home secretary with reiterations.

Some months later, when I was back home in Odisha, I read a news item that the cabinet secretary did not yield to pressure to change the Warrant to place secretary to Prime Minister above himself!

The writer is a retired IAS officer and the article, in part, is an extract from his forthcoming book, Highlander's Plain Speak



AUGUST 22, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO

FRESH ELECTIONS ENOUGH EVIDENCE IS available to suggest that the President, N Sanjiva Reddy, is toying with the idea of dissolving the Lok Sabha and ordering fresh elections to resolve the current political deadlock. Reddy would like to induct an interim government to run the affairs of the country till the elections. The controversial proposal for holding a mid-term poll under an interim government is meeting with stiff resistance from the Janata Party and Jagjivan Ram, who has staked his claim to form a government.

NO CONGRESS SUPPORT THE CONGRESS PARLIAMENTARY Party de-

nied that it had stipulated any condition when it came to its support to Charan Singh at any stage. The CPP made it clear that none of its members had expressed any desire even to meet any one of the Janata (S) leaders until they were invited by the latter. P Venkatasubbaiah, secretary, in a statement expressed shock at the statements of the Prime Minister, Charan Singh, and the External Affairs minister, S N Mishra, to the effect that they did not like to be blackmailed by the conditions of the Congress-I party for the abolition of the special courts.

MAJORITY TEST THE LEADER OF the Opposition, Jagjivan

Ram, asserted that he would have his majority tested on the floor of the Lok Sabha and nowhere else. Coming as this assertion did in response to a question of why he did not fortify his claim to form a new government by submitting a list of his supporters to the President, it gave the impression that Ram was not ready to place the proof for his strength before Sanjiva Reddy. Ram argued that Reddy had himself set a precedent for this: He pointed out that the then Opposition leader, Chavan, had been offered a chance to form the government in the wake of the resignation of the Desai ministry. Since then, Ram said, there has been a "material change" in the situation.

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Historically, the Americans have only woken up and rushed to the region when the two neighbours (India and Pakistan) have been on the brink."
—DAWN

A time for new leaders

Kashmir needs a new leadership emerging from the development narrative of the 21st century, not the separatist themes of the 20th century



RAM MADHAV

FOR THE SEPARATISTS in Kashmir, the winter chill has set in early. And it is likely to be a long haul. The heat and dust of separatism and terrorism, that had been the bread and butter of many of leaders in the Kashmir Valley, seems to have lost steam. These leaders, who had consistently been fed on the staple of separatism and special status, find the new reality unfathomable. But the people of the Valley are at least thinking about it, even if they are not openly supporting the Narendra Modi government's move to nullify Article 370 of the Indian Constitution.

Two weeks have passed since the passing of the presidential orders bifurcating the state of Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories and nullifying several clauses of Article 370. The popular response to these two decisions in the Valley has largely been subdued. No major violence has taken place nor has there been any terror attack. Initially, there were severe restrictions on the free movement of people, including round-the-clock curfew. But, most of the restrictions have been relaxed, either partially or fully. Vehicular movement on the streets of Srinagar and elsewhere is slowly returning. Curfew has been removed in most parts. Schools and markets are open. Life is limping back to normalcy after a few days of preventive restrictions.

For people like me, who have seen the worst form of terrorist and separatist violence in the past, including the aftermath of the neutralisation of Burhan Wani, sporadic incidents of violence in a few places in the Valley are not really that serious.

Critics attribute this absence of a public outburst in the Kashmir Valley to the deployment of security forces in large numbers or to the internet blackouts or to the round-the-clock curfew restrictions. But, then, none of this is new to the people of the Valley. Increased presence of the forces and internet blackouts have been a regular feature in the life of the terror-stricken areas of the Valley. Yet, in the past, people used to come out on the streets in large numbers, pelt stones and clash with the security forces, leading on some occasions to casualties. In fact, "one dead body a day" used to be the strategy of the separatist and terrorist establishment because each casualty would be used to foment more trouble and violence.

That is no longer the scenario in the Valley. Perhaps people have been taken aback by the turn of events. It has still not sunk in fully. The staple of separatism and special status, on which they were fed for decades, must still be causing consternation in their minds. Yet, they don't seem to be blindly buying into the other narrative anymore like in the past. They have paused and are thinking.

One reason could be the experience of the last five years. Globally, democratic pol-

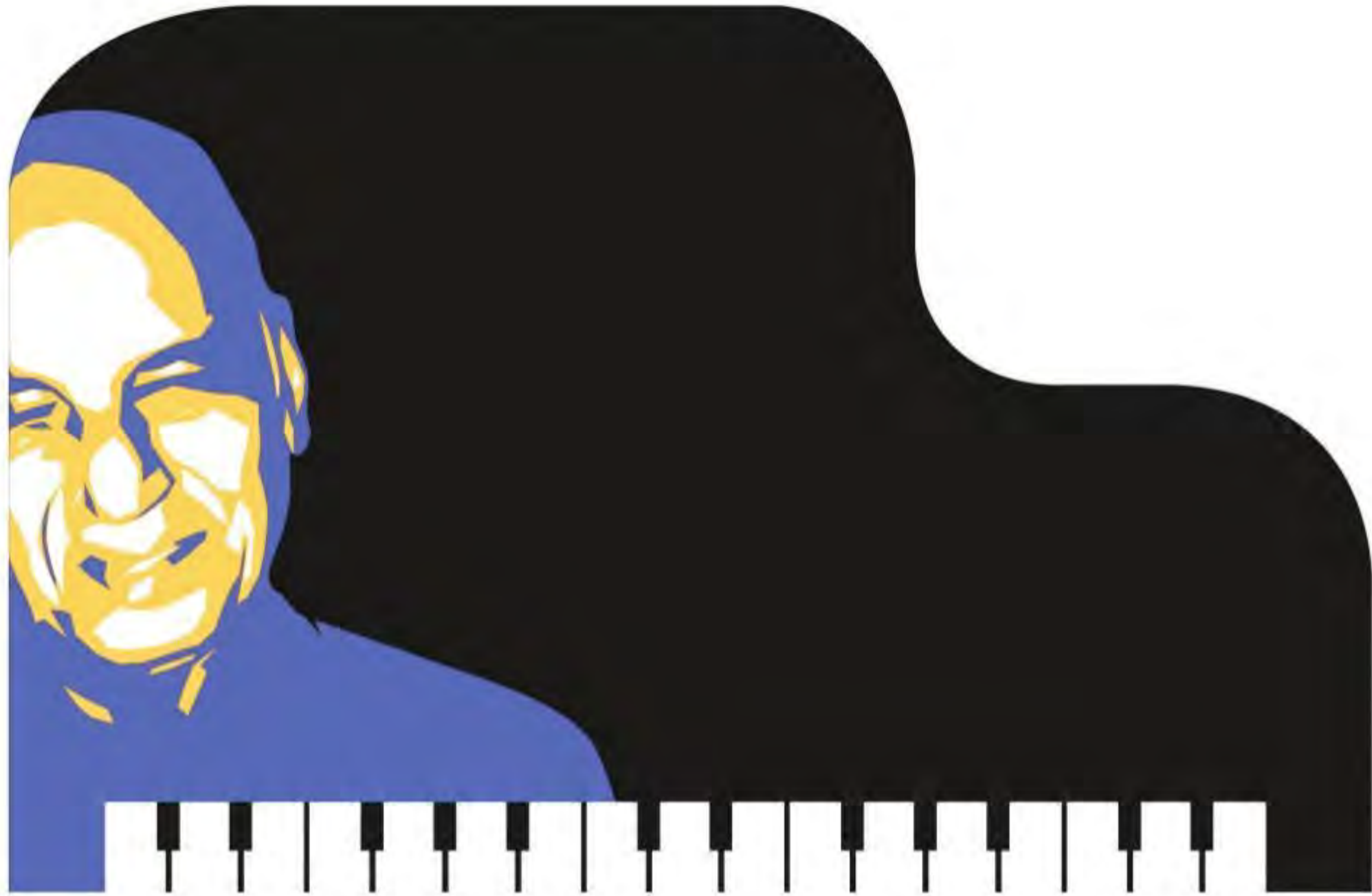
itics is changing. It is the era of strong and decisive leaders who know how to mould public discourse. The Modi era in India has seen a large-scale shift in public discourse—from the pessimism of the past to optimism about the future. The Valley is not insulated from that futuristic discourse. Through the development narrative, the Modi government has moved closer to the hearts and minds of the people in the Valley, like in the rest of the country. The merchants of separatism in the Valley's politics have missed this shift and are stuck in the old discourse, making themselves gradually irrelevant.

The formation of the first ever BJP government in the state, together with the PDP, has helped in building up this narrative in many ways. First, it has robbed the separatists and terrorists of their political mouthpiece. The PDP used to act like a political organ of the separatists in the Valley. Having aligned with the staunchly nationalist BJP, the PDP was forced to distance itself from that narrative, less out of conviction and more out of political expediency. Today, its efforts to return to that path are no longer viewed credibly. On the other hand, being in the government for three years has helped the BJP move closer to the people of the Valley. Various sections of the Kashmiri society had an opportunity to watch the party from close quarters. I have interacted with thousands of people from all walks of life, including separatists, in the last few years. It has certainly helped in winning over significant sections of the Valley's social leadership. Today, the calmness in the Valley is partly due to those sections of the social leadership, that include, students, youths and the non-PDP, non-NC political leadership, that have engaged with the BJP and Narendra Modi over the past few years.

It is a good sign. Once they stop and think, people realise the falseness of the narrative that they have been fed all these years by leaders from the Valley and across the border. The so-called special status has only benefited the leaders and their cohorts; its removal will bring the fruits of development to the doorsteps of ordinary citizens of the Valley. Having given conflict a chance for several decades and ending up impoverished, directionless and insecure, the people of the Valley should give a chance now to the new narrative being offered by Modi.

"The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with an average voter," commented Winston Churchill. This is a significant reality in the Kashmir Valley. The misuse of power by a handful of leaders in the Valley has left the ordinary Kashmiri in misery. But then, the best argument for democracy is also to build confidence through humane development—the Modi way. For that, Kashmir needs a new leadership, built not on the separatist narrative of the 20th century but on the development narrative of the 21st century. It is here that the investment and focus of the central government should go. Failing in that will mean a return of not just the old leadership but the dreaded old narrative of separatism and conflict.

The writer is a national general secretary, BJP, and director, India Foundation



CR Sasikumar

My Khayyam

To share my memories of him is to share the poetry, cinema and music we made together



MUZAFFAR ALI

KHAYYAM IS NO more. He was the last of those who lived the melody, who was intoxicated, and could intoxicate others. When people like him depart, the vacuum they leave behind can only be filled by their legacy. A legacy that speaks to the human soul. I may not understand the scope of his art, what he contributed to his profession and the medium. But he certainly enriched me and my work with what we did together. There is more to him than what meets the eye, than *Umrao Jaan*. For me, there is *Anjuman*, *Gaman* and *Zooni*. My entire journey with Khayyam had Shahryar for company — my favourite poet from Aligarh, so very alien to the ways of Bollywood. He could understand me better than I understood myself, as was the case in "Seene mein jalan..." from *Gaman*. Sharing my Khayyam is, therefore, difficult without sharing my Shahryar and understanding my films is difficult without understanding their music and poetry. Today, both the poetry and music are lost.

Gaman had won several awards, including for the best playback singer and music. Going back to Jaidev for *Umrao Jaan* seemed obvious. We worked together for a few months but Shahryar and I felt that it wasn't quite working out. So, I went to the maestro Naushad Ali. But, I realised that he would be difficult to negotiate with if I did-

n't like a melody.

We then went to Khayyam. His being the third choice weighed on my mind. He was not an easy man at all and what was needed most in this creative relationship was ease and understanding. In the final analysis, the music also had to come from my soul for it to speak through my images. I stood outside, waiting, having rung the bell, his melody "Sham e gham ki qasam..." from *Footpath* resonating in my mind.

The door opened, and there stood the gracious and talented Jagjit Kaur. We instantly took a liking to each other. I could read in her eyes the "subject to Khayyam sahab" look.

We were ushered in before the formidable man himself. Bollywood is full of people who look bigger than they are. And one had to be prepared to face the best and the worst of people at all times for your work.

The Khayyam I met was not the same Khayyam that I was afraid of confronting. He accepted Shahryar as a part of me, without my saying so. He was also open to reworking the melodies to suit my cinematic needs. He also acknowledged the nuances of Awadh and we took the help of Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan on certain classical renditions. The music of *Umrao Jaan* took nearly two years to create. Each song was crafted as if it was coming from the soul of a poetess. Rehearsals with Asha (Bhonsle) ji brought a new resonance and Khayyam sahab made her sing a scale lower than her usual Bollywood fare. She had read the novel and felt *Umrao* in her veins. We gave a significant gap between each song so that it would be a little different from the other. The songs were the trajectory of *Umrao's* life and had to be carefully crafted. Each time, a new world was born in

Each time, a new world was born in Khayyam's music room. The white chaandni stretched seamlessly through the room, which had images of Gurananak Dev, Harmander Sahab and the Holy Kaaba to cast their blessings on what was happening there. The aroma of freshly-made coffee by Jagjit ji made the ambience welcoming for us. If the rhythmist was not present, she would sit with a hard-bound book to accompany Khayyam sahab who was on the harmonium. And as the bellows began to breathe, we waited with bated breath.

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As the melody emerged, Jagjit ji would look carefully at me to judge my reaction and then at her husband to see if he sensed the same, in a way, fearful of my disapproval. Out of Khayyam's deep confidence oozed out a melody that ripped the heart apart. "Ye kya jagah hai dosto...". You know the rest.

What you don't know is the music he created for a lesser-known — but in no way in less creative — film. In my film *Anjuman*, for which Shahryar wrote the lyrics, and Shabana Azmi sang, in which the last ghazal by Faiz Ahmed Faiz was sung by Khayyam and Jagjit Kaur at my insistence. I insisted because I knew in my heart that only they could do justice to the melody created for it.

Then came *Zooni*, my most ambitious project for which Shahryar created a series of poetic masterpieces for Khayyam to compose and for Asha ji to sing. The angst and joy in those songs became unforgettable for me as they echoed in the Valley, with Dimple Kapadia on screen. These unreleased melodies still haunt me as we wait for better days, when the film can become a reality. The ultimate tribute to my Khayyam.

The writer is a film director



SUBRATA MUKHERJEE

Don't fear the churn

Congress, with same top brass, cannot be the source of any political inspiration

THE EDITORIAL 'THE rewind' (IE, August 12), on the Congress party's decision to choose Sonia Gandhi as its interim president makes statements that are ultimately contradictory. First, it is critical of the choice of a "timid party", reflected in its inability to keep a pledge of the outgoing president that the new chief would not be from the Nehru-Gandhi family. Second, the editorial expresses hope that her induction as the working president "ensures a genuine transition by taking tough decisions". The editorial is silent on how this transition would take place.

Political parties rise and decline, and new formations emerge over time when important issues become political at a particular place and time. It is because of the need of this inherent elasticity that political parties need a democratic set up to bring about essential changes peacefully without the system either breaking down or collapsing. The Congress party lacks this capacity.

In a well-developed party system, political parties perform a wide variety of functions. They build channels of communication between the people and the decision-makers. They also act as channels of communication between the government and people. In not performing these basic functions of a political party, the Congress by clinging to a pre-modern dynastic mindset has proved to be grossly inadequate. This, it failed to do during the days of Indira Gandhi's stewardship of 17 years when no organisational elections were held and then, subsequently, all the non-

Nehru-Gandhi family party workers were eased out: Be it Narasimha Rao or Sitaram Kesari. Is there any other example of a political party where the top slot is reserved for a person from the first family; where the interim president replaces the outgoing president, her own son whom she anointed after holding office uninterrupted for 19 years? The Congress points to the presence of dynasts

DEAR EDITOR, I DISAGREE
A fortnightly column in which we invite readers to tell us why, when they differ with the editorial positions or news coverage of 'The Indian Express'

in other parties which is untrue — in no other party is the top slot kept reserved for a family member as it is in the Congress. One must not confuse dynasts with political families. The latter are there in all the parties, except the Left Front, but dynastic succession is unique to the Congress party and some regional satraps.

The Congress, since the days of Indira Gandhi, is a classic example of clientelism, with the loyalty to the family superseding that of the party. As a result, it has lost the ability to remain in contact with the people at the grassroots. In the 1950s, V R Gadgil, a Congress party functionary, used to comment that in every single village in India, two things were visible, a 15 paise postcard and a Congress worker. The first one is visible even today but the second one, even with a pair of binoculars, is hard to find.

In the absence of an organisation as

such, the Congress plays machine politics, where power brokers exercise decisive advantage in nominating candidates. The candidates are imposed from the top and lack any grassroots experience or support. In which other political party does a president entrust his sister — a novice — with the task of revamping the organisation in a major part of a decisive state? In spite of its initial scepticism, the editorial expresses the hope that Sonia Gandhi "could step up to this moment and ensure a genuine transition by taking tough decisions". How can she, when Sonia is part of the problem?

A political party channels mass support in an institutional manner. It allows ordered accommodation of new groups and demands within the political process. The Congress party, in the last two decades when Sonia was at the helm, miserably failed to achieve this.

Sonia Gandhi had the golden opportunity to revamp the party after declining prime ministership in 2004. But, rather than allowing Pranab Mukherjee to lead the party, she chose Manmohan Singh, a non-political bureaucrat lacking any political base, to be the prime minister. Many grass roots leaders like Himanta Biswa Sarma and Jagan Reddy left

the party, floated their outfits and emerged as successful leaders of their state. Rahul himself never thought it necessary to hold an office under Manmohan Singh, thus easily lending himself to the BJP's criticism of "naamdar" versus "kaamdar".

The editorial acknowledges the lack of organisational structure in the Congress. But it holds the party's decision to fall back on Sonia as a "symptom" of the problem. But that actually is the problem itself. To contend, as the editorial does, that it reflects a "lack of talent" in the Congress is incorrect. Last year, the party won elections to state assemblies in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chattisgarh. But to hold that the Nehru-Gandhi family seems to be the "only glue that can hold the party together" is absurd in a democratic set-up. It seems that the editorial willily nilly endorses the Congress leadership's fear of a churn.

This seems all the more glaring given that the BJP has seen so many new faces as its party presidents and as leaders in the two houses of Parliament. The CWC comprises people who have not gone through the electoral process, and yet are there to advise the party on how to win elections. Sonia's role is similar to that of Napoleon III, who survived because of the relative weakness of all social forces. To expect that such discredited leadership would be able to revamp the party or bring in crucial changes is itself illusory.

The writer retired as professor of political science in Delhi University

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UNJUST VIEW

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Justice delayed' (IE, August 21). The learned writer, while relying heavily on an Economic Survey report, has dismissed the perennial problem of vacancies in the courts. The article is more pedagogic and less realistic. It is less objective and more subjective. It is completely divorced from ground realities. If the gist of the survey report is applied in a universal manner, it may as well mean the dismissal of vacancies of teachers in our schools and colleges, doctors in hospitals, and other services of public interest. What is lamentable is that the learned writer is himself a retired Supreme Court judge.

Ram Mathur, Ghaziabad

ON THE BACKFOOT

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'China and its quasi-colony' (IE, August 21). The UNSC close-door consultation on Jammu and Kashmir has been a diplomatic setback for China. This was evident from the press briefing of the Chinese envoy to the UN after the meeting, where the assertiveness in his tone is perhaps an attempt to avoid comparative scrutiny by the international media. After all, it was at China's behest that the meeting was scheduled in the first place. China should choose its friends wisely, and its enemies too. Befriending a rogue state like Pakistan will only bring it further embarrassment on the global stage.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Kolkata

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

REAL DEMOCRACY

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'World and Valley' (IE, August 19). A majority of Kashmir's population is suffering because of its partition and people in the rest of India are celebrating "conquering" Kashmir. India's diplomatic moves can be appreciated but they are of no use if an internal conflict becomes inevitable. Retain the rights of the people of Kashmir, then take further steps. That is democracy.

Archana Santhosh, Bhatinda



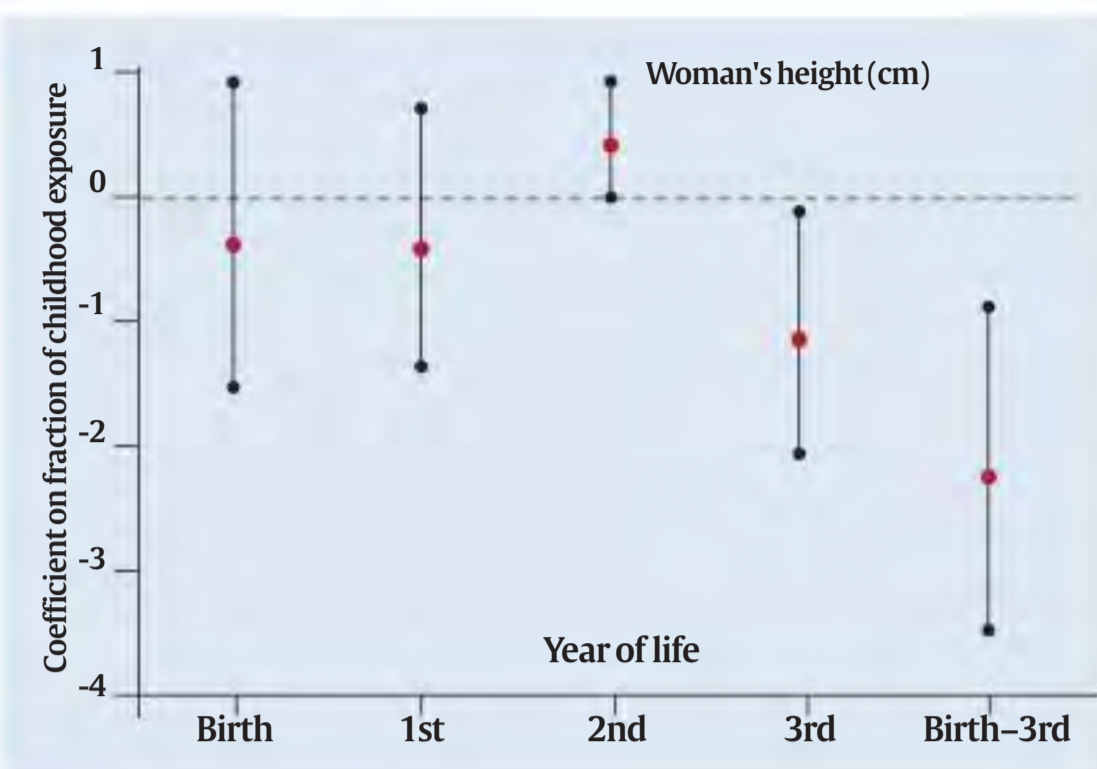
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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

TELLING NUMBERS

How nitrate exposure in infancy impacts Indian women's height



Point estimates and 99% confidence intervals for coefficients derived from five regressions that estimate nitrate exposure. The CI for the last line (birth to 3 years) does not cross zero-impact line. World Bank

IN A new World Bank report that looks at the impact of water pollution worldwide, one aspect covered is the long-term impact of nitrate exposure experienced during infancy. While short-term exposure to nitrates has almost negligible effect on adult height, cumulative exposure over the first three years of life has a considerable impact.

An infant girl who has been exposed to nitrate levels above the safety threshold in the first three years experiences a 1-2 cm decrease in her adult height, the report found. Given that female adult height in India has increased by approximately 4 cm over the last century, a 1-2 cm loss means that nitrate exposure in infancy can wipe out almost half of this gain in height.

Nitrate pollution is caused by the overuse of nitrogenous fertilisers which, while boosting yields, can be

harmful if they leach into water or air. In India, the Green Revolution of the 1960s kick-started the use of synthetic fertilisers, the report notes.

The data set used was taken from over 1,330 monitoring stations from 1963-2017. The birth years of the sample range was from 1966-1999, "a period when the effect of the Green Revolution was already in force yet nitrogen fertilisers were increasing in use."

The report also found (using data from the Central Groundwater Board of India) that nitrate levels in groundwater aquifers exceeded permissible levels in more than 50 per cent of the districts across 19 states.

The report broadly covers two types of pollutants — the well known ones such as faecal contaminants and the new pollutants that include plastic, nutrients and pharmaceuticals.

THIS WORD MEANS

FLOCCINAUCINIHIPIPILIFICATION

Used by Monetary Policy Committee member Chetan Ghatge now, by Shashi Tharoor earlier

IN THE minutes of the Monetary Policy Committee, which decides on India's monetary policy, released on Wednesday, one of the government-nominated members, Chetan Ghatge, is quoted as stating: "Estimates of economic growth in India have unfortunately been subject to a fair degree of floccinaucinhihipilification. Notwithstanding this, growth is likely to pick up from Q2-Q3: 2019-2020". The minutes pertained to the third bi-monthly monetary policy review that was announced on August 7.

The Oxford Dictionary defines 'floccinaucinhihipilification' as "the action or habit of estimating something as worthless". It is evident that Ghatge used the word to characterise the efforts of several economists who have raised doubts about the validity of India's gross domestic product (GDP) estimates. Earlier this year, the debate about the correctness of India's GDP estimates received fresh impetus when Arvind Subramanian, country's chief economic adviser during the time — early

2015 — when news GDP estimates were released, openly questioned the estimates. Subramanian went on to say that existing GDP growth rates overestimate growth by as much as 2.5 percentage points.

Ghatge is not the first to use 'floccinaucinhihipilification' in recent times. The 29-letter word got widespread publicity in October 2018 when Congress leader Shashi Tharoor mentioned it in a tweet promoting his book on Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Tharoor had tweeted: "My new book, THE PARADOXICAL PRIME MINISTER, is more than just a 400-page exercise in floccinaucinhihipilification".

The word has Latin roots — *floci*, *nauci*, *nihili*, *pili* — all of which mean "at little value". Despite its length, 'floccinaucinhihipilification' is not among the longest words in the English language. According to Grammarly, that odd distinction goes to the 45-letter word 'Pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis', which is a lung disease caused by the inhalation of silica or quartz dust.

How an Indian citizen is defined

Citizenship can be determined by place of birth or by bloodline. There are cutoff dates for the country, which are different for Assam where the NRC is being prepared. A look at how the laws have evolved

AN EXPERT EXPLAINS



FAIZAN MUSTAFA

IN THE run-up to the publication of the final National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam, citizenship has become the most talked about topic in the country. The Assam government has been taking various steps in relation to those who will be left out of the NRC, while the Supreme Court last week rejected a plea to include those born in India between after March 24, 1971 and before July 1, 1987 unless they had ancestral links to India. In any other Indian state, they would have been citizens by birth, but the law is different for Assam.

How is citizenship determined?

Citizenship signifies the relationship between individual and state. It begins and ends with state and law, and is thus about the state, not people. Citizenship is an idea of exclusion as it excludes non-citizens.

There are two well-known principles for grant of citizenship. While *jus soli* confers citizenship on the basis of place of birth, *jus sanguinis* gives recognition to blood ties. From the time of the Motilal Nehru Committee (1928), the Indian leadership was in favour of the enlightened concept of *jus soli*. The racial idea of *jus sanguinis* was rejected by the Constituent Assembly as it was against the Indian ethos.

Citizenship is in the Union List under the Constitution and thus under the exclusive jurisdiction of Parliament. The Constitution does not define the term 'citizen' but gives, in Articles 5 to 11, details of various categories of persons who are entitled to citizenship. Unlike other provisions of the Constitution, which came into being on January 26, 1950, these articles were enforced on November 26, 1949 itself, when the Constitution was adopted. However, Article 11 itself confers wide powers on Parliament by laying down that "nothing in the foregoing provisions shall derogate from the power of Parliament to make any provision with respect to the acquisition and termination of citizenship and all matters relating to citizenship". Thus Parliament can go against the citizenship provisions of the Constitution.

The Citizenship Act, 1955 was passed and has been amended four times — in 1986, 2003, 2005, and 2015. The Act empowers the government to determine the citizenship of persons in whose case it is in doubt. However, over the decades, Parliament has narrowed down the wider and universal principles of citizenship based on the fact of birth. Moreover, the Foreigners Act places a heavy burden on the



At an NRC Seva Kendra in Chaygaon, Assam. Abhishek Saha

individual to prove that he is not a foreigner.

So who is, or is not, a citizen of India?

Article 5: It provided for citizenship on commencement of the Constitution. All those domiciled and born in India were given citizenship. Even those who were domiciled but not born in India, but either of whose parents was born in India, were considered citizens. Anyone who had been an ordinary resident for more than five years, too, was entitled to apply for citizenship.

Article 6: Since Independence was preceded by Partition and migration, Article 6 laid down that anyone who migrated to India before July 19, 1949, would automatically become an Indian citizen if either of his parents or grandparents was born in India. But those who entered India after this date needed to register themselves.

Article 7: Even those who had migrated to Pakistan after March 1, 1947 but subsequently returned on resettlement permits were included within the citizenship net. The law was more sympathetic to those who migrated from Pakistan and called them refugees than to those who, in a state of confusion, were stranded in Pakistan or went there but decided to return soon.

Article 8: Any Person of Indian Origin residing outside India who, or either of whose parents or grandparents, was born in India could register himself or herself as an Indian citizen with Indian Diplomatic Mission.

1986 amendment: Unlike the constitutional provision and the original Citizenship Act that gave citizenship on the principle of *jus soli* to everyone born in India, the 1986 amendment to Section 3 was less inclusive as it added the condition that those who were born in India on or after January 26, 1950 but before July 1, 1987, shall be Indian

citizen. Those born after July 1, 1987 and before December 4, 2003, in addition to one's own birth in India, can get citizenship only if either of his parents was an Indian citizen at the time of birth.

2003 amendment: The then NDA government made the above condition more stringent, keeping in view infiltration from Bangladesh. Now the law requires that for those born on or after December 4, 2004, in addition to the fact of their own birth, both parents should be Indian citizen or one parent must be Indian citizen and other should not be an illegal migrant. With these restrictive amendments, India has almost moved towards the narrow principle of *jus sanguinis* or blood relationship. This lays down that an illegal migrant cannot claim citizenship by naturalisation or registration even if he has been a resident of India for seven years.

Citizenship (Amendment) Bill: The amendment proposes to permit members of six communities — Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan — to continue to live in India if they entered India before December 14, 2014. It also reduces the requirement for citizenship from 11 years out of the preceding 14 years, to just 6 years. Two notifications also exempted these migrants from the Passport Act and Foreigner Act. A large number of organisations in Assam protested against this Bill as it may grant citizenship to Bangladeshi Hindu illegal migrants.

What is different in Assam?

The Assam Movement against illegal immigration eventually led to the historic Assam Accord of 1985, signed by Movement leaders and the Rajiv Gandhi government. Accordingly, the 1986 amendment to the Citizenship Act created a special category of

citizens in relation to Assam. The newly inserted Section 6A laid down that all persons of Indian origin who entered Assam before January 1, 1966 and have been ordinary residents will be deemed Indian citizens. Those who came after January 1, 1966 but before March 25, 1971, and have been ordinary residents, will get citizenship at the expiry of 10 years from their detection as foreigners. During this interim period, they will not have the right to vote but can get an Indian passport.

Identification of foreigners was to be done under the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunal) Act, (IMDT Act), 1983, which was applicable only in Assam while the Foreigners Act, 1946 was applicable in the rest of the country. The provisions of the IMDT Act made it difficult to deport illegal immigrants. On the petition of Sarbananda Sonowal (now Chief Minister), the Act was held unconstitutional and struck down by the Supreme Court in 2005. This was eventually replaced with the Foreigners (Tribunals of Assam) Order, 2006, which again was struck down in 2007 in *Sonowal II*.

In the IMDT case, the court considered classification based on geographical considerations to be a violation of the right to equality under Article 14. In fact, another such variation was already in place. While the cutoff date for Western Pakistan is July 19, 1949, for Eastern Pakistan the Nehru-Liaquat Pact had pushed it to 1950.

Constitutionality of Section 6A

A five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court is yet to examine the constitutionality of Section 6A under which the current NRC has been prepared. The Bench headed by Justice Madan B Lokur did hold its hearing on April 19, 2017, but it was dissolved on the retirement of Justice P C Pant in August 2017. The Supreme Court, in its order last week, refused to extend restrictive provisions of amendments to Assam in view of a different dispensation for them in Section 6A.

In *Assam Sanmilita Mahasangha* (2014) where the constitutionality of the 1986 amendment was challenged (the Mahasangha argues that the cutoff year for Assam should be 1951 instead of 1971), the court referred the matter to the Constitution Bench. While Section 6A was inserted in 1986 as a result of the Assam Accord, which has been discussed at length by the court, the court accepted the challenge to its constitutionality in 2014 and referred to the Constitution Bench 13 questions such as whether Section 6A is constitutional and valid though it prescribes a different cutoff date for Assam (1971) from the one prescribed in the Constitution for the rest of the country (1949). But then, this provision was about citizenship on commencement of the Constitution.

The author is a well-known expert in constitutional law

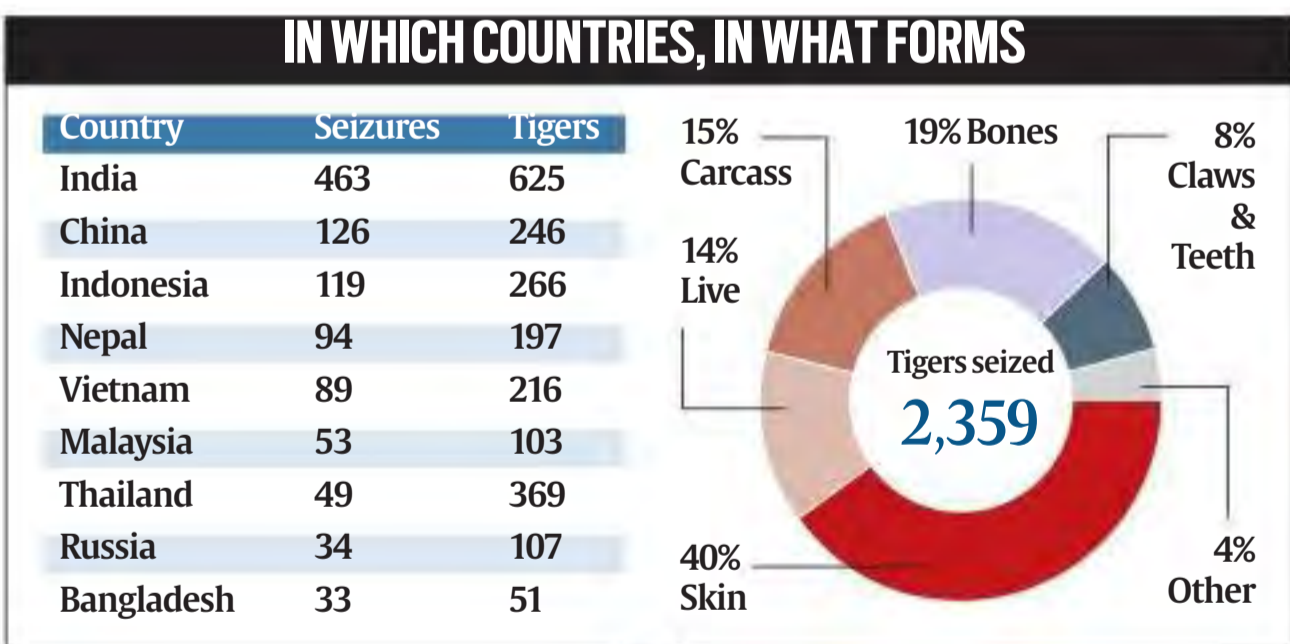
Tiger trade: report counts 2,359, shows where

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

A NEW report has quantified the illegal global trade in tigers and tiger parts over a 19-year period between 2000 and 2018. India has the world's largest tiger population — 2,967 in the Tiger Census released last month — and the highest extent of tiger trade also happens in the country. The new report has been compiled by Traffic, a NGO working in conservation and currently in partnership with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature, according to the Traffic website.

What it found, how

Overall, a conservative estimate of 2,359 tigers were seized from 2000 to 2018 across 32 countries and territories globally. These occurred from a total of 1,142 seizure inci-



dents, the report said.

Apart from live tigers and whole carcasses, tiger parts were seized in various forms such as skin, bones or claws. The report explains how the number of tigers was estimated from

these diverse sets of seizures. For example, say three skulls and 74 claws have been seized. Given that one tiger has one skull and 18 claws, the skulls indicate at least three tigers and the 74 claws point to more than

four tigers, so that the total haul would have come from a minimum of five tigers.

On average, 60 seizures were recorded annually, accounting for almost 124 tigers seized each year. The top three countries with the highest number of seizure incidents were India (463 or 40.5% of total seizures) and China (126 or 11.0%), closely followed by Indonesia (119 or 10.5%).

The India findings

While the latest census has put India's tiger population at 2,967, the Traffic report uses the 2016 WWF estimate of 2,226, with India home to more than 56% of the global wild tiger population. India is the country with the highest number of seizure incidents (463, or 40% of all seizures) as well as tigers seized (625). In terms of various body parts seized, India had the highest share among countries for tiger skins (38%), bones (28%) and claws and teeth (42%).

Why is age of marriage different for men and women? The law, the debate

APURVA VISHWANATH NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

THIS WEEK, the Delhi High Court took up a plea that sought a uniform age of marriage for men and women. A bench comprising Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice C Hari Shankar issued a notice to the Centre and the Law Commission of India, seeking their response to the public interest litigation filed by advocate and BJP spokesperson Ashwini Kumar Upadhyaya.

Currently, the law prescribes that the minimum age of marriage is 21 and 18 years for men and women, respectively. The minimum age of marriage is distinct from the age of majority, which is gender-neutral. An individual attains the age of majority at 18 as per the Indian Majority Act, 1875.

Why a minimum age

The law prescribes a minimum age of marriage to essentially outlaw child marriages and prevent abuse of minors. Personal laws of various religions that deal with marriage have their own standards, often reflecting custom.

For Hindus, Section 5(iii) of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 sets 18 years as the minimum age for the bride and 21 years as the minimum age for the groom. Child marriages are not illegal but can be declared void at the request of the minor in the marriage.

In Islam, the marriage of a minor who has attained puberty is considered valid under personal law.

The Special Marriage Act, 1954 and the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 also prescribe 18 and 21 years as the minimum age of consent for marriage for women and

men respectively.

How the law evolved

The Indian Penal Code enacted in 1860 criminalised any sexual intercourse with a girl below the age of 10. The provision of rape was amended in 1927 through the Age of Consent Bill, 1927, which made marriages with a girl under 12 invalid. The law had faced opposition from conservative leaders of the nationalist movement such as Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Madan Mohan Malaviya who saw the British intervention as an attack on Hindu customs.

In 1929, the Child Marriage Restraint Act set 16 and 18 years as the minimum age of marriage for women and men respectively. The law, popularly known as Sarda Act after its sponsor Harbilas Sarda, a judge and a member of Arya Samaj, was eventually

amended in 1978 to prescribe 18 and 21 years as the age of marriage for a woman and a man, respectively.

Two genders, two ages

The different legal standards for the age of men and women to marry has been a subject of debate. The laws are a codification of custom and religious practices that are rooted in patriarchy. In a consultation paper of reform in family law in 2018, the Law Commission argued that having different legal standards "contributes to the stereotype that wives must be younger than their husbands".

Women's rights activists too have argued that the law perpetuates the stereotype that women are more mature than men of the same age and therefore can be allowed to marry sooner. The international

treaty Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), also calls for the abolition of laws that assume women have a different physical or intellectual rate of growth than men.

The Law Commission paper recommended that the minimum age of marriage for both genders be set at 18. "The difference in age for husband and wife has no basis in law as spouses entering into a marriage are by all means equals and their partnership must also be of that between equals," the Commission noted.

The challenge in court

Upadhyaya, the petitioner in the Delhi High Court case, has challenged the law on the grounds of discrimination. He alleges that Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution, which guarantee the right to equality and

the right to live with dignity, are violated by having different legal age for men and women to marry.

Two Supreme Court rulings could be significant to the context of this argument.

In 2014, in *National Legal Services Authority of India v Union of India*, the Supreme Court while recognising transgenders as the third gender said that justice is delivered with the "assumption that humans have equal value and should, therefore, be treated as equal, as well as by equal laws."

In 2019, in *Joseph Shine v Union of India*, the Supreme Court decriminalised adultery and said that "a law that treats women differently based on gender stereotypes is an affront to women's dignity."

The Delhi High Court will hear the ongoing case next on October 30.

17 THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



AUSTRALIA

Court upholds verdict against Cardinal Pell

Melbourne: An Australian appeals court Wednesday upheld convictions against Cardinal George Pell, the most senior Catholic to be found guilty of sexually abusing children, in a decision cheered by scores of abuse survivors and victims' advocates demonstrating outside the court. A unanimous jury in December found Pope Francis' former finance minister guilty of molesting two 13-year-old choirboys in Melbourne's St. Patrick's Cathedral more than two decades ago. The Victoria state Court of Appeal rejected his appeal in a 2-1 ruling, with the court's chief justice saying the majority found Pell's accuser to be a compelling "witness of truth."

HONG KONG

China confirms detention of UK mission worker

Beijing: A Chinese national working at Britain's Hong Kong consulate has been detained in China's border city of Shenzhen for violating the law, the Chinese foreign ministry said on Wednesday, likely worsening already strained ties between Beijing and London. Britain has said it is "extremely concerned" by reports that the staff member at the consulate in its former colony had been detained. Simon Cheng did not return to work on Aug. 9 after visiting the neighbouring mainland city of Shenzhen the previous day, Hong Kong news website HKO1 reported, citing an interview with his girlfriend and family.

AFGHANISTAN

Death toll from Kabul wedding blast rises to 80

Kabul: The death toll from a suicide bomb attack on a wedding reception in Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, has risen to 80, two senior officials said on Wednesday. The initial death toll after the Saturday night blast was 63, but some of the wounded had died, said Nasrat Rahimi, a spokesman at the interior ministry. Among the 160 people wounded at the wedding blast, many are in critical condition.

We'll always have somebody there: Trump on Afghan troop withdrawal

LALIT K JHA

WASHINGTON, AUGUST 21

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump has indicated that American forces will not completely withdraw from war-torn Afghanistan and America will have "somebody there" to make sure that Taliban does not regain control.

During the presidential election campaign in 2016, Trump had pledged to withdraw US troops from Afghanistan and end America's longest war.

The Trump administration has intensified its efforts to seek a negotiated settlement of America's longest war in Afghanistan where the US has lost over 2,400 soldiers since late 2001, when it invaded the country after the 9/11 terror attacks.

"We will always have intelligence, and we'll always have somebody there," Trump told reporters at the Oval Office on Tuesday.

He was responding to ques-



The Trump administration has intensified its efforts to seek a negotiated settlement of the war in Afghanistan. Reuters

tions on the ongoing peace talks with the Taliban in Afghanistan. Trump said he would like to look at various alternatives.

"One of the alternatives is going on right now. We're talking about a plan — I don't know whether or not the plan is going to be acceptable to me. Maybe it's not going to be acceptable to them. But we are talking. We have good talks going, and we'll see what happens. This is more

"We have good talks going, and we'll see what happens. This is more than other presidents have done."

— DONALD TRUMP

US PRESIDENT

than other presidents have done," he said.

"We have brought it down."

Trump: Democrat-voting Jews uninformed or disloyal

Again attacks congresswomen Omar and Tlaib; Jewish groups slam comment

JONATHAN LEMIRE & DARLENE SUPERVILLE

WASHINGTON, AUGUST 21

SHOWING A fresh willingness to play politics along religious lines, US President Donald Trump said Jews who vote for Democrats show "either a total lack of knowledge or great disloyalty".

Trump's claim triggered a quick uproar from critics who said the Republican president was trading in anti-Semitic stereotypes. It came amid Trump's ongoing feud with Democratic



Representatives Ilhan Omar of Minnesota and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan. Reuters

Representatives Ilhan Omar of Minnesota and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan, who are Muslim.

Trump has closely aligned himself with Israel, including conservative PM Benjamin Netanyahu, while the congresswomen are outspoken critics of Israel's treatment of the Palestinians. Tlaib is a US-born Palestinian American; Omar was born in Somalia.

"Where has the Democratic Party gone? Where have they gone where they are defending these two people over the state of Israel?" Trump told reporters in the Oval Office on Tuesday. "I think any Jewish people that vote for a Democrat, I think it

shows either a total lack of knowledge or great disloyalty."

A number of Jewish groups noted that accusations of disloyalty have long been made against Jews, including in Europe during the 1930s. Ann Lewis and Mark Mellman of Democratic Majority for Israel called it "one of the most dangerous, deadly accusations Jews have faced over the years. False charges of disloyalty over the centuries have led to Jews being murdered, jailed and tortured."

At Trump's urging, Israel last week blocked Omar and Tlaib from entering the country. AP

Child migrants to be detained longer under latest US rule

ANDY SULLIVAN

WASHINGTON, AUGUST 21

THE TRUMP administration on Wednesday unveiled new rules that would allow officials to detain migrant families indefinitely while judges consider whether to grant them asylum in the US.

The new rules, which are certain to draw a legal challenge, would replace a 1997 legal agreement that limits the amount of time US immigration authorities can detain migrant children. The agreement is generally interpreted as meaning families must be released within 20 days.

Administration officials blame the so-called Flores Settlement Agreement for a spike in immigration, saying it encourages migrants to bring children with them so they can be released into the US while their court cases are pending.

Department of Homeland Security officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the new rule would have a deterrent effect by showing prospective immigrants that they will not

EXPLAINED Flores settlement overturned

THE FLORES Settlement Agreement of 1997 capped the number of days migrant children could be held in detention at 20 and also mandated that they must be put in licensed facilities that meet a set of standards. The settlement was named after Jenny Lisette Flores, a Salvadoran 15-year-old who fled to the US to be with her aunt. She was arrested at the border, handcuffed, put in a detention facility and strip searched. A lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union on her behalf eventually led to the Flores settlement. The Trump administration's new law, allowing officials to indefinitely detain migrant children and get rid of the requirement for state-licensed facilities, overturns the Flores settlement.

necessarily get released into the country if they show up at the border with children.

Families typically have to wait several months for their cases to work their way through immigration court, DHS officials said, and the new rule would allow DHS to keep those families at detention facilities.

The American Academy of

Pediatrics has repeatedly said that detention is not suitable for children, who may suffer numerous negative physical and emotional symptoms. Officials said the families would receive mental health treatment and other services.

Trump has made a crack-down on immigration, legal and illegal, central to his presidency. REUTERS

India fights UK Ambedkar memorial closure

ADITI KHANNA

LONDON, AUGUST 21

THE INDIAN government has lodged an appeal against a local UK council's attempt to close down a memorial dedicated to Bhimrao Ambedkar in north London, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to the UK in November 2015.

Ambedkar House, at 10 King Henry's Road in north London where the architect of the Indian Constitution and Dalit rights activist lived in 1921-22 during his student days at London School of



It was inaugurated by PM Modi during his visit to the UK in 2015.

Economics, is housed within a four-storey residential property.

Camden Council, the local authority, recently rejected an application filed by the Indian authorities to convert the resi-

dential property into an official museum/memorial.

"The four-storey property does not have permission to be used as a museum and must be returned to residential use,"

Pak submits compliance report to FATF

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD, AUGUST 21

PAKISTAN HAS submitted compliance report on its 27-point action plan to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), as three separate evaluations currently in progress will determine the country's possible exit from the grey list of the anti-money laundering watchdog by October, ac-

cording to a media report. The Asia-Pacific Group — the regional affiliate of the FATF — is currently conducting in Canberra (Australia) five-year mutual evaluation of Pakistan's progress on upgrading its systems in all areas of financial and insurance services and sectors, a senior government official told Dawn.

This round is not directly linked to Pakistan's performance on its commitments with the

FATF on money laundering and terror-financing, but its assessment report can indirectly impact the country's position to move out of the grey list.

The assessments, represented from Pakistan by State Bank of Pakistan Governor Baqir Reza, will conclude on August 23, the daily said.

Pakistan has submitted its compliance report on 27-point action plan committed with the

notes the Camden Council officer's report in reference to the planning application made by the Indian authorities.

"In terms of balancing the loss of residential floor space against the cultural benefits, there is nothing to suggest that an alternative site could not be found — Dr Ambedkar lived there for a comparatively short time," it adds.

The council agrees that a provision for a museum would be within its planning policy, but it was being refused because that would cause a loss of residential floor space. PTI

FATF to the APG, which is reviewing its compliance on about seven areas mostly relating to financial and insurance services and facilities as part of an ongoing five-year review cycle.

These areas cover safeguards against money laundering and terror financing by outfits and non-government entities through banking and non-banking jurisdictions, capital markets, corporate and non-corporate sectors.

MEANWHILE

PARTS OF TITANIC BEING LOST TO SEA

Some parts of the wreckage of the Titanic that sank over 100 years ago in the Atlantic Ocean is deteriorating rapidly, according to an international team of deep-sea explorers. Strong ocean currents, salt corrosion and metal-eating bacteria are attacking the ship, which sank in 1912 on its maiden voyage.



10 tonnes of trash was collected from the Everest this year. Reuters

Nepal prohibits single-use plastic in Everest region

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

KATHMANDU, AUGUST 21

SINGLE-USE plastics have been banned in the Everest region to reduce the vast amounts of waste left by trekkers and mountaineers, Nepali authorities said Thursday.

In addition to seeing a record number of climbers this year, a government-led cleaning initiative on Everest — the world's highest mountain — also collected over 10 tonnes of trash.

The new ban in Khumbu Pasang Lhamu rural municipality, home to Mount Everest and several other snow-capped mountains, covers all plastic of less than 30 microns in thickness as well as drinks in plastic bottles, and will be effective from January.

"If we start now, it will help keep our region, the Everest and the mountains clean long term," local official Ganesh Ghimire said.

The region receives over 50,000 tourists every year, including climbers and trekkers. The local body will work with trekking companies, airlines and the Nepal Mountaineering Association to enforce the ban.

Environmentalists are also concerned that the pollution on Everest is affecting water sources down in the valley.

Six years ago, Nepal introduced a \$4,000 deposit per team of climbers on Everest that would be refunded if each climber brought down at least eight kilos of waste, but only half of the climbers return with the required amount.

CONTRACEPTIVES IN SHORT SUPPLY

Venezuela's economic crisis pushes women into 'forced motherhood'

CHRISTINE ARMARIO

CARACAS, AUGUST 21

DR SATURNINA Clemente pulls up to the small clinic in the impoverished Caucaguaita neighbourhood armed with one of Venezuela's most sought-after commodities: Hormonal implants to prevent pregnancy.

In a country where contraceptives are in short supply, word in the shantytown on the outskirts of Venezuela's capital spreads quickly. The lucky get on a list run by community leaders. The less fortunate hope there will be extras.

The veteran doctor has 104 implants and there won't be enough

for everyone. As a physician at the nation's largest pediatric hospital, Clemente knows first hand that the consequences for those who don't get one are high.

"It's a sense of impotency, of frustration," she says. "You see that it's not enough, that the demand is much higher."

As Venezuela's crisis deepens, women are bearing the brunt of the nation's upheaval. Despite promises by the socialist government to provide every woman access to family planning, recent surveys and interviews with health professionals indicate access to contraceptives remains incomprehensive.

International organisations like the UN Population Fund have

begun stepping in by importing tens of thousands of contraceptives this year; but their work is still limited. It's an ordeal with increasingly international ramifications, as a growing number of pregnant women flee to countries like Colombia seeking care they cannot get in Venezuela.

"Women are getting pregnant and don't have options," said Luisa Kislinger, a women's rights activist. "They're forced into motherhood."

Nicol Ramirez is 15 and already a mother. Her name is on Clemente's list, but to get an implant she needs to show a negative pregnancy test. The young mom and her older sister frantically call their mother. They need



Dr Saturnina Clemente (left) at work. AP

40,000 bolivars, the equivalent of about \$3, in order to do the simple test at a nearby laboratory.

"The situation in this country

isn't one for having children," Ramirez says, balancing her baby daughter on one hip. "I'm still a girl myself."

During the late Hugo Chávez's presidency, Venezuela's government expanded services aimed at helping poor mothers by providing monthly cash transfers. Chavez lavished praise on women and hailed the so-called "revolutionary mothers" who would help promote his vision.

The 1999 constitution he advanced guarantees "full family planning services" to women among a host of other benefits.

"The socialist revolution should be feminist," he declared.

Despite those initiatives, Chávez's government made only modest advances, at best, in improving contraceptive access. Government data shows that teenage pregnancies continued

to steadily increase during his time in power.

"There was a major advance with the constitution, with getting all these new rights and state obligations," said Rachel Effenbein, the author of an upcoming book on social programs created under Chávez for women. "But when it came to implementation, if and where it happened, it was patchy."

President Nicolás Maduro has struggled to advance his predecessor's agenda amidst a crippling economic contraction worse than the US Great Depression. Few if any women still get cash transfers except for occasional "bonuses" equivalent to a dollar or two. Maternal

death rates rose over 65 per cent between 2015 and 2016.

"Under Maduro we've seen an unprecedented setback," Kislinger said.

Health professionals believe Venezuela could cut its high maternal mortality rate by a third doing one thing: Providing contraceptives.

The extent of Venezuela's birth control shortage and the impact on women is difficult to quantify in part because the government has not released information on key indicators like teenage pregnancy since 2012. According to those now dated figures, just over 23 per cent of all births in Venezuela were to women under the age of 20. AP

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person (depicted in the photo) name: **unknown** residence and family is **unknown** about 35 years of age was found dead at DDA Park near Nigam Boudh Ghat, Kashmir Gate, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 15-A, dated **09.08.2019** has been registered at Police Station Kashmir Gate, Delhi.

His physical description is as under:-
Sex: Male, **Age:** 35 years, **Height:** 5'1" ft., **Complexion:** Shallow, **Wearing:** Red & Brown Colour Pant only.
 Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or Telephone Numbers.

SHO
P.S. Kashmir Gate, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23967889
Mob. No. - 8750870123

NORTHERN RAILWAY

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Name of work and its location: 30-Elect-47-T-R3-18-19-E3. Provision of lift in 15 new patients' cabin and separate food lift in Central Hospital, Northern Railway, New Delhi. Approx cost of the works: Rs. 56.59 Lacs. Address of the office: Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi. Earnest Money: Rs. 1,13,200.00.
Date & time of submission of tender: 18.09.2019, 15:00 Hrs. Opening of tender: 16.09.2019, 15:15 Hrs. Website & notice board: www.irps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi. 2690/2019

Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd.

TCIL invites Expression of Interest from reputed firms for 'Emploimentment of Business Associates (BAs)-Civil Works' (TCIL/15/1844/19-MM/10E/EOI).
Name of work and its location: 30-Elect-47-T-R3-18-19-E3. Provision of lift in 15 new patients' cabin and separate food lift in Central Hospital, Northern Railway, New Delhi. Approx cost of the works: Rs. 56.59 Lacs. Address of the office: Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi. Earnest Money: Rs. 1,13,200.00.
Date & time of submission of tender: 18.09.2019, 15:00 Hrs. Opening of tender: 16.09.2019, 15:15 Hrs. Website & notice board: www.irps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi. 2690/2019

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice (through e-tendering)
Name of work with its location: Installation of CCTV cameras to monitor staff in frontline duties with emphasis on Booking and parcel offices. App. Cost of the work (₹): ₹58,28,776.52/- only. Tender Document Fee (₹): ₹5,900/- only. Earnest Money deposit (₹): ₹1,16,600/- only. Address of the office: Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annex-1, DRM office, New Delhi-110055. Date & Time for upload the tender/closing of tender: Tender upload/closing date & time 11.09.2019 up to 15:00 hrs. Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.: See the N. Railway website www.irps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T Branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055. Tender No.: 558-Sig-16-Tel-OT-900 Dated : 21.08.2019 2694/19

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM & CIVIL AVIATION, HIMACHAL PRADESH, SHIMLA-9

CORRIGENDUM
 In continuation to this Department "Expression of Interest" for development of Chanshal Area published in the News Papers i.e. The Tribune, Economic Times & The Indian Express on 20.07.2019. In this regard last date of submission of Bids for Development of Chanshal Area has been extended upto 30.09.2019. The Pre-Bid meeting will be held on 30.08.2019 at 11.00 A.M. in the office of Department of Tourism, Block No. 28, SDA Complex, Kasumpti, Shimla-9.
Sd/- Director,
Tourism & Civil Aviation, H.P., Shimla-9
Ph. No. 0177-2625924, 2625864, Fax: 0177-2625456
E-mail: tourismmin-hp@nic.in

ODISHA COMPUTER APPLICATION CENTRE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Odisha Computer Application Centre (OCAC) invites RFP for selection of Agency for Supply, Installation & Commission of IT Hardware & peripherals at Tahasil & R.L. offices under R&DM Department. For details please visit websites www.ocac.in & www.odisha.gov.in. The last date for receipt of proposal is **06.09.2019, 02:00 P.M.**
 OCAC reserves the right to accept / reject any / all bids without assigning any reason thereof.
General Manager (Admin), OCAC, Plot No.-N-117-D, Acharya Vihar, P.O.-RRL, Bhubaneswar-751013, Ph.: 0674-2567280/2567064/2567295

DELHI URBAN SHELTER IMPROVEMENT BOARD

GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, C-7
RANA PRATAP BAGH, DELHI-110007
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
Executive Engineer, C-7, DUSIB, R.P. Bagh Delhi-110007 invites on behalf of Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board, percentage rate bid (On Line) on two bid system for the following work.
NIT No: 47/EEC-7/DUSIB/2019-20
Name of work:- EUIS.
Sub Head:- Providing and laying CC Pavement and improvement of Drainage system in remaining lanes at JJ Cluster Kaushal Puri La Bagh, Model Town (AC-18) (PID NO. 12206)
 Estt. Cost :- Rs. 52,59,749.00 Earnest Money - Rs. 1,05,200.00
 Tender Cost Rs. 1,000.00 Period of completion: 180 Days Last Time & Date of Submission of Bid: 30.08.2019 upto 15:00 Hours
 Date of Opening Technical Bid : 30.08.2019 after 15:30 Hours
 The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in/>
 All the corrigendum (if required) will be uploaded on portal and will not be published in News Paper.
Sd/-
(RAJINDER BANSAL)
DIP/Shabdarth/0547/19-20 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, C-7 (DUSIB)

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

N.I.T. No.	15 (A,B,C)19-20 dated 20.08.2019
Name of work with its location	A) Hiring of truck for site work, horticulture works in Delhi Area under ADENI/Hort./NDLS
	B) Outsourcing of House Keeping of Rest House at PK Road in the section of SSEM/PG Under ADENE-III
	C) Outsourcing of maintenance of Horticulture Works in the section of ADENI/Hort./IDLI
Approx. cost of work	A) 2130526.37 B) 2173450.32 C) 30094000.20
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-I/CT/51 dated 31.08.2016).
Completion period of work	A) 42800.00 B) 43500.00 C) 300500.00
	A) 24 Months B) 421 Days C) 380 Days
	A) 3540 B) 3540 C) 11800
Cost of tender on cash/by 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-I/CT/51 dated 31.08.2016).
Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 15.00 hrs on 24.09.2019 Opening of tender at 15.00 hrs. On 24.09.2019
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.irps.gov.in.
No. 128-W/269/OET/19-20/WE/NIT 15 (A,B,C) Dated : 20.08.2019	2698/2019

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Delhi Agricultural Marketing Board

(Govt. of NCT of Delhi)
9, Institutional Area, Pankha Road, Janakpuri,
New Delhi-110058
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
 The Item Rate Tenders are re- invited through e-tendering on behalf of Secretary APMC, Narela for the following work:-

S. No	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Last Date & Time of receipt of tenders through e-procurement	Tender ID No.
1	Supply and Erection of 110 feet flag mast with Flag at NGM, Narela	Rs. 8,48,704/-	Rs. 17,000/-	30.08.2019 Up to 15.00 hrs	2019-DAMB_176288_2

The Terms/conditions and other details of the tender may please be seen on the website <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
Sd/-
DIP/Shabdarth/0545/19-20 Project Engineer-III

नौलामी सूचना

महाप्रबंधक हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन गुरुग्राम बस स्टैंड पर शेष बची दुकानों की नौलामी
 हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन व उसके अधीनस्थ बस स्टैंड गुरुग्राम सोहन, पटौदी की दुकानों की नौलामी विनियम वर्ष 2019-2020, 2020-21 व 2021-22 के लिए निम्नलिखित दर्शाई गई तिथि समय व स्थान को नीचे है।

क्र.सं.	बस स्टैंड का नाम	तिथि व समय	स्थान
1.	बस स्टैंड गुरुग्राम, सोहना व पटौदी	27.08.2019 प्रातः 11.00 बजे	गुरुग्राम कार्यालय नजदीक बस स्टैंड गुरुग्राम
2.	बस स्टैंड गुरुग्राम, सोहना व पटौदी	30.08.2019 प्रातः 11.00 बजे	गुरुग्राम कार्यालय नजदीक बस स्टैंड गुरुग्राम
3.	बस स्टैंड गुरुग्राम, सोहना व पटौदी	05.09.2019 प्रातः 11.00 बजे	गुरुग्राम कार्यालय नजदीक बस स्टैंड गुरुग्राम

इसके अतिरिक्त बाकी शेष दुकानों की तिथि/समय अनुसर ही रहेंगी। इच्छुक बोलदाता अधिक जानकारी नियम व शर्तों का विवरण हेतु 500 रु. का भुगतान कर किसी भी कार्यदिक्षक महाराज महाराज हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन गुरुग्राम के कार्यालय में भवन लिपिक से प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।
हस्ता./-
महाप्रबंधक
हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन गुरुग्राम

कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम Employees' State Insurance Corporation

आदर्श अस्पताल बापुनगर 380024: अहमदाबाद, Model Hospital Bapunagar, Ahmedabad: 380024
 श्रम एवं रोजगार मंत्रालय / भारत सरकार, Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India
 आड. ओ. एस्. 9001:2015 प्रमाणित / ISO 9001: 2015 Certified
 दूरभाष / टेली: 079-22746006 (General Branch)
 ईमेल / Email: ms-bapunagar.gj@esic.nic.in
Invitation of E-TENDER (Two Bid System) for providing House Keeping and Facility Management Service for ESIC Model Hospital Bapunagar Ahmedabad & ESIC school of Nursing, D-34 Dispensary complex, Khokhra, Maninagar, Ahmedabad.
 Medical Superintendent invites E-Tenders (Two Bid System) from the interested and eligible tenders to providing House keeping and facility management service for one year which is extendable further one year with mutual understanding subject to satisfactory performance, if needed.

Name of Work	Estimate value of Contract	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Starting date for download of Tender Document	Last Date of Tender Submission of Tender Document	Date and time for Opening of Technical Bid
House-keeping and facility management service at ESIC Model Hospital - Bapunagar Ahmedabad & ESIC school of Nursing, D-34 Dispensary complex Khokhra, Maninagar, & ESIC staff quarter Colony, Bapunagar, Ahmedabad.	1.50 Crore (Rs. One Crore Fifty Lakh Only)	Rs. 3,00,000/- (Rs. Three Lakh Only)	On any working day from 22/08/19 to 11/09/19 between 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM and on Saturday & last date of submission during 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM	11/09/2019 upto 1:00 PM	13/09/2019 at 2:30 PM

Tender Document can be downloaded from ESIC Headquarter website www.esic.nic.in "Tenders" tab & <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> The tender should be submitted as per instruction given in the tender documents.
Sd/-
Medical Superintendent
ESIC Model Hospital, Bapunagar, Ahmedabad.
 davep 23169/11/0008/1920

SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT DEPARTMENT, HARYANA

SCO No. 20-27 Jeevandeep Building, 3rd Floor, Sector-17 A, Chandigarh
ONLINE APPLICATION FOR MERIT-CUM-MEANS SCHOLARSHIP
FRESH/RENEWAL FOR STUDENTS BELONGING TO THE MINORITY COMMUNITIES FOR THE YEAR 2019-20
Last Date of receipt of Online Application for Fresh & Renewal Scholarship by 31st October, 2019
 Online Applications are invited in the prescribed format from the students belonging to the Minority Community i.e. Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, Zoroastrians (Parsi) & Jain pursuing Technical /Professional Courses (Selected by Government of India, Ministry of Minority Affairs) at Under Graduate/Post Graduate Level, in an Institutions/Recognized by Appropriate Authority for Merit-cum-Means Scholarships for the year 2019-20 to be awarded as per Eligibility Criteria/Condition by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, Govt. of India.
Conditions for Scholarship:
 a) Students should be permanently Residing in Haryana State only.
 b) The Annual Income, from all sources, of the student's Parents or Guardian should not exceed Rs. 2.5 lakh.
 c) The Continuation/New Grant of awards will be subject to securing 50% marks in the previous Examination.
 d) The Income Certificate and Minority Community Certificate should be issued by 1st Class Magistrate (S.D.M./Tehsildar) otherwise Application will be rejected.
 e) It will be necessary for the Eligible Applicants to provide Aadhaar Number while applying for the Scholarship and in case, an individual does not possess Aadhaar one can provide the details of alternative Identification Documents, as stated in the Gazette Notification - S.O. No. 1284 (E) No. 1137, dated 21.04.2017 (As per Appendix-C).
 f) The Students have to fill his/her own Bank Account Number, while applying Online Application & their Bank Account Number should be Aadhar enabled.
 g) Scholarships will not be given to more than two Students in a Family.
 h) A Scholarship holder under this Scheme will not avail of any other Scholarship/Stipend for pursuing the same Course.
 i) The Scholarship amount will be directly transferred to Students Bank Account through (DBT) Direct Benefit Transfer System.
 j) 30% of the Scholarships is reserved for Girls Students & Distribution of Scholarship shall be as under:

Muslim	Sikh	Christian	Jain	Parsi	Buddhist
Target 30%	Target 30%	Target 30%	Target 30%	Target 30%	Target 30%
457	137	319	96	13	4

Rate of Scholarship

Sr. No.	Item	Hostellers	Day Scholars
1.	Maintenance Allowance (For 10 month only)	Rs. 10,000/- Per Annum (Rs.1000/- p.m)	Rs. 5,000/- per Annum (Rs. 500/- P.M.)
2.	Course fee*	Rs. 20,000/- Per Annum or actual whichever is less	Rs. 20,000/- per Annum or Actual whichever is less
	Total	Rs. 30,000/- (Thirty Thousand)	Rs. 25,000 (Twenty Five Thousand)

*Full Course Fee will be re-imbursed for National Level Institutions such as IITs, IIM's etc.
Time Line (For Fresh & Renewal Scholarship)

Sr. No.	Activities	Date (Fresh)	Date (Renewal)
1.	Submission of Online Applications for Fresh & Renewal Scholarship by Students	15th July to 31st October, 2019	15th July to 31st October, 2019

HOW TO APPLY:
 a) Only Online Applications will be accepted. All minority students can apply Online on the website: www.scholarships.gov.in Students will forward their applications online to the School/Institutions and will also take a Print-out. This Print-out along with all requisite documents (As prescribed in the Print-out) will be submitted to the concerned School/Institutions. Students will get a permanent ID, which he/she will keep with him/her for any further correspondence etc.
 b) The students who are studying in other states but Domiciled in Haryana will also apply Online.
 c) The Students are advised to read the terms and conditions and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) available on the home page of website- www.scholarships.gov.in before filling the Online Applications.
 d) School/Institution verification is mandatory. The School/Institution will scrutinize and forward all these Applications Online by e-Upload of Documents by Students are made mandatory for Fresh and Renewal Cases. Scrutiny of Online Applications on the basis of uploaded documents will be one by respective Institute as per the selected workflow. Eligible Candidate under this scheme will upload their Application/Attested Copy of previous Final Examination Certificate, Income Certificate, Bank Pass Book, Pan Card & Minority Community Certificate etc.
 For more details go on www.minorityaffairs.gov.in & www.scholarships.gov.in
Director, Social Justice & Empowerment Department, Haryana, Chandigarh

TIRUNELVELI SMART CITY LIMITED

SMART CITIES MISSION
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (NIT)
Tender Notice No.16/Smart City/2018-19/SCM Dated : 16.08.2019
 The Managing Director, Tirunelveli Smart City Limited, Tirunelveli hereby invites Bids through both on-line and off-line from eligible bidders for the following work:

Sl. No	Name of Work	Estimate Amount Rs. in Crore	Bid Security Rs. in Lakhs	Period of Completion
1	Development of Nainar Lake front in Tirunelveli Corporation	14.68	14.68	9 months

A two cover bidding procedure will be adopted. The bidders shall satisfy the qualification criteria and the financial criteria as mentioned in the Bid document. The bidding documents will be available from **26.08.2019 to 25.09.2019**. A pre-bid meeting held on **11.09.2019 at 11.00 hours**. Tender documents can be downloaded from the website <https://ntenders.gov.in>. The bidder shall upload their bids on or before **15.00 hours on 25.09.2019**. The tender will be opened at **15.30 hours on 26.09.2019**.
Managing Director,
Tirunelveli Smart City Limited, Tirunelveli Corporation Office,
S.N.High Road, Tirunelveli - 627001.
Email ID: commr.tirunelveli@tn.gov.in
Office : 0462 - 2329328 Fax : 0462 - 2329327
Managing Director,
Tirunelveli Smart City Limited.
 DIPR/2852/TENDER/2019

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person namely : Bajrangi S/o Unknown R/o Unknown **Age** : about 40 years, **Height** : 5'7", **Complexion** : Wheatish, **Face** : Long, **Built** : Strong, **Wearing**: Brown colour under garments has been found at Yamuna Vihar, C-9/26, Near Canara Bank Ka ATM. He was declared brought dead by the doctor on 14.08.2019. In this regard a case vide DD No : 104-A dated 14.08.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Bhajanpura, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved in G.T.B. Hospital Mortuary for 72 hours.
 Any person having any information or clue about this found dead body may kindly inform to the following:-
SHO ;
P.S. Bhajanpura, Delhi
North-East Distt., Delhi
Tel. No. 011-22560741, 22561071
 DP/7286/NE/19

E-TENDERING PRESS NOTICE

Executive Engineer, Civil Division No. IV, Irrigation & Flood Control Department Govt. of NCT of Delhi, L.M. Bund Office Complex, Shastrji Nagar, Delhi-31 invites on behalf of President of India online Percentage rate tender from approved and eligible contractors registered with Irrigation & Flood Control Department upto 3.00PM S. NO. 1 to 7 dated on 27.08.2019 and NO.8 to 12 dated on 28.08.2019 for the works:

H.O.A.: 2711 NON PLAN (REVENUE) MAINTENANCE DRAINAGE
1. NIT No. 40/RE/CD-IV/IFC/2019-20 (ID No. 2019_IFC_178381_1)
Name of work: Demolishing & Reconstruction of 2 Nos culvert at B-Block, on Bahari Pur Drain and 02 Nos Culverts on Bund drain at C Block & D block, Khajoori Khas in Karawal Nagar Constituency (AC-70). Estimated Cost of Rs 31,56,548/- Earnest Money Rs 63,131/-period of completion 120 days
H.O.A.: MLALAD FUND UNDER DEPTT.OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT
2 NIT No.45/RE/CD-IV/IFC/2019-20 (ID No. 2019_IFC_178372_1)
Name of work: - Construction of RCC Welcome Entry gate at Vishwamitra marg (near Gopal Nursing Home). In West Jyoti Nagar Lonh Road Babarpur AC-67. Estimated Cost of Rs Rs 5,74,910/- Earnest Money Rs 11,498/- period of completion 60 days
H.O.A.: MLALAD FUND UNDER DEPTT.OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT
3. NIT No. 70/RE/CD-IV/IFC/2019-20 (ID No. 2019_IFC_178377_1)
Name of work: - Improvement of CC Road & side drains at Village Ziauddin Pur (New Kardampuri) Part-A in Babarpur Constituency AC-67. Estimated Cost of Rs 74,31,707/- Earnest Money Rs 1,48,634/-period of completion 90 days
H.O.A.: MLALAD FUND UNDER DEPTT. OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT
4. NIT No. 71/RE/CD-IV/IFC/2019-20 (ID No. 2019_IFC_178374_1)
Name of work: - Improvement of CC Road & side drains at Village Ziauddin Pur (New Kardampuri 1) Part-B in Babarpur Constituency AC-67. Estimated Cost of Rs 77,70,965/- Earnest Money Rs 1,55,419/-period of completion 90 days
H.O.A.: MLALAD FUND UNDER DEPTT.OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT
5. NIT No. 72/RE/CD-IV/IFC/2019-20 (ID No. 2019_IFC_178380_1)
Name of work: - Improvement of CC Road & side drains at Village Ziauddin Pur (New Kardampuri 1) Part-C in Babarpur Constituency AC-67. Estimated Cost of Rs 63,49,269/- Earnest Money Rs 1,26,985/-period of completion 90 days
H.O.A.: MLALAD FUND UNDER DEPTT.OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT
6. NIT No. 74/EE/CD-IV/IFC/2019-20 (ID No. 2019_IFC_177995_1)
Name of work: - Providing and fixing Reflective signage Entry gate Board at Kardampuri Bridge (RD 9730 Metre), Shamsanghat Bridge (RD-9250 Metre), Maujpur Bridge (RD -8950 Metre), Babarpur Bridge (RD-8750 Metre), Zafraabad Foot Bridge (RD-8200) & PWD Bridge (RD-8000 Metre) on Left bank of Trunk Drain No. 1. Estimated Cost of Rs 20,75,136/- Earnest Money Rs 41,503/- period of completion 60 days
H.O.A.: 2711 NON PLAN (REVENUE) MAINTENANCE DRAINAGE
7. NIT No.75/ EE/CD-IV/IFC/2019-20 (ID No. 2019_IFC_177999_1)
Name of work: Disposal of floating material garbage, slush an unhygienic deposit from collecting point at floating boom/trash barrier (U/S side of D.J.B. Pipe Line Bridge) at RD 9990m on Left & Right Bank of Trunk Drain No. 1 to village Singhola (Khampur/Tikri) EDMC Authorized dumping ground. Estimated Cost of Rs 3577507/- Earnest Money Rs 71550/- period of completion 90 days
H.O.A.: MLALAD FUND UNDER DEPTT.OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT
8. NIT No. 76/EE/CD-IV/IFC/2019-20 (ID No. 2019_IFC_178304_1)
Name of work: - Development of damage street pavement and side drains in A & B Blocks of Sadat Pur Extension (Shukar Bazar Road) in Karawal Nagar Constituency (AC-70). Estimated Cost of Rs Rs 58,33,515/- Earnest Money Rs 1,16,670/- period of completion 120days
H.O.A.: MLALAD FUND UNDER DEPTT.OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT
9. NIT No.77/EE/CD-IV/IFC/2019-20 (ID No. 2019_IFC_178306_1)
Name of work: - Development of damage street pavement and side drains in A & B Blocks: of Dayal Pur Extension in Karawal Nagar Constituency (AC-70). Estimated Cost of Rs Rs 54,50,121/- Earnest Money Rs 1,09,002/- period of completion 120 days
H.O.A.: MLALAD FUND UNDER DEPTT.OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT
10. NIT No.78/EE/CD-IV/IFC/2019-20 (ID No. 2019_IFC_178308_1)
Name of work: - Development of damage street pavement and side drains in A & C Block (Karana Wai Gali), Nehru Vihar in Mustafabad Constituency (AC-69). Estimated Cost of Rs Rs 94,80,003/-Earnest Money Rs 1,89,600/- period of completion 120 days
H.O.A.: MLALAD FUND UNDER DEPTT.OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT
11. NIT No.79/EE/CD-IV/IFC/2019-20 (ID No. 2019_IFC_178313_1)
Name of work: - Development of damage street pavement and side drains in D-Block of Dayal Pur Extension in Mustafabad Constituency (AC-69). Estimated Cost of Rs 93,56,158/- Earnest Money Rs 1,87,123/-period of completion 120 days
H.O.A.: MLALAD FUND UNDER DEPTT.OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT
12. NIT No.80/EE/CD-IV/IFC/2019-20 (ID No. 2019_IFC_178318_1)
Name of work: - Providing and laying RCC culverts on R/side of Escape Drain No.1 between RD 1350m to RD 1800m. Estimated Cost of Rs Rs 8,61,881/- Earnest Money Rs 17,238/- period of completion 45 days
Note: 1) The enlistment of the contractors should be valid on the last date of opening of tender. In case only the last date of opening of tender is extended, the enlistment of contractor should be valid on the original date of opening of tenders.
 2) The following Scanned copies are required to be uploaded: - (i) Scanned copy of Registration with IFC. (ii) Scanned copy of GST. (iii)Scanned copy of EMD. (iv) Scanned copy of PAN Card/Permanent Account No (v) scanned copy of Email/contact no./Address (vi) ESIC registration No. (vii) EPFO registration No.
 (3) EMD's in the form of DD/FDR in favour of EE, CD-IV may be submitted in the O/o of EE, CD-IV physically upto 3.00 P.M. in the date of opening tender. If the same shall not be deposited physically, the tender shall be treated as cancelled. The Detail of above mentioned work can be seen and downloaded from website <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
 4) No manual tender shall be accepted; only tender submitted through e-procurement portal shall be considered.
Sd/-
DIP/Shabdarth/0554/19-20 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER CD-IV

E - TENDERING PRESS NOTICE

The Executive Engineer, Civil Division No.V, Irrigation and Flood Control Department, Govt. of NCT of Delhi. Near Paryavaran Complex, Saidulajab New Delhi 110030 invites on behalf of President of India, on line percentage rate re-tender from approved and eligible contractors registered with Irrigation and Flood Control Department up to **3:00 PM on dates mentioned as below.**

1. NIT 43/2019-20/EE/CD-V/Acs/ID No. 2019_IFC_176849_1 (Percentage rate). **H.O.A.:** MLALAD. **N.O.W.:** Development of Road/ Street pavement and construction of Drains at Naugraha Mohalla Tughlakabad village in Tughlakabad Constituency AC-52. E.C.Rs. 53,65,106/- Earnest Money Rs 1,07,302/- Period of Completion 120 Days. (Date of opening 22.08.2019).
2. NIT 44/2019-20/EE/CD-V/Acs/ID No. 2019_IFC_176851_1 (Percentage rate). **H.O.A.:** MLALAD. **N.O.W.:** Development of road and street at E-Block Vishwakarma Colony in Tughlakabad Constituency AC-52. E.C.Rs. 90,07,650/- Earnest Money Rs 1,80,153/- Period of Completion 120 Days. (Date of opening 22.08.2019).
3. NIT 45/2019-20/EE/CD-V/Acs/ID No. 2019_IFC_176852_1 (Percentage rate). **H.O.A.:** MLALAD. **N.O.W.:** Development of road/street pavement and construction of drains at Som Bazar main road Police Chowki to Durga Mandir Near Bengali Colony Tughlakabad village in Tughlakabad AC-52. E.C.Rs. 1,67,664/- Earnest Money Rs 1,67,093/- Period of Completion 120 Days. (Date of opening 22.08.2019).
4. NIT 46/2019-20/EE/CD-V/Acs/ID No. 2019_IFC_176856_1 (Percentage rate). **H.O.A.:** MLALAD. **N.O.W.:** Development of road/ street pavement and construction of drains at Kangar Mohalla Tughlakabad village in Tughlakabad AC-52. E.C.Rs. 51,56,581/- Earnest Money Rs 1,03,132/- Period of Completion 120 Days. (Date of opening 22.08.2019).
5. NIT 47/2019-20/EE/CD-V/Acs/ID No. 2019_IFC_176857_1 (Percentage rate). **H.O.A.:** MLALAD. **N.O.W.:** Development of road and street at D-Block Vishwakarma colony in Tughlakabad Constituency AC-52. E.C.Rs. 91,27,867/- Earnest Money Rs 1,82,557/- Period of Completion 120 Days. (Date of opening 22.08.2019).
6. NIT 48/2019-20/EE/CD-V/Acs/ID No. 2019_IFC_176859_1 (Percentage rate). **H.O.A.:** MLALAD. **N.O.W.:** Development of road/street pavement and construction of side

19 ECONOMY



GOLD

₹38,820



RUPEE

₹71.55



OIL

\$59.45



SILVER

₹45,040

SENSEX: 37,060.37 ▼ 267.64 NIFTY: 10,918.70 ▼ 98.30 NIKKEI: 20,618.57 ▲ 58.65 HANG SENG: 26,270.04 ▲ 38.50 FTSE: 7,200.68 ▲ 75.68 DAX: 11,786.04 ▼ 134.86

International market data till 1900 IST

MACRO WATCH
TAXATION

Direct tax revenue growth for Apr 1 to Aug 15 slows to 4.7% from 9.6% in Apr-June

Sharply lower than the required annual growth rate of 17.3%

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

THE GOVERNMENT'S net revenue growth from direct taxes has decelerated sharply to 4.7 per cent for April 1-August 15 this year as against a required annual growth rate of 17.3 per cent, reflecting lower buoyancy in the wake of an overall slowdown in the economy.

With the sharply slower revenue growth, the government's direct tax targets are looking out of reach for the second consecutive year.

The single-digit growth in tax revenue has, in fact, worsened over the last two months.

For April-June, CGA data showed that the net revenue growth from direct taxes was 9.6 per cent, which has now slowed further to 4.7 per cent. Gross direct tax collections for April 1-August 15 have also recorded a meagre growth rate of 5.7 per cent, even as refunds have grown at a nominal rate of 8 per cent for April 1-August 15, a source said.

Already, as per the publicly available CGA data for the first quarter, the required run rate for the gross tax (direct and indirect) revenue collections was 22.3 per cent and 29.5 per cent run rate for net tax (direct and indirect) revenue collections in the remaining nine months of this financial year. The CGA has so far released data related to government accounts only till April-June.

The government had missed its direct tax targets in the previous financial year by Rs 63,000 crore. In 2018-19, the government had initially estimated direct tax revenue at Rs 11.5 lakh crore, which was revised up to Rs 12 lakh crore. However, the actual di-

Revised limit to be applicable to pending cases too: CBDT

New Delhi: In a bid to remove any ambiguity over the withdrawal of direct tax-related litigation, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on Wednesday clarified that the revised higher threshold for filing appeals would be applicable to all pending cases as well. Just a year after the CBDT had raised the monetary limit of claims for the income tax department to file appeals in higher judicial forums, the board on August 8 again raised the threshold 'as a step towards further management of litigation'. The threshold now stands at Rs 50 lakh for appeals before the appellate tribunal in income tax matters. Similarly, it has been raised to Rs 1 crore for appeals before the High Courts and Rs 2 crore for the Supreme Court. **FE**

rect tax revenue for 2018-19 was then recorded at Rs 11.37 lakh crore.

Following the shortfall in direct tax revenue target for 2018-19, the government had then reduced the tax targets for this financial year. Direct tax revenue target has now been pegged at Rs 13.35 lakh crore for the current financial year, Rs 45,000 crore lower than the initial estimate of Rs 13.8 lakh crore in the interim Budget presented in February.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA BOARD MEETING

Sebi eases regulatory norms for foreign portfolio investors

Rating agencies to be provided information on debt defaults by companies

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, AUGUST 21

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Wednesday eased the regulatory framework for foreign portfolio investors (FPIs), simplified their KYC requirements and permitted them to carry out off-market transfer of securities.

The FPI regulations have been revised based on the recommendation of a committee headed by former RBI Deputy Governor HR Khan. The Sebi said FPIs would be now be classified into two categories instead of three. It also removed broad-based eligibility criteria for institutional FPIs to "simplify and expedite" the registration process of FPIs. "Documentation requirements for KYC have been simplified," Sebi said.

According to the revised norms, registrations for multiple investment manager structures has also been simplified. It has also rationalised the requirements for issuance and subscription of off-

'Obtained details on CG Power, looking into it'

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, AUGUST 21

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) on Wednesday said it has gathered details about alleged financial irregularities at CG Power and Industrial Solutions and is looking into the matter.

Shares of the company on Wednesday plunged 20 per cent to Rs 11.80 on the BSE to touch their lowest trading permissible limit for the second consecutive day after a probe by the board of the Gautam Thapar-promoted CG Power found major governance and financial lapses.

"We have obtained some details of what is going on with them. We will look into it," Sebi Chairman Ajay Tyagi said on the matter.

EXPLAINED E. Worries over 'super-rich' tax for FPIs remain

WHILE THE Sebi has eased the regulatory framework for foreign portfolio investors (FPIs), especially KYC requirements, and permitted them to carry out off-market transfer of securities, a big area of concern for FPIs remains unaddressed. The government is yet to resolve the issue of 'super-rich' tax on FPIs that has led to outflows of over Rs 22,000 crore from the stock market in July and August so far. Despite representations from FPIs, the government has not yet relented on the tax issue, leading to worries whether outflows will continue or not.

shore derivative instruments. Under the new norms, offshore funds floated by mutual funds will be allowed to invest in the country after registration as FPIs.

Among others, entities established in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) will be deemed to have met the criteria for FPIs. To attract more overseas funds into the market,

Proposal to raise minimum public holding: Sebi to do more 'homework'

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, AUGUST 21

THE SEBI on Wednesday said it needs to do more homework before the government's Budget proposal to raise the minimum public shareholding to 35 per cent from 25 per cent is taken up for implementation.

"We have shared our views with the government. Our views are that liquidity is good, but there are some aspects that need to be examined further as to what is the right level to mandate it," Sebi Chairman Ajay Tyagi said.

He said based on the BSE and NSE data, currently, on an average the public shareholding is around 50 per cent. He also said about 45 per cent of the listed PSUs are yet to meet the 25 per cent requirement, and they have been given time till August 2020 to achieve it.



Sebi Chairman Ajay Tyagi in Mumbai. Pradipt Das

"What will be the short-term, long-term implications of it, which are the companies, how much amount will come to the market. Also, the IPO market is not

Platform (IGP) to regular trade category on the main board.

Apart from this, Sebi said it will amend regulations pertaining to credit rating agencies, where the agencies will be mandatorily provided information on debt defaults of companies to enable them to review ratings on these companies. SEBI had recently taken action against agencies following a series of sudden downgrades and withdrawals of ratings and for failing to identify potential defaults in time. Rating agencies have often cited the lack of information shared by companies as a reason for their delayed response.

The collapse of IL&FS — which was a triple A rated company — following a series of defaults has raised a question mark over the functioning of rating agencies. The Sebi has also introduced an amendment to the prohibition of insider trading. It will provide an informant on insider trading a reward for up to 10 per cent of the disgorged amount. The maximum an informant can be awarded will be Rs 1 crore.

doing very well. All these issues need consideration and examination. For the time being, we will say that we will examine all those issues," Tyagi said.

Economy shows further weakening, needs larger push: RBI chief at MPC meet

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, AUGUST 21

THE ECONOMY needs a "larger push" as economic activity has shown signs of "further weakening" since June 2019 and several high frequency indicators have either slowed down or contracted in recent months, Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das said in the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting held on August 7.

According to minutes of the MPC meeting released by the RBI on Wednesday, in view of weakening of domestic growth impulses and unsettled global macroeconomic environment, there is a need to bolster dwindling domestic demand and support investment activity, even as the impact of past three rate cuts is gradually working its way to the real economy. The RBI cut the repo rate by an unconventional 35 basis points to 5.40 per cent in the last policy review.

"Overall, there is clear evidence of domestic demand slowing down further. Investment activity has been losing traction," he said. With headline inflation projected to remain within the target over the next one-year horizon, supporting domestic growth by further reducing interest rates needs to be given the utmost priority, Das said. "Given the current and evolving inflation and growth scenario at this juncture, it can no longer be a business as usual approach. The economy needs a larger push," he said.

"Economic activity has shown signs of further weakening since the last MPC meeting in June 2019. Several high frequency indicators have either slowed down or contracted in recent months," Das said. The RBI Governor said private consumption, which has been the mainstay of domestic demand, has also decelerated. "The slowing down of domestic demand is also reflected in significant moderation in CPI inflation excluding food and fuel; and contraction in merchandise imports," he said.

Das said the transmission to bank lending rates has been inadequate, though it is expected to improve in the coming weeks and months. Credit growth has slowed down somewhat in the recent period; credit to micro, small

"Economic activity has shown signs of further weakening since the last MPC meeting in June 2019. Several high frequency indicators have either slowed down or contracted ..."

SHAKTIKANTA DAS,
GOVERNOR, RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

and medium enterprises, in particular, remains anaemic, he said.

"The weakening of the global economy... has severely impacted India's exports...," he said. BP Kanungo, Deputy Governor, RBI, said domestic growth is also slowing down. "A worrisome aspect of the recent growth slowdown is the moderation in private consumption which constitutes the largest segment of aggregate demand. Rural demand indicators like tractor, motorcycle sales continued to contract in May-June," he said.

"Urban demand indicators, like passenger vehicle sales, contracted for the eighth consecutive month in June. Commercial vehicle sales also contracted during June. Construction activity indicators weakened with contraction in cement production and slower growth in finished steel consumption in June," Kanungo said.

Turning to economic activity, Das said total area sown under kharif crops was 6.6 per cent lower as on August 2 than a year ago, with significant catching up taking place in recent weeks. "Industrial activity continued to be weak in May 2019, impacted mainly by manufacturing and mining. In terms of use-based classification, growth of capital goods and consumer durables decelerated. However, growth of non-durables accelerated in May," he said. The index of eight core industries decelerated in June. Merchandise exports and imports contracted in June. Seasonally adjusted capacity utilisation moderated to 74.5 per cent in Q4 of 2018-19 from 75.6 per cent in Q3.

According to Michael Patra, Executive Director, RBI, the space for monetary policy action has to be calibrated to the evolving situation, especially as the nature and depth of the slowdown is still unravelling and elbow room may be needed if it deepens.

Gold hits new high of ₹38,820

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

GOLD PRICES on Wednesday appreciated Rs 50 to hit a new high of Rs 38,820 per 10 gram at the bullion market here on account of consistent buying support from jewellers, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

Silver also soared by Rs 1,140 to Rs 45,040 per kg on fresh off-take by industrial units and coin makers. Traders attributed the gain in gold to increase in the domestic spot market demand. However, a weak trend in the international market restricted the gains, they said. Gold prices traded weak with international spot gold prices but continue to hover around \$1,500 an ounce. In the national capital, gold of 99.9 per cent and 99.5 per cent purity rose Rs 50 each to Rs 38,820 and Rs 38,650 per 10 gram, respectively.

'India Inc reports lower revenue, profit growth in Q1'

The ongoing economic slowdown has started hurting corporates as well, with companies reporting a sharp decline in both revenue and profit growth numbers in the June quarter, according to a Care Ratings report

Net profit growth moderated to 6.6% as compared to last year's 24.6%

The findings are based on an analysis of 2,976 companies which have reported their quarterly numbers

The first quarter of the fiscal year 2019-20 has been marked by disappointing and weak corporate earnings indicative of the overall slowdown in various industries and the economy, the report said

In a silver lining, the broader economic woes do not seem to have had an



impact on the organised sector jobs, as the employee expenses growth continued to be stable

10.6% growth in employee compensation as compared to

the year-ago period

From the operating profit growth perspective, the study showed a slide down to 4.1% in June quarter as against double digit growth last year

EXCLUDING BANKS and financial sector, a survey of 2,574 entities showed tax outgo declining by 19% during June quarter, as against a 52.3% growth in year-ago period

PROFIT AFTER tax for these firms fell by 11.9% in June quarter, as against 52.9% growth in year-ago period

IT CAN be noted, GDP growth slid to a 5-year low of 5.8% for March quarter; likely to come lower for June quarter

If production is cut, resources will also be reduced: Maruti

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

WITH POOR auto sales leading to job losses, Maruti Suzuki on Wednesday warned of further layoffs if the demand doesn't pick up either during the upcoming festive season or beyond that.

The country's largest carmaker had to let go of over 3,000 temporary workers due to cut down in production owing to the prolonged slowdown in domestic car sales. The company has been cutting production across factories since February this year to manage inventory which has been higher than normal since the second half of the previous fiscal. Maruti Suzuki executive director

Company launches XL6 MPV for ₹9.79 lakh

(marketing and sales) Shashank Srivastava said if the slowdown continues, production is bound to be lower which may lead to further resources being reduced.

"Why would you send more stock to dealers when it is still high and why to keep more stock in factory? If the production is reduced, the corresponding resources will also be reduced. How many and for how long, I cannot say," Srivastava said. The company launched its six-seater MPV XL6 at a price range of Rs 9.79 lakh to Rs 11.45 lakh, which will be sold through its Nexa dealerships. **FE**

May cut up to 10K jobs: Parle

SACHIN RAVIKUMAR
BENGALURU, AUGUST 21

BISCUIT MAKER Parle Products Pvt Ltd might lay off up to 10,000 workers as slowing economic growth and falling demand in the rural heartland could cause production cuts, a company executive said on Wednesday.

A downturn in the country is denting sales of everything from cars to clothing, forcing companies to curtail production and raising hopes that the government will unveil an economic stimulus to revive growth. A sharp drop in Parle's biscuit sales means the company may have to slash production, which may result in layoffs of 8,000-10,000 people, Mayank Shah, category head at Parle, said in a telephone interview from Mumbai.

"The situation is so bad, that if the government doesn't intervene immediately... we may be forced to eliminate these positions," he said. Parle, founded in 1929, employs about 100,000 people, including direct and contract workers across 10 company-owned facilities and 125 contract manufacturing plants.

"Consumers here are extremely price-sensitive. They're extremely conscious of how many biscuits they are getting for a particular price," Shah said.

Parle is not the only food product company to have flagged slowing demand. Varun Berry, managing director of Britannia Industries Ltd, Parle's main competitor, said earlier this month that consumers were "thinking twice" about buying products worth just Rs 5. **REUTERS**

RECORDS OF US FEDERAL RESERVE'S JULY 30-31 MEETING

US Fed debated bigger rate cut; concerned over a global slowdown, trade wars

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, AUGUST 21

THE US Federal Reserve debated cutting interest rates more aggressively at its last meeting, although central bankers were united in wanting to avoid the appearance of being on a path to more rate cuts, records from the meeting showed.

The US central bank cut rates by 25 basis points at the close of its July 30-31 meeting, with minutes of the meeting published on Wednesday showing broad concern among policymakers over a

global economic slowdown, trade tensions and sluggish inflation.

"A couple of participants indicated that they would have preferred a 50 basis point cut," according to the minutes, which added that policymakers favoring such a move were concerned by inflation being too low. Since that meeting, the Fed has come under increasing pressure to cut borrowing costs more, including a call by US President Donald Trump on Wednesday for the Fed to slash its benchmark rate.

However, Fed policymakers agreed at their July 30-31 meeting that they did not want to give the



US President Donald Trump with Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell. Reuters File Photo

impression they were planning more rate cuts.

"Participants generally favored

an approach in which policy would be guided by incoming information... and that avoided any

appearance of following a preset course," according to the minutes.

US stocks held on to session gains after the minutes were released, with the benchmark S&P 500 Index up about 0.75 per cent on the day.

"The Fed clearly wants to be flexible. They are clearly worried about some of the global tensions that are out there, whether it is trade or Brexit or some of those international developments," said Willie Delwiche, investment strategist at Baird in Milwaukee.

Yields on longer-dated US Treasury securities dropped to the lows of the day. The 10-year note

yield slipped to 1.55 per cent, while the 30-year bond dropped back to near the key 2 per cent level, last trading at 2.02 per cent. It fell below 2 per cent for the first time ever last week as diminishing expectations for US economic growth fueled demand for safe assets. The dollar weakened fractionally against a basket of major trading partners' currencies.

The comments on Wednesday by Trump, who has repeatedly criticised the Federal Reserve's policies, come as he seeks to downplay worries that a trade war between the United States and China could weigh on

the US economy and trigger a possible recession before the November 2020 presidential election. Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank President Neel Kashkari, who does not have a vote on the Fed's monetary policy committee this year but participates in policy discussions, urged the Fed on Wednesday to use pledges about future policy, known in central banking as "forward guidance," to boost the economy.

The July 30-31 policy meeting also included discussion of the US Federal Reserve's research into potential changes to its approach to setting policy.

Stop socialising losses: CEA Subramanian to India Inc

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MUMBAI, AUGUST 21

CHIEF ECONOMIC Advisor K Subramanian Wednesday called for a "mindset change" in the private sector by desisting from the tendency to grab profit and socialise losses and also seek sops in times of stress.

He also said it will be only investment and not consumption that will help the economy grow, explaining that the latter boosts an economy with a higher per capita income of say \$10,000 or more. The comments come amidst increasing criticism both from the corporate world as well as by analysts and economists outside the government about the issues plaguing the economy, and many a sector like the auto sending Soses for help.

Comparing the private sector, which benefited the most from the 1991 reforms, to a grown-up

"We need to move on; we're a market economy, where assets do get reallocated when someone doesn't manage it well"

K SUBRAMANIAN CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISOR

man, he said, "this 30-year-old man and must stand on his own feet. This adult cannot keep asking his father for help and live with the idea of personalising profit and socialising losses."

"We need to move on; we're a market economy, where assets do get reallocated when someone doesn't manage it well," he told an event organised by Jana Small Finance Bank this evening.

Pointing to an op-ed article by fellow economist Arvind Panagariya about the current economic situation, he sought to drive the point of motivations while the private sector makes pleas for help and called for the need to inculcate

"good habits" in the private sector. Meanwhile, in a different take on what should drive economic growth, Subramanian pitched for a move away from consumption which has fuelled growth for the last decade and refocus on investment which has been falling for the six to seven years.

Talks about consumption driving demand works very well where the economy crosses the \$10,000 per capita threshold, but below that level it is investment that will drive growth, he said.

"Consumption acts like a force-multiplier, but it isn't the key driver of growth in a low-per capita economy but it's investment which is really critical to create jobs and for that we need investments, particularly by private sector." Subramanian also sought to blame the previous UPA government for the current mess in the economy saying the past government did not carry out enough structural reforms.

NCLAT SEEKS RESPONSE FROM LENDERS

Dutch court threatens to sell Jet Airways' confiscated assets

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

THE ADMINISTRATOR of a Netherlands court, which is pursuing insolvency of grounded Jet Airways, on Wednesday threatened to sell off the confiscated assets of the debt-laden carrier because of non-cooperation by the committee of creditors (CoC). A three-member bench of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) headed by Justice SJ Mukhopadhyaya has sought the lenders' response on whether they are ready to pay fees and bear costs incurred by the Dutch court administrator, Rocco Mulder.

The NCLAT said it would consider similar treatment for creditors of foreign countries as finan-

The Dutch court had seized one of Jet's Boeing 777 aircraft that was parked in the Schiphol airport in Amsterdam where Jet had a regional office

cial creditors and could allow cost of insolvency resolution process at overseas location to be borne in India. The tribunal will further hear the case on September 4.

Representing Mulder, advocate Sumant Batra told the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) that the lenders are yet to decide on their claims.

"I will have to withdraw the undertaking for not disposing of the seized assets since there is no response from the CoC on my demands," Batra said.

The administrator undertook before the NCLAT on July 11 not

pay two European creditors with dues of around Rs 280 crore.

The Dutch court had seized one of Jet's Boeing 777 aircraft that was parked in the Schiphol airport in Amsterdam where Jet had a regional office.

The NCLT Mumbai on June 20 admitted the insolvency petition filed by SBI against Jet which owes unpaid liabilities of around Rs 25,000 crore in the form of bank loans, unpaid salaries, vendor dues and lease rentals. It appointed Grant Thornton's Ashish Chhawchharia the interim RP with instructions to complete the resolution process in 90 days as the matter is of national importance.

Since then, Jet's equity partner Etihad Airways and Anil Agarwal, executive chairman, Vedanta Resources, have backed out of the resolution process. FE

BRIEFLY

Coal exploration: Govt to amend MMDR Act

Kolkata: The Centre is in the process of bringing an amendment to the MMDR Act to do away with the need of the state governments' seeking prior approval for giving out mining leases, Coal Secretary Sumanta Chaudhuri said here on Wednesday. PTI

MCA clarifies on firms' merger date

New Delhi: The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) on Wednesday issued a circular clarifying that companies can now choose a merger's "appointed date" based on occurrence of an event, which is relevant to the said merger between firms. FE

RBI allows e-mandates on cards

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank on Wednesday permitted processing of e-mandate on credit and debit cards for recurring transactions (merchant payments) with a cap of Rs 2,000. PTI

'Growth set to slow further in April-June'

New Delhi: India's economic growth is set to slow further in the April-June quarter of this year to 5.7 per cent, says a Nomura report. PTI

UDAY: States to face cuts for missing targets

New Delhi: The Centre has proposed reduction in power sector funds of the states that would not maintain performance benchmarks set under the second version of UDAY scheme, which is at the draft stage, Power Minister R K Singh said on Wednesday. The government plans the second wave of reforms in the power distribution sector and has shared the draft with states, the minister told reporters here. PTI

TRAI REPORT 'Mobile data price down 95% but revenue up 2.5 times in 5 years'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

PRICES OF mobile data have fallen drastically by about 95 per cent to Rs 11.78 per gigabyte but cumulative revenue of telecom operators has risen by around 2.5 times to Rs 54,671 crore in the last five years, a Trai report said. The data usage increased by 56 folds to 46,404 million GB in 2018 from 828 million GB in 2014 with average data consumption in the country growing multi-fold to 76 GB per subscriber from 0.27 GB per subscriber during the same period, the Trai said.

Amazon opens biggest global campus in India, can accommodate 15,000

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU HYDERABAD, AUGUST 21

E-COMMERCE MAJOR Amazon on Wednesday opened its largest campus in Hyderabad outside of the US facility.

Spread across 9.5 acres to accommodate over 15,000 employees, the new campus is Amazon's first own office building and is the single-largest building globally.

Amazon first started operations in India from Hyderabad in 2004. The company plans to strengthen its focus on talent in India. It has 62,000-odd full-time employees, the largest tech base outside Seattle and approximately 1.55 lakh contract em-

The firm has 62,000-odd full-time employees, the largest tech base outside Seattle, approximately 1.55 lakh contract employees in India

ployees. Besides, it is also first Amazon facility to create an Alexa Pod and experiment the Inside Day 1 Alexa Skill (Beta) and the campus is built to offer Agile-based environment to maintain well-being of employees and foster inclusion.

"Over the last 15 years, we have invested significantly in India across 30 office spaces, the AWS APAC Region in Mumbai, 50 Fulfillment Centers in 13 states as well as hundreds of delivery stations and sort centres, creating

nearly 200,000 jobs in India. This new Amazon campus building is a tangible commitment to that long-term thinking and our plans for India," Amazon's India country manager Amit Agarwal said.

"The largest buildings in Seattle houses about 5,000 employees," said John Schoettler, vice-president of Amazon's Global Real Estate and Facilities. He said the campus was Amazon's largest in the world but has plenty more room to grow. FE

EPFO appoints UTI AMC, SBI Mutual Fund as fund managers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

RETIREMENT FUND manager EPFO on Wednesday approved appointment of UTI AMC and SBI Mutual Fund as its fund managers for three years, according to a source.

Besides, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) also approved a proposal for early redemption of its investment of around Rs 700 crore in bonds of troubled Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd (DHFL), at its trustees' meeting held in Hyderabad.

Net payroll addition at EPFO up 43% in June

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

REVERSING A month-on-month fall in May, the net employment generation in the formal sector grew 42.8 per cent in June over the previous month, according to the latest payroll data of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO).

However, the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) reported a 5.3 per cent decline in net addition in June, compared with the previous month.

The EPFO showed a net addition of 12,23,675 employees in June this year, compared with 8,56,870 in May. The ESIC re-

ported a net addition of 12,19,501, against 12,88,140 in the previous month. The estimates of the EPFO and the ESIC are not additive, as there are elements of overlap. These data give different perspectives on the levels of employment in the formal sector and do not measure employment at a holistic level, according to government officials.

As per the EPFO data, the highest percentage rise was in the age brackets of above 26 years with month-on-month increase of 54 per cent, while the rise was lower at 35 per cent for those below 26 years of age. Additions in younger-age brackets are largely associated with new jobs. FE

IMF warns against rate cuts, currency intervention to improve trade balance

REUTERS WASHINGTON, AUGUST 21

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund on Wednesday warned against governments trying to weaken their currencies through monetary easing or market interventions, arguing in a blog post that this would hurt the functioning of the international monetary

system and make all nations worse off.

The post, which comes as global central bankers are gathering this week to discuss monetary policy issues in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, said that policy proposals to use monetary easing and direct purchases of other countries' currencies are unlikely to work. "One should not put too much stock in the view that eas-

ing monetary policy can weaken a country's currency enough to bring a lasting improvement in its trade balance through expenditure switching. Monetary policy alone is unlikely to induce the large and persistent devaluations that are needed to bring that result," IMF chief economist Gita Gopinath and IMF researchers Gustavo Adler and Luis Cebeddu said in the post.

'Alibaba postpones up to \$15 bn Hong Kong listing'

REUTERS HONG KONG/NEW YORK, AUGUST 21

CHINA'S BIGGEST e-commerce company Alibaba Group Holding Ltd has delayed its up to \$15 billion listing in Hong Kong amid growing political unrest in the Asian financial hub, two people with knowledge of the matter said.

Alibaba's Hong Kong-listing plans are being closely watched by the financial community for indications on the environment in the Chinese-controlled territory and provides a window into Beijing's reading of the situation.

While no new timetable has

been formally set, Alibaba could launch the Hong Kong deal as early as in October, seeking to raise \$10-\$15 billion, when political tensions ease and market conditions become favourable again, said one of the people. The decision to postpone the deal, initially set for late August, was taken at a board meeting before Alibaba's latest earnings release last week, the second person said.

The delay is due to the lack of financial and political stability in Hong Kong amid more than 11 weeks of pro-democracy demonstrations which have become increasingly violent and plunged the city into turmoil, the people added.

Beijing to US: 'meet halfway' on trade deal

ASSOCIATEDPRESS BEIJING, AUGUST 21

BEIJING APPEALED to Washington on Wednesday to "meet China halfway" and end a tariff war after President Donald Trump said Americans might need to endure economic pain to achieve longer-term benefits.

A foreign ministry spokesman, Geng Shuang, expressed hope Washington can "get along us" and restore "mutually beneficial" trade.

"We hope the United States will meet China halfway," said Geng. China has offered to narrow its trade surplus by purchasing more soybeans and other US exports. On Tuesday, Trump responded to complaints about the impact on the United States by telling reporters "somebody had to take China on."

EU antitrust regulators raise concerns about FB's Libra

REUTERS BRUSSELS, AUGUST 21

EU ANTITRUST regulators want to know whether Facebook's proposed Libra cryptocurrency and its use of consumer data pose possible anti-competitive constraints, people familiar with the matter said on Wednesday.

The European Commission sent out a questionnaire earlier this month to various parties involved in Libra, giving respondents two to three weeks to provide feedback, the people said. By sending out a questionnaire, the EU could be preparing the ground for a formal investigation.

SBI Insurance advertisement: EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR EMPANELMENT OF INSURANCE BROKER FIRM/COMPANY FOR INSURANCE OF BANK'S OWN ASSETS/RISKS

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21 THE RURAL

TRACKING THE CHANGING INDIA IN ITS VILLAGES

DOUBLE WHAMMY

First drought and now floods

Maharashtra's cane growers take a hit – this time, from too much water



PARTHA SARATHI BISWAS
KOLHAPUR (MAHARASHTRA), AUGUST 21

ON JULY 27, the Panchganga, a major tributary of the Krishna River, breached its banks and submerged the entire sugarcane on Deepak Pomaji's 12-acre holding near Kurundwad in Kolhapur district's Shirol taluka. "My crop was under water for over a week. When I came to check after the floods receded, it had completely rotted top downwards. There's nothing left to salvage," sighs the 31-year-old.

Pomaji, who is also a Kurundwad Municipal Council member from the Nationalist Congress Party, had harvested 580 tonnes of cane in the 2018-19 season. Out of that, he had supplied 400 tonnes at Rs 2,905.99 per tonne to the Jawahar Shetkari and the balance at Rs 2,884.99/tonne to the Sharad cooperative sugar factory, both in the neighbouring Hatkananale taluka of Kolhapur.

"My total revenue was over Rs 16.8 lakh last year. This year, it will be negative. Not only is my standing cane — an 18-month *adsali* planted last June-July on six acres and the rest under 12-month ratoon crops harvestable from October to January — totally gone, but I will have to spend money to clear the field now. It will cost Rs 10,000 per acre, but I cannot plant my next pre-seasonal cane in September-October without doing that," he adds.

Between late July and the first week of August, Kolhapur, Sangli and Satara received torrential rains that caused unprecedented flooding. Maharashtra's agriculture department has assessed the crop damage in the three southern districts at about 2.16 lakh hectares (lh): Kolhapur 1.05 lh, Sangli 0.73 lh and Satara 0.38 lh. Roughly 60% of it is under cane, with the crop in 65,000-70,000 hectares totally destroyed like that of Pomaji.

"The loss would be 100% for the crop that



(Top) Farmer Sukumar Sidnale (left) with the flood-destroyed cane crop at his field in Dattawad village of Maharashtra's Kolhapur district; a farmer showing the rotting cross-section of a cane stalk in his field. Partha Sarathi Biswas

was submerged for more than 4 days. It will be less for the cane that had suffered only water-logging. The overall damage may be 35-40%," says Manohar Gopal Joshi, managing director of the Jawahar Shetkari cooperative mill. The cane to this factory — Maharashtra's biggest — comes from 23,480 hectares, some of it spilling into Belgaum district of northern Karnataka. According to Joshi, out of the total area, 20,229 hectares has been affected by the floods. In the 2018-19 season (October-September), the mill ran for 136 days, crushing 17.63 lakh tonnes (lt) of cane and producing 2.25 lt of sugar. "Cane availability will be at least 40% lower in the coming season and we may operate for hardly 100 days," he reckons.

Mahadev V Patil, managing director of the Shree Datta cooperative sugar factory, also in Shirol, puts the loss from its 12,000 hectares cane area at 50%. "Our crushing season will not be even 100 days," he claims.

Sukumar Sidnale, who realised around Rs 9 lakh from supplying 310 tonnes of

cane to the Jawahar Shetkari mill in 2018-19, has lost his whole *adsali* crop that was 12 months old and would have matured towards December. Now, he wants to plant a 14-month pre-seasonal cane that would be ready by November 2020. "Even I get my field ready after clearing this crop that has gone rotten, will any bank extend me credit to undertake planting operations, which alone would cost 15,000-20,000 per acre?," he asks.

On Monday, chief minister Devendra Fadnavis announced loan waiver for farmers whose crops were flood-affected up to an area up to one hectare (2.5 acres). This will not benefit either Pomaji or Sidnale. Worse, they cannot claim insurance. The Centre's flagship Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana scheme does not cover sugarcane, as it is grown under irrigated conditions and hence not considered to be a risky crop.

Out of Maharashtra's 195 operational sugar mills, 53 are in Kolhapur, Sangli and Satara. These 53 factories together crushed

301.94 lt of cane and produced 37 lt of sugar during the 2018-19 season, representing 31.7% and 34.5% of the state's total of 952.11 lt and 107.21 lt, respectively. The average sugar-to-cane recovery of mills in the three districts, at 12.26%, was also higher than the state's overall 11.26%.

Maharashtra's sugar industry this year has been buffeted by two crises.

The first was on account of drought in 2018, especially in the Marathwada region and adjoining areas of Ahmednagar and Solapur. The Sugar Commissioner's office at Pune has estimated the total cane area for the upcoming crushing season at 8.43 lh, down from the 11.43 lh of 2018-19. The biggest drops are in Marathwada (from 2.55 lh to 1.52 lh), Solapur (1.97 lh to 0.97 lh), Ahmednagar (1.34 lh to 0.70 lh) and also Pune (1.41 lh to 1.10 lh). On the other hand, Kolhapur (from 1.49 lh to 1.55 lh), Sangli (0.89 lh to 0.95 lh) and Satara (0.82 lh to 0.84) have reported acreage increases. But it is this very high sugar-recovery belt that has now been battered by floods.

In 2018-19, Maharashtra produced 107.21 lt of sugar, surpassing the previous season's record of 107.10. For the 2019-20 season, the official projection of cane crushing is 580 lt and sugar output of 64 lt. These figures may have to be revised further downwards because of the latest floods.

Lower production from Maharashtra, however, is unlikely to result in any significant increase in sugar prices. The new season is set to open with all-time-high stocks of 145 lt, equivalent to 6.5 months' domestic consumption. "Even if Maharashtra's output halves, UP will produce at least 120 lt (from 118.22 lt of 2018-19). I also see production going up in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, which will ensure 250 lt-plus at all-India level (against 329 lt in 2018-19). That, plus record opening stocks, will continue to keep prices low," points out Mukesh Kuvadia, secretary of the Bombay Sugar Merchants' Association.

Dumping of a different kind

Subsidies for farmers shouldn't end up benefiting consumers and depressing market prices

HARISH DAMODARAN

IN THESE times of slowdown, companies would think twice before raising product prices. But Tamil Nadu Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation — better known as Aavin — has revised upwards its sale price of milk by Rs 6 per litre. That increase, effective from August 19, works out to 16.2% for toned and 13.3% for full-cream milk, which will now retail at Rs 43 and Rs 51 per litre, respectively.

The new rates aren't unreasonable. Toned milk (containing 3% fat and 8.5% solids-not-fat or SNF) of Amul, Mother Dairy and other major brands is currently priced at Rs 43-44 per litre in Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata, while at Rs 52-56 for full-cream with 6% fat and 9% SNF. High-fat milk is, thus, still cheaper in Chennai. The issue really is not price, but the extent of revision and how late it has come. The TN government allowed Aavin milk prices to go up last in November 2014 — then, too, by a hefty Rs 10/litre.

But TN isn't the only state that has forced its cooperatives to keep prices artificially low for consumers. Even more glaring is Karnataka. Aavin accounts for only 22-22.5 lakh litres per day (LLPD) of TN's estimated 50 LLPD branded liquid milk market. The balance 27.5-28 LLPD share is of private players such as Hatsun Agro Product, Heritage Foods, Tirumala Milk Products, Godrej Creamline and Dodla Dairy. They were selling toned and full-cream milk at Rs 40-43 and Rs 52-56 per litre, respectively, even before Aavin's recent catch-up hike.

This is not so with Karnataka. There, the Karnataka Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation (KMF) commands a virtual monopoly, with its Nandini brand selling some 35 LLPD. Others put together do 8-10 LLPD at most. And Nandini toned milk retails at just Rs 36 per litre, while Rs 46 for full-cream.

The problem, however, isn't simply that. Karnataka, unlike TN, also gives a per-litre "incentive" to farmers over and above the procurement price paid by KMF's district dairy unions. What started as a Rs 2/litre subsidy during the then BJP government under B.S. Yeddyurappa in July 2008 was raised in phases, to Rs 5, by the Siddaramaiah-led Congress regime. It was further increased to Rs 6 per litre in the 2019-20 budget that the last Janata Dal (Secular)-Congress government of H.D. Kumaraswamy presented in February.

The producer subsidy did three things. First, milk procurement by KMF unions soared, from an average of 29.4 LLPD in 2007-08 to 72.6 LLPD in 2018-19. Second, faced with a flood of milk and insufficient powder plant capacity with KMF to handle this excess, the Siddaramaiah government, in August 2013, launched a Ksheera Bhagya scheme. It provides a 150-ml glass of free milk to about 1.04 crore children in government schools and pre-school anganwadi centers for five days of the week. The producer subsidy alone is budgeted at Rs 1,459 crore in 2019-20, with Ksheera Bhagya costing another Rs 1,043 crore.

It is the third effect that has proved deleterious. With Ksheera Bhagya (which consumes around 8 LLPD) unable to absorb all the extra milk (average procurement had crossed 63 LLPD by 2015-16), KMF began marketing the surplus in other states. Nandini milk in Karnataka is already the



cheapest in the country. But now, its toned milk is being retailed at Rs 37/litre in Pune and Rs 39 in Mumbai, compared to the competition's Rs 42-44. Even in Hyderabad, Nandini toned milk is selling for Rs 40/litre and full-cream at Rs 52, as against the Rs 42-44 and Rs 56-58 of other brands.

"This is nothing but dumping using taxpayer money. They are dumping milk and also commodities (powder and ghee)," avers an industry source. The allegation isn't without basis. KMF unions are at present paying farmers Rs 22.5-25 per litre for some milk with 3.5% fat and 8.5% SNF. The same milk is being procured at Rs 27-28.5 by dairies in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh's Chittoor belt, while Aavin's Dindigul district union is offering farmers Rs 29.97/litre. Even before Aavin's latest retail price revision, it was paying Rs 26.03.

Simply put, net of the Rs 6/litre producer incentive, Karnataka's farmers are getting less than their counterparts in Maharashtra, AP or TN. The subsidy has, in effect, helped KMF to source milk cheaper than dairies in other states. This milk it is, then, "dumping", including by converting into commodities at third-party processing plants. Other dairies have, in turn, had to slash their milk prices in order to compete with KMF's power and ghee. Till over a year ago, when skimmed milk powder rates were Rs 135-140 per kg (they have since recovered to Rs 225-plus), KMF unions were paying Rs 20-21/litre. Maharashtra farmers were also realising nearly the same, sans any government subsidy.

"How can we complain about dumping by New Zealand or European Union, when our own dairies are doing it internally? Nobody minds if producers are given subsidy or milk is distributed free in government schools. But taxpayer money should not be allowed to depress prices. And why must the IT engineer in Bengaluru get milk cheaper than the autoworker in Gurugram?," the earlier-quoted source points out.

It's high time that cooperatives are freed from government clutches. The model should be Gujarat, where Amul's pricing and marketing strategy is decided by professionals reporting to an elected board. And let state support be extended to farmers supplying to all dairies, cooperative or private.

BLUE ECONOMY

Harnessing the fruit of the sea

India's Rs 30,000 crore-plus shrimp farming exports is a remarkable, not-so-known success story. The challenge is in sustaining it



TARUN SHRIDHAR

THE STORY of India's shrimp aquaculture sector over the last decade is stuff that dreams are made of. From facing near closure, the industry has emerged as the country's agricultural exports leader, generating prosperity to the lakhs involved in its farming, hatchery and processing operations. A growth of 800% and more over 10 years isn't an everyday story.

After almost breaching 35,500 tonnes to 97,100 tonnes between 1990-91 and 2000-01, shrimp production started initially showing stagnation, before plunging to below 76,000 tonnes by 2008-09. This had largely to do with the monoculture of *Penaeus monodon*, commonly known as Tiger Shrimp/prawn. The absence of a proper breeding programme meant that the hatcheries — producing the nauplii and post-larvae (seed), which farmers grow to marketable size in ponds — had to use wild parent brood stock. These brooders were vulnerable to disease when introduced in a do-

mesticated environment. That was exposed with the striking of the deadly white spot syndrome virus, leading to several shrimp hatcheries and farms shutting down. Estimates of closures across the value chain ranged from 50 to 80%.

Meanwhile, other prominent shrimp-producing countries had shifted to *Litopenaeus vannamei* or White Shrimp. Genetically improved SPF (specific pathogen free) brooders of this prawn species were first developed and commercialised by Shrimp Improvement Systems, a Hawaii-based company. Apart from being disease and virus resistant, it was far more productive. A section of Indian seafood processors, hatchery operators and farmers had, for long, been clamouring for importing this brood stock. But there were equally those vehemently opposed to bringing in a species native to the eastern Pacific Ocean. They claimed it would result in new and unknown diseases invading our waters. It was another matter that the Indian shrimp industry was already on its deathbed. The opponents, incidentally, included leading scientists as well.

After prolonged debate and acrimonious discussions, *Litopenaeus vannamei* got introduced, while being subjected to a very tight regulatory regime and oversight. Even if it may have come a decade late, the Pacific White Shrimp produced a miraculous turn-

around. From \$1.91 billion (Rs 8,607.94 crore) in 2008-09, India's marine exports zoomed to \$7.08 billion (Rs 45,106.89 crore) in 2017-18. Out of the total \$7.08 billion, as much as \$4.85 billion (Rs 30,868.17 crore) comprised frozen shrimps. And our entire shrimp exports is today from Pacific White Shrimp. Also, the country's output of 76,000 tonnes in 2008-09 came solely from Tiger Shrimp. A decade later, shrimp production had gone up more than nine times to roughly 7 lakh tonnes, of which the share of *Litopenaeus vannamei* was 6,23,000 tonnes.

The above story is, no doubt, very impressive. But sustaining the growth is a challenge we do not seem adequately prepared for. The one lesson to be learnt from the doom the shrimp industry faced only a decade ago is not to rely on a single species. At that time, it was *Penaeus monodon* or Tiger Shrimp. But the subsequent turnaround and prosperity has also been courtesy a single species, that too, exotic. India is, moreover, completely dependent on the import of its brood stock for seed production and farming. What to say of a breeding programme, we are yet to even establish brood multiplication centers for Pacific White Shrimp.

Now that the current government has created a new Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, establishment of such centers for *Litopenaeus vannamei*, in or-



In the last decade, India's marine exports have risen from \$1.9 bn to \$7.1bn. Getty Images

der to liberate hatchery owners and farmers from overreliance on a handful of overseas suppliers, should be accorded priority. Simultaneously, revival of *Penaeus monodon* should feature high on the agenda. Periodic diversification is an elementary strategy for staying afloat — more so, in an inherently risk-prone venture such as shrimp farming. India has a unique opportunity to be world leader in the production of both Pacific White and the native Tiger Shrimp.

This is also the time to review our existing regulatory framework governing import of SPF brood stock or juveniles. These regulations, which restrict the quantities of not only the imported brooders, but also the commercial shrimp produced from them, were put in

place at the time of introduction of *Litopenaeus vannamei*. The same restrictions today are, however, stifling growth and innovation in the industry. The Coastal Aquaculture Authority and other regulatory agencies must evolve their guidelines with time, while addressing issues of emerging pathogens and diseases, on which little is known beyond the symptoms. The industry, too, needs to be strictly disciplined against the reckless use of antibiotics. If India hasn't made much headway in penetrating the biggest of all export destinations for shrimp — European Union — it reflects our inability to meet their stringent quality standards. The overdependence on the US and Chinese markets has only led to depressed export price realisations over time.

It would also serve the sector well if the obsession with exports is shelved and efforts are made to develop the huge domestic market — which the world is eyeing, but our own industry has ignored. Transporting shrimp from Visakhapatnam to Delhi or Chandigarh is surely cheaper and easier than to the US and China. A simple Google search would reveal that shrimp prices in the Delhi market are higher than in London or New York. This probably holds true in many of our other agri export products as well — including basmati rice.

The recent history of shrimp farming in Ecuador may be useful in this context. Ecuador's industry went through a similar crisis like ours during the Nineties, with its production dipping to a mere 20,000 tonnes by the decade-end. Yet, an ambitious breeding programme was launched and homegrown tolerant stocks developed. Today, this small country produces high-quality shrimp to the tune of five lakh tonnes a year.

Introducing new genetics, maintaining species diversification, multiplying brooders within the country, and tapping the huge domestic consumer base is what will ensure continued growth and sustainability in shrimp aquaculture. Fortunately, India now has a large number of private players in the sector at all levels — from well-qualified professionals to highly-experienced aquaculture farmers; seldom do they demand any subsidies or financial incentives. What we require are pragmatic policies and an ecosystem conducive to entrepreneurship that is unique to this industry and holds a shining beacon for the entire agricultural sector.

The writer is former Secretary of the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Hemant Goyal s/o Ganpat Ram Goyal R/O D-32, flat no. 102, Vishwakarma colony new delhi -44 have changed my name and shall here after be known as Hemant kumar Goyal. 0040508879-4

I, Gurjas S/O Jaspal Singh R/O G-26, Pratap Nagar, Near Metro Station, Delhi-110007, Changed My Name To Gurjas Singh. 0040508892-8

PUBLIC NOTICE: Be it known to all that my client Sh. Sarbjit Singh, S/o. Shiv Kumar Khatri resident of E-371, Greater Kailash Part-II, New Delhi-110048 has disowned/debarred, his son namely Mr. Sagur Kumar from all his movable and immovable properties, assets and severed all relations with Mr. Sagur Kumar due to his and his wife's (Mrs. Shipra Mishra) misbehavior/misconduct towards my client Sh. Sarbjit Singh and his wife. He and his wife are not in control of my client, if anybody deals with Mr. Sagur Kumar and Mrs. Shipra Mishra in any manner whatsoever, he/she shall at his/her own risk and responsibility, my client shall not be responsible for the same. 0040508836-5

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION: General public is hereby informed that one unknown male Name and address unknown, Age: about 45 Years, Height: 5'4", Complexion fair, Face long, ID mark: Mole on left fore arm wearing Green colour T-shirt and Black colour Pajama was found Injured and unconscious condition in the area of PS Vasant Kunj, (South) and admitted in S.J. Hospital, New Delhi on 14.08.2019. Doctor declared brought dead to the person. In this regard a DD No. 15-A dated 14.08.2019 has been lodged at PS Vasant Kunj (South), New Delhi. Any person having any information or clue about this deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned at the address or telephone nos. given below. PS Vasant Kunj (South), New Delhi Ph. 011-26139361, 7165036225

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON (SECTION 82 Cr.Pc.) Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused, Guddu S/o Abdul Hakim, R/o 4908B/ Gali No.2, East Old Seelampur, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 147/16 u/s 342/354/354B/365/452/376D/506/341 IPC, P.S. Krishna Nagar, Delhi, and it has been returned to warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused person Guddu, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Guddu, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Guddu, Under the FIR No. 147/16 u/s 342/354/354B/365/452/376D/506/341 IPC, P.S. Krishna Nagar, Delhi, is required to appear before the court on or before 28.09.2019.

SEARCH FOR MISSING: General Public is hereby informed that one boy Namely: Pradeep, S/o: Jorawar, R/o: H. No. D-184, Gali No. 03, Harijan Basti, Mandoli, Delhi, Age: 20 Years, Height: 5'6", Built: Medium, Face: Long, Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Black Kamij Pant and Hawaii Chhappal in Feet has been missing from her house since 14.07.2019. In this regard DD No. 18-A dated 21.07.2019 has been lodged at PS. Nand Nagri, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing boy but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing boy please inform the undersigned. PS. Nand Nagri, Delhi Ph.: 011-22583307

SEARCH FOR MISSING: General public is hereby informed that this Person (depicted in the photo) namely: Shiv Kumar S/o Khajjan Singh R/o Gali No. 7, B-Block, Dass Garden, Baprola Vihar, Delhi, has been missing/ kidnapped since 04.08.2019. from the area of P.S. Ranhola in this regard DD No. 51-A Dated 05.08.2019 has been registered at PS Ranhola, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the person but no clue has come to light so far. His physical description is as under- Sex: Male, Age: 22, Height: 5'6" ft., Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Wearing: Green Shirt- Blue Jeans Paint and Chhapple in feet. Any person is having information or clue about this missing/ kidnapped person may kindly inform to the following- Website: http://cbi.nic.in P.S. Ranhola, Delhi E-mail: cbc@cbl.gov.in Ph. No.-011-28363001, 28363002 Tel. No.: 011-24386638/24386641 Mob. No. 7065036128 Fax No.: 011-24386639 DP/2571/OD/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING: General public is hereby informed that one male was found dead at SRHC Hospital, Narela, Delhi on 26.07.2019. In this regard a FIR No. 282/19 u/s 279/337 IPC, Dated 26.07.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Alipur-Outer North Distt. Delhi. The description of the dead body is given as under: Name: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: Approx. 35 years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Wearing: White T-Shirt & White Colour Pajama, 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. P.S. Alipur-Outer North Distt., Delhi Ph.: 011-27708515

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION: General public is hereby informed that one male was found dead at SRHC Hospital, Narela, Delhi on 26.07.2019. In this regard a FIR No. 282/19 u/s 279/337 IPC, Dated 26.07.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Alipur-Outer North Distt. Delhi. The description of the dead body is given as under: Name: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: Approx. 35 years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Wearing: White T-Shirt & White Colour Pajama, 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. P.S. Alipur-Outer North Distt., Delhi Ph.: 011-27708515

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY: General Public is hereby informed that one male Namely: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, Address: Unknown was found dead in Front of National Club, Lahori Gate, Delhi in the area of P. S. Lahori Gate, Delhi on 08.08.2019. In this regard a case has been lodged vide DD No. 26-A dated 08.08.2019 at P. S. Lahori Gate, Delhi. The description of the dead person is as under- Age: 50 years, Sex: Male, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Green colour line daar shirt & black colour pant. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned. P. S. Lahori Gate, Delhi Ph.: 011-23953776, 8750870122

THE WORLD ECONOMY

Markets in an Age of Anxiety

The signals from bonds, currencies and commodities are increasingly alarming

LOOKING FOR MEANING in financial markets is like looking for patterns in a violent sea. The information that emerges is the product of buying and selling by people, with all their contradictions. Prices reflect a mix of emotion, biases and cold-eyed calculation. Yet taken together markets express something about both the mood of investors and the temper of the times. The most commonly ascribed signal is complacency. Dangers are often ignored until too late. However, the dominant mood in markets today, as it has been for much of the past decade, is not complacency but anxiety. And it is deepening by the day.

It is most evident in the astounding appetite for the safest of assets: government bonds. In Germany, where figures this week showed that the economy is shrinking, interest rates are negative all the way from overnight deposits to 30-year bonds. Investors who buy and hold bonds to maturity will make a guaranteed cash loss. In Switzerland negative yields extend all the way to 50-year bonds. Even in indebted and crisis-prone Italy, a ten-year bond gets you only 1.5%. In America, meanwhile, the curve is inverted—interest rates on ten-year bonds are lower than on three-month bills—a peculiar situation that is a harbinger of recession. Angst is evident elsewhere, too. The safe-haven dollar is up against many other currencies. Gold is at a six-year high. Copper prices, a proxy for industrial health, are down sharply. Despite Iran's seizure of oil tankers in the Gulf, oil prices have sunk to \$60 a barrel.

Plenty of people fear that these strange signals portend a global recession. The storm clouds are certainly gathering. This week China said that industrial production is growing at its most sluggish pace since 2002. America's decade-long expansion is the oldest on record so, whatever economists say, a downturn feels overdue. With interest rates already so low, the capacity to fight one is depleted. Investors fear that the world is turning into Japan, with a torpid economy that struggles to vanquish deflation, and is hence prone to going backwards.

Yet a recession is so far a fear, not a reality. The world economy is still growing, albeit at a less healthy pace than in 2018. Its resilience rests on consumers, not least in America. Jobs are plentiful; wages are picking up; credit is still easy; and cheaper oil means there is more money to spend. What is more, there has been little sign of the heady exuberance that normally precedes a slump. The boards of public companies and the shareholders they ostensibly serve have played it safe. Businesses in aggregate are net savers. Investors have favoured firms that generate cash without needing to splurge on fixed assets. You see this in the vastly contrasting fortunes of America's high-flying stockmarket, dominated by capital-light internet and services firms that throw off profits, and Europe's, groaning under banks and under carmakers with factories that eat up capital. And within Europe's stockmarkets a defensive stock, such as Nestlé, is trading at a towering premium to an industrial one such as Daimler.

If there has been no boom and the world



In Germany, where figures this week showed that the economy is shrinking, interest rates are negative all the way from overnight deposits to 30-year bonds. Reuters

economy has not yet turned to bust, why then are markets so anxious? The best answer is that firms and markets are struggling to get to grips with uncertainty. This, not tariffs, is the greatest harm from the trade war between America and China. The boundaries of the dispute have stretched from imports of some industrial metals to broader categories of finished goods. New fronts, including technology supply-chains and, this month, currencies, have opened up. As Japan and South Korea let their historical differences spill over into trade, it is unclear who or what might be drawn in next. Because big investments are hard to reverse, firms are disinclined to press ahead with them. A proxy measure from JPMorgan Chase suggests that global capital spending is now falling. Evidence that investment is being curtailed is reflected in

surveys of plunging business sentiment, in stalling manufacturing output worldwide and in the stuttering performance of industry-led economies, not least Germany.

Central banks are anxious, too, and easing policy as a result. In July the Federal Reserve lowered interest rates for the first time in a decade as insurance against a downturn. It is likely to follow that with more cuts. Central banks in Brazil, India, New Zealand, Peru, the Philippines and Thailand have all reduced their benchmark interest

rates since the Fed acted. The European Central Bank is likely to resume its bond-buying programme.

Despite these efforts, anxiety could turn to alarm, and sluggish growth descend into recession. Three warning signals are worth watching. First, the dollar, which is a barometer of risk appetite. The more investors reach for the safety of the greenback, the more they see danger ahead. Second come the trade negotiations between America and China. This week President Donald Trump

It is a strange thought that a sudden easing of today's anxiety might lead to violent price changes—a surge in bond yields; a sideways crash in which high-priced defensive stocks slump and beaten-up cyclical rally.

unexpectedly delayed the tariffs announced on August 1st on some imports, raising hopes of a deal. That ought to be in his interests, as a strong economy is critical to his prospects of re-election next year. But he may nevertheless be misjudging the odds of a downturn. Mr Trump may also find that China decides to drag its feet, in the hope of scuppering his chances of a second term and of getting a better deal (or one likelier to stick) with his Democratic successor.

The third thing to watch is corporate-bond yields in America. Financing costs remain remarkably low. But the spread—or extra yield—that investors require to hold riskier corporate debt has begun to widen. If growing anxiety were to cause spreads to blow out, highly geared firms would find it costlier to roll over their debt. That could lead them to

cut back on payrolls as well as investment in order to make their interest payments. The odds of a recession would then shorten.

When people look back, they will find plenty of inconsistencies in the configuration of today's asset prices. The extreme anxiety in bond markets may come to look like a form of recklessness: how could markets square the rise in populism with a fear of deflation, for instance? It is a strange thought that a sudden easing of today's anxiety might lead to violent price changes—a surge in bond yields; a sideways crash in which high-priced defensive stocks slump and beaten-up cyclical rally. Eventually there might even be too much exuberance. But just now, who worries about that?

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LEXINGTON

Bernie's permanent revolution

The obdurate socialist from Vermont probably cannot win the Democratic ticket. But he could hand it to a moderate—and the election to Donald Trump

THE BERNIE BARNSTORM held in Fort Collins, home of Colorado State University, started a few minutes late. "I know, 'Bernie time' right?" joshed an organiser sent from Washington, DC, to the crowd of 80 who had turned up to volunteer for Bernie Sanders's nascent campaign in the state. Some were signed up to host a phone bank, which involves using a digital system known as "the Bernie dialler". Others pledged to canvass and to put the results into a database called the BERN app. Meanwhile, the assembled Sandernistas were invited to come to the mic and say why they were "so excited about Bernie", with a little steer from another campaign staffer: "You have the same feeling in your heart that I have and you are dedicated and loyal!"

The declarations this elicited said a lot about the senator from Vermont's effect on his followers. Several described Mr Sanders as a sort of benevolent guru. "Bernie is a humanist and a visionary and a radical," said one. "I'm for Bernie because he's for me," said another. All considered Mr Sanders to be more authentic than other politicians. "Donald Trump pretends to be a populist, Bernie's the real thing," said a 22-year-old transgender Sanders fan. Many stressed their suspicion of his rivals. "I'm doing my best not to dog on other candidates—but that Kamala Harris health-care plan..." said Joe Salazar, a failed (though Sanders-endorsed) candidate for Colorado's attorney-general. By contrast, "Bernie's plan's been refined through fire," he claimed. "He's been working on it, getting all



Senator Bernie Sanders during a baseball game between his staff—"The Revolutionaries"—and the Leaders Believers Achievers Foundation in Dyersville, Iowa, on August 19. Reuters

the numbers down, for years."

Not since Eugene McCarthy in 1968 have Democrats faced such an anomaly. After the unexpected success of his 2016 presidential run, Mr Sanders has developed an almost

cult-like hold on a small but meaningful minority of the Democratic electorate. By tapping it for cash, he appears also to have a durable campaign; he is among the first candidates on the ground in Colorado, a state he

won easily in 2016, and last month had nearly \$30m in hand. Even if he looked unable to win the nomination, he would be able to stay in the contest—and, having pointedly refused to commit to supporting the winning candi-

date, he might well do so. That could matter a great deal, because the chances are Mr Sanders cannot win.

The 43% of the vote he won in 2016 (which makes that contest seem closer than it was) is a distant memory. Having performed strongly in early polling this year, he has slid as Elizabeth Warren has risen. The senator from Massachusetts is not as left-wing as Mr Sanders; she presents herself as a disappointed capitalist, not a socialist, which is a more digestible position on the Democratic left. Contrary to what Mr Salazar thinks, she also has a much firmer grip on policy. Above all, she is a Democrat—not an aggrieved independent as Mr Sanders is—who would support any of her 23 rivals if she lost. The two left-wingers are each polling at around 15% of the vote—a strikingly poor result for Mr Sanders's superior resources and name recognition. Earlier in the campaign it seemed possible that he could emulate Mr Trump, by sneaking through a crowded contest with a loyal minority. His minority now looks too small. This raises a fundamental question, about what Mr Sanders's rise and fall says about the left, and several tactical ones.

Starting with the first, Mr Sanders's erstwhile success appears to have owed less to his left-wing proposals than a vaguer appetite for disruption. The fact that 12% of his supporters in 2016 voted for Mr Trump illustrates that. Those who care mostly about health care or education policy appear since to have shifted to Ms Warren. The remaining diehards seem more energised by anti-establishment grievance. An Iranian-American Sanders fan in Fort Collins drew an approving cheer for hailing his hero as "the Mossadegh of America". Only at a Sanders rally could an Iranian nationalist overthrown by a CIA-inspired plot count as a point of reference. Most of the volunteers said they expected the Democratic Party to rig the election against Mr Sanders. Many said they would not support any other winning candidate.

Democratic politicians still believe Mr

Sanders's 2016 insurgency showed the party had moved in a big way to the left—hence the alacrity with which many of his rivals have aped his free-college-style proposals. But the burn-it-down iconoclasm of his base does not seem so consistent or easily mollified as that would imply. "Elizabeth Warren can kiss my ass," said Rose, a socialist office clerk. "Joe Biden is a moderate Republican—they've totally infiltrated the Democrats," said Remy, a democratic-socialist acupuncturist (who offered free treatments to any volunteer who showed up to her phone bank).

In terms of tactics, Mr Sanders is most pressingly a problem for Ms Warren. After flirting with more moderate positions, notably on health care, she has essentially adopted a more informed and nuanced version of Mr Sanders's policies. In other words, she is going after his supporters. Yet if Mr Sanders stayed in the race come what may, dividing the Democratic left, that could prove to be a fatal mistake. It might well hand the ticket to a moderate—most probably Mr Biden, still the front-runner.

Disco inferno

Thereafter, an unreconciled Mr Sanders would become a general-election problem for Democrats. His aggrieved minority is easily sufficient to deny their candidate victory in close-fought states such as Michigan or Wisconsin. Thus did McCarthy help ensure Hubert Humphrey's defeat by Richard Nixon in 1968—and Mr Sanders help ensure Hillary Clinton's to Donald Trump.

Almost all the Sandernistas in Fort Collins who admitted to having voted for Mrs Clinton said they were embarrassed to have done so. And, it must be said, the blithe status quo-ism of Mr Biden could be even more off-putting to Mr Sanders's supporters than her workish pragmatism. Victory for Mr Biden, then for Mr Trump—that would be a poor return on Mr Sanders's promise of political revolution. Yet it is far more imaginable.

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CROSSWORD 3890



ACROSS
1 Student in the teacher's eye (5)
4 Capacity to please (7)
8 Sound company touches zero (3)
9 Customarily, it's no walkover for the bride (9)
10 Anticipate charge for concealing minerals (7)
11 Pay for judges? (5)
13 Play for fun (6)
15 Attack a devil with a gun, perhaps (6)
18 Sort of peach that's not expensive (5)
19 You're in a sound position in this (7)
21 Check an open invitation to shoplifters (4,5)
23 An alternative to a key ring (3)
24 The Spanish gentleman at the centre is a politician (7)
25 Needs organising, being stupid (5)
DOWN
1 Calm sea (7)
2 A plan for gaining weight (9)
3 Water lily collection going to America (5)
4 Restricted place for the dog to sleep (6)
5 Rum's not what the cure's made of (7)
6 I say nothing (3)
7 Naturally they have their ups and downs (5)
12 Try to land (5,4)
14 Security is lifted in the store (7)
16 Well-known to be helpless (7)
17 I'm more upset by a personal account (6)
18 Names grounds for development at a hearing (5)
20 Had an inclination and worked in the garden (5)
22 Personal connections (3)

Solutions Crossword 3889: Across: 1 Black Watch, 8 Cater, 9 Solvent, 10 Naivete, 11 Inset, 12 Ideals, 14 Adhere, 17 Ellen, 19 Welcome, 21 Captain, 22 Gains, 23 Red herring, Down: 2 Lattice, 3 Curie, 4 Wastes, 5 Tallied, 6 Heels, 7 Stutterers, 8 Confidence, 13 Lanyard, 15 Emotion, 16 Twinge, 18 Leper, 20 Lager.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.
...with... is an insult both to the cook and the violinist - GK Chesterton (5, _6)

Word jumble puzzle grid with letters and shaded squares.

SOLUTION: BRINE, SINGE, COLUMN, DAMASK. Answer: MUSIC with 'M' in 'COLUMN' and 'S' in 'DAMASK'.

Difficulty Level 5s

Instructions To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level 1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

Sudoku puzzle grid 3946.

SOLUTION SUDOKU 3945

Sudoku solution grid 3945.

NOTICE BOARD

CORPORATE ASSOCIATE DIARY APPOINTMENTS, MOVEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS, HONOURS



AWARD-CEL CEL received 'Gold Award' under the category of Solar Module Company of the Year (Domestic Manufacturer) - Public Sector by Solar Quarter at Solar PV Module Tech India 2019.



AWARD-WAPCOS Nimmi Bhatt, Head (OLI), WAPCOS received Award for 'Best Hindi Journal' from Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE).



WORKSHOP-PRSI PRSI (Delhi Chapter) kickstarted the second volume of its flagship series 'Banyan Tree'.



CELEBRATION-DELHI POLICE On the occasion of 73rd Independence Day, Delhi Police organised flag hoisting ceremony at PHQ lawns.



CELEBRATION-INDIANOIL 'It is an honour for IndianOil to serve the nation & fuelling the socio-economic development of the country.'



CELEBRATION-THDCIL THDCIL celebrated 73rd Independence Day at Rishikesh, Projects and Unit Offices.



CELEBRATION-NR Northern Railway Women's Welfare Association celebrated the Independence Day in their characteristic way.



SUPPORT-CISF WWA CISF Wives Welfare Association 'Sanrakshika' has been playing a significant role in helping the families and wards of CISF personnel.



FOUNDATION DAY-ONGC ONGC Limited celebrated its 64th Foundation Day with much great enthusiasm and zeal at over 38 work locations across the country.



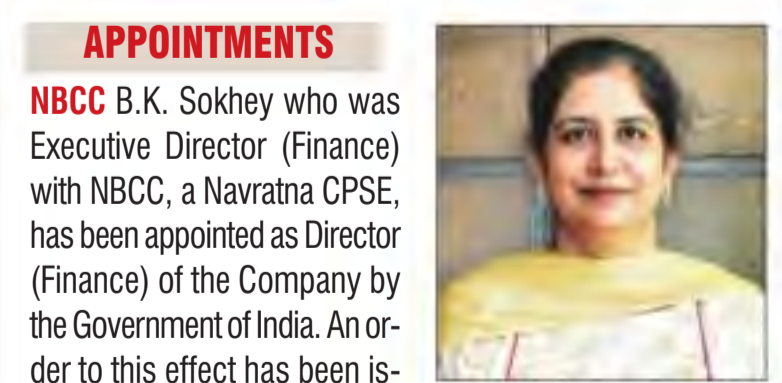
TOURNAMENT-CWC CWC organised a Badminton Tournament on the occasion of Independence day 2019.



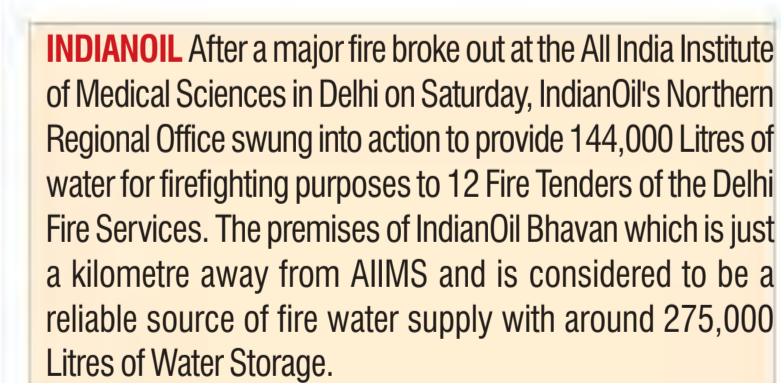
CELEBRATION-PDIL PDIL celebrated Nation's 73rd Independence Day at its Corporate Office at Noida with patriotic fervour.



CELEBRATION-RAILKUNJ RAILKUNJ had organised the 73rd Independence day celebration with full enthusiasm by organising a dance.



APPOINTMENTS NBCC B.K. Sokhey who was Executive Director (Finance) with NBCC, a Navratna CPSE, has been appointed as Director (Finance) of the Company.



INDIANOIL After a major fire broke out at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Delhi on Saturday, IndianOil's Northern Regional Office swung into action to provide 144,000 Litres of water for firefighting purposes.



REVIEW-OBC 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 of the Circle Office, Delhi-North & West.



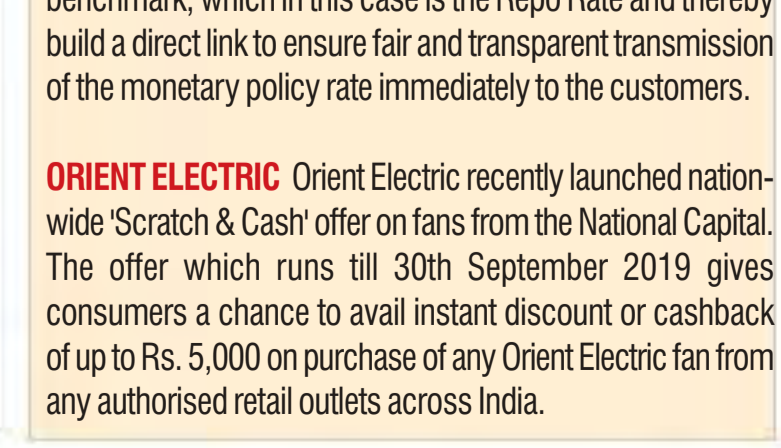
EVENT-PNB PNB organized its All India Sports and Cultural Event 2019-20 from 16th August 2019 to 18th August 2019 at the Thyagaraj Stadium, New Delhi.



APPOINTMENT CRWC NK Grover has assumed charge of the post of Managing Director of Central Railside Company Ltd.



Paras Healthcare announced the appointment of Puneet Srivastava as its Vice President effective June 3, 2019.



ORIENT ELECTRIC Orient Electric recently launched nationwide 'Scratch & Cash' offer on fans from the National Capital.

25 TALK

ART, MUSIC, STYLE, FOOD



SLICE OF HISTORY

Memorabilia of some of the world's most famous movies will go under the hammer at the Entertainment Memorabilia Live Auction in London on September 30. This includes Michael Keaton's Batsuit from *Batman* (1989) and Luke Skywalker's lightsaber from *Star Wars: A New Hope*.

SNAP SHOTS



Back in Action

KEANU REEVES (pictured) is marking his return in the new sequel of *The Matrix*, along with Carrie-Anne Moss. Reeves will be seen reprising his role as computer hacker Neo and Moss as Trinity in the latest instalment of the science fiction film that celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. The fourth instalment of the film will be directed by Lana Wachowski, who created the 1999 film *The Matrix*, with her sister Lilly Wachowski. The production will begin next year. The previous trilogy — *The Matrix*, *The Matrix Reloaded* and *The Matrix Revolutions* — together amassed nearly \$1.6 billion in the past.



Untimely Exit

THE FUTURE of Spider-Man seems bleak as he readies to exit from the Marvel Cinematic Universe with Sony Pictures and Disney failing to reach an agreement on their future collaborations. For the past few months, Disney, Marvel's parent company, had insisted during discussions that it wanted a 50-50 co-financing arrangement and an even split for future *Spider-Man* movies. Sony has refused to agree to the new terms.



The Master's Garden

LEADING JAPANESE contemporary artist Takashi Murakami will mark his foray into the Indian auction market with Mumbai-based auction house Astaguru's online auction "Southeast Asian Contemporary Art" on August 22-23. His 2013 artwork *Blue Flower* (pictured), a canvas bursting with one of his most recognisable motifs — smiling flowers drawn in cartoon style — is expected to fetch Rs 2-3.33 crore. Called the Andy Warhol of Japan, Murakami is known for blending commercial art and fine art in his artworks that incorporate anime and manga. Other artists participating in the auction include Jitish Kallat, Atul Dodiya, Bharti Kher, Ravinder Reddy and Sudarshan Shetty.

'Mythology is a source of political debate'



As Puducherry-based Adishakti group brings its latest play *Bali* to Prithvi Theatre, its artistic director and actor Vinay Kumar talks about their process and questions the notion of righteousness

ALAKA SAHANI

THE LATEST production of Puducherry-based theatre group Adishakti — *Bali* — is a retelling of the various events that lead up to the battle between Bali, the ruler of Kishkindha, and Ram, the king of Ayodhya, and eventually, the death of Bali. Written and directed by Nimmy Raphael, it's their first production after the demise of Adishakti's founder Veenapani Chawla. Vinay Kumar, who is Adishakti's artistic director and plays Bali, talks about the new play, exploring the notion of right and wrong through this episode from the Ramayana and the group's leaning towards mythology. Excerpts:

In the past you have played other mythological characters such as Bhima and Brihanna. As an actor, how important is the character Bali for you?

Bali in multiple ways is an important character for me. Throughout my career, I've worked with Veenapani and performed in plays she created. So, it became a big void after she left. This is when a homegrown writer and director Nimmy Raphael, who has been part of Adishakti's actors ensemble, stepped in.

Bali as a character is always fascinating. When we read mythology, we tend to take positions. Bali is an apt example to look at the notion of righteousness because so much grey lies in each human being. Bali in terms of that brings certain complexities. Nimmy's interpretation breaks certain stereotypical notions of Bali as a character.

How did you prepare for the role?

The preparation was arduous because after Veenapani's demise there were lots of expectations in terms of what performative language Adishakti would adopt. Will we repeat her process or will we try something new? Nimmy as a director said she wanted *kushti* (wrestling) as the base for *Bali*. We got wrestling trainer Milind Dattatray Manugade from Nagpur to train us for about six weeks. The play's second half has both humour and melancholy. A lot of vintage slapstick is what we tried to look at and trained our bodies like Charlie Chaplin's and Buster Keaton's.

How has the collaboration with Nimmy Raphael been?



Vinay Kumar (above); wrestling is the base for the new play

Veenapani's vision was to develop Adishakti as an auto-didactic theatre group, where multiple people create theatre pieces. She initiated the 'Ramayana Project', where artists created their own work. As a result I wrote the play *The Tenth Head*, which was Veenapani's last directorial work. Nimmy wrote and directed a play called *Nidravathwam*. We knew that Nimmy can make her own path. When it comes to Bali, Nimmy sensed theatre more as a visual perception, even though she had the full script in hand. The year-long preparation was amazingly fun and explorative.

You have some younger actors in the cast too. Did they go through the rigorous Adishakti training for the play?

Yes, we have some young actors who have joined the core team. They are ready to throw their hat into the ring. Whatever process as an actor that I went through, they all went through, even more during that one year. Training their body and voice has become a continuous process now. The cast includes Rijul Ray, Kiyomi Mehta, Ashiq Salvan, and Arvind Rane, who has been with Adishakti since its inception.

In the past, Adishakti has staged plays based on mythological characters such as Impressions of Bhima, Brihanna and Ganapati. Why is the group drawn so much to mythology?

Adishakti's earlier plays (Sophocles' *Oedipus*, Tom Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* and Euripides' *Trojan Women*) are all pre-written plays. Around 1992, Veenapani decided that she needed to create her own plays. That is when a particular identity question arose. She was a post-independence child, a displaced Punjabi, growing up in Mumbai trying to figure out what identity she has. That's when her journey started. Then it became imperative to look at the stories of the land. For us, mythology became a rich source of political, philosophical or ethical debate, even though as a modern human entity we go through it. It's become very important to take this source of stories like a pod and expand it into a contemporary milieu so that there are questions asked from a different time and spirit to a contemporary audience.

You have been working on a play on Sita. When are we likely to see it?

I started working on Sita because that is the concept note written by Veenapani just two weeks before she passed away. In the middle of the process, I thought maybe I don't need to speak the way Veenapani had spoken. As a writer and director, I need to discover my own way of understanding human mechanism, its politics and its ethical behaviour. I started writing a new play that uses my way of how it should evolve as a performance. It might be ready next year.

In the future, what can the theatre community expect from Adishakti?

We want Adishakti to continue its three main goals — research, performance creation and a seminal space for creative people. We are also developing our own festival called 'Remembering Veenapani'. Adishakti is encouraging a bunch of new theatre practitioners and musicians to use its space to create their work. Finally, as homegrown artists we are encouraging team members to be auto-didactic by writing and directing their own work. Once that sets in, we can have a production every year with a different writer and director.

Bali shows at Prithvi Theatre on August 24 and 25 at 6pm and 9pm

Bling and Bollywood

The 20th edition of the Lakme Fashion Week began with a dash of drama and design



Showstopper Katrina Kaif with Manish Malhotra; his collection (above)

EKTAA MALIK

KEEPING TRUE to his forte of drama, bling and Bollywood, designer Manish Malhotra kicked off the 20th edition of the Lakme Fashion Week winter-festive 2019 in Mumbai, Tuesday night. Mumbai-based Malhotra presented 'Maahrumsya', a collection that seemed to be born out of everything Bollywood. The mammoth collection, which featured both womenswear and menswear, was showcased off-site, at Famous Studios in Mahalaxmi. Many from the Hindi film industry turned up to support their go-to costume designer. From Karan Johar in the front row, wearing a creation from 'Maahrumsya', to Khushi Kapoor, Ishaan Khatter, Karisma Kapoor, Mouni Roy, Athiya Shetty, Chitrangada Singh, Amrita Arora, Mouni Roy, Mrunal Thakur, Aparshakti Khurana, Yash and Avanti Birla, and Pooja Hegde, all lined up to see Malhotra's new creations. To top it off, Katrina Kaif was the showstopper, another favourite of Malhotra.

The collection, meanwhile, seemed to be a reflection of the current scenario in Bollywood. There were overtly-embellished outfits in all shades of gold, equivalent of the big, stary tent-pole films, which are seemingly not working these days. To counter them, there were some stand-alone outfits with little drama, but high on style and wearability — equivalent of their indie film cousins, in film parlance.

Even though this was a pret, winter-festive edition, Malhotra couldn't stay away from his love for lehengas. However, there was a braver, edgy attempt with bralette blouses, balconette corsets and off-shoulder versions. But sadly nothing to write home about. For women, there were gowns, dresses, and saris, while for men, achkans, jackets and kurtas in shades of beige, gold and moss green, with sporadic bursts of red, royal blue and maroon. While many of Malhotra's counterparts are shifting towards creating light-weight outfits, which are high on wearability and function, the designer still seems to believe in



the adage 'the bigger, the better'.

With voluminous skirts, pleated trails and trains, and blouses with stiff sleeves, we wonder how does one sit and walk and manipulate these garments to do your bidding. One saw a lot of heavy embroidery, sequin seething, ivory threadwork, web floral motifs and lots of layering and drapes in fabrics of silk, cotton, wool and velvet.

Malhotra also invoked animal motifs, which were embroidered on jackets and bandhgallas as shoulder and pocket patches. Kaif wore a bottle green ensemble, which had a heavily embroidered skirt, and a blouse that had a train stemming from it, which doubled up as a slim wrap. The red velvet shoes, worn by the men, though, are a must-have item for the coming season.

Lakme Fashion Week is being held at The St. Regis Mumbai till August 25



Panelists at the Delhi launch of the book Abhinav Saha

The Girl Who Took Us Back

Writer-performer Priya Malik's ode to the good old days has got everyone nostalgic

SURBHI GUPTA

I NEED to find this girl. Can anyone help?" wrote writer-editor Meenu Namit on Facebook, along with a video. It had a girl reciting poetry and in a way trying to understand and find love in this modern age. She recites, with an acoustic guitar in the background: *iPhone X ke zamaane mein, Nokia 3810 dhoondh rahi hoon/ Soya milk coffee ke zamaane mein, ek adrak waali chai dhoondh rahi hoon... High speed broadband ke zamaane mein, dial-up connection dhoondh rahi hoon... Main 2019 mein 1999 dhoondh rahi hoon.*

This girl in the video is writer-performer Priya Malik, who takes us back in the day and makes us realise how the world has moved on. Shot in Bandra's Cuckoo Club, in collaboration with Spill Poetry, the video was first

released in May this year, but it got viral only a few days ago. "It received over three million views. And now I'm getting messages from all over the world, including Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Canada."

The piece, *2019 mein 1999*, had its humble beginning with a 'steel ki thaali'. Mumbai-based Malik had specially bought one because she was tired of eating in glass crockery. She prepared some dal-chawal and raita and posted a photograph of the meal on Instagram with the caption 'Main 2019 mein 1999 dhoondh rahi hun'. "It resonated with people so much that I thought I could develop this caption into poetry," she says, "I think nostalgia is something everyone craves for. Everyone wants to slow down and when they remember their childhood, it's a more pure form of memory. Hum sabko chahiye hota hai woh purana comfort and this is why



Priya Malik in the video 2019 mein 1999

we go back home," says Malik, who hails from Dehradun.

Soon the pace increases, and we hear her say: *Jisse mere swatantrata par kabu nahi, dil mein jagah banani ho*, and see Malik do what she does best — voice her feminist self and call out patriarchy in a subtle and powerful manner. In her previous videos, she has responded to the misogynistic comments made by cricketer Hardik Pandya, and supported campaigns such as Free the Nipple, International Female Orgasm Day and World Breastfeeding Week, with her poetry.

Malik was introduced to spoken word poetry in Australia, where she taught English in a high school, after she participated at the Australian Poetry Slam. She first came into the public eye after participating in *Big Brother* in Australia in 2014 and *Bigg Boss* in India in 2015. She has collaborated with artist collectives such as Kommune, UnErase Poetry and Spill Poetry, and has acted in the TV show *Nazar*. She will soon be seen in the film *Sheer Qorma*, a queer love story with Swara Bhaskar, Divya Dutta and Shabana Azmi.

A Life Revisited

Sunanda Pushkar's biography, launched in Delhi, chronicles her tumultuous life and controversial death

SURBHI GUPTA

IN 2014, businesswoman and wife of politician Shashi Tharoor, Sunanda Pushkar was found dead in her hotel suite in New Delhi. Five years later, *The Extraordinary Life and Death of Sunanda Pushkar* (Rs 599, Pan Macmillan) by journalist Sunanda Mehta, has chronicled her life, from her early days in cantonment towns, to her first two marriages, a largely unknown stint in Canada, her rise as a Dubai businesswoman, and her much-publicised years with Tharoor until her controversial death. The book was launched on Tuesday at Delhi's India

International Centre to a full house.

The author, who has worked with *The Indian Express* for over two decades and was the Resident Editor of the newspaper's Pune edition, was in conversation with journalist Nalini Singh and retired IPS officer Meeran Chadha Borwankar. The discussion was moderated by journalist Kaveree Bamzai. Mehta, who was Pushkar's classmate, said, "I was myself surprised about the objectivity and distance I could keep. I've been a journalist for almost 30 years now, so it did feel like an extension of my work. But there were moments, like when I was talking to her son Shiv in Dubai, then the friend in me took over and the author took a backseat. And when I saw the photographs of her body as it was found at the Leela, I couldn't write for a while."

Singh was one of the last people to have a conversation with the deceased. The book she said is "a chronicle of a death foretold in the 21st century sensationalist media". Talking about the culture of Delhi, she said, "A fake world is brewing under our feet and we are doing nothing about it. In Delhi, fake is real." Borwankar added that the pressure of the media and frenzy that comes along with such cases makes simple cases complex. "The case had a chargesheet of 3,000 pages, and saw three IPS officers and numerous SITs. In the end, the family has still not got closure and it is still making news," said Mehta.

ON TV TODAY

7PM: WI VS INDIA, 1ST TEST

Live on Sony Ten 1 & Ten 3

3:30PM: ENG VS AUS, 3RD TEST

Live on Sony Six

Windies: Blow hot, blow cold

India's World Test C'ship campaign begins against a team that mostly coasts on auto-pilot but can occasionally spring a surprise



EXPRESS IN WEST INDIES

SANDIP G
NORTH SOUND, AUGUST 21

SHANNON GABRIEL is peeling off a mango, gifted by a member of the ground staff. Shimron Hetmyer is pasting a brand sticker on his bat. Someone shouts out: "Here we go, boys" and the West Indies players stir from their reveries and get into a huddle with coach Floyd Reifer, who makes a pithy speech before practice begins: "Don't drop your heads, fight and strive, glory shall be ours."

"Just wait till the Test series starts and some serious (West Indies) bowlers who can bowl over 145 kmph hurl bouncers; all this talk of rift (between Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma) would stop. It's absolutely untrue and anyway, once the real game starts, no one would have time for it. This West Indies team is a good Test team; don't forget they defeated England in a home Test series just recently. It's not about trying to be not complacent; that you try to do against weaker teams. This West Indies Test bowling is very good and you have to be at your best to play them," a senior member of the Indian Test squad had said before the series.

It's a pretty spot-on observation, but why then does this West Indian Test team carry the perception that they aren't good enough? It's the absence that's noticeable in training: the absence of buzz and aura. The West Indies Test squad is far removed from the swaggering, blusterous, theatrical bunch that turned out in the T20s. The Test squad seems an anaesthetised bunch in comparison.

Part of the blame lies with the team as well. They have the tendency to almost coast on auto-pilot until something snaps inside them. Unless they are inspired and stirred. Usually by external factors: like condescension from an opposing team or some words fired from the other camp. Like the Australians generally tend to do to them. Or even England when Joe Root got under the skin of Shannon Gabriel in that Test series. Then this team stirs, and how!

Like they were against England — in the prelude, Geoffrey Boycott had instigated them, calling them good for nothing — at the stroke of this year, their most significant series win for a decade or more. Whatever England's shortcomings, they not just pipped them at the post, they thrashed them with clinical, flint-eyed certainty. The matches in Barbados and Antigua were as one-sided as any of those in the 1980s, when they bossed over and obliterated England.

Despite the victory, the West Indies team under Jason Holder's leadership has lost many more games than it has won. After two consecutive wins against England, the ledger now stands at 15-9 and his side is currently ranked No. 8 in the world. Despite the victory, no one sees them challenging the Indians, who have claimed their maiden Test series win in Australia just six months ago, flaunting a bowling firm that some of the former greats watch in awe, possessing an envious bunch of spinners and, of course, one of the all-time great batsmen.

The blow-hot-blow-cold performances of the West Indies Test team have left fans puzzled and disappointed by the absence of their gun-for-hire T20 purveyors; even Hetmyer hasn't gone that mainstream yet. So much so that the first names that pop up when you say West Indies are those of Chris Gayle and Andre Russell. And not Jason Holder and Roston Chase. And when their names don't adorn the team-sheet, the buzz around them, whatever the remnants, automatically evaporates.

It's as if Test players are unfashionable — most stadiums in the Caribbean remain scantily populated during matches. In this regard, stadium-makers blundered by build-



West Indies will need their bowlers to come good in the two-match series against India beginning in North Sound on Thursday. Sandip G

Under Jason Holder, Windies have lost many more games than they have won. After two consecutive wins against England, the ledger now stands at 15-9 and his side is currently ranked No. 8 in the world.

ing stadiums disproportionate to the local population. The one in North Sound can house 40,000, including seats and grass-banks, but the population of Antigua is barely 80,000.

Indian batting a concern

But underestimating the West Indies is inviting peril. Not just because of what they are capable of but also due to the Indian team. Besides Kohli and Cheteshwar Pujara, who demonstrated in the practice game that his run-glut hasn't yet satiated, there are wider concerns in their batting. Ajinkya Rahane has been flighty since the turn of last year, and hence under immense scrutiny, Rohit has yet to reel out that defining Test knock, KL Rahul's technique has dramatically disintegrated, Mayank Agarwal is still in the nascent of his international career and Rishabh Pant is prone of impetuosity. So beneath the steel and muscle of Kohli and Pujara, there's soft, loose flab.

In many ways, they mirror some of England's deficiencies. They had an unsettled opening pair, a feeble middle order and were stacked with too many number sixes. While the West Indies bowlers don't instil fear, the kind of dread for your life, they turned out to be a utilitarian group. Kemar Roach, though reduced in pace, is a wily customer, doing what Courtney Walsh did in the latter stages of his career, bowling with impeccable smarts. Gabriel, though awkward with his action and inconsistent in his

lengths, could discomfit batsmen with the bounce he could generate with an open-chested action. Skipper Holder can keep nagging away all day long in the channel. And it's high time Chase is considered a proper spinner and not a part-timer.

It's an ensemble cast, a case of the whole being greater than the parts, but those parts when assembled well could be a wholesomely efficient machine. The same traits could be attributed to their batting. A gritty knock here, a brave one there, and they could put up competitive totals. Kraigg Brathwaite can dig in. Shai Hope can anchor. Hetmyer can enforce. Chase can finish. In many ways, like Kohli has this Indian team, Holder has built the team in his image, a cricketer who's steady than spectacular, smart than flamboyant.

He skips them in all formats, but in limited overs, the swaggerers of the side coax the attention. So effectively, it's the Test side he's most comfortable with, when he's not crushed by expectations, when he's not in the shadows, when he can be himself.

Since taking over the reins, Holder has led them admirably through tough times. Amid a range of arguments between the board and the players and the constant deliberations about how to combine the obvious desires of key players to earn some money in the T20 leagues with West Indies' international commitments, Holder has managed to stay measured and clear-headed.

On top of that there has been the requirement to score runs and take wickets and in recent times, he has been doing that in abundance.

Still, he's not as high on the popularity scale as Gayle of Russell, not within the Caribbean cricket fraternity, where he's been already likened to Frank Worrell, their first black captain. Beating India could go a long way in increasing his popularity and asserting the identity of West Indies' Test side. And proving that the series win over England wasn't a fluke or false dawn.

Bowling attack to dictate the fate of Vihari, Rohit

SANDIP G
NORTH SOUND, AUGUST 21

AT THE heart of picking India's middle order is a unique dilemma. Both Rohit Sharma and Hanuma Vihari fared reasonably in the Australia series, neither too flatteringly to lock their names in nor too abysmally to be out of the fray. Rohit played a brace of fluent but unfulfilled knocks, in the first innings in Adelaide and the second in Melbourne. Vihari, true to his nature, demonstrated his unsung utility, opening the innings in adverse circumstances in Melbourne — where his eight off 66 balls was raved about by skipper Virat Kohli in the press conference — then subsequently showed his stomach for a fight in the middle order and chimed in with his useful off-spin. Both put on impressive shown in the practice game.

Both have played together once, that was in Melbourne, when Vihari was deputised to open the innings with Mayank Agarwal and Rohit was slotted in at six. It was merely circumstantial that they played together. Vihari had to open as both Rahul and Vijay were in wretched form. But now that Rahul has returned and the team management keen to reinvest faith in his potential, Vihari should be considered as a middle-order batsman, making it a straight shootout with Rohit for the number six slot.

Kohli called this a "happy headache." "Obviously, it's always a positive, from a team perspective, that there are more than one option for the same spot. And both of them have done really well. Rohit with that 63 (not out) in Melbourne and Vihari when-

ever he has been asked to do something. Some of his knocks have gone unsung like the 8 in Melbourne. A lot of people fail to understand the significance of it. They will wonder what's it about those eight runs. But it was efforts like these that helped us win that all-important Test and then the series," he reflected.

Choosing between the pair would eventually whittle down to India's bowling combination, whether they are going with three pacers and a spinner or two pacers and as many spinners. If it's a three-pronged pace attack, Vihari might get the headstart due to his bowling abilities, more so if that lone spinner is Ravindra Jadeja.

Correspondingly, Rohit stands a better chance if India play with two spinners.

"We will read the pitch and then pick the team accordingly. And the combination of our bowling will have a bearing on the batting line-up as well. We will have to see how the balance works out," Kohli said.

If his counterpart Jason Holder's assessment of the pitch is any indicator, India could stuff three pacers. "To me it looks like a bowl-first pitch, the one that we got against England in the last game here," he observed. The strip does have a smattering of grass, but generally curators retain some of it to keep the strip firm. More so in North Sound, with its sandy base and the tendency to crumble.

But a bowl-first, seamer-friendly pitch carries a risk for the West Indies as well. They could be at the receiving end of some hostile fast bowling from Jasprit Bumrah and Co. "We are equipped to deal with all sorts of situations. So it doesn't really matter whether we bat or bowl first," observed Kohli.

Kumble is the right man for chief selector's job: Sehwaag

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

FORMER SKIPPER Anil Kumble's ability to boost players' confidence makes him an ideal candidate for the role of chairman of selectors, said Virender Sehwaag. The former India opener also said the BCCI should pay more to the chief selector.

The current selection panel, led by MSK Prasad, has faced a lot of flak being "light-weight" in that the trio have a cumulative experience of 13 Tests.

"I think Anil Kumble could be the right candidate for the chairman of selectors post. He is someone who has interacted with Sachin (Tendulkar), Sourav (Ganguly) and Rahul (Dravid) as a player and with youngsters as a coach," Sehwaag told reporters. "When I made a comeback (Australia series 2007-08), captain Kumble came to my room and said you will not be dropped for the next two series. That's the kind of confidence a player needs."

However, Sehwaag also said that he doesn't think that Kumble will agree to do the job right now since the chairman gets only Rs 1 crore per annum.

"The BCCI needs to raise bar as far as pay is concerned. Then a lot of players will be interested," said Sehwaag.

Asked if he would also be interested in this post, Sehwaag said that he doesn't like the restrictions that come with the responsibility.

"I write columns, appear on TV, and being selector will mean a lot of restrictions. I don't know whether I would like so many restrictions," he said.

Sehwaag also said he finds it difficult to comprehend the conflict-of-interest rules.

"I can understand that I can't run an academy if I am a selector but if I am the national coach I don't understand why I can't run an academy," he said.

With regard to India's playing XI for the first Test against the West Indies, Sehwaag batted for Ajinkya Rahane's inclusion in the event of the visitors playing five bowlers.

"Ajinkya Rahane has been batting at No 4 (No 5) so if it is a case of five bowlers then he should play. Rohit Sharma comes in only if you go with four bowlers," Sehwaag reasoned.

He also felt that "Mahendra Singh Dhoni should have batted at number five" in the World Cup semi-final against New Zealand. "...players like Hardik Pandya, who can play big shots should have come in at number seven towards the end," said the former India captain.

A member of NADA's anti-doping appeals panel (ADAP), Sehwaag said filling the whereabouts clause was a real problem that bothered the Indian cricketers. BCCI recently agreed to be NADA-compliant after years of resistance.

"I have appeared for many dope tests. Even in domestic cricket when I was out of the team, during IPL. The problem with whereabouts is I can't pinpoint where I will be at a specific hour of the day on a specific date. I may mention it initially and then I might have a change in plan," he said.

Anil Kumble could be the right candidate for the chairman of selectors post. He is someone who has interacted with Sachin (Tendulkar), Sourav (Ganguly) and Rahul (Dravid) as a player and with youngsters as a coach... The BCCI needs to raise bar as far as pay is concerned. Then a lot of players will be interested."

VIRENDER SEHWAG

LOOK WEST POLICY

Pondicherry rope in Kallicharran as mentor, Roberts or Garner could join

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
KOLKATA, AUGUST 21

ALVIN KALLICHARRAN still remembers the 1978-79 Eden Gardens Test, where he batted in the dark — street lights were on, when India bowled the mandatory overs on the final day — and took his team to safety against Sunil Gavaskar's India. Forty years hence, the former West Indies captain has returned to India, in a cricketing capacity, as the Cricket Association of Pondicherry's (CAP) batting mentor. He will guide both men's and women's teams in all age groups.

The CAP, after making their Ranji Trophy debut last season, are in the process of assembling a high-profile coaching/mentoring team this term. Following Kallicharran's appointment, they aim to have either Andy Roberts or Joel Garner as their fast-bowling mentor. Former India captain and spin legend Bishan Bedi "has agreed" to look after left-arm spin bowling, while ex-India leg-

spinner VV Kumar will assist the wrist-spinners. Former Karnataka batsman J Arun Kumar, by the way, will be the head coach.

"We want to bring the best gurus. We have brought in Kallicharran. We have plans to bring in someone like Andy Roberts or Joel Garner. The point is simple, our minds are very clear; we want to have the best people in the world to mentor our cricketers," former CAP secretary P Damodaran told *The Indian Express*. "The rest of the world is going for the English and Australian coaches, but we have gone for the former India and West Indies cricketers. Kallicharran was one of the finest back foot players during his playing days. At the highest level, against extreme pace, you have to have a good back foot game and our players will be benefited from Kallicharran's mentorship," he added.

Damodaran asserted that the target for Pondicherry is to win the Ranji Trophy and then defend it. "We were unlucky last season. Two washed out matches cost us a place in the quarterfinals."



Kallicharran (standing, right) played 66 Tests and 31 ODIs for West Indies.

'The point is simple, our minds are very clear; we want to have the best people in the world to mentor our cricketers.'

Kallicharran played 66 Tests and 31 ODIs for West Indies before he went to a rebel tour to South Africa in the early 1980s, which abruptly ended his international career. The 70-year-old was coaching the kids in his post-retirement adopted home in North Carolina in the United States. "I have been coaching for the last 16 years. I met up with S Kumar (director cricket) and Damodaran, and we looked at the magnitude, what he (Damodaran) has brought in Pondicherry. It was so impressive. Damodaran's attitude towards success, what he wants to achieve in Pondicherry, is beyond anybody can think about. Pondicherry's cricket is only two years old now and I can see a lot of success," Kallicharran told this paper,

informing that his involvement will be for the whole season.

The southpaw hailed the CAP's efforts to have Roberts or Garner on board. "I believe he (Roberts) is the best fast bowler I ever played with. He is best fast bowler West Indies have ever produced. And Joel Garner is in a class of his own. When we are talking about bringing in those kinds of people, we are talking about loads of experience."

Cricket has changed a lot over the past 40 years. "They (modern-day cricketers) are playing a different brand of cricket. They are stronger, their bats are better. They develop new shots. But whatever cricket you play, you must have a sound technique. That's where you last long," Kallicharran said.

He gave a low-down of his coaching approach. "You never stop hitting the ball anywhere. You try to be positive. You can be positive. Nothing wrong with that. The gaps in the field remain the same. It's still 11 players on the field and there are a lot of gaps. You learn to play through the gaps. You have Kohli

as a prime example. Young kids can learn from him, the art of finding the gaps..."

At 70 years of age, though, there could be a generation gap in terms of interacting with the players. Kallicharran disagreed. "It's all about attitude. I have played all sorts of cricket. So, it's all about communication. The game has changed yes, but not to the extent that you won't understand it (it). The young players make experience with you. In North Carolina, I coached the kids for all age groups. My attitude towards coaching and working with the kids hasn't changed."

The West Indies cricket establishment never approached him for a coaching role. "I have never been approached by the West Indies. And I don't know if they still remember that I played for West Indies."

Does he regret joining the rebel tour to South Africa? "I don't want to go into that anymore. I have enjoyed my (international) cricket and I have enjoyed my County/first-class cricket. I played for 20 years and I couldn't expect anything better," Kallicharran said.

Jofra Archer: the bouncer and beyond

Fluid, lithe, loose-limbed, and a malleable wrist makes Jofra Archer a phenomenal sensation. The entire package creates an illusion, a kind of deceit: the short run-up and its languorous fluidity make it seem as if he is bowling within himself; he doesn't sprint, he doesn't explode through the crease, he doesn't squeeze out any last-instant extra effort from the shoulder, he doesn't leap prior to release — the secret ingredients aren't the parts but it's the well-oiled smoothness inherent in the whole that does the trick. SRIRAM VEERA explains.

4 THE WRISTS AND THE BOUNCER

The wrist-cock is also done so effortlessly that he is able to adjust the lengths without any visible signs. It's partly why the batsmen seem a touch late in responding to changes in length. Even his bouncers, even though they must be expecting it from him, catch them unawares. The traditional cues from a bowler about to bowl a bouncer are absent: no out-of-ordinary shoulder thrust, no quick(er) arm release, the head doesn't drop a fraction early like it happens with other bowler's bouncers. Such is the absence of violence in his run-up to the release that the batsmen seems surprised by the end result.

He's a frightening talent and he's announced himself on the world stage, just in a different format again this year. Literally, the sky is the limit for him and he's a great addition to our Test team."

BEN STOKES,
ENGLAND ALL-ROUNDER



3 THE BOWLING ARM

Usually, it's the fingers and the wrist or the shoulder effort that we notice at release, but with Jofra, his entire loose-limbed arm comes into the action. It allows him to propel the ball that much quicker and smoother.



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

1 THE RUN-UP

Often, he just springs into that run-up. Unlike most bowlers, he doesn't amble to the marker and then accelerate into a sprint. It's as if the gun has been fired, and he is a touch late off the blocks. Subsequently, there is no visible acceleration; the way he starts is the way he ends. Seamless, in control, and aerodynamic — it helps him in keeping the head still as he comes up near the crease.

2 THE RELEASE

Because of the control and ease in his run-up, he is so well-balanced as he reaches the umpire that he can get himself all upright, at times gets on his toes almost at release — you can't think of many bowlers who can do that because of the effort spent in the run-up and the jump, they usually land hard on their heels, but Archer can appear as if he is gliding through.

SMITH TRAPPED BY THE BOUNCERS

Smith's technique of walking across and opening up his stance, with shoulders facing the bowler on occasions, allowed him to take out most potent bowling options but he now faces the sternest test of them all — Archer's bouncers. Archer's bouncers are different than others in two aspects: he hurls them from very close to the stumps and so there is no visible angle for the batsmen to work with or wriggle out of — its in the stump-to-stump line. Secondly, it jags in even as it rears up which cramps up batsmen. The combination has proven suffocating.

If the ball comes in at an angle — from wider of the crease, moving from off to leg, or in a left-armed's case from leg to off, batsmen have it easier to sway away. But the stump-to-stump almost straight trajectory of the line doesn't allow that wriggle room. Furthermore, since the ball cuts into them, the square-cut or upper-cut is out of the picture. Even swaying away becomes difficult as the ball keeps honing in towards the head like a missile. How far can a batsman arch back?

In theory, Smith's walk to the off

should help him get on to the other side of the ball, and let the ball pass to the left of him. But since it's so difficult to pick the bouncer, as it's almost in a straight line before it cuts in, Smith's open-shouldered position leaves him vulnerable, provides a big target to aim at. It's not that an open stance always leads to problem against bouncers. Some, like Mohinder Amarnath, developed an open stance to tackle bouncers after they had problems with a side-on stance. After being hit by the likes of Imran Khan and West Indies fast bowlers, Amarnath developed that open stance technique as it allowed him to get a better look at the ball, but the difference was that he would

not be walking across the stumps and getting trapped.

Traditionally, batsmen have a simple rule about leaving the bouncer: if it's on the off side of them, they sway; if it's on the body moving towards the leg-side, they duck. The way Smith moves across the stumps leaves him little room to do either — the swaying is easier if the batsmen adopt a side-on stance and the ducking is easier when the batsmen are relatively still. Smith's best option is to move further away to the off but any predetermined or misreading of length would open him to lbw threats. And so he stood there, and got nailed.

HIT LIST

A FEW PLAYERS WHO HAVE BEEN HIT BY ARCHER
AMLA | CAREY | SMITH | WADE | LABUSCHAGNE

Kiwis look to exploit Lanka's Oval weakness

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
COLOMBO, AUGUST 21

NEW ZEALAND will be hoping to add to Sri Lanka's poor record at their own Oval ground and level the series in the second and final Test starting Thursday. Unlike the spinner's paradise at Galle and the batting haven that is the SSC, the Oval — the only ground in Asia where Don Bradman played — favours seam bowlers. Sri Lanka have been often exposed here by quality seam bowlers and one up in the two-match series, they will have New Zealand's Trent Boult and Tim Southee — and possibly Neil Wagner — to contend with.

In the last 10 years, Sri Lanka have played seven games at The Oval and lost five, including once to New Zealand. In that game seven years ago, Southee claimed eight wickets while Boult finished with seven. "We have some fond memories from last time, and we managed to win that," New Zealand wicketkeeper BJ Watling said at a pre-match media briefing on Wednesday.

"The boys like to talk about their wickets and there's a few stunning catches from memory as well. Having good memories is always good, but it is a new game, a new day, and we need to be switched on," Watling added.

Left-arm quick Wagner claimed nine wickets in New Zealand's last Test match and was unlucky to miss out in Galle as conditions heavily favoured spin. He is expected to make a return possibly at the expense of Mitchell Santner.

The opening Test was a lot closer than the six-wicket margin suggests and the New Zealanders know that fielding lapses cost them dearly after setting Sri Lanka a daunting task of 268 runs. "No one's trying to drop a catch or miss anything. I still look back on those chances and they are pretty tough ones. Sometimes they stick and sometimes they don't," Watling said. "We have to give a lot of credit to Sri Lanka's batsmen — especially that opening partnership. "Hopefully in this Test we can look to make some more inroads through that top order and hopefully put that middle order under more pressure."

Sri Lanka, meanwhile, will leave out off-spinner Akila Dananjaya, whose action was reported to be suspect for a second time by match officials after the Galle Test. Dananjaya, who claimed a five-wicket haul in the opening game, was forced to remodel his action after it was first reported in November last year.

Technically he is allowed to play the second Test, but he is likely to travel to India instead to test his action. Dilruwan Perera has been drafted into the squad and is expected to play. Sri Lanka will move up to the number five of the official ICC rankings if they win the second Test and the series.

LIVE ON SONY ESPN FROM 10 AM



New Zealand captain Kane Williamson at a practice session on Wednesday.

No opening blues for Sindhu

Two-time silver medallist thumps Chinese Taipei's Pai Yu Po at the World Championship



PV Sindhu outclassed Chinese Taipei's Pai Yu Po 21-14, 21-15 in a 43-minute encounter. PTI

SHIVANI NAIK
AUGUST 21

PV SINDHU had already picked two World Championship bronzes when a renowned former Indonesian coach had passed a summary judgment on the least-noticed aspect of her game — he rumbled in between puffs of thick cigar that her footwork was off.

Coaches from countries deeply pickled in the sport, tend to notice such minute things. Moreover they have the luxury of watching from a distance without having to get down to the nuts and bolts of how to change those things in the athlete — in Sindhu's case someone nearing 6 feet. One quick glance at Sindhu — after half a dozen seasons, 4 World Championship and 1 Olympic medals and crucially a reboot in her game over the last two years — will get an approving grunt from the same coach now. Sindhu's stance has taken a literal turn for the better now, and her movement is smoothening out its edges — with a year to go to the Tokyo Olympics.

It is to Sindhu and her coaches' credit that she medalled consistently at the top level (badminton's rare round-the-year sport for an Indian athlete, judged almost every month against the best on the circuit) even while some fundamentals jarred. But a veneer of solidity is polishing the 24-year-old's game, and the World Championships at Basel will offer glimpses of the chiselling that's underway.

When Sindhu squared off against Pai Yu Po of Chinese Taipei in her opening match to win 21-14, 21-15, the 43 minutes gave her a good all-rounded workout against an opponent who wasn't testing her tactically that much but putting her through the cantering paces before the gallop ahead in the week.

As Sindhu refabricates her game slowly — after the gritty, stamina-backed attritionals of two years ago from Glasgow — her pace remains that of the mounted knight but her movement is more bishop. So for large parts of the game, she was getting into stride on her returns that was between 45 degrees and even perpendicular to the net, negotiating the shuttle at a standing angle that is helping her movement gain milli-seconds.

Fantastic reach

For far too long, Sindhu stood facing almost parallel to the net which constricted her shot-making and got her into awkward knots. She's begun to receive and move with her body more diagonal than lateral now. As a tall player with a fantastic reach and a strong physical game, the other extremity — her footwork — had been understated and taken its time to mature. It wasn't just about long strides and lunges to the short forecourt, where net retrievals tested her.

With her recalibrated movement, Sindhu will now be able to turn (and pivot) and move swifter and as was seen throughout the opening match, she was able to get to the centre of the court quicker for the parallel shots. It's a small part of the game with no direct bearing on her stroke-making, save for getting her into position faster to get more time on the shuttle.

But these were the minor limitations that had added up cumulatively to cost her the 2017 & 2018 World's and 2016 Olympic titles, when coach Gopichand had called her "still a work in progress." Her defense, her deception, variations in strokes and movement had all carried chinks — most alterations difficult to carry out given she was tall and back then not very agile resultantly.

Another part of the footwork that is vis-

ibly different now is how Sindhu looks bouncy on her feet. Not only have her legs gained in strength, but she's also moving a little frothily. So the shuttle that she would end up catching behind her body is now being trapped in line with her body, again tiny seconds shaved off in returning.

Basel was also a welcome change from her earlier World's campaigns when she would start with ground out, clunky three-setter wins, taking her time to get started. The best way to deal with her 19-19 dilemmas — which wrongly cast doubts on her mental strength — was to not lumber fatalistically towards a 19-all situation to start with. Both at Indonesia where she made the finals and in her opener at Basel, Sindhu seemed to be taking the initiative early.

Stern tests from Chinese Taipei await her — Tai Tzu Ying might come up in quarters, though there's Beiwen Zhang who's tripped her up a few important times in between.

The women's singles draw was cleared open after top-seed Akane Yamaguchi was ousted — seemingly surprised by her Singaporean opponent's aggressive attack. Sindhu though has all the firepower stacked against her in her own half. Tai Tzu Ying made plenty of errors to raise hopes in her opener

playing just before Sindhu.

But her sprint to the finish was equally quick as she unleashed her pin-pricks one after the other to hustle out Indonesian Fitriani Fitriani, who briefly looked like a rare 20-year-old who knew exactly how to unsettle Tai Tzu Ying.

Sindhu, meanwhile, came up against a tall Pai who was doing enough to work her to four corners of the court and prise out errors on some simple net returns. Still Sindhu looks far more in control of her game and in the ability to jog back the plan to where she needs it to be, even when put in tough spots.

As such all of the top women's singles players seem to be approaching Basel as a prep to Tokyo, and it won't be surprising if they are operating at a fraction of their skill-set even as they tweak large-scale and nip and tuck bits, ahead of the Olympics.

So, Marin's cautionary absence, Yamaguchi's erring exit, Saina's measured run-up and Tai Tzu's slow sorcery need to be put into perspective.

The last few months have seen a sudden emergence of the next generation — the Singaporean Yeo Jia Min and Indonesian Gregoria Tunjung and a pair of Koreans and Chinese also in the mix. Even the golden generation of women's singles fighters will need to up their games to deal with the onrush of the young ones while they battle amongst themselves for the Tokyo honours in a year's time.

Not all cards there will be revealed at Basel. And Sindhu's outing at her 7th World Championship (she has 4 medals from 6) needs to be seen within that framework. There's bound to be nervous energy as she shapes her game, it's a good start with some confident stance and striding.

BRIEFLY

Areeba finishes 24th in women's skeet at Shotgun World Cup

New Delhi: Young Indian shooter Areeba Khan on Wednesday signed off at the 24th position in women's Skeet competition at the Shotgun World Cup in Lahiti, Finland. Areeba, competing in her debut senior International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup stage, repeated her qualifying round score of 109 from the Shotgun World Championship at Lonato, Italy, earlier this year. Areeba, who hails from Aligarh, finished with a round of 24 out of 25 to be short of the top score of 118, recorded by American Caitlin Connor; by nine hits. Meng Wei of China won the gold with a Tokyo Olympic quota to boost in the event. The second quota place went to Germany's Nele Wissmer who finished fifth. Areeba's teammates Saniya Sheikh and Kartik Singh Shaktawat returned with scores of 98 and 96 for 63rd and 65th place finishes respectively.

BFI should consider doing away with selection trials: Kom

New Delhi: Indian boxer MC Mary Kom on Wednesday said proven performers should not be made to undergo selection trials and asserted that she did no wrong by seeking an exemption from the ones for the world championships. A controversy broke out over Mary's selection for the women's World Boxing Championships in Russia after her competitor in the 51 kg category, Nikhat Zareen, was refused a trial bout. Zareen, in a letter to the Boxing Federation of India (BFI), alleged that she was stopped from competing despite having a scheduled trial bout.

Mary Kom, a six-time world champion and an Olympic bronze-medallist, was chosen by the BFI selection panel based on her gold medal-winning performances at the India Open and a subsequent tournament in Indonesia. "Maybe, the BFI can change the programme altogether, no trial for boxers who are performing well, they can directly get the quota for any championship or tournament," Mary said.

Misbah undecided on applying for Pak head coach role

Karachi: Pakistan's most successful Test captain Misbah-ul-Haq confirmed that he has not yet applied for the position of head coach with the national team. Talking to the media in Lahore where he is supervising the pre-season conditioning camp of the Pakistan team probables, Misbah said he had only agreed to be camp commandant as he wanted to help the players prepare for the upcoming international and domestic season. "I know these players, I have played with them, I know the requirements of domestic and international cricket, I know the preparations are required so if I can help them why not," Misbah said. PTI

Indian men's and women's teams pass the test ahead of final exams



Harmanpreet Singh opened the scoring for India in the 5-0 win over New Zealand.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE AUGUST 21

INDIA COMPLETED a clean sweep of the Tokyo Olympics test events on Wednesday, winning the men's and women's titles, but the focus now will be on whether they can actually book their berth for next year's Games.

While the women's team, improving with every tournament, remained undefeated in the four-nation tournament, the men's team exacted revenge on New Zealand, who had defeated them in the round-robin match earlier this week. In Wednesday's finals, the Sjoerd Marijne-coached women's team defeated hosts Japan 2-1 while Graham Reid's men spanked New Zealand 5-0 following a first-half blitz. However, this win would mean nothing if India fail to qualify for the actual event itself.

The men's and women's teams feature in a 14-team pool for the Olympic qualifiers. On September 9, the International Hockey Federation will conduct a draw based on the world rankings to determine the seven qualifying matches - two teams playing each other in two back-to-back matches, with the winner sealing their spot for the Games. Both

Indian teams are likely to play their games at home due to their rankings.

Marijne and Reid used the test event to test their combinations ahead of the crucial qualifiers. Reid, especially, took a new-look team to Tokyo, giving rest to veteran players like goalkeeper PR Sreejesh and captain Manpreet Singh. In their absence, the team looked a bit shaky when they took on New Zealand, the only team that troubled India in the tournament.

New Zealand had edged out India earlier and in the final, both teams began the match on a cautious note by turning over the possession in the mid-field. India won a penalty corner in the seventh minute, but couldn't capitalise on the opportunity. However, skipper Harmanpreet didn't miss out on a re-awarded penalty corner. He executed a perfect dragkick to put India in the lead. The Indian team continued to hold possession and put tremendous pressure on the New Zealand defense as they ended the first quarter at 1-0.

Shamsher scored India's second goal through a penalty corner in the 18th minute. New Zealand managed to make only two circle entries in the second quarter as the Indian team scored three more goals. Nilakanta

TOKYO TEST	
MEN	Beat Malaysia 6-0
	Lost to New Zealand 2-1
	Beat Japan 6-3
	(Final) Beat New Zealand 5-0
WOMEN	Beat Japan 2-1
	Drew with Australia 2-2
	Drew with China 0-0
	(Final) Beat Japan 2-1

found the back of the net in the 22nd minute before Gursahibjit and Mandeep scored in quick succession.

Vivek Prasad intercepted the ball brilliantly to assist a goal for Gursahibjit and Mandeep converted a penalty corner just before the half-time whistle. After an action-packed first half, the intensity dropped from both sides. New Zealand tried to make a few inroads in the third quarter as they took a shot in the 37th minute which went wide of the post. Jarmanpreet Singh saved a penalty corner in the next minute as India and New

Zealand played out a goalless quarter but the former held the lead at 5-0.

In the last quarter, India ensured they stayed in the lead and didn't allow New Zealand to break through their defense throughout the match. India's attacking approach in the match paid off as they walked off the pitch as winners of the competition.

In the women's final, Navjot Kaur and Lalremsiami led India to a 2-1 win over Japan. Navjot (11th minute) opened the scoring to put India ahead but the lead was neutralised within a minute as Minami Shimizu (12') scored for the hosts.

Lalremsiami (33') struck the winning goal for India. India dominated the first 10 minutes, and finally managed to find the breakthrough when Forward Navjot kept her nerves under pressure and produced a fine finish in front of the goal. However, the next minute saw Japan strike back immediately with a well-crafted field goal which was put into the back of the net by Shimizu to make it 1-1.

Lalremsiami scored the winner in the 33rd minute, latching on to a rebound from Gurjit Singh's drag-kick that was initially saved by Japanese goalkeeper Megumi Kageyama.

—WITHPTI INPUTS

Brazilian Elkeson earns landmark China call-up



Elkeson, who has scored more than 100 goals in the Chinese Super League, has been selected owing to a dearth of attacking options for the national team.

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE SHANGHAI, AUGUST 21

CHINA NAMED Elkeson in their squad Wednesday for their opening World Cup qualifier with the Brazilian poised to become the first without Chinese ancestry to play for the country. The move has divided Chinese football fans and experts, however, as coach Marcello Lippi attempts to guide the nation to only their second World Cup.

Lippi has long complained about a dearth of attacking options and has moved to plug the gap with the 30-year-old striker, who will use the Chinese name Aikese. The move to naturalise the Brazilian comes after China similarly gave a passport to London-born midfielder Nico Yennaris.

The Beijing Guoan player has taken the Chinese name Li Ke and made his debut for Lippi's side in June this year. The former Arsenal man, however, is half-Chinese, whereas Guangzhou Evergrande striker Elkeson qualifies for China having played in the country since 2013.

Elkeson has scored more than 100 goals in about 150 games in the Chinese Super League. Along with Espanyol forward Wu Lei and Yennaris, Elkeson is part of a 35-man squad named by Italian World Cup winner Lippi for China's game in the Maldives on September 10.

Growing trend

Elkeson appears likely to be the start of a growing trend for perennial under-achievers China, who languish 71st in the FIFA rankings and made the World Cup just once, in 2002. Fellow Brazilians Ricardo Goulart and Fernando are both reportedly set to be naturalised, along with English defender Tyias Browning, also of Evergrande.

Although many other nations, notably 2022 World Cup hosts Qatar, call up players born in other countries, China had resisted doing so until now. Some fans and pundits, desperate to see China play at a World Cup again, have backed the naturalisation policy.

Others brand it short-sighted and question why a country with a population of 1.4 billion cannot find homegrown players that are good enough. Reacting to Elkeson's inclusion in the China squad, one sports think tank was unimpressed. "It's not in line with the original intention of football and the long-term development of the industry in China," wrote an opinion piece by Vning on social media.

The organisation also questioned how effectively the likes of Elkeson and Yennaris -- who is having intensive Chinese lessons -- will be able to communicate with their teammates. "Whether they can be integrated into the team and whether they can fight with honour in face of difficulties are hard to say," Vning added.

A transfer market parable

Juventus' summer business is an example of the broken economy that has gripped European football

RORY SMITH AUGUST 21

PAULO DYBALA had no reason to think he would be leaving Juventus this summer. When the Argentine forward departed for Brazil, and the Copa América, at the end of last season, he presumed he would soon be back in Turin (and not just because of Argentina's record at the Copa América).

Indeed, if anything, he was excited by the prospect of returning. Last season was probably the most frustrating of the four the 25-year-old Dybala has spent in Turin. His coach, Massimiliano Allegri, had recalibrated his side to accommodate Cristiano Ronaldo, relegating Dybala to the fringes -- either of games or the team -- more often than he would like.

Still, the summer had offered hope. Allegri, surprisingly, had left the club, replaced by Maurizio Sarri. Dybala thought he would be well suited to Sarri's fast, technical style, the precise pinball that had brought him such success at Napoli, and won him the Europa League at Chelsea.

It was something of a shock, then, to discover that Juventus did not see things the same way. Dybala was told the club needed money, and that it had decided he might be the source of it. He was offered the chance to join Manchester United, in a swap for Romelu Lukaku. He was almost sold to Tottenham Hotspur.



Juventus tried to sell striker Paulo Dybala to balance the books but could not find any takers due to his market value. AP

That Juventus needed to find some way of balancing the books was not a surprise, perhaps not even to Dybala: paying Ronaldo's salary was onerous enough, and this summer the club had invested heavily in the Dutch defender Matthijs De Ligt, too.

More unexpected was the fact that it was prepared to sell Dybala -- *la joya*, the jewel, as he is known -- in order to do it. The explanation is simple, but it contains a message that Europe's elite class of superclubs do well to heed. Juventus tried to sell Dybala -- and instead succeeded in selling Moise Kean, a teenage striking prospect of considerable promise, to Everton -- because it could not sell the players it actually needed to shift. The likes of Sami Khedira, Gonzalo Higuain and perhaps even Blaise Matuidi were all on the market as Juventus tried to rejuvenate its squad, but the club could not find takers for any of them.

The vast majority of clubs cannot afford to match those players' salaries; those that can are not the sort of teams that tend to buy castoffs. So Juventus, getting desperate, turned to Dybala. Kean and the right back Joao Cancelo: selling players it should want to keep because it cannot sell the players it no longer needs.

Juventus is not the only one of Europe's aristocrats caught in the trap. Real Madrid does not quite know what to do with James Rodriguez and, in particular, Gareth Bale. Barcelona has been unable to find a home,

Ronaldo says 2018 'probably worst year' of his life

Lisbon: Cristiano Ronaldo says the rape allegation against him was an attack on his honor and led to one of the worst years of his life. Ronaldo was accused of raping a woman in Las Vegas more than 10 years ago but won't face criminal charges after it was determined the investigation failed to show the claim could be proven at trial beyond a reasonable doubt.

Ronaldo has told Portuguese television TVI that "2018 was probably my worst year ever, personally speaking." He said that "when people question your

honor, it hurts, it hurts a lot."

The Juventus player did not directly talk about the 2009 accusation brought on by Kathryn Mayorga, an American who in a separate lawsuit says she was pressured to sign an agreement to keep quiet in exchange for \$375,000. The 34-year-old Ronaldo said he was not "comfortable speaking" about the case, "but when people attack your honor, it is difficult."

He said he was thankful and proud that "once again" his innocence was proven. AP

permanent or temporary, for Philippe Coutinho. Paris St-Germain does not want to keep Neymar, and he does not want to stay, but their unhappy union may have to continue for some time.

It is easy, in this situation, to blame the players, to say they should all be prepared to drop their salary expectations in order to play

the game they love, but that has always had the air of the sort of advice it is rather easier to preach than practice. If you are owed a certain amount of money -- however little you theoretically need that money -- it is a bold step to forego (a portion of) it willingly, simply because your debtor has decided they do not want to pay it.

It is better, perhaps, to look at the clubs: to ask if perhaps they might use this summer as a learning experience, a chance to fine-tune their recruitment policies, moving away from stockpiling as many players as possible and toward a more focused, scientific, youth-oriented approach.

Elite players nearing their 30s should not be on long-term contracts. They should not be signed for large fees or guaranteed market-defying salaries on a presidential whim. Clubs should not be assembling rosters packed with 25 high-profile senior internationals.

There is a chance that all of this will work out in the end: it might require a spider diagram to explain it, but essentially if Neymar leaves P.S.G. -- perhaps with Coutinho or Bale or Rodriguez in part-exchange -- then Dybala may move to Paris (or be part of a swap deal for Inter Milan's Mauro Icardi). All of the dominoes may yet line up just right. Even if they do, though, there is a lesson from this summer for Europe's great houses. If they do not learn it, they may yet find themselves undone by their own gluttony. NYT

Bagan end Kashmir's fairytale run, will face Kerala in final

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA KOLKATA, AUGUST 21

SUPER-SUB V P Suhair struck an extra time brace as Mohun Bagan saw off a gritty challenge from Real Kashmir 3-1 to set up a summit clash with Gokulam Kerala in the 129th Durand Cup here on Wednesday. Much like the first semifinal in which Gokulam Kerala scripted a stunning turnaround in the second-half stoppage time, Real Kashmir struck the equaliser in the 90+3rd minute to cancel Salva Chamorro's first half goal and force the match into extra-time.

But it turned out to be a tale of two Keralites in the two thrilling semifinals. First it was CK Ubaid who produced two stunning saves in the penalty shoot-out to sound death knell for his former side East Bengal. Next it was former Gokulam Kerala forward Suhair who struck a double in the 93rd and 112nd minutes to seal a final berth in the Asia's oldest tournament for a record 29th time.

Earlier, Salva Chamorro broke the deadlock in the 42nd minute after captain Gurjinder Kumar took a turn towards his right to set it up with his left foot for the Spaniard to shoot in front of the goal. But Real Kashmir struck the equaliser in the second-half injury time to cancel Chamorro's first half goal and force the match into extra-time.

With a minute left in the stoppage time, Real Kashmir captain Loveday Enyinnaya set up the ball from the midfield and it was their Ivorian forward Gnohore Krizo who slotted it home to stun the Mohun Bagan supporters. But Mohun Bagan did not take long to restore their lead when Suhair, who had come in place of Romario Jesuraj in the 68th minute, showed fine composure to finish it well.

Full credit should also be given to Fran Gonzalez who bisected the loose Real Kashmir defence with a measured pass to Suhair on the right flank. In the 10th minute of extra-time, Fran Morante made a superb goalline save from a well-connected Vicky Meitei shot as Mohun Bagan held on to their lead.

Suhair then sealed the issue with his powerful strike after receiving a perfectly-timed pass from Gonzalez. Mohun Bagan controlled the possession and the Snow Leopards hardly got any chance barring two freekicks. Mohun Bagan got their first real opportunity in the 14th minute with Joseba Beitia in the attack but the Spaniard's shot from an acute angle was saved by a flying Real Kashmir goalkeeper Phurba Lanchepa.

Beitia got another chance in the 35th minute when he made a nice turn in front of the goal but only to shoot it wide. In the second-half, Mohun Bagan wasted another golden opportunity when Romario Jesuraj found himself in a one-on-one position with Lanchepa but only to be off target. Subhas Singh's free kick went over the target in the 24th minute after Chesterpoul Lyngdoh was brought down by a Mohun Bagan defender. Real Kashmir's star forward Danish Farooq had a lean day, failing to find the target on more than one occasion.



Gokulam Kerala players celebrate after beating East Bengal in Durand Cup semifinals on Wednesday. They will face Mohun Bagan in Saturday's final. PTI