



**उत्तराखण्ड पावर कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड**  
कार्यालय विद्युत वितरण मण्डल,  
बिजली भवन बाजपुर रोड, काशीपुर  
दूरभाष नं. 05947-276520, कारपोरेट आइ.डी. संख्या U40109UR2001SGC025867  
Email: se\_ksp@rediffmail.com Website: www.upcl.org  
पत्रांक 2144 वि.वि.म. (का.) / दिनांक 21.8.19

**निविदा शूटिंग पत्र**  
विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, काशीपुर से आर्म्डिजिड संख्या 08, 09, 10, 11/2019-20 विनकी अन्तर्गत-  
ऑफलाइन निविदा जमा एवं खोलने वाले की तिथि 26.27.28/08/2019 है उक्त निविदाओं के प्रारंभ बिंदु वाले भाग में अंकित  
आइटम क्रमांक के संबंध में यह सूचना दी जाती है कि उक्त निविदाओं को निम्नलिखित पत्रांक पर भेजा जाए।

आइटम क्रमांक	पूर्व की माप इकाई	संशोधित माप इकाई
14	No	Mtr
16	No	MT
20	No	Job
22	No	KM
23	No	KM
24	No	KM
25	No	KM
26	No	Mtr

निविदा से संबंधित अन्य समस्त शर्तें कक्षा नं. 01, काशीपुर में विद्युत कक्षा में, विद्युत कक्षा के 24x7 अनवरत प्रचारक  
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**Office of  
Superintending Engineer,  
6th Circle, HPPWD, Kullu-175101  
Ph. 01902-222530  
E-Mail: hp-kul@nic.in**

The Superintending Engineer, 6th Circle HPPWD, Kullu on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites 2nd time the item rate bids in electronic tendering system from the eligible contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs.in Lacs)	Starting Date for downloading Bid	Earnest Money (In Lacs)	Deadline for submission of Bid
1	Construction of 40.00 mtr. Span Steel Truss Bridge over Plachan Khad on Bathad to Shill Shrungrar road at RD. 0/015, (SH-C/O Sub Structure, Super Structure and approaches under PMGSY 2018-19 Batch-II Package No.HP-06-85)	191.23	09-08-2019	3.83	23-08-2019

The bidders are advised to note other details of the tenders from the website [www.pmsgstenders.gov.in](http://www.pmsgstenders.gov.in)

Sd/-  
Superintending Engineer,  
6th Circle HPPWD, Kullu  
PIN -175101  
Telephone No. 01902-222530  
Email - hp-kul@nic.in  
On behalf of  
Governor of Himachal Pradesh

HP/1554/19-20

**IN BRIEF**  
**North body schools to hold 'Child Safety Week'**  
NEW DELHI  
The North Delhi Municipal Corporation has directed its schools to observe a "Child Safety Week" from September 9-14, during which children will be explained about the concept of a "safe touch". PTI

**Air quality of Delhi-NCR**

Location	Index	Category
Delhi	123	Good
Gurgaon	100	Good
Ghaziabad	140	Satisfactory
Faridabad	86	Good
Noida	139	Satisfactory
Greater Noida	208	Moderate

Legend: Good (0-50), Satisfactory (51-100), Moderate (101-200), Poor (201-300), Very poor (301-400), Severe (>401)

AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) [SOURCE: CPCB]

**DELHI TODAY**

**Music:** "Duo Ziffra", a four hand and solo piano concert by two pianists, Ludmilla Guilmault and Jean-Noël Dubois at M.L. Bhartia Auditorium, Alliance Francaise de Delhi, Lodhi Road, 7 p.m.

**Exhibition:** "Recapturing the marvels of Rajasthan", a solo exhibition of acrylic on canvas, soft pastels on paper, water colour on paper and mixed media by Priyanka Banerjee at Convention Centre Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

**Exhibition:** "The Nature of Things", a solo painting exhibition by Kota Neelima at Visual Arts Gallery, IHC, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

**Exhibition:** "In Search of the Celestial", an exhibition of sculptures by Sandip Chakraborty at Triveni Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

(Mail your listings for this column at [cityeditor@delhi.thehindu.co.in](mailto:cityeditor@delhi.thehindu.co.in))

**Matrimonial firm to pay for failing to provide services**

Consumer forum directs company to refund money with fine

**STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI**  
A district consumer disputes redressal forum here has directed a company providing matrimonial services to compensate a complainant by paying ₹30,000 after it was alleged that the company failed to arrange for meetings with "prospective suitors" despite the complainant paying the deposit amount.

**THE CHEQUE WAS ENCASED BY THE COMPANY BUT NO PROFILE WAS SENT, NOR ANY COORDINATOR WAS APPOINTED. THE COMPANY HAD BEEN PUTTING OFF THE COMPLAINANT ON ONE PRETEXT OR THE OTHER**

six months", the company kept delaying the process. "... the cheque was encashed by the company but no profile was sent nor any coordinator was appointed. The company had been putting off the complainant on one pretext or the other," the Bench observed. Noting that the company did not refute the allegations made against it, the Bench observed, "The complainant has substantiated the contents of his complaint by leading evidence... the documents placed on record also support the case of the complainant. Even otherwise, we have no reason to disbelieve the unchallenged and un rebutted testimony of the complainant."

Noting that the complainant approached the company called "Royal Matrimonial Services" after seeing newspaper advertisements, the Bench observed, "The complainant got the impression that the company was providing professionalised matrimonial services."

**DISTRICT CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL FORUM**

and shall ascertain the liking and disliking and accordingly forward the profiles." "Owner of the company also assured that coordinators shall provide services in searching for suitable profiles and arrange meetings with the people for whom the complainant shall give approval or consent," read the allegations in the order.

**Expert team**  
It was also alleged that the company assured the complainant that it had an "expert team of counsellors and coordinators who would meet the daughter of the complainant, who was looking for marriage alliance

**Additional compensation**  
Directing the company to refund the amount paid by the complainant, the district forum further ordered an additional compensation of ₹10,000 to be paid to the latter on account of harassment.

**DCW busts sex racket, two rescued**

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) on Thursday busted an online sex racket in Nand Nagri and rescued a 15-year-old girl and 30-year-old woman. The commission said that action was taken following a complaint received on August 14 about a 20-year-old woman from Krishna Nagar going allegedly missing. "When the DCW team met the family on Wednesday, the sister of the missing girl informed the team about other missing girls. To verify her claims, when the team visited Nand Nagri, we found the 15-year-old girl and the 30-year-old woman on the premises. The owner was arrested by the police," said a DCW official. The official added, "The 15-year-old girl informed that she was lured into a 'high paying job' by a friend. She was told that it was a typing job but was instead forced into a sex racket since February this year."

**Chidambaram case: BJP questions CM's silence**

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi BJP unit on Thursday questioned Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's silence on the proceedings against former Union Minister and senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram. Launching the attack against the AAP national convener was disqualified Karawal Nagar MLA and Mr. Kejriwal's former Cabinet colleague Kapil Mishra. "Why the silence @ArvindKejriwal are you in shock? It was outside this very Chidambaram's residence that people braved baton blows during the Anna movement. His [Mr. Chidambaram's] name was on top of the list of the corrupt. Today Lalu [Prasad Yadav] [Robert] Vadra are within reach [of investigation agencies]. Why aren't you congratulating Modi ji. [sic]," Mr. Mishra, who joined the BJP last Saturday, tweeted in Hindi. Mr. Mishra's tweet was followed by a collage of screenshots of Mr. Kejriwal's tweets against Mr. Chidambaram from July 2012 when he, as part of the



Arvind Kejriwal

team Anna movement, had protested outside Mr. Chidambaram's residence. **CCTV installation** Meanwhile, Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari alleged that Mr. Kejriwal had forgotten most of the promises made to the people of Delhi prior to the 2015 Assembly elections. "The claim of the Kejriwal government on installation of 2,80,000 CCTV cameras in entire Delhi through advertisements in almost all the big newspapers at the cost of public money is completely false...AAP is misleading the people of Delhi at the cost of public exchequer," he alleged.

**'New Cong. office has not obtained green clearance'**

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The new headquarters of the Indian National Congress near ITO, which is under construction, has not obtained "consent to operate" under the Water Act and Air Act, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) said, according to documents available with them. Environment activist Vikrant Tongad said, "It is a must for them [Congress] to take the consent and also get environmental clearance. As per information available with us, they are using groundwater and illegally cutting down trees."

floor area of each building. The DPCC has also written to the INC on August 20 to get further details on the issue. "We are still looking into whether the Congress building needs these consents as only buildings above a certain floor area requires them," a senior official said. Mr. Tongad said this is the first time the DPCC has accepted that the office does not have consent, and added that earlier, the DPCC had said that the consents were required only for buildings above 20,000 square metres. In February, the Congress was issued a notice by the court of the Financial Commissioner of Delhi, acting on an application by Mr. Tongad, alleging violation of pollution-control norms during construction of the party's new office on Kotla Road.

**दिव्य है कृष्ण की लीलाओं का संसार**  
**श्रीकृष्णोत्सव में देखें उनकी झलक इस बार**

**श्रीकृष्णोत्सव 2019**

23-25 अगस्त | मथुरा, उत्तर प्रदेश

**'दही हांडी' का आयोजन**  
(मुम्बई से आई दही हांडी टोली द्वारा)  
मुख्य अतिथि **योगी आदित्यनाथ**  
मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

गरिमामयी उपस्थिति

लक्ष्मी नारायण चौधरी मंत्री, संस्कृति एवं धर्मार्थ कार्य विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश	पं. श्रीकांत शर्मा मंत्री, ऊर्जा विभाग उत्तर प्रदेश	हेमा मालिनी सांसद मथुरा	कारिंदा सिंह विधायक गोवर्धन	पूरन प्रकाश विधायक बलदेव
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दिनांक: 24 अगस्त, 2019 | समय: अपराह्न 3:30 बजे | स्थान: रामलीला मैदान, मथुरा

मुख्य आकर्षण

23 अगस्त, 2019 : देश एवं प्रदेश के लगभग 1000 कलाकारों द्वारा **शोभा यात्रा** तथा विभिन्न आकर्षक सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम

24 अगस्त, 2019 : **कृष्णावतार** का प्रदर्शन | 25 अगस्त, 2019 : पद्मश्री **अनूप जलोटा** द्वारा भजन गायन

उत्तर प्रदेश पर्यटन यू.पी. नहीं देखा, वो इंडिया नहीं देखा...

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# Temple row: locals angry at mob for damaging properties

Residents say had police not used force, there would have been mass casualties

HEMANI BHANDARI  
NEW DELHI

A day after a clash broke out between the police and the protesters demanding that the authorities rebuild Ravidas temple in Tughlakabad, the locals said the unruly mob damaged their properties and created panic in the area.

Recalling the Wednesday evening violence, the locals said had the police not used force, the incident would have led to mass casualties.

Kamal Gupta, owner of Bikaner Sweets in Tughlakabad Extension street number 17 where the clash erupted, said: "The mob not only threw the counters outside my shop but also broke the CCTV camera."

"Around 7 p.m., the police asked us to shut the shops after they saw the crowd ap-



CRPF officers at the site where the demolition was carried out in Tughlakabad Extension, on Thursday.

\*HEMANI BHANDARI

proaching Tughlakabad Extension barricade. We immediately pulled down the shutters. I had a few customers inside who had to wait for an hour before they could get out," he said.

Mr. Gupta said a lot of people gathered at the spot and picked up stones and bricks from the park next to the market and started throwing

them at the officers. They also burnt a motorcycle, he added. Initially, for a few minutes, the officers stayed away because they were not wearing security gear but started containing the crowd shortly after.

Another local, Vinay Rohatgi, a property dealer, said the protesters had broken his car's front mirror. "My entire family remained indoor for hours out of fear," said Mr. Rohatgi, a resident of the area.

## Stone-pelting

"There were thousands of protesters with lathis, swords and hockey sticks in their hands. Someone could have got hurt from the stone-pelting if the police had not intervened," he said. Mr. Rohatgi said panic-stricken locals entered his residence

for safety. "The police used tear gas shells to bring the situation under control. Else, the protesters would have probably set the street on fire and people would have been killed," he said.

Both Mr. Gupta and Mr. Rohatgi said: "The manner in which they protested was wrong. Why did they trouble the public and damage their properties?"

## 96 arrested

Meanwhile, on Thursday, the police arrested 96 persons, including Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad, on charges of rioting, unlawful assembly, voluntarily causing hurt to deter public servant from his duty among others and produced them before the court after which they were sent to 14 days police custody.

# Azad planned to march towards site, reads FIR

Three officers injured in the violence

HEMANI BHANDARI  
NEW DELHI

The FIR registered by the police in connection with the clash between officers and protesters during the protest at Ramlila Maidan, states that Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad and other leaders planned to march towards the demolished temple site.

"During the protest, a crowd of about 4,000-5,000 led by Chander Shekhar of Bhim Army, including other leaders - Vinay, Satish, Balwinder, Rajkumar, Vishwa Gagandeep Singh, Roshinder Singh - made a plan to march towards the demolished site," the FIR read.

The FIR also mentioned that three police officers sustained injuries and many government and public vehicles were damaged. "Some of them [protesters] were also carrying arms," the document read.

On Thursday, at the demolished site, a warning signboard was put up, which stated that occupying the land is a punishable offence.

"According to the Su-

**Many government and public vehicles were damaged. Some of them [protesters] were also carrying arms.**

FIRST INFORMATION REPORT

preme Court order, this land belongs to Delhi Development Authority and occupying it is a punishable offence," it said in Hindi.

## Committee condemns

At the site, convener of Akhil Bhartiya Sant Shiromani Guru Ravidas Mandir Sanyukt Sanrakshan Samiti Ashok Bharti said, "I condemn it and it was absolutely wrong. It was not the call taken by Dalit groups but an individual call".

The committee, formed for the protest at Ramlila Maidan, distanced itself from the 'mob violence'.

Meanwhile, as 96 persons were arrested in the incident, Kalkaji police station became a makeshift court where the judge was requested to come and the accused were produced before him.

# 'Give land to followers, will give 100 acres in return'

Only Centre can resolve issue: Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday said in the Assembly that if the Delhi Development Authority gives four-five acres of land for the Ravidas temple to the community, he will give 100 acres of land to the Centre.

The announcement comes a day after thousands of Dalits protested in the Capital.

## 'Pass an ordinance'

On Thursday, the Assembly also passed a resolution urging the Centre to pass an ordinance to allot the particular land for the temple. Even the BJP MLAs said a temple should be built at the spot. On August 10, the temple in Tughlakabad was demolished by the DDA following Supreme Court orders.

"And how much forest is there in this four-acre land? We will make multiple times that in this 100-acre land and give it to you... only the Centre can solve this issue," he said, adding that the Centre and the DDA did not present all sides of the case before the Supreme Court.



AAP MLA Ajay Dutt protests outside the Assembly on Thursday.

\*SHIV KUMAR PUSHKAR.

"Ravidas ji had stayed there. You don't get these vibrations at some other spot," Mr. Kejriwal said, adding that building the temple at a different spot is disrespect.

Meanwhile, BJP MLA Vijender Gupta said, "I met the Union Environment Minister and he said the government's Forest Department has to recommend to convert the forest land to non-forest land," he said.

The Assembly session, which started at 2 p.m., was adjourned thrice due to protests. AAP MLA Ajay Dutt tore his shirt inside the Assembly as a protest against the demolition of the temple.

# Speaker seeks removal of staff after technical glitch

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Following multiple glitches with the microphone during Thursday's Assembly session, Speaker Ram Niwas Goel asked officials to

remove the two persons responsible for it from their jobs.

Later on, it was found that the audio system is being run by a private agency and the two people operat-


ing it could not be removed by the government.

"The agency's contract comes to an end this year and it would not be renewed," the Speaker added.

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Enq. 43503333, 23386428/29 **bookmyshow**

**AgustaWestland case: Puri moves court to surrender**  
NEW DELHI  
Businessman Ratul Puri, who was arrested in a bank fraud case, moved an application before a Delhi court Thursday saying he wants to surrender in the money laundering case related to AgustaWestland chopper scam.

**Hard Work Alone Triumphs**



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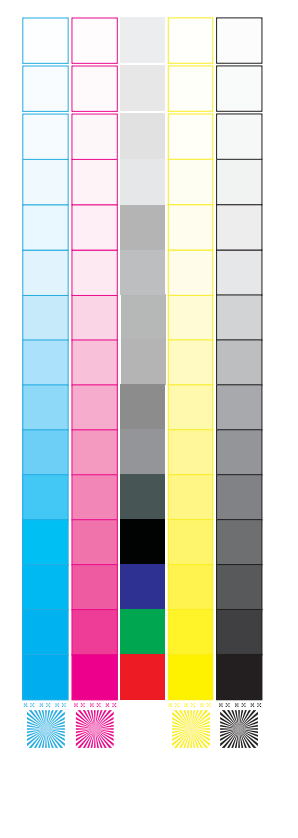
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# IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS OF DELHI

**All online services of Delhi Jal Board  
will remain closed between August 23 to August 30  
for enhancing the efficiency of Water Billing System**



- For improving the efficiency of Revenue Management System (RMS), DJB is moving to an Upgraded System.
- Due to this migration activity all online services like online viewing and payment of water bills/ applying for new connection/ cash counter etc will not be available from 23-08-2019 to 30-08-2019
- Bill Payment due dates during this period will automatically stand extended upto 09-09-2019 without Late Payment Surcharge.
- Offline activities in Zonal Revenue Offices will continue during this period. Consumers can make payment of water bills at the kiosks available at Zonal Revenue Offices.
- For more information please contact 1916 (toll free)

**INCONVENIENCE CAUSED DUE TO THIS IMPORTANT  
RMS UPGRADATION WORK IS REGRETTED**







IN BRIEF



Tobacco Board retains crop size at 136 million kg GUNTUR Keeping in view uncertainties over tobacco exports...

Varsity assault case: HC pulls up police for delay KOCI

The Kerala High Court on Thursday pulled up the police for not arresting the accused involved in the assault of Akhil Chandran...

Kevin's murder is a case of honour killing, says Kerala HC

Court convicts 10 persons but acquits victim's father-in-law

STAFF REPORTER KOTTAYAM

The principal sessions court, Kottayam, on Thursday found the murder of Kevin P. Joseph, a 23-year-old Dalit Christian, to be a case of honour killing...



Kevin P. Joseph

guilty of murder (IPC Section 302) and abduction (IPC 364 A). The court, however, acquitted four persons...

BDJS chief held in Dubai in cheque fraud case, gets bail

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A court in the United Arab Emirates on Thursday released Thushar Vellappally, who unsuccessfully contested against Rahul Gandhi in Wayanad...



Thushar Vellappally

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan to seek the "personal attention and intervention" of Union Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muralidharan...

S. Railway not to stop housekeeping

₹50 crore sanctioned to clear bills

S. VIJAY KUMAR CHENNAI

After a last-minute sanction of ₹50 crore to clear contractual payments, Southern Railway has withdrawn its decision to suspend on-board housekeeping services...



A file picture of Railway laundry facility in Tirupati. K.V. POORNACHANDRA KUMAR

According to railway sources, top officials in the Ministry of Railways intervened and sorted out the cash crunch...

Order withdrawn On Thursday, the Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer wrote to Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineers in Chennai...

CPRO's claim However, Chief Public Relations Officer, Southern Railway, P.A. Dhananjayan, in a statement on the report 'Cleaning services on trains will be hit' in The Hindu...

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ROAD CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT ROAD DIVISION, KHUNTI e-Procurement Notice SHORT TENDER (2nd Call) (Re)E Tender Reference No. RCD/KHUNTI/1022 Date -21/08/2019

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED 3rd Floor, RRDA Building, Pragati Sadan, Near Kutchery Road Ranchi 834 001, Jharkhand.

विज्ञापन / सूचना जिला नूड के ग्रामीण क्षेत्र के सरकारी संस्थानों में लगाई गई सैनोटीरी नैपकिन बैगिंग यूनियो के...

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED 3rd Floor, RRDA Building, Pragati Sadan, Near Kutchery Road RANCHI 834 001, JHARKHAND.

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND Office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Godda, Camp - Mahagama e-Procurement Tender Notice Tender Reference No. :- WRD/Irr. Div. Mahagama/SBD-IFB-02/2019-20 Dt : 20.08.2019

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PLANNING AND INVESTIGATION DIVISION ROAD CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT (RCD), RANCHI e-Procurement (Re-Tender Notice) Letter of Re-invitation (LOI) no-10/2019-20 3rd Call e-Re-Tender Ref No:- RCD/PID / RAN/ 10/736 Dated-20-08-2019

Office Of The Superintending Engineer, 18th Circle, Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam, R-1, Raj Nagar (Near New Ghaziabad Railway Station), Ghaziabad (U.P.) Pin 201002

STATE HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF JHARKHAND Government of Jharkhand e-procurement Notice inviting Request For Proposal for Construction Supervision Consultancy Services

STATE HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF JHARKHAND Government of Jharkhand e-procurement Notice inviting RFP for Engineering, Procurement & Construction Ref No: SHAJ/PROC/H.L.Bridge/2019 Date: 20.08.2019



WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

**Forecast for Friday:** Heavy to very heavy rain likely at isolated places over Odisha, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaika, Lakshadweep, Kerala and Mahe

Table with 3 columns: CITY, RAIN, MAX, MIN. Lists various cities and their weather conditions.

Table with 4 columns: CITIES, SO, NO, CO, PM2.5, PM10, CODE. Lists air quality data for various cities.

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

3 elephants die in Odisha accident

Tragedy strikes when a herd of 10 elephants was crossing NH-20 near Keonjhar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BHUBANESWAR

Three wild elephants were killed in a road accident involving a passenger bus and a truck on a national highway in Odisha's Keonjhar district early on Thursday.

According to forest officials, the accident occurred when a herd of 10 elephants were crossing NH-20 at around 2 a.m. near Balijodi village under the Ghatagaon forest range. While a female elephant and her one-year-old calf died on the spot, another female elephant, died during treatment.

While the truck skidded off the road, the bus sped away. The bus was later located near Barbil town in the district and the driver was taken into custody.



Mammoth tragedy: The site of the accident in which three elephants were killed in Keonjhar district of Odisha on Wednesday night. \*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

EPFO to restore commutation of pension

6.3 lakh people will benefit following the retirement fund body's decision

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Providing relief to 6.3 lakh pensioners, retirement fund body Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has approved a proposal to restore commutation of pension, or advance part-withdrawal, under the Employees' Pension Scheme.

**Withdrawn in 2009** The move would benefit the pensioners who had opted for commutation and got a lump sum amount at the time of retirement before 2009. The provision for

commutation of pension was withdrawn by the EPFO in 2009.

Under the commutation, monthly pension used to be cut by one-third for the next 15 years and the reduced amount would be given in lump sum. After the 15 years, the pensioners were entitled to get the full pension.

"In a major decision, the [EPFO's apex decision-making body] Central Board of Trustees in a meeting held at Hyderabad on August 21, approved a proposal to recommend for amendment in EPS-95 for restoration of

commuted value of pension to pensioners after 15 years of drawing commutation, which will benefit about 6.3 lakh pensioners," according to a statement by the EPFO.

Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh general secretary Virjesh Upadhyay said there was a demand for restoration of commutation of pension.

"Earlier, under EPS-95 [Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995], members were able to commute one-third of their pension for 10 years, which was restored after 15 years. This facility is available to government em-

ployees," said Mr. Upadhyay.

IL&FS issue

In the matter of coupon default of IL&FS Ltd, the CBT nominated three officers to attend the debenture holders' meeting that may be held in future and if need be, vote on behalf of the CBT.

Moreover, the trustees approved the decision to choose the exchange-traded fund (ETF) manufacturers through public bidding by October 31, 2019, and extended the term of the present ETF manufacturers (SBI MF and UTI MF) till then.

ED questions Raj Thackeray for nine hours

It was part of an investigation into IL&FS-Kohinoor CTNL case

GAUTAM S. MENGLE  
MUSKAN KHATOR  
MUMBAI

The Enforcement Directorate on Thursday questioned Maharashtra Navnirman Sena chief Raj Thackeray for close to nine hours in connection with the IL&FS-Kohinoor CTNL case.

Mr. Thackeray, called for questioning, reached the ED office in Ballard Pier around 11.30 a.m., accompanied by wife Sharmila, son Amit, daughter Urvashi and daughter-in-law Mitali. He entered the ED office without speaking to the media, while his family members went to the Grant Hotel close to the ED office.



Raj Thackeray

Shareholding pattern

"Mr. Thackeray was mainly questioned about the shareholding pattern in Kohinoor CTNL as well as some facts that came to light in the questioning of others over the last few days," an ED officer said.

The ED has since Monday been questioning Unmesh Joshi, son of former Maharashtra Chief Minister Mahanohar Joshi, and senior MNS leader Rajan Shirodkar. The trio were partners in a consortium that formed Kohinoor CTNL, to which IL&FS

paid close to ₹860 crore in the form of loans and investments. The officer added that other aspects of the questioning included the trail of money after it was paid to Kohinoor CTNL by IL&FS and the granting of unsecured loans by IL&FS without any collateral despite the company declaring losses. Mr. Thackeray left the ED office around 8.15 p.m., accompanied by his family members.

ED sources said he had not been called in for questioning on Friday and that it was unlikely that he would need to be questioned again unless some new facts come to light in subsequent investigations. The Mumbai Police, meanwhile, laid down a tight cordon of personnel, closed all roads to the ED office for vehicular traffic.

IN BRIEF



Nirav Modi's remand extended till Sept. 19

LONDON Nirav Modi, wanted in India in connection with the nearly \$2 billion Punjab National Bank fraud, appeared before a UK court on Thursday via videolink from his London prison and was further remanded in judicial custody till September 19. PTI

NDTV interim CEO Suparna Singh resigns

NEW DELHI Media firm NDTV on Thursday said its Interim CEO Suparna Singh has resigned with immediate effect. "Suparna Singh has informed the company that she will step down from her responsibilities," NDTV said in a regulatory filing. PTI

AMU student arrested over Modi poster

ALIGARH An Aligarh Muslim University student was arrested after his Facebook page showed an objectionable poster on Prime Minister Narendra Modi carried recently by anti-India protesters in London, police said. Mohammad Zaid Rashid, 20, admitted to the university's Kishanganj centre, was here when he downloaded the picture. PTI

Subhash Kapoor charged with looting artefacts

NEW YORK Jailed art dealer Subhash Kapoor has been charged by prosecutors in Manhattan with stealing and possessing millions of dollars worth of artefacts. Officials of the Metropolitan Museum are looking into whether the looted antiquities he sold ended up in its collection. PTI

Assam teen held for threat email to BCCI

MUMBAI The Maharashtra Anti Terrorism Squad has arrested a 19-year-old Assam native for allegedly sending an email threatening to attack Indian cricketers earlier this month. ATS officers said the message was sent to the official email of the BCCI on Aug. 16.

SC refers Oxytocin ban to larger bench

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday referred to a larger Bench a batch of petitions challenging a government notification banning private companies from manufacturing Oxytocin, a first line drug administered to save the lives of young mothers suffering from excessive bleeding immediately after childbirth.

At the centre of the controversy is an April 2018 notification issued by the Centre under the Section 26A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 restricting the manufacture of Oxytocin for domestic use. Only public sector undertakings could manufacture the drug, the notification said.

**Extracting milk** The trigger for the notification was a 21-year-old problem: clandestine manufacture of the drug and its misuse by dairy owners on

milch animals to artificially extract milk.

However, the Delhi High Court, in a decision on December 14 last year, quashed the notification as arbitrary and unreasonable. The High Court said Oxytocin was an essential drug and the "Central government did not adequately weigh the danger to the lives of the users of Oxytocin, i.e. pregnant women and young mothers, nor did it consider the deleterious effect to the public generally and women particularly, of the possible restricted supply of a lifesaving drug, if the manufacture is confined to one single public sector enterprise."

The Bench of Justices A.M. Sapre and Indu Malhotra, in a 41-page judgment, concluded that the case raises substantial questions of law to be answered by a three-judge Bench.

Students promoted without evaluation

STAFF REPORTER  
BERHAMPUR

Students were found to have been promoted and studying in Class X in a girls high school at Pattapur in Odisha's Ganjam district though answer sheets of their annual examination for Class IX have not been evaluated yet.

This was revealed during a surprise inspection of the school by Ganjam District Education Officer (DEO) Sanatan Panda on Wednesday. His interaction with some

Class X students revealed that none of them knew anything about their Class IX marks.

Inspection of the office almirah revealed that answer sheets of the test examination for Class X students conducted in 2018 had not been corrected yet. Only the students who qualify in this test examination are allowed to take the Class X board examinations.

The DEO has suspended the in-charge headmaster, Samir Kanta Tripathy.



सत्यमेव जयते



All India Council for Technical Education (A Statutory Body of Government of India) Nelson Mandela Marg, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi - 110 070 Website : www.aicte-india.org

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(Member Secretary)



## Internal affairs

With Bangladesh out of the picture, the government should clarify its post-NRC plans

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's statement in Dhaka on Tuesday that the soon-to-be-published National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam is India's internal matter lets Bangladesh off the hook as far as a possible return of those who don't find their names in the NRC is concerned. The Supreme Court has repeatedly asked the Centre to ascertain from Bangladesh whether it would accept those persons, who might be declared foreigners, after the NRC exercise is completed in Assam. In fact, the Supreme Court has had occasion to say that the Centre had not engaged Bangladesh in a substantive dialogue on the issue. By stating that the NRC is India's internal matter, the External Affairs Minister has conceded to Bangladesh a point that Dhaka has repeatedly made – that the 40 lakh-odd people who don't figure in the draft NRC lists are not its citizens and it is not responsible for them. In fact, Bangladesh has never accepted that any of its citizens ever illegally entered Indian territory. Other than the cryptic remark about the NRC being an internal matter for India, *The Daily Star* newspaper quoted the Bangladeshi Foreign Minister A.K. Abdul Momen as saying that Mr. Jaishankar had conveyed to him not to worry about the NRC issue. Bangladesh could well be satisfied with New Delhi's position on the NRC, but Indians are none the wiser about what the Centre plans to do with the lakhs of people – Hindus and Muslims – who are likely to find themselves missing from the Register when it is finally published on August 31.

The BJP has long promised that it will deport all illegally resident Bangladeshis from Assam and the rest of India, a view that it has articulated time and again over the years. But this position doesn't tally with what Mr. Jaishankar told his Bangladeshi counterpart. The party has simultaneously promised that all non-Muslims, whose names don't figure in the NRC, will be given citizenship rights by amending the law. Other than this, there is no clarity on what the government plans to do with the lakhs of people likely to be rendered stateless after the NRC exercise is completed. Though these persons would have access to foreigners' tribunals and the courts of the country, the Centre and the Supreme Court should have had a plan in place about how they will deal with the impending humanitarian crisis in Assam. Many of the affected are abjectly poor people, with little or no understanding of how the NRC process works, and entered this country in the hope of a better future for themselves and their children. It is the duty of the Government of India and the Supreme Court to ensure that these individuals are treated with dignity. The government would also do well to treat all communities who don't figure in the NRC in a non-discriminatory manner.

## New norms

SEBI's liberalised norms for FPIs will make Indian markets attractive to foreign investors

Foreign investors who have been fleeing the country since the Union budget presented early last month have something to cheer about finally. On Wednesday, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), based on the recommendations of the H.R. Khan committee, eased several regulatory restrictions that are likely to make life easier for foreign portfolio investors (FPIs). Among a slew of measures, the financial markets regulator has simplified the registration process for FPIs by doing away with the broad-based eligibility criteria, which required a minimum of at least 20 investors in a foreign fund, and certain documentary requirements. FPIs can now also engage in the off-market sale of their shares with fewer restrictions. Further, SEBI has allowed entities registered at an international financial services centre to be automatically classified as FPIs. This might help foreign investors bypass some of the restrictions. Mutual funds with offshore funds too can invest in India as FPIs to avail certain tax benefits now. Central banks that are not members of the Bank of International Settlements are also allowed to register as FPIs and invest in the country under the new norms. Smart cities, along with other urban development agencies, will now be allowed to issue municipal bonds to raise funds for development. These measures to cut red tape will help lower the regulatory burden on investors, globalise India's financial markets, and aid the growth of the broader economy by increasing access to growth capital.

It is not immediately clear whether SEBI's move on Wednesday was motivated by the recent flow of funds out of India's capital markets. Capital in excess of ₹20,000 crore has left Indian shores in the last few weeks after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's budget decision to increase taxes on FPIs. Policymakers were clearly under pressure to do something to allay the fears of foreign investors, so the timing of SEBI's move is no surprise. But given the broader trend of capital flowing out of emerging markets across the world, it remains to be seen whether SEBI's present move will yield immediate benefits. Even if it fails to do so, the move will still help Indian markets become more attractive to foreign investors in the long-run. While the steps taken by policymakers to make amends for their previous policy errors are obviously welcome, they should not deflect attention from the larger and persistent issue of overreach by the government against investors. In a world of globalised capital markets, where many nimble emerging markets compete to attract capital from the developed world, India cannot afford to be seen as flip-flopping on its commitments.

# Increasing investment to stimulate growth

Attention needs to be paid to both cyclical and structural dimensions of India's present economic slowdown



C. RANGARAJAN  
& D.K. SRIVASTAVA

India's current economic slowdown is due to a combination of two underlying trends. First, there is the short-run cyclical slowdown exhibited by a number of high-frequency indicators, reflecting a significant fall in demand, especially for sectors such as automobiles, consumer durables and housing.

Second, there is the more serious long-term fall in investment and savings rates. Raising growth requires that attention be paid to both cyclical and structural dimensions of the problem.

### Fixed capital formation

When it comes to the Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) relative to GDP at current prices, a steady fall has been visible since 2011-12, when it was 34.3%. By 2017-18, it had fallen by 5.7% points, to a level of 28.6%.

Assuming an Incremental Capital Output Ratio (ICOR) of 4, this meant a fall of nearly 1.4% points in the potential growth rate. The fall consisted of sectoral decreases in the household, private corporate and public sectors (as indicated in the table).

It is noticeable that the fall in the household sector's investment rate got arrested by 2015-16. However, by then, the rate had already fallen by 6.3% points. From 2016-17, the sector's investment rate even showed some recovery.

In contrast to the household sector rate, the private corporate sector investment rate did not

### All-round fall in outlays

While the household sector's investment rate fell sharply between 2011-12 and 2015-16 before increasing slightly, the rates for corporate and public sectors showed a constancy in the period and a marginal fall in the subsequent years

Source: National Income Accounts, MOSPI



Sector-wise Gross Fixed Capital Formation (as % of GDP) at current prices (2011-12 base series)

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Total	34.3	33.4	31.3	30.1	28.7	28.2	28.6
Public	7.3	7	7.1	7	7.5	6.8	7.2
Private corporate	11.2	11.8	11.7	11	11.9	11	11.2
Households	15.7	14.6	12.5	12.1	9.4	10.4	10.3

show any fall up to 2015-16 when, at 11.9%, it was in fact higher than the corresponding rate for 2011-12 (11.2%). It fell in the subsequent years, but only by 0.7% points. This near-constancy runs counter to what industry leaders have been saying and what other data sources such as CMIE indicate, casting some doubts on the veracity of the figures.

In the case of the public sector, the rate fell by 0.3% points between 2015-16 and 2017-18.

Thus, the period from 2011-12 to 2017-18 can be seen as consisting of two parts: 2011-12 to 2015-16, when the household sector investment rate fell sharply; and 2015-16 to 2017-18 when the investment rates of the private corporate and public sectors fell marginally.

### Fall in household savings rate

The Gross Domestic Savings Rate also fell between 2011-12 and 2017-18 by 4.1% points, from 34.6% of GDP to 30.5%. However, this fall was entirely due to the household sector, with the private corporate and public sectors showing increases in their savings rates by

margins of 2.2% points and 0.2% points, respectively. This differentiated sectoral pattern of investment and savings rates had significant implications for the financing of investment. Private corporate and public sectors were the deficit sectors, financing their deficits from the surplus savings of the household sector. In addition, net inflow of foreign capital added to the flow of investible resources.

Throughout the period from 2011-12, the savings rate of the private corporate sector increased, reducing its dependence on the surplus savings of the household sector. While the excess of private corporate sector's investment over its own savings rate was 3.8% points of GDP in 2011-12, the gap fell to 0.5% points by 2017-18.

Given this pattern, at present, all the surplus savings of the household sector is available for the public sector. With private corporate sector's investment demand being largely met by its own savings, public sector's borrowing requirements can be fully financed using the surplus from the household sector, supplemented by net

inflow of foreign capital without any fear of crowding out.

In 2018-19, the real GDP growth rate was 6.8%. Two critical policy challenges need to be addressed. First, a countercyclical policy should increase growth rate to its current potential of 7%-7.5% and then structural reforms should raise the potential growth itself to above 8.5% if India is to attain a size of \$5 trillion by 2024-25.

### More capital expenditure

From the monetary side, reducing the repo rate by a cumulated margin of 110 basis points in 2019 has not as yet induced a noticeable growth response. Complementary fiscal stimulus, in the form of additional public sector investment, may prove to be more effective.

However, given the fiscal deficit constraint, there is limited flexibility for increasing centre's capital expenditure directly. In the 2019-20 budget, this is estimated to be 1.6% of GDP. There may be some expansion, if additional dividends from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) flow to the government. Further, there may be some possi-

ble additional disinvestment. However, care should be taken to deploy all of these additional funds for capital expenditure.

Normally, the prescription to meet slowing demand is to increase government expenditure. In the current situation, there can be an increase in government expenditure but it has to be directed towards an increase in investment expenditure.

A similar effort may be made by State governments and non-government public sector enterprises to increase capital expenditures. All these measures may also crowd in private investment. Thus, this fiscal push, together with the already-initiated monetary stimulus, may help raise the growth rate.

Another area that needs immediate attention is the financial system, which must be activated to lend more.

On the structural reforms that are needed to push the economy onto a sustained high growth path, much can be said. We will confine ourselves to only one suggestion, on the fiscal account. We need a re-look at the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act (FRBM) Act. The government should actually move towards reducing the revenue deficit to zero. This can happen if the Centre focuses more on items on the Union list. Once this is achieved, the Central Government can be given full freedom over fiscal deficit, as the entire deficit will be directed towards meeting capital expenditures. This was described as the 'golden rule' in U.K.

C. Rangarajan is former Chairman, Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council and former Governor, Reserve Bank of India; D.K. Srivastava is former Director, Madras School of Economics. View are personal

## Taking a 'Far East' turn to deepen a friendship

During Modi's visit to Vladivostok, India should signal more willingness to invest in a less-developed part of Russia



HARSH V. PANT  
& RAJ KUMAR SHARMA

Some 48 years ago, when the U.S. and British Navies tried to threaten Indian security during the India-Pakistan war in 1971, the Soviet Union dispatched nuclear-armed flotilla from its Pacific Fleet based at Vladivostok in support of India. Ever since then, the city of Vladivostok, located in Russia's Far East, has had a special place in the hearts of Indians. When Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits the city as the guest of honour at Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) in September, he would be announcing India's plans to invest in Russia's Far East, thus, paying back the long-held Indian debt to Vladivostok.

The Far East lies in the Asian part of Russia and is less developed than the country's European areas. As part of his 'Pivot to Asia' strategy, President Vladimir Putin is inviting foreign countries to invest in this region. The country's outreach to Asian nations has especially gained momentum after the 2014 Crimea crisis spoiled its relations with the West.

At the same time, the idea of an 'Indo-Pacific region', which sig-

nals India's willingness to work with the U.S. mainly to counter China's assertive maritime rise, has also left Russia concerned. Moscow is apprehensive that the U.S. would exert pressure on India's foreign policy choices and that it could lose a friendly country and one of the biggest buyers of Russian military hardware.

For a multipolar Indo-Pacific New Delhi, on its part, has maintained that Indo-Pacific is not targeted against any country and stands for inclusiveness and stability. Mr. Modi made this clear to Mr. Putin during their Sochi informal summit in 2018. Later, at the Shangri-La dialogue, he again emphasised that for India, Indo-Pacific is not a club of limited members and that New Delhi wants to have inclusive engagement with all the relevant stakeholders.

This constant engagement has borne fruit and the two countries are now working for a multipolar Indo-Pacific. India has also been able to convince Russia that its engagement with the U.S. is not going to come against Russian interests.

On its part, Russia also wants to make sure that China does not become a hegemon in the Eurasian region and is hence deepening cooperation with countries like India, Vietnam and Indonesia. Here, the Far East has the potential to become an anchor in deepening India-Russia cooperation; more so



considering that New Delhi has expanded the scope of its 'Act East policy' to also include Moscow.

At least 17 countries have already invested in the Far East which, with its investment-friendly approach and vast reserves of natural resources, has the potential to strengthen India-Russia economic partnership in areas like energy, tourism, agriculture, diamond mining and alternative energy.

Mr. Modi's visit to Vladivostok would not be an event in isolation as New Delhi and Moscow have been drawing up the plan to cooperate in the region in the last few years. A bilateral business dialogue was included in the business programme of EEF in 2017 and, in 2018, India was one of the 18 countries for which Russia simplified electronic visas to encourage tourism in the Far East. New Delhi will also provide an annual grant of

\$10,000 to fund the study of Indology at the Centre of Regional and International Studies at Far Eastern Federal University. Also, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Amity University and Far Eastern Federal University to intensify cultural and academic exchanges in the areas of research and education.

A lack of manpower is one of the main problems faced by the Far East and Indian professionals like doctors, engineers and teachers can help in the region's development. Presence of Indian manpower will also help in balancing Russian concerns over Chinese migration into the region. Further, India, one of the largest importers of timber, can find ample resources in the region. Japan and South Korea have also been investing and New Delhi may explore areas of joint collaboration.

### State-to-province ties

Mr. Modi has also given due importance to 'paradiplomacy' where Indian States are being encouraged to develop relations with foreign countries. States like Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Haryana and Goa would be collaborating with Russian Provinces to increase trade and investments. Earlier this month, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal led a delegation to Vladivostok that included Chief Ministers of these States and representatives from

about 140 companies. For India, there is immense potential for mid-sized and small businesses who should be assisted to overcome language and cultural barriers so that they successfully adopt local business practices. A meeting between the heads of the regions of Russia and various Chief Ministers from Indian States may soon take place and this should become a regular feature.

The two countries are also looking at the feasibility of Chennai-Vladivostok sea route that would allow India access to Russia's Far East in 24 days, compared to the 40 days taken by the current route via Suez Canal and Europe. This route would potentially add the required balance to peace and prosperity in South China Sea and could open new vistas for India, like the India-Russia-Vietnam trilateral cooperation.

Great power rivalry is back in international politics, making it more unpredictable. In times when U.S. President Trump is interested in 'deglobalisation' and China is promoting 'globalisation 2.0 with Chinese characteristics', it makes sense for India and Russia to increase their areas of cooperation and trade in order to hedge against disruptive forces and make their ties sustainable.

Harsh V. Pant is professor at King's College London; Raj Kumar Sharma is consultant, Faculty of Political Science, IGNOU

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

### Late-night arrest

It won't be an overstatement to say that political vendetta is writ large on the exertions made to frame and fix P. Chidambaram and humiliate him and hound him out of the political realm (Front page, "Chidambaram arrested in INX Media case after high drama," August 22). What stands exposed is that the law does not take its own course but a course the government of the day wishes. Fighting corruption selectively and episodically has become a weapon to pin down and "punish" political opponents. The denial of pre-arrest bail by the Delhi High Court, diverging from the norm, and the refusal of the Supreme Court to give a

hearing on Mr. Chidambaram's plea for no good reason have inevitably made the citizens feel that the Indian judiciary is not keen on ensuring that its citizens don't have to suffer a loss of liberty.

G. DAVID MILTON,  
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

■ The relentless efforts taken by the counsel for Mr. Chidambaram to bring up the appeal against the rejection of his anticipatory bail application by the Delhi High Court brought to my mind a case in the Madras High Court decades ago when V. Rajagopalachari, a leading lawyer, barged into the Court of Justice Srinivasan, in the midst of a hearing, without even a bail application at about 11.30 a.m. and sought bail for a

former Judge of the High Court who had been arrested and was about to be taken outside the jurisdiction of the Madras High Court to Aligarh by the train departing at 12 noon. The Judge looked at the clock and, seeing that the request for bail may become infructuous, called the Registrar of the High Court and, with the remarkable presence of mind, directed "stop the train wherever it is," while granting bail. This enabled the former Judge to get his freedom and it is learnt that he was acquitted subsequently.

N.G.R. PRASAD,  
Chennai

### Dealing with Trump

Despite India having made it clear to the Americans that third-party mediation is not

welcome when it comes to resolving the Kashmir issue, it is odd that President Donald Trump has again offered assistance. Mr. Trump, who claims to be a skilful negotiator and deal-maker because of his business experience, seems to mistakenly believe that the same skills can be put to use while solving intractable issues between sovereign countries (Front page, "Trump: Kashmir situation complicated by religion," August 22). His negotiations with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un have gone nowhere in yielding a result. For an American President, Mr. Trump betrays a rather simple world view and limited historical perspective. This is evidenced by his viewing of India-Pakistan tensions

solely through the prism of religion. With the kind of understanding Mr. Trump has of Kashmir and India-Pakistan relations in general, if Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan believes that the former can be of help, he is sadly mistaken.

M.P. MURALIDHARAN,  
Bengaluru

### Visionary monk

Swami Vivekananda did play a major role in helping Indians cultivate our own version of secularism. However, while talking of his contributions, a mention should also be made of the indelible mark he made in other areas like education and foreign affairs. He can be credited with developing one of the most popular weapons of today's India – cultural diplomacy. While the author

has attempted to portray the present government's policies as being at variance with Vivekananda's teachings, he has overlooked the fact that schemes like Make In India and Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana have their roots in Swamiji's philosophy. In fact, it is many of the yesteryear leaders who grossly undermined the importance of Vivekananda in giving modern India its pluralistic and multicultural character (Op-Ed page, "The monk who shaped Indian secularism," August 21). Finally, the 19th century reformer is getting the recognition he deserves in the 21st century.

SATISH REDDY KANAGANTI,  
Nalgonda, Telangana  
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# Should India tinker with its 'No First Use' policy?

**PARLEY**

There is no reason for India to change its policy, which is retaliation and not initiation

Last week, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that the future of India's 'No First Use' (NFU) policy on nuclear weapons depended on "circumstances". Mr. Singh's statement has raised apprehensions on the likely revision of India's NFU policy and nuclear doctrine. In a conversation moderated by Dinakar Peri, Rajesh Rajagopalan and Manpreet Sethi address these concerns. Excerpts:

**What does the Defence Minister's statement mean, and does it indicate a likely change in India's NFU policy and nuclear doctrine?**

**Rajesh Rajagopalan:** I am not sure if it is really a revision of India's NFU policy because all he said was that in future the policy might change. That has always been the case. The doctrine is only valid for as long as the government says it is valid. It would be foolish to suggest that doctrines cannot change or that they will hold for all times and under all circumstances. All he was suggesting was that we cannot guarantee that the doctrine will hold for all times.

This is possibly a signal to Pakistan that it should not take India's restraint for granted for all times to come, but I think even that would possibly be an exaggerated reading of the statement. I think Rajnath Singh's statement is somewhat different from former Union Minister Manohar Parrikar's statement. He had said at a book launch that he doesn't understand why we have to wait until we hit back. That was a lot more problematic even though it was clarified subsequently that his statement was his personal view rather than the government's policy. I don't see Mr. Singh's statement as signifying a change in the doctrine. And obviously if we did change the NFU policy, that would not be particularly useful.

**This is not the first time a Minister or senior functionary has made such a statement. There have been periodic debates on a revision of India's stand, especially on the NFU policy, in strategic circles.**

**Revision of the NFU policy was also in the BJP's manifesto in 2014, though it wasn't there in its 2019 manifesto. Is all this indicative of a change at some point?**

**Manpreet Sethi:** I quite agree with how Professor Rajagopalan has interpreted Mr. Singh's statement. I think it is a very normal statement. Policy adjustments get made as situations change. I don't see anything in the statement that is indicative of any desire for change as of now. As regards the BJP manifesto that you mentioned, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made it clear that there was not going to be any revision. Individual voices, most of whom are retired officials who occupied positions of power, have brought up this issue of revision of NFU, but they did not mention any revision of NFU when they were in those positions. Late last year, on the occasion of the announcement of the first deterrence patrol of India's ballistic missile submarine INS Arihant, the Prime Minister once again reiterated that the basic tenet of India's nuclear doctrine will be NFU. As far as I can see, there is no change in the doctrine on the cards. But having said that, there are always the 'Nuclearazis', who are out with their microscopes to look at everything that has been said and who read more into statements. I think that's what is happening in the case of India's NFU. I do believe it's a good policy and there's no reason for the country to change it.

**In the last few years, India's conventional posture has undergone a major shift. This was evident in the 2016 surgical strikes and this year's Balakot airstrike. It also disproved the old belief that under a nuclear overhang, the room for conventional manoeuvre is closed. In that context, isn't stability in the nuclear realm better for India so that there is room in the conventional domain?**

**RR:** Absolutely. I mean obviously we want stability in the nuclear front, but I don't think that nuclear



THE HINDU ARCHIVES

was under threat. Pakistan repeatedly raises this bogey of nuclear escalation every time it engages in some action in terms of sending terrorists across. But that is a way of constraining India's response, as a way of preventing India from responding militarily to those kinds of attacks. The idea is that if you raise the issue, if you bring in nuclear escalation as a threat, it will constrain India's response. It is always a false expectation, a false argument, because there is no direct link between conventional escalation and nuclear escalation.

In Kargil, for example, when we started using air power to dislodge Pakistan air forces from mountain heights, initially Pakistan complained about escalation. It said this could lead to nuclear escalation. But pretty soon it was clear that there was no such thing. Similarly, during the 2016 surgical strikes, Pakistan again complained about the possibility of escalation. But in each of these cases we have not seen any escalation. There are several layers in between, and those layers are where Pakistan has benefited because it can't really escalate to something like Balakot or to surgical strikes.

So, yes, we want nuclear stability and that nuclear stability exists. It is just an exaggeration by Pakistan that nuclear stability is always under threat and anything we do will put it under immense strain.

Of late, we have repeatedly shown that we can take action without it escalating anywhere close to the nuclear level.

**There is no chance that India has of carrying out in the first strike a disarming or decapitating strike for the kinds of adversaries we have and therefore we will be sucking ourselves into an arms race if we were to go for a first use doctrine**

**Talking about the escalation matrix, the strategic ambiguity can lead to a response from Pakistan and then in turn from China, India's two nuclear adversaries. Pakistan has been trying to put its nuclear weapons at sea. The U.S. has walked out of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces treaty. How will these developments impact the region?**

**MS:** First of all, I don't think any ambiguity has been brought into India's doctrine as of now. I think India is very clear on its NFU policy.

On the likely Pakistan reaction, Pakistan is working on what it calls the full spectrum deterrence capability. So, in terms of the arsenal build-up, I don't think there is going to be any major change except that it will likely show urgency or justification for the large stockpile build-up that it is anyway engaged in. More likely, removal of NFU will put India in a problematic situation because for a credible 'first use' you have to build different kinds of capabilities which will mean going on a different trajectory. So, it is most likely that India will get pulled into

an arms race if it was to remove the NFU.

In terms of China's reaction, I don't see any material changes happening in response to India's capability build-up. In any case, it has a lead on nuclear and delivery systems. It will definitely use the opportunity to denigrate India's status as a responsible nuclear power. So, India's claim to be a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group or for a permanent seat at the United Nations Security Council will come under strain as a result of that.

Frankly, as far as the response of the rest of the world is concerned, we are already in a situation where arms control is crumbling: the U.S.'s nuclear posture review is talking about limited nuclear war once again. The rest of the world will not care much about this change, except at the rhetoric level where there will be criticism of what is going on. So, my concern is not so much the rest of the world's response to change in NFU, but what it will be for India itself in terms of investment in financial and technological capabilities to make a first use credible. After all, it's not just a question of dropping the 'No' from NFU, it is a matter of making the first use credible and that is not an easy proposition. There is no chance that India has of carrying out in the first strike a disarming or decapitating strike for the kinds of adversaries that we have and therefore we will be sucking ourselves into an arms race if we were to go for a first use doctrine.

**Pakistan has been trying to diversify its nuclear arsenal for many years now and has been trying to bridge the gap between conventional and nuclear. I am referring to attempts to put nuclear warheads on conventional submarines following India's nuclear triad taking shape. Does this blur the line between conventional and nuclear and create new risks?**

**RR:** Yes, there is a problem when you use dual-use delivery vehicles and weapons systems. This is the problem we have faced in the past. Say Pakistan is holding its nuclear weapons in some airbase. We may be constrained from attacking that airbase because we wouldn't want

Pakistan to mistake a conventional attack on an airbase as an attack on its nuclear weapons. So, whenever you have dual-use weapons, there is a problem. There is a problem when both may misunderstand a particular platform, base or a submarine as containing nuclear weapons. One may be constrained from attacking that because we don't want to give the impression that we are going after their nuclear weapons. On the other hand, it is an even bigger problem when Pakistan uses these dual-use systems. If a conventional missile or a short-range missile is launched at us, we wouldn't know whether it is a conventional missile or a nuclear missile and therefore it is possible that one may mistake it as an incoming nuclear attack. Even our own armoury has both nuclear and conventional warheads, which is generally bad practice.

**In 2013, after Pakistan introduced tactical nuclear weapons or battlefield nuclear weapons, India clarified that it will not distinguish between strategic and tactical nuclear warheads and the doctrine of massive retaliation will apply. Following the recent blurring of lines with dual-use technologies, does the nuclear doctrine as it is still hold?**

**RR:** I don't think that makes a difference. I think whatever the Indian position, any attack would be considered a nuclear attack even if it is a tactical nuclear weapon that is used against Indian forces or Indian territory. It will be considered a full-scale nuclear attack. I think that the response to a tactical nuclear weapons attack, especially on Indian forces inside Pakistani territory, will make it difficult for India to justify a full-scale massive retaliation that the Indian doctrine suggests. But the Indian doctrine is also sufficiently flexible. Massive retaliation is one of the options it has in case of a nuclear attack. India can decide to use, for instance, another smaller nuclear warhead in retaliation or a limited nuclear strike. So, it doesn't mean the doctrine itself has to change in response to that. All the doctrine says as of now is, we will not be the first to attack and we will only retaliate. Our posture and doctrine are essentially retaliation only. We will not initiate.



**Rajesh Rajagopalan** is Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University



**Manpreet Sethi** is a Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Air Power Studies



Scan the QR code to listen to the full interview online

## Belt and roadblocks

Given mounting criticism of BRI, will China incorporate best practices in the project?

**YOGESH GUPTA**

China's raging trade war with the U.S., mounting criticism of its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and growing schism in its Politburo on handling these issues has compelled the Chinese leadership to review the initiative. The BRI was conceived as a response to the vast overcapacity in infrastructure-related industries due to credit-fuelled growth in China in 2008 following the global economic recession, when its exports started dwindling. In 2009, former Deputy Director of China's State Administration of Taxation, Xu Shanda, came up with a proposal called the Chinese Marshall Plan which suggested that China should utilise its vast foreign exchange reserves, expertise in building infrastructure, overcapacity in iron, cement, aluminium, glass, coal and shipbuilding industries and unemployed labour to meet the infrastructure demand in Southeast, Central Asia and Africa.

Announced by Chinese President Xi Jinping in September 2013, the BRI consists of a belt of rail routes, highways, oil and gas pipelines and other infrastructure projects extending from Xian in Central China through Central Asia, Russia, West Asia and Europe. There is also a branch extending from Kashgar in Xinjiang to Gwadar in Balochistan via Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK). The 'road' segment comprises a network of ports and coastal infrastructure stretching from eastern China across Southeast Asia and South Asia, the Gulf, East Africa through the Mediterranean up to Rotterdam in Europe.

According to China, more than 120 countries have signed and joined the BRI. China's trade with these countries since 2013 has crossed more than \$5 trillion and investment has totalled about \$200 billion for 2,600 projects. In the first seven months of 2019, China's trade with BRI countries was 6% higher than the growth of its global trade.

### Roadblocks

However, BRI has not succeeded in the full utilisation of overcapacity in infrastructure industries. China has been forced to close many companies. About one-third of its projects

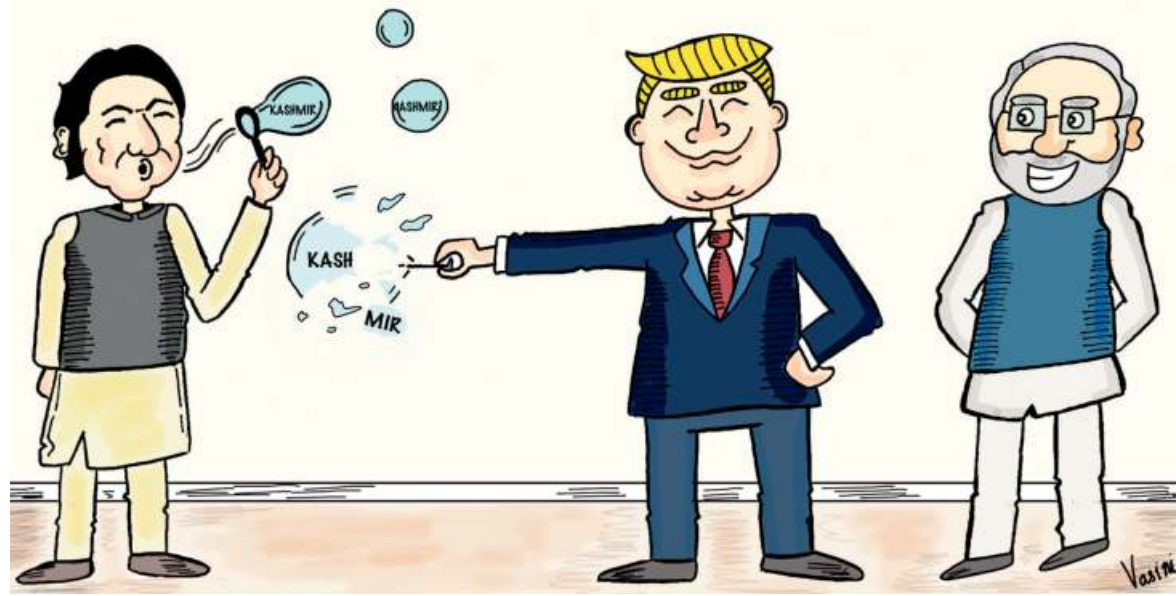
are failing due to several anomalies. There is no open tendering, competitive bidding or practice of an independent pre-feasibility or environmental impact studies, as per global norms. Many projects suffer from lack of local inputs, protests on land procurement, pollution, performance delays, corruption, financial viability, unsustainable debt and low investment returns. The interest rates charged by China are high, upward of 3% on government loans and 17%-18% on commercial loans with sovereign guarantee of the local government. As many loans turn non-performing assets, China is becoming selective in giving new loans.

Some BRI projects do not make economic sense. For example, the cost of transportation by the 12,000 km-long Yiwu-London rail line will be twice more expensive than shipping. Similarly, the cost of supplying crude oil and gas from Gwadar port to Tianjin in northeastern China via the 7,000 km-long pipeline proposed by China will be \$10 per barrel costlier than ocean freight. Many countries such as the Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Malaysia have asked China to restructure or downsize the BRI projects. India has rightly decided not to participate in BRI over concerns relating to sovereignty (the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor passes through PoK), lack of transparency, openness, financial sustainability, high interest and the 'tied' nature of these loans.

### The real challenge

After a chorus of international criticism, the old swagger about BRI has faded. President Xi promised at the second Belt and Road forum in April that China would 'finesse' the BRI with open consultation, clean governance and green projects. The growth of BRI is down as China's investment in these projects in the first quarter of 2019 grew only by 4% compared to 22% in 2018. The real challenge is whether best practices can be incorporated in BRI or it will remain only a 'Chinese' scheme given that state-owned enterprises play the lead implementing role.

Yogesh Gupta is a former Ambassador



## NOIEBOOK

### Questioning an Academy Award winner's choices

No matter how famous the interviewee, difficult questions need to be asked

**SRINIVASA RAMANUJAM**

Interviewing celebrities can be tricky, especially if you have grown up seeing them or hearing them long before you decided to become a journalist.

I decided to become a journalist when I was very young, in Class 10. Years before that I had become a big fan of A.R. Rahman. My relatives recall how I sang and danced to 'Ottagathai Kattiko' (Gentleman) at a family wedding and my school friends still rag me about my rendition of 'Dandiya Aatamum Aada' (Kadhalar Dhinam).

All these memories came flooding back to me when I first interviewed Rahman more than a decade ago. I was working with another publication then. I had goosebumps during that interaction, but I'm not going to delve on that now.

After that interview, any time an opportunity to

meet the music composer presented itself I always grabbed it. It has now become a joke in feature journalism circles that if there is an event where Rahman is expected, chances are that he might not turn up but I surely will.

You might have guessed by now that I'm star-struck by him. And so an incident that took place a few years ago at a hotel certainly came as a surprise — to him, to those around him, and even to me. This was after the release of the songs of his Tamil movie *Mersal*. Post a promotional event, Rahman sat down for a few interviews, including one with me. After we exchanged pleasantries and were waiting for the place to be set up, I asked him, "Why did you sing 'Neethane' and not 'Aalaporaan' in *Mersal*?"

The public relations representative in the room froze. Others gave me a

piercing look: Was I, a journalist, questioning an Academy Award winner over a creative decision in a film starring Vijay?

From the corner of my eye, I sensed the collective gaze. I fumbled for words and hastily added, "I mean, it's a beautiful melody. But your voice would have worked for 'Aalaporaan'. It talks about the pride of being a Tamilian, and who better than you to sing that?"

Rahman merely smiled and mumbled something about how 'Aalaporaan' was set to a pitch that was too high for him.

Later, a popular singer who has sung for Rahman told me how glad he was that I had given the composer my frank opinion. "People close to him always say, 'Good song, Sir.' I'm glad you told him what you felt," he said.

I was happy to hear that. The real challenge for film and entertainment journal-

ists is not to write (I've spun 800-word stories from five-minute interviews, as have many of my colleagues) but to ignore the excited fan in us and let the questioning scribe take over during interviews.

Another time, I got an opportunity to interview actor Ajith. This was when the actor was still open to talking to the media. We were inside a restaurant at Sheraton Park (now called Crowne Plaza) in Chennai when I asked him, "Would you say that your choice of directors has been a little off in recent times?"

Ajith was taken aback for a bit, but nevertheless answered the question with sincerity.

These two incidents with celebrities have taught me one journalistic lesson that I always try to follow: difficult questions need to be asked, no matter how famous the person. And it is those answers that make the interview unique.

## The Hindu

### FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 23, 1969

### 130 MPs want action against PM

The Group of Congress members of Parliament, who had yesterday [Aug 21, New Delhi] urged suspension of the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, and others for breach of party discipline, had another meeting today with added strength and set up a seven-man committee to personally contact Congress Working Committee members and plead in favour of strict disciplinary action. According to Mr. S. N. Misra, Deputy Leader of the Congress Parliamentary Party, who presided over the meeting, 130 M.P.s. were present today against 70 yesterday. The Maharashtra Congress M.P.s. did not take part in this move today. It is stated that several members questioned the leadership of Mrs. Gandhi and wanted the party President not to delay taking disciplinary action against Mrs. Gandhi, Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed and Mr. Jagjivan Ram for working openly against the party candidate in the presidential poll. Mr. N. R. Munuswamy and Mr. T. V. Anandan, from Tamil Nadu, were among the fiercest critics of the Prime Minister.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 23, 1919.

### Library Organisation in India.

Before considering how best to organise public libraries in India, it may be useful to glance at the state of affairs and what the Governments and the people have done in the progressive countries of the west in this matter. In the United Kingdom we can trace the desire of the people to have free public libraries among them on a large scale to the year 1850 when the Parliament was made to pass the first Library Act. Since then about 20 other Acts came into existence and at the present day the development of libraries is included in the general schemes for the advancement of education and is guided by the Act of 1902 by which local education boards are empowered to promote the general co-ordination of all forms of education including Libraries. The boroughs and parishes are authorised to collect from the rate-payers... on the rateable value of an administrative area — with power to fix a lower rate — for the purpose of maintaining free public libraries within the limits of their respective jurisdictions. The result is that almost every town and village has a free public library of its own for the use of its inhabitants. In addition to the municipal libraries, there are special acts of Parliament affecting the large number of British libraries which are not supported out of the rates.

FROM PAGE ONE

## CBI gets custody of Chidambaram

He said Mr. Chidambaram's anticipatory bail plea was rejected by the Delhi High Court with the observations on the seriousness of the offence.

The Solicitor General said the former Minister needed to be questioned on the money trail, alleging that he had played a key role.

In its submissions, the CBI alleged that Indrani and Peter Mukherjee had made a payment of \$5 million and \$4.50 lakh to Mr. Chidambaram in 2007-08 and 2008-09, respectively, for settling issues related to violation of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) by their former companies, INX Media and INX News.

Mr. Chidambaram's wife, Nalini Chidambaram, and Karti were in the courtroom along with senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Abhishek Manu Singhvi.

Arguing for Mr. Chidambaram, Mr. Sibal and Mr. Singhvi said Mr. Karti Chidambaram was out on bail as were Indrani and Peter Mukherjee. Another accused, Bhaskaran, had also been granted anticipatory bail. There was no scope for Mr. Chidambaram's interrogation, as the probe agency had sought sanction for pro-

secution of some of the accused, indicating that the charge sheet had already been prepared.

Mr. Sibal and Mr. Singhvi also argued that the FIPB approval to INX Media was given by six Secretary-level officers, but no action had been taken against them. The FIR was registered in 2017, about 10 years after the commission of alleged offence, they said.

Refuting the charge of non-cooperation, the defence counsel submitted that the accused could not be expected to give answers as per the probe agency's desire. No questions were asked of him about the alleged payments during his questioning. They said there was no allegation against Mr. Chidambaram of flight risk or tampering with evidence.

However, Mr. Mehta said the CBI had to interrogate Mr. Chidambaram in custody as he was non-cooperative and evasive in replies in the corruption case of monumental magnitude and the agency was not extorting his confession. The court has allowed Mr. Chidambaram's family and lawyers to meet him for half an hour every day during his custody.

## No space for third party mediation in J&K: Macron

"Today as we face challenges of terrorism and climate change etc., France and India stand together with full support," Mr. Modi said, describing the International Solar Alliance as proof of India-France cooperation in "action, not just beautiful words".

Mr. Modi said the relationship between India and France is not based on any selfishness, but on the solid ideals of 'Liberty, Equality and Fraternity'.

He said India and France will expand cooperation in counter-terrorism and security.

"Both our countries are constantly facing terrorism. We thank President Macron for the valuable support that France has given in

combating cross-border terrorism. We intend to broaden cooperation on security and counter-terrorism," Mr. Modi added.

He said France and India stood firm together to meet the challenges of climate change, environment, and technology inclusive development. "Together, we can pave the way for a safe and prosperous world," Mr. Modi said.

The two leaders reviewed the entire gamut of the dynamic and multi-faceted bilateral relationship during their more than 90-minute-long one-on-one meeting at Chateau de Chantilly, one of the finest jewels of French cultural heritage, located about 50 km north of Paris. (With inputs from PTI)

## Afghan, Pashtun fighters poised to enter J&K

One official cautioned that violence will be calibrated and admitted that there will be some backlash in Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of the country and security forces have to be prepared to meet the challenge. "Some of amount of backlash is expected. We need to be prepared for that," he added.

Officials also said the major attempt to push in terrorists was due to the longevity issues of local recruits which has been from few days to four to five months

with sustained counter insurgency operations by security forces. On the contrary, the foreign terrorists are well trained and battle hardened.

There is also a major recruitment drive in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, especially in areas opposite Keran, Lipa and Poonch sectors, officials added.

There has been regular exchange of fire on the LoC and usually Pakistan Army resorts to Cease Fire Violations (CFV) to aid infiltration.

## Trump suggests that India should fight the IS

"The United States - we're 7,000 miles away. We have decimated ISIS. You haven't been hearing much about ISIS. And we took the caliphate, 100 percent. When I took it at 98 [per cent], I said, 'All right, maybe we go home now. Let these other countries handle it.' Everyone went crazy. They said, 'Do 100 per cent.' They said it was going to take a year. It took me a month and they're gone. The caliphate is gone," Mr. Trump said.

The U.S. is currently negotiating an agreement with the Taliban to end the war in Afghanistan. The process has been criticised for sidelining the Afghan government and prioritising the

withdrawal of some 14,000 U.S. troops over building a peace that can withstand the complex political realities of the situation.

The Afghan peace process is expected to feature in the discussions Mr. Trump will have with Prime Minister Modi at the G-7 talks this weekend in Biarritz, France.

The President also said "Europe" would have to take the "thousands" of IS fighters the U.S. was holding. Failing which, Mr. Trump said, the U.S. would release them back to their countries [he named Germany and France]. "The United States is not going to put them in Guantanamo for the next 50 years and pay for it," Mr. Trump said.

# It's murder of democracy and rule of law: Cong.

'Through Chidambaram's arrest, Modi govt. is trying to divert people's attention from the sinking economy and job losses'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Union government is using the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) as "personal revenge-seeking departments", the Congress alleged on Thursday.

At a press conference at the Congress headquarters, party's chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala described the arrest of former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram as "broad daylight murder of democracy and the rule of law" by the Modi government.

The Congress had full faith in the "fairness and impartiality of the judiciary", but "as a citizen and a lawyer," he did question the Supreme Court's decision not to hear Mr. Chidambaram's plea before Friday, he said.

The party questioned the

testimony of Indrani Mukherjee, co-founder of INX Media, on whose statement the CBI is relying to build a case against Mr. Chidambaram, by reiterating that she is an accused in the murder of her own daughter.

**Questions timing**

Mr. Surjewala also linked the timing of the arrest to India's economic situation, alleging that it was an attention-diverting tactic.

"The vindictive, selective and malicious manner in which former Finance Minister and Home Minister, Shri. P. Chidambaram, has been persecuted and prosecuted is nothing short of a brazen personal and political vendetta," he said.

"With the narrative on a sinking economy spiralling out of their control, massive and unprecedented job loss-



Congress workers in Kolkata protesting against the arrest of the party leader P. Chidambaram on Thursday. •PTI

es, shocking devaluation of the rupee as Asia's worst performing currency and unfathomable crisis in all sectors leading to shutting down of factories and trade, we now see the depths to which a desperate Modi government 2.0 will stoop to divert the nation's attention," the party spokesman alleged.

"Not just farmers, even industrialists are now committing suicide," Mr. Surjewala said. He said agencies such as the Income Tax Department and the ED were unleashed on industrialists if they spoke against the government.

Mr. Surjewala repeated what Mr. Chidambaram said at a late-night press confe-

rence on Wednesday that "he was not accused of any offence", and dared the investigating agencies to place all the charges against Mr. Chidambaram and his family in the public domain.

**'No chargesheet till now'**

The alleged offence is supposed to have taken place in 2007-08 but even now the CBI had not been able to file a chargesheet in the case. "With the chargesheet, you will need evidence and proof," Mr. Surjewala said.

"We stand with Shri. P. Chidambaram and reiterate our unwavering belief in his innocence... We hope that the officers who scaled walls in their eagerness to please their political masters, as also select TV channels, have the courage to tell the Prime Minister and the Home Minister that there is zero evi-

dence against him."

Talking about the Supreme Court's refusal to accede to Mr. Chidambaram's plea for an urgent hearing, the Congress spokesperson said that in his years as a practising lawyer, he had never seen "technicalities in the Supreme Court registry coming in the way of fundamental rights".

"With great humility, I would say the honourable judges need to relook their role and boundaries," Mr. Surjewala said in Hindi.

"The Supreme Court is known for rewriting, reinterpreting and reinventing the Constitution and protect the rights of the citizens... Can a small technicality of a registry prevent the honourable Supreme Court, whom every citizen respects and looks up to, refuse to even hear cases," he said.

## SC hearing today on Chidambaram's plea

Cong. leader questions denial of bail

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

A Supreme Court Bench of Justices R. Banumathi and A.S. Bopanna is scheduled on Friday to hear the dual special leave petitions (SLPs) filed by former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram challenging a Delhi High Court decision to deny him anticipatory bail in the INX Media case.

The hearing will come a day after a Delhi court sent Mr. Chidambaram to five-day CBI custody till August 26. The two SLPs have been filed against the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate, which are investigating angles of money-laundering and corruption in the case.

A plea for protection against arrest has become

infructuous, at least in the CBI case, following his August 21 arrest. However, his second plea for protection from arrest in the ED case is still alive as he has not been formally arrested by the ED.

In the SLPs, Mr. Chidambaram has questioned how a court of law could have denied bail to a person who is not named in the FIR, always cooperated with the probe and has impeccable credentials. Can a person be denied bail merely on the word of an investigating agency that he gave "evasive" replies to questions, he asked. He said refusal of bail and denial of liberty merely on the CBI's plea that custodial interrogation would be necessary was "alarming and specious".

## Rajiv Gandhi didn't misuse mandate: Sonia

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi received a huge mandate from the people in 1984 but he never used it to create an atmosphere of fear or issue threat, Congress president Sonia Gandhi said on Thursday at an event to commemorate the late Prime Minister's 75th birth anniversary.

The comments are being viewed as an attack on the Modi government. "Rajiv Gandhi got a massive mandate in 1984, but did not use it to create atmosphere of fear or to threaten people, to destroy the independence of institutions, crush dissent or end the democratic tradition of our lives," Ms. Gandhi said.

Recalling the former Prime Minister's role in bringing peace to troubled regions like Assam, Punjab, Mizoram, she said Rajiv Gandhi believed in "celebrating the diversity to strengthen national unity."

## Instant divorce now a graver crime than rioting: Jamiat

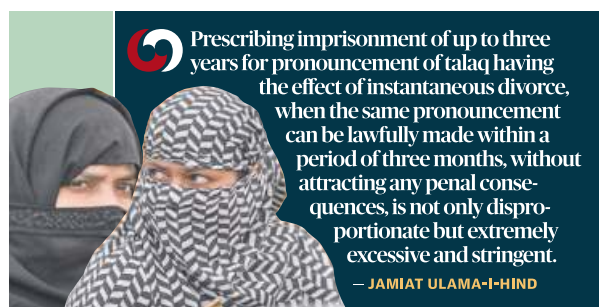
Files petition in Supreme Court against triple talaq law

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

The Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind has moved the Supreme Court against the Centre, saying triple talaq has been made a non-bailable offence by which Muslim men can be imprisoned for three years even as desertion of a wife by a husband is not even considered an offence in India. At best, desertion is a ground for divorce.

The three-year imprisonment prescribed under the new Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act of 2019, is both "disproportionate and excessive", the Jamiat's petition said.

The organisation of Islamic scholars belonging to the Deobandi school, which came into existence in 1919, said the new law has made the declaration of triple talaq an offence graver than crimes such as rioting and kidnapping. It said even of-



fences such as kidnapping, which are far graver, are bailable. Making the pronouncement of instantaneous talaq non-bailable is both excessive and unwarranted, the Jamiat, represented by advocate Ejaz Maqbool, argued. The petition asked for the punishment for rioting to be imprisonment up to two years or fine or both.

"Prescribing a punishment of imprisonment of up to three years for a pronouncement of talaq having the effect of instantaneous divorce, when the same pro-

nouncement can be lawfully made within a period of three months, without attracting any penal consequences, whatsoever, is not only disproportionate but extremely excessive and stringent," the petition said.

The petition asked how the law worked for the betterment of Muslim women if their husbands were sent to jail for three years for pronouncing triple talaq, which has already been declared invalid by the Supreme Court in 2017, that is, before the coming of the Act.

## Ajay Kumar Bhalla is Home Secy.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
AHMEDABAD

A day after Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba was elevated as Cabinet Secretary, the Union government on Thursday formally appointed Ajay Kumar Bhalla in his place.

Last July, Mr. Bhalla was appointed Officer on Special Duty in the Home Ministry as a successor of Mr. Gauba.

He was Secretary in the Ministry of Power.

Mr. Bhalla is a 1984-batch Assam Meghalaya cadre IAS officer.

## 'Hindus have right to worship at Ayodhya'

Plea says site had a temple in the past

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Gopal Singh Visharad, one of the appellants in the Ayodhya case, said Hindus have an "unfettered" right to worship at a site believed for centuries to be the birth-place of Lord Ram.

Appearing before a Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, senior advocate Ranjit Kumar, for Visharad, claimed there were affidavits from the Muslim side saying a temple was demolished to build the Babri mosque in the 16th century. Mr. Kumar said the faith of the Hindus survived despite the construction of the mosque at the Ramjanmabhoomi.

The court has been urging the Hindu parties to not delve further on the aspect of faith, which no one has put to question or challenged, but focus their submissions to present proof that this was the exact spot where Lord Ram was born.

The court asked Mr. Kumar whether the persons who gave affidavits vouching for the demolition of a temple for the mosque was subject to cross-examination. Mr. Kumar replied in the negative, but added that nobody has contradicted their statement so far.

Over the past 10 days of



The SC has sought proof from the Hindu parties of the existence of a Ram temple in Ayodhya.

arguments, lawyers for the Ayodhya deity have been contending that the disputed Ramjanmabhoomi is itself a deity and could not have been partitioned.

Senior advocate C.S. Vaidyanathan, for the deity, had contended that if there was once a temple on the Ramjanmabhoomi and people were worshipping there as the birthplace, then nobody could possibly claim ownership by adverse possession. He had said on Wednesday that the Ayodhya deity was a perpetual minor. The property of a minor cannot be dealt with, sold or alienated. He had questioned how the Allahabad High Court, in its verdict in September 2010, could have handed over the property of the minor Ayodhya deity to others.

# FATF Asia-Pacific Group may blacklist Pakistan

It has listed lack of action on terror financing and money laundering; Islamabad failed in 32 out of 40 parameters

**SUHASINI HAIDAR**  
NEW DELHI  
After being greylisted at the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) plenary, Pakistan now faces being put on the "blacklist" of the FATF's Asia affiliate, the Asia-Pacific Group (APG), that will conclude its meetings in Canberra, Australia, on Friday.

While the two processes are separate, the APG blacklisting, or 'Enhanced Expedited Follow Up' status, will definitely impair Pakistan's chances at extricating itself from the FATF greylist that deals with countering terrorism financing and money-laundering, at its Paris plenary last year.

Sources told *The Hindu* that the APG meeting, which


began on August 18, completed a third evaluation (MER) of Pakistan's actions over the past five years on building anti-money-laundering and countering financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) safeguards, and found them wholly inadequate.

According to the APG's final report, expected to be made public after the meeting ends, Pakistan failed in 32 of 40 'compliance' parameters for its legal and financial systems, and failed 10 of 11 'effectiveness' parameters for enforcing safeguards against terror-financing and money-laundering by UN-sanctioned entities and other non-government outfits.

As a result, Pakistan is likely to be placed on the

**A DOWNGRADE**

- The Asia-Pacific Group meeting evaluated Pakistan's efforts in the last five years on building safeguards to curb money-laundering and counter terror-financing
- Pakistan failed in 32 of 40 parameters with regard to its legal and financial systems
- If Pakistan stays on the Asia-Pacific Group greylist, or is blacklisted, it faces not only a financial downgrade and restrictions on its markets, but will also have a difficult time managing capital inflows from IMF and other international agencies



fourth and lowest rung of the APG's Follow-Up (FU) listing, the Enhance Expedited Follow Up, the sources said. This would make the Pakistani government's next steps, as it faces FATF reviews in September and October much more challenging.

India is a member of both the APG and the FATF consultations and is represented by a team of officials from the Ministries of Finance, External Affairs and Home Affairs. However, the actions demanding Pakistan's review have been pushed by the U.S., the U.K., Germany and France. Pakistan's multi-

ministerial team at the APG meeting is led by its State Bank Governor.

**Against Hafiz Saeed**  
Last week, Islamabad had submitted a 450-page compliance document that details all the changes the government has made to existing laws, and actions against terror groups in the past year and a half. Pakistan has claimed that it has charged Lashkar-e-Taiba/Jamaat-ud Dawa (JuD) chief Hafiz Saeed with terror financing, and frozen all assets of the JuD and other UNSC banned outfits this year, as part of its ongoing efforts to crack down on terror.

The compliance docu-

ment will be reviewed against a 27-point action plan set out by the FATF, which could decide one of three options: to remove Pakistan from the greylist, to continue to keep it on the greylist, or to downgrade it further to its blacklist. Review meetings will be held in Bangkok on September 5, with a final decision at the Paris plenary session on October 18-23.

If Pakistan stays on the greylist, or is blacklisted, it faces not only a financial downgrade and restrictions on its markets, but will have a tough time managing capital inflows from IMF and other agencies, as well as servicing debt that adds up to about 25% of the government's revenues at present.



D.Raja, Dinesh Trivedi and T.R. Baalu at the Opposition rally on Kashmir in New Delhi on Thursday.

## A great joke on Constitution: Azad

'Article 370 diluted through back door'

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The nine Opposition parties that staged a protest here on Thursday adopted a resolution demanding the "immediate release of all public representatives of mainstream political parties and innocent citizens" in Jammu and Kashmir.

"We also demand immediate restoration of normalcy and communications so that people can reach out to their loved ones and their family members," DMK parliamentary party leader T.R. Baalu said, reading out the resolution.

Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha and former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad said 95% of the Indians didn't know the history of Kashmir and even the BJP, which was celebrating the dilution of Article 370, didn't know what exactly they were celebrating. "The ruling party has played a great joke on the Constitution. Whatever they have done to the state of Jammu and Kashmir is completely unconstitutional," he said.

He accused the government of bringing the Presidential Order to revoke Article 370 through the back door.

Praising former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee

for his conduct as the Leader of the Opposition, a "thorough gentleman", Mr. Azad said had he been at the helm, such a move would not have been made. "We must recognise that this is no democracy. If we fail to understand this, then we are living in a fool's paradise," he said.

"What is happening in Kashmir is a direct assault on Indian democracy. All the pillars of our Constitution are today being assaulted by how this government acted in Kashmir," CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said. "This is a military takeover of Kashmir," he said.

**Vajpayee's idea**  
He said the Narendra Modi government had forgotten the slogan given by Mr. Vajpayee: "Kashmiriyat, Jamhuriyat aur Insaniyat".

Trinamool Congress spokesperson and former MP Dinesh Trivedi walked a fine line, emphasising that the single-point agenda of this meeting was to demand the release of the political leaders.

Samajwadi Party's Ramgopal Yadav said if the situation in Kashmir was normal then why its political class was detained.

## Top-level meeting on J&K transition

Secretaries will brainstorm on the implementation of the Reorganisation Act

**VIJAYA SINGH**  
NEW DELHI

Secretaries of Union Ministries will meet on August 28 to discuss the implementation of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 that will come into effect on October 31, the day the State will be bifurcated into the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh.

There was no clarity on the release of several political leaders, including the former Chief Ministers of J&K Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti, who have been held under preventive detention since August 5. A top government official said the Centre had no role to play in their detention or release. The State has been under Central rule for more than a year.



On watch: CRPF men stand guard in a street in Srinagar. ♦PTI

A senior government official said the high-level meeting would be steered by the Union Home Secretary. "There are various overlapping issues concerning several Ministries that will be discussed. The smooth transition of the State to a Union Territory will be the focus," said a senior government official.

**Staff panel**  
On August 20, Governor Satya Pal Malik sanctioned a committee to deal with "staff related issues" in J&K and Ladakh.

"The finer details like that of resources, revenue and personnel are being examined by the committee. The Union Home Ministry will oversee the preparations," the official said.

"The decision was taken by local authorities and they will decide when to release them," said the official, refusing to share the number of leaders in detention.

Under the Act passed by Parliament on August 6, the number of seats in the Legis-

lative Assembly of J&K has been increased from 107 to 114. From October 31, 106 Central laws will be applicable to the Union Territory, along with 166 State Acts, including the Governor's Act. As many as 153 State laws will be repealed.

## UN team alleges violation of rights in Kashmir

'Live ammunition used on protesters'

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The information blackout in Kashmir amounted to a collective punishment for the people of the region, experts of the United Nations Human Rights Council said on Thursday.

In a statement, they said the communication lockdown and denial of fundamental rights to the Kashmiri people violated fundamental rights.

"The shutdown of Internet and telecommunication networks, without justification from the government, is inconsistent with the fundamental norms of necessity and proportionality. The blackout is a form of collective punishment for the people of Jammu and Kashmir,

without even a pretext of a precipitating offence," they said.

They declared that they had received information about an increase in the arrest of political figures, journalists, human rights activists, and protesters. They were worried about reports of night raids in private homes and arrest of young people. The experts alleged that live ammunition was being used on protesters in Kashmir and that amounted to the violation of the fundamental right to life.

David Kaye, Michel Forst, Bernard Duhaime, Clement Nyalestossi Voule and Agnes Callamard were the experts and rapporteurs who were part of the group from the Human Rights Council.

## Apple farmers of Kashmir a worried lot

Trucks to ferry produce unavailable

**PEERZADA ASHIQ**  
SRINAGAR

Security restrictions and absence of communication links have hit Kashmir's multi-crore apple business. The movement of fruit trucks to the Valley has reduced from 1,200 to just 120 a day.

Nazeer Ahmad, 55, an orchard owner in the apple town of Shopian, on Thursday reached Srinagar to seek help from the administrator for making available trucks. "All mandis [designated apple markets], especially in Shopian and Sopore, are shut. No buyer from outside the State has come here. This is likely to affect the pricing. We fear

the ripe harvest may rot in case trucks from other States fail to arrive in the Valley," Mr. Ahmad said.

"This year, buyers from Delhi's Azadpur mandi avoided advance contracts for the standing crop, putting the burden of ferrying the crop on the orchard owners completely."

The apple season starts in the second week of August and peaks in September-October. The flow of trucks declines only by December 15, according to officials. Truckers from Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and Rajasthan ferry apple outside the Valley. Kashmir produces 17.9 lakh tonnes of apple, or 75% of the country's production.

## India-U.S. 2+2 meeting being held in California

Focus is on advancing cooperation

**SRIRAM LAKSHMAN**  
WASHINGTON DC

Indian and U.S. officials have gathered in the Naval Postgraduate School at Monterey, California, for the 2+2 intersessional and the Maritime Security Dialogue.

The U.S. will be led by Acting Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asia Alice Wells and Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Affairs Randall Schriver. Gourangal Das, Joint Secretary, Americas, and officials from the Indian Embassy in Washington will participate from the Indian side.

"During the inter-sessional, the two sides will discuss ways to advance cooperation on critical diplomatic and security priorities, including our shared vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific region, and review preparations for the next 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue," the State Department said through a statement issued on

Wednesday. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and U.S. Secretary of State Michael Pompeo are set to meet for the 2+2 Dialogue later in the autumn in the U.S.

During Friday's Maritime Security Dialogue, the two countries will discuss maritime developments in the Indo-Pacific and the strengthening of bilateral maritime security cooperation.

Five officials from the Ministry of Defence - the Joint Secretary (International Cooperation) and the Joint Secretary (Navy), the Assistant Chief of the Naval Staff (ACNS) Foreign Cooperation and Intelligence (FCI) and a one-star officer from Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) as well as the Director International Cooperation (IC) - will attend the Security Dialogue.

(With inputs from Suhasini Haidar and Dinakar Peri in New Delhi)

**RITES LIMITED**  
(Schedule 'A' Enterprise of Govt. of India)  
CIN No.: L74899DL1974GO100727

**Notice Inviting e-Tender**

The Joint General Manager/CP, RITES Ltd. invites on behalf of Central University of Karnataka, Gulbarga online item rate bids on single packet system for the following work:

**NIT No. RITES/CP/CUK/B. Wall (Bal)/19, Name of Work:** Construction of Balance Works for Boundary Wall at Central University of Karnataka, Gulbarga, Estimated Cost: Rs. 77,20,338/-, Earnest Money: Rs. 77,204/-. Period of Completion: 04 months, Last time & date of submission of bid: 11:00 Hrs. on 05.09.2019

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app>

Addendum/Corrigendum, if any, shall be hosted online only

**भारत सरकार/GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
अंतरिक्ष विभाग/DEPARTMENT OF SPACE

**विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र/**  
VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE/  
निर्माण एवं अंतरिक्ष यान/  
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP  
तिरुवनंतपुरम/THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 22

**निविदा की अवधि बढ़ाने/EXTENSION OF TENDER**

कार्य का शीर्षक/Title of work : वडियूरकावु में सौरमण्डल कैटीन का विस्तार (सिविल तथा पीच कार्य)/ Extension to CMSE Canteen at Vattiyoorakavu (Civil & PH works)

ई-निविदा सूचना सं. वीएसएससी/सौरमण्डल/सिविल/04/2019-20 दिनांक 30.07.2019/E-Tender Notice No. VSSC/CMG/CIVIL/04/2019-20 Dt. 30.07.2019

निविदा दस्तावेज डाउनलोड करने हेतु अंतिम तिथि/ Last date for download the tender document

दिनांक 02.09.2019 तक बढ़ाई गई/ Extended upto 02.09.2019

निविदाएं प्राप्त करने हेतु नियत तिथि/ Due date for receipt of tenders

दिनांक 04.09.2019 तक बढ़ाया गया/ Extended to 04.09.2019

योग्यता मानदंड तथा अन्य ब्यौरे को पाने के लिए इच्छुक निविदाकार ई-निविदा आर्मिनि करके हुए विस्तृत सूचना (ई-एनआइटी) का अवलोकन करें, जिसे [www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO](http://www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO) से डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (E-NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from website [www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO](http://www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO).

(Sd/-) प्रधान, सौरमण्डल (सिविल), वीएसएससी / HEAD, CMD(CIVIL), VSSC

**ଓଡିଶା ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ ଶକ୍ତି ସଂଚାରଣ ନିଗମ लि. Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited.**  
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)

Regd. Office: Janpath, Bhubaneswar-751022, Telephone: (0674) 2540051 (EPABX), Website: [www.optcl.co.in](http://www.optcl.co.in), CIN:U4102OR2004SGC007553

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT) (DOMESTIC COMPETITIVE e-BIDDING)**

e-TENDER NOTICE NO.-CPC-09/2019-20 Date: 23.08.2019

ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD. (OPTCL), Bhubaneswar invites bids (in e-tendering mode only) under single stage two-envelope system from reputed EPC/Turnkey Contractors for Engineering, Supply, Erection and Commissioning of 2x40MVA, 220/33KV Grid Sub-station (AIS) with SAS at Chitalo, Jhadanga along with associated 220 KV LILLO line from 220 KV New Duburi-Bhadrak line to Chitalo S/S at an Estimated Cost of the Package for ₹65.54 Crore in Jajpur district on "Turnkey CONTRACT BASIS". Interested bidders are required to enroll themselves in the tender portal "[www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL](http://www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL)". Complete set of bidding documents are available on "[www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL](http://www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL)" portal from Dt. (23/08/2019) (11.00 AM) up to Dt. (25/09/2019) (12:45) PM. Interested bidders may visit OPTCL's official website "<http://www.optcl.co.in>" and Tender Portal "<http://www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL>" for further detail.

Note: Bidders are requested to regularly visit Official website of OPTCL/Tender Portal only for amendment/errata/corrigendum (if any) and any other information regarding these tenders, as the same shall be published only on the OPTCL website/Tender Portal.

Sr. General Manager (C.P.C.) Email id: [sgm.cpc@optcl.co.in](mailto:sgm.cpc@optcl.co.in)  
CR-Advt.No.- 09/2019-20  
Please connect us: [optcl.odisha](https://www.facebook.com/optcl.odisha) [optcl\\_odisha](https://www.twitter.com/optcl_odisha) [energyodisha](https://www.linkedin.com/company/optcl)

**PARADIP PORT TRUST**  
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

No. TD/TM/GEN(Vol-III)/19/2015 dtd. 20.08.2019  
CORRIGENDUM-I dtd. 20.08.2019 to e-TCN No. TD/TM/GEN-225(Vol-III)/19/2017 dtd. 13.08.2019 for "Allotment of 02 (two) nos. of Manual Iron Ore / Iron Ore Pellet Plots". Refer our website for details of Corrigendum-1 published <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>

TRAFFIC MANAGER  
PPT/PR/287/19-20 Dt. 23.08.2019

**BHARAT COKING COAL LIMITED**  
'A Mini Ratna Company'  
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

**Sub - Open Domestic Cum Reverse Auction Notice No. - 30**

Online bids are invited from prospective bidders Supply of MS Pipes of various diameters (100mm - 4650mm, 150mm - 1950mm, 200mm - 3000mm & 250mm - 500mm) against Open Domestic Cum Reverse Auction Tender No. : BCLL/PUR/118050-118078-119041/ MS Pipes/19-20/OTE/30 having estimated value of Rs. 362.75 LAKH (Approx.). Bid Submission end date 09.09.2019 & Bid/Tender Opening Date is 11.09.2019. Full details of above tender is available on website <https://coalindiatenders.nic.in>, [www.bclweb.in](http://www.bclweb.in) & <https://e-procure.gov.in>. Prospective bidder are advised to visit the aforesaid websites to participate against above tenders and to note time to time the any corrigendum, clarifications etc. (if any).

Sd/-  
Chief Manager (MM)

**ANDHRA PRADESH FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED**  
(A Government of Andhra Pradesh Undertaking)  
Regd. Office: The Annapurma Nagar Public Servants co-operative House Building Society Plot No: 80/A, 81/A, Goranla, Gunter.

**EUCALYPTUS DEBARKED WOOD BILLETS SALE NOTICE**  
Ref.no.OP.001/EDWB/2019-20/ Date: 21.08.2019

Sale of about 5000 cum of Eucalyptus Debarked Wood Billets anticipated from (01) Unit of Bamboo mixed with Eucalyptus Clonal Plantation of A.P. Forest Development Corporation Limited, proposed to be held through e-Tender cum e Auction on "Konugolu", a Govt. of Andhra Pradesh e-Portal, i.e., "<https://www.konugolu.ap.gov.in>" from 11.00 hrs to 13.00 hrs on 06<sup>th</sup> of September, 2019. Unit remained unsold/unconfirmed will be exposed again on 18<sup>th</sup> of September, 2019 & 27<sup>th</sup> of September, 2019. For More details please visit the websites: <https://www.konugolu.ap.gov.in> & <https://www.apfdcl.com>, DIPR 100P/CL, Dt.22/08/2019 Sd/- Vice Chairman and Managing Director

**ଓଡିଶା ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ ଶକ୍ତି ସଂଚାରଣ ନିଗମ लि. Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Ltd.**  
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)

Regd. Office : Janpath, Bhubaneswar - 751 022, Odisha Website: [www.optcl.co.in](http://www.optcl.co.in), Telephone: 0674-2540051 (EPABX) CIN : U4102OR2004SGC007553

e-Tender Notice No. : CPC-08/2019-20 Date: 23.08.2019

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT) (DOMESTIC COMPETITIVE e-BIDDING)**

ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD. (OPTCL), Bhubaneswar, invites bids (in e-tendering mode only) under single stage two-envelope system from reputed EPC/Turnkey Contractors for Engineering, Supply, Erection and Commissioning of 220 KV LILLO Line from one circuit of existing 220 kV TTPS - JODA DC Line (Circuit-II) to 220/33 kV GIS substation, Keonjhar at an Estimated Cost of the Package for ₹13.26 Crore on "Turnkey CONTRACT BASIS" Interested bidders are required to enroll themselves in the tender portal "[www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL](http://www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL)". Complete set of bidding documents are available on "[www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL](http://www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL)" portal from Dt.23.08.2019 / 11.00 A.M up to Dt. 23.09.2019 / 12.45 PM. Interested bidders may visit OPTCL's official website "<http://www.optcl.co.in>" and Tender Portal "<http://www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL>" for further detail.

Note : Bidders are requested to regularly visit Official Website of OPTCL/Tender Portal only for amendment / errata / corrigendum (if any) and any other information regarding these tenders, as the same shall be published only on the OPTCL website/Tender Portal.

Sr. General Manager (C.P.C.) e-mail id : [sgm.cpc@optcl.co.in](mailto:sgm.cpc@optcl.co.in)  
CR Advt. No.08/19-20  
Please connect us: [optcl.odisha](https://www.facebook.com/optcl.odisha) [optcl\\_odisha](https://www.twitter.com/optcl_odisha) [energyodisha](https://www.linkedin.com/company/optcl)

**MISSING**

The person shown in the photo named one Sankar Naikage 54/18, S/o Bojje Naik, Kottepparambil House, Pallichirangara, Moovattupuzha, Ernakulam District, has been missing from his house on 05-09-18. In this regard a case in crime 3314/18 U/s 57 of KP Act was registered at Moovattupuzha P.S. Enquiries being continued to find out the missing person. If any information is received about the missing person, please inform in the following phone numbers.

1. DySP District Crime Branch Aluva - 9497990075  
2. District Crime Branch Aluva - 9497975450, 9447575281  
3. District Crime Branch Aluva - 0484-2623122

**IDENTIFICATION MARKS**  
Height 5' feet, Medium Colour, Fatty figure, His right leg amputate due to accident. Mixed Black and gray hair.

(F2/314/2019A/PRD)

**शास्त्रीय स्वास्थ्यी गजराजा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय ग्यालियर मध्यप्रदेश**

क्रमांक /स्था / विज्ञापन / 2019 ग्यालियर दिनांक 18 / 08 / 19

**विज्ञापित सूचना**

- मध्यप्रदेश शासन, चिकित्सा शिक्षा विभाग, मंत्रालय भोपाल के ज्ञाप क्रमांक एफ2-53/2017/1/55 दिनांक 12/01/2018 द्वारा मध्यप्रदेश स्वास्थ्यी चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय शैक्षणिक आदर्श सेवा नियम 2018 के अंतर्गत स्वास्थ्यी गजराजा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय ग्यालियर के अधीन प्राध्यापक / सह प्राध्यापक/सहायक प्राध्यापक/ प्रदर्शक के विभिन्न विभागों में रिक्त पदों की पूर्ति सीधी भर्ती द्वारा की जाना है। इस हेतु एमसीआई द्वारा निर्धारित अर्हताधारी योग्य अभ्यर्थियों से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में आवेदन पत्र स्वास्थ्यी गजराजा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय ग्यालियर में दिनांक 27 / 08 / 2019 सायंकाल 5:30 बजे तक आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। उपरोक्त विज्ञापन की जानकारी एवं आवेदन पत्र का निर्धारित प्रारूप स्वास्थ्यी चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय ग्यालियर मध्यप्रदेश की वेबसाइट [www.grmcgwali.org](http://www.grmcgwali.org) पर उपलब्ध है।
- आवेदन पत्र डाक द्वारा अथवा व्यक्तिगत रूप से स्वास्थ्यी गजराजा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय ग्यालियर में जमा कराये जा सकते हैं। किसी भी स्थिति में निर्धारित तिथि एवं समय के पश्चात प्राप्त होने वाले आवेदनों पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा।
- साक्षात्कार का दिनांक एवं साक्षात्कार हेतु पात्र उम्मीदवारों की सूची महाविद्यालय की वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध कराई जायेगी, तथा ई-मेल द्वारा भी सूचित कर दिया जायेगा।

मुख्य कार्यपालन अधिकारी  
स्वास्थ्यी गजराजा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय

G-154672019

**SANJAY GANDHI INSTITUTE OF TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS**  
(Government of Karnataka Autonomous Institute)

Byrasandra, Jayanagara East, Bengaluru - 560 011 Ph: 080-26564516, 26562500 Grams: SITO Fax: 26565222 E-mail: [stodirector@gmail.com](mailto:stodirector@gmail.com)  
No. SGI/TO/e-Tender/ME/18/2019-20 Date: 22.08.2019

**TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement)**

Sanjay Gandhi Institute of Trauma & Orthopaedics, Byrasandra, Jayanagar East, Bangalore - 11 invites tender from the eligible tenders through the e-procurement portal of GOK for the following Medical Equipments.

(1) Imported C-Arm - 2 Nos (2) Electric Power Drill, Saw and Reaming System (Indian) - 10 Nos (3) Battery Operated Drill, Reaming and Saw System - 3 Nos (4) Imported Bone Holding Forceps - Large, Medium, Small, Extra Large - 2 Set each (5) Imported Homan's Bone levers - Large, Medium, Small - 2 Set each (6) Saw Blade System - 1 No (7) Surgical Instruments for Plastic Surgery - 1 Set (8) Skin Graft Mesh - 1 No (9) Haematology analyser 5 part Cell Counter - 1 No (10) Camera system for Arthroscopy - 1 No (11) Annual Maintenance of Operation Theatres 2, 3, and 4, AHU's - 3 Nos (12) Annual maintenance contract of 150 KLD Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP)

(1) The Tenderers can download the documents from: <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> for SI. No.01 to 12 on or after 23.08.2019 and the last date for submission of completed tenders through e-portal is 24.10.2019 upto 4:00 PM.

(2) The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept / reject or cancel tender without assigning any reason therefor.

Sd/- Chief Administrative Officer  
Tender Inviting Authority

DIPR/1043/2019-20

# The planet's lungs are on fire

Wildfires in the Amazon rainforest in northern Brazil have ignited a firestorm on social media, with millions joining a campaign with #PrayforAmazon as hashtag



**1** There have been 72,843 fires in Brazil this year, with more than half in the Amazon region — an 80% increase from the same period last year

**2** Experts blame the fires on illegal loggers who have been burning newly cleared land for cattle ranching and agricultural use

**3** Brazil has seen massive deforestation since Jair Bolsonaro, the country's far-right President, assumed office early this year

595 sq km of Amazonian forests were lost in June, an 88% annual increase from June 2018

April-to-June deforestation was 24.8% higher than the same period last year



Bolsonaro has blamed NGOs for starting the fires to hurt his government

**IBAMA:** Brazil's environmental enforcement agency has seen its budget cut by \$23 million

**24% SINCE** Bolsonaro took office in January

**344,500** HECTARES  
Area of Amazon rainforest destroyed since January by illegal loggers, miners and cattle ranchers

The fires were lit in strategic places. All the indications suggest they were there to film and start fires. That's what I feel.

— BOLSONARO

SOURCE: GRAPHIC NEWS, BRAZIL'S NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR SPACE RESEARCH | GRAPHIC: KARTHICK S.T.

# No point in talking to India: Imran Khan

Pak. PM says his overtures were turned down; warns of crisis escalating between the nuclear powers

**SALMAN MASOOD MARIA ABI-HABIB ISLAMABAD**

Prime Minister Imran Khan of Pakistan intensified his criticism of India on Wednesday over its Kashmir crackdown, saying he would no longer seek dialogue with Indian officials and raising the threat of a military escalation between the nuclear-armed neighbours.

In an interview with *The New York Times*, Mr. Khan complained bitterly about what he described as repeated rebuffs from Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his entreaties for communication, both before and after the August 5 decision to end Kashmir's special status.

"There is no point in talking to them. I mean, I have done all the talking. Unfortunately, now when I look back, all the overtures that I was making for peace and dialogue, I think they took it for appeasement," Mr. Khan said during the interview at the Prime Minister's office in Islamabad. "There is nothing more that we can do."

Mr. Khan has repeatedly denounced the Modi government for terminating the au-

tonomy of Kashmir. India deployed thousands of troops to quell any possible unrest and severed nearly all communications in the region.

There was no immediate comment from the Indian side on Mr. Khan's remarks. But India's Ambassador to the U.S., Harsh Vardhan Shringla, who was visiting *The New York Times* Editorial Board, rejected criticism.

"Our experience has been that every time we have taken an initiative toward peace, it has turned out badly for us," the Ambassador said. "We expect Pakistan to take credible, irreversible and verifiable action against terrorism."

**Internal matter**

Mr. Khan's interview with *The Times* was his first with an international news organisation aimed at publicising his anger over what is happening in Kashmir — and it appeared to reflect his frustration at what he views as India's intransigence.

Indian officials have described their new policy on Kashmir as a legal and inter-



A file photo of Pakistan PM Imran Khan in Islamabad. ■ NYT

tan, he said, would be forced to respond.

**Eyeball to eyeball**

"And then you are looking at two nuclear-armed countries eyeball to eyeball, and anything can happen," he said. "My worry is that this can escalate and for two nuclear-armed countries, it should be alarming for the world what we are facing now."

Mr. Khan's warnings of a wider nuclear conflagration reprised comments from Islamabad shortly after Indian warplanes infiltrated Pakistani airspace in March. Indian government officials have dismissed such warnings, claiming that Pakistan is using the threat of nuclear war to push the international community to mediate and force India into talks.

Shortly after taking office last summer, Mr. Khan reached out to India in an attempt to revive talks between the countries. But Indian officials rejected Mr. Khan's efforts with a long-standing response that they will negotiate only after Pakistan cuts ties to militant groups. NY TIMES

# Solution 'readily available' for Irish border: Johnson

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE PARIS**

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Thursday that technical solutions were "readily available" to avoid the return of checks on the border between Ireland and Northern Ireland, an issue that has bedevilled negotiations on Brexit.

"The technical solutions are readily available," Mr. Johnson said as he met French leader Emmanuel

Macron in Paris. "You can have trusted trader schemes, you can have electronic pre-clearing."

Mr. Macron supported allowing U.K. another 30 days to find a solution to the Irish border issue. "We need to try to have a useful month," he said. But Mr. Macron has rejected Mr. Johnson's calls to scrap an arrangement for Ireland negotiated between the EU and former British Premier Theresa May.

# S. Korea scraps key pact with Japan

**REUTERS SEOUL**

South Korea said on Thursday it will scrap an intelligence-sharing pact with Japan, a decision that could escalate a dispute over history and trade and undercut security cooperation on North Korea.

With the decision not to extend the pact, the political and trade disputes between South Korea and Japan now extend into some of the most sensitive national security issues in the region.

The arrangement was designed to share information on the threat posed by North Korea's missile and nuclear activities.

The decision to end it comes after North Korea launched a series of short-range ballistic missiles in protest against what it sees as military build-ups in South Korea and Japan.

The General Security of Military Information Agreement was due to be automatically renewed on Saturday.

The decision was an-

nounced after an hour-long discussion within the presidential National Security Council (NSC). South Korean President Moon Jae-in approved it.

Japan created a "grave change" in the environment for bilateral security cooperation by removing South Korea's fast-track export status, said Kim You-geun, a deputy director of the NSC.

Japan cited security concerns without providing evidence for its decision on South Korea's trade status.

# Sirisena's office refutes Pak. statement on envoy meet

'President did not comment on Kashmir in meeting'

**MEERA SRINIVASAN COLOMBO**

Refuting a recent press statement issued by the Colombo-based Pakistani High Commission, the President's office on Thursday said Maithripala Sirisena did not comment on issues pertaining to India and Pakistan during his recent meeting with the Pakistani High Commissioner. Mr. Sirisena told him that "both India and Pakistan have excellent friendly relations with Sri Lanka", his media division said.



Maithripala Sirisena

UNSC resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir and the International Law."

The release further said that the "President acknowledged that Jammu and Kashmir is a disputed territory and expressed his desire that this dispute should be resolved according to wishes of Kashmiris under UN Resolutions. He also offered Sri Lanka's mediation and facilitation of dialogue between Pakistan and India to re-activate the SAARC forum. He further said that resolution of Kashmir issue is essential for permanent peace and stability in the region."

**Patient hearing**

Referring to the press release, the President's Media Division on Thursday said the meeting took place "at the request of the High Commissioner of Pakistan and during which he briefed the President about the recent developments with regard to India's abrogation of Section 370 and annulling of Article 35A."

"The President gave a patient hearing to the Pakistan High Commissioner's views and stated that both India and Pakistan have excellent friendly relations with Sri Lanka and Sri Lanka's interest is to see the growth of regional cooperation and friendship. The President did not make any other comment on the issues pertaining to India and Pakistan," his office clarified.

Presidential sources told *The Hindu* that the Indian High Commissioner too had called on Mr. Sirisena some days ago, to brief him on the development. "The President gave him a patient hearing," a source said.

The development comes in the wake of New Delhi ending Jammu and Kashmir's special status and bifurcating it into two Union Territories. The Sri Lankan government or its Ministry of Foreign Affairs has not officially commented on the development so far. When contacted, a senior Foreign Ministry official in Colombo told *The Hindu*: "It is India's internal matter and we do not comment on countries' internal affairs."

# ELSEWHERE

**U.S., Taliban resume talks on ending Afghan war**  
KABUL  
U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad on Thursday resumed talks with the Taliban in Doha on ending the Afghanistan war. The U.S. and the Taliban have held several rounds of talks in the past one year. AP

**One dead, several injured in fire at Paris hospital**  
PARIS  
A woman died and several people were injured after a huge fire broke out inside a hospital complex in Paris. Around 100 firefighters battled the blaze for more than two hours. In total, 50 people were evacuated from Henri Mondor hospital. AFP

# Trump under fire from U.S. Jews over 'disloyalty' remark

Members of the community say he is fuelling anti-Semitism

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE NEW YORK**

U.S. President Donald Trump has been hit by a wave of criticism for accusing Jewish Democratic voters of "disloyalty," but his comment also highlighted the unease of some in the community with its traditional party of choice.

Mr. Trump, who has positioned himself as a staunch ally of Israel, made the remark on Tuesday night while criticising Democratic politicians who support a boycott of the Jewish state.

"Where has the Democratic party gone?" Mr. Trump said, adding: "I think any Jewish people that vote for a Democrat, I think it shows either a total lack of knowledge or great disloyalty."

Members of America's more than five million-strong Jewish community — 80% of whom voted Democratic in the 2018 mid-term elections, according to the Pew Research Center — have blamed the President for fuelling anti-Semitism.

"It's a bit unclear what the President was trying to say in terms of who Jews are disloyal to... While he wasn't exactly clear about that, I will be exactly clear on what that was: anti-Semitism," Jonathan Greenblatt, the CEO of the Anti-Defamation League, said.

The President "has no right to tell Jewish Americans he knows what is best for us or to demand our loyalty," said Halie Soifer, of the Jewish Democratic Council of America.



Donald Trump

# 'Myanmar not safe for return of Rohingya'

**REUTERS BANGKOK/COX'S BAZAR**

Sexual violence by Myanmar's military against Muslim Rohingya amounts to war crimes, a UN report said on Thursday, adding that conditions are not favourable for refugees to return to the country.

The UN Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar said "soldiers routinely employed rape, gang rape and other violent and forced sexual acts against women, girls, boys, men and transgender people."

Meanwhile, a push to repatriate Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh to Myanmar fell flat as no one showed up at the boarding point in Teknaf.

# THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12712

(set by Skulldugger)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
8				9					
10									
11	12			13					
14			15						
16									
17									
18									
19									
20									
21									
22									
23									
24									
25									
26									

- 10 Stay calm when our hip keynoters panic (4,4,5,2)
- 11 Discontinue cab (or taxi) shares (5)
- 13 Lecturer wearing desi garment cold and derisive (8)
- 15 Fruits or vegetables grown here (8)
- 18 Time for sorcery (5)
- 20 Disabled Iris cannot leave for draft (8,7)
- 23 Picture house machine gutted and refurbished (6)
- 24 Boffin's naughty nineties (8)
- 25 Shooters' innards mangled by beasts (4)
- 26 Thaddeus and Bartholomew dropping popular subjects (9)

- ACROSS**
- 1 People seeking love online face this singular misrepresentation (9)
  - 6 Capable of interrupting abrupt outburst (2,2)
  - 8 Too many words for Spooner's abnormal tissue growth? (8)
  - 9 She picks nits and distractedly feeds goldfish, perhaps (6)
- DOWN**
- 1 Have a cow after labour in underground chamber (5)
  - 2 Private, uncomplaining, hard-working sort (7)
  - 3 Fully developed insect revolutionary video gaming features (5)
  - 4 Funny bone! (7)
  - 5 Deep Blue's software program discovered in British county (8)
  - 6 Endure and overcome? On the contrary! (7)
  - 7 Relating to barbers? No. Tailors, perhaps (9)
  - 12 Watering hole excluding Scot brute (9)
  - 14 Doctors from North and South wrapped penniless Indian fan in sponge (8)
  - 16 Young animals the man fries after dressing (7)
  - 17 Metal trays for investors hoarding lire (7)
  - 19 Vital operation is complicated but crucial (7)
  - 21 Naked bunnies prepared for boredom (5)
  - 22 Side dish for fish fries (5)

# SUDOKU

			1		8			
		7	9			4	3	
	1		5					
			8		4		9	
6							8	
8	3		2					
			4		9			
5	6			3	7			
	1		6					

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

**Solution to puzzle 12711**

W	A	L	L	O	S	C	A	R	C	E			
A	S	I	A	F	A	O	A	N					
E	H	I	K	I	T	I	T	A	T	E			
T	R	E	H	O	I	R							
C	A	N	N	O	N	M	O	N	G	O	L	I	A
G	E	V	E	R	E	N	D	S	B	A	L	S	A
N	E	S	L	L									
O	B	E	S	E	D	C	K	W	E	E	D	S	
F	E	H	I	K	I	T	I	E					
N	E	B	R	A	S	K	A	P	I	L	O	T	S
T	I	L	O	R	P	I	J	A					
B	L	A	N	C	M	A	N	G	E	M	A	I	D
E	E	E	O	R	A	L	L						
S	U	D	O	R	S	A	J	A	N	A	S		

**Solution to yesterday's Sudoku**

1	2	3	9	5	4	8	7	6
9	8	5	1	7	6	4	3	2
4	6	7	2	3	8	9	5	1
3	1	9	6	4	5	7	2	8
8	7	4	3	2	1	6	9	5
6	5	2	7	8	9	3	1	4
5	9	6	4	1	7	2	8	3
2	4	1	8	9	3	5	6	7
7	3	8	5	6	2	1	4	9

# FAITH

## Wheel of samsara

Except for those in whom self awareness is dominant, a majority of beings are bound to samsara as in a giant wheel ride and are subject to a wide range of experiences. As one is spun around, everything appears topsy-turvy and there is always dread and fear, whether when taken up to the heights or when brought to ground level. Once committed to the ride, no matter how frightening it may be and no matter how much one would like to get out of it, one is compelled to one's seat with no other alternative, pointed out Nochur Sri Venkataraman in a discourse.

There are many portions in the Ramayana wherein the plight of the jivatma who is deluded by the ineffable power of maya is analysed. When the grief torn Bharata tries to persuade Rama to come back and rule Ayodhya, their conversation is full of philosophical wisdom on the ephemeral nature of human existence and the stress and strain inbuilt in it. Bharata realises Rama's divine self which the Lord holds perfectly under wraps when He plays the role of Rama. He points out to Rama that though like all beings He is caught in samsara, He is beyond the torment of sorrow or the exhilaration of joy owing to His equanimity. The Bhagavata Purana shows Akura advising Dhritarashtra, whose mind is tilted strongly by affection to his children, to be fair in his dealings with his brother's sons. Dhritarashtra's reply in this context is marked by profound wisdom. He tells Akura that he cannot be influenced by any advice just as a streak of lightning on the mountainside does not leave any permanent mark. He asks, "Is there any one or any way by which the Supreme Lord's Sankalpa can be altered? Has He not incarnated as Krishna for the specific purpose of eradicating the pressures of evil forces in the world?"

MARKET WATCH

	22-08-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	36,473	-1.59
US Dollar	71.81	-0.36
Gold	38,970	0.38
Brent oil	59.78	-1.54

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	345.05	-5.65
Asian Paints	1570.20	-18.95
Axis Bank	661.15	-3.55
Bajaj Auto	2744.25	-20.55
Bajaj Finserv	6767.35	-378.50
Bajaj Finance	3114.10	-147.35
Bharti Airtel	352.75	-2.15
BPL	313.00	-14.80
Britannia	2440.75	56.25
Cipla	464.00	-4.05
Coal India	180.85	-7.95
Dr Reddys Lab	2545.40	42.40
Eicher Motors	15523.35	-477.15
GAIL (India)	120.65	-1.85
Grasim Ind	688.55	-10.25
HCL Tech	1078.90	8.75
HDFC	2014.10	-52.80
HDFC Bank	2174.10	-51.75
Hero MotoCorp	2626.25	-88.00
Hindalco	176.55	-0.50
Hind Unilever	1872.10	22.10
Indiabulls HFL	450.55	-33.00
ICICI Bank	399.10	-12.95
Indusind Bank	1335.65	-31.55
Bharti Infratel	246.55	-1.70
Infosys	795.70	-3.75
Indian Oil Corp	117.80	-3.25
ITC	240.05	-1.40
JSW Steel	217.00	-2.00
Kotak Bank	1478.25	-27.50
L&T	1294.25	-16.40
M&M	511.80	-9.10
Maruti Suzuki	6208.55	-20.35
NTPC	114.75	-3.15
ONGC	116.95	-4.25
PowerGrid Corp	202.75	-2.15
Reliance Ind	1246.75	-24.20
State Bank	268.55	-8.85
Sun Pharma	414.55	-2.45
Tata Motors	107.70	-4.70
Tata Steel	333.70	-9.30
TCS	2216.00	29.80
Tech Mahindra	682.75	9.95
Titan	106.15	-3.55
UltraTech Cement	3838.15	-83.25
UPL	518.05	-17.85
Vedanta	129.05	-10.90
Wipro	252.05	-0.35
YES Bank	56.30	-9.10
Zee Entertainment	328.95	-15.25

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 22

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	71.61	71.93
Euro	79.35	79.70
British Pound	86.97	87.39
Japanese Yen (100)	67.19	67.50
Chinese Yuan	10.11	10.15
Swiss Franc	72.74	73.07
Singapore Dollar	51.65	51.89
Canadian Dollar	53.92	54.18
Malaysian Ringgit	17.09	17.18

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

August 22 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses

Retail Silver (1g)	48.3	(48.1)
22 ct gold (1g)	3608	(3601)

IRCTC files draft with SEBI for IPO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has filed draft papers with the SEBI for its initial public offering (IPO). As many as two crore equity shares of face value of ₹10 each would be offloaded through an offer for sale by the government.

According to market sources, the IPO would be worth ₹500-₹600 crore. IDBI Capital Markets & Securities, SBI Capital Markets and YES Securities (India) are the managers to the offer. IRCTC is the only entity authorised by Indian Railways to provide catering services to railways, on-line railway tickets and packaged drinking water at railway stations and trains, according to the draft red herring prospectus. The CPSE has diversified into other business segments like e-catering, executive lounges and budget hotels.

Tax resolution, amnesty scheme announced

Govt. aims to eliminate bulk of pending cases, provide partial amnesty on dues

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The government has announced a new scheme aimed at eliminating the bulk of pending tax dispute cases besides providing partial amnesty to those having tax dues.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had, in her Budget speech, announced the Sabka Vishwas (Legacy Dispute Resolution) Scheme, 2019. This scheme will be operationalised from September 1 with the window being open till December 31.

“The government expects the scheme to be availed of by a large number of taxpayers for closing their pending disputes relating to legacy service tax and central excise cases that are now

Sensex plunges 587 points

Absence of stimulus package, lack of clarity on FPI taxation add to woes

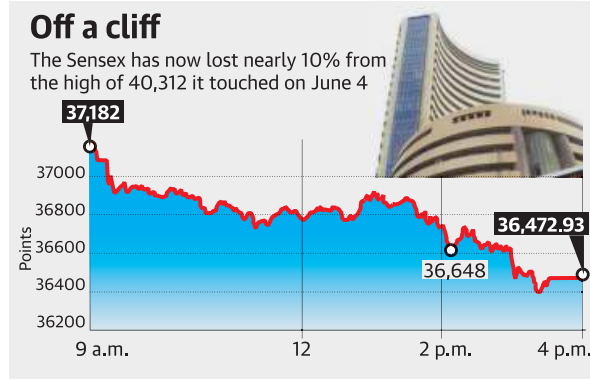
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

The benchmark indices lost over 1% each on Thursday, in the absence of any announcement of a fiscal stimulus by the Centre and lack of clarity on taxation issues raised by foreign investors, amid a weak global trend as well.

The 30-share Sensex lost 587.44 points, or 1.59%, to close at 36,472.93 as 26 of its constituents ended in the red.

Banking and auto stocks bore the brunt with Yes Bank, Tata Motors, Hero MotoCorp, Bajaj Finance, State Bank of India, ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank among top losers.

The Sensex has now lost nearly 10% from the high of 40,312 it touched on June 4. The broader Nifty ended at 10,741.35, down 177.35 points or 1.62%. “First, while the



measures on FPI (foreign portfolio investor) regulations are good, the market still awaits clarification on the tax proposals for FPIs made in the Budget.

“Impatience rising” “Second, the market is getting impatient with regard to the prospects of a stimulus package from the government and the comments made by some government

ment to use taxpayers’ money to intervene every time there are some ‘sunssets’, then I think you introduce possible moral hazards from ‘too big to fail’ and as well as the possibility of a situation where profits are private and losses are socialised,” Mr. Subramanian said at an event.

**Asian indices** Elsewhere in Asia, the benchmarks of Hong Kong, Indonesia and South Korea also traded weak, with Japan’s Nikkei closing with a marginal gain of 10 points.

Back in India, overall negative sentiment was corroborated by weak market breadth as more than 1,900 stocks lost ground as against only 511 gainers on the BSE. Provisional numbers showed that foreign investors continued to be net sellers at ₹903 crore on Thursday.

Kia rolls out Seltos at ₹9.69 lakh

BS-VI compliant vehicle comes in petrol and diesel variants

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Kia Motors India, the wholly owned subsidiary of South Korean automaker Kia Motors Corporation, has launched its first product Seltos, a mid-segment SUV, starting from ₹9.69 lakh (ex-showroom pan India). The top most variant is priced at ₹15.99 lakh.

The Seltos is BS-VI compliant and is available in both petrol and diesel variants with manual and automatic transmission options.

“New benchmark” The company has received 32,035 bookings for the Seltos, which is a new benchmark for the mid-segment SUV in the country, company executives said.

Seltos will compete with Hyundai Creta, MG Hector, Tata Harrier, Mahindra XUV 500 and Vitara Brezza to name a few.



Bollywood actor Tiger Shroff with Kookhyun Shim, MD & CEO, Kia Motors, at the launch. •PAUL NORONHA

The company said it would ramp up production to handle the ‘overwhelming’ demand for Seltos. Over 5,000 units have already been manufactured from the company’s Anantapur plant in Andhra Pradesh, which has an annual production capacity of

3,00,000 units. Delivery of vehicles has started from the company’s 192 showrooms in 160 cities across India. “The Seltos has been one of the most ambitious projects for Kia Motors and even more so for Kia Motors India,” Kookhyun Shim, MD & CEO, Kia Motors India, said.

Rupee hits eight-month low

Financial conditions tightening despite RBI easing rates

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

A combination of global and domestic factors pulled the rupee down 26 paise against the dollar though the currency was able to cut back some losses in the closing hours of trade.

The rupee ended at an eight-month low of 71.81 a dollar after slipping close to 72-a-dollar mark during the day when it touched 71.98. However, it cut some losses towards the end of the trading session.

Yuan depreciates

According to dealers, an emerging market currencies, including the rupee, came under pressure after the Chinese yuan depreciated suddenly, in addition to the strengthening of the dollar index.

The weakness was accentuated by the pressure on domestic equities, with the



Dismal growth in direct tax collection weighed on the rupee. •GETTYIMAGES/ISTOCK

which the market was anticipating as the Chief Economic Adviser sounded caution over such a step.

“There is a need to ease financial conditions through fiscal stimulus and manage [rupee] weakness,” Bank of America Merrill Lynch said in a note to its clients.

The note said despite RBI easing interest rates by 110 basis points (bps) in 2019, financial conditions had tightened and policymakers should take note, failing which such a scenario would undo the benefits of monetary easing.

‘Fiscal boost needed’

“We believe the Indian economy warrants a significant fiscal stimulus at this stage, which does not result in higher borrowing costs. In other words, what India needs is a fiscal boost funded by offshore borrowings,” the note added.

benchmark indices falling 1.6%. Dismal growth in direct tax collection in the current fiscal, which further reflected the economic slowdown, also weighed on the rupee, dealers said.

Direct tax collection growth was below 5% till mid-August, which makes achieving the 17% target difficult.

Also, there are uncertainties about a fiscal stimulus

Aramco still part of west coast refinery project, says Hindustan Petroleum chief

Nothing to my knowledge which says that the deal is not on, says Surana

PIYUSH PANDEY MUMBAI

Saudi Aramco’s decision to invest over ₹1 lakh crore to buy a 20% stake in Reliance Industries Ltd.’s (RIL) oil to chemicals business won’t derail its investment plans in the ₹4-lakh crore west coast refinery-cum-petrochemical project in Maharashtra being undertaken along with the oil public sector majors.

Confirming this, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited’s (HPCL) CMD Mukesh Kumar Surana told *The Hindu*, “For the west coast refinery, configuration study is being conducted. Saudi Aramco and ADNOC are very much a part of the configuration study. I think Saudi Aramco has the capacity to invest in multiple projects (RIL and west coast). In other countries also, they have



Mukesh Kumar Surana

invested. So far, there is nothing to my knowledge which says that the deal is not on.”

Saudi Aramco and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) will own about 50% stake in the Ratnagiri Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd. (RRPCL), and the balance 50% will be owned by Indian oil marketing compa-

nies comprising Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and HPCL.

However, the location for the project is yet to be identified after the one identified earlier in Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra was abandoned due to public and political protests last year.

RRPCL is expected to process 1.2 million barrels per day of crude oil, equivalent of processing capacity of RIL’s twin refineries in Jamnagar, Gujarat. Besides, it will also produce 18 million tonnes per annum of petrochemical products.

Trigger for RIL deal?

However, some analysts view Aramco partnering RIL as an effect of the huge cost escalation in the west coast project. Besides, there is no

guarantee that the project will take off at all. “We believe the key trigger for the conclusion of RIL-Aramco deal was the declining probability of the Maharashtra refinery as the cost jumped from ₹3 lakh crore to ₹4 lakh crore following delays and environment-related requirements,” said Gagan Dixit, analyst, Elara Capital.

On the crude sourcing deal, Mr. Surana said, “Saudi Aramco is the biggest source of crude supplies and most refineries get Saudi crude. “As far as Aramco is concerned, they will be happy to have a destination for their crude on a long-term basis. Buyers will also be happy to have long-term arrangement for assured source of supply. So, to that extent, I don’t see any contradictions in the two partnerships.”

‘Tax holiday only for start-ups with turnover up to ₹25 crore’

Limit determined by I-T law, not DPIIT notification: CBDT

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on Thursday clarified that start-ups with an annual turnover of up to ₹25 crore will continue to get a tax holiday as specified in the Income Tax Act.

The clarification comes in the wake of considerable confusion in the industry following a circular in February by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) that defined start-ups as having a turnover of up to ₹100 crore.

This led many to believe that the tax holiday would also apply to companies with a turnover of that

amount. “All the start-ups recognised by the DPIIT which fulfil the conditions specified in the DPIIT notification do not automatically become eligible for the deduction under Section 80-IAC of the I-T Act,” the CBDT clarification said.

“A start-up has to fulfil the conditions specified in Section 80-IAC for claiming this deduction,” it added.

“Therefore, the turnover limit for small start-ups claiming deduction is to be determined by the provisions of Section 80-IAC of the I-T Act and not from the DPIIT notification.”

According to Section 80-IAC of the Income Tax Act,

eligible start-ups would be granted a tax deduction equal to 100% of the profits for three consecutive assessment years, out of the first seven years from the date of incorporation of the company.

‘Disproved confusion’

“CBDT disproved the confusion created by some news report claiming discrepancy that I-T law was yet to reflect DPIIT’s higher turnover threshold of ₹100 crore,” the clarification said.

“CBDT said that there is no contradiction in DPIIT’s notification dated 19.02.2019 and Section 80-IAC of the I-T Act.”

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12	7.75	7.70	10,800	1,080	8.00
18	7.75	7.70	11,220	1,122	8.13
24	8.00	7.95	11,720	1,172	8.60
36	8.00	7.95	12,680	1,268	8.93

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			₹10,000	₹1000	
12	7.25	7.21	10,740	1,074	7.40
18	7.25	7.21	11,140	1,114	7.60
24	7.50	7.45	11,600	1,160	8.00
36	7.50	7.45	12,500	1,250	8.33

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This advertisement appears further to the statutory advertisement published by the Company in ‘Business Line’ on 20.07.2019. The text of the statutory advertisement is also printed on all the application forms which may be referred to before investing in the Company’s Deposit Schemes.

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Engineers India Limited (EIL) on behalf of M/s RFCL (A Joint Venture Company of NFL, EIL and FCIL) invites e-bids from eligible bidders for the following work:

Description	Bidding Document on Website	Bid Due Date & Time
Effluent Discharge Pipeline from RFCL to Godavari (Bidding Document No.: SMA747-311-MK-190002006)	23.08.2019 to 20.09.2019	Upto 1200 Hrs. (IST) on 20.09.2019

Contact Person: GM (SCM), Engineers India Limited, New Delhi-110066 (India); Telephone: 011-2676 3504/ 2239/ 3172; E-Mail: s.mitra@eil.co.in/ ranjit.vunna@eil.co.in/ vibha.bharti@eil.co.in. The detailed I/B & Bidding Document with contact details can be viewed and downloaded from e-tender website <http://e-procure.gov.in/e-procure/app>. All amendments, time extension, clarifications, etc. will be uploaded in the websites only and will not be published in newspapers. Bidders should regularly visit the above websites to keep themselves updated.  
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**TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD**  
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ROC No.: 15584/19/NS2 21.08.2019

**NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**

Tenders are invited for the printing and supply of Diary 2020

Starting Date for online submission : 23/08/2019  
Last Date for online submission : 04/09/2019, at 3.00pm  
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For details visit : [www.etenders.kerala.gov.in](http://www.etenders.kerala.gov.in), [www.travancoredevaswomboard.org](http://www.travancoredevaswomboard.org)

Devaswom Commissioner  
Deputy Devaswom Commissioner (Finance Inspection)

Thiruvananthapuram  
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On behalf of Travancore Devaswom Board

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E-tenders are invited by Airport Director, AAI, Coimbatore International Airport on behalf of Chairman, AAI, from enlisted contractors of appropriate class of Govt./PSUs / Specialized agencies for the work of “Job Contract of Bird and Animal Scaring & Allied Services in the Operational Area at Coimbatore International Airport” for an Estimated Cost of ₹ 1,27,68,560. with Period of Contract 24 Months. Tenders can be downloaded/submission end date: upto 1800 Hrs. on 02.09.2019.

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Tender ID: 2019\_AAI\_30631\_1

Item Rate Tenders are invited through e-tendering portal by Regional Manager AAICLAS on behalf of Chairman, AAICLAS from the eligible contractors for the work of “Expansion of export truck dock at Air Cargo Complex, Chennai Airport. SH: Covering of open area at phase-II” for an estimated cost of Rs.1,12,06,786.00 with period of completion 03 (Three) months. Last date and time of submission of bid document is 10.09.2019 upto 15.00 hours. For detailed information log on to CPP e-Procurement Portal reference <https://etenders.gov.in/e-procure/app> or [www.aai.aero](http://www.aai.aero). Further clarification / corrigendum if any will be notified through e-procurement portal at [https://etenders.gov.in/e-proc](https://etenders.gov.in/e-procure/app)

## IN BRIEF

**Granules facility in U.S. gets FDA observations**

**HYDERABAD**  
Granules India on Thursday said the USFDA had completed inspection of wholly-owned subsidiary Granules Pharmaceuticals Inc's facility in Chantilly, Virginia, U.S. on Wednesday with two observations. They were minor observations, the firm said in a filing. This was a pre-approval inspection for seven products filed from this facility. Granules will respond to the observations within the stipulated time period, the company added.

**Digit in bancassurance agreement with KVB**

**CHENNAI**  
Digit Insurance, a new-age insurance firm, announced its first bancassurance tie-up with Karur Vysya Bank Ltd. "This tie-up will help us reach out to the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) with our innovative solutions to cover for SMEs' business interruption and loss with a fixed benefit, beyond the regular coverage available in the market," said Kamesh Goyal, chairman, Digit Insurance.

**L&T arm bags 'large order' from Aramco**

**MUMBAI**  
A consortium of L&T Hydrocarbon Engineering Limited (LTHE) and EMAS AMC Pte Ltd. has bagged a large contract for a project by Saudi Aramco that includes supplying offshore jackets in Zuluf, Marjan, Sfaniya, and Ribyan offshore fields of Saudi Arabia. In a statement, LTHE said it defines a "large contract" as one with a value ranging between ₹2,500 crore and ₹5,000 crore.

## Britannia set to tackle slowdown through cost optimisation

Biscuit maker's growth rates have halved this fiscal; 'next six months to be tough'

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA**

Biscuit major Britannia Industries Ltd. (BIL) has firmed up a three-pronged strategy to tackle the slowdown in the fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) sector, which became evident from the fourth quarter of FY19 and may persist till the end of the current fiscal.

"While ensuring that we do not pinch our customers too much, we will tackle the slowdown through cost optimisation and removal of wastage, among other things," said Vinay Subramanyam, head, marketing, BIL.

Introducing a raft of low unit priced (LUP) products,



**For a bigger bite:** Britannia will launch region-specific campaigns to reach its target audience. ■ REUTERS

priced within ₹15, will also be a part of this strategy, it is learnt. Mr. Subramanyam was here to launch a thinner and crispier version of the company's 51-year-old brand of crackers now marketed as

Nutri Choice sugar-free crackers. Eastern India accounts for a quarter of Britannia's sales.

Noting that growth rates had halved this fiscal due to the slowdown, he said that

things would be tough for the next six months. He emphasised that while there had been a deceleration, there had been no decline.

**Focus on big brands**

BIL will continue to focus on its big brands (Good Day, Marie Gold, Milk Bikis, 50-50 and Nutri Choice) and will offer value to consumers while launching region-specific campaigns to reach out to the target audience. He said that prices of select brands may have to be increased in the next quarter.

"We are watching the aftermath of the monsoon and the harvest, hoping for a revival," he said.

## Amazon acquires 49% stake in Future Coupons

Pact allows e-com giant to buy stake in Future Retail

**LALATENDU MISHRA  
MUMBAI**

Global e-commerce giant Amazon has entered into an equity deal to acquire 49% stake in Future Coupons, a Future Group company controlled by Kishore Biyani and family.

"We have been informed by Kishore Biyani and Future Coupons Ltd. that they have entered into a share subscription agreement and shareholders' agreement with Amazon.com NV Investment Holdings LLC," Future Retail said in a filing with stock exchanges.

Officials at Future Group and Amazon declined to comment on the size of the deal. "Pursuant to these



agreements, Amazon has agreed to make an equity investment in Future Coupons Limited for acquiring a 49% stake comprising both voting and non-voting shares," the company added.

"As part of the agreement, Amazon has been granted a call option. This call option allows Amazon to acquire all

or part of the promoters' shareholding in Future Retail and is exercisable between the third and tenth years, in certain circumstances, subject to applicable law," it said.

An Amazon U.S. spokesperson said: "Amazon has agreed to invest in Future Coupons Ltd., which is engaged in developing innovative value-added payment products and solutions such as corporate gift cards, loyalty cards, and reward cards primarily for corporate and institutional customers.

This investment will enhance Amazon's existing portfolio of investments in the payments landscape in India."

## IOB plans to rank branches on specific parameters to improve performance

Successful models will be replicated in other branches: MD

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI**

Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) will start ranking its branches based on specific parameters, at three levels, to improve its performance, said MD and CEO Karnam Sekar.

"The idea was mooted at the consultative and ideation process meet held with branch heads across the region last week. The new exercise will be based on six to seven parameters. Based on the outcome, we will chalk out a strategy for the least-performing branch in a particular area," he said.

Asserting that the performance of the branches was not bad, he said that each branch had its own strength and weakness.



Karnam Sekar

the staff with regard to digital penetration, credit growth to MSMEs, agricultural sector, retail sector growth and requirements of the infrastructure sector.

**'On recovery path'**

The bank was on the recovery path and would be back in the black in the next few quarters, Mr. Sekar said.

In the coming days, the bank would focus more on recovering debt from the retail, agriculture and MSME (RAM) sector, he said.

"Slippages in the RAM sector is under control. In the coming days, it will come down further. The question is how much we can recover and what the haircut is," he added.

"Some are good in some parameters and lack in others. We will try to replicate successful models in other branches too. Similarly, this [exercise] will be carried out at the State level," he added.

During the two-day meet, he said several recommendations were received from

## 'Innovation, key to become a \$5-trn economy'

Start-ups to play significant role in the process, says Menon of Accenture in India

**MINI TEJASWI  
BENGALURU**

Innovation should be the key pivot for India if the country really wants to be a \$5-trillion economy, said Rekha M. Menon, chairman and senior managing director at Accenture in India.

India has been moving up the global innovation index but the real challenge is in making innovation a constant feature of growth through collaborations between governments, academia, research outfits and start-ups, she said.

**Cornerstone of growth**

Speaking at the CII-organised India Innovation Summit here, Ms. Menon emphasised: "Innovation is the cornerstone of growth and there is no other alternative



Rekha M. Menon

to it. We need to be mindful that in achieving our target of a \$5-trillion economy, innovation for social, economic growth is not overlooked."

Start-ups are expected to play a significant role in the innovation ecosystem. India had emerged as the third-largest hub for technology start-ups, which was a positive sign, she added.

**IT product ambitions**

In his address, Omkar Rai, director general, Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), said the Union Government was working towards transforming India from an IT service player to a product nation and the recently-adopted National Software Product Policy 2019 was mostly aimed at capitalising upon the strength of the IT services in-

dustry, and convert the country into a software product nation.

In tune with this national mandate, STPI was in the process of opening 28 Centres of Excellence (COEs) in emerging technologies at an investment of more than ₹400 crore, according to Dr. Rai.

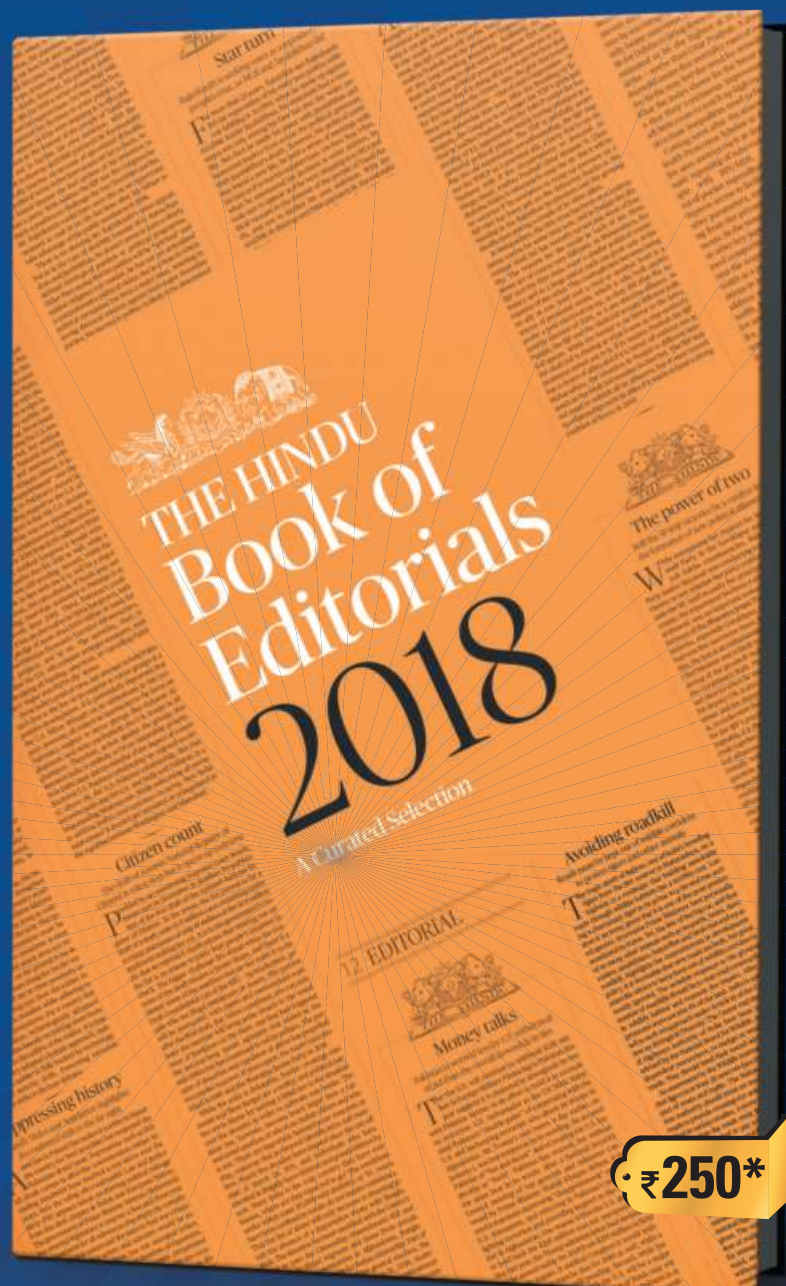
Currently, the global software product industry stands at \$511 billion, of which India's share is a meagre \$8.1 billion.

India's IT services market is pegged at \$177 billion, with exports accounting for \$136 billion.

The target is to expand the country's software product segment to an \$80-\$90-billion market by 2025, according to the Software Technology Parks of India.

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# Cacao and the BEAN STALK

Chocolatiers around the globe are experimenting to see how they can boost flavour profiles to produce the best bean-to-bar craft chocolates

MEGHNA MAJUMDAR

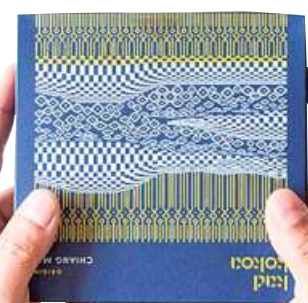
It was quite a while ago that chocolatiers realised the limitations of what you can do with chocolate in the factory. That the real scope for creativity and quality control lies within the fruit, right after (and even before) it is harvested. Now, experiments are underway around the globe. Experiments in chocolate. Experiments in kitchens and in living rooms, and in farms with farmers in the loop.

Experiments with roasts and flavours, with storing and packaging. The bean-to-bar craft chocolate movement is anywhere between a decade to three years old, depending on which country you look at. But some of these countries – ones that grow cacao in their soil and provide it to chocolate-makers around the globe – have similar stories to tell. We speak to three chocolatiers, some fledgling and others established, about how they see the industry in their own country.



## Sutthiphat Footrakul, Thailand

Hotelier Sutthiphat Footrakul has just begun taking his first tentative steps as a bean-to-bar craft chocolate-maker in Thailand – his brand Chac On Trail is set to hit the shelves soon. But he is nothing but optimistic about the prospects in the country, which is not surprising, since he has a number of players to look up to. “There are about five major bean-to-bar craft chocolate-makers in Thailand today,” he says, rattling off their names: Kad Kokoa, Aimmika, Organic Union Republic, Parada and Siamaya. Most of these brands are based in Bangkok, and make their chocolate right where they sell it – with “factories”, as Sutthiphat calls them, attached to the shop or café. So the bars are just available within that close vicinity. “Customers are also becoming more and more interested in understanding craft chocolate and trying them out: it is a small group, but it’s growing every day,” he adds.



The rest of the story is similar to Mayari’s in Mexico: small-scale manufacturers doing in-depth research about flavours in cacao and reaching out to farmers both in North and South Thailand, teaching them how to gauge beans, when to pluck them, how to ferment them. A major difference however, is that unlike Mexican farmers’ decades-old legacy, the export of cacao beans is still a new and exciting phenomenon in Thailand. “Exports to USA and Japan have been high this year; Japan is a big market for Thai cacao beans. More and more farmers are shifting to cacao now,” he says. Another common thread is the camaraderie between different chocolate-makers, and willingness to share knowledge. Sutthiphat, personally, has the established brand Aimmika: “Its owner was the first to teach me about bean-to-bar.”



## Mayari Castellanos, Mexico

Mayari Castellanos has been in the business and craft of chocolate for about a decade now. The Chiapas, Mexico-based restaurateur and archaeologist is also the CEO of the KAKAW Museum – Chocolate Factory – Plantations, which in addition to producing chocolate, also works with cacao farmers and organises educational tours. “Mexico has a long history with chocolate,” she says. “Cacao-making has been part of [Mayan] religion here for the last 1,000 years.” Not just as solid bars, but also a wide variety of traditional drinks, she adds. But it’s only in the past decade that this fresh set of experiments has begun, with local residents trying to reclaim the chocolate that grows on their soil and stamping their brands on it. Farmers – who have been supplying overseas for years – have consciously been made part of this localised process. “Besides my farm, I also work with other farms in Central America, to educate them in processes like fermentation.” This change began, she says, with the availability of small-scale, low-cost machinery, thanks to US-based firm CocoaTown. It helped chocolate-makers experiment and learn through small batches of chocolate, without burning too much of their funds. “We can process about a kilogram or 10 pounds of beans at a time,” she says. “The machine helps transform bean to paste, and then we add ingredients like sugar, almonds, vanilla...”

Though the market for this chocolate is gradually growing despite the higher prices, there aren’t many players trying this out in the Mexican market. “It’s just two of us figuring things out for now, and taking our chocolate to international competitions.”



Cacao-making has been part of [Mayan] religion here in Mexico for the last 1,000 years

MAYARI CASTELLANOS, CHOCOLATIER



## Arun Viswanathan, India

The Coimbatore-based chocolatier observes that though the first movers in bean-to-bar chocolate came up around a decade ago, it’s only in the last three years that the movement has really picked up. “I see someone new coming up every day. Restaurateurs and café owners are also educating themselves and branching out. Earlier, it was concentrated around Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh, because that is where the cacao is grown; but now even chocolatiers from the North are getting into it.”

All in all, Arun estimates that there are about 20 to 30 players in the market today, both big and small, some stocking bars only in their establishments and others trying to branch out online.

The experiments, too, he says, have gone beyond the workshops to the farms. And from the fermentation in farms to processes of grinding and roasting.

“People are trying to play with flavours in different stages of production; trying out both roasted and unroasted beans to see the difference in taste,” he says. And then there are the other influences: alternative sugars, vegan options and organic end products.

The country is still a young player, he says, even if you consider it 10 years old: “because bean-to-bar first started globally in about 1999-2000, mainly in the US”.

## POOCH CAFE



## PEANUTS



## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



## CALVIN AND HOBBS



## TIGER



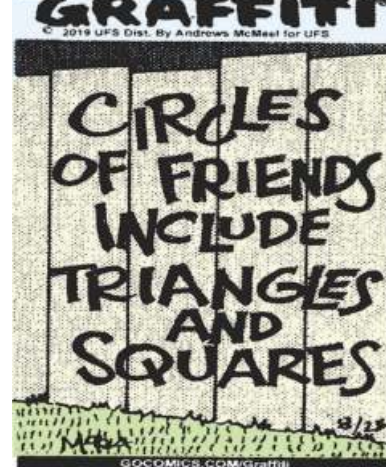
## WUMO



## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



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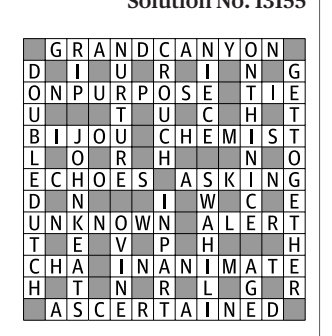


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- 5 Spiny desert plants (5)
- 6 Formal speech (7)
- 7 Status – row (4)
- 11 Standing apart (8)
- 13 Self-important (7)
- 14 Comedian (5-2)
- 16 Large shell (5)
- 17 Light beer (5)
- 18 Festive occasion – variety of apple (4)

- Across
- 1 Children’s party game (7,6)
- 8 Thin coating (4)
- 9 West (8)
- 10 Period of enforced isolation (10)
- 12 Unintelligent (6)
- 14 Methodical procedure (6)
- 15 Shame claim (anag) – 29
- September (10)
- 19 Left high and dry (8)
- 20 Grown-up kid (4)
- 21 Children’s party game (4,3,6)
- Down
- 2 Omnipresence (8)
- 3 Turkish seaport, formerly called Smyrna (5)
- 4 Embellished (7)



Solution will appear in The Hindu dated August 24, 2019.  
Solution No. 13155







