

hindustantimes.com



New Delhi/METRO ■ Vol. XCV No. 206 ■ Price ₹5.00/with Hindustan ₹9.00 (₹7.50 in Faridabad)/with Mint ₹9.50 ■ 22 Pages + 8 pages of HT City. Area specific pages extra.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2019

GABBARD'S WHITE HOUSE CHANCES DIM >>htworld p15 | FELLED BY ARCHER, SMITH SAYS WON'T CHANGE APPROACH >>htsport p20

5-judge SC bench to hear J&K challenge

ARTICLE 370 Pleas to be taken up in October; Yechury allowed to travel to Valley

HT Correspondents
• letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: A five-judge Constitution bench will hear in October a bunch of petitions challenging the scrapping of Article 370, which guaranteed special status to Jammu & Kashmir, the Supreme Court said on Wednesday and, brushing aside objections by the Centre, issued a notice to the government to respond to the pleas.

It was one of a string of tough rulings delivered by a bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi and comprising SA Bobde and SA Nazeer, who also allowed Communist Party of India (Marxist), or CPI (M), general secretary Sitaram Yechury and a Kashmiri law student to travel to the Valley, and also issued notice to the government on a petition seeking the removal of restrictions on media in the state.

Solicitor general of India Tushar Mehta requested the top court more than once not to issue a formal notice to the government on the petitions against nullification of Article 370. He said a notice would have "cross-border repercussions", and is liable to be misused. Mehta alluded to the possibility of politicians using the court notice to target the government.

"Anything that happens on this issue is projected by other political leaders," said Mehta, the second highest legal officer, next only to the attorney general.

CONTINUED ON P6
RELATED REPORTS >>P8

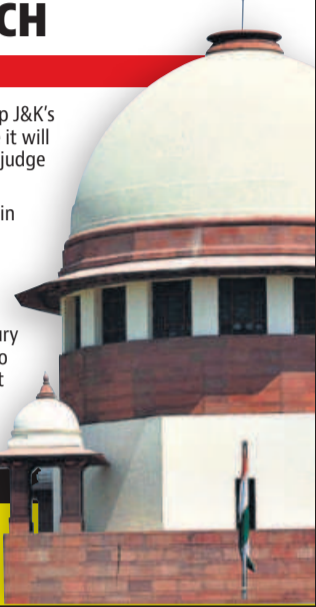
OVER TO CONSTITUTION BENCH

PETITIONERS' ARGUMENTS

- Changes made to Jammu and Kashmir are **unconstitutional** since they were done without the mandate of the citizens. Laws passed for it must be declared void and inoperative
- The lockdown in the region **violates fundamental rights**, particularly Article 19 (freedom of speech) and 21 (personal liberty)
- Politicians' **detention is illegal**
- Communications blockade, which is **hampering functioning of the media**, must be lifted

WHAT JUDGES SAID

- Amendments made to scrap J&K's special status and bifurcate it will now be reviewed by a five-judge Constitution bench
- Centre has to respond within seven days to petitions challenging restrictions on media and communications
- CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechury allowed to travel to Valley to meet party MP. Government had said he could use trip to politicise the situation



GOVT OBJECTIONS REJECTED

Solicitor general requested judges not to issue a formal notice, saying it could have "cross-border repercussions" and suggested it may be politicised

Rahul says J&K internal issue; Pak quoted him in UN plea: BJP

HT Correspondent
• letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Kashmir is India's internal matter and there is no room for any other country to interfere, Congress parliamentarian Rahul Gandhi said on Wednesday, in an apparent move to douse a political fire in the face of a scathing attack by the ruling party, which accused him of giving

Islamabad an opportunity to target New Delhi over his criticism of the manner in which Article 370 was nullified.

On Twitter, Gandhi, the Lok Sabha MP from Kerala's Wayanad, said violence in Kashmir is "instigated and supported" by Pakistan, but two Union ministers sharpened their attack on the former Congress president and

CONTINUED ON P7

'J&K CURBS NECESSARY'

SRINAGAR: Pakistan uses the internet to mobilise and indoctrinate young people in the Valley, J&K governor Satya Pal Malik said.

>>P8

Cabinet eases norms on single-brand retail FDI

mint

Asit Ranjan Mishra
• asitm@live.mint.com

NEW DELHI: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a raft of changes to foreign direct investment (FDI) rules, easing the local sourcing norms for overseas single-brand chain stores and permitting FDI through the so-called automatic route in contract manufacturing and coal mining for open sale.

"The changes in FDI policy will result in making India a more attractive destination, leading to benefits of increased investments, employment and growth," a Cabinet statement said.

The changes come in the aftermath of a deceleration in economic growth, a five-year low of 5.8% in the quarter ended March,

WHAT'S CLEARED

100% FDI in contract manufacturing and coal mining for open sale

26% foreign investment in digital news media

Relaxed local sourcing norms for single-brand retail chains

OTHER KEY CABINET DECISIONS

75 government medical colleges to be set up over three years. Over 15,000 MBBS seats will be added

₹6,268 cr subsidy will be given for export of 6 mn tonnes of sugar

and a consumption slump signalled by high-frequency indicators, including automobile sales.

Most analysts expect the economy to slow further in the June quarter, GDP data for which will be released on Friday. Last week, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a number of measures to boost investor sentiment and spur economic growth.

"This government since 2014 has kept reforms as a part of the agenda. It is an ongoing process for us. It is not as if in this tenure, post 2019, we have forgotten the reform agenda. Not at all. Reform is a continuous process and we are treating it as a continuing endeavour," Sitharaman said on Friday.

CONTINUED ON P6
RELATED REPORTS >>P9, 17

Pak shuts Karachi airspace to carry out missile test

Shishir Gupta
• shishir.gupta@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Islamabad will test a ballistic missile on Thursday as it continues its efforts to internationalise the Kashmir issue and raise the spectre of a nuclear war between India and Pakistan. In light of this testing, three routes of Karachi airspace have been closed from August 28 to 31.

Pakistan watchers in India feel the test is being done deliberately to attract international attention over the possibility of a nuclear conflict if Kashmir issue is not resolved the way Islamabad wants it to be.

>>P8

Panel proposes new slabs for income tax

Rajeev Jayaswal
• rajeev.jayaswal@htlive.com

NEW DELHI: Taxpayers earning between ₹5 lakh and ₹10 lakh a year may be in line for major tax relief with the task force on the Direct Tax Code suggesting halving the tax rate for them to 10%, two persons aware of the matter said on condition of anonymity.

To be sure, this is still just a suggestion and it is not clear whether the government, which is very focused on increasing its tax revenue, will accept it.

The task force submitted its report last week and recommended that the government increase the number of tax slabs

or tax brackets from four to five, but lower the tax rates for many.

There is no change in the first income-tax slab (up to ₹2.5 lakh a year), which attracts zero tax. The current second slab (₹2.5 lakh to ₹5 lakh) attracts 5% tax. The task force wants to expand this slab (₹2.5 lakh to ₹10 lakh) and have a 10% tax rate, while retaining the available full tax rebate for those earning up to ₹5 lakh.

"Effectively, people having income up to ₹5 lakh will have to pay zero tax. Tax will be charged for income between ₹5 lakh and ₹10 lakh at 10% and an individual can save up to about ₹37,500 a year (at the higher end) under the pro-

CONTINUED ON P7

CHILD ABDUCTION RUMOURS FUEL MASS HYSTERIA, MOB VIOLENCE

HT Correspondents
• letters@hindustantimes.com

LUCKNOW: A man in his late twenties was lynched by a mob in a western Uttar Pradesh town, police said on Wednesday, sounding a caution for public after noticing a near state-wide spike in instances of mob violence triggered by rumours.

The death in Asatapur Jarai village of Sambhal district is the first fatality in nearly 50 instances of mob violence since the beginning of August, according to police officials who attributed the incidents to panic spread by rumours of child abduction.

The victims in some of these incidents have included children, families visiting other villages, elderly women, and — in a case reported on Wednesday — a health team waiting in an ambulance. Of the 46 incidents reported this month, 19 are from the Meerut zone, followed by Agra, Kanpur and Bareilly.

>>FULL REPORT ON PAGE 11

Drop in dengue, chikungunya cases in city: CM

NEW DELHI: Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday said there has been an 80% reduction in the number of dengue cases in the city since 2015.

"In 2015, when the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government came to power, 15,867 cases of dengue were reported with 60 deaths. In 2018, 2,798 cases and four deaths had been reported. We want this trend to continue and the number of cases to remain low," he said.

>>P3



OYSTER PERPETUAL DATEJUST 41



ēthos
S · U · M · M · I · T

ROLEX BOUTIQUE:
G 12, THE CHANAKYA - NEW DELHI
TEL: 011 26114050 | +91 9815310207

ETHOS SUMMIT:
G 14, SELECT CITYWALK - NEW DELHI
TEL: 011 40588700 | +91 9650203430

Dengue cases down by 80%

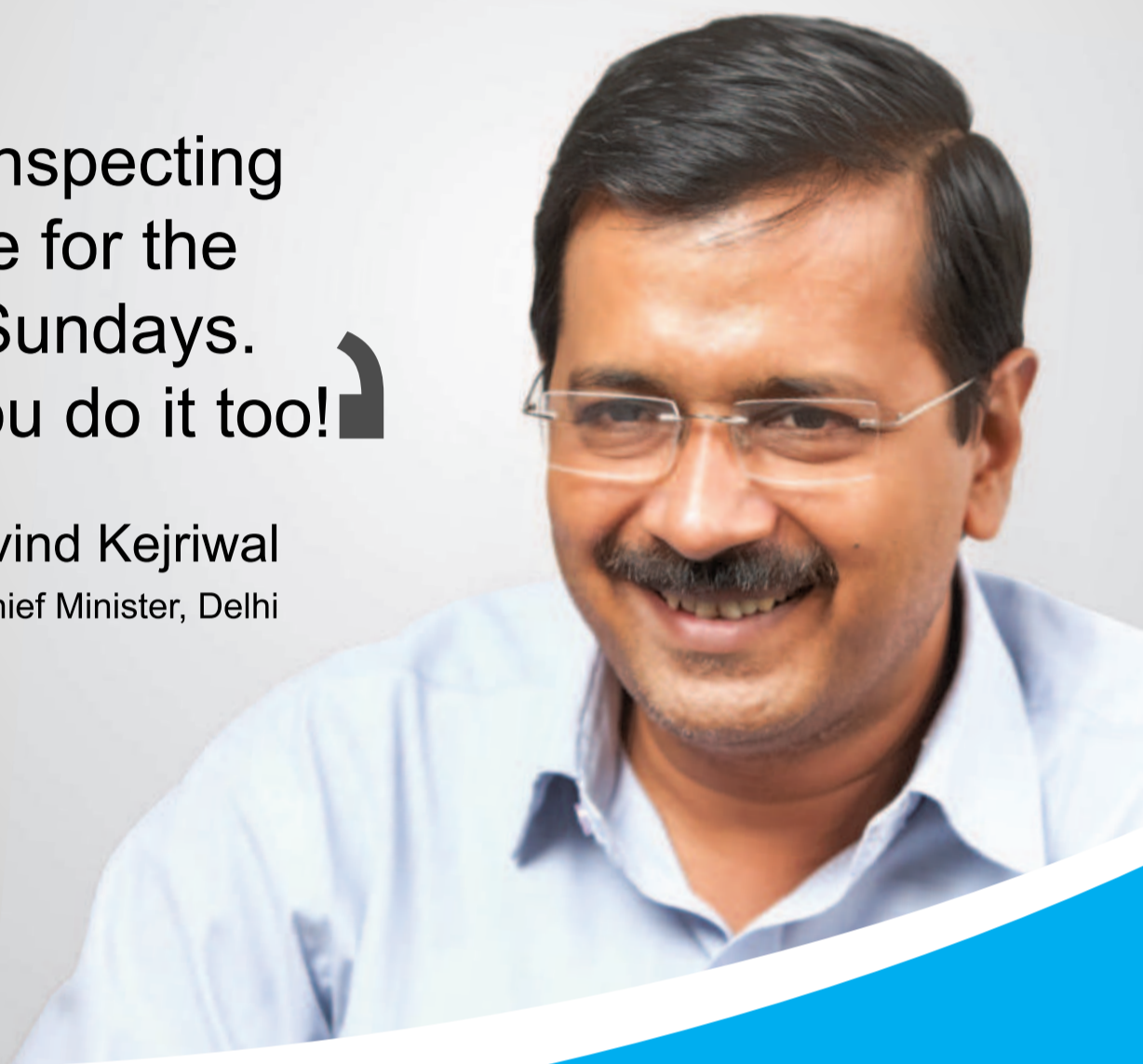
2015 : 15,867 cases

2018 : 2,798 cases

Delhi is prepared once again!

I will be inspecting my house for the next 10 Sundays. I hope you do it too!

- Arvind Kejriwal
Chief Minister, Delhi



डेंगू के
वार हर
रविवार

Dear Delhiites,
This year too, we have to come together to fight against Dengue.
1st September onwards.

10 हफ्ते, 10 बजे, 10 मिनट
हर रविवार, डेंगू पर वार।

Know about Dengue

- The Dengue mosquito breeds in stagnant clean water.
- The Dengue mosquito grows from an egg into a mosquito in 8-10 days. If clean water is not allowed to stand, the mosquito will not be able to breed.
- The Dengue mosquito's flight range is approximately 200 meters. If someone in your house contracts Dengue, then it is likely that the mosquitoes have either originated from your or your neighbour's house. It is important to check your home and also that of your neighbours for your family's health and wellbeing.

10 minutes, every Sunday

- For the next 10 weeks, we all need to set aside 10 minutes at 10 o'clock every Sunday. Check flower pots, coolers, vases or anywhere inside or outside your house to make sure that clean water has not accumulated. If you find there is an accumulation of clean water, pour it out, change it or add petrol or oil to it.

Just 10 Sundays

- Most Dengue cases occur in the monsoon or just after that. During this period, there are 10 Sundays. If we dedicate 10 minutes at 10 o'clock every Sunday for this, we can get rid of Dengue and Chikungunya. We need to spend less than two hours over 10 weeks. In the last five years, Dengue and Chikungunya have been brought under control, and this year, we will do it again!

Let's come together!

- If you have inspected your house, do take a selfie inside your house and WhatsApp it to 8287972050. Together, we will make Delhi Dengue-free.

दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार

दिल्ली फिर कर दिखाएगी

दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार

Health Department, Government of NCT of Delhi

Excessive fertiliser use is poisoning Yamuna: CPCB

UNSAFE Pollution control body report finds metals such as manganese, copper, lead in the river. Groundwater also contained high levels of iron and manganese

Joydeep Thakur
joydeep.thakur@htlive.com

NEWDELHI: Excessive use of fertilisers and pesticides by farmers on the Yamuna's floodplains is contributing to poisoning the river water, its floodplains and groundwater, a new report by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has revealed.

Metals such as copper, lead and manganese were found in the river, while groundwater contained high levels of iron and manganese. According to a senior CPCB official, in some places, aluminium, arsenic and chromium were found to be exceeding safe limits.

Only 2% of the river passes through Delhi but receives nearly 76% of its entire pollution from here, mostly attributed to untreated industrial and domestic waste. The CPCB reporting the excess use of fertilisers, which contains trace amounts of these metals as micronutrients for crops, and pesticides contributing to polluting the river water, groundwater and the floodplain soil, however, is a first.

The apex pollution control body has recommended farming be controlled on the floodplains, and farmers be discouraged from growing such vegetables and fruits that absorb more metal. The CPCB has also recommended use of organic farming and biological control of pests along with training of farmers to bring down the use of chemicals.

"Metals like copper, lead and manganese was found to be exceeding drinking water standards in the entire stretch of the river. In the ground water, while iron and manganese were found to be predominant, the water was contaminated with aluminum, arsenic and chromium in some places. Copper, zinc and lead was found to be exceeding safe standards in the entire floodplains," said a senior CPCB official.

Even though the study didn't find any metal content above safe limit in the vegetables grown on the floodplains, HT had reported in July that a separate study conducted by the NEERI had found high doses of lead in vegetables. The heaviest lead contamination was found in coriander leaves collected from Geeta Colony.

"Leafy vegetables such as spinach, vegetables that grow below the ground or close to the ground such as carrot, radish and turnip



The CPCB recommended that farming be controlled on the floodplains. BURHAAN KINU/HT ARCHIVE

MAJOR FINDINGS IN THE CPCB REPORT

Groundwater – Manganese, iron predominant in entire stretch. Aluminium, arsenic and chromium above safe limits in some areas

River water – Aluminium, Iron, Copper, Lead and Manganese found to exceed drinking water standards in entire river stretch

PROBABLE REASONS

- Excessive use of fertilisers and pesticides
- Industrial effluents

Soil – Copper, zinc and lead above safe limits in all stretches. Cobalt, nickel, manganese, arsenic, mercury, lead, selenium and arsenic in some stretches

Vegetables – The CPCB report found no metals above safe limit, differing from the NEERI report

CPCB VS NEERI REPORT

NEERI found high levels of lead in vegetables, the largest level was in coriander leaves from Geeta Colony

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Control farming, check fertilisers, pesticides
- The fruits and vegetables in which metals accumulate more should not be grown
- Proper functioning of effluent treatment plants to stop industrial effluent
- Organic farming, biological pest control, mixed cropping could be explored
- Training of farmers.

and vegetables that grow faster tend to absorb more metals from the soil and water. The government should ban growing any edible items in such soil and water. Ornamental plants, flowering plants or cash crops can be allowed to grow," said BS Tomar, head of the vegetable sciences department at Indian Agricultural Research Institute in Pusa.

Both studies were commissioned by the NGT-appointed Yamuna pollution monitoring committee led by Shailaja Chandra and BS Sajwan after a HT report on vegetables grown on the river's floodplains on February 4, 2019. The studies have been submitted before the monitoring committee. The committee is expected to submit the report to the NGT with its observations.

"The presence of iron and manganese is common and not a major concern. Even the ground

water quality below the floodplains is very good barring a few pockets. What is alarming is the presence of such metals in the soil. If not checked, these metals could enter the food chain," said Shashank Shekhar, assistant professor of geology in Delhi University.

During the study the CPCB team divided the river into three stretches — Palla to Wazirabad (stretch I), Wazirabad to Nizamuddin (stretch II) and Nizamuddin to Okhla (stretch III). Samples of vegetables and fruits such as zucchini, okhra, spinach, lobia, sitafal, brinjal, pumpkin, chilly, lady's finger and bottle gourd among others were collected randomly from the three stretches along with samples soil, groundwater and river water. They were then analysed in NABL accredited laboratories and the report was submitted to NGT in July.

"It is concluded that the contamination of soil was observed at most of the monitoring sites, which may be due to excessive use of fertiliser. However, water quality depicts trace amount of metals at some locations primarily due to industrial wastewater discharge," said the CPCB report.

The peasant's society in Delhi has welcomed the suggestions made, saying that training of farmers is indeed needed to bring down use of chemicals.

"Presence of metals in vegetables and fruits is not just Delhi's problem. If the vegetables, entering Delhi's sabzi mandis from outside the city are tested, metals can also be found in them. Farmers should be made aware and trained to reduce use of chemical fertilisers. Organic farming is also a good option," said Dalbir Singh, vice president of Delhi Peasants Multi-purpose Society.

To curb mosquito-breeding, spare 10 mins at 10am for 10 weeks: CM

HT Correspondent
htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: "Ten weeks, at 10 o'clock, for 10 minutes, check for mosquito breeding in your homes and your surroundings to prevent diseases such as dengue and chikungunya," Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Wednesday while launching a citizen's campaign to control mosquito breeding.

Under the campaign, which will start from September 1, the government will seek help from Delhi residents, resident welfare organisations, ministers and school children to control the breeding of aedes aegypti mosquitoes.

Dengue causes high fever, headache, muscle and joint pains and internal bleeding, leading to circulatory shock in severe cases. Chikungunya causes fever and joint pain that can last for months. The aedes aegypti, which transmits diseases such as dengue and chikungunya that have become endemic to Delhi, breeds in clean stagnant water. The life cycle of the mosquito is about eight to 10 days.

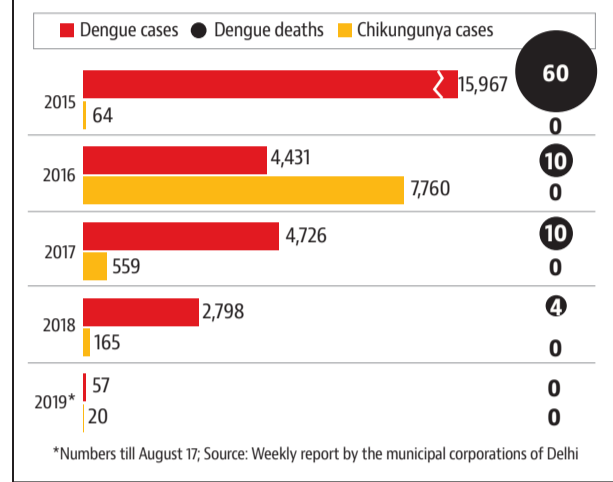
"If you look at data for the last four years, there has been an 80% reduction in the number of dengue cases. In 2015, when the AAP government came to power, 15,867 cases and 60 deaths had been reported. In 2018, 2,798 cases and four deaths had been reported. We want this trend to continue and the number of cases to remain low. For this, we will need the help of Delhiites and so we are launching this campaign,"



Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal and health minister Satyendra Jain announced the campaign on Wednesday. RAJ K RAJ/HT PHOTO

Campaign to start on Sept 1

The number of dengue cases have fluctuated over the years; there was an outbreak in 2015, for instance



Kejriwal said.

On a national level, he said the number of dengue cases had gone up by 300% between 2009 and 2017. "The total number of cases recorded in the country went up

from around 60,000 cases in 2009 to 1,88,401 in 2017," said Kejriwal quoting data from the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme.

This is, however, not a linear

trend and the number of cases has fluctuated over the years. In 2015, when there was an outbreak in Delhi, the number of cases recorded in the country was 99,913. This year, only 5,504 cases had been recorded till May 26, according to NVBDCP data.

To control the spread of the disease and provide timely treatment, the government opened about 500 fever clinics in its hospitals, dispensaries and mohalla clinics. Private hospitals were given permission to increase their bed strength by 20% during the season only for fever patients.

"A dengue control cell was created to coordinate the efforts of government and civic bodies. Massive awareness drives were conducted by the cell. This is the reason the numbers have been controlled now," said Kejriwal.

"We cannot compare the numbers like this. There are several factors that influence the number of cases in a given region. The number of cases shoot up in September and October after the monsoons. When it comes to dengue, there are four strains and some strains cause more complications than the others. If the same strain circulates year after year, the population would gain immunity and the number of infections will be less," said Dr Charu Hans, former head of microbiology at Dr Ram Manohar Lohia hospital.

The monsoons, which led to an increase in the population of mosquitoes by providing breeding grounds, were delayed this year in Delhi by about a week and there is a deficit of 29% even now.

MONITORING COMMITTEE

All water bodies in city should be given unique IDs, says green tribunal panel

HT Correspondent
htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEWDELHI: All water bodies in the national capital must be provided with Unique Identification Numbers (UID) after properly demarcating them and mapping them on GPS platforms so that they can be better conserved, a monitoring committee appointed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has suggested.

"The land-owning agencies shall ensure prevention of encroachments of the water bodies. For this purpose, they should demarcate the water bodies and update revenue records. UIDs shall be given to each water body.

THE PANEL SAID AUTHORITIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO INSTALL CCTV CAMERAS AT PROMINENT PLACES

The government agencies should, on a priority basis, start mapping the small water bodies on GPS platforms and monitoring their water quality," said a report prepared by the committee headed by former high court judge Justice SP Garg.

In 2018, the Delhi government had announced that there were around 1,000-1,200 water bodies

in the city, out of which around 600 could be revived. While the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) is reviving around 200 such water bodies, the irrigation and flood control department would revive another 100.

The committee recommended the authorities be directed to install CCTV cameras at prominent places to spot polluters.

Signboards or banners which display that throwing waste is not allowed shall be put up near lakes, warning of legal action in case of violation.

"At big lakes, security guards can be deployed to prevent littering. The civic bodies and DJB have courts of special metropoli-

tan magistrates for trials. The prosecution branches of MCDs and the DJB should be activated to prosecute individuals who litter the water bodies," it said.

The panel said that lakes and ponds are victims of eutrophication. Eutrophication is when a water body becomes overly enriched with minerals and nutrients which induce excessive of algae.

"Eutrophication results in the prolific growth of aquatic weeds in lakes and ponds that ultimately disturb and kill the ecology of the water body. Emphasis will be on the concerned agencies to clear the weeds in time," the committee said.

Mentally ill woman attacked in Gzb after child-lifting rumours

Peeyush Khandelwal
peeyush.khandelwal@hindustantimes.com

GHAZIABAD: A mentally ill woman and a 42-year-old man were attacked by local residents of Puja Colony in Loni on the suspicion of them being child lifters.

The incident reported on Wednesday was the latest in a series of mob attacks motivated by fake news on child lifter gangs doing the round of social media, triggering widespread rumours and panic.

The two victims, identified as Gayatri and Ashfaq, were saved by the local police.

According to police, rumours have spread thick and fast in several districts of western UP, including Ghaziabad, Hapur, Shamli, Muzaffarnagar, Baghpat and Meerut.

UP director general of police (DGP) OP Singh said on Wednesday that 90 people had been arrested for mob violence on suspicion of child theft across the state in the last few days. "A total of 46 incidents were reported in which one person was killed and 29 injured. The first case was registered in early August and 32 FIRs have been filed so far in these matters," Singh said.

The DGP has directed police chiefs of all the districts to ensure that chargesheets in every such incident is filed within 15 days.

Meanwhile, one person was arrested in Noida on Wednesday evening for reporting a false child lifting incident in Sector 135 while in Ghaziabad the police have been making loudspeaker announcements to warn people against spreading rumours and alerting them against fake news.

"We have directed officials to file FIRs in cases where people are attacked by people on suspi-

cion of child lifting. Messages on social media are spreading rumours. We are making loudspeaker announcements to tell people not to resort to attacks and be swayed by such rumours," said Neeraj Kumar Jadaun, superintendent of police (rural).

On Tuesday, a 50-year-old woman who had come along with her one-and-half-year-old grandson was attacked by locals near Ramli Ground in Loni. The residents nabbed her, alleging that the colour of her skin did not match with that of the boy, which, according to them, established that the woman was not related to the boy. Police investigation showed that the woman was a native of Johripur and had been visiting the local market to purchase household items.

"We are lodging FIRs against attackers in the sections pertaining to rioting and causing hurt. Our teams are tracking social media to trace people spreading rumours," Jadaun added.

The Ghaziabad police had arrested four people on Sunday for allegedly attacking two people in Akash Nagar locality. The victims had been seeking donations for an orphanage. The FIR was filed at Masuri police station.

In Noida, Shwetabh Pandey, circle officer Noida I, said police received a call from a person that some people were taking away three children in a car in Sector 135. "A police team reached the spot and found the allegations false. The children were with their mother. There was no abduction bid," he said.

Pandey said police have registered a case against the complainant, Sushil, for spreading rumours and arrested him.

He was produced in court and sent to judicial custody.

VISTARA GOES INTERNATIONAL!

BANGKOK | DUBAI | SINGAPORE

All flights operate daily

Origin	Departure	Destination	Arrival
Delhi	23:45	Singapore	08:15*
Singapore	09:30	Delhi	12:45
Mumbai	23:55	Singapore	08:15*
Singapore	10:30	Mumbai	13:55
Mumbai	16:25	Dubai	18:15
Dubai	19:15	Mumbai	00:15*
Delhi	08:25	Bangkok	14:15
Bangkok	15:15	Delhi	17:55

* Indicates arrival next day.
Flight schedule is subject to regulatory approvals and changes.

Delhi ↔ Singapore | Mumbai ↔ Singapore

Return fares starting ₹20,999/++ⁱⁿ

Mumbai ↔ Dubai

Return fares starting ₹17,499/++ⁱⁿ

Delhi ↔ Bangkok

Return fares starting ₹16,499/++ⁱⁿ

airvistara.com

Brought to you by Tata & Singapore Airlines

The unanimity on Pakistan

Across India's political divide, there is no tolerance for terror

The government's decision to change the constitutional position of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) — by ending its special status, bifurcating the state, and turning it into a Union Territory — has evoked a vibrant democratic debate. There are differing views on the desirability, constitutionality and implications of the move. A constitutional bench of the Supreme Court will take up the issue in October. All of this indicates that there is a process of checks and balances that remains in place.

ourtake

But on one question, there is unanimity across India's political divide — the role of Pakistan. New Delhi has often swung between engagement with Islamabad and refusal to talk till it dismantles its terror networks and infrastructure, and proceeds to take action in cases like the Mumbai attacks. Ever since the changes in J&K, Pakistan has stepped up its rhetoric against India, painting it as "fascist"; mobilising international opinion — without much success; and even resorting to nuclear blackmail. To be sure, these pose diplomatic challenges for India. But if Islamabad thought that it can play within the internal fault lines that exist in Indian politics, it is mistaken. Pakistan's polemics have no takers within the Indian public sphere. Former Congress president and Member of Parliament Rahul Gandhi's tweet, on Tuesday, solely blaming Pakistan for violence in the Valley, reiterating Kashmir is India's internal affair, is another instance of this unanimity.

This convergence can be attributed to a range of reasons. For one, with its sponsorship of terrorism over the past three decades in multiple forms, Islamabad has hardened Indian public opinion. It has also undermined the cause of Kashmiri autonomy which it claims to champion, and ensured there is little sympathy for it in the rest of India. Two, Narendra Modi's elevation as prime minister has been accompanied with, and is a reflection of, an upsurge of Indian nationalism. The idea of a strong State, with no tolerance for violence and terror, is now an article of faith. The government has changed the rules of the game on terror — and decided that any attack will be followed by retribution, including by going across the border. This has widespread public support. And finally, even those who disagree with the government's move on Kashmir know that this is an internal contestation — with no room for an external player. Pakistan will continue to create trouble, but it would do well to know that it faces a united India.

Karnataka: A new regime, an old story

State politics remains unstable, with a weak CM and an Opposition in disarray

Despite the change of guard in Karnataka, political instability persists. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) took a month to form a full government. The resentment of those denied ministerial positions could well become a fractious rebellion in the days ahead. If chief minister (CM) BS Yediyurappa had hoped that this time around, it would be smooth sailing, he could not have been more mistaken. The fate of 17 disqualified MLAs — who helped topple the Congress-Janata Dal (Secular) government, and who were expecting to be rewarded — is stuck in a legal limbo. If the Speaker's decision is upheld in court, the BJP is looking at by-elections in those seats. With just a five-seat majority, the CM's position remains fragile. The party's central leadership, which shares a somewhat uncomfortable relationship with the CM, has picked three deputy CMs in the government and is taking major political decisions. Politics apart, large parts of the state have been affected by floods and the government's rescue and relief measures have fallen short. Obsession with power has had humanitarian costs.

The government's only consolation is that the Opposition is in a worse state. At a time when they should have been introspecting, and mounting an offensive against the government, the Congress and JD(S) are fighting battles, both internally and with each other. It would have been ideal — given the fractured mandate of the 2018 state elections, the ensuing instability and fluctuations in party loyalties — for the state to have had fresh elections. But the BJP's decision to form the government, deploying all means, has meant that Karnataka's political theatre will continue to be fragmented and unstable.

The SC does not need more judges

Limit the court's exploding jurisdiction, and ensure clarity and consistency in its judgments



GAUTAM BHATIA

In the first week of August, the Lok Sabha passed a bill to increase the strength of Supreme Court (SC) judges from the present 30 to 33. The bill followed from a letter written by the Chief Justice of India (CJI), where this suggestion had been first mooted as a way of decreasing the massive backlog of cases at the SC.

It is true that India has one of the worst judges-to-population ratio in the world. However, while intuitively, increasing the number of judges might seem to ease problems of pendency and backlog, the reality is more complicated — especially at the SC. The first thing to note is that a major reason for pendency at the SC is not a shortage of judges, but the court's own ever-expanding jurisdiction. As the highest court in the land, the SC is expected to hear cases selectively. The original intention of the constitutional framers was that it would decide constitutional cases, disputes between states and the Centre, or

substantial questions of law (especially where there was a disagreement between different high courts).

And this was indeed how the SC functioned in its early days. In case there was a substantial question of law involved, the high court that first heard the case would, of its own accord, grant to the parties a "certificate of leave to appeal" to the SC; without that certificate, a party would be forced to file a "special leave to appeal", which, in an overwhelming number of cases, would be rejected. This is still the procedure followed in many other courts — including the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom — in order to ensure that the workload of the highest court is manageable.

Over the last few decades, however, India's SC's "special leave jurisdiction" has been broadened so much that there is nothing "special" about it anymore. The court spends two days out of five every week — Monday and Friday — hearing "special leave petitions", simply on the question of whether they are to be admitted for a full hearing or not. An overwhelming number of such petitions are about minor matters, from motor vehicle disputes to rent control litigation. It should, therefore, be clear that the primary problem is not the number of judges, but that the SC hears a number and a volume of cases



Increasing the number of judges is a knee-jerk response which will not solve the problem of pendency

HT

it was never meant to hear.

At the same time, expanding the number of judges at the SC is bound to have negative repercussions.

The first problem is that of consistency. As the final word on the interpretation of laws, the SC must provide a clear, coherent, and consistent jurisprudence. This is why, in most countries, Supreme Court judges number between seven and 12, and they often sit

together.

At its present strength, the Indian Supreme Court is already struggling with this problem. Sitting in 14 benches of two or three judges, this "polyvocal character" of the Court has often led to confusion and inconsistency in interpretation of laws.

At present, this is most visible in a still-unsettled controversy around the interpretation of the Land Acquisition Act, where different benches of the SC have passed conflicting orders, and have, at times, purported to directly overrule each other (even though the number of judges have been the same each time). Such a situation also further increases and centralises power in the hands of the CJI, who — as the "master of the roster" — has the prerogative to assign cases to different benches. The more the number of judges at the court, the more plural or conflicting case law becomes, the more scrutiny will be placed upon how the CJI assigns cases — and this kind of controversy will only harm the long-term health of the institution.

Increasing the number of judges at the SC, therefore, is a knee-jerk response that will not solve the problem of pendency but — at the same time — aggravate other, existing problems that do need solution.

It is imperative that we bring sharp focus on the SC's exploding jurisdiction, on ways to limit it, and on the necessity for clarity and consistency in its judgments.

Gautam Bhatia is an advocate in the Supreme Court. The views expressed are personal

India's water crisis: All actors must come together

While CSR activities have been geared towards water conservation, corporations must make it a top priority



AMITABH KANT

Water and its management will determine India's ability to achieve high economic growth, ensure environmental sustainability, and improve the quality of life. India is home to 17% of world's population, but has only 4% of the world's fresh water resources. At present, 75% of Indian households do not have access to drinking water, and close to 90% of rural households have no access to piped water. India is a water-stressed country, and with 1,544 cubic metre per capita annual availability, we are advancing towards becoming water-scarce. Five of the world's 20 largest cities under water stress are in India.

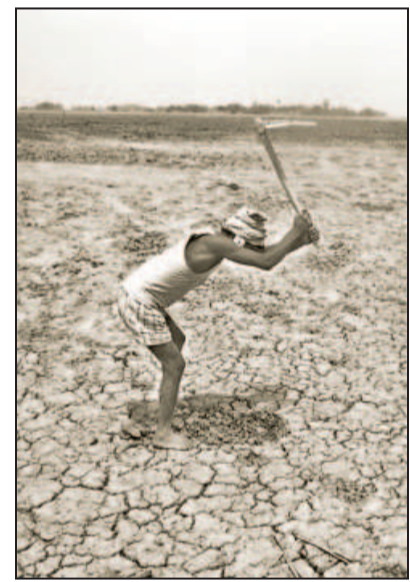
As per the *Economic Survey 2018-19*, by 2050, India will be extremely susceptible to water insecurity. There are some other aspects that pertain to the economic cost of environmental degradation that India is faced with. A 2018 World Bank study pegged the cost of environmental degradation to India at approximately \$80 billion per year, which amounts to around 5.7% of our GDP. Further, an environment survey of 178 countries ranked India at 155. This is extremely worrying, especially since among the BRIC nations, India ranked last.

Community management of water will be crucial if India is to become water secure. From State-led initiatives to local community driven initiatives, work on community engagement has begun. State-led efforts to manage water have been assessed and shared by the NITI Aayog, which has developed the composite water management index (CWMI). States are ranked on the management of water and progress in 28 indicators relating to water management.

But given the magnitude of the challenge and the contribution of the corporate sector in driving innovation, there is a growing role for leading enterprises to help meet development targets. In water management, corporations must play a more active role in using their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts towards innovation and conservation of water, along with the dissemination of proven practices that help conserve and harness water recharge. For corporations, the community focus is often manifest in the sustainable efforts undertaken by their owners. The question remains as to whether CSR commitment and sustainability initiatives in the current scenario are effective and pervasive enough to make a substantial impact.

India has access to only 4% of the world's usable water sources. If not addressed, water scarcity is also likely to affect the GDP, accounting for almost a 6% loss by 2050. Around 600 million people are already facing a severe water shortage, according to reports.

There are flag bearers for conservation efforts among Indian and multinational corporations, and their efforts must be emulated across the board. ITC's integrated water management approach is one which immediately comes to mind. It is now extended to implement four large-scale river basin regeneration projects for achieving water balance and year-round environmental flows in select sub-basins in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Madhya Pradesh to strengthen water security — one



Around 600 million people are already facing a severe water shortage

HT

of the most important priorities for India. Today, ITC's integrated watershed development programme covers over one million acres spread across 15,000 water harvesting structures, benefiting over 300,000 people in 43 districts across 16 states. This initiative has generated over six million person-days of employment within project villages, reducing levels of distress migration. In addition, a pilot programme at scale on "water use efficiency in agriculture" is also being promoted to enable effective demand-side management. This initiative has yielded water savings of 20% to 45% in crops like sugarcane, wheat, rice and banana.

Tata's Water Mission aims to provide better access to pure water for six million people spread across 7,000 villages in 12 states, by 2020. Key focus areas are to improve access to safe water and sanitation, and to make a difference through rigorous and technologically advanced interventions.

Under its 2025 sustainability agenda, Pepsico is said to aim for a global improvement in water use efficiency in high water risk areas of its direct agricultural supply chain by 15% by 2025. Mahindra too is doing extensive work under its Mahindra Hariyali programme. As its climate change resistance movement, the initiative is a social upsurge where tree planting is not merely a duty, but, in fact, is termed a celebration. Since 2007, this initiative has achieved a target of planting 16 million saplings. Even in water conservation efforts, the Mahindra group has managed to reduce water consumption requirements per vehicle produced by 64% since 2012.

It's not as if CSR activities are not geared towards water conservation and management. Almost every corporation does work on water management. But now they need to make it a top priority rather than one of the many avenues where CSR initiatives are undertaken. Water is a critical resource and community water management is a must. This will range from corporate engagement to smaller scale community initiatives, to individual efforts. Now, the entire ecosystem must work in a cooperative manner to ensure India's water conservation efforts are forward-thinking, and leveraging synergies from the State, corporations, and the community as a whole. This is everyone's fight and one we must win. The work starts now.

Amitabh Kant is CEO, NITI Aayog. The views expressed are personal

The landscape and challenges of impact investments in India

The interest of impact investors is shifting from micro-finance and energy to education, health, and agriculture



**SHAMIKA RAVI
PRERNA SHARMA**

Achieving the ambitious sustainable development goals (SDGs) by 2030 will take an estimated \$5 to \$7 trillion per year, with a financing gap of \$2.5 trillion in developing countries. In India alone, the outside challenge has been translated into a financing gap of \$565 billion. Closing this gap requires action on several fronts: efficient and effective domestic resource mobilisation, outcome-focused donor efforts to ensure that money is spent well, and harnessing private capital. In recent years, interest has grown globally to develop novel investment approaches, such as impact investing or purpose-driven finance.

Typically, impact investing does not take place in large-cap markets, but in areas that have service provisioning gaps. In India, impact investors are committed to solving development problems, given the sheer size of populations in need but there is also a strong financial motivation to invest in ideas that serve dual bottom-lines.

In a recently released state of the sector report on impact investing, the size, scale and scope of the impact investment market in India was highlighted. Anchored on a primary survey conducted by scholars at Brookings, the report is structured around four key tenets of impact investment market activity — market trends in India, sector-level analysis, innovative financing and measurements. The empirical focus of this study is on industry trends within the key development sectors of health, education and agriculture, and the scope of innovative instruments such as impact bonds. By identifying common challenges faced by impact investors and highlighting the Indian ecosystem for impact bonds, the study offers specific policy recommendations.

Indian impact investing began in earnest in 2001 with the establishment of Aavishkar, India's first for-profit impact fund, alongside the entry of the non-profit Acumen Fund, becoming initial examples of early-stage seed impact investing. Eighteen years down the line, the sector has just about expanded to around 25 firms registered with the Impact Investors Council (IIC), an industry body managing these funds. The reasons to invest in social enterprise or business portfolios come primarily from three broad motivations: financial, social and value-driven. Impact investors in India differ in their motivations and expectations, ranging from those who emphasise impact, to those who are primarily motivated by financial returns.

However, on average, internal rates of return beat market returns, even in sectors

IMPACT INVESTORS IN INDIA DIFFER IN THEIR MOTIVATIONS AND EXPECTATIONS, RANGING FROM THOSE WHO EMPHASISE IMPACT TO THOSE WHO ARE PRIMARILY MOTIVATED BY FINANCIAL RETURNS

that are traditionally social sectors with low returns. Many impact investors deviate from typical venture capital or private equity models playing more hybrid roles — both as investors in businesses and accelerator/incubator style mentors and managers — helping their investees improve business models, go to market and leverage technologies. What remains a striking feature of many of the investments we studied was the strong focus on tech-enabled and focused solutions. Technology helps investors achieve scale and reach in highly fragmented markets, especially when serving middle or low-income groups. While financial access, micro-finance and energy remained top sectors of interest and investments from impact investors until recently, the study finds more impact investors interested in making investments in health, education and agriculture.

While the size of the impact investing industry is only a fraction of the amount of money devoted towards environmental, social and governance (ESG), socially responsible investing (SR) or corporate social responsibility (CSR), the impact investing sector in India attracted over \$5.2 billion between 2010 and 2016, with over \$1.1 billion invested in 2016 alone. (McKinsey, 2017). Impact investors managed assets between \$0.15 million to \$88.97 million averaging at \$36 million (IIC) as of 2018. Of these, half the funds made average investments above \$20 million, mostly (75%) by buying equity in portfolio companies.

Since a majority of Indian impact investors use proprietary indicators to measure the impact of their investments, social impact ends up being loosely and opaquely defined. Confusion over terminology and indicators is rife within the industry and there remains a lack of cohesion in what to report and to whom. While impact investors do not make tall claims of social good, impact is devilishly difficult to ascertain in social programmes as well.

Some of the novel findings from the survey refer to the scope of innovative financing tools such as impact bonds. While the impact bonds market in India is still young, it is arguably the most active among developing countries. With three contracted deals and several more in design, there is an appetite for using impact investment to test and drive these new forms of innovative financing. The investment environment for impact bonds in India remains largely driven by international foundations on the investor and outcome-funder side. Much movement has been built around creating a landscape and supporting ecosystem, however, most of these efforts are industry-led, with little inclination of government interest and impetus. Going forward, the impact bond model must be further tested, and more evidence must be collected before impact bonds attract Indian investment.

Building a strong, data-centric evidence base will be crucial to ensure that capital is put to work on investments that achieve the intended impact. These measures will raise transparency and the long-term credibility of the sector — and eventually facilitate the "mainstreaming" of impact investments in the Indian economy.

Shamika Ravi is research director and a senior fellow, Brookings India, and a member of Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister. Prerna Sharma is a research associate, Brookings India. The views expressed are personal

htworld

AS OUR PRESIDENT HAS SAID, WE ARE NOT AT ALL SEEKING HEIGHTENED TENSIONS

MOHAMMAD JAVAD ZARIF, Iran's foreign minister, who met Japanese PM Shinzo Abe

shortstories

OZ TO CURB MEDDLING IN ITS VARSITIES

CANBERRA: Australia announced on Wednesday that it has formed a task force to crack down on attempts by foreign governments to meddle in Australian universities. The move comes as concerns grow over Chinese influence at Australia's universities, where Chinese students are by far the largest group of foreign students. Pro-Beijing student demonstrators have recently clashed with Hong Kong democracy advocates on Australian campuses. Australia has also raised concerns about the influence of Beijing-funded Confucius Institutes at Australian universities. Education minister Dan Tehan said the task force will comprise university staff and government officials. AGENCIES

KABUL EXPECTS DEAL VERY SOON

KABUL: Afghanistan's government expects the US envoy negotiating with the Taliban on ending America's longest war to visit Kabul "in one or two days" to share developments in the talks that continue in Qatar, a presidential spokesman said. Intra-Afghan talks on the country's political future are meant to follow a US-Taliban deal. AP



\$4BN FINE ON 'CREATOR' OF BITCOIN

Craig Wright, who claims to have invented Bitcoin a decade ago submitted false documents and lied in a legal dispute with the estate of his former partner, a judge ruled, adding that he has to surrender more than \$4 billion of the cryptocurrency. US Magistrate Judge Bruce Reinhart in West Palm Beach, Florida, ruled that the late Dave Kleiman owned half of all Bitcoins that Craig mined through 2013, and half of all intellectual property he created. AGENCIES

HOST SORRY FOR GORILLA REMARK

WASHINGTON: A television news anchorwoman in the US apologised on air after comparing her black colleague to a gorilla, NBC News reported on Tuesday. Alex Housden of KOCO 5 News in Oklahoma City made the remark last Thursday during a segment on an ape whose handler was running the local zoo's Instagram for the day. When a video of a baby gorilla appeared on screen, Housden, who is white, turned to her black co-anchor, Jason Hackett, and said that the ape "kind of looks like you", NBC reported. AFP

870,000 TO FLEE JAPAN DOWNPOUR

TOKYO: Two people were confirmed dead on Wednesday as heavy rains pounded southwest Japan, prompting flood and landslide warnings and orders for 870,000 people to seek safety. More than a million more people were advised to leave their homes after the country's weather agency raised the alert to its highest level for parts of northern Kyushu. The emergency warning is issued "if there is a significant likelihood of catastrophes". Officials confirmed two deaths. AFP

Trump backs Johnson despite fury

BREXIT BACKLASH Ruth Davidson, Conservative leader in Scotland, to quit

Agencies
letters@hindustantimes.com

LONDON/WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump on Wednesday praised "great" British Prime Minister Boris Johnson after his controversial move to suspend parliament. Trump said the suspension, which critics call a deliberate attempt to stymie democratic opposition to Brexit - will make it "very hard" for Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn to seek a no-confidence vote against Johnson. "Especially in light of the fact that Boris is exactly what the UK has been looking for, & will prove to be 'a great one!' Love UK," Trump tweeted. Corbyn replied: "I think what the US president is saying, is that Boris Johnson is exactly what he has been looking for, a compliant prime minister who will hand Britain's public services and protections over to US corporations in a free trade deal."

Ruth Davidson, leader of the Conservative Party in Scotland, is set to quit due to political disagreements with Johnson and the pressures of being a new mother,

British media reported. A prominent counterweight to the dominance of the Scottish National Party north of the border, Davidson, 40, revived the fortunes of the Scottish Conservatives. Her decision to quit is likely to add to questions about Scotland's future in the United Kingdom. Several of Europe's elected politicians reacted with disdain to Johnson's decision, but behind the scenes some officials think it might not increase the chances of a no-deal Brexit and could even lessen them. Guy Verhofstadt, a former Belgian prime minister who led the European Parliament's Brexit work, described the UK leader's decision as "sinister." Nathalie Loiseau, former French European affairs minister, suggested British democracy was suffering from a "disease." Optimism in European diplomatic circles had increased slightly after Johnson met German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron. UK and EU officials had discussed ways to revise the Irish border backstop mechanism, which Johnson said he can never accept in its current form.

MAKING SENSE OF THE BREXIT MESS

British Queen prorogued parliament days after it returns from a summer break and just weeks before the October 31 Brexit deadline

Why did it happen?
Prime Minister Boris Johnson wanted parliament to be suspended so that the Queen's speech, which outlines the government's agenda for the session, can be held on October 14

What does it mean?
Suspension of parliament shortens the time MPs will have to try to avoid a no-deal Brexit before the October 31 deadline. Johnson firmly wants Brexit to happen on October 31, with or without a deal that is favourable to Britain

time to debate and pass legislation to stop UK from leaving the European Union without a deal on Halloween

Can EU stop no-deal?
No. Britain will leave EU on October 31 unless one of three things happen. The divorce deal with EU is ratified by parliament; it asks for an extension to the date and the EU agrees; or Britain withdraws its decision to leave EU

Can courts stop suspension?
There is a legal case already running in Scotland, and another in the pipeline in UK, arguing that suspending parliament to force through Brexit would be improper.

Heading to no-deal?
Wednesday's developments make a no-deal Brexit more likely. Now British MPs will have very little

WHAT IS A NO-DEAL BREXIT?
In a no-deal situation, Britain will exit EU with no agreement on the "divorce" proceedings. UK will abruptly exit the single market and customs union, which are meant to help trade between EU members by eliminating checks and tariffs



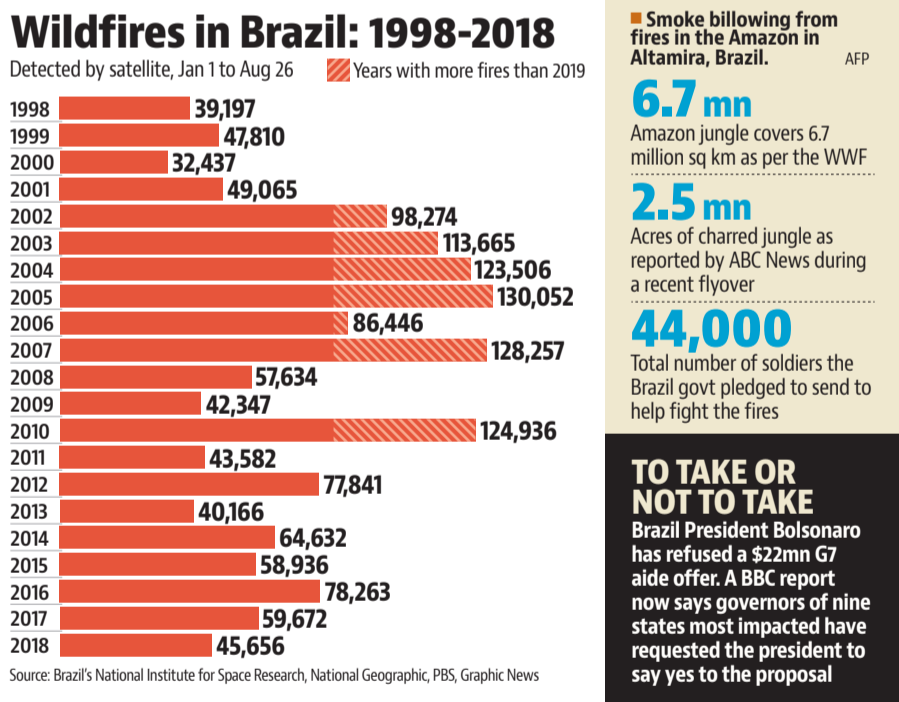
Britain's Queen Elizabeth welcomes Boris Johnson at Buckingham Palace, London, on July 24, where she invited him to become prime minister and form a new government. AFP FILE

THE BUMPY ROAD AHEAD

- Aug 29:** EU foreign ministers to hold informal meet in Helsinki
- Sept 16-19:** EU Parliament to meet in Strasbourg. European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker to give State of the Union address
- Oct 9-10:** European Parliament to meet in Brussels for a two-day session
- Oct 14:** UK Queen's speech to British Parliament set to end the suspension
- Oct 15:** Foreign ministers of EU member countries to meet in Luxembourg to plan to address Brexit
- Oct 17:** British Parliament officially reopens
- Oct 17-18:** EU leaders meet with UK PM Boris Johnson to address departure terms
- Oct 21-24:** European Parliament meets in Strasbourg for the last time before Brexit. The session should mark the departure of UK representatives
- Oct 31:** Brexit takes effect

AMAZON FIRES BY NUMBERS

More than 82,200 fires have been detected in Brazil's Amazon rainforest this year, with over 1,660 new wildfires ignited in just two days



6.7 mn
Amazon jungle covers 6.7 million sq km as per the WWF

2.5 mn
Acres of charred jungle as reported by ABC News during a recent flyover

44,000
Total number of soldiers the Brazil govt pledged to send to help fight the fires

TO TAKE OR NOT TO TAKE
Brazil President Bolsonaro has refused a \$22mn G7 aide offer. A BBC report now says governors of nine states most impacted have requested the president to say yes to the proposal

Hong Kong activists ask Cathay to rehire staff

Agencies
letters@hindustantimes.com

HONG KONG: Hundreds of people gathered in Hong Kong to demand that Cathay Pacific Airways rehire workers who left the troubled carrier after supporting the city's pro-democracy protests, in a case that has raised fears about dwindling free speech in the former colony. A crowd convened on Wednesday afternoon in the city's Central business district, not far from the headquarters of Swire Group, the airline's largest shareholder, to push back against the commercial and political pressure Beijing is putting on companies over Hong Kong's ongoing unrest. The gathering, organised by the Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions, is the latest demonstration in 12 straight weeks of sometimes violent protests, which began in opposition to a bill that would have allowed extraditions to mainland China. Cathay Pacific has lost at least seven employees in the turmoil and saw chief executive officer Rupert Hogg resign abruptly to take responsibility.



Protesters gather in Hong Kong on Wednesday. AP

tion in 12 straight weeks of sometimes violent protests, which began in opposition to a bill that would have allowed extraditions to mainland China. Cathay Pacific has lost at least seven employees in the turmoil and saw chief executive officer Rupert Hogg resign abruptly to take responsibility.

CHURCH IN CHINA

1st Catholic bishop ordained with Pope's approval

Sutirtho Patranobis
spatranobis@hindustantimes.com

BEIJING: A bishop has been jointly ordained by the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the Pope for the first time following a provisional agreement between Beijing and the Vatican signed last September. The joint consecration of Yao Shun from Inner Mongolia, an autonomous region in northern China, is a sign of changing ties between China - where religious organisations and heads have to be approved by the CPC - and the Holy See, amid intermittent crackdown on Christianity. The deal last September allowed the Vatican to have a say in the appointment of bishops in the churches run by the CPC. It could prove to be an important moment in ties between the two, which have been fraught since the 1950s, and further complicated because of the Vatican's relationship with Taiwan, which China sees as a breakaway region. The Vatican press office said: "The Episcopal Ordination of HE Mgr Antonio Yao is the first to take place in the framework of the Provisional Agreement between the Holy See and the People's Republic of China signed in Beijing on 22nd September 2018." "Antonio Yao Shun was ordained bishop of the diocese of Jining, in the northern province of Inner Mongolia where about 70,000 Catholics live, by Paolo Meng Qinglu of the diocese of Hohhot," it added. "At present all the Catholic bishops in China are in full communion with the Pope. Hundreds of priests and religious from the surrounding areas were present at the ceremony," the Vatican News reported. The five religions approved in China are Buddhism, Taoism, Islam, Catholicism and Protestantism.

MEXICO BAR SET ON FIRE, KILLING AT LEAST 25

MEXICO CITY: An attack on a bar in Mexico's Gulf coast city of Coatzacoalcos killed 25 people and injured about a dozen, officials said on Wednesday. They said it was apparently overseen by a man who had been recently arrested but released. "The criminals went in, closed the doors, the emergency exits, and set fire to the place," President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said in his daily morning news conference. Veracruz state police said the Tuesday night attack targeted the "Bar Caballo Blanco," or "White Horse Bar." It advertised "quality, security and service," "private rooms for \$7.50 "all night," "sexy girls" and a pole dance contest. It is located just off a busy commercial street in Coatzacoalcos, a city whose main industry has long been oil and oil refining. "This is the most inhuman thing possible," López Obrador said. "It is regrettable that organized crime acts in this manner," he said, adding, "It is more regrettable that there may be collusion with authorities." López Obrador said local prosecutors should be investigated because "the alleged perpetrators had been arrested, but they were freed." Governor Cuitláhuac García identified the chief suspect as a man known as "La Loca" and gave his name as Ricardo "N" because officials no longer give the full names of suspects. García said the man had been detained by marines in July, but was released after being turned over to the state prosecutor's office. "In Veracruz, criminal gangs are no longer tolerated," García wrote of the attack, adding that police, the armed forces and newly formed National Guard are searching for the attackers. Anti-crime activist and businessman Raul Ojeda said the attack had all the hallmarks of an unmet demand for extortion payments. "They have been threatening all the businesses like that," Ojeda said. "The ones that don't pay close down or pay the consequences, as in this case." Photos of the scene showed tables and chairs jumbled around, with the bodies of semi-nude women lying amid the debris. AP

Gabbard's chances are slim

Yashwant Raj
yashwant.ra@hindustantimes.com

WASHINGTON: Hindu Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard is unlikely to make it to the third Democratic presidential debate later this month as she failed on Wednesday to fulfil a key requirement, further jeopardising her long-shot candidacy.

Though the four-term Hawaii legislator met the qualifying measure of having more than 130,000 individual donors with at least 400 in 20 states, she missed reaching at least 2% in four national polls or in early voting states such as Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina. Two new polls released on Wednesday ahead of a midnight deadline

saw her fail to make the cut. With no more polls expected, she will most likely miss the third debate, along with nine others, including California billionaire Tom Steyer and New York City mayor Bill de Blasio. Though this is not the end of the road for them, their chances are considerably slim. But Gabbard is staying, for now.

Thunberg's boat reaches US

NEW YORK: Greta Thunberg, the 16-year-old Swedish climate activist who crossed the Atlantic in a zero-emissions sailboat anchored in waters off New York City on Wednesday as she prepared to land at a downtown marina. Thunberg and her crew will go to lower Manhattan after a two-week trans-Atlantic crossing from Plymouth, England. As she approached New York's harbor before dawn, Thunberg tweeted her excitement, saying "Land!! The lights of Long Island and New York City ahead." She refused to fly to avoid a plane's carbon emissions. The sailboat's onboard electronics are powered by solar panels and underwater turbines. Thunberg has become a symbol of growing movement of young climate



Greta Thunberg on the Malizia II yacht in New York Harbour. REUTERS

activists. Action against climate change was a theme of weekly protests she's led in Sweden that inspired student strikes in about 100 cities worldwide. She is in New York to attend a global

warming conference. Next month, she's planning to speak at the UN Climate Action Summit, joining world leaders who will present plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. AP

BIGGEST SUCH FIND

Remains of 227 sacrificed children discovered in Peru

Agence France-Presse
letters@hindustantimes.com

LIMA: Archaeologists in Peru say the 227 bodies they have unearthed from a site used by the pre-Columbian Chimu culture is the biggest-ever discovery of sacrificed children. Archaeologists have been digging since last year at the huge sacrificial site in Huanchaco, a beachside tourist town north of the capital Lima. "This is the biggest site where the remains of sacrificed children have been found," chief archaeologist Ferren Castillo told AFP on Tuesday.

Castillo said the children, who were aged between four and 14, were sacrificed in a ritual to honor the Chimu culture's gods. "They were sacrificed to appease the El Niño phenomenon," and show signs of being killed during wet weather, he said. He added that there may still be more to be found. "It's uncontrollable, this thing with the children. Wherever you dig, there's another one," Castillo said. The children's remains were found in a position facing the sea. Some still had skin and hair.

Huanchaco was a site where many child sacrifices took place during the time of the Chimu culture, whose apogee was between 1200 and 1400. Archeologists first found children's bodies at the dig site in the town's Pampa la Cruz neighbourhood in June 2018, unearthing 56 skeletons. Pampa la Cruz is a short distance from Huanchaquito, where the remains of 140 sacrificed children and 200 llamas were found in April 2018. The Chimu civilization extended along the Peruvian coast to Ecuador but disappeared in 1475 after it was conquered by the Inca empire.



Remains of one of the children allegedly offered in a sacrifice ritual during the Chimu civilisation. AFP

shortstories SAME RULES TO GOVERN LOCAL INVESTORS, FPIs, SAYS CBDT

NEW DELHI: The government's rollback of enhanced surcharge on select investors, announced as part of a series of measures to boost the economy last week, has not created a differential regime between foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) and domestic investors, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said in statement on Wednesday...



IOC chairman Sanjiv Singh.

IOC PLANS \$28 BILLION INVESTMENT BY 2023-24

MUMBAI: Indian Oil Corp. (IOC), the country's top refiner, plans to invest ₹2 lakh crore (\$27.98 billion) in five-seven years to meet energy needs of diverse user groups...

HAVE TRUMP'S TAX DATA SOUGHT BY US LAWMAKERS: DEUTSCHE BANK

MANHATTAN: Deutsche Bank AG confirmed that it has tax returns requested by US lawmakers seeking financial information for US President Donald Trump and his family...

Local sourcing rules for single-brand retail eased

FDI NORMS Firms can now open online shops before setting up a physical store

Suneera Tandon and Bidya Sapam

NEW DELHI/MUMBAI: India on Wednesday relaxed local sourcing norms for single-brand retailers with foreign direct investment (FDI) and allowed them to sell online even before setting up physical stores...



The move to relax local sourcing norms for single-brand retailers with FDI is expected to benefit some of the world's largest retailers, including Ikea, H&M and Uniqlo.

scope of sourcing operations for retailers. Moreover, brands now applying for FDI in single-brand retail will also be allowed to commence e-commerce operations even before they set up physical stores...

APPLE POISED TO BENEFIT FROM NEW FDI REGULATIONS

BENGALURU: Apple Inc. is poised to start online sales of its devices in India within months, a person familiar with the matter said...

for electronics brands because most of its devices and components are manufactured in China. The government also allowed so-called single brand retailers to set up online stores before physical shops...



Out of the top five smartphone sellers in India, four are headquartered in China-Xiaomi, Vivo, Oppo and Realme.

Chinese phone makers ringing in more investments

Navadha Pandey

NEW DELHI: Chinese phone makers that have tasted blood with deep discounts, flashy ads and online offers in India are thirsting for more, as record shipments and rising price points prompt them to pump up investments...

"Growth in India is coming from two places; existing users are upgrading to better smartphones, and one big trend we are seeing is that most second- or third-time smartphone users are picking up more expensive devices..."

Toyota, Suzuki deepen ties, pick up stakes in each other

Malyaban Ghosh

NEW DELHI: Toyota Motor Corp. and Suzuki Motor Corp. deepened their ties by buying small stakes in each other as the two Japanese companies attempt to negotiate the disruptive changes that threaten to alter the existing order in the global automotive industry...



Toyota Motor president Akio Toyoda (L) with Suzuki Motor chairman Osamu Suzuki.

rapidly and the company doesn't have deep pockets," said a person who was associated with Suzuki's Indian unit for over a decade...

outcome of sincere and careful discussions between the two companies, and it will serve for building and promoting their future partnership in new fields..."

Safe to fly Airbus Neo jets, says DGCA

Faizan Haider

NEW DELHI: India's aviation regulator on Wednesday asked aircraft engine maker Pratt and Whitney (P&W) to ensure more availability of spare engines to prevent the grounding of Airbus Neo planes flown by Indian airlines...

DGCA SAID THAT ANY KNEE-JERK REACTION TO COMPLETELY SHUT A320 NEO OPS WILL HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES

aircraft. "About 40% of the domestic seat capacity of India is powered by Neo aircraft and therefore, any knee-jerk reaction to completely shut their operations will have serious consequences..."

"The engine failure related to MGB is expected to be contained after software updates. Engine failures related to LPT blade damage are being addressed by providing new LPT third stage blades..."

nance, repair and overhaul) shall be accepted unless installed with modified MGBs and new modified third stage LPT blades...

Yes Bank falls over 7% on Moody's ratings downgrade

Ravindra Sonavane

MUMBAI: Shares of Yes Bank Ltd fell more than 7% on Wednesday after Moody's Investors Service downgraded its long-term foreign currency issuer rating, citing the bank's capital raise that fell short of its expectations...



Moody's said most of Yes Bank's operating profits will get eaten up by loan loss provisions over the next 12-18 months.

ing them insufficient to support internal capital generation. "This will leave the bank dependent on external capital raising to improve its loss-absorbing buffers..."

tion in Yes Bank's asset quality, with gross non-performing loan ratio in the June quarter rising to 5% from 3.2% in the preceding quarter...

InterGlobe Aviation gets nod to expand board size to 10

Rhik Kundu

NEW DELHI: InterGlobe Aviation Ltd, which operates India's largest airline, IndiGo, on Wednesday said its shareholders have approved the alteration of the company's Articles of Association (AoA) to expand the size of the board to 10 from six...

CHASING GROWTH

Renault bets on semi-urban, rural areas to boost sales

Malyaban Ghosh

NEW DELHI: Renault SA is seeking deeper inroads into India's semi-urban and rural areas to boost sales after having struggled in the past two years with products like Captur and Lodgy failing to make a substantial impact...



Renault India MD and CEO Venkatram Mamillapalle at the launch of Renault Tribier in New Delhi on Wednesday.

illapalle, managing director and chief executive, Renault India Pvt. Ltd said on Wednesday. To support its product offensive, Renault India also plans to double its showrooms...

across the country to 700 by the end of next year. Also, like the Kwid hatchback, all the new vehicle models would be designed and developed specifically for the Indian market...

Mamillapalle said, in an indication of the lessons learnt by Renault from the market failures of the Lodgy multipurpose vehicle and Captur sport utility vehicle...

KONKARN RAILWAY CORPORATION LTD (A Government of India Undertaking) NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER Chief Engineer, Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd., invites Open Tender in Two Bid system through E-Tendering on IREPS portal from eligible contractors for the following work...

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL

General public is hereby informed that this girl namely Sheela D/o Sh. Sadhan Haldhar R/o H.No. 143, Gali No. 5, New Lahore, Shastri Nagar, Delhi (Description as on 21.07.2014) Age : 13 years (at present about 18 years) Height : 4'6", Complexion : Wheatish, Build : Thin, Face : Oval, Identification mark : A black mole on both eye lashes, wearing sky blue colour frock and plastic slipper, has been missing/Kidnapped since 28.07.2014 from her house. In this regard FIR No. 492/14 dated 28.07.2014 u/s 363 IPC has been registered at P.S. Geeta Colony, New Delhi. The investigation of this case is being conducted by AHTU, Crime Branch, Sec. 16, Rohini, Delhi.

DIESEL LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI -221004

Bid No. E-31/2019-2020 E-Tender Notice Date: 26.08.2019 E-Tenders are invited for & on behalf of the president of India for the supply of following items. Only e-offer will be accepted for which vendors must have class III Digital Signature and registration on IREPS. The details of tenders are in the following sequence:-S.No.- Tender No. (Due Date), Description and Quantity...

Narmada Water Resources Water Supply & Kalpasar Department

TENDER NOTICE NO.1 OF 2019-2020

Online Tenders (E-tendering) for following work of Narmada Water Resources Water Supply & Kalpasar Department are publicly invited by the Superintending Engineer, Gulf of Khambhat Development Project (WR), Project Implementation Unit-2, Vadodara (Phone No.0265-2323871, 2323872) from the eligible contractors registered / to be registered in appropriate class.

Table with columns: Name of work, 1. Estimated cost in Crores, 2. EMD Rs., 3. Class, 1. Tender fee, 2. Time for completion of work.

The details of above notice will be available on web site www.nprocure.com and GOV website www.statetenders.com and tender documents are available.

buzz

Atul Sobti takes over as Director General, SCOPE Atul Sobti has taken over as the Director General, Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE), which is an apex organisation of public enterprises. Atul Sobti, who recently superannuated as CMD of BHEL, is a graduate mechanical engineer with post-graduation in international management and diploma in project management.

FSSAI's National Food Laboratory at Ghaziabad inaugurated FSSAI's National Food Laboratory, Delhi NCR at Ghaziabad was inaugurated by Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare. He also laid the foundation stone of the FSSAI Tower. Incidentally, August 23, 2019 also marks the 13th anniversary of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare also participated in the function.

Minister of State for Defence visits Bangalore unit of BEL Shripad Naik, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Ayush and Minister of State for Defence, visited the Bangalore unit of Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).

NIESBUD holds 116th five-day regular programme The National Institute for Entrepreneurship & Small Business Development (NIESBUD), under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India, is organising its 116th five-day regular programme on Export-Import Procedure, Documentation & International Entrepreneurship from August 27 to August 31 at its campus in Noida.

Northern Railway celebrates 'Sadhavana Divas' Northern Railway organised a function on 'Sadhavana Divas' at headquarters office, Baroda House, New Delhi.

ONGC bagged four major honours, two for exploration and one each in CSR and Swachh Bharat, at Dun & Bradstreet PSU Awards 2019. The awards were presented by Union Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises Arvind Ganpat Sawant.

MMTC Limited participates in India International MSME Startup Expo

MMTC Limited's exhibit at the 6th India International MSME Startup Expo and Summit 2019 was inaugurated by Nitin Gadkari, Minister for Road Transport & Highways of India and Shipping Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in the Government of India at ITPO, New Delhi.



MMTC Limited's exhibit at the 6th India International MSME Startup Expo and Summit 2019 was inaugurated by Nitin Gadkari, Minister for Road Transport & Highways of India and Shipping Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in the Government of India at ITPO, New Delhi.

dallions and Indian Gold Coin at the three-day event by the MSME Development Forum. MMTC uses its business acumen, global reach, and product expertise to cater to requirements of MSMEs.

Kia Motors launches Seltos in India Kia Motors launched its first product in mid-SUV segment, the Seltos in the Indian market with a price starting from Rs 9.69 lakh (ex-showroom pan India) for the entry level petrol standard G1.5 HTE model going up to Rs 15.99 lakh (ex-showroom pan India) for the diesel 1.5 CRDI HTX plus (6AT) and other variants.



Minister of State for Defence visits Bangalore unit of BEL Shripad Naik, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Ayush and Minister of State for Defence, visited the Bangalore unit of Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).

FICCI honours CRPF for 'smart' initiatives FICCI honoured CRPF for its 'smart' initiatives. CRPF was awarded with as many as three prestigious distinctions by FICCI at a function on Homeland Security 2019 in New Delhi. CRPF was adjudged the best in three distinct spheres of 'smart' initiatives.



ICSI announces 100% fee waiver scheme for J&K The Institute of Company Secretaries of India aligning with the initiatives of the GoI, and to achieve a growth process in which people from different walks of life can benefit, has launched a special fee waiver scheme for the students of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.



National Fertilizers Limited celebrates 46th Foundation Day



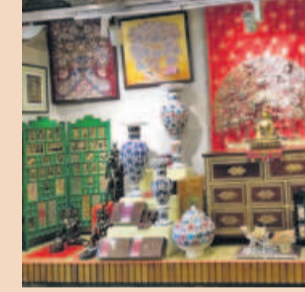
National Fertilizers Limited celebrated 46th Foundation Day at Constitution Club of India, New Delhi. Chhablendra Roul, Secretary, Fertilizers was chief guest.

OBCC-SLBC convener holds Inter Banks Meeting The second stage of the bottom-up consultative at state level designed to generate ideas and review performance of public sector banks and their alignment with national priorities, was initiated in Delhi.



FSSAI for ensuring safe distribution of surplus food FSSAI steered a second round of meeting with 20 surplus food distribution agencies from various parts of the country to discuss the steps taken by government to ensure safe distribution of surplus food.

The first meeting of a similar kind was organised on July 30, which was attended by 13 surplus food distribution agencies. FSSAI had Gazette notified Food Safety and Standards (Recovery of Surplus Food) Regulations, 2018 on August 4, 2019 to establish a uniform national regulation to protect organisations and individuals when they donate food in good faith.



Central Cottage Industries Emporium has organised 'Shreshth Kriti', an exhibition-cum-sale of masterpieces collection by Shipigurus and National Award winning artisans and weavers at its Janpath showroom from August 24 to September 1.



TP Singh, General Manager, Northern Railway held a meeting with the members of the Zonal Rail Users Consultative Committee (ZRUC) in New Delhi. This is in accordance with the directives given by Minister of Railways Piyush Goyal.



An award has been conferred on NTPC Limited for 'Excellence in Power Generation'. Saptarshi Roy, Director (HR), NTPC received the award from Arvind G Sawant, Union Minister, Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises and SC Garg, Secretary (Power), GoI in New Delhi.



Recognising the performance of all 20 SSB athletes in the 18th World Police & Fire Games 2019, the SSB DG Kumar Rajesh Chandra felicitated them with DG's commendation and cash rewards as they brought laurels not only to SSB but also to the nation.



ONGC bagged four major honours, two for exploration and one each in CSR and Swachh Bharat, at Dun & Bradstreet PSU Awards 2019. The awards were presented by Union Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises Arvind Ganpat Sawant.



RailTel bagged Dun & Bradstreet PSU Award 2019 in telecommunications and information technology services category. Puneet Chawla, CMD, RailTel, received the award from Arvind Ganpat Sawant, Union Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.



Recognising the performance of all 20 SSB athletes in the 18th World Police & Fire Games 2019, the SSB DG Kumar Rajesh Chandra felicitated them with DG's commendation and cash rewards as they brought laurels not only to SSB but also to the nation.

GOVT. OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI (DIRECTORATE OF VIGILANCE) LEVEL-4, C-WING, DELHI SECRETARIAT NEW DELHI-110002 (Phone No.: 23392257/23392303 & Fax No.: 23392353) NOTICE

Directorate of Vigilance Govt of NCT of Delhi invites fresh applications from retired officers, including the retired officers serving in the existing panel, not below the rank of Deputy Secretary (PB-3 with G.P. Rs. 7600/-) in Central Government and equivalent post in the State Government/PSUs, having impeccable integrity, for empanelment as Inquiring Authorities for the purpose of conducting departmental inquiries under CCS (CCA) rules, 1965, on the usual terms and conditions of Government. Validity of the panel would be maximum three years.

For glancing through the eligibility conditions, terms & conditions of such appointment and obtaining Application Form, you are required to visit at the official website www.delhi.gov.in. The application forms received after due date & time i.e. 30.09.2019 till 06.00 pm shall not be entertained. The Directorate of Vigilance reserves the right for rejection of any or all applications without assigning any reason. DIP/Shabdharth/0571/19-20 DEPUTY SECRETARY (ADMN/VIG)

PRAYAGRAJ NAGAR NIGAM (PNN) 1- Sarojini Naidu Marg, Civil Lines, Prayagraj-211001 Uttar Pradesh

Table with columns: S. No., Name of the Package, Estimated amount (Rs.), Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.), Tender Fee non-refundable (Rs.), Time Period.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tender Notice, e-tender is invited on behalf of the president of India for the under mentioned work : S.N.: 01, Name of the work with its location : Design, Drawing, Modification, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 25KV OHE and PSI work between Sakri (Incl.) - Nirmali (Incl.) in connecting with Gauge conversion of Sakri Jn-Nirmali section. e-Tender No. EL/C/N/MHX/ETEN/51/19-20. S.N.: 02, Approx cost of the work : Rs. 22,00,16,724.5/-, S.N.: 03, Earnest money and tender Document cost to be deposited : Rs. 12,50,100/- and Rs. 10000/- respectively. S.N.: 04, Date and time for closing of tender : 16.09.19 up to 12.00 Hrs., S.N.: 05, Website particular and Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. : Tender can be downloaded from IREPS website: www.ireps.gov.in and detailed can be seen from the notice board at CEE/Con/ Mahendraghat office, CAO / C O N / ECR office Complex, Patna-04. Dy. CEE/Con/North, E.C.Railway, SPJ PR/1090/CON/ENGG/7/19-20/44

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION, BHANDARA (Phone No. 07184-252412) E-TENDER NOTICE No. 27 of 2019-2020

Table with columns: Sr. No., Name of Works, Estt. cost (Rs. in Lakhs), Earnest money (Rs. in Lakhs), Cost of E Tender documents, Work completion period, Class of Contractor.

