

ADDRESS TO THE NATION ON JAMMU AND KASHMIR

PM reaches out: Upgrade for J&K staff, elections soon, UT status is temporary

Urges J&K youth to take up leadership roles, asks industry to invest in region

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 8

REACHING OUT to the people of Jammu and Kashmir after his government revoked the state's special status and bifurcated it into two Union Territories, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday asked the youth of J&K to step forward and take up its political leadership. He said elections will soon be held in the new Union Territory and people will have the opportunity to elect their MLAs and Chief Minister in the manner they did earlier.

In an address to the nation, the Prime Minister said J&K government employees will be offered the benefits available to government employees in Union Territories across the country. He showered special praise on the J&K Police which, he said, had been at the forefront of the fight

against terror.

Underlining that Article 370 had brought no benefit to the state but had only fomented separatism, terrorism, dynasty and corruption, Modi said it is now "part of history" and an era of development will start in J&K. He urged the industry, including the film industry, to invest in the region and provide job opportunities to the youth.

He said once normalcy is restored in Kashmir and the Union Territory is on the path of development, it could be granted full statehood again. He said Ladakh will, however, remain a Union Territory.

Acknowledging the hardship being faced by the people of J&K in view of steps taken to maintain order, Modi said it is the people there who are fighting elements trying to create trouble in the Valley.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his address to the nation on Thursday. ANI

Decades of dynasty have deprived leadership opportunities to youth of Jammu and Kashmir... A new era has begun in J&K and Ladakh. Now all citizens have same rights and duties"

— NARENDRA MODI, PRIME MINISTER

EXCERPTS FROM THE SPEECH, PAGE 8

Brings 2014, 2019 election themes to table: Focus on growth and opportunity

RAVISH TIWARI
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 8

THERE WERE no references to Atal Bihari Vajpayee's "Insaniyat, Jamhuriyat, Kashmiriyat," a phrase whose spirit Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself invoked in 2017 and 2018. But on Thursday, in his address to the nation after the passage of the Bill to split Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories, Modi used the commonplace — daily life and work — to make his larger point.

Referring to hope, aspiration and opportunity, he told the people of J&K that withdrawing the state's special status was not about claiming territory but an instrument for their development and prosperity.

BUSINESS AS USUAL
BY UNNY



In a bid to assure them that the move was not aimed at ruling the state from distant Delhi, he called for duly elected

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

INTERVIEW: GOVERNOR'S ADVISOR

'Some easing for Friday prayers, call on Eid will be taken Sunday'

SHUBHAJIT ROY & DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 8

FIVE DAYS into the lockdown in the Valley in the wake of revoking J&K's special status and its downgrade into a Union Territory, top officials have said the situation should ease in a few days to allow easing of restrictions.

Responding to questions from *The Indian Express*, K Vijay Kumar, Advisor to Jammu and Kashmir Governor and former CRPF chief, said that there will be "some relaxation" for Friday prayers and a call on security for Eid will be taken on Sunday.

Excerpts of the interview:

This is Day 5 of the security lockdown in the Valley. Have there been protests, instances of people taking to the streets? How are security personnel enforcing prohibitory orders?

No large scale protests have taken place. There have been a few instances of stone-pelting, mostly restricted to areas around Srinagar city. The forces have been given flexibility to impose prohibitory orders with minimum force and maximum compassion.

Will there be relaxation of orders restricting public movement for Friday prayers and Eid on Monday?

Some relaxation will be permitted for Friday prayers. As for Eid, we will take a final call on Sunday. We would like to encourage people to celebrate Eid in the proper spirit while ensuring minimum disruption to public order.

What happens to a family in case of a medical emergency? With communication networks down, how can they call a doctor or an ambulance?

All medical emergencies are being given all possible assistance and facilitation. In many instances, security forces have used their own vehicles to ferry citizens in need of medical aid.

Most shops are shut and people are unable to reach ATMs, how do people buy provisions?

People are being allowed to move around to get essential



K Vijay Kumar

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

1992 TO 2019: BABRI TO ART 370
BY RAMACHANDRA GUHA
PAGE 14

EXPRESS NETWORK



GROUNDWORK BEGAN IN FIRST TERM: RAJNATH
MORE REPORTS, PAGE 8

supplies. A few shops open in each locality in the evening and that is being permitted provided no crowds gather. Arrangements are being made to ensure adequate stocks of essential commodities. These will be distributed with the assistance of the security forces.

Are travel permits area-specific or do they allow people to travel from one town to another? How long do you think will this restriction be in place?

The passes are given for specific purposes and are not area-specific or route-specific. We would like to restore freedom of movement as soon as possible. It will be done in a phased manner.

When can one expect the phone lines to be restored?

Phone lines are being restored for essential services in a phased manner. In times of emergency people can approach security forces for connecting with their near and dear ones.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

On the ground at Jammu border with Valley: Protests, hope



Security forces in Kargil on Thursday. Tashi Tobgyal

ARUN SHARMA
BULFIJAZ (POONCH), AUGUST 8

WITH EID, Raksha Bandhan and Independence Day around the corner, and a curfew in place along with curbs on cellular services and mobile Internet, life in the Pir Panjal region adjoining Kashmir Valley is in limbo.

Eid falls on August 12-13 and Raksha Bandhan on August 15, and residents are not sure whether the curbs will be lifted by then. More so, because additional forces have been deployed amid reports of protests in the border districts of Rajouri and

Poonch against the removal of special status and the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir.

On Wednesday, security reinforcements were sent to Saj village after protesters blocked the Rajouri-Thanamandi road in the area. On Tuesday, two policemen and a DySP were injured at Bulfiyaz in Poonch as protesters from near Mughal Road resorted to stone-pelting. On the same day, police resorted to lathicharge to disperse protesters in Poonch's Surankote town.

Traditionally, calls for protests from separatists in the Valley have not received much support

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



The Samjhauta Express at Attari station, in Amritsar district, on Thursday. Rana Simranjit Singh

India's measured response to Pak: Review decision to downgrade ties

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 8

A DAY after Pakistan decided to downgrade diplomatic relations and suspend bilateral trade with India which revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi Thursday struck a measured tone and urged Islamabad to review its decision.

Underlining that revoking the special status of J&K and its

bifurcation into two Union Territories is "entirely the internal affair of India", the Ministry of External Affairs, in a statement, said: "The Constitution of India was, and is, and will always be a sovereign matter. Seeking to interfere in that jurisdiction by invoking an alarmist vision of the region will never succeed."

Islamabad, meanwhile, said that it will stop running the Samjhauta Express train service. Pakistan's Railway

Minister Sheikh Rasheed announced the suspension of the service. But Pakistan said it will continue work on the Kartarpur corridor.

Sources said Delhi, while pointing out Pakistan's motives to the international community, wants to convey a more reasonable approach towards Islamabad.

Responding to Pakistan's retaliatory measures, India said



Karan Singh

Backs bifurcation of state

Decrying the arrests of senior PDP and NC leaders, Singh, in his statement, said these two parties cannot be dismissed as "anti-national". Demanding their release, he said

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Finance in talks with FPIs to provide relief from surcharge

SUNNY VERMA & ANANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 8

THE GOVERNMENT could move to review rules relating to Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) impacted by the surcharge on income tax imposed on the super rich this Budget. Discussions with FPIs are currently underway and there are indications that investors impacted by the

move could be extended some relief from the levy.

Sources said that since the surcharge imposed in the Budget is applicable only on FPIs registered as trusts and not as companies, one of the proposals under discussion entails their conversion into companies being made tax-neutral so that they do not attract the incidence of capital gains tax. Other options to dilute the impact of the levy, cited as the

primary reason behind the outflow of funds from Indian financial markets since the Budget was presented on July 5, are also under discussion.

A final view on the surcharge issue will be taken after the Ministry of Finance wraps up consultations with the FPIs. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will meet financial market participants Friday to hear their views on the Budget

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

EXPLAINED
Sentiment revival crucial

THE GOVERNMENT'S investor outreach is aimed at a revival of flagging investment sentiment. Any breakthrough on the surcharge could inject positive momentum in equity markets that have seen fund outflows since the Budget.

Gender gap in AIIMS OPD: Four lakh women missing in 2016, say researchers

ABANTIKA GHOSH
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 8

AS MANY as 4 lakh women patients have gone "missing" in 2016 at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences.

An analysis by experts at AIIMS, Indian Statistical Institute, Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health and Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council and others has concluded that in 2016, of the patients from Delhi,

Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar who visited the country's premier medical institute, there were 4,02,722 missing female patients. These four states contribute to 90% of the OPD (outpatient) load at AIIMS.

The researchers arrived at this number by analysing the sex ratio of patients from these states and comparing it with the population-level sex ratios in those states.

For example, of the total 23.77 lakh outpatient visits,

excluding obstetrics and gynaecology patients — since this is exclusively female — the overall sex ratio was 1.69 male to one female visit. Sex ratios, adjusted for age and hospital department, increased with distance.

The ratio was 1.41 for Delhi, where the facility is located; 1.70 for Haryana, an adjoining state; 1.98 for Uttar Pradesh, a state further away; and 2.37 for Bihar, the state farthest from Delhi.

The sex ratios had a U-shaped

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

EXPLAINED



SIMPLY PUT
HOW LAND RELATES TO CLIMATE
PAGE 16

WORLD'S FOOD SUPPLY AT RISK: UN
PAGE 17

Nearly 100 days after Fani: Victims grapple with debt, despair

SAMPAD PATNAIK
SATAPADA, AUGUST 8

FISHERMAN SURENDRA Parida has netted many a fish, but can't find a way to shake off a loan shark.

Parida had borrowed Rs 2.5 lakh at 3 per cent monthly interest from a local money lender to repair his boat, gear and house in Puri's Satapada district that were damaged by Cyclone Fani in May. The 55-year-old mentally works out his monthly interest outgo, and

slaps his forehead in dismay when he realises it is Rs 7,500.

"My monthly income before Fani was around Rs 12,000," he said. "We were always poor, but now we may have to roam naked," he said, referring to his family of wife and their 16-year-old son and 20-year-old daughter.

Puri's district administration says 10,027 fishermen have been provided "a total Rs 5,69,55,565" for buying new equipment, but Parida said he got nothing. "Starting this month, I have to pay the interest, but I haven't started earning yet. I went to the maha-

jan (moneylender) again and he has agreed to receive a part of the interest payment by buying my daily catch for Rs 10 less a kilo than the market price (Rs 50)," he said. Hundreds of fishermen in Satapada panchayat will have a similar story to share, he said.

A report prepared by the Odisha government and international bodies such as the UN, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, which was released Tuesday, said the state needs Rs 29,315 crore for relief and rehabilitation efforts. It said housing, power, telecommuni-



Farmers in Puri whose fields were flooded with Chilika's brackish water

cations, agriculture, livestock and fisheries took the full brunt of Fani's wrecking ball.

The Centre has so far released around Rs 789 crore for relief works and Rs 613 crore as its share towards State Disaster Response Fund, according to Odisha State Disaster Management Authority. And the state's relief-centric cash hand-outs don't address the livelihood needs of the affected.

Satapada's tourist boating association in Bankjala village lost 105 of the 125 boats used to ferry tourists. "We have to buy sal

logs" to build boats that match government specification, said Krutibas Das, a boat owner.

"Every boat owner has a debt of around Rs 2 lakh with the moneylenders in nearby districts. We don't have workers to build boats but the loan interest piles up every day. Also, tourists are scarce in this off-season," he said.

Puri Collector Balwant Singh said, "Owners of tourist boats will be provided assistance under Mudra scheme and the margin money will be given by HUDCO (Housing and Urban

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



0-50 Good

ANAND VIHAR

Satisfactory

86

AQI

PM: 10

500

51-100 Satisfactory

SIRIFORT

Moderate

146

AQI

PM: 10

500

101-200 Moderate

SHADIPUR

Satisfactory

68

AQI

PM: 2.5

500

201-300 Poor

DWARKA-SECTOR 8

Moderate

127

AQI

PM: 10

500

301-400 Very Poor

401-500 Severe

POLICE REGISTER ATTEMPT TO MURDER FIR

SAIL chief attacked by four men in Hauz Khas road rage, 2 held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 8

STEEL AUTHORITY of India Limited (SAIL) chairman Anil Kumar Chaudhary and his driver were allegedly assaulted by four men in South Delhi's Hauz Khas area Wednesday night in what police suspect is a case of road rage.

While two of the accused were arrested from the spot by police on patrol duty, Chaudhary and his driver were taken to the AIIMS Trauma Centre where they were discharged after treatment. Police said one of the arrested accused had been involved in cases of theft earlier and the other works as a labourer.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Chaudhary said he was on his way home from work when his car was "intentionally hit" by another car at around 10.35 pm on August Kranti Marg. Chaudhary said he screamed for help, but no one came to their rescue.

DCP (South) Vijay Kumar said they have registered an FIR with charges of attempt to murder. He identified the two arrested as Amardeep and Lalit. "Around 10.50 pm, our patrolling team saw that four men were attacking two others near Ansal Plaza. They immediately rescued the victims and arrested two men while two others managed to escape," he said.

"He (Chaudhary) was heading towards Siri Fort, when the cars brushed against each other. The accused then blocked the way by stopping their car in front. Chaudhary suffered injuries on his legs and shoulder in the assault. They also tried to hit him on his head, but he was rescued in time," the DCP said.

However, police are yet to find the iron rods that were said to have been used in the assault.

"No signs of robbery were found. We are suspecting a case of road rage. We found a paper cutter in their possession, but it wasn't used at the time of the incident. The two arrested were in an inebriated condition, but neither of them was driving. Lalit told police that he has been involved in theft cases and



(Clockwise from right) spot where incident took place; police outside Hauz Khas station; two of the accused, Lalit and Amardeep

Amardeep works as labourer," said Kumar.

Police found the car belonging to the accused men, a Honda City, had a fake number plate and was stolen. It has been sent to the Forensic Science Lab for further investigation.

In a statement, SAIL said it is "deeply shocked and anguished" by the "murderous assault on the Company's Chairman... near HUDCO Place", and claimed that the "assailants were also armed with knives".

"The driver was left unharmed. Fortunately, the Police Motorcycle Patrol arrived at the site and managed to nab two persons. Chaudhary was taken to AIIMS Trauma Centre for immediate medical treatment. He has since been discharged from the hospital. A complaint to this effect has been registered at Hauz Khas police station. Police is investigating the attack from all possible angles," it said.

Police said two bikes patrol the area for 12 hours at night. The four officers, two head constables and two constables, patrol a specific route every day, said police. The Highway Patrolling team was constituted to prevent snatching and other crimes on the street.



Praveen Khanna

'Shouted for help but no one came, cops finally rescued me'

MAHENDER SINGH
MANRAL

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 8

AROUND 10.35 pm on Wednesday, for around seven minutes, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) chairman Anil Kumar Chaudhary shouted for help while fighting off three armed assailants. But passing cars and people from a nearby CNG pump station, he said, did not come to his aid while he was being attacked.

Chaudhary said, "I left office at around 10 pm. My driver was at the wheel and after some time, we realised that one car was intentionally trying to hit my vehicle. We stopped near August Kranti Marg and got out to check the damage."

Chaudhary said they were getting back into their car, when the other vehicle blocked their path.

"Four men got out and asked us for money to repair their car. We refused and got into the vehicle. But they got aggressive — one of them held my driver by his

SAIL chief
Anil Kumar
Chaudhary

neck, and three of them pulled me out. They kept hurling abuses and demanded money. When we resisted, they took out iron rods from their car and started hitting me. I was screaming for help... many cars passed by but no one stopped. Several people were watching from a CNG pump station a few metres away but no one came... The men were hitting me on my head, neck, knees and legs," he alleged.

Chaudhary said Delhi Police rescued him from their clutches. "I also tried to resist and pushed one of them. But they overpowered me. They got scared after police arrived and two of them managed to escape," he added.

According to police, four police personnel, from the Highway Patrolling team of Defence Colony police station, were on night patrol duty on

their bikes since 8 pm. As they neared Andrews Ganj, they were approached by a man who said a group of people with weapons were beating up two men.

"We drove towards the spot and saw five-six people standing on the road near two cars. We parked our bike and ran towards them. A group of men were beating another man with a baton. Two of the men saw us and ran away. We caught the others. The victim suffered multiple injuries to his neck, shoulder and legs. We rushed him to hospital in his Toyota," said head constable Dhawa Singh.

Private schools see more student enrolment, govt data reveals

New Delhi: Over 640 newly recognised private schools have come up in Delhi since 2011 — an increase of 31% — data provided by the Delhi government has revealed. The increase is also reflected in student enrolment in private schools as compared to that in Delhi government and MCD schools.

The biggest leap in the number of private schools was registered in the period between 2011

and 2015 — from 2,026 to 2,656. In the same period, the number of students enrolled in private schools increased from 13.78 lakh to 16.72 lakh.

While the number of students in private schools has risen since 2011, with 18.61 lakh students enrolled during 2018-19 session, the numbers have dipped in Delhi government and MCD schools.

In 2011-2012, the number of students enrolled in schools run

and aided by Delhi government was 16.53 lakh. As of 2018-2019, the number stood at 16.48 lakh. The dip has been greater in MCD schools, where enrolment numbers have dropped by over 2 lakh.

"The number of private schools has increased, so has student enrolment in them. On the other hand, the number of students being transferred to us from MCD schools has been dipping," said a government official. **ENS**

BRIEFLY

Policewoman kills self

New Delhi: A 33-year-old woman police constable allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself at her rented accommodation in South West Delhi's Chhawla, police said.

Man kills friend over bank balance

Gurgaon: A man allegedly killed his friend by pushing him under a truck after he discovered that the victim had Rs 83,000 in his bank account, said police.

FIR against ex-BJP MLA

New Delhi: Police registered an FIR against a former BJP MLA, who has been accused of sexual assault by his relative, in Outer Delhi Wednesday. Police said they are investigating the matter. **ENS**

Buildings partly razed in South Delhi for flouting green norms

SHIVAM PATEL
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 8

UNAUTHORISED BUILDINGS in South Delhi's Tughlaqabad Extension have been partly demolished and their owners fined for flouting environment laws following an inspection under directions of the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

Occupants have been given notices to vacate and electricity and water supply would be disconnected within one week, the NGT chairperson bench was told Thursday. "Counsel for (South) corporation states... demolition activities will be undertaken with help from police at the earliest. Let a compliance report in this regard be filed," the bench directed.

The issue was brought forward in a plea by local resident Nanak Singh, who alleged violation of environmental laws during the course of illegal construction in the area. An action-taken report on the matter was sought earlier this year from a joint committee of officials from the

South Corporation and Central Pollution Control Board.

The report said the properties were in an unauthorised colony and had no clearance or approved building plans. "Garbage, waste and filth were found scattered all around the colony creating very unhygienic conditions for living," it added.

The tribunal found in April that no action had been taken despite violations being reported and sought for another action-taken report.

The Delhi Pollution Control Committee, in its assessment earlier this month, said that directions to stop "illegal activities" and for imposing compensation have been issued.

Fines of Rs 10,000 were imposed on property owners in February and some demolition took place earlier this month, as per an SDMC status report.

The NGT bench said Thursday that the waste generated during the demolition should be managed and disposed properly. The case is listed for hearing next on October 22.

**DASH OF COLOUR**

Spotted in Greater Noida, Thursday. The capital experienced a humid day, with the maximum temperature settling at 37.9 degrees Celsius. *Gajendra Yadav*

POLICE ARREST MAN IN NEIGHBOURHOOD**Boy found dead in drain was abducted, killed**

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 8

TWO WEEKS after the body of an eight-year-old boy was found inside a drain in Rohini, with police suspecting it to be a case of drowning, Delhi Police's Crime Branch Thursday arrested a 19-year-old man for allegedly kidnapping and killing the boy.

Police said the accused lived in the neighbourhood and killed the boy to get ransom money from the family.

The breakthrough in the case came days after the boy's father claimed he got multiple calls from an unknown man, demanding Rs 25 lakh.

"I was at the hospital for the post-mortem of my child when I received the first call on July 26. The man told me that the body in the hospital wasn't my child's, and that my son was with him. I informed police about the same, but they dismissed it as a fake call. Later that day, I received more calls from the man, and he

The breakthrough in the case came after the boy's father claimed he got multiple calls from an unknown man, demanding Rs 25 lakh

asked me to meet him. Police accompanied me, but the man did not show up. He continued to call every day till August 4," the father claimed.

S D Mishra, DCP (Rohini), said: "When the father of the child received the first ransom call, we asked senior police officers to conduct raids. We tried to track the caller but found that the call was made from a stolen phone, whose owner was a woman living in Govindpuri. Since no injuries were found on the body, murder was ruled out initially."

Rajiv Ranjan, Additional Commissioner of Police, Crime, said police soon realised that the

accused was someone known to the victim: "A team led by Inspector Mukesh Antil and Constable Surendra zeroed in on a man in the neighbourhood. We kept a tab on his activities and apprehended him. Initially, he didn't confess, but later revealed that he kidnapped the boy for money."

Police said the accused knew the child well and would often drop him to school.

"He abducted the child on the pretext of taking him to the market, and later pushed him into a drain. He had procured a SIM card from his friend... and made the ransom calls. He kept in touch with the family after the child was reported missing," said Ranjan.

According to police, the accused is pursuing bachelors in Information Technology.

A case has been registered against the accused under IPC sections 302 (punishment for murder) and 363 (kidnapping). The accused has no criminal background, said police.

To ensure safety of J&K residents in capital, police conduct drive

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 8

TO ENSURE people from Jammu and Kashmir living in Delhi are safe, the Delhi Police is conducting a door-to-door survey as part of their tenant verification drive to collect their details. The initiative was started after the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) issued an advisory — in the wake of the government revoking provisions of Article 370 that granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir — to ensure peace and public harmony is not disrupted.

Before Independence Day every year, Delhi Police conducts a tenant verification drive to check documents of all tenants and lodges FIRs against those landlords who have not conducted police verification. This year, Delhi Police is also collecting details of all people from Jammu and Kashmir as part of the drive and alerting beat staff to provide security to them.

Delhi Police spokesperson DCP Mandeep Singh Randhawa said, "We are conducting a door-to-door survey of all tenants to

avoid any untoward incident."

Hours after Home Minister Amit Shah announced the decision on August 5, the advisory was issued by the MHA's Internal Security Division and sent to Chief Secretaries and DGPs of all states and union territories and the Delhi Police Commissioner.

The advisory read, "As you would be aware, the Cabinet has taken an important decision today concerning Jammu and Kashmir in the overall national interest and to strengthen national security. It is essential that this occasion is not allowed to be misused by inimical and anti-social elements to cause breach of security, peace and public harmony in any part of the country."

Delhi Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik has directed all personnel to enhance police presence in vulnerable areas and places frequented by Kashmiris such as university campuses, markets and residential areas, to ensure their safety, a senior police officer said. A meeting was called, where he asked personnel to sensitise field officers about the development.

2 AAP MLAs disqualified from Delhi Assembly

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 8

AAP MLAs from Bijwasan and Gandhi Nagar, Devinder Sehrawat and Anil Kumar Bajpai, were disqualified from the Delhi Assembly under the anti-defection law on orders of Speaker Ram Niwas Goel. Last week, the Speaker had disqualified former minister Kapil Mishra for campaigning for the BJP and the PM ahead of Lok Sabha polls.

AAP national spokesperson and MLA Saurabh Bharadwaj had filed a plea to the Speaker, demanding that the two be disqualified as they had joined the BJP ahead of the Lok Sabha polls.

Both Bajpai and Sehrawat had claimed that they did not sign any membership form. The Speaker said that Bajpai appeared at a press conference where he joined the BJP. In a separate order, the speaker said Sehrawat had not denied joining BJP at the press conference.

DELHI CABINET GIVES NOD

WiFi project to be rolled out in 3-4 months: CM

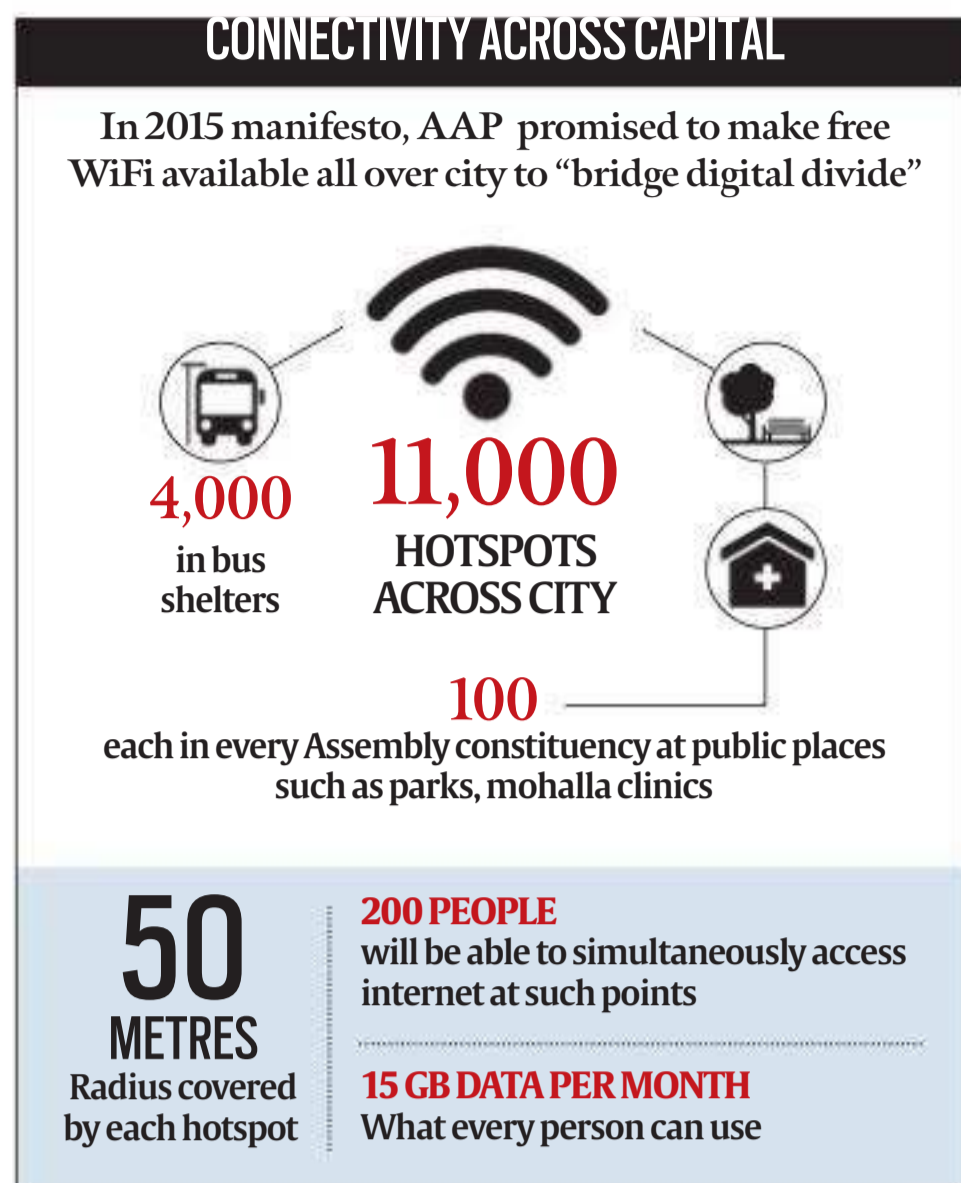
EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 8

THE DELHI Cabinet Thursday approved the long-delayed WiFi project, which has been “scaled down” keeping technological changes in the last four years and reduction in data charges in mind. The project will be rolled out within three-four months, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal told a press conference minutes after the Cabinet meeting ended.

The project will be executed in a “rental model”, wherein the company which wins the work tender will make all necessary investments in activating 11,000 WiFi hotspots across the city. The Delhi government will make payments under a “per hotspot per month” model, which will come to about Rs 100 crore per annum, said Kejriwal.

As reported by *The Indian Express* on August 4, out of 11,000 hotspots, 4,000 will be in bus shelters while the rest — 100 each in every Assembly constituency — will be in public places like parks, mohalla clinics etc. Each hotspot will cover a radius of 50 metres. Upto 200 people will be able to simultaneously access the internet at such points. Every user will be able to use up to 15 GB data per month.

The proposal came to the Cabinet a week after the Expenditure Finance Committee cleared it. The committee’s observation that “due to changes in



technology and reduction in data charges, the project was scaled down” also found an echo in Kejriwal’s words. “There has been a change between 2015 and 2019. Data rates have also come down. This is the single biggest initiative of its kind by a government anywhere in the world,” he said, adding the decision was taken keeping the youth in mind.

As per official notings, the original proposal, initiated by the PWD, was to cover 20 lakh house-

holds. In its 2015 manifesto, the AAP promised to make free WiFi available all over Delhi to “bridge the digital divide”. Under the approved model, an official statement said, “The responsibility of the entire project shall lie with the Concessionaire along with ownership of the installations.”

Kejriwal said depending on the experience of the first phase, the government will take a call on whether or not to scale up the project further.

CA, husband ‘assault’ traffic cop, held

Gurgaon: A chartered accountant and her husband were arrested Thursday for allegedly trying to run over a traffic policeman and physically assaulting other personnel. Police said the couple was stopped after they tried to jump a traffic signal.

The incident took place around 9.45 am at Vatika Chowk, where a traffic signal was not functioning properly,

and personnel were posted to facilitate traffic movement.

“The couple’s car was stopped and they were asked for their documents as they had jumped the signal. The man behind the wheel said the documents were in the car and returned to the vehicle,” said Gurgaon Police PRO Subhash Boken. “His wife started driving away. A traffic policeman tried

to stop them. The man told his wife to drive over him. The woman hit the policeman, who managed to hold on to the bonnet,” he added.

Their getaway was foiled when a motorcycle on the road obstructed their car, and the woman was forced to stop. “When a policeman tried to nab the couple, they physically assaulted him,” said Boken. **ENS**

IDIA founder Shamnad Basheer found dead in Chikkamagaluru

JOHNSONTA & APURVA VISHWANATH
BENGALURU, NEW DELHI,
AUGUST 8

PROFESSOR SHAMNAD Basheer, legal scholar and founder of Increasing Diversity by Increasing Access (IDIA), a non-profit that helped underprivileged students gain access to legal education, was found dead in his car near Bababudanagiri Hills in Chikkamagaluru district of Karnataka on Thursday.

The 43-year-old academic, who specialised in intellectual property rights, had been missing for around four days.

"We are waiting for the post-mortem to be done to obtain clarity on the death. Foul play is being ruled out because the car was locked from the inside and the key was in the ignition," Chikkamagaluru SP Harish Pandey said.

Basheer often drove alone to Chikkamagaluru, some 300 km from Bengaluru, police said. The post-mortem is expected to be conducted on Friday.



Professor Shamnad Basheer

The scholar's car was parked in a safe place away from the road, but despite search parties looking in the region on Wednesday, the car was not spotted due to thick fog, police said. The car was parked with the engine and heater switched on, and this may have caused suicidal or accidental death, sources said. The police are also investigating if Basheer was on medication for an illness.

Basheer founded IDIA in 2010. Described as the 'Super 30' for law students, the organisation helped students from rural and disadvantaged backgrounds crack entrance exams for law schools. Basheer hoped that le-

gal education for students from such backgrounds would not only empower them but also bring diversity in courts.

"It saddens us to inform you that our founder Prof Shamnad Basheer has passed away. Each of us not only grieves at the passing of such a tremendous individual but also for the loss the IDIA family suffers. IDIA will continue to carry forward his legacy and work," IDIA said on its Twitter account.

A graduate of National Law School of India University, Bangalore, Basheer was a Frank H Marks Visiting Associate Professor of Intellectual Property (IP) Law at the George Washington University law school in Washington DC. In 2008 he was appointed the first Ministry of Human Resource Development Chaired Professor in IP law.

He routinely intervened in court cases relating to IP rights, including the landmark case on compulsory licensing of patents in which the Supreme Court rejected multinational pharma major Novartis' plea to patent its

cancer drug Glivec.

In 2014, Basheer was awarded the Infosys Science Foundation Prize for his contribution to the field of research in humanities. He also ran SpicyIP, a popular blog on IP.

"He was always full of ideas. His contribution to law and particularly IP law inspired many students and practitioners alike. I was to represent him in a case but unfortunately, he has left us before I could begin arguments," said senior advocate Anand Grover.

"He was like a father to me. IDIA supported us not just financially but like a family, they stood with each one of us through difficult times," said Raghavendra Khichi, an IDIA scholar and student of Gujarat National Law University.

Khichi's father, a driver in Jodhpur, earns Rs 9,000 a month. It was virtually impossible for him to get a student loan, and IDIA helped him with college fees and mentoring, Khichi said.

IDIA scholars who graduated from law schools have been appointed judges.

Telangana man gets death penalty for rape, murder of infant

Hyderabad: A court in Telangana's Warangal district awarded the death penalty to a 26-year-old man who sexually assaulted and strangled a nine-month-old baby.

First Additional District Judge K Jaykumar handed the death sentence to P Pravin within a month of the charges sheet being filed. On the intervening night of June 18 and 19, Pravin kidnapped the baby, sexually assaulted her, and after realising that her parents were searching for the child, strangled her.

Police found a CCTV camera that recorded Pravin loitering near the house where the crime occurred. Assistant Commissioner of Police C Sridhar said he confessed to the crime the same night he was caught.

ENS

Medical superintendent says won't treat Gujarati people, sent on leave

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
SURAT, AUGUST 8

THE MEDICAL superintendent of a government hospital in Billimora taluka of Navsari district has been asked to go on leave for five days after an inquiry proved that she refused to treat locals, saying she would only treat patients from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

Dr Smita Tiwari, who was appointed medical superintendent at the Meghushi hospital in March this year, also allegedly abused the Billimora Nagar Palika BJP president and other members when they went to the hospital to discuss the issue.

The incident reportedly took place on Wednesday evening when a woman, Veenaben

Rushi, was waiting outside Tiwari's room with the case papers of her 10-year-old son who was suffering from a fever.

After waiting for about an hour, Veenaben and other women went into the room and found Dr Tiwari on the phone. When the women requested her to examine patients, Dr Tiwari allegedly told them, "I am not here to treat Gujarati patients, I will treat patients of UP and Bihar... You Gujarati people harassed me and my father earlier." She then reportedly asked the women to leave her chamber.

Billimora Nagar Palika BJP president Mukesh Naik then reportedly reached the hospital along with a few women members of the Nagar Palika and leader of Opposition, Arvind Patel. Dr Tiwari allegedly misbe-

haved with them.

Naik then registered a complaint with the Regional Deputy Director (RDD) of Health Department, Dr RK Kanchal, in Surat. The RDD set up a probe panel. The team visited the hospital on Thursday and took the statements of hospital staff, patients, Dr Tiwari and Mukesh Naik. It sent its report to Kanchal and Dr HK Bhavsar, in charge additional director of medical services at Gandhinagar, and Dr Tiwari was sent on leave.

Dr Kanchal said, "She told them, 'I will not treat Gujarati patients and will treat only patients of UP and Bihar ...' Other doctors in the hospital also said that she was irregular at work and her behaviour was inappropriate..." Dr Tiwari she did not respond to calls or messages.

NEW EMPLOYMENT LAW FOR PEOPLE OF ANDHRA PRADESH

Industry members say tough to implement 75% job quota

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, AUGUST 8

WITH A new law making it mandatory for industrial and service sector units in Andhra Pradesh to cap migrant workforce at 25 per cent, and employ three out of four employees from within the state, several leaders of the industry in the state have voiced scepticism.

According to them, bifurcated Andhra Pradesh being a new state, it does not yet have the skill-set required among local workers, and that the government is rushing through with the policy.

While the government has given three years to implement the law, the first to be affected will be workers from Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar and Odisha, who work at power plants; the Sri City SEZ, which has many industrial units — from rail coach manufacturing to Isuzu motors to Pepsico and mobile phone manufacturers; Polavaram project; and big construction sites across the state.

Over 5 lakh migrants are estimated to be employed in the state's industries, and many more in hotels, restaurants, small businesses, and the informal sector.

O Naresh Kumar, founder-CEO of Symbiosys Technologies and advisory board member of the Information Technology Association of Andhra Pradesh, said as a new state, which is primarily agrarian, AP cannot afford to have such policies. "It may look good from the popular perspective, (but) on the business side you need to follow Bengaluru, which has more than 40 per cent migratory skilled workforce," Kumar said.

Chouhan to renew party membership from Odisha

SAMPAD PATNAIK
BHUBANESWAR, AUGUST 8

AT A time when the BJP is trying to boost its membership in Odisha, the BJP's national vice-president and former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will be renewing his party membership by enrolling from the

EXPLAINED

What the new law entails

ON JULY 24, Andhra Pradesh Assembly passed AP Employment of Local Candidates in Industries and Factories Bill, 2019, which requires all units to employ 75 per cent candidates from the state. It applies to all public-private joint ventures, industries and factories in the state. The rule also applies to existing units, which have to comply with the rule within three years.

Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Federation's (APCCIF) president G Sambasiva Rao said engaging 75 per cent local workforce is not a problem if skilled manpower is available. "But what can an entrepreneur or industrialist do if little or no local skilled manpower is available? For instance, few locals are interested in working as drivers of heavy vehicles and earth-moving machines at construction sites. All (such) drivers are from Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha or Chhattisgarh," he said.

Real estate developer and former BJP MLA from Visakhapatnam P Vishnu Kumar Raju said sectors such as construction industry, pharmaceutical and IT will take a hit under the new policy.

Defending the new policy, state Labour, Employment, Training and Factories Minister P Gummanur Jayaram said it is meant to ensure employment for the local youth. "After AP Employment of Local Candidates in Industries and Factories Bill was passed, there are apprehensions that non-locals will lose jobs. (But) that cannot be helped. Our stand

is that the industry still employ 25 per cent non-locals. If locals do not have the required skills, then they should be trained," he said.

Jayaram also said the state government will open skill training centres in all Lok Sabha constituencies. "In the next three years, I think enough youths would be trained to be eligible to work in all industries," he added.

But APCCIF's Rao maintained locals are "not interested" in joining work in some sectors — construction and hospitality, among others. "We discussed these concerns with the minister. He said industries are free to employ outsiders wherever local workforce is not available," Rao said.

A spokesperson for KIA Motors, which employs nearly 5,000 people, said the company does not want to comment on the issue right now.

While minister Jayaram dismissed apprehensions that the new policy may discourage new investments coming to the state, and maintained that more units will be set up in AP "because we are going to ensure skilled local manpower is readily available", Naresh Kumar of Symbiosys

Technologies did not quite agree. Stating that the manufacturing and service sectors are "non-existent" in Andhra, Kumar said, "Service requires highly talented and skilled people. To develop our state, we need inputs in both manufacturing and service sectors, and for that we need heavy investment and skilled manpower. Placing restrictions on entry of skilled people will definitely impact investments and employment in the state."

Talking about the absence of skills in the state, Vishnu Kumar Raju said, "Technique of construction of highrise buildings has moved to shear wall technology. But locals do not know that technology, and neither are they willing to learn quickly. A majority of the workforce acquainted with this technology comes from Kolkata. How can I recruit 75 per cent workforce locally when they are not aware of emerging technologies?"

The owner of a four-star hotel in Vijayawada (name withheld on request) maintained that locals do not want to work in hospitality industry.

"Ninety per cent of our staff are from the Northeast or Odisha. I think the government should be lenient with this (policy). They fulfilled an election promise but it is difficult to implement in certain sectors," he said.

Rao, meanwhile, pointed out that in AP most units already employ 75 to 90 per cent local staff where they are available.

"Since many years, industry in the state prefers to employ local manpower as they are easy to manage, and facilities such as housing, etc, do not have to be provided," he said.

state's Khordha district.

"Shivrajji will renew his membership from Khordha on August 10," said state BJP spokesperson Golak Mahapatra.

Soon after the results of the 2019 elections to Lok Sabha and the Assembly were announced, the Odisha unit of BJP embarked on a membership drive. The party has set a target to enrol 50 lakh

new members in the state by August end.

The BJP's moves indicate that it continues to view Odisha as important in its expansion plans. Recently, veteran Odisha BJP leader and old Jana Sangh hand Biswabhusan Harichandan was appointed Governor of Andhra Pradesh.

The BJP's fortunes have con-

tinued to be on the upswing in Odisha. In 2019 Lok Sabha elections, BJP's vote-share shot up from 21.5 per cent in 2014 to 38.4 per cent, while its share in Assembly polls went up from 18 per cent to 32.5 per cent.

The party won 8 LS seats and 23 Assembly seats, displacing Congress as the principal opposition party.

Boat capsizes in flood-hit Sangli, 9 drown

SUSHANT KULKARNI & AJAY JADHAV
KARAD, PUNE, AUGUST 8

WHILE the intensity of rainfall in western Maharashtra decreased on Thursday, the flood situation remained grim, with nine people drowning in Sangli district when a rescue boat capsized.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis conducted an aerial survey to review the situation in Sangli and Kolhapur, which are the worst-hit by the flood.

Pune Divisional Commissioner Deepak Mhaisekar said nine people drowned and five went missing after a boat engaged in rescue work capsized in Sangli. He said the incident took place at Bramhnal village in Sangli's Palus taluka. "The deceased include seven women, a man and a child," he added.

Nineteen people on board the boat, which was ferrying at least 30 people, swam to safety, he said. Mhaisekar added that the

boat was arranged by the gram panchayat to evacuate people. "Preliminary reports say the boat was overloaded," he said.

Kolhapur and Sangli remain cut off from the rest of the state. Around 50,000 people are still believed to be stuck, a government official said.

The Karad-Kolhapur stretch of the Mumbai-Bengaluru national highway remained closed for the third consecutive day due to flooding of Panchganga river.

"The water level can increase suddenly. Our challenge is to stop people who are coming to click photos," said a police officer posted at Sangli Phata Bridge in Kolhapur.

In a joint effort by local police and the state highway patrol, at least 6,000 trucks were stopped on the highway's service roads or single lanes and not allowed to proceed to Kolhapur. Rajesh Singh, a truck driver carrying building machinery from Mumbai to Bengaluru, said, "We have been told by the police that

it will take at least three days for water to recede and only then the road will be cleared."

The police said that the road will be opened to traffic after the flood water recedes and PWD officials inspect the area.

According to district officials, supply of drinking water, milk and petrol have been hit in some parts of Sangli, Kolhapur and Satara.

Meanwhile, teams of NDRF, Army and Navy continued rescue work in coordination with the local administration. The commandant of the 5th Battalion of NDRF said 28 teams have been deployed in western Maharashtra. "Of these, 23 are in Sangli, Satara and Kolhapur. Three more teams are being flown in."

About 10 Navy teams have been deployed in the region. As on Thursday, the Army has deployed 16 columns, 14 engineer task forces, including a para special force team, in flood-hit areas of Maharashtra and Karnataka. Around 3,500 people have been rescued, said an Army statement. **WITHPTI**



Near Omkareshwar temple in Pune on Thursday. Arul Horizon

BJP brass to BSY: Tackle floods first, Cabinet expansion later

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, AUGUST 8

APPROPOSED expansion of the BS Yediyurappa government in Karnataka has been stalled on account of the BJP national leadership directing the chief minister to first tackle the floods in the state.

The state government currently comprises only Yediyurappa as chief minister. An expansion was expected this week after the chief minister travelled to Delhi to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP chief Amit Shah on Tuesday. A group of BJP leaders from Karnataka travelled with Yediyurappa.

The Prime Minister and the BJP president directed Yediyurappa to address flooding in northern Karnataka on a priority basis and told him that cabinet expansion plans can be discussed after a week, said BJP sources. Yediyurappa has said he will travel again to Delhi next week.



BS Yediyurappa

On Thursday, Yediyurappa visited the state government's relief centres in Belagavi region for families evacuated from banks of Krishna river in the wake of heavy rain and release of water from Koyna reservoir in Maharashtra. Yediyurappa has written to his Maharashtra counterpart Devendra Fadnavis, seeking regulation of water discharged from the reservoir.

The opposition Congress and JDS have been targeting the BJP government over its handling of the flood situation.

"Where are you Yediyurappa?" former chief minister and JDS leader H D Kumaraswamy said at a meeting of party workers on Wednesday.

"The state government has

failed to deal with the situation effectively and take up relief measures on a war footing as there is no council of ministers. Only the chief minister is visiting some places and briefing without taking adequate steps," state Congress chief Dinesh Gundu Rao said in a letter to the Prime Minister on Thursday.

On Thursday, the Karnataka government said in a statement that the situation is under control and the Chief Minister and Chief Secretary are monitoring it.

"Releases from reservoirs are well-coordinated and as per protocol to prevent inundation of downstream areas...The villages likely to be affected due to heavy discharge have been identified and necessary precaution taken," the official statement said.

"Joint rescue team comprising fire and emergency services, SDRF, NDRF and Army have evacuated 43,858 people as on today. Nodal officers are camping in vulnerable villages," it said.

MEANWHILE

ANDHRA PRADESH

CHIEF MINISTER Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy conducted an aerial survey of the flood-hit Polavaram and Devipatnam regions. Jagan has announced a special relief of Rs 5,000 to each flood-affected family which lost their livelihood, and has asked officials to supply essential commodities to families in inundated and marooned villages.

ODISHA

The deep depression that triggered heavy rain in most parts of the state has weakened. The meteorological centre says it is likely to weaken over the next 48 hours.

TAMIL NADU

Heavy rain has lashed Theni, Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari districts. As many as 100 families have been sheltered in 16 relief camps in the high ranges of Nilgiris, where many areas have been flooded and left with no power supply. **PTI**

Heavy rain leads to flooding in Kerala; red alert in 4 districts

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, AUGUST 8

A FRESH bout of heavy rain from Wednesday has led to flooding and landslides in Idukki and the northern districts of Kerala. A red alert has been sounded in four districts. Several houses at an estate settlement in Wayanad district were washed away in a major landslide on Thursday night.

According to the state disaster management authority, nine people died in separate incidents of flooding and landslides on Thursday. Around 13,000 people have been shifted to relief camps.

As rivers overflowed in Kannur, Kozhikode and Malappuram districts, several towns were flooded, forcing hundreds of families to move to camps. Flight operations at the international airport in Kochi were suspended till 9 am on Friday due to water-logging in the apron area.

The IMD has sounded a red alert in Kozhikode, Wayanad, Idukki and Malappuram and an orange alert has been issued in all



With the premises flooded, devotees leave Muthappan Temple in Kannur on a fishing boat. SK Mohan

other districts of the state, except Thiruvananthapuram.

The state government has sought the assistance of Army and the National Disaster Response Force. The Army has been asked to also supply food packets.

After reviewing the rescue operations, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said there was a major landslide in Wayanad. "At present, we don't have any details regarding the magnitude of loss there. Armymen have already

reached there and the Air Force would join the rescue operations when the weather improves. People living in areas prone to landslide and flooding should move to relief camps," he said.

The CM said water level in dams is being closely monitored.

Until last week, the state had recorded a deficiency of 33 per cent in the season's rainfall, but the present spell of torrential rains has brought down the deficiency to 23 per cent.

Chhattisgarh rivers in spate, road access to Sukma cut off

DIPANKAR GHOSE
RAIPUR, AUGUST 8

INECESSANT RAIN in southern Chhattisgarh have left large parts of Bastar division flooded, with the Godavari, Shabri and the Indravati rivers in spate. The Chief Minister's Office has asked the district administrations, especially in Bastar, to make all arrangements possible.

Senior officials in Bastar said even as the district is dealing with high water levels of the Indravati, the gates of Khatiguda dam in Odisha's Nabarangpur district were opened on Thursday, with waters expected to swell the level of Indravati further. "Water will reach parts of Jagdalpur town and Lohandiguda... The danger level (for Indravati) is 8.30 metres, but the water level is already at 9.2 metres. If water levels rise even more, then more floods will happen," officials said.

Bastar District Collector Ayaz Tamboli said, "Makeshift camps and shelter homes have been opened in schools... We are tak-

ing care of 150 people. Water levels are in the danger zone but right now the situation is under control... Some rural parts of the district have been disconnected because water from rivulets and nullas is flowing over the road..."

In Sukma, officials said 1,181 people have been shifted to camps, and the district has been cut off with major roads inundated. Officials have been visiting residents of low-lying homes in Sukma and Konta, attempting to convince them to move to camps.

Sukma District Collector Chandan Kumar said, "There are many villages which have been affected by floodwaters but we are running rescue operations... There are around 70 relief centres... The flooding is because of excessive rain in the upper catchment area of the Shabri river. The level of the Godavari has also gone up, so the Shabri is swelling. Many roads like Sukma-Jagdalpur, Sukma-Malkangiri, and Sukma-Chetti have been cut off because of flooding. The next 24 hours will be crucial."

Lancet journals to adopt diversity pledge, 'no all-male panel' policy

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS
PUNE, AUGUST 8

IN A first, the Lancet group of journals will on Friday announce a new Diversity Pledge and No All-Male Panel Policy as part of its commitment to increase gender equity, diversity and inclusion in research and publishing.

Six months ago, *The Lancet* published a theme issue on women in science, medicine and global health (#LancetWomen) that raised concerns about systemic gender bias impeding the advancement of and equity for women in these fields.

Lancet editors acknowledged that women, people of colour, and colleagues from the Global South were vastly under-represented in author, reviewer and editorial positions across all scientific and medical journals. Research shows that less than a third of authors

and reviewers in high-impact medical journals are women.

Dr Jocalyn Clark, Executive Editor of *The Lancet*, told *The Indian Express* via email that part of the motivation for Lancet's diversity pledge and no all-male panel policy, and the theme issue was the growing recognition of the extent to which gender inequities create barriers to women's advancement and rights within the scientific and health workplaces.

As part of the Lancet Group's commitment, all its 18 medical journals have adopted the Diversity Pledge and No All-Male Panel Policy. With reference to India, Dr Clark said that like the #TimesUp movement, in India the #metoo brought the scale of harassment and inequity to the forefront of public conversations.

"This is a welcome move. Hopefully other Indian journals will follow it," said Dr Aarti Kinikar, HOD, Paediatrics, at Pune's B.J. Government Medical College.

Indians diabetic since 11,000 years: Study

Also around Mesolithic period, height of South Asian population fell by 7.7- 8.5cm

ANJALI MARAR
PUNE, AUGUST 8

THE SOUTH Asian population, including Indians, have been showing symptoms of diabetes for at least 11,000 years now. Besides, the stature of this population began to reduce and since 7,000 years, has fallen by 8.5 cm among males and by 7.7 cm among females, a new study has found.

While India may be infamous for being the diabetes capital of the world, a joint study — undertaken by Pune-based Deccan College Postgraduate and Research Institute, Departments of Archaeology at University of Cambridge, UK, and Max Planck Institute, Germany — has traced origins of this disease to the Mesolithic period. That is the time when, according to researchers, the lean mass of the South Asian population began to dip, making their bodies more susceptible to type-2 diabetes in comparison to their western counterparts.

“Lower lean mass, as several studies have proven, is associated with poorer control of blood glucose and greater susceptibility to the condition (diabetes, in this case),” Emma Pomeroy from University of Cambridge, told *The Indian Express*, in an email reply.

Importantly, the study, titled ‘Ancient origins of low lean mass among South Asians and impli-

cations for modern type-2 diabetes susceptibility’ published in Nature Scientific Reports, also found that the South Asian population began growing shorter in height than the Europeans due to major dietary and environment changes which began to occur around 7,000 years ago.

“While the bone length to the joint areas were found to be proportionate among the South Asian population, what we found was that the length of some of the key bones, femur (thigh bone) and lower limbs began to reduce since the Mesolithic period,” said Veena Mushrif Tripathy from Deccan College and Post Graduate Research Institute.

Archaeologists believe that it was around the Mesolithic period, about 7,000 years ago, when humans were going through a transition from being hunter gatherers to cultivators.

“As man started cultivating and got deeply involved in agriculture activities, this population settled at one place in large numbers. This group eventually stopped migrating in lookout for food...It then resulted in the population to switch to consuming cultivated foods, that were richer in carbohydrates than proteins, which was in complete contrast to the hunter-gatherers ancestors,” explained Tripathy.

FULL REPORT ON
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CBI questions Praful Patel in aviation scam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 8

THE CBI questioned former civil aviation minister Praful Patel on Thursday in connection with alleged corruption in giving profitable routes of Air India to private airlines based in West Asia, officials said.

Patel reached the CBI headquarters at around 11 am for questioning, a source said.

The Supreme Court has handed over the case to the CBI, in which it was alleged that Patel abused his official position as the minister to make Air India and Indian Airlines give up profit-making routes and timings in favour of national and international private airlines, causing huge loss of market share of the national carriers.

It was also alleged that such acts of commission were made on extraneous considerations, causing immense losses to the national carriers and pecuniary benefit to private domestic and

foreign airlines, they said.

A CBI spokesperson said the agency does not comment on ongoing investigations.

It is alleged that foreign airlines were given unrestricted entry into India and major routes were given to them without taking any reciprocal benefits to Air India.

In spite of Air India incurring heavy losses, the Civil Aviation Ministry officials continued to act dishonestly in order to confer pecuniary advantage to the private domestic and foreign airlines.

The agency alleged that on domestic routes, Jet Airways, Kingfisher Airlines, Go Air, Indigo, Spicejet and Paramount Airways started operating and made profits.

It is alleged that Air India reduced its flights on lucrative routes like Mumbai-Dubai, Mumbai-Ahmedabad and Mumbai-Doha to give its opponents a major market-share.

Last month, the CBI had taken custody corporate lobbyist Deepak Talwar in the case.

SIT deposits Rs 6.77 cr in court to repay investors in IMA Group

JOHNSONTA
BENGALURU, AUGUST 8



The fake gold bars used by Mansoor Khan to lure investors.

A SPECIAL Investigation Team of Karnataka Police, which is probing an alleged multi-crore fraud perpetrated on 40,000 investors in a private firm called Monetary Advisory (IMA) Group, has deposited Rs 6.77 crore that was recovered from persons associated with IMA Group, including its founder Mohammed Mansoor Khan, with a Bengaluru court.

The Rs 6.77 crore is meant to pay back investors who have been cheated to the tune of Rs 1,410 crore allegedly by IMA Group.

The SIT has so far tracked down nearly Rs 300 crore in moveable and immovable assets linked to IMA Group in order to return funds under the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Institutions Act (KPID Act), 2004 to the defrauded investors. The SIT is hoping to find details of more funds diverted from investors following interrogation of Khan who is in SIT custody until August 14.

The SIT has handed over three demand drafts and one bankers cheque amounting to Rs 6.77 crore to the treasury branch of the city civil court as funds recovered

from the probe in the cheating case, which attracted investors under the guise of a Sharia-compliant investment firm.

On Wednesday, the SIT recovered 5,880 imitation gold bars weighing 303 kg from the swimming pool of a flat owned by Khan. The fake gold bars were used by Khan to create the front of a legitimate gold bullion trader to entice investors to join ponzi schemes promising up to 36 per cent interest on deposits, it said.

Earlier, the SIT had recovered only 2.853 kg genuine gold ingots out of 30 kg that was created by Khan by melting gold jewellery in his possession before he fled to Dubai on June 8.

The SIT arrested Sanaulla, a goldsmith employed with IMA Group, and a worker in the firm Ravi Narale who allegedly diverted gold jewellery weighing 30

kg from an IMA Group jewellery store, melted it and sold it for Rs 9 crore on Khan's instructions.

Khan was brought back from Dubai last month by the SIT and the ED.

Among those arrested from whom the SIT is trying to recover funds to repay investors, are IAS officer BM Vijayshankar from the revenue department, who was arrested last month for allegedly receiving a bribe of Rs 1.5 crore to give IMA Group a clean chit for its operations, and another revenue official who got Rs 4 crore.

Mohammed Haneef Afzar Azeez, an Imam of a mosque, who allegedly received a house worth Rs 3 crore for encouraging people to invest in IMA, and Mohammed Akbar Shareef, whose school allegedly received IMA funds, are among those arrested for recovery of funds.



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY
RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

COMING APART

Congress flails and flounders at a time when both government and Opposition need to find the way ahead in Kashmir

EVEN THOUGH SCRAPPING the special status of Kashmir has long been an important feature of the BJP's core ideological agenda, the Narendra Modi government took everyone by surprise with its move to render Article 370 ineffective and bifurcate J&K into two Union Territories. Everyone seemed caught off guard and outmanoeuvred. But none more so than the Opposition, especially the Congress. It has seemed stunned and slow to react. And then it has spoken in different voices, with many of its prominent younger leaders like Jyotiraditya Scindia, Deepender Hooda and Milind Deora publicly backing the government, saying that the revocation of Article 370 is the national interest, even as seniors like Ghulam Nabi Azad accuse those who support it of being ignorant of history. Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, who led its charge in Lok Sabha did it with spectacular ineptness and its chief whip in Rajya Sabha, Bhubaneswar Kalita, has resigned over the party's stand on the issue. But the question, really — and given that it is the leading party of the Opposition, scandalously — is: Just what is the Congress's position on the reading down of Article 370? The CWC resolution, which blames the manner more than the move itself, only mirrors the Congress fumbling, sharpens the edge of the question.

It is true that the government has struck at a particularly inopportune moment for the Congress, when it is already discomfited. Rahul Gandhi had stepped down as president after the party's embarrassing showing in the Lok Sabha elections, and the aftermath of his decision has exposed a reality hidden in plain sight: Remove the Gandhi at the helm, and you have a party that has forsaken all structures and processes, one that has no mechanisms of survival and movement left. A party, in other words, that finds it difficult to go on. This failure to preserve and nurture a sense of institutional self, this excessive dependence on its ruling family, is a tragic denouement for the grand old party that, at one time, offered the most vivacious and spacious of political platforms and helped win a nation its freedom. For that party to look so hollowed out today, for it to seem so unsure of itself and spooked by its political opponent, is a sad sight.

In its lowest point today, as in its erstwhile highs, the Congress predicament speaks of larger things. Today, its deshabille points to the fragmentation of the Opposition to the BJP. Despite its steep fall, it remains the salient if not primary pole in the non-BJP space. With the Congress floundering visibly, therefore, the smaller regional parties are evidently making their own calculations about the viability of opposing the BJP, and many are joining the bandwagon. The inability of the Opposition to hold its ground is bad news for a democracy that prides itself for its argumentative spirit, and its checks and balances, especially at a time when they will be needed to handle the fallout of the Centre's move in Kashmir.

FOR LAW AND LORD

Catholic church's order to expel a nun who sought justice in a case of alleged rape is victimisation. It must retract it

THE CATHOLIC CLERGY in Kerala seems unwilling to reconcile with the nuns who protested in public against a bishop accused of rape. On Wednesday, Lucy Kalapura, a nun with the Franciscan Clarist Congregation (FCC), was served a dismissal order — ostensibly because she learned to drive, bought a car on loan and published a collection of her poems. The decision to dismiss Sister Kalapura was reportedly taken on May 11 by the FCC, which waited for approval from the Vatican before ordering her to leave the convent in 10 days. The FCC said the nun has been expelled because her lifestyle violated "the vows of obedience and poverty" which she refused to correct despite repeated warnings.

This explanation sounds absurd and especially so since the church has been threatening action against the five nuns who supported a nun who filed a police complaint last year, accusing Franco Mulakkal, the bishop of Jalandhar diocese, of raping her. The clergy has rallied behind Mulakkal, and tried to silence the complainant as well as other nuns who stood by her. In an unprecedented act, nuns, attached to different congregations, staged a public protest in Ernakulam, Kerala when the state police sat on the complaint. Mulakkal, who had accused the complainant of blackmail, was arrested only after public pressure mounted. The clergy seems to have been shaken up by this open challenge from within, that too by nuns, who are expected to function under the supervision of male priests. When the attempts to persuade the nuns to retreat from public forums failed, the clergy sought to transfer them to different, distant centres, which they have resisted.

Mulakkal, who continues to hold the office of bishop, has the right to claim innocence, of course. But the church should not show prejudice against the complainant, or the nuns who have stood with her. It must wait for due process to conclude and not take sides. The move to transfer, and now expel, the nuns who have spoken out against harassment, is a regressive step and a signal that it prefers to protect male privileges within the clergy at all costs. That a significant section of the laity has been sympathetic to the nuns is a sign that the church can't continue to privilege the voice of priests over nuns. In the past, nuns who have crossed the red lines drawn by the church have chosen to walk out voluntarily. Kalapura's apparent defiance indicates a welcome shift on the ground that the Church must take note of.

AN OPAQUE BOUT

Selection of Mary Kom for the World Championship comes as a result of a process that is less transparent

BY ALL ACCOUNTS, Nikhat Zareen is no match for Mary Kom, the poster-woman of Indian boxing. Take away her six World Championship golds in the lighter categories, and Mary's Asiad and Olympic medals at 51 kg still far outweigh Nikhat's exploits as a junior and youth boxer. With Tokyo less than a year away, Mary needs to re-acclimatise herself to the flyweight category. It makes sense, then, for her to go to the World Championships in October. What doesn't seem reasonable, however, is the selection process, which allowed her to do so while a challenger cried foul.

The Boxing Federation of India swears by its performance-based selection process. Only the categories too close to call are resolved via trials. But Mary's selection in the 51 kg division was neither performance-based nor fair to a young boxer like Nikhat. Mary skipped the Asian Championships in April "to prepare for bigger events", making way for Nikhat to defeat a two-time world champion and return with a bronze. Exploits in recent months have been virtually identical (Nikhat's silver in Thailand came in a much tougher field than Mary's gold in Indonesia). The unstated understanding is that the India Open semifinal between the two, which Mary won 4-1, was the clincher.

However, if the bout in May served as a retroactive trial, why did Sarita Devi line up against Simranjit Kaur in the 60kg trial on Thursday? It's true that Indian boxing has seen enough instances of young pretenders pulling upsets on selection day only to fizzle out overseas. It is also true that the federation's result-oriented process has seen more hits than misses. There were enough variables in the Mary-Nikhat case for a trial to be held. 'Transparency' is the mantra of the new administrators. But with no real justification for their decision, they've shown that they can be as opaque as their predecessors.

Silence of the successful

In 2019, remembering 1992 — a different kind of government, a different kind of protest



RAMACHANDRA GUHA

THE BABRI MASJID was demolished by a crazed mob in broad daylight in 1992. Article 370 was abrogated at night by a secretive government in 2019. That said, there are some striking similarities between these two events, occurring 27 years apart. Both were justified as righting historical wrongs; both were triumphantly acclaimed by the Sangh Parivar and their supporters; both were quietly mourned by those affirming the constitutional values on which this Republic was founded.

When the Babri Masjid was demolished, I was living in New Delhi, in the home of Dharma Kumar, Professor of Economic History at the Delhi School of Economics. Her many students and friends — some active in public life today — will remember Dharma both for her personal charm and for her intellectual courage. She was a classical liberal, equally opposed to the extremities of the Marxist left as well as of the Hindutva right.

Dharma had grown up in Mumbai in the last years of the Raj, where she had sometimes attended Mahatma Gandhi's prayer meetings on Juhu beach. Now, seeing his ideals violated in a nation which claimed him as its founder, she set out to publicly defend them. She drafted a statement, which she had inserted as an advertisement on the front page of the most widely circulated newspaper in India. The statement read: "If you are a Hindu, read on. Do you believe that the demolition of the Babri Masjid restored Hindu pride, enhanced national honour, strengthened India? If so, consider the possibility that the act debased Hindu culture, shamed the nation across the world, increased the tensions between all communities and so weakened India".

Designed by an artist friend of Dharma's, the statement was printed on white type against a black background. Alongside appeared the names of 19 signatories. They included the scientist MS Swaminathan, the writer Vikram Seth, the former RBI Governor, IG Patel, the curator, Pupul Jayakar, the former Solicitor General, Ashok Desai, and the former Chief of Army Staff, K Sundarji. Although Dharma thought up and paid for the ad, and canvassed each signature, she did not — out of both propriety and modesty —

put her own name on it.

Notably, the list of brave, civic-minded Indians who signed Dharma's appeal began with six widely admired industrialists. These were Bharat Ram, RP Goenka, Lalit Thapar, Nanubhai B Amin, Raj Thiagarajan, and Desh Bandhu Gupta. That they signed this statement made it far more credible for the readers of the paper in which it appeared. It could not now be dismissed as the malignant handiwork of misguided jholawalas.

When I heard of the abrogation of Article 370, my mind went back to December 1992. The silencing of the millions of people in whose name this constitutional change was allegedly being enacted seemed — since it was done by a government and not a mob — an even greater violation of the republic's ideals. As I lay awake at night, I remembered Professor Dharma Kumar and what she had done. I was now in my sixties, as she had been in 1992. I had the same sort of position in our intellectual life as she had then. I, too, had a wide spectrum of influential friends in other professions.

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My first thought was to emulate my teacher, to draft a statement appealing to my fellow citizens to abjure crude triumphalism, alerting them to the moral and political consequences of this awful act. This statement might have said: "If you are a patriotic Indian, read on. Do you believe that the abrogation of Article 370 overnight and without deliberation enhanced national honour and strengthened India? If so, consider the possibility that the act undermined the Constitution, degraded our democratic ethos, and increased rather than decreased tensions between Kashmir and the rest of India".

Had I drafted this statement, I could have raised the money to pay for it to be printed in the leading newspaper of the day. Would I have had Dharma's success in getting people of comparable stature to sign? The writers and artists would have been easy work. But which contemporary analogues of Lalit Thapar or RP Goenka would have joined in?

I personally know at least a dozen industrialists even more successful than the ones Dharma had contacted. I know them to be honest, of liberal values, and democratic to the core. While some may have had reser-

variations about the existence of Article 370, none would have approved of the arbitrary, authoritarian manner in which it was removed. I could, I am sure, have drafted a statement which reflected their sentiments accurately and honestly. But, with perhaps only one exception, none would have put their names on it.

This is because — for all the other parallels I began this column with — in one critical respect, 2019 is not 1992. This is that the government now in power in New Delhi is far more vindictive and vengeful than the one that was in power when the Babri Masjid was demolished. When Bharat Ram and Lalit Thapar were approached by Dharma Kumar, they did not think that the fate of the tens of thousands of workers they employed would be put at risk by the mere act of their signing a statement. But were I to approach their counterparts today, even if they entirely approved of what I was trying to do, they would be too scared to sign on. They would have feared retribution, in the form of unannounced raids, cooked-up cases, arrests, and worse.

The comparison with the past is instructive, and with other democracies perhaps even more so. When President Trump imposed an arbitrary travel ban on citizens of six Muslim countries, the CEOs of his country's top companies rose in unison to oppose it. They could express their views openly — because they knew that the president and his cabinet did not have the power to set the FBI or the IRS upon them. These American entrepreneurs also knew that, for merely speaking their mind, they would not be abused by ruling party politicians and demonised in social media as enemies of the nation.

In India today, industrialists — even the most upright and patriotic — are far more fearful than they were in 1992. Like the people of the Kashmir Valley, they have been silenced by the state into submission; by different (but no less malevolent) means. That even the richest and most successful Indians cannot say in public what they truly think tells us all that we need to know about the state of our democracy in the year 2019.

The writer is a Bengaluru-based historian

SHE SET AN EXAMPLE

We need more women leaders like Sushma Swaraj



JAYA JAITLEY

EVER SINCE THE country heard the sad news of Sushma Swaraj's sudden passing, the highest words of praise have been heard repeatedly — dedicated politician, effective parliamentarian, excellent orator, competent administrator, compassionate foreign minister, a caring sister, a friend, a good wife and mother. There is almost nothing more to add. As we take in the enormity of the national loss and move on with a heavy heart, it strikes me that there is an important lesson for both men and women, who aspire to achieve something good out of politics, to learn from all these generous adjectives.

Sushma Swaraj pushed for the Women's Reservation Bill vigorously. But to me, she was a prime example of a capable and intelligent Indian woman working her way up to Parliament without the need for a law. The path in politics is strewn with thorns for all those not entitled women who want to serve the people of this country. Sushma had her share of problems in the beginning of her political journey as egos of leaders in the Janata Party got in the way of her aspirations. Yet she never demanded a smooth path, she found it herself. Most countries have a greater number of women in their legislatures than we do. This happens because their systems are structured so that patriarchal attitudes cannot stop them. Patriarchs do not suddenly become soft because there is reservation — they

soften only when women toughen up. Feminists, who are the most vocal amongst those who call themselves progressive, liberal and secular, have often made snide comments about Sushma's outward conservatism — her big red *bindi* and *sindoor*, her public celebrations of Hindu festivals like Teej and Karva Chauth. Many of these feminists like to show they don't need men and do not believe in religion-oriented practices. While that is their personal choice, Sushma showed us that to be an effective politician and a representative of our country's traditions and culture, one does not have to show another face — neglect one's family, hide one's own beliefs. Family relationships and practices do not have to be compromised to do a job that requires a progressive outlook and a positive behaviour towards other human beings, irrespective of their politics and religious beliefs.

Sushma's political trajectory teaches us that a woman primarily needs confidence in herself, and hard work to hone her abilities, to serve the public good. While it helps to be a good orator, a party worker must keep the party's welfare above herself. A competent person can have many gifts, but it takes special dedication and commitment to learn Kannada in a month to communicate more effectively when fighting an ideologically and politically crucial election against Sonia Gandhi in Bellary. The contrast between an

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Italian-born reading written speeches which betrayed a lack of familiarity with the language and an Indian demonstrating the ability in learning a new Indian language in a month was striking. It requires dedication and a firm belief in the cause.

All these aspects are qualities that are not exclusive to women. They must be part of any politician, and particularly among aspirational women. The premise that women should be confined to kitchens and their role is limited to bringing up children is disproved by Sushma Swaraj, who effectively demonstrated that women should not sacrifice one for the other, and men should not expect them to do so. Along with deep condolences to Sushma Swaraj's immediate family, one must salute Swaraj Kaushal, who did not compromise his work or his effectiveness in society to be a supportive and proud husband. The world must learn to accept what Sushma Swaraj has demonstrated — capable and sincere women in politics will only help with the task of addressing public needs, enable better governance, inject dignity and grace in the political discourse where male aggression is almost the norm, and through compassion, show people in difficulty that they are not alone.

The writer is former president of the Samata Party

AUGUST 9, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO

LAW VS ALLIANCE

UNMINDFUL OF THE attack that has been launched against him by Congress-IMPs, the new law minister, Shyam Nath Kacker, made it clear that he intended to pursue the cases being tried in the special courts. He said there is no proposal to drop the trial of Indira Gandhi and others going on in the special courts. Kacker told H K Dua in an interview that his position is clear: "I will not compromise on this issue and I will advise my colleagues not to compromise." The law minister said that Prime Minister Charan Singh, had told him that the Congress-I support to the new government was unconditional. Kacker's interpretation of unconditional support is

that there is no Congress-I rider that the government has to wind up the special courts.

PLAN CHANGES

MAJOR CHANGES IN sectoral priorities are revealed in the final draft of the Sixth Plan (1978-83) submitted by the Planning Commission to the prime minister and the Union cabinet. The document, which was sent out last Monday, gives much higher priorities to water supply and transport and communications than were accorded in the earlier draft. The deputy chairman of the Planning Commission, D T Lakdawala, is expected to meet PM Charan Singh some time this week to explain the broad features of f

the new draft. The revised document envisages a total public sector outlay of Rs 71,604 crore against Rs 69,380 crore stipulated in the earlier draft.

CHARAN MET INDIRA

PM CHARAN SINGH secretly met Indira Gandhi, twice during the last five days to seek her cooperation in facing a mid-term poll, according to the Janata Party General Secretary Nanaji Deshmukh. Charan Singh, he said, took the help of "such political elements who were removed from the seat of power by the people in 1977 only to install himself in office. He deliberately did it with the sole motive of inflicting a mid-term poll on the country."



TELLING NUMBERS

Sex ratio at birth: Kerala on top, Northeast states show decline

THE SEX RATIO at birth (SRB) in the country, defined as the number of female births per 1,000 male births, improved from 914 to 919 between the third and fourth National Family Health Surveys (NFHS), carried out in 2005-06 and 2015-16 respectively. The highest improvement was in Punjab at 126 points, but its SRB remained among the lowest among the states at 860 in NFHS-4. The sharpest decline was in Sikkim, where the SRB dropped 175 points to reach 809, the lowest among all states in 2015-16. These trends emerge out of state-wise data tabled by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in reply to a question during the recently concluded Parliament session.

Next to Punjab, the highest improvement in SRB was in Kerala, by 122 points from 925 in 2005-06. Its 1,047 in 2015-16 was the highest SRB among all states.

2015-16: TOP 6 & BOTTOM 6

Kerala	1,047
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1,013
Meghalaya	1,009
Chhattisgarh	977
Tripura	966
Goa	966
Punjab	860
A&N Islands	859
Puducherry	843
Haryana	836
Delhi	817
Sikkim	809

Source: NFHS-4 via Ministry of Health

Next to Sikkim, the five states with the highest declines included four more in the Northeast.

HIGHEST IMPROVEMENT

State	NFHS-3 (2005-06)	NFHS-4 (2015-16)	Change
Punjab	734	860	+126
Kerala	925	1,047	+122
Meghalaya	907	1,009	+102
Haryana	762	836	+74
Tamil Nadu	897	954	+58
Maharashtra	867	924	+57

SHARPEST DECLINE

State	NFHS-3 (2005-16)	NFHS-4 (2015-16)	Change
Sikkim	984	809	-175
Jharkhand	1,091	919	-172
Arunachal	1,071	920	-151
Assam	1,033	929	-104
Mizoram	1,025	946	-79
Manipur	1,014	962	-51

Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

THIS WORD MEANS

PREDICTIVE SHOPPING/ANTICIPATORY SHIPPING

Using algorithms to anticipate orders and deliver faster

AMAZON HAS over the past few years developed and patented a technology called 'anticipatory shipping', which enables it to package items for a certain geographical area even before a customer has placed an order. The precise delivery address can be added after the order has been placed, and customers in certain places can receive their order in under 30 minutes. Amazon can 'anticipate' orders because it has an abundance of actionable data about its customers, and knows when a customer is likely to buy what. It can use this foresight to get into 'predictive' shopping, most probably with the consent of customers. Amazon has held the patent for anticipatory shipping for several years, but with the latest advances in deep learning and AI, it is now in a position to roll out the technology with significant accuracy. E-commerce companies have been

doing this manually, especially for products bought repeatedly, say, diapers or toilet paper. They would reach out to customers days before a pack might be expected to run out, and offer to send more; or offer a subscription for delivery at pre-defined intervals. With predictive shipping, an e-commerce company uses algorithms that know, based on a customer's earlier purchases, the product that she will want at a particular point in time, and ships it to her.

Online companies are gradually reducing the distance between warehouses and customers to cut shipping time. Across the world, more hubs are being created to cater to more remote areas. Anticipatory shipping can help keep a product ready closer to a potential customer. In case she wants it, the package is already nearby.

NANDAGOPAL RAJAN



AMITABH SINHA
 PUNE, AUGUST 8

A NEW report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released Thursday presents the most recent evidence on how land affects, and is affected by, climate change. What use land is put to — forestry, agriculture, industries, urbanisation — has an impact on greenhouse gas emissions. At the same time, activities like agriculture are directly impacted by global warming.

The Geneva-based IPCC is mandated by the United Nations to assess the science related to climate change. It produces periodic reports, called Assessment Reports, that provide a comprehensive account of the state of climate system.

Among the headline statements, the report says land-based activities like agriculture, forestry and "other land use" contribute almost a quarter of all greenhouse gas emissions in a year. This amounts to about 12 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent every year.

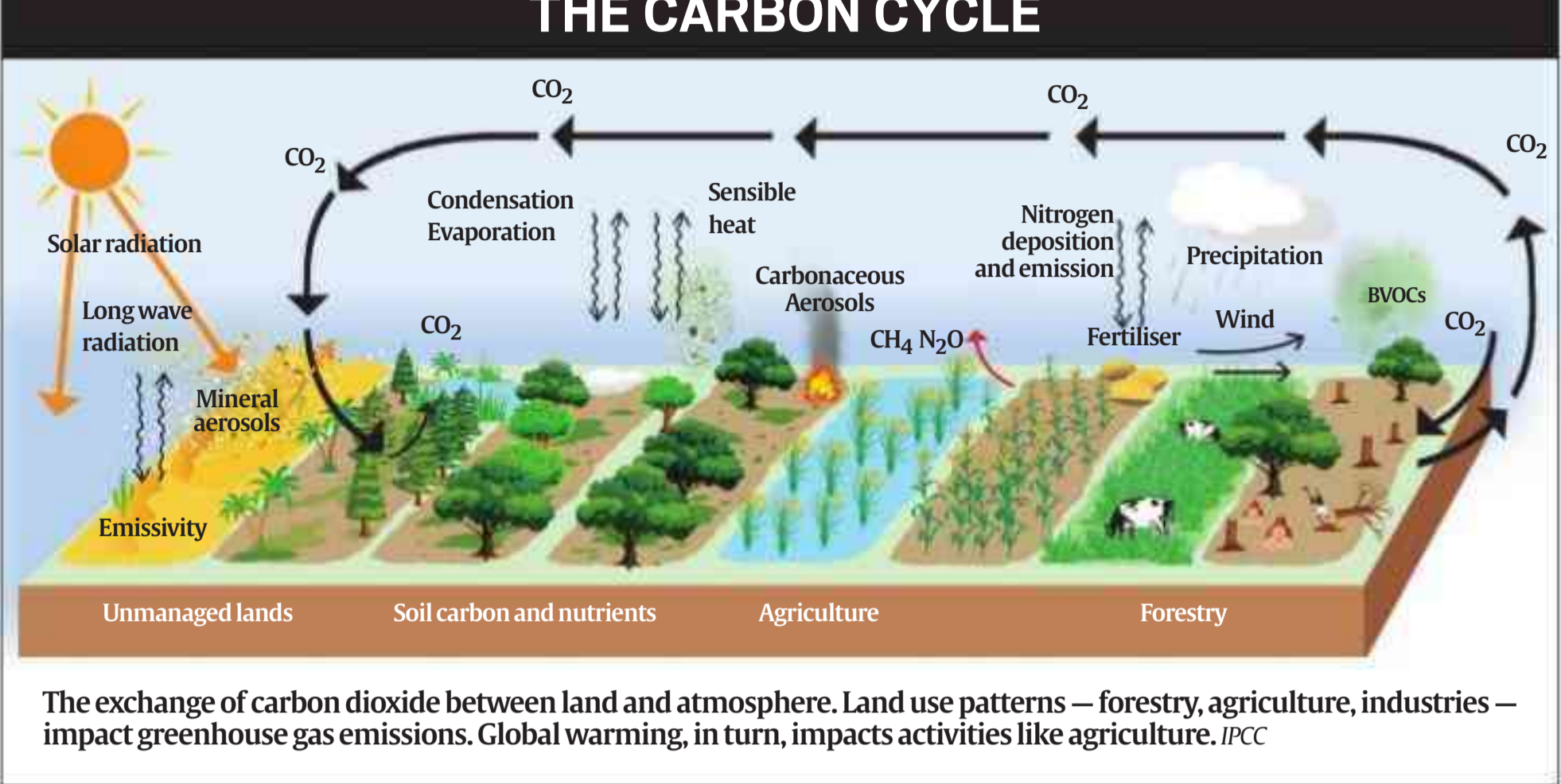
It says that the global food system, which would include activities such as cattle rearing, agriculture, food processing industries, energy and transportation, could account for as much as a third (21 to 37 per cent) of all greenhouse gas emissions.

The report, after assessing all different kinds of impacts due to land-use and changes in land-use, provides the possibilities of containing emissions from land in different future scenarios of land-use, without compromising on global food security.

Land & climate change

Land use and changes in land use have always been an integral part of the conversation on climate change. That is because land acts as both the source as well as a sink of carbon. Activities like agriculture and cattle rearing, for example, are a major source of methane and nitrous oxide, both of which are hundreds of times more dangerous than carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas.

At the same time, soil, trees, plantations, and forests absorb carbon dioxide for the natural process of photosynthesis, thus reducing the overall carbon dioxide content in the atmosphere. In fact, nearly 50 per cent of all carbon dioxide generated on earth is trapped by land and oceans, and the rest is released in the atmosphere. In a complex but constant natural interaction known as the carbon cycle, car-



The exchange of carbon dioxide between land and atmosphere. Land use patterns — forestry, agriculture, industries — impact greenhouse gas emissions. Global warming, in turn, impacts activities like agriculture. IPCC

bon dioxide is continuously exchanged among land, ocean and atmosphere. The debate over the life spans of carbon dioxide in ocean, land and atmosphere is not yet settled. The contribution of livestock — cows, pigs, even chicken generate emissions, mainly methane — to greenhouse gases is also contested.

Because of the fact that land is both the source as well as a sink of carbon dioxide, large-scale changes in land use, like deforestation or urbanisation, or even a change in cropping pattern, have a direct impact on the overall emissions of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

The impact of land use changes on emissions is a separate point of discussion at the international climate change negotiations. And, activities like afforestation or restoration of forests are considered important strategies in the fight against climate change. India's action plan on climate change too has a crucial component on forests. India has promised that it would create an additional carbon sink of about 2.5 billion to 3 billion tonnes by 2032 by increasing its forest cover, and planting more trees.

The IPCC report

This is the first time that the IPCC, whose job it is to assess already-published scientific literature to update public knowledge of climate change science, has focused its atten-

tion solely on the land sector. It is part of a series of special reports that IPCC is doing in the run-up to the sixth Assessment Report (AR6) that is due around 2022.

Last year, the IPCC had produced a special report on the feasibility of restricting global rise in temperature to within 1.5°C from pre-industrial times. Later this year, it is scheduled to come out with a special report on ocean systems and cryosphere. These three reports were specifically sought by the governments to get a clearer picture of specific aspects of climate change. For the first time, a majority of the scientists who contributed to the report belonged to developing countries.

The assessment

The report says that the land sector had been contributing about 5.2 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide (not all greenhouse gases) every year between 2007 and 2016. During this same period, the land sector absorbed almost 11.2 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide every year. "The sum of (these two processes)... gives a total net land-atmosphere flux that removed about 6 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide per year during 2007 and 2016," it says.

About the impact of climate change on land systems, the report notes that 25 per cent of ice-free land was subject to degradation due

to human use. And that this process was being exacerbated by climate change. Global food security was already under threat because of warming, changing precipitation patterns and greater frequency of extreme weather events, and this could come under further risk.

The report points out that that nearly 25 per cent of all food produced globally was either lost or wasted. And even the decomposition of the waste releases emissions.

Suggestions

IPCC reports do not offer any policy prescriptions. They do not even recommend the best course of action. Instead, they just provide the possible pathway scenarios under different assumptions of responses offered by countries.

It does mention that reduction in food waste, sustainable agriculture practices, and shifting of dietary preferences to include more plant-based food could avoid a part emissions emanating from land systems without jeopardising food security. In fact, it would also have co-benefits in terms of human health.

It says it was possible to avoid between 2.3 and 9.6 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent per year from agriculture and livestock activities by the year 2050. Similarly, it was possible to avoid up to 8 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent every year by the year 2050 just through a change in people's dietary habits.

DECODING

MODI'S ADDRESS ON J&K

Words and ideas in the Prime Minister's speech



IN HIS ADDRESS to the nation two days after Parliament ratified his government's decision to end the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and split the state into two Union Territories, Prime Minister Narendra Modi sought to explain the reasons for the move, and to allay the misgivings of a section of the population.

MODI SPOKE directly to the people of India, including those in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, and assured them that Article 370 of the Constitution had been removed for their benefit, to fulfill the aspirations of the people, and to lift roadblocks on the path to development and progress of the region.

IN HIS SPEECH, delivered in Hindi, the Prime Minister used the words Jammu-Kashmir and Ladakh 65 times and 28 times respectively, and referred to *desh*



(nation) 22 times. There were 18 mentions of *sarkar* (government), 10 mentions of *log* (people), and eight of *vishwas* (faith). Article 370 was mentioned on seven occasions.

SHRUTINAIIR

Why Gujarat and MP are arguing over Narmada water and hydro power

ADITIRAJA
 VADODARA, AUGUST 8

OVER THE last two weeks, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat have engaged in war of words over the sharing of Narmada river waters. Madhya Pradesh has threatened to restrict the flow of water into the Sardar Sarovar Dam, located in Gujarat. This was after Gujarat, in April, had requested the Narmada Control Authority for permission — which was granted — not to start generation at a power house until the dam fills to its full level.

The power equation

The Sardar Sarovar Project includes two power houses, the River Bed Power House (RBPH; 1,200 MW) and the Canal Head Power House (250 MW). Power is shared among Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat in a 57:27:16 ratio. The RBPH has been shut since 2017, when the gates were closed and the reservoir height was raised

to 138.63 m. Gujarat has sought that generation should not start until the water reaches the full reservoir level (FRL).

"The protocol is that once the dam crosses 131 m, we ought to release some water as it fills to its FRL. For this, we have to resume power generation in the RBPH, where the turbines release the water downstream into the river. If the inflow exceeds the capacity of the water released by the turbines after power generation, then too we have to open the gates. The dam cannot just be filled to 138.63 metres without balancing the outflow," said Rajeev Kumar Gupta, Managing Director, Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Ltd (SSNNL).

On Thursday, the SSNNL issued a circular announcing an upcoming 6-cusec release, in keeping with the 131m protocol. The current level is 129.65 m

What Gujarat wants

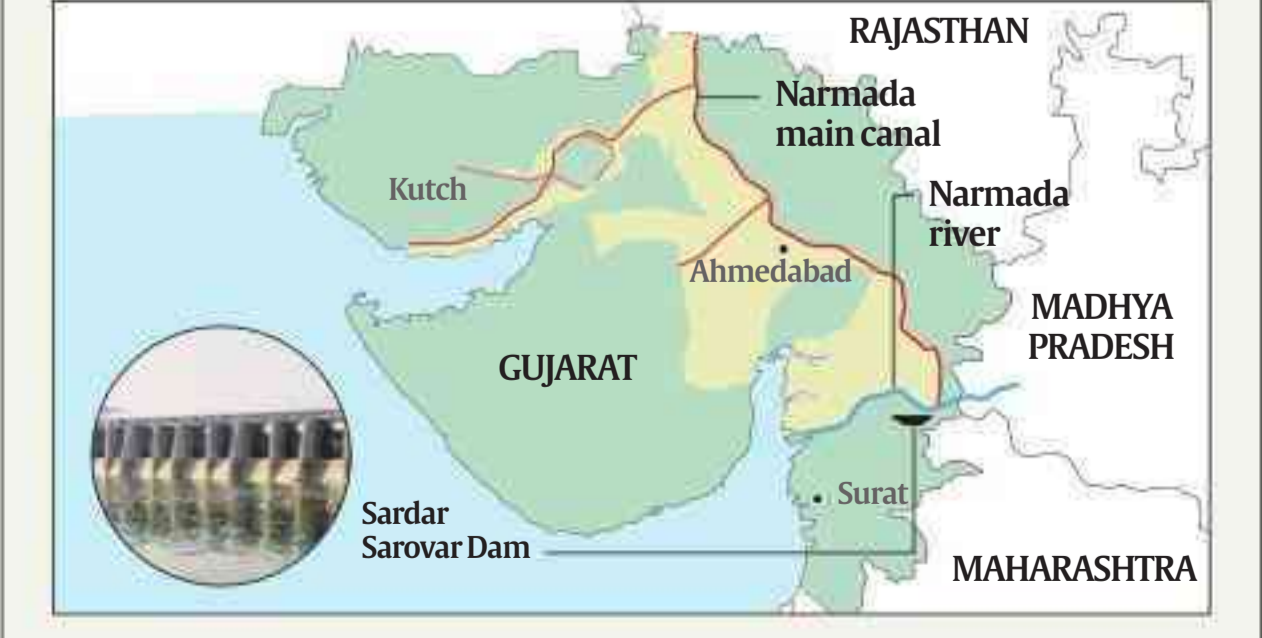
In April, the SSNNL approached the Narmada Control Authority which granted its request not to start production until the

water reaches 138.63 m. Gujarat has been facing a rain deficit in 2017 and 2018, when the reservoir reached levels of 130.75 m and 129 m. Engineers in Gujarat say reaching the FRL is necessary for testing whether the concrete can withstand the thrust at that level. The construction has lasted close to five decades with gaps of several years. Filling the reservoir is possible only when the RBPH is closed because the water used for generating hydro power cannot be reused — it is drained into the sea. The Garudeshwar Weir is still being constructed to store water released after generation of power at the RBPH. Once the weir is ready, the water can be stored and pumped back using reversible turbines during non-peak hours of the grid, officials say.

Why MP objects

While MP Chief Minister Kamal Nath has indicated that the state will follow the Authority guidelines in letter and spirit, the government has raised an objection to its consent to Gujarat, terming it 'unilateral',

SARDAR SAROVAR (NARMADA) PROJECT



and has refused to share its surplus water with Gujarat that would allow the reservoir to be filled. MP took that position after frequent power outages led to discontent, the

political power having just changed hands. The BJP attacked the government saying MP has returned to the "dark days" of the previous Congress rule of 1993-2003. The gov-

BEATLES FANS CELEBRATE ANNIVERSARY OF COVER 50 YRS LATER, AT ABBEY ROAD CROSSING

Hundreds of Beatles fans came together outside London's Abbey Road Studios on Thursday, exactly five decades on from the moment when the band walked across for the photo used on the sleeve of their final studio album, 'Abbey Road'.



TOP OF THE WORLD



Boris Johnson

UK Boris to hold poll after Brexit if lawmakers sink govt

London: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson will hold an election in the days following Brexit, if lawmakers sink his government with a no-confidence vote, FT reported on Thursday, citing unidentified senior aides to the PM.

PAKISTAN ADB, Pak sign \$500 million loan agreement

Islamabad: The Asian Development Bank has signed a \$500 million loan agreement with cash-trapped Pakistan in order to support the country's trade competitiveness and exports.

SERBIA Citizenship for fugitive ex-Thai PM Yingluck

Belgrade: Serbian media reported Thursday the country has granted citizenship to Thailand's fugitive former premier Yingluck Shinawatra, who was ousted ahead of the 2014 coup and later fled to avoid a jail term.

RUSSIA 2 dead, 4 injured after rocket engine explodes

Moscow: Russia's Defence Ministry said two people died and four others were wounded Thursday when a rocket engine exploded during a test.

World's food supply at risk due to climate change, window to act rapidly closing: UN

AMITABH SINHA PUNE, AUGUST 8

THE PROCESS of producing food and making it available to everyone could be contributing over a quarter of the global emissions of greenhouse gases every year, a major report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has said.

The report said measures such as reduction in food wastage, sustainable agriculture practices and shifting of dietary preferences to include more plant-based food rather than animal-based could avoid a part of these emissions without jeopardising food security.

The new report on 'Climate Change and Land', released on Thursday afternoon, is an assessment of how land systems are contributing to global warming, and are in turn being impacted by the resultant climate change.

SOME KEY POINTS FROM THE REPORT



Harvesting in Xinjiang, northwest China. Reuters

- The global food production system could account for 16 to 27 per cent of GHG emissions — up to 37 per cent, if factors such as transportation and food processing are included. The global rise in temperature has been much faster over land than over the entire planet. This additional warming over land could have led to increased frequency, intensity and duration of heat-related events such as heat waves.

Measures such as reduction in food wastage, sustainable agriculture practices and shifting of dietary preferences to include more plant-based food could reduce emissions without jeopardising food security.

The report says the global food production system could account for 16 to 27 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions.

If outside the "farm gate" activities such as transportation, energy and food processing industries are included, emissions from global activities that put

the food on our table could account for as high as 37 per cent of all greenhouse gas emissions.

If emissions associated with pre- and post-production activities in the global food system are included, the emissions are estimated to be 21 to 37 per cent of total net anthropogenic (man-made) GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions," the report states.

Maryam Nawaz arrested by Pak anti-graft body

M ZULQERNAIN LAHORE, AUGUST 8

MARYAM NAWAZ, Pakistan's former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's daughter, was arrested from the Kot Lakhpat jail here on Thursday in a money laundering case while she was on her way back from visiting her father, who is lodged in the same prison, an official said.

On July 31, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) vice-president Maryam was questioned by the anti-corruption agency officials in connection with the alleged money laundering and income beyond means charges against her and her family.

According to an official press release issued by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), Maryam and her cousin Yusuf Abbas have been arrested in connection to the Chaudhry Sugar Mills (CSM) case.

"We have arrested Maryam Nawaz in the Chaudhry Sugar Mills (CSM) case as she was facing money laundering and income beyond means charges," a NAB official told PTI.



Maryam Nawaz

from the jail in Lahore where her father is serving a seven-year prison term since December 24, 2018 after he was convicted in one of the three corruption cases filed in the wake of the apex court's July 28, 2017 order in the Panama Papers case.

A team of doctors will conduct a medical examination on both of them, the Dawn News reported. As per the law, Maryam and Abbas will be presented before an accountability court in Lahore for remand on Friday, the press release said.

Maryam had been given a questionnaire based on six questions in the CSM case, which she was due to answer by 3pm (local time) on Thursday. However, the NAB officials reached the jail and detained her, the report said. PTI

Iran slams Bahrain's 'provocative' Gulf military conference

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA TEHRAN, AUGUST 8

IRAN ON Thursday hit out at Bahrain for hosting a "provocative" conference on Gulf maritime security and for its "anti-Iran" rhetoric accusing Tehran of attacking tankers in sensitive waters.

Bahrain said the July 31 meeting was to discuss the "current regional situation" and blasted "the repeated attacks and unacceptable practices of Iran and the terrorist groups linked to it".

"The security of regional countries is inseparable and it is not possible for some to be secure at the cost of others' insecurity. It is expected that regional countries prevent foreigners' escalatory interventions by exercising prudence and foresight," he added.

Mousavi "condemned the anti-Iran measures taken by Bahrain's government including hosting suspicious and provocative conferences," the statement said.



POMPEO TALKS IRAN WITH SAUDI CROWN PRINCE

Washington: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo discussed maritime security, Iran and Yemen with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in a phone call on Wednesday.

"The secretary discussed heightened tensions in the region and the need for stronger maritime security in order to promote freedom of navigation," State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortogus said in a statement.

The US has been struggling to piece together an international coalition to protect cargo ships travelling through the Gulf. PTI

Manama said last month that it and the US would co-host a conference on "maritime and air navigation security," set for October.



'WE ARE NOT DIRTY, WE ARE NOT CRIMINALS'

People protest in El Paso during US President Donald Trump's visit, days after a mass shooting. "We are not what he says we are. We are not rapists. We are not dirty. We are not criminals," said Judy Lugo, one of the protesters. NYT

Will not allow Syria safe zone to be delayed: Turkey

REUTERS ANKARA, AUGUST 8

TURKEY WILL not allow efforts to establish a safe zone with the United States in northeast Syria to stall in the same way that their agreement on control of the Syrian town of Manbij has been delayed, Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said on Thursday.

The Manbij roadmap was an agreement made between the NATO allies last year for the withdrawal of the Kurdish YPG militia from the town. Ankara considers the YPG a terrorist organisation.

Turkey and the United States agreed on Wednesday to establish a joint operation centre in Turkey to coordinate and manage a planned safe zone in north-

east Syria, a move that appeared to reduce the chance of imminent Turkish military action.

"We will not allow these efforts (on the safe zone) to turn into the Manbij roadmap," Cavusoglu told a news conference in Ankara. He said he and US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo drew up the roadmap in June last year, and that it was supposed to be executed within 90 days.

"But the United States delayed this with many excuses, such as joint patrols," he said.

Ankara has repeatedly expressed its frustration with the slow progress over Manbij. In the past month, officials have also expressed impatience over talks with the United States regarding the safe zone proposed by US President Donald Trump last year.

'HE BELIEVED HE WAS UNTOUCHABLE, MORE POWERFUL THAN THE GOVERNOR'

Over 220 in Guam accuse 'predator priests' of sexual abuse

ASSOCIATED PRESS AGAT, AUGUST 8

LONG AFTER clergy sex abuse erupted into scandal in the United States, it remained a secret on the American island of Guam, spanning generations and reaching to the very top of the Catholic hierarchy.

For decades, abusers held the power in a culture of impunity led by an archbishop who was among those accused. Anthony Sablan Apuron was convicted in a secret Vatican trial and suspended in 2016, after which restrictions he supported on the reporting of abuse were eased.

More than 220 former altar boys, students and Boy Scouts are now suing the US territory's Catholic archdiocese over sexual

assaults by 35 clergy, teachers and scoutmasters.

Thousands of pages of court documents reviewed by The Associated Press, along with extensive interviews, tell a story of systemic abuse going back to the 1950s and of repeated collusion by predator priests. Seven men have publicly accused Apuron of sexual assaults they endured as children, including his own nephew.

The archbishop, now 73, denies the allegations, but in April the Vatican revealed Pope Francis had upheld the findings of a secret church trial that he was guilty of sex crimes against children.

"He believed he was untouchable, more powerful than the governor," said Walter Denton, a former US Army sergeant who alleges he was raped by Apuron



Walter Denton, one of over 200 who are now suing Guam's Catholic archdiocese. AP

40 years ago as an altar boy.

Though Apuron has been removed from public ministry and effectively exiled from Guam, he remains a bishop and receives a monthly \$1,500 stipend from the

church. The Guam archdiocese said it did not know where Apuron is, and his lawyer declined repeated requests for comment.

The AP found he recently registered to vote in New Jersey, but

residents at the address he listed said he doesn't live there and they don't know him.

Secret church files that could have helped provide evidence for prosecutions are alleged to have been burned.

Brothers Tomas and Ramon De Plata have filed suit alleging abuse by more than one priest. In March 1964, the brothers say, Apuron - then a seminarian in his late teens - was at a sleep-over in the rectory. Around midnight, Ramon says, he walked into the priest's bedroom looking for the bathroom and saw Apuron and another priest engaged in sex acts with a boy from his school.

Ramon says the future archbishop got up from the bed and placed a hand on his shoulder. He was calling me to join

them," recounted Ramon De Plata, now 65 and retired from the U.S. Army. "I said, 'Don't touch me!'" Denton says he dreamed as a 13-year-old altar boy of becoming a priest, just like Father Tony.

So he felt privileged when in the spring of 1977, Father Tony invited him to spend the night before Sunday mass in the squat concrete block rectory. He says he woke up face down on bed, his legs spread, and the priest on top of him. "I yelled, I screamed, and I begged Father Tony, 'Please stop! Please stop!'" Denton, now 55, recounted.

First, Denton told his mother what happened, but says she accused him of making it up. Denton then confided in an older altar boy, who said Apuron had abused him too. Together, Denton

says they reported the assaults to another priest, but that man did nothing and later turned out to be an abuser himself.

In August 2015, Denton reported his rape to Apuron's superior, the apostolic nuncio for the Pacific. Denton wrote a notarized four-page letter to Pope Francis, and the Vatican opened an investigation. Months ticked by.

In May 2016, a Guam survivor publicly accused Apuron of molesting him. Tired of waiting, Denton informed the church that he too was going public. The day before his scheduled press conference, Pope Francis suspended Apuron.

Denton still thinks about what happened almost every day, but after decades away from the church, the former altar boy is once again attending mass.

POLITICS IN SINGAPORE

Hazy

Even Singapore's ruling party struggles to plan for everything



Singapore is a trading entrepot, with a big and busy port. Reuters

THE ROAR of a fighter jet cuts through the gentle hubbub of a business lunch. Intrigued diners turn to the window, trying to spot it beyond Singapore's gleaming skyscrapers. Fly-bys are part of rigorous preparations for the 54th anniversary of Singapore's independence on August 9th. Nothing is left to chance. The forethought reflects the Singaporean government's broader approach.

Elections, for example, also run seamlessly. Singapore's next one need not be held until early 2021, but it is likely to take place sooner. It is also probable that the People's Action Party (PAP), in power since 1959 (when Singapore was still a British colony), will triumph once again. But thereafter confident predictions diminish. Knowing the true state of the government's popularity is difficult, since the local press is largely state-owned and timid.

Recent elections offer a mixed view. In 2011 the PAP achieved its worst result since 1965, winning 60% of the popular vote but still retaining 93% of seats in parliament. Four years later it did far better, winning almost 70% of the vote. But 2015 was also the 50th

anniversary of Singaporean independence and the year in which its chief architect, Lee Kuan Yew, died. The next election will show whether the surge in the PAP's support was a patriotic anomaly.

Two sets of challenges could undermine the PAP's careful planning for polling day. The first touches on the longevity of the party itself. Last year in neighbouring Malaysia (of which Singapore was briefly a part), the ruling United Malays National Organisation was unexpectedly defeated in an election, putting an end to its six decades of uninterrupted sway. Malaysians summoned up the courage to rock the boat—something Singaporeans are frequently advised against by their government—without causing it to capsize. That leaves the PAP vying with the Communist Party of Vietnam for the title of South-East Asia's ruling party of longest standing. It is an awkward juxtaposition.

The prime minister, Lee Hsien Loong, who is the son of Lee Kuan Yew, has been in his post for almost 15 years. (That is less than half the time that his father held the job.) He is expected to lead the party through the next

election and then step down before his 70th birthday in 2022. His anointed successor, Heng Swee Keat, a competent if uninspiring technocrat, was promoted to the position of deputy prime minister in May.

The succession has been less smooth than usual. The prime minister's own brother became a loud critic of the government af-

ter a very public family spat over Lee Kuan Yew's house two years ago. "Today's PAP is no longer the PAP of my father," he declared in recent days. "It has lost its way." A new political party—the Progress Singapore Party—is led by another former insider unhappy with the way the country is being run. Tan Cheng Bock was a member of parliament for

the PAP for 26 years. "I worry because I see the foundations of good governance eroding," Dr Tan declared on July 26th.

The second potential impediment to another easy electoral triumph for the PAP is the economy. According to official estimates, Singapore managed year-on-year growth of just 0.1% in the second quarter. It is the most meagre expansion for a decade and follows a disappointing first quarter, too. (Last year the economy grew by about 3%.) The country's electronics industry has been hit badly by the global downturn in demand for gadgets. As of June, the value of electronics exports had fallen by more than 30% compared with a year earlier.

The trade war between America and China is making matters worse. Singapore is a trading entrepot, with a big and busy port. But China, Singapore's biggest trading partner, is also suffering from a slowdown, with growth at its lowest level in decades. No wonder Singapore's imports and exports are contracting (see chart).

The timing of the election may turn on when (or whether) the economy picks up.

The government has plenty of scope to stimulate it, by spending more on infrastructure and its ageing population. The budget is in surplus, albeit only narrowly. Moreover, the government remains a big shareholder in many of Singapore's largest firms, which gives it a say in their investments and hiring. The PAP has a record of excellent economic management. Mr Heng, for example, burnished his reputation by running the Monetary Authority of Singapore, the central bank, during the financial crisis of 2007-08.

Singapore's transformation from a resource-poor island into a wealthy city-state is proof of the strength of the PAP's planning. But the wealthier countries become, the slower they tend to grow. The big question is whether Singaporeans accept that the PAP cannot preside over breakneck growth forever. Government handouts may soften the blow. If Mr Lee announces generous ones at the National Day Rally later this month, consider it the start of another meticulous election campaign.

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Singapore's transformation from a resource-poor island into a wealthy city-state is proof of the strength of planning by the People's Action Party. But the wealthier countries become, the slower they tend to grow. The big question is whether Singaporeans accept that the PAP cannot preside over breakneck growth forever

WINE IN FRANCE

The rise of rosé

Even the French are learning to drink pink

"THERE IS more philosophy in a bottle of wine than in all the books in the world," said Louis Pasteur, a 19th-century French chemist. For the French, wine is not just a drink or source of alcohol: it is a mark of civilisation, a subject of scholarship, a way of life. So why in the land of fine wines is rosé, the industry's poor cousin, enjoying such a boom?

On the slopes of a forested hillside close to Mont Ventoux, the Domaine de la Verrière is one of the highest vineyards in Provence. Among the Chêne Bleu wines it produces, predominantly from hand-picked grenache and syrah, is a premium organic rosé. By July this year, for the first time, the estate had sold out of last year's vintage. "Our rosé sales are now constrained by supply," says Danielle Rolet, whose family owns the vineyard.

France is both the world's biggest producer and consumer of rosé wine, a pale pink blend that snobs have traditionally scorned. In the second half of 2018 supermarket sales of red in France fell by 5% on the same period the previous year, and white was flat. Yet rosé sales were up by 6%.

Why the French craze for rosé? One answer is the change in diets. In recent years even the French have begun to eat less steak and other red meat, which they traditionally accompany with red. As a simpler—and, the purists would say, blander—wine, rosé is seen as a lighter drink, particularly when chilled in summer. It is especially popular among the under-25s, the age group most likely to be

France is both the world's biggest producer and consumer of rosé wine. In the second half of 2018 supermarket sales of red in France fell by 5% on the same period the previous year, and white was flat. Yet rosé sales were up by 6%

vegetarian, according to the Organisation Internationale de la Vigne et du Vin.

A second, and perhaps more surprising, reason is the emergence of winemakers seeking to take rosé upmarket. A bottle of top-end Garrus rosé from the Château d'Esclans, a Provençal wine estate, for instance, sells at an improbable €100 (\$110). Such wines, or so their producers hope, are helping to lend rosé the cachet it has lacked until now. "From the start, we wanted to make a more complex, structured, serious rosé," says Ms Rolet; "Now, almost unexpectedly, we find that it's through our rosé that people find us."

And then there is the celebrity image. Almost all the Côtes de Provence wines, made along France's Mediterranean fringe, are rosés. For millennials, the pale pink hue, backlit by sun, is considered highly "Instagrammable". "It's a fashion that has come up from Saint-Tropez," says a winemaker farther inland, dismissively. Brad



For the French, wine is not just a drink or source of alcohol: it is a mark of civilisation, a subject of scholarship, a way of life. Reuters

Pitt and Angelina Jolie own the Château de Miraval in Provence, which produces a premium rosé. Other aspirational brands,

such as Minuty, are popular—often by the magnum—on the yachts and in the beach clubs of the Riviera. Such bottles sell not

so much a pale pink liquor as a glamorous lifestyle fantasy. The promise, as it were, of la vie en rosé—to which even the French,

it seems, are not immune.

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25 TALK

ART, MUSIC, STYLE, FOOD

SNAP SHOTS



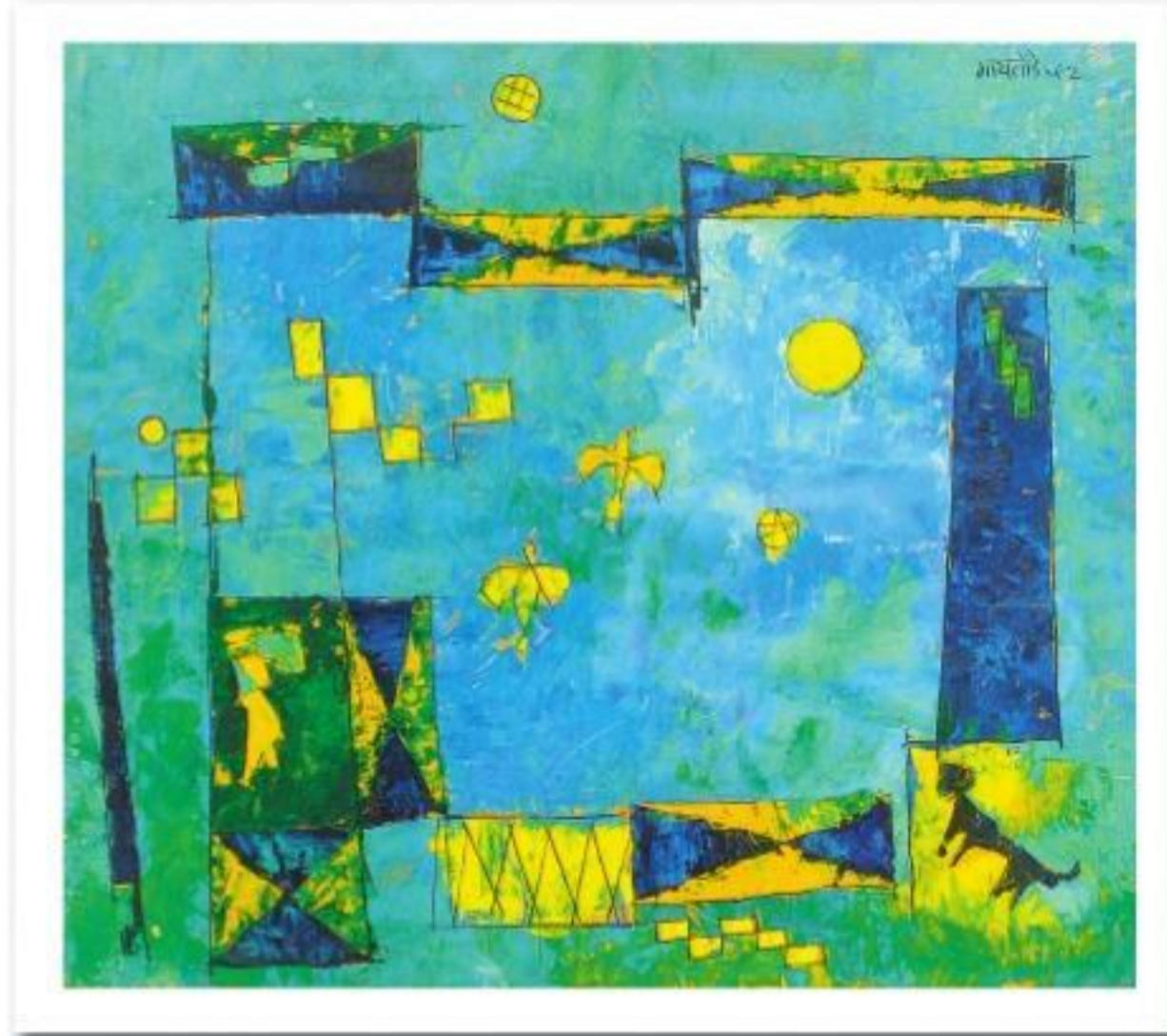
Read and Own

PHOEBE WALLER-BRIDGE, the name behind the show *Fleabag* is now all set to release a book on the same. It will be published by Random House's Ballantine imprint, and release in November. Waller-Bridge's *Fleabag*, revolved around an angry, confused and sexually active woman in her 30s who lives in London. The book, which is being penned by Waller-Bridge herself, shall include shooting script and behind the scene footages of the show.



Put a Ring on It

THE ICONIC luxury jewellery store Tiffany's will soon be opening their store in Delhi and Mumbai. Tiffany's, which was immortalised by Audrey Hepburn in her film *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, has grown to be on the most sought after jewellery stores for engagement rings. The Delhi store will open by the second half of 2019 and Mumbai will follow suit in 2020. The brand is coming to India in partnership with Reliance Industries.



STAND ALONE

After this year's Oscar ceremony was conducted *sans* a host, the forthcoming edition of the Primetime Emmy Awards, too, will not have a host. Oscars last year went hostless after Kevin Hart had to drop out because of a controversy surrounding some of his homophobic jokes in the past.

'Web series have put content in the driver's seat'

Actor Kirti Kulhari on her role in *Mission Mangal*, and the competition between films and web series

PARTH KHATAU

You have portrayed strong women characters in *Pink* (2016) and *Uri* (2019), and now in *Mission Mangal* (2019). Do you consciously pick such roles?

A part of it is conscious but what I do want is my work to speak to me. It has to be a situation where I can add value to the film, else there is not point. I want to start conversations, and tell stories that haven't been told before. There are things we don't talk about often and I wish to bring these things to the fore. It is an honour to be an actor and being one means you have great power but also responsibility. Also, I am terrified of monotony and want to find new stories to tell.

Do you see a competition between web series and theatrical releases?

It is competition at the end of the day, and movies are having to up their game, and it's good for people like me who want to do something different. Web series have put content in the driver's seat, and not star power, and I feel that's great. In the interim, filmmakers are having to make better films and create a better cinematic experience.

You have some big names in *Mission Mangal* (such as Akshay Kumar, Vidya Balan, Sonakshi Sinha and Taapsee Pannu). Do you think having so many stars in one film helps? Was it ever a case of too many cooks spoil the broth?

Not at all. We all got on extremely well off camera and it is always great when so many stars working together on one project. Akshay was, in fact, the most fun person to be around, always sharing a joke. As for star names, we could've done without them and got newcomers in their place. But where

their presence helps is in promotions. The film is meant for the masses and we want it to reach as many people as possible.

Did you follow the Mars Mission in 2013?

I read about the Mars Mission in 2013 but I was never a space geek. But there was a lot of homework I had to do for my role in this film, which is why I love my job so much. It allows me to explore new avenues. The beauty of the film, however, is that even though its dealing with complex topics, it is in a language that is easy to understand. I play Neha Siddiqui, who hails from Lucknow. Besides being a space scientist, she is dealing with a divorce and is also struggling to find a house for herself, being a single woman from the minority community. It's a complex character I enjoyed playing.

Eyebrows have been raised over Akshay Kumar's face being the biggest among the seven lead actors on the film's poster.

That is a call the producers and marketing team take. Yes, he is the highest-selling actor among us and is someone who would attract the most audiences. Would I have designed the posters differently? Probably. I would not have any faces on it, not even mine. The film is bigger than any star face. However, I am not an expert in that field and those who make the decisions to promote the film know better.

What are your upcoming projects?

There is a web series called *The Bard of Blood*, based on a spy novel of the same name and will be out on Netflix on September 27. Its director, Ribhu Dasgupta, is someone I am working with again in the remake of *The girl on the train*. I play a British cop and will fly out to London for the shoot. I have just wrapped up the shoot for *Four More Shots Please! Season 2* in Udaipur.



ANUSHREE MAJUMDAR

IN DADIBA Pundole's introductory note at the beginning of "VS Gaitonde, The Silent Observer", the noted gallerist writes about his relationship with the famously reclusive artist: "The only work that was of any interest to him, he said, was the last one completed and the one he was working on. He was not concerned if the others remained or not. There were always two canvases visible in his studio: a completed painting hanging on the wall, and a canvas with a flat coat of uniform pigment on his easel. He would sit and contemplate that ground colour for days, maybe weeks, until he was ready to put paint to canvas."

Inside the airconditioned confines of the Jehangir Nicholson Gallery, located on the second floor of the east wing of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS) in Mumbai, a motley crew of visitors walk around in silence. Some have stumbled upon the room by chance, others are there by design — they walk around as though they were participating in a theatre exercise, before suddenly stopping in front of a painting. They might be drawn in by one of many things — how a seemingly bare canvas comes alive with shades of blue, green, amber, white, instead of objects and figures; how forms and script appear and disappear in the blink of an eye; and how time has slowed down, allowing them to notice the light emanating from within the frame. Perhaps, they too are contemplating colour, as the artist once had.

Kamini Sawhney, curator, Jehangir Nicholson Art Foundation (JNAF), reckons that Gaitonde might have been pleased with that reaction; she certainly is. "His paintings

are truly immersive. He was essentially a colourist. He never used a paint brush, only a roller and palette knives, creating translucent layers of colour," she says.

"For the last two years, director general of CSMVS, Sabyasachi Mukherjee, has been talking about doing an exhibition celebrating Gaitonde, and other masters of modern Indian art, instead of waiting for museums outside the country to do it," says Sawhney. She's referring to the first retrospective of his work, "VS. Gaitonde: Painting as Process, Painting as Life", that was on show at the Solomon R Guggenheim Museum in New York from October 2014 till February 2015; it put the Nagpur-born artist on the global art map, nearly a year after the sale of an untitled oil-on-canvas for Rs 237 crore at Christie's debut auction in India. It was time to bring him home.

"We researched to see if there had been any kind of exhibition in India of his work, which was not of a commercial nature, and there wasn't one. Also, this city has two of the greatest collections of Gaitonde's paintings — 14 at the JNAF, and five from the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), which people have not had access to. We sought to create a timeline of Gaitonde's body of work. So there are early works from the TIFR collection — *Women with a Kite* and *Two Women* — when he was experimenting with stylised

forms, colour and composition. We went to the Pundole Gallery, set up by Dadiba's father Kali, who had been Gaitonde's gallerist, till he passed away in 2001. They have a great collection, 13 works, and especially the ink and pen pieces that he did late in his career, as well as the ones that look like notations or hieroglyphics. The repetitions are mysterious and almost evoke a meditative mood, a way to



His paintings are truly immersive. He was essentially a colourist. He never used a paint brush, only a roller and palette knives, creating translucent layers of colour

KAMINI SAWHNEY
CURATOR



(Clockwise from left) Vasudeo S Gaitonde; his untitled work; his other works *Cycle Location* and *Two Women with Kite*

look within," says Sawhney. Three works, two from the Darashaw collection, and one from the Glenbarra Art Museum in Japan, round off the exhibition.

During his lifetime, Gaitonde refused to call his work 'abstract'; he chose to refer to them as "non-objective art", and only named a handful of his paintings. "We've chosen not to arrange the works chronologically. Instead, we've arranged them in a way so they can interact with one another and create corners of conversation. Gaitonde always said 'don't ask me what my work is about. Look at it and take what you can from it,'" says Sawhney.

In an interview for the *Illustrated Weekly of India* in 1991, Gaitonde had said, "Everything starts from silence. The silence of the brush, the silence of the canvas, the silence of the painting knife; the painter begins by absorbing all these silences and working together with it". Sawhney says, "He adopted silence as a conscious position, to explore the depths of his personality, to discover his spiritual self. For Gaitonde to create, he needed that silence. In this exhibition, he's not the only silent observer. As we immerse ourselves in his world, who is the silent observer?"

The exhibition is on till December 25



Lives Like Ours

Bindi Sheth's exhibition focusses on the lives of differently-abled children

PALLAVI CHATTOPADHYAY

WITH HER stiff body stretching upto an adult human's arm length, and legs curled up all the time, Misba, 17, the daughter of a toy seller, is cradled in her teacher's arm at her home, in a black-and-white photograph by Bindi Sheth. Suffering from microcephaly, wherein a child's head is much smaller, leaving her with intellectual disability, the weight of her tiny body remained static for seven years, and she passed away six months ago. Three of her siblings suffer from the same condition, and become part of the exhibition "Like Us", which offers an intimate look into the lives of differently-abled children.

Nearly 35 photographs put the spotlight on the works of Prabhat Education Foundation, started by its founder Keshav Chatterjee in Ahmedabad, which serves children with special needs from low income communities through counselling, therapy



Some of the photographs on display at the exhibition

and learning activities. The organisation also works with the parents of these 3,000 children, who are mostly labourers, factory workers and helpers. Chatterjee says, "Misba's mother would literally collapse and be tired all the time when taking care of her children. We helped her relax and also connected her to parents of other special children. We would

also take visitors to her house to understand their community better and learn."

With nearly eight million children under the age of 19 living with disabilities in India, Sheth points out that the title of the show says it all. Adds the 50-year-old, "I have shot Prabhat's children from close quarters, captured the faces of their parents and expressed

what they are going through." By photographing Hanif in a kurta, who suffers from a mental disorder, and offering a close-up of his hands engaged in cleaning the surface of a vehicle in a local garage, Sheth tells an inspirational story. The foundation agreed to pay the garage an amount of Rs 100 every month to employ him as a helping hand. The young boy is now employed there and gets Rs 200 every month.

There's 24-year-old Kangana, with behavioural issues, walking through the kitchen in one photograph. She mostly sits, starts throwing things around if she isn't served what she asks for, but ensures she doesn't get hurt in the process. A bunch of boys with mental disorders, standing beside a wall in a frame, bring out the case in point of how many of them, if they venture out of their house, will never be able to find their way back home. Chatterjee says, "Many a times when someone is blind, it is easily visible, and people would sympathise with them. But these children do not have that advantage."

By photographing children with autism, Down syndrome and cerebral palsy, the aim of the show, says Sheth, is to tell the parents and their community that they are not alone. Chatterjee recalls how he once went looking for one of his students, Samira, in her colony in 2008 and nobody had an inkling about her, until someone referred to her as 'that mad girl?'. *Langda* and *hakla* are other nicknames given to some of these children. He says, "Samira made us rethink about the environment at their homes. Once these children return from the centre, their own siblings didn't play with them. Our children kept looking through the window and watched them play. That's when we realised we have to work at the ground level and started decentralising and going to people's house to educate, so that the community can see what we do."

The exhibition is on at India International Centre, Delhi, till August 11

AROUND TOWN



Sing Along

THE AUGUST edition of *Under the banyan Tree* on a Full moon Night is back, and has *Songs of the Soil* as the theme. The idea is to recreate the charm of traditional musical gatherings. Goa-based singer-songwriter Ditty, who sings earth songs, and Hindustani classical vocalist, Nirali Kartik shall be performing. At 1AQ, Opposite Qutub Minar, Mehrauli. August 10, 7 pm onwards. Tickets on Twwagatway.com



Fantasy Revisited

WATCH THE retelling of the iconic hindi film *Umrao Jaan* on stage as a musical— *Umrao Jaan Ada*. Directed by Rajeev Goswami, the musical features live music by Salim-Sulaiman. The titular role is being essayed by Pratibha Baghel and Harish Moal is playing the Nawab. At the Jawahar Lal Nehru Weightlifting Indoor Stadium, 3 pm and 7.30 pm, till August 11. Tickets on insider.in



History and More

WATCH *Nostalgia for the Light*, a Spanish documentary, with English subtitles, as part of the Habitat Film Appreciation Forum. The film is set in Chile's Atacama desert and addresses the lasting impact of Augusto Pinochet's dictatorship. At India Habitat Centre, August 9.



Coastal Cuisine

FEAST ON a Malabar culinary journey and taste dishes like Chemmeen Porichathu, Vazhapoo Vada, Meen Mulagittathu and Mutton Pepper fry and more. Open for dinner, 7.30pm onwards, till August 18. At the Indus Express, Vivanta by Taj, Dwarka.

Two-horse race resumes

Form in community shield means Reds & City remain top contenders for EPL title while the rest will play catch-up

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
LONDON, AUGUST 7

MANCHESTER CITY have Premier League immortality in their sights as they start their title defence this weekend, but Liverpool's burning desire to get their hands on the trophy will fuel a heavyweight battle for supremacy. In the blue corner, treble winners City are at the peak of their powers and look capable of enjoying a period of sustained dominance not seen since Manchester United earned three successive Premier League titles from 2007 to 2009.

But in the red corner, European champions Liverpool, chasing a first English title since 1990, have more than a puncher's chance of ending City's reign after pushing Pep Guardiola's side all the way to the final day last season.

The first blows will be landed this week as Liverpool kick off the new Premier League campaign against promoted Norwich at Anfield on Friday, before City head to West Ham on Saturday.

Sunday's no-holds-barred Community Shield clash showed the growing rivalry between England's pre-eminent teams, with City beating Liverpool on penalties following a 1-1 draw that underlined how little there is to separate the sides.

Adding Atletico Madrid's Rodri for a club-record £63 million (\$77 million) gives Guardiola an even greater embarrassment of riches. With five major trophies over the past two seasons - including Premier League crowns clinched with unprecedented hauls of 100 and then 98 points - City are the bookmakers' favourites to become only the second club to win a hat-trick of English titles in the past 35 years after United did it twice.

Guardiola is a keen student of football history and has revelled in City's record-breaking feats, so the opportunity to further bolster his team's credentials as one of England's all-time greats will not be lost on the Spaniard. Although City have never won the Champions League and Guardiola last lifted it back in 2011 with Barcelona, he said domestic bliss remains his preferred passion.

"To maintain the health and focus of the team, the most important thing is the Premier League," Guardiola said. "It is the standout competition because it is every weekend. In the Champions League, many things can happen in one or two games. We will be closer to achieving in Europe when we have more Premier League titles. That is a nice process and the right process to do at Manchester City. If I could have one thing this season, right now, it would definitely be the title."

It would be a surprise if Liverpool do not make City sweat right to the finish once again after bouncing back from last season's agonising near-miss in the title race by winning their sixth European Cup. No team has ever gathered more points with-



Pep Guardiola and Jurgen Klopp are all set to tilt lances again. AP

out winning the Premier League than second-placed Liverpool did last season with their tally of 97. Jurgen Klopp's side lost just once in their 38 league games - crucially that defeat came against City - but their 2-0 Champions League final win over Tottenham ensured there was no title hangover.

Liverpool's mean's defence

Liverpool had the Premier League's meanest defence last season and boast an attack featuring two of the campaign's three leading scorers in Mohamed Salah and Sadio Mane. Despite that wealth of talent, Liverpool midfielder Georginio Wijnaldum admits making a fast start is essential to stop City establishing a stranglehold at the top.

"You just have to collect as many points as possible, especially in the beginning, and try to build a team who will be even better at the end of the season," Wijnaldum said. "We can try and do even better than last season. Basically it starts now because now we have the whole team together."

Challengers to City and Liverpool are likely to be thin on the ground. Since winning the Europa League, Chelsea have lost star playmaker Eden Hazard to Real Madrid and hired an idolised but inexperienced new manager in Frank Lampard, who is working under the club's transfer ban. **TV:** Star Sports Select, 12:30 am (Saturday).

United offload Lukaku

REUTERS
MANCHESTER, AUGUST 8

MANCHESTER UNITED succeeded in off-loading striker Romelu Lukaku to Inter Milan on a transfer deadline day which saw plenty of business but few jaw-dropping deals from Premier League clubs.

Belgian Lukaku, who spent two years with United after 75 million pounds (\$91.05 million) move from Everton, joined Inter for a fee reported to be around 80 million euros.

United had been keen to move on the forward who disappointed last season and whose style of play did not suit the approach being taken by Norwegian manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

With United unable to sign a replacement, the pressure will be on 21-year-old England forward Marcus Rashford to deliver the goals in a more central role than he has previously operated in.

United had already invested heavily to bring in centre-back Harry Maguire from Leicester City for 80 million pounds, making him the most expensive defender in the world. Solskjaer has also added right-back Aaron Wan-Bissaka and winger Dan James, while some fringe players may yet move out

while the European transfer window remains open until Sept. 2.

Tottenham Hotspur famously spent nothing in the window a year ago before reaching the Champions League final but tied up two deals for manager Mauricio Pochettino on deadline day.

Argentina midfielder Giovanni Lo Celso joined from Spanish side Real Betis on a season-long loan with an option for a permanent switch.

Highly-rated 19-year-old Ryan Sessegnon was bought from Fulham for a reported initial fee of 25 million pounds -- the left wing-back signing a five-year deal.

Tottenham's north London rivals Arsenal were also active, spending a reported 25 million pounds on Celtic's highly-rated Scotland left-back Kieran Tierney.

Media reports said Unai Emery's side were also trying to bring in Brazilian defender David Luiz from Chelsea but could lose midfielder Alex Iwobi to Everton in a deal worth up to 40 million pounds, although neither of those deals had been confirmed before the 1700 local (1600 GMT) deadline.

Former England striker Andy Carroll has rejoined his boyhood club Newcastle United, 8-1/2 years after leaving them to join Liverpool in a then British record transfer.

New Season, new rules

A new season but old rivalries, with some novelties thrown in. The Premier League returns on Friday and the League's official website has listed 15 items that would be a first this season. Some changes are cosmetic, but the introduction of the VAR and a winter break appears significant. Here's a low-down.

VAR

In November last year, the EPL approved the introduction of the Video Assistant Referees from the 2019-20 season. All 380 matches will have a VAR, with its base at Stockley Park. Technology will be used "only for 'clear and obvious errors' or 'serious missed incidents'" in four game-changing situations - goals, penalties, direct red card incidents and mistaken identity.

WINTER BREAK

Other European leagues go AWOL during Christmas. The world's most popular football league, however, thrives on its busy Christmas schedule. This is partly because of the broadcasters' demand, at the expense of the players' workload. Players and the support staff in the Premier League had been longing for a mid-season breather. The lack of a winter break was also said to be one of the reasons for England's average performance in tournament football. The two-week break will take place in February, but fans will still be able to watch football at the weekends during that period. Basically, every team will skip a week. "It means the Premier League will split one round of matches in February over two weekends, with five matches taking place on the weekend commencing 8 February 2020 and the other five on the weekend commencing 15 February," the Premier League says.



DEBUTANT MANAGERS

Frank Lampard (in pic) will be the cynosure of all eyes, working under the trigger-happy Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich. But four other managers - Daniel Farke at Norwich, Dean Smith at Aston Villa, Chris Wilder at Sheffield United and Graham Potter at Brighton & Hove Albion - will make their Premier League managerial debuts as well.

'KEEPERS FACING PENALTIES

With the new IFAB penalty rules coming into play, a 'keeper facing a penalty "ought to have at least part of one foot on the goalline or, if jumping, in line with the goalline", when a penalty is taken. And the 'keepers could no longer stand behind the line.

DROPPED BALLS

Players can no longer challenge for a dropped ball. This season, for resumption of play outside the penalty area, the ball will be dropped for a player from the team that last touched it.

SUBSTITUTIONS

Players now must leave the pitch "at the nearest point on the touchline or goalline", when they are substituted. Taking a long walk towards the dug-out has been made a thing of the past to minimise any potential time-wasting.

Handballs

Any goal scored or assisted with the use of the hand or arm will be disallowed even if it is accidental. The new rule doesn't consider the intent. In a Phil Jones-like case though - an overhead kick hitting the player's arm - a handball will not be awarded.

NIKE MERLIN BALL

Expect more goals with this ball, as it has a bigger "sweet spot" and All Conditions Control (ACC) technology. The Premier League last term had recorded 1,072 goals.

HEAD-TO-HEAD RECORDS

Head-to-head records will be counted this season to determine the title, European qualifications and relegation if two or more teams finish on same points. Until last seasons, teams finishing with the same points were separated by the goal difference followed by the number of goals scored.

Nadal strolls without fuss

Toronto: Top seed and defending champion Rafa Nadal overcame a slow start to beat British qualifier Dan Evans 7-6(6), 6-4 while Stefanos Tsitsipas and John Isner both fell in second-round upsets at the Rogers Cup in Montreal on Wednesday. Nadal, playing his first match since losing to Roger Federer in the Wimbledon semi-finals, fell behind 5-2 in the tiebreak before roaring back to prevail in his first career meeting with world number 53 Evans.

The Spaniard jumped to a 2-0 lead in the second set before the players were forced off court for a rain delay and when play resumed Evans got back on serve at 3-3 before Nadal regained his confidence and proved too strong. The French Open champion said he did not make an ideal start as he struggled to adjust to a new playing surface given the amount of time he logged on clay and grass in recent months. "After Wimbledon always the mind goes down a little bit because I have been playing long claycourt season, then grass, so you didn't relax," Nadal told reporters. "Then when you finish Wimbledon, it's like your body lose a little bit that tension, so it needs little bit of time to recover. Today, as I said before, the main thing is win. I know with victories that other things should be coming slowly." Up next for Nadal, a four-times champion in Canada who has never successfully defended a hardcourt title in his career, will be Argentine Guido Pella, who was a 6-3, 2-6, 7-6(2) winner over Moldova's Radu Albot. Hubert Hurkacz defeated world number five Tsitsipas 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 for the Pole's fourth win over a top 10 opponent this year. The crucial moment came with Tsitsipas facing a break point and trailing 4-3 in the third set. Hurkacz hit a passing shot that got past the charging Tsitsipas but the Greek believed the shot was wide.

Tsitsipas was angry that he could not challenge the call since there was no HawkEye review system available to the players on the outside court.

AFP