

Big tech firms had e-waste centres but only on paper, many addresses fake: Delhi probe

SHIVAM PATEL
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 9

RETIRED CIVIL service officer P K Seth has lived at his Lajpat Nagar home for 67 years. So he was naturally surprised when asked if an electronic waste collection centre had been running from the premises.

The reason: in a list of e-waste collection centres sent to the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) earlier this year, Seth's house was listed as one such

centre meant to collect e-waste from multinational technology firm Vivo.

"I have been living here since 1952 and there is no way waste recycling or collection could happen here," Seth, 74, said.

The Indian Express has learnt that when the DPCC inspected 43 out of a list of 80 centres sent to them by the CPCB, at least 20 e-waste collection centres of multinational giants, including Samsung, HP, Canon and Vivo, were found either untraceable or non-existent. The inspection was carried out over May and June this year.



Plot in Mohan Cooperative Industrial Area in South Delhi listed as an e-waste centre by Vivo. It was found to house a pathology lab and a healthcare research firm. Shivam Patel

The non-existent or untraceable centres were part of an e-waste management plan submitted by electronics giants to the CPCB.

The Indian Express accessed a list of 10 such collection centres, of which only one could be found at its stated address.

"They either had incomplete addresses or were listed in residential areas where they could not exist and were simply untraceable. We have informed the CPCB about this," a DPCC official said on condition of anonymity.

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Women get more Mudra jobs than men — but only in smallest loan group

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 9

WOMEN HAVE comprehensively edged out men by cornering 68.92 lakh extra jobs (56.3%) of the total 1.12 crore additional employment generated using Mudra loans disbursed during 33 months between April 2015 and December 2017. But over 90% of these come on account of Shishu loans which has the smallest ticket size of up to Rs 50,000, according to the Draft Report of Mudra Survey reviewed by The Indian Express.

In the Kishor (Rs 50,000 to Rs 5 lakh) and Tarun (Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh) loan categories, additional jobs going to women drops precipitously. Women account for just 5.88 lakh new jobs which is merely 5.2% of total additional employment. Men have bagged 32.2 lakh or 28.7% extra jobs from loans under these two loan categories.

Additional employment of male workers in the Kishor loans category was nearly four times that of female workers added in that category. The gap between additional employment of male

ESTIMATED INCREASE IN EMPLOYMENT AFTER AVAILING MUDRA LOAN

(in lakhs)

TYPE OF LOAN	MALE	FEMALE
Shishu	10.87 (9.7%)	63.04 (56.3%)
Kishor	16.59 (14.8%)	4.52 (4.0%)
Tarun	15.61 (13.9%)	1.36 (1.2%)
Total	43.08 (38.5%)	68.92 (61.5%)

% of total additional employment

Shishu: loans up to Rs 50,000;

Kishor: Rs 50,000 – Rs 5 lakh;

Tarun: Rs 5 lakh – Rs 10 lakh

and female workers widens further in the Tarun loans category (Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh), with male workers accounting for about 14% of the additional employment as against a meagre 1.2% share of female workers.

The trend, according to analysts, could be a pointer to the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Woman alleges sexual harassment, IRSE officer booked in Mumbai

SAGAR RAJPUT
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 9

A 56-YEAR-OLD Indian Railway Service of Engineer (IRSE) officer has been booked for allegedly sexually harassing his subordinate, a 30-year-old woman, at their workplace in Mumbai.

In her complaint to the police, filed last week, the woman has alleged that the officer had been harassing her since December, 2018.

He would touch her inappropriately under the pretext of shaking hands, she has said in her statement to the police. "Whenever the officer shook hands with her, he allegedly held

her hand for a long time and intentionally pressed her hand in such a way that made her feel uncomfortable," said an officer. "The woman has also claimed that the senior officer would call her to his cabin and then invite her to come to a hotel with him," the officer added.

The police said they have learnt that the officer used to stalk the woman. "The complainant has claimed that the accused had access to the footage of CCTV cameras installed at their office premises and would monitor her movements. He would stalk her and pass uncomfortable comments," the officer said.

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‘UPGRADE DEGRADED LAND’

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves at the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, in Greater Noida on Monday. AP REPORT, PAGE 7

Son denied deal, contractor hired men to assault SAIL chief: Police

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 9

A MONTH after Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) chairman Anil Kumar Chaudhary was assaulted by armed men in what appeared to be a case of road rage, the Delhi police have established that it was, in fact, a premeditated attack over a deal

not going through.

The special task force of the Crime Branch has arrested a 62-year-old private contractor, Ashok Kumar Singh, for allegedly hiring the men to attack Chaudhary. Sources at SAIL said Chaudhary rejected poor quality coking coal, sourced from the US, supplied by a Sharjah-based company owned by Singh's son.

Two men, Lalit and Amarjeet, were arrested from the spot on

August 8 when four police personnel came to Chaudhary's aid during the assault. Police later arrested two more accused, Omparkash and Pravesh, who had fled.

On August 23, the case was transferred to the Crime Branch, which arrested Sunil Balhara, a property dealer, and his brother-in-law Satendra Kadyan, who allegedly hired the four criminals.

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CABINET CLEARS 37 DECISIONS

Maharashtra nod to 10% quota in MBBS seats for rural service

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 9

THE MAHARASHTRA government on Monday decided to reserve seats in medical colleges for doctors serving in the public sector. The state Cabinet sanctioned a proposal of reserving 10 per cent seats in undergraduate courses and 20 per cent seats in postgraduate sources as an incentive for students willing to put compulsory regular service in rural, tribal, and rural government institutions for seven and five years, respectively.

The proposal was one among 37 decisions cleared by the Devendra Fadnavis Cabinet. With the model code of conduct



Fadnavis Cabinet clears 68 decisions in three meetings

OTHER DECISIONS

Loans secured by farmers from moneylenders in Vidarbha and Marathwada waived

Nod to revised costs for five major dam projects

Approval to the next phase of tenders for the Rs 16,000-cr Marathwada Water Grid project

REPORTS, PAGE 6

CMs RAISE CONCERNS

Govt will pass Citizenship Bill, won't affect N-E laws: Shah

'No illegal migrant will be allowed... will take all N-E states into confidence'



Amit Shah, Sarbananda Sonowal, Himanta Biswa Sarma in Guwahati on Monday. Dasarath Deka

ABHISHEK SAHA
GUWAHATI, SEPTEMBER 9

UNDERSCORING THAT his government will bring back and pass the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill (CAB), Union Home Minister Amit Shah said Monday that Constitutional safeguards to states and communities in North Eastern states will not be overridden by the CAB, as he sought to reassure North East Chief Ministers.

Addressing the fourth conclave of the North East Democratic Alliance (NEDA) — a BJP-led alliance of regional parties in the region — Shah sought to reassure concerns of allies after the National Register of Citizens (NRC) was published in Assam last month.

This was also Shah's first visit to Assam after the final NRC was published on August 31. The Chief Ministers of eight North Eastern states, including Sikkim, attended the meet.

Shah said there were two concerns: first, in Assam that many genuine people have been left out of the NRC and second, that those

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNNY



In 100 days, Government gains mastery over non-economic numbers.

EXPLAINED

Why CAB hits raw nerve

The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill aims to grant citizenship to immigrants of six non-Muslim faiths from three countries under relaxed norms. Large sections of society in the N-E have said the Bill is a "threat" to indigenous communities.

Police chargesheet drops murder charge against 11 accused in Tabrez killing

ABHISHEK ANGAD
RANCHI, SEPTEMBER 9

JHARKHAND POLICE have dropped the murder charge under IPC section 302 in their chargesheet filed against 11 accused in the death of 22-year-old Tabrez Ansari who was attacked by a mob that accused him of theft in Saraikela-Kharsawan nearly four months ago.

Citing the "final post-mortem report" that Ansari died of "cardiac arrest", and stating that it was "not a case of pre-meditated murder", police filed the chargesheet last month under section 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder). Police



Was attacked by a mob on June 18

had earlier invoked the murder charge in the FIR filed on a complaint by Ansari's wife.

Speaking to The Indian Express, Karthik S, Saraikela-Kharsawan SP, said: "We filed a chargesheet under IPC section 304 because of two reasons. One, he did not die at the spot... the villagers did not have any intent to kill Ansari. Second, the medical report did not substantiate

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Vencob

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Retail Sale Rate

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Retail Rate Per Dozen of Eggs

₹ 48 per Dozen

Given in the interest of consumer

THE CITY



2010 RECORD FOR SEASONAL RAINFALL BROKEN

PAGE 5

Car-shed green, activists miss wood for trees: Mumbai Metro, BMC

HC clearance, smaller carbon footprint, compensatory afforestation, low cost: Officials defend Aarey choice, activists see red

PAGE 1
ANCHORLAXMAN SINGH
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 9

IT'S BEING presented as the classic face-off: development that will upgrade the city's quality of life versus damage to the environment. And Mumbai, no stranger to it, is in the midst of its latest iteration: a depot for metro rakes that will boost public transport and drastically cut its carbon footprint versus the felling of 2,646 trees in a green

lung of the city.

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the ground-breaking ceremony of three more metro lines in Mumbai last week, the unmentioned simmering background was the stand-off between the state government, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and Mumbai Metro Rail Company Ltd (MMRCL) on one side, and on the other, sections of Mumbai residents, including environmentalist activists.

The battleground: Aarey Milk Colony in Goregaon East, the site for the metro depot.



Construction work in Mahim for the underground Metro 3. The car shed is proposed for this line. Amit Chakravarty

Established in 1949 under the Bombay Milk Scheme, the central dairy is spread over 1278 hectares of green in the heart of

the city.

the city.

For officials, the benefits are unambiguous: the area needed, 30 hectares, is barely 2 per cent of the total green belt; the number of trees to be felled is a fraction of the 4.8 lakh trees; the tree cover is in just 17% of this land. And the green benefits of the Metro itself — seven days of Metro operation will cut an amount of CO2 equivalent to that absorbed by 2700 trees in a single year.

Indeed, last October, the Bombay High Court cleared the land-use conversion allowing the project. It acknowledged that no commercial user would be permitted and that a "monitoring and supervising mechanism" would be in place to ensure that the conditions imposed on MMRCL are met; the National Green

Tribunal, too, rejected a plea to name the area a forest.

The battle came to a head in the last week of August, when the Mumbai Tree Authority, a body set up by the BMC in 1976 to regulate the felling of trees in the city, cleared the proposal to fell 2,646 trees — 2185 for cutting, and the remaining for transplanting — for the proposed car shed for the city's Metro 3 line (Colaba-Bandra-SEEPZ).

Of the 18 members of the authority, eight voted for the proposal, six against, two abstained, two were absent. The day after, two who had voted for the proposal declared they were not aware what the vote was for, and sent in their resignations. The resignations have not been accepted yet.

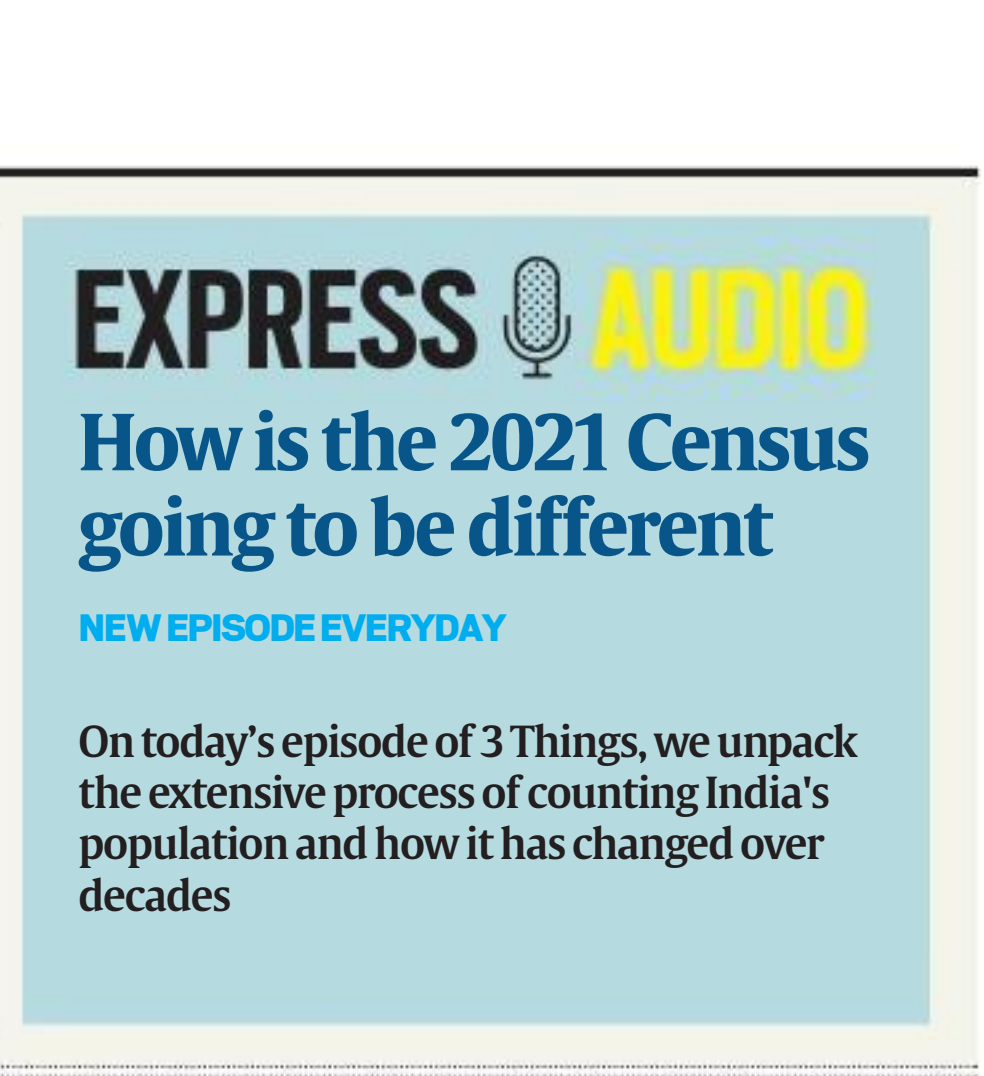
A four-year-old "Save Aarey"

campaign has gathered steam. City-based environmental activist Zoru Bathena challenged the decision in the Bombay High Court. The Shiv Sena, which controls the BMC, has also filed a separate petition. These petitions are due to be heard on September 17.

For the campaigners, Aarey is an extension of Sanjay Gandhi National Park and the depot will turn the "pristine forest which is full of biodiversity and wildlife into a commercial hub."

They also claim that the depot will flood Mumbai airport and Chakala as it may affect Mithi river's catchment area. That's why they want the proposed car shed shifted to a site 7.5 km away to the eastern side of the city, in Kanjur Marg near

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



the rape charge," said her father.

Mumbai Metro

the Jogeshwari-Vikhroli Link Road. They claim there the car shed will do the least environment damage.

That's impractical, said officials. For one, the Aarey plot is at the optimum distance to ensure operations according to schedule and that minimum time is taken to introduce or withdraw trains on the 33.5-km Metro 3 line. It is bound on three sides by roads - the Jogeshwari-Vikhroli Link Road, Marol-Maroshi road and Goregaon-Mulund link road which makes it easily accessible, and insulates the rest of Aarey from it. According to MMRC, the Aarey land is easily available and not assigned or allotted to anyone.

public to send in their objections and suggestions to the plan by September 5 - the deadline has been extended by a month.

On Monday, Bhide put it squarely during a town hall on the issue at SNDT, a south Mumbai college, to which students, environmental activists, media and members of the public had been invited. "The Metro 3 project will not happen without setting up the car depot at Aarey. If the car shed is moved out of Aarey Colony, Metro 3 will suffer a setback as about 48% work of the project is completed. The metro project will not be feasible if the car shed is not at the Aarey Colony." Municipal commissioner Pardeshi also reiterated that Aarey is the only option for the car shed.

3 The City

AFTER CLAIMS OF GOVT LIES, PARDESHI REFUSES TO SPEAK UNLESS ACCUSERS LEAVE

Metro Line 3 not feasible without Aarey carshed: MMRCL head at heated debate

LAXMAN SINGH
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 9

MUMBAI METRO Rail Corporation Limited (MMRCL) Managing Director Ashwini Bhide on Monday said Metro Line 3 (Colaba-Bandra-SEEPZ) would not be feasible if a carshed could not be set up at Aarey Colony. Bhide was speaking at a town hall interaction on the issue of felling trees at the colony, held at SNDT Women's University in Churchgate. Municipal Commissioner Praveen Pardeshi, a director in MMRCL, who was also present at the event, reiterated that Aarey was the only option for the carshed. "Metro 3 project will not happen if the carshed is moved out of Aarey Colony... over 48 per cent of the project has been completed and so far Rs 11,200 crore has been spent... We had made efforts to resolve an ongoing legal dispute (over a site) at Kanjurmarg for one-and-a-half years but could not succeed. We accept that there is damage but you have to see we have taken



At the meeting in SNDT university on Monday. Ganesh Shirsekar

mitigation steps..." Bhide said. In the audience were students, teachers, opponents of the carshed and other members of civil society. The interaction was titled 'Environment cost of Metro Rail mass public transport for Mumbai' and was organised by SNDT. Activist Zoru Bhatena and environmentalist Stalin Dof NGO Vanshakti, who have been at the helm of protests against the proposal, were also part of the debate. "It is being spread that con-

cretisation for metro car shed will lead to flooding. It is not true. The project will affect the catchment area of Mithi. I agree with that, but the whole area is not going to be concretised. Five hectares will be untouched. Also, we are going to have a better stormwater drain," Bhide said. Pardeshi reiterated Bhide's words, adding, "The carshed at Aarey does not mean that it will destroy the whole colony. There are over 4.5 lakh trees in Aarey

Casting yard: Metro turns down Aarey land, chooses Wadala plot

Mumbai: Amidst mounting public protests against its demand for more forest lands from the Aarey Colony greens to build another casting yard for the upcoming metro projects, MMRDA has decided to seek an alternate land parcel at Wadala in the southeastern periphery of the megapolis. "We have decided to take up 28,000 sqft of land in the

Wadala area to build the casting yard for metro line 6," an MMRDA official said Monday. "No land is being sought from Aarey Milk Colony," the official clarified. Last week, reports had said despite public protests, the state had given the go-ahead to MMRDA to eat up yet another portion of Aarey to build a casting yard, leading to public opposition. **PTI**

he would not speak further unless members of the audience who accused the government of lying left the premises.

Meanwhile, Stalin and Bathena claimed that the government had not even inspected and checked the feasibility of eight other sites suggested by an expert advisory committee. "As per the government, the ecological cost of one tree is Rs. 23,000 per year. The total cost of trees to be cut at the Aarey site in the last five years exceeds Rs 3,500 crore. So while discussing cost escalation due to shifting of carshed, we also look at environmental damage, which is irreparable," said Bhatena. Arguing that trees in Aarey should be saved, Stalin D said, "The Metro has already disturbed the environment of the city, and it is seen all over the world that Metro cannot reduce pollution or the number of private cars." "The government can accept slum-encroached area as a forest but isn't ready to consider the lush green Aarey as part of a forest," he said, referring to encroachment in Sanjay Gandhi National Park.

is only 29 per cent and about 70 per cent of land is still kept open in the city's development plan... It is not part of the forest and the HC and SC have said this in their judgments. Cutting of trees both-ers us but there is no option." During the heated two-hour debate, activists and members of civil society accused the government of lying, while officials accused the audience of getting their facts wrong. At one point, Pardeshi lost his temper and said

and the project will affect only 2,700 trees. Also, Mumbai has the highest green cover than any megacity in the world. Another narrative is being spread that the Metro Line 3 will not reduce pollution in the city but if you see global figures for cities like New York and Tokyo, where the trees per square km are far less than Mumbai, they have minimum pollution. It was achieved due to the public transport system." "In all, the land use in Mumbai

Human rights commission issues notice to BMC, environment dept

TABASSUM
BARNAGARWALA
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 9

TAKING SUO motu cognizance of clearance given by Tree Authority committee to axe 2,464 trees in Aarey Colony, the Maharashtra State Human Rights Commission (MSHRC) has issued a notice to the municipal commissioner and secretary of the environment department directing them to produce records and explain why this decision was taken. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)'s Tree Authority approved the felling of trees in Aarey forest for the Mumbai Metro Corporation Limited's (MMRCL) proposal to construct a Metro carshed. The move has caused a public outcry with activists claiming the deforestation will increase flooding in Mumbai in the monsoon. MSHRC will hold its first hearing on September 23. While BMC has claimed shifting the Metro carshed from Aarey Milk Colony to a plot in Kanjurmarg is not viable, the MSHRC has raised concern over reports that suggest the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport may get flooded if trees are felled in the Aarey colony forest. Zoru Bhatena, an activist

who filed a petition in Bombay High Court against the BMC decision, said other authorities need to intervene in the matter. "It is not just a matter of a carshed, it is about erasing the flood plain, the trees and an ecosystem. Money cannot replicate all this. But the carshed can be built somewhere else," said Bhatena. MSHRC member and acting chairperson, MA Sayeed, said he has taken note of media reports about the environmental impact the deforestation will cause. "If proper norms have not been followed and the decision has been taken in haste, the government must be answerable," he said. An online petition to save Aarey forest had garnered 2.9 lakh signatures till Monday. "Experts from NEERI (National Environmental Engineering Research Institute) and IIT have suggested seven alternate sites as options. They have clearly warned of consequences Mumbai will face in terms of flooding and loss of open space and wildlife, if the depot is built in Aarey forest," the petition reads. The petition says Aarey forest is home to 76 bird species, 80 species of butterflies, 38 species of reptiles, nine leopards and 16 species of mammals whose habitat will be disrupted if the car shed is built.

HC to hear petitions on tree-felling from Sept 17

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 9

THE BOMBAY High Court on Monday said it will begin hearing petitions on the cutting of 2,646 trees in Aarey for a Metro carshed from September 17, on a day-to-day basis, for five days. Chief Justice Pradeep Nandrajog had called all parties related to the matter in court on Monday to inform them that many Public Interest Litigations are being filed. The petitions are about seeking to declare Aarey as a forest, to check if Aarey is part of the Sanjay Gandhi National Park, to save the floodplain and to ask for Environmental Clearance. Senior counsel Aspi Chinoy for the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation told the court that as the issues are separate, the petitions should be heard separately. He further said if the court starts hearing the petition on whether Aarey is a forest area or not, then the issue regarding cutting of trees for the Metro project will be sidelined.

The court has, however, has not yet decided as to which petition should be heard first. A counsel for the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation requested the court to hear the petition on the decision of the Tree Authority first because of time concerns. Chief Justice Nandrajog further said he researched balancing the rights on environment vis a vis development. He passed on a research document which calculates environment damage in terms of value. The court, which had previously heard a petition filed by Zoru Bhatena challenging the decision of Tree Authority approving the removal of trees, said that the resolution dated August 29, passed by the Tree Authority for the removal of trees, is a "brazen breach" of a high court order passed in July. The HC order said the opinions of experts members of the team must be valued and should become an essential facet of decision-making. This decision must contain the reason why the objection is being overruled, it added.

Man arrested for pushing 3-year-old to death booked under black magic Act

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 9

A 43-YEAR-OLD MAN, who was arrested last Saturday for allegedly pushing a three-year-old girl to death from his seventh floor flat in Colaba, was Monday booked on charges of performing black magic under Maharashtra Prevention and Eradication of Human Sacrifice and other Inhuman, Evil and Aghori Practices and Black Magic Act, 2013. This comes after the accused, Anil Chugani, allegedly confessed that he was a victim of black magic and had been told the only way out of the situation was to sacrifice a human life from a pair of twins. Police said Chugani maintained a diary, where he had written "kill twins and go to jail".

"Chugani used to work at a store at Morocco, where he alleges a woman performed black magic on him. After he returned to Mumbai six months ago, he claimed that in his dream, God told him the woman had performed black magic on him and killing a twin and going to jail was the only way to help him progress in life," said an officer. "...he spotted an instant target as his childhood friend, Rameshlal Hatiramani, had twin daughters," he added. Around 6.30 pm on Saturday, Chugani went to Hatiramani's flat in the adjacent Sangam Bhavan and asked the children to visit his place. Around 7.45 pm, Chugani took Shanaya Hatiramani to his bedroom, locked it from inside and threw her from the window, the officer added.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the public at large that the Special Requisitioned meeting of the Board of Directors / Trustees of the Bombay Diocesan Trust Association Private Limited, 19/21 Hazarimal Somani Marg, Fort, Mumbai - 400001 was held on 17th August 2019 at Mumbai. In the said meeting it was unanimously resolved by all the Directors / Trustees present at the said meeting and accordingly Lt. Col. (Retd.) Jayant Barla (Hon. Secretary) Mr. James Baker (Hon. Treasurer) were removed as Office Bearers and Director / Trustee of the Bombay Diocesan Trust Association Private Limited and Lt. Col. (Retd.) Allen M. Gnanakan also stands removed as Director / Trustee of the Bombay Diocesan Trust Association Private Limited, Mumbai.

The public at large are hereby cautioned not to deal with the above mentioned persons in any manner whatsoever including issues relating to the properties of the Bombay Diocesan Trust Association Private Limited, Mumbai.

In case any person dealing with the above persons with regards to the properties or any other matter pertaining to the Bombay Diocesan Trust Association Private Limited, Mumbai, such persons may do so on their own risk and liability and the Bombay Diocesan Trust Association Private Limited and it's trustees shall not be responsible in any manner whatsoever.

Mumbai
Date: 22/08/2019
Mr. E. Francis
Hon Secretary,
Bombay Diocesan Trust Association Private Limited.
19/21 Hazarimal Somani Marg, Fort, Mumbai - 400001

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THE vivo S1 has stirred quite a buzz in the market prior to its launch. It is available for pre-booking offline at present. The sleek new phone comes packed with remarkable features and has outstanding battery life. The real deal, however, is the phone's camera. The phone sports a 32MP Selfie Camera and a Triple Rear Camera setup to allow the best possible user experience. The Triple Rear Camera has 3 lenses which comprise of a primary 16MP supported with an 8MP and a 2MP shooter. The 8MP super wide-angle camera, the 2MP depth camera and the 16MP main camera are great for different shots and work smoothly to capture the desired image beautifully. The picture quality is impressive and the colours pop out in every shot.

The grand 32MP Selfie Camera drives the point home with its crystal clear image quality and unmatched accuracy. Unlike other front cameras, this one does not invert the image, which makes it precise and it captures the facial features beautifully. One can take brilliant photos and panorama shots or record exceptional videos in different filters. You name it, this phone does it all. Perfect for people who love capturing significant moments and turning them into everlasting memories. The vivo S1 comes with 128GB of inbuilt storage and a 6GB ram ensuring you never run out of space for your precious photos and videos. The camera has different filters including the beauty filter that is quite useful when trying to get the perfect shot. No make-up? No problem. With customised solutions, the beauty filter has got you covered. The low light picture quality is great too. This phone's camera is easy to use and the ambient light sensor ensures top quality with every shot. It is now easier than ever to create photographic masterpieces with minimum effort using the vivo S1.





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INX MEDIA CASE

CBI gets court nod to meet Indrani in jail

SADAF MODAK
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 9

CBI OFFICERS will on Tuesday meet INX Media co-founder Indrani Mukerjea, who has turned approver in the alleged corruption case against accused including former Union minister P Chidambaram, “for further investigation”.

A CBI officer sought permission from the special court in Mumbai to meet Indrani in Byculla jail, where she has been lodged since 2015 on charges of murdering her daughter Sheena Bora.

The officer told the court Mukerjea was one of the accused named in the INX case’s FIR. During the probe, Letters of Rogatory (LRs) were sent to foreign countries to look into links in financial transactions made by the accused, the officer said. While seeking extension of custody of Chidambaram, who was arrested on August 21, the CBI had told the Delhi court that there is “prima facie evidence to confront the accused and on the allegations of payment made to accused, LRs have been sent to five countries”. LRs are sent to the authorities concerned outside India for assistance in a probe.

The investigating officer Monday told the court a financial authority from one of the coun-

tries has sought clarification before providing assistance. He said for this to be addressed, meeting Indrani “is very much essential”. Indrani had turned approver in July after the Delhi court allowed her plea seeking a grant of pardon for becoming a CBI witness against the other accused.

The CBI says Indrani and her husband, Peter Mukerjea, who were founders and owners of INX Media, had struck a deal to swing approval from the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) in their favour with co-accused including Karti, Chidambaram’s son. The CBI claims that Karti, who was a promoter of Chess Management Services Limited, had entered a criminal conspiracy with Indrani and Peter to resolve issues in getting approval from FIPB. It is alleged that the issues were to be resolved “by influencing the public servants of the FIPB unit of the Ministry of Finance by virtue of his relationship with the then Finance Minister (Chidambaram)”.

Special Judge J C Jagdale Monday allowed the CBI plea directing the Byculla jail superintendent to let the investigating officer meet Indrani for three hours Tuesday. After Karti’s arrest last year, the CBI had confronted Karti and Indrani together at Byculla jail. Chidambaram is currently in judicial custody.

ONE KILLED IN WALL COLLAPSE



Fire Brigade and BMC officials at the site of the collapse on Monday. Ganesh Shirsekar

Navy man among 2 convicted for raping 14-year-old

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 9

A SPECIAL court in Mumbai on Monday found two men, including a sailor with the Indian Navy, guilty of raping a 14-year-old girl in 2015. The court sentenced the sailor to 10 years in prison, while the civilian was sentenced to seven years’ imprisonment. A third accused, also a sailor with the Indian Navy, was acquitted by the court.

According to submissions made by special public prosecu-

tor, Ratnavali Patil, the minor girl was acquainted with the first accused, a civilian. The police said the accused would meet her frequently and in June 2015, had raped her. The second accused, who was serving in the Navy as a sailor, found about it and threatened the victim that he would reveal about it to her parents. He then raped the girl repeatedly by blackmailing her. The third accused was named in the case with the police claiming that he had met the school-going girl, followed her and gave her his number. The third accused had

claimed that the sections of rape were not attracted to him. He was granted bail by the court in December 2015. The court acquitted him of all charges Monday.

In his defence, the Navy man told the court that there was a delay of seven months in filing of the FIR. He said that the prosecution’s claim that he had taken the victim to his house, which is an area under surveillance, was not possible without any documentation. He also claimed that the victim had not specified any date, time, when the alleged rape took place. He also claimed

■ A man was killed and another injured after a portion of an allegedly illegal under-construction building collapsed on 1st Flank Road in Dongri on Monday morning. The deceased was identified as 22-year-old Abdur Rashid, a labourer.

■ The two men were carrying out repair work when part of the building collapsed, trapping both under the debris. The injured man Shhabbir Shaik, is undergoing treatment at JJ hospital.

■ On July 16, 13 people were killed and 10 others injured after a building collapsed in Dongri.

Traffic to be diverted for religious procession today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 9

THE MUMBAI Traffic Police will place traffic diversions at certain points in South Mumbai between Tuesday afternoon and midnight

when the Ashura procession begins in Byculla.

The Sham-e-Gariba procession will begin at 2 pm Tuesday at Pakmodia Street in Bhendi Bazaar and proceed along Yakub Street, Ibrahim Rahimatullah Road in Pydhonie, Sir J J Road, Nesbit

Junction in Byculla, cross the Balwantsingh Dhodi Bridge and terminate at the Rehmatnagar Cemetery in Mazgaon.

Half an hour before the procession starts, traffic heading north from Byculla will be diverted to P D’Mello Road via Carnac Bridge, said traffic police officials. Vehicles will also be diverted to Maulana Azad Road, Kalbadevi Road and LT Marg towards CSMT railway station to keep Byculla decongested.

BEST buses and trucks will not

be allowed to head north on the Lalbaug Bridge, while no such restrictions will be placed on southward movement for heavy vehicles. Instead, heavy vehicles heading north will also be diverted to P D’Mello Road.

Diversions will be placed for traffic heading towards South Mumbai on parts of Dr B A Road, Sant Savta Marg and Byculla Bridge, and will have to proceed through Mazgaon. Light motor vehicles will be allowed to ply on the JJ Bridge as usual, police said.

52-yr-old arrested after he ‘confesses’ to killing wife

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 9

A 52-YEAR-OLD man was arrested Sunday for allegedly stabbing his wife to death. The accused, identified as Kishor Phutane (52), an autorickshaw driver who lives in chawl in Virar west, kept hitting the woman with heavy objects even after she had died, police said.

“The accused used to doubt his wife Shubha’s character. The couple fought multiple times as Phutane used to claim that Shubha was sleeping with other men,” said a senior officer from Virar police.

On Sunday afternoon, Shubha had sent their teenage son to buy flowers for pooja and had gone for Ganapati Visarjan, police said, when Phutane returned home to check on her. “He waited till she

came home and then accused her of being with other men as she had gotten delayed while returning. The two started to argue and Phutane slashed her wrist with a knife, before stabbing her on the neck, shoulder and torso. He then proceeded to hit her with heavy utensils from the kitchen and the pestle, until their son returned home,” said the senior officer. “The child’s cries brought neighbours to their house. But Phutane asked everyone not to call us and came to the police station on his own and confessed to his crime,” added the police officer.

“We have sent the body for postmortem. Phutane has been arrested and remanded to our custody for murder and assault. We are investigating if he took anyone’s help to kill her,” said a senior officer from Palghar police.

High Court directs expert panels to help identify ‘critical wildlife habitat’

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 9

THE BOMBAY High Court on Monday directed expert committees to notify scientific data and objective criteria to identify and demarcate ‘Critical Wildlife Habitat’ area in the state.

The court was hearing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by NGO Vanashakti on the issue of protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat.

In January 2017, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF) had set up guidelines on the demarcation of critical wildlife habitats under the Wildlife Act, 2006. As per the guidelines, the committees set up by the state government had to identify and notify critical wildlife habitat.

tuaries and six national parks in Maharashtra. The government pleader has also informed the court that the state government had formed 36 committees for identifying critical wildlife habitats in August 2018.

The petition states that no steps have been taken in the case since the committees were set up.

On Monday, Chief Justice Pradeep Nandrajog said the animal in sanctuaries should not be disturbed. He said the government was only interested in the funds received from the UN. “The main problem is that lot of UN funding is coming... If they show that number of tigers is going up, then they will get more funds,” the court said.

The Chief Justice also said that the “tribal man is thrown out and rich man enjoys the wildlife and scenery”.

The court said the state government should look into the matter. It added that the government could not simply issue a public notice notifying a particular area as a critical wildlife habitat.

On the previous hearing, the court was informed that there are 49 wildlife sanc-

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

MARTYR OF 205 Bn, CoBRA

CT/GD Bhirgunandan Chaudhary of 205, CoBRA made the supreme sacrifice during an operation in jungle area of Village-Chhakbarbandha Forest, under PS-Dumaria, Distt-Gaya (Bihar), on 09th September 2012. The CRPF proudly remembers the braveheart who laid down his life at the altar of duty while fighting with Maoists. His courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiration for the Force.

CT/GD BHIRGU NANDAN CHAUDHARY

IG & ALL RANKS OF COBRA

MAHARASHTRA STATE ROAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED, (MSRDC)
(A Govt. of Maharashtra undertaking)

Opp. Bandra Reclamation Bus Depot, Bandra (W), Mumbai – 400 050
Tel. No.: 26517900/26558175, Fax:022-2641 7893
Website: www.msrdc.org, CIN : U45200MH1996SGC101586.
E-Tender Portal: <https://imahatenders.gov.in>

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

MSRDC intends to take a piece of land about 10 hectares at a distance of maximum 20km from Juhu or Versova sea coast on RENT basis for a period of minimum 5 years

Ref: 1) NIT (T-2229) published on MSRDC website on 04.09.2019
2) Tender/RFP Uploaded on e-tender portal on 09.09.2019

For further details please visit e-tender portal. Interested agencies can see the detailed information, download and submit the offer document from e-tendering portal <http://mahatenders.gov.in>

MSRDC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders received without assigning any reason therefor.

VC & MD
MSRDC, Mumbai

BRIDGE & ROOF CO. (INDIA) LTD.
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)
CIN No. U27310WB1920G01003601
“KANKARIA CENTRE”, (4TH & 5TH FLOOR), 21, RUSSEL STREET, KOL-71

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

ITEM RATE Offer(s) in two part system are invited from reputed, resourceful and experienced parties meeting prescribed qualifying criteria for following work.

Sl. No.	Description of work on a NIT No. B&R / MSP / 61010/ HMEL / PIPING / NIT / 09 (R) Dtd. 07.09.2019	Tender Document available on B&R's Website	Due date of submission of Bid
1.	Fabrication, Erection, Alignment, Supporting, Testing, Flushing & Box-Up , Pre-Commissioning of Above Ground IBR & Non-IBR (CS, SS, AS, GI & Steam Tracing) Piping in Composite Work of DFCU Unit for Guru Gobind Singh Polymer Addition Project at Guru Gobind Singh Refinery of M/s HPCCL-Mittal Energy Limited at Bathinda (Punjab).	07.09.2019	23.09.2019

Interested resourceful Contractors may download the tender documents from Co's Website <http://www.bridgeroof.co.in>

Corrigendum / Addendum, if any, shall be hosted in Co's Website <http://www.bridgeroof.co.in> only.

Information and Public Relations Department Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi.

SHORT TENDER NOTICE

Information and Public Relations Department ,Govt. of Jharkhand intends to invite Bid for Operation , Maintenance and Management (OMM) of their existing LED Display Board installed in different cities of Jharkhand State. The details Bid/ Tender document may be downloaded from the office website - prdjharkhand.in.

Last date of submission of Tender is 26.09.2019 3.00 PM (Suchana Bhawan, Mayer's Road, Ranchi, Jharkhand)

The Opening of Bid will be at 4.00 PM on the same day.

Pre-Bid meeting on 20.09.2019 at 4 PM at Suchana Bhawan, Meur's Road, Ranchi.

The undersigned reserved the right of amendment, addendum or even cancel the above Bid.

Director
PR 216511 (IPRD)19-20# IPRD, Govt. of Jharkhand

जिसे अब तक ना समझे, वो कहानी हूँ मैं, मुझे बर्बाद मत करो पानी हूँ मैं।

CHENNAI METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

NOTICE INVITING TENDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

Sealed bids are invited from the eligible bidders for the following work as per the procedure of CMWSSB under two cover system conforming to the Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act, 1998 and Rules 2000.

- 1 Setting up of Advanced Water and Waste Water Testing Laboratory on Design, Build and Transfer (DBT) basis for Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board CNT/WSS/NCB/MWB/3107/2019-20, Bid security Rs.2.69 Lakhs.
- 2 Availability and Cost of Bid document in the form of CD (in person) : 12.09.2019 to 15.10.2019 Grievances Redressal & Facilitation Officer, CMWSSB Board, (Telephone: 044-28451300 Extn. 217) for Rs.5,250/- (including GST) Through Website: www.chennaimetrowater.tn.nic.in & www.tenders.tn.gov.in
- 3 Date of Pre-Bid meeting : 25.09.2019 at 11.00 A.M
- 4 Bids will be received upto 03.00 PM and opened after 3.30 P.M on 16.10.2019
- 5 For all other details refer bid document in the website: from 12.09.2019

DIPR/3102/Tender/2019 SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (CONTRACTS & MONITORING)

TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
(A Government of Tamil Nadu Enterprise)
Kagithapuram – 639 136, Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu
Phone : 04324-277001 - (10 lines) Extn: 4206 / 4295
E-mail : pmd.civil@tnpl.co.in , www.tnpl.com

NOTICE INVITING BID for

“Civil works for foundations to pipe rack structures (Phase I) at TNPL Unit II under MEP”

Due Date for submission at Kagithapuram - 01/10/2019

Interested bidders may purchase a complete set of Bid Document, against submission of a written application to TNPL and upon payment of applicable non-refundable fee of Rs.1,000/- by way of Demand Draft / Banker’s Cheque in favour of Tamil Nadu Newprint and Papers Limited, payable at Trichy. Alternatively, details of the bid may be viewed at TN Govt. / TNPL website and a soft copy of the Bid Document can be obtained against request by e-mail.

DIPR/3088/Tender/2019 **TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper**

MAHARASHTRA STATE ROAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED, (MSRDC)
(A Govt. of Maharashtra undertaking)

Opp. Bandra Reclamation Bus Depot, Bandra (W), Mumbai – 400 050
Tel. No.: 26517900/26558175, Fax:022-2641 7893
Website: www.msrdc.org, CIN : U45200MH1996SGC101586.
E-Tender Portal: <https://imahatenders.gov.in>

E-TENDER NOTICE

APPOINTMENT OF CONTRACTOR FOR SUPPLY OF ‘T’ MARK DIESEL VEHICLES ON HIRE BASIS.

Online digitally signed offers are invited by MSRDC from the interested Contractors for the following work for 2 years contract period :

Item Description	Sale Period	Last date of Bid Submission	EMD (₹)	Document Cost in (₹)
Appointment of Contractor for Supply of ‘T’ Mark Diesel Vehicles on Hire Basis. up to 150 (hrs.)	11/09/2019 (13.00 hrs.) to 21/10/2019	21/10/2019 up to 15.00 hrs)	1,50,000/-	5,000/-

- The detailed terms and conditions, guidelines to download the tender document and online submission of bids can be downloaded from the website <https://imahatenders.gov.in>.
- Right to accept or reject any or all the offers without assigning any reason whatsoever is reserved with MSRDC.

General Manager (Admin.) MSRDC, Mumbai.

KARNATAKA STATE DRUGS LOGISTICS AND WAREHOUSING SOCIETY (R)
No.1, Dr. Siddalath Puranik Road, K.H.B. Colony, Magadi Road, Bangalore -79.
Ph : 91-80-23283218, Fax: 91-80-23281477. E-mail: ad.kdlws@gmail.com

No: KDL/AD/Re-TND/TAB/01/2019-20 Date: 09/09/2019

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Ref:1. Tender Notification No.KDL/AD/Re-TND/TAB/01/2019-20, (IND-617) Dtd: 06.09.2019

2. Tender Notification No.KDL/AD/Re-TND/TAB-1/02/2019-20, (IND-618)Dtd: 09.09.2019.

Nation wide Tender is invited through e-Tendering system under KTPP Act 1999 and Rules 2000 for the following tender:

1. Tender for Supply of Tablets for the year 2018-19.
2. Tender for Supply of Tablets for the year 2018-19.

The tenderers who have registered under e-Procurement department may participate through e-tendering system.

Details regarding EMD, Terms and Conditions and other information are available in the Tender Document, which can be downloaded from the website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> from 06.09.2019 & 09.09.2019. The eligible tenderers shall submit their e-tenders under e-procurement platform for above mentioned tenders. Further information if any may be obtained from this office.

Sd/-
Additional Director
DIPR/DDU/R.O:1176/2019-20 (Karnataka State Drug Logistics and Warehousing Society)

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT CHENNAI CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE CIRCLE TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No.18/2019-20/HDO/ Dated:09.09.2019

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Percentage tender through online only will be received upto 16.10.2019 - 15.00 hours by the Superintending Engineer (H), C&M, Chennai Circle for works under CRDP and Non Plan 2019-20 Scheme (Package No.106 to 120) pertaining to Tiruvannamalai, Cheyyar and Chennai City Roads (H) C&M Division.

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details will be available from 13.09.2019 onwards in the Government website <https://tntenders.gov.in>. If any Changes/ Corrections in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (H), C&M, CHENNAI CIRCLE

DIPR/3109/TENDER/2019

MAHARASHTRA REMOTE SENSING APPLICATIONS CENTRE
(Autonomous Body of Planning Department, Government of Maharashtra)
VNI Campus, South Ambazari Road, Nagpur-440 010 (M.S.)
Tel No. (0712) 2220086/2238576, FAX No. 2225893 & E-mail: info@mrsc.maharashtra.gov.in

CORRIGENDUM-4

Intimation for Extension of last date of bid submission e-tender No. “MRSC/MGDDS(MahaBHUMI)/ HW/SI/3/2019”

All prospective bidders are hereby informed that the last date for submission of Online Tenders (e-tender) in respect of e-tender No. “MRSC/MGDDS(MahaBHUMI)/ HW/SI/3/2019” has been extended. A complete schedule is given as under :

Last date of submission	23 rd September 2019 till 17.00 Hrs.
Date of opening	25 th September, 2019 at 11.30 Hrs.
Last date of submission of Tender in hard Copy :	26 th September, 2019 up to 13.00 Hrs.
Technical Presentation :	9 th October, 2019 at 11.00 Hrs.
Date of opening of Price Bid :	11 th October, 2019 at 11.00 Hrs.

Due to technical error in BOQ relating to Online compilation, the fresh BOQ is uploaded and therefore the Tender ID is changed to 2019_MRSAC_463771_2. The bidders should refer this new Tender ID while uploading their bids under the same Tender Notice of MRSAC. All other contents of BOQ remain unchanged/unaltered.

All other contents and terms & conditions of the earlier tender notice and tender remains the same. Right to accept or reject any or cancel all tenders, without assigning any reason thereof, is reserved by the Director, MRSAC.

Director MRSAC, Nagpur

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Department, Project Division, Near Shamili, Mandavi towers , 1st Floor , Ambalapady, Udipi - 576103.
Land line /Fax: 0820-2532704 E-mail. kn-udu@pmgry.nic.in
No:EE/PD/UNGRNY-IV/Additional/Tender Notification/2019-20/ 202 Date: 30.08.2019

Short Term Tender Notification

On behalf of Government of Karnataka, The Executive Engineer, Project Division, Udipi invites short term tender for the work mentioned below as per standard tender document in two cover system. The tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in I.T.I. clause-3 of standard tender document to qualify for award of the contract. Tender document may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka viz . www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.

Sl. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost(in Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)	Period of Completion
1	Package-KS 26-52 - Improvements to road from Kakkunje-Sherdi-Vandaru Marvi-Beesanakatte Link Road of Kundapura Constituency, Improvements to road from Bukkigudde Murkaluve to Adapady Brahmanasa Koremaru-Kudyanadu-Padapalli Road of Kaup Constituency and Improvements to road from Kandloor Main Road to Valthuru Road of Byndoor Constituency in Udipi District	15,00,00,000.00	15,00,000.00	11 Months (Including Rainy Season)
2	Package-KS 26-53 - Improvements to road from Asodu Benikanen Road, Improvements to road from Nailadi to Bijjadi Link Road, Improvements to road from Chittara Cashew Factory to Kiradi Ajjikkallu Road and Improvements to road from Bethnadi Road of Kundapura Constituency in Udipi District.	10,00,00,000.00	15,00,000.00	11 Months (Including Rainy Season)
3	Package-KS 26-54 - Improvements to road from Bukkigudde to Hosangadi Baje and Improvements to road from Yellare to Donderangadi of Kaup Constituency in Udipi District	10,00,00,000.00	15,00,000.00	11 Months (Including Rainy Season)

Calendar of events: (1) Date from which tender documents: 09.09.2019 downloaded from e-portal. (2) Date for pre bid meeting & Place: Office of the Executive Engineer, Project Division, Udipi 16.09.2019, 11:30 hours. (3) Last date for clarification: 17.09.2019. (4) Last date for receiving bids: 23.09.2019, upto 16.30 Hours. (5) Time & date of open Technical bids: 24.09.2019, upto 16.35 Hours. (6) Place of opening tender bids: Office of the Executive Engineer, Project Division, Near Shamili Hall, Mandavi Tower, First Floor, Udipi.

Information: (1) The Class-1 contractors who have registered in PWD/CPWD and enrolled in Panchayat Raj Engineering Department (Government of Karnataka) are eligible in participation of tendering Award of contract depends on technical capacity, work carrying capacity and financial resourcefulness of the bidders. (2) The Contractors who are terminated from KRRDA on non completion of works and who have been terminated for not maintaining PMGSY/NGNRY roads are not eligible for participating in the tendering. (3) For any further information, the concerned Executive Engineer, Project Division may be contacted. (4) Details can be obtained from the <http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Project Division, Udupi

WESTERN RAILWAY

AIR CONDITIONING WORKS

Tender Notice No.: EL 81/706/WA/44 dt.05.09.2019. Work and location: Air Conditioning of proposed integrated security system (ISS) on 30 stations of Churchgate - Virar Section. Approx. cost of work: ₹ 1,03,76,472. Cost of EMD: ₹ 2,01,900/-. Date & Time of submission & opening: On 09.10.2019 till 15.00 hrs & at 15.30 hrs. Note: Please visit our website www.reps.gov.in to download the tender document, corrigendum and further details.

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WESTERN RAILWAY

PROVISION OF ELECTRICITY AND LIGHTING ARRANGEMENT

Tender Notice No.: EL 81/787/WA/43 dt.05.09.2019. Work and location: Mumbai Suburban Section - Provision of electrical power and lighting arrangement in connection with i) Provision of integrated security system (ISS) on 30 stations of Churchgate Virar suburban section, and ii) Automatic Coach Washing Plant (ACWP) near CYM office at Mumbai Central. Approx. cost of work: ₹ 62,77,352/- Cost of EMD: ₹ 1,25,600/- Date & Time of submission & opening: On 10.10.2019 till 15.00 hrs & at 15.30 hrs. Note: Please visit our website www.reps.gov.in to download the tender document, corrigendum and further details.

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WESTERN RAILWAY

VARIOUS WORKS

Chief Engineer, Western Railway, Churchgate invites the following E-Procurement Tenders: **Sr. No 1. Tender No. W628/03/19/11. Description of stores tender:** Procurement of hydraulic rail tensor (non infringing type) 70 ton capacity. As per RDSO specification No. TM/SM/32 dated 20.12.1991. Quantity in Nos.: 26. Estimated Tender Value: ₹ 41,41,800/- Earnest Money: ₹ 82,840/- **Sr. No 2. Tender No. W628/03/19/13. Description of stores tender:** Procurement of Portable D.C. Welding Generator, As per RDSO Specification No. TM/SM/20 dated 19.11.1992. Quantity in Nos.: 13. Estimated Tender Value: ₹ 28,51,100/- Earnest Money: ₹ 57,030/- **Sr. No 3. Tender No. W628/03/19/14. Description of stores tender:** Procurement of Weld Trimmer power Pack version for A.T. Welding As per RDSO specification No. TW/SM/9 dated 16.08.1991. Quantity in Nos.: 13. Estimated Tender Value: ₹ 13,00,816.66. Earnest Money: ₹ 26,020/- For Sr. No. 1, 2 & 3 Date of Closing & Opening of e-Tender Box: On 15.10.2019 upto 11.00 hrs & at 11.15 hrs. Note: The Complete information along with tender document of above e-Procurement Tender is available in website on <https://ireps.gov.in> upto the due date of tender opening. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders. For this purpose, venders are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with class III Digital signature certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000.

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Rain lashed Mumbai on Monday. Amit Chakravarty

At 3,342 mm, city breaks 2010 record for seasonal rainfall

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 9

THE CITY on Monday broke its previous record for the highest amount of rainfall between June and September, recording 3,341.9 mm as opposed to 3,327.9 mm in 2010, as per data from the India Meteorological Department.

The Met department has forecast a few spells of rain, with heavy rain at isolated locations, for the next 24 hours (issued at 2 pm on Monday) in the city. For neighbouring areas Palghar and Thane, the IMD has issued a fore-

cast of heavy rain at isolated places for Tuesday. Raigad has been put on orange alert, with forecast of heavy to very heavy rain at isolated places.

The southwest monsoon spans four months for Mumbai, from June to the end of September. This leaves plenty of potential days for rain this month. The seasonal average (June to September) is 2,317.2 mm. In 2017, Mumbai recorded 2,946.3 mm of seasonal rainfall.

Intermittent heavy showers were recorded throughout Monday. Between 8.30 am and 5.30 pm on Monday, IMD's

Santacruz observatory recorded 51.2 mm rainfall, which falls in the moderate category. The Thane-Belapur weather station recorded 48.6 mm of rain in same period. Between 8.30 am on Sunday and 8.30 am on Monday, Mumbai received 25.6 mm rainfall, while the Colaba observatory recorded 13.6 mm rainfall in the same period.

Following heavy rain in September, Mumbai surpassed the 3,000 mm seasonal rainfall mark this monsoon last Thursday. From June 1 to 8.30 am on September 5, Mumbai recorded 3,078.2 mm rainfall.

67-year-old killed in her home

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 9

A 67-YEAR-OLD woman was found murdered at her Mulund residence on Monday afternoon. The deceased, identified as Rukshmani Visariya, was smothered to death, the police said. Injury marks were also found on her back. An FIR has been registered into the case.

A senior officer said that

Visariya used to stay alone on the fourth floor of Trivedi Bhavan, located on RRT Road in Mulund (West). Her husband had passed away several years ago. She had three sons, one of whom, Mehul, resides on the first floor of the building. The other sons, Nitin and Dhiren, live in the same locality.

"Visariya had gone on a pilgrimage in Gujarat and returned home Sunday morning. Late evening, she went to meet Mehul. She returned to her residence at

10.30 pm and it was the last anyone saw of her," the officer said. Nitin owns a shop that sells women's accessories near Trivedi Bhavan. "At 1.30 pm Monday, when one of his women employees went to Visariya's residence to use the washroom, as was the practice, she found the door open. She entered the residence and found Visariya dead on the bed," the officer said.

A team from the Mulund police reached the spot and sent the

body for postmortem. "She had been smothered to death using a pillow. There were also injury marks on her back," said an officer.

The police have recorded the statements of several persons who were around the building when the incident took place. An officer said it appeared that someone had forcibly entered the house. "But the valuables that she was wearing were found on her, indicating that it may not be a case of robbery," the officer added.

Man strikes friendship on WhatsApp, dupes people

Mumbai: A Nigerian national has been arrested for allegedly cheating several people in Mumbai and Pune after striking a friendship on WhatsApp. Stephen Naubuzel (40) was arrested from Aarey Colony last week. His latest victim, 25-year-old Kisan Salvi, approached the police on September 6 after becoming suspicious of a woman, who asked him for money after chatting with him on WhatsApp for several weeks.

As the two planned to meet in Aarey Colony the same day, the police laid a trap for the woman. But to Salvi's surprise, the person who came to meet him was a man, later identified as Naubuzel. Naubuzel was arrested and booked on charges of cheating. Police said Naubuzel and his accomplice Angela, a woman, had been striking up conversations with men and women across Mumbai and Pune using WhatsApp for several months. The police suspect that Angela is also a Nigerian national. ENS

BEST launches app to let commuters track buses on mobile phones

NEERAJ TIWARI
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 9

THE BEST on Monday launched its mobile app 'Pravas', which will enable commuters track its buses. The app, which will go live on Tuesday, will also allow commuters to also know the estimated time of arrival of the buses.

The move comes within two months of the BEST reducing its minimum fare to Rs 5 in order to attract more commuters to boost the revenue of the cash-strapped undertaking. The buses can accommodate the 31 commuters.

Shiv Sena chief Uddhav

Thackeray inaugurated the app and 10 electric buses, which were inducted into the BEST fleet. Of the 10 electric buses, six are air-conditioned. The buses will be initially pressed on route 302 — from Sion station to Mulund Check Naka. Officials said the buses will soon ply on routes C 42 (Rani Laxmi chowk in Sion to Dadlani park in Thane), 352 (Rani Laxmi chowk to Trombay) and 63 (Chunabatti to Tardeo).

"BEST should aim to charge these new buses using renewable energy sources like solar energy while making Mumbai 100 per cent pollution free," Thackeray said.

A senior official said that the

10 buses are part of the 40 electric buses funded under Phase 1 of the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid Electric Vehicles (FAME 1) scheme. The remaining are expected to be inducted in batches by end of October. BEST has procured the buses on a wet lease basis from Secunderabad-based Olectra Greentech Limited.

Arvind Sawant, Union Minister for Heavy Industries said that his ministry has approved 750

electric buses for Maharashtra — the highest in the country — under FAME 2.

BEST General Manager Dr Surendrakumar Bagde said that they are going to invite tenders for 340 more electric buses, including 40 under FAME 1 and 300 under FAME 2.

19-year-old lynches roommate in fight over hanging wet clothes to dry, arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
THANE, SEPTEMBER 9

A 19-YEAR-OLD man was on Monday arrested for allegedly beating his roommate to death during a fight over hanging wet clothes to dry, said police.

According to Bhiwandi police, the accused has been identified as Suman Paswan (19). "Paswan worked as a delivery boy for a restau-

rant and lived in a room above the hotel. He was sharing the room with another delivery boy, Virush Pawar (18)," said an officer privy to investigation.

The two have had skirmishes over petty issues in the past too, police said. "On Sunday night, Pawar allegedly asked Paswan to remove his clothes from the clothesline. When Paswan didn't remove his clothes, Pawar put his wet clothes over his dried ones," the officer said.

Paswan then allegedly started hitting Pawar with household items, police said. "It seems Pawar suffered a head injury and collapsed. The cause of death will be clear after post-mortem," the officer added.

Hotel employees, who lived nearby, alerted the police around 3 am on Monday. "We rushed both of them to a hospital, where Pawar was declared dead on arrival. We have arrested Paswan for murder," said a senior officer from Bhiwandi police.

EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUND ORGANISATION
(Ministry of Labour and Employment, Govt of India)

REGIONAL OFFICE, MUMBAI II,
MTNL BUILDING, 4th to 7th FLOOR,
CHARKOP MKT, KANDIVALI (W), MUMBAI - 400067.

ATTENTION EMPLOYERS/EMPLOYEES/EMPLOYER REPRESENTATIVES/ EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES
"NIDHI AAPKE NIKAT"

Employees Provident Fund Organisation, Regional Office, Kandivali - East is organising a programme "Nidhi Aapke Nikat" in its office premises on 11th September, 2019 as scheduled below for redressal of grievance/resolving the difficulties and to educate them on IT related new innovations pertaining to online customer services / compliance reporting..

1. For Members/ claimant/ Pensioners : 10:30 Am to 12:30 Pm
2. Employers / Worker Representative/ : 3.00 Pm to 5:00 Pm
Exempted Establishments

All the employers/ members/ worker union representatives/pensioners of RO, Kandivali - East are invited to participate in the programme.

Regional Provident Fund Commissioner
Regional Office, Kandivali - East

NOTICE No. 10/September/2019
Enlistment/ Registration of Vendors/ Contractors for Supply/ Services in the CIDC - Construction Industry Database

CIDC was established as an autonomous council by the Planning Commission (Now NITI Aayog), Govt. of India and the Indian Construction Industry, to introduce system improvements in the construction industry. Members of CIDC include, PFC Ltd, HUDCO, BHEL, HDPC, Engineering Projects (India) Ltd., LIC Housing Finance, NBCC Ltd, BPCL, RITES, E-in-C's Branch (Army HQ), Airports Authority of India Ltd, Central Warehousing Corporation, CPWD, GAIL, NTPC Ltd, NHPC Ltd, Engineers India Ltd., ONGC, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways and Railways etc.

Keeping in view, the focus of the government, on providing impetus to infrastructure development, a tremendous opportunity exists in the development process of supplying goods & services to the major Project Owners & their Contractors & Service providers. To meet the same, CIDC is preparing a National Database of stakeholders across South Asia.

With increased focus on use of Pre-Fab / Pre -Engineered buildings, Hindustan Prefab Limited and CIDC have now decided to together enlist potential organizations who have the required domain knowledge & expertise for executing various projects.

The 10th Phase registrations in the CIDC National Database is now open. Competent and experienced Consultants, Manufacturers for supplying Materials, Accessories, Consumables, etc., and Contractors for providing Services, or Manpower for construction projects for river, highway bridges , tracks for railways, sports stadia, industrial buildings, residential and commercial complexes, integrated projects for power generation and distribution systems, air conditioning systems, finishing/ interiors works, piling etc at various locations across India and other South Asian nations are encouraged to enlist in the Database, to enhance their visibility amongst both National & International Stakeholders.

The Database hosted on www.cidcdatabase.com is accessible to all project owners & stakeholders. Applications for Registration are invited from OEMs/ Vendors/Contractors/Consultants/ Manufacturers to enlist in the database.

Only those Organizations meeting the criteria of enlistment shall only be registered in the database. For list of Items / Services required, Criteria for Registration, Application Forms and other details please log on to the website www.cidcdatabase.com / www.cidc.in.

Application for registration along with forms duly completed in all respect should reach latest by **5th October 2019** to the address mentioned below.

Enlistment Division, Construction Industry Development Council
801 (8th Floor), Hemkunt Chambers, 89, Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110019 India
Tel.: 011-2623 4770, 2648 9992, 4161 7971 Fax: 011-2645 1604,
Email: enlistmentcidc@gmail.com
Web: www.cidcdatabase.com / www.cidc.in



सत्यमेव जयते

वंचित आणि दुर्बलांची भरली ओंजळ,
उत्थानाला कल्याणकारी योजनांचं बळ...



महाराष्ट्र साहस्र

श्री. नरेंद्र मोदी
मा. प्रधानमंत्री

श्री. देवेंद्र फडणवीस
मा. मुख्यमंत्री

सारथ्य विश्वासाचे... घडवतेय भविष्य...

सर्व समावेशक विकासाची समान संधी निर्माण करण्यासाठीचे महत्वाचे निर्णय...

- ओबीसी महामंडळासाठी २५० कोटी रुपयांची तरतूद...
- श्यामराव पेजे कोकण विकास महामंडळासाठी ५० कोटींची तरतूद...
- १२ बलुतेदार घटकांच्या पारंपारिक व्यवसायासाठी १०० कोटींची तरतूद...
- वसंतराव नाईक विजाभज महामंडळासाठी ३०० कोटींचे अनुदान मंजूर...
- वडार आणि पारधी समाजासाठी १०० कोटींची तरतूद...
- अण्णासाहेब पाटील आर्थिक विकास महामंडळातील सुरु असलेल्या

योजना ओबीसी व विजाभज मंडळाला लागू...

इतर मागास वर्ग, सामाजिक व शैक्षणिक मागास प्रवर्ग, विमुक्त जाती भटक्या जमाती आणि विशेष मागास प्रवर्ग कल्याण विभाग

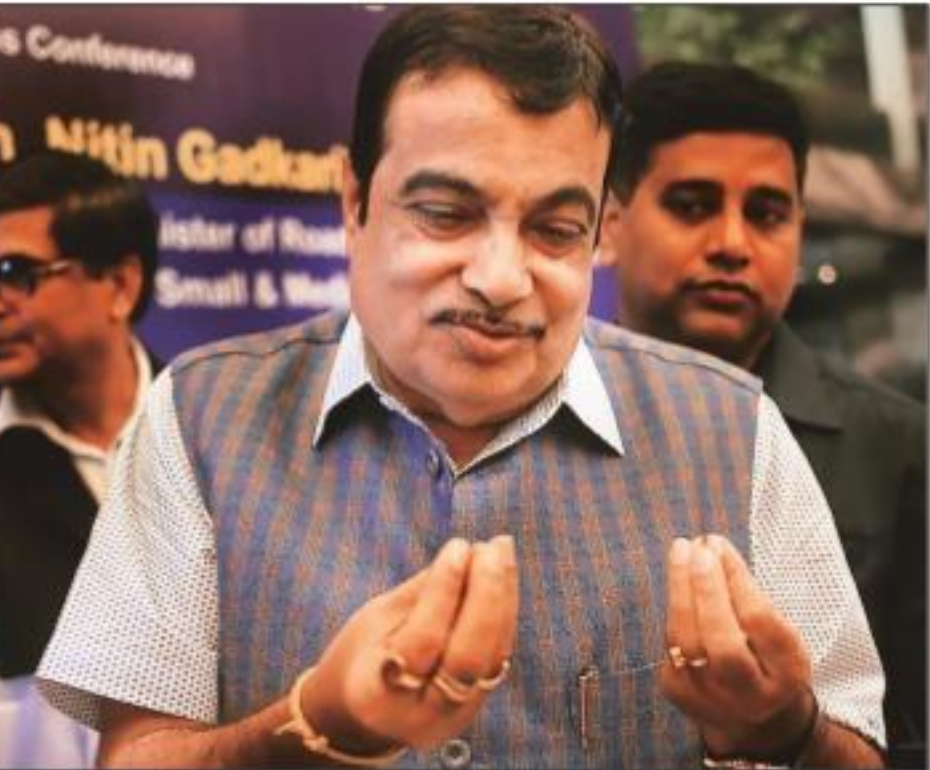
डॉ. संजय कुटे

मा. मंत्री, कामगार, इतर मागासवर्ग, सामाजिक व शैक्षणिक मागास प्रवर्ग, विमुक्त जाती भटक्या जमाती आणि विशेष मागास प्रवर्ग कल्याण, महाराष्ट्र राज्य, तथा पालकमंत्री बुलढाणा जिल्हा

श्री. मदन येरावार

मा. राज्यमंत्री, ऊर्जा, इतर मागासवर्ग, सामाजिक व शैक्षणिक मागास प्रवर्ग, विमुक्त जाती भटक्या जमाती आणि विशेष मागास प्रवर्ग कल्याण, महाराष्ट्र राज्य

अधिक माहितीसाठी संपर्क: www.maharashtra.gov.in | www.sjsa.maharashtra.gov.in



100 DAYS OF MODI 2.0
Union Minister Nitin Gadkari during a press conference at Worli Sea Face in Mumbai on Monday. *Pradip Das*

NCP leader Tatkare joins Sena, another to follow suit on Sept 13

Mumbai: Ahead of the Assembly elections, NCP leader Advadhut Tatkare has joined the Shiv Sena in the presence of Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray. Sena leaders said Tatkare, who resigned as a legislator last week, joined the party with his supporters. Tatkare, who was elected from Shrivardhan Assembly constituency in Raigad, is a nephew of NCP MP Sunil Tatkare. The leaders joining from other parties will help

strengthen the party in Konkan, said a Sena leader.

Tatkare, however, said he joined the Sena without any conditions and would follow the decision of the party chief.

Meanwhile, NCP legislator Bhaskar Jadhav from Guhagar in Ratnagiri district has announced he will join the Sena on Friday. "I will join the Sena with my activists, including nine members of the Zilla Parishad," said Jadhav. **ENS**

Gadchiroli attack: NIA gets 45-day extension to file chargesheet

Mumbai: A special court on Monday granted the National Investigation Agency (NIA) an extension of 45 days to file the chargesheet against eight persons arrested in June in connec-

tion with the attack on security personnel in Gadchiroli.

The NIA had sought further time to file the chargesheet under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. **ENS**

Cabinet waives farm loans availed from licensed moneylenders

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 9

IN A move aimed at farmers in Marathwada and Vidarbha, the state Cabinet on Monday decided to waive farm loans availed from licensed private moneylenders. Till now, farmers could only avail the benefit of waivers of loans taken from banks or government-approved sources.

While officials claimed the loan waiver amount may run into about Rs 200 crore, the government underlined that it was a "one-time relaxation".

The decision to write off loan taken by farmers from moneylenders was taken by the government in 2015. It was followed by setting up scrutiny committees in 19 districts.

According to a report submitted by these committees, as on March 31, 2018, 46,735 farmers had borrowed Rs 55.96 crore from 1,393 moneylenders. The interest on this principle amount was Rs 10.59 crore. In all, the farmers owed the moneylenders Rs 66.56 crore.

However, the state legal department had then pointed out that many moneylenders had given loans beyond their prescribed limits in violation of rules. As a result, such "illegal" loan amounts were not considered for waiver. But now, the government has decided to waive all loans taken by farmers from licensed private moneylenders.

The government reiterated that under loan waiver scheme

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Shetkari Sanman Yojana, Rs 24,000 crore has been disbursed till now to 53 lakh farmers. The scheme was launched in June 2017 with a target to waive Rs 34,000-crore loan of 80 lakh farmers.

Meanwhile, to push agriculture reforms, the Cabinet on Monday launched the State Maharashtra Agriculture Rural Transformation (SMART) project and Maha DBT portal.

Under the Rs 1,200-crore SMART project, the government plans to work with the World Bank to introduce reforms in the agriculture sector across 40,919 villages.

Agriculture Minister Anil Bonde said while the World Bank will fund 70 per cent of the project, 26.67 per cent will be provided by state and 3.33 per cent by the private sector.

The Maha DBT portal, on the other hand, will enable farmers avail a cluster of agriculture-related welfare schemes with just one click. "Now, farmers can have direct access to agriculture-related schemes by submitting online applications. After processing the application, the fund will be credited to the individual bank account of the eligible farmer within 15 days," said Bonde.

Further, the Cabinet approved the launch of Nanaji Deshmukh Krishi Sanjivani project in 15 districts, covering 2.5 lakh farmers in 142 villages, to cope with climatic challenges. It also approved poultry projects in 19 districts of Vidarbha and Marathwada.

CABINET DECIDES One family eligible for only 1 flat in govt housing schemes

New policy will be applicable to all housing schemes across the state

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 9

TIGHTENING NORMS for beneficiaries of government housing schemes, the Maharashtra Cabinet Monday cleared a policy that bars an individual who has already availed a flat in a government housing scheme, from applying for allotment of a second house. The new norm will also apply in cases where the original benefit was provided to the applicant's spouse or dependent son, sources said.

Acting on a Bombay High Court order, the state's housing department had formulated a revised policy that makes an individual (and immediate family) eligible for a house under any government scheme only once. On Monday, the state cabinet approved this policy.

Exploiting the existing provision that imposed such restrictions only on the allotment of a second house in the same dis-

THREE NEW CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

THREE MENTAL hospitals in the state will soon become centres of excellence, offering courses in various branches of clinical psychology. On Monday, the state cabinet approved a proposal to upgrade the

infrastructure and start new courses at three mental health hospitals in Thane, Pune and Nagpur. The project is expected to cost Rs 6 crore of which the Centre is expected to provide 60 per cent of the funding.

trict, several beneficiaries, mainly politicians and bureaucrats, were found to have availed the benefit multiple times.

On May 4, 2018, the Bombay High Court, while hearing a case of an allotment made to a housing society of sitting High Court judges in Mumbai suburbs, had passed a ruling in this regard, forcing the government to modify the existing provisions. "An individual, even if he is a judge or a bureaucrat, should not get another flat if he already has one under a government scheme,"

the court had ruled.

The new policy will be applicable to all housing schemes across the state. To make sure that an ineligible applicant does not bypass the new norm, the state has also said that gifting of the previous allotment to a relative won't make a person eligible for the second time. However, an applicant will be permitted to surrender his or her earlier allotment to the government if he or she wants to apply for a bigger home, said sources. The government has clarified

Bhatsa dam expansion project approved

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 9

AHEAD OF the Assembly polls, the state Cabinet on Monday cleared the Bhatsa dam expansion project that would increase the drinking water supply to Mumbai.

Officials from the irrigation department said that the expansion of the Bhatsa dam will increase its capacity by 2.5 thousand million cubic. While Mumbai will get most of the water from the increased capacity, some of it will go to Thane and Bhiwandi, said an official.

Apart from Bhatsa dam project, the

government granted the revised expenditure of Rs 4,654 crores for four dams in Jalgaon district in north Maharashtra. Waghur, Hatnur phase 1, Varangan Talvel and Shelgaon Barrage dams would bring around 1 lakh hectare land under irrigation, said the official.

The government also approved tenders worth Rs 3,122 crore for Latur and Osmanabad districts under the Marathwada Water Grid project, which is proposed to connect 11 major dams in the region through large pipelines. Officials said pipeline network of 607 km and 704 km will be laid in Latur and Osmanabad, respectively.

72 yrs later, hope for a 'home' for Sindhi migrants

SANDEEP ASHAR
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 9

NEARLY 72 years after they fled west Pakistan in the course of Partition and made refugee camps across Maharashtra their home, relief is finally around the corner for descendants of Sindhi migrants, as the state Cabinet on Monday gave plans for the redevelopment of these age-old low-rise colonies a boost.

The Cabinet set up a ministerial sub-committee under Revenue Minister Chandrakant Patil to formulate rules for the regularisation of an accommodation where the migrant family has illegally transferred the same to a third party. While the government, which has been overseeing the maintenance of these settlements since 1971, has started giving citizenships and ownership rights of homes to families residing in these colonies, sources said that the non-regularisation of accommodations, where the benefit was illegally transferred, was coming in the way of the redevelopment of such colonies.

About 30 lakh Sindhi migrants had settled in 31 refugee camps across the state. Sources said that most buildings were now in derelict condition. Their redevelopment, officials added, had become necessary for safety reasons.

Once regularisation is carried out, sources said that the initial proposal is to redevelop five such settlements in Mumbai. These five colonies collectively occupy 280 acres with the camps in Mulund and Sion Koliwada—spread over 100 acre each—being the largest. Around 60 acres is occupied by the Sindhi camp in Chembur and 10 acres each by the Thakkar Bappa Colony (Chembur), and the Wadia Trust Estate Refugee Camp in Kurla.

A total of 5,000 families reside in these settlements, sources said. The plan is to redevelop these colonies on the lines of the redevelopment of Bombay Development Directorate chawls in central Mumbai, where a floor space index of 5 has been extended for the revamp. The chawl residents have been promised bigger sized apartments on ownership basis.

For the redevelopment plans to proceed, the state will first have to take over these land from the Centre. While the maintenance of the colonies was vested in the state in 1971, the ownership continues to be with the Centre.

On Monday, the state also accorded citizenship to 23 people who had emigrated from Pakistan. An official communication stated that the beneficiaries were from Jalgaon, Aurangabad, Amravati and Kolhapur districts.

ICAR-CENTRAL INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH ON COTTON TECHNOLOGY

(Indian Council of Agricultural Research)
Adenwala Road, Matunga, Mumbai-400 019.


Notice inviting e-Tenders

THE Director, ICAR-CENTRAL INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH ON COTTON TECHNOLOGY, Mumbai, invites online Percentage Rate bids (e-tenders) in two bid system from the eligible contractors registered with Government organisations such as CPWD, State PWD, MES, Railway, P & T, Public undertakings, Nationalised bank etc.

- Tender ID :** 2019_DARE_499498_2, **Tender Type :** Open Tender, **Tender Category :** Works, **Form of Contract :** Works, **Name of Work :** Renovation of Room No. 07 on Second Floor, Guest House of Yashwantrao Chavan Building at ICAR-CIRCOT, Matunga, Mumbai. **Estimated Cost :** Rs. 4,03,067/-. **Tender Fee :** Rs. 500/-, **EMD :** Rs. 5,000/-, **Period of Completion :** 120 days. Last Date & Time of submission of bids is **03.10.2019 at 03.00 PM** and Opening Date & Time of Technical bids is **07.10.2019 at 03.30 PM**.
- Tender ID :** 2019_DARE_499864_1, **Tender Type :** Open Tender, **Tender Category :** Works, **Form of Contract :** Works, **Name of Work :** Providing internal repair and painting work in Mechanical Processing Division Building (MPD) at ICAR-CIRCOT, Matunga, Mumbai. **Estimated Cost :** Rs. 4,71,028/-. **Tender Fee :** Rs. 500/-, **EMD :** Rs. 10,000/-, **Period of Completion :** 120 days. Last Date & Time of submission of bids is **05.10.2019 at 03.00 PM** and Opening Date & Time of Technical bids is **11.10.2019 at 03.30 PM**.
- Tender ID :** 2019_DARE_499912_1, **Tender Type :** Open Tender, **Tender Category :** Works, **Form of Contract :** Works, **Name of Work :** Providing Civil renovation works in Hall for Central stores on Third Floor of Dr. V. Sundaram (MS) Building at ICAR-CIRCOT, Matunga, Mumbai, **Estimated Cost :** Rs. 5,21,514/-. **Tender Fee :** Rs. 500/-, **EMD :** Rs. 10,000/-, **Period of Completion :** 120 days. Last Date & Time of submission of bids is **05.10.2019 at 03.00 PM** and Opening Date & Time of Technical bids is **11.10.2019 at 03.30 PM**.

The Tender forms and other details can be seen and obtained from the web site www.circot.res.in or www.eprocure.gov.in. The e-tenders are to be submitted only on Government web site www.eprocure.gov.in before due date & time.


Senior Administrative Officer

**SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF A. LIMITED**
Corporate Office : H.No.19-13-65/A, Srinivasapuram, Tiruchanoor Road, Tirupati - 517503
NOTIFICATION DATED:10-09-2019
Applications are invited from eligible candidates for filling up of the post of **DIRECTOR /Finance** on the Board of APSPDL, a Company wholly owned by the Government of Andhra Pradesh.
The details of eligibility criteria, other detailed instructions and prescribed format may be viewed at APSPDL website www.apspdcl.in.
Place:Tirupati, Date:10-09-2019, Chairman & Managing Director

**GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
MADURAI HIGHWAYS (Construction & Maintenance) CIRCLE
TENDER NOTICE**
T.N.No. 11 / 2019-20 / HDO / Dated: 06.09.2019
For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu **Percentage tender through online only** will be received upto **14.10.2019, 15.00 hours** by the Superintending Engineer (H) C&M, **Madurai Circle**, for CRIDP Package No.74 - 83 pertaining **Madurai (H) C&M Division**.
Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from **13.09.2019** onwards in the Government website <https://tntenders.gov.in>. If any changes / corrections / in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.
**Superintending Engineer (H),
C&M, Madurai Circle.**
DIPR/3115/Tender/2019

**GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
MADURAI HIGHWAYS (Construction & Maintenance) CIRCLE
TENDER NOTICE**
T.N.No. 10 / 2019-20 / HDO / Dated: 05.09.2019
For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu **Percentage tender through online only** will be received upto **14.10.2019, 15.00 hours** by the Superintending Engineer (H) C&M, **Madurai Circle**, for CRIDP 2019-20 works (Package No.71 - 73) pertaining **Madurai (H) C&M Division**.
Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from **13.09.2019** onwards in the Government website <https://tntenders.gov.in>. If any changes / corrections / in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.
**Superintending Engineer (H),
C&M, Madurai Circle.**
DIPR/3114/Tender/2019

**GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
Chennai Construction and Maintenance Circle
TENDER NOTICE**
Tender Notice No.17/2019-20/HDO, dated 07.09.2019
For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, **Percentage tender through online only** will be received upto **16.10.2019, 15.00 hours** by the Superintending Engineer (H), C&M, Chennai Circle for works under CRIDP and Non Plan 2019-20 Scheme (Package No.93 to 105) pertaining to Tiruvannamalai and Chennai City Roads (H) C&M Division.
Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details will be available from **13.09.2019** onwards in the Government website <https://tntenders.gov.in>. If any Changes/Corrections in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.
**Superintending Engineer (H)
C&M, Chennai Circle**
DIPR/3111/Tender/2019

**GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
(CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE) CIRCLE,
TIRUNELVELI
TENDER NOTICE**
Tender Notice No.06/2019-20/D1/Dated:06.09.2019
For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, **Percentage tender through online only** will be received upto **15.10.2019 at 15.00 hours** by the Superintending Engineer (H) C&M, Tirunelveli Circle for **CRIDP-2019-20 Works, (Package No.8 to 19)** pertaining to **Thoothukudi (H) C&M Division**
Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from **13.09.2019** onwards in the Government website <https://tntenders.gov.in>. If any changes / corrections in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.
**SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (H)
C&M, TIRUNELVELI CIRCLE**
DIPR/3113/TENDER/2019

**BRIHANMUMBAI
MAHANAGAR PALIKA**
Chief Engineer (Rds. & Tr.)
No. Dy.Ch E/1218/Rds/Plg date 09.09.2019
E-TENDER NOTICE (Invitation of EOI)
Bid Invitation Number : 7100157225
THE Commissioner of Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) invites Global online 'Expression of Interest (EOI)' for appointment of Three Consultants for planning & designing of underground utility ducts for a period of three years, from the Consultants engaged in urban road planning & designing works, in packet 'A/B' & packet 'C'. Consultant is required to prepare inventory, to survey in detail, to co-ordinate with various external utility agencies involved, various departments of MCGM providing services like Water supply, Drainage etc. to map all utility lines/ networks accurately, to carry out various tests, to study the traffic, to plan & prepare a comprehensive design for a trench free pavement with utility ducts, cross ducts, connections to the abutting properties, to prepare estimates/ BOQ & drawings etc. in respect of utility ducts, proposed to be constructed on MCGM roads as per the assignments given.
The tender copy and tender notice can be downloaded from MCGM's portal- <http://portal.mcgmm.gov.in>, from 29.08.2019.

Name of work	Appointment period	EMD in Rupees	E-Tender Price Rs.
Appointment of three Consultants for planning & designing of underground utility ducts for a period of three years.	3 years from the date of issue of LoA	10,00,000/-	8,085/-

Start date of sale of e-tender	Pre-bid meeting	End date & time of sale	End date & time of submission	Opening of e-tender in the office of Dy.Ch.E. (Roads) Planning
29.08.2019 from 1100 Hrs.	20.09.2019 at 1500 Hrs.	30.09.2019 up to 1200 Hrs.	30.09.2019 up to 1600 Hrs.	Packet 'A/B' from 1601 Hrs. on 30.09.2019 Packet 'C' from 1500 Hrs. on 11.10.2019

Contact for assistance : 1) Santosh Gosavi : 9821228853
2) Prakash Savardekar : 9322986808
Save water. It is very Precious.
PRO/1046/ADV/19-20
Sd/-
Assistant Engineer (Roads) Planning

**NMDC Limited**
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)
DONIMALAI COMPLEX, DONIMALAI TOWNSHIP, PO- SANDOUR TALUK, BALLARI DISTRICT, KARNATAKA, PIN CODE - 583118. CIN : CIN : L31007G1958600101674.
TENDER NOTIFICATION
Tender Enquiry No. KIOM/OTE/MIST/WS/2019 Date: 10/09/2019
Sealed tenders in two bid systems are invited from competent and experienced contractors for the following work.
"Hiring of water tanker with mist/fog canon for sprinkling of 3840 trips (±20%) for a period of two years (@1920 trips (±20%) per annum) on a stretch of 05 km length of haul roads in dispatch operations of Kumaraswamy Iron Ore Mine, M/s NMDC Limited, which is further extendable by one more year at the discretion of NMDC".
The EMD ₹47,000/-, Estimate value of the work ₹94.93 Lakhs, Contract period-3840 trips (±20%) for a period of two years (±1920 trips (±20%) per annum) and extendable by one more year for annual quantity of 1920 trips (±20%) at the discretion of NMDC.
Tenders can be viewed/downloaded from website www.nmdc.co.in and www.eprocure.gov.in. For further clarifications please contact NMDC Office Donimalai Complex, Ph. 08395-274640, email id: kiom.nmdc@gmail.com.
Tender document can be down loaded from 10/09/2019 to 10/10/2019.
For and on behalf of NMDC Limited,
DGM (Mining)
Date: 10/09/2019

7 EXPRESS NETWORK

Govt pushed for zero budget farming, top scientists question

HARISH DAMODARAN & PARTHA SARATHI BISWAS
NEW DELHI, PUNE, SEPTEMBER 9

INDIA'S PREMIER academic body of agricultural scientists has hit out at Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF), terming it as an "unproven" technology bringing no incremental value gain to either farmers or consumers.

"The government should not needlessly invest capital and human resources towards promoting ZBNF. We have given our recommendations in writing to the Prime Minister and it reflects the view held by the scientific community," said Panjab Singh, president, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS).

This position comes after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's Union Budget speech in July spoke of the need to "go back to basics" and "replicate this innovative model (that) can help in doubling our farmers' income". On Monday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while addressing the 14th Conference of Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, said that "we are focusing on ZBNF".

NAAS, the New Delhi-based farm scientists' think tank, which has over 650 fellows and 15 regional chapters across India, had organised a day-long "brainstorming session" on ZBNF on August 21. It was attended, among others, by the Director-General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Trilochan Mohapatra and NITI Aayog member Ramesh Chand.

"In all, there were about 75 experts that included scientists, policymakers, progressive farmers, NGOs and fertiliser, seed and crop protection chemical industry representatives. We reviewed the protocols and claims of ZBNF and concluded that there is no verifiable data or authenticated results from any experiment for it to be considered a feasible technological option. We had invited Subhash Palekar (the man behind ZBNF) as well, but he did not come," claimed Singh, who is also a former ICAR Director-General.

ZBNF's basic concept is that over 98 per cent of the nutrients required by crops for photosynthesis — carbon dioxide, nitrogen, water and solar energy — are already supplied "free" from the air, rains and sun. Only the remaining 1.5-2 per cent nutrients need to be taken from the soil and converted from "non-available" to "available" form (for intake by the roots) through the action of micro organisms.

To enable the micro organisms do their jobs, farmers must apply 'Jiwaamrita' (microbial culture) and 'Bijamrita' (seed treatment solution), besides 'Mulching' (covering plants with a layer of dried straw or fallen

leaves) and 'Waaphasa' (giving water outside the plant's canopy) to maintain the right soil temperature-moisture-air balance.

For insect and pest management, ZBNF recommends use of 'Agniastra', 'Brahmastra' and 'Neemastra', which, like 'Jiwaamrita' and 'Bijamrita', are concoctions based mainly on urine and dung from desi cows. Since these also do not have to be purchased, it makes farming practically "zero-budget".

Critics, however, note that plant growth and crop yields require nitrogen, which is also a major component of amino acids that are the building blocks of proteins. "78 per cent of air is nitrogen, but it is not freely available to plants. Being non-reactive, atmospheric nitrogen has to be fixed into a plant-usable form such as ammonia or urea," said a top ICAR scientist, who didn't wish to be identified.

"He (Palekar) is further saying that ZBNF is effective only if dung and urine from black-coloured Kapila cows is used and farmers sow traditional varieties' landraces. It means that all the high-yielding varieties and hybrids developed by us, which have trebled India's rice production to 116 million tonnes (mt) and increased it more than eight times to 102 mt for wheat in the last 50 years, are useless," said the scientist.

But according to Palekar, ZBNF is "seed-agnostic" and can be used for desi, hybrid or even genetically modified crops. "NAAS has no expertise to validate my method of farming. They have neither spoken to me nor the farmers who are practising it. The academy should also have taken into consideration my schedule before calling me. Farmers organise workshops that I cannot cancel just to attend this (NAAS) meeting," he said.

The ICAR, meanwhile, has appointed a committee under Praveen Rao Velchala, vice-chancellor of the Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, to study ZBNF's viability.

"We are examining if there is any science behind it and its strengths and weaknesses, including vis-à-vis normal organic farming. Currently, experiments in growing crops using ZBNF are taking place in five research station locations, and we are also going to the fields of farmers who have supposedly adopted this technique. All this can be confirmed through analysis of soil data and fertility status," Velchala told The Indian Express.

The committee, constituted in May, has had two meetings so far, while the five trial locations are Modipuram (UP), Pantnagar (Uttarakhand), Kurukshetra (Haryana), Ludhiana (Punjab) and Palampur (Himachal Pradesh).

100 DAYS OF MODI GOVT

Munda hails scrapping of J&K special status

ABHISHEK ANGAD
RANCHI, SEPTEMBER 9

UNION TRIBAL Affairs Minister Arjun Munda said the scrapping of the special status has opened doors for Kashmir and that "one rule and one law" across the country will give people of the Valley all "benefits" of the Indian Constitution.

Munda was speaking at a press meet in Ranchi on the completion of 100 days of the Narendra Modi government.

"Now the country will have one rule and one law and all arrangements, facilities, benefits, fundamental rights in Constitution will now be available to the people of Kashmir. This is a great achievement for the people of Kashmir and for the entire country."

He also recounted that he had gone to Leh in Ladakh and people had overwhelmingly supported the revocation of special status. "The response was

As PM heads to US, plans afoot to schedule meeting with Trump

Modi to address annual UN General Assembly session on September 27

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 9

AS PRIME Minister Narendra Modi heads to the US to attend the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), plans are afoot to schedule a visit to Washington DC for a meeting of the Prime Minister with US President Donald Trump, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

Modi is likely to leave for the US on September 21 and will first travel to Houston and then to New York from September 23 to 28.

While he is planning to spend five days in New York, plans are being explored for a day-long visit to Washington DC and a bilateral meeting with the US President at the White House.

The Indian Express has learnt that Delhi and Washington are looking at September 25 and 26 as possible dates for the visit and



Delhi and Washington are looking at September 25 and 26 as possible dates for the visit and bilateral meet

a bilateral meeting between the Prime Minister and the US President.

If it works out, then this will be his third visit to the White House in the last six years and third meeting with Trump this year. Modi had last visited White House in June 2017 when he met Trump. He went to the White House in September 2014 when

then US President Barack Obama had hosted him.

The Prime Minister will address the annual UNGA session on September 27 and Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan is expected to follow the same day.

As Prime Minister, Modi had given his maiden address to world leaders at the UNGA in 2014. His visit in September and address to world leaders at the UN will be the first after winning a second term as Prime Minister.

Before arriving in New York for the UNGA, Modi is scheduled to address the Indian diaspora in Houston on September 22. "Howdy, Modi!", the Indian-American community summit, will be hosted by the Texas India Forum, the Houston-based non-profit.

In a bid to implement the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres will host the 2019 Climate Action Summit on

September 23 which will be addressed by Modi.

During his stay in New York, Modi will be felicitated by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for his leadership of the Swachh Bharat Mission. He will be presented with the 2019 Global Goalkeeper Award on September 24.

As the world commemorates Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary, Modi will also host a special event 'Leadership Matters: Relevance of Gandhi in the Contemporary World' on September 24 in the Economic and Social Council Chamber in the UN Headquarters.

He will also be the keynote speaker at the Bloomberg Global Business Forum on September 25.

During his visit to New York, Modi will also inaugurate the Gandhi Peace Garden, an innovative initiative to commemorate Gandhi's 150 birth anniversary this year.

Govt sets up panel to divide assets of J&K between 2 UT's

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 9

THE GOVERNMENT on Monday constituted a three-member advisory committee under the chairmanship of former defence secretary Sanjay Mitra to divide the assets and liabilities of the state of Jammu and Kashmir between the two Union Territories it has been bifurcated into.

The other members of the committee include former special secretary, GST Council, Arun Goyal and Controller General of Accounts Giriraj Prasad Gupta. While Mitra is a retired IAS officer of the West Bengal cadre 1982 batch, Goyal is a retired 1985-batch AGMUT cadre IAS officer. Gupta is a retired ICAS officer who was appointed as CGA last August.

"As per Section 84 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act 2019, the assets and liabilities of the existing State of Jammu and Kashmir have to be apportioned between the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh according to the various provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019. The apportionment of the assets and liabilities of the existing State of Jammu and Kashmir shall be subject to the recommendations of a Committee constituted by the Central Government," a Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) order said.

As per Section 85 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, the central government establishes one or more Advisory Committees for apportionment of the assets, rights and liabilities.

There was no issue when I bought it."

According to a flat owner Rasheed Usman, about 90 per cent of occupants do not have a second house. "Where will we go? Most owners bought the flats after investing their entire savings." Usman said most owners spent between Rs 60 lakh and Rs 80 lakh to buy and furnish the flats, which currently have a price tag of at least Rs 1.15 crore. "Till last month, we paid all taxes. The pain of being dubbed illegal occupants in a day is terrible," he said.

Ajay Peter, another flat owner, said, "If we are forced to leave, there will be suicides. The court order has left us angry, desperate and sad. There are people undergoing dialysis every week. Who will take care of them?"

"After living here for eight years, we are being thrown out all of a sudden. We have nowhere to go. We are law-abiding citizens and we should not be punished for mistakes of some officials," said another resident.

COP 14

Will raise target, restore 26 million hectare degraded land by 2030: PM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 9

INDIA WILL raise its target for restoring degraded land from 21 million hectare to 26 million hectare by 2030, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced on Monday.

Inaugurating the high-level segment of the 14th session of Conference of Parties (COP) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Modi said between 2015 and 2017, India's tree and forest cover increased by 0.8 million hectares. "I would like to announce that India will raise its ambition of the total area that will be restored from its land degradation status — from 21 million hectare to 26 million hectare between now and 2030," Modi said.

Addressing delegates from around 200 nations, 70 environment ministers and over 8,000 participants from across the world, Modi urged the global community to stop using single-use plastic which was a "menace for land and environment".

Saying that the plastic menace was a form of land degradation which would be impossible to reverse, Modi said that apart from adverse health implications, it is going to render land unproductive and unfit for agriculture.

"My government has announced that India will put an end to single-use plastic in the coming years. I believe time has come for even the world to say goodbye to single-use plastic," Modi said.

"We in India take pride in us-



Union Minister Prakash Javadekar with Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations, Amina Jane Mohammed at the COP 14 in Greater Noida on Monday. PTI

ing space technology in multiple actions including land degradation and we will be happy to help other countries to combat it through cost effective space technology," he said.

It was also announced that India will set up a global technical support institute for the member countries of the UNCCD for their capacity building and support regarding land degradation neutrality, which has been defined by the parties to UNCCD as a state whereby the amount and quality of land resources, necessary to support ecosystem functions and services, remains stable or increases within specified temporal

and spatial scales and ecosystems.

The opening session of the segment was also addressed by Environment minister Prakash Javadekar, UN Deputy Secretary General Amina J Mohammad, UNCCD Executive Secretary Ibrahim Thiaw and Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Javadekar, who is the new COP president, said India was fully committed towards achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs). "We have already achieved half the target of installing 175 gigawatt of renewable energy by 2022," he said.

ORDER TO RAZE BUILDINGS FOR VIOLATION OF CRZ NORMS

As Kerala govt moves to implement SC order, flat owners' fate hangs in balance

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, SEPTEMBER 9

AS THE Kerala government gears up to comply with the Supreme Court directive to demolish apartments near Kochi for violation of Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) norms, the fate of 350-odd families hangs in the balance.

After the apex court's ultimatum last week that four apartment complexes at Maradu municipality near Kochi have to be demolished by September 20, Chief Secretary Tom Jose on Monday visited the premises. The government has ordered the municipal body to evict flat owners and rehabilitate them before the structures are razed.

On Monday, the chief secretary was greeted with agitated flat owners. While some raised slogans, others pleaded with him not to throw them out. Jose said the state government is bound to implement the court order.

Maradu municipality chair-



Residents of the apartment complexes in Maradu protest during the visit by Chief Secretary Tom Jose. Express

person T H Nadeera said the government has directed that the families be evicted and rehabilitated. "We cannot initiate these steps on our own. The cost of demolition would come to Rs 30 crore as per estimates," she said.

The occupants said they spent their hard-earned money on these flats. For many senior citizens, a protracted legal battle is not an option.

Among the flat owners are film directors Major Ravi and Blessy and actor Soubin Shahir. Ravi told the media, "We residents are being punished without being heard. We have been paying all taxes, yet we have been punished."

Shahir said the owners have not received any notice from local authorities. "I bought the flat after consulting several people.

Nitish should move to Centre, leave Bihar to BJP and JD(U) second rung: BJP leader

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, SEPTEMBER 9

SENIOR BJP leader and former Union minister Sanjay Paswan on Monday said Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar "should now move to the Centre" and leave Bihar to "BJP and the second-rung JD (U) leadership". Paswan said BJP had been "upset" at the JD (U) not "getting support from alliance partner JD(U) on NRC".

A former president of the BJP SC Morcha and currently an MLC, Paswan told *The Indian Express*, "Nitish Kumar has now been the Chief Minister of Bihar for over 13 years and there should be a change now even if it is a change for the sake of change. Nitish Kumar has done very well as Chief Minister but should now move to Centre and leave Bihar to BJP and second-rung JD (U) leadership."

Asked about the immediate provocation for his statement, Paswan said, "The way our alliance partner JD(U) is not supporting us on NRC is not good. We hold there should be NRC in Bihar as well. JD(U) had been also criticising on us NRC in a veiled manner. While we are refraining from any direct criticism of JD(U), we are not too happy with what some JD(U) leaders are saying on NRC."

Paswan had been indirectly referring to JD(U) national vice-president Prashant Kishor's criticism of NRC on Twitter.

Paswan also took on JD (U)'s "posture politics" keeping Nitish at the centrestage of the state politics. "We do not know where these posters are coming from.



Bihar MLC Sanjay Paswan

There has not been any NDA meeting and Assembly election is sometime away. It looks to be the JD(U)'s sole decision to play up Nitish Kumar's leadership again... I personally think that Nitish Kumar should now take to the Centre and consolidate the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Let there be a change now."

Asked about BJP leader and deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi recently reiterating that the NDA will fight the 2020 polls under Nitish Kumar's leadership, Paswan said, "What I am saying is my personal opinion."

JD (U) national spokesperson KC Tyagi told *The Indian Express*, "We wonder why some BJP leaders are making such statements. The top leadership of BJP should rein in the likes of Paswan. We do not criticise BJP top leadership and they should also respect our leader in the best spirit of coalition. We differ on some issues and it is well-known. They have their constituencies to cater to and we have our own. But when Prime Minister Modi keeps praising Nitish Kumar's leadership, why do such leaders like Paswan speak up."

Tyagi said BJP should remember that the JD(U) had supported them in Rajya Sabha on over a dozen issues.

After RJD's 'defeatist' barb, JD(U) comes up with new slogan

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, SEPTEMBER 9

IN THE wake of criticism from the Opposition, the JD(U) has replaced its "thikhe to hai Nitish Kumar" poster with another that reads "Kyun karen vichar, jab hai hi Nitish Kumar".

The older poster has been removed from outside the JD(U) office in Patna and replaced with the new one. The previous poster read, "Kyun karen vichar, thikhe to hai Nitish Kumar", meaning, "why consider others when Nitish Kumar is doing fine". Soon after it was put up, the RJD called it "defeatist".

The Opposition party came out with its own poster, "Humne kar liya hai vichar, 2020 me Tejashwi Sarkar (We have decided, it will be a Tejashwi government in 2020)". Stepping up the poster war, JD(U)'s Hayaghat MLA Amarnath Gami lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi by putting up two big posters at Darbhanga that read "kyun karte to abhi se chinta, 2020 me bhi ba-jega Modi ka danka (Why worry from now, Modi will prevail in 2020 too)".

A JD(U) leader said, "We thought our poster slogan should be clearer and aggressive. Our new poster reassures voters of Nitish Kumar's continued presence as the Chief Minister." He said the poster had been put up at the party office now and could be displayed elsewhere too.

Meanwhile, the Congress has created a flutter by expressing reservations on the RJD's move to project Tejashwi Yadav as the Opposition's Chief Minister

EXPLAINED

Cong begins posturing

CONGRESS, WHICH was the only Grand Alliance party to win a Lok Sabha seat in the last election, has started posturing against the RJD by being non-committal on Tejashwi's leadership of the alliance. The Congress knows RJD is going through its worst phase and it can afford to exert some pressure. The party, which will be eyeing more seats to contest in the next Assembly polls, has given an early jolt to its senior ally.

Food ministry seeks alternative packaging for drinking water

New Delhi: Supporting the ban on single-use plastic, Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan asked manufacturers of packaged drinking water, like Pepsi and Coca Cola, to come up with alternative packaging in the next three days.

He informed that an inter-ministerial committee, under the chairmanship of Cabinet

secretary, has been formed to look into the issue of banning single-use plastic in one go or in a phased manner.

Paswan on Monday held a meeting with bottled water industry and various government departments to find a suitable alternative for single-use plastic bottles for drinking water. **PTI**

DEFAMATION CASE BY M J AKBAR

Women should speak up...brought up to believe silence is a virtue: Ramani

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 9

JOURNALIST PRIYA Ramani on Monday told a Delhi court that the defamation case filed by former Union minister M J Akbar has come at a "great personal cost" to her, and that she has "nothing to gain from it".

Ramani told Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACCM) Samar Vishal, "...It is not easy for any women to make such disclosures. By keeping silent, I could have avoided the subsequent targeting, but that would not have been the right thing to do."

She told the court, "It was important and necessary for women to speak up about sexual harassment at workplace. Many of us are brought up to believe that silence is a virtue."

Ramani said that in all her disclosures about Akbar, her former editor at *The Asian Age* newspaper, she spoke the truth in public interest and for public good. "It was my hope that the disclosures, which were part of the 'MeToo' movement, would empower women to speak up and better understand their rights at workplace," she said.

Last year, Ramani had levelled allegations of sexual misconduct and harassment against Akbar, who subsequently resigned as Union Minister of State for External Affairs and filed the defamation case.

After Ramani wrapped up her examination-in-chief, Akbar's counsel, senior advocate Geeta Luthra, began her cross-examination, which could not be concluded and is expected to commence on October 24.

Examination-in-chief is a court process in which lawyers ask their first questions to their own witness.

Luthra asked Ramani whether her "so-called dream" of being a journalist was not contingent upon her being hired specifically by *The Asian Age*. Ramani replied in the affirmative and added, "It was not a so-called dream. *The Asian Age* was a good opportunity to realise that dream."

Luthra told ACCM Vishal that Ramani must only answer in Yes or No and not give her own suggestions, to which the judge replied, "You cannot dictate the witness' answers. If you do not allow her to speak, then this whole trial will be vitiated."

Luthra then asked that if there were no vacancies at *The Asian Age* at the time, would Ramani have stopped pursuing journalism. Ramani's counsel, senior advocate Rebecca John, objected and said, "This question is speculative and hypothetical."

ACCM Vishal said he will take a call at the time of judgment. Ramani then replied, "No."

Luthra asked whether the reason she took up the job with *The Asian Age* was that "no such interview, in the circumstances as alleged by you, ever happened". Ramani replied, "It is incorrect."

Luthra then asked, "More than two decades later you have maliciously and intentionally concocted this story to damage Mr Akbar's reputation. By publishing this story (in *Vogue* magazine), you published false news..."

Ramani told the court that both questions were incorrect. Luthra also asked Ramani whether she knew that the Indian Penal Code has provisions for redress of sexual harassment cases, and whether she was aware of the Vishaka judgment. Ramani replied that she was not aware about the IPC but was aware about the Vishaka guidelines.

Sexual harassment cloud over Goa Univ gender studies staffer

SMITA NAIR
PANAJI, SEPTEMBER 9

A TRAINING consultant for the Department of Women's Studies in Goa University is a former student who was accused by a classmate from 2017 of sexually harassing her and later faced an internal probe, records reviewed by *The Indian Express* show.

Records show that the consultant, As'ad Shah, is a "Specialist-Training" with the department's state resource centre since September 7, 2018. Shah has been accused of having told Japanese students on "at least 12 occasions" in May and June 2017, during a study tour in Japan, that his then Indian course mate wanted to buy a sexual accessory. "She wants it...please help her," he reportedly said.

In 2018, Shah completed a paper titled "Gender Sensitisation Intervention for Change" during his Masters programme. His current role involves liaising with the state on training and capacity building for women, conducting field trips across schools and colleges and engag-

ing with children, teenagers and teachers on "gender sensitisation and gender equality".

Records show the charges against Shah were taken up by the university's seven-member Internal Complaints Committee (ICC), which closed the probe citing delay by the victim in reporting the case. But it noted: "...the fact however remains that the Respondent (Shah) has uttered the words in question".

The complainant accused Head of Department Shaile Desouza and Assistant Professor Mamta Kumari of "covering up the victim's grievances" and "humiliating and causing mental torture for having raised the complaint" and "blocking grades". The HoD has also been accused of making the victim narrate the episode before other faculty and the accused, against her will.

On May 9, 2019, Registrar Professor Y V Reddy forwarded the ICC's recommendation to Shah. "...to caution you to exercise restraint and to use language in moderation and without offence in your day to day conduct and dealings with women and children, and to uphold the dignity of

women of all ages and respect the opposite gender," it said.

On the complaint against the HoD, the ICC recommended that "the heads of departments and person holding other statutory positions in Goa University should be vigilant and should endeavour to promote the purpose of The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 in letter and spirit".

Alleging that her complaint was "trivialised", the victim has also appealed against the "confusing ICC order" to the chairperson and members of the university's executive committee. In the appeal, she wrote that allowing Shah, "a serial offender", to continue as a mentor-trainer to "vulnerable women" sets a precedent, which "will make students not raise any complaint in the future and will embolden persons who commit acts of sexual harassment".

Calling for "No Tolerance towards Sexual Harassment", she questioned the ICC for having "conducted its inquiry in isolation" and in "complete ignorance of the #metoo movement where complaints with delay have been

dealt with all seriousness in institutions like TISS and Ambedkar University".

Shah did not respond to two emails sent by *The Indian Express* seeking his comment.

Responding to queries from *The Indian Express* on Shah's appointment as consultant, the Registrar's officer stated: "As regards role/job responsibility assigned to Mr. Shah by the University, it is informed that Mr. Shah is appointed as Specialist Training under the State Resource Centre for Women in the Department of Women studies. His appointment is upto 11/11/2019. Further, it is informed that the recommendations of the Preliminary Inquiry/ fact finding conducted by the Internal Complaints Committee of the Goa University has issued warning letter to Mr. Shah."

HoD Desouza stated: "I have not been given a copy of the complaint, the statements or the ICC report so cannot comment on the same. Since the complainant had apparently included me in her allegations, I promptly recused myself from the hearings..."

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

SIT to reopen 7 riots cases, NDA leaders ask Nath to quit

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 9

A SPECIAL Investigation Team (SIT) set up by the Union Home Ministry will reopen seven cases related to 1984 anti-Sikh riots, including one involving killing of two men outside Gurdwara Rakab Ganj, where Congress leader Kamal Nath, now the Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister, was allegedly present at the time of the incident.

These seven are cases where the accused were either acquitted or the trial closed, an official notification said.

Calling it political vendetta, Nath's media coordinator Narender Saluja said, "He has neither been named in any FIR nor is there a court case pending against him. The matter is being raised after 35 years only because he is the CM of Madhya Pradesh.... The matter is being raised again only because he (Nath-led Congress) defeated the BJP in MP."

Demanding Nath's resignation, Delhi MLA Manjinder Singh Sirsa alleged that while the Congress leader was never named in the FIR registered in the case, he had "given shelter to five people accused in one of the seven cases". Sirsa also said two witnesses in the case — Sanjay Suri and Mukhtyar Singh — are ready to record their statement.

Union minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal also demanded Nath's resignation.

Harsimrat tweeted, "Reopening of the case against Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath in the 1984 Sikh Genocide is a victory for the Sikhs. This is the result of our sustained efforts to reopen cases wrongfully deemed as solved."



Kamal Nath

Now, Kamal Nath will pay for his crimes. Now that the case against Kamal Nath has been reopened, he should be removed from the post of Madhya Pradesh CM. Case witnesses should be given protection as they get ready to depose..."

Nath's aide Saluja asserted that the Sikh community has been associated with the Congress leader in "large numbers", including in MP. He said, "No matter how many times he is investigated, he will emerge untainted. He has been a Union minister and held several important positions.... Where were these witnesses for 35 years? Was there any evidence against him? If there was, was the government sleeping so far?"

The ministry notification states that the SIT has taken up the discharged cases for scrutiny. The seven cases include those registered in 1984 at police stations in Delhi's Vasant Vihar, Sun Light Colony, Kalyanpuri, Parliament Street, Connaught Place, Patel Nagar, and Shahdara.

The SIT has issued public notices asking individuals and organisations to provide information related to these cases.

The SIT has so far reopened around 80 cases registered in connection with anti-Sikh riots that followed the assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Last year, Congress leader Sajjan Kumar was sentenced to life for his role.

(WITH INPUTS FROM
ENS, BHOPAL)

BABRI DEMOLITION CASE



Former Rajasthan governor Kalyan Singh with UP BJP chief Swatantra Dev Singh, in Lucknow on Monday. PTI

CBI moves court to summon Kalyan Singh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, NEW DELHI, SEPT 9

THE CBI on Monday moved an application before the special court (Ayodhya Prakaran) hearing the Babri Masjid demolition case to summon BJP leader Kalyan Singh to face trial in the case, soon after he demitted office as Rajasthan Governor.

Singh, who was the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh when the mosque was brought down in 1992, joined the BJP in Lucknow on Monday.

His tenure as Rajasthan Governor ended on September 3 — on Monday, Kalraj Mishra, a former minister in the BJP government, took over as Governor. The court directed the CBI to provide evidence that Singh no more enjoys any constitutional post, defence counsel K K Mishra said.

Moving the application, the CBI pleaded that Singh was charge-sheeted in 1993. It also pleaded that the Supreme Court in its order of April 19, 2017 had stated that Singh could not be brought to trial because of the constitutional immunity granted to governors under

Article 361 of Constitution.

Addressing the media at the BJP office, Kalyan Singh said the opposition parties should make clear their stand on Ayodhya, PTI reported.

"Ayodhya is a sacred pilgrim spot. Construction of Lord Ram is a matter of faith for crores of people..."

In 2017, a Supreme Court bench of Justices P C Ghose and Rohinton Nariman revived the criminal case in the Babri Masjid demolition case by allowing CBI to add a charge of criminal conspiracy against BJP leaders, including L K Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi, Uma Bharti and Kalyan Singh.

In its 40-page order, the court had stated that the BJP leaders and "lakhs of unknown kar se-waks", who were chargesheeted by the CBI, faced trial for the same offences — rioting, promoting enmity among different groups, making statements conducive to public mischief and imputations, assertions prejudicial to national-integration, among others.

The apex court had also directed the special court to frame charges against Singh "as soon as he ceases to be Governor".

TELANGANA

Pawan Kalyan, Cong leader ask parties to oppose uranium mining in tiger reserve area

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, SEPTEMBER 9

JANASENA PARTY president K Pawan Kalyan and several Congress leaders, including former MP V Hanumantha Rao, on Monday asked all parties in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh to collectively oppose the proposed uranium mining in the state's Amrabad Tiger Reserve.

The reserve is spread across Nallamalla forests in the state.

Kalyan said that uranium mining would generate radon, a product of radioactive decay of uranium, which can cause lung cancer and kidney problems.

Rao called Kalyan at the JanaSena Party office in

EXPLAINED

Forest officials against uranium survey

THREE OF four blocks in which the Department of Atomic Energy has approved survey and drilling of boreholes are in the core tiger protection area. An inspection report by Amrabad Tiger Reserve's field director has opposed the proposed exploration and drilling at the site. "...flora and fauna will be adversely affected and a lot of disturbance will be caused for wildlife..." the report states.

Hyderabad on Monday and sought his support. "People of two Telugu states will be affected because of uranium mining and Krishna water will get polluted. The uranium polluted water is

particularly harmful to pregnant women. The Chenchu tribes living in the forest have already brought the issue to JanaSena Party's notice," Kalyan said.

He said the party will discuss

Inputs on possible terror attack in south India: Army

SUSHANT KULKARNI
PUNE, SEPTEMBER 9

SOUTHERN ARMY Commander Lieutenant General S K Saini on Monday said there are inputs about a possible terror attack in southern and peninsular India.

He also said that enhanced capacity-building measures have been undertaken in the Sir Creek region due to heightened threat perception after some abandoned boats were recovered from the area.

Lt Gen Saini was speaking on the sidelines of a foundation stone-laying ceremony on the Army Law College campus at Kanhe near Pune.

Asked about security deployment by Pakistan in Sir Creek region between the two countries during an interaction with media, Lt Gen Saini said, "We have got many inputs that there may be a terrorist attack in southern part of India and peninsular India. As far as Sir Creek region is concerned, some abandoned boats have also been recovered in the area. We have undertaken measures for capacity building and capability development in the area of Sir Creek, keeping in mind the enhanced threat perception. We are taking precautions to ensure that the designs of inimical elements or terrorists are stalled and they do not get the success they are wishing for."

Asked about the situation in Jammu and Kashmir after the government's move on Article 370, he said, "Any conflict which is in the sub-conventional domain, has got both internal and external dimensions. In the case of J&K, the external dimension is much more pronounced than the internal dimension. We have a very clear-cut policy based on which have been resolving insurgencies. The government takes a comprehensive view of every conflict and undertakes political, economic, social and diplomatic measures to resolve it. Army's role is to create conducive conditions for such initiatives by the government. At the moment, Army is fully geared for any contingency which arises as far as J&K is concerned."

On a question about remarks by certain leaders in Pakistan, including on the use of nuclear weapons, Lt Gen Saini said, "Such threats do not change the way we function and we are ready for any situation."

There is a long pending dispute between India and Pakistan about the demarcation of boundaries in the Sir Creek region. While Pakistan has claimed a major chunk of the region, India's stand has been that international rules should be applied to resolve the issue.

The comments by the Southern Army Commander come weeks after Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh had said in Pune that there were intelligence inputs about an 'underwater wing' of the Jaish-e-Mohammad conducting training to carry out attacks on India.

MP govt studies plan for new photo ID for citizens

MILIND GHATWAI
BHOPAL, SEPTEMBER 9

THE MADHYA Pradesh government is studying a proposal to provide an ID card to all the state's residents, in a bid to cut down the need for carrying multiple documents, a minister said Monday.

According to MP's Minister of Public Relations, PC Sharma, the photo-identity card will sport a unique number and basic details like name, address and phone number, along with a QR code.

Sharma said it was meant to remove the need for multiple documents to avail benefits of

various government schemes.

"For example, students will not have to carry many documents, neither will farmers and those seeking caste certificates. They will need just one card and it will be linked to their Aadhaar card. Such a concept has not been implemented anywhere in the country. Chief Minister Kamal Nath is brainstorming over it," Sharma told reporters, dubbing the project concept as "one state one identity".

However, he did not provide further details. A bureaucrat told *The Indian Express* that "the concept has not been firmed up yet. It will take a lot more thinking."

Maharashtra : Over 90 dogs found killed in forest

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NAGPUR, SEPTEMBER 9

OVER 90 dogs were found killed and dumped in the woods in Buldana district on September 6, leading the police to register an offence under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

"The dogs were found dead and their legs and mouths were found tied with ropes in Girda forest along Buldana-Ajintha road. The local forest officials brought this to our notice. We have registered an offence under Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Act and relevant sections of IPC and Maharashtra Police Act," Buldana Superintendent of Police Dilip Bhujbal said.

"We have sent teams to Jalna and Aurangabad to find out if the act was committed in their municipal limits. We don't have anything to suggest that the dogs could have been from Buldana," he added.

The SP further said, "Generally, municipal bodies carry out campaigns against stray dogs. But in this case, it is difficult to guess why they were killed with such cruelty and what was the motive."

Atomic Energy (DAE) to survey and explore the area. Despite strong objections from forest officers and wildlife activists, however, the Centre accorded in-principle approval to mining on May 22. The Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), DAE, had submitted a proposal to survey and drill boreholes in four blocks of the reserve.

Three of the four blocks are inside the core tiger protection area known as Rajiv Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary within the Amrabad Tiger Reserve. The agency proposes to drill 4,000 holes to explore for uranium.

"The aim is to establish uranium deposits in these areas," the DAE said in its proposal.

TOPOF THE WORLD



KOREAN PENINSULA

North Korea says willing to resume talks with US

Seoul: North Korea said Monday it's willing to resume nuclear diplomacy with the United States in late September, but only if the US comes to the negotiating table with satisfactory new proposals. If the proposals don't satisfy North Korea, dealings between the two countries will come to an end, First Vice Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui said. North Korea has given the US enough time to map out new proposals to salvage the nuclear negotiations, he added. In April, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said the US must come up with new proposals to revive the talks. Talks on North Korea's nuclear disarmament fell apart in February when President Donald Trump rejected Kim's demand for sanctions relief in return for partial disarmament at their second summit in Vietnam.

CHINA

Telescope picks up strange signals from space

Beijing: Chinese astronomers have detected repeated fast radio bursts, mysterious signals believed to be from a source about three billion light years from the Earth, with the world's largest and most sensitive radio telescope, official media reported Monday. The scientists detected the signals with the Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Radio Telescope, according to researchers at the National Astronomical Observatories of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The fast radio bursts are the brightest bursts known in the universe, and there is no explanation for their origin.

SWEDEN

Prosecutor reviews witness accounts in Assange case

Stockholm: The Swedish prosecutor investigating a rape allegation against WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange said on Monday she had interviewed seven witnesses, including two not previously heard, but had yet to determine how to proceed in the case. Assange is serving a 50-week sentence in Britain for skipping bail after spending seven years in the Ecuadorian embassy in London to avoid extradition to Sweden over a 2010 rape allegation which he denies.

UK Parliament's suspension to begin after vote on snap election

Bill to avoid no-deal Brexit becomes law, but PM Johnson reiterates that Britain will leave EU on Oct 31

JILL LAWLESS & GREGORY KATZ

LONDON, SEPTEMBER 9

PRIME MINISTER Boris Johnson insisted Monday that a new Brexit deal can be reached to ensure Britain leaves the European Union by the October 31 deadline, as he prepared to suspend Parliament and send rebellious lawmakers home until two weeks before the country is supposed to leave the bloc.

Lawmakers used the hours before the suspension to deliver new blows to Johnson's teetering authority. An Opposition-backed measure designed to stop Britain from crashing out of the EU on October 31 without a divorce deal became law after receiving the formal assent of Queen Elizabeth II. That came hours before legislators were set to reject Johnson's demand for a snap election to break the political deadlock engulfing the government.

Johnson insists Britain must leave the 28-nation EU in just over 50 days, come what may, but acknowledged that leaving without an agreement on divorce terms "would be a failure of statecraft" for which he'd be partially to blame.

On a visit to Dublin, Johnson



UK PM Boris Johnson and his Irish counterpart Leo Varadkar in Dublin Monday. Reuters

said he would "overwhelmingly prefer to find an agreement" and believed a deal could be struck by October 18, when EU leaders hold a summit in Brussels.

The comments marked a change of tone, if not substance, from Johnson, who is accused by opponents of driving Britain at full-tilt toward a cliff-edge Brexit. Cabinet Minister Amber Rudd resigned over the weekend, saying she didn't believe Johnson was sincere about seeking a deal.

Irish Prime Minister Leo

Varadkar warned Johnson that "there's no such thing as a clean break," and if Britain crashed out, it would "cause severe disruption for British and Irish people alike."

The EU says Britain has not produced any concrete proposals for replacing the contentious "backstop", a provision in the withdrawal agreement reached by Johnson's predecessor Theresa May designed to ensure an open border between EU member Ireland and the UK's Northern Ireland.

Speaker to quit

Meanwhile, House of Commons Speaker John Bercow announced he would step down after a decade in the job. He told MPs he will quit the same day Britain is due to leave the EU, unless an election is called before then. In that case, he will step down ahead of the campaign. Bercow has angered the Conservative government by repeatedly allowing MPs to seize control of Parliament's agenda to steer the course of Brexit. **AP**

British Airways grounds nearly all flights as pilots strike; 195,000 travellers affected

GREGORY KATZ

LONDON, SEPTEMBER 9

BRITISH AIRWAYS has canceled almost all its flights for 48 hours, affecting as many as 195,000 travelers, due to a strike by pilots over pay.

The UK's flagship carrier said in a statement Monday that it had "no way of predicting how many (pilots) would come to work or which aircraft they are qualified to fly". As a result, it said it had "no option but to cancel



Heathrow Airport's Terminal 5 sits empty on Sunday morning. Reuters

nearly 100 per cent" of its flights for the duration of the strike.

British Airways operates up to

850 flights a day. London's sprawling Heathrow Airport was most affected by the work stoppage as it is the airline's hub and is used for many of the company's long-haul international flights.

The sprawling departure area at Heathrow Terminal 5 was almost empty, with only a handful of BA flights set to leave on Monday.

There were no queues at any of the check-in desks or security gates and only a handful of people waiting on benches. The terminal is typically quite busy.

IRAN

UN CONFIRMS NEW CENTRIFUGES

The United Nations' atomic watchdog confirmed Monday that Iran is preparing to use more advanced centrifuges, another breach of limits set in the country's unravelling nuclear deal with major powers. Iran had already announced the step, its latest violation of the 2015 deal as it tries to pressure European signatories to find a way to ease the toll of US sanctions on the Iranian economy.

AHEAD OF ELECTION OPPOSED BY TALIBAN

Afghanistan braces for violence after Trump calls off talks

DAVID E SANGER & MUJIB MASHAL

WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 9

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump's decision to break off peace talks with the Taliban, at least for now, left Afghanistan bracing for a bloody prelude to national elections this month, while the administration declined Sunday to rule out a withdrawal of US troops without a peace accord.

In a round of television interviews, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo blamed an attack by the Taliban for the cancellation of talks at Camp David this weekend that the administration had expected would lead to the signing of a peace agreement.

Pompeo said that the Taliban had "tried to gain negotiating advantage by conducting terror attacks inside the country," resulting in the death of a US soldier in Kabul. "We're going to walk away from a deal if others try to use violence to achieve better ends in a negotiation," he said.

The administration continued to face questions about what led to Trump's sudden renunciation of the talks, including whether the sticking point was his desire to seal the deal himself in a dramatic summit meeting at Camp David and why he chose to go public with the decision to withdraw the secret invitation to the Taliban.

Pompeo and other administration officials left open the door to a resumption of negotiations, and so did the Taliban. But any new talks may not happen for several months, with each side feeling that an agreement that seemed within reach was sabotaged by the other, Afghan officials said.

And there was a consensus in Kabul and Washington that the sudden derailment of what had seemed like a carefully orchestrated effort for a deal could lead



Pompeo and other administration officials left open the door to a resumption of talks. NYT

to a surge of violence before the September 28 election. The Taliban have opposed holding the election, of which President Ashraf Ghani is seen as a front-runner.

Despite a series of car bombings and attacks, there has been a sense that the Taliban have been hanging back, hoping a deal would delay the election. Now, the Taliban have more of an incentive to disrupt the election and make clear that after an 18-year war they remain a potent political and military player.

Trump's aides said they were mystified about whether the President had a new strategy for fulfilling his promise to withdraw US troops or preventing escalating violence.

There were also questions about the accuracy of his assertion that the Taliban had accepted his invitation to Camp David on Sunday, and that he was the one calling off the meeting.

Taliban negotiators said Sunday they had agreed to come to the US only after a deal was announced and only to meet with the US side, suggesting Trump may have cancelled a meeting that the key participants were not planning to attend. **NYT**

Russia's ruling party loses third of seats in Moscow after protests

ANDREW OSBORN & ANDREY KUZMIN

MOSCOW, SEPTEMBER 9

RUSSIA'S RULING United Russia party, which supports President Vladimir Putin, has lost a slew of seats in the Moscow Parliament, RIA news agency said on Monday, suggesting a tactical voting strategy pushed by opponents may have worked.

Sunday's poll was one of the most closely watched local elections in years after the exclusion of many opposition candidates triggered the Russian capital's biggest protests in nearly a decade.

Though local, the Moscow election was earmarked by prominent Opposition politician Alexei Navalny and his allies as an opportunity to make inroads against United Russia ahead of a national parliamentary election in 2021.

Protests erupted in mid-July after the Central Election Commission refused to register



Voting for the local elections in Moscow took place on Sunday. Reuters

a large number of Opposition candidates, saying they had failed to collect enough signatures from genuine backers.

The excluded candidates, including allies of Navalny, denounced the action as a ruse designed to stop them winning seats in Moscow's Parliament.

Navalny had then advised his supporters to vote tactically across Russia for the candidate with the best chance of defeating United Russia. **REUTERS**

LOYALTIES TORN IN SOME FAMILIES OF POLICE OFFICERS

Split by barricades by night, parenting by day: Protests divide Hong Kong homes

CORA ENGELBRECHT

HONG KONG, SEPTEMBER 9

AS WEEKS of protests have transformed Hong Kong into a battleground between demonstrators and police, few families have felt the polarising effects more than that of a young woman named Sunny.

Sunny, 26, is a protester who takes to the streets to denounce what she regards as the oppressive policies of the central government in Beijing. Her husband is a low-ranking police officer, working 12-hour nightly shifts to confront the demonstrations his wife supports.

Since June, they have coexisted like this: standing on opposing

sides of the barricades by night, and then parenting their two daughters together the next day.

They have witnessed the deepening rift on the streets that has come to define the struggle for Hong Kong's soul. That fight is now driving a wedge into their home and the homes of families like theirs, and even into the ranks of the police force itself.

"In the beginning, it didn't seem any different from any other protests that we have always had over the years," Sunny said. "But now, we can't even talk about any normal daily life. No one has the patience for it."

As Hong Kong's government has stepped up the pressure and arrests, increasingly violent clashes between protesters and

police have made the streets more tense. The divide between the two sides has grown.

In public statements, officials have accused protesters of harassing officers, and sometimes their family members, online or in person. The treatment by protesters has angered many officers, who now face regular criticism on streets where just a few months ago they were widely respected.

Sunny and her husband have known each other since they were children and married five years ago. She asked that her full name not be published out of fear of retribution by the government or other officers.

Sunny's husband declined to speak in person or give his name, but emphasised the gulf between



STUDENTS FORM HUMAN CHAIN: Students wearing mask hold hands to surround a college in Hong Kong on Monday. Hundreds of school students formed human chains across the city in support of the protests. NYT

the government's demands and the protesters' grievances.

"It puts so much pressure on

me and my family," he said by text message, adding that the police "have no choice" but to ar-

rest those who break the law.

But he acknowledged that authorities could improve their handling of the protests, and said that his wife reminds him of that.

"She keeps me in line," he said. "She is always urging me to consider how police officers can regain the trust of the citizens."

Through their negotiations, Sunny has come to understand how, on the street, the police have become a stand-in for a government that is increasingly loathed by the public. "It feels like we have a common enemy," she said.

In July, she decided to organise a Facebook group, "Police Relatives Connection." Its mission is to restore the public's trust in the police. "We are not part of the police force, but we are the

closest to them, and they may be more willing to hear our voice," she said. "If the wives step up, the citizens will support them."

Most members of the Facebook group are just like her: They have a close relative in the police force but still support the protesters. Of the officers who feel conflicted in their posts, few dare speak out while the force is under so much public scrutiny.

Cathy Yau, 36, had been in the Hong Kong police force for 11 years before resigning in July and deciding to step forward and take the risk of publicly criticising the police. She expressed a view that she said is becoming more common in the police force.

"I felt like the government was hiding behind the police

force," she said. "Many police officers are normal Hong Kong citizens when we take off our uniform after work. We are all HK citizens, but the government didn't seem care that there is blood on the street." On July 10, she slipped her resignation letter under her boss's door.

After Yau went public with her story, several officers reached out to her, asking for advice on how they could follow in her footsteps, she said. One told her he was worried for his daughter's safety and well-being. Another told her that he had fallen under suspicion from his bosses and had been asked to disclose his political stance.

Yau says she now wants to run for City Council in November. **NYT**



The IndianEXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

NEIGHBOUR’S COURT

NSA Doval suggests that removal of restrictions on people in the Valley hinges on Pak behaving itself. That’s problematic

IN THE WEEKS since the revoking of special status of Jammu & Kashmir, in response to Pakistan’s repeated attempts to internationalise the matter, India’s position has remained firm and unchanged: It is an internal issue. Indeed, the government’s decision to carve the state into two Union Territories, thus centralising its governance, could also be seen to have robbed Pakistan of agency and leverage in the Valley. The world has heard since August 5 about how Pakistan was using Article 370 to foment trouble in J&K, and that that was a pressing reason to do away with it. In this context, it is a little puzzling that National Security Advisor A K Doval, in remarks during a media interaction last week, has chosen to bring Pakistan back into the Kashmir discourse in a manner that appears to return to it some of that agency.

By linking the restoration of communication and removal of other restrictions in the blockaded Valley to “how Pakistan behaves”, the NSA appeared to suggest that the neighbour still holds crucial influence in Kashmir. And that the rights of people in the Valley, that they are entitled to as Indian citizens, would hinge upon the next steps taken in Islamabad or Rawalpindi. Not only does this contradict another assertion by him in the same media interaction — that he was “fully convinced that a majority of the Kashmiris totally support” the legal abatement of Article 370 — it also seemed to be at cross purposes with the government’s other efforts to present India as the sole arbiter of Kashmir’s destiny.

As India prepares to look the world in the eye with the right words on the continued communication shutdown in the Valley at the UN at the General Assembly and Human Rights Council, the messaging will be crucial. The NSA has said that the arrested politicians and activists would be released when “the environment conducive for the functioning of democracy is created”. It is not clear who he is addressing in that remark, but it would be fair to say that as it was the Centre that suspended all political activity in the Valley, it also has the responsibility to bring it back. It seems disingenuous to point to Pakistan at this juncture, in the aftermath of a momentous decision by New Delhi that has disrupted status quo in the Valley. According to NSA Doval’s assessment, there are 230 Pakistani militants waiting to infiltrate the Valley and create trouble. It should be the responsibility of the Army, with all the resources at its command, to ensure that they do not enter. But the sins of Pakistan cannot be a reason for punishing India’s own.

SEIZE THE PACT

India must join regional trade partnership, hook into global value chains, address issues afflicting competitiveness

ON SUNDAY, TRADE ministers from the 16-nation regional comprehensive economic partnership (RCEP) group pledged to resolve their issues on the proposed free trade agreement (FTA) by November, when their leaders meet next for the ASEAN summit. So far, the Indian government has been cautious about joining this trade block. But, as pressure from RCEP members mounts, the government will have to carefully think through its strategy on trade pacts. Given the nature of global trade, joining these FTAs will not only gradually facilitate the country’s integration with global value chains, but provide greater opportunities for investment as well.

The RCEP is a proposed free trade agreement between the 10 ASEAN countries and their FTA partners, namely India, China, Japan, Korea, Australia and New Zealand. Once concluded, it will account for 25 per cent of the global GDP and 30 per cent of global trade. Part of India’s reluctance to join this trade pact stems from the view that the country has not benefited from its FTAs with countries like Korea, Malaysia and Japan. After these pacts came into effect, imports from these countries surged, while exports did not risen commensurately, leading to a widening of the trade deficit. India already runs a trade deficit with most of the 16 RCEP countries. Opening up its market further could worsen the situation. Large sections of India Inc are concerned that being part of RCEP would lead to an influx of more competitively priced Chinese products in both the consumer goods and industrial segments. Thus, eliminating tariffs for a significant section of traded goods is bound to face resistance from domestic industry. A slowing economy will only exacerbate such fears.

Part of the explanation for this dismal performance under FTAs can be attributed to higher compliance costs, administrative delays etc. But with India’s exports being almost flat over the past five years, shunning such trade pacts is not a prudent approach. One should be mindful that the long-run benefits from joining these trade blocks will outweigh the short-term costs. To be sure, India should negotiate concessions and safeguards for sensitive sectors. Further, the proposed tariff reductions could be phased over a five to ten-year period which will give time to the industry to adapt. But the costs of not going forward with the trade pact, under pressure from industry, will be great. India must seize this opportunity to hook into global value chains, while addressing the deeper issues that afflict manufacturing competitiveness.

A JUMBO ROMANCE

A Wayanad tusker in Kerala shows a different kind of love is possible

RULAM IS IN mourning. Maniyan, a wild tusker that used to frequent this village bordering the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala, died last week. During the weekend, villagers took out a silent procession to mourn the death. It was a rare occasion in a region where herds of wild elephants are known to raid crops and ransack homes in search of food and tuskers in musth are known to trample the unsuspecting villagers who stray on to their path.

Maniyan, however, was different. Even his occasional entry into human habitat never went beyond pulling down the odd bag of salt; when villagers offered fruit, Maniyan would stretch his trunk. He had learnt to co-exist with the villagers, and in turn, taught the villagers to do so too. This, in a district where 67 people had died in a decade in human-animal conflict, a majority of them killed by wild jumbos. In fact, this contradiction runs deep through the Malayalis’ relationship with the elephant. The feared beast of the jungle becomes a loved creature once he is tamed. In April, the famed Thrissur Pooram, a temple pageant that features a large number of decked up jumbos, came under a cloud when fans of an aged and ailing elephant, Thechikottukavu Ramachandran, insisted on his participation — Ramachandran, who killed 13 persons, had become some sort of a security risk. Maniyan and Ramachandran present two extreme cases of the Malayalis’ romance with the beast.

The elephant has shaped the Malayali imagination like no other animal, celebrated in literature, cinema and in every act of joy and celebration. However, the jumbo’s life has only been worse off for this fear-laced affection. The taming of the beast and its later life in chains should rank among the worst kind of torture inflicted on animals. Despite many campaigns, it continues, and is defended in the name of love for the elephant. Maniyan offers a different narrative — a one-off story perhaps — in which love is not predicated on a life in chains.



PRATAP BHANU MEHTA

THE FIRST HUNDRED days of Narendra Modi’s second term as prime minister raise a profound question that goes beyond a mere cataloguing of the government’s actions and policies: What is the nature of the regime we are spawning? As we look at the hundred days, two political phenomena stare us in the face. The first is that despite a very poor economic performance, Modi remains immensely popular. Even his staunchest critics have to acknowledge that he has made himself an inescapable figure, someone who has colonised our consciousness so much that even criticism only serves to underscore his importance and reinforce his imaginative hold. His triumph is not what he does; it is that he is the focal point of everything we do.

The second is that the authoritarian consolidation of this regime over Indian democracy continues unabated. Almost all independent institutions have been reduced to ciphers. The characteristic hallmarks of authoritarian domination have intensified: The state defines a single national purpose and everyone has to march to the same drum beat; the population has to be kept in a permanent state of nationalist arousal to paper over all social and economic contradictions; thought control has to be exercised in order to achieve what Leszek Kolakowski in another context called “the mental and moral sterilisation” of society.

Even majoritarianism is openly justified. In case you think the fears of majoritarianism are a red herring, listen to Swapan Dasgupta, not known to be a BJP critic, writing in *The Telegraph* (August 22) “Many of the fears in the Muslim community are undeniably overstated and tailored to the pre-existing belief that the Modi government is inherently fascist in nature. However, two factors stand out. First, the fears, however misplaced, are nevertheless real; and secondly, the Muslim stakes in the political power structure are more tenuous than ever before. It is the second issue that needs addressing.” After suggesting both that Muslims are to blame for their lack of response to Modi, and that the BJP is weak in its outreach, Dasgupta reaches this conclusion: “Hindus and Muslims may not be battling each other on the streets but neither are they talking to each other. This is not a healthy situation and can trigger an un-

There is an odd thread linking Kashmir and the mishandling of the economy that speaks to the regime type. The thread is this. Even in the context of the economy, three things are striking. All governments have to put up a brave face. But it is difficult to remember a time when it was so difficult to get the government to accept the truth about the economy; or when the premium on public and professional discourse marching to the state’s tune was as high. So, like Kashmir, the truth remains shrouded in a fog of triumphalism and complacency. Second, the approach to handling the economy has also had the same traits: Power, moralism and control.

healthy move towards greater ghettoisation.” When Swapan Dasgupta begins to worry that the regime is producing ghettoisation, we should worry about the estrangement that lies ahead.

The hundred days is not a catalogue of specific actions, some good some bad. They are certainly marked by Modi’s energy, drive, imperiousness and unerring instinct to dominate the political discourse. They, rather, reveal the consolidation of a regime type.

When the purpose of the regime is the show of power, nationalist fervour and social control, “bold” action will be the order of the day. In some sense, the government’s unprecedented move in Kashmir is a demonstration of all three regime traits; whether they are actually aimed at solving the problem at hand is an open question. Only in the context of a regime like this can a shutdown of a state, the decimation of constitutional federalism, the suspension of civil liberties, the creation of a climate of fear over reporting from Kashmir, and the heightened risk of war and conflict, be presented as a triumph.

But there is an odd thread linking Kashmir and the mishandling of the economy that speaks to the regime type. The thread is this. Even in the context of the economy, three things are striking. All governments have to put up a brave face. But it is difficult to remember a time when it was so difficult to get the government to accept the truth about the economy; or when the premium on public and professional discourse marching to the state’s tune was as high. So, like Kashmir, the truth remains shrouded in a fog of triumphalism and complacency. Second, the approach to handling the economy has also had the same traits: Power, moralism and control. When Swapan Dasgupta begins to worry that the regime is producing ghettoisation, we should worry about the estrangement that lies ahead.

precarious system.

It also serves the purpose of giving this government the one thing it wants over everyone above all else: Control. So Indian capital now has been pummelled into submission. While there are some individual measures that are laudatory, the fact is there is no consistent framework in terms of which the government has diagnosed the economy, no sense of the ends we are trying to achieve. But when the exercise of power wears the garb of virtue, all is forgiven.

On the economy, the government has finally been mugged by reality. It will respond, but so far there is no evidence of a blueprint out of our troubles. The prospects of a triumphalist narrative on that front are dim in the short run. So it is very likely that the regime type will continue to manifest itself on the institutional and cultural front. A possible nationwide NRC, the building of a temple at Ayodhya, a possible nationwide anti-conversion legislation, will be the new manifestations of power, nationalism and control. Some measures, like the triple talaq law, will use liberal pretexts, but for authoritarian ends. But the striking characteristic of the first hundred days is the consolidation of a power structure that is instinctively geared to total control: Amit Shah and Yogi Adityanath, with all their political talent, are the future ethos of the BJP.

The question the emerging regime type raises is this. Is the danger India facing that it is, through propaganda and misinformation, being hoodwinked into a path that leads away from its potential greatness? In which case, how long will we put up with the politics of illusion? Or are these hundred days revealing a darker truth about ourselves? Is, somehow, this exaltation of power, control and nationalism a completion of our own deepest desires? We are not in a grip of an illusion: This is who we want to be. On this view, Modi’s popularity is not because he is peddling an illusion to us; it is because he is peddling the truth about ourselves. How worried you are about the first hundred days in part depends on which side of this debate you are on.

The writer is contributing editor, The Indian Express



TAHIR MAHMOOD

MY NONAGENARIAN FRIEND Ram Jethmalani has passed into life hereafter. We had known each other for over four decades and had very different views on many matters of national importance. At academic seminars, meetings and workshops we differed — always in a highly civilised manner — on nuances of legal issues, especially those with political overtones. These interactions usually ended with an agreement to disagree.

I had my first academic encounter with Ram in 1977 at a family law conference I was compering. Zealously supporting the demand for implementing the constitutional provision relating to the uniform civil code, he concluded his presentation with the argument that minorities should accept the demand “as a price for living in this country.” Before inviting the next presenter, I confronted him by asserting that minorities were not just “living” in this country, they were its equal citizens, entitled to all the fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution. Realising his impropriety, Ram returned to the podium to explain that he wanted to say minorities should accept the uniform civil code as part of their duty to respect constitutional ideals. Seven years later in October 1985, he and I had a dialogue in the columns of *The Indian Express*, on the issue of uniform civil code.

In 1999, when I was Chair of the National Minorities Commission, Prime Minister Atal

MY FRIEND, RAM

Ram Jethmalani was feared and respected for his candour on political matters

Bihari Vajpayee named him as the law minister. Ram soon icked up a bone with Chief Justice AS Anand, my old friend and classmate in Lucknow, and quit his job. Unable to decide who to support, I kept mum.

Ram began his legal practice in Karachi with the city’s leading lawyer Allah Baksh Brohi who, like him, was destined to be his country’s law minister. After moving to India, he taught law at a Bombay college. Later, he shifted to Delhi and served four times as the Chair of the Bar Council of India. During the dark days of Emergency, Ram shot into fame for his criticism of the mighty PM of the day. He entered politics soon after. In 2004, Ram contested the parliamentary election from Lucknow to oppose Prime Minister Vajpayee, and lost.

In the legal profession, Ram earned fame for defending all sorts of people — politicians, scammers, alleged criminals and many others. His clients included navy commander K M Nanavati, BJP stalwart L K Advani, yoga guru Baba Ramdev, Andhra Pradesh’s Y S Jaganmohan Reddy, Bihar’s Lalu Prasad, stockbrokers Harshad Mehta and Ketan Parekh, mafia leader Haji Mastan, Kashmiri separatist Afzal Guru, and even former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi’s killers. Ram once said: “I decide according to my conscience who to defend. A lawyer who refuses to defend a person on the ground that people believe him to be guilty is himself guilty of professional misconduct.”

SEPTEMBER 10, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO

DEMOCRACY IN DANGER JANATA PARTY LEADER, Jagjivan Ram, said today that democracy was in greater danger now than ever before. Addressing a largely attended Harijan rally at Ajmal Khan Park, Ram said he had full confidence in the people who, in the 1977 Lok Sabha elections, revived democracy while democracy was breathing its last. He said democracy was in danger now because of the twin forces of dictatorship represented by Mrs Gandhi and facism represented by Charan Singh. Amidst applause from the crowd, Ram declared that in the next elections the Janata Party would win with a greater majority. He said the party’s opponents were already panicking.

CREDIT CORRUPTION THE GUPTA COMMISSION has revealed that over the years, the Punjab National Bank and the Central Bank of India advanced Rs 90 lakh and Rs 22 lakh respectively to Maruti Limited in violation of all norms and procedures — most of which were repeatedly changed whenever Sanjay Gandhi wanted them to be changed. The rate of interest was lowered when he asked for it. At one turn after another, the company exceeded the authorised credit limits. At no stage did either of the banks make any appraisal of the credit requirements or the feasibility of the project that was undertaken by Maruti Limited. And, at no stage did Maruti give a list of the items

it was hypothecating in return for the loans.

HAVANA SUMMIT

THE HAVANA SUMMIT of non-aligned countries have called for intensification of the armed struggle against the Muzorewa government in Rhodesia and the South African occupation regime in Namibia. and expressed unreserved support for all liberation movements. The heads of state and governments of a hundred countries, in a resolution adopted last night, called for sanctions against Israel to force the Jewish state to give up all occupied territories including Jerusalem and agree to the setting up of an independent Palestinian state.



The Ideas Page

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

Brexit, a project supposed to enhance Britain's international stature has only served to diminish it. — THE GUARDIAN

A different world view

Realists in Islamabad are arguing for diplomatic relations with Israel. This is part of a new urgency to revamp the country's foreign policy



RAJA MANDALA
BY C RAJA MOHAN

THERE IS MUCH speculation in the Pakistani and Israeli media about imminent establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Whether this turns out to be true or not, Pakistan is undoubtedly in the middle of a major debate on its international relations. To be sure, the idea of having ties with Israel has been discussed before in Pakistan. The current discourse, however, is part of a new urgency to revamp Pakistan's foreign policy.

One of the compelling factors in Islamabad's rethink has been its difficulty in mobilising international support against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's muscular policies towards Pakistan and Kashmir. Another is the growing sense in Islamabad and Rawalpindi about Pakistan's current alienation from its traditional allies in the West and the Muslim world. Pakistan's "deep state" — or the moniker now in vogue, "miltabishment" — is eager to put the nation's foreign policy back on track and correct the emerging international tilt (with the honourable exception of China) in favour of India.

Pakistan's vigorous foreign policy rejigging is complemented by the decision to implement harsh economic reforms mandated by the IMF, which has come to Pakistan's rescue for the 13th time in the last four decades. The danger of an immediate political backlash has been neutralised by the military establishment's decision to lock up a former president, Asif Ali Zardari of the PPP, and two former PMs, Nawaz Sharif and Shahid Khaqan Abbasi of the Muslim League. When Nawaz Sharif's daughter Maryam Nawaz took to the streets to mobilise people against the government, she soon found herself behind bars.

The July visit to Washington by the Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa underlined the miltabishment's determination to end the steady deterioration in bilateral relations with the US since the beginning of this decade and a more rapid decline under President Donald Trump. In offering to "extricate" the US from Afghanistan and facilitating a peace deal between the US and the Taliban, the miltabishment saw the road to strategic rehabilitation in Washington and more broadly with the West. Whether this strategy will survive the suspension of the peace talks with the Taliban, announced by US President Donald Trump over the weekend, remains to be seen.

Pakistan's debate on engaging Israel is also driven by the belief that India's special relationship with Israel has given Delhi many advantages. Pragmatists in Islamabad and Rawalpindi have argued that normal relations with Israel would improve Pakistan's standing in the US and help dent India's influence in Washington and disrupt its part-

nership with the influential Jewish community in America.

Realists in Islamabad also point to the profound changes taking place in the Middle East and the growing engagement between Israel and some of the Sunni Arab states like Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, that have been among Pakistan's closest partners. Although they do not have diplomatic relations with Israel, shared threat perceptions about Iran have nudged Riyadh and Abu Dhabi closer to Jerusalem. (At present Egypt, Turkey and Jordan are among the few Arab and Muslim countries that have diplomatic relations with Israel.)

Pakistan has debated the merits of engaging Israel ever since India established full diplomatic relations with Israel in 1992. But it was General Pervez Musharraf who opened up Pakistan's debate on Israel in the early 2000s. Despite Musharraf's clear-eyed logic of Pakistan's self-interest in establishing ties with Israel, there was no forward movement in Islamabad. The general could not overcome Pakistan's ideological narrative that called for unflinching opposition to the Jewish state in the name of proclaimed solidarity with the Muslim ummah.

Can General Bajwa do what General Musharraf could not? If you are a sceptic you might say it is a bridge too far. After all, Pakistan has long told itself that India and Israel were alike in their "occupation" of Kashmir and Palestine. And that the insurgency in Kashmir, backed by Pakistan, was the same as Palestinian "Intifada" against Israel.

If you are a cynic, however, you might believe that Rawalpindi can easily finesse the ideology of Pakistan if it can score some gains against India. Should Delhi be worried about an engagement, covert or overt, leading to normalisation of relations between Pakistan and Israel? Not really.

Delhi is aware that Jerusalem will welcome formal or informal relationships with any Islamic country, big or small. Ending its isolation in the Islamic world is a major priority for Israel. Although Pakistan sees Israel as an enemy, Israel has no reason to reciprocate the sentiment.

Much in the manner that India pursues relations with all the major players in the Middle East, without reference to their mutual rivalries, Israel would like to do the same in the Subcontinent. Israel would certainly bet that if Islamabad makes a move, Dhaka would find it easier to overcome its own Islamist resistance to relations with Israel. Normal relations with the South Asian Muslims — who constitute more than 40 per cent of the world's Islamic population — will be a huge diplomatic triumph for Israel.

Some in Delhi might love to see Pakistan eat its long-standing rhetoric on Hindu-Yehudi conspiracies. More seriously, it will be easier for India to deal with a Pakistan that defines its interests as a territorial state. Delhi has found it hard to normalise relations with Islamabad that sees itself as a religious cause. But if Pakistan were a normal country, there would be much room for give and take and the political basis for peaceful coexistence.

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

A stake in the moon

It is time to ponder the future legal, political, economic implications of the window of opportunity that India is helping to open up



PRATIK KANJILAL

THE US AIR Force Brigadier General, Homer A Boushey, an aeronautical engineer, a friend of rocketry pioneer, Robert Goddard, commanded the USAF's first jet fighter group and retired as deputy director of air force research and development. Despite such an illustrious career, he is chiefly remembered as a real-life Dr Strangelove. He owes this unsavoury and undeserved reputation to his speech at a Washington aero club in 1958. The venue wasn't exactly strategically significant, but US News and World Report published an extract including a sentence that lingered in public memory for decades: "He who controls the moon controls the earth."

Boushey's opinion was voiced when the tide of the war of perceptions — an important component of the Cold War — had turned against America. Sputnik had been beeping its victory cry from the skies for months, and the USSR had manned missions on the drawing board. Yuri Gagarin and Valentina Tereshkova would take to the skies in three and five years, respectively. The tide of global perceptions would turn decisively only in 1969 with Apollo 11, which planted the stars and stripes on the moon. But after 1972, NASA lost interest in putting space boots on the lunar regolith. The geopolitical point had been made, and there was nothing more to be said. *Roma locuta, causa finita.*

But almost 50 years later, the race to the moon has heated up again, and it is no longer just about perceptions. China's Chang'e 4 mission is exploring the dark side of the moon. India's Vikram may have crashed-landed, but failure is not unusual in space — Israel's Beresheet craft crashed into the moon in April — and is best regarded as experience gained for future missions. Three nations have soft-landed craft on the moon. In a few years, there will be five or more. It'll begin to

get crowded up there, and competitive. Will the laws of space be able to keep pace?

The moon was to be governed by the international community under the Moon Treaty of 1979, which failed for want of ratification by nations conducting manned spaceflight. By default, it is governed by the Outer Space Treaty, a document with high-minded principles adopted by the United Nations in 1966, which defines space as the province of humankind, to be used for the advancement of science and of all nations. It recognises no territorial or ownership rights, and goes to the extent of allowing nations to inspect each other's facilities. At the time, and in the time of Boushey's speech eight years earlier, in which the dark side of the moon was seen as a fine location for hidden nuclear missile bases, the focus was on the prevention of militarisation and nuclear conflict, and the encouragement of scientific cooperation for universal benefit.

The Outer Space Treaty bears strong similarities with the highly successful Antarctic Treaty System of 1959, which emphasised these very imperatives. Cynics and wags have always held that Antarctica became the province of science because it was good for nothing else, penguins having no commercial value. When the Moon Treaty sought ratification, our satellite, too, was regarded as a barren, inhospitable waste, rewarding only for science. But, from the late eighties, as knowledge and technology evolved, human motives changed too, and the space community began to discuss the fascinating question of material benefit from the moon and planets.

The first proposal was to mine the lunar regolith for Helium 3, a potential source of clean and safe nuclear energy. The leadership of the Chang'e programme had stated Helium 3 as a mission goal. India's Chandrayaan-1 carried Helium-3-specific payloads, and the search for the valuable isotope will be continued by Chandrayaan-2's orbiter. But, feasibility remained in question. While low lunar gravity could make mining cheaper, establishing a human habitat on a barren world would be prohibitively expensive.

Chandrayaan-1 changed that perception by confirming the existence of water or hydroxyl (-OH, the anion of the water molecule) on the moon. The universal solvent is the ba-

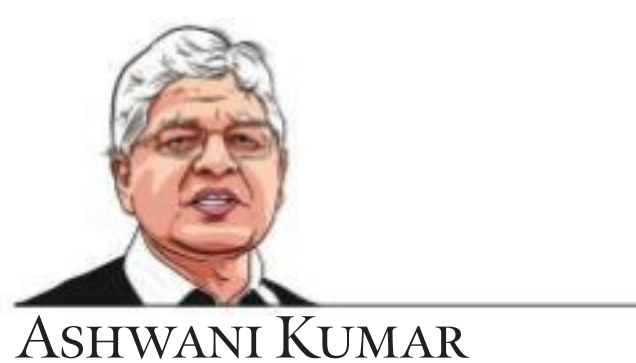
sis for a carbon-based ecosystem. It is likely to be a product of the proton-rich solar wind, and is speculated to collect as ice in the polar regions, where low insolation would reduce vapourisation. Significantly, the Vikram lander was to touch down closer to the lunar south pole than any previous mission.

Meanwhile, though weapons remain banned from space, the military is not. In 2015, in the course of military restructuring, Beijing established the People's Liberation Army Strategic Support Force, which has an interest in space. In 2018, the US president Donald Trump proposed a United States Space Force. This does not reflect the imperatives of the Outer Space Treaty, but rather, national imperatives to protect future strategic assets and goals. Competitiveness is an essentially human trait, and in the future, a stake in the moon could not only confer prestige, but also material and geopolitical gain. Recall the history of the internet, which was conceived under the aegis of the state and academia, but grew explosively in commercial hands. Now, space exploration and research, traditionally the province of governments, is seeing strong private interest.

Frontier explorers generally cooperate while the environment is hostile. Litigation and conflict follows when they are secure and in a position to generate assets and value. The Outer Space Treaty may be unequal to such a development. Meaningful case law and precedents have not developed, since most of space litigation has been about patent infringements and satellite interference, or has been frivolous. Material infringement would be a novelty which lunar explorers must work out.

India's lander may have failed, but that is only a setback in the perceptions game. The orbiter, which hosts almost all the science in the project, remains in service. With two successful remote sensing missions, India has effectively joined the tiny club of frontrunners in the race to the moon.

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ASHWANI KUMAR

Kashmir, beyond legalities

The Modi government needs to recognise the essential dignity of its people

A CONSTITUTION BENCH of the Supreme Court is set to hear in October a batch of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the Modi-Shah gamble in Kashmir. Substantial questions of law premised on the first principles of constitutionalism arise, which will need to be addressed by the Court.

The essence of the petitioner's case is that the disavowing of Article 370 is an assault on the nation's asymmetrical federalism that recognises India's pluralism and diversity. The decision is seen as the negation of a solemn historical obligation to the people of Kashmir codified in the Instrument of Accession. It is contended that Clause (3) of Article 370 cannot be used to emasculate the constitutional guarantee now deemed permanent. The critics argue that the sovereign power to reorganise states cannot be an instrument for diminution of the status of states, considering the federal nature of our polity — a non-negotiable component of the basic structure of the Constitution. A core legal objection is about non-endorsement of the Union government's unilateral decision by elected representatives of the people, whose will, it is contended, can-

not be substituted by the governor, acting as representative of the central government. The curtailment of civil liberties and denial of the citizens' right to communicate are seen as a frontal assault on our Constitution. The Kashmir move can be critiqued, as Christophe Jaffrelot wrote in this newspaper, as "a turning point towards the making of an ethnic unitary state", infracting the basic structure of the Constitution.

The contra arguments advanced in defence of the decision are not without their appeal. In a valiant defence of the decision, Home Minister Amit Shah invoked social and economic justice, the principle of gender equality and hope for peace and progress in the state through the devolution of full benefits of development to the Kashmiri people, in pursuance of the constitutional guarantee of equality under Article 14. It is asserted that the time has come for Kashmiris to enter into a new national pact to strengthen the edifice of peace and local democracy in the state.

This situation requires the court to give meaning to the Constitution in new settings as society changes. The significance of the

content of the Constitution, it is argued, varies from age to age. Succeeding generations must discover the way forward in the image of their own experiences, without the shackles of history. The government contends that Article 370 is expressly stated to be a temporary constitutional measure, whose applicability and use is essentially a function of the government's evaluation of its efficacy in a given context. The Court will be cautioned against entering into the "political thicket" citing absence of "judicially manageable standards". The government may also argue against the "absolutism" of rights and contend that constitutional adjudication is essentially about balancing and proportionality.

Given the prevailing national mood, the "historical unacceptability of originalism" as a mode of constitutional interpretation has a seductive appeal. The Supreme Court has repeatedly cautioned against the danger of stultifying the spirit of the Constitution by static judicial interpretation (*Puttaswamy* 2017, *Navtej Johar* 2018 et al). In *Puttaswamy*, the Court said: "The interpretation of the Constitution cannot be frozen by its original understanding. The

Constitution has evolved and must continuously evolve to meet the aspirations and challenges of the present and the future."

The uncertainty of any legal challenge notwithstanding, it seems that the decisive battle between the contrary narratives on Kashmir will not be fought in court rooms or in the drawing rooms of Lutyens Delhi. And history beckons us all to accept that those who feel robbed of their dignity cannot be tamed forever by a muscular state. As Francis Fukuyama writes in a recent work, "a humiliated group seeking restitution of its dignity carries far more emotional weight than people simply pursuing their economic advantage". The challenge before the government, therefore, is to win an uncoerced allegiance of the Kashmiri people by recognising their dignity and identity — the "ultimate driver of history", as Hegel said. Whether the government can do enough to assure the Kashmiri people of its sincerity in this regard is the question.

The writer is former union minister of law and justice. Views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CUT THE HYPE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Mission continues' (IE, September 9). The failure of the lander, Vikram, could well be a technical issue and it's quite likely that the snag will be rectified. But the political class needs to learn a lesson. The launch of the Chandrayaan was made an event. Schoolchildren were invited to witness the rover's progress. All these could have been done with the positive intent to make students interested in science but it put unnecessary pressure on the ISRO scientists.

Suchak D Patel, Ahmedabad

HURTING ECOLOGY

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Sweet freedom' (IE, September 9). The government has signalled its seriousness about blending of petrol with ethanol. It has also relaxed environment clearances norms for storage of ethanol. Such aggressive measures to increase the production of this water-guzzling crop and put pressure on the ecosystem.

Deepak Singhal, Noida

DUAL BOOST

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The problem of skilling India' (IE, September 7). Employers are finding it difficult to find workers with required skills. The economic slowdown has aggravated matters. So, the issue needs to be addressed both from the perspective of skilling

LETTER OF THE WEEK AWARD

To encourage quality reader intervention, The Indian Express offers the Letter of the Week award. The letter adjudged the best for the week is published every Saturday. Letters may be e-mailed to

editpage@expressindia.com or sent to The Indian Express, B-1/B, Sector 10, Noida-UP 201301. Letter writers should mention their postal address and phone number.

THE WINNER RECEIVES SELECT EXPRESS PUBLICATIONS

people and boosting the economy. Tapomoy Ghosh, Purba Bardhaman

ROLE MODEL

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'The true original' (IE, September 7). After returning from injury, Steve Smith has become the world's highest run-getter this year. He is a role model for young players.

Subhash Vaid, Noida

TELLING NUMBERS

Eradicating malaria by 2050: why study says it can be done

A REPORT in *The Lancet* concludes that it is possible to eradicate malaria as early as 2050 — or within a generation — with the right strategies and sufficient funding. The report, published by The Lancet Commission on malaria eradication, used existing evidence with new epidemiological and financial analyses.

Lower incidence, many cases

Since 2000, global malaria incidence and death rates declined by 36 and 60 per cent, respectively. In 2017, 86 countries reported 219 million cases and 4,35,000 malaria deaths, down from 262 million cases and 8,39,000 deaths in 2000. Today, more than half of the world's countries are malaria-free.

However, there are over 200 million cases of malaria reported each year, claiming nearly half a million lives. Malaria cases are rising in 55 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

There is also inequity, with 29 countries (27 in Africa) accounting for the large majority of new cases and 85 per cent of global deaths in 2017. Two countries (Nigeria and Democratic

Republic of Congo) account for 36 per cent of global cases. On the other hand, 38 countries had incidences of fewer than ten cases per 1,000 population in 2017 and reported just 5% of total malaria deaths.

Modelling a world free from malaria

The report used new modelling to estimate plausible scenarios for the distribution and intensity of malaria in 2030 and 2050. Analyses indicate that socioeconomic and environmental trends, together with improved coverage of malaria interventions, will create a world in 2050 with malaria persisting in pockets of low-level transmission in equatorial Africa.

To achieve eradication by 2050, the report identifies three ways to accelerate the decline in malaria cases. First, the world must improve implementation of malaria control programmes. Second, they must develop and roll out innovative new tools to overcome the biological challenges to eradication. Third, malaria-endemic countries and donors must provide the financial investment needed.



TOP 10 BY MALARIA CASES, INCIDENCE, 2017

RANK	COUNTRY	TOTAL CASES*	COUNTRY	CASES PER 1,000
1	Nigeria	53.7 mn (25%)	Rwanda	506
2	DR Congo	25.0 mn (11%)	Burkina Faso	412
3	Mozambique	10.0 mn (5%)	C African Rep	387
4	India	9.6 mn (4%)	Mali	386
5	Uganda	8.6 mn (4%)	Sierra Leone	380
6	Burkina Faso	7.9 mn (4%)	Togo	371
7	Ghana	7.8 mn (4%)	Benin	368
8	Niger	7.7 mn (4%)	Niger	359
9	Cameroon	7.3 mn (3%)	Eq Guinea	343
10	Mali	7.2 mn (3%)	Mozambique	338

Figures in parentheses are each country's share in global cases (219 million in 2017)

Source: WHO Malaria Report 2019 via Lancet

TIP FOR READING LIST

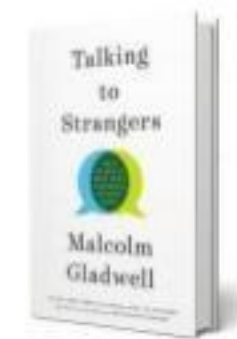
WHY WE MISUNDERSTAND STRANGERS

IN 1938, when Adolf Hitler placed German troops along the Czech border, British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain flew to meet the German leader to resolve the crisis. Chamberlain came back convinced by Hitler's promise that he had no designs on Poland or the rest of Europe, and only wanted the Sudetenland part of Czechoslovakia. What made Chamberlain think he could trust Hitler? Or, for that matter, why are campus sexual assaults on the rise? American author Malcolm Gladwell addresses several such situations in his new book.

Talking to Strangers: What We Should Know about the People We Don't Know is a journey through history and news stories

to argue that something is very wrong with the strategies we use to make sense of people whom we don't know. Because we don't know how to talk to strangers, Gladwell argues, we are inviting conflict

and misunderstanding. In Chamberlain's case, he writes, he "was acting on the same assumption that we all follow in making sense of strangers. We believe that the information gathered from a personal interaction is uniquely valuable". He suggests that talking to strangers requires "a willingness to look beyond the stranger, and take time and place and context into account". Which may be good advice generally, NPR notes in its review — "but some situations are just more complicated than that".



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SIMPLY PUT

India vs Pak at UN, since 2014

Ahead of Prime Minister Modi's address to the UN General Assembly, where Pakistan's Imran Khan is expected to bring up Kashmir again, a look at what the two countries have been saying at the UN platform

YASHEE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 9

ON SEPTEMBER 27, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the UN General Assembly (UNGA). An address by Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan will follow. India and Pakistan do not have a fixed order of speaking at the UNGA; however, Prime Ministers speak before External Affairs Ministers.

This will be the first time since 2014 that Modi addresses the UNGA; for the 70th-73rd sessions (2015-18), it was addressed by late External Affairs Minister. The UNGA has frequently been a platform for India-Pakistan jousting, mainly over Jammu and Kashmir.

Modi is back with a stronger majority, Article 370 has been abrogated, Pakistan has been trying to bring international attention to Kashmir, and the ties between the neighbours are strained. Imran is expected to focus on Kashmir and alleged violation of human rights.

A summary of the UNGA addresses by India and Pakistan over the last five years.

2014

Modi: 'Friendship with neighbours highest priority'

There was speculation that Modi and the then Pakistan PM, Nawaz Sharif, could meet on the UNGA sidelines. They did not.

"... My government has placed the highest priority on advancing friendship and cooperation with her neighbours," Modi said in his address. "This includes Pakistan. I am prepared to engage in a serious bilateral dialogue with Pakistan in a peaceful atmosphere, without the shadow of terrorism, to promote our friendship and cooperation. However, Pakistan must also take its responsibility seriously to create an appropriate environment."

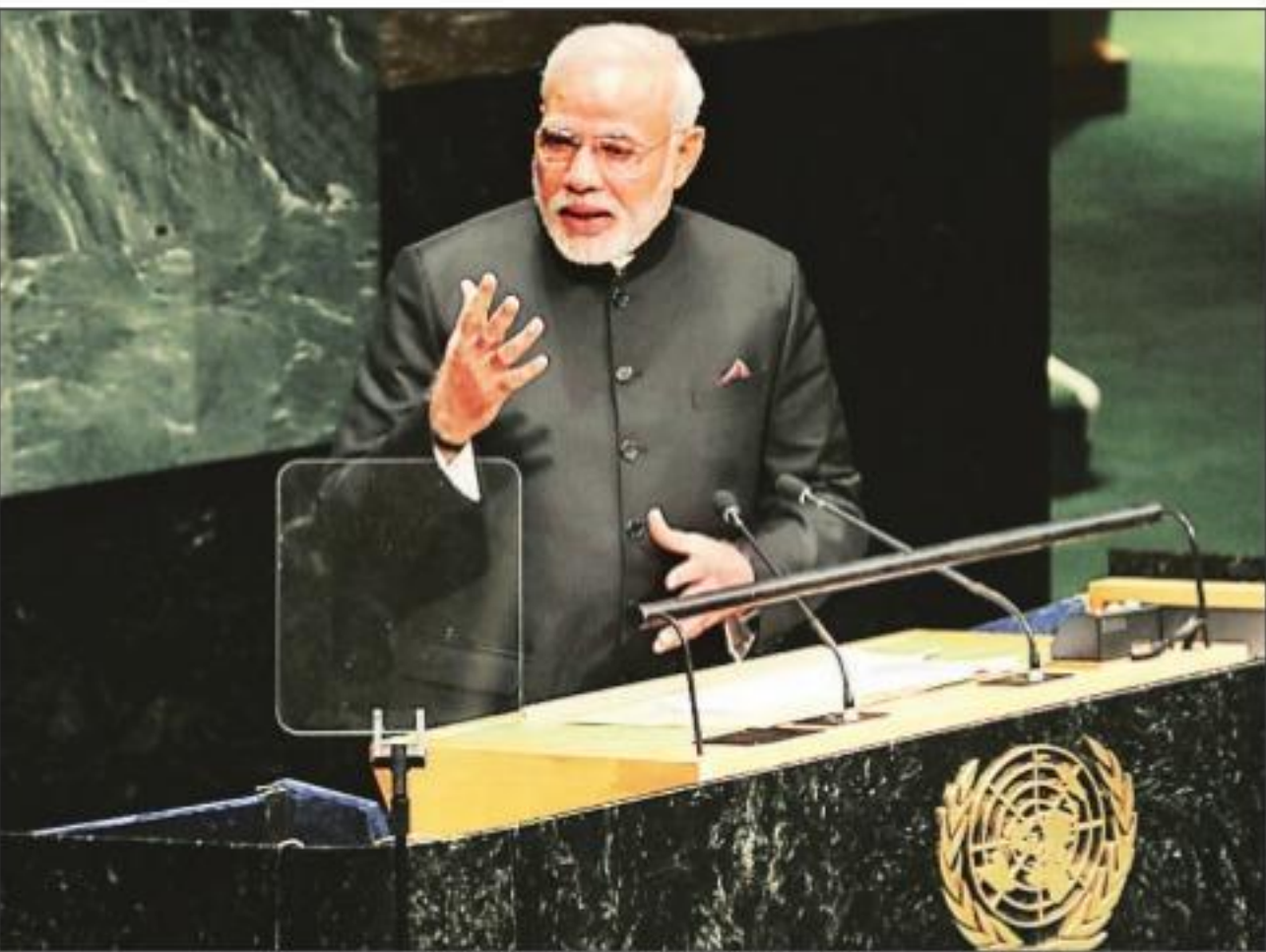
Sharif: 'We cannot draw a veil on the issue of Kashmir'

"Many generations of Kashmiris have lived their lives under occupation, accompanied by violence and abuse of their fundamental rights," Sharif said. "... The core issue of Jammu and Kashmir has to be resolved... We cannot draw a veil on the issue of Kashmir, until it is addressed in accordance with the wishes of the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

2015

Swaraj: 'Give up terrorism, sit down and talk'

That year, there were terrorist attacks on a police station on the Jammu-Pathankot



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 69th session of the UNGA in 2014. PMO website

highway, an Army camp near Samba, and a police station in Punjab's Gurdaspur.

At the UNGA, Sharif proposed a new "four-point peace initiative"; Swaraj responded that only one point was needed.

"We all know that these attacks are meant to destabilise India and legitimise Pakistan's illegal occupation of parts of the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir and its claim on the rest of it," Swaraj said. "... India remains open to dialogue. But talks and terror cannot go together. Yesterday the Prime Minister of Pakistan proposed what he termed as a four-point new peace initiative. I would like to respond. We do not need four points, we need just one — give up terrorism and let us sit down and talk."

Sharif: '3 generations of Kashmiris saw oppression'

Earlier, Sharif had said: "Three generations of Kashmiris have only seen broken promises and brutal oppression... When I assumed office... one of my first priorities was to normalise relations with India... Yet today ceasefire violations along the Line of Control and the Working Boundary are intensifying..."

2016

Swaraj: 'Egregious abuses in Balochistan'

The year saw attacks in Pathankot and

then Uri. Pakistan raised the killing of Hizb-ul commander Burhan Wani; India responded by criticising Pakistani abuses in Balochistan.

"... The Prime Minister of Pakistan used this podium to make baseless allegations about human rights violations in my country. I can only say that those accusing others of human rights violations would do well to introspect and see what egregious abuses they are perpetrating in their own country, including in Balochistan," Swaraj said.

Sharif: 'Will share proof of India violating human rights'

"A new generation of Kashmiris has risen spontaneously against India's illegal occupation — demanding freedom from occupation," Sharif had said. "Burhan Wani, the young leader murdered by Indian forces, has emerged as the symbol of the latest Kashmiri Intifada, a popular and peaceful freedom movement... I would like to inform the General Assembly that Pakistan will share with the Secretary General a dossier containing detailed information and evidence of the gross and systematic violations of human rights committed by Indian forces in occupied Jammu and Kashmir."

2017

Swaraj: 'We produced scholars, you produced terrorists'

That year saw Kulbhushan Jadhav sen-

tenced to death by a Pakistan military court and India approaching the International Court of Justice.

Swaraj said: "On Thursday, from this dais, Pakistan's Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi wasted rather too much of his speech in making accusations against us. He accused India of state-sponsored terrorism, and of violating human rights. Those listening had only one observation: 'Look who's talking!'"

"... Why is it that today India is a recognised IT superpower in the world, and Pakistan is recognised only as the pre-eminent export factory for terror? We produced scholars, doctors, engineers... You have produced terrorists. Doctors save people from death; terrorists send them to death."

Abbasi: 'UN must send Inquiry Commission to Kashmir'

Prime Minister Abbasi said: "Pakistan demands an international investigation into India's crimes in Kashmir. We ask that the United Nations Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights send an Inquiry Commission to occupied Kashmir to verify the nature and extent of India's human rights violations."

2018

Swaraj: 'Pakistan glorifies killers'

India cancelled a meeting between Foreign Ministers after agreeing to it. After Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi accused India of involvement in the 2014 Peshawar school attack, Swaraj responded: "We are accused of sabotaging the process of talks... Talks with Pakistan have begun many times. If they stopped, it was only because of Pakistan's behaviour... Pakistan glorifies killers; it refuses to see the blood of innocents."

Qureshi: 'Will never forget Samjhauta, Peshawar attacks'

Qureshi had said that Pakistan would "never forget the mass murder of more than 150 children in a Peshawar school [in 2014]... and many others that have links with terrorists supported by India... [as well as] the terrorist attack in India against Samjhauta Express". He said that Pakistan had in its custody "a serving Indian Naval officer, Commander Kulbhushan Yadav, who has provided us with the most incriminating evidence by accepting that he, on the instructions of his government, financed, planned and executed acts of terrorism and violence in Pakistan".

NRC numbers: what earlier estimates said

SEEMA CHISHTI

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 9

THE FINAL National Register of Citizens (NRC) published on August 31 contained 19,06,657 exclusions, less than half the number of exclusions in the final draft of July 2018. The Assam BJP said it was "unhappy" with the small number of excluded persons; the All Assam Students Union (AASU) said they believed the number should have been higher.

What is the basis of the assumption that Assam actually has many more "illegals" than the NRC figure of 19 lakh?

The NRC process picked up steam after the Supreme Court order in the *Assam Sanmilita Mahasangha & Ors vs Union Of India & Ors* case (December 17, 2014).

Paragraph 13 of the order quoted from a report submitted to then President K R

Narayanan by the then Governor of Assam, Lt Gen S K Sinha, in 1998: "The dangerous consequences of large scale illegal migration from Bangladesh... need to be empathetically stressed. No misconceived and mistaken notions of secularism should be allowed to come in the way... The spectre looms large of the indigenous people of Assam being reduced to a minority in their home state. Their cultural survival will be in jeopardy, their political control will be weakened and their employment opportunities will be undermined."

It was in this backdrop, the order noted, that a writ petition was filed in 2000 by (Assam's present Chief Minister) Sarbananda Sonowal "assailing the Constitutional validity of The Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act, 1983 and the rules made thereunder".

In his report, Lt Gen Sinha mentioned an answer in Parliament on May 6, 1997 by then Home Minister Indrajit Gupta, which esti-



An NRC Seva Kendra in Guwahati.

Dasarath Deka/Express Archive

mated 10 million illegal immigrants in all of India. The report said "Home Ministry /Intelligence Bureau source, the 10 August 1998 issue of *India Today* has given the breakdown of these illegal migrants", with "4 mil-

THIS WORD MEANS: VOLFEFE INDEX

Covfefe to Volfeffe: A way to track Trump's Twitter impact on markets

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 9

SOON AFTER midnight on May 31, 2017, United States President Donald Trump posted one his most talked-about tweets: "Despite the constant negative press covfefe". The tweet didn't make much sense, but the non-existent word "covfefe" opened up a universe of interpretations, jokes, and memes.

For the many critics of Trump, "covfefe" rapidly became the symbol of his incoherent and erratic behaviour, which they said raised questions about the handling of both the President and of his Twitter account. A month later, a Democratic Congressman introduced legislation titled The Communications Over Various Feeds Electronically For Engagement Act (or Covfefe) Act, aimed at including the US President's social media posts under the purview of the Presidential Records Act of 1978.

Now, more than two years later, J P

Morgan, one of the largest investment banks in the world, has published a research paper introducing the "Volfeffe Index", which seeks to track the effect of President Trump's tweets on financial markets.

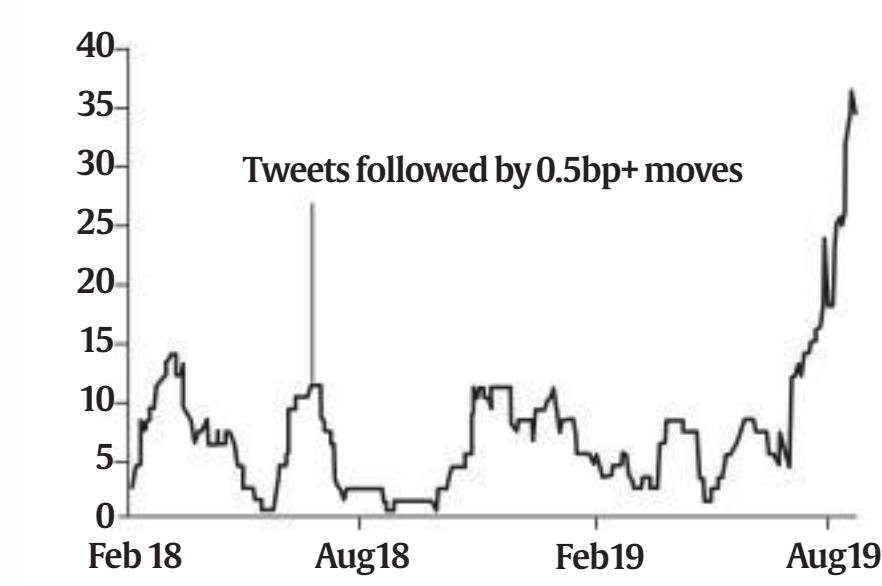
The Volfeffe Index

A standout feature of Trump's Twitter presence is the sheer volume of his tweets. According to the paper, published September 6, Trump has produced more than 10,000 tweets since taking office. More importantly, the pace of tweeting has accelerated in recent months to over a dozen non-retweets a day on his personal account.

What the analysis revealed too, was that "the subject of these tweets has increasingly turned toward market-moving topics, most prominently trade and monetary policy".

According to J P Morgan's analysts, there is now "strong evidence that tweets have increasingly moved US (interest) rates markets immediately after publication". It is noteworthy that Trump's twitter activity peaks between 12 noon and 3 pm — a

A SURGE IN MARKET-MOVING TWEETS



Source: J P Morgan

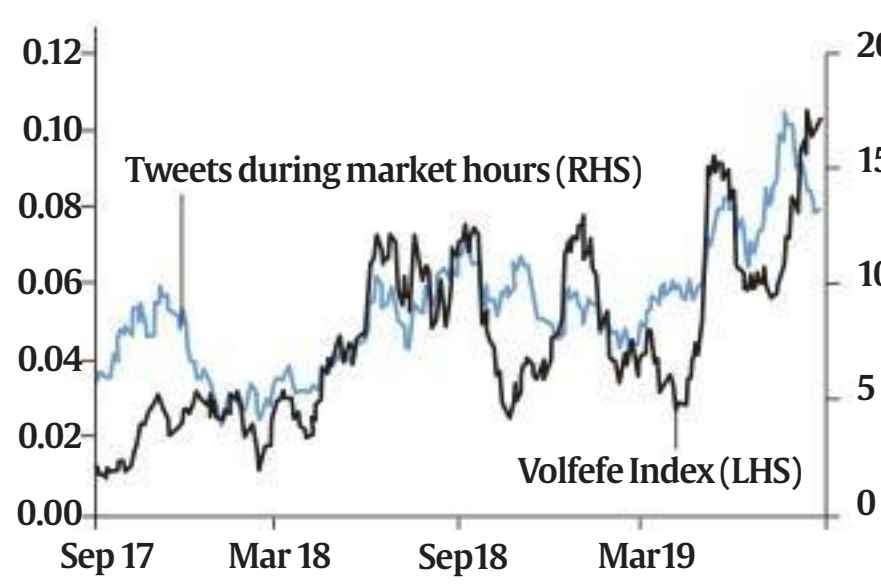
timeframe when it can move the markets the most.

But, given the volume of daily tweets — an average of 10 since the start of 2016 — how does one know which tweet is likely

to move the market and which isn't?

Hence, the Volfeffe Index, "which analyzes a rolling sample of recent tweets to judge how impactful the President's remarks have been on volatility in US inter-

VOLFEFE INDEX AT PLAY



est rates".

The analysts concede that "such an exercise is necessarily quite approximate", but claim that it nonetheless gives insight into the extent to which the President's remarks

contribute to market uncertainty.

Market-moving tweets

Analysts have defined "market-moving" tweets as those that are followed by half a basis point change in US government bond yields within five minutes of the tweet's publication. According to this metric, as Chart 1 shows, the frequency of such tweets has been going up sharply.

The analysts also tried to deduce the keywords that featured in such market-moving tweets. In the list that they drew up, 'China', 'billion', 'products' came out on top, followed by 'dollars', 'tariffs' and 'trade', and then 'inflation', 'economy' and 'reserve'.

How effective?

Chart 2 shows how the Volfeffe Index helps identify the frequency of market-moving tweets during market hours. On the whole, the J P Morgan model found that only 146 tweets out of roughly 4,000 non-retweets occurring during market hours from 2018-present were market-moving ones.

13 ECONOMY

SENSEX: 37,145.45 ▲ 163.68 NIFTY: 11,003.05 ▲ 56.85 NIKKEI: 21,318.42 ▲ 118.85 HANG SENG: 26,681.40 ▼ 9.36 FTSE: 7,236.91 ▼ 45.43 DAX: 12,232.83 ▲ 41.10

International market data till 1900 GMT

POLICY WATCH FOREIGN EXCHANGE

RBI panel to firm up mechanism for assessing adequacy of forex reserves

SUNNY VERMA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 9

AFTER ADOPTING a fresh Economic Capital Framework, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is working on putting in place a formal mechanism to assess the adequacy of its foreign exchange, or forex, reserves. This is important as India's external liabilities have been higher than its forex reserves in recent years.

An internal group of RBI is working on developing a framework to assess whether forex reserves are adequate. The panel is expected to study how much reserves are adequate to cover various risks.

The Bimal Jalan Committee on Economic Capital Framework, in its report last month, noted that the RBI's forex reserves in 2008 were higher than country's external debt, a position which has reversed in 2019.

The year 2008 was tumultuous year as global financial services firm Lehman Brothers' went bankrupt that year, resulting in the financial crisis that also gripped India.

"At present, the foreign exchange reserves (more than \$400 billion) are significantly lower than the country's total external liabilities (\$1 trillion) and even lower than total external debt (\$500 billion). This position is in contrast to that in 2008 when India's foreign exchange reserves, at \$310 billion, exceeded the then total external debt of about US\$224 billion and provided a much larger coverage of total external liabilities that amounted to about \$426 billion," the Jalan Committee noted in its report.

"This needs to be taken into account in assessing the external risk being faced by the country and the possibility that the RBI may be required to increase the size of its forex reserves with its concomitant implications for the balance sheet, risks and desired economic capital. This is especially important given that the RBI's public policy objectives of maintaining external stability during a crisis would have to be pursued irrespective of the adequacy of

An internal group of the Reserve Bank of India is expected to study how much reserves are adequate to cover various risks

its risk buffers," it added.

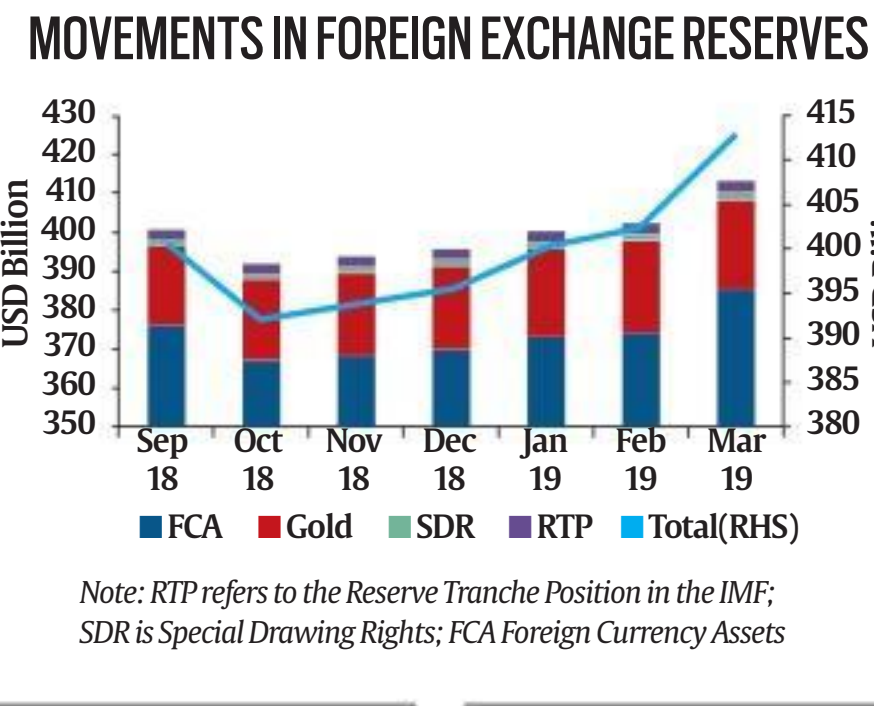
While the Jalan panel argued that the RBI should maintain a forward-looking view on the adequacy of its risk buffers even during normal times, it noted that the central bank in consultation with the government periodically reviews the adequacy of the country's forex reserves.

"Further, a separate internal group of the RBI is looking into the question of developing a formal framework to assess the adequacy of the forex reserves," the report said.

Safety and liquidity are currently the twin objectives of reserve management by the RBI in India, while return optimisation is also kept into mind. Foreign currency assets, gold, special drawing rights and reserve tranche position in the International Monetary Fund are the main components of India's forex reserves.

India's forex reserves at \$412.9 billion on March 31, 2019 were equivalent to 9.6 months of imports. The RBI conducted buy/ sell swap auctions of \$5 billion, for a tenor of three years in March, and a similar swap auction in April, which led to increase in forex reserves in 2019-20 so far. As on August 16, 2019, India's forex reserves were at \$430.5 billion — an increase of \$17.6 billion over end-March 2019.

The Reserve Bank's examination of the adequacy of forex reserves comes at a time when the Finance Ministry has announced plans to borrow a portion of its annual borrowings in international markets through issuance of sovereign bonds overseas. The Centre is expect to raise around \$10 billion from overseas markets through foreign currency bonds, on which it will have to bear currency risk.



Japan cuts Q2 GDP as trade war hits biz investment

REUTERS
TOKYO, SEPTEMBER 9

JAPAN'S ECONOMY grew at a slower pace than initially estimated in second quarter as the US-China trade war prompted a downward revision of business spending, intensifying calls for the central bank to deepen stimulus.

The economy grew an annualised 1.3 per cent in April-June, revised Cabinet Office data showed Monday, weaker than the preliminary reading for 1.8 per cent annualised growth and in line with economists' median forecast. The annualised growth rate translates into a quarter-on-quarter expansion of 0.3 per cent from January-March, compared with a preliminary reading for a 0.4 per cent gain.

UK recession fears recede after surprise July growth

REUTERS
LONDON, SEPTEMBER 9

BRITAIN'S ECONOMY picked up more than expected in July, data showed on Monday, dampening fears that it will succumb to its first recession since the financial crisis as the Brexit crisis escalates.

Economic output in July alone was 0.3 per cent higher than in June, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said, marking the biggest rise since January.

The pound inched higher against the dollar on the figures, which showed the expansion was driven by the dominant services sector — although the ONS said the underlying picture showed its growth weakening through 2019.

"While the figures are far from stellar, after a contraction in the second quarter the chances that we see a negative GDP print in the

VEHICLE SALES ACROSS CATEGORIES DECLINE 23.55%

Auto sales witness worst-ever fall in Aug

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 9

AUTOMOBILE SALES witnessed its worst-ever drop in August across categories, with passenger car sales falling by as much as 41.09 per cent, according to data released by industry body SIAM on Monday. This is the steepest fall in overall vehicle sales in the country since the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) started recording whole-sale vehicle sales data in 1997-98.

Vehicle sales across categories, including passenger vehicles (PVs) and two-wheelers and commercial vehicles (CVs) stood at 18,21,490 units last month, as against 23,82,436 units in August 2018, a fall of 23.55 per cent.

In July, overall auto sales had witnessed its sharpest decline in nearly 19 years, dropping 18.71 per cent to 18,25,148 units last month as against 22,45,223 units in July 2018.

In case of PVs, this was the tenth consecutive month of decline in automobile sales.

The PV category — which includes passenger cars, utility vehicles and vans — recorded its worst-ever fall in August, slumping by 31.57 per cent to 1,96,524 units from 2,87,198 units in the year-ago period.

EXPLAINED Industry expecting govt measures to tide over crisis

AUTOMOBILE SECTOR continued to report sharp drop in sales of all categories of vehicles in the month of August, putting pressure on the government to examine the industry's demand for tax reduction for the sector that is the largest contributor to the manufacturing output in the country.

Even as the GST Council is expected to discuss the demand for tax cut on cars, amid opposition by many states fearing revenue loss, the demand revival in the sector may not happen until the broader economy starts to grow faster than the 25-quarter low of 5 per cent recorded in April-June.

Previously, the worst decline in this segment was registered in July this year when sales had fallen 30.98 per cent to 2,00,790 units.

In the PV segment, market leader Maruti Suzuki India posted a 36.14 per cent fall in its August sales at 93,173 units. Within PV category, domestic car sales were down the highest by 41.09 per cent at 1,15,957 units as against 1,96,847 units in August 2018.

Two-wheeler sales declined by a record 22.24 per cent to 15,14,196 units in August 2019, compared to 19,47,304 units in August 2018. Commercial vehicle

sales were down 38.71 per cent to 51,897 units in August as compared with 84,668 units in August 2018. Similarly, motorcycle sales last month declined 22.33 per cent to 9,37,486 units as against 12,07,005 units a year earlier. Scooter sales declined by 22.19 per cent to 5,20,898 units as compared with 6,69,416 units in August last year.

During the April-August period, PV sales fell 23.54 per cent, two wheelers sales dipped 14.85 per cent and three wheelers sales fell 7.32 per cent, SIAM data showed. With prolonged slump

in sales, automobile and component manufacturers have been seeking Goods and Services Tax (GST) cut on automobiles to 18 per cent from 28 per cent to help the sector improve sales.

The Centre is expected to move the proposal for reduction in rate at the GST Council meeting to be held on September 20 in Goa. With the government facing concerns on raising tax resources, it is difficult that the GST Council will accede to any reduction in GST rate on automobile sector. While tax cut may improve sentiment, it is not immediately clear whether it will result in demand revival.

Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur last Friday asked automobile sector players to take up their demand for reduction in GST rate on cars with state finance ministers as well, who are part of the GST Council that takes a decision on such rate reductions.

"You are aware that any rate cut on GST needs to be approved first by the fitment committee, then by the GST Council. I request all of you to also reach out to the state finance ministers who are part of the GST Council," he said.

For the past 10 straight months now, almost all manufacturers of passenger vehicles and two-wheelers have been resorting to production cuts and plant closure for many days.

‘Mumbai 5th among co-living spaces in Asia-Pacific’

Mumbai is ranked 5th in Knight Frank's Co-living Index, which tracks markets' possibility of success as co-living destination in terms of flexible accommodation options for temporary and transient workforce

Major driving factors for growth opportunity in co-living sector in Mumbai:
■ Job opportunities in financial sector
■ Low housing affordability

Key attributes likely to contribute in fostering growth of Co-living:
■ Tech & Financial Hub
■ Venture Capital Deals & Growth
■ Housing Affordability
■ University Population
■ General Population & Human Development Index
■ Quality of Life

These attributes have been allocated different weights based on their relevance and importance which in



90%: Occupation of major co-living operators in Delhi-NCR, such as CoHo and Stanza Living

summation provides a metric to quantify the magnitude of co-living's likelihood of success across the cities

WHAT IS CO-LIVING: Building upon similar

85%: Occupation of operators in Bengaluru, including CoLive and Zolostays

concepts of shared spaces already in existence, such as hotels and hostels, co-living innovates by providing a curated social environment that builds upon the community via three

CO-LIVING INDEX OF MAJOR ASIA-PACIFIC CITIES:		
Rank	Asia-Pacific Cities	Total Score
1	Beijing	74
2	Tokyo	70
3	Shanghai	69
4	Hong Kong	69
5	Mumbai	66
6	Shenzhen	62
7	Bangkok	60
8	Seoul	56
9	Singapore	55
10	Taipei	54
11	New Delhi	53
19	Bengaluru	32

distinguishing characteristics; Shared Spaces, Events and Community

SBI cuts FD rates by 20-25 bps, MCLR by 10 bps

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 9

STATE BANK of India (SBI) Monday cut its retail term deposit rates by 20-25 basis points (bps) and bulk term deposit rates by 10-20 bps across tenors for the second time in the last two weeks.

The lender, which has linked almost all its loan and deposit products to the RBI's repo rate, also announced a cut in its lending rate — marginal cost-based lending rate (MCLR) — by another 10 bps across tenors, in a bid to cash in on the upcoming festive season.

With the latest rate cut, SBI has lowered the rates by 40 bps so far this fiscal in five successive rate cuts. The new rates are effective

EFFECTIVE TODAY

■ The lender has linked almost all its loan and deposit products to the RBI's repo rate. The new rates are effective Tuesday, State Bank of India said in a statement

Tuesday, SBI said in a statement. Accordingly, the one-year MCLR, for all existing retail lending rates, is down to 8.15 per cent from 8.25 per cent earlier. This is the lowest interest in the industry now. Other banks are also expected to follow suit in the coming days.

The bank attributed the falling

interest rate scenario and surplus liquidity for realigning its loan and deposit pricing. In April, when SBI had slashed rates for the first time by 5 bps, its one-year MCLR was at 8.55 per cent. Similar cuts were effected in May and July, while it went in for a higher 15 bps reduction in August, bringing down the benchmark rate to 8.25 per cent. And with the latest cut, it is down to a multi-year low of 8.15 per cent — the lowest in the industry.

SBI has already linked some deposit and loan categories to the repo rate and launched a repo-linked lending rate home loan.

For fixed deposits (FD) maturing in seven days to 45 days and 46 days to 179 days, the rate of interest is unchanged at 4.50 per cent and 5.50 per cent, respec-

tively. SBI slashed the interest rates by 20 bps to 5.80 per cent on deposits maturing in 180 days to less than one year. For FDs maturing in one year to less than 2 year, SBI has cut the rate by 20 bps to 6.50 per cent interest, instead of 6.70 per cent effective September 10.

It has also cut the interest rate on term deposits maturing in two years to less than three years by 25 bps to 25 per cent.

Rivals HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank offer 8.30 and 8.35 per cent, respectively, after their 10 bps reduction in the past two weeks.

It may be noted that lending rates are still much higher than the RBI's repo rate of 5.40 per cent — which is at a nine-year low after the RBI cut it by a cumulative 110 bps since February.

US TREASURY SECRETARY EXPECTS FED TO CUT RATES IN COMING MONTHS

Amid China trade war, US sees positive year for economy

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 9

US TREASURY Secretary Steven Mnuchin on Monday said he did not see the threat of a recession as the Trump administration seeks to revive trade negotiations with China, adding that he expected a positive year ahead for the US economy. Speaking on Fox Business Network, Mnuchin said US officials still aimed to "get a good deal" with Beijing as talks between the world's two largest economies prepare to get under way in the coming weeks.

Chinese officials at the vice-minister level will travel to Washington in mid-September, followed by meetings in Washington between Chinese Vice Premier Liu He, Mnuchin,



US Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin outside the White House on Monday. Reuters

and US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer. "We have a

document, we've made a lot of progress, they're coming here, I take that as a sign of good faith that they want to continue to negotiate," Mnuchin said.

"And we're prepared to negotiate. If we can get a good deal, a deal that's good for us, we'll sign it. If not the president is perfectly fine with continuing the tariffs."

Mnuchin told reporters outside the White House that Yi Gang, the People's Bank of China's governor, would attend the October meetings and the two sides would discuss "currency and currency manipulation." Mnuchin said he saw no signs of a US recession approaching, adding that markets have an expectation the Federal Reserve will cut interest rates in the coming months.

Ashok Leyland set to suspend production at several plants in Sept

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 9

COMMERCIAL VEHICLE manufacturer Ashok Leyland on Monday said that it will suspend work at its various manufacturing facilities across the country for certain periods in September in order to adjust production with market demand.

"Following are the non-working days at our various plant locations during September 2019 due to continued weak demand for our products," the company said in a regulatory filing.

The Chennai-based firm announced 16 non-working days for its facility in Ennore, five days at Hosur (Tamil Nadu) unit, 10 days each in Alwar (Rajasthan) and Bhandara (Maharashtra) unit and 18 days in Pantnagar (Uttarakhand) facilities.

The move comes in the wake of unprecedented slowdown in the domestic automobile industry, forcing auto companies to take

The firm announced 16 non-working days for its facility in Ennore, 5 days at Hosur unit, 10 days each in Alwar and Bhandara units and 18 days in Pantnagar

production cuts in order to reduce inventory at dealerships.

Manufacturers, including market leader Maruti Suzuki India (MSI), have taken steps to cut production owing to weak demand in the market. MSI reduced its production by 33.99 per cent in August, making it the seventh straight month that the country's largest car maker reduced its output. Last month, Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) had announced to suspend production for 8-14 days in the ongoing quarter while Tata Motors also confirmed taking steps to align manufacturing with tapering demand.

SATYAM COMPUTER CASE

SAT overturns Sebi ban order on Price Waterhouse

KHUSHBOONARAYAN
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 9

THE SECURITIES Appellate Tribunal (SAT) Monday overturned Sebi's January 2018 order that banned Price Waterhouse (PW) from auditing listed firms for two years for its alleged role in the Rs 7,800 crore Satyam Computer Services Ltd (SCSL) scam of 2009.

"In the instant case, there is no shred of evidence to show that the auditor/audit firm had fabricated or falsified or fudged the books of account of SCSL in collusion with the top management of SCSL. Further, fraud cannot be proved only on alleged gross negligence, carelessness or recklessness as amounting to collusion and connivance on a preponderance of probabilities," said a 125-page order of SAT passed by its presiding officer Tarun Agarwalla and member CKG Nair. On Friday, however, SAT partly allowed disgorgement of the Rs 13 crore fee from PW, the auditor of Satyam Computer when its chairman B Ramalinga Raju publicly admitted to an accounting fraud in 2009.

The tribunal said that only Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), the apex body of auditors, can take any action against its members, adding that fraud cannot be proved on the basis of negligence in auditing. "Sebi can only take remedial and preventative action. The direction issued is neither remedial nor preventative. But punitive," SAT said.

It added if there was any dereliction of duties, it was on the part of the two partners for which PW's other 10 associate firms can't be banned just because they have resource sharing agreements. "There is no evidence to indicate that the ten firms had any role to play in the audit of SCSL. These ten firms had nothing to do with the audit of SCSL. They had no knowledge of the day to day affairs of SCSL either directly or indirectly. There is not even a whisper of a finding in the impugned order against the ten firms about any connivance or collusion or intention or knowledge on their part in the audit of SCSL. The entire basis of debarring the ten firms is the resource sharing agreement, the brand PW and the networking of PW as a brand ... the approach adopted by the WTM (whole-time member of Sebi) is patently erroneous and is flawed," SAT said.

The order also said that during the pendency of the SAT proceedings, PW has been auditing listed companies "to the satisfaction of the shareholders and/or of the investors without any blemish".

It added that over the last decade, PW has adopted extensive remedial measures as per Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)/ Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) settlement orders. "The independent monitors appointed by SEC/PCAOB have certified that remedial measures have been successfully implemented, meaning thereby that the audit quality met with the requisite standards. Thus looking from this angle also, the order of debarment was not the appropriate choice."

US SEC chairman warns over corporate debt, market risks

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 9

THE HEAD of the top US markets regulator on Monday issued a warning over market risks including rising corporate debt, a UK withdrawal from the European Union, and the transition away from a key lending rate.

Jay Clayton, chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), told an audience in New York he continued to be concerned over corporate debt growth, which he said had been fostered by a decade of accommodative monetary policies. In the US, outstanding corporate

debt stands at almost \$10 trillion, almost 50 per cent of GDP, he said. "Those are numbers that should attract our attention," said Clayton. The US corporate bond market, the world's largest, has offered robust returns, particularly for foreign investors although Clayton added that there are signs those returns may be slowing.

He added that the SEC, alongside other regulators, should monitor flows into and out of credit funds. Clayton also said US banks should assess their exposure to the London interbank offering rate, known as Libor, ahead of a 2021 deadline to transition away from the lending benchmark rate.

World Bank’s Georgieva poised to be IMF’s 2nd female chief

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 9

A TOP executive at the World Bank, Kristalina Georgieva of Bulgaria, is now officially unopposed in her bid to become only the second woman ever to lead the International Monetary Fund, the fund announced Monday.

Georgieva’s rise perpetuates Europe’s long-standing control over the designation of the fund’s leadership. She inherits the helm of an institution buffeted by the rise of populism in advanced economies and escalating trade conflicts — the largest of which has been driven by the US, the fund’s single biggest shareholder.

Currently on leave as the World Bank’s chief executive officer, Georgieva will replace former IMF chief Christine Lagarde, who has been named to lead the European Central Bank. The nominating period closed on Friday, a day after the fund formally lifted the age limit of 65 years for its leadership, clearing the way for the 66-year-old to take up the top role at the 189-member IMF.

US states start antitrust probe against big tech firms

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 9

ATTORNEYS GENERAL from 48 US states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico have opened an antitrust probe into big tech companies that focuses on Alphabet’s Google, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton formally announced on Monday.

Paxton leads the probe, he said, which will focus on Google’s advertising business.

The Big Tech companies that were once praised as engines of economic growth with massive efficiencies have increasingly come under fire for allegedly misusing their clout in the market and lapses such as privacy breaches.

Alibaba set for ‘major challenge’ as Jack Ma to step down today

JOSH HORWITZ
SHANGHAI, SEPTEMBER 9

ALIBABA GROUP chairman Jack Ma will step down from the Chinese firm on Tuesday, leaving his handpicked successor a daunting task of steering the \$460 billion juggernaut at a time when the market for its core e-commerce business has slowed sharply.

As Ma, who turns 55 on Tuesday, holds centrestage at his farewell party in the 80,000-capacity Hangzhou Olympic Sports Center stadium to the accompaniment of music and celebrity performances, attendees will be hoping to get clues on how

HCL Tech to acquire Sankalp Semiconductor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 9

HCL TECHNOLOGIES on Monday said it will acquire Sankalp Semiconductor, an advanced technology design services provider, for Rs 180 crore.

This strategic acquisition would enable HCL to further expand into newer market-domains, especially in analog and mixed signal design, an official statement said.

Sankalp provides end-to-end solutions in automotive, consumer, Internet of Things (IoT), medical electronics, networking and wireless domains. Set up in 2005, the company’s revenue stood at Rs 141.2 crore in 2018-19. It has business operations in India, the US, Canada and Germany.

As per a regulatory filing, the all-cash deal is worth Rs 180 crore and is expected to close in the first week of October.

MFs’ ASSET BASE RISES TO ₹25.47 LAKH CR, SAYS AMFI

Braving volatility, mutual funds see ₹1 lakh crore inflows in Aug

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 9

MUTUAL FUND (MF) houses witnessed an overall inflow of Rs 1.02 lakh crore in the month of August, as against Rs 87,000 crore in July, despite the volatility in the capital markets, according to figures released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI).

Of the total inflows, liquid funds alone saw an impressive over Rs 79,000 crore in August. Open-ended equity schemes witnessed an infusion of Rs 9,152 crore, while there was a small outflow of Rs 62 crore in close-ended equity plans, taking total equity inflows to Rs 9,090 crore last month. In July, net inflow in such schemes stood at Rs 8,092 crore.

Among debt-oriented schemes, liquid funds saw an infusion of Rs 79,428 crore last month, as against Rs 45,441 crore in July. Besides, gold exchange-traded funds saw a total inflow of Rs 145 crore against an outflow of Rs 17.66 crore, AMFI said. The equity inflow stood at Rs 9,152 crore, against Rs 8,112 crore previously.

INDUSTRY AUM AT ₹24.53 LAKH CR IN JUL-END

■ The mutual funds industry logged in assets under management (AUM) of Rs 24.53 lakh crore in July-end, according to data released by Association of Mutual Funds of India

■ The industry added 4.81 lakh folios — numbers designated to individual investor accounts, though an investor can have multiple accounts — in August to a total of 8.53 cr

AMFI said mutual funds’ asset base rose to Rs 25.47 lakh crore in August, a rise of 4 per cent as against in the previous month, on the back of robust inflows in equity and liquid schemes. The industry logged in assets under management (AUM) of Rs 24.53 lakh crore in July-end, according to AMFI data. Fund managers attributed growth in the overall asset base to higher retail participation and robust inflows in equity schemes and liquid funds.

“Retail investor interest in equity mutual funds, for the fourth time in succession, continues to be steady, displaying maturity despite uncertain economic and volatile market situation. Net inflows, largely in all categories of

equity funds, especially in small and mid-cap funds, as also in the ELSS (equity-linked saving scheme) segment, signify heightened confidence and interest in emerging businesses and disciplined tax planning,” AMFI CEO NS Venkatesh said.

On September’s outlook, he said, “On the equity side, SIPs (systematic investment plans) would witness robust flows and on the debt side, liquid funds may see volatility owing to quarter-end phenomenon.”

Inflows in MFs through SIPs in August stood at Rs 8,230.76 crore, a slight fall as compared with Rs 8,324.28 crore a month ago. The total AUM of SIPs amounted to Rs 271,104 crore as on August 31,

2019. There were 2.81 crore SIP accounts as of August 2019.

The MF industry added 4.81 lakh folios — numbers designated to individual investor accounts, though an investor can have multiple accounts — last month to a total of 8.53 crore.

The Indian MF industry is eyeing a four-fold rise in AUMs to Rs 100 lakh crore from the existing level of Rs 25 lakh crore, and a five-fold rise in investor base to 100 million (from existing 20 million) by the next decade, according to the AMFI-BCG Vision Document.

Diversifying the distribution outreach by leveraging the wide network of banks and post offices across the country, significantly augmenting the distribution base by another four lakh, strengthening direct and digital channels thus ensuring last-mile connectivity, and achieving inclusion through tech-led simplified entry-level on-boarding and offering simple savings solutions, would be key to MF industry adding 80 million new investors and accomplishing the Rs 100 lakh crore AUM opportunity, the vision document added.

‘Funding challenges, slowdown to hit NBFCs’ growth’

India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has cut its growth forecast for non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) for FY20 to 10-12 per cent from 15 per cent in view of the “funding challenges and slowdown in economic activity”

Moderation in profitability: With rise in funding cost and falling lending opportunities leading to increased margin pressure, profitability is expected to moderate across the industry

Sector outlook negative: The agency has revised its sector outlook on NBFCs to negative from stable, while maintaining negative outlook on large ticket HFCs\

SF-rated transactions to be stable: Structured finance (SF) rated transactions are expected to remain stable in second half of FY20, on account of

■ Cherry-picked loans

■ Minimum utilisation of credit enhancement

■ Robust performance of underlying retail & commercial loan assets

ALTERNATE MODES OF

FUND-RAISING: Post the credit crisis in September 2018, NBFCs had to increasingly rely on alternate measures to generate liquidity, including through asset sales, securitisation and

direct assignments of loans

LOANS BY MFISTO BE STABLE: Despite the ongoing economic slowdown, the agency expects the performance of loans extended by microfinance institutions (MFIs) to remain stable, as the payments are granular and more frequent

SUPPORT MEASURES FOR NBFCs FROM GOVT: ■ Increasing ticket size to be included in the priority sector status ■ Partial credit guarantee for securitisation transactions ■ Allowing firm to access ECBs to repay rupee loans taken for capex or on-lending

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU



Have reservations on joining RCEP over China trade gap: Govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SINGAPORE, SEPTEMBER 9

INDIA ON Monday said it has reservations on joining the proposed mega free trade agreement RCEP as it is concerned over the “protectionist policies” of China that have created a significant trade deficit between the two nations, as high as \$57 billion in 2018.

The Indian Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a proposed mega free trade agreement being negotiated among 16 nations including the ASEAN bloc (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam) and its six trading partners India, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, during a panel discussion at the inaugural session of India-Singapore Business & Innovation Summit here, said India remained concerned over the “unfair” market access to Indian products and the “protectionist policies” of Beijing that have created a significant trade deficit between the two nations.

The trade deficit with India in 2018, according to official Chinese data, climbed to \$57.86 billion from \$51.72 billion in 2017 in about \$95.54 total bilateral trade. “The big concerns of India are of course, one, its relationship with China because we have an enormous trade deficit with China,” Jaishankar said in re-

“The big concerns of India are of course, one, its relationship with China because we have an enormous trade deficit with China”

S JAISHANKAR
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

sponse to a question on the ongoing negotiations for the RCEP.

The Indian industry has already raised concerns over the presence of China in the grouping. Representatives of various sectors, including dairy, metals, electronics, chemicals, and textiles, have urged the government not to agree on duty cut in these segments while negotiating the RCEP. India has time and again sought greater market access for its goods and services like pharma, IT and agri produce in the Chinese market with a view to bridging the widening trade gap, but has not achieved the much-desired result.

Due to the dumping of several goods by Chinese firms in India, New Delhi has imposed anti-dumping duties on those items from sectors like chemicals and iron and steel. At the session, also attended by his Singaporean counterpart Vivian Balakrishnan, Jaishankar said India fears that the RCEP deal, which would call for a lowering of tariffs or import duties, would lead to a flood of goods from China while not assuring India of an equal access to the Chinese markets, thereby widening its large trade deficit.

Chinese Taipei takes India to WTO over ICT duties

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 9

CHINESE TAIPEI has dragged India into the WTO’s dispute settlement mechanism over imposition of import duties on certain ICT products, including mobile phones, alleging breach of global trade norms. It claims India has imposed the duties on 11 categories of ICT products in excess of India’s bound duty rates for the goods.

According to a World Trade Organization (WTO) statement, Chinese Taipei has requested dispute consultations with India regarding duties imposed by India on imports of certain information and communications technology (ITC) goods.

The request was circulated to WTO members on Monday.

In October last year, India hiked import duty on certain communication items, including base stations, to up to 20 per cent.

MEIS not discontinued, says ComMin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 9

THE COMMERCE Ministry has clarified that export incentive scheme MEIS has not been discontinued from August 1 this year and an inter-ministerial consideration is going on for continuation of 2 per cent increase for labour intensive sectors.

Under Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS), the government provides duty benefits depending on product and country. Rewards under the scheme are payable as percentage of realised free-on-board value and MEIS duty credit scrip can be transferred or used for payment of a number of duties including the basic customs duty.

Will welcome all export-oriented investment from China: NITI Aayog

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 9

NITI AAYOG Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar on Monday urged Chinese businesses to look at India as an export destination from where they can sell their products to various countries.

“We will welcome all export-oriented investment from China. I am also pleased to hear the kind of opportunities that we can have for the Chinese investment in our infrastructure, in our railways, in our roads, ports, airports, everywhere, even in our real estate,” Kumar said at the India-China Economic Cooperation Forum organised by the CII here.

India, China to join hands for developing new solar cell tech

New Delhi: India and China have agreed on cooperation in R&D for developing new technology for manufacturing solar cell from alternate material and improvement of efficiency of solar cells, Niti Aayog said on Monday. Both sides have also agreed on co-operation in the field of e-mobility and energy storage.

This among issues was discussed during the sixth India-China Strategic

Elaborating on the export-oriented investment from China, he said it is akin to American investment in China which is all

about exporting back to America.

“Now, it is time therefore for the Chinese companies for investment in India, make in India and the export from India, whether it is back to China or is to Africa or to the US, as these goods will go from India.

“And I think that’s the investment that we are really looking for because that will be helping us both in terms of our economy generation to make in India and increasing our exports,” the NITI Aayog VC said.

Kumar also said that India and China, through this forum, have agreed to identify non-tariff areas so that it becomes easier for the Indian companies to make inroads into China.

Home loan securitisation: RBI committee proposes standardising documents

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 9

A RESERVE Bank committee on Monday suggested standardisation of loan documents and setting up of a government-sponsored intermediary under the National Housing Bank (NHB) for development of the home loan securitisation market.

Among other things, the Committee on Development of Housing Finance Securitisation Market also recommended that the central government should exempt mortgage-backed securitisation from stamp duty as has been done in the case of asset reconstruction companies (ARCs).

Securitisation involves pooling of loans and selling them to a special purpose vehicle which then issues securities called pass-through certificates (PTCs) backed by the loan pool.

Well-developed securitisation market can emerge as a reliable

complement to other sources of funding for home loan lenders, in addition to reducing volatility in funding for such loans.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in May 2019 had set up a committee to suggest steps for development of the loan securitisation market under Harsh Vardhan, senior advisor, Bain & Co.

The RBI, which has posted the report on its website, has invited comments from the stakeholders by September 13.

The NHB, the report said, should undertake efforts to establish the loan origination standards (at least for the affordable housing loans) on a priority basis and set up the infrastructure for obtaining and disseminating pool performance data for all securitisation transactions.

“An intermediary to promote housing finance securitisation with the primary functions of standard-setting and market making should be established by NHB,” it said.

Phase II of Tajikistan’s Roghun HPP kicks off

Development of energy sector key for achieving expedited industrialisation, says President Rahmon

SANDEEP SINGH
DUSHANBE, SEPTEMBER 9

ON THE occasion of the nation’s 28th Independence Day, Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon inaugurated the second phase of Roghun Hydropower plant (HPP) on Monday, thereby adding additional 600 MW to the country’s existing power capacity.

The hydropower project — slated to be the tallest in the world upon its completion in 2028, with a height of 335 metres — has now achieved a capacity of 1,200 mega watt (MW), with the inauguration of its second phase. Once complete, the Roghun HPP will have an installed capacity of 3,600 MW.

With the launch the second phase of Roghun HPP, the dam has now achieved a height of 135 m and the total hydropower capacity of the country has reached nearly 6,000 MW.

Speaking after the launch of the power unit, Rahmon said, “Ensuring energy security is among the strategic objectives of the government and it will mo-



A general view shows a machine hall of Roghun hydroelectric power station on the Vakhsh River, east of Tajikistan’s capital Dushanbe. Reuters File Photo

bilise all resources and capacity it has to achieve this objective”.

He added that 12 public investment projects with total amount of TJS 16 billion (\$1.65 billion) aimed at developing the energy sector are under implementation at present and TJS 7.2 bn (\$743 million) has been absorbed within these projects so far.

The Central Asian country —

particularly for achievement of our fourth national objective — expedited industrialisation of the country,” Rahmon said.

Government officials, while speaking to *The Indian Express*, said that once Tajikistan achieves energy surplus, it can push forward its objective of industrialisation. Currently, the country is an agriculture-driven economy.

In a press statement issued on Monday, the government said that after full commissioning of the Roghun power station, it will be possible to create dozens of small and large industrial enterprises and generate thousands of new jobs.

Besides, the surplus power will also be exported to Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan.

Electricity from the Roghun HPP is already being supplied to the electricity system of Tajikistan by the 500 kilo watt (KV) Roghun-Dushanbe power transmission line, which was commissioned on the day of the launch of the first

BRIEFLY

NCLT asks SBI not to sell some Videocon assets

Mumbai: The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has asked SBI not to go ahead with its plans to sell the overseas oil & gas assets of Videocon Industries in its bid to recover some of its dues from the bankrupt group.

Union Bank board approves merger plan

New Delhi: Union Bank of India on Monday said its board of directors has approved merger of Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank with itself and given nod for a capital infusion of Rs 17,200 crore in current fiscal.

Sun Pharma fully acquires PJSC Biosintez

New Delhi: Sun Pharmaceutical Industries on Monday said its Netherlands-based arm has fully acquired PJSC Biosintez, Russia by purchasing 3.04 per cent stake in the company under the mandatory tender offer.

Bharat Road insolvency process halted

New Delhi: The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal has set aside insolvency proceedings against Bharat Road Network Ltd, and directed the Kolkata bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) to close the matter.

RCap to sell 3.15% stake in RNAM

Mumbai: Reliance Capital will sell up to 1.93 crore shares, representing 3.15 per cent equity, in Reliance Nippon Life Asset Management (RNAM) for over Rs 505 crore on exchanges via ‘Offer for Sale’ route on Wednesday and Thursday.

AI Corp to buy 68% stake in DFM Foods

New Delhi: PE firm Advent International Corporation (AI Corp) has entered into a pact with the promoters of DFM Foods to acquire 67.9 per cent stake in the firm for around Rs 851.6 crore. PTI

Nissan’s CEO to quit on Sept 16

Yokohama: Nissan Motor Co CEO Hiroto Saikawa will resign on September 16, the automaker said on Monday, bowing to pressure after he admitted to being improperly overpaid. REUTERS

THE FUTURE OF THE RIGHT

The People’s Revolutionary Conservative Front

How Britain’s staid Conservative Party became a radical insurgency

IMAGINE A conservative MP and your mind’s eye might conjure up Philip Hammond. The former chancellor is tall, grey and with a sense of humour that matches his fiscal policy: extra-dry. If not Mr Hammond, then perhaps a figure in the mould of Kenneth Clarke. The rotund, cigar-chomping jazz enthusiast has served in practically every senior government job bar prime minister in a 49-year stint as a Tory MP. Failing that, consider Sir Nicholas Soames, a former defence minister. He has a Churchillian manner, largely because Winston Churchill was his grandfather. The three embody the parliamentary Conservative Party in different ways. Yet they are no longer in it.

The trio were among 21 Conservative MPs to have the whip withdrawn and be barred from standing for the party again after they supported a plan to make Boris Johnson, the prime minister, seek a delay to Britain’s scheduled departure from the European Union on October 31st. The purge was only the most visible part of a revolution that is transforming the world’s oldest political party. Those who advocate fiscal prudence, social liberalism and an orderly departure from the EU have been routed. Those who demand free-spending authoritarianism and a “do-or-die” escape from the yoke of Brussels are ascendant. ConservativeHome, a blog for party activists, described this week as “the end of the Conservative Party as we have known it”. It proved too much for even the prime minister’s brother, Jo, who resigned as an MP on September 5th, “torn between family loyalty and the national interest”.

The revolution has required ideological flexibility from those who wish to survive it. The cabinet is full of MPs who are historically small-state Conservatives. Four of the five authors of “Britannia Unchained”, a paean to small government published by ambitious young Tory MPs in 2012, when fiscal austerity was in fashion, now sit in a cabinet intent on opening the public-spending taps. A spending round on September 4th included measures that will increase the size of the state as a percentage of GDP for the first time since 2010. Sajid Javid, the chancellor, is a fan of Ayn Rand and hangs pictures of Margaret Thatcher in his office. Yet on Mr Johnson’s instructions he announced an extra £13.8bn (\$16.9bn) in election-friendly giveaways, paid for with extra borrowing.

There is also new thinking on law and order. Another 20,000 police officers are to be hired, and a review of whether prison sentences are too soft is expected. Priti Patel, who has called for a clampdown on immigration and once supported the return of capital punishment, is home secretary. It is a far cry from what some in the party thought Mr Johnson had in store. “Expect a liberal centrist,” advised one MP, who now sits in the cabinet, before Mr Johnson became prime minister. Wags have dubbed the new Tory domestic



Britain’s Prime Minister Boris Johnson at the House of Commons in London on September 3. Under Johnson, sedition is not acceptable, as this week’s purge was intended to show. *Reuters*

agenda: “Fund the NHS, hang the paedos.”

The hardest line is on Brexit. Conservative MPs appreciate that they must get Britain out of the EU if they are to keep their seats. Yet Mr Johnson’s approach, which seems likely to end in no-deal, leaves a quiet majority of the parliamentary party uneasy. No-dealers make up only a small fraction of Tory MPs. A cabinet member who enthusiastically campaigned for Brexit admits that no-deal would be a catastrophe. But MPs are willing to serve, partly because Mr Johnson seems determined to move things forward one way or another. “They may not agree, but they are happy for

the direction,” says one cabinet minister.

Setting the route is Dominic Cummings, the prime minister’s chief adviser, who will not even say whether he is a member of the Conservatives. When running for office, Mr Johnson promised an inclusive, “one nation” style of government. Instead, he has set about shaking the country’s institutions, suspending Parliament for the longest period since 1945 in order to reduce the time MPs have to debate Brexit. Hitherto unimaginable tactics, such as asking the queen to veto anti-no-deal legislation, are now openly discussed. “This Conservative government...seems to not be

very conservative, fiscally or institutionally,” noted Ryan Shorthouse of Bright Blue, a liberal Tory think-tank.

The strong-arm techniques are in stark contrast to the days when David Cameron ran the party, and Eurosceptic rebels ran amok. Under Mr Johnson, such sedition is not acceptable, as this week’s purge was intended to show. Figures from Vote Leave, the main campaigning group behind the Brexit vote, call the shots in Downing Street, causing long-serving Tory MPs to shake their jowls at the state of affairs. Sir Roger Gale, an MP since 1983, declared: “You have, at the heart of

Number 10, as the prime minister’s senior adviser, an unelected, foul-mouthed oaf.” A “One Nation” group of about 100 moderate Conservative MPs have demanded that Mr Johnson reinstate their sacked colleagues.

Yet for all the fury over the deselections, Mr Cummings’s strategy remains just about intact. The prime minister and his aides want an election in which Mr Johnson is portrayed as the champion of a people defied by wily politicians, with the promise of a cash tsunami about to break over Britain’s public services if people vote Tory. “He gets the election he wanted and the framing he wanted,”

says one former Downing Street aide. Nor will the revolution necessarily be permanent. A socially conservative offer to voters tempted by Nigel Farage’s Brexit Party may last only until the next general election, says Tim Bale of Queen Mary University of London.

“What this country needs is sensible, moderate, progressive Conservative government,” declared Mr Johnson during a stilted performance in prime minister’s questions on September 4th. Yet with the Tory party in its current state, Britain will have to wait.

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CHAGUAN

Not yet a coming-out party

Gay Chinese take a modest first step towards civil unions

TWODECADES ago there were no gay men in China. That, at least, was the claim of a senior Chinese official when asked what proportion of his country’s HIV cases involved homosexual transmission. His questioner, a government minister visiting from Britain in 2000, offered her host a wager: £100 that there were, in fact, gay Chinese. “I note that he didn’t take the bet,” the minister scoffed as she related the exchange to a clutch of Beijing-based reporters later that day. The British ambassador, teacup frozen in mid-air, hastily declared the minister’s comments off-the-record.

Chaguan attended that long-ago embassy tea party during a first posting to China. Back then Communist Party officials routinely called same-sex attraction a sickness carried by foreigners and Chinese doctors classified it as a mental disorder. Criminal penalties for homosexual acts were abolished only in 1997.

A generation later, that era of denial seems almost quaint. On September 2nd Chaguan interviewed Peng Yanzi and Yang Yi, an openly—indeed cheerfully—gay Chinese couple, about their plans to register as one another’s legal guardian. Amid much joking and finishing of each other’s sentences in a coffee shop in Guangzhou, their southern home town, Mr Peng, 36, and Mr Yang, 31, explained the documents they are drafting with the help of a local public notary. The mutual agreement will allow each to take medical and some financial decisions for the other, should they grow infirm, undergo surgery or otherwise lose their faculties. They are among a pioneering band of same-sex Chinese couples taking

Activists stress how gay love is compatible with traditional family values. One of China’s largest support groups, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, gives pride of place to parents who profess their acceptance of their children’s homosexuality

advantage of a guardianship law initially drafted with the elderly in mind. This was amended in 2017 to cover all adults. A few months later creative lawyers and activists realised that registering as mutual guardians could give same-sex couples some legal protections, even if those fall well short of those provided by gay marriage.

The democratic island of Taiwan legalised same-sex marriage in May, over the objections of conservatives steeped in Chinese cultural and religious values. For now, same-sex unions remain unthinkable on the Chinese mainland. Marriage between one man and one woman “suits our country’s national condition and historical and cultural traditions”, a spokesman for China’s parliament declared in August.

“We’re using what we can find in the current legal system to protect ourselves,” says Mr Peng, who works for LGBT Rights Advocacy China, an NGO. He lives in an unusually laid-back metropolis. But mutual

guardianships between gay people have also been signed in other cities, including Changsha, Nanjing and Shanghai. Nationwide attention was sparked in August when a notary’s office in Beijing, where every act is weighed for its political correctness, approved the capital’s first known same-sex guardianship agreement. Almost as significant, to activists, was the neutral, even supportive coverage of the event in state-owned media. Posts about mutual guardianship in Beijing have cumulatively earned over 100m views on Weibo, a microblogging platform.

Official tolerance is not unlimited. Several notarial offices have used social media to announce same-sex guardianship agreements, only to swiftly delete the posts. Censors have stepped up efforts to shield Chinese audiences from depictions of gay life in films, on television and online. In late 2018 a female author of gay erotic fiction was jailed for ten years on pornography charges.

Mr Peng and Mr Yang face a dilemma that is familiar to all who try to build a stronger civil society in China. They hope to see many more couples take advantage of mutual guardianship. They were shaken when a lesbian friend died, whereupon her parents took possession of her home and car, leaving her long-standing partner bereft. “We realised that in the eyes of the law, they were still strangers even after living together for six or seven years,” says Mr Peng about the lesbian couple. “Like roommates,” interjects Mr Yang. Beyond the practical benefits of guardianship, increasing the visibility of gay Chinese is a long-term goal. However, they would prefer not to attract too much attention,



Gay groups in China take striking care to avoid terms liable to alarm the party, such as human or civil rights. *Reuters*

in case the government—which has yet to signal its view of same-sex guardianship agreements—decides that it disapproves.

Ready to hold up their bit of the sky

Gay groups in China take striking care to avoid terms liable to alarm the party, such as human or civil rights. Instead they stress how gay love is compatible with traditional family values. One of China’s largest support groups, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, gives pride of place to parents who profess their acceptance of their children’s homosexuality. One of the group’s recent meetings in Beijing was conspicuously

wholesome. Smartly dressed mothers sat around the edge of the room, making small talk about options for reaching the gathering by public transport, and politely admiring smartphone pictures of each other’s offspring. Meanwhile, youngsters in campaign T-shirts put out folding chairs and rainbow flags. Once under way, the meeting featured testimonials from mothers and their lesbian daughters about family heartbreak and forgiveness.

Ming, a 22-year old student at the meeting, is guardedly optimistic. The party no longer seeks to control every aspect of people’s personal lives as it did decades ago, she says. She sees government caution about gay marriage as a bid to avoid affronting majority

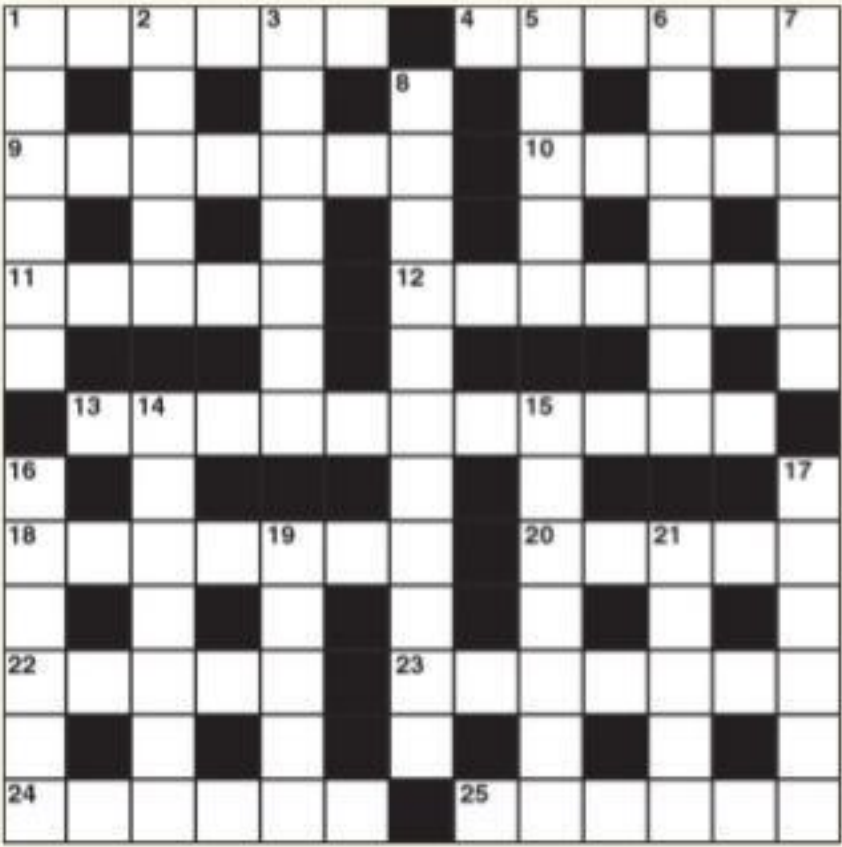
public opinion. Attitudes to gay rights are generational, she reports. She has not come out to her own parents, who think of homosexuality as a disease. That is why her real name is not used here. But once those born in or after the 1990s become China’s mainstream, “I believe things will be different,” Ming says.

Until then, gay campaigners will stress small, pragmatic steps like mutual guardianship. China’s rulers are obsessed with maintaining social stability. Gay Chinese couples are ready to help, by taking responsibility for their own welfare. At least the party now admits they exist.

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CROSSWORD 3906



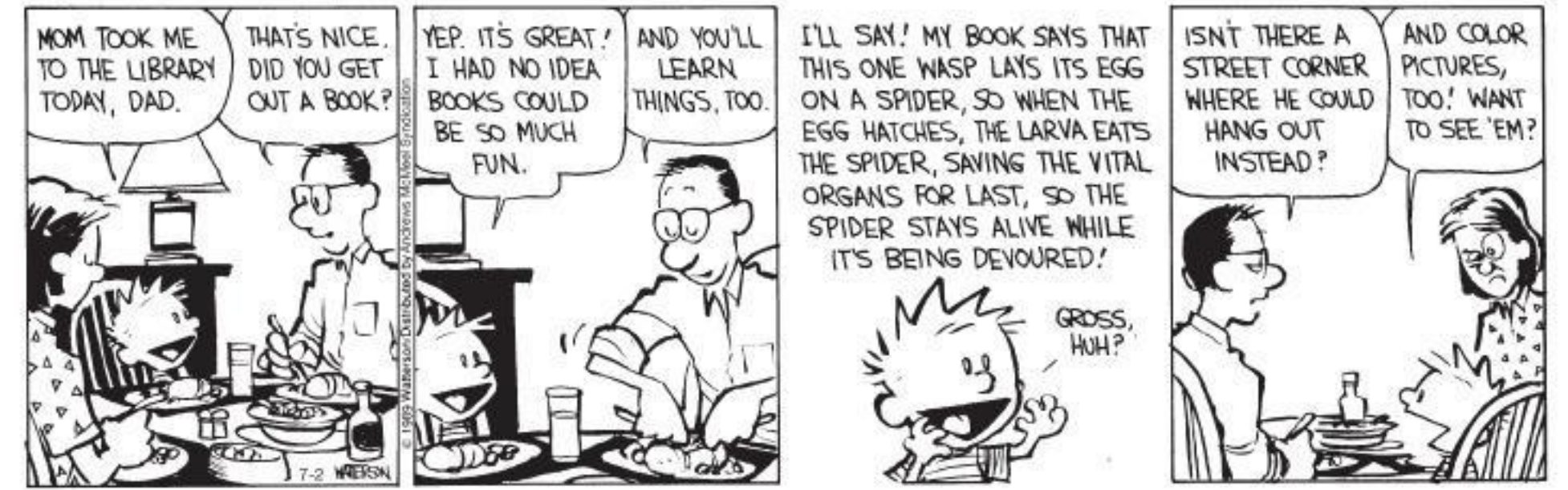
- ACROSS**
- One's doctor gives one two notes to take in (6)
 - Old-fashioned neckwear kept in shops (6)
 - Nothing in the ship is of extravagant style (7)
 - Farewell announcement that is socially acceptable (5)
 - Display of no interest? (5)
 - Large volume of transport? (7)
 - A little work that is bound to help one on one's way (6,5)
 - An hotel looks different in Ireland (7)
 - A rustic link with a number (5)
 - Opening for a craftsman (5)
 - Determined, though certain to come in last (7)
 - Pleased about getting in, but didn't look it! (6)
 - Set out and had a meal of what's left (6)
- DOWN**
- It's natural in food, we hear (6)
 - Restriction on a nobleman (5)
 - Latin who is within call - hurry! (2,5)
 - Coach or coaches (5)
 - Moved - like a centipede? (7)
 - Crush in court? (6)
 - Greek orator needs them so badly (11)
 - Was she victim of shattered hope and rising trouble? (7)
 - Greek hero, oddly sly in habits (7)
 - Bill returns a telephone call, showing concern (6)
 - Transport left in plant (6)
 - The route of extravagance (5)
 - Changes are OK in the country (5)

Solutions Crossword 3905: Across: 1 Refined, 5 Pique, 8 Forget oneself, 9 Trial, 10 Satanic, 11 Honest, 12 Drifts, 15 Sits out, 17 Views, 19 Admission free, 20 Eases, 21 Guessed. Down: 1 Refit, 2 Foreign stamps, 3 Needles, 4 Drowsy, 5 Pleat, 6 Queen of hearts, 7 Effects, 11 Hostage, 13 Revenge, 14 String, 16 Oasis, 18 Spend.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

There's no ____ without ____ - Andre Norton (5,.,5)

NYAIR
ERUUNT
COSST
DINYGH

SOLUTION: RAINY, COSTS, UNTAXE, DINGHY
Answer: There's no night without stars - Andre Norton

SUDOKU 3965
Difficulty Level 3s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.
Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

SOLUTION SUDOKU 3964
Sometimes you're willing to face big personal challenges head on. A bone of contention may relate to a home or family matter, but if I were you I'd leave well alone today. If you do want to get your own way, and which of us doesn't, hold your horses until tomorrow.

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
You won't be the only person to be affected by pride today, but you may have the most cause. Yet rather than being smug or complacent, focus on your own real achievements and do what you can to help others. The time will come when you'll be rewarded for your generosity.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
You are now in an ideal position to take the initiative socially. Even at work you will be able to galvanise other people, although it looks as if you should leave them to figure out the details. I should think it will be good for them to take a little responsibility for their own actions.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
Unexpected developments are about to enter the domestic and private pattern of your life. There is every indication that these will represent a considerable improvement over current conditions. That has to be good news, especially in view of everything that you've been through recently.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
You're reaching a minor turning point in your material affairs. At this stage, you must either complete a financial deal or think about writing off a small sum of money for good. The fact is that pursuing such issues may not be worth your valuable time.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Any discussions with family members, or news about emotional ties, are bound to be pleasant. At the best you will experience a sense of hope and personal liberation. If you wish, you may abandon the lack of confidence which has so often held you back.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)
The world is about to see you at your best, and I mean the whole world. If you have any aspirations at all to set off on a tour of distant parts, there is no time like the present. At the very least you should get in touch with relations in far away places.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
All your instincts and hunches may tell you that this is the time to splash out, and they could well be right! If you feel a generous impulse coming on, you may give it free rein and count the cost tomorrow. But if partners are likely to disagree, you'd better get them on your side first.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
You often experience emotional insecurities and conflicts. The last thing you should do is to revive old battles, especially over pointless issues like who pays for, or owns, what. A generous gesture would be a far better alternative, and could win you a friend for life.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
You're still in control, even if the flag of emotional revolt does happen to be raised very soon. If you are faced with anger at home, don't confront it. Gently deflect bad feeling in the manner of an oriental sage, and so disarm your opponent with goodwill.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
If you are to achieve the kind of acceptance you have always craved, you must make a bid now. The close relationship between the Moon, Jupiter and a series of other planets indicates that, if you give them the chance, other people will at last be ready to listen and help.

VIRO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
Sometimes you're willing to face big personal challenges head on. A bone of contention may relate to a home or family matter, but if I were you I'd leave well alone today. If you do want to get your own way, and which of us doesn't, hold your horses until tomorrow.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
You seem to be in danger of overplaying your hand at work. Although you're in a fortunate position, you should now reinforce your current gains and allow other people a chance to shine. In love, do be sure to let others know how you are feeling.

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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME
I, Shraddha Ashokkumar Mistry (Mevada) have changed my name to Shraddha Ashok Mevada as per Affidavit Dated: 29/08/2019. 0070673544-1

I, Mistry Mandakiniben Karsandas have changed my name to Mevada Manjula Ashok as per Affidavit Dated 29/08/2019. 0070673545-1

I have changed my name from Niteshkumar Sarveshkumar Pandey to Nitesh Sarvesh Pandey as per Affidavit Dated 07.09.2019. 0070673542-1

THANKS GIVING
THANK YOU Saint Jude and Sacred Heart of Jesus for favours and blessings received. Continue to help us. E. D'Souza. 0070673093-1

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ALL Maharashtra Indian Express & all Newspapers Advertisement like Jobs, Property, Matrimonial, Notice, Change of Name, Business, Death etc. with reasonable rates. Keyon Publicity - 9920992393/ 022-28253077/ 9653683498. 0070618016-1

WESTERN RAILWAY
REPAIRING AND REPLACEMENT WORK
Tender Notice No.: EL/Maint/4/305/ WA/2(R-1) dt.05.09.2019. Work and Location: Mumbai Division Suburban Section : Repairing / Replacement of defective parts and cleaning of Window AC and Split AC units of various makes and capacities at various locations between Marine Lines & Virar for a period of 2 years. Approx. cost of work: ₹ 31,19,870/-. Cost of EMD: ₹ 62,400/- Date & Time of submission and opening: On 09.10.2019 till 15.00 hrs & at 15.30 hrs. Note: Please visit our website www.irops.gov.in to download the tender document, corrigendum and further details. follow us on: twitter.com/WesternRly

WESTERN RAILWAY
DISMANTLING OF WHEEL SETS
Chief Workshop Manager, Carriage Repair Workshop, Western Railway, N. M. Joshi Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai-13, invites e-bids through e-Tendering method for the following work: Tender Notice No: CW/PO/WC/2018/ 57(Works)-RT Date: 06.09.2019. Name of work with its location: Dismantling of Axle box and Roller bearings of ICF & MIC wheel sets, Qty. 27,354 Wheel Sets (20,922 No. ICF wheels & 6,432 MIC wheel sets). Approx. Estimated Cost: ₹ 95,31,774.84 EMD: ₹ 1,90,600/- Last date & time for online submission of e-bids & opening of e-Tenders: 27.09.2019 upto 11.30 hours & after 11.30 hours. The bids forms and other details can be obtained from the website: www.irops.gov.in. Any other information required can be obtained from the above office. follow us on: twitter.com/WesternRly

WESTERN RAILWAY
SHIFTING OF SS OFFICE
Divisional Railway Manager (WA), Western Railway, 6th Floor, Engg. Deptt., Mumbai Central, Mumbai 400008, invite e-Tender as per details given as follows: Executive: Sr.DEN (Co) BCT, Tender Notice No.: BCT/19-20/227 dated 04.09.2019. Work and Location: Santacruz (station): Shifting of SS office from platform No. 2 & 3 to platform No. 5 & 6 at North end between pillar No. 14 to 15. Approx. cost of work: ₹ 31,64,250.20. EMD: ₹ 63,300/- Date & Time of submission & opening: On 01.10.2019 till 15.00 hrs and at 15.30 hrs. Regarding detailed nature of work, containing cost of tender document (Non-Refundable), EMD, Eligibility criteria, similar nature of work, detailed tender condition, please visit www.irops.gov.in. Manual offers will not be considered. follow us on: twitter.com/WesternRly

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LTD
(A Government of India Undertaking)
NOTICE INVITING TENDER DATED: 06.09.2019
Konkan Railway Corporation Limited, invites Open Tender in Two Packet system through E-Tendering on IREPS portal for the following works:-
1) Construction of RCC Box Culverts, Height Gauge, Washable Apron, Fencing & Precast Slab works for STPP NTPC Railway siding at Gadgarwara, Dist-Narasinghpur, Madhya Pradesh. Tender Notice No.: KR-CO-W-BR-NTPC-GAR-T-102. Total Estimated Cost of Tender: Rs. 8.21 Crore (Excluding GST). Closing Date/Time: 30.09.2019 Up to 15:00 hrs for submission of online Offers/Bids.
2) Construction of Foot Over Bridges in STPP NTPC Railway Siding Yard at Gadgarwara, Dist-Narasinghpur, Madhya Pradesh. Tender Notice No.: KR-PD-FB-NTPC-GAR-T-101. Total Estimated Cost of Tender: Rs. 4.87 Crore (Excluding GST). Closing Date/Time: 27.09.2019 Up to 15:00 hrs for submission of online Offers/Bids.
Manual offers shall not be accepted. Please visit www.irops.gov.in website for details / participation. Corrigendum / addendum will be hosted in this website only.

Maharashtra State Agricultural Marketing Board, Pune
Phone No. 020-24528100 / 24528200
Website: www.msamb.com e-Mail: civil1@msamb.com
e-Tender Notice
Maharashtra State Agricultural Marketing Board (MSAMB), Pune invites e-Tenders from reputed & experienced service providers, suppliers, contractors for Housekeeping at Head Office. For more details visit www.msamb.com & <https://mahatenders.gov.in> for further information. - Managing Director

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LTD
(A Government of India Undertaking)
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Konkan Railway Corporation Limited is inviting Tenders for the following works:
1) Sealed Bids are invited from Experienced Contractors for "Provision of lighting arrangements for RDSO shelter 2x64 mtrs. and replacing of existing lighting arrangements by providing multipurpose pole at platform No.2 of Thivim station." Tender No: KR/KW/EL/T/10/19, Dtd : 29.08.2019. Last date and Time of submission of Bid: 13.09.2019 upto 15.00 hrs. For further details, contact Office of Regional Electrical Engineer, Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd., Karwar.
2) Name of Work: Leading and Replacement of Rails under SSE/P-way/MAO Section. Tender No: KR/KW/OL/W/2019/28-RB, Dtd. 20/08/2019. Estimated Cost: Rs.5.52 Lakhs (Excluding GST). Closing Date & Time: 16.09.2019 up to 15.00 hrs. For further details, contact Office of Sr. Regional Engineer, Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd., Karwar.
For further details please visit: www.irops.gov.in

पाणीपुरवठा विभाग
ई-निविदा सूचना क्र. ०९/उमपा/ पाणीपुरवठा विभाग/ २०१९-२०
अ. क्र. कामाचे नाव अंदाजपत्रकीय रक्कम
१ उल्हासनगर कॅम्प १, २ व ३ मधील वितरण व्यवस्थेतील दैनंदिन गळत्या व दूषित पाण्याची समस्या सोडविणे व स्लुस व्हॉल्व बदलणे. रु. ६४,३९,८३०/-
२ उल्हासनगर १, २ व ३ मधील अस्तित्वातील विंधन विहिरीवरील पाणबुडे/जेट पंपाची देखभाल दुरुस्ती करणे. रु. ३५,५८,९३३/-
३ उल्हासनगर कॅम्प ४ व ५ मधील वितरण व्यवस्थेतील दैनंदिन गळत्या व दूषित पाण्याची समस्या सोडविणे व स्लुस व्हॉल्व बदलणे. रु. ३९,७०,८२०/-
४ उल्हासनगर ४ व ५ मधील अस्तित्वातील विंधन विहिरीवरील पाणबुडे/जेट पंपाची देखभाल दुरुस्ती करणे. रु. ३५,३९,२९८/-
या निविदेबाबतची विस्तृत माहिती उल्हासनगर महानगरपालिकेचे संकेतस्थळ <https://umc.maharashtra.etenders.in> आणि <https://maharashtra.etenders.in> यावर दिनांक ११.०९.२०१९ रोजी प्रसिद्ध करण्यात आलेली आहे. संबंधित निविदाकारांनी याची नोंद घ्यावी.
सही/- कार्यकारी अभियंता (पाणी) उल्हासनगर महानगरपालिका
जा.क्र. उमपा/पीआरओ/ ४९६/१९

INSTITUTE OF NANO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
(An Autonomous Institute of Department of Science and Technology, GOI)
Habitat Centre, Sector 64, Phase X, Mohali - 160062, Punjab
No. 9(5)/2019-INST Dated: 09.09.2019
POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS (FEBRUARY-2020 SESSION)
Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST) invites applications for Post-Doctoral Research Fellows, in the field of Nano-Science and Technology.
ELIGIBILITY: Ph.D. Degree in Science/ Engineering or should have submitted the Ph.D. thesis in the above field. AGE: 35 years as on 01.02.2019 (relaxation of 5 years for SC/ ST/ PH/ Women and 3 years for OBC category) FELLOWSHIP: Rs.45,000/- per month plus contingency grant of Rs. 40,000/- (per annum). LAST DATE: 25th October 2019. For details, candidate may visit Institute website (<http://inst.ac.in/careers.php>) Dean (Academics)
Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
W.M.D., N.R.G., Trombay, Mumbai 400 085
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
On line two part item rate e-tender are hereby invited through e-tendering mode by Chief Engineer, Nuclear Recycle Group, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Trombay, Mumbai-400085, on be-half of President of India, from eligible contractors for the following work:
NIT No.: BARC/NRG/WMD/ETP LLT 3 & 6 WORK/2019-20/01 05/09/2019 Name of Work: "Procurement of raw material, fabrication, inspection, testing, site erection of SS 304 L lining and carbon steel cover of Low level tanks no: LLT 3 and 6 at ETP plant as per technical specification and drawings." Estimated cost: - Rs 56/- Lakh, E.M.D. - Rs 1,12,000/- One Lakh Twelve Thousand, Completion Period: 12 (Twelve) months. Tender Processing Fee : Rs 3,304/- by e-payment through electronic mode (Non-returnable) in favour of M/s ITI Limited, New Delhi. Dates for Request for purchase/ Download of Tender: From 09.09.2019 to 23.09.2019 on website www.tenderwizards.com/DAE. Last date and time of closing of online submission of e-tender: 07.10.2019. Detailed NITs for above tender is available on website www.tenderwizards.com/DAE for free view/download and detailed NIT on website www.barc.gov.in for free view only. Chief Engineer, Nuclear Recycle Group

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS
O/o. The Official Liquidator, High Court, Madras, "Corporate Bhavan" II Floor, No. 29, Rajaji Salai, Chennai-600001.
Phone No. 044-25271149/25271151, Fax: 044-25271152, Website: www.olchennai.in Email : olmdras@gmail.com
FORM No. 63 - RULE 148(1)
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS ORIGINAL JURISDICTION
In the matter of Sterling Tree Magnum India Limited (In Provisional Liquidation)
Company Petition No.73/2000
ADVERTISEMNET OF NOTICE TO CREDITORS TO PROVE THEIR CLAIM
Pursuant to the orders of Hon'ble High Court, Madras dated 05.04.2019 in C.P.No.73/2000, notice is hereby given to the creditors of the above named company that they are required to submit to the Official Liquidator of the court proofs of their respective debts or claims against the above named company by delivering at the office of the Official Liquidator on or before 09.10.2019 or sending by post to the Official Liquidator so as to reach him not later than the said date, an affidavit proving the debt or claim, in the prescribed form (Form No.66 copy of the same can be downloaded at www.olchennai@mca.gov.in) with their respective names, addresses and particulars of debt or claim, and any title to priority under Section 529, 529A and 530. Any creditor who fails to submit his affidavit of proof within the time limited as aforesaid will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution of dividend before his / her debt is proved, or as the case may be, from objecting to such distribution.
Any creditor who has sent in his / her proof, if so required by notice in writing from the Official Liquidator, shall either in person or by his / her advocate, attend the investigation of such debt or claim at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice and shall produce such further evidence of his / her debt or claim as may be required.
Dated at Chennai this the 5th day of September, 2019
Sd/- OFFICIAL LIQUIDATOR HIGH COURT, MADRAS

SNAP SHOTS



The Other Side

ACCLAIMED AMERICAN director Gus Van Sant (pictured), of the 1997 film *Good Will Hunting* fame, is holding his first solo exhibition of paintings in New York this month. The Los Angeles-based artist, in his show titled 'Gus Van Sant: Recent Paintings, Hollywood Boulevard', features watercolours on stretched linen, where nude male figures lie surrounded by the city's architectural dwellings and automobiles, which he has made his home since the '70s. Sant, who got his BFA degree from the Rhode Island School of Design, has earlier exhibited as part of group exhibitions at the Musee de l'Elysee in Lausanne, Switzerland, Le Case d'Arte in Milan, Italy, and the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art in the US.



Alternate Space

INDIAN COMPOSER and singer Nakash Aziz, known for delivering hit songs like *Slow motion* and *Second hand jawani*, is making his foray into the independent music space with his band Final Call. The band chose to recreate Lucky Ali's popular song *Ek pal ka jeena* as their first song. Aziz helms the band as the lead singer, with Rahul Tiwari on the keyboard, Prakash Sunar on the bass, Vinit Arora on the drums, Jayesh Kathak on the percussion and Omkar Dhumal with woodwinds. The name of the band derives from the final call announcement of flights at airports.



Beyond Borders

FILMMAKER ZOYA Akhtar's captivating tale of a rapper who raps about his life, struggles and dreams in *Gully Boy* will now release in Japan this October. Excited at the prospect of the film travelling to Japan, the film's lead actor Ranveer Singh said that this marks a proud moment for all those who helped film the rap revolution in the country in *Gully Boy*. Singh said, "I have never been to Japan but only learnt, heard and seen the most wonderful things about the land of the rising sun. I hope to go there someday." Having premiered at the 69th Berlin Film Festival, the film (also starring Alia Bhatt) was honoured with the Best Film award at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne this year.



(Above) A scene from the play; director Sharmistha Saha

A Love-Hate Story

Based on incidents of caste violence, the play *Romeo Ravidas and Juliet Devi* throws light on the fissures of society

DIPANITA NATH

SHARMISTHA SAHA was going through the newspaper in March, when she came across a report about a Dalit man, Pradip Kalubhai Rathod, who was killed for riding a horse. The incident took place in Timbi, a village in Gujarat. "Even in the context of mob lynching becoming almost normalised in our country, I found it bizarre that a man could die for riding a horse. In what way is this even logical? I began to search online for other such incidents. What I found was that, throughout India, it is common practice to bar Dalits from owning horses, wearing sunglasses or keeping a moustache," she says.

The deeper she probed, the more reports of atrocities emerged until Saha, who has studied theatre at Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, and Freie University, Berlin, decided to make a play on the subject of caste discrimination. The production, *Romeo Ravidas and Juliet Devi*, opened in Mumbai in March and was performed in Pune recently. It is set to travel to Delhi in September before shows in Bangalore.

The play begins with a young man called Romeo Ravidas being chased by the upper caste of his village Dumari, Bihar. He moves through the chase in the style of Ajay Devgn in a film. Later, he says, "*Hum chhote se gaon mein paley bade hain* (I was born and raised in a small village). I have a mare and, when I ride it through the village, I look like Devgn from *Dilwale*." He calls the horse, Juliet. A surreal journey brings Romeo close to Kaushalya, an activist, who tells him that, in college, she used to be known as Juliet.

"*Hum sheher mein paley bade hain* (I was born and raised in a city)," she adds. "There was a boy in our college, *seedha saadha, sharmila, thoda alag*. When he proposed to me the second time, I said yes," she says. That boy has got lost. He was killed by her father. Kaushalya visits her dreams every night but cannot find him.



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SHARMISTHA SAHA
THEATRE DIRECTOR

The play plunges into the internal conflict of both characters. Romeo wants a peaceful life but is aware that the Dalit fight is raging. Kaushalya is wrapping her head around the dynamics of Dalit politics and how it affects not only the lower caste but the upper castes, such as her, as well.

Romeo Ravidas and Juliet Devi joins a number of major plays that have dwelt on caste in recent years, such as *Chandala, impure* by Koumarane Valvane and Deepan Sivaraman's *Khasakkite Ithasam*. In Saha's play, Romeo is a reference to Rathod while Kaushalya is a tribute to Kaushalya Shankar, an upper-caste girl from Tamil

Nadu who married a Dalit man. In broad daylight in 2016, the couple was brutally attacked by goons allegedly sent by her family. Kaushalya lived but her husband was killed on the spot.

The title of the play that recalls William Shakespeare's classic, *Romeo and Juliet*, is Saha's off-handed salute to the media that highlights Dalit issues only when there is an inter-caste romance, marriage or death. "I feel that newspapers do not cover caste issues enough. I have studied in Delhi all my life and have lived in north India but did not know that Dalit men are not allowed to ride a horse during their *baraat*," says Saha.

For the play, she researched online, dug through newspaper archives and read autobiographies such as *Joothan* by Omprakash Valmiki. A significant portion of the play is based on the lived experiences of people she sought out, such as her students at IIT Bombay, where Saha teaches performance studies. One of the students, Shubham Sumit, is from Buxar in Bihar and has written the script with Saha.

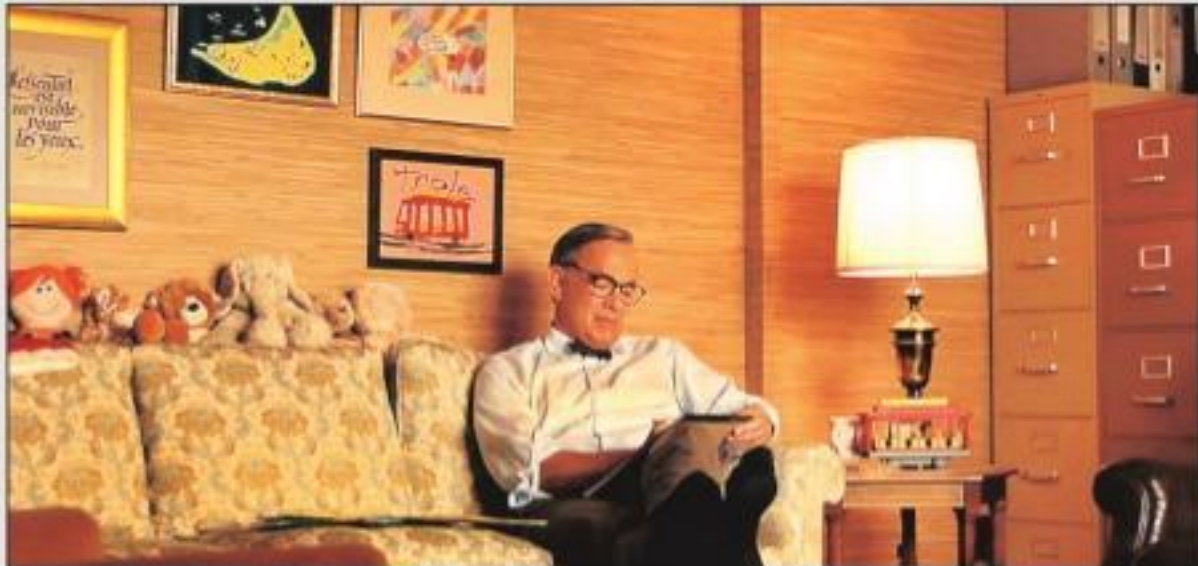
The play is a fictionalised account of real incidents, including one in which a Dalit man is attacked for watching films on CDs borrowed from a lending shop. The grimness that emerges in the dialogue-driven production is complemented by movements inspired by Eugenio Barba, an Italian theatre director who Saha assisted during her stint at Odin Teatret in Denmark. "I choreographed the play as a dance piece rather than blocking it like a play," she says.

Romeo Ravidas and Juliet Devi follow other works on gender by Saha. Her *Letters* (2015) is based on a short story by Rabindranath Tagore called *Stree'r Patro*, in which Mrinal, the central protagonist, decides to leave her husband. *Bundelkhand ki Virgin Machhliya* (2017) is adapted from the book, *Virgin Fish of Babughat*, written by Lokenath Bhattacharya, and revolves around an actor-director, who lives in a sinister detention camp that dehumanises its inmates.



PEN TO PAPER

Paul McCartney, the iconic Beatles singer and songwriter, turns into a children's book author with *The Grandude*. The book's title has been inspired from the Beatles' famous song *Hey Jude*, as it follows the adventures of grandfather Grandude and his grandchildren.



Stills from (top) *A Beautiful Day In The Neighbourhood* and *Hustlers*

Tell-Tale Signs

Two standout Hollywood premieres on Day 4 talk about the devastation and possible restoration of the human spirit



EXPRESS AT TIFF 2019

SHUBHRA GUPTA

THE TORONTO INTERNATIONAL Film Festival's (TIFF) vast and varied international slate includes a number of superb films from Berlin, Cannes, Venice and Telluride. But what TIFF pulls off with its Hollywood premieres is what makes it so special: here's where many successful Oscar journeys begin. In some other festivals, I wouldn't bother with the hand-somely-mounted studio films, but here, I'm not missing any if I can help it.

And Day 4 begins with a satisfying double bill: Marielle Heller's *A Beautiful Day In The Neighbourhood* and Lorene Scafaria's *Hustlers*. The first gives us Tom Hanks playing the beloved American children's TV legend, Fred Rogers. Armed with that trademark V-necked red sweater and slow-paced diction, Hanks is such a perfect fit for the part that you'd think he was born to play this. But then, that's Hanks, who does best with characters who have no guile and tell us that life is still worth living if we allow ourselves to let our guards down, and to love.

Heller's last year's *Can You Ever Forgive Me* had Melissa McCarthy in a standout role as a deeply unsympathetic literary thief. Rogers, on the other hand, is a character everyone loves, because he touches us in warm, empathetic ways.

A film like this can turn into an unbearably soppy four-hankies tale. But it is to Heller's credit that she keeps the sentimentality in check even though I confess to wet eyes in a few places. And it is to Hanks' credit that he plays Rogers with a twinkle-eyed gentleness which is all his own. It is not, which it so easily could have been, *Forrest Gump* redux.

It's tough to upstage Hanks at any given time. But this movie is as much his as it is Mathew Rhys', in the role of a journalist who becomes a friend after starting out as a morose interlocutor. The character is semi-true because there was a journalist who wrote a profile of Rogers for *Esquire*, and in the process,

found his better self, even though he may not have achieved that state in precisely this manner.

The film is, in effect, more a study of a rocky father-son relationship in which the latter is getting-past-daddy-issues, than a bio pic of Rogers: just as the younger man sandpapers off his mistrust of Rogers because that's what his determined cheer and sheer goodness demands, he sloughs off the anger and venom he harbours for his own father (Chris Cooper in an excellent turn).

Hustlers is as bawdy, lusty and in-your-face as *A Beautiful Day In The Neighbourhood* is quiet, decorous and tasteful, even though both reveal the devastation of the spirit when humanity leaves the room. Constance Wu, who is now a *bona fide* face after the smash-hit *Crazy Rich Asians*, plays a stripper at a club, where she is shown the ropes by the assured, if-you've-got-it-flaunt-it attitude –exuding Ramona, gloriously played by Jennifer Lopez.

Ramona takes the young woman under her wing, and soon under her expert guidance (a sequence in which JLo shows Wu the moves around the pole leaves you slack-jawed in admiration), the two women and a couple of their co-conspirators pull off a scam worthy of those they are scamming: they choose the Wall Street sharks busy skimming off the top, as their targets. The ladies make oodles of cash. So does their club. And everyone's happy.

And then comes the stockmarket crash of 2008, and suddenly all the manna dries up. We are right inside the world of strippers — down to their G-strings and lap dances, and burnished, gleaming skin — but not once does it feel voyeuristic. The camera is never suggestive. We are shown, right up front, how hard-scrabble the lives of these women are, as they put on their own faces to go back to lives led as mothers, granddaughters, pet-owners. We see them, really see them, as they celebrate Christmas, cut cakes, hug their loved ones. Who do we blame? These women, the straight-up scamsters, or the men who are willing to buy their time and more on money made by insider trading?

The star-turns from Hanks and JLo are a sure bet in the upcoming awards season. And on the sidelines, the star-sighting continues: Hanks tells us that playing Rogers has made him 'a better listener'. And leaves us with a bumper-quote sticker to live life by: 'if it is mentionable, it is manageable'.

In Search of a Voice

A conclave on modern heritage in architecture sought to explore its relevance and value systems

SHINY VARGHESE

AUTHOR AND political thinker Ashis Nandy in a recent talk in New Delhi said: "We have lost the right to our future. Only from robust scepticism, mutual criticism and cross criticism can we have a variety of futures to opt for." If one were to look back at the Frame Conclave 2019, which was held recently in Goa, the ambition of varied futures for the architectural profession that is currently fire-fighting on different fronts, it is a tall order. With 11 films, 26 speakers and 650 delegates, the conference was a response to "definitions of modern, modernity, and modernism" in the light of architecture and design in India.

The biennial conclave on contemporary

architecture at National Institute of Oceanography, Goa, was curated by Matter and organised in partnership with H&R Johnson (India) and Takshila Educational Society. Themed on Modern Heritage, the conference provoked issues about pedagogy and practice of architecture in India.

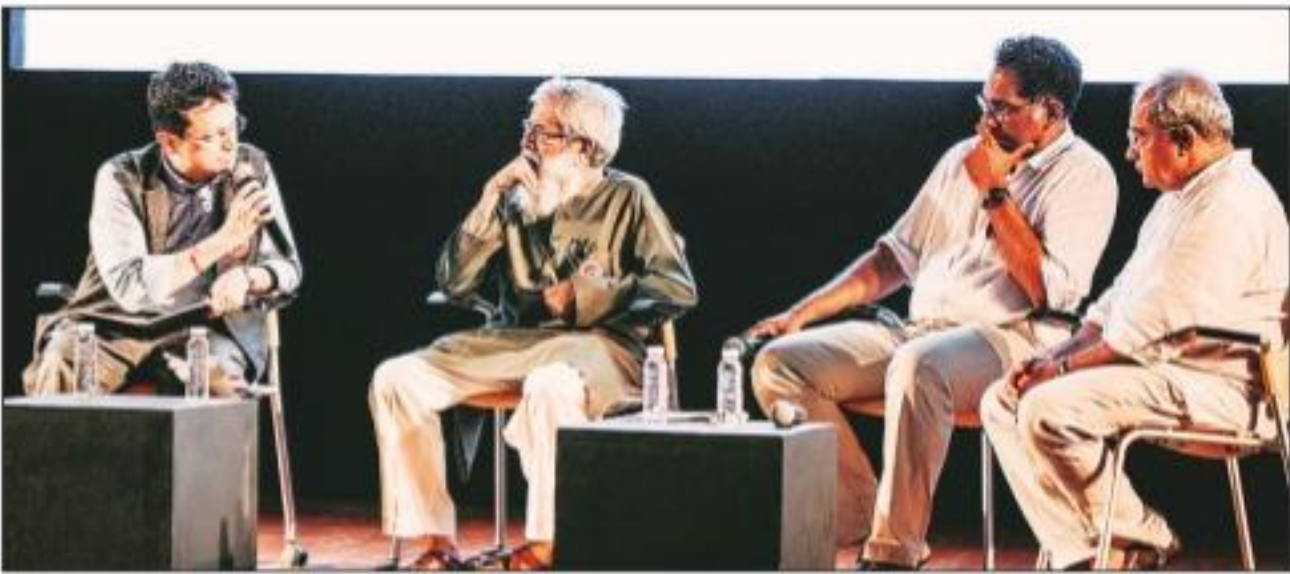
Be it the threat to modern buildings from Hall of Nations in Delhi to Kala Academy in Goa, to stories of nation building through the projects of Habib Rahman, Achyut Kanvinde and Mahendra Raj. "One of the agendas of the conclave was to instigate a shared sense of responsibility within the architecture and design fraternity towards a trusteeship of these buildings and to build consensus on their significance to the history of India," says Raturaj Parikh of Studio Matter.

Narratives around Gandhi and his version



Speakers during Frame Conclave 2019, which was held recently in Goa

of architecture as experiment and experience also made its way into discussions. Ahmedabad-based architect Riyaz Tayyibji, drawing parallels between Gandhi and Le Corbusier, says: "For Gandhi, a building is part of a larger 'spiritual' endeavour, it is an experiment in physically giving form to his ideas of the 'ashram', a place of collective experimentation on the self. I would say that



his buildings were made in a way that the behaviour precedes the physical in creating the sense of space, while Corbusier looked at the physical affecting the behaviour."

The handicap of the conference also was its biggest strength — architects speaking to architects: "it comes from a shared kinship based on professional experience and architectural education. The conference had one

too many talks on fathers and their sons speaking about their work, which is in some way an ancestral worship in an anthropological sense. But one question emerging from it was — who gets to think about architecture and how is it taught? In the absence of written architectural history, there is a need to archive and have empirical debates so that we find a way to synthesise the profession

and ideas around architecture," says art historian and critic Annapurna Garimella.

Bangalore-based architect Prem Chandavarkar, who gave the keynote address at the conclave, spoke of looking within to "touch the essential core of our humanness". "This lack of reflection reduces modern architecture to a visual spectacle, rather than the ethical project of freedom it initially set out to be. And since modernity was won by a rebellion against the strictures of tradition, now that modern buildings have been around for a long time, we lack a framework for absorbing them into our heritage," he says.

While architects such as Gaurav S, Chair of DoCoMoMo India, felt "We need to bring communities and people in the conversation and ensure that modern buildings are not merely objects or artefacts but that people's lives, their lived history and memories are integrated with them," architect-filmmaker Rohan Shivkumar questioned, "Is this a sign of our current impotency, or a rallying call for us to rediscover value systems through which we can participate in the processes of imagining a better spatial environment for us to live in?"



I am playing tennis because I love to play tennis. Tennis is more than Grand Slams. I play to be happy. Of course, the victory of today makes me super happy.”

RAFAEL NADAL,
ON THE 'MOST MAJORS' RACE

It's 20 19

With 7-5, 6-3, 5-7, 4-6, 6-4 win in US Open final, Nadal signs off 2019 with only one major title separating him from Federer's record of 20 Grand Slams

DAVID WALDSTEIN
NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 9

MOMENTS AFTER winning one of the most grueling tennis matches of his life, Rafael Nadal sat in his chair, a few tears streaming down his face while the large video screen showed highlights of his remarkable career.

When the camera shifted to a live shot of Nadal watching the tribute, the fans in Arthur Ashe Stadium roared and Nadal dropped his head into his hands. The trickle of tears turned into weeping.

Exhausted, overjoyed and relieved, the second-seeded Nadal needed every bit of his fighter's spirit to overcome No. 5 Daniil Medvedev, 7-5, 6-3, 5-7, 4-6, 6-4, in four hours and 50 minutes to win the United States Open for the fourth time and capture his 19th Grand Slam title in utterly gripping fashion.

On the final point, a service return by Medvedev that sailed long, Nadal collapsed on his back, lay spread eagle for several moments and screamed into the night air.

Marc Stein has covered Jordan. He's covered Kobe. And LeBron vs. the Warriors. Go behind the N.B.A.'s curtain with basketball's foremost expert.

One might think that winning so many major titles would become routine. But Nadal, 33, had to work as hard as he ever has, thanks to Medvedev's courageous comeback from being down two sets to none to force a fifth set. Afterward Nadal called it one of the most emotional moments of his career.

It was also one of the most compelling U.S. Open men's finals in recent years.

"The last three hours of the match were very, very intense, both mentally and physically," Nadal said. "At the end, with the video and the crowd, it was amazing. All these facts made the moment super special."

The 19 titles moved Nadal to within one of Roger Federer's men's record for major singles championships, and raised the specter that he could catch his 38-year-old rival as soon as next year.

For many years there was doubt about Nadal's ability to draw even with Federer, especially because he seemed injury prone. But durability has been a recent ally of Nadal's, and with his inexorable grip on the French Open, that doubt has been replaced by a whiff of inevitability.

In addition to his four U.S. Opens, Nadal has won 12 French Opens, two Wimbledon and one Australian Open. He is five years younger than Federer. Novak Djokovic is not out of the picture, either. He has 16 major titles, and at 32 is the youngest of the group.

When Djokovic is of sound body and mind, he is close to unbeatable. He showed that by winning four of the previous five majors, but he had to pull out of the U.S. Open in the fourth round because of a shoulder injury.

It is not unreasonable to project that, in the years to come, the order of the Big Three in the record books could be reversed. Nadal's win also extended the Big Three's streak of consecutive Grand Slam titles to 12, dating back to Stan Wawrinka's win at the 2016 U.S. Open.

"Well, we are getting old," Nadal said with a smile, and added, "That competition, if that attracts fans and creates interest for people, that's good for our sport, no? I feel honored to be part of this battle."

A promising future

Medvedev, a 23-year-old Russian playing his first Grand Slam final, came ever so close



Rafael Nadal reacts after defeating Daniil Medvedev of Russia in the men's final of the US Open at Arthur Ashe Stadium in New York on Sunday. Ben Solomon/The New York Times

to barging his way into the champions club. His pulsating effort Sunday transformed him, perhaps forever, from tournament villain to noble loser with a promising future.

During Medvedev's third-round match against Feliciano López, he was booed after he angrily snatched a towel from a ball person and then was shown on the court video screen gesturing with his middle finger. After that match, he taunted the ornery crowd by telling them its boos motivated him to win.

Medvedev, who had never reached even the fourth round of a major tournament until last week, was the best player on tour during the summer hardcourt season, reaching four straight finals and going 20-3.

Medvedev is a frustrating opponent who capitalizes on unpredictability with a variety of shots, mixing speeds, spins and drop shots along with a hard, flat backhand. But when he was down two sets and a service break in the third Sunday, the tactical thought foremost on his mind was how would he handle his postmatch loser's interview.

"I was thinking, 'O.K., in 20 minutes I have to give a speech. What do I say?'" Medvedev recalled.

Playing with newfound abandon, he discovered a different gear, turning a potential

route into a battle of attrition. He broke back against the surprised Nadal and then held for 4-3. Nadal had two break points at 4-4, but Medvedev fought them off, the highlight a 28-shot rally that took both players to and fro until Nadal hit a forehand into the net.

That elicited cheers from the fans, who chanted Medvedev's name just a week after his brief villainous turn, and he rode the momentum almost until the very end of the match, which required 341 total points.

"I managed to give huge fight to one of the best players in the history of our sport," he said. "Have to give myself credit."

With Nadal serving at 5-6 in the third set, Medvedev won the first three points, including a sizzling forehand down the line at 0-15 that signaled his new aggressive intent and caused the crowd to erupt. Then, at 15-40, he charged in to hit a backhand winner and take the set.

In the fourth set, Medvedev started to serve-and-volley more to shorten rallies, but the set proceeded on serve until the 10th game. With Nadal serving at 4-5, Medvedev sealed the 52-minute set with a return winner, snapping a backhand down the line past an approaching Nadal.

Medvedev had chances to pull ahead

early in the fifth set, earning three break points in Nadal's first service game, all of which Nadal saved by summoning his experience and strength. But he admitted he was worried about the outcome.

"I was in trouble," Nadal said. "But I really tried to avoid this thought."

Nadal broke Medvedev's for 3-2 and then went up 5-2, but the drama was not over. Nadal was called for a time violation and double-faulted on break point, giving Medvedev one last chance. Medvedev saved two match points and held for 4-5, and the match was on Nadal's racket again.

Nadal faced down a break point, and then at deuce he carved out a nervy forehand slice drop shot to give him his third match point. He fired a 124-mile-per-hour serve that Medvedev returned long, and Nadal fell on his back for 12 long seconds.

All that was left was a well-earned handshake, a standing ovation for two worthy competitors, and some tears.

"This trophy means everything to me," Nadal said. "Personal satisfaction, the way that I resisted all these tough moments, is very high. I normally try to hold the emotions, but for all these facts, it was impossible today."

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Medvedev: Villain to hero

New York: Daniil Medvedev once revelled in his role as the villain of Flushing Meadows but on Sunday the Russian completed his transformation to unlikely hero after taking Rafa Nadal the distance in a pulsating US Open final. Despite losing to the Spaniard in a five-set thriller, Medvedev's performance suggests more Grand Slam finals are in his future and that he could be a genuine challenger to the 'Big Three' — Nadal, Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic.

The 23-year-old Russian, who had got on the wrong side of fans at Flushing Meadows with a string of on-court antics, arrived at his maiden Grand Slam final to a chorus of boos. However, he gradually won over the Arthur Ashe Stadium crowd as the match wore on, showing heart and skill in abundance.

"I know earlier in the tournament I said something in kind of a bad way and now I'm saying it in a good way: That it's because of your energy that I'm in the final," said Medvedev. "You guys were pushing me to prolong this match because you want to see more tennis and because of you guys I was fighting like hell."

Medvedev became the player fans loved



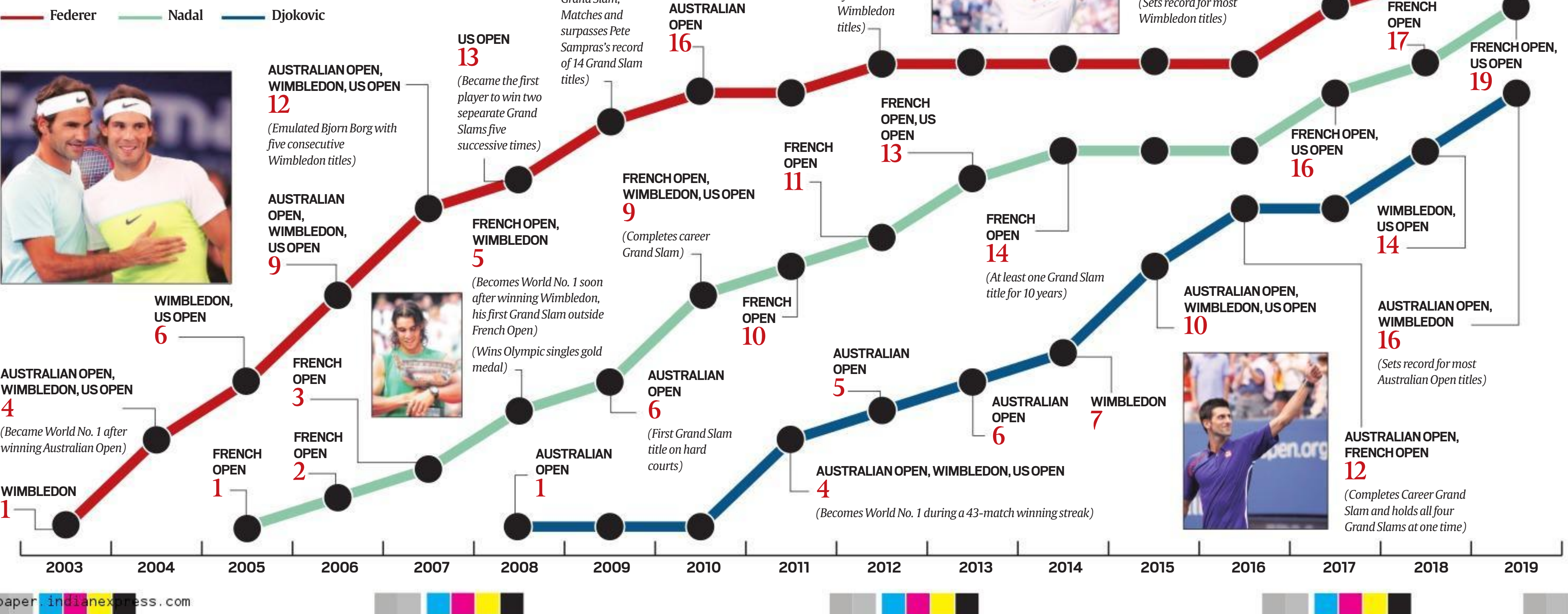
Medvedev showed fight and skill in abundance in his five-set loss to Nadal.

to hate when he angrily snatched a towel from a ballperson in his third round match and showed the crowd his middle finger. He then sarcastically thanked the crowd after the match, saying, "the energy you're giving me right now, guys, I think it will be enough for my next five matches."

However, a contrite Medvedev later said he regretted his behaviour and apologised for the animosity, telling the crowd after his quarter-final victory over Stan Wawrinka that "what I've done is not good". REUTERS

US reopens G.O.A.T debate

At 19 Slam titles, Nadal, who is 33 years old, has never been this close to Federer, who's 38. Meanwhile, the 32-year-old Djokovic (16 titles) too is hot on their heels.



Malinga, Mathews among 10 Lankan players opt out of Pakistan tour

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
SEPTEMBER 9

ABOUT A fortnight after the Indian tennis team refused to travel to Pakistan for their Asia/Oceania Group I Davis Cup tie citing security concerns, 10 frontline Sri Lankan cricketers have decided not to go to Pakistan for the forthcoming limited-overs series.

Lasith Malinga, Angelo Mathews, Dimuth Karunaratne, Dinesh Chandimal, Thisara Perera, Suranga Lakmal, Niroshan Dickwella, Kusal Perera, Dhananjaya de Silva and Akila Dananjaya have pulled out of the limited-overs tour, putting a serious question mark over international cricket's unhindered return to Pakistan and also upsetting the Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) plans to host the World Test Championship matches at home rather than in UAE.

When contacted by *The Indian Express*,

PCB chairman Ehsan Mani refused to comment on the development. "We are in touch with the Sri Lankan board, but basically I cannot say anything at the moment," he told this paper.

Although, the Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) was satisfied with the security arrangements for the tour, it has decided to respect the players' wishes. Following a meeting with the players on Monday, an SLC release confirmed that the cricketers won't face any disciplinary action. Nor will their decision to pull out jeopardise their selection for future series. Notably, both Karunaratne and Malinga, Sri Lanka's ODI and T20 skippers respectively, have refused to travel to Pakistan.

"Former Sri Lanka Air Force Commander, Marshal Air Roshan Goonetilleke, who is the Chief Security Advisor of the SLC, briefed the players about the security situation in Pakistan and the security arrangements PCB plans on implementing during Sri Lanka



The SLC board said it won't take any disciplinary action against its players.

As of now, Sri Lanka are scheduled to play three ODIs against Pakistan in Karachi on September 27, 29 and October 2, and three T20Is in Lahore on October 5, 7 and 9.

team's tour of that country, whilst Chairman of the National Selection Panel Mr. Asantha De Mel, explained about the selection policy for future tours," the SLC release stated, adding: "He (De Mel) said, players will be given the freedom to decide on either taking part or not in the forthcoming Pakistan tour.

The SLC mentioned that following the meeting with the players, the national selectors have picked the ODI and T20I squads that will be sent for Sri Lankan Sports Minister

Harin Fernando's approval.

Meanwhile, the BBC Sinhala Service has quoted the Sri Lankan Sports Minister as saying: "I have been told by some of the players that they cannot participate after their families raised concerns."

As of now, Sri Lanka are scheduled to play three ODIs against Pakistan in Karachi on September 27, 29 and October 2, and three T20 internationals in Lahore on October 5, 7 and 9. However, it would be interesting to see if the PCB is willing to host a weakened Sri Lankan side, as it might have negative commercial implications. At the same time, the cancellation of the series could even have diplomatic implications.

With regards to Test cricket's return to Pakistan, this is apparently a big setback for the PCB. Pakistan are scheduled to host Sri Lanka for the World Test Championship matches in December. The PCB wanted to use the forthcoming limited-overs series to make

a statement; that Pakistan is a safe place to play international cricket. The latest development could seriously upset the apple cart.

The Sri Lankan team had been at the receiving end of the March 3, 2009 Lahore attack, an incident that took international cricket away from Pakistan. But Sri Lanka, led by Thisara Perera, had travelled to Pakistan in 2017 to play a one-off T20 international. This time though, the senior allrounder, too, has opted out.

It is learnt that during its discussion with the Sri Lankan board, the PCB will stress on how it stood by Sri Lankan cricket after this year's Easter attacks on the island nation by sending the Pakistan U-19 team there to play five one-dayers. And while reaffirming the top-level security arrangements, the PCB will also request its Sri Lankan counterpart to persuade the unwilling cricketers to have a rethink. Hectic parleys between the two cricket boards are expected in the next few days.

BRIEFLY

Gill, Thakur put India A in command

YOUNG SHUBMAN Gill was back in form with an unbeaten 66 after bowlers set the platform, dismissing the visiting side for 164 on the first day of the 'Unofficial' Test here on Monday. Gill, who has been an opener for Punjab in the longer format, played out Lungi Ngidi's (1/18 in 6 overs) first spell as he faced 108 balls, hitting nine fours and a six as India A were in command reaching 129 for 2 at stumps. With India looking out for an opener who can replace an out-of-form KL Rahul, a big innings from Gill, will put him in contention alongside Abhimanyu Easwaran and Priyank Panchal. The youngster had two steady partnerships -- 48 for the opening wicket with Ruturaj Gaikwad (30) and 56 for the second wicket with Ricky Bhui (26).

India off and running at Track Asia Cup

India made a bumper start to its Track Asia Cup campaign winning 12 medals, including four gold, in a complete show of dominance here on Monday. It was the the world-class junior team which stood up to the expectations and captured the gold in men's junior team sprint event. The women's junior and elite teams also shone and returned with two gold medals. Ronaldo Laitonjam stole the show for India as the junior world champion won two gold medals in one day. He first helped junior men's team to win the gold in sprint event and then returned to finish the day with the yellow metal in the 1 KM time trial event at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium.

Mukhi cleared to play after serving ban

The All Indian Football Federation (AIFF) Disciplinary Committee on Monday cleared Indian forward Gourav Mukhi for fresh registration after he completed a six-month suspension for discrepancy in his registered age. Confirming this, AIFF Disciplinary Committee chairman Usha Nath Banerjee told PTI: "He had applied for fresh registration after complying with the six-month ban providing correct birth certificate. After verification, the committee cleared him for fresh registration today. He's now eligible to play." The Jharkhand player was announced as youngest ever goal-scorer (16-year-old) in the Indian Super League history after he scored in Jamshedpur FC's 2-2 draw with Bengaluru FC last season.

PTI

Afghans storm Bangla citadel

Newcomers beat hosts and weather to clinch landmark victory, their second in three games since getting Test status



Rashid Khan took six for 49 in the second innings to finish with 11 wickets in the match to go with his knock of 51 with the bat in the first innings. Twitter: @ACBofficials

REUTERS
SEPTEMBER 9

RASHID KHAN picked up six second innings wickets to lead Afghanistan to a famous 224-run win over Bangladesh in the maiden test match between the two sides at Chattogram on Monday.

Racing against time to complete a win with less than four overs left in the weather-hit match, the longest-format rookies bundled out the hosts for 173 in their second innings amid a drizzle and fading light. The 20-year-old Rashid, who became the youngest test captain ever during the one-off match, took six for 49 in the second innings to finish with 11 wickets in the match to go with his knock of 51 with the bat in the first innings.

Rashid was adjudged the player of the match, which he dedicated to fellow spinner and former captain Mohammad Nabi who retired from tests but will continue to play white-ball cricket.

Rashid and Nabi, who took 3-56 in the first innings, then combined to skittle Bangladesh for 205 for a handy first innings lead. Afghanistan then made 260 in their second innings to set Bangladesh a steep target to chase on a spinning track.

Once Afghanistan reduced Bangladesh to

Rashid was adjudged the player of the match, which he dedicated to fellow spinner and former captain Mohammad Nabi who retired from tests but will continue to play white-ball cricket.

for this victory," Rashid said at the presentation ceremony. "We had the best preparation for this game. The only thing (I said) from my side was enjoy your bowling and enjoy your batting, that's what matters in test cricket. Everyone applied themselves, it was a total team effort."

Rahmat Shah's 102 - the first century in the format by an Afghanistan batsman - and a 92 from Asghar Afghan allowed the touring side to post 342 in the first innings.

Rashid and Nabi, who took 3-56 in the first innings, then combined to skittle Bangladesh for 205 for a handy first innings lead. Afghanistan then made 260 in their second innings to set Bangladesh a steep target to chase on a spinning track.

Once Afghanistan reduced Bangladesh to

NUMBER GAME

1 Afghanistan captain Rashid Khan is the first player to score a half-century and take 11 wickets on his debut as a captain.

1 Bangladesh became the first team to lose a Test against 10 different nations.

Number of matches to register their second Test win:

Australia	3
Afghanistan	3
England	4
Pakistan	9
West Indies	12
South Africa	13
Sri Lanka	20
India	30
Zimbabwe	31
New Zealand	55
Bangladesh	60

136-6 in the second innings, the fate of the match was almost decided but for the intervention of bad weather.

Heavy showers allowed little play through the final day leaving Afghanistan with about 18.3 overs in the final session to take the remaining four wickets and force a result. Rashid took three out of those with just 3.2 overs remaining.

It was a disappointing result for Bangladesh, who made their debut in the format way back in 2000. "It's combination of both, (lack of) application of our batsmen and Afghanistan also bowled really well," skipper and batting mainstay Shakib Al Hasan said. "All credit goes to Afghanistan but at the same time we also have to do a lot of work hard. After playing for 20 years, we cannot say it's a build-up process. We need to forget this match as soon as possible and focus on the T20 series."

BRIEF SCORES: Afghanistan first innings 342 all out (Rahmat Shah 102, Asghar Afghan 92, Rashid Khan 51; Taijul Islam 4-116) and 260 all out (Ibrahim Zadran 87, Asghar Afgan 50; Shakib Al Hasan 3-58) vs Bangladesh first innings 205 (Mominul Haque 52; Rashid Khan 5-55, Mohammad Nabi 3-56) and 173 in 61.2 overs (Rashid Khan 6-49, Zahir Khan 3-59).

Men face minnows Russia, women US test

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
SEPTEMBER 9

ONE WILL face a team that finished fifth at the Rio Olympics, and fourth at the 2014 World Cup. The other will be up against the lowest-ranked side in the draw that was included in it barely 24 hours before it took place.

The Indian women and men's hockey teams were, on Monday, handed contrasting paths to the Tokyo Games. While the women were pitted against a tricky USA, a side ranked just two places below them, the men will play minnows Russia in their quest to seal an Olympics berth. The teams will face off in a winner-takes-all two-match series in Bhubaneswar in early November. The matches will be played in India because, as per the rules, the qualifiers are to be held at the home of the higher-ranked team.

Both Indian teams find themselves in the qualifying draw after they failed to win the Asian Games gold medal last year, which would have secured a direct Olympic berth. While the men's team could manage just a bronze in Jakarta, the women reached their first final in 20 years but lost to 2020 Games hosts Japan to settle for silver.

Russia, ranked 22 in the world, were not just the lowest-ranked team in the draw held in Lausanne, but were also last-minute entrants. It was only after Egypt withdrew from



India beat Russia 10-0 the last time they met in the Olympic qualifiers in June.

the qualifiers on Sunday that Russia were included since they were the next highest-ranked team. The lopsided nature of this context can be gauged from the fact that when the two teams met last, in the first round of Olympics qualifiers in June, India spanked Russia 10-0. Graham Reid's team faced the possibility of being drawn against Pakistan as they were also in the same half; with Austria being the third side. India were among the top three seeded countries along with the Netherlands

and Germany, and were up against the three lowest-placed sides. Pakistan, who failed to qualify for the Rio Olympics and looked certain to miss out again next year due to financial troubles, will have to take on the mighty Dutch for a place at the Games.

While the path looks straightforward for the men's team, the women's team will have to dig deep to make a second consecutive appearance at the Olympics. The Rani Rampal-led side ended a 36-year wait in 2016 to return

to the Olympic fold but finished last in the 12-team event. They'd met USA in a round robin match, which they lost 3-0. USA eventually lost to Germany in the quarterfinals.

Since then, both teams have sort of undergone a reversal of fortunes. The USA have hit a lean patch, reinforced by their failure to win the Pan-American Championship after claiming gold in the last two editions. Their poor form in the continental tournament, where they eventually settled for bronze, meant they could not book a direct Olympic berth and were forced to go through the tricky business of qualifiers.

Their opponents and hosts India, meanwhile, have shown considerable progress since the Olympics. Coached by Dutchman Sjoerd Marjine, the women have been in the top 10 of the world after spending several years in wilderness. They have also become a dominant force in Asia, where they've consistently given China, Japan and South Korea a run for their money. Marjine, in his two stints as coach, has made visible improvements in the team's strength and fitness, which was apparent in last year's World Cup where India narrowly missed out on a semifinal berth.

This match will be a battle of equals and will be the pick of the women's matches along with China vs Belgium. In the men's draw, the matches between Spain and France, who created a stir at the World Cup, and Great Britain and Malaysia will be keenly contested.

Chhetri doubtful for Cup qualifier against Qatar

ENS/PTI
DOHA, SEPTEMBER 9

A HEART-BREAKING loss in the campaign-opener has dented their chances of moving ahead and the Indian football team faces another uphill task when it takes on Asian champions Qatar in the second World Cup qualifier on Tuesday.

To make matters tougher for India, captain Sunil Chhetri is unlikely to be part of the playing 11 on Tuesday due to fever. He has not practiced with the team in the last two days and a final call will be taken by the team management on matchday. India let in two goals in the last eight minutes after taking an early lead to lose their opening match against Oman on September 5 in Guwahati.

Ranked 62nd in the world, Qatar will start Tuesday's Group E match against 103-ranked India as overwhelming favourites. They will look to claim their second consecutive win after crushing Afghanistan 6-0 in their opening match on September 5 here.

The World Cup hosts have improved by leaps and bounds in the last few years. They won the Asian Cup in the UAE earlier this year and they gave good competition to the top South American sides in the recent Copa

America where they took part on invitation.

India have also shown improvement in recent times as was seen during the Asian Cup in January where they gave scares to the likes of the UAE and Bahrain and missed qualifying for the knock-out round by a whisker. Historically, Qatar have been the dominant side, having won three out of four official matches played against India. One match ended in a draw. The last time the two sides played an official match was in September 2007 in the World Cup qualifiers where Qatar had thrashed India 6-0.

India defeated Qatar 2-1 in Doha in 2011 in a friendly but that match was not considered an official game as India made more substitutions than the rules allowed.

In the match against Oman in Guwahati on September 5, India clearly dominated the first half with a 1-0 lead only to concede goals in the 82nd and 90th minute to suffer a heart-breaking loss. Captain Sunil Chhetri, who scored the lone Indian goal against Oman in the 24th minute, conceded that Tuesday's match will be the most difficult of the campaign. "We are, however, looking forward to it...there will be a fight, no matter who we play. We have to make sure we don't repeat the small mistakes that cost us three points (against Oman)," the 35-year-old talisman said.

Hima in relay squad, but with a caveat

400m champion's participation at the World Championship in Doha is subject to recovery from longstanding back injury

NIHAL KOSHIE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 9

HIMA DAS, the World Under-20 400m champion, has been pencilled in the women and mixed 4x400m squad for the World Championships yet her participation hinges on her recovery from the long-standing back injury and how it would affect her timings in the team events. The injury has troubled the 19-year-old since last year's Asian Games and will be monitored right till the eve of the relay events at the Doha World Championships starting later this month.

A decision on Hima running the relays will be taken based on the feedback from sports medicine experts monitoring her, Athletics Federation of India (AFI) president Adille Sumariwalla told *The Indian Express* on Monday.

"At this point, we're trying to figure out (how her back is). We have a sports medicine expert with her (at the foreign camp) and will take a final call on her later. Of course, she continues to have the back issue. That is why coach Galina (Bukharina) made her run these smaller events to access how her back was. It is ok when she is running at a slower pace, the problem is when she is running at a faster pace. We need to see if she can take the strain of a fast run because this is the world championships and not a small championship in the Czech Republic or Poland," Sumariwalla said. At the Asian Athletics Championships in Doha in April, Hima didn't finish the 400m heats because the back flared up when she was on track and the AFI doesn't want to take a risk in a team event at the World Championships.

Between July 2 and July 20, Hima won four gold medals in the 200m and one in 400m at lower-level races in Europe. In mid-August, at Nove Mesto in the Czech Republic, she won gold in the 300 metres.

The 400 metres world under-20 champion, however, failed to meet the qualifying standard in her favourite event. To qualify Hima needed to clock 51.80 seconds, but the back injury seems to have put paid to her plans as her season's best stands at 52.09, down from her personal best and national record – 50.79.



A decision on Hima's participation will be taken based on the feedback from sports medicine experts monitoring her. *File*

"She has been running in the 52s (seconds) and see what happened in Doha, we don't want her sitting down at 200 metres. Her back is now being monitored. Closer to the World Championships, a call will be taken if she will be fielded in the relay team," Sumariwalla added. In all, 14 athletes have been picked for the men, women and mixed relay squads for the 4x400m relay.

Neeraj unlikely to go

The selection committee also deliber-

ated on the status of another star athlete, javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games champion, who had undergone an elbow surgery in May.

During the qualifying window, which began on September 7 last year, Chopra had registered a distance of 83.90 metres at the All India Inter-Services Athletics Championships in Jalahalli and had met the qualifying standard. However, at the selection committee meeting on Monday, it was decided not to risk fielding Chopra

as he had just started throwing in late August.

"In Chopra's case, the conclusion was that at this point we would like to preserve him for the Olympic Games and make sure that he completely recovers. He has just started throwing so we will talk to his doctors, but from the initial reports we have, the consensus is that it's too early for him to throw. At this point, it is unlikely he will go. The whole selection committee felt that he should recover fully, strengthen himself and target the Olympic Games,"

Jorginho edges Italy closer to Euro 2020 with Finland victory

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
TAMPERE (FINLAND), SEPTEMBER 9

JORGINHO FIRED Italy to within touching distance of Euro 2020 with a spot-kick winner that beat nearest rivals Finland 2-1 on Sunday and maintained his side's perfect qualifying record. Chelsea midfielder Jorginho's 79th-minute penalty in Tampere made it six wins from six for Roberto Mancini's side and sent them six points clear of the second-placed Finns in Group J, after in-form Norwich City striker Teemu Pukki had levelled Ciro Immobile's headed opener with a penalty of his own six minutes before.

With two teams qualifying from the group, four-time world champions Italy are flying high with a maximum 18 points with four qualifying games to play, nine points ahead of third-placed Armenia despite their thrilling 4-2 win over Bosnia and Herzegovina earlier on Sunday.

They could now secure qualification for the tournament, which kicks off in Rome next June, against Greece or Liechtenstein — who surprisingly drew in Athens — next month. "The match against Greece could be the one that secures qualification and we hope the Stadio Olimpico will be as full as during the 1990 World Cup when we were young," said Italy coach Roberto Mancini.

Former Italy international Mancini took over last year after the Azzurri's failure to qualify for the 2018 World Cup. "There was a bit of suffering, but we dominated the game," he added. "The lads did very well overall, although we had a few scares when it was 1-1." "But there were so many things that I liked, dominating away from home every time is very positive and even the substitutes did very well, having more players to choose I think is fundamental."

"Our nature is to always attack, you could see that tonight, giving very little to our rivals." Finland — bidding to qualify for the European Championship for the first time — have lost both their matches to the Italians after also falling 2-0 in Udine last March.

European clubs divided over CL reform

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
LAUSANNE, SEPTEMBER 9

THE BATTLE over the future of the Champions League will resume on Monday and Tuesday when the European Club Association (ECA) meets in Geneva and the leadership faces rebellion from members. ECA, led by Juventus chairman Andrea Agnelli, is closely involved in proposals to reshape Europe's main club competition from 2024.

The proposals were presented by European football's governing body UEFA in May although details had leaked earlier. The reforms include the introduction of weekend fixtures, four groups of eight, and a tiered system with relegation and promotion that would see the top six teams in each group automatically qualify for the following year's competition.

ECA, which boasts of "more than 230 members", faced an outcry from many of those clubs and from national leagues which would be hit hard by the scheme.

"A semi-closed league with more matches... threatens to enormously impoverish the Spanish league," said Javier Tebas of La Liga. England's Premier League issued a statement saying: "The domestic game should continue to be the priority for professional clubs."

Opponents say the plan is designed to guarantee the income of a handful of big clubs. "This reform would especially harm medium and small clubs," said Wanja Greuel, the president

of Young Boys of Berne, the reigning Swiss champions.

"It eliminates the access to the top flight of European competitions through domestic leagues. Fans will gradually lose interest in domestic leagues and those leagues would be further economically damaged."

"Last month UEFA announced it was cancelling a meeting with the ECA and the European Leagues, a wider body representing more than 900 European clubs, scheduled for September 11."

It will kill the dream

UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin said he wanted to "collect feedback" from member federations. The cancellation of the meeting "reveals strong opposition," said Bernard Caiazzo, president of French Ligue 1 club Saint Etienne, who are outspoken opponents of the plan. "When you close the supreme competition to 90 percent of clubs, you kill the dream for a middle-sized club reaching it," said Caiazzo. He gives the example of Lille, who dramatically improved last season, finished as French league runners up, but who from 2024 "could no longer experience this fairytale of moving from 17th place in Ligue 1 to the Champions League in the space of 14 months".

On Friday, both UEFA and the ECA struck a cautious note. "We need to take into consideration the clubs' feedback," ECA secretary general Michele Centenaro said.

"Domestic football (leagues) must be pro-

TECTED and, at the same time, we must try to better reward European cup performances," UEFA's Director of Competitions Giorgio Marchetti said there was "no pressure to make a decision" and discussions would continue into 2020.

Both UEFA and ECA both regularly deny patermity of the project.

According to a source close to the talks, however, the reform is the responsibility of Marchetti, who was general secretary of the Italian league before joining UEFA, in collaboration with his ECA counterpart, Belgium's Diederik Dewaele, who was previously with UEFA. The clubs are playing the same ambiguous game, a source said.

"Five or six large influential European clubs within the ECA have a large part in the reform proposal but each tries to get it endorsed by the other so as not to lose credibility."

Among these are Agnelli's Juventus and other big clubs worried that income from the domestic leagues they dominate will stagnate. "It's interesting to PSG because it creates wealth for all of football," said Victoriano Melero of Paris Saint-Germain.

Barcelona and Ajax are in favour. Real Madrid are reportedly backers as well. Smaller clubs on the ECA executive — Lyon, HJK Helsinki and Legia Warsaw — are also in favour. Marseille are also supporters.

Other big clubs have been cagey. In Italy, Roma and the two Milan clubs abstained in an Italian league vote on the plan.

he said. "I think that's the most important point for the team. "So in hindsight I didn't have to do that (let him overtake)," he smiled.

'Reclerc' Ferarri favourite

Sebastian Vettel was supposed to be the man to follow in Michael Schumacher's footsteps at Ferrari but the heir apparent to the master of Maranello is looking more and more like Charles Leclerc.

The 21-year-old Monegasque's victory at the Italian Grand Prix on Sunday triggered scenes of intense emotion at Ferrari's home race and catapulted Leclerc ahead of Vettel in the standings. The newspaper headline writers left no doubt about the prevailing sentiment on Monday. "Reclerc" declared the front page of the daily *Gazzetta dello Sport*, playing on the Monegasque's surname with the Italian word for king and announcing the coronation of the team's 'little prince'. Vettel, a four times world champion who endured a bleak afternoon at Monza and was lapped by his team mate after collecting a 10 second stop/go penalty for dangerous driving, was highlighted as a man in crisis.

season on the podium. "There is absolutely zero issue with us, I think he did an exceptional job today," Hamilton told reporters after the race when asked about the incident.

"If we get a moment together we might chat for a second and just reverse roles and make sure he's cool with it if I'm in that position and that happens."

"If that's cool, then that's how we are racing," Hamilton said he respected Leclerc but he was still discovering more about how the youngster, in only his second season and first with Ferrari, behaved on track.

"Charles is one of the most respectful drivers," he added. "This is today the first time I've really come wheel to wheel with him as such and when you arrive at a new driver you learn how they approach different scenarios." "Maybe I'll position the car differently next time, maybe I'll do a better job."

Bottas, who pitted later and had fresher tyres than Hamilton at the end, moved into second place after Hamilton went straight at the chicane. The Briton said he would have let the Finn go past otherwise.

"I knew that he was much, much quicker and had a shot to potentially win the race,"

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