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THE SUNDAY EXPRESS MAGAZINE
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SUNDAY STORY
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Spy and the Son

BIG PICTURE
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1 in 25 lakh

ANNUAL SHOPPING FEST LIKE DUBAI'S AMONG NEW MEASURES

Govt targets flagging export, housing sectors, unveils Rs 70,000 cr 'boost'

Priority sector tag for export credit; corpus for housing projects that are stuck

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

THE CENTRE Saturday announced a fresh set of measures aimed at two flagging sectors of the economy, exports and housing, in a bid to reverse a deepening economic downturn.

The measures, announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, include helping affordable housing projects stuck for want of last-mile funding but not categorised as Non Performing Assets (NPAs) and a corpus of around Rs 20,000 crore for last-mile funding of these projects.

Priority sector tag for export credit was also announced along with overhaul of the tax refund schemes for exporters to replace the existing Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS), which will cost the exchequer about Rs 50,000 crore per year, roughly the same outgo on the existing scheme.

Industry players and experts

Sitharaman addressing the press Saturday. *Tashi Tobgyal*

are of the view that while the priority sector status to exports will provide some relief to exporters, it is unlikely to have a significant impact on Indian export growth, which responds more to global demand. The package involving last-mile funding for housing projects, which the government says could benefit an estimated 3.5 lakh dwelling units, was under consideration during the budget as well.

The FM also announced that India will now have an annual shopping festival on the lines of the one hosted by Dubai.

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EXPLAINED E.

Sends the right message

THE measures to boost exports will impart momentum to this key engine of growth that fell to a 25-quarter low in April-June. While global environment remains tense, the government making trade a priority should help.

Shopian villagers line up at DC's office to ask about their young men

ADIL AKHZER, BASHAARAT MASOOD & P VAIDYANATHAN IYER
SHOPIAN, SEPTEMBER 14

WHEN DOWNED shutters and empty streets are what defines public space, the sight of a crowd gathered at a government office is odd — and telling.

A group of around 30, all men, almost all of them elderly, have gathered at the sprawling Shopian district headquarters on Thursday.

Among them, they say, they represent almost every household in the nearby village of Sindhu Shirmal. They arrived here an hour or so ago when the office opened and are waiting to meet Deputy Commissioner Yasin Choudhary. Shopian tops the list of districts in the Valley with the largest number of persons — more than 40 — detained under the Public Safety Act, and sent to jails in other states.

A day earlier, five youngsters and three elderly were picked up from Sindhu Shirmal.

The villagers, who refuse to be named, plead with the DC to help them. Choudhary is wrapping up another urgent business: with apple harvest season on the horizon, he is coordinating with growers on procurement of the fruit by NAFED at minimum support price, that has been just announced by the government.

Located about 51 km from Srinagar, Shopian in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

CHINMAYANAND CASE

'I was taken to his room, whole college knew'

MAULSHREE SETH
SHAHJAHANPUR, SEPT 14

THE 23-year-old woman who has accused Swami Chinmayanand of raping and sexually harassing her for over a year says she has at least 35 incriminating videos of the former BJP MP. Speaking to *The Sunday Express*, the woman said it is with these videos that she hoped to get justice.

The woman said she wore spectacles with a hidden camera whenever she was called to Chinmayanand's residence on-her college campus to give him a "massage". Chinmayanand is the chairman of the college where she is a second-year Masters student in law.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Before UNGA, Trump may go to Houston for meeting with Modi

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump may travel to Houston, the energy capital of the world, for a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 22, *The Sunday Express* has learnt.

Modi has mainly two engagements in Houston — addressing the NRI community at a stadium and a roundtable meeting with CEOs and top executives of US energy companies.

Before arriving in New York for the UN General Assembly, 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, a Houston-based non-profit.

New Delhi and Washington are exploring the possibility of Trump attending both these events or at least one of them. If he attends the diaspora event, which is expected to be a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

'Go way of China or democracy? India policy will decide Net fate'

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

INDIA, THE US and Europe would be architects of the new rules of Internet and these "three planets" will determine if the world will head for a open or closed Web, former deputy prime minister of the United Kingdom Nick Clegg said.

Now the Vice-President for Global Affairs and Communications at Facebook, Clegg was speaking at the Express Adda here Friday evening (detailed transcript will be published soon).

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Nick Clegg, former dy PM of UK, Facebook executive, at Express Adda. *Neeraj Priyadarshi*

Clegg joined Facebook last year against the backdrop of the social media giant facing immense pressure over issues like bypassing of government regulation, data protection and fake news. His visit to India comes at

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Shah bats for Hindi as 'language of country'; Oppn warns of strife

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

UNION HOME Minister Amit Shah triggered a political row on Saturday calling for 'One Nation, One Language', while stressing Hindi as his choice. Speaking on the occasion of Hindi Diwas, Shah said it was important that the country had one language reflecting its identity, and said only Hindi could unite the nation.

Even though Shah also said that promotion of Hindi would

At Hindi Diwas event with author Ashok Chakradhar

not be at the cost of local languages, his statement drew a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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WEB EXCLUSIVE

OPINION: WHY TAMIL NADU'S CUTOUT CULTURE WILL BE HARD TO CUT AWAY FROM
The death of a young woman, Subhashri, is not the right time to digress on the social practice of cutouts and banners in Tamil Nadu...In this age of information overload, it is apt to recall that the 23-year-old died when a truck ran over her on a busy Chennai road after she fell off her scooter as a cutout fell on her

VIDEO OF THE DAY

TIMELINE: TABREZ ANSARI LYNCHING CASE
He was allegedly assaulted and forced to chant "Jai Shri Ram"

FULL COVERAGE

SITHARAMAN ON HOUSING PROJECTS
Announces Rs 10,000 cr special window for completion of projects

EXPRESS AUDIO
Why a draw against Qatar is really a win for Indian football
NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY
In this episode of Express Sports, we look at why India's draw against Qatar is a big deal and what it says about the progress Indian football has made

FROM PAGE ONE

Govt 'boost'

This annual shopping festival, likely to begin from March 2020, will be held in four Indian cities and the focus areas would include gems and jewellery, textiles and leather, said Sitharaman.

Alongside these measures, a provision for higher insurance cover on exports by Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), monitoring of export finance credit by an inter ministerial group on a weekly basis, faster turnaround time at Indian ports and maximum utilisation of concessional tariffs under existing Free Trade Agreements were also announced to promote exports.

Sitharaman said the government will "continue doing structural reforms" and that economic growth is expected to improve in the next quarter. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) fell to a 25-quarter low of 5% in April-June.

For the affordable housing sector, the government announced a special fund with Rs 10,000 crore equity contribution from the Centre and a similar amount by the private sector. This fund will provide last-mile credit to stuck projects which are non-NPA and not undergoing resolution under the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and are net worth positive.

Economic Affairs Secretary Atanu Chakraborty said an estimated 3.5 lakh dwelling units will fall under such a category across India, and these projects can benefit from this fund. "If they (projects) are already in NCLT, they will decide on how those (projects) will be resolved," Sitharaman said to repeated queries on how the government will resolve such stuck projects.

"As per our study, majority of the funding is required by projects that are at around 25% per cent completion stage. As per our estimates, around 50,000-60,000 will be eligible from this kind of funding from the government," said Pankaj Kapoor, Founder and MD, Liases Foras Real Estate Rating & Research Pvt Ltd.

Others felt the measures may not benefit the industry in a big way. Jaxay Shah, National Chairman, real estate industry body CREDAI said the government has just touched the tip of the surface with the recent announcements. "They are not realising the gravity of the situation. Real estate industry is the second largest contributor to our GDP and creates millions of employment opportunities...We all are working towards realising the Prime Minster's dream for housing for all by 2022 but it is becoming challenging if requisite policy reforms will not be announced," said Shah.

The Finance Ministry, in consultations with the RBI, will announce further relaxation in external commercial borrowings norms for the affordable housing segment. The interest rate on house building advance to government employees will be lowered and linked with yields on government securities. A ten year benchmark bond has yield of around 6.6 per cent at present, which could help lower interest costs on home loans for government employees from the present market rate of over 8.1 per cent.

On the exports front, a new scheme called Remission of Duties or Taxes on Export Product (RODTEP) will replace the MEIS under the Foreign Trade Policy of India (FTP 2015-20). The MEIS and other schemes will continue for the textile sector until December 30, 2019.

All sectors including textiles will migrate into RODTEP from January 1, 2020. Under the RODTEP scheme, the government will remit all taxes and duties paid by exporters. MEIS, which provides incentive in the form of duty credit scrip to exporters to compensate for loss on payment of duties, has to be phased out since it is not compliant with WTO norms. "The new scheme which is being proposed is a different scheme as compared to the MEIS...The basis of new scheme is refund of all taxes and duties which are not yet refunded.the overall envelope for the duty forgone under the new scheme will be more or less the same as MEIS which is at present around Rs 40,000-45,000 crore (annually). Otherwise, MEIS will have to be closed as it is not WTO compliant. The new scheme is WTO compliant and will go on," Directorate General of Foreign Trade Alok Chaturvedi said.

The RODTEP scheme will be in operation from January 1, 2020, and the government will soon seek Cabinet approval for this, he said. Among other measures to promote exports, the government said a fully electronic refund module for quick and automated refund of Input Tax Credit for exporters is nearing completion and will be implemented by September 2019.

The Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) will expand the scope of ECIS (Export Credit Insurance Service) and will offer higher insurance cover to banks lending working capital for exports. This is expected to lead to moderation in premium payment by MSMEs and cost about Rs 1,700 crore per annum to the government.

Enhanced ECGC cover will ensure that foreign and Rupee export credit interest rates will be below 4% and 8% respectively for exporters. "This will enable reduction in overall cost of export credit including interest rates especially for MSMEs" said Sitharaman. The credit scheme for exporters would enhance insurance cover up to 90 per cent from 60 per cent currently, resulting in lower cost of credit for exporters.

The government is also reviewing the Priority Sector Lending norms in consultation with the RBI, which will release an additional export credit of around Rs 36,000-68,000 crore. An inter-ministerial group will be set up under the department of commerce to monitor export finance credit on a weekly basis.

The FM said the government will leverage technology to reduce the time taken for exports. Ports like Boston in the US takes about 0.55 days as turnaround time (or less than half a day), while Shanghai in China takes about 0.83 days. In contrast, the best port in Kochi takes about 1.10 days. "We are pushing technology so that our turnaround time at ports also reach the best global benchmark. It will be completely implemented in another three months time. Actual turnaround time will be published in real-time for all ports. An IMG will again be made accountable for this," said Sitharaman.

Shopian

South Kashmir is the apple bowl of the Valley. Its mandi is used by apple growers from neighbouring Pulwama district as well, so that they get the Shopian tag.

Choudhary repeats his defence of "nazuk halaat (sensitive situation)" in the Valley since August 5 — ahead of the government decision to abrogate Article 370 — and calls the administration's actions "preventive", but assures that he will speak with police and do his best to get the five men released. He wants the villagers to keep faith in the administration. But they are agitated. "Police come every day and trouble us," a 61-year-old says. "If someone pelts stones on vehicles of security forces, boys from our village are picked up."

The three elderly picked up on Wednesday were Mohammed Yakub Bhat, Basheer Ahmed Shah and Mohammed Nissar Mir. "One of them is a Haji (just returned from Haj). They suspect he is from the Jamaat but he is not," says a 70-year-old. A villager says police detained them as they were looking for their children who are in hiding. Struggling to contain his emotions, a septuagenarian bursts out, "We can bring the entire village with all youngsters to the DC's office. Police can take all the time they need to question each one. But picking a few men randomly every other day, and releasing them after a few days or a week. This is intolerable."

Plus, a villager says, they don't know whom to turn to for help. "Most politicians, local leaders, anyone with influence among us, is in jail."

Choudhary takes down the details of the five youths and asks villagers to return home and be patient. "Generally, no charges are pressed against anyone. No FIR will be registered," he assures.

Later, he tells The Sunday Express that the detentions aren't indiscriminate. "In most cases, the person picked up has a history of stone-pelting or some other issue... Generally, police do not pick up elders. In case of the three elderly, their children have an adverse history and they refused to cooperate with police."

The Deputy Commissioner adds that he had intervened earlier to facilitate the release of several young men held for alleged stone-pelting.

In an interview to The Indian Express last week, Director General of Police Dilbag Singh had said the detentions were part of a "strategy" — to "bond" with the community. "In some 300 cases, we have used community bonds to pick up and then release stone-pelters in Srinagar alone. And if 10 people come to seek release of 10 people per case, we have successfully engaged 3,000 people. They are released the same day," he said.In Pulwama district, for instance, sources said, about 250 young men with some history of stone-pelting or minor criminal offences were picked up over the last one month or so. "We generally take an assurance from the village community — at times an informal bond — and let out many. Of these 250, almost 150 were released immediately based on assurances by the village. Such community policing has worked well for us. The village elders ensure that their boys do not indulge in stone-pelting or any other such activities. This sends a message to the entire neighbourhood," said a senior police officer in the district.

While the J&K Police has not officially released any data on such detentions and subsequent release, many high-ranking police officials in Srinagar confirm that the numbers could be as high as 4,500. Under the Public Safety Act, under 300 have been arrested and sent out of the Valley to prisons in Jammu, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Haryana. At Shopian, hours after the villagers meet the DC, the three elders are released.

Hindi

sharp reaction from opposition parties, particularly those in the South. While the Congress warned that such remarks could incite strife, the CPM called it an attack on the core principles of India's diversity. The DMK said Shah's views "infringed on national integrity", while K Pandiarajan of the AIADMK, a BJP ally, warned, "If the Centre imposes Hindi unilaterally, there will only be (adverse) reaction and no support, not only in Tamil Nadu, but also in states like Bengal, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh."

After attending an event organised to commemorate Hindi Diwas by the Department of Languages of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Shah tweeted, "Every language has its own importance. But it is absolutely essential that the entire country has one language that becomes the identity of the nation in the world. If there is any language that can tie the whole country in one thread, it is the most spoken language of Hindi."

Promotion of Hindi as India's national language is an old ideological project of the Sangh Parivar and BJP. This has, in fact, contributed to the hurdles it faces in southern states, which have strong local language roots and sentiments. In his speech at the Hindi Diwas event, Shah repeatedly underlined the pre-eminence of Hindi. "To preserve our ancient philosophy, our culture, the memory of our freedom struggle and our cultural continuity, it is important that we strengthen our local languages, and there is at least one language that the whole nation knows... If Hindi is taken out of the freedom movement, the entire soul of the struggle is destroyed," he said.

However, Shah added that he didn't consider multiple languages existing in the country a "liability", unlike "many people". "I feel it is an asset. But there is a need for one single language for the country. So that foreign languages do not get space. It is with this vision that our freedom fighters imagined an official language. It is a national responsibility that Hindi is advertised, expands and prospers... I promise you that by 2024 Hindi would have achieved new heights. We will take it to all regions. But promoting Hindi in no way means that it would be done at the cost of some other language." Shah went on to regret that Hindi was losing space to English. Opposition parties reacted soon after. The Congress asked the government not to stir up controversies "on emotive and sensitive issues " and said the three-language formula should not be tinkered with.

"We should not stir up controversies... which have been settled by the maturity of India's Constitution-makers and prime ministers after Independence. Especially I am referring to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru... Not even an indication should be given of a rethink which will create strife and unrest in the country," Congress spokesperson Anand Sharma said. The CPI called the Home Minister's statement an attack on federalism, and a bid to expand the politics and ideology of the RSS to every sphere, and asked the government to stop using language as "a tool for politics of polarisation and as a tactics for divisive purposes". "The Constitution of India recognises 22 languages. They are all Indian languages, spoken by a large number of people," the CPI said.

"Imposing Hindi on others is the RSS plan of One Nation, One Language which is shameful!" the CPM tweeted. The AIADMK's Pandirajan, the Tamil Nadu Culture Minister, said, "Only about 45 per cent people speak Hindi."

DMK chief M K Stalin called Shah's views "shocking", and said they would decide how to oppose this stand at a September 16 party meeting. Calling pluralism India's biggest strength and unity in diversity its cultural identity, Stalin accused the BJP government of taking steps to "erase" this since assuming office at the Centre.

MDMK chief Vaiko said if India is to be a country of Hindi alone, then only Hindi-speaking states should be a part of it. PMK founder leader S Ramadoss also called Shah's remarks flawed. The PMK was part of the AIADMK-led alliance including the BJP in the recent Lok Sabha polls.

Incidentally, Shah devoted a large part of his speech at the Hindi Diwas event to attacking English. "I keep meeting people from different countries. I ask them what is their language. Many of them say with shame that they speak English, that they have lost their language... A nation that relinquishes its language can never sustain its existence. Only language connects a nation to its roots, its ideological flow and its culture," he said, adding that Indian languages were "the most prosperous" of all the languages in the world.

Praising freedom fighters like Mahatma Gandhi, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Vinoba Bhave and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel for this, he added, "From wherever the English left, the local language was finished. It is only India that defeated both the English and Englishness." Shah mentioned that Atal Behari Vajpayee and Sushma Swaraj spoke in Hindi at world forums, as does Prime Minister Narendra Modi now. "When I took charge of the MHA, for the first 10 days not one file noting came to me in Hindi. Today 60% notings are in Hindi."

Urging the younger generation to speak in Hindi, the Home Minister called for competitions where those speaking the language without using a single word of English would be rewarded. In his reaction, Congress leader Anand Sharma said while Hindi and all other Indian languages were important, English too was vital if India aspired to be a global leader.

Houston show

gathering of about 50,000 people, it will be a first for an American President.

When Modi addressed the NRI community at Madison Square Garden in New York in September 2014, US Congressmen had also attended the event. It is expected that some members of the US Congress are also likely to attend the event this time in Houston as well.

The other possibility is that Trump will attend the energy CEOs roundtable with Modi, especially since his focus has been creating jobs and boosting US trade with other countries.

This is also relevant since India has started importing energy from the US and it was worth about $4 billion last year and India wants to step it up. The idea of having the roundtable is to explore how India can import more energy from the US and how Indian companies can invest more in the US. When the two leaders met on the sidelines of the G-7 summit in Biarritz, Modi had briefed Trump about this plan. This was "welcomed by Trump", and the US President was happy that India had become a major importer of energy from the US, Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale had said. Trump had even instructed top US officials to visit Houston to facilitate the process.

Besides this plan, New Delhi and Washington are also discussing the possibility of scheduling a visit to Washington DC for a meeting of the two leaders at the White House.

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 27.

The Sunday Express has learnt that Delhi and Washington are looking at September 25 and September 26 as possible dates for the visit and a bilateral meeting between the two leaders.

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

'China way or democracy?'

a juncture when law enforcement agencies are pressing for social media companies to keep data within the country and share encryption keys to help track content that can be a threat to national security.

Clegg was deputy PM between 2010 and 2015, having led the Liberal Democrats into a coalition with David Cameron's Conservative party. In 2017, he lost his seat in the general elections and moved to Silicon Valley in January 2018.

At the Express Adda, which is a series of informal interactions organised by The Indian Express Group featuring those at the centre of change, Clegg fielded questions on the influence of Facebook and controversies around the company, Brexit, and nationalism, as well as on his talks with the Indian government on issues such as Internet regulation.

"Where the data is stored is not relevant... in Denmark or Texas. If the Indian authorities... want to get rapid access to data, particularly when it comes to pursuing data that extends beyond Indian jurisdiction, mostly when dealing with anti-terrorism operations, the best way is not to build a warehouse outside Delhi where you can physically keep data. It is having a new agreement between the Indian and US governments, particularly under the new Cloud Act, which facilitates such agreement," Clegg said.

He underlined that India would play a leadership role in determining the new rules of the Internet and that countries would follow the stand taken by it. "There are three basic planets which will decide the fight for open or closed Internet: America, Europe and India. China has already made that decision. Of those three, we can roughly guess where America or Europe is going to go. But there is a battle over where India is going to go. Will India go towards data nationalistic direction and borrow elements from China, or, as an open democracy and a great entrepreneur nation, will it embrace the openness of the Internet? These decisions, where you regulate, where you draw the line on content, elections, privacy, data portability — and the rules that need to be put in place — all of those are still to be written... My only plea would be that those decisions are taken with a view to the future, not just the present, and also with an understanding that what India does, many other countries will follow."

Clegg admitted the challenges regarding WhatsApp, especially over sharing data with law enforcement agencies. "India is the world's largest WhatsApp nation... How do we cooperate in a responsible and mature fashion under the law in response to legally sound requests from law enforcement agencies... that was the subject of a lot of discussion (with the government). And I found it productive. Data is very powerful weapon to defeat terrorism and criminality," he said.

While agreeing that Facebook is in "a very controversial space", Clegg said it was "foolish to be over-cynical about technology". "Facebook has had to learn from its mistakes and has made big mistakes... Generally, there is a great deal of suspicion about big corporate companies... There are, quite understandably, great concerns about privacy. And we are going through a tech clash. The pendulum is swinging, as it often does when you disrupt technologies. At the beginning, people think that the new technology — in our case, the social media — is a solution to all problems. People like Mark Zuckerberg walk on water and can do no ill... And now all our problems, apparently, are the fault of social media... It is very naive to overpraise technology but it is also foolish to be over-cynical about technology. The truth is that technology is not good or bad. It can be used by good or bad people for good and bad things. How we set boundaries to technology, how do we amplify the good or minimise the bad... (is the question)."

On the challenges threatening global economy, Clegg referred to the domestic politics of Britain. "One of the great dilemmas in modern politics is that good economics and good politics are increasingly pulling apart. We assumed that if we do good economics, the politics will flow... In Britain now, there is a whole class of politicians who are absolutely adamant that Britain should do something which every single economist will tell you will make the people worse off. And they believe it is a patriotic act. So doing something which is economically self-harming is now considered the acid test of patriotism. This is very new," he said.

Woman claims has 35 videos of Chinmayanand

"After searching through pens, bracelets and pendants on the Internet with hidden cameras, I decided to go in for the spectacles. I was not allowed to take in mobile phones, and I thought if I wore the spectacles no one would suspect anything."

Recently, the woman claimed that the spectacles had been stolen from her wallet inside her hostel room. Her father said on Saturday that she had stored the evidence at other places and that they had handed over more than 30 video clips to police.

The 23-year-old said Chinmayanand and his men kept constant watch on her and would not allow her to mingle with other students, and that apart from her, an undergraduate law student and a male teacher would also be routinely called to the ex-MP's residence to give him "maalish". She told The Sunday Express that while she did her Bachelors in Law from the college, "before 2018, I did not know much about who Chinmayanand was". "Then I decided to enrol for LLM. As the deadline to pay the fees was almost over, the principal said I should meet the Chairman, who might be able to help me."

She said she was ensured a seat but also started getting calls asking her to join work at the college library. "I refused initially but I was told it would be good for me as well as the college as it was hard to find staff for the library." Gradually, she said, her work started spilling over to late hours, and she was advised to move into the hostel.

The college principal has denied this, saying it was the woman who had requested for both the library job and the hostel accommodation.

The woman claimed that she realised later that the hostel did not have a warden. "It was there that the first video of mine was made, I do not know how, while I was taking a bath, in October last year. I was then blackmailed to visit Chinmayanand at his residence, where I was raped and another video of mine was made. With a threat to make these videos public, I was harassed for about a year till I decided that I had had enough." She added, "There would be men standing outside my room to take me and the entire college knew what was happening. No one would dare talk to me. I could not gather the courage to speak up. But then I decided to do something and that is when I started looking for hidden cameras." They had used hidden videos to "destroy" her, she said, and she decided she would use hidden videos too.

She said she bought the spectacles online earlier this year, and that both the glasses as well as a chip with some of the videos were now gone from her hostel room. The SIT, which took her to the room as part of its investigations on September 13, has sought proof of the purchase of the spectacles, and she said she would soon provide it.

It was when she thought she had enough evidence that she decided to run away, she said. After she went missing and her video accusing Chinmayanand of harassment became viral on August 23, her father filed a complaint with police alleging that his daughter had been kidnapped. On August 27, an FIR was filed against Chinmayanand, and she was tracked down three days later in Rajasthan. She said she told the college authorities that she was going home for a day, and from there ran to Delhi with the help of friends. She said she kept in touch with her family, using different phones rather than her mobile to avoid being tracked and to shield them from any harm. "I knew no one would register my FIR and everyone would doubt me. So, I uploaded my video talking about how my life and that of other girls was destroyed on Facebook, and kept moving from one state to another."

She added that she expects her fight to be long. "They are free to make all the allegations they want against me, but I have evidence... Meri to zindagi barbaad kar di (My life has been destroyed), I am doing this at the cost of my name, but I just want to ensure that the life of no other girl or boy is destroyed... Maalish to yeh karwana bhool jayega (He will never target anyone else)."

CLIPS ONLINE, FAMILY TO GO TO HC

The woman's family has decided to approach the High Court to get video clips purportedly showing her giving massage to Chinmayanand taken off social media. "The video clips are part of evidence. Someone has deliberately uploaded these to malign the image of my daughter and family," the victim's father said, adding he would ask the court to order a probe.

Chinmayananand's lawyer Om Singh said while he had no knowledge of who uploaded the video clips, these appeared to be fake because the date on them was January 31, 2014, much before the woman says the harassment started.

— MANISH SAHU, LUCKNOW

PROMINENT NAMES AMONG NEW MEMBERS

70 CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS JOIN STATE BJP

Over 70 chartered accountants, including former national President of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India Sunil Talati, President of ICAI's Ahmedabad chapter, Ganesh Nadar and former President of Gujarat Chamber of Commerce K D Shah, have joined the BJP, a release said.

SCALING NEW HEIGHTS

The water in the Sardar Sarovar dam reached its Full Reservoir Level of 138.68 metre on Saturday evening. A grand celebration to mark the occasion is planned on September 17, the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. *Bhupendra Rana*

Narmada dam at full reservoir level

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
VADODARA, SEPTEMBER 14

THE SARDAR Sarovar Narmada dam on Saturday evening reached its Full Reservoir Level (FRL) of 138.68 metre, and with heavy inflow of water from Indirasagar and Omkareshwar dams in Madhya Pradesh, officials expect the dam in Narmada district to be brimming at its overflow mark by September 17, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whose 69th birthday falls on the date, is expected to be present at the dam to celebrate the historic height of the reservoir level, and perform an 'aarti' for Goddess Narmada.

On Saturday evening, with 23 gates open, the Narmada dam was lit up to mark the occasion when the water level reached the FRL. The construction of the dam was completed in 2017 and its full height is 163 metre from sea level. The NDA government had cleared the path for its construction in 2014, just days after Narendra Modi was elected prime minister. The dam, which has been receiving a steady inflow of about 10 lakh cusec from Madhya Pradesh, touched a record height of 131 metre in August this year. The riverbed power house (RBPH) of the dam — which had been shut since 2017 — was restarted as per protocol, and has been running at full capacity since then.

The dam continued to release close to 7.9 lakh cusec water from the open gates on Saturday, which has left over 135 villages inundated in Bharuch, Narmada and Vadodara districts in the state.Nearly 5,000 people have been moved to safer places in Bharuch, even as the district administration has requested the Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Limited (SSNNL) to reduce the flow of water to prevent further flooding. Bharuch district Collector M D Modiya has confirmed that 23 villages have been completely evacuated. Several parts of Bharuch city have also been flooded.

SSNNL MD Rajiv Kumar Gupta tweeted on Saturday afternoon, saying, "Further storage (in the Sardar Sarovar Reservoir) necessary to control flood situation in Bharuch city due to high tide and (in) 175 villages in three districts. (Bharuch) District Administration requested to control outflow. Level touched historic mark of 138 mtrs today."

Meanwhile, the Gujarat government released a statement to list the course of the celebrations planned for September 17, to mark Prime Minister Modi's 69th birthday. The release stated, "In order to celebrate the event of the filling up of the Narmada dam, which is the lifeline of Gujarat, a special obeisance to Goddess Narmada will be offered in all districts on September 17. The day will begin with the cleaning of water bodies — ponds, lakes, rivers — at each district headquarters at 9 am, followed by the offering of a coconut and chunri (sash), and thereafter a 'mahaarti' to celebrate the day."

Top BJP leaders said Prime Minister Modi will join Chief Minister Vijay Rupani and Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel in Kevadia to perform the Narmada Aarti himself.

On Saturday, dog squads began santising the restricted 'A Frame' area of the Sardar Sarovar dam, where dignitaries will arrive on September 17 to perform the puja.

94 'bonded labourers' rescued

12 child labourers among workers brought from Assam, Nagaland, West Bengal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GANDHINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 14

From information gained from the accused, police rescued the 94 labourers from a farmhouse on SP Ring Road near Dehgam. The workers informed police that they were being put to work forcefully in various factories at the GIDC in Kathwada without any salary or leave

ACTING ON a tip-off, Ahmedabad city police Sunday rescued 94 "bonded" labourers — 12 of them children — from a farmhouse in Dehgam. Most of the rescued labourers are from the northeastern states of Assam, Nagaland and some from West Bengal.

Police have rounded up three persons, including the kingpin, who were allegedly bringing people from the three states to Gujarat, promising them jobs and then forcing them into bonded labour. Police authorities said that further investigations are on and the three will be put under arrest soon.

The three accused in the case have been identified as Mukesh Bharvad, a resident of Naroda area in Ahmedabad, Sinoyhil Puti from Assam and Hotanbi Christian from Nagaland. The three have been booked for unlawful compulsory labour and allied charges under the provisions of the Indian Penal Code, the Juvenile Justice Act and the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act.

The operation was carried out by officials of Nikol police station acting on a tip-off that Bharvad, who is a labour contractor by occupation, had forcefully employed some child labourers from outside Gujarat. Following the tip-off, police caught Bharvad and interrogated him. From information gained from Bharvad, police rescued 94 labourers from a farmhouse on SP Ring Road near Dehgam. Police said the workers informed police that they were being put to work forcefully at various factories at GIDC (Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation) in Kathwada without any salary or leave.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone V) Akshayraj Makwana said that the discovery of bonded child labourers from northeastern states in Gujarat was very surprising for police also as they had never come across such a thing till now. He added that most of the rescued labourers are from Assam and Nagaland, and some of them from West Bengal. Makwana said some of the rescued labourers told police that they were working in poor conditions for the past three years.

"We have rounded up the three accused. And their interrogation is on. Very soon they will be put under arrest," Makwana added. "We are also involving other departments of the state government in the investigation of the case, namely Labour & Employment, Women & Child Development and GIDC."

Police say Bharvad is the alleged kingpin of the racket, while Sinoyhil Puti and Hotanbi Christian are believed to be his accomplices.

DCP Makwana said that from the primary interrogation, the police have ascertained that Bharvad's wife is from Nagaland, and that he was running a firm there to purportedly provide employment in Gujarat to people from that state. Bharvad used to sign three-month contracts with the people there to get them to work in Gujarat. However, subsequently, they were allegedly being kept as bonded labourers.

Mahisagar flows at danger level, villages put on alert in Anand

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
VADODARA, SEPTEMBER 14

THE MAHISAGAR river in central Gujarat is flowing at its danger level, posing a threat of floods in several villages of Anand district.

Owing to heavy rainfall in Madhya Pradesh, as well as parts of Panchmahal district in Gujarat, Mahisagar has received inflow of close to 10 lakh cusec water in the past 48 hours, leading to Kadana and Wanakbori on the banks of Mahi River in Kheda district breaching danger levels.

While Kadana dam released 7 lakh cusec water, Wanakbori's outflow is 4.5 lakh cusec.

The surge in Mahisagar comes after four years. It last flooded in 2005. Several villages in Umreth and Anand talukas of Anand district have been put on alert. Vasad village as well as Padra taluka of Vadodara district also witnessed waterlogging Saturday.

Congress Gujarat President and Anklav MLA, Amit Chavda visited several villages which have been marooned due to waterlogging, with local boats being the only access.

Fajalpur and Sindhrot villages in Vadodara also went under water on early Saturday morning.

KANTHA VIBHAG NAVNIRMAN MANDAL
D. C. Patel Navnirman Educational Campus,
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Ph.: (0261) 2260003, Web: www.navnirmanmandal.in
E-mail : info@navnirmanmandal.in
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EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Sr. No.	Name Of College	Name of the Post	No. of Post	Subject & Faculty
1	D. R. Patel & R. B. Patel Commerce College, & Bhaniben Chhimkabhai Patel B.B.A. College	Principal	1	
2	C. B. Patel Computer College & J. N. M. Patel Science College	Principal Asst. Professor	1 2	Computer Science

Qualifications, pay scale and service conditions are as per norms of U.G.C. Regulations 2018 and Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, Surat. Interested candidates should apply with their detailed Curriculum Vitae alongwith photographs, attested certificates, mark sheets, testimonials within 10 days from the date of publication of this employment notice by Reg.Post/Speed Post only in favour of **President, Kantha Vibhag Navnirman Mandal.**

Place : Surat — President
Date : 14-09-2019 — KANTHA VIBHAG NAVNIRMAN MANDAL

Note :Candidates who do not possess NET/SLET/Ph.D may also apply as Teaching Assistant as per norms of V.N.S.G.U. They will be considered for interview in absence of eligible candidates for remaining vacant position of Assistant Professor.

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Department of School Education & Literacy
Govt. of India

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION

Online application process for admission to Class-VI in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas for the session 2020-21 through Selection Test was notified on 01.07.2019. It is to bring to the notice of all that last date of submission of online applications for class VI selection test is extended up to 30th September 2019 due to administrative reasons. Candidates may apply free of cost by visiting the website **www.navodaya.gov.in** or **www.nvsadmissionclasssix.in.** Phase-I registered candidates may submit their details through phase-II till 3rd October 2019. For detailed notification regarding applying for Class VI JNVST-2020, candidates may visit the above mentioned websites.

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NOTICE TO BORROWER
(UNDER SUB-SECTION (2) OF SECTION 13 OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002)

Shri Prasanta Kundu (Applicant)
House no 172, Hariom Nagar EWS, Near Atma Jyoti Ashram, Gorwa, Vadodara

Smt.Atosi Karar (Co-applicant)
House no 172, Hariom Nagar EWS, Near Atma Jyoti Ashram,Gorwa, Vadodara

Shri Palash Chandra Kundu(Co-applicant)
House no 172, Hariom Nagar EWS, Near Atma Jyoti Ashram,Gorwa, Vadodara

Credit facilities with our SUBHANPURA Branch (Erstwhile Dena Bank)

1. We refer to our letter No.**Adv/Subh/2015-16** dated **18.03.2016** and conveying sanction of various credit facilities and the terms of sanction. Pursuant to the above sanction you have availed and started utilising the credit facilities after providing security for the same ,as hereinafter stated. The present outstanding in various loan/credit facility accounts and the security interests created for such liability are as under:

Nature and Type of Facility	Limit (Rs.) In lakhs	Rate of Interest	O/s as on 31-05-2019 (inclusive of interest up to 31-05-2019)	Security agreement with brief description of securities (please mention the details of security agreements and details of mortgaged property including total area and boundaries
Home Loan	15.30	1YMCLR + 0.50% (TP) -0.50% i.e. 8.65% at present	Rs. 14,80,924.49	All that piece and parcel of immovable property being **House no 172, Plot area admeasuring 28.83 sqmtrs and construction** thereon in the **scheme known as "HARIOM NAGAR EWS"** situated and constructed on land bearing Revenue survey no. 42/19,110,111,121,122 Paiki, TP Scheme no 2, FP no 108,111,112,120,121,122,123 of **Villaje Mouje Gorwa** in the Regn Dist and Sub regn District Vadodara in the name of the **-Shri PrasantaNirmalKundu and Shri Palashchandra Nirmal Kundu** Bounded as under: East:House no 171, West:House no 173,North:Open Space, South: Road

2. In the letter of acknowledgment of debt dated **30.01.2018** you have acknowledged your liability to the Bank to the tune of **Rs. 15,30,000.000** as on **30.01.2018**. The outstandings stated above include further drawings and interest upto**31-05-2019**. Other charges debited to the account are Rs. NIL 3. As you are aware ,you have committed defaults in payment of interest on above loans/outstandings for the quarter ended March 2019 and thereafter.You have also defaulted in payment of instalments of term loan/demand loans which have fallen due for payment on **19.02.2019** and thereafter. 4. Consequent upon the defaults committed by you , your loan account has been classified as Non Performing Asset on **20.05.2019** in accordance with the Reserve Bank of India directives and guidelines.In spite of our repeated requests and demands you have not repaid the overdue loans including interest thereon. 5. Having regard to your inability to meet your liabilities in respect of the credit facilities duly secured by various securities mentioned in para 1 above , and classification of your account as a non-performing asset , we hereby give you notice under sub-section (2) of section 13 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and call upon you to pay in full and discharge your liabilities to the Bank aggregating **Rs.14,80,924.49/-**, as stated in para 1 above , within 60 days from the date of this notice .We further give you notice that failing payment of the above amount with interest till the date of payment of the exercise all or any of the rights under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the said Act, which please note. 6. Please note that, interest will continue to accrue at the rates specified in para 1 above for each credit facility until payment in full. 7. We invite your attention to sub-section 13 of sec 13 of the said Act in terms of which you are barred from transferring any of the secured assets referred to in para 1 above by way of sale,lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of business), without obtaining our written consent. We may add that non - compliance with the above provision contained in section 13(13) of the said Act, is an offence punishable under section 29 of the Act. **8. We further invite your attention to sub-section (8) of section 13 of the said Act in terms of which you may redeem the secured assets, if the amount of dues together with all costs , charges and expenses incurred by the Bank is tendered by you , at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction /inviting quotations/tender /private treaty. Please note that after publication of the notice as above , your right to redeem the secured assets will not be available.** 9. Please note that this demand notice is without prejudice to and shall not be construed as waiver of any other rights or remedies which we may have , including without limitation , the right to make further demands in respect of sums owing to us.

Place : Vadodara, Dt. 18-06-2019 — Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda

CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA
1911 से आपके लिए "केन्द्रित" — "Central" TO YOU SINCE 1911

BRANCH: GODHRA
APPENDIX-IV (See Rule 8(1))
POSSESSION NOTICE
(FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Central bank of India under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of Powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notice/s dated **17.06.2019** calling upon the borrower **Shri/Mr. Nareshkumar Jamnadas Dhanani and Mr. Jamnadas Acharmal Dhanani** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 9,02,784.00** plus interest (Say Rupees Nine Lac Two Thousand Seven Hundred & Eighty Four only)+ interest within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/s having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies described herein-below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with the Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002 on this **10/09/2019.**

The Borrower/s in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Central Bank of India for an amount of Rs. 9,02,784.00 and interest thereon w.e.f. 17/06/2019. (Amount deposited after issuing of Demand Notice U/Section 13(2) has been given effect)

The borrower/s attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section (13) of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Flat No./Plot No. Tika No-1, Lat No.3/6,67.72.65 sq.mtr. Land & building, Municipal House no-483/1, Sant Kawar Faliya, Baharpura, Godhra, Ta-Godhra, Distt-Panchmahal.
Bounded By: North: Lagu Lat No-1/3/5 South: Lagu Lat no. 1/3/7, East : Lagu Lat no. 3/58/1, West: Road

Date: 10.09.2019 - Place: Godhra — Authorised Officer, Central Bank Of India

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3. **Two Year Post Graduate Programme in Real Estate and Urban Infrastructure Management (PGP REUIM):** Offered from Pune Campus
4. **Two Year Post Graduate Programme in Infrastructure Finance, Development and Management (PGP IFDM):** Offered from Pune Campus
5. **Two Year Post Graduate Programme in Contemporary Smart City Development and Management (PGP CSCDM):** Offered from Pune Campus
6. **One Year Post Graduate Programme in Management of Family Owned Construction Business (PGP MFOCB):** Offered from Pune Campus
7. **One Year Post Graduate Programme in Quantity Surveying and Contract Management (PGP QSCM):** Offered from Hyderabad (Shamirpet) Campus
8. **One Year Post Graduate Programme in Health, Safety and Environment Management (PGP HSEM):** Offered from Hyderabad (Shamirpet) Campus

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Last Date for Submission of Application: November 20, 2019

HDFC BANK
HDFC Bank Ltd., 3rd Floor, Shivalik - III, Above Axis Bank, Near Drive In Cinema, Ahmedabad - 380054.
Phone : 079 - 61738096

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, **(For Immovable Property)**

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the HDFC Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of Powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice date 19.02.2018 calling upon the Borrowers **1) Deepak Marketing through its Proprietor- Deepakkumar Harshadbhai Soni, 2) Deepakkumar Harshadbhai Soni and 3) Jayaben Harshadbhai Soni** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 24,49,511.19 (Rupees Twenty Four Lacs Forty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Eleven and Nineteen Paisa Only)** as on 17.02.2018 with further interest and expenses within 60 days from the date of notice/service of the said notice.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Symbolic possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this **9th Day of September of the year 2019.**

The Borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **HDFC Bank Limited** for an amount of **Rs. 30,61,709.44 as on 06.09.2019** and interest & expenses thereon until the full payment.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

"All part & parcel of the Residential property being Plot No. 64 Paikee East side (admeasuring 131.46 Square Meters) in Mehulnagar Society, Kant Road, Deesa and situated at Revenue Survey No.58/3 Paikee, City Survey No. 4839 Paikee, Sheet No. 20 of New Deesa, the property is owned by Jayaben Harshadbhai Soni and **Bounded as under :-** East : Internal Road, West : Plot No. 64 Paikee, North : Plot No. 16, South : Plot No. 8.

Sd/-
Date : 09.09.2019 — Authorised Officer
Place : Deesa — HDFC Bank Ltd.

Circular from Gujarat CEO's office exempts teachers from voter-verification work

RITU SHARMA
AHMEDABAD, SEPTEMBER 14

FOLLOWING STRONG opposition from teachers, the electoral office has exempted those "who have been working as Booth-Level Officers for a long time and do not wish to continue anymore".

A circular from the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) issued by Deputy Secretary Nitin Acharya on September 9 states that "those teachers and employees who have been doing Booth-Level Officer (BLO) work for a long time and do not wish to do it anymore can be replaced by other teacher or employee as per Election Commission's rules depending upon their availability".

The discretion on whom to exempt has been left to the District Electoral Officers to decide based on applications of teachers asking to be exempt them from BLO duties. The collectors of each district serve as District Electoral Officers.

Several complaints and representations were submitted by the Gujarat State Primary Teachers' Association regarding the BLO work and the difficulties they face in using the mobile phone application launched on September 1 for the job.

"We received representations from teachers that many of them have been doing the BLO work for years and keeping their age in mind they should be exempted. So, we have issued this circular," CEO S Murali Krishna said.

Besides, the teachers have also expressed their unwillingness to download the BLO app. "We have received complaints from teachers across the state that they do not wish to download the app and undertake the work on their personal mobile phones," one such representation submitted by Digvijaysinh Jadeja, president of Gujarat State Primary Teachers' Association, and secretary general Satishbhai Patel stated.

Pertaining to the teachers' reservations about the app, the circular states, "At present, the BLOs are working under Electors Verification Programme (EVP). Under this, voters have to verify their details themselves and the BLOs just have to confirm if the (voters) have updated these details during their home visits. This way, the work of BLO would be easy."

CEO Murali Krishna said, "There are various options for an electorate to update and verify their records. There are some 14,000 e-gram centres and 11,000 common service centres across the state apart from voter facilitation centres and the official website. Once the voters update their details, it will reflect in the BLO app which the officer has to confirm.'

The teachers, in their representation submitted to the CEO, also stated, "To achieve 100 per cent quality education, various programmes are arranged everyday. On top of that, for the BLO work, the teachers are asked to stay back after school hours which affects the quality of education. Since majority are female teachers, you can very well understand how difficult it gets to work after 5 pm in the rural areas."

They also suggested that the CEO involve unemployed youths in the villages for the job. "There are so many graduate unemployed youth in the villages. I request you to involve them so that the education in schools does not suffer and at the same time the youth also get to do some job. In such cases, our teachers will guide them in the BLO work," the representation suggested.

The issue was discussed at length during the meeting of the teachers' association held in Gandhinagar on September 1 that went on for over six hours. After deliberations, the association passed an order for teachers not to download the app on their mobile phones to update voter details.

IIT-K won't revoke Dalit prof's PhD thesis

RITIKA CHOPRA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

IIT-KANPUR WILL not revoke the PhD dissertation of a Dalit teacher, who had complained of harassment and discrimination by four colleagues last year, on charges of plagiarism. The decision was made by the institute's Board of Governors (BoG) Saturday.

The BoG, headed by former ISRO chief K Radhakrishnan, accepted the report of the external expert committee which is learned to have found no substance in allegations of plagiarism.

"The Board decided that PhD Degree of Dr. S. Sadrela will not be revoked and a corrigendum will be appended to the thesis by Dr. S. Saderla identifying the text that is common knowledge and identical to earlier theses. An appropriate advisory will be issued to Dr. Sadrela and his thesis supervisor by the Director," says the press release issued by IIT-Kanpur Saturday.

The final decision comes four months after the institute's Senate had recommended cancelling Sadrela's dissertation although the Academic Ethics Cell had found "no reason to revoke the thesis". Sadrela is a teacher in IIT-Kanpur's Department of Aerospace Engineering.

As first reported by *The Indian Express* on April 1, the plagiarism charges against Sadrela were made in an anonymous email sent to several faculty members on October 15, 2018 —- two months after an inquiry by a retired High Court judge found the four teachers guilty of harassing him and violating the conduct rules of IIT-K and the SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act.

The complaint alleged that parts of Sadrela's PhD thesis —- on parameter estimation of unmanned aerial vehicles using flight test data at low and high angles of attack —- were "plagiarised" from the works of three other people. IIT-Kanpur Director Abhay Karandikar referred the complaint to the Academic Ethics Cell, which found it "prima facie correct".

However, the nine-member Ethics Cell's report, submitted last November, said: "There is no allegation of plagiarism with regard to the scholar's research work comprising his creative and technical part of the dissertation, including detailed experiments, tables, figures and the conclusions drawn from them. Thus, the only instances of copying are restricted to certain introductory passages in several chapters and mathematical basics and preliminaries."

It said "the committee felt that it would not be proposed to consider revocation of the thesis". It recommended that Sadrela rewrite the passages in his own words and submit an updated thesis in a month, and tender an apology letter to the institute director for his "misdemeanour".

However, when the Ethics Cell report was referred to the Senate Post Graduate Committee (SPGC) by the director, the SPGC on February 15 recommended withdrawal of Sadrela's PhD thesis. This was accepted by the Senate on March 14.

On April 5, the HRD Ministry pointed out to IIT-Kanpur that the Academic Ethics Cell had found no reason for revocation and also stated that the institute has no guidelines for dealing with different degrees of plagiarism in thesis writing. In the absence of the institute's own plagiarism guidelines, the ministry suggested that IIT-Kanpur follow the University Grants Commission (Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations 2018.

On April 10, BoG authorised the institute director, Abhay Karandikar, to have the dissertation examined by a committee external experts committee, which found no truth in the allegations.

BHU professor suspended for sexual misconduct reinstated

ASAD REHMAN
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 14

A BANARAS Hindu University professor, suspended in October over allegations of sexual misconduct made by 36 students, has been reinstated by its Executive Council, headed by Vice-Chancellor Professor Rakesh Bhatnagar.

This triggered a students' protest Saturday, demanding his suspension and a police case against Professor Shail Kumar Choubey. On Friday, four students, on behalf of others, submitted a memorandum to the V-C against the professor's reinstatement.

Bhatnagar said the Executive Council has decided to mention allegations in the service record of Professor Choubey as his "major punishment". "The inquiry report filed by the Internal Complaints Committee stated that Professor Choubey should get major penalty. We have decided to make the allegations part of his service record, which will be submitted by him if he applies for any new position in future," Bhatnagar said.

ON CHANDRAYAAN-2 LANDER

Hard landing may have disabled Vikram communication system, say former ISRO scientists

JOHNSON TA
BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 13

A HARD landing on the surface of the moon may have disabled the communication system on ISRO's Vikram lander, former scientists from the space organisation have started to believe, with no contact being established with the lander seven days after the attempted soft landing on the lunar surface.

ISRO has been attempting to communicate with the lander since contact was lost 335 metres from the surface of the moon --- barely seconds before touchdown --- while the lander was noted to be travelling at a vertical velocity of 59 m/sec or 212 km/hr and a horizontal velocity of 48.1 m/sec or 173 km/hr, which is much higher than the optimal landing velocity of nearly zero m/sec.

According to M Annadurai, former ISRO scientist and project director for Chandrayaan 1 moon mission, the factors contributing to the loss of contact with the lander could be the terrain where Vikram touched down and the lander's touchdown position and velocity.

"A combination of different terrain than targetted along with non nominal lander orientation can lead to loss of 'proper' data in the last stretch beyond 335 metres. However, if one sees the full data closely to the last bit received at the ground, we will be able to explain the scene better. I hope ISRO will definitely do it for understanding," the former director of the U R Rao Space Centre said.

"The time lag between the moon and earth is only 1.25 seconds. There is loss of communication permanently, which means hard landing of the lander disabling communication both with orbiter as well as earth," P S Veeraraghavan, former director of ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, said.

On Tuesday, ISRO said Vikram lander has been located by the orbiter of Chandrayaan-2, but no communication has been established with it yet. All possible efforts were being made to establish contact with the lander.

On Tuesday, ISRO had stated that "Vikram lander has been located by the orbiter of Chandrayaan-2, but no communication with it yet. All possible efforts are being made to establish communication with lander," suggesting that efforts were still on to establish contact with the lander, which is lying on the surface of the moon after the hard landing on September 7.

On Thursday, former ISRO chairman A S Kiran Kumar said on the sidelines of an event at the Indian Institute of Science that there were no signals from the Vikram lander for ISRO to track. "There is nothing to track --- no communication signals," he said. He also indicated that the communication break with the lander occurred just ahead of touchdown. The lander was equipped with communication linkage to the Chandrayaan-2 orbiter, which remains in its orbit around the moon, and to earth stations. The telemetry, tracking and command network between the lander and the Indian Deep Space Network ground station was in the S-band.

"The Vikram lander followed the planned descent trajectory from its orbit of 35 km to just below 2 km above the surface. All the systems and sensors of the lander functioned excellently until this point and proved many new technologies such as variable thrust propulsion technology used in the lander," ISRO has stated regarding the Chandrayaan-2 mission.

EXPLAINED

Window of communication narrows

THE MISSION life of the lander is one lunar day (14 earth days) since solar panels mounted on the body of the lander are the primary source of power for various systems including communications. Technically, the systems on the lander will have no source of power from September 21, when the lunar day ends, making it difficult for ISRO to make any contact with the lander subsequently.

Will drop all cases against Azam if Samajwadi Party voted back, says Akhilesh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 14

SAMAJWADI PARTY president Akhilesh Yadav Saturday said if his party was voted back to power, all "cases against Rampur MP Azam Khan will be dropped".

Addressing a press conerence in Rampur, Akhilesh said, "I will meet the Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Anandiben Patel, regarding false cases against the MP. I will inform her about the harassment being faced by Azam Khan."

"I am taking back copies of all FIRs against Azam with me to Lucknow. We have full faith in the courts and we will get justice. Similarly, several cases had been lodged against Mulayam Singhji. Then, the courts had helped us," said Akhilesh, who was accompanied by Azam's son, MLA Abdullah Khan, at the press conference.

He added that as long as the administration continues to do "injustice", more people would lose faith in the government. "Today, the people are losing faith in the government and administration... You should see the list of cases against Azam. There are all types of fake cases against him... His family members are being taken to the police station to humiliate them," said Akhilesh.

The SP chief claimed that the BJP government was in indulging in vendetta politics. "This is being done to divert the attention of the people from the real issues," he said.

Akhilesh had reached Rampur Friday evening and had stayed overnight at the Humsafar resort, which is run by the Jauhar Trust, of which Azam is president. He addressed party workers Saturday and also met family members of MP Azam Khan. He left for Lucknow on Saturday evening.

Mulayam's trust vacates govt bungalow after notice issued over pending rent

AVANEESH MISHRA
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 14

LOHIA TRUST, founded by Samajwadi Party (SP) patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav, has vacated the government bungalow, it was allotted, following a notice by Estate Department to pay the pending rent.

According to Additional Chief Secretary (Information Department) Awanish Awasthi, a rent of Rs 30 lakh was pending and the trust vacated the bungalow, spread over around 20,000 sq feet, on its own after paying the amount. After its re-allotment during the previous SP regime in the state, the rent of the palatial bungalow, situated adjacent to the Samajwadi Party headquarters on Vikramaditya Marg in Lucknow's Gautampalli area, was renewed at Rs 72,000 per month.

"A rent of Rs 72,000 per month was fixed for the bungalow, allotted to the Lohia Trust, as per market rate. Only recently, a notice was served to the trust as the rent was not paid for a long time. Now after the notice they deposited the whole pending amount of Rs 30 lakh and then vacated the bungalow. Meanwhile, there is already a Supreme Court order in force, stating that all the prime location government bungalows allotted to NGOs or trusts should be relieved," said Aswathi.

Ajeet Kumar, Assistant Estate Officer, said that the bungalow was re-allotted to the trust in 2016 under a new set of rules implemented. "After the re-allotment, the rent of the property went up and the trust was probably unable to pay it," he said.

While Mulayam Singh is president of the trust, his brother and Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (PSP) founder Shivpal Yadav is the secretary. His son and SP president Akhilesh Yadav and several other party leaders are the trust members. PSP spokesperson Deepak Mishra, who is also a member of the trust, said it was founded in late 80s. "It was the richest trust in the state during Mulayam Singh's tenure, before Akhilesh diverted all the funds to his Janeshwar Mishra trust," he said.

"The trust building has a big library with around 7,000-8,000 books on Samajwad and Ram Manohar Lohia, a freedom fighter and socialist political leader. There are two life size statues of Lohiaji inside the building and also a big meeting hall. Every year on Lohia's birth anniversary, a conference was organised. Akhilesh had started constructing another hall adjacent to the trust, but the construction stopped after the Supreme Court order," said Mishra, adding that the trust building should now been transformed into a memorial for Lohia.

Asked about the eviction, Akhilesh told the media that Lohia Trust belongs to Netaji (Mulayam) and he has no information on why the government is vacating the trust building. Mulayam made him a trust member, but he is not sure if he is still a member, he added. Last year in May, the Supreme Court had struck down a clause in the Uttar Pradesh Ministers (Salaries, Allowances and Miscellaneous provisions) (Amendment) Bill, 2016, which allowed former chief ministers of the state to continue occupying the government bungalows after demitting office.

Following this, the Estate Department on May 17 last year issued notices to Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh, BJP leader Kalyan Singh, Mulayam Singh, Akhilesh, BSP chief Mayawati and Late Narayan Dutt Tiwari to vacate the houses within 15 days. They were vacated by June last year.

Kapil Dev named first Chancellor of Haryana Sports University

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 14

CRICKET LEGEND Kapil Dev was Saturday named as the first Chancellor of the upcoming Haryana Sports University at Rai in Sonipat district. The announcement was made by Haryana Sports Minister Anil Vij.

"Although the final nod for the university is pending with the President of India, but remaining all formalities have been completed. We today took the decision that Kapil Dev will be the Chancellor of our Sports University. I have personally spoken with Kapil Dev and he too has given his consent for his appointment," Vij told *The Sunday Express*. Kapil Dev's appointment orders as Chancellor (Designate) were issued by Haryana Governor Saturday to be implemented with "immediate effect".

In November 1975, Kapil Dev made his debut in domestic cricket for Haryana against Punjab. With a six wicket haul he helped restrict Punjab to just 63 runs, helping Haryana win.

Regarded as one of the greatest all-rounders to play the game, his on field exploits earned him the title of "Haryana Hurricane". He captained the Indian team that won the 1983 Cricket World Cup.

राजस्थान स्वास्थ्य विज्ञान विश्वविद्यालय
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प्रवेश विज्ञप्ति – नर्सिंग प्रवेश परीक्षा सत्र – 2019–20
M.Sc. Nursing, Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing & B.Sc. Nursing Admission
राजस्थान स्वास्थ्य विज्ञान विश्वविद्यालय से सम्बद्धित राजस्थान में स्थित राजकीय नर्सिंग महाविद्यालय जयपुर, राजकीय नर्सिंग महाविद्यालय (स्व–वित्त पोषित) एवं निजी क्षेत्र में संचलित नर्सिंग महाविद्यालयों में M.Sc. Nursing, Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing & B.Sc. Nursing के पाठ्यक्रमों में सत्र 2019–20 में प्रवेश हेतु ऑनलाइन आवेदन पत्र दिनांक 12.09.2019 से आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। आवश्यक सूचनाएं राजस्थान स्वास्थ्य विज्ञान विश्वविद्यालय, जयपुर की वेबसाइट www.ruhsraj.org पर उपलब्ध है।
राज. संवाद/सी/2518/2019–20

WESTERN RAILWAY - VADODARA DIVISION
"E" TENDER NOTICE - ELECTRICAL (POWER) DEPTT.
Notice Inviting Tender EL/50/1/15 (19-20)
Divisional Railway Manager (Elect), Western Railway, Vadodara Division for and on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tender on Indian Railways Website : www.ireps.gov.in from experienced and reliable contractors for the following works :-

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (₹)	EMD (₹)	Tender Fees (₹)
1	BRC-EL-P-23-1110-1118-18-19R	(1) Vadodara Division: Electrical work in connection with provision of toilet facility for person with disabilities at various stations of BRC Division (2) Pratapnagar : Electrical work in connection with providing different utilities at DRM Office PRTN.	₹12,01,641/-	₹ 24,000/-	₹2,000/-
2	BRC-EL-P-15-1099-19.20	Vadodara Division: Electrical work in connection with replacement of old aged Foot over bridges at various stations by providing new foot over bridges at Bharuch, Anand, Nadiad, Godhra.	₹26,71,138/-	₹ 53,400/-	₹ 3,000/-

• For All Above E-Tenders Closing Date : 09.10.2019 • Website particulars : www.ireps.gov.in
153
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PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given to public at large that the undersigned Advocate is investigating the title of the property being non agricultural land admeasuring 2675 sq.mtrs. of Survey / Block No. 727 (Old Survey / Block No. 725/C), situate, lying and being at Mouje Kubadthal, Taluka Dascroi in Registration District Ahmedabad and Sub District Ahmedabad-12 (Nikol) belonging to Mr. Rasikbhai Virjibhai Patel It is further informed that Original Sale Deed executed on dated 17/07/2008 registered in the Office of Sub Registrar, Ahmedabad-7 (Odhav) vide Index No. 9368/2008 on dated 18/07/2008 for land of old Survey / Block No. 725 admeasuring 21550 sq.mtrs. in favour of (1) Ratanshibhai Karamshibhai Patel (15%) (2) Rasikbhai Virjibhai Patel (15%) (3) Bharatbhai Ramjibhai Patel (15%) (4) Rajarambhai Nanjibhai Patel (15%)(5) Jagdishbhai Dahyabhai Patel (20%), (6) Laljibhai Dhanjibhai Patel (7%) (7) Shantilal Dhanjibhai Patel (7%) (8) Manilal Dhanjibhai Patel (6%) is lost and not traceable for which Complaint is made in Dabhoda Police Station, District Gandhinagar on 03/08/2019 vide Po. St. Inward No. 2237/19 dated 03/08/2019 and Police Sub Inspector, Dabhoda Police Station, District Gandhinagar issued Certificate on dated 07/08/2019 for the same and for which I have to issue Title Investigation Report
All Persons having or claiming any right, title, claim, demand or estate interest in respect of the said property or to any part thereof by way of sale, exchange, mortgage, let, lease, lien, charge, maintenance, license, gift, inheritance, share, possession, easement, trust, bequest possession, assignment or encumbrance of whatsoever nature or otherwise are hereby requested to intimate to the undersgined in writing at the address mentioned below of any such claim accompanied with all necessary and supporting documents within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication hereof, failing which it shall be presumed that there are no claims and that claims, if any, have been waived off and the undersigned shall proceed to issue a Title Certificate in respect of the same. Place : Ahmedabad, Date : 11-9-2019
Omkar Mishra
Advocate
92/A, New York Tower-A, Near Thaltej Char Rasta, Thaltej, Ahmedabad. M.: 9426002949 / 079-26855451

PALAM NAGAR PANCHAYAT, TQ. PALAM, DIST. PARBHANI
E- Tender for 2019-20
Palam Nagar Panchayat, Palam invites E- Tender for the work of Palam water supply scheme under Maharashtra Suvarna Jayanti Nagarothan Mahaabhiyan Tq. Palam Dist. Parbhani in the state of Maharashtra, valued at Rs. 14,85,43,644/- the E- Tender details are available on https://mahatenders.gov.in from 16/09/2019.
All Relevant dates will be as per the tender published on Web portal https://mahatenders.gov.in
Sd/- Chief Officer, Palam Nagar Panchayat, Tq. Palam, Dist. Parbhani
Sd/- President, Palam Nagar Panchayat, Tq. Palam, Dist. Parbhani

AKOLA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
SANITATION DEPARTMENT
E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 05
The Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Akola invites E-Tender from intrested Agencies/Contractors/Bidders for Supply, installation, erection, commissioning of municipal solid waste processing plant, Construction of Scientific landfill site along with associated civil works in Akola (with operation & maintenance for 3 years) Tender will be available online on 16th September 2019, 6.00 pm onward. For more details visit the following link.
Portal:-https://maharashtra.etenders.in
Sub Portal:-https://aklmc.maharashtra.etenders.in
sd/-
Commissioner
Akola Municipal Corporation

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Applications are invited for the following Posts:

Advt. No.	Posts	Grade & Scale of Pay	No. of Posts
RT/07/2019 (Dt. 14/09/2019)	Sr. Manager (Liaisoning & Admin) For Delhi Officer	E-5 Rs. 32,900-58,000/-	01 (One)
RT/08/2019 (Dt. 14/09/2019)	DGM (Marketing)	E-6 Rs. 36,600-62,000/-	01 (One)
	DGM (FFP)	E-6 Rs. 36,600-62,000/-	01 (One)
	DGM (HMBP)	E-6 Rs. 36,600-62,000/-	01 (One)
RT/09/2019 (Dt. 14/09/2019)	GM (Finance)	E-7 Rs. 43,200-66,000/-	01 (One)
	GM (Accounts & Audit)	E-7 Rs. 43,200-66,000/-	01 (One)
	DGM (Finance)	E-6 Rs. 36,600-62,000/-	01 (One)
	Sr. Manager (Finance)	E-5 Rs. 32,900-58,000/-	03 (Three)
RT/10/2019 (Dt. 14/09/2019)	Technical Worker: Electrician, Fitter, Forger cum Heat Treater, Foundryman, Machinist, Moulder, Rigger cum Crane Operator, Turner, Welder cum Gas Cutter	Pls refer detailed Advertisement	60

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CHRISTIAN
Alliance for our daughter, 26 years, Keralite born and brought up in Mumbai, residing in Dubai, 138cm, M.Sc, Catholic. Groom from decent, educated catholic family. 28-30 years. Contact SMS 9892246333, email: machalls@gmail.com
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Unity signal for state units in BJP choice of chiefs

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

Bihar BJP chief Jaiswal (left), Rajasthan chief Poonia

THE BJP on Saturday appointed West Champaran MP and chief whip of the party in Lok Sabha Sanjay Jaiswal as its new Bihar unit president, and Satish Poonia as the president of the party's Rajasthan unit.

By appointing leaders who have the prospects of taking everyone along without being part of any camp as heads of two key states, BJP chief Amit Shah seems to have sent a strong message — that he wants the state units to work in harmony.

With Jaiswal's appointment in Bihar, the BJP seems to have gone back to catering to its core constituency of OBC Baniyas, constituting about 12 per cent of the state's population. Although the party already has an OBC Baniya face in Deputy CM Sushil Kumar Modi, it appeared to be looking for a younger face for the organisation ahead of Assembly polls scheduled late next year.

By naming Jaiswal, considered a moderate who has avoided controversies, the BJP leadership has indicated that it wants to have smooth coordination with Chief Minister Nitish Kumar-led JD(U) in Bihar.

A vocal section of the state BJP has often targeted Nitish, who has at times taken a stand opposite to that of the saffron party on several issues, including scrapping of special status to Jammu and Kashmir and the Citizenship Amendment Bill, underlining the unease in their alliance. Jaiswal's appointment comes months after former state chief Nityanand Rai was made a Union minister.

Jaiswal, a medical doctor, told *The Indian Express*, "My first priority is to further strengthen the party at the booth level. We aim to get 200 additional members at each booth. Once we achieve that, we will achieve the broad purpose."

Bihar Deputy CM Modi said, "Under Jaiswal's leadership, we will win the 2020 elections."

A Bihar BJP leader said, "Being a doctor has helped him in furthering his political constituency and reach out to people. He has a very good connect with people since he attends all social functions in his constituency."

If Jaiswal is considered an ideological moderate, new Rajasthan BJP chief Poonia belongs to the Sangh Parivar cadre. He began his political career as a student leader in the ABVP, came up through the ranks and was part of the Yuva Morcha, and is now the MLA from Amber constituency of Jaipur district.

In the faction-ridden Rajasthan unit, Poonia is considered to be part of no camp, which, party leaders said, seemed to have gone in his favour. A seasoned organisation man, he has been appointed chief of Rajasthan BJP after the death of state party chief Madan Lal Saini in June.

Poonia on Saturday said, "After working for nearly 40 years, I have realised that if there's any party which honours its workers, it is the BJP. This (appointment) is a felicitation of workers from all around Rajasthan," Poonia said.

BJP insiders say Poonia's appointment is also aimed at wooing the Jat community more towards the BJP — in Rajasthan, Rajputs are considered traditional BJP voters, and Jats as traditional Congress supporters.

WITH SANTOSH SINGH IN PATNA AND DEEP MUKHERJEE IN JAIPUR

'Final' NRC not final, names can still be removed

ABHISHEK SAHA
GUWAHATI, SEPTEMBER 14

EVEN A name included in the final National Register of Citizens (NRC) published on August 31 can still be excluded anytime under certain conditions, NRC authorities said Saturday, as they published a consolidated family-wise list of applicants on their website.

More than 19 lakh people in Assam were excluded in the final NRC - of the 3,30,27,661 applicants, 3,11,21,004 made it to the list. But the 'note' appended to the family-wise NRC published Saturday laid out in clear terms that those included in the list may also be excluded next and that no position in the list is permanent.

"Any fact of misrepresentation of particulars/documents discovered by the authorities rendering the person ineligible will lead to exclusion/deletion of the person from NRC," the note said.

It added, "Discovery at any point of time of a person being ineligible for inclusion in NRC on account of being a Declared Foreigner (post-1971 illegal migrant or FRRO unregistered of 1966-71 stream) or a person with a case Pending at Foreigners Tribunal or D (Doubtful) Voter or descendant of such person (as per eligibility prescribed), will lead to exclusion/deletion from NRC."

It stated, "Receipt at any point of time of opinion by any Foreigner Tribunal declaring any person as Foreigner, will lead to exclusion/deletion from NRC."

Government officials confirmed to *The Sunday Express* that it is "legally possible to send a reference to a person included in the NRC". This point was further highlighted by Assam minister Himanta Biswa Sarma in a detailed interview with the Assamese news channel NewsLive recently. He said that the Border Wing of the Assam police should investigate those it suspects "manipulated" legacy data for inclusion into the NRC.

Aabhijeet Sharma, president of the Assam Public Works (APW) — the original petitioners in the NRC case in the SC — said they were not happy with the NRC. "No one is happy. We want 100% re-verification. We have evidence that numerous persons who are Declared Foreigners (DFs) have already made it to the list. We will present this list to the Supreme Court soon," he said.

"This provision for further exclusion is as per Supreme Court's order, where it has clearly said that FT is superior to the NRC. I would not speculate on how it can play out in the coming days, let's see what the apex court says next," said advisor to the All Assam Minority Students' Union (AAMSU), Azizur Rahman.

The NRC updation exercise was carried out under the monitoring of the Supreme Court but it intersected with the already existing mechanisms of citizenship determination in Assam. Thus, a person declared a foreigner by an FT (DF or marked a Doubtful Voter (DV) by election officials or a person whose case is pending at an FT (PFT) and their descendants who have drawn 'legacy' from such persons have been excluded from the updated NRC.

Until now, FTs dealt with cases of those against whom a reference was made by the Border Wing of the Assam Police or whom election officials detected as a D-Voter. The SC has already ruled that an FT's order will prevail over the NRC's decision to exclude or include a person.

The NRC's August 31 publication was a "Supplementary Inclusions List" which provided the names of those included into the NRC after they had filed "claims" against their exclusion in the final draft published July 30 last year or excluded in the additional draft exclusions list published on June 26, 2019, or those who were in the final draft but had "objections" filed against their names or those who were included in the final draft but called for hearing from July 5, 2019, onwards.

The 19,06,657 people excluded in the final NRC will be appealing to the FTs against their exclusion. Assam already has 100 existing FTs. To meet the burden of the NRC excluded, 200 new FTs are soon to start and another 200 FTs are scheduled by the end of the year.

Meanwhile, the Centre has withdrawn 10,000 paramilitary personnel deployed in Assam before the publication of the final NRC, PTI reported Saturday. The decision was taken as there has been no violence in Assam since the NRC was published on August 31.

'Week Of Service' Ahead Of PM's Birthday

Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP working president J P Nadda during a cleanliness drive at AIIMS in New Delhi on Saturday. *Tashi Tobgyal*

- **Amit Shah and his party colleagues mopped the floor and met sanitation workers and children admitted at the hospital as he launched "seva saptah" (week of service) to celebrate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday on September 17.**
- **Shah said Modi has dedicated his life to serving the country, especially the poor, so it is natural that the party should observe his birthday by taking part in activities to serve the society.**
- **The BJP chief also inaugurated an exhibition at the party headquarters showcasing decisions taken by the Modi government — from scrapping J&K's special status to the law against instant triple talaq.**

Govt steps to revive economy cosmetic, piecemeal: Cong

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

HOURS AFTER Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced measures to boost exports and a Rs 20,000 crore stress fund for the real estate sector in an attempt to revive a slowing economy, the Congress said the steps announced by the government are "cosmetic" and "piecemeal" and stated that the Finance Minister was "clueless" in dealing with the economic slowdown.

"The steps announced today will not revive the Indian economy. They are purely cosmetic, piecemeal and also convey the arrogance of the government and its indifference to the seriousness of the situation. After the earlier announcements, the situation has deteriorated. These measures are not going to help," senior Congress leader Anand Sharma told reporters.

The finance minister, he said, is "lacking in macro-economic understanding" and is "clueless as to how to deal with the gravity of the crisis."

"A comprehensive package for economic revival was expected. Infusion of capital, not merely small interest subventions...but a major public investment. The government is unable to do so because it does not have money," he said, adding that the shortfall in tax collection appears to be more serious than last year.

"The annual tax collection target for this financial year is Rs 24.6 lakh crore....in the first four months the collection is Rs 5.4 lakh crore....so you can extrapolate the number. It is a staggering shortfall," he said.

Referring to the nationwide raid against GST violators, Sharma said "If that can revive the economic and business sentiment, I leave it your wisdom to evaluate." He said the finance minister's claim that inflation is under control is also meaningless in today's crisis.

"Let inflation rise, but let the economy be revived. Let investment take place. Let the money be released....let the factories start producing and our people find employment again," he said.

Referring to the special FTA utilisation mission announced by the finance minister, Sharma said the government had been critical of the trade agreements for the first few years and said it had not signed a "even a single bilateral investment or trade agreement....with any country."

He said the government should expand its FTAs and "tell the investing community globally and our partners that the scare it created by putting on hold or threatening to scrap all investment promotion agreements...they will honour it or negotiate whatever better terms....there is no room for any statements which are meaningless, which create confusion and actually push away potential investors and trade partners," he said.

In the past, riots turned festivals tragic: Yogi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 14

CLAIMING THAT festivals during the previous governments in the state turned into tragic incidents due to riots, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday said not a single riot has taken place in his two-and-a-half year tenure. He also said previous governments used to shelter those running illegal slaughterhouses and his government had implemented a plan for the protection and care of destitute cows.

Steps would be taken to prevent cow slaughter and also to ensure that stray cattle do not destroy crops, he said.

"In Sonbhadra, the Congress looted the poor and tribals of their ancestral land by creating a fake society. Our government is now giving tribals their rights on the lines of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas schemes. Under previous governments, there used to be riots and festivals would turn tragic instead of happy occasions. But not a single riot took place in our two-and-a half-year tenure. People are celebrating festivals with joy," he claimed.

Speaking at a function to lay foundation stone of 352 projects worth nearly Rs 1,135 crore in Aligarh, he said that soon after his government came to power in the state, they forced illegal slaughterhouses in Aligarh to shut down. He claimed that because of negligence by previous governments, hardware industries in Aligarh had to shut down, adding that his government would ensure that the industry in Aligarh "shines again." He also announced that a state university in the name of Raja Mahendra Pratap would be set up in Aligarh.

"The One District One Product (ODOP) scheme will give a boost to the traditional industries in the state. We have connected the lock-hardware industrialists of Aligarh with ODOP so that people here can get a new identity and they can get employment... " he said.

BJP MPs to head most key House panels, Cong gets only Home Affairs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

DEFYING PRECEDENCE, the ruling BJP has kept chairmanship of most Parliamentary committees that scrutinise key ministries dealing with security affairs, leaving only Home Affairs, headed by party president Amit Shah, to the Opposition.

The Standing Committees were constituted afresh late Friday night.

While senior Rajya Sabha MP Anand Sharma will chair the committee on Home Affairs in the newly constituted Parliamentary panels, BJP members will head the committees on Finance, Defence and External Affairs.

The Congress, which earlier headed key House committees of Finance and External Affairs, is left with only one.

As the Lok Sabha Secretariat updated the details, opposition parties have been given chairmanship of the committees on Science and Technology and Environment, Health, Information Technology, Food and Consumer Affairs, Labour, and Chemicals and Fertilisers.

BJP MP and former Union minister Jayant Sinha will chair the key committee on Finance, former ministers Jual Oram and P P Choudhary will head the panels on Defence and External affairs, respectively.

The usual practice of Opposition leaders heading the committees on External Affairs and Finance has been discontinued. The Congress has already expressed its disappointment over the move, and party MP Shashi Tharoor tweeted: "In the entire history of Parliamentary Standing Committees, the [committee] on External Affairs has always been headed by an Opposition Lok Sabha MP. Our tradition is foreign policy bipartisanship: our political differences stop at the nation's borders. Dismaying.... Govt has decided to end the tradition of the leading opposition party chairing the External Affairs Committee. Apparently a BJP MP will now hold the BJP Govt accountable instead. One more blow to our soft power, image& international reputation as a mature democracy."

Tharoor, who headed the panel on External Affairs in 16th Lok Sabha, has now been given chairmanship of Information and Technology panel.

Senior BJP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Bhupender Yadav will head the committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice; BJP's Rakesh Singh will chair the House panel on Coal and Steel; Ramesh Bidhuri the Petroleum and Natural Gas panel.

Other BJP members chairing different committees are Rama Devi (Social Justice and Empowerment), Satynarayan Jatiya (HRD), K Keshava Rao (Industry), Jagadambika Pal (Urban Development) and Sanjay Jaiswal (Water Resources).

V Vijayasai Reddy of YSR Congress, a party considered friendly to BJP at the Centre, has been appointed to chair the panel on Commerce, BJD's Bhartruhari Mahtab is heading the committee on Labour, ally JD(U)'s Rajiv Ranjan will chair the Energy panel, while Shiv Sena MP Prataprao Jadhav heads the Rural Development committee.

DMK MP M Kanimozhi will chair the committee that scrutinises the Chemicals and Fertiliser Ministry. Samajwadi Party leader Ram Gopal Yadav will chair the panel on Health and Family Welfare.

Chairmanship of Standing Committees on Railways and Agriculture, apparently much sought-after panels, has been given to former ministers and senior BJP leaders Radha Mohan Singh and P C Gaddigoudar, respectively. Rajya Sabha member T G Venkatesh, who joined BJP from the TDP recently, will head the panel on Transport, Tourism and Culture. Trinamool Congress's Derek O'Brien earlier headed it.

NCP leader resigns as MP, joins BJP in presence of Shah

MANOJ MORE
PUNE, SEPTEMBER 14

HOURS AFTER resigning as the Lok Sabha MP from Satara, former NCP leader Udayanraje Bhosale, a descendant of Chhatrapati Shivaji, on Saturday joined BJP in the presence of party president Amit Shah.

Bhosale joined the BJP at Shah's residence in Delhi, where Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, BJP state chief Chandrakant Patil and Water Resources Minister Girish Mahajan were also present.

"I felt suffocated in NCP; I couldn't get any work done... the Chief Minister and I are old friends. Through him, I have been able to get several development works implemented," he said.

Bhosale had earlier demanded that bypolls for Satara Lok Sabha seat should be held along with the Assembly polls. He had said that if he lost in the bypolls, he should be accommodated in Rajya Sabha, according to BJP sources.

"BJP chief Amit Shah held the event at his residence. This shows how much importance the BJP attaches to him," an associate of Bhosale said.

3 months on, Cong rejects Jakhar's resignation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 15

MORE THAN three months after Sunil Jakhar resigned as chief of its Punjab unit following his defeat in the Lok Sabha elections, the Congress Saturday rejected his resignation and asked him to continue steering the party with his "astute leadership".

The decision comes ahead of bypolls to four Assembly seats due soon. The state Congress committee has called a meeting of all the MLAs on September 17, to be addressed by Jakhar.

In a statement, the Congress said that "taking note of the good work done" by him as the state party chief, the "Congress high command has rejected the resignation of Sunil Jakhar as president of Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee (PPCC)".

Chief Minister Amarinder Singh welcomed the decision, terming it in the interest of the party as "Jakhar is a seasoned grassroots leader in Punjab, where he has done immense work on the ground and built a strong party cadre". His reaction came after Congress in-charge of Punjab affairs Asha Kumari, in a letter, asked Jakhar to continue steering the party.

FILM ACTORS, BADMINTON ACE JWALA GUTTA LEND SUPPORT TO CALL FOR MINING BAN

Uranium mining in Nallamala forests: K T Rama Rao to take up issue with CM

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, SEPTEMBER 14

OPPOSITION to the proposed mining of uranium in the pristine Nallamala forests got a boost on Saturday as Telangana minister K T Rama Rao said that he would take up the issue with his father and Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao.

K T Rama Rao said that he was aware of the concerns raised by the people. "I assure you I will personally take it up with the CM," he said.

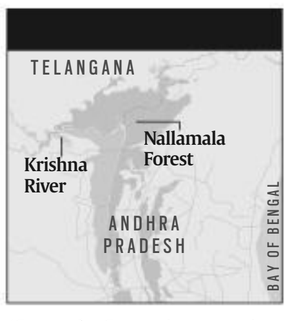
Actress A Samantha, TV star Anasuya Bharadwaj, film director Sekhar Kammula, and badminton player Jwala Gutta have also backed the campaign and signed a petition addressed to President Ram Nath Kovind.

On May 22, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change had granted in-principle approval to the Department of Atomic Energy to survey and explore for uranium in 83 sq km of the Amrabad Tiger Reserve. The Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), had submitted a proposal to carry out surveys and drilling of boreholes in four blocks in Amrabad Tiger Reserve, spread over Mahbubnagar and Nalgonda districts. Three of the four blocks are inside the core tiger protection area, known as the Rajiv Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary, which is located within the Amrabad Tiger Reserve.

Tribals protest at Mahbubnagar district. *Express*

The DAE wants to survey and explore for uranium over 83 sq km. The survey would be conducted by AMD, South Central Region, Hyderabad.

About 63 organisations, including political parties, several environment activists, birders, and wildlife enthusiasts have come together to form the 'Struggle Committee against Uranium Mining', a group which aims to strengthen and take forward the campaign 'Save Nallamalla Forest' to stop mining in the tiger reserve. This grouping also supports Chenchu tribals, who live in the Amrabad forests spread over Telangana's Mahbubnagar and Nalgonda districts, and have united to demonstrate against the project at the Amrabad Tiger Reserve.



On Saturday, a Government of India vehicle with New Delhi registration plates was stopped by tribals at Mannanoor. "The officials in the vehicle said that they had come to inspect the tree plantation work taken up by Telangana government. We did not believe their story and prevented them from going into the forest and they left. We believe they were from Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)," C Mallikarjun, a tribal leader said.

Members of the Struggle Committee have set up road blocks and have started checking all vehicles. "Only after a complete inspection of the vehicles and verifying the identity of occupants we are allowing them to proceed. We won't allow anyone related to the uranium mining project to go in," Mallikarjun said.

Tribals also blocked the forest road and held a massive protest against the proposed mining of uranium.

Additional police forces were deployed to maintain peace in the area.

A Ambanna, a member of the Struggle Committee, said Chenchus fear that even experimental drilling will cause water and land contamination. "They are right. The places where the officials propose to drill are very close to the Nallavagu and Dindi, tributaries which join the Krishna River. Some of the places earmarked for exploration are with 15-20 km of the rivers and there are fears that it would cause contamination. Apart from that, our concern is the disturbance to wildlife and destruction of the pristine forest due to the mining activity. This tiger reserve, sanctuary and reserve forest has been protected very well and it took years of dedicated hard work by forest officials to keep it intact. All that hard work would be undone if mining is allowed to take place here. We have to intensify our opposition and stop it," Ambanna said.

The campaign is supported by Tollywood actor Vijay Devarakonda and actor-turned-politician K Pawan Kalyan.

Pak will fall apart unless it stops terror aid: Rajnath

Next dialogue on terror, PoK, nothing else, says minister

AISHWARYA MOHANTY
SURAT, SEPTEMBER 14

MAINTAINING THAT no one can stop Pakistan from "falling apart" if the country continues to aid terrorism, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said that New Delhi will hold dialogues with Islamabad only after the latter puts an end to cross-border terrorism.

"The next dialogue will be about terrorism and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, and nothing else," Singh said at an event to felicitate families of martyrs in Surat.

Praising Surat residents for felicitating 122 families of soldiers from across the country who died on duty, Singh also warned Pakistan: "Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan yesterday said that do not go to the Line of Control (LoC) until I say so. Our Armymen protecting the borders will not spare anyone who crosses the LoC."

Addressing a gathering in PoK's Muzaffarabad, Imran had on Friday said, "I am aware that many of you want to march towards the LoC. I know you have the passion, but I will tell you when to do so."

Maintaining that it is India which should speak about human rights violations in Pakistan, rather Islamabad accusing Delhi, Singh said, "If human rights are being violated anywhere, it is in Pakistan. Anyone can go and check the condition of Balochis there —- of Hindus, Sikhs, Christians, Jains and Sindhis. But by accusing India of human rights violations, Pakistan is trying to falsely malign India's image at the international level."

Rajnath in Surat. *Express*

In India, he emphasised, minorities were, are, and will always remain safe. "This falsehood by Pakistan will not go on for long," he added.

Stating that India has never believed in the politics of religion but in humanity, he said Pakistan has instead believed in the politics of religion. "In the name of religion, India was partitioned and Pakistan was created (in 1947). But Pakistan was again partitioned in 1971. And now no one stop it from disintegrating further. No one has to partition Pakistan further; the country will fall apart eventually. The way the minorities —- Balochis, Sindhis —- are being treated, no one can stop Pakistan from disintegrating..."

Saturday's event was organised by Maruti Veer Jawan Trust.

Among those present at the event were Union Minister of State for Chemical and Fertiliser and Rajya Sabha member from Gujarat Mansukh Mandaviya, Governor Acharya Devvrat, and MPs Darshana Jardosh and C R Patil.

Malik takes dig at Imran

Jammu: Calling militants in Kashmir "Pak-purchased boys", J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik warned that they "will soon get killed" if they do not "mend their ways" and stop threatening apple growers against selling their produce outside the Valley.

About the Centre's decisions on J&K, he said, "The wheels of history does not go backwards."

Taking a dig at Imran Khan, he said, "We know nobody is going to come here at his instance. But, if we are able to take J&K to the path of development, which is very much possible, the day is not far when the PoK residents, facing worst situation under the occupation of Pakistan, will race towards us on their own to be part of India," said Malik. **PTI**

Schoolchildren being rescued by the Army in Balakote area. *Express*

Army rescues students as Pak continues shelling along LoC

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 14

HUNDREDS OF school students were rescued by the Indian Army on Saturday as Pakistani troops continued to target people living along the Line of Control in Balakote sector of Poonch district with mortar shells and small arms fire without provocation.

Sources said that children were trapped in nearly a dozen schools after Pakistani troops suddenly initiated mortar shelling and small arms fire around 9.30 am. The shelling was so intense that their family members were unable to come out of their houses to reach the schools.

Nearly half a dozen houses and a car were damaged and a dozen cattle killed in the shelling, sources said. Around 50 villages along the 50-km border stretch from Balnoi near Mankote sector to Tarkundi were affected by the cross-border shelling that continued for more than three hours.

The Indian army retaliated befittingly and mortar shelling and small arms fire from across the border stopped at 1 pm, said Defence Ministry spokesperson Lt Colonel Devender Anand.

Residents said that nearly two dozen schools were affected. A teacher at Sandyot high school said they had shifted all 120 students to a safer place inside the premises and made them take cover behind a wall along with teachers and other staff. "Half a dozen mortar shells fell within 50 metres of the school building," he said. Officials in the district administration received frantic calls to launch rescue operations.

Poonch Deputy Commissioner Rahul Yadav said that 5-6 schools in Balakote area were affected by shelling and small arms fire. The administration was going to launch rescue operations after the shelling stopped as it is dangerous to bring children out of schools during cross-border shelling, he said, adding that "they were more safe inside the schools".

However, following calls over the children's safety, Romeo Force pressed into service bulletproof vehicles and rescued the children and staff from schools during the shelling. Local police joined them, and the rescue operations continued till afternoon.

On August 29, nearly a dozen children and teachers were trapped at Government Middle School, Dabraj, in Mendhar sector after Pakistani troops initiated unprovoked mortar shelling and small arms fire targeting civilian population. Villages along the LoC in Poonch district are inhabited by Muslims.

Meanwhile, Northern Army Commander Lt General Ranbir Singh visited forward posts in Rajouri and Sunderbani sectors to review operational preparedness and the security situation.

DAY AFTER CALCUTTA HC ORDER

Despite summons, Rajeev Kumar fails to appear before CBI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 14

FORMER KOLKATA Police commissioner Rajeev Kumar on Saturday failed to appear before CBI officials for questioning in connection with the multi-crore Saradha chit fund scam.

The CBI had on Friday summoned him for questioning, hours after the Calcutta High Court set aside its interim order granting protection to the 1989-batch IPS officer from arrest in the Saradha scam probe.

Kumar was asked to appear for questioning at CBI's office at CGO Complex in Kolkata between 10 am and 3 pm but "did not appear despite summons", an official of the agency said.

People close to Kumar said he is seeking legal advice and can move the Supreme Court against the High Court order. He may also seek anticipatory bail in Calcutta High Court, they said.

According to CBI officials, finding no response his side, a team of officials went to the CBI counsel's residence at Ballygunge Place to seek legal advice on the basis of the High Court's order. "We are discussing with our legal adviser and will accordingly take action," a source in the agency said, not willing to disclose further.

A source said that Kumar has, through email, sought a month's time to appear before the agency. Stating that he is still "untraceable", a CBI officer said his phone was found switched off on Saturday. "Yesterday, he wasn't home when CBI officials went there (to serve a notice) - his family members were there," the officer added.

Meanwhile, heavy security was deployed outside Kumar's residence - at 34, Park Street. A videographer was also stationed outside to record all movements.

While there has been speculation that the CBI may arrest Kumar, officers indicated this will depend on whether he cooperates with the probe. According to CID officers, Kumar has been on leave since Tuesday —- initially for 10 days, and now for nearly a month, over personal reasons.

Outside former Kolkata top cop Kumar's residence on Saturday. *Partha Paul*

The 1989-batch IPS officer is accused of tampering with evidence and withholding vital evidence and documents, allegedly to shield influential people who had received cash from the Saradha Group.

BJP state president and MP Dilip Ghosh told the media, "No one will be spared if the CBI feels it is important to arrest him or her. He is an IPS officer and knows the law better than many of us. It's better if he cooperates."

Dismissing Kumar's petition seeking protection from arrest, Justice Madhumati Mitra had on Friday observed that "no one is above the law", and rights and liberties of a citizen guaranteed by the Constitution does not mean the person can keep away from interrogation.

"It is true that court has duty to protect and promote citizens' right and liberty guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution. This does not mean that (the) right is allowed to be used by a person to enjoy special treatment to keep him away from interrogation by the investigating agency under Section 160 of the Code of Criminal Procedure," the court order stated.

J&K starts process to identify land for 2 medi-city projects

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 14

IN THE first significant initiative after the Union government scrapped J&K's special status last month, the administration led by Governor Satya Pal Malik has begun the process to identify and transfer land for two medi-cities in Jammu and Kashmir divisions.

The move is significant because J&K plans to invite private investors to set up these mega-projects, seen as the first step to allow transfer of land to non-J&K residents in the newly carved Union Territory. Article 370 and Article 35A earlier barred outsiders from buying land in J&K.

The decision was taken by the high-level State Administrative Council (SAC) headed by Malik. Five advisers to the Governor are members of SAC. In a statement, the administration said SAC approved the policy document to set up two medi-cities "along with identification/transfer of land by the Revenue Department". The administration has not said how much land will be needed for the project.

The statement said private partners will be invited to set up the medi-cities, and the administration will notify "identified geographies" in in Jammu and Kashmir divisions for the projects.

The administration, as per the statement, "will support in providing land, financial aid and assistance subject to the State Health Care Investment Policy-2019".

Pak raises white flag to retrieve bodies of 2 soldiers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

THE PAKISTAN military raised the white flag to retrieve bodies of its two soldiers along the LoC in Hajipir sector of PoK after they were killed by Indian security personnel during cross-border firing, Army sources said Saturday. The Indian Army released a 1.47-minute video of the incident.

On September 10-11, Indian troops killed Pakistani Sepoy Ghulam Rasool of their Punjab Regiment in Hajipir sector of PoK, the sources said. Initially, Pakistani soldiers, under the cover of intense ceasefire violations, attempted to recover the body, but another Pakistani 'Punjabi Muslim' soldier was killed while doing so, the sources said. After repeated attempts for two days, the Pakistani Army could not recover the bodies of their soldiers. On September 13, Pakistan's Punjab Regiment soldiers raised the white flag and tried to recover the bodies, the sources said.

The sources said Indian Army respects the dead and so permitted the Pakistanis to retrieve the bodies.

MP High Court acquits man sentenced to death for killing five people

MILIND GHATWAI
BHOPAL, SEPTEMBER 14

THE MADHYA Pradesh High Court overturned a trial court judgment sentencing a man to death for the murder of five people, including four minors, and ordered his release.

Holding that the prosecution failed to establish the charges against Ankur alias Nitesh Dixit, who was 26 when he was arrested, a division bench in Gwalior, comprising justices Sanjay Yadav and Vivek Agrawal, set aside the conviction Monday.

Dixit was accused of killing a widow, her minor daughter and two other minor relatives in Bhind. The bodies of the five were found on May 14, 2016, at the residence of the widow's father-in-law.

According to the prosecution's case, Nitesh killed the minors because they found out about his relationship with the woman and then killed her as well, to eliminate all evidence. The woman had stab injuries and the minors died of asphyxiation.

"Leaving him alive is endangering the safety of people and society," the trial judge had said in his 115-page judgment.

The MP High Court's judgment came on an appeal filed against the trial court decision. In it, the defence argued that there were contradictions in the prosecution's theory and that the police concluded its investigation "in a predetermined manner to falsely implicate the accused" by examining only close relatives but not important witnesses — including the widow's father, who lived nearby, and immediate neighbours. It also argued that from the post-mortem report, it was evident from the the positions of the bodies that a single individual had not committed the crime.

In its order, the HC bench noted that "since there are major contradictions and omissions in the evidence led by the prosecution, resulting in non-completion of the chain of circumstances, indicating and establishing the guilt of the accused, the accused can't be sent to the gallows on the basis of such evidence."

ED books I-T officer for money laundering

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate said Saturday it has raided multiple locations linked to IRS officer Neeraj Singh, a commissioner in the Income Tax Department, in connection with a money laundering case associated to an alleged disproportionate assets case.

Singh was last posted in Chennai and has earlier worked in the investigation wing of the I-T department in Kolkata. ED said it raided six locations, two each in Kolkata, Mumbai and Patna, after it booked Singh under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The ED filed its criminal case against the IRS officer based on a Kolkata Police FIR "for accumulation of huge wealth in the name of his associates by giving undue favours by misusing his official position". **PTI**

BJP objects to sale of chicken and milk at same shop in MP

MILIND GHATWAI
BHOPAL, SEPTEMBER 14

THE MADHYA Pradesh government's move to sell chicken and cow milk under one roof has not gone down well with the Opposition BJP, which argued that it hurts religious sentiments of Hindus.

To provide a market for Kadaknath, a protein-rich chicken breed reared by cooperatives of tribal women in Jhabua and Alirajpur districts, a parlour was opened in Bhopal a month ago by the Madhya Pradesh Livestock and Poultry Development Corporation (MPLPDC). The corporation had been made the marketing agency for the project, which merges the objectives of departments of animal husbandry and cooperatives.

"Cow milk has special significance for followers of Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism and Sanatan Dharma. The symbol of purity is offered to god and is used on several other occasions. I request you to stop the sale of chicken and cow milk from one place. I am sure before the start of Durga festival you will ensure that chicken and cow milk are sold from parlours located some distance from each other," BJP MLA Rameshwar Sharma said in a letter to Chief Minister Kamal Nath.

MPLPDC Managing Director Dr HMS Bhadoria told *The Sunday Express* that the parlour was opened as part of a government policy to provide forward linkage to produce from women's cooperatives to ensure they get access to a bigger market and better price. He said chicken and cow milk are stored in separate deep freezers in adjacent parlours, and "even the vendors are different. It's not binding on anyone to buy products from there."

He said the chicken is dressed and marinated at Mandidip, an industrial township near Bhopal, and brought to the parlour in ready-to-cook state. The cow milk is brought from the bull mother farm, which functions under the corporation, on the outskirts of Bhopal.

Animal Husbandry Minister Lakhan Singh Yadav said the BJP's allegation was baseless because there was an iron partition between the two products. He said chicken and milk were sold from one place for people's convenience.

Kamal Nath lays foundation of Indore Metro project

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BHOPAL, SEPTEMBER 14

CHIEF MINISTER Kamal Nath on Saturday laid the foundation of the Indore Metro Rail project, which he said he had sanctioned as the Union urban development minister a decade ago.

Nath said the project's construction, operation and maintenance will create many job opportunities, and that the project was the need of the hour.

He announced that Rau and parts of Ujjain, Dewas and Dhar districts will be included later in the project, whose current cost has been estimated at Rs 7,500 crore. "We are creating Indore Metropolitan Area and even Bhopal will have a metropolitan area," he said.

Nath said he had asked then state urban development minister Babulal Gaur to prepare the DPR for metro rail projects in Indore and Bhopal and not worry about the costs. Without naming previous governments, he said the matter remained on paper.

Stone-laying ceremony. *PTI*

BJP spokesperson Rajneesh Agrawal said the metro projects in Indore and Bhopal were sanctioned by the Union Cabinet under PM Narendra Modi on October 3, 2018.

Laptops to projector: School on wheels WoWs Rajkot children

GOPAL KATESHIYA
RAJKOT, SEPTEMBER 14

AROUND 11 AM, a modified bus resembling a clinical laboratory pulls up in front of the municipal school in Rajkot's Shramjivinagar. A curious passer-by on a scooter stops to ask, "What is this bus all about?" Standing at the door of the vehicle, Hemant Bhamre replies with a broad smile, "It is meant for children."

Among its passengers are Sunny Parmar, an 11-year-old from a slum pocket, Lucky Talsangariya (12), who works in a tea stall, and Manisha Bhati (11), whose father scavenges metal scrap.

Bhamre is the coordinator of the Wisdom-on-Wheels (WoW) initiative launched by Rajkot District Collector Rahul Gupta in January. Sunny, Lucky and Manisha are among 1,113 children from slum pockets in Rajkot who have never been to school or dropped out. They have since been enrolled by WoW in various government schools over the last eight months.

WoW, often, also doubles as a community interface. On this day, among a group of women on board is Meena (35), mother of 13-year-old Kiran Shiyar, and her pregnant daughter-in-law Kajal. "When will we get BPL ration card so that Kajal can avail benefits of government schemes for pregnant women?" asks Meena, mother of four, who sells used garments while her husband drives an auto-rickshaw.

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Bhamre tells her that he has already helped her get an APL (Above Poverty Line) ration card, which will now be converted into BPL.

A 45-year-old social worker from Nasik in Maharashtra with a Masters degree in social work, Bhamre worked for children's rights in Maharashtra for the last 25 years and was roped-in by the Rajkot district collector in November last year to conduct a survey for the WoW initiative and then coordinate its activities.

Wisdom-on-Wheels, an initiative by Rajkot District Collector Rahul Gupta, was launched in January. *Chirag Chotaliya*

"We have to first win the trust of these families before we can ask them to send their children to school. Kiran used to accompany her mother selling used garments. This is the case with most of the other children. So, we also had to think about giving these families alternatives so their children are not engaged in odd jobs which keep them out of school," he says.

"As a way out, we have been helping these families avail benefits of various government schemes like the National Food Security Act, ration cards, voter identity cards, Aadhaar cards, old-age pension, foster pension for parents, aid to Divyangs as well as giving them opportunities to earn through new avenues like allotting them stalls to sell toys at fairs etc. Since this is an initiative by the district collector, it is easier for us to get such things done quickly."

Bhamre and collector Gupta's wife Anuja worked together in Maharashtra and she was instrumental in bringing Bhamre on board for the WoW initiative.

Gupta says that he felt the need for such an initiative after he and his wife adopted a government primary school in Anandpar village on the outskirts of Rajkot last year.

"We realised that there were lots of children who were out of school and there was a need to tap into that pool. We had a survey done and found that children were not willing to go to school as they were into begging, working in factories or doing menial household jobs and were earning something for their families," he said.

Gupta says that modifying the luxury bus to give it the look of a school, with laptops, a desktop, a projector, sanitary napkin vending machine etc cost Rs 15 lakh.

"Initially, we used funds of the Rajkot Lok Mela Samiti. We created the bus only to attract people and create some buzz. But within the launch of the WoW project by Chief Minister Vijay Rupani on January 14, we got donations worth Rs 70 lakh. So, now, WoW has its own corpus" says Gupta. WoW has also been allotted an office in the Rajkot district collectorate and the team says they have been able to reach out to 11,000 people in Rajkot.

SILVER LINING

Jennifer Aniston, the face behind popular American sitcom *Friends*, is making her comeback on the small screen after a gap of 15 years. She will be seen in Apple TV's *The Morning Show* in the role of a news anchor, Alex Lavey, who deals with ageism and sexism.

SNAP SHOTS

Changing with the Times

STREAMING PLATFORM Netflix has partnered with filmmaker Karan Johar's digital arm Dharmatic Entertainment for a multi-year deal in content creation. This will entail Dharmatic to create fiction and non fiction series and films aimed for its exclusive viewers. Johar, who had joined hands with Netflix for *Lust Stories* in 2018 and is currently directing *Ghost Stories* for the platform, said in a statement, "There is one aspect, which is very daunting in all our existence — the pressure of the Friday box-office performance and then the general performance of your film, which looms large on us filmmakers. But when you have a platform where you can showcase your creativity and your content and don't have the pressure of the box office, you are given wings to fly."

Robert Frank Passes Away

PHOTOGRAPHER ROBERT Frank, who revolutionised documentary photography, has died at the age of 94 in Cape Breton Island. The Swiss-American photographer was best-known for his revolutionary book *The Americans* which challenged conventional art forms, as he delved into themes of loneliness and isolation. One of the finest examples of his master works, it captured images from everyday American life, ranging from teenagers in love and bikers to the lives of factory workers, to present subjects that were simple. In the '60s and '70s, Frank had attained the status of being an antidote to the traditional culture when emerging as an *avant-garde* filmmaker. The groundbreaking photographer, is survived by his wife, June Leaf.

The Invisible Army

In his latest docu-series, wildlife filmmaker Krishnendu Bose tells the stories of forest guards who man India's forests, even though their work remains largely unrecognised

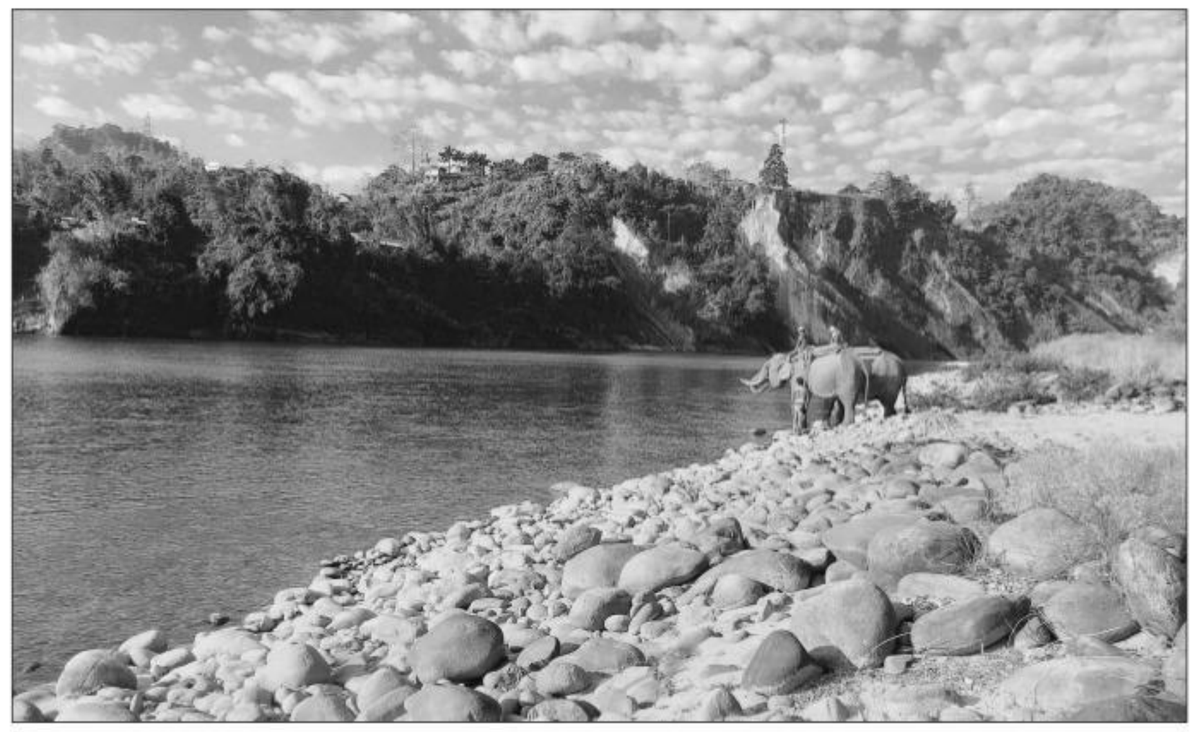
SURBHI GUPTA

WHEN KRISHNENDU Bose was at Pakke Tiger Reserve in Arunachal Pradesh, shooting with his crew in a gorge, a baby elephant slipped and fell off the cliff. It was terrified, struggling to get out, when a group of forest guards came forward and rescued it. They also spotted its mother, standing on the top of the hill, looking equally terrified. Bose also talks about how Khenrab Phuntsog, a forest guard in Ladakh's Hemis National Park, suffered a heart attack, due to extreme weather conditions in the terrain. He also mentions a special squad that works round-the-clock in north Bengal's elephant corridors to keep the jumbos off the farms.

The Delhi-based wildlife filmmaker, in his new docu-series *Heroes of the Wild Frontiers*, has given a face to hundreds of these forest guards and frontline staff, who man India's forests and national parks. "Anyone working in the forests only gets to see animals, trees and forest guards; they are the only humans one sees in the wild. My learning curve, as a filmmaker and conservationist who understands little about ecology and behaviour though, a lot of it has been due to them. Their expertise has helped my craft a lot, especially when you've to place your boots on the ground, and ears and nose in the air. I have been thoroughly inspired by these guys," says Bose, who has been making films on wildlife for the last 25 years. His 2007 film *Tiger – The Death Chronicles* had won the conservation award at International Wildlife Festival in Montana USA, while *The Tiger Who Crossed the Line* (2016) won the National Award in 2017.

Heroes of the Wild Frontiers, which will premiere on Animal Planet September 16 onwards, starts at the Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park in the Andaman islands, where one gets to see the breeding season of the Leatherback Sea Turtles and the bleaching of corals; and moves to the northern mountains in Hemis National Park to spot the snow leopards; and then to the Sunderban mangroves in West Bengal where the man-eating Royal Bengal Tiger resides. In each episode, we meet a forest guard to get a sense of his daily life and routine. "They have so much of knowledge and experience, but are always on the edge. And what do they get for it — pittance for a salary, undefined working hours, with their families being so far. A lot of credit goes to the top bureaucracy, policymakers and the government but the real men on ground are not talked about much. The last-mile connectivity to conservation in this country is through these guys," he says. The series that was in the making for a year has been funded by a host of organisations — including World Wildlife Fund, Wildlife Trust of India and Wildlife Conservation Trust, among others.

"If you have three services who are entrusted with protection on the frontline — army, police and forest guards — you have to see who gets what. Forest guards are way poorer cousins with no medical facilities or rotation system. It was very difficult for us to get four-five days with them to shoot this series; if they got a message on the wireless, they had to rush," says Bose.



(Clockwise from left) Krishnendu Bose *Tashi Tobgyal*; a scene from the series shot at the Pakke Tiger Reserve; at the Hemis National Park

As one watches the series, one notices how it is the forest guard who acts as the wall during a man-animal conflict. "We saw how there were villagers pushing away the elephants and also the forest guards but while the former are trying to save their lives and property, the latter are trying to save the elephants, and in the process, saving people," says Bose. In the episode on Hemis, we learn about the snow leopard tourism project initiated by the forest department, where they have involved local communities.

A solution to man-animal conflict is very difficult, he says. "India is a developing economy and also a conservation success story. But there is a flipside: if there are more tigers today and they are slipping out of protected areas as more forests are being cut, the conflict is only going to increase. People have to learn how to co-exist with wildlife," says Bose, who hopes to add a second season to the series.

The Discovery of India

MAMI 21st Mumbai Film Festival announces films that make it to the India Gold competition section

A still from Saurav Rai's *Nimtoh* (*Invitation*)

ALAKA SAHANI

AS INDIAN filmmakers push the boundary and come up with engaging stories, the Jio MAMI 21st Mumbai Film Festival with Star cherrypicks 10 movies that celebrate India's cultural diversity and highlight its contemporary concerns, for its 'India Gold' section. The competition section showcases animator Gitanjali Rao's debut feature *Bombay Rose*, which explores the ruthlessness of a society where the love and life that reign on the big screen can crush a commoner in its mean streets. It also features Gurvinder Singh's *Bitter Chestnut* (*Khanaur*) that looks into the issues of migration and reverse migration. While in *Just Like That* (*Aise Hi*) by Kislay, a widow must face the consequences of making her own choice by going against the societal expectations, Pushpendra Singh's *Pearl of the Desert* (*Maru ro Moti*) highlights class conflicts through the aspirations of a Manganiyar musician.

The festival will showcase Marathi, Pahari, Maithili, Assamese, Nepali, Hindustani, and Bengali movies under this section. This year also marks the return of MAMI veterans. Bhaskar Hazarika, whose film *The River of Fables* (*Kothanodi*) was screened at the festival in 2015, is back with *Ravening* (*Aamis*). So is Singh whose National Award-winning *Chauthi Koot* was screened at the festival. Archana Atul Phadke's Marathi documentary, *About Love*, will premiere along with Prateek Vats' *Eeb Allay Ooo!*. His *A Very Old Man With Enormous Wings* had premiered at Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival with Star, 2017.

Speaking about the line-up, Smriti Kiran, artistic director, MAMI, said: "India Gold is at the heart of our selection. We are an international film festival but bringing the best Indian narratives to the world and to India is at the core of our mission." The film festival, which opens on October 17 with *Mothoon* by Geetu Mohandas, goes on till October 24.

INDIA GOLD PICKS

- *About Love* directed by Archana Atul Phadke
- *Bitter Chestnut* (*Khanaur*) directed by Gurvinder Singh
- *Bombay Rose* directed by Gitanjali Rao
- *Eeb Allay Ooo!* directed by Prateek Vats
- *Gamak Ghar* directed by Achal Mishra
- *Nimtoh* (*Invitation*) directed by Saurav Rai
- *Just Like That* (*Aise Hi*) directed by Kislay

'He gave mud buildings a brand value'

Architect Vasant Kamath, who passed away recently, championed local skills and materials

SHINY VARGHESE

EVERYBODY KNEW Vasant Kamath to be the gentleman architect, soft spoken and calm, and his designs embodied that care he gave to detailing his buildings. With nearly half a century of architectural practice and over three decades of teaching architecture at the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), Delhi, Vasant gave the profession the quiet confidence that those who dared, could stick it out and make a difference. He passed away in Delhi on September 3, after a long battle with cancer. He was 73.

"Vasant taught generations of students," says architect-urban designer KT Ravindran, "He had such a depth and breadth of knowledge that he could guide students in their various fields of interest. He was also public minded, and was at the forefront of different projects, even if it didn't benefit him."

His practice with architect-wife Revathi — Kamath Design Studio in Delhi — grew world renowned for their use of locally available materials and sensitivity to crafts and local skills. Be it their own mud house in Faridabad, where they turned a dis-used quarry site into an ecosystem for grasslands and seasonal plants, or an early '80s project in Seemapuri for the NGO Mobile Creches, where they explored the properties of brick to create arches and domes.

"He found what was traditional and inserted it into his modern buildings, mainstreamed the vernacular and gave mud buildings a brand value. For his six-foot-tall personality, he had a way of designing small spaces, like he did in Mobile Creches, where every detail is thought through, be it the way the light falls or a nook takes shape. He left the expansive outside and consumed as much of it, making use of every corner in an 8ft x 8ft room," says architect Manoj Mathur, former head, Architecture Department, SPA, Delhi.

A memorial meeting for Vasant will be held at the India Islamic Centre, Delhi, on September 15 at 3 pm.

Vasant Kamath; (above) Wellness Centre and Spa in Kundli, Haryana

This Is Not A Movie. Or is it?

A slew of films showcased at the festival explore the times we live in

EXPRESS AT TIFF 2019

SHUBHRA GUPTA

AND JUST like that, six days are over, and it is my last day at TIFF. The head is abuzz, everything is a blur, and I'm doing my usual ritual of stacking up the stand-outs, the ones that didn't work all the way were rewarding nevertheless, and the ones that make everything worthwhile — the crazy travel, non-stop screening schedules, and stuffing one's face with dense carbs.

It is a truism that film critics on the festival circuit do live by bread alone. And movies. The Finnish film, *Dogs Don't Wear Pants* by Jukka-Pekka Valkeappa has to be one of the most unusual love stories I've seen in a while. A well-regarded cardiac surgeon (Pekka Strang) who has lost his wife under mysterious circumstances, has sunk into a deep, dark space, and nothing, not even his teenage daughter's petulant transgressions, can rouse him.

Quite by accident, as he accompanies his rebellious teen to a tattoo parlour, he ends up in the company of a dominatrix (Krista Kosonen). She thinks he is a client, and before he can demur, she throws the entire kitchen-sink at him — whips, chains, leather, metal, and he discovers something about himself: pain can bring him alive again.

In a world awash with hardcore porn, a film which deals with BDSM and so-called aberrative sexual appetites, runs the risk of tawdriness. But *Dogs Don't Wear Pants* is more interested in using pain and humiliation as a means to explore the innards of the human psyche: what does it take a man to shut down so completely that he forgets to feel, and what is it that will help him turn the corner?

There is plenty here to make the faint-hearted or the squeamish extremely uncomfortable, especially a little set-piece involving a sharp object and a tooth, as well as a dog's collar. But for those who persevere, the film reveals its hand slowly but surely, and shows just how two individuals can come together even in the most challenging circumstances. And leaves you wondering: are those who cause pain hurting themselves? And does pain really purify and heal?

Veteran Hong Kong filmmaker Yonfan's animation feature *No 7 Cherry Lane*, which won much applause at the just concluded Venice film festival before fetching up at TIFF, is so stunning to look at that you can spend hours drinking it in. Each frame is a thing of beauty, whether it is the interiors of a house where a handsome young fellow begins tutoring a pretty girl (they read *Jane Eyre* together; he is a Proust fan), whose mother is a beautiful, sensuous older woman and exerts a powerful hold on the young man.

Other characters float in and out of this ensemble, men, women and animals, all engaged in, at one level, day-to-day living, and on another, making strong political, psycho-sexual comments about the times they are going through. The film is set in 1967, and is drenched in nostalgia. The looking-back at an era gone by, by a 72-year-old filmmaker carries special weight, and though *No 7 Cherry Lane* is often a bit all over the place, there is no doubt that we are in the presence of a major filmmaker, giving us the sights and sounds — lush, drenched in desire, and a couple of blow-your-socks-off-sequences-of-carnal-pleasure — which are stayers.

How do foreign correspondents, the ones who sign up for the wandering life — of mendicant, observer, reporter all rolled into one — see themselves? And equally importantly, how do others, especially in a media environment with shrinking resources, do the same thing?

The National Film Board of Canada's documentary slate at TIFF is toplined by *This Is Not A Movie* by Yung Chang, in which the British-born Robert Fisk, who reported for *The Times*, London, and then moved on to *The Independent* is shown talking about his life and times. And what a life — more than 40 years spent on the frontlines of some of the most troubled spots in the world, from Northern Ireland to the Middle-East and Syria.

The film opens with Fisk walking down a rubble-strewn town in Syria, and it cuts back and forth in time, swooping back to when he was a young, upcoming reporter telling the stately *The Times* what was what, and then later, keeps him company as he is shown struggling to make sense of a world gone to hell in a handbasket, and moved to the intangible-yet-permanent internet.

It's not just journalists, especially print warhorses, who will enjoy this account, but also the others who have no idea what it takes to be a newsperson who has dedicated his or her life to the reporting of truth as they see it, and the courage and conviction it takes to tell those stories that no one wants to hear. Conflict goes on forever, doesn't it?

And now, I'm tearing off to join the long lines for Taika Waititi's much-anticipated *Jojo Rabbit*. Have a good feeling about it, and as I'm doing so, I'm thinking of John Updike's classic novel, *Run Rabbit Run*. That's who we are, us film critics on foreign shores, always on the run.

A still from Yung Chang's *This Is Not A Movie*

INSIDE TRACK

COOMI KAPOOR

SUPER FAST TRACK

ON HIS recent State visit to Iceland, Switzerland and Slovenia, President Ram Nath Kovind was accompanied by three full secretaries to the Government of India. Apart from the concerned secretary from the IFS, Sanjay Kothari, the President's Secretary, and E L S N Bala Prasad, the President's Special Secretary, went with him. Prasad was promoted in April from additional secretary to full secretary. Prasad, a 1986 Bihar-cadre IAS officer, has had probably the most rapid series of promotions of any senior civil servant. He was elevated from director-level rank to joint secretary to additional secretary and secretary in the span of less than a year. Prasad's proximity to Kovind goes back to the time when he was principal secretary to Kovind when the latter was Bihar governor.

SLANGING MATCH

There was a slanging match at the CPI office in Ajoy Bhavan recently. Atul Anjan, national secretary of the CPI, demanded that Kanhaiya Kumar, the party's much publicised candidate from Begusarai in the last Lok Sabha elections, submit a detailed report of his election expenses, which was long overdue. Kanhaiya was furious at being ticked off.

SEVEN-STAR STYLE

Gujarat Bhawan in Chanakyapuri was one of the more run-down state *bhawans* in the Capital. But Gujarat has now outdone every state in India with its new *bhawan* in Delhi, Garvi Gujarat, which Prime Minster Narendra Modi inaugurated this month. The six-storey marble mansion designed in the style of an old Gujarat *haveli* with modern touches, resembles a boutique seven-star hotel. Built at a cost of Rs 128 crore, it tastefully showcases Gujarat's artisanship. There are delicately carved marble *jalis*, old-style arches, an imitation stepwell pond and a smoked skylight which changes colour. The brilliantly coloured marble inlay flooring replicates the design of Kutchi embroidery and Patola *saris*. Well-equipped conference halls, as well as a solar power plant and sewage treatment plant to conserve water provide a modern touch. The suites for the government officials are on a par with any swanky hotel. The Gujarat government has sensibly outsourced the housekeeping and kitchen to private parties.

The *bhawan* is built on 7,066 square metres of land, which belonged to the Delhi Land and Development Office. Whether a multi-storey building should have been permitted in the heritage Lutyens zone is of course a debatable point. The *bhawan* is across the road from the Congress headquarters, which looks rather dilapidated in contrast.

HIS MASTER'S VOICE

Some mistakenly attribute the sudden departure of the Prime Minister's principal secretary Nripendra Misra to his differences with Ajit Doval over Kashmir. In fact, the indication that Misra,74, would step down was evident in June itself when Narendra Modi granted Cabinet-rank status to not just Misra, but also additional principal secretary Pramod Kumar Mishra. Even during Modi's first tenure as PM, although Misra was the senior of the two secretaries, it was the low-key PK who held the important portfolios, such as appointments. PK's advantage is that he had worked closely with Modi earlier. He was Modi's first principal secretary when he was Gujarat chief minister. After retiring as agriculture secretary in Delhi, PK had continued to work for the Gujarat government. Misra, on the other hand, was unknown to Modi when he joined the PMO in 2014, and was chosen because of his familiarity with the Capital's power structure, since Modi was new to Delhi. PK's strength is that he intuitively knows what his boss desires and seldom imposes his own opinion.

STILL ANOTHER MILE

Seventy-two-year-old Maoist ideologue Kobad Ghandy has been in jail for 10 years with nearly two dozen criminal cases filed against him all over the country, mostly under the vague Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. He has been shuttled around as a non-political prisoner to various jails, despite his serious medical condition, which requires hospitalisation. In April, it had seemed as if Ghandy's ordeal might finally end. He had obtained bail or been acquitted in the numerous cases against him. But matters can get complicated in our criminal justice system. The Jharkhand authorities refused to free Ghandy even after his release order, because the Surat police suddenly sent word that there was a production warrant for a case pending against him since February 2010. Though Ghandy wrote repeatedly starting November 2016 to the Surat court asking that the production warrant in the Gujarat matter be forwarded to expedite the case, he received no response. The Hazaribagh police, meanwhile, kept Ghandy in prison for several months claiming there was no escort available to take him to Surat. It should normally be a simple matter for Ghandy to get bail in the Surat case. He is the only one of the 24 accused not yet out on bail. But nothing, unfortunately, has been easy or straightforward about Ghandy's decade-long incarceration.

FIFTH COLUMN

TAVLEEN SINGH

Remember 9/11 and why it happened

LAST WEEK the world commemorated the 18th anniversary of 9/11. But, it saddened me that nothing was done to remember that the ideology behind that terrible tragedy has its epicentre in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. We in India cannot afford not to remember. Since Article 370 was removed, we have been repeatedly threatened with 'nuclear' jihad by senior members of Pakistan's government. They speak the same language today as their jihadists do, which is scary.

Intelligence reports indicate an alarming increase in attempts to infiltrate jihadists into India since Kashmir lost its special status. Article 370 was removed with overwhelming support of both Houses of our Parliament ,but is called an 'annexation' by Pakistan's leaders. Their language has been so belligerent that there are fears of the imminent possibility of an attack like 26/11. It could happen any time, anywhere in India. With Pakistani ministers boasting that they have nuclear devices small enough to be delivered by hand, India cannot afford to ignore these warnings.

It is not just irresponsible leaders next door that should worry us but also the grim reality that the American President thinks that the Kashmir problem is a problem between Hindus and Muslims. Donald Trump seems to have a limited understanding of complicated political issues in faraway places so he can be forgiven for his ignorance about Kashmir. But, he should know that after 9/11, when Afghanistan stopped being a safe haven for jihadists, it was in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan that Osama bin Laden and his closest lieutenants found shelter and support.

Kashmir may once have been a problem between Hindus and Muslims, but for many years now the real problem has been the spread in the Valley of jihadist Islam. It is this evil ideology that persuades young Kashmiri boys to become suicide bombers. I use the word evil consciously because the fundamental tenet of the jihadist interpretation of Islam is that infidels and idolators are meant to be killed because this is the will of Allah. In my infidel eyes that is truly evil. India would have been fair game even if we did not have our Kashmir problem because it is hard to find a country so filled with idols and idol-worshippers.

If Kashmir was the only problem between India and Pakistan, as Imran Khan believes, then can he explain why Mumbai was attacked? Can he explain why temples across India have been targeted by suicidal jihadists? The real problem between India and Pakistan is that jihadist terrorism has been nurtured and financed by the Pakistani State ever since the defeat in Kargil proved that India was undefeatable in a conventional war.

Pakistan's Prime Minister loves to repeat that no country has suffered more from terrorism than the Islamic Republic. Last week, in a whiney post on social media, he said, "We lost 70,000 people. We lost over $100 billion (from) the economy. And in the end, we were blamed for the Americans not succeeding in Afghanistan. I felt it was very unfair to Pakistan." He was addressing foreign correspondents who may have been easy to convince but he would find it a lot harder to convince Indians of this.

Personally, as someone who has known him for a very long time, I find myself gasping with astonishment every time he makes a new speech. What shocks me, particularly, is the manner in which he repeats, ad nauseam, that ever since he became Prime Minister he has tried his best to reopen a dialogue with India and that all his efforts have been rebuffed. He does this without once accepting that relations between our two countries deteriorated after the attack on Mumbai. And, Pakistan's refusal to accept that the 10 jihadist killers that were involved in our 9/11, were guided at every step by someone in Pakistan speaking in Punjabi. Even before David Headley, from his prison cell in America, gave details of the total involvement of Pakistan in 26/11, there was evidence in India that Pakistani military men were behind it. Imran Khan should ask himself if he would have been so eager to talk to India if the Indian government had committed a similar atrocity on Pakistani soil.

The Indian government, in any case, has other things to deal with. It must take urgent, visible steps to win the peace in the Kashmir Valley and it must do more to convince the world that Pakistan has no business to be giving anyone lectures on 'human rights' as long as it remains the epicentre of an ideology that has been correctly likened to the Nazism of our times. When Imran Khan compares Narendra Modi to Hitler and Hindutva to Nazism, does he even know what he is talking about? How would he describe jihadism that is founded on the principle that those who do not accept Islam must be killed?

Follow Tavleen Singh on Twitter
@tavleen_singh

How democracy dies, American-style

PAUL KRUGMAN

DEMOCRACIES USED to collapse suddenly, with tanks rolling noisily toward the presidential palace. In the 21st century, however, the process is usually subtler.

Authoritarianism is on the march across much of the world, but its advance tends to be relatively quiet and gradual, so that it's hard to point to a single moment and say, this is the day democracy ended. You just wake up one morning and realise that it's gone.

In their 2018 book *How Democracies Die*, political scientists Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt documented how this process has played out in many countries, from Vladimir Putin's Russia, to Recep Tayyip Erdogan's Turkey, to Viktor Orban's Hungary. Bit by bit the guardrails of democracy were torn down, as institutions meant to serve the public became tools of the ruling party, then were weaponised to punish and intimidate that party's opponents. On paper, these countries are still democracies; in practice they have become one-party regimes.

And the events of the past week have demonstrated how this can happen right here in America.

At first, Sharpiegate, Donald Trump's inability to admit that he mis-stated a weather projection by claiming that Alabama was at risk from Hurricane Dorian, was kind of funny, even though it was also scary — it's not reassuring when the President of the United States can't face reality. But it stopped being any kind of joke on Friday (September 6), when the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a statement falsely backing up Trump's claim that it had warned about an Alabama threat.

Why is this frightening? Because it shows that even the leadership of the NOAA, which should be the most technical and apolitical of agencies, is now so subservient to Trump that it's willing not just to overrule its own experts but to lie, simply to avoid a bit of presidential embarrassment.

Think about it: If even weather forecasters are expected to be apologists for Dear Leader, the corruption of our institutions is truly complete.

Which brings me to a much more important case, the Justice Department's decision to investigate automakers for the crime of trying to act responsibly.

The story so far: As part of its jihad against environmental regulation, the Trump administration has declared its intention to roll back Obama-era rules mandating a gradual rise in fuel efficiency.

You might think that the auto industry would welcome this invitation to keep on polluting. In fact, however, automakers have already based their business plans on the assumption that fuel-efficiency standards will indeed rise.

They don't like seeing their plans upended — in part, one suspects, because they understand that the reality of climate change will eventually force the reinstatement of those rules. So they have actually opposed Trump's deregulation, which they warn would lead to "an extended period of litigation and instability".

And several companies have gone beyond protesting. In a remarkable rebuke to the administration, they have reached an agreement with the state of California to comply with standards nearly as restrictive as the Obama rules even if the federal government is no longer requiring them.

Now, according to *The Wall Street Journal*, the Justice Department is considering bringing an antitrust action against those companies, as if agreeing on environmental standards were a crime comparable to, say, price-fixing.

This would be disturbing even if it came from an administration that had previously showed some interest in actual antitrust policy. Coming from people who heretofore haven't indicated any concerns about monopoly power, it's clearly an attempt at weaponising antitrust actions, turning them into a tool of intimidation.

And it's also clear evidence that the Justice Department has been thoroughly corrupted. In less than three years, it has been transformed from an agency that tries to enforce the law to an organisation dedicated to punishing Donald Trump's opponents.

Who's next? In at least two cases, Trump appears to have tried to use his power to punish Amazon, whose founder, Jeff Bezos, owns *The Washington Post*, which the President considers (like this newspaper) to be an enemy. First, he pushed for an increase in the post office's package shipping rates, which would hurt Amazon's delivery costs; then the Pentagon suddenly announced that it was re-examining the process for awarding a huge cloud-computing project that Amazon was widely expected to win.

In each case it's hard to prove that these were efforts to weaponise government functions against domestic critics. But who are we kidding? Of course they were.

The point is that this is how the slide to autocracy happens. Modern de facto dictatorships don't usually murder their opponents (although Trump has been fulsome in his praise for regimes that do, in fact, rely on brute force). What they do, instead, is use their control over the machinery of government to make life difficult for anyone considered disloyal, until effective opposition withers away.

And it's happening here as we speak. If you aren't worried about the future of American democracy, you aren't paying attention.

NYT

HISTORY HEADLINE

Learning through failures

PRAMOD KALE

THE CHANDRAYAAN-2 mission had started out as a highly complex and ambitious mission, far more complex than Chandrayaan-1 and Mars Orbiter Missions. When it was conceived, Chandrayaan-2 was supposed to use the GSLV Mk-II launch vehicle. The rover was expected to be of Russian design and manufacture. But, after the failure in one of its other missions, the Russian agency ROSCOSMOS indicated its inability to supply the rover. Considering the importance of the mission, ISRO then decided to proceed with indigenous design and development of the lander and the rover.

The Chandrayaan-2 mission required a composite spacecraft to be launched. This composite spacecraft consisted of an orbiter, a lander and a rover. Later, the lander was named Vikram and the rover was named Pragyan. After considerable amount of delays caused by the change of the launch vehicle from GSLV Mk-II to GSLV Mk-III, and tests to be carried out on the lander and the rover, the launch was finally scheduled for July 15 this year. I had witnessed the launch of Chandrayaan-1 and the Mars Orbiter. I wanted to be present at the launch of Chandrayaan-2 as well and had gone to the Satish Dhawan Space Centre. Less than an hour before the launch, the countdown was stopped due to a suspected leak in the pressurising system of the cryogenic stage, and the mission was stopped from proceeding. Later it was confirmed that the leak was real and it was certainly good that a timely decision was taken not to proceed with the launch operations.

While I was sitting there in the visitor's gallery after the announcement stopping the launch operations, I recalled how we had to postpone the launch of INSAT-1A in 1982 due to damage caused to the solar sail of the spacecraft. We were not certain about the corrections required and the time it would take to make fresh attempt at launching it. Eventually, we were able to launch it within two days itself on the Delta launch vehicle of NASA. INSAT-1A developed some problems in the orbit as well. It was launched on April 10, 1982, and by September it was considered a failure because of non-performance of some systems in the orbit. Problems were reported in INSAT-1B, INSAT-1C and INSAT-1D as well, and while INSAT-1C was declared a total failure, INSAT -B and INSAT-1D served us very well. But these experiences helped us improve our designs for INSAT-2 series of satellites which were very successful.

And so, it was remarkable that in the case of Chandrayaan-2, the problem on the GSLV Mk-III launch vehicle was identified and corrected, and it was launched within a week, on July 22. From the news reports it would appear that the problem was small, but the ground operations involved in correcting it were enormous. The mission planning had to be such that even after the delay of seven days, the final lander touchdown date of September 7 was achieved.

Chandrayaan-2 lifts off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre on July 22. *ISRO*

This kind of flexibility is again thanks to our learning from previous missions. Our SLV-3 and ASLV launch vehicles in the early 1980s (the first two launch vehicles developed by ISRO, the precursors of PSLV and GSLV) used to have solid propellant rocket motors in their final stages. A similar solid propellant stage was also used for the perigee raising manoeuvre of the APPLE satellite as well around the same time. But since the time of INSAT series of launches we have been using low thrust liquid bi-propellant propulsion systems for apogee raising manoeuvres. This requires the engines to be operated for long time with multiple restart capability. Right from the first engine firing, we can calibrate the engine performance in orbit and apply corrections in further firings. This technology has been successfully operationalised by ISRO since then.

The mission planning using low thrust capability has been extremely flexible and similar strategy was used for Chandrayaan-1 and Mars Orbiter Missions. The strategy requires multiple manoeuvres at perigee to raise the apogee of the orbit. The mission time is extended but we can realise far more accurate orbits necessary for lunar or planetary missions. If we had used trajectories which require less time to reach to the moon, we might have required much higher thrusts and different engines.

The Chandrayaan-2 composite spacecraft successfully entered the lunar orbit in August and then the Vikram lander separated from the composite spacecraft. The orbit lowering manoeuvres were successfully carried out using the propulsion and orbit control system of the Vikram lander. Ahead of the landing, the deorbiting of the Vikram lander was successfully carried out and Vikram was on its way to the final touchdown. Very close to final landing, some problems were noticed and communications with Vikram were lost. Investigations are being carried out to pinpoint the cause of the problem. It will take some time to fully understand the problem and find the solution. Once the solution is found, ISRO will plan for a repeat mission of soft landing on the Moon. I am certain that we will be able to overcome the problems for the future missions. ISRO has the resilience required to rise to the occasion.

We had problems with SLV-3, ASLV, INSAT series, PSLV and GSLV missions. We learnt from their failures and overcame the problems. The first flight of SLV-3 had seen the rocket fall in the Bay of Bengal five minutes after launch. The first launch of PSLV in 1992 was also a failure, but we were able to correct the problem and in less that two years carried out a successful launch. Since then, we have had string of successes with the PSLV flights.

These days, ISRO is carrying out these missions in full public view with live television coverage. This requires courage and the ISRO scientists, engineers and support staff have that. They have shown that right from the beginning.

Kale served as director of ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in Thiruvananthapuram and Space Application Centre in Ahmedabad

OUT OF MY MIND

Chalti ka naam gaadi

MEGHNAD DESAI

WHATEVER YOU do, do not try to make people virtuous in a democracy.

This reflection is provoked by the sad state of the motor vehicles industry in the country. It is the victim of the choice of consumers not to own cars any more but to just hire them for each trip as and when necessary. Perfectly sensible and economically rational. The government also took the immensely bold step of charging the proper price of car driving. This is environmentally sound and economically efficient.

This has obviously raised the cost of driving. Not the price of buying a car but the cost of ownership and driving. The car industry thus faces a crisis. The immediate panic is about how to stem the crisis. Yet the question has to be asked what about the majority of the country who use the road and the pavement (if no cars have invaded the pavement), whose lungs need some respite from the pollution caused by cars? Do they not have a vote?

Yet much worse is happening with the Motor Vehicles Act, a fine piece of legislation to make car drivers behave in a responsible fashion. Indeed, it is the first time the government has taken a grown-up view of cars and stopped indulging the car-owner rather than the pedestrian. But what do we see? A virtual revolt, with state after state not implementing the Act or diluting the fines. It is as if every state wants to become autonomous from the Indian Union. Even Gujarat, the BJP's mascot and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home turf, has modified the fines. GST next? That much for One Nation.

The car industry's slump raises larger issues. The GDP growth rates for the last two quarters have been below 6 per cent. Is this a cycle or a trend? The answer is in two parts: trend for the car industry, cycle for the economy. These are early days yet but the dominant theme around the world is climate change. The movement to do something about it is being led by the young across the world. They do not just talk about what governments should do but change their own lifestyle. In Western countries there is a rise in the number of vegans who avoid meat, eggs and dairy products as environmentally harmful, being animal products. They ride bikes or hire taxis rather than use cars.

As a mode for personal transport, the car is a luxury. It may be an aspirational must have, to show off that you have arrived, but that is your self-delusion. Even so, there is a difference between securing a car ride when you need and owning it round the clock. Automobile transport is unbeatable for mass movement of people (buses and ambulance) and goods (trucks). Buses which are comfortable and plentiful enough to provide seating for every passenger would improve our cities.

In the short run, the car industry will get what it demands. Money speaks louder than pedestrians. But we ought to prepare for transition to electric cars and to the hiring rather than owning mode for passenger cars. India should lower its dependence on consumer expenditure for sustainable growth. The car manufacturing industry is shrinking globally, look at General Motors. India has to steer it to reduce its size.

SPY & THE SON

In the 1980s, the Coomar Narain spy case rocked the corridors of power in Delhi. Over a decade later, he was dead and his wife was found strangled in a farmhouse they owned. No family showed up at her funeral. Delhi Police's search for the Narains' legal heir led them to the door of a one-time petty thief in Mangalore. MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL on a spy and how his stepson came out of the cold

OVER 18 months ago, J R Baretto, 58, a resident of Bantwal in Karnataka's Mangalore, received a call from a relative about an odd police visit. The policemen spoke Hindi and English while the relative, Edwin D'Souza, only knew Kannada and Konkani, and he was asking Baretto to come over to help with the translation.

A tour operator, Baretto says he instinctively thought D'Souza's past was catching up with him. "Decades ago, Edwin uncle was a petty thief who tried stealing cars, but failed. I thought it must be about one of those old cases. But when I realised it was the Delhi Police who had visited him, I got nervous. Why would they visit from so far away?" he says. Delhi is 2,217.4 km from Bantwal, a trade town on the banks of the Nethravati river.

When Baretto didn't make it, the policemen left, promising to come back. The next meeting between D'Souza and the police, held 12 days later, was in Baretto's presence.

As Sub Inspector Shiv Dev began speaking, ably translated by Baretto, D'Souza's life was to change forever — the SI spoke about D'Souza's mother Gerty Walder a.k.a. Geeta Narain; her husband Coomar Narain of the infamous 1985 spy case that had rocked the Rajiv Gandhi government, leading all the way up to the Prime Minister's Office; and a Rs 10 crore property in South Delhi's plush Sainik Farms that he stood to inherit.

A property dispute

In 1995, Coomar and Geeta Narain bought E-152/A, Sainik Farms. In 2000, Coomar, 75, died, and in 2002, Geeta was allegedly strangled inside the farmhouse by an unidentified person. No relative or legal heir is known to have attended Geeta's funeral. The farmhouse and its maintenance became the responsibility of the Ambedkar Nagar police station, since the couple had no children or known heirs.

On February 5, 2008, however, Rann Singh, a retired police officer, and Radhika, the domestic help of the Narains, laid claim to the 950-square-yard farmhouse. "They broke open the locks and Rann Singh said the property had been rented to him by Coomar and Geeta's 'daughter', Radhika. Who daughter, we wondered. To our knowledge, the two didn't have any children," says Dev.

To establish his claim, Singh showed a 'rent agreement' dated December 29, 2003.

"Even before we could probe further, Singh filed complaints with Delhi Police's Vigilance Department, alleging that local police were trying to implicate him in Geeta's murder," says a policeman, who was in charge of the Sainik Farm police post in 2008, and who has since been promoted to the rank of Inspector.

Insisting the Narains were her parents, Radhika, who lives in Nihal Vihar in the Capital, says, "I was with my in-laws when my mother (Geeta) was murdered and didn't know about her death. But some years later, when I came to settle down in my parents' home, police threw me out forcibly. My marital family isn't very well-off and I met Rann Singh, who helped me fight the legal battle against the Delhi Police. First, I gave him my property (in Sainik Farms) on rent and last year, I sold him the property for Rs 30 lakh since, after my husband's death, my family's financial condition hasn't been too good. I had one sister, but after my father's (Narain's) arrest, she went missing."

Days after Rann Singh's complaint, an independent vigilance inquiry, headed by an ACP-rank officer, was ordered into his claims.

Police say that during the inquiry and cross-questioning, the duo gave "contradictory" and "misleading" statements, further arousing their suspicion that the two were trying to usurp the property. "Radhika had first claimed that she was the biological daughter of Narain. But when police told her to get a DNA test done, she claimed she was the adopted daughter. Then, she produced an affidavit signed by Narain on August 18, 1983, for her admission to Class 4 of an MCD school in Manglapuri. She was admitted to the school on August 29 but quit the school a few months later," says the officer who was part of the vigilance inquiry.

After passing through several Investigating Officers (IOs), the property dispute case finally landed on Dev's table in 2016, the fifth IO to handle the case. "Since the main accused in this case is a retired inspector of Delhi Police, a closure report would have been an embarrassment for the Delhi Police; we would have been accused of favouring one of our own. So we decided to examine the evidence afresh. We knew Rann Singh was trying to usurp the property. So in the absence of any legal heir of the deceased couple, we decided to trace their relatives," says Dev.

A similar view was echoed by Additional Commissioner of Police Suvashish Choudhary. "Usually, people have the perception that police would not help them if the other party was from their department. But in this case, we tried to change this perception," he says.

The investigation led Dev to Coomar's birthplace, Vadakkencherry village in Kerala's Palakkad, and Geeta's ancestral house in Bikarnakatte, in Karnataka's Mangalore.

What they stumbled upon was a story that spanned several decades — starting pre-Independence India, through the 1980s that saw one of the most sensational spy cases to have rocked the power corridors of Delhi and Mumbai, until it wound its way through the narrow lanes of Kodikal in Mangalore to stop at the house of Edwin D'Souza, now 76.

It's on the basis of this investigation that police filed a chargesheet on September 12 before a Delhi court against Rann Singh and Radhika for trespass and cheating, among other charges. Inder Singh, a municipal staffer, stands accused of helping Rann Singh and Radhika forge documents.

Coomar, Geeta, and a spy story

According to the police chargesheet, Coomar Narain was born in Vadakkencherry in 1925. When he was 18, he got his first job, as a havildar in the Indian Army's Postal Service. The same year, 1943, in a Mangalore hospital, Edwin D'Souza was born to Gerty and Gilbert Walder.

"There's some confusion if Gerty and Gilbert ever married, and whether she was an unwed mother. Anyway, the story we have been told is that Gerty left town soon after the baby (D'Souza) was born and went to Bombay, leaving her two-month-old in the care of her mother Juliana," says Baretto.

The chargesheet says Narain was discharged from his Army job six years later and began working with the Bombay-based S L M Maneklal Industries Ltd. as regional manager. It was in this city that he met Gerty, who later married him and became Geeta. Police probe has revealed that in the 1960s, the couple moved to Delhi's Nizamuddin area and Narain found an office space on 16, Hailey Road.

D'Souza, meanwhile, stayed on in Mangalore with his grandmother.

"Gerty used to send money home and would also visit sometimes. But for very long, Edwin uncle was made to believe his mother was Juliana, and that Gerty was his elder sister," says Baretto.

(Clockwise from top) Coomar Narain being led away after his arrest in January 1985; the farmhouse in Sainik Farms where the Narains lived; Edwin D'Souza (seated) with son Prakash and his family. *Express Archives, Tashi Tobgyal, Express*

In a chat over the phone with *The Sunday Express*, with Baretto stepping in to translate, D'Souza speaks of his mother Gerty Walder. "She left me when I was two months old and never returned. We didn't have a mother-son relationship. I was raised by my grandmother Juliana and called her mother. My grandmother died 30 years ago," he says.

With not much parental guidance, the teenager fell into "bad company", say police.

"We found out that Gerty would come down to Mangalore sometimes. Those days, D'Souza was working as a lorry cleaner and had learnt some driving. In 1964, Gerty noticed that her son was getting into bad company and asked her mother to send him to Delhi," says a policeman who was part of the investigation.

"We lived together in the Nizamuddin area of the city. I remember the house but I didn't like Delhi. My life and my grandmother were in Mangalore, so I came back in six months. She looked after me well when I was there but did not stop me from leaving... That was the last time I met my mother," D'Souza says.

During his days in Delhi, D'Souza often visited Coomar's 16, Hailey Road office — before he took off with a car parked next door.

Police later tracked the car and D'Souza to Mangalore, where he was arrested for the theft in 1965. Over the years, D'Souza allegedly tried his hand at petty crimes in Mangalore but got caught each time.

The arrest and the subsequent cases meant that D'Souza grew distant from his family in Delhi, until he lost all contact with them.

Two decades later, in Delhi, the Narains were to find themselves in the spotlight. On January 17, 1985, Coomar Narain was arrested for "leaking classified information to foreign agents between 1977 and 1985 in Delhi and Mumbai", according to a report in *The Indian Express* dated February 20, 1985. When the police raided his office on Hailey Road, Narain was said to have been found with the original copy of a classified document, and photocopies of a few others.

In 1985, the Intelligence Bureau filed an FIR under the Official Secrets Act against Narain at Delhi's Tilak Marg police station — and thus began a series of events that rocked the Rajiv Gandhi-led Congress government.

According to the FIR filed against 19 people, including 16 bureaucrats, Maneklal Industries had allegedly passed on classified information to French, Polish and German embassies in connivance with higher-ups across ministries.

Among the bureaucrats named in the FIR were P Gopalan, private secretary in the Ministry of Defence; three private secretaries of P C Alexander, the then private secretary to former PM Rajiv Gandhi; Narain's boss at Maneklal, Yogesh T Maneklal; director in the PMO N S Sree Raman; and senior administration officer R P Dang.

In his book titled *World Famous Spy Scandals,* Vikas Kharti, who wrote an entire chapter on Coomar Narain, mentions that the government presented a 2,100-page chargesheet and a list of 188 witnesses to the court. "It contained sworn affidavits of persons, who affirmed that this gang was active since 1972. Mrs Indira Gandhi had issued direction in 1982 to keep a strict watch on the Prime Minister's and President's secretaries. The intelligence department knew about this gang from September 1984. They started tightening noose round the necks of all these people from that time, but the matter was delayed for some time due to the assassination of Mrs Gandhi on October 31, 1984," it says.

One of the *Express* reports of that period also stated that one of the accused, S Sankaran, senior assistant to then President Zail Singh's press secretary, received Rs 7,000 for documents provided to Narain from 1982 onwards. "Sankaran reportedly revealed that the ring was in operation since 1982... he also reportedly revealed that all the accused... used to meet at the 16, Hailey Road office premises of Narain, the nerve centre of the 'whisky for secrets' case... Sankaran also got bottles of Indian-made foreign whisky," the report stated.

In 2002, the spy case, one of the longest criminal trials involving the Official Secrets Act, eventually saw 12 former staff members in the PMO and Rashtrapati Bhavan Secretariat being sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment. "They were found guilty of passing on secret official codes and classified documents pertaining to defence, shipping, transport, finance and planning, besides R&AW and Intelligence Bureau reports," says a senior police officer.

Police say that a few years after his arrest, Coomar got out on bail, after which he purchased the farmhouse.

By then, D'Souza, after his failed attempt at crime, had established himself in Mangalore as a real-estate dealer.

"I got to know about the farmhouse only when four policemen came home about two years ago... They asked me if she was my mother; I said no. I heard of her death in 2002 from a family friend, but didn't know she had been murdered," he says, adding that his family once owned a "lot of ancestral property".

Since the police visit, D'Souza's son Prakash, 49, who had been working as a driver in Dubai for 28 years, has returned with his wife and two sons. "I only saw *ajji* (grandmother, Geeta) once, before my marriage. We had a few pictures of hers when she was in her teens, maybe, but we have moved at least three homes since we were children and a lot of stuff was lost in transit. We did find her birth certificate and one photograph through our relatives and some other legal documents which we have handed over to the police," says Prakash on the phone from Mangalore.

On the prospect of his father becoming the owner of a Rs 10-crore property, Prakash says, "We didn't expect it but now we will fight for it. I will move back to India and ensure that my grandmother's property belongs to the rightful owners — her son and his children. It will be a long legal battle but we are ready to fight."

The police investigation

In 2016, as Dev decided to start looking for the legal heirs to the property, he contacted the records office of the Army Postal Service Centre in Kamptee Cantonment near Nagpur, Maharashtra, where Narain used to work, hoping to get his address and service details.

The reply he received from the record office wasn't encouraging. "They said that they had weeded out the service records of 'No P 4287Hav/CIK CV Narayanan S/o CK Venkitarama Iyer R/o 9/209, Coimbatore district', as they were too old," the police said.

As Dev and his team visited R S Puram in Tamil Nadu, they hit a dead-end. The team also visited the local municipal office, post office and the police station, with little luck — the record books stopped at 1967. "I then met the priests of the local Ayyappa temples to know about Narain and his father but nobody had a clue. We then visited his hometown Vadakkencherry in Kerala. There I met one Venkatramanna, a known Iyer Brahmin — Narain was one himself — but he knew little about the family," says Dev.

That's when the team decided to shift their focus to Mangalore, where Geeta Narain hailed from. "We made efforts to search her antecedents on the web as 'Geeta Walder' since Walder is a known Christian community in Mangalore. I visited the city and its neighbouring areas, where I met the parish priests. We got to know that a woman by the name of Greta Walder had gone to Delhi in 1957. Later, we found that she had a son, Edwin D'Souza, from her previous marriage," he says.

Police were in for a shock when they found out that D'Souza was a small-time thief and was involved in several incidents of crime. But they still needed documentary proof that Geeta was D'Souza's mother.

"We then sent a letter to the Station House Officer of Mangalore police station, asking him to provide certified copies of Edwin's criminal dossier. We were in for some luck — in those papers, he is mentioned as the son of B G (Gerty) Walder alias Geeta Narain, wife of C V Narain, resident of C-33A Nizamuddin. We also found the noting of the Circle Inspector of Mangalore town, dated July 1, 1969, where he had stated that Edwin was the son of B G Walder, daughter of Julien (Juliana) D'Souza," he says.

"All these facts establish that Edwin is the son of B G Walder alias Geeta Narain and the only legal heir of the property," Dev concludes.

AS IT HAPPENED

1925: Coomar Narain was born in Vadakkencherry in Kerala

1943: He joined the Indian Army Postal Service but was discharged from duty six years later

1949: He joined the Ministry of External Affairs as a stenographer and visited several countries

1960: Narain began working for Bombay-based S L M Maneklal Industries as its regional manager. He started gathering classified information from the offices of the Indian President and PM

1985: He was arrested for allegedly leaking classified information to foreign agents between 1977 and 1985 in Delhi and Mumbai. A few years later, he came out on bail and purchased a property in South Delhi's plush Sainik Farms area

2002: 12 former staff in PMO and Rashtrapati Bhavan Secretariat were sentenced to 10 years imprisonment after they were found guilty of entering into a criminal conspiracy with officials of foreign embassies

(Anticlockwise from right) Jagga with Dr Deepak Gupta, Professor of Neurosurgery and head of the team that was working on the twins' case, on his way to Cuttack on the Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani; the twins with paediatrician Dr Kiran Kumar and mother Puspanjali on the train; Jagga rides his new bicycle, helped by father Bhuyan, at SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack

1 in 25 lakh

Two years after they became India's first set of twins joined at the head to be separated successfully, Jagga and Balia left AIIMS 10 days ago, with a full medical team and medicines for 6 months. ASTHA SAXENA tracks the medical marvel, whose next chapter has moved to a Cuttack hospital

PHOTOGRAPHS: ABHINAV SAHA

THE LIFT on the sixth floor of the Cardio-Neuroscience Centre (CNC) at AIIMS slides open and a four-year-old comes out giggling, holding nurse Sister Ancy's hand. But before the door can shut again, the boy rushes back in. "Sittu, second floor again," he squeals; "sittu" his version of 'sister'.

It's two days to Jagga's departure from AIIMS, his home for the past two years. Every second of that time, the resident doctors and nursing staff of the specialised CNC in India's premier hospital have kept a close watch, watching a marvel of medical science turn into a bouncy four-year-old, running around and playing football in the corridors.

When Jagga first came to AIIMS on February 10, 2017, at the age of two, he shared the full length of brain tissue and venous sinus with his twin. Following a 45-hour surgery, done in two parts, spread over three months in 2017, the two became the first set of craniopagus twins in India to be separated successfully. AIIMS doctors say only 59 such surgeries have been attempted across the globe, with a success rate of around 10 per cent.

Born on April 9, 2015, to a tribal couple — autorickshaw driver Bhuyan Kumar, and wife Puspanjali Kanhar — Jagga was initially named 'Honey' and his twin 'Singh'. The parents say acquaintances started calling the two that, and they themselves had never heard of the singer. Doctors at AIIMS suggested the names Jagannath and Balram, both names of gods, calling the two "god's descendants". Over the next two years, from Delhi to Odisha, they came to be known as simply 'Jagga' and 'Balia'.

While doctors say Jagga is physically and neurologically fit, Balia remains bedridden, sleeps for almost 18-20 hours of the day and is fed orally through a tube.

On September 6, the two, accompanied by their parents, a medical team, 15 bags, including with medicines for the next six months for Balia, medical equipment, and toys gifted by the hospital staff, left Room No. 6010 of CNC for Cuttack's SCB Medical College and Hospital. The 23-hour train journey had been much dreaded by Bhuyan and wife Puspanjali, 36 and 33, who survive on his monthly income of Rs 5,000, and fought a parallel battle to keep their twins as long as possible at AIIMS.

The doctors aren't sure when the four of them can finally go home, to village Milupada in Kandhamal, almost 260 km from Cuttack. Waiting there would be Bhuyan and Puspanjali's elder sons, Ajit (10) and Dutya (8), who have been living with their grandmother since 2017.

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Twins joined at the head are rare — 1 in 25 lakh or a possibility of 0.00004 per cent. As many as three-fourths die within 24 hours. AIIMS doctors have records of just 116 such births across the world since 1912.

A surgery for separation is feasible in case of just 25 per cent of the survivors, while the rest have to live with the condition. Like the two other known craniopagus twins in India — Vani and Veena (17), Hyderabad, and Saba and Farah (23), Patna. In case of both, surgeries were considered by doctors but the idea was given up due to the risk involved.

Jagga and Balia, with their parents, arrived at AIIMS on July 10, 2017, referred there by the government SCB Hospital. For the next five months, doctors conducted a series of tests, including MRI tractography (to study nerve tracts), CT scan, angiogram, image guidance and ultrasound. Finally, they were cleared and admitted for surgery on July 14. At the time, they together weighed 20 kg.

Says the then Chief of Neurosciences Centre, AIIMS, Dr A K Mahapatra, "This was the first such case in my career of 42 years with AIIMS. We wanted to see how their body parts were functioning, and found only their brains had a problem. We then selected a team of doctors who could work dedicatedly with the children," he says. Having retired from AIIMS in December 2017, he stayed in touch on the Jagga-Balia case till April 2018.

A WhatsApp group was formed with 33 members, dubbed 'Team AIIMS Craniopagus', to ensure inter-departmental coordination on the case. The group had faculty from departments such as neurosurgery, plastic surgery, anaesthesia, paediatric intensive care, paediatric cardiology, paediatric nephrology, paediatric neurology, physiotherapy, radiology and even blood bank.

3D print technology was used to make a model of Jagga and Balia's brain and skull. The consultations sometimes spilled over till the middle of the night. The family was counselled on the risks associated with the risky procedure.

After a dry run, the first surgery was performed on August 28, 2017, with doctors creating a 'venous bypass' to separate the veins returning blood to the heart from the brain of the twins.

The final separation was done on October 25, in a 20-hour operation, by a team that included Dr (Prof) S S Kale, Head of Department, Neurosurgery; Dr Deepak Gupta, Professor of Neurosurgery and head of the team; and Dr (Prof) Sheffali Gulati, Department of Paediatrics-Neurology.

During the surgery, Jagga had a cardiac arrest. While he was revived in 15 minutes, he suffered renal damage and required dialysis for almost a week. Balia, who suffered seizures, needed incubation, and continues to be "neurologically disabled". Says Dr Gupta, "Balia has profound intellectual impairment... He needs time to improve his neuroplasticity, which is the brain's ability to adapt as a result of experience. He needs some ophthalmology consultation too... He requires long-term rehabilitation. It's hard to say whether he can lead a normal life."

Skin grafting and minor neurosurgical procedures followed over the next few months of the surgery, to cover the twins' skin defects. The medical institute designed special helmets for the boys to wear to protect their heads. "The helmets are only needed if they are playing or running," says Dr Gupta.

In all, a team of 75 doctors and 50 nursing and support staff worked on the Jagga-Balia case, including post-operative care. A similar surgery in the US in 2016 had cost $2.5 million (Rs 17 crore). For Jagga and Balia, the entire cost has been borne and continues to be borne by the Odisha government. Of the Rs 1 crore given by the state, AIIMS has already returned Rs 80 lakh and plans to return Rs 2 lakh more, charging only for the medicines and equipment that were not available with it.

■ ■ ■

One year after Jagga-Balia's surgery, AIIMS started deliberating their discharge. By 2018, the boys were medically fit to be moved. However, the family as well as the Odisha government were apprehensive.

Dr Gupta says that after monitoring the two for a year since, a decision for transfer was finally taken. "The two just need home care now. Jagga can start going to school and Balia doesn't require any specific treatment."

Bhuyan admits he worried whether the two would get the same care as at AIIMS. "But doctors advised that Balia too was better and there would be no complications."

A long coordination exercise with the Odisha government followed, and AIIMS finally got the confirmation that the twins could be moved on August 29 this year. Apart from sanctioning Rs 1 crore from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, the Odisha government appointed an officer to be with the family till the time the children were treated completely.

Naba Kishore Das, Odisha Health and Family Welfare Minister, says it was thanks to "the intervention and financial support" of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik that Jagga and Balia were successfully separated. Saying they will continue to bear the cost of their treatment and rehabilitation, he adds, "An official from Kandhamal district and another official from Odisha Niwas, Delhi, have been deputed to be with the family." The CM and Das also visited the twins during their two-year stay at AIIMS.

To prepare for the transfer, doctors prepared a check-list of the items to be carried to Cuttack, including medicines, two oxygen cylinders and a nebuliser.

Dr Gupta says that in the run-up to September 6, their WhatsApp group almost never stopped buzzing. "Last one week was extremely hectic. It was our responsibility to ensure that the two were shifted safely... Time was less and the work never-ending. But the smile on their faces was something that took away our entire burden."

■ ■ ■

But, the last day turns out to be hard.

All of September 6 morning, as parents and staff make last-minute arrangements, Jagga refuses to leave the nurses' counter. Clad in a yellow T-shirt and black trousers, he moves away only to insist on playing with "Tarak *bhaiya*", "Randeep *bhaiya*" and "Ajay *bhaiya*", the guards and sweeper deployed on CNC's sixth floor.

Around 35 nurses and several resident doctors have come to bid goodbye to the twins, staying well past their duty hours.

Tears flowing freely down her cheeks, Sister Bindu says, "It is the toughest moment of this two-year journey to see them go. Taking care of Balia and playing with Jagga was part of our daily routine. The liveliness of the ward will die." Others recall the time that the two were yet to be separated and would together waddle around.

"Jagga loved the South Indian food we got for lunch. If we needed to call anyone, he would run up to the person himself, calling, 'Tarakk *bhaiya*', 'Sittu, sittu'," says Ancy.

One of the nurses earlier took Jagga to a church. "Everyone has their own belief. We wanted the priest to bless Jagga for a happy life," says Ancy, who will be accompanying the family to Cuttack along with another nurse, Dr Gupta, neuroanaesthetist Dr Girija Rath, and paediatrian Dr Kiran Kumar.

Around 2.30 pm, the family heads out, accompanied by the staff. The many bags are loaded onto an ambulance, under Ancy's eagle eye. As the ambulance doors are closed, the staff cheer simultaneously.

Ancy says they are leaving well ahead of departure time of the Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani so as to avoid any rush. The ambulance will halt in the VIP parking of the New Delhi Railway Station to coordinate smooth loading of the luggage and medical equipment onto the train. "The oxygen cylinder is for Balia, in case his condition deteriorates," says Ancy.

Besides, a special saturation monitor, used to track pulse and oxygen rate, has been arranged in the AC First Class coach in which they get on, while there is a power board to ensure that all switches are in working condition.

As the Rajdhani chugs off, Jagga rushes to grab a window seat, and sitting in Ancy's lap, claps excitedly. Balia, dressed in a red T-shirt and beige trousers, is laid down on a lower berth.

It takes 15 minutes for the medical team to adjust the luggage around them. The toys alone take quite a bit of area, with a bicycle, board games and a bathing tub occupying an entire berth.

Sitting next to Balia, his mother Puspanjali stirs milk fortified with a nutritional supplement in a steel glass. Balia is fed 100 ml of milk every two hours through a tube, starting in the morning at 7, till 10 pm. "Balia, *uttho, uttho, uttho* (get up)," she says, caressing his cheeks.

Her voice breaking, she talks about her other two sons, whom she would be seeing for the first time in two years. With money scarce, they could never visit them in Delhi. "*Pata nahin sab kaise honge. Itne din ho gaye bachchon ki shakal dekhe hue. Hum log to abhi bhi Cuttack mein rahenge, kya pata kitne saal* (God knows how they are. It's been so many days since I saw my children's faces. Even now we will stay in Cuttack, don't know for how long)," she says.

Jagga is again running around, through the length of the train's compartment, a change from the hospital corridors. "Papa, *chalo* (come)," he pleads, when told to sit down.

Around 5.20 pm, the doctors, who are travelling in F1 coach, come to examine Balia. "Please check again that all the switches are operational," instructs Dr Gupta. "*Ae master, uth, dekh gaadi aa gayi. Uth* (Hey champion, get up, see the train is here)," he says, teasing Balia.

As darkness falls outside and lights come on inside the coach, the doctors lapse into anecdotes about Jagga and Balia. Each has a story.

Dr Rath, Professor, Department of Neuroanaesthesiology & Critical Care, AIIMS, who is also from Odisha, says he would get calls from home asking about the twins. "For a doctor, it's a once-in-a-lifetime experience. We got to learn several techniques... The two were injected anaesthesia in nine stages during the surgery. Whatever complications we anticipated, they faced all. Fighting the odds, the children are now going back home."

Dr Gupta talks about how difficult it was initially to distinguish between the twins. "They were identical, but for their moods. While Jagga was always smiling, Balia used to cry the entire day."

Apart from feeds, Balia is also monitored for his temperature, heart rate and pulse every two hours. Noting down the temperature in a chart titled "6010", Dr Kumar, a resident doctor with the Department of Paediatrics, AIIMS, says, "Last night, he had 100.8 degrees fever, but it came down after medicines."

By 10 pm, it's all quiet. Balia is sleeping with his mother as Jagga dozes in the next berth.

■ ■ ■

They get up the next morning in Odisha, the Rajdhani running past fields verdant after the rains. The family and doctors take account of the luggage and pack the things that are loose. Jagga gets into a new dress, a pink linen shirt provided by AIIMS with 'Jagga' written on it.

The train arrives at Cuttack at 3.30 pm. Immediately, a group of waiting journalists mob the family, trying to catch a glimpse of Jagga and Balia. A startled Jagga covers his ears to block out the commotion. A cart is parked on the platform to ferry the family to the gate, and they head for SCB Hospital accompanied by police and officers, in a convoy of an ambulance and four Innovas.

Jagga continues to look nervous through the 15-minute commute, and clings onto the staff from AIIMS. As they arrive, Ancy carries him through another crowd, gathered at the gates, while Puspanjali has Balia in her arms.

As the twins are taken to the first floor of the trauma ICU, patients and hospital staff queue up to catch a glimpse. As Balia is laid down on bed No. 2, the AIIMS team begins explaining the medical history of the children to the set of doctors ready to take over from them.

"*Odia mein baat karte ho* (Do you understand Odia)?" asks a nurse trying to comfort Jagga. However, the child is unimpressed, and blocking his ears with his index fingers, clings on to Dr Kumar.

Done explaining Balia's doses, Ancy walks up to Jagga and says, "*Main jaa rahi hoon, Jaggu* (I am leaving)." Instantly reaching out for her, Jagga urges her to take him in her arms and refuses to let go. Five minutes later, as the rest of the AIIMS team troops out, Ancy says a quiet bye to Balia, pointing to a red ball he seems to be fond of, and moves out.

The chirpy Jagga looks lost. Sitting next to Balia, he quietly watches his father shifting their bags, before running up to him. "Papa, *chalo*," he says.

■ ■ ■

Dr Sudhanshu S Mishra, Professor, Head of Department of Neurosurgery at SCB Medical College, says they are happy to have Jagga and Balia back. "The team at AIIMS did a wonderful job. The children had been refused admission by AIIMS, Bhubaneswar, and several other hospitals... Now, we have to take care of Balia's treatment."

While AIIMS has provided medicines for the next six months, doctors at Cuttack feel a few of the drugs might have to be changed. "We will alter treatment depending on how Balia's body responds. We will document the entire treatment so that we can handle more such critical cases," says Dr Mishra.

The next day, families line up to meet the twin celebrities, knocking on their door at regular intervals. Among them is Sharat Rout from Paradeep, who is here with his family. "Please let us see Jagga-Balia at least once. We have come from so far. We have only seen them on TV," he urges.

Surrounded by an appreciative crowd, Jagga responds enthusiastically as father Bhuyan tells him in English to point out his various body parts.

Looking at Jagga, tears well up in Puspanjali's eyes again. As she comments about how fast her four-year-old is picking up things, a government officer sitting nearby says they would soon get him admitted to a school. "Jagga's skin is sensitive right now," the officer adds.

But there are some things it will take him time to understand. Like when Ancy makes a video call, from Kerala, her home state, where she headed straight from Bhubaneswar — a rare break in all these years of looking after the twins. "Jaggu, *kaisa hai* (how are you)?" the nurse asks, as she introduces her son and daughter to him, saying, "This is my Jaggu."

Smiling sheepishly, Jagga runs his fingers over the screen. Trying to touch his companion of two years, he mumbles, "Sittu, phone."

(Top) While Jagga is physically, neurologically fit, Balia is bedridden, and sleeps for almost 18-20 hours of the day; (above) every two hours, Balia's temperature, heart rate, pulse are noted in a chart titled "6010", their room number at AIIMS

(Top) Sister Ancy explains Balia's medical history to nurses at SCB Medical College and Hospital; (above) people gathered outside the hospital to meet the twins in Cuttack

"Last one week was extremely hectic. It was our responsibility to ensure that the two were shifted safely... Time was less and the work never-ending. But the smile on their faces was something that took away our entire burden," says Dr Gupta

EXPLAINED

Rare, special

WHAT MAKES the surgery performed on Jagga and Balia special is that twins joined at the head are rare — 1 in 25 lakh or a possibility of 0.00004%. As many as three-fourths of them die within 24 hours. AIIMS doctors have records of just 116 such births across the world since 1912, of whom in only 15 cases, both twins survived.

THE TWIN STORY

A two-part, 45-hour operation

TO AID in planning the surgery of Jagga and Balia, doctors created a 3D print polylactic acid model to run two eight-hour-long dry rehearsals. This was the first time in the country that a highly advanced 3D print skull and brain model with brain circulation anatomy inserted was used for craniopagus separation surgery. The model was developed based on information derived from MRI, CT-Scan and angiogram of the twins, and simulated their head structures.

During the first surgery, that lasted 25 hours, doctors partially separated the two brains with venous bypass — they used a healthy vein to make a new path around the part of the vein that was not working. The two separated hemispheres were then kept apart with insertion of a biofilm (tissue gel film). The dura mater, a connective tissue surrounding the brain, was covered using dural substitutes.

Despite its length, the surgery turned out to be uneventful, with a mere 550 ml of blood lost. At the end, two skin expanders were inserted after replacing bone flaps.

In the second, 20-hour, surgery, the two brains were completely separated. The doctors first explored the same side and then the opposite side of the brain to complete the separation. Two brains were delicately separated with microscope assistance, and venous connections between the two brains were divided. Final separation of the two children happened at 20.40 hrs on October 25, 2017, and they were now Jagga and Balia, ready to live their separate lives.

Barely 10 minutes after separation, however, Jagga, who was in OT1, developed venous air embolism and had a cardiac arrest. He was resuscitated by cardiac anaesthetist Prof Sandeep Chauhan but it took 15 minutes to get his heart beating again.

In another operation theatre, Balia required flap surgery to cover the skin defect over the separated brain and remained stable during this period.

OTHER SUCH CASES IN INDIA

■ IN 2002, a pair was separated at KIMS in Manipal, but only one of them survived.

■ Hyderabad twins Veena and Vani, 17, abandoned by their parents, both daily-wage labourers, now live at a children's home. AIIMS has ruled out a surgery on them, saying it could end up crippling the twins.

■ In 1996, AIIMS unsuccessfully tried to separate Patna's Sabah and Farah, now 23. The Bihar government supports them financially. American neurosurgeon Benjamin Carson has said he could separate them, but the family has refused.

SEPARATED CRANIOPAGUS TWINS ACROSS GLOBE

■ **Rodney and Roger Brodie, separated in 1952:** Born in Rock Island, Illinois, US, in 1951, they were the first craniopagus twins in the world to be separated successfully. While both Rodney and Roger initially survived the surgery, Roger did not regain consciousness and died 34 days later. Rodney suffered from neurological damage. Because his skull was never closed, he wore a helmet until his death at age 11.

■ **Ladan and Ladeh Bijani, separated in 2003:** Born in Iran in 1974, the sisters were operated upon at the age of 29 in Singapore. However, their brains were fused and the two shared a major vein, leading to complications and their deaths soon after.

■ **Patrick and Benjamin Binder, separated in 1987:** Born in February 1987 in Germany, they were separated when they were seven months old at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in the US. Though both survived the surgery, they were left severely disabled.

■ **Ahmed and Mohamed Ibrahim, separated in 2003:** Born in Egypt in 2001, the boys were successfully separated at the age of 2 in Dallas, Texas, in a 34-hour surgery.

NOT SEPARATED

■ **Emilie and Elisbeth Stoll:** Known collectively as 'Emilisa', they were born in Vilbel, Germany, in January 1912, joined at the head, facing opposite directions. They died at six months.

■ **Lori and Dori 'George':** Born as Lori and Dori Schappell in September 1961. Dori later took on the name Reba and then George, saying he identified as a male. Now 56, he performs as a country singer, while Lori acts as his facilitator and works at a laundry, arranging her workload around his singing commitments.

■ **Tatiana and Kristina Hogan:** They were born in October 2006 in Vancouver, Canada, with their heads joined at the top, back, and sides. Doctors gave them a 20% chance of survival. In August 2007, they ruled out a separation saying it could kill or paralyse one or both the girls.

Kajal & Deep

They met in the fields, spoke for hours on the phones he gave her, and, after they finally eloped and got married, spent a happy six years. Until their castes — and her family — caught up with them

AVANEESH MISHRA

FOR SIX years, Sandeep and Anju Verma did not dare return home to Ichhwapur village in Rae Bareli. After they did last year, Anju Verma was too scared to leave home for two months. Then, she started stepping out, but never too far and never without her veil. On September 2 evening, the 25-year-old went to relieve herself in the fields with other women of the household. Within hours, she was dead, her head bashed in with a cricket bat allegedly by her cousin, who had been angry with her for getting married to a Dalit.

The mango orchard where Anju was attacked lies a stone's throw from the houses where the 25-year-old, an OBC, and 26-year-old Sandeep, a Dalit, grew up. The fields around are where they first met.

Following an FIR for murder at the Salon Police Station, Anju's cousin and main accused Pankaj, 20, was arrested. But Anju's brother Pradeep and cousins Ajay and Vijay, who were allegedly with Pankaj at the time of the attack, are absconding. Police are also looking for Anju's uncle Ashok.

If Sandeep's home is in shock, 100 metres away, Anju's house stands locked, the family having left since the incident.

Ichhwapur village has a population of 700, with an equal number of OBC and Dalit homes. Residents claim there has been no tension between the castes.

Recalling how they first met, Sandeep says, "Anju was around 16 and I 17 when we started talking. I gave her a Nokia phone so that we could talk at night. Soon we started meeting in the fields and would just sit and talk for hours." Smiling feebly, he adds, "Several times her family members seized her phone. I remember I gave her five phones in all during those early days."

After two years, Anju told Sandeep she wanted to spend the rest of her life with him. "It was the best day of my life," he says.

Sandeep with his family (top); Anju (above) was killed Sept 2. *Vishal Srivastav*

Realising their families would not accept their relationship as they were from different castes, the two decided to go to Ludhiana where Sandeep had friends who could help him find work.

Sitting on the ground near Sandeep, his 60-year-old father Harilal says he was deeply "embarrassed" when Anju's father Rajendra Verma stormed into their house to accuse Sandeep of tricking his daughter into running away with him. "My first thought was Sandeep would not do this. I felt he had let me down and people would laugh at me. I started crying. Then I contacted some of his friends and got to know he is in Ludhiana."

Harilal says he begged Sandeep to return, and he and Anju came back a couple of days later. Anju's family took her away, and sent her to a relative's house. Sandeep says he returned to Ludhiana "as I could not face my family". "A few days passed and on August 15, 2012, Anju called me and said she could not live without me... I went directly to her, we took a bus and came to Ludhiana."

Sandeep says he joined work as a salesman at a hosiery shop. "With the help of a colleague I rented a room for Rs 1,800 and married Anju at a local Krishna temple. We got the wedding registered two years later when I attained the legal age (of 21)."

For a while, he says, "life was beautiful". "I called her Kajal, she called me Deep. I earned around Rs 12,000 a month, we would cook together, I would take her shopping. Those six years passed so fast."

Harilal says he didn't contact Sandeep in all this time, as he was angry with him.

Then, in January last year, Sandeep's granduncle died. "I planned a short visit with Anju to attend the funeral, and ended up staying a month. On the day we were to go back, we missed our train. I decided to stay a little longer, and then things started to change. My father had started talking to me by then and it seemed we were a family again. Anju was so happy. I opened a welding shop here and never went back to Ludhiana." Recently, the family made their single-floor house *pucca* with the money Sandeep saved in Ludhiana and later earned from the welding shop.

The couple remained apprehensive of the reaction of Anju's family though, and hence she almost never ventured out. Seema, the wife of Sandeep's younger brother, says that on September 2 morning, she, Anju and their sister-in-law Rekha went to the fields to relieve themselves. While the family has a toilet, they prefer the open.

"We left the house around 5 in the evening. Around 5.30 pm, on our way back, we saw Anju's brother Pradeep and cousins Pankaj, Ajay and Vijay playing cricket in the mango orchard around 150 metres from our house. Pankaj stopped Anju and said he wanted to talk to her. As we moved ahead, Anju asked Pankaj to leave her alone. She had just taken a step when Pankaj attacked her with a cricket bat. When she fell down, he hit her again on the head. There was blood everywhere," Seema says, her voice breaking.

The women tried to help but the men allegedly warned them away. By the time they got help from the village, Anju was dead, her skull split open.

Rae Bareli SP Swapnil Mamgain said they were looking for the four absconding accused. Ram Ashish Upadhyay, SHO of Salon Police Station, said while Pankaj is claiming that only he was involved in the killing, they would trace the other accused.

Harilal says he doesn't know what to tell a grieving Sandeep. "Why would someone do something like this to their own family member? Anju was such a nice person. We might have been angry with her earlier, but that had changed. She used to take care of all of us, respected us. I was proud she was my daughter-in-law," says the 60-year-old while his wife sits beside him, sobbing.

At Anju's deserted home, three listless buffaloes stand tied outside. A 68-year-old neighbour who refused to be named said the animals hadn't eaten in three days, since the family went missing, and that the last they had some water was when a policeman came the previous day.

The woman adds, "I never thought someone would kill Anju as things were pretty normal. We have never heard anything bad about the youth who killed her either."

She isn't surprised though at the turn of events. "I have been told Anju was not in a veil that day. Pankaj objected to that and she laughed... It's not that I support the murder but I understand the condition of a family whose daughter runs away with someone of a different caste. It's fine if our children marry someone with no land or money but caste is a priority."

Sandeep stands nearby, his arms folded. Far removed from all the talk in his family about "justice" and "security", he says all he cares about now is finding a reason to live. Hearing what the woman says, he shakes his head and starts walking away. "Maybe all that happened was for nothing," he says, before going to his room and locking the door.

The girl on a bike

What does it take for a 16-yr-old to ride a Royal Enfield in a village less than 100 km from the Capital? A father who stands by her choice

The Class 10 student learnt to ride her father's bike at age of 10. *Praveen Khanna*

ANKITA DWIVEDI JOHRI

On August 31, the Class 10 student had gone to Dadri market to buy milk. As she got on her Royal Enfield to head home, two men, Sachin (30) and Kuldeep (27), one her neighbour and the other a resident of a nearby village, warned her against riding a bike. Later, they allegedly stormed into her house, threatened her family, and also fired in the air.

"They said how could I let my daughter ride a bike. I asked them, why not. They got agitated and started threatening me, and fired in the air... After they left, I went to the Jarcha Police Station and filed a complaint," says Sunil Mavi, 46, a farmer, sitting in his two-storey house in the village.

Following Mavi's complaint, an FIR was filed against the accused under IPC Sections 452 (trespassing), 352 (assault) and 506 (criminal intimidation). While Sachin continues to be on the run, last week police arrested Kuldeep, the other accused in the case.

Mavi does most of the talking on his daughter's behalf "because I don't want her to get into any trouble". For the same reason, he doesn't want her to be named for this report. Leaning on a *diwan* nearby, the 16-year-old nods in agreement.

Dressed in striped high-waisted pants and a knotted T-shirt, a few flicks of hair falling loosely on her face, the 16-year-old stands out from the other residents of Milak Khatana, a small hamlet in Dadri tehsil in Uttar Pradesh's Gautam Buddha Nagar district. Less than a 100 km from Delhi, the hamlet has about 500 families, most of them from the Gujjar community. In these parts, women are mostly confined to the homes and when they step out, it's rarely without pulling their *dupattas* over their faces. While most homes in the area are *pucca*, many with SUVs parked outside them, the literacy rate in Jarcha, under which the hamlet falls, stands at 57.64 per cent, while that figure for women is a mere 47.46 per cent.

Mavi, however, says ensuring education for his six children has been a priority for him. Of Mavi's four daughters, three are graduates, his youngest son and the 16-year-old are in an English-medium school and another son is in college.

So how did the 16-year-old take to riding bikes? Mavi again answers. "It started early," he says. "I loved bikes. We first had a Pulsar, and by the time she was barely 10, she learnt to ride it on her own. I never stopped her," says Mavi, who apart from the two bikes, also owns a car.

His daughter joins in, "Last year, we got the Enfield and I started riding it. Also, since all my sisters are married, my elder brother is in a college in Meerut and my younger brother is only 12, it was left to me to run errands. I have been taking my bike to the market for many months," she says.

The bike also comes in handy when she has to take her friends out for a spin around the village and to attend her tuition classes. "I have my Board exams next year, and I recently enrolled for science tuitions. I ride my bike to the tuition centre," she says, now walking up to the courtyard-where the family's bikes are parked.

While the Pulsar has picked up some dirt from being ridden on the village's dusty lanes, the Royal Enfield stands spotless, scrubbed by the 16-year-old.

Mavi says that while most girls in the village ride Activas, his daughter always preferred the bike and "I never stopped her." His support could have something to do with his stint at an export factory in Gurgaon a few years ago. "There, I found more women with jobs than men. And I saw girls out in markets till late at night... *Samay badal gaya hai* (Times have changed)," he says. "I want her to take up a job after her marriage. If both husband and wife work, there is less financial burden on the family," he adds.

The 16-year-old is clear about her goals too. "I want to take up science after Class 10, and then become a teacher," she says, as her father chips in, "At her in-laws' home, if they let her ride a bike, she can do it there too. But it is their decision."

The 16-year-old has other interests too, says her father. "She likes to read... mostly course books. She doesn't watch much television," he says. She doesn't have a phone.

A few homes away from Mavi's, Kailash Devi, mother of Sachin, one of the two men accused of threatening Mavi's family, claims the 'fight' had nothing to do with the 16-year-old riding her bike. Sitting in her sprawling courtyard, a *dupatta* over her head, Devi, in her 60s, says, "Why would we object to her riding her bike? My grandchild (one of Sachin's two children) had had a fight with their youngest son. The argument was over that. But after the mahapanchayat, we gave them a written apology. The matter has been resolved."

The a mahapanchayat was held on September 25 with representatives from 25 nearby villages to resolve the tussle. Mavi says he accepted the family's apology and now wants the matter to end. "We want to withdraw the case too. After all, we are neighbours," he says.

Will his daughter continue to ride the bike? "Yes. Yesterday, she went to the market again."

Tallest statue, fallen statue

Bhupendra Rana

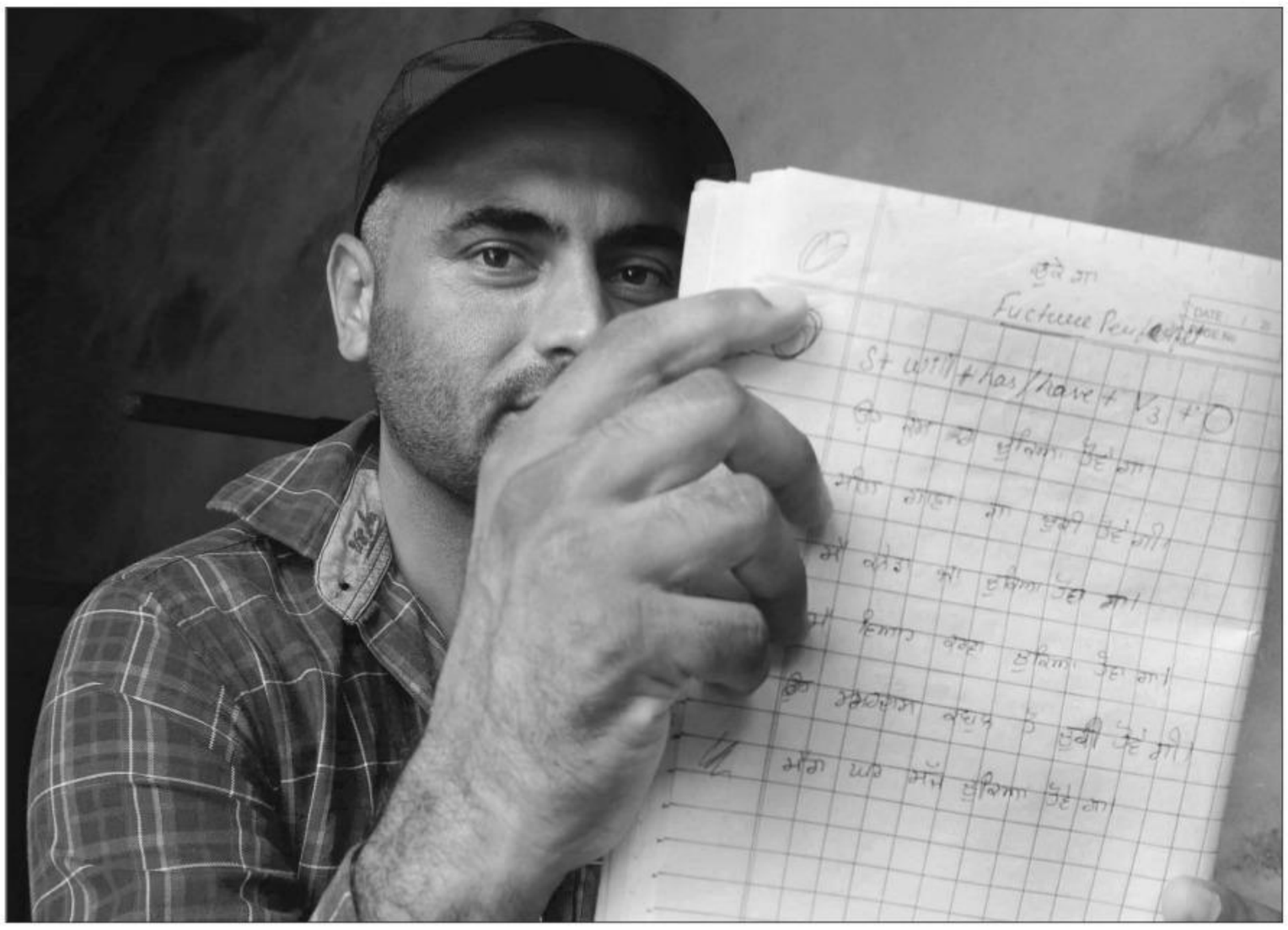
A 30-FT REPLICA of *Rajasaurus narmadensis* dinosaur, which was being put up at Kevadia Colony near the Statue of Unity in Gujarat, collapsed on September 8. The structure was to be part of a dinosaur park to be inaugurated on October 31, apart from 30 more projects, to mark the one-year anniversary of the world's tallest statue. The dinosaur park was to have three *Rajasaurus narmadensis*, "in running position".

Forest Conservator Sasi Kumar claimed the dinosaur model that collapsed was being assembled "only to test its strength". Dismissing allegations regarding its cost, he said, "The entire project, which includes a sound and light show as well as a nature trail, costs Rs 60 lakh. How can a 30-ft model of a dinosaur made of fibreglass cost Rs 2 crore?"

Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Limited (SSNNL) Managing Director Rajeev Kumar Gupta said they would now make changes in the steel reinforcement of the dinosaur statues in order to make them stronger. He ruled out any other design change.

Rajasaurus narmadensis is known to have walked this region around 65 million years ago. About 170 km from Kevadia is Raiyoli in Mahisagar district, known to be the world's third largest fossil site and second largest dinosaur hatchery, from where thousands of dinosaur eggs were recovered.

ADITI RAJA



Manpreet Singh with his English notebook. He says clearing Class 12 would be a step ahead in life for him. *Gurmeet Singh*

Target: Baarhnvi Pass

15 years after he failed his Class 12 English exam and moved to Italy, Manpreet Singh is taking another shot at cracking the paper, thanks to a move by the Punjab school Board. But for now, the 33-year-old is tripping up, on 'application-writing' and Robert Frost

DIVYA GOYAL

TWO ROADS diverged in a wood, and I—/ I took the one less traveled by,/ And that has made all the difference.

AFTER 15 years of tilling farms, eight of those as a vegetable farmer in Italy, Manpreet Singh, now 33, finds himself at a critical juncture in life — he has decided to reappear for the Class 12 'General English' paper that he failed to clear in 2004.

As he tries to wrap his head round Robert Frost's 1916 poem, *The Road Not Taken,* he laughs, "I don't remember if this poem was part of our syllabus in 2004, but it is apparently part of the new syllabus. Had I taken English seriously then, I would have cleared my Class 12."

Scattered on his cot at his home in Jhorran village in Ludhiana are a pile of Class 12 English books and guides — 'English Guide', 'Fully Solved Board Question Papers', 'Sure-Shot Questions Examination Master' and, "the most important one", 'General English to Punjabi Translation Guide'.

On August 16, the Punjab School Education Board (PSEB) issued a public notice, saying those who had got 'Re-Appear/Compartment' results in their Class 10 and 12 exams from 2004 to 2018 and had failed to clear the papers, could sit for a 'Supplementary Golden Chance Exam' — that is, they could take a final shot at cracking the exam.

Saying the offer was part of celebrations to mark Sikhism founder Guru Nanak's 550th birth anniversary, the notice further said that even those students who hoped to improve their results can take up the 'Golden Chance'.

According to PSEB rules, Class 10 students are given a chance to 'reappear' if they fail in less than three subjects. For Class 12, students are given a chance to 're-appear' if they fail in one subject. Students of both the classes are given two chances, valid for a year, to clear their 're-appear' or compartment exam. Now, under the Golden Chance Exam, all students – those who failed their 're-appear' exams or those who did not attempt 're-appear exams' at all — can apply after paying a fee of Rs 15,000.

As of September 11, the PSEB had received more than 4,000 applications, with the estimated revenue from the fee expected to touch Rs 6 crore. Encouraged by the applications, the PSEB has extended the deadline to apply online to September 19.

Manpreet is hopeful of cracking the English paper this time — he will have to score at least 22 marks out of 65.

Fifteen years ago, Manpreet, then a student of Jhorran government school, had scored 15 marks out of 75 in the Class 12 English paper. He sat for the 'reappear' exam, but fared worse, scoring only 10 marks. "But if you look at my marks-sheet, you will know I wasn't that dull a student," says Manpreet. Indeed, he scored 53 in General Punjabi, 67 in History and 53 in Punjabi Elective — it was only English that did him in.

Manpreet then decided not to take the second 're-appear' exam; instead, he did a plumbing course at the Industrial Training Institute (ITI) in Ludhiana. Then he spent two years working as a plumber and later tilling his father's fields.

In 2010, like many others from his village, he moved to Italy, where he worked as an agricultural worker, watering vegetable farms and earning Rs 70,000 to Rs 90,000 a month. But last year, he returned home, determined to clear his Class 12.

"In Italy, I earned more than what some highly qualified people in India earn, but the fact remains that I am not even a *baarhnvi* (Class 12) pass. It's disappointing and demotivating when you see that almost everyone around you has a Class 12 certificate. I have nothing to show on paper. It started sinking in when my younger sister also cleared her Class 12," says Manpreet, adding, "I had made up my mind to appear for all the Class 12 papers this year, when news of this 'Golden Chance' came. It was a big relief. Now I only have to prepare for one subject."

"I never really paid much attention to English while in Class 12... Those days, I had already made up my mind that I would clear the paper in the 're-appear' exam. But when I failed the 're-appear' exam, I gave up," says Manpreet, who, after eight years in Italy, speaks and writes Italian better than English.

Now, he spends five-six hours a day preparing for the exam, depending heavily on YouTube and the translation guidebook. "I don't go for tuitions. I am focusing on some sure-shot questions like application writing, e-mail writing, and grammar. Grammar is still the same, he says, but the problem is literature. "I have to go through all the chapters again. It is all new," he says.

"Application writing has also become very difficult now. When we were in school, they usually asked us to write an application to the principal seeking leave, but now the sample papers say, 'Write an application to a newspaper editor seeking a job'. Since it's a six-mark question, I have been preparing for this," he adds.

Manpreet complains that the exam fee of Rs 15,000 is "too high". "I had my savings, so I could manage. But the fee is certainly very high. I paid because I could afford. Not everyone can," he says.

Bringing him a glass of lemon juice, Manpreet's mother Charanjit Kaur says, "*Main ehnu baithe de saara kuchch de denin haan, ki bas tu padhi chal* (I bring everything he needs here, tell him he should just focus on his studies). I was very happy when he said he would clear Class 12... Once that happens, maybe he will get a good job in India, stay with us and won't return to Italy again," she says.

Manpreet cuts in to say that for him, passing the exam is worth more than the certificate it is printed on. "*Main zindagi che ikk step agge ho jaun* (It will be a step ahead in life for me). A step that I failed to clear then and got stuck at 10. After this, I want to do my graduation and then return to Italy."

Manpreet's mother has another vested interest. "We are also looking for a match for him. Hopefully, he will get a better match if he is *baarhnvi* pass," she whispers.

Telangana's own Tirupati

More than three years after the Telangana Rashtra Samiti government started its ambitious "Rs 1,800 crore" makeover of Lord Lakshmi Narasimha cave temple in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district, it has run into controversy with carvings of CM K Chandrashekar Rao's face being found on some pillars inside the main temple

(Above) Lord Lakshmi Narasimha temple comes into shape on a hillock; around 500 sculptors are at work carving idols and pillars. *Sreenivas Janyala*

THE TEMPLE

During the Telangana movement, TRS chief K Chandrashekar Rao vowed to develop Lord Lakshmi Narasimha cave temple on the lines of the famous Tirumala temple of Tirupati if Andhra Pradesh was divided. In 2016, two years after the bifurcation and coming to power, he constituted the Yadadri Temple Development Authority (YTDA). On April 21, 2016, the foundation stone was laid. "The temple will last for over a thousand years. Black granite stone, also known as Krishna-shila, procured from a quarry in Gurujapalli village in Prakasam district of Andhra, has been chosen," says G Kishan Rao, YTDA CEO and Vice-Chairman. Originally spread over 2,500 sq yards, the temple complex now covers over four acres (19,360 sq yards).

THE RENOVATION

The authorities blasted a hillock known as Yadagirigutta on which the cave temple was located to level the land and build gigantic retaining walls and *gopurams* (ornate monumental entrance towers). "The temple has seven *gopurams* — one seven-storey tower (*sapthathala maharaja gopuram*) and six five-storey towers. The *sapthathala maharaja gopuram* is being constructed over the original cave temple, which is now closed and will be opened when the temple is inaugurated next year," says Rao.

THE ARTISTS

The masterplan was designed by South Indian film art director B Anand Sai under the guidance of seer Chinna Jeeyar Swamy following the "Agama, Vasthu and Pancharatha *shastras*". Around 500 sculptors have been employed to carve the hundreds of idols and pillars for the temple. The teak-wood doors are being made at a workshop in Hyderabad. The craftsmen, brought all the way from Mahabalipuram (Tamil Nadu), have been working for nearly eight months on the temple. The varnish has been imported from Singapore.

THE BUDGET

The original estimated cost of construction was Rs 1,800 crore,

including the cost of building cottages, lodges and shelters for pilgrims, a presidential guesthouse, landscaping and road widening. "Till now, Rs 600 crore has been spent and the work is nearly 60 per cent complete. So, we think the total cost would be around Rs 1,000 crore and not Rs 1,800 crore as was originally estimated," Rao claims.

THE CONTROVERSY

On September 6, controversy erupted when carvings of KCR's face were found on some pillars inside the main temple. Apart from that, carvings of a car, the symbol of the TRS, were also found. Says CEO Rao, "Some sculptors carved the CM's face as they admire him. No one instructed us or the sculptors to do it... It is common for temples to have symbols indicative of the period, culture and traditions during which they were built. There are also carvings of Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi in this temple."

However, given that all the sculptors are either from Tamil Nadu or Andhra Pradesh, such adulation for KCR may be farfetched. BJP MLA T Raja Singh has accused the CM of trying to project himself as god, while state Congress chief N Uttam Kumar Reddy draws a parallel with medieval kings who inscribed their names on the pillars of temples and monuments they built. "KCR is an elected representative and not a king. He is not renovating the temple with his own money, it is public money," he said.

The temple authority has now decided to remove the controversial carvings.

SREENIVAS JANYALA

Death of a doctor

Health is the biggest flash point in Assam's tea gardens. Their under-staffed hospitals are now wary since Dr Dutta was killed by an angry mob

ABHISHEK SAHA

FIFTEEN DAYS after a doctor was killed at the Teok Tea Estate in Jorhat district by a mob unhappy over the death of a patient, Dr Ranjit Kumar Saikia admits to alarm. At least seven doctors have resigned from Assam tea estate hospitals amid protests in the wake of Dr Deben Dutta's death on August 31, after he was hit on the head and stabbed in the legs with glass shards; some suggest the number could be higher. The Indian Tea Association has said it is not feasible for garden managements to run hospitals and urged the state government to take over.

There are more than 600 hospitals across the tea gardens of Assam, similar to the one in which 73-year-old Dutta worked. Saikia heads one of the two hospitals on the Koomtai Tea Estate. A 2015-2016 study by the National Health Mission, Assam, listed 649 hospitals in the 766 gardens surveyed, and found many lacking in infrastructure, permanent doctors etc.

Over 100 years old, the Koomtai Tea Estate is one of the biggest tea estates in Golaghat, spread over a 20-km radius, and produces 21-22 lakh kg of tea per year. Around 1,900 workers' families reside on the estate.

As per the Plantations Labour Act, 1951, and Assam Plantations Labour Rules, 1956, healthcare service in tea gardens is the responsibility of the management. With tea gardens historically located far from towns, and labourers staying on the estate, the company took charge of their health, housing, school etc. Lately though, the Assam tea industry is in the midst of a financial crisis, and state Finance Minister Himanta Biswa had said the government would provide essential drugs free to 300 tea garden hospitals.

Originally from Golaghat town, Saikia, 72, has been a tea garden doctor for over 24 years. For over two years now, he has been at Koomtai. In all this time, Saikia remembers just one incident similar to Dutta's, when around 30 people turned up at his chamber last year after a woman whom he had referred to a Guwahati hospital died. That incident was solved amicably.

"I could not sleep the whole night after watching the videos (of attack on Dutta)," says Saikia. Teok is around 70 km from Golaghat. "My relatives and friends cautioned that I could end up as another Dr Dutta. But I can't leave just like that, I can't leave in fear... And I am not scared, I do my duty and treat people."

In its statement after Dutta's death, the Indian Tea Association said, "In the wake of such insecure and violence prone environment, it has become infeasible for estate managements to run garden hospitals."

The hospital Saikia heads has 42 beds and a staff of eight. He is the only doctor, and there are two nurses and a lab technician. Different sections are housed in separate tin-roofed structures, and the hospital has a delivery room along with ante- and post-natal patient rooms and an isolation room for diarrhoea and dysentery patients. Saikia says they have all the facilities "as per the government of Assam requirements".

There are days they get more than 50 patients. Most have problems associated with poor nutrition, unhygienic living conditions, alcoholism, anaemia, and back pain from carrying baskets of tea leaves. "Several patients also come in after a stroke. Many workers have high blood pressure," Saikia says.

At Koomtai Tea Estate garden hospital, which has 42 beds, one doctor. *Abhishek Saha*

The other unit at Koomtai has 30 beds and is led by an Ayurvedic doctor, Dr B Sarma, with the same staff strength as Saikia's.

A tea garden doctor in Golaghat district admits pressure from managements. "We have to run the hospital at as less a cost to the company as possible because these garden hospitals are not profit-making."

Incidents like at the Teok Tea Estate are demoralising for everyone, including tea garden managers and other staff, says Koomtai General Manager Bharat Bhushan Bawa, who has been running the estate for 16 years. "Workers are in a majority in a tea garden, and if they get violent, there is little you can do," he says, adding that it might become difficult for them to hire doctors.

Dipanjol Deka, the Secretary of the Tea Association of India, agrees. "The main reason behind urging the government to take over running of the garden hospitals is mitigating costs. Secondly, it is very difficult to get doctors for these hospitals. And health is a sensitive issue. Most of the clashes in gardens arise out of hospital-related issues."

Stressing that they do their utmost to take care of workers, Bawa says the estate has two ambulances of own, and if both are engaged, they pay for the patients to hire one.

The workers, however, claim that often the garden hospital is unmanned. Saikia's duty hours are from 6.30 am to 11 am, and 3-5 pm. In the middle, he goes generally to his quarters, a five-minute walk away, as do the nurses. At night, there is only a watchman around.

A member of the Koomtai garden unit of the Assam Chah Mazdoor Sangha (ACMS), the largest trade union organisation in the state's tea gardens, who refused to be named, says, "Workers often get agitated if they do not immediately find a doctor or a nurse at the hospital. That is why the Teok incident happened. At Koomtai we have requested that the nurse service be 24X7."

The member also complains about refund for treatment at other hospitals coming late from the tea garden company, putting a burden on workers who earn less than Rs 170 per day.

Gautami Bharali, a social welfare officer at Koomtai garden, says, "A doctor is a human being too, he is not god. We have to make workers realise that."

UK HEIST

THIEVES STEAL GOLD TOILET FROM PALACE

A gang of thieves on Saturday stole an 18-carat gold toilet from an art exhibition at Britain's Blenheim Palace, police said — causing flooding to the World Heritage Site. The fully-functioning piece by Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan, dubbed 'America', was once displayed at New York's Guggenheim museum and offered on loan to US President Donald Trump

TOP OF THE WORLD

Tayyip Erdogan

TURKEY

Erdogan to discuss buying US missiles

Istanbul: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said he will discuss buying US Patriot missiles with President Donald Trump, saying his personal bond with the US leader could overcome a crisis caused by Ankara buying Russian defense systems. Erdogan told *Reuters* he had discussed buying Patriots in a call with Trump two weeks ago. "I said no matter what package of... S-400s we get, we can buy from you a certain amount of Patriots," Erdogan said on Friday. "But I said we have to see conditions that at least match up to the S-400s," Erdogan said.

BALI

Photographer of iconic 'Tank Man' dead at 94

Jakarta: The photographer who snapped the defining image of China's Tiananmen Square crackdown — a solitary man defiantly blocking the path of a column of tanks — has died in Indonesia, according to US officials. American authorities confirmed the death of 64-year-old Charlie Cole in Bali, where the Texan had been a resident. "We offer our sincerest condolences to the family on their loss," a state department official told AFP. "Tank Man" has become one of the defining images of the 20th century, but the image remains largely unrecognised in China.

PAKISTAN

Sharif should be given Mukesh's songs: Minister

Lahore: Pakistan Railways Minister Sheikh Rashid said on Saturday the government should provide a tape recorder and a collection of songs by legendary Indian playback singer Mukesh to deposed prime minister Nawaz Sharif who is serving a seven-year prison term in Kot Lakhpat jail here. Sharif, 69, was convicted in the Al Azizia Steel Mills case and sentenced to seven years in jail in the wake of the apex court's July 28, 2017 verdict in the Panama Papers case. He has been serving the prison term since December 24, 2018.

ARAMCO RAISES EMERGENCY LEVELS, HOLDS CRISIS MEETING

World's largest petrol processing site among two hit by Houthi drone strikes

Fires controlled, contained: Saudi interior ministry

AGENCIES
SEPTEMBER 14

YEMEN'S HOUTHI rebels launched drone attacks on key Saudi oil facilities on Saturday, setting off blazes that could be seen from space and showcasing how cheap new technologies allow even minor militant groups to inflict serious damage on major powers.

Huge palls of smoke rose into the sky after the pre-dawn attacks on Abqaiq and Khurais. Saudi Aramco describes its Abqaiq oil processing facility in Buqyaq as "the largest crude oil stabilisation plant in the world".

"At 4:00 am (0100 GMT) the industrial security teams of Aramco started dealing with fires at two of its facilities in Abqaiq and Khurais as a result of... drones," the interior ministry said in a statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency.

"The two fires have been controlled."

The drone attacks — some 500 miles from Yemeni soil — not only exposed a Saudi vulnerability in the kingdom's war against the Houthis, but raised the specter of other Iranian-backed groups using similar techniques elsewhere in the Middle East, including against American targets, experts said.

"This takes the proxy war to a new level in the region," said Farea Al-Muslimi, co-founder of the Sanaa Center for Strategic Studies, a research group focused on Yemen. Of the Houthis' drones, he said, "Their ability to cause pain is very high and it costs very little."

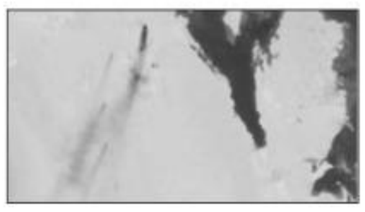
A Houthi spokesman, Brig Gen Yahya Sare'e, said in a statement broadcast by Al-Masirah, the faction's news organisation, that the group's forces "carried out a massive offensive operation of 10 drones targeting Abqaiq and Khurais refineries."

It was not clear how badly damaged the facilities were, but shutting them down for more than a few days would disrupt world oil supplies. Between them, the two centers can process 8.45 million barrels of crude oil a day, amounting to the vast majority of the production in Saudi Arabia, which produces almost one-tenth of the world's crude oil.

"A successful attack on Abqaiq would be akin to a massive heart attack for the oil market and global economy," said Bob McNally, who runs Rapidan Energy Group and served in the US National Security Council during the second Gulf War in 2003.

While the Houthis benefit from no significant financial resources, the drones have given them a way to hurt Saudi Arabia, which was the world's third highest spender on military equipment in 2018, spending an estimated $67.6 billion on arms.

Reuters



AP

(Top) Smoke seen at an Aramco factory in Abqaiq on Saturday; a satellite image by NASA shows the fires after the attack

EXPLAINED

Sensitive time

THERE HAS been a growing number of attacks on Saudi infrastructure — oil refineries, air bases and airports — after the kingdom launched an "intervention" in Yemen in 2015.

This attack comes at a sensitive time, when Saudi Arabia is preparing for a public offering of Aramco. The IPO's head had said it would make its stock market debut "very soon". With reports saying the attack impacted 5 million barrels per day of crude production — close to half the kingdom's output — Aramco is already holding a crisis meeting to take stock. Complicating the situation further is the overall tension in the Gulf after the US-Iran fallout over a 2015 nuclear treaty.

Taliban send team to Russia after US peace talks collapse

JIBRAN AHMAD
PESHAWAR, SEPTEMBER 14

THE TALIBAN have sent a delegation to Russia to discuss prospects for a withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan following the collapse of talks with the United States this month, officials from the insurgent group said.

The move, days after USPresident Donald Trump cancelled a planned meeting with Taliban leaders at his Camp David retreat, came as the movement looks to bolster regional support, with visits also planned for China, Iran and Central Asian states.

"The purpose of these visits is to inform leaders of these countries about the peace talks and President Trump's decision to call off the peace process at a time when both sides had resolved all outstanding issues and were about to sign a peace agreement," said a senior Taliban leader in Qatar.

Russia, which has hosted meetings between the Taliban and Afghan political and civil society representatives, said this week it hoped that the process could be put back on track and urged both sides to resume talks.

"We are convinced that the complete end to foreign military presence is an inalienable condition of durable peace in Afghanistan," Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on Thursday.

Reuters/File

The Taliban earlier held meetings in Russia in May

However, it is unclear whether the talks can be resumed.

The Taliban leader, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the purpose of the visits was not to try to revive negotiations with the United States but to assess regional support for forcing it to leave Afghanistan.

US and Taliban officials held months of talks in the Qatari capital of Doha and agreed a draft accord that would have seen some 5,000 US troops withdrawn from Afghanistan in exchange for security guarantees from the Taliban.

However, the deal, intended as a preliminary step to a wider peace agreement, faced heavy criticism from the Afghan government, which was shut out of the talks. Many former senior US officials who worked in the region also warned a hasty withdrawal risked destabilising the country and even plunging it back into a new round of civil war. **REUTERS**

Osama bin Laden's son and heir, Hamza, killed in US raid, Trump confirms

LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 14

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump on Saturday confirmed that Hamza bin Laden, the son of slain al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden, was killed in an American counter-terrorism operation along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

The confirmation of Hamza's death has come more than a month after the US media reported that he was killed, citing the US intelligence officials.

"Hamza bin Laden, the high-ranking al-Qaeda member and son of Osama bin Laden, was killed in a United States counter-terrorism operation in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region," Trump said in a statement.

"The loss of Hamza bin Laden not only deprives al-Qaeda of important leadership skills and the symbolic connection to his father, but undermines important operational activities of the group," Trump said.

Reports about the death of Hamza first surfaced in late July and early August. Trump had then refused to confirm those reports. **PTI**

Hamza bin Laden. *AP/File*

IN DIVIDED ZIMBABWE, FUNERAL FOR MUGABE

During the state funeral of Robert Mugabe in Harare, Zimbabwe, on Saturday. *AP*

- Foreign leaders and citizens at the state funeral of Zimbabwe's founder Robert Mugabe on Saturday, after a dispute over his burial that threatened to embarrass his successor President Emmerson Mnangagwa
- Mugabe's family had demanded that his body be buried in his home village in a private ceremony. But the government wanted a public burial at the National Heroes Acre monument in Harare.
- Banners at the stadium where Mugabe's body lay in state ahead of the funeral read 'Hamba kahle, Gushungo', (go well, Gushungo), a reference to his clan name, and 'Pioneer of nationalist politics'

David Cameron

UK may need second Brexit referendum, says ex-PM

REUTERS
LONDON, SEPTEMBER 14

FORMER BRITISH prime minister David Cameron, who took the decision in 2016 to hold a referendum on the country's membership of the European Union, said another vote may be needed to resolve the Brexit impasse.

In an interview with the Times published on Friday ahead of the launch of his memoirs, entitled "For the Record", Cameron said a no-deal Brexit would be "a bad outcome" which should not be pursued and said a second referendum remained an option.

"I'm not saying one will happen or should happen. I'm just saying that you can't rule things out right now because you've got to find some way of unblocking the blockage," said Cameron, in his first interview since he resigned as prime minister.

Cameron said he worried "desperately" about what is going to happen next, but defended holding the referendum in 2016 as necessary to achieve a renegotiation of Britain's relationship with the EU.

SEX ABUSE CASE

Fugitive ex-priest gets 30-yr jail term

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SANTA FE, SEPTEMBER 14

A FORMER Roman Catholic priest who fled the country decades ago was sentenced Friday in New Mexico to 30 years in prison after a jury found him guilty of sexually abusing an altar boy at a veterans' cemetery and military base.

In ordering the sentence, US District Judge Martha Vazquez said it was the worst case of child sex abuse she has handled over the course of 26 years. At one point, the judge demanded that 81-year-old defendant Arthur Perrault look a woman in the eyes as she testified about being abused by him.

> "You chose as a profession the life of being a priest. It was supposed to be your job to help, not destroy"
> — UNITED STATES JUDGE

The judge also condemned Perrault for only being concerned about his sexual needs.

He was convicted in April of six counts of aggravated sexual abuse and one count of abusive sexual contact with a minor under 12. "It is a long sentence but certainly a fitting one given the length of his conduct and devastating impact," US Attorney John Anderson said.

Perrault pleaded not guilty after he was returned to the US from Morocco in 2017 and maintained his innocence at the sentencing. His defense team plans to file an appeal. The abuse counts stemmed from the treatment of one boy at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque and at Santa Fe National Cemetery.

Several people were allowed Friday to recount abuse by Perrault and describe their emotional and mental anguish.

Elaine Montoya said her first kiss came from Perrault at the start of a two-year sexual relationship.

"He had convinced me that it was normal ... a gift from God," she told the court.

Charles Starzynski said his first sexual experience was with Perrault instead of any of the girls he liked. He called the former priest a con man concerned only with his image of sophistication. "You're just a jerk," he said.

Groups of protesters clash in Hong Kong

CLARE JIM & POPPY MCPHERSON
HONG KONG, SEPTEMBER 14

BATON-WIELDING Hong Kong police moved in to break up scuffles on Saturday between pro-China protesters and those denouncing perceived Chinese meddling in the Asian financial hub, the latest in months of sometimes violent clashes.

The pro-China demonstrators chanted "Support the police" and "China, add oil" at a shopping mall, adapting a line used by anti-Hong Kong government protesters and loosely meaning: "China, keep your strength up".

"Hong Kong is China," one woman shouted at passersby who shouted obscenities in return in an angry pushing and pulling standoff, marked more by the shouting than violence.

The clashes in the Kowloon Bay area of Hong Kong spilled out onto the streets, with each confrontation captured by dozens of media and onlookers on their smart phones. Police detained several people. **REUTERS**

'I ASSUMED I HAD TRUE... MEMBERSHIP INSIDE THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA... I HAVE MADE A MISTAKE'

The indigenous man who declared his own country: 'We're not going away'

LIVIA ALBECK-RIPKA
MILLN REEF, SEPTEMBER 14

MURRUMU OF Walubara and his son, Thoyo of Walubara, paddled in the clear waters of the Great Barrier Reef, among corals of electric purple and burnt orange, trumpetfish, sea cucumbers and giant clams.

To him and his followers, the Great Barrier Reef is a part of the Yidinji Territory, a self-declared nation spanning more than 6,000 square miles in the northeastern part of the continent, which Walubara formed in 2014 but to which he says sovereignty was never ceded.

Five years ago, after realizing that as an indigenous man he was not recognized by Australia's constitution, Walubara quit his job as a political reporter and renounced his Australian citizenship and former name, Jeremy Geia. He returned his passport, public health care documents and driver's license to their respective government departments, he says, and destroyed his Australian bank cards.

"I had assumed that I had true and correct membership inside the Commonwealth of Australia," Walubara, who is now 45, recounted writing in the accompanying letters to each government department. "I have made a mistake: I'm no longer eligible for the benefits of your society," he wrote. "Here are your instruments back."

Now, with the recent reelection of a conservative Australian government that has promised a referendum on the issue of constitutional recognition, Walubara, who is the Yidinji Territory's minister of foreign affairs and trade, is again pressuring federal leaders to make a treaty with the Sovereign Yidinji Government. A not-for-profit entity, it has a Cabinet of 10 ministers and, so far, close to 100 citizens (most of whom have both Australian and Yidinji citizenship).

Being recognized within a Commonwealth framework, Walubara says, is insufficient. Treaties with sovereign indigenous governments are the only appropriate remedy, he says, for the exclusion and pain inflicted on generations of indigenous people, who are thought to have inhabited Australia for at least 65,000 years before being displaced and in some cases massacred after the British arrived in the late 1700s.

Murrumu of Walubara, left, snorkels with his son, Thoyo of Walubara, at the Great Barrier Reef in Australia. *NYT*

"We're not going away, and we don't want the Commonwealth of Australia to go away. However, it is on our territory," Walubara said.

Now, Walubara survives mainly on the goodwill of the supporters of his mission. He lives on the ground floor of a friend's home in Cairns with his son, 11, and wife, who is also an activist.

He is not registered under his current name for Australian services, including health care, which caused worry and frustration when, during a recent health scare, he refused to identify himself to a hospital's staff as anything other than a Yidinji man, Davis recalled.

From Walubara's point of view, his mission is simple: The Sovereign Yidinji Government wants recognition but is content for Australia to police and conduct other administrative functions on its territory and to represent its interests at the United Nations, so long as Yidinji ministers have a final say on environmental issues, for example, and the capacity to fund projects including a school and university, which he says would provide better outcomes for Aboriginal youth.

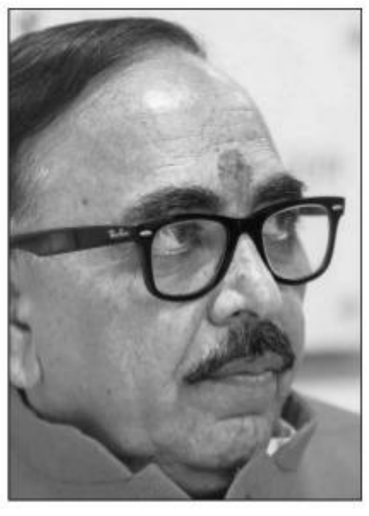
Walubara does have his critics. Some insist he is merely an attention seeker, while others say that despite good intentions, he has achieved little in the five years since renouncing his Australian citizenship.

For Walubara, the road ahead may be lonely and fraught, but he remains convinced that a treaty will occur in his lifetime. Looking at other struggles around the world, he said he had come to appreciate that there was no shortcut to healing the wounds of history. "The peaceful way is the best way," he said, "even if it is the longest." **NYT**

We are discussing how to initiate skilling with education... If you look at past four years... about 53 lakh people have been skilled. As far as job creation goes, around 12,60,000 youngsters have been given jobs"

WHY MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY

With over 30 years in politics, Mahendra Nath Pandey has occupied various positions, both at the Centre and state level. An MP from Chandauli, Pandey served as minister of state in the Human Resource Development Ministry in the previous Narendra Modi government, and was appointed Union Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in May this year. With the Centre facing criticism over lack of jobs, Pandey's role is crucial in developing a link between skilling and employment. He led the BJP's Uttar Pradesh unit during the Lok Sabha polls, where the party was pitted against the SP-BSP coalition



"(In J&K) We are looking at developing ITIs... We will provide the training needed for it. In sectors such as tourism, which Ministry of Tourism is looking into, we are trying to spot areas where skilling can help

'Growth is a continuous process... If some are hurt, govt will find solution... Small units will help growth'

Union Minister for Skill Development Mahendra Nath Pandey talks about need for skilling with schooling, elaborates on Ministry's plans for Northeast and J&K, and says those imparted skills training will be tracked beyond three months

Union Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Mahendra Nath Pandey with Senior Assistant Editor Sunny Verma in *The Indian Express* newsroom. *Abhinav Saha*

SUNNY VERMA: The country is facing an economic slowdown. How do you plan to link skill development with employment in such a situation?

We need skill development, and in ensuring that, we can go in two directions. Some people want more employment opportunities, while the others seek to move towards entrepreneurship. Keeping this in mind, the government has brought in supporting schemes through which both these sections can get economic and advisory support... Every scheme should have an objective. Skill development is not the only aim here. I say this with full responsibility. The aim is to instill skills in people and prepare them in a way that they can go on to increase their employment opportunities and also be self-reliant in some way.

As far as economic growth is concerned, and I am not in denial, I don't think that there is a slowdown. Growth is a continuous process. Sometimes taking more money and sometimes taking less from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)... it's a process. (On August 26, the RBI Central Board had decided to transfer a record surplus — Rs 1.76 lakh crore — to the government.) I believe that when it comes to difficulties, the government has been working continuously to find solutions. In fact, this government has changed the culture of Delhi... The Modi government has proven its work culture. If some people are hurt by the actions and decisions of the government, then the government's provisions will ensure that there is a solution for that too... Things are going in the right direction. I believe that with (the growth) of small industries, there will be growth in the country and better employment opportunities as well.

SUNNY VERMA: Skill development starts early, when a person is a student, and then there are stages of employment etc. In that regard, is your ministry coordinating with the Ministry of Human Resource Development? Have there been any discussions about a change in syllabus, or introduction of internships?

We have to coordinate with everyone. Your question is from the education perspective, and work is being done in that regard too. We have the Jan Shikshan Sansthans (that provide vocational skills to non-literate, neo-literates and school drop-outs by identifying skills that have a market in the region of their establishment). They were made to cater to gaps in the regular school syllabus. We are working on giving it a new dimension.

In some countries, skilling takes place alongside traditional schooling. In our country too, there is a need for this. I have made a team of officers for this and we have been talking about it. It is yet to be finalised, but there have been discussions over two aspects of such a system. For example, introducing some changes in the syllabus, or offering skilling options to students after Class 10, depending on their interests. We are discussing how we can initiate skilling with regular education... Maybe some courses can be introduced, and they can be done for three-four hours. Countries such as Germany are doing this. We are also trying to coordinate with the HRD Ministry.

SANDEEP SINGH: Skill development is very important in the automobile sector — from dealerships to manufacturing, it generates a lot of employment and requires a lot of skills. But lately, the sector has been facing a slowdown, and that will also affect the employment opportunities that the industry has to offer. How do you plan to deal with this?

I admit that things have slowed down in the auto sector. But it's temporary, and I hope things will look up slowly. The government is taking steps in that direction. As far as employment is concerned, we are pushing for that as well. For example, there has been an uptick in employment prospects in the hospitality and tourism sector. We are urging people to take up those opportunities.

LIZ MATHEW: In 2017, when the then minister of state (Independent Charge) of skill development, Rajiv Pratap Rudy, had left the department, reports had suggested that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was unhappy with his work because skill training was not linked to job creation. Is it linked to jobs now and how many skilled people have jobs today? By when can we expect a report on this?

If you cumulatively look at the past four years... about 53 lakh people have been skilled. As far as job creation is concerned, approximately 12,60,000 youngsters have been given jobs.

LIZ MATHEW: The Modi government has faced criticism for growing unemployment and lack of jobs. Since you have taken charge, what has been done to ensure more job creation? Has there been any addition to the training process?

I have tried to focus on about 37 SSCs (Sector Skill Councils), autonomous, industry-led bodies set up by the National Skill Development Corporation, which create occupational standards and qualification bodies, develop competency framework, conduct 'Train the Trainer' programmes and skill gap studies, and certify trainees on the curriculum aligned to National Occupational Standards developed by them). We have tried to explain to them that this is a huge opportunity. We have told them that you are private (entities), but you are respected much like government bodies. This opportunity for certification does not exist for just respect. They are in regular touch with me and have assured me that they will increase employment opportunities in the country soon.

SHALINI NAIR: In the last few years, many social sector ministries have used the Socio Economic and Caste Census-2011 data to identify beneficiaries for their schemes. How has your ministry used the information to reach out to the marginalised sections of society?

We have modified our apps. The PMKVY (Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, the government's skill development initiative) dashboard has also been modernised. Industries have been (reaching out to the marginalised sections) through their Corporate Social Responsibility schemes.

Also, we are looking to make a team for this, I recently held discussions with my officers too. The skilling gap, requirements need to be identified, and we have given instructions in this regard. There will be work done on it. For example, we sent a team to Jammu and Kashmir. I had instructed them to focus on the requirements of the different regions (of the state), in the way Prime Minister Narendra Modi is doing.

SUNNY VERMA: Do you have any plans related to Kashmir in the ministry?

Yes. A report on our visit will be made soon. I will also visit the region. We are looking at developing Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) wherever needed. We will provide all the training systems that are needed. In traditional sectors such as tourism, which the Ministry of Tourism is looking into, we are trying to spot areas where skill development can help.

SUNNY VERMA: Apart from J&K, are you looking at introducing special schemes in other regions, such as the Northeast?

I have visited the Northeast region and held meetings with all the eight states. Ministers from six of the states and officials from the other two were present at the meeting. We realised that there is need for progress in the region, especially in the field of skills, and so we decided to develop a centre in Guwahati. It will ensure that people from states such as Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Mizoram, and Tripura, don't have to rush to Delhi for everything. All the important requirements and guidance will be made available to them through the (Guwahati) centre.

I recently met a few people who informed me that in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh not a lot of work has been done with regard to skill development, even though I was told it is not difficult to do so in the region. So I decided that since these states are considered among the good states of the country, better skill development work should also be done there. There will be no shortage in encouragement from the Centre for any state that wants to move forward.

RAVISH TIWARI: You served as minister of state, HRD, in the previous government. In the past few years, there have been protests by students of Jawaharlal Nehru University, the University of Hyderabad, Banaras Hindu University... Why does the government appear to be afraid of students?

No, it's not like that at all. There is no such thing as being scared of students. In the past there have been student unrests in Vietnam, in France, each country has its own way of dealing with them. Today's youth talk a lot about fast-paced development... Our government should focus on it, work in that direction. Our government is not trying to dismiss students in any way.

About JNU... Some people believed that JNU only belonged to them...and that is where the difficulty arises. Some people decided that JNU was made only for some special people... and we believe that JNU was made for everyone. There is some difficulty there. I also think that JNU is for all political parties, not just one.

VANDITA MISHRA: You mentioned that there have been many political changes under the Modi government. Can you tell us about some of them?

Compared to any other political party, we have performed better — on public interest matters, on subjects of development, providing amenities to people, public welfare etc. As far as change is concerned... Earlier, schemes were announced, but they never reached the ground. Now, under the Modi government, all schemes are being looked into, there is a political set-up and ministry to do the groundwork. There wasn't such a work culture before. All governments have been making schemes on the same issues, but earlier they were not monitored on the ground level. The Modi government has been monitoring its schemes on a day-to-day basis. That is why schemes such as the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, the Jan-Dhan Yojana have been so successful. The Swayam Sahatya Samuh scheme, which was started at the village level, has been really successful in the last five-six years. It allowed women in villages, from each block, to meet the Block Development Officer, and many such officers, at least two-three times. Today, there is no block in the country where women self-help groups have not been developed... So the change is in the working culture, ensuring that schemes are being implemented at the grassroots level.

"There have been student unrests in Vietnam, France; each country has its way of dealing with it. The youth talk of fast-paced development... We must focus on it. Govt isn't dismissing students

RAVISH TIWARI: Your government has also faced criticism for not listening to opinions that are opposed to yours... People are asked to go to Pakistan, are called anti-national if their views differ from that of the government. Is that the way forward?

Everybody has their own way of looking at things. In the BJP, we have no hidden agenda. When have we ever had a political meeting where at least two-three proposals don't focus on the issue of nationalism? We say things with conviction. There are many people in this country who prefer to mix things... They feel that they are being stopped, but it's not true. Fortunately, our society hasn't witnessed such a situation yet.

At the state level, the BJP has a larger presence compared to the other parties. But at the Centre, everybody has an open discussion. If we had been hiding something, or we wanted to stop someone, why would we provide these opportunities for discussion? Maybe because our voices are heard more in the country, we communicate to the public in a clear, simple manner, we have such a big, universally accepted leader whose voice directly reaches even an uneducated man of a village...so the voices of these people aren't heard. Like in the case of JNU. Their pain was that their voices were not heard in more than two-three states of the country. So why do they blame us? Why is the public, the youth rejecting them? We aren't forcing anybody to do anything.

The primary objective of the Modi government is to ensure *kanoon raj* (the rule of law). Whether it's someone in the BJP or outside, if it's an illegal activity, the government doesn't support or encourage it. This is the most important aspect of our working culture.

ANIL SASI: You mentioned that over 50 lakh people have been skilled, but only about 12 lakh have been placed. Is that number satisfactory? Do you track their placements?

There are also unregistered people (who have been skilled). There were about 80 lakh people in the last four years... Under the Prime Minister's scheme, our training partners do 80 per cent of the training, and the remaining 20 per cent is done after they are employed. The wages earned by them depends on the 20 per cent part — based on which I mentioned the 12,60,000 figure. There could be a person who has undergone 80 per cent of the skilling but has not been able to find employment... But just because he is out of training doesn't mean he is sitting idle, he is doing something.

Until now, the tracking period was for three months, but we're thinking of extending it to a year.

RAVISH TIWARI: You have been the Uttar Pradesh unit president of the BJP. Recently, there have been reports of violence and law and order disruptions in the state. What is your government doing to address these issues?

First, one must understand that Uttar Pradesh is a very big state with a population of over 20 crore... In such a big state, if a person has a poor mentality, or if another person is involved in some land-property dispute... These are the two types of incidents happening in the state. Strict action has been taken, and that is what our government stands for. We are providing better governance at both the Centre and state level and we will continue to do so.

BANKING WATCH

SBI AIMS TO TAKE LEAD FOR LADAKH

Diskit (Ladakh): State Bank of India (SBI) has expressed desire to become the lead-bank for the newly carved-out Union Territory of Ladakh. At present, J&K Bank is the lead-bank for Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. **PTI**

30% AGRI HOUSEHOLDS NOT GETTING INSTITUTIONAL CREDIT: RBI PANEL

Financial exclusion: 40.9% of small & marginal farmers not covered by banks

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 14

THE RESERVE Bank of India's Internal Working Group (IWG) to review agricultural credit — headed by Deputy Governor MK Jain — has raised several concerns on the farm front as lakhs of small and marginal farmers (SMF) are yet to be covered by the banking system.

Despite so many initiatives and schemes aimed at financial inclusion, only 40.90 per cent of SMF could be covered by the scheduled commercial banks (SCBs), the report submitted by the RBI panel has said.

On the other hand, the working group has raised concerns over SMF seeking funds outside the banking system. A significant portion, approximately 30 per cent of agricultural households, still avail credit from non-institutional sources only which is a "cause of concern", the RBI panel said in its report.

At the aggregate level, banks have been able to achieve the sub-target of SMF under the priority sector lending (PSL).

"Though this reflects a satisfactory performance in terms of achievement of target by banks, a large proportion of SMF have not been covered by SCBs," Jain panel said.

The IWG report succintly reveals the extent of financial exclusion in the farming sector.

EXPLAINED

Those farming for consumption not availing bank credit

THE RBI'S Internal Working Group to review agricultural credit noted that among the probable reasons why a major share of small and marginal farmers are left out of institutional credit could be that their credit demand could be for consumption purposes.

Another reason, the panel said, could be that banks do not find tenant farmers, sharecroppers and landless labourers — who are not able to offer collateral security to avail institutional credit, or are involved in unviable subsistence agriculture — credit worthy.

As per PSL Returns, 2015-16 of the banks, the number of accounts under the small and marginal category are 5.138 crore and the total number of SMF in the country as per Agriculture Census, 2015-16 was 12.563 crore. This indicates that more than seven crore SMF are not covered by the banking system.

"There is a need to increase the coverage of SMF by banks as they constituted 86.21 per cent of total operated holdings and have 47.34 per cent share in the operated area," the IWG said.

The RBI panel said there is a need to ascertain the reasons why 30 per cent are still left out from getting institutional credit. It said the probable reasons could be that their credit demand could be for consumption purposes or they could be tenant farmers, sharecroppers and landless labourers who are not able to offer collateral security to avail institutional credit, or they are involved in unviable subsistence agriculture or banks do not find them credit worthy.

"As a result, these farmers find it convenient to borrow money from non-institutional sources due to easy accessibility," it said. The analysis by the working group shows that the presence of a large number of SMF in a state has not translated into proportionate number of loan accounts, highlighting the extent of financial exclusion among these farmers.

Furthermore, the pattern of percentage share in the number of loan accounts in a state does not match with the percentage share in amount outstanding particularly in the states such as Bihar, Odisha and West Bengal, the report said.

Tamil Nadu has come out as an outlier, having only 6 per cent share in the total number of SMF, although it is the leading state in terms of share in total number of loan accounts (17 per cent) and the highest share in amount outstanding (13 per cent).

Similarly, Andhra Pradesh has a higher share in the number of accounts as compared to its share in number of SMF across the country.

"Further, in states such as Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal, the percentage share in loan outstanding is not proportionate to their percentage share in the number of loan accounts. This, in a way, may be an indication that the amount of loan per account for small and marginal farmers in these states was lower than that of other states," the IWG report said.

As per the NABARD All India Rural Financial Inclusion Survey (NAFIS) 2016-17, the share of non-institutional credit in 2015 was 28 per cent.

As against this, the share of institutional credit in agriculture increased from 10.2 per cent in 1951 to 63 per cent in 1981 and thereafter the share of institutional credit was hovering in the range of 63-65 per cent during 1981 to 2013.

As per the NAFIS, in 2015, the share of institutional credit was approximately 72 per cent.

According to the Jain panel report, the total number of operational holdings in the country was 146 million and total operated area was 157.14 million hectare (ha) in 2015-16.

The small and marginal holdings taken together (0.00-2.00 ha) constituted 86.21 per cent, while their share in the operated area stood at 47.34 per cent in 2015-16. The average size of land holding in 2015-16 was 1.08 ha.

On regional disparity in agricultural credit, the Reserve Bank panel said some of the states are getting much higher share — as high as 10 per cent of total agricultural credit — compared to other states getting as low as 0.5 per cent.

Also, in some states — Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal — bank credit was not proportionate to their share in agricultural output, it added.

Though at the aggregate level banks, have been able to achieve the overall PSL target of 40 per cent, so far they have failed to achieve the agriculture target of 18 per cent at system-wide level, the report said.

However, public sector banks have achieved 18.12 per cent as against private sector banks' achievement of 16.30 per cent in fiscal year 2018-19.

Change in FinCom's ToR should be backed by chief ministers: Manmohan Singh

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

STATING THAT unilateralism is not good for federal policy and co-operative federalism, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Saturday said the government should have taken chief ministers' views before changing the terms of reference (ToR) of the 15th Finance Commission.

Singh said that any change in the panel's ToR at the fag-end of its term should have been done in consultation with the states.

"The best course would have been for the central government that if it wants to tailor the terms of reference, it should be backed by Chief Ministers' Conference, which is now under the auspices of NITI Aayog, otherwise there would be a strong feeling that the (central) government is trying to rob the states of due resource allotment," he stated.

The Centre, in July, had changed the ToR of the 15th finance panel and mandated the panel to suggest ways for allocation of non-lapsable funds for defence and internal security.

"I think that it is not good for the federal polity of our country and cooperative federalism we all swear by these days," the former PM said while addressing the 'National Seminar on Additional Terms of Reference of the 15th Finance Commission: Implication for the States'.

"The Commission's report goes to the Finance Ministry and then it goes to the Cabinet and therefore, the government of the day can take a view that whatever the mandate of the Parliament, the government would abide by that rather than imposing its view unilaterally on the reluctant state commissions," he added.

The former Prime Minister said that giving the 15th Finance Commission additional terms of reference is "rather odd", and the government would complicate the Commission's work

The government, on November 27, 2017, notified the 15th Finance Commission — headed by N K Singh — to suggest the formula for devolution of funds to states by the Centre for five years commencing April 1, 2020, among other issues.

The Commission, which has been mandated to use 2011 census data rather than the one of 1971 for resource allocation, was to submit its report by October 30, 2019. The deadline was later extended till November 30, 2019.

"I respectfully request to the authorities to still take this view that they will go by the advice of the chief ministers if there is new controversy with regard to additional terms of reference of the Commission," Singh said.

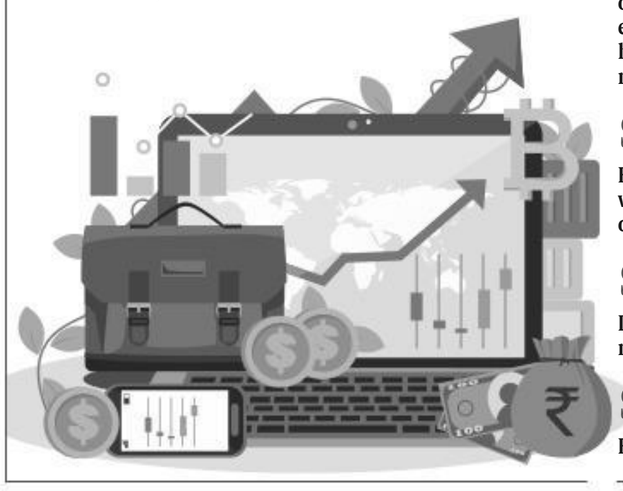
"I am told once upon a time, the 9th Finance Commission took the view that it will be guided by the Constitutional mandate and will do the fair distribution of taxes, though I don't know whether this (15th) Commission is going to adopt that line of thought. But ... internal security as well as defence are subjects which are of great national importance," he added.

About the role of the commission, Singh said, "There are certain basic issues like allocations for health, education and other important subjects, environment protection, where all states have a legitimate interest. What should be done by the government is to evolve a broad national consensus in dealing with all these issues, otherwise there would be bickering and dissatisfaction. This is not good for the federal polity of our country."

He was of the view that cooperative federalism demands give and take and therefore, it is very important that the Centre should take the initiative to consult states as often as necessary to carry them along. "It's rather odd for the government to come up with additional terms of reference. Most of the states have already gone to the Commission with their requirements and now you impose another terms of reference on the commission, which would complicate its work. That is certainly not good for the federal polity and cooperative federalism that we desire should flourish in the country," Singh further said.

Forex reserves soar $1 bn to $429.60 bn

The country's foreign exchange reserves increased by $1.004 billion to $429.608 billion in the week to September 6, helped by a rise in foreign currency assets, Reserve Bank of India data showed



EXPRESSED IN US dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and the yen held in the foreign exchange reserves

$428.604 bn: Forex reserves in preceding week, having reported a fall of $446 million

$430.572 bn: Life-time high touched by reserves, in August this year

$397.205 bn: Foreign currency assets, i.e. a major component of overall reserves, which rose by $1.200 billion in the week to September 6

$27.35 bn: Gold reserves during week under review, declining by $199 million

$1.434 bn: Special drawing rights with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), unchanged during the week

$3.619 bn: India's reserve position with IMF, rising marginally by $2 million

'Mega shopping festival' may boost 'Brand India', but competing on global scale vital

PRABHA RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

AS PART of its measures to boost two flagging sectors of the economy, exports and housing, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Saturday announced an annual "mega shopping festival" in four cities by March 2020.

While exporters are optimistic about the trade prospects of such a shopping festival, some say India will have to ensure it is able to compete with the likes of Dubai, Singapore and Hong Kong if it plans to become the preferred shopping destination of tourists and this can only be done if the festival offers a mix of global and indigenous products, instead of sticking solely to products made in India.

The festival is expected to follow the model of Dubai's annual shopping festival, which is famous for heavy discounts offered by retailers in the city on popular brands across sectors. However, India's own mega shopping festival will have different themes in each of the four cities and is expected to focus on sectors like gems and jewellery, yoga, tourism and textiles and leather. The cities hosting the festival are expected to be finalised by the Commerce Ministry.

Through this festival, the Centre plans to give a booster shot to exports of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), which is expected to be a potential showcase of the products that India has to offer in the specified themes. The government expects a "mass on-boarding" of artisans across the country as a result.

FIEO president Sharad Kumar Saraf said such mega shopping festivals will not only boost exports but also help in creating value for "Brand India products from labour-intensive sectors".

Meanwhile, analysts emphasised the need to promote the festival as a mix of the local and global, adding that the government will have to ensure it can compete with other destinations on the low or no-duty structures they offer on such products.

"If the shopping festival is entirely domestic (in terms of the products offered), it is unlikely that it will be a hit. If you want to make it the destination for South East Asia, you can't do so when you have Hong Kong, Singapore and Dubai a few hours' journey away and selling global products. You have to have global products in the mix," said Devendra Kumar Pant, chief economist, India Ratings.

"Dubai is a free port (a region with less strict customs regulations), and if we are looking at competing with it, we will have to compete both on products and duty structures," he told *The Indian Express*. At the same time, the festival could generate more employment and sectors like hospitality and transport are expected to benefit as a result of the tourists expected.

BRIEFLY

PFC raises global bond issuance size

New Delhi: Power Finance Corporation Saturday said it has increased quantum of funds to be raised via bonds to $5 billion from $3 billion under its Global Medium Term Note Programme. "The PFC has updated the existing Global Medium Term Note Programme from $3 billion to $5 billion," it said in a BSE filing. The firm also launched issuances of $3 million worth bonds at 3.25 per cent due in 2024 and $450 million at 3.90 per cent due in 2029 under $5 billion Global Medium Term Note Programme, as per the filing.

Unitech loss reaches ₹112 cr in June quarter

New Delhi: Unitech Ltd on Saturday reported widening of its consolidated net loss to Rs 112.17 crore for June quarter. The firm's loss stood at Rs 92.14 crore in the same period last year. Its total revenue in June quarter this fiscal increased to Rs 288.38 crore from Rs 218.65 crore year ago, a BSE statement said. As per the statement, the firm's total expense rose to Rs 301.92 crore in the quarter from Rs 213.28 crore a year ago. It has reported consolidated net loss of Rs 790.83 crore in FY19. **PTI**

CONGRESSIONAL PROBE INTO 737 MAX CRASHES

US House panel wants Boeing to allow employee interviews

DAVID SHEPARDSON
WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 14

CONGRESS ON Thursday asked Boeing Co's chief executive to make several employees available for interviews as part of a congressional probe into the design, development and certification of 737 MAX aircraft involved in two crashes that killed 346 people.

House of Representatives Transportation Committee Chairman Peter DeFazio and Representative Rick Larsen, who chairs the aviation subcommittee, said in a statement that while Boeing has provided substantial documents and shared senior management's perspective, "it's important to the committee's investigation to hear from relevant Boeing employees."

The committee plans another Boeing hearing in the coming weeks and previously asked whistleblowers to come forward with any information about the plane's development. Boeing has provided more than 300,000 pages of documents, a person briefed on the matter said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Boeing said in a statement it was "deeply disappointed the committee chose to release private correspondence given our extensive cooperation to date. We will continue to be transparent and responsive to the committee."

The 737 MAX, Boeing's best-selling jet, was grounded globally in March, days after the crash of an Ethiopian Airlines flight, followed by a Lion Air crash in Indonesia in October. Both crashes claimed a total of 346 people lives.

ASKED WHISTLEBLOWERS TO COME FORWARD

- **The committee plans another Boeing hearing in the coming weeks and previously asked whistleblowers to come forward with any information about the plane's development**
- **Boeing said it was "deeply disappointed the committee chose to release private correspondence given our extensive cooperation to date. We will continue to be transparent and responsive to the committee"**

Federal prosecutors aided by the FBI, the Department of Transportation's inspector general and several blue-ribbon panels are investigating the 737 MAX as well as how the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certifies new aircraft.

Major US airlines have canceled flights into December as a result of the MAX grounding, including American Airlines Group Inc and United Airlines, while Southwest Airlines Co has canceled flights into early January.

CEO Dennis Muilenburg said at an investor conference Wednesday that the firm is still targeting "early fourth quarter for getting the airplane back up in the air" but added that "ultimately return-to-service timing will be determined by the regulator."

The FAA has repeatedly said it will not certify the plane to fly again until it is safe to do so.

The European Union Aviation Safety Agency said on Tuesday it "intends to conduct its own test flights separate from, but in full coordination with, the FAA. The test flights are not scheduled yet, the date will depend on the development schedule of Boeing."

Muilenburg said it is possible not all regulators around the world will concurrently approve the MAX to fly again. Boeing has said it plans to conduct a certification test flight in the "September time frame" but Muilenburg did not give a specific date when asked on Wednesday.

Some officials do not expect the 737 MAX to actually resume flights until early 2020. *The Wall Street Journal* reported on September 1 that a Boeing briefing in August was cut short by the United States, European and other regulators who complained the company failed to answer specific questions about modifications in the operation of MAX flight-control computers. **REUTERS**

GST: Aadhaar verification to be mandatory for new dealers from Jan 2020

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BENGALURU, JUNE 19

IN ORDER to check malpractices in the indirect tax regime, the GST Network on Saturday decided to make Aadhaar authentication or physical verification mandatory for new dealers from January 2020.

"Aadhaar authentication of new dealers will be mandatory. Earlier it was optional. But we have noticed in two years that there's good number of fly-by-night operators.

"They make fake invoices," Bihar deputy chief minister Sushil Kumar Modi, who heads the group of ministers of Goods and Services Tax (GST) Network told reporters on Saturday after a meeting here.

Those who don't want Aadhaar authentication, physical verification will be carried out, which will be completed in three days, he added.

As refunding is a big issue, the GSTN decided on complete online refunding from September 24 this year from a single source, either by the Central GST or State GST, Modi said.

The GSTN also decided the much simplified new return system may be launched on January 1, 2020, the Bihar Deputy chief minister said.

The GST Council meeting is scheduled in Goa on September 20, he added.

Patanjali seeks loan from MSCB for Nagpur food park; bank yet to receive any proposal

VIVEK DESHPANDE
NAGPUR, SEPTEMBER 14

AMIDST REPORTS of its financial downside, Baba Ramdev's Patanjali Ayurved has approached the Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank (MSCB) for a loan for its much-delayed proposed food processing park here. Coming up in the non-SEZ area of Multimodal International Hub Airport at Nagpur (MIHAN), the unit's foundation was laid in 2017 by Union Minister Gadkari and Ramdev amidst much fanfare. They had then said that the unit would begin operations in February 2018.

Gadkari had said here last week that he had told MSCB to provide finance to Patanjali to enable it to start operations soon.

Acharya Balkrishna, the company's Chairman, had told *The Indian Express* recently that the unit will become operational around Diwali and would buy the first orange crop this season from farmers in Vidarbha.

Asked why the Nagpur unit was getting delayed, Balkrishna had said, "We had simultaneously embarked on many other projects, so our financial resources had got divided. But we have completed our construction and have also brought the necessary machinery to the place. We have already invested about Rs 1,200 crore so far at Nagpur."

Meanwhile, however, Gadkari had said he had intervened to facilitate early beginning of the project by telling the MSCB to finance the Nagpur protect. On Saturday, Balkrishna said, "What Mr Gadkari had said is absolutely correct. We have sought loan from the bank. But it said it can't be the main financier and the lead bank will have to be different. We hope things will work out soon."

MSCB Administrative Board Chairman Vidyadhar Anaskar said, "Mr Gadkari has spoken to me but I am yet to get any proposal." Asked if it is within MSCB's realm to finance an FMCG company like Patanjali, Anaskar said, "We are not supposed to finance any company producing consumer products. And Patanjali is one of the kind."

He, however, added, "we will do as NABARD will tell. But NABARD only tells the kind of industry we can finance, not any particular unit as such."

When pointed out if MSCB can finance a company reportedly facing financial problems, Anaskar said, "Any finance is always done taking risk into consideration. If the company is in financial problem, it will definitely be a factor in deciding if it can be financed."

Patanjali was given 234 acre of land in the MIHAN non-SEZ area in 2017 at a reportedly cheap rate by the Maharashtra government. The company had later also purchased 106 acre of an adjacent piece of land inside the SEZ area.

Merged entity of UBI, PNB, OBC to be operational from next April

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 14

THE AMALGAMATED entity of United Bank of India (UBI), Punjab National Bank (PNB) and Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) will come into effect from April 1 next year, a top official said Saturday.

The merged unit, likely to have a new name, will be the second largest bank in the country after State Bank of India (SBI) with a total business volume of Rs 18 lakh crore. "The amalgamation process will take some time and the new entity will start functioning from April 1, 2020," MD and CEO of UBI, Ashok Kumar Pradhan, said.

The three banks held a customer meet here, which was attended by Chander Khurana, GM of Punjab National Bank and Binay Kumar Gupta, GM of Oriental Bank of Commerce.

The lenders said that there will no retrenchment of staff in the merged entity, and also ruled out the possibility of bringing in Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS). Pradhan later told reporters that the combined staff strength post the amalgamation will be 1 lakh with 11,400 branches.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had on August 30 announced the consolidation of 10 state-run banks into four large-scale lenders.

BRIDGE

Clearly the hand is easy if diamonds break 3-2 as the suit can be set up for four tricks to give you a grand total of 10 tricks. But what if diamonds break 4-1?

Dlr: South; Vul: None

NORTH	SOUTH
♠A75	♠K842
❤J109	❤AQ
♦K8642	♦A53
♣96	♣AK86

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

OPENING LEAD: H4 East plays the H2, standard count. Plan the play.

Given that hearts are 5-3 from East's play of the H2 (odd number of hearts), you might have to shift your attention to spades and hope they break 3-3. The proper order of plays is the AK of diamonds at tricks two and three. If all follow, concede a diamond and go about your business of scooping up your 10 tricks. But if diamonds break 4-1, duck a spade. Win the expected heart return and play the AK of spades. On a good day (today is a good day) spades will be 3-3 and you will have salvaged your contract. Notice that if you duck a diamond at trick two, you go down the way the cards lie.

THE WEST HAND: ♠J43 ❤K8743♦Q1097 ♣J

THE EAST HAND: ♠Q109 ❤842♦J♣Q109532

Dlr: East; Vul: Both

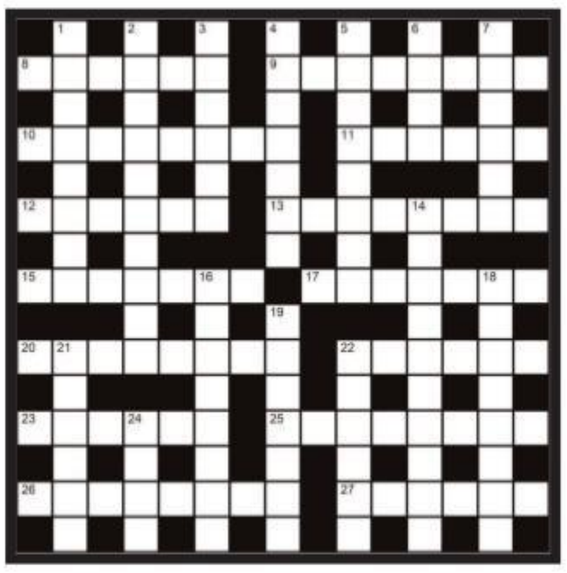
NORTH (dummy)	SOUTH (you)
♠AQ1085	♠42
❤8	❤AJ109752
♦1075	♦KJ9
♣AKJ4	♣2

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
3❤	Pass	4❤	Dbl.
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

OPENING LEAD: H3

You win the ace and then.....?

SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2234



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

8. Stylish; sprightly (6)
9. Not be late in getting finished? (3,5)
10. Tell _ _ ____ : keep a secret very well, in a way? (3,1,4)
11. Provides housing for (6)
12. Animal of North America (6)
13. Coiffures (8)
15. ____ is the spice of life? (7)
17. Mirror or contemplate (7)
20. Racing track (8)
22. Ancient, ascetic Jew (6)
23. Like better (6)
25. Gross takings (8)
26. Unable to distinguish musical pitch (4-4)
27. Pitch a horseshoe anew (6)

DOWN

1. Broad view (8)
2. Evoke hostility or opposition in (10)
3. Powerful businessman (6)
4. Robust, sturdy and sound (7)
5. South Australian capital (8)
6. Musical group (4)
7. First born (6)
14. Brings out; develops good or bad qualities? (5,5)
16. Foiled, frustrated (8)
18. Talk; discuss (8)
19. Bewilder (7)
21. Absolve, condone (6)
22. Mistakes (6)
24. Run away (4)
23. Pretentious Greek character doubled up (6)
25. Quality needed to help set the scene (8)
26. In the hospital, they set Noel's arm when broken (8)
27. In duty bound not to effect a clearance (6)
19. One of those holding things up on retirement (7)
21. Don't hold your breath! It's no longer healthy (6)
22. Singers start to chant name of ancient god (6)
24. Navigator having business approval (4)

CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

8. Class action over wheel hub balance (6)
9. Inspects pits after cut-back (8)
10. It may be used by a boxer without a ring apparently (4-4)
11. A time for high-handedness (6)
12. Speaking easily after illness is laryngologist's department (6)
13. Dancing Disney has zest (8)
15. Aimed to, as pride had taken a fall (7)
17. One girl covering another's retreat could be significant (7)
20. Acting family, left-wing and serious (8)
22. They're made for objects by the hundred and fifty (6)

DOWN:

1. Small measures of moral doubt (8)
2. Weeping and whaling ? (10)
3. Follow your nose to get up with it (6)
4. Fire-raisers (7)
5. Former prison rebuilt as billet (8)
6. High quality penalty (4)
7. Even a move to a hotel would be sheer bliss! (6)
14. Misplaced zest and French water in turmoil over a holy book ? (4,6)
16. The inspector was once a pitman (8)
18. Is Mother to be in need of a worm like this? (8)

Solutions to 2233

QUICK CLUES Across: 8 Shoved, 9 Relieves, 10 Inflamed, 11 Resent, 12 Albela, 13 Colonise, 14 Cracked, 16 Arrival, 20 Parlance, 23 Pierce, 25 Swears, 26 Acrostic, 27 Clusters, 28 Eleven. **Down:** 1 Chandler, 2 Evolve, 3 Adams ale, 4 Produce, 5 Floral, 6 Helsinki, 7 Tennis, 15 Collapse, 17 Reporter, 18 Archives, 19 Because, 21 At will, 22 Nosier, 24 Easier.
CRYPTIC CLUES Across: Across: 8 Abbacy, 9 Election, 10 Birdbath, 11 Menton, 12 Gandhi, 13 Vanbrugh, 14 Combine, 16 Halyard, 20 Frou-frou, 23 By Jove, 25 Urchin, 26 Forestry, 27 Half-time, 28 Appeal. **Down:** 1 Obligato, 2 Padded, 3 Gyration, 4 Beehive, 5 German, 6 Sting-ray, 7 So long, 15 Brush-off, 17 Arboreal, 18 River-man, 19 Ruffled, 21 Reread, 22 Runs in, 24 Joseph.

If it's your Birthday

Sunday September 15
You know that a positive attitude breeds a better life, so you may take responsibility for the good feeling which seems to infect people. In your heart, you know that you must set out to help others.

Monday September 16
Your moods could swing between one positive extreme and another. Decisions you take now, or events which occur in your environment, could take you before the public eye in the coming year.

Tuesday September 17
Future is bright and choice is yours. Celestial alignments present you with two ways of accomplishing targets. Don't let anyone tell you that there's no alternative next year.

Wednesday September 18
The secret of success is to plan ahead, whether you're chasing adventure or pursuing opportunity at work. What's important is you get your priorities clear and tackle every task in the right order.

Thursday September 19
You'll become more aware that it's not enough to have wonderful thoughts and great ideas — you actually have to put them into practice. The next twelve months follow a similar pattern, with excellent results.

Friday September 20
Life is all about co-operation, so team up with like-minded people. Expect a sizeable boost in about three or four months' time.

Saturday September 21
Your emotional desires are operating in harmony with your practical, business sense. If you back your hunches with experience and hard cash then you should do very well indeed.

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
The planets are still in a formation which encourages secrecy, but please do steer clear of people who are determined to spread rumours or go behind partners' backs. Upheavals early in the week could knock you off course, but you'll soon steady your nerve.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
Rarely have the trends been better for Taureans with professional ambitions. Venus and Mars indicate that this is an excellent week for securing a new job or, if you're staying put, achieving respect for your accomplishments so far.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Most of your planets are in that part of your chart which encourages you to project yourself in public and play down your personal feelings. However, don't ignore your very real individual needs. Mercury, your planetary ruler, is in a poetic mood, and you may create a vibrant impression.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
There are times of year when the planets offer you a degree of inspiration that takes you beyond the normal limits of your life. To make the most of such trends you must consciously look for ways to improve your lot. Such a time is now.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
Very interesting developments are taking place in the area of your chart ruling your finances. There does seem to be some confusion, but also a great opportunity to benefit from any savings or investments. Money is a concern, although there are definitely some excellent bargains to be had. Keep your eyes open.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
Life's not all plain sailing at the moment, but then nobody ever said it would be. The one area of opportunity is romance, which many of you, for one reason of another, have tended to ignore. The next set of lunar alignments falls in a lively, assertive part of your chart, setting you off on a new cycle of adventure.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
Venus and Mars combine to offer the best planetary influences as far as relationships with loved ones and children are concerned. You must, though, act in line with your individual feelings, for only you know what is best. There is bound to be a major mystery early in the week, and that could set your mind thinking about fresh ideas and new ambitions.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
Your planetary influences are highly pleasurable. This is why you really must find some time to enjoy yourself free from the cares and burdens of everyday life. Please don't waste this valuable opportunity! One other point to bear in mind is that emotional ties could prove costly.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)
Short journeys are on the cards, as are pleasurable family encounters. If you have brothers or sisters, they are the relatives who will be most important over the coming two weeks. Otherwise, stick with those friends who you know and trust as yourself. Any professional upsets should be cleared up with a bit of goodwill.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
Emotional ties are not always what they seem. The indications that a new partnership could be profitable financially are growing stronger. Perhaps a new friend will come up with a lucrative proposal. It's certainly a positive time to take a gamble — as long as the odds are on your side.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
Venus and Mars are the two planets which rule your social life, making you irresistible to other people. Now that both these marvellous celestial bodies are offering you their support you will at last make new friends. Oh, and your financial stars will improve as the week passes, bringing hints of new prosperity.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
Discreet romantic encounters are in store for the typical Piscean. All of you will relish quiet moments spent with loved ones, especially if an element of mystery or intrigue is involved. One thing is certain, and that is that you must listen very carefully to all well-meaning advice. Plus, you could change your mind by the end of the week.

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.

__is like the___; we all have to go through it. - Jerome K. Jerome (4,.,7)

PTEEE

AEILLS

OATHS

ACUUMV

SOLUTION: TEPEE, SHOAT, ALLEES, VACUUM
Answer: **Love** is like the **measles**; we all have to go through it. - Jerome K. Jerome

SUDOKU 3970

Difficulty Level 2s
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

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

SOLUTION SUDOKU 3969

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

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
MADURAI CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
Arinagar Anna Maligai, Tallakulam, Madurai, Tamil Nadu.
INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date	15th SEPTEMBER 2019
Loan No. and Title	Tamil Nadu Urban Flagship Investment Program (TNUFIP): Tranche 2
Contract No. and Title	Tender Notice No. Ma.Po. 2/AMRUT(WS) 3/18-19 (2nd CALL) Construction of Service reservoir, Feeder main and Clear Water Transmission Main for providing dedicated water supply to Madurai City Municipal Corporation from Mullai Periyar at Lower Camp – Package 3
Deadline for submission of Bids	30.10.2019, upto 15.00 Hrs.

1. India has applied for financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of Tamil Nadu Urban Flagship Investment Program (TNUFIP) – Tranche 2. Part of this financing will be used for payments under the Contract named above. Bidding is open to Bidders from eligible source countries of the ADB.
2. **"The Commissioner, Madurai City Municipal Corporation"** ("the Employer") invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the following works.
   Construction of Service reservoir, Feeder main and Clear Water Transmission Main for providing dedicated water supply to Madurai City Municipal Corporation from Mullai Periyar at Lower Camp – **Package 3. ("the Works").**
3. **International competitive bidding** will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single-Stage: Two-Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.
4. Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding:
   - Minimum average annual construction turnover of **USD 30.62 Million,** calculated as total certified received payments for contracts in progress or completed, within the last three (3) years;
   - Financial resources, less its financial obligations for its current contract commitments defined, meet or exceed the total requirement for the Subject Contract of **USD 6.12 Million**
   - Participation in at least one contract that has been successfully or substantially completed within the last five years and that is similar to the proposed works, where the value of the Bidder's participation exceeds **USD 36.74 Million.** The similarity of the Bidder's participation shall be based on the physical size, nature of works, complexity, methods, technology, or other characteristics as described in Section 6 (Employer's Requirements).
   - Meets other Personnel and Equipment requirements as stipulated in the Bidding Document.

   However, for complete eligibility and qualification requirements, refer to the bid document .
5. To obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents, Bidders should contact:
   THE COMMISSIONER,
   Madurai City Municipal Corporation.
   Aringar Anna Maligai, Tallakulam,
   Alagar Kovil Main Road,
   Madurai – 625002.
   E.mail : **commr.madurai@tn.gov.in & mducorp@gmail.com**
   Phone: 0452 – 2531116, FAX: 0452 – 2530965
6. A Pre-bid meeting shall take place on **04.10.2019 at 16.30 Hrs. (IST),** at the address stated above.
7. To purchase the bidding documents in English language, eligible Bidders should:
   - Visit the office of the City Engineer, Madurai City Municipal Corporation, Madurai at address stated above and pay a non refundable fee of **USD 71.42 or INR 5000** towards the cost of bidding document in the form of Bank Demand Draft in favour of the Commissioner, Madurai City Municipal Corporation, Madurai.
   - In case of written request, the document will be sent by post/courier. The Bidders who wish to receive the bidding document by post/courier shall have to pay an additional amount of **INR 1000** for delivery within India, or **USD 15** for delivery outside India. The method of payment will be through bank demand draft in favor of the Commissioner, Madurai City Municipal Corporation, Madurai. No liability will be accepted for loss or late delivery.
     Eligible bidders may otherwise download the bidding document in English language from the website **http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in** from **15.09.2019 to 30.10.2019 upto 15.00 Hours.**
     Eligible bidders who download the bidding document from above website shall inform The Commissioner, Madurai City Municipal Corporation in writing (and provide the contact details) at the address given above, failing which The Commissioner, Madurai City Municipal Corporation shall not be responsible if the bidder does not receive clarifications and amendments, if any.
8. Bids should be submitted
   - to the address above
   - on or before the deadline **30.10.2019 upto 15.00 Hrs. (IST)**
   - Together with a Bid Security as described in the Bidding Document.
   - Electronic submission is not allowed.

Bids will be opened on **30.10.2019 at 15.30 Hrs (IST)** in the presence of Bidder's representatives who choose to attend, whereas the Financial Bids shall remain sealed and unopened and shall be placed locked. The Financial Bids of only Technically Responsive and Qualified Bidders shall be opened after technical bids evaluation, whereas, the financial bids of those Bidders whose technical bids are not substantially responsive and qualified shall be returned unopened .

Commissioner,
Madurai City Municipal Corporation

DIPR/ 3199 /TENDER/ 2019

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

MAJ VS AHLAWAT

01 NOV 1978-15 SEP 2017

This historic day fills our hearts with pride and sorrow alike when in the highest traditions of the Indian Army, you laid down your life in Counter Insurgency Area of Assam. World is a lesser place without you but we know that you are with the gods above and even heavens have improved by your gracious presence.

FONDLY REMEMBERED BY CO AND ALL RANKS OF 3 RAJPUT

CT/GD SHUBAS NAGARGOJE ECL, SEETALPUR

MARTYR OF CISF ON 15-09-1994

CISF proudly remembers the supreme sacrifice of this brave-heart. On this day, he laid down his life at the altar of duty while fighting with armed criminals to safeguard the national property. His courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiration for the force. The force will remain eternally indebted to hm for his noblest deed.

राजस्थान सहकारी भर्ती बोर्ड
10-बी, झालाना संस्थागत क्षेत्र, झालाना डूंगरी, जयपुर
क्रमांक: एफ.1/आर.सी.आर.बी./2019-20/1211
दिनांक: 13.09.2019
शुद्धि पत्र
राजस्थान सहकारी भर्ती बोर्ड द्वारा राजस्थान स्टेट को-ऑपरेटिव बैंक (अपेक्स बैंक) व जिला सहकारी बैंकों के पदों हेतु विज्ञापन संख्या एफ 8पी () आर.सी.आर.बी./2019-20/1210 दिनांक 11.09.19 को जारी किया गया जिसमें ऑनलाईन आवेदन की तिथि 12.09.19 से 06.10.19 तक रखी गई थी। तकनीकी कारणों से ऑनलाईन आवेदन का लिंक नहीं खुलने के कारण उक्त पदों हेतु अभ्यर्थी ऑनलाईन आवेदन अब दिनांक 18.09.19 से 10.10.19 को रात्रि 12.00 बजे तक कर सकेंगे। विज्ञापन की शेष शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।
(बृजेंद्र राजोरिया)
सदस्य सचिव

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED
(An ISO 9001:2015 Certified Company) [Corporate Identity Number (CIN) L40109RJ2000SGC016485]
Office of the Superintending Engineer (Contracts-I)
Old Power House Premises, Near Ram Mandir, Banipark, Jaipur-302 006
Tel: (Thru PBX) 0091-141-2208919Extn. 315Mobile: +91-9414061334Email: se.contract1@rvpn.co.in

NOTICE INVITING e-BID
CONTRACTS-I/2019-20/BN-9018001905

Online e-bids are invited for Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 132 KV S/C Line (30 Km) from 220KV GSS Rawatsar to 132 KV GSS Tibbi and 5KMD/C portion in the approach section near 220KV GSS Rawatsar with one ckt. been utilized for 132 KV S/C Rawatsar (220KV)-Rawatsar (132 KV) line and 132 KV S/C line between 220KV GSS Rawatsar & 132 KV Rawatsar (132 KV S/C portion (3 KM) from 132 KV Rawatsar-Tibbi line to 132 KV GSS Rawatsar) from survey to commissioning as per bid specification under BN-9018001905 (UBN:VPN1920WSOB01035)
For details about quantity, bid specification cost, Bid processing fee, Bid Security, Date of submission and opening of bids may visit on website www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvpnl, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in. Further extension of dates/amendment, if any, will be intimated through website only.
Superintending Engineer (Contracts-I)
RRVPNL/TR-4648/2019 Raj.samwad/C/2516/2019-2020

U.T. Administration of Daman & Diu
Public Works Department, WD – II, Diu
No. Tender Notice No. 33/2019-2020 Dated: 13/09/2019
e-TENDER NOTICE
The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Work Division II, Diu invites tenders from eligible contractor / parties to participate in the following tenders:
Selection of Empanelled Architectural Firms for providing Comprehensive Architectural Structural and Land Scrapping Consultancy Services for the work of Development and Beautification of Pavti Pond, Bucharwada, Diu District.
The last date for submission of bids: – 28.10.2019 at 16.00 Hrs.
For further details and downloading of tender document please visit our **www.diu.gov.in** and **www.nprocure.com**
Sd/-
(Executive Engineer)
PWD, WD – II, Diu

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
THANJAVUR CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
THANJAVUR SMART CITY LIMITED
Bid Notice No.7019/2015/MCE4 **RE-TENDER NOTICE** Dated. 12.09.2019
Sealed Re -Tenders are invited by The Managing Director & Commissioner, Thanjavur City Municipal Corporation from the Registered Contractors E- submission is also permitted, for the following works upto **3.00 PM** on **22.10.2019.** The Tenders will be opened by the Corporation Commissioner (or) his authorized official in the Corporation Office on the same day at **3.30 P.M.** If the office happens to be closed on the date of receipt of the Tender specified, the Tender will be opened on next working day. The Contractor who wish to participate in the Tender may download the Tender documents through **https://tntenders.gov.in** by using E.Token / Digital Signature Cards on or before **21.10.2019** upto **3.00 P.M.** Any other information's may be obtained from the Corporation Executive Engineer, Thanjavur at the above office during office hours. The Managing Director & Corporation Commissioner has every right to cancel / postpone the Tender in view of Administrative reasons.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Estimate Cost (Rs. in Crores)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs. in lakhs)	Contractor Class
1.	Heritage interpretation walk & Pandiya dynasty park (CH 270m – CH 1080m) - Vandipaettai Bridge to Kumbakonam Bridge -Package I	8.30	8.30	Class -I
2.	Bio park cum interpretation centre with light and sound show (CH 1080m – CH 1480m)- kumbakonam Bridge to North gate Bridge - Package II	21.92	21.92	Class -I
3.	Art & Craft Centre with craft bazaar, Chola art & Architecture park (CH 1480m – CH 2820m) - North Gate bridge to Iyyapan koil bridge - Package III	19.04	19.04	Class -I
4.	Chola dynasty park & Chola dynasty sculpture court (CH 2820m – CH 3150m) – Iyyapan koil bridge to Srinivasapuram bridge - Package IV	8.15	8.15	Class -I
5.	Road Development as selected stretches including heritage routes, softspace development & children play equipment - Package V	6.87	6.87	Class -I

DIPR/3190/TENDER/2019
Managing Director & Commissioner and Special Officer,
Thanjavur City Municipal Corporation.

Nashik Municipal Smart City Development Corporation Ltd. (NMSCDCL)
CIN : U93090MH2016SGC285193
E-mail : pmc@nashiksmartcity.in, Tel. No. : 0253-2518833
Tender Publishing Notice Advertisement
E-Tender No. 36
NMSCDCL is publishing tender "Selection of Contractor for Implementation of SCADA with O&M for a period of 5 years post 1 year warranty Office of NMSCDCL, Nashik".
Tender publishing date is **13.09.2019 at 03.00 PM.** Pre-bid meeting is at **25.09.2019 at 12.00 PM.** Last date of submission of tender is **10.10.2019 up to 03.00 PM.**
The detailed notice inviting tender available on **www.mahatenders.gov.in.**
Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer
NMSCDCL

Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency, (UPNEDA)
(Deptt. of Additional Sources of Energy, Govt. of U.P.)
Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow
TeleFax: 0522-2720779, 2720829
Website:www.upneda.org.in E-Mail: compneda@rediffmail.com

e-tender Notice
UPNEDA invites Online Bids from Prospective Bidders through e-tendering for Rate discovery and empanelment of firms for Grid Connected Net Metering Rooftop Solar Power Plants for the Design, Manufacture, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning including 5 years comprehensive warranty maintenance of 1 kWp to 25 kWp under the Grid Interactive Rooftop Solar Power Plants of MNRE and the Solar Power Policy of the State of Uttar Pradesh in various places in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

S. N.	Name of Work	Capacity	Tender Fees
1.	Rate Contract and Empanelment of firms for Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Power Plants for the Design, Manufacture, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning including 5 years comprehensive warranty maintenance of 1 kWp to 25 kWp under the Grid Interactive Rooftop Solar Power Plants of MNRE and the Solar Power Policy of the State of Uttar Pradesh in various places in the State of Uttar Pradesh.	The tentative capacity is 60 MW subject to MNRE allocation for the current year. The final capacity shall be as per MNRE allocation.	25000/- + 18% GST =29500/-

The tender document is available at e-Procurement website **http://etender.up.nic.in** from **16.09.2019 after 6.30 PM.** Interested bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the tender document. A Pre -bid meeting shall be held on **24.9.2019 at 11.30 AM** at UPNEDA Head Office Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow. The capacity mentioned as above, may increase or decrease. Director, Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency, (UPNEDA) reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof. The decision of Director UPNEDA will be final and binding.
Director (UPNEDA)

'Last year was a disaster because we had random coaches travelling'

Beneath the lustre of Indian badminton's big triumphs is a coaching system restricted by tight purse, divided attention and foreigners using stints as stepping stones. SHIVANI NAIK speaks with Gopichand on the need to have a well-defined structure for the nation to become a shuttle powerhouse

Illustration: Suvajit Dey

IF SILVERS come with questioning clouds, a gold is a good time to blast the full spotlight on the dark nooks and crannies, shorn of that success. So national head coach Pullela Gopichand is celebrating PV Sindhu's World Championship victory with a clarion call to put the badminton house and the sport's ecosystem in order.

The Olympics are a year away, and the 46-year-old reckons this is as good a time as any to aim for gold standards in everything else that goes into making of champions. Acutely aware that India's aspirations towards becoming a shuttle powerhouse can skid and brake if the country sits smug on this gold, Gopichand is urging for clarity to the system, the lacunae which can easily get glossed over by the glee and celebration of Sindhu's success.

"I'm not even talking about my role to be defined. India with its large geographical extent and with multiple stakeholders will have to figure it out. I just want a system to be defined. And me defining it might not make it sustainable. So I don't want to go down the route of explaining what I want. I want something which has structure, accountability and roles defined put in place. This could be done by talking to everyone," he states.

Scratch the proverbial surface — titles for Sindhu, Saina, Srikanth and Sai Praneeth in the last few years – and a mountain of work is left to be done beneath that level. The pyramid of Indian coaches just below Gopichand is in shambles restricted by neglect, a tight purse and a harebrained policy of random coaches accompanying travelling teams to international events. Fifteen NIS coaches graduate each year in badminton with a syllabus that's decades behind the science and expertise that Gopichand employs, even as close to 3000 courts across the country are attempting to churn out the next batch of champions. Independent academies are not in sync with the one success model that's delivering results at the highest levels.

Badminton's breakthrough age is between 17-25 years, and Indians are not hurrying up in stepping up to seniors, dawdling away needlessly in juniors, reaching the international levels far too late, and coming in the national coach's line of sight even later to effect changes. Japan's delivering results in time for Tokyo 2020, from a system that was put in place in 2002. India's foreign coaches bring invaluable technical inputs, but have largely viewed the job as a stepping stone to the next big contract. A large number of deterrents stop expanding of Indian coaches numbers at the national camp, though that is the most obvious area needing attention.

Actually, two years back, the Badminton Association of India, had attempted to put a system in place but it hasn't worked. It proved to be a half-baked plan where a panel of 30-40 coaches was rustled up from across India — some promising former players taking their first steps in mentoring and some long-time coaches not well versed with the international hustle, other wannabes, while the players wondered what to make of these revolving door coaching corners.

Back from perhaps his biggest scalp as a coach — a World's gold, Gopichand declares tautly: "It's rational to say that coaches who are training the players should travel with the team. That should be adhered to. Last year was a disaster because we had random coaches travelling and that was uncalled for. Because the players don't connect and it's almost like a trip to please somebody that you send coaches. And that should not be the case." The juniors definitely don't deserve this confused approach and need even greater clarity, he adds.

The BAI president was sent questions but was not available for comment till the time of going to press.

Foreign coach conundrum

Gopichand acknowledges the role foreign coaches have played in the rise of Indian badminton but they leave him with a dilemma. "Foreign coaches leave on short notice in the middle after getting better contracts and I'm left with trying to figure out how to fill the gaps," he says wryly.

He is all for handing over authority and freedom to the imported experts but he fears the uncertainty. He was happy handing over Sindhu's charge to Kim Ji Hyun and later credit after the title too, but there was a long time after India Open in March when Kim had kept ill and Gopichand resumed with the other Korean Ji Hyun Marr to help out. Men's singles coach Park Tae Sang had to fly back a few weeks before the Worlds for his visa, and Gopichand would slip back into his role of the minutiae mentor for the men's singles players.

Gopichand's lived through far worse than these unplanned situations. He's routinely resented being in a situation where foreign coaches have landed better salary contracts and left India in the middle of their contracts. He's watched foreign coaches take off to France and Japan and Singapore. There is also a case of one coach jumping ship and moving locally within India to another centre when his $4000 was bettered by $500.

"It would not be sustainable if we depended only on foreign coaches," Gopichand says. "There is definitely a need to improve standards of our present coaching staff. So our dependency on foreign coaches is reduced. To depend on them all the time is not very good. Because when many of these coaches left, they left with very short notice, and we were left to fend for ourselves. That's something that can definitely be avoided and should be looked at differently," he says.

India's had plenty of foreign coaching stints since Gopichand took over in 2006; some more sparring partners than coaches. Some have asked to be excused on weekdays, others have taken off on long holidays, ending up declaring a break for the entire group for 20 days with a leading player sustaining injury in that break; some have pleaded out citing family reasons, others have spoken of detailed plans of 2020 Games on a Friday to a top shuttler, and resigned the following Monday. The uncertainty is all a bit too much for a man who all his life, might've travelled and reached Hyderabad at 2 a.m, but showed up for a session at 4 in morning.

At the core of coaching chaos

While all the intrigue of rivalry and jealousy between the top names makes for compelling yarn-spinning, almost every flashpoint in Indian badminton has erupted over a clamour for the coach's undivided attention. Whether it's Saina moving to Bangalore or Sindhu shifting to a second facility for few months. Parupalli Kashyap rues missing out on a World Championship medal because Gopichand was on an adjacent court, and was busy guiding Saina instead.

"My personal feeling is you need to trust that person, have a relationship with them in training and then it comes out in the tournament," explains Kashyap of an ideal coach. "They know you inside out," he adds, saying he shared this equation with Gopichand, as well as Tom John and Bhaskar Babu, with whom he worked at the academy at different points.

It struck him in 2005 when he was finding his feet and random coaches would go for tournaments. "I didn't make much of it because we were just busy trying to crack the team and thought this is how the system is. As you become a better player and keep growing and then you see your opponents, and you see the same coaches from China, Indonesia, Japan and Denmark coming over and over again every tournament, and then some players are assigned to some coaches. Then you understand the system," he recalls.

Gopi too agrees. "It's rational to say that coaches who are training the players should travel with the team. That should be adhered to. Last year was a disaster because we had random coaches travelling and that was uncalled for. Because the players don't connect and it's almost like a trip to please somebody that you send coaches. And that should not be the case."

It was when Gopichand was focussed on preparing Saina for the 2008 Olympics, and Kashyap felt deprived of that same attention and Bhaskar Babu started travelling with him. "Back then, there were reviews by someone from SAI — 9 years back, I was 24. The previous tournament I went to, some other coach came. He was at the camp as a doubles coach, and he just came as a coach for the entire team. That rapport wasn't there at all, I clearly felt it, and I said it — it wasn't that the person sitting behind me was bad or his intention is bad. But you are talking about elite level badminton and I thought, I'm India No 1 right now and I've trained with my coach for many months before that. I don't have that coach behind me. There's absolutely no link with the person sitting behind me. He had some idea. I had some idea, it didn't click."

On court, coaches have 90 seconds in between games. "You need a very small simple input which I'll connect with. If he speaks some other language or asks me to do something on which I've not worked... Or doesn't understand me as person, my behaviour, my pattern of play, my style of play, what I'm weak or strong at, then it won't work out. As we are growing as a powerhouse, these are extremely basic things: that one coach is travelling with you the entire time! At least the elite level players!"

Kashyap even remembers fighting for attention. "Because Gopi wasn't there with me, but with Saina, Tom (John) whom Gopi only had brought in, took total control of my training. He made me like a stone – physically and mentally. He tortured me in training. Sitting in the match, you need that person who tortured you. So if I'm slacking he can scold me, and I'll understand this happened in training also."

It doesn't have to be Gopichand. "If tomorrow, Lakshya Sen is playing a match, it'd make perfect sense for Vimal Kumar to be sitting there because they have that rapport. Our players deserve that consideration," the coach says, hoping the practice of parachuting coaches ends. While he tries his best to cater to India's multiple medal potentials — Sai Praneeth did snatch a bronze at Basel too — Gopichand believes competitive demands on his attention by the top players will not cease to cause friction till there are enough coaches at the national camp.

No money for coaches

While Gopichand has spoken in recent days of wanting his role to be defined — in deciding on players' scheduling, on determining what a panel of coaches should look like, he insists there's a need to collaborate on this, while seeking clarity. "I'm not even talking about my role to be defined. India with its large geographical extent and with multiple stakeholders will have to figure it out. I just want a system to be defined. And me defining it might not make it sustainable. So I don't want to go down the route of explaining what I want. I want something which has structure, accountability and roles defined put in place. This could be done by talking to everyone," he states.

The approach to the dawdling junior program bothers him, as he seeks some sort of coordination between the junior and senior programs for both continuity and smooth transitions as well as some control over base fitness and skill work. He sees the coaches travelling for junior meets as crucial to this exercise, again stressing that these can't be appointments handed out like loose one-time flyers.

There are practical considerations that no one would've even thought of. One coach might order the players to sleep at 8 pm, another might say 10.30 pm. Allowed to speak to girls / not allowed to speak to boys / can eat junk food / cannot eat junk food; gym at 7 or multi-shuttle at 7? Gopichand says that if his coaching has to be sustainable, this philosophy needs to percolate to juniors so that they're not suddenly subjected to this discipline in seniors. "Several people are putting in 10 crores plus to raise academies across the country. The numbers are growing. I owe it to them to give them a clear pathway to succeed since I have delivered the results at the top level and can help," he says. "How much more do I have to prove that my methods work?"

A massive roadblock to putting in place a system where the next rung of coaches is India shying away from paying candidates who could form an authentic panel. "The payments of Indian coaches has to be looked at very clearly. We don't have a system where we are able to pay our coaches well. So that they leave their existing jobs, leave other avenues of income and focus fully on this because it is also financially remunerative. For the moment, the disparity between what we are able to pay the Indian and foreign coaches is very vast. And it's an issue that causes a lot of heartburn among Indian coaches. Unless all these issues are taken up — which would be payment and recognition and authority, we'll not be able to solve this problem," he says.

India has an excellent crop of former internationals from relatively recent vintage and well-versed with modern badminton — Sachin Ratti, Chetan Anand, Anup Sridhar, Arvind Bhat, V Diju, Jwala Gutta, Sanave-Rupesh, Aparna Popat, and then those on the verge of retirement. Some of these are running academies from their bases though finances are a deterrent despite their capability of shepherding Top 20 games. Some prefer working with beginners, others can steer the intermediate level shuttlers while a few possess capabilities and commitment to put in the hours for the elite bunch, but there is no remuneration at the end of that sacrifice. Some balk at putting in effort into training away from the spotlight of the tournament.

Post-retirement, only the oil-company jobs can safeguard their financial security, and they will need to be paid handsomely for the massive demands that grooming an elite shuttler will make on their time. "Why'll they leave their jobs and family and come if they aren't paid handsomely?" Kashyap says. As things stand, the situation isn't particularly rosy for Siyadathullah and Amrish Shinde, the two coaches at the national camp. A case in point is Amrish Shinde who struggles for most times to get leave letters from his employers job which pays in the range of Rs 30,000 (when he's not looking at LOP slips), even as he remains on the periphery of preparations of the stars while putting in demanding hours.

Gopichand has a few ideas on the subject, but needs a trusting, listening audience in the fraternity. Kashyap jokes that the badminton world thinks the coach is sitting on the Iron Throne, a reference to the Game of Thrones' series ultimate seat of power, when in reality the sharp swords the throne's made of, make power mightily uncomfortable to settle into. The coach is anyways always seen standing from morning to night, his ward adds.

ISLAND UNITS FOR ELITE SHUTTLERS

KIM JI HYUN will resume on her return from Korea, responsibilities of Sindhu's individual training, while head coach Pullela Gopichand puts in place the overall program heading into the Olympics. "Coaching will get far more personalized closer to the Olympics, but till then we've put in place individual teams for all top players," the coach says.

Off-court commitments have increased manifold for the new world champion, with her having to travel for felicitations and sponsor shoots, which means her travel & training schedules can hardly match that of the rest of the group's. This means it's difficult to synchronise Gopichand's coaching schedule with the larger elite group with Sindhu's training hours on a daily basis. "We have to evolve our plans according to demands of her new schedule and stature. So, I'll give control to Kim (Ji Hyun), and there's trainer Srikanth Verma working with her and Vinita is the masseuse. It's good she's using multiple avenues so I'll only be concerned that she's maintaining fitness. I'll monitor the overall program but we have 10-12 top singles and doubles players, and I need to look after everyone which is why these coaching teams were formed," he says of these island units.

Saina Nehwal, Srikanth, Prannoy, Ashwini-Sikki have dedicated fitness and conditioning teams and Kashyap (helping her out after his training), Siyadath, Coach Park Tae Sang and Flandy Limpele, serving as individual coaches, though a couple more foreign coaches are needed for the likes of Saina and Sai Praneeth.

"We worked hard to get Kim and Park given our budget constraints and the fact that it was middle of the Olympic year. On big competition days, I'll sit for most of their matches which can be 12-hour-days, so I can't be there for them pre and post matches always, which is why it's good to have individual coaches who are always with them," he explains.

His bus conductor mother praying back home, Atharva steers India to U-19 Asia Cup title

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 14

VAIDEHI ANKOLEKAR, a bus conductor with Brihanmumbai Electricity Supply and Transport (BEST) in Mumbai, rushed to her boss at the bus depot in Marol near Andheri on Saturday with a request for an off. The bosses couldn't say no to her plea as her son Atharva was playing for India in the final of the Under-19 Asia Cup cricket tournament in Colombo in Sri Lanka.

The leave was granted but another problem awaited at home. The cable TV at her house didn't have the sports channel that was live-telecasting the game. In order to catch the action, Vaidehi hurried to her in-laws place nearby and spent the rest of the day praying for her son. Her prayers didn't go unanswered.

Atharva, who is a left-arm spinner, starred with a five-wicket haul to enable India beat Bangladesh by five runs in a low-scoring thriller to retain the Asia Cup title. Batting first, India were all out for 106 in 32.4 overs. Atharva ran through Bangladesh's middle and lower order, including two wickets in what turned out to be the final over of the match. He was adjudged Player of the Match and finished the eight-team tournament as the highest wicket-taker (12).

(Left) Atharva Ankolekar was adjudged Man of the Match in the U-19 Asia Cup final in Colombo on Saturday after he took a five-wicket haul against Bangladesh. (Right) His mother Vaidehi is a bus conductor in Mumbai. *Pradip Das*

Back in Mumbai, an emotional mother was overwhelmed.

"I just hope that his father would have seen this. He made his father proud today, he made everyone proud today," Vaidehi told *The Indian Express*.

Single mom

When Atharva was ten, his father Vinod Ankolekar had passed away. To support her two sons, Vaidehi took up her husband's job of conductor in BEST.

"I was just praying to Ganpati Bappa that you have to make his day today. When 12 runs were needed and two wickets were in hand, I was hoping that they would give the ball to Atharva. He has waited for this moment for so long," she said.

A single mother's life isn't easy, of course. "We didn't have money to buy his cricketing shoes, someone had helped him. Other day Atharva had called and said not to buy shoes for his younger brother (who is part of Mumbai's under-14 probables). He said he would buy them from the money he got as daily allowance in Sri Lanka," she added.

Her son might have been the star of the Under-19 Asia Cup final, but Vaidehi remains worried about his future.

"Achha job mil jayega toh I will be tension-free. You know job is very important in today's time. One offer had come but he couldn't able to make it for trials as he was playing a match for India Under-19," she said.

Back at work, Vaidehi is enjoying the little limelight she has gained in the past few weeks. Apart from her colleagues, some regular passengers have been enquring about her son's progress. The limelight, though, has added extra pressure on Atharva. During one of his calls to her from Sri Lanka, said Vadehi, Atharva spoke about his performances not being up to his satisfaction.

"He said, 'News have come in all the papers but I am not too happy with my performances.' There was a bit of tension if he would be picked for the final or not," she added. On Saturday, though, everything went like a dream.

Atharva wants his mother to leave the conductor job and take up something less taxing, like teaching. Atharva feels that the current job has left her stressed leading body aches every now and then.

"I don't want my mother to continue her job. I want her to teach, let me do all the hard work," Atharav had said before the tournament.

Unequal music

While South Africa are a team in flux, hosts India have been an irresistible force across formats

VISHAL MENON
DHARAMSHALA, SEPTEMBER 14

IF YOU were at the picturesque HPCA Stadium in Dharamshala on Saturday morning, you would have seen the South African team working up a sweat after an intense practice session in muggy conditions. But, very likely, you would have failed to recognise most of their players.

To be certain, the current squad has its share of IPL regulars, namely their T20 captain Quinton de Kock, pacer Kagiso Rabada and the dashing middle-order strokemaker David Miller. The rest, however, are a motley bunch who have represented their team on several A tours to India in the recent past. Even their newly appointed coach, Enoch Nkwe, who is called the interim director, is as anonymous as many in this new-look team. Nkwe's appointment was part of a slew of changes that were brought about in South African cricket following their team's World Cup debacle in England.

Barely two months into his new job, Nkwe has an arduous task in front of him: Galvanise this bunch into the force that teams from South Africa traditionally are. That his first assignment is playing India in India makes it a baptism by fire. In fact, ahead of their T20 here in Dharamshala on Sunday, the first of a three-match series, he admitted to enduring sleepless nights in a bid to find the 'right formula' for his side.

What has compounded matters for him and South Africa is series of high-profile retirements in recent times: JP Duminy, Dale Steyn, Hashim Amla, AB de Villiers and Imran Tahir (though the 40-year-old has still made himself available in the game's shortest format, even as he has chosen to hang his boots in Tests and ODIs). This, together with a steady outflow of players to green pastures abroad, has led to a serious vacuum in talent in the country.

Surprisingly enough, all-rounder Chris Morris, who is currently in England, playing for Hampshire in the Vitality T20 blast was overlooked, so too were top-order batsmen Aiden Markram and Theunis de Bruyn, and fast bowler Lungi Ngidi. A culmination of these factors makes this team perceptibly short on confidence and without the aura of some of their predecessors who have toured India in the past. Just to put things in perspective, Rabada and Miller are the only players in the team who were part of the touring party that came to India in 2015 and won the T20 and ODI legs.

If South Africa are a team in flux, their opponents, under the leadership of Virat Kohli, have been an irresistible outfit across formats, winning just about everything that has come their way. Their World Cup semi-final loss to New Zealand at Old Trafford feels like a minor blip. Since then, they have decimated West Indies in the recently concluded Tests and limited-overs series in the Caribbean. In that sense, this three-match T20 series is a battle of unequals on paper. South Africa are diffident and frantically searching for inspiration, while India exude a sense of invulnerability.

Target: 2020 World Twenty20

This series will also help both teams chalk out the roadmap for the World T20, scheduled to be held Down Under in October 2020. Ahead of the series opener, Miller put it aptly: "This is a young side, and we've got a lot of energy in this squad. There are a lot of guys who have played a lot of cricket, either in the A side or in domestic cricket. So, this series could be a great stepping stone for us to make a mark."

Despite Miller's optimism, this inexperienced side will have their task cut out. There will be tricky surfaces and wily bowlers to contend with, and the Proteas will have to do so under harsh weather at noisy stadiums. These are things that not a lot of players in the current South African side would have experienced before.

India, who are scheduled to play in 27 T20s till the showpiece event in Australia next year, have their eyes set on the one that follows in 2021 as well. Unlike South Africa, who has witnessed an acute talent flight, Kohli's side is blessed with a surfeit of gifted players. This hands them with an opportunity to try out some of the younger players in different roles, while keeping their key players fresh for the rigourous home season ahead.

For the second consecutive T20 series, the team management has decided to rest their bowling lynchpin Jasprit Bumrah. Even his new-ball partner Bhuvneshwar Kumar will be cooling his heels as they are replaced by Navdeep Saini, Deepak Chahar and Khaleel Ahmed. Not just the pacers, even the two wrist spinners — Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal — Kohli's trump cards in the shorter versions over the last two years have been rotated out. Instead, Rahul Chahar and Washington Sundar, and all-rounders Ravindra Jadeja and Krunal Pandya have been preferred. Kohli explained the rationale behind this move. "When we had initially picked them (Chahal and Yadav), there was a lot of hue and cry. Now when they are not in the team, you are still complaining. Our plan was to give them rest and replace them with all-rounders to strengthen our batting," he said.

Nkwe, on the other hand, has placed his bets on Temba Bevuma to shore up his team's batting. On the face of it, Bevuma, 29, seems a bizarre pick because the compact batsman, with 36 Tests under his belt, has for long been pigeonholed as a long-form specialist. But Lance Klusener, the team's interim batting coach for this T20 series, defended his selection.

"He recently got a century in the CSA T20 final. It's easy to pigeonhole him and say okay he plays only Test cricket. But Temba is wonderful all-round cricketer. He needs to learn a couple of options to become an all-round batsman. He is not the biggest guy, who can muscle the ball over the fence, but he has the knack of scoring runs. He has played two ODIs and has scored a hundred and a fifty, so he is a good cricketer," Klusener said.

Going forward, Nkwe will be hoping for a spark that would potentially orchestrate a turnaround in his team's fortunes. He needs to look no further than Rabada, his pace bowling spearhead. Injuries and excessive workload had blunted him in the disastrous World Cup campaign. Two months' rest could be his antidote. India is where Rabada has announced himself on the international stage four years ago. His bowling could just be the catalyst for the Proteas.

INDIA vs SA, 1ST T20I — LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 &3, 7 PM ONWARDS

South Africa's David Miller attends a practice session at the HPCA Stadium in Dharamshala on Saturday. *PTI*

A bomb disposal squad scans the playing field in Dharamshala on Saturday. India face South Africa in the first T20I here on Sunday. *PTI*

England pull away at Oval after Denly, Stokes knocks

REUTERS & AFP
LONDON, SEPTEMBER 14

JOE DENLY'S fluent 94 put England in control of the final Ashes Test and the hosts moved on to 313 for eight to lead Australia by 382 runs at the close on the third day on Saturday. Denly fell six runs short of his maiden Test century and Ben Stokes made a sparkling 67 in bright sunshine at The Oval to put England in a strong position to level the series at 2-2.

Australia ensured they will retain the Ashes by winning the fourth Test in Manchester and are bidding to secure their first Test series victory in England since 2001. Denly and Stokes came together after England lost Rory Burns for 20 and Joe Root (21) in the morning.

Burns had driven Peter Siddle sweetly through mid-off to bring up the first half-century opening stand of the series but he departed after a wild slash at a wide ball from spinner Nathan Lyon which he edged to wicketkeeper Tim Paine.

Captain Root, bidding to register his first Test century in the series, pushed forward tentatively at Lyon and nicked a simple catch to Steve Smith at slip and the home side took lunch on 88 for two. Stokes, dropped at slip off Lyon on seven, started slowly before unfurling some trademark attacking shots to entertain a packed crowd.

Denly clipped Josh Hazlewood through mid-wicket for his seventh four to reach fifty for the third time in the series and the 33-year-old right-hander struck a few sweetly-timed strokes in his highest Test score. Stokes, who made a brilliant century to lead England to a dramatic victory in the third test at Headingley, moved past fifty with a six off Marnus Labuschagne before he was bowled by Lyon to end a fine third-wicket partnership of 127.

Denly's five-hour vigil was halted when he edged Siddle to Smith at slip and Jonny Bairstow fell for 14, nicking another catch to Smith off the bowling of Mitchell Marsh. Sam Curran was caught down the leg side by Paine off Pat Cummins for a breezy 17, Chris Woakes was brilliantly caught one-handed by Smith off Marsh and Jos Buttler plundered 47 before skying Siddle to a diving Labuschagne at square leg.

Jofra Archer and Jack Leach steered England through to the close without further loss and Australia will face a daunting run chase over the remaining two days of the match.

BRIEF SCORES (STUMPS, DAY 3): England 294 & 313/8 in 91 overs (Joe Denly 94, Ben Stokes 67, Jos Buttler 47, Nathan Lyon 3/65) lead Australia 225 by 382 runs.

Smith unfazed by burden

Meanwhile, Steve Smith refused to blame his inconsistent teammates for their batting failures during the Ashes after he again shouldered the run-scoring burden for Australia.

The former skipper scored 80 in the first innings at the Oval — his lowest total of a sensational series — as the tourists were bowled out for 225. Smith has now amassed 751 runs, a sizeable chunk of the team's overall tally of 2,508 runs over the entire series even though he has missed three of the nine innings after being hit by a Jofra Archer bouncer.

When he was asked for reasons for Australia's batting failures he said conditions had not been kind throughout the series but that players would learn from performing in unfamiliar conditions.

"We haven't seen any huge totals really throughout the whole series so it's not been easy," he said. "There's always been something there, I felt. If you bowl in good areas for long enough then I think we've seen you'll get rewards. Playing in England is completely different from playing back home and you've got to find ways to play away from home," he added. "Sometimes you need to change certain little things that can help you play in certain conditions and adapt accordingly but I think it will be a good learning curve for all of our batters."

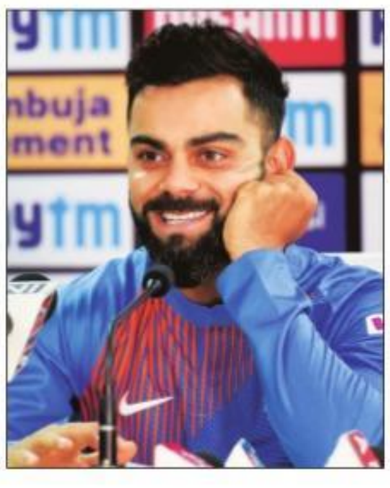
Smith said he was able to shut out pressures and focus on the job in hand despite the weight of expectation on his shoulders.

Virat wiser after his Dhoni tweet causes social media meltdown, says the keeper remains part of the team

VISHAL MENON
DHARAMSHALA, SEPTEMBER 14

ON THURSDAY, Virat Kohli posted a photo on Twitter with the caption: "A game I can never forget. Special night. This man, made me run like in a fitness test. @msdhoni." This throwback frame, which showed a visibly elated Kohli clasping onto his helmet with MS Dhoni in the foreground, was from the India-Australia World T20 fixture in Mohali three years ago. On that night, Kohli had scored a match-winning 82 not out to put India into the semifinals, but it was his out-of-the-world running between the wickets with Dhoni that was the highlight of their 67-run partnership. More than 20 lakh 'hearts' were touched on Kohli's followers' touchscreens, and soon speculation began to swirl that this photo was his farewell tribute to the former Indian captain.

Such excitement for a fairly innocuous tweet seemed understandble as, ever since the end of India's campaign at the ODI World Cup in England, there has been intense speculation over Dhoni's future. On the same day, there was a selection meeting to pick India's Test squad for the South Africa series, and that only added more fuel to the fire. To those conjecturing on social media, it didn't matter that Dhoni has stopped playing Test cricket five years ago. When the question was hurled at MSK Prasad, the chief selector, he said, "No update on Dhoni's retirement, the news is incorrect." But it did little to dissipate the frenzy. For everyone was wondering the same thing: Why did Kohli tweet that photo?



Kohli addresses a press conference in Dharamshala on Saturday. *PTI*

Sure enough, the question came up on the eve of India's T20 series against South Africa. Kohli said he was surprised to see how such an innocuous tweet had snowballed into something so big.

"I think it's a lesson for me, that the way I think, the whole world does not think that way. There was nothing in my imagination while putting that picture out on social media," he explained, before adding: "Like what did I write. I remember that game even now...I never spoke about that game and so I thought I will put up a post. Now people interpreted it in a different manner in which there was not even an iota of truth."

The Indian captain remained guarded on the question about Dhoni's retirement and said it was the individual's prerogative when he should hang his boots. Kohli, however, asserted that Dhoni remained an integral part of the team. "One great thing about him (Dhoni) is that, he thinks for Indian cricket. And whatever we (team management) think, he is on the same page. The alignment is there. The kind of mindset he has had about grooming youngsters and giving them opportunities, and he is still the same person," Kohli explained.

BRIEFLY

Easy win for Panghal at boxing Worlds

Asian champion Amit Panghal (52kg) began his quest for a World Championship medal with a resounding win over Chinese Taipei's Tu Po-Wei in his opening bout of the marquee event on Saturday. The second-seeded 23-year-old, who is also an Asian Games gold-medallist, thrashed his rival 5-0 to move into the pre-quarterfinals of the world showpiece. The Indian had been given a first-round bye. Sharp as ever with his attacks, Panghal dominated Po-Wei from the first round itself to notch up a comfortable win. The boxer from Taipei spent most of his time trying to avoid any engagement, prompting the referee to caution him against the passive approach. A quarterfinalist in the last edition of the World Championship in Hamburg, Panghal's trademark aggression and pace was something that Po-Wei just couldn't cope with.

Nagal enter final of Luka Challenger

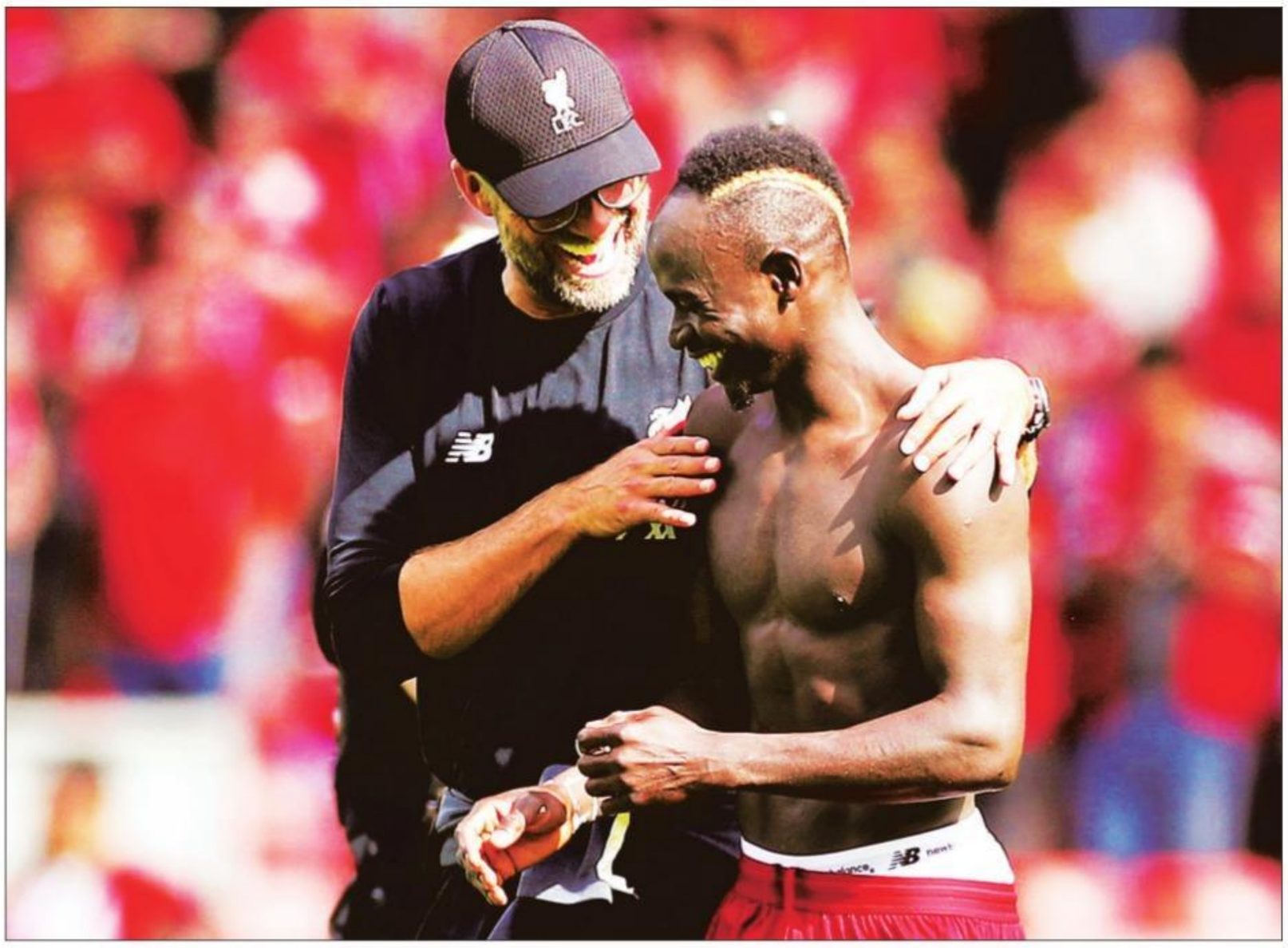
India's Sumit Nagal sailed into the final of the Banja Luka Challenger with a straight-set win over Slovakia's Filip Horansky here on Saturday. Nagal, placed at a career-best 174 right now, knocked out the fifth seed Horansky 7-6 (1) 6-2 in match that lasted one hour and 44 minutes. He will face Tallon Griekspoor of the Netherlands in the final. This will be Nagal's first title clash on ATP Challenger Tour since winning the Bengaluru open in November 2017. Last month Nagal made his maiden Grand Slam appearance. The 22-year-old from Haryana came through three qualifying rounds of the US Open and took a set off Swiss maestro Roger Federer in the first round before losing 6-4 1-6 2-6 4-6.

Verma in Vietnam Open title-clash

India's Sourabh Verma outwitted Japan's Minoru Koga in straight games to progress to the men's singles finals of the USD 75,000 Vietnam Open BWF Tour Super 100 here on Saturday. Second seed Sourabh, who had won the Hyderabad Open last month, overcame world no 112 Minoru 22-20 21-15 in a 51-minute semifinal clash. The reigning national champion, who had won the Dutch Open and Korea Open last year, will now take on China's Sun Fei Xiang in the summit clash. Sourabh had beaten Minoru en route to his title win at the Slovenian International. earlier this year. "Through to the finals here in Vietnam open super 100 tournament with a victory over japan's minoru koga 22-20,21-15. Will be playing against chinese tomorrow for the title," tweeted Sourabh after the win. Sourabh fell behind 0-4 early on in the opening game but the Indian made amends quickly to grab a slender 11-9 advantage at the interval. **PTI**

No stopping Reds' rampage

Mane scores a brace to help Liverpool maintain perfect league record with 3-1 win against Newcastle



Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp shares a light moment with star player Sadio Mane after their victory over Newcastle . *Reuters*

AGENE FRANCE PRESSE
LIVERPOOL, SEP 14

SADIO MANE and Mohamed Salah ensured Liverpool maintained their 100 percent start to the Premier League season by coming from behind to beat Newcastle 3-1 at Anfield on Saturday. The European champions have a history of starting slowly in early kick-offs under Jurgen Klopp and only arose from their slumber after the Magpies took a shock lead through Jetro Willems on seven minutes.

Mane turned the tide before half-time with a sumptuous finish into the top corner before profiting from an error by Newcastle goalkeeper Martin Dubravka for his second.

Dubravka redeemed himself after the break with a string of fine saves to keep the final score down, but was helpless when Salah finished coolly from Roberto Firmino's cute backheel. Klopp's men open up a five-point lead over Manchester City at the top of the table, but the champions can cut that gap back to two with victory at Norwich later on Saturday. Newcastle sprung a huge surprise by claiming their only win of the season so far at Tottenham three weeks ago. They followed the same script as they frustrated the hosts in the early stages before stunning Anfield by going in front. Willems turned inside Trent Alexander-Arnold before drilling a fierce shot past the helpless Adrian. Liverpool trailed at home for the first time since March, but quickly rallied to record a 14th straight Premier League victory. Mane was furious with Salah after being substituted in a 3-0 win away to Burnley before the international break, accusing the Egyptian of being too greedy in his eye for goal. But it is the Senegalese who has more goals so far this season and he arrowed into the far corner from Andy Robertson's pass to get Liverpool back on level terms. Firmino had been rested from the start after his travels to the United States with Brazil during the international break, but he was soon called into the action as Divock Origi limped off injured.

And Firmino made an instant impact as his pass towards Mane was spilled by Dubravka for the Liverpool number 10 to roll into an empty net. Liverpool had only one scare once they were in front as Emil Krafth blasted over a great chance to bring Newcastle level again at the back post.

However, it was only a matter of time before the Reds made the game safe as Dubravka saved brilliantly from Robertson and twice denied the excellent Firmino, who was named man-of-the-match despite only coming on eight minutes before half-time.

The Brazilian bagged another assist when his flick freed Salah, who took his time before leaving Dubravka grounded and placing the ball into the far corner.

Mane was denied his hat-trick and Firmino a triple of assists by the offside flag, but Liverpool cruised through the final stages with one eye already on the start of their defence of the Champions League away to Napoli on Tuesday.

Owen opens up

Former European player of the year Michael Owen says he owes his success to his father, who insisted he was given steak for dinner as a child while his four siblings made do with baked beans on toast.

The 39-year-old former Liverpool and England striker told The Times he even climbed into the boxing ring because his father Terry said he needed to "toughen up".

Despite this Owen, who won both his bouts, tweeted on Wednesday on his father's 70th birthday he was "the kindest man I ever met". "I was the only one allowed a steak on a Tuesday," said Owen.

"My dad said, 'You're all having beans on toast, Michael's got to have steak because we need to build him up for when he's going to be a footballer.' "I did feel special, definitely. He was planting the seed constantly." Owen says Terry, who was also a professional footballer with lower league clubs including Chester with whom he reached the League Cup semi-finals -- struggled to adjust to life after football so devoted as much of his time as possible to his son.

"He got jobs that would be perfect so he could come and watch me, even in a PE session, a poxy cross-country training run, or playing rugby," said Owen.

"My dad would be on the other side of the bush watching me. Unbelievable.

"If he wasn't there I'd still push through the pain barrier, because of my inner will to win, but, Jeez, my dad being there, I can't have him see me coming second.

"I'd prefer to die than my dad to think I'm second best."

'Clinically he's blind'

Owen, who won the Ballon D'Or after Liverpool won the UEFA Cup, FA Cup and League Cup in the 2000/01 campaign, admitted he hated boxing but he did not want to deny his father. "When my dad said, 'You're going boxing, because you need to toughen up' do you think I liked getting punched in the face?," said Owen, who is now a successful thoroughbred racehorse breeder.

"I went to boxing for three years. I bloody hated it. I fought in front of 2,000 people in Anglesey and 2,000 people in Deeside.

"It was the most scary thing in the world, knowing I was going to fight. But I knew I was making dad proud." Owen, who burst onto the international scene when he scored a solo goal in the 1998 World Cup finals against Argentina, said his son James will never grace a football pitch. "My son's got an eye condition," says Owen, whose eldest daughter Gemma represents Britain at equestrianism. "I've never said this. I don't want a big headline.

"Clinically, he's blind. He's got Stargardt disease, a degeneration of his retina.

"I used to go and watch him and bollock him about his positioning.

"He can't see the ball until it's five yards away. "As much as every father wants their son to play, it is almost a relief to me."

India draw a blank in Greco-Roman at Worlds

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NUR-SULTAN, SEPTEMBER 14

IN A dismal start for India, all four Greco-Roman wrestlers in action on Saturday exited the World Championships without winning a single round. Competing in non-Olympic categories, Asian Championship silver medallist Harpeet Singh (82kg), Sagar (63kg), and Manjeet (55kg) could not even score a single point in their respective bouts.

Only Yogesh (72kg) resisted his American rival Raymond Anthony Bunker III before suffering a narrow 5-6 defeat.

"Patience ... patience. I was not patient enough," Yogesh was telling foreign coach Temo Kazarashvili after he lost the close bout.

"I have only myself to blame. I was close. If you look at the draw, I could have reached the semifinals if I had won this bout," said Yogesh. The standard of Greco-Roman is "very poor" in India, said former world champion Kazarashvili.

"It will take a lot of time to bring improvements. The system needs to change. The process has begun and you have to wait for 2-3 years to see the results," he said.

"Greco Roman is not very popular in India. India needs to find more wrestlers in this style. You have to have children picking up this style, right from the school level."

In his pre-quarterfinal bout, Yogesh, who had finished fourth at the Asian Championship, lost a point due to passivity and two more to trail 0-3. Towards the end of the first period, the American pushed Yogesh out to take a healthy 4-0 lead.

Just before the end of the first minute in the second period, Yogesh earned a point and added four more with back-to-back gut-wrenches to lead 5-4.

However, he lost the lead on the counter-attack by Bunker, who made it 5-5 before settling the bout in his favour by pushing the Indian out. In 82kg, Harpreet Singh was expected to put up at least a good fight but was outplayed by Petr Novak from Czech Republic. Harpreet just pushed the shoulders and arms of his opponent to hand a passivity point to the Czech.

In the second period, Novak extended his lead with a two-point throw and successfully employed a Take-down to make it 5-0.

Time was running out fast but Harpreet could not do much and conceded two more points to lose the bout by a comprehensive 0-7 margin.

"I was down with fever. I could give my best today. The weight training had stopped because we came early here and it always affects. Also, I lost weight (81.4kg) because the diet is a huge issue in this city. I am a vegetarian and have been travelling for the last 25 days. I struggled to get good food," said Harpreet.

"Also, I was not good enough, I think, at this level. We have done better than the previous generation and probably the next one will do better than us."

In the toughest possible draw, Manjeet was pitted against reigning world champion Eldaniz Azizli from Azerbaijan in the pre-quarterfinals. Manjeet gave his all but that was not enough as he lost by Technical Superiority.

Azizili lost his semifinal later, so Manjeet could not get a repechage round.

In the 63kg, Sagar could stay on the mat only for about two minutes, losing his qualification round by Technical Superiority to local wrestler Almat Kebispayev.

The Indian lost a point for passivity and then suffered two consecutive four-points throws to make an early exit.

Iran says 'blue girl' football fan admitted 'mistake'

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
TEHRAN, SEPTEMBER 14

The judiciary said, without naming anyone, that a young woman had been arrested when trying to enter a stadium and faced charges of offending "public chastity and insulting" law enforcement officers.

AN IRANIAN football fan who set herself ablaze and died after being arrested for trying to enter a stadium had "confessed her mistake" when she was questioned, the judiciary said Saturday.

Sahar Khodayari, dubbed "blue girl" because of the colours of the team she supported, Esteghlal FC, was reportedly detained when she tried to enter a stadium dressed as a man to watch them last year.

She died of her injuries in a Tehran hospital after setting herself on fire outside a court last week. Her death sparked outrage online, with celebrities and activists using the hashtag #blue_girl to urge the sport's world governing body FIFA to ban Iran from competitions and fans to boycott matches.

Iranian women spectators have been barred from football and other stadiums in the Islamic republic since 1981, despite international pressure to let them attend.

Iran's Vice President for Women and Family Affairs Masoumeh Ebtekar on Tuesday asked the judiciary to investigate her death. The judiciary said, without naming anyone, that a young woman had been arrested when trying to enter a stadium and faced charges of offending "public chastity and insulting" law enforcement officers.

On Saturday, judiciary spokesman Gholamhossein Esmaili said Khodayari "had clearly confessed her mistake during questioning, accepted it and expressed regret". He did not give further details.

Esmaili, who was quoted by the judiciary's Mizan Online website, said no sentence had been issued against her since there had been no trial to begin with.

The spokesman also dismissed reports she had been told she would be jailed for six months as "fabricated rumours and hearsay".

Esmaili said such reports "stirred public opinion" and provided material for "foreigners and enemies" of Iran.

Despite the boycott calls following her death, Khodayari's father told Mehr news agency that she did not "sacrifice" herself for any cause. Iran has come under pressure from FIFA to allow women to attend qualifiers for the 2022 World Cup, and was reportedly given a deadline of August 31 to comply.

The sports ministry said last month that women fans would be allowed into the stadium when Team Melli -- as the national team are known -- play their next home qualifier on October 10.

Amazon didn't remove racist reviews: Aluko

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON, SEPTEMBER 14

FOOTBALLSTAR ENI Aluko has condemned Amazon for not removing racist reviews of her memoir posted on the online retailer's web site. Of the 31 reviews on Amazon's United Kingdom site, 27 gave "They Don't Teach This" a one-star rating. The book details the discrimination Aluko faced during her England career.

Customers have used the platform to call the book "anti-white racist drivel" and "fiction" and accuse the Juventus forward of choosing to "play the race card" and "coming across as a racist herself."

Aluko, who is black, and her publishers have asked Amazon to delete the racist reviews but they remained on the site on Friday night. Amazon told The Associated Press it does not suppress reviews based on star ratings but does use investigators and automated technology to prevent and detect inauthentic comments.

Aluko said the offensive reviews were "clearly motivated by tribalism, bitterness and hatred" and wrote in a column for The Guardian that "sometimes the law is the only solution."

Penguin Random House, the publishers of the book, told the AP that "we're working with our author, Eni, on this issue and are in contact with Amazon."

The players' union in England and anti-racism activists have denounced Amazon, whose CEO is Jeff Bezos, the world's richest man, for not removing the posts.

"Amazon, just like social media platforms, have a responsibility to tackle any racist or discriminatory abuse on their website," Kick It Out, English soccer's anti-discrimination body, told the AP. "We're angered by the racial abuse directed at Eni Aluko just for telling her story and we fully support her as one of the leading voices in football shining a light on key issues that the game must address."

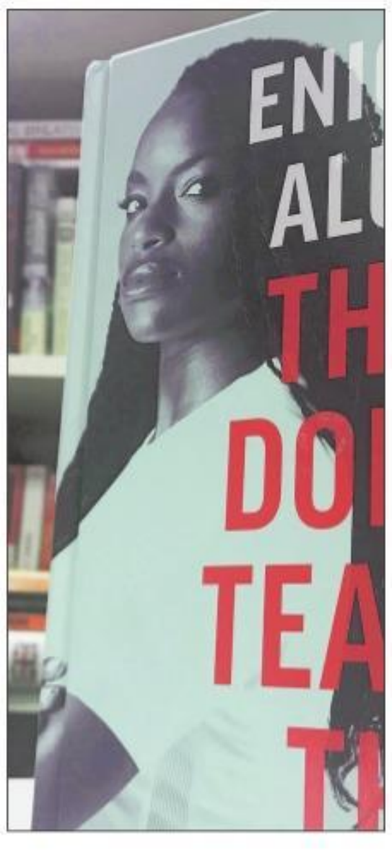
The use of online reviews to abuse players has opened up a new front to be tackled by the Professional Footballers Association, which met recently with Twitter, Facebook and Amazon after a spate of racist posts directed at its members.

"We have been proud of Eni for standing up against injustice in the past and we applaud her for her brave stance in this instance," PFA head of equalities Simone Pound said. "As a prominent female player and role model Eni is at the forefront of challenging abuse where and when it happens.

"We are increasingly seeing our members being abused and harassed as they are fulfilling workplace commitments both on and off the field. As a member Eni will continue to have the full support of the PFA."

The book went on sale on Aug. 29 on Amazon. "Some of what has been written about myself and my book is defamatory," Aluko said. "It is intended to put people off buying my book, and I intend to make sure they understand the consequences of such hatred."

Aluko capped 102 times for England and is a lawyer. She spent two years trying to convince the English Football Association to believe Mark Sampson as national team manager made offensive comments in 2014 about whether her relatives coming from Nigeria for a game were infected with Ebola.



The front cover of the autobiography written by English footballer Eniola Aluko. *AP*

Aluko said the offensive reviews were "clearly motivated by tribalism, bitterness and hatred" and wrote in a column for The Guardian that "sometimes the law is the only solution."

Pressure from Aluko led to a new FA investigation after allegations of wrongdoing had been initially dismissed. The FA apologized to Aluko in 2017 after a review established she and a teammate had been racially discriminated against by Sampson but that the coach was not racist.

"Accusing someone of racism isn't something I would ever do lightly," Aluko wrote in her book. "It certainly hasn't been a pleasant experience. I'm willing to bet that no one ever cried racism for fun, or for power, and yet so many people of color don't share their experiences because they would be shouted down, in the hideous phrase, for ₹using the race card.'"

The autobiography covers identity and race issues, footballing successes that have seen Aluko win league titles with Chelsea and Juventus, and her career as a lawyer.

"I love being a black women, I wouldn't change it," Aluko wrote. "It has always been a cause for celebration and empowerment, never a crutch or an excuse."

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