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SPEAKERS

- Mr Nitin Gadkari, Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport, Highways & Shipping and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, GoI
- Mr Dharmendra Pradhan*, Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel, GoI
- Mr Arjun Ram Meghwal, Hon'ble Minister of State for Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises and Parliamentary Affairs, GoI
- Dr A R Sigh, Secretary, Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises, GoI
- Mr C K Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, GoI

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SAI BRINGS CLASSROOM TO PLAYGROUND
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BUSINESS AS USUAL
By UNNY

JNU seeks Romila's CV to review special status, she says attempt to dishonour

ARANYA SHANKAR
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 1

HISTORIAN ROMILA Thapar, who was asked by JNU to submit her CV in order to review her status as Professor Emerita, on Sunday said the move was an attempt to "dishonour" her since she had been "critical" of the changes introduced by the administration.

According to a letter that Prabhat Patnaik, another

Across Assam, chorus rises among MLAs: NRC is faulty, many genuine citizens out

ABHISHEK SAHA
GUWAHATI, SEPTEMBER 1

MLAs OF all political hues and across multiple districts of Assam agree that "genuine Indian citizens" have been left out of the final National Register of Citizens (NRC) published on Saturday.

The lawmakers said they would stand by the victims of these alleged mistakes and discrepancies, as they filed appeals against their exclusion at the Foreigners Tribunals (FTs) of the state.

The final NRC excluded over 19 lakh individuals.



A family in Gorbhetar village, in Assam's Baksa district, checks their names in the final NRC list on Sunday. *Dasarath Deka*

None of the MLAs that *The Indian Express* spoke to on

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Fadnavis: Alliance with Shiv Sena will continue, I am coming back as CM

SHUBHANGI KHAPRE & NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN
AURANGABAD, SEPTEMBER 1

CHIEF MINISTER Devendra Fadnavis has said that there is no confusion in the BJP about fighting the Maharashtra state elections with the Shiv Sena, and expressed confidence that he would be CM again if the alliance won.

In an interview to *The Indian Express* in Aurangabad last week, during his state-wide Janadesh Yatra, Fadnavis sought to lay to rest the hit-and-run battles between various second-rung leaders of the BJP and Sena over claims to chief ministership if the alliance won.

"In a democracy we should leave it to people. So if we have done a good job, which I think we have, people will elect us back. The BJP parliamentary board under the leadership of



'NCP, CONG LEADERS ARE COMING TO US'
DEVENDRA FADNAVIS
MAHARASHTRA CHIEF MINISTER

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is empowered to choose the CM. However, the political situation is such that they will choose me," he said.

About the alliance with the Sena, Fadnavis said, "At least what I know, at the top in Delhi and Maharashtra, there is no confusion. We will fight in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Govt schemes to get a push in nearly 27K Dalit villages

SHALINI NAIR
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 1

THE UNION government has identified 26,968 Dalit-majority villages for focused implementation of various government schemes over the next five years. These include all existing Central and state welfare schemes that are necessary to meet critical gaps in socio-economic and infrastructure needs, and reduce disparities.

These villages — where over 50 per cent of the total population are Dalits and those with a sizeable overall population — have been zeroed in under the Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana for "integrated development".

"As per data, there are in all 46,859 revenue villages where more than half the population comprises people from the Scheduled Castes. Of this, 26,968 villages have a population of above 500 people and these will be our focus for the next

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Explained: Polls to contest, politicians' worries increase

THE PUBLICATION of the final National Register of Citizens (NRC) on Saturday has sent waves of worry and concern through several MLAs in Assam, especially those with significant numbers of linguistic or religious minorities among their voters. The exclusion of over 19 lakh individuals, most of whom can be expected to file appeals, has opened a new, messy chapter in this decades-old controversy. In a state where lines of identity are frequently distinct and deep, every elected representative knows that this issue is far from closure.

Omar, Mehbooba met their family members twice, says official

ADIL AKHZER
SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 1

THE FAMILY members of former J&K chief ministers Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti were allowed to meet the two detained leaders "twice" recently, government sources have told *The Indian Express*.

"They were allowed to meet after the family members approached the administration for permission. The families met them twice recently. They can meet the detainees twice a week," a senior official said.

Abdullah, who is vice-president of National Conference (NC), and Mehbooba, who heads the

People's Democratic Party (PDP), have been under detention since August 5, when the central government removed J&K's special status under Article 370 and bifurcated the state into two UTs.

The NC leader is lodged at Hari Niwas, and the PDP chief at Cheshmahshahi hut, both of which have been declared as sub-jails in Srinagar.

According to the official, relatives and friends are meeting dozens of mainstream political leaders lodged at Centaur Hotel on the bank of the Dal lake. "The families are submitting applications and are being allowed to meet the families inside the hotel," he said. The hotel too, has been declared a subsidiary jail.

MOVE AMID J&K TENSION

New offer from Pak: Consular access for Jadhav today

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 1

AT A time when tensions between India and Pakistan are high over the removal of special status to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370, Islamabad has decided to grant consular access on Monday to Kulbhushan Jadhav, the Indian national in its custody.

Delhi is "studying the offer", government sources told *The Indian Express*. This is the second time that Pakistan has said it is offering consular access to Jadhav, after a previous move in early August.

India had refused the earlier offer. India has said that it had asked Pakistan to provide "unimpeded" consular access in an "environment free from the fear of intimidation and reprisal", in line with a ruling by the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

Announcing the latest decision Sunday, Pakistan Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mohammad Faisal posted on Twitter: "Consular access for Indian spy Commander Kulbhushan Jadhav, a serving Indian naval officer and RAW

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Pakistan raises J&K in Malé, Harivansh objects strongly

ABANTIKA GHOSH
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 1

RAJYA SABHA Deputy Chairman Harivansh attacked Pakistan powerfully after representatives of that country tried to drag Jammu and Kashmir on to the table of an international conference of presiding officers of elected Houses in the Maldives on Sunday.

Harivansh "strongly objected" to statements made by Qasim Khan Suri, Deputy Speaker of the Pakistani

National Assembly, and also took on Senator Quratulain Marri.

In his address to the Fourth

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EUROPEAN UNION BACKS BILATERAL DIALOGUE ON KASHMIR

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INSIDE



STATE OF ECONOMY DEEPLY WORRYING: MANMOHAN **PAGE 6**

MOB ASSAULT OVER CHILD-LIFTING RUMOURS RATTLES POLICE IN BIHAR **PAGE 7**

New Governors for five states, Arif Mohammed Khan will head to Kerala

LIZ MATHEW & DEEPTIMA TIWARY
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 1

FORMER UNION minister Kalraj Mishra, former Uttarakhand chief minister Bhagat Singh Koshyari, BJP's Tamil Nadu unit chief Tamilisai Soundararajan and former Union labour minister Bandaru Dattatraya were on Sunday named Governors, continuing with the practice of BJP veterans being picked for gubernatorial posts. However, the sur-

prise appointment was that of former Congress leader Arif Mohammed Khan, who famously resigned from the Rajiv Gandhi government in 1986 over its stand in the Shah Bano case. Khan, a vocal supporter of the abolition of instant triple talaq by the BJP-led NDA government, has been appointed the new Governor of Kerala, replacing former Chief Justice of India P Sathasivam.

The appointment of Khan, 68, as Governor of Kerala

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Looking for Choksi in Antigua: at jewellery shop, cafe where he drank mint and ginger tea

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

SANDIP G
ST JOHNS (ANTIGUA),
SEPTEMBER 1

AT HERITAGE Quay, St John's central shopping haunt, a dimly lit alley leads to a cluster of stores. The second on this corridor is Ama Jewels, sandwiched between an antiques store and a Levi's outlet. Local residents say the shop is owned by Suraj Patel,

who migrated to Antigua in the 1980s. But they also say that Ama Jewels has another, more popular, name — Choksi's shop.

"I don't know whose name it is registered in. But it used to be called Choksi's shop. We still call it his shop," says Inspector Benchi Baptiste, from the local police.

Baptiste, of course, is referring to absconding businessman Mehul Choksi, an accused in the Punjab National Bank scam who fled to Antigua and Barbuda, and acquired citizenship by depositing a non-refundable sum of



Ama Jewels, popularly called "Choksi's shop". *Sandip G*

US\$200,000. Several actors, industrialists and oil barons hold citizenship in the twin islands — from Oprah Winfrey and Giorgio Armani to Silvio Berlusconi and Eric Clapton.


At Ama Jewels, the man at the counter is in his early 30s. He introduces himself as "Rahul from Surat", and says he's been here for six months. "We have the best collection and will give you good discounts. A lot of celebrities have visited our store, Hollywood actors and models," he says, swiping through a collection of photographs on his

mobile phone.

The shop, a little cramped, has a collection of what he claims are "Tanzanite Diamonds, the best diamond in the world" — Tanzanite, in fact, is a rare bright blue gem stone, mined near Mt Kilimanjaro. There are emerald and diamond pendants, sapphire rings and ruby bracelets, too. "I will give you a lower price, for your wife or girlfriend," he says, smiling.

The warmth, however, disappears when you ask about the owner. "I have seen him (Patel)

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WEB EXCLUSIVE



INDIA WILL GET SWISS BANK DETAILS OF INDIANS FROM TODAY. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

This is not a new measure. In 2016, India and Switzerland had signed an information-sharing deal on bank accounts, which was to come into effect from September 2019.

VIDEO OF THE DAY



SNAKE BOAT RACE LEAGUE BEGINS

The Champions Boat League is designed on the IPL model

FULL COVERAGE



'NO BANK WILL BE CLOSED'

Sitharaman allays fears on merger of public sector banks

EXPRESS AUDIO

Why stakeholders are disappointed in the NRC outcome

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

Detailing the response on ground to the final NRC list, why BJP leaders are upset with the outcome and whether it will affect chances of it being implemented in other states.

ASSAM
After doctor dies in mob attack, medical outfits give protest call

ABHISHEK SAHA
GUWAHATI, SEPTEMBER 1

A DAY after a 73-year-old doctor died of injuries sustained in a mob attack over the death of a tea worker in Assam's Jorhat district, the state branch of Indian Medical Association (IMA) and Assam Medical Service Association (AMSA) on Sunday called for a 24-hour withdrawal of medical services by doctors. Police have so far detained 21 people in connection with the attack on Dr Deben Dutta.

IMA state branch and AMSA have called for withdrawal of services by doctors, including emergency duty, from 6 am on Tuesday to 6 am the next day.

Jorhat SP, N V Chandrakant, said, "Somra Majhi (32), a temporary worker at Teok tea garden, was taken ill to the garden hospital. Dr Dutta was away on lunch break and the nurse administered preliminary treatment. Later, the doctor came back, but the patient unfortunately died."

"A mob vandalised the hospital and attacked the doctor. They hit him and injured him with glass pieces. Police arrived and rescued him. We rushed him to Jorhat Medical College and Hospital, but he died on the way. We have detained 21 people so far."

Nilesh Gond, secretary of the Jorhat branch of Assam Chah Mazdoor Sangha said, "Manjhi was injured after he fell in the bathroom. It is possible that he suffered a stroke. The doctor came 30 minutes after the patient was brought in. By that time, the patient was dead. That infuriated the workers and they assaulted him. We condemn the violence."

FROM PAGE ONE
New Governors

assumes significance since it's a state where the BJP is desperate to make electoral inroads. The party failed to win a single seat in Kerala in the 2019 election, in which the BJP came back to power at the Centre with a stronger majority.

His appointment comes in the backdrop of the BJP pushing through the triple talaq Bill in Parliament recently. A supporter of reforms in Islam, Khan has opposed instant triple talaq for years and accused the Congress of alleged appeasement of minorities. After quitting the Congress, Khan joined the Janata Dal and BSP. In 2004, he joined the BJP but left three years later, saying he felt ignored in the party.

According to BJP sources, Khan's appointment as Governor would be a "good highlight" for the BJP government's "sabka saath sabka vikas, sabka vishwas" slogan and could counter the criticism of it being "anti-Muslim".

Among the other appointments, former Uttarakhand CM Koshyari, 77, has been named Governor of Maharashtra, while Soundararajan, 58, moves to the Raj Bhavan in Telangana, according to a Rashtrapati Bhavan communique.

Former Union minister Kalraj Mishra, who was recently appointed Governor of Himachal Pradesh, has been shifted to Rajasthan. Mishra, 78, will succeed former Uttar Pradesh chief minister Kalyan Singh, who has completed his five-year tenure as Rajasthan Governor. Former Union minister Bandaru Dattatreya, 72, replaces Mishra in Himachal Pradesh.

Kalyan Singh, an accused in the Babri Masjid case, not getting an extension would mean that he stands to lose the immunity un-

der Article 361 of the Constitution that he had been enjoying as Governor. Singh, under whose tenure as chief minister of Uttar Pradesh the Babri Masjid was razed, will now have to face the charges. The Supreme Court in its 2017 order had directed the special court in Lucknow to "frame charges against him as soon as he ceases to be Governor".

Koshyari replaces Vidya Sagar Rao as Maharashtra Governor, while Soundararajan will succeed ESL Narasimhan as Telangana Governor.

Soundararajan's appointment has taken many by surprise. She is only 58 years and has been the face of the party in a state where the BJP hopes to expand its footprints. Party leaders said the BJP would focus on developing another rung of leadership in the state ahead of the 2021 assembly polls.

"The appointments will take effect from the dates they assume charge of their respective offices," the Rashtrapati Bhavan communique said.

'NRC is faulty'
Sunday gave an estimate of the numbers of excluded persons in their constituency, but said they were trying to get the data analysed. MLAs of the BJP across districts echoed the party line in criticising the NRC.

"Hindu as well as Muslim exclusions have been reported to me. I have asked the people to appeal at the Foreigners Tribunals. If someone doesn't go to file an appeal against the NRC exclusion, there will be suspicion," Ranjit Dass, state BJP president and MLA from Sorbhog constituency of lower Assam, said.

Ananta Kumar Malo, the All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) MLA from the Scheduled Caste-reserved constituency of Abhyapuri South in lower Assam, has found himself out of the NRC. Everyone else in his family is in.

"Is this an NRC? You tell me," Malo fumed. "Thousands of genuine Indians — especially Bengali Hindus — have been left out of it, and so many illegal foreigners have made it."

Rama Kanta Dewri, the BJP MLA from Morigaon constituency, did not confirm or deny reports that he has been excluded. "I have neither checked it nor do I care if it's there. I know that many Bangladeshis have entered, and many indigenous people are out," said the MLA, who belongs to an indigenous tribal community.

Dewri's colleague in the BJP, Ashok Singhal, who is the MLA from Dhekiajuli, said: "There have been exclusions and I am trying to compile the data as to who all have been excluded."

Legislators from the largely Assamese-speaking upper Assam said exclusions have been comparatively less in their constituencies. Debabrata Saikia, Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly and MLA from Nazira in Sivasagar district, said, "There is a Scheduled Caste Bengali community in my constituency whose ancestors were refugees. Many of them are out. Some Muslims are also out. Assamese people have more or less completely made it to the list."

But legislators from areas that have a large presence of Hindu Bengalis alleged that the community had registered largescale exclusions. The community is a core vote base for the BJP — and their exclusion is said to be a reason for the party's worry.

Shiladitya Dev, the BJP MLA from central Assam's Hajo district, which registered the highest exclusion from the draft NRC as per government data, said: "My district had registered the highest exclusion in draft NRC. The number will be high this

Pak raises J&K in Malé, Harivansh objects strongly

South Asian Speakers' Summit in the Maldivian capital Malé, Suri, who belongs to Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, said: "We cannot ignore the situation of tortured Kashmiris. They have been dealing with terror and injustice."

Harivansh immediately raised a point of order to say that commenting on the internal matters of any nation was a digression from the theme of the Summit, and should not be recorded in the proceedings.

"We strongly object to raising the internal matter of India here and we also reject the politicisation of this forum by raising issues which are extraneous to the theme of this Summit," Harivansh said in a video released by a Maldivian channel. "There is need for Pakistan to end cross-border terrorism and all kinds of state support... in the interest of regional peace and stability. Terrorism is the biggest threat for the entire humanity in the world today..." Harivansh said.

The September 1-2 meeting has been convened to discuss ways for the countries in the region to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the global call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030.

In reply to Harivansh, Senator Marri, who belongs to the Pakistan People's Party, too raised a point of order and said: "Nothing can be achieved without human rights. If you don't have people who will you implement SDGs for? Just land? The atrocities meted out to Kashmir are directly related intimately to SDGs."

She was, however, cut short by Mohamed Nasheed, the first democratically elected President of the Maldives, and currently the Speaker of the People's Majlis.

In a separate video released by the Maldivian TV channel, Harivansh is heard saying: "I would like to ask what moral

rights this country has to raise issues related to human rights? The world knows how they committed genocide in a part of their own country, and that country is now a separate entity called Bangladesh. Since they have raised human rights issue of Kashmir, I would like to state the facts — that Pakistan has occupied our part of Kashmir known as Pakistan Occupied Kashmir. This Pakistan Occupied Kashmir comprises 2 areas, the so-called Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK), and Gilgit Baltistan (GB), which Pakistan illegally occupied through armed action in 1947."

He continued his scathing attack on the country: "Pakistan has kept people of this region guessing on their status. As a constitutional entity, the so-called 'AJK' is unique. It has been given the trappings of a country with a President, a Prime Minister and a Legislature of its own. But the so-called AJK is neither a country nor a province. The Karachi

Agreement of April 28, 1949 truncated POJK and brought more than 85% of the land, strategically important for its connectivity with China and control of rivers, under Pakistan's direct control.

"From the time of the Karachi Agreement, the so-called AJK President and Prime Minister have enjoyed only titular power, that too at the pleasure of the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs [later on the Ministry of Kashmir and Northern Areas (KANA), and subsequently the Ministry of Kashmir and GB]."

The Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman later tweeted: "It is very unfortunate that people are still making the mistake of distinguishing between good terrorists and bad terrorists. State sponsorship of terrorism is the biggest threat the world is facing today. Pakistan must stop this. Pakistan, a country that perpetrated a genocide of its own people has no moral right to speak."

New Pak offer: Consular access for Jadhav today

operative, is being provided on Monday 2 September 2019, in line with Vienna Convention on Consular relations, ICJ judgment & the laws of Pakistan. Commander Jadhav remains in Pakistan's custody, for espionage, terrorism and sabotage."

According to sources, negotiations between Delhi and Islamabad have been over "privacy" during the meeting between Indian officials and Jadhav. "We don't want anyone to listen in on our conversation (with Jadhav)," sources said.

There are a number of issues on which discussions are being

held between Indian diplomats and Pakistani officials: on the presence of officials from Pakistan; a glass partition; and, audio-visual recording of the discussion.

In July, India had asked Pakistan to grant "full consular access" to Jadhav at the earliest.

Sources said India does not want the meeting to become a "sham" and a "propaganda exercise", like the one that took place in December 2017, when Jadhav's mother and wife went to see him. India had then protested the treatment meted out to the two.

time, too — I am trying to get an estimate. Hindu Bengalis with genuine pre-1971 papers have been left out. I feel there has been a communal agenda and personal bias of some ground-level officials. There are several cases of discrepancy like parents are in and children out."

Dilip Kumar Pal, BJP MLA from the Bengali-majority constituency of Silchar in the Barak valley region, said: "My wife's name was not in the draft. She has our application number and is travelling right now, and hence we have not checked the status online. But beyond my own family's story, I want to say that a large number of Bengali Hindus of my constituency have been left out. We will not accept this NRC. This NRC has included illegal foreigners and excluded genuine Indians. It has no value for me."

From a similar Bengali-dominated constituency of North Karimganj, in Barak Valley, Congress MLA Kamalakhya Dey Purkayastha said: "This NRC is harassing people. After this BJP government came to power, the NRC updation process gathered pace but the government has kept quiet all this while, when numerous problems in the process were being highlighted.. There are so many cases in my constituency where eight people submitted the same legacy documents — five are in and three are out."

MLAs from Muslim majority constituencies also said there were many genuine citizens amongst the excluded 19 lakh.

Hafiz Bashir Ahmed, AIUDF MLA from Bilasipara West constituency in Dhubri of lower Assam, said: "Even if one Indian citizen is excluded, one should not be satisfied about the NRC process. But what the 19-lakh figure signifies is that all these years politicians have claimed all sorts figures like 30 lakh and 50 lakh of illegal foreigners are there in Assam — but those figures have been shown to be wrong. Leaders have profited from this politics about the presence of illegal Bangladeshis in Assam."

Aminul Islam, AIUDF MLA from Dhing constituency of Nagaon, said: "So many cases of

exclusions have happened wherein the parents are in and children are out. Genuine Indians who had minor mistakes in the submitted documents were excluded. Many of those who submitted land documents prior to that of 1947 have also been excluded. I am trying to get the district data on the exclusion."

Romila CV
regulations of the university to say that a committee appointed by the council would review the continuation of emeritus professors after they turn 75 "by considering her/his health status, willingness, availability, university needs etc. so that more positions will be available to other potential candidates."

Thapar, 87, who retired from JNU in 1991, told *The Indian Express* she responded to the letter a few weeks after she got it, but has not heard back the administration since.

"I pointed out that nowhere in the world is the status of professor emeritus re-evaluated once it has been conferred. The JNU letter of conferment stated quite clearly that the position is honorary and is for life. Since there are no requirements on either side and it is only a status, there can be as many emeritus professors as the university wants. I also asked the university to inform me of the methods that would be used by the committee concerned to evaluate my work," said Thapar.

She said the letter indicated that the "university administration is unaware of the meaning of an emeritus professor" and that it was "rather laughable if they think that my ceasing to be emerita will affect my reputation as a historian or my academic work".

Saying the reason behind the letter was "quite apparent", Thapar added, "It is a move to try and dishonour someone who has been critical of the changes that have been introduced in JNU by the present administration."

The administration in a statement on Sunday said it had written to those 75 years and above to "know their availability and their willingness to continue their association with the univer-

sity". "Writing these letters as per the ordinance is not for discontinuation but for an informed review by the executive council, the highest statutory body of the University. Such a review is consistent with the practices at other reputed universities such as MIT and Princeton University where, as given below, the university has the right to review the academic contributions of the emeritus professors. They even have the right to rescind such appointments," the statement said.

When reached for his reaction, Prabhat Patnaik said, "When we were made emeritus Professors, it was understood that it was for life. That is the way emeritus professorship in JNU always functioned... The question of it being subjected to periodic review is absurd," he said.

Asked about the administration citing new rules, Patnaik said, "It was not there when any of us were made Emeritus Professors. So it cannot be applied to us retrospectively. As far as American universities are concerned, in most of them, you don't even have retirement. Professor Amartya Sen at 85 years old is still a professor at Harvard. In Princeton too, Nobel-Prize-winning economist W Arthur Lewis was on Princeton faculty even after crossing 80 years of age," said Patnaik.

Rajaraman, also Professor Emeritus at JNU, confirmed to *The Indian Express* that he too received such a letter a month ago. "I think everyone above the age of 75 got it," he said.

Other Professor Emeritus/Emerita at JNU hit out at the university's move.

Former Delhi University Vice-Chancellor Deepak Nayyar, 72, also a Professor Emeritus at JNU, said, "I think this is absurd. In universities all over the world, appointments for Professor Emeritus are an academic honour and it's a recognition of the contributions made by the scholar during his or her tenure." He added he hadn't received any such letter.

Calling the university's move "senseless" Professor Emerita Zoya Hasan, 72, said, "Professor Emeritus is honorary so there's no application for it and hence

cent of the country's total population, with states such as Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, and the Union Territory of Delhi recording more than 20 per cent Dalit population.

The Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana was first launched on a pilot basis in 2009-10 for an area-based development approach of predominantly Dalit villages. The official said a decision was taken to accelerate the scheme implementation in these villages after it was found that over the last decade, merely 2,500 Dalit-majority villages were taken up under the scheme. "In the earlier approach, it was found that due to the pace, people gradually lost interest and the implementation fizzled out eventually. Also, due to the break in continuity, there was no regular Budget allocation for the scheme on an annual basis. We therefore decided to scale up the coverage and have taken up 7,000 villages so far as per our new approach," the official said.

Choksi
just once. He's a busy man, has a business in Trinidad and Jamaica. He is always travelling," he says, claiming to have never seen or heard of Choksi. Soon, he cuts short the conversation, says he has "lots of work" and disappears into a cabin behind the store.

However, the woman running Hemingway's Cafe, just outside the Quay on the main road says she vividly recollects Choksi. "But I haven't seen him of late. Last year, he used to frequent the shop. He used to drink a lot of mint and ginger tea. Sometimes, I used to fetch the tea to his store. He was a pleasant man though he never used to talk much. He was always in a rush. I heard he's going through rough weather?" asks Mary.

Boyce, manager of Piranha Joe, a restaurant in the area, has a darker story. "I have seen him talking to shady people, he has a lot of influence in the ministry. I have seen a minister buy stuff from his store. Why do all the crooks come to Antigua? Why are we giving them refuge?" he asks, fuming.

However, Inspector Baptiste, who is also the former vice-president of the Leeward Island Cricket Association, disagrees. "Every foreigner who has become a citizen is carefully watched... where he's travelling, what he's doing, or whether he's involved in any illegal activity. So even before we knew Choksi was wanted by India, we used to watch him, because a lot of illegal activities like smuggling are centred around these jewellery shops," he says.

Police informers, though, didn't find anything against Choksi. "He hasn't taken to the high life, doesn't visit casinos or go on cruises. You don't see him in parties or even cricket games. He hasn't visited Barbuda. He's mostly home with family, that's what I have heard," says Baptiste.

At an Indian restaurant here, bearer Salim remembers Choksi. "I remember him because he had specifications about food. No salt, less oil, no onions. Never had even beer. He was very choosy. He's not a regular here, but sometimes orders food home," says Salim.

Some say Choksi is staying "near Jumpy Bay". Some others claim he has a "sea-facing villa in Old Popeshead". However, the headlines surrounding him have added to a swelling paranoia among local residents about foreign investors. "Our isolation is their blessing. But we are a young country and we need foreign investments," says Baptiste.

At Ama Jewels, meanwhile, Rahul has removed his blazer and is standing in front of the store nervously peering at every passer-by. The carnival season is over and the tourists have dwindled. It's not business as usual.

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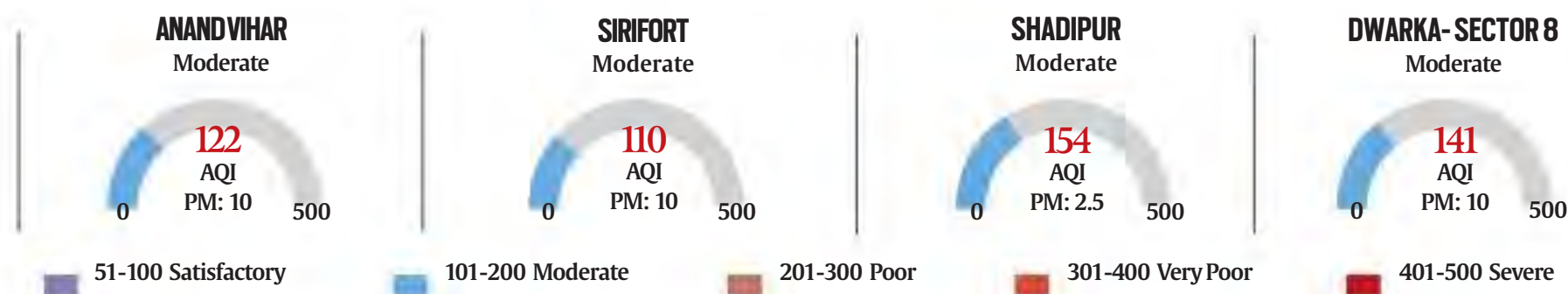
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BRIEFLY

Man held for kidnapping 2

Noida: A man, accused of kidnapping a civil engineer and his daughter and demanding Rs 1.3 crore as ransom, was arrested within 12 hours of the alleged abduction.

3 held for illegal sale of liquor

New Delhi: Three men were arrested from South Delhi for allegedly selling liquor permitted for sale only in Haryana, police said Sunday.

Rights meet stopped on second day

New Delhi: A convention on democratic rights was denied permission by the venue's management midway on its second day Sunday, for allegedly being against national interest. The National Convention in Defence of Democratic Rights had sessions on Article 370 and NRC. **ENS**

CHILD LIFTING RUMOURS

Mob beats up pregnant woman at Harsh Vihar

JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 1

A 25-YEAR-OLD pregnant woman was allegedly beaten up by a mob in North East Delhi's Harsh Vihar on suspicion of kidnapping a child on August 27. Police said the victim, Priyanka, who is hearing and speech impaired, was beaten up by a group of around 10 people.

Three people — Deepak (27), Shakuntala (52) and Lalit Kumar (29) — have been arrested, and a case was registered Sunday. The accused suspected the woman of kidnapping a child from the neighbourhood, police said.

Over the past month, several cases of people being beaten up over rumours of kidnapping children have surfaced in western Uttar Pradesh and NCR. Around 20 such cases were registered in Uttar Pradesh in August.

Priyanka, who is five-months pregnant, is admitted at Safdarjung Hospital and is stable, said her family.

Her brother, Sandeep Kumar, said she got married last year and shifted from South East Delhi's



From a video of the incident. 3 people have been arrested

Tughlakabad to Faridabad. "When she went missing, her in-laws called us and we filed a police complaint. After 10-11 days, one of our friends saw a video of her being attacked. We contacted police, who brought Priyanka back to us," he said.

In the video that surfaced online, the woman is surrounded by 5-10 people. The mob can be heard accusing her of kidnapping children and three men are seen hitting her on her head. The mob then alleges the woman "lures kids by giving them money..." and that she "takes children from their houses through windows".

The woman can be seen crying and requesting people to let her go, and is later made to sit outside a house. One person is also seen holding a baton and passing it on to the others. The victim can be seen gesturing for water but locals keep questioning her.

"We received a call about violence at Mandoli in Harsh Vihar. Officers rushed to the spot and found the woman. She was assaulted by some locals over suspicion of child lifting. We found the woman was not a criminal and the allegations were fake. We have registered a case under IPC sections 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 341 (wrongful restraint) and 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention)," said Atul Kumar Thakur, DCP (North East).

The woman was taken to a shelter home and police helped trace the family of the victim and reunited her with her parents. Police said they are going through the video and will arrest the other accused soon. "She had gone missing from her house on August 17," said a senior police officer. A missing person report was filed the same day.



Traffic police personnel issuing a challan, Sunday, Prem Nath Pandey

3,900 challans issued on first day of higher road fines

New Delhi: A total of 3,900 challans were issued for traffic violations as of Sunday evening, after the amended Motor Vehicles Act was implemented Saturday midnight, revising the penalty rates.

Traffic Police personnel have only been issuing court challans at present as a fresh notification on the Act by the Delhi government is pending. Special CP (Traffic) Taj Hasan said, "We're focussing on quality violations like triple riding, driving without hel-

met and seat belt. People are generally aware about the revised fines and are following the rules."

Officials said a breakup of the challans would be compiled by Sunday midnight, but a majority of offences are related to quality violations. They said as soon as the Delhi government issues a notification for the new rules, they would start compounding the challans i.e. disposing of challans issued to offenders on the spot through instant payment. **ENS**

Doctor falls to death at GTB Hospital

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 1

POLICE HAVE launched an investigation after a 44-year-old doctor was found dead after allegedly falling off the balcony of the eighth floor of a residential complex in GTB Hospital on Saturday.

Police are verifying whether he fell or jumped. No suicide note has been recovered, said Meghna Yadav, DCP, Shahdara.

Police said Pallav Saharia, a doctor, lived with his family in the GTB staff quarters in Shahdara where the incident took place around 10 am. Inquest proceedings are being conducted under CrPC section 174 (unnatural death).

Saharia's wife, Priyanka, works at GTB Hospital's pathology department whereas Pallav was practising medicine at a pri-

vate hospital in Noida. He is survived by his wife and two children.

"We received a call around 10.30 am from GTB Hospital about the incident. A man was admitted at the hospital after he suffered severe injuries due to his fall from the balcony of his house. He later succumbed to his injuries. We have not found a suicide note. The post-mortem was conducted on Sunday after the deceased's family from Assam arrived in Delhi. The body was returned to the family on the same day," said Yadav.

Police said Pallav's mother-in-law and a caretaker were present inside the house at the time of the incident. "We suspect he lost balance and fell from the balcony. Police are verifying all facts and a medical report is awaited. We do not suspect any foul play," said a senior police officer.

Six policemen booked for 'beating up' student

New Delhi: Police have filed an FIR and begun an investigation after a 29-year-old DU student alleged that he was beaten up by six police officers in North West Delhi's Adarsh Nagar police station on August 25. The victim, Pramod Sahni, is a third-year law student, police said. Sahni has alleged that the policemen (including SHO) tortured him after he objected to police brutality towards his nephew. Vijayanta Arya, DCP (North West), said, "We have registered a case under IPC sections 341, 324, 355, 506 and 34 and SC/ST Act." She said the victim's nephew was caught in an extortion case on August 25. No arrests have been made yet. **ENS**

कार्यालय प्रधानाचार्य, लाला लाजपत राय स्मारक मेडिकल कालेज, मेरठ

ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या: पी.सी./2019/6975(A-E)

दिनांक: 29.08.2019

पुनः ई-निविदा सूचना

वित्तीय वर्ष 2019-20 हेतु लाला लाजपत राय स्मारक मेडिकल कालेज, मेरठ के लिए स्वीकृत उपकरणों हेतु दो बिड प्रणाली (तकनीकी एवं वित्त) के आधार पर अधिकृत निर्माता फर्मों/वितरकों से निम्न विवरणानुसार उपकरणों के क्रय एवं स्थापना हेतु उ.प्र. सरकार के ई-निविदा पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic> के माध्यम से ई-निविदाई दिनांक **02.09.2019** से **22.09.2019** तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। विस्तृत विवरण एवं प्रपत्र उल्लिखित पोर्टल पर उपलब्ध हैं। मविध्य में किसी भी प्रकार के संशोधन की सूचना पोर्टल पर उपलब्ध होगी उसे समाचार पत्र के माध्यम से प्रकाशित नहीं किया जायेगा।

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B.	General Surgery	General Surgery instrument set	03	1180/-	6,000/-	2019_DGMET_376763_1
C.	General Surgery	Nephroscope with all accessory 21/22 fr	01	1180/-	6,000/-	2019_DGMET_376761_1
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E.	Radio diagnosis	CR system	02	1180/-	32,000/-	2019_DGMET_376759_1

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NORTH-EAST SC/ST ENTREPRENEURS CONCLAVE-2019

A Supportive Ecosystem for inclusive growth of SC/ST Entrepreneurs

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The Conclave will provide a much-needed platform to the existing and emerging entrepreneurs of the State and enrich the knowledge of SC/ST Entrepreneurs on the latest developments, technology trends, quality standards, etc.

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Dr. D. S. Rawat
Chairman, MSME Export Promotion Council

Objectives

- Discussion and awareness on the National Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Hub (NSSH) Schemes
- Information assistance to SC/ST MSMEs, hand-holdings measures and addressing financial support challenges to them
- Skill up-gradation of the SC/ST units by exploring the possibility of setting up of multi-skilling Institutions and Business Incubator Centre

Key Topics

- Understanding the issues and challenges faced by the SC/ST units of the North Eastern Region
- Public Procurement Policy mandate for SC/ST entrepreneurs
- Sharing of success stories by some of the SC/ST units to encourage more and more such enterprises in the region
- Database preparation and connecting with the maximum SC/ST units to share relevant information
- Recognising the contribution of some of such SC/ST units and encouraging them by awarding distinguished SC/ST entrepreneurship in the North Eastern Region

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4 HARDLOOK

HEALTHCARE REFORMS



Construction underway at Indira Gandhi government hospital in Dwarka's Sector 9. According to officials, the hospital will begin operations in March next year. Photos: Abhinav Saha

Booster shot

With three new hospitals, the Delhi government hopes to strengthen healthcare infrastructure that is currently stretched thin. But with several projects already delayed, the road ahead remains steep. ASTHA SAXENA reports

BIJLI-PAANI, EDUCATION and health. Reforms in these four sectors — the mainstay of Aam Aadmi Party's politics — have regained focus as the capital nears Assembly polls scheduled for early next year. In the last two months alone, the AAP government has announced free power for practically half the city, water bill waivers, and free travel for women on public transport. In schools, the entrepreneurship curriculum has been introduced to see students become 'job creators'.

But it is perhaps in healthcare where the Delhi government's task remains most cumbersome. In its annual budget, the Delhi government allocated a large chunk towards the sector. Add to this several patient-friendly schemes — free tests at private labs, referrals to private hospitals and bearing the cost of treatment of victims of road accidents and acid attacks — and it's clear that affordable healthcare remains a priority. But progress in infrastructure development has been slow.

A department-wise review of projects undertaken in February this year suggests that the task is cut out for the government, with 31 out of 55 Health Department projects pending at the time. The report, presented to Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, highlights pending projects including the construction and expansion of hospitals worth Rs 1,471.5 crore.

"Education and health are sectors that directly concern the general public. The work in the education sector picked up pace on time but several projects in the health department are lagging — administrative approval on every scheme is mostly delaying work. Projects announced by the government are patient-friendly and will change the face of healthcare facilities in Delhi," emphasised a senior Delhi government official.

In this year's budget, Sisodia said the government has allocated 14% of the total budget to medical and public health. A total outlay of Rs 7,485 crore has been earmarked in the sector for 2019-20. This includes revenue budget of Rs 6,462 crore and capital budget of Rs 1,023 crore. An amount of Rs 3,737 crore has been apportioned for implementation of various schemes, programmes and projects under the health sector. *The Indian Express* looked at major projects where this money is being put to use.

Upcoming projects

The nearest hospital for residents of Burari in North Delhi is the MCD-run Hindu Rao, which is almost 15 km away from the residential colony. Recalling a personal crisis, Shyam Singh (65), who lives in Burari's Kaushik Enclave, said: "My brother met with an accident while he was coming back from work. He was bleeding profusely and it took us almost an hour to reach Hindu Rao. Every resident in our area has faced this problem. Those who cannot afford treatment at private hospitals only have Hindu Rao as an option."

An 800-bed multi-speciality government hospital coming up in the area promises to help. The hospital in Burari, originally proposed to have 200 beds, was upgraded by the AAP government and will have speciality departments of gynaecology, orthopaedics, cardiology, neurology and paediatrics. It is expected to be functional by November 2019.

With a multi-level parking, space for patients' attendants to stay, and state-of-the-art infrastructure, health officials say the hospital will be able to cater to around 1,500 patients on a daily basis.

"Almost 90% of the work on the hospital has been completed. The hiring process of doctors and nursing staff is in progress. The hospital will come as a relief to residents of North Delhi who have to travel far to avail facilities," said an official from the Public Works Department (PWD). The building is complete and engineers are giving final touches.

Similarly, work on the construction of a 600-bed hospital at Ambedkar Nagar and another multi-speciality hospital with 1,241 beds in Dwarka has started, and both are expected to start functioning soon, officials said.

Residents, though, are cautiously optimistic. "A well-furnished hospital building is of little use if there are no facilities available. There are many government hospitals running without doctors, proper equipment and ventilators," said Krishan Rao, a resident in Dwarka Sector 9.

This rings true at the two multi-speciality hospitals built by the government, which have been struggling to fill posts of doctors and paramedical staff. Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital in Timarpur and Janakpuri Super Speciality Hospital both have world-class infrastructure, but little facilities to offer to patients.

"We have been improving the number of doctors and facilities in our institute. We are treating 1,500-2,000 patients in the OPD on a regular basis. We have added 120 beds to the existing 60. Other facilities, including CT scan, digital radiography and respiratory endoscopy unit, are also functional," Dr Chhavi Gupta, deputy medical superintendent of the Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital, told *The Indian Express*.

A total of 394 beds have been added to 38 of its hospitals over the past three years, an answer submitted in the Delhi Assembly last week shows. In response to a question in the Assembly, the Department of Health informed that there were 10,959 beds in 2014-2015 and the number rose to 11,353 in 2017-2018. An outlay of Rs 588 crore has also been proposed for construction of new hospitals and remodelling of existing Delhi government hospitals.

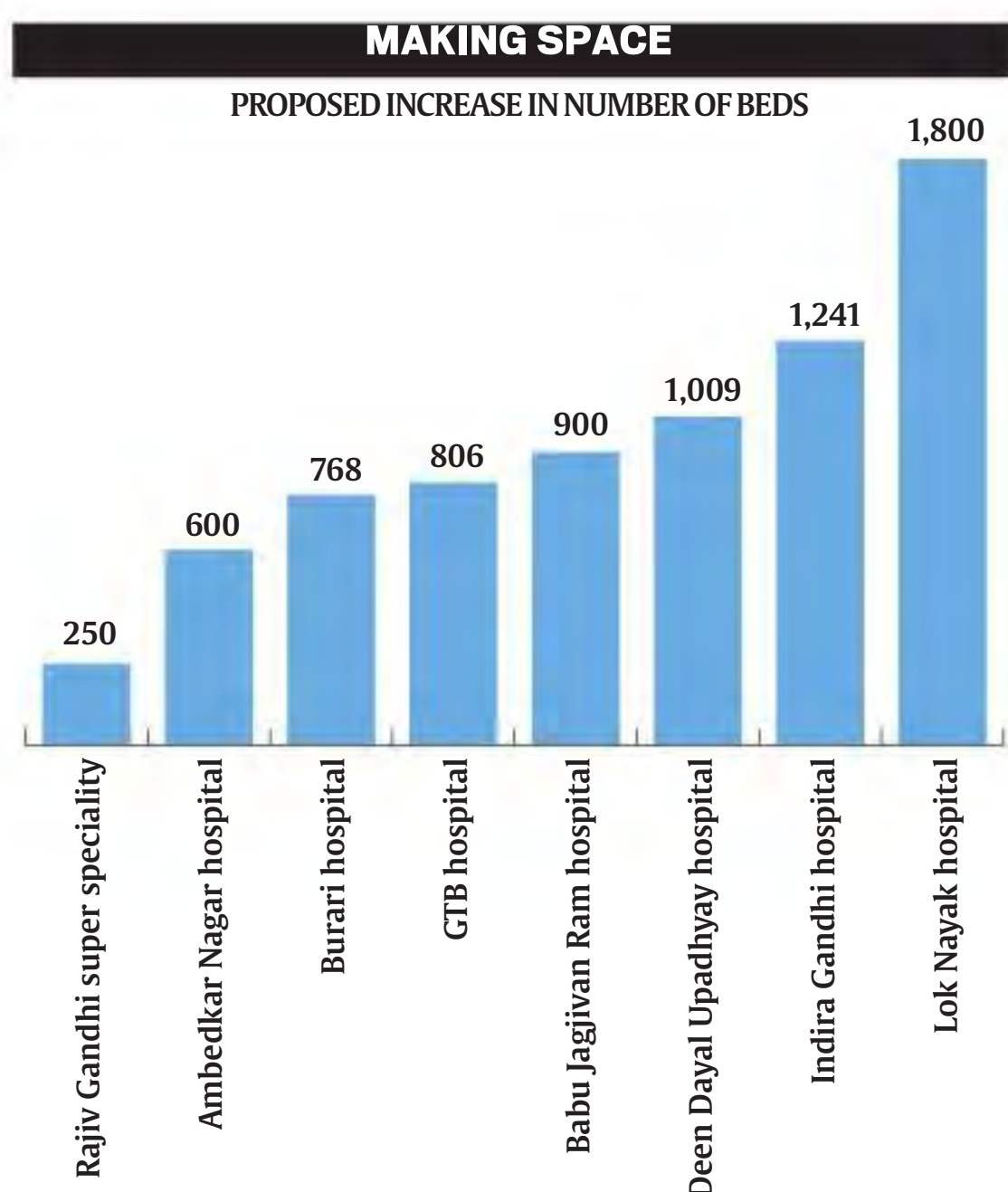
"There is a dire need to start more government hospitals and increase the number of beds. But another factor to look at is the existing set up. Many existing hospitals are still struggling hard to meet the patient's requirements. There aren't enough technicians or doctors. It would have been better if the government focused on improving the old hospitals before constructing the new ones," added another official.

Tough targets

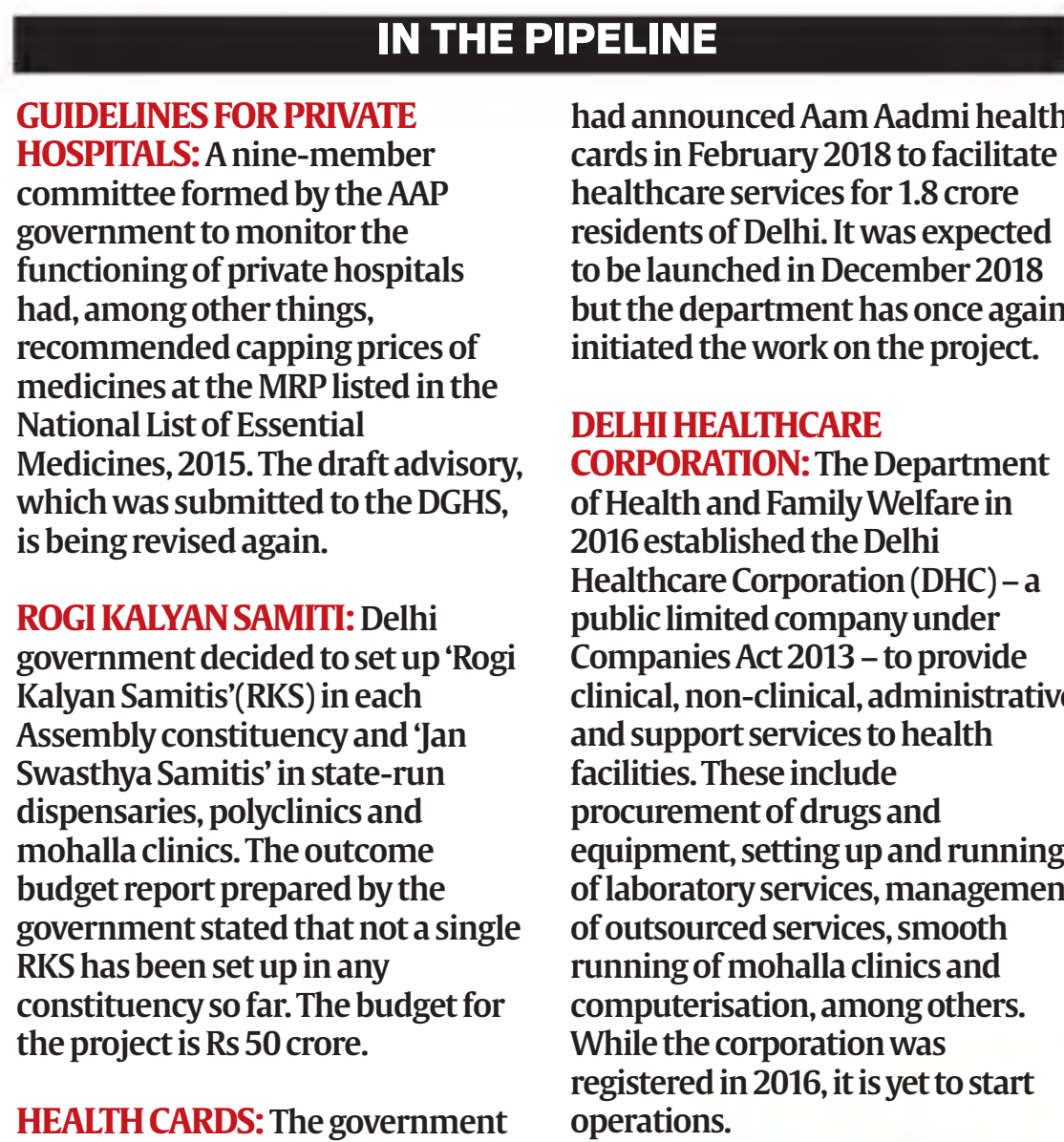
Among this government's most ambitious initiatives to change the face of primary healthcare was setting up of Aam Aadmi Mohalla Clinics (AAMC). The project started in 2015, and by December 2016, a total of 106 clinics had been established across all 11 districts. Three years down the line, the city has 195 such facilities against an initial target of 1,000.

"We are not just doctors but a community of people. We are involved in people's daily lives," said Dr Alka Chaudhary, while examining a seven-year-old girl who has been suffering from high fever at the government's first clinic in Peeragarhi.

The government had, in 2016, announced it would build 1,000 such clinics in Delhi. But the process soon hit a roadblock after civic agencies cited issues such as unavailability of land, blockage of water pipelines and no



The facility at Ambedkar Nagar



SO FAR, SO GOOD

THE AAP GOVERNMENT has provided free medicines to 18,95,715 people against the target of 18,33,860 people in its 26 hospitals. The number of patients in the In-Patient Department (IPD) per month in the government hospitals and those availing X-ray facilities have also gone up. While the services at government hospitals have improved, the eight autonomous institutes are yet to pick up the pace. In most of the cases, the government has addressed the patients' complaints pertaining to various hospitals within 15 days.

AS MANY AS 1,116 patients have benefitted from the 'Quality Healthcare for All' scheme, which offers free surgeries to patients in 48 empanelled private hospitals. The scheme was launched in March 2017 and has borne around Rs 7 crore in the last two years as treatment cost for the patients.

TO REACH PATIENTS living in congested areas and JJ clusters in East Delhi (East, North East and Shahdara), Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Health Minister Satyendar Jain

The under-construction government hospital in Burari

had launched a fleet of 16 bike ambulances in Delhi. The project, which cost Rs 40 lakh, was approved by the Cabinet last year. Fitted with a portable oxygen cylinder, first aid kit, dressing materials, air-splints, GPS and a communication device, these ambulances will be monitored for a year.

THE GOVERNMENT has also tied up with private centres to provide high-end diagnostics, such as MRI and PET-CT, that are not available at government hospitals. An outlay of Rs 49 crore has been proposed by the government on these schemes in the current budget 2019-2020.

power supply. Left with little options, the government has now reached out to the general public with a request to provide rented accommodation to set up the clinics. The rent, officials said, will be up to Rs 20,000 a month.

"We have received around 650 applications from different areas. We tried getting the land from agencies but it was an uphill task. The work on shortlisting the location has begun. The rented areas will not require much renovation work so the facilities will start immediately," said Shaleen Mitra, officer on special duty to the Delhi Health Minister.

An outcome budget report, though, prepared by the government stated that the number of people visiting these clinics has reduced drastically. In its previous year's budget report, the government had said around 80 lakh people availed services in 164 mohalla clinics. However, the number came down to 40 lakhs this year, as per the current budget report.

'Administrative delays'

Talking to *The Indian Express* in January, Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain had said that important health schemes proposed by the AAP government in the last few years have not been able to see the light of day due to the administrative delays. The schemes, such as setting up guidelines for regulation of private hospitals, introduction of health cards for Delhi residents, and establishing a Delhi Healthcare Corporation, are yet to take off.

Jain had attributed the delays to the bureaucracy, claiming that files are lying pending with officers. "Whatever initiative we take, it is objected to by some officer at every level. There are many projects which were proposed in 2016 and they are not yet approved by the Lieutenant-Governor. The files are directed from one department to another, hence pushing the proposal backward," Jain had claimed.

For instance, in October last year, Jain had proposed to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal restructuring and taking over the council of six superspeciality autonomous hospitals — Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS), the Delhi State Cancer Institute, the Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital, Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences, Chacha Nehru Bal Chikitsalaya, and Janakpuri Super Speciality Hospital.

While the CM had approved the proposal, the decision has not been implemented so far. "The Cabinet has approved the restructuring of three hospitals but files are stuck with the officers," claimed a senior Delhi government official.

But officers say issues such as multiplicity of agencies and the sheer number of projects to be executed are also reasons for delay. Senior officers working closely with the government on various projects claimed while a project is envisaged with a positive vision, the due course followed to implement the scheme is not taken into consideration at times.

"None of the projects announced over the last few years have been withdrawn, only the deadlines have been extended. And the onus of not meeting the deadline is not with a single department or an officer. The involvement of multiple agencies is one of the major reasons behind the failure. But, before announcing multiple projects, the government should focus on completing the previous one," said a senior officer from the department of health.

Another senior health official added: "The responsibility of projects is frequently transferred from one officer to another. In many cases, the scheme is about to take off but the officer heading the project is changed and the department has to start everything from scratch. This leads to unnecessary delays."



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



DRESS CODE

AHEAD OF Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's five-day visit to Japan and Korea, which began on Sunday, there was an intense discussion among his personal staff over his sartorial choice during the official tour. In his new role, Singh will have to travel abroad more than what he did as Home Minister — he has already visited Mozambique in July. Singh had earlier decided to stick to traditional dress — dhoti and kurta — even for defence functions. But some suggested that he should try more formal dress during his foreign tours. However, Singh has insisted that he would wear his usual traditional attire if weather permits. So, he will be seen in dhoti-kurta and jacket during his visit to Japan and Korea too.

NOTHING NEW

WHEN PRIYANKA Gandhi Vadra, the AICC general secretary in charge of eastern Uttar Pradesh, called some Congress leaders from the state to discuss the party's "future" in the state the other day, among those who attended were Ram Lal Rahi, who was an MP last in 1991. He was a minister of state in the P V Narasimha Rao government. And then there was 87-year-old Mohsina Kidwai. And one gets to hear that most of the suggestions by the leaders too were tried, tested and failed, like divide the party organisation into multiple zones, empower district presidents, trim the committees, appoint leaders who are accessible to workers and strengthen block and booth committees.

EXIT TIME

WITH ASSEMBLY elections in Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Haryana round the corner, many of the Congress leaders are now wondering who all will exit the party and join the BJP. The buzz is that as many as four Jharkhand Congress MLAs are in touch with the BJP. One gets to hear that a former Jharkhand Congress president too could be on his way out. There is also speculation surrounding a big leader from Uttar Pradesh, who is also a permanent resident of Mumbai.

NO ROOM

NATIONAL INSTITUTE of Technology in Srinagar was closed on August 4, just before scrapping of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, on the state administration's advice. There is no intimation of when the institute will reopen. Apparently, the HRD Ministry, in wake of this uncertainty, had briefly considered sending the outstation students of NIT Srinagar to other NITs. However, the idea was dropped immediately once the ministry realised that there is no room for such adjustment since all centrally-run institutes have had to admit more students this year to accommodate the 10 per cent quota for EWS.

‘Poaching is when you go after somebody... everybody in Cong, NCP wants to join BJP’

IN AN interview to **SHUBHANGI KHAPRE** and **NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN**, Maharashtra Chief Minister **DEVENDRA FADNAVIS** talks about the upcoming Assembly polls, the induction of Congress and NCP leaders and why he is sure of another term in office. Excerpts:

Do sections of the BJP in Delhi want the party to go it alone in the 2019 Assembly polls?
What I know is that at the top in Delhi and Maharashtra, there is no confusion. We will fight in alliance [with Shiv Sena] and very soon the details will be made public.

If you are so confident about winning, why does the BJP need Shiv Sena?
The BJP's alliance with Shiv Sena is not a need-based alliance. It is a broad-based alliance based on common ideology. We fought together in the Lok Sabha elections and we have decided to continue the alliance in the Vidhan Sabha elections. In 2014, for very few seats, we broke our alliance. But [neither of us] was happy. But we have understood, we have learnt a lot that we should stay together. In alliances, sometimes you gain, sometimes you have to sacrifice something.

Will you sacrifice the Chief Ministership?
The talk about the Chief Minister's position is by unauthorised people. What has been agreed is known to me, Amitbhai and Uddhavji. At an appropriate

time, you will also come to know about that. I have already said in Vidhan Sabha that I am coming back as Chief Minister. There should be no doubt.
It will be from the BJP and it's you?
It is clear. I must say that in a democracy, we should leave it to people. So if we have done a good job, which I think we have, people will elect us again. The BJP parliamentary board under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is empowered to choose the Chief Minister. However, the political situation is such that they will choose me.

If the BJP is so confident, why do you need to poach from the Congress and NCP?
First of all, it is not poaching. Poaching is when you go after somebody. We don't go after them. They are coming to us. As of now, as I have understood, everybody and anybody in the Congress and the NCP wants to join the BJP. People have understood that under the leadership of Modi ji, this party is a futuristic party, this government will lead the country to a bright future. In Marathi we say *vinasha kale viprit buddhi*. Let me tell you that the Congress's stand or the NCP's stand on Article 370 is such that now even the ordinary *karyakarta* does not want to remain with them.
What about the charges of dirty tricks, that you are using pressure tactics against Opposition members who do



Prashant Nadkar



not wish to join?
I have announced that people against whom the ED or any other inquiry is going on, I will not allow them in the BJP. All the four people we inducted have no case registered against them. There is no inquiry against them.

The BJP government is accused of misusing investigating agencies and intimidating political rivals?
It's an absolutely baseless (accusation). There is no political vendetta. All the decisions are directives from courts. Take the case of NCP's Ajit Pawar, the High Court issued the order last week

in the Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank case. Same was the case against Pawar in the irrigation scam in past.
In your public rallies, you invoke Prime Minister Modi a lot. But isn't it your own leadership that matters in a state election?
Prime Minister Narendra Modi is our leader and we take pride in mentioning about his achievements. And why shouldn't we? Moreover, how can one segregate welfare schemes which are jointly by the Centre and the state. Take the example of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. The Prime Minister announced PMAY. Maharashtra is at number two in PMAY. Why shouldn't we take credit? Same is with all other schemes. In all the schemes announced by Prime Minister, we are either at No 1 or No 2.

Another issue that you mention is Kashmir? Do you think that has place in a state election? Do you think people care about this in a state election?
Yes they do. And why shouldn't they? Kashmir is an integral part of India. Every Indian used to feel that Kashmir should be totally integrated with the country. The largest applause I get is when I mention Article 370. A person may not go to Kashmir. But every person feels that Kashmir should be an integral part of the country.
So is Kashmir going to be a big platform for you in this

State of economy deeply worrying: Manmohan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 1
FORMER PRIME Minister Manmohan Singh Sunday said the "state of the economy today is deeply worrying", and blamed "all-round mismanagement" by the Narendra Modi government for the slowdown in growth.

fast rate, but all-round mismanagement by the Modi government has resulted in this slowdown," he said.
Public comments from the former Prime Minister are rare. Back in 2016, Singh had famously described the withdrawal of high denomination notes as "monumental mismanagement", "organised loot", and "legalised plunder" of the common people. He had warned that national income could decline "by about 2 percentage points" as a result of the demonetisation exercise.
"It is particularly distressing that the manufacturing sector's growth is tottering at 0.6%," he said. "This makes it very clear that our economy has not yet re-



Former PM blamed 'all-round mismanagement'

covered from the man-made blunders of demonetisation and a hastily implemented GST."
Domestic demand, Singh said, "is depressed and consumption growth is at an 18-month low. Nominal GDP

growth is at a 15 year low. There is a gaping hole in tax revenues. Tax buoyancy remains elusive as businessmen, small and big, are hounded and tax terrorism continues unabated. Investor sentiments are in doldrums.
"These", Singh said, "are not the foundations for economic recovery."
Criticising the government for its failure on the employment front, Singh said: "More than 3.5 lakh jobs have been lost in the automobile sector alone (and) there will similarly be large scale job losses in the informal sector, hurting our most vulnerable workers." The government's policies, he said, were resulting in massive jobless growth.

EXPLAINED

E.

Why Singh's voice matters

BY FIELDING the former finance minister who is credited with scripting India's economic liberalisation programme, the Congress hopes to amplify its argument that the economy is sliding under Modi's watch.



Home Minister Amit Shah

MAHARASHTRA

Fadnavis will be CM for second term: Shah

SHUBHANGI KHAPRE
SOLAPUR, SEPTEMBER 1

UNION HOME Minister and BJP president Amit Shah on Sunday said that Devendra Fadnavis will continue as Chief Minister for a second term and lead the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance into the Assembly elections.
Shah was addressing people in Solapur during the concluding leg of the second phase of Mahajanadesh Yatra undertaken by Fadnavis. Putting all speculation at rest, Shah said, "Devendra Fadnavis deserves another term to take the development work ahead..."
Shah appealed to people to pledge their support to Fadnavis. "In the 2014 elections, it was Narendra Modi in Delhi and Devendra Fadnavis in Maharashtra. In the 2019 elections, Modi has become Prime Minister at the Centre and Fadnavis will continue as Chief Minister in Maharashtra. The Modi-Fadnavis jodi has taken the Centre and state on the path of development and inclusive politics."
"The people of Maharashtra should ask NCP president Sharad Pawar to explain their party's stand on scrapping of Article 370 and Article 35A," he added.
Maharashtra will be the first state to go to the polls after the Centre's decision to scrap the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.
In an attack on the Congress and the NCP, Shah said, "If the BJP were to open its doors wide, everybody from the Opposition will rush to join us. Former chief minister Prithviraj Chavan and NCP president Sharad Pawar will be the only ones left in Congress and NCP."

REENIVAS JANYALA
KAKINADA, SEPTEMBER 1

THE HILLOCKS of Rampachodavaram are covered with dense forests, with many of the tribal hamlets here largely inaccessible. Part of Andhra Pradesh's East Godavari, one of five in the state that are on the list of districts affected by Left-Wing Extremism, there is very little presence of the State in these parts.
The villages here are spread out and there was earlier almost no way a government official could communicate with a tribal living in hamlets in these parts, especially if someone was sick or in the case of any other emergency.
That's when Kartikeya Misra, who was then District Magistrate of East Godavari, decided to use Google's X FSO or Free Space Optical Communications technology to reach out to the villagers. The experiment, which connected the remote villages with the district collectorate, changed the lives of the tribals.
Using the Andhra Pradesh State Fibernet Limited's fibre grid network laid up to Rampachodavaram town, FSO transmits signals to seven villages



located in the hills, enabling them to use facilities such as mobile connectivity, internet and wireless landline connectivity. FSO uses light to transmit high-speed data between two points.
On August 21, Misra was among 15 district magistrates to be honoured with The Indian Express Excellence in Governance Awards that cele-



Abhinav Saha

East Godavari District Magistrate Kartikeya Misra receives the award from Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari; (right) FSO uses the fibre grid network laid up to Rampachodavaram town to transmit signals to seven villages.



Express



Mob assault fuelled by child-lifting rumours rattles Gaya police

‘After sunset, we avoid venturing into these villages’

SANTOSH SINGH
GAYA, SEPTEMBER 1

IT’S BEEN a week but police in Gaya are still shaken by the assault of four men on suspicion of being child-lifters by residents from a string of villages in the region. The men, all friends, were travelling in a car along with the nine-year-old son of one of them, which triggered rumours that spread within minutes through WhatsApp that they had kidnapped the child, police said.

Such was the mob frenzy that Sunday, say police, that they refused to believe the child’s claim that he was with his father. Police officers say that now, even they are scared of stepping out in the dark after several colleagues were mistaken for child-lifters in other incidents.

“Such is the superstition in these areas that even we were mistaken for child-lifters. After sunset, we avoid venturing into these villages unless there is a serious law and order problem. Social media, especially WhatsApp, spreads child-lifting rumours fast, and illiteracy perpetrates this. We wonder how these rumours, which started in Patna in July, reached here so fast,” said Vikas Chandra Yadav, in-charge, Tankuppa police station.

The Indian Express spoke to police officers and eyewitnesses, and accessed case files, to piece together the sequence of events last Sunday. What emerged was a terrifying narrative — a frantic chase, an accident, a near lynching — that was further complicated by allegations that the four men were returning from an illegal hunting trip.

Around 3 pm that day, Mohammed Qaisar, Liyaqat Ali, Saif Ahmad and Waliur Rahman left their homes in the Civil Lines area of Gaya town to meet a common acquaintance at Saidpur village under Tankuppa police station, 20 km away. Rahman took his son along, too.

When they found that the acquaintance was not at home, they moved to the Maher jungles under the Gurpa forest division — near Nawagarh and Mokari villages about 5 km from the Fatehpur-Gaya state highway — and shot four birds from a protected dove species.



The damaged car at Tankuppa police station in Gaya district. Santosh Singh

It was around 6.45 pm, and by then, the residents of these villages had come to know that “some strangers” had entered the forests. They tried to stop and question Qaisar and his friends, who did not stop and instead sped towards the state highway. Soon, more people from the other adjoining villages of Maher, Mohammedpur and Nawagarh started chasing their vehicle.

Around 7.30 pm, the car entered the Fatehpur-Gaya highway, but only after it was battered by stones and wooden sticks hurled by the mob shouting “baccha chor (child thieves)”. Still chased by the mob, many on motorbikes, the car lost balance, swerved to the side, hit a tree and a cement pole.

“There were about 150-175 people, some of them drunk. When the child cried for his father after seeing him being hit on the head, one person from the crowd said, “After lifting a child, they have hypnotised him to say ‘papa,’” said Janki Prasad, sarpanch, Aropur.

Meanwhile, a shopkeeper from Maher recognised Qaisar and called police, who arrived by 7.45 pm. “They struggled to save the five and took them to a Gaya hospital from where they left for Ranchi and Patna,” said Kanhai Paswan, mukhiya, Arodihi.

Investigating Officer Dinesh Mandal said the doctors have not yet given permission for Qaisar to talk and walk. Mandal also said that 19 persons have been arrested. They include Sanjay Yadav, Arvind Manjhi and

Ganesh Choudhary, all below 40 years and daily wagers with no criminal record.

The FIR based on Qaisar’s complaint does not mention the bird-hunting incident. But the Forest Department has lodged a separate FIR against the four under the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and seized a rifle and two airguns. Officials said the four could be arrested after they recover.

In Patna, meanwhile, senior police officers say the latest rumours gathered momentum after the first such attack was reported from Rohtas in July. Since then, there have been three attacks in Patna, leading to the death of a man in one case.

Police say the rumours have since spread to areas in and around Gaya where two cases have been lodged, including the attack in Tankuppa. Another attack was reported from nearby Sherghat last week.

Early last month, Bihar DGP Gupteshwar Pandey called a meeting of senior officers, and took to Facebook Live, to allay such rumours — not a single allegation of child-lifting turned out to be true. “We have stressed on community policing. We are spreading awareness through loudspeakers and meetings with people,” Pandey said.

In Tankuppa, there is a message posted on the iron gate of the station, inside an MGNREGA office building without any fencing and toilets, asking the public to alert police about possible cases of mob lynching.

Jitin Prasada calls for law on population control

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 1

DAYS AFTER Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day speech flagged the dangers of population explosion, Congress leader Jitin Prasada on Sunday called for a law aimed at “stricter” population control and said that population growth is hurting the economy and posing huge challenges.

Prasada, a former Union minister and special invitee to the Congress Working Committee,

told The Indian Express that the time has come for a “wider public debate” on the issue of population control as unchecked growth in population is posing insurmountable challenges. “People are feeling the squeeze at every avenue of their life,” he said.

“Population explosion requires urgent attention. The time has come,” he said. “Job opportunities are going down, our cities are already feeling the pressure of traffic congestion and pollution... drinking water is a huge problem in every village... all these are associated with



population growth,” he said. The Congress leader said the government should bring a law to put in place stricter population control measures. “There has to be stricter norms... a wider public debate has to be there... awareness should be created, people should be brought on board... it

should be top priority...” he said. Prasada said he will travel to every district in Uttar Pradesh soon to take the issue to the people and put pressure on the government. “I believe it was the Congress agenda which the Prime Minister has taken... we were the first to talk about population control...” he said. While the Congress was silent on Prasada’s remarks, sources said a section of the Congress leaders believe the Prime Minister’s remarks was an indication of the government’s intention to enact some kind of

legislation to control population. “The issue will have resonance among the masses... population control is originally a Congress idea. We cannot let the BJP walk away with it...” a leader said. The Sangh Parivar has often spoken about “demographic imbalance” in the country and pitched for a national population policy which should be applied uniformly to all sections of society. Rakesh Sinha, a nominated MP aligned with the BJP, had earlier introduced a private member’s Bill in the Rajya Sabha seeking to enforce a two-child norm

CANCELLATION / SHORT TERMINATION / DIVERSION / REGULATION / RESCHEDULING AND CHANGE OF STOPPAGE OF TRAINS DUE TO NON-INTERLOCKING WORK AT BALLABH GARH STATION

In order to further strengthen the infrastructure, Northern Railway will undertake the Non-Interlocking work at Ballabh Garh Station in connection with 4th line between Tughlakabad - Palwal Section. To execute this work, Northern Railway will take appropriate traffic blocks up to 11.09.2019. Consequently, The following trains will temporarily be affected on the dates shown against each:-

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS		
Train No. & Train Name	Date(s) of Cancellation (from originating station)	
14211 Agra Cantt - New Delhi Intercity Exp.	06 to 08.09.2019	
14212 New Delhi - Agra Cantt Intercity Exp.	05 to 07.09.2019	
14317 Indore Jn. - Dehradun Express	07 & 08.09.2019	
14318 Dehradun - Indore Jn. Express	06 & 07.09.2019	
12191 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Jabalpur Superfast Express	03.05.06.07 & 08.09.2019	
12192 Jabalpur - Hazrat Nizamuddin Superfast Express	02.04.05.06 & 07.09.19	
12189 Jabalpur - Hazrat Nizamuddin Mahakaushal Express	02.04.05.06 & 07.09.19	
12190 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Jabalpur Mahakaushal Express	03.05.06.07 & 08.09.2019	
19023 Mumbai Central - Firozpur Cantt. Jn. Janta Express	02.04.05.06 & 07.09.19	
19024 Firozpur Cantt. Jn. - Mumbai Central Janta Express	04.06.07.08 & 09.09.19	
12059 Kota Jn. - Hazrat Nizamuddin Jan Shatabdi Express	03.05.06.07 & 08.09.19	
12060 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Kota Jn. Jan Shatabdi Express	03.05.06.07 & 08.09.19	
22457 Hazur Sahib Nanded-Nangal Dam Una Himachal Exp.	on 07.09.2019	
22458 Nangal Dam-Hazur Sahib Nanded Una Himachal Exp.	on 05.09.2019	
22125 Nagpur - Amritsar Jn. AC Superfast Express	on 07.09.2019	
22126 Amritsar Jn. - Nagpur AC Express	on 09.09.2019	
22941 Indore Jn. - Jammu Tawi Superfast Express	on 02.09.2019	
22942 Jammu Tawi - Indore Jn. Superfast Express	on 04.09.2019	
12617 Emakulam Jn. - H. Nizamuddin M. Lakshadweep Exp.	03.04 & 06.09.19	
12618 H. Nizamuddin - Emakulam Jn. M. Lakshadweep Exp.	04.06.07 & 09.09.19	
12648 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Coimbatore Jn. Kongu Express	on 04.09.19	
12421 Hazur Sahib Nanded - Amritsar Jn. Superfast Exp.	on 04.09.19	
12422 Amritsar Jn. - Hazur Sahib Nanded Superfast Exp.	on 02.09.19	
12629 Yesvantpur Jn. - H. Nizamuddin Sampark Kranti Exp.	on 03.09.19	
12630 H. Nizamuddin - Yesvantpur Jn. Sampark Kranti Exp.	on 06.09.19	
12907 Bandra Terminus-H. Nizamuddin Sampark Kranti Exp.	on 04.09.19	
12908 H. Nizamuddin-Bandra Terminus Sampark Kranti Exp.	on 05.09.19	
12807 Vishakhapatnam - Hazrat Nizamuddin Samla Express	04 & 05.09.19	
12808 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Vishakhapatnam Samla Express	06 & 07.09.19	
12449 Madgaon - Chandigarh Goa Sampark Kranti Express	on 04.09.19	
12450 Chandigarh - Madgaon Goa Sampark Kranti Express	on 02.09.19	
12643 Thiruvananthapuram Central - H. Nizamuddin Exp.	on 03.09.2019	
12644 H. Nizamuddin - Thiruvananthapuram Central Exp.	on 06.09.2019	
11449 Jabalpur - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Express	on 03.09.2019	
11450 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra - Jabalpur Express	on 04.09.2019	
12409 Raigarh - Hazrat Nizamuddin Gondwana Express	07 & 09.09.2019	
12410 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Raigarh Gondwana Express	05 & 07.09.2019	
12549 Durg Jn. - Jammu Tawi Superfast Express	on 03.09.2019	
12550 Jammu Tawi - Durg Jn. Superfast Express	on 05.09.2019	
12279/12280 Jhansi Jn. - New Delhi - Jhansi Jn. Taj Express	on 08.09.2019	
22415 Visakhapatnam - New Delhi Andhra Pradesh Express	on 06.09.2019	
22416 New Delhi - Visakhapatnam Andhra Pradesh Express	on 08.09.2019	
13007 Howrah Jn.-Shri Ganganagar Udayan Abha Toofan Exp.	on 04 & 05.09.2019	
13008 Shri Ganganagar-Howrah Jn. Udayan Abha Toofan Exp.	on 06 & 07.09.2019	
12485 Hazur Sahib Nanded - Shri Ganganagar Express	on 05.09.2019	
12486 Shri Ganganagar - Hazur Sahib Nanded Express	on 03.09.2019	
12687/22687 Madurai Jn.-Dehradun/Chandigarh Superfast Exp.	on 04.09.2019	
12688/22688 Dehradun/Chandigarh-Madurai Jn Superfast Exp.	on 09.09.2019	
12405 Bhusaval Jn. - Hazrat Nizamuddin Gondwana Express	on 08.09.2019	
12406 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Bhusaval Jn. Gondwana Express	on 06.09.2019	
22705 Tirupati - Jammu Tawi Humsafar Express.	on 03.09.2019	
22706 Jammu Tawi - Tirupati Humsafar Express.	on 06.09.2019	
12823 Durg - Hazrat Nizamuddin Sampark Kranti Express	on 05.09.2019	
12824 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Durg Sampark Kranti Express	on 06.09.2019	
22633 Thiruvananthapuram Central - H. Nizamuddin S. Exp.	on 04.09.2019	
22634 H. Nizamuddin - Thiruvananthapuram Central S. Exp.	on 06.09.2019	
12641 Kanniyakumari - Hazrat Nizamuddin Express.	on 04.09.2019	
12642 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Kanniyakumari Express.	on 07.09.2019	
11901/11902 Mathura Jn.-Kurukshetra Jn. - Mathura Jn. Exp.	on 06.09.2019	
18215 Durg - Jammu Tawi Express	on 04.09.2019	
18216 Jammu Tawi - Durg Express	on 06.09.2019	
22209 Mumbai Central - New Delhi Duronto Express	on 06.09.2019	
22210 New Delhi - Mumbai Central Duronto Express	on 07.09.2019	
11077 Pune Jn. - Jammu Tawi Jhelum Express	on 06.09.2019	
11078 Jammu Tawi - Pune Jn. Jhelum Express	on 08.09.2019	
12917 Ahmedabad Jn.-H. Nizamuddin Sampark Kranti Exp.	on 06.09.2019	
12918 H. Nizamuddin - Ahmedabad Jn. Sampark Kranti Exp.	on 07.09.2019	
12247 Bandra Terminus - Hazrat Nizamuddin YUVA Express	on 06.09.2019	
12248 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Bandra Terminus YUVA Exp.	on 07.09.2019	
12269 Chennai Central - Hazrat Nizamuddin Duronto Exp.	on 06.09.2019	
12270 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Chennai Central Duronto Exp.	on 07.09.2019	
12121 Jabalpur - Hazrat Nizamuddin Sampark Kranti Exp.	on 06.09.2019	
12122 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Jabalpur Sampark Kranti Exp.	on 07.09.2019	
12627 Bengaluru - New Delhi Karnataka Express	on 05.09.2019	
12628 New Delhi - Bengaluru Karnataka Express	on 07.09.2019	
12963 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Udaipur City Mewar Express	on 06 & 07.09.2019	
12964 Udaipur City - Hazrat Nizamuddin - Mewar Express	on 05 & 06.09.2019	
14623 Chhindwara Jn - Delhi Sarai Rohilla Patalkot Express	on 08.09.2019	
14624 Delhi Sarai Rohilla - Chhindwara Jn Patalkot Express	on 07.09.2019	
64012 Shakurbasti - Palwal EMU	02.09.2019 to 08.09.2019	
64013/64014 Palwal - Shakurbasti - Palwal EMU	02.09.2019 to 08.09.2019	
64052 Ghaziabad - Palwal EMU	02.09.2019 to 08.09.2019	
64015 Shakurbasti - Palwal - Shakurbasti EMU	02.09.2019 to 08.09.2019	
64017 Palwal - Shakurbasti EMU	02.09.2019 to 08.09.2019	
64493/64494 Palwal - Hazrat Nizamuddin - Palwal EMU	05.09.2019 to 08.09.2019	
64011 Palwal - Shakurbasti EMU	02.09.2019 to 08.09.2019	
64051 Palwal - Ghaziabad EMU	02.09.2019 to 08.09.2019	
64167/64168 Palwal - Tundia Jn. - Palwal EMU	02.09.2019 to 08.09.2019	
64906 Ghaziabad - Palwal EMU	06.09.2019 to 08.09.2019	
64053 Palwal - Ghaziabad EMU	06.09.2019 to 08.09.2019	
64084 New Delhi - Palwal EMU	02.09.2019 to 08.09.2019	
64910 Mathura Jn. - New Delhi EMU	02.09.2019 to 08.09.2019	
64080 New Delhi - Palwal EMU	02.09.2019 to 08.09.2019	
64427 Ghaziabad - New Delhi EMU	02.09.2019 to 08.09.2019	
64903/64904 Mathura Jn - Ghaziabad - Mathura Jn EMU	06.09.2019 to 08.09.2019	
64908 Shakurbasti - Ballabgarh MEMU	02.09.2019 to 08.09.2019	
64075/64076 Palwal - New Delhi - Palwal EMU	02.09.2019 to 08.09.2019	
64062 Delhi - Palwal EMU	06.09.2019 to 08.09.2019	
64492 New Delhi - Palwal EMU	02.09.2019 to 07.09.2019	
64074 New Delhi - Kosi Kalan EMU	02.09.2019 to 08.09.2019	
64077/64078 Palwal - New Delhi - Palwal EMU	02.09.2019 to 08.09.2019	
51901/51902 Agra Cantt. - Delhi - Agra Cantt. Passenger	02.09.2019 to 08.09.2019	
64569/64570 Kosi Kalan-Hazrat Nizamuddin-Kosi Kalan MEMU	05.09.2019 to 08.09.2019	
64901/64902 Kosi Kalan - Ghaziabad - Kosi Kalan EMU	02.09.2019 to 08.09.2019	
64057 Palwal - Ghaziabad Jn. EMU	02.09.2019 to 08.09.2019	

64064 Delhi - Palwal EMU	02.09.2019 to 08.09.2019
64082 NEW Delhi - Palwal EMU	02.09.2019 to 08.09.2019
64905 Mathura Jn. - New Delhi EMU	02.09.2019 to 08.09.2019
64424 New Delhi - Ghaziabad EMU	02.09.2019 to 08.09.2019
64071 Ballabgarh - Shakurbasti EMU	02.09.2019 to 08.09.2019
64055 Palwal - Ghaziabad EMU	06.09.2019 to 08.09.2019
64491 Palwal - New Delhi EMU	02.09.2019 to 07.09.2019
64061 Palwal - Delhi EMU	02.09.2019 to 08.09.2019
64073 Kosi Kalan - New Delhi EMU	02.09.2019 to 08.09.2019
64019 Palwal - Shakurbasti EMU	02.09.2019 to 08.09.2019
64095 New Delhi - Shakurbasti EMU	02.09.2019 to 08.09.2019
64906 Ghaziabad - Palwal EMU	06.09.2019 to 08.09.2019
64016 Shakurbasti - Palwal EMU	02.09.2019 to 08.09.2019

SHORT TERMINATION/ORIGINATION OF TRAINS		
Train No. & Name	Trains to Short Terminate/ Originate at/from Station	Date of Cancellation (from originating station)
64496 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Agra Cantt. MEMU	from Palwal	02 to 06 & 08.09.2019
64953 Agra Cantt. - Hazrat Nizamuddin MEMU	at Palwal	02 to 07.09.2019

DIVERSION OF TRAINS		
Train No. & Train Name	Diverted Route	Date (from originating station)
12715 H. Sahib Nanded - Amritsar Jn. Sachkhand Exp.	Agra Cantt.-Mitawali-Khurja Jn.-Meerut City -Saharanpur -Ambala Cantt.	02, 04 & 05.09.2019
12431 Thiruvananthapuram Central-H. Nizamuddin Rajdhani Exp.	Mathura Jn.-Alwar Jn. -Rewari - New Delhi-H. Nizamuddin	03 & 06.09.2019
12432 H. Nizamuddin - Thiruvananthapuram Central Express.	H. Nizamuddin-New Delhi - Rewari Jn.-Alwar Jn. - Mathura Jn.	08.09.2019
18477 Puri-Haridwar Jn. Utkal Exp.	Agra Cantt.-Mitawali-Khurja Jn.-Meerut City-Tapri Jn.	03, 04, 05 & 06.09.2019
18478 Haridwar Jn-Puri Utkal Exp.	Meerut City-Khurja Jn.-Mitawali-Agra Cantt.	06, 07, 08.09.2019
22413 Madgaon Jn.-H. Nizamuddin Rajdhani Exp.	Mathura Jn.-Alwar Jn.-Rewari Jn.-New Delhi- H. Nizamuddin	02.09.2019
22414 H. Nizamuddin-Madgaon Jn. Rajdhani Exp.	H. Nizamuddin-New Delhi - Rewari Jn.-Alwar Jn.-Mathura Jn.	06, 07.09.2019
12926/22926 Amritsar Jn. Mumbai Central Paschim Express	New Delhi-Rewari Jn.-Alwar Jn.- Mathura Jn.	06, 07.09.2019
22685 Yesvantpur Jn.-Chandigarh Sampark Kranti Exp.	Agra Cantt.-Mitawali-Khurja Jn.-Meerut City - Saharanpur	04.09.2019
12903 Mumbai Central-Amritsar Jn. Golden Temple Mail	Mathura Jn.-Alwar Jn.-Rewari Jn.- Delhi-Sahibabad	05.09.2019
18237 Gevra Road-Amritsar Jn. Chattisgarh Exp.	Agra Cantt.-Mitawali-Khurja Jn.-Meerut City-Tapri Jn.	05.09.2019
14624 Delhi Sarai Rohilla-Chhindwara Jn. Patalkot Exp.	Patel Nagar-Rewari Jn.-Alwar Jn.-Mathura Jn.	08.09.2019
12442 New Delhi-Bilaspur Jn. Rajdhani Exp.	Chhipyana Buzurg-Khurja Jn.-Mitawali-Agra Cantt.	07.09.2019
12952 New Delhi-Mumbai Central Rajdhani Exp.	New Delhi-Rewari Jn.-Alwar Jn.- Mathura Jn.	07.09.2019
12954 Hazrat Nizamuddin-Mumbai Central August Kranti Rajdhani Exp.	H. Nizamuddin-New Delhi- Rewari Jn.-Alwar Jn.-Mathura Jn.	07.09.2019
18507 Vishakhapatnam - Amritsar Jn. Hirakud Express	Agra Cantt.-Mitawali-Aligarh Jn. -Chhipyana Buzurg	05.09.2019 & 06.09.2019

REGULATION / RESCHEDULING OF TRAINS	
12625 Thiruvananthapuram Central - New Delhi Kerala Express will be regulated by 180 Minutes on 03.09.19, 300 Minutes on 04.09.2019 & 180 Minutes on 06.09.19 from Thiruvananthapuram.	
12626 New Delhi - Thiruvananthapuram Central Kerala Express will be regulated by 90 Minutes on 06.09.2019, 180 Minutes on 07.09.2019 and 360 Minutes on 08.09.2019 from New Delhi	
12485 H Sahib Nanded - Shri Ganganagar Express will be regulated on 02.09.2019.	
12707 Tirupati - Hazrat Nizamuddin AP Sampark Kranti Express will be regulated at Palwal by 30 Minutes on 04.09.2019	
12724 New Delhi - Hyderabad Decan Telangana Express will be regulated by 90 Minutes on 06.09.2019 and 60 Minutes on 07.09.2019	
12616 New Delhi - Chennai Central Grand Trunk Express will be rescheduled by 30 Minutes on 06.09.2019.	
12920 Jammu Tawi - Indore Junction Malwa Express will be regulated by 45 Minutes at Delhi Ambala Section on 06.09.2019	
11077 Pune Jn - Jammu Tawi Jhelum Express will be regulated by 60 Minutes on 05.09.2019	
11078 Jammu Tawi - Pune Jn Jhelum Express will be regulated by 120. Minutes on 05.09.2019 from Jammu Tawi.	
26566 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Thiruvananthapuram Central Express will be regulated by 180 Minutes on 06.09.2019 from Hazrat Nizamuddin	
12137 Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus - Firozpur Cantt Jn Punjab Express will be regulate by 30 Minutes on 05.09.2019	
12484 Amritsar Jn. - Kochuveli Express will be regulated by 30 Minutes at Delhi Ambala Section on 08.09.2019	
12715 H Sahib Nanded - Amritsar Jn Sachkhand Express will be regulated by 180 Minutes on 07.09.2019	
12716 Amritsar Jn - H Sahib Nanded - Sachkhand Express will be regulated by 120 Minutes on 07 & 08.09.2019	
12780 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Vasco Da Gama Goa Express will be regulated by 240 Minutes on 07.09.2019	
16032 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Kairat- Chennai Central Andaman Express will be regulated by 120 Minutes on 06.09.2019	
12952 New Delhi - Mumbai Central Rajdhani Express will be regulated by 30 Minutes on 05.09.2019 from Hazrat Nizamuddin	
22222 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus Rajdhani Express will be regulated by 20 Minutes on 05.09.2019 from Hazrat Nizamuddin	
22182 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Jabalpur Superfast Express will be rescheduled by 100 Minutes on 06 & 07.09.2019 from Hazrat Nizamuddin	



बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम, लिमिटेड
(बिहार सरकार का उपक्रम)

राष्ट्रीय स्पर्धा ई-0-पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचनासं0-31/2019-20

1. विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता:-

मुख्य महाप्रबंधक, बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लिमिटेड, अस्पताल रोड, शास्त्रीनगर, पटना-800023

2. निविदा आमंत्रण की तिथि:-

दिनांक 29.08.2019

3. निविदा कामजात श्राप (डाउनलोड) करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय:-

दिनांक 13.09.2019से 03.10.2019 के 15:00 बजे तक।

4. निविदा जमा (अपलॉड) करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय:-

दिनांक 04.10.2019के 15:00 बजे तक।

5. निविदा विक्री का स्थान:-

वेबसाइट www.eproc.bihar.gov.in पर

6. प्री-बीड मीटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान:-

दिनांक 21.09.2019 को 11:00 बजे पूर्वाह्न मुख्य महाप्रबंधक,बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लिमिटेड, अस्पताल रोड, शास्त्रीनगर, पटना-23

7.निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय:-

(टेकनीकल बीड)

8. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय:-

(फिनल बीड)

9. निविदा वैधता की तिथि:-

120 दिन

10. कार्य का विवरण :-

क्र.सं.	जिला का नाम	कार्य का नाम	परिमाण विवरण की राशि (₹ में)	अग्रघन की राशि (₹ में)	परिमाण विवरण का मूल्य (₹में)	Bid Process -ing Fee	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि (माह में)	उप महाप्रबंधक का नाम
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	मगध	मगध, मगध जिला 8.01 एकड़ खाता नं०-50/05,1128, 47, खसरा नं०-503, 504, 505, 509, 519 में 720 आसन वाले राजकीय अग्निदेव अग्निदेव जाली आवासीय बालक चर्च विद्यालय (co-ed) का तन्मय कार्य (फर्नीचर की आपूर्ति एवं अधिष्ठापन तथा उका भवन का 06 वर्षों के रख-रखाव के साथ)	₹ 33,67,24,476.00	₹ 43,67,500.00	₹ 10,000/-	₹ 17,100/-	18 (अठारह)	मगध
2	जहानाबाद	720 आसन वाले राजकीय अग्निदेव अग्नि जाली आवासीय बालिका 30 विद्यलय अग्निदेव का निर्माण कार्य (फर्नीचर की आपूर्ति एवं अधिष्ठापन तथा उका भवन का 06 वर्षों के रख-रखाव के साथ)	₹ 25,53,77,723.00	₹ 35,54,000.00	₹ 10,000/-	₹ 17,100/-	18 (अठारह)	मगध
3	पटना	Provision of Lift, Meeting Hall, Bajukhana, Canteen, Visitor Area and renovation work at library etc in Haj Bhawan, Patna-2019-20	₹ 2,56,27,327.00	₹ 5,15,000.00	₹ 10,000/-	₹ 5,700/-	06 (छ)	पटना
4	पटना	अध्यापन, पटना में शिक्षा न्यायिक की प्रशिक्षण के लिए निर्माणित बस्ती स्टीड आवासीय भवन का अग्रघन कार्य।	₹ 15,18,81,794.00	₹ 25,19,000.00	₹ 10,000/-	₹ 17,100/-	12 (बारह)	पटना
5	भागलपुर	भागलपुर संघराज्य, भागलपुर में पूर्व निर्मित बस्ती के अधिष्ठापन कार्य (फर्नीचर, सह आर्क गैलरी में विद्यमान करने का कार्य।	₹ 2,01,66,329.00	₹ 4,05,000.00	₹ 10,000/-	₹ 5,700/-	12 (बारह)	भागलपुर
6	सुपौल	50 वीं वर्ष के पर्यवेक्षण कार्य।	₹ 5,06,74,959.00	₹ 10,15,000.00	₹ 10,000/-	₹ 17,100/-	12 (बारह)	सुपौल
7	कटिहार	जिला मुख्यालय के अग्रघन कार्य-निर्माण आना नं०-328, खाता-545, बिहार सरकार की भूमि पर कार्य।	₹ 6,64,03,854.00	₹ 13,30,000.00	₹ 10,000/-	₹ 17,100/-	12 (बारह)	कटिहार
8	गाम्भार	भवन-रख-रखावका कार्य का निर्माण कार्य।	₹ 3,86,20,289.00	₹ 7,80,000.00	₹ 10,000/-	₹ 17,100/-	12 (बारह)	गाम्भार
9	गोपालगंज	टीएनटी कोलेज, गाम्भार के परिसर में 100 आसन वाले राजकीय अग्निदेव अग्निदेव अग्निदेव का निर्माण कार्य (फर्नीचर की आपूर्ति एवं अधिष्ठापन एवं 06 वर्षों के रख-रखाव के साथ)।	₹ 6,86,80,332.00	₹ 13,75,000.00	₹ 10,000/-	₹ 17,700/-	12 (बारह)	गोपालगंज
11	कोई भी संवेदनशील जो केन्द्रीय / राज्य सरकार / सार्वजनिक क्षेत्रों में निवेशित हो अथवा अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय / राष्ट्रीय स्तर के हो, निविदा में भाग ले सकते हैं परन्तु कार्य का लेटर आफ एंक्वायरी के बाद होने के बादमगध निर्माण निगम में सम्मिलित श्रेणी में निवेशन कराना अनिवार्य होगा।							
12	निविदा केवल ई-निविदा पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट (www.eproc.bihar.gov.in) पर विद्यमान किया जाएगा। ई-निविदा प्रक्रिया से सम्बंधित जानकारी 'सहायता कक्ष, प्रथम तल्ला एंटी नं०-एम/22, रोड नं०-25 श्री कृष्ण नगर, बैंक ऑफ इंडिया कम्पाउंड,पटना-800001' पटना सुरक्षा संस्था 9949035686, 0612-2523006 से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट www.prbihar.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।							

मुख्य महाप्रबंधक,
बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लिमिटेड, पटना।

PR. 07112 (Ni Ni) 2019-20 विविदा मेरी अभी पड़ेगी, शादी की सूची नहीं चढ़ेगी।

कार्यालय कार्यकारी अभियंता
सार्वजनिक बांधकाम (आदिवासी) विभाग, चंद्रपुर-४४२४०९
ई-मेल:-eeetribal.chandrapur@gmail.com दूरध्वनी क्र. ०७९७२-२७०८४२

दरपत्रक सूचना क्र. ६/२०१९-२०

कार्यकारी अभियंता, सार्वजनिक बांधकाम (आदिवासी) विभाग, चंद्रपुर (दूरध्वनी क्र. ०७९७२-२७०८४२), E-mail:-eeetribal.chandrapur@gmail.com है खाली नमूद केलेल्या बाबीकरीत (अंदाजपत्रक तयार करण्याकरिता) योग्य नोंदणीकृत मॅन्युफॅक्चर्स/पुरवठादार कडून दर मागवित आहे. पुरवठादाराने/मॅन्युफॅक्चर्सनी खाली नमूद केलेल्या बाबीचे दर (सर्व करासह) त्याचे लेटर हेडवर सही शिक्क्यानिशी मोहरबंद लिफाफ्यात कार्यकारी अभियंता सा.बां (आदिवासी) विभाग, सिव्हिल लाईन, चंद्रपुर-४४२४०९ या पत्त्यावर दि. ०९.०९.२०१९ ला दुपारी ३.०० वाजेपर्यंत पोस्टाद्वारे अथवा हस्तपोच/व्यक्तीश पोहचतील अशा रितीने सादर करावेत.

अ. क्र.	कामाचे नाव	युनिट	शेरा
1.	Providing, supplying & installing Bio Toilet & Bath room as unit 4 seater toilet & 4 Bath room in a unit along with two wash basin at out side of bath room but within the unit. Including stainless steel pan, antiskid SS flooring, 1/2” SS tap, SS twin hook hanger, SS soap case and mirror. Item should be includes erection, transportation, installstion and unit shall be firmly anchor on concrete pedestal of required size with proper arrangement of required size with proper arragement of boi digester tank, tank cover and disposal of sewerag from toilet with soak pit including all neccesary fitting and fix-tures etc complete unit.	one number	

Notes:- 1) Rates should include of all taxes and GST. 2. Transportation & Installation charges should includes in the Rates.

स्वा/-
(गिरीश पाहूणे)
कार्यकारी अभियंता
सार्वजनिक बांधकाम (आदिवासी) विभाग, चंद्रपुर

Mango locks to ones that slice off fingers: GI boost for Dindigul legacy

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, SEPTEMBER 1

S VENKATACHALAM first tried to make a “Dindigul lock” at the age of seven. Fifty-two years later, he is happy that the 200-year-old indigenous product, which gave him a livelihood, has finally taken a big step towards revival.

On Saturday, the lock was granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag, based on an application filed by the Dindigul Lock, Hardware and Steel Furniture Workers Industrial Co-Operative Society.

The metal lock of different varieties — single, double or multiple keys — was once a flourishing business but its production is now confined to a few villages near Dindigul town in southern Tamil Nadu.

“There are some models for which the owners will have to come all the way to Dindigul to get duplicate keys if the originals are lost. Then, there is the ‘killer lock’ model, which is designed in such a way that the person who inserts the wrong key will get his fingers injured or

A lock seller in Dindigul

even chopped off with a sharp knife that pops out. In the past, there were many such unique models.

Even now, some prisons, police stations and railway establishments continue to use our locks because an average product easily lasts for over five decades,” says Venkatachalam.

However, for lock-makers like Venkatachalam and Murugan, the factories that once used to churn out this product have become a memory. “There used to be factories with

over 100 workers in each. Now, each lock-making unit employs hardly a dozen people. Most of the big factories have disappeared over the years. Today, there are about 3,000 people scattered across this region who work in small units,” says Murugan, 49, who started making these locks about 30 years ago.

Among the popular varieties, says Murugan, are the Mango locks in 63mm and 75mm models — they involve a combination of keys to be

EU backs Kashmir solution through bilateral dialogue

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 1

THE EUROPEAN Union on Sunday mentioned that the Kashmir issue needs to be resolved through bilateral discussions between India and Pakistan.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Sunday met European Commission’s Vice-President Federica Mogherini, who is also the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, in Brussels to discuss the situation in Kashmir.

Jaishankar briefed Mogherini on the “state of play and on the security situation”, a statement issued by European Union mentioned. It also stated that the “High Representative reaffirmed the EU’s support to a peaceful solution to the crisis in Kashmir through bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan”.

Mogherini “reiterated the call to avoid an escalation of tensions and stressed the importance of steps to restore the rights and freedoms of the population in Kashmir,” the statement said.

Even as India has been reiterating at all international platforms that revocation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir is an internal matter and does not need any third country’s intervention in its discussions with Pakistan, one of the president hopefuls of the US, Bernie Sanders, said India’s action was “unacceptable”.

He said, “India’s action is unacceptable and the communications blockade must be lifted immediately, and the United States government must speak out boldly in support of international humanitarian law and in sup-

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met European Commission’s Vice-President Federica Mogherini. *Twitter*

port of a UN-backed peaceful resolution that respects the will of the Kashmiri people.”

He added that he was “deeply concerned” about the situation in Kashmir as the “Indian government has revoked Kashmiri autonomy, cracked down on dissent and instituted a communication blackout”.

Sanders also said “the crackdown in the name of security is also denying the Kashmiri people the access to medical care”.

“Even many respected doctors in India have acknowledged that the Indian government-imposed restrictions on travel are threatening the life-saving care that patients need,” he said.

The comments by Sanders came just a few days after US President Donald Trump agreed last week on the sidelines of the G7 summit that Kashmir is a bilateral issue.

Soldier killed in Pak firing

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 1

A SOLDIER was killed on Sunday evening as Pakistani troops resorted to unprovoked mortari shelling and small arms fire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Shahpur Keri area of Poonch district.

Pointing out that the ceasefire violation by Pakistani troops came after a gap of two days, sources said that details, including the identity of the deceased soldier, were awaited. The exchange of fire was continuing till reports last came in.

Defence ministry spokesperson Lt Colonel Devender Anand said, “At about 1 pm, Pakistani troops initiated ceasefire violation by firing of small arms and shelling with mortars in Poonch. Indian Army is retaliating befittingly.”

On Saturday, Army Chief General Bipin Rawat with Northern Army Commander Lt General Ranbir Singh had visited forward areas in Poonch district to take stock of the situation on ground and review operational preparedness of the troops.

During his visit, the Army Chief interacted with the soldiers deployed along the LoC and commended them for unwavering dedication to their duty. He was appreciative of the measures and standard operating procedures institutionalised to ensure a secure environment and mission readiness of the troops. He conveyed his satisfaction on the synergy with civil administration and was appreciative of the people-friendly measures taken by White Knight Corps.

More non-Muslims spying for Pak: Digvijaya

Bhopal: Senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh has claimed that more non-Muslims in the country spy for Pakistan’s ISI as compared to Muslims. “Pakistan ke ISI ke liye jaasusi Muslim kam kar rahe hain, gar Musliman jyada kar rahe hain,” the former Madhya Pradesh chief minister told reporters in Bhopal on Saturday.

The Congress leader made the remarks while alleging that the Bajrang Dal and BJP take money from the ISI. Singh was referring to the recent arrest of few persons from Satna by the Madhya Pradesh ATS in connection with an alleged terror funding syndicate being operated

from Pakistan. Balam Singh, one of those arrested, had previously worked with the Bajrang Dal.

On Sunday, Singh tweeted that he stood by his remarks that members of the Bajrang Dal and BJP’s information technology cell had been arrested by the MP Police for taking money from ISI. “Digvijaya Singh deliberately makes such comments. He and his leader speak the language of Pakistan. He has lost credibility. We don’t need a certificate from Digvijaya Singh because the entire country knows that BJP and RSS are patriotic,” said former CM and senior BJP leader Shivraj Singh Chouhan. **ENS**



UJVN Limited
H.O.: “UJJWAL”, Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808 & Fax: 0135- 2763508
CIN No.U40101UR2001SGC025866

Tender Notice
Office of Executive Engineer (Maint.), Khodri Power Station, Dakpathar (Dehradun), invites tenders for following supply/works:
Tender No. **04/EE(Maint.)/Khodri/2019-20** - Providing manpower for Mechanical Auxiliary and Khodri Central Store.
Tender No. **05/EE(Maint.)/Khodri/2019-20** - Hiring of Non-AC Vehicle for emergency service of Khodri Power Station.
Estimated Cost : ₹ 10,83,960/- and ₹ 4,09,611/-
Earnest Money deposit : ₹ 33,000 and ₹ 17,000/-
Tender Fees : ₹ 1180/- and ₹ 295/-
Date of availability of bid documents : 31-08-2019(17:00 Hrs.) on website
Last date for submission of Tender : 23-09-2019 (upto 16:00 Hrs.).
Date of opening of Tender : 24-09-2019 (11:00 Hrs.)
For further details and downloading of the tender documents kindly visit our Nigam’s website “www.ujvn.com”
Executive Engineer (Maintenance)
Khodri Power Station
१९ से ३१ अगस्त - ३१/०८/२०१९
“Avoid wasteful use of Electricity”

Why bypoll is significant for Cong, BJP

FOR THE Congress, the Dantewada bypoll is an opportunity to show that the government is being perceived well, and is a chance to display that the Lok Sabha election results were only a blip. For the BJP, it is important not to lose the only seat they had among the 12 in Bastar, and a win would re-energise a beleaguered state unit, which only has 14 MLAs in the state’s 90 constituencies.

suage Chhavindra, but he has been told that the last election we lost because of him, and if he rebels again, the future of the entire family may end politically,” a senior Congress leader said.

For the BJP, it was difficult to look past the claim of Ojaswi Mandavi, who has been vocal in the past months about taking her husband’s political legacy forward. “The BJP ground worker wants to honour Bhima by winning this election, and there was a lead in the Lok Sabha despite the attack. It was only right to give the seat to Ojaswi and there was near consensus on this,” a senior BJP leader said.

Not given clear explanation: Kashmir author stopped from flying to Germany

New Delhi: Denied permission to travel to Germany to attend a conference organised by Deutsche Welle, Kashmiri journalist and author Gowhar Geelani said he left Delhi’s IGI Airport at 2 am Sunday and tried checking in at three hotels nearby, but all of them were sold out. He also said he was not given a clear explanation on why he was stopped.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, he said he was stopped at the immigration counter around 9.15 pm and asked to wait in a room by an immigration officer named Abhishek while he spoke to his seniors.

“He appeared after 15-20 minutes and told me: ‘Aap jaante hain aaj kal kaafi diqqat hai Kashmir ko lekar’ (you know these days there are problems in relation to Kashmir)”. I politely asked him what the problem was. He didn’t give any answer and asked me to wait again,” Geelani claimed.

He said the official finally told him he was not allowed to travel and his ticket would be refunded and luggage returned. Asked to explain in writing what the problem was, Geelani claimed the officer refused and said he was following orders. Sources had on Saturday said that Geelani was detained based on a request by the Intelligence Bureau. **ENS**

epaper.indianexpress.com

THIS WORD MEANS

FOETUS IN FOETU

When a ‘twin’ forms inside a human body. What causes it, and how frequently does it happen?

WHEN A 17-year-old girl Indian girl recently went to get a “lump” in her abdomen treated, it was found to be her twin growing inside her. This is a condition called *foetus in foetu* (FIF), or foetus within a foetus. Doctors say this is the first reported case of FIF in an adult woman worldwide, and the eighth such case in an adult in India (the previous cases were in adult men).

In this condition, a malformed parasitic foetus is usually found in the abdominal cavity of the living twin (host). Fewer than 200 cases of this condition have been reported in medical literature and it occurs in about 1 in 5,00,000 live births. While FIF can occur in various age groups, it is most commonly diagnosed in patients younger than 18 months.

In the case of the Indian 17-year-old, her abdomen would often hurt and she would feel full. However, no history of weight loss or altered bowel movements and urinary symptoms were recorded. Her “menstrual habits” too were within the normal limits, according to *BMJ Journals* where her case has been published. When the lump was microscopically examined, it measured 30×16×10 cm and was found to be composed of a “hairy cheesy material, multiple teeth and structures resembling limb buds.”

According to *BMJ Journals*, there are two theories about the origins of FIF. The first is where a parasitic twin’s malformed foetus is formed inside the body of the host twin and both share the blood supply.

The other is that FIF is a “highly differentiated” form of teratoma - tumours made from tissues foreign to the area or part of the body in which they are found.

FIF CASES AMONG ADULTS IN INDIA

YEAR	AGE	SEX
1999	27	Male
2000	16	Male
2001	30	Male
2001	27	Male
2005	39	Male
2007	36	Male
2009	20	Male
2019	17	Female

Source: BMJ Journals

What differentiates a FIF from a tumour is that the lumps in the case of FIF are benign (do not spread to other organs and tissues) in nature, and are of embryological origin.

When was the expression “foetus in foetu” first used? According to the *BMC Journal of Medical Case Reports*, it was first used by Johann Friedrich Meckel the Younger in the late 18th century. In a paper titled “*Fetus in Fetu* and the Retroperitoneal Teratoma” and published in 1960, R H Lewis credits Meckel with the use of the term around the 1800s.

One of the early cases of the condition surfaced in a patient called John Hare, born on May 18, 1807. The abnormality in the baby’s abdomen led him to lose weight rapidly, “until at length he was nearly 36 inch in circumference”, and he eventually died.

MEHR GILL

TIP FOR READING LIST

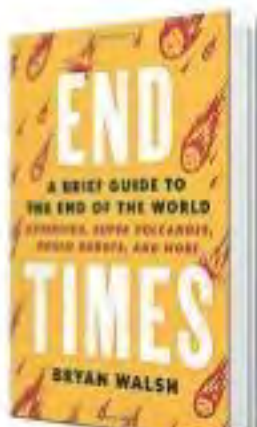
HOW TO BRACE FOR END OF THE WORLD

WHEN THE human species eventually goes extinct, what kind of event will have caused it? US-based science reporter Bryan Walsh looks at a number of possible catastrophic scenarios — volcanic super-eruptions, asteroids, artificial intelligence, climate change, nuclear wars — as well as possible solutions to prevent eventualities.

End Times: A Brief Guide to the End of the World is a study of these possible catastrophes, including interviews of those trying to stop them from happening, such as NASA’s asteroid destroyers and disease prevention agencies around the world. The book also estimates the probability of these disasters occurring, along with the impact they could have. In its review of the book, *Scientific Inquirer* acknowledges Walsh’s “attempt to root out the source of humanity’s denial and ignorance” towards existential risks. “When discussing man-made climate change, *End Times* delves into how economic models such as the ‘social discount rate’ can explain why we ‘privilege the present over the future’.” The interdisciplinary approach Walsh uses to

capture the pervasive effects and influences behind existential risks never attempts to leave his readers behind; rather, Walsh’s accessible language attempts to inform the general reader of the multi-tiered nature of the issues he discusses,” the review says.

Colonisation of other planets has long been the dream of businessmen and science-fiction writers. In his book, Walsh dedicates a chapter to space and details the faith that billionaires Jeff Bezos of Amazon and Elon Musk of Tesla seem to have in space exploration and colonisation as a means for human survival. Both have invested billions in manned spaceflight, an endeavour that even NASA is not contemplating. Walsh himself calls this a “distraction”, and writes, “Space colonization may be our destiny, but it won’t keep us safe — not for the foreseeable future. The energy and money that might be spent on nascent efforts to move off planet would be better used combating existential threats that could end that future — and readying our survival, should the worst occur.”



SHAJI VIKRAMAN

CHENNAI, SEPTEMBER 1

ON FRIDAY, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the government’s decision to merge 10 state-owned banks to create four large entities or lenders. Under the plan, Oriental Bank of Commerce and United Bank of India will be merged with Punjab National Bank; Canara Bank with Syndicate Bank; Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank with Mumbai-based Union Bank of India; and Allahabad Bank with Indian Bank. That will mean a consolidation of banks in India from 27 before 2017, to 12 after the merger goes through. What are the upside and downside of this move?

How does consolidation help?

For years, expert committees starting from the M Narasimham Committee have recommended that India should have fewer but bigger and better-managed banks to ensure optimal use of capital, efficiency of operations, wider reach and greater profitability. The logic is that rather than having several of its own banks competing for the same pie (in terms of deposits or loans) in the same narrow geographies, leading to each one incurring costs, it would make sense to have large-sized banks. This may be true especially in India’s bigger cities and towns. It has also been argued that such an entity will then be able to respond better to emerging market trends or shifts and compete more with private banks. The Finance Minister has said that the proposed big banks would be able to compete globally and improve their operational efficiency once they lower their cost of lending and improve lending. But none of India’s banks including the largest, SBI, figures in the list of the top 50 global banks. So that may be a long way away.

How does it help the government?

For over decades starting from 1992, the government as the biggest shareholder of over 25 banks had to provide capital for them. To grow and lend more, the banks often need a higher amount of capital to set aside also for loans that could go bad. With the government not willing to lower its equity holdings and with a large slice of the cap-

SHAJI VIKRAMAN

CHENNAI, SEPTEMBER 1

POLITICS, IT is said, is the art of the impossible. In the early phase of the UPA government’s first term between 2004 and 2009, the Finance Ministry headed by P Chidambaram was pushing hard for consolidation of state-owned banks. The first such proposed merger was of two Mumbai-based banks — Bank of India and Union Bank of India. The boards of both were to approve the proposal after being nudged by the government. But at the last hour, it was called off after a political call by the Manmohan Singh government, presumably taking into account the fallout of such a move in a coalition that had the support of the Left parties.

The recommendations

When on Friday, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the mega merger of 10 public sector banks into four, she was in effect implementing a plan whose outline was contained in the report of an expert committee submitted nearly three decades ago. It was that report, whose main author, Maidavolu Narasimhan, is a 92-year-old former Governor of RBI, that talked about merging banks.



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during a press conference in Delhi to announce the merger plans. Amit Mehra

ital being set aside to cover for bad loans, which have swelled over the last few years, the burden of infusing capital rests on the majority shareholder. This means marking a large amount of money almost every year during the last few years in the Budget for many banks at a time when there is a huge demand for funds for education, health and other programmes. By reducing the number of banks to a manageable count, the government must be hoping that the demands for such capital infusion will be lower progressively with increased efficiencies and with more well capitalised banks. It will also help that the government can focus now on fewer banks than in the past.

On what rationale were the banks for the new mergers chosen?

The Finance Minister has said the government chose these banks on the basis of ensuring that there is no disruption in banking services and that these banks benefited from higher current and savings accounts (CASA) and greater reach. In the past, the government and the RBI had discussed potential mergers taking into account banks that operated in a particular geographical region or had strengths in such regions. During

Various governments and the Reserve Bank of India have all been guided by the report and recommendations. The committee, appointed by Manmohan Singh when he was Finance Minister and at the peak of the balance-of-payment and economic crisis in 1991-92, had suggested a new banking structure in India besides several other important measures in its two reports. What it envisaged then was a banking system with three or four large banks at the top with a global presence and size, eight to ten national banks which would cater to the needs of local industry and infrastructure, and a bottom tier consisting of a large number of regional or local banks.

The committee also favoured mergers to build the size and strength of operations for each bank. Since then, almost every major committee for financial sector reforms has suggested consolidation of banks or reducing the number of banks owned predominantly by the government. These include the committee appointed by the Planning Commission during the UPA government’s term and headed by Raghuram Rajan, the committee on fuller capital convertibility headed by former RBI Deputy Governor S S Tarapore, the one headed by Percy Mistry, apart from the RBI which laid out a blueprint in a discussion paper

Raghuram Rajan’s tenure as RBI Governor, one proposal discussed was to merge all PSU banks headquartered in the East which were inherently weak. In the currently proposed mergers, this argument may apply mainly to the Bengaluru-based Canara Bank and Syndicate Bank. In the PNB-led merger, Oriental Bank is also a Delhi-based lender, while the strengths of mid-sized banks such as Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank in the South may complement Union Bank that has a stronger presence in the West and elsewhere. For Indian Bank, a conservative bank and one of the few to have reported profits earlier when many other banks were hurting, the high CASA of Allahabad Bank is bound to help. That will imply cheaper source of funds.

What are the potential downsides of such a merger?

Smooth integration of operations always poses a risk, especially with the prospect of resistance from staff and unions in the entities being merged. There are issues like cultural fit, redeployment of staff, and fewer career opportunities for many in a merged entity. Another concern could be deterioration of services and disruption in the near term as

on the way forward for Indian banking.

The rationale of experts for pruning the number of government-owned banks, which was over two dozen, was that with economies of scale, they would be more efficient and profitable. Besides, with pressure on government resources and growing demands to fund social sector programmes, infusing capital for a large number of banks would be a drag for the government, especially with many banks unable to raise the required capital from the markets directly. In May 2013, when Chidambaram returned to the Finance Ministry after a stint in the Home Ministry, said in his annual day address at the Competition Commission of India: “Some PSU banks among the 26 we have may be better off merging. The need for two or three world-size banks in an economy that is poised to become one of the five largest in the world is rather obvious.” In short, it is something on which the government (the largest shareholder in many of these banks), the RBI and experts have been on common ground.

The mergers that followed

There were mergers and amalgamations during that period which involved private banks such as HDFC and ICICI and also Punjab National Bank. But the first big merger subse-

quently was when some of the associate banks of the State Bank of India were merged with the parent bank during the first term of the Modi-led NDA government. Technically, or on paper, that was a decision approved by the boards of SBI and the respective associate banks. It was rather an acquisition. But the last of the relatively bigger mergers like this time around (featuring four new entities and the folding of some banks into a bigger lender) that saw Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank being merged into Bank of Baroda — all publicly listed entities — was announced first by the government.

In its report, the Narasimham committee had made it clear that large banks should merge only with banks of equivalent size and not with weaker banks, which should rather be closed down. That may not be the script being followed in the last few cases, especially when the accompanying steps announced by the government indicated that boards of state-owned banks would be strengthened. Former RBI Governor Y V Reddy had said in a lecture last year that the origin of PSU banking in India was political through an ordinance, its evolution has been political and its future will perhaps be determined by political and economic considerations. Last weekend’s big move by the government reflects that.

What do these mergers signal for the Reserve Bank of India?

The RBI keeps monitoring large institutions whose potential failure can impact other institutions or banks and the financial sector, and which could have a contagion effect and erode confidence in other banks. A case in point is the recent instance of IL&FS Group, which defaulted on repayments hitting many lenders and investors. The creation of more large-sized banks will mean the RBI will have to improve its supervisory and monitoring processes to address increased risks.

What has the global experience on bank mergers been?

It seems mixed with some studies indicating that only 50 per cent have succeeded. Integration and cultural fit have been issues.

Can consolidation alone make a difference to the state of Indian banks?

No. Governance of these banks has been an major issue, which has dragged down many. The government has spelt out some measures to address that while indicating that more steps could be in the offing. Former RBI Governor Y V Reddy, in his D T Lakdawala memorial lecture, had said the idea that consolidation of banks will solve the problem of public sector banks is not correct. According to him, if the problem is structural and of governance, it does not matter whether the banks are large or small.

The legacy of Firoz Shah, 14th-century ruler who built Kotla in Delhi

SOMYA LAKHANI

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 1

DELHI’S FERROZ Shah Kotla stadium is set to be renamed Arun Jaitley Stadium after the former Finance Minister, who passed away last month. The stadium takes its name from a 14th century fortress. What is the legacy of Firoz Shah, who built the fortress?

In his autobiography *Futuh-i-Firozshahi*, Firoz Shah described himself: “Among the many gifts which God bestowed upon me, his humble servant, was a desire to erect public buildings. So, I built many mosques and colleges and monasteries... I was led to repair and rebuild the edifices and structures of former kings and ancient nobles which had fallen into decay with the passage of time.”

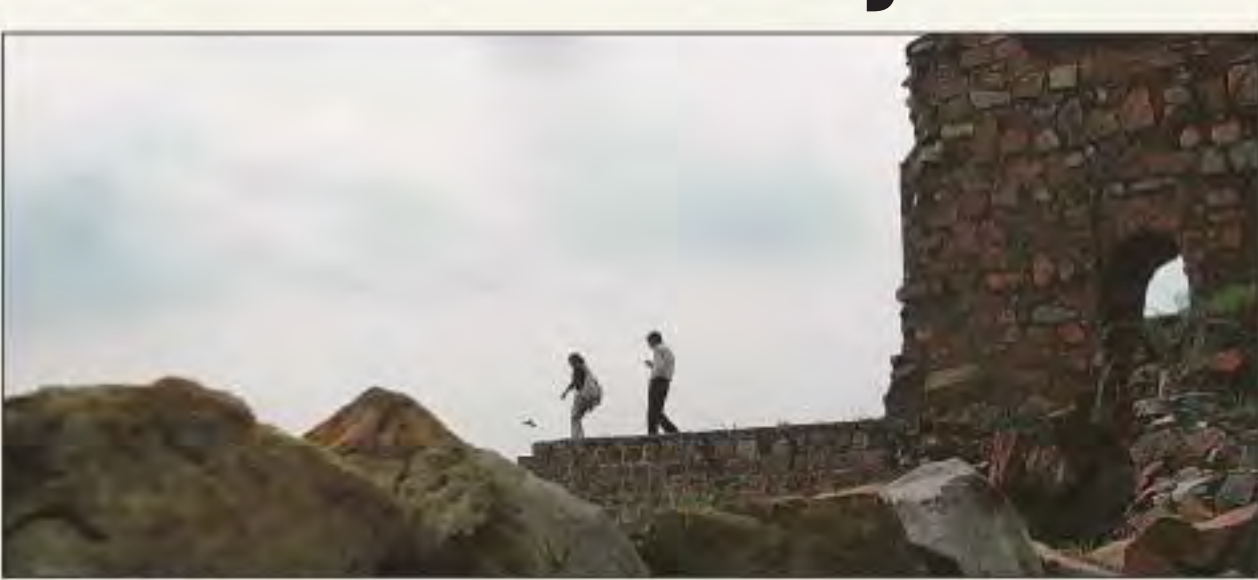
And so, he built Feroz Shah Kotla (*kotla* means fortress), peppered Delhi with gardens, constructed canals, hunting lodges, and repaired Qutub Minar, Hauz Khas (royal tank) and Surajkund (lake of the Sun). In the 21st century, however, Surajkund is mostly known for its annual crafts mela, Hauz Khas for its bars and restaurants, and an auto ride

to Feroz Shah Kotla on Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg usually ends at the stadium next to it.

Shama Mitra Chenoy, associate professor at Delhi University’s Shivaji College said, “Firoz Shah was the first ruler to build a fortress next to river Yamuna. It was quite an urban sprawl.” In Percival Spear’s 1943 book *Delhi: Its Monuments and History*, which has been updated and annotated by historian Narayani Gupta and author Laura Sykes, the latter calls Firoz Shah “a medieval version of a management guru”.

Born to a Hindu princess, Firoz Shah came to power in 1351, and died in 1388. He built Feroz Shah Kotla, the fortress, on the banks of the Yamuna and called it Firozabad. Sykes writes, “According to an old proverb, three things were necessary: *daria, badal, badshah* (river, rainclouds and ruler). The ruler stood ready, the rainclouds could be hoped for, and of course the river was waiting in the shape of the Yamuna: he built the first of the river-based Delhis.”

In fact, Emperor Ashoka’s pillar, erected near Ambala in 250 BC, was transported to Delhi and placed in Firozabad. Spear writes, “He found it when hunting and as he liked old monuments, he transported it to Delhi



The Feroz Shah Kotla fortress. Only the stadium is being renamed. Express Archive

on a great carriage with 42 wheels.”

At the Ridge in north Delhi stands another Ashokan pillar, smaller in size, near Hindu Rao Hospital. It was moved from Meerut to Delhi by Firoz Shah.

Professor Farhat Hasan of Delhi University said that during his reign, Firoz Shah did public construction activity on a massive scale. “Welfare projects — gardens, *serai* (inn), water supply — were his priority.

By improving sources of water supply and irrigation facilities in Delhi and surrounding areas, he helped bring down the price of food grains too. It’s a known fact that Haryana’s irrigation systems go back to his era,” said Hasan.

Professor Chenoy said that Firoz Shah also built Dargah Qadam Sharif, which is located in Delhi’s Sadar Bazar. She said, “Story is that during his reign there was a saint

who went to Medina. People there loved him so much that they gave him a stone with the footprint of the Prophet. That stone is on the grave of the saint’s grandson. His other great contribution is a number of beautiful *shikargah* (hunting lodges) and hydraulic structures.”

In Spear’s book, Sykes writes that Firoz Shah is regarded as the honorary founding president of The Conservation Society of Delhi and that the British called him the ‘father of the irrigation department’ because of the many gardens and canals that he built.

Professor Gupta said that during Firoz Shah’s reign at least 1,200 gardens existed between Mehrauli and Firozabad. “He built hunting lodges in north Delhi’s Ridge area, one in Palam, and a third which came to be called Kushak Mahal, located within the Teen Murti Complex.”

Apart from indulging in building his own structures, Firoz Shah “felt a sense of responsibility” towards old structures that needed repair, among which Qutub Minar, Huaz Khas and Surajkund stand out. Spear writes, “In his reign, an earthquake damaged the two top storeys of Qutub Minar. He repaired the Minar and added a little

pavilion at the top.” In the late 18th century, however, during another round of repair, an engineer called Major Smith replaced it with his own pavilion. Spear writes, “You can see the two storeys which [Firoz Shah] Tughlaq built because they are built of white marble and are quite smooth. The lower three storeys are the ones which Qutubuddin and Iltutmish built, of red sandstone.”

Firoz Shah also repaired Hauz Khas, the royal tank built during Alauddin Khalji’s reign in the late 13th century. Spear notes that Firoz Shah built a madrasa on its banks, and his own tomb is located at the corner of where the college stood. “The college was ruined by Timur’s invasion,” writes Spear. Similar repair work was done at Surajkund.

Professor Hasan said that apart from building new structures and restoring old ones, Firoz Shah was also able to create a “multi-lingual, multi-cultural space by providing patronage to poets, musicians, and various linguistic communities”. He said, “Under his patronage, *premakhyān* which is Sufi poetry written in Awadhi grew. It was a new genre of literature. He built many institutes for musicians and poets too.”



WORDLY WISE
WE KNOW WHAT WE ARE, BUT NOT WHAT
WE MAY BE.
— WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

The IndianEXPRESS

FOUNDED BY
RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

NATION’S ORPHANS

NRC fails to bring closure in Assam. Flaw may lie in the idea, not just the process

THE FINAL NATIONAL Register of Citizens (NRC) for Assam was released on Saturday, but a closure to the citizenship issue in the state remains distant. In fact, the initial response of political parties and civil society groups in Guwahati indicates that the NRC may have opened up new fault-lines. The government has done well to promise legal help to the over 19 lakh people who have been excluded. They have a window of 120 days to appeal before the Foreigners Tribunals, which have been provided additional staff and facilities. The government has also indicated that deportation of the people rendered “stateless” is not on the cards — Minister of Foreign Affairs S Jaishankar recently said in Dhaka that the NRC was India’s internal matter. However, political parties, including and especially the BJP, have alleged that the NRC is flawed and threatened to challenge it in court. For the large number of people who have been living on the edge since the process began in 2015, there is no end in sight to the uncertainty, it seems.

Citizenship and identity have been fraught issues in Assam for decades. The NRC was introduced in 1951 in response to a political demand that arose from the fear of migration, in the backdrop of Partition, causing demographic and cultural upheaval. The subnationalist politics that privileged Assamese identity over other categories, including class, caste and religion, has since shaped the social imaginary in the region, with devastating consequences. It has produced a narrative that plays on the fear of the “outsider” and a politics that borders on xenophobia. It is telling, however, that no party seems to be happy with the outcome of the current exercise. For the All Assam Students Union and the BJP, the exclusions are fewer than expected — the projected number of illegal immigrants in Assam, which has formed the basis of contrived political spectres, has varied from one million to two crore. The BJP also suspects that a substantial number of the affected are Bengali-speaking Hindus, whom it wants recognised as refugees and accorded citizenship. With its proposal to amend the Citizenship Act pending, the party has demanded re-verification of the list in districts bordering Bangladesh, suggesting a communal reading of the NRC.

Instead of blaming the process, political parties need to recognise, perhaps, the flaw that lies in the imagination that produced the NRC. Modern societies are shaped by migration and it may be futile to engage in costly exercises to identify “outsiders”. Despite the fiasco in Assam, BJP leaders are demanding NRCs elsewhere too — for instance, Manoj Tiwari wants one in Delhi. During the 2019 election campaign, BJP President Amit Shah spoke about “ghuspaithiye” and compared illegal migrants to termites. The time has come to steer the conversation away from excluding people, and towards accepting the reality of migration and exploring ways to make it work better for the economy. The idea of citizenship can’t be imprisoned within the framework of blood and soil or religion; it needs a broader, more inclusive definition rooted in the liberal spirit of the Constitution. For now, however, at the end of an elaborate NRC process monitored by the Supreme Court, which has shown unusual alacrity in doing so, the onus is on the court to ensure that human rights are not undermined by short-term political interests.

PEOPLE VS BORIS JOHNSON

British Prime Minister, by trying to circumvent parliament on Brexit, shows disdain for democratic institutions

LAST WEEK, BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson sought to justify the pro-guoging of the UK Parliament for over a month by claiming it is “normal procedure”. It is not. The most that Johnson — a prime minister who was selected by a section of the Conservative Party and who hasn’t faced a general election — can claim is that he has not technically broken the law. In fact, by asking the Queen to suspend the House of Commons till just 10-12 days before the October 31 Brexit deadline, Johnson has shown complete disdain for the British people, the forum in which their representatives make their voice heard, and for Westminster-style democracy itself. Ironically, among the issues that Johnson and other “leavers” had cited as reasons for Britain leaving the European Union three years ago was that the EU curtailed the powers of the country’s parliament and the will of the British people.

Since June 2016, when the people of Britain voted by a slender majority to leave the EU, the country’s political class has been unable to form a consensus on the modalities of the exit. Johnson’s predecessor, Theresa May, resigned after she was unable to convince parliament of her Brexit plan. By all accounts, a no-deal Brexit will be an economic disaster for the UK. Johnson claims he will negotiate a new deal at the EU council in September and secure a parliamentary majority for a withdrawal bill before October 31. Either PM Johnson can magically forge agreement in eight weeks on an issue that vexed his predecessor for two years or, as is far more likely, he is doing his best to circumvent a much-needed debate and the messy compromises it would entail.

Britain does not have a formal, written constitution. But its laws and parliamentary customs have served it well because they are respected across political and ideological divides. In the Westminster model, parliament is not just a procedural necessity. It frames the will of the people, the source of political legitimacy. If Johnson wishes to suggest that the mandate for his version of Brexit is greater than the voice of all the MPs that oppose it, he must call a general election. The Opposition must ask for a vote of confidence in the government. Meanwhile, across the globe, as strongmen claiming a direct understanding of the will of the people undermine institutions that act as a check on executive power, how the first parliamentary system holds its own against this assault will be closely watched.

FREEZE FRAME

E P UNNY



VIKRAM SINGH MEHTA

OVER THE PAST few weeks, there has been much commentary on the economic slow-down. Whether the cause is structural or cyclical; whether the government should inject liquidity or allow the private corporate sector to stew in its woes. This division of views is unsurprising. After all, it is a commonplace barb that three economists in a room will eventually present four different views. What is worrisome is that this division appears to cut across the political and administrative apparatus of the government. The vice chairman of the Niti Aayog has stated that the economy faces an unprecedented liquidity situation: “Not in the past 70 years has the financial sector been in such a churn (where) nobody trusts anybody else.” The Chief Economic Adviser appears somewhat more sanguine: “Some sectors are doing well — the government does not need a fiscal stimulus”. The Minister of Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, has criticised the Niti Aayog for announcing a ban on petrol and diesel vehicles. He said that the Aayog was but a think tank with no executive authority, and that such decisions were for him to take.

This apparent lack of cohesion in economic thinking is worrisome because it makes one wonder whether there is any economic body in the government that has the mandate to look at the big picture — that is, evaluate the consequences of the macro impact of seemingly unrelated sectoral economic decisions — and also has the ear of the political leadership. It is also worrisome because the consequences of lack of cohesion can, in our connected economy, lead to avoidable systemic damage. Let me illustrate this point by drawing on the plight of the auto industry.

Demand for transport vehicles (passenger cars, heavy commercial vehicles, three-wheelers and two-wheelers) has dropped by 12.3 per cent in the first quarter of FY 19/20 over the comparable quarter of the previous year. This is the sharpest decline since 2001. No one can make the claim that this is entirely the result of government policy. There are deeper reasons particular to the structure and dynamics of the industry and every auto company will need to intro-

A forum that facilitates cohesive thinking on economy, also has ears of political leadership, is urgently needed

Our administrative apparatus is vertically structured within siloed compartments. Bureaucrats have a narrow remit and few, if any, have the mandate to take a broad view in order to evaluate the consequences of their decisions on the system as a whole. There is no forum to enable and facilitate interdisciplinary, interdepartmental and collaborative economic decision-making. We do, of course, have the Niti Aayog and the PM’s Economic Advisory Council (although I must admit, I am not clear on the latter’s mandate or role). But the recent exchanges suggest they do not have the executive authority to contextualise sectoral initiatives within the broader sweep of the macro economy.

spect hard on the specifics of the internal changes it must implement to tide over its current market problems. But, equally, no one can argue that the industry has not been impacted by government policy. The decision last year to increase the maximum load carrying capacity of trucks knocked the bottom out of the market for Heavy Commercial Vehicles. Demand for this category has, since that decision, fallen by around 20 per cent. The generalised constriction on retail financing by banks has squeezed dealers out of their working capital and dampened consumer demand. Consumers could, at one time, borrow upto 90 per cent of the cost of a vehicle. Now, they are fortunate to get even 65 per cent. Auto loans, incidentally, account for barely 2.5 per cent of banks’ NPAs. The tightening of safety norms or the fast forwarding of the BSVI emission norms have raised the cost structure and, consequently, prices.

All of these decisions might make sense on a standalone basis. But when considered through the prism of their collective impact, they acquire some rough edges. This is because the auto industry sits at the nub of the manufacturing sector. It accounts for 49 per cent of manufacturing GDP and, according to the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), it supports, directly and indirectly, 37 million jobs. The decline in demand for its products has sent ripples, therefore, across the macro economy. SIAM has estimated that 5-7 per cent of those employed along the Auto Value Chain (original equipment manufacturers, suppliers, vendors) have lost their jobs and that all contract hiring has stopped. It has also estimated that GST collections from the auto sector during the first six months of 2019 are Rs 6,000 crore less than what was received by the finance ministry during the first half of 2018.

I cite these figures not to make a case for relief for the automobile industry — I am a director of Mahindra and Mahindra and doing so might attract the criticism of conflict of interest — but to substantiate the consequences of lack of cohesion in economic management. It is also to make the point that sectoral initiatives must be viewed through the prism of the broader economy.



EKTA MALIK

“BAAT BIGDI HAI iss qadar/ Dil hai toota, toote hain hum/ Tere bin ab na lenge ek bhi dum/ Tujhe kitna chaahein aur hum,” hums Arijit Singh in *Kabir Singh* (2019), as the eponymous character played by Shahid Kapoor comes to terms with his heartbreak — and the end of his “happily-ever-after” dreams with his college girlfriend, Preeti (Kiara Advani).

The film, a huge commercial success, was panned by critics and a section of filmgoers alike for its blatant misogyny. In the 172-minute-long film, heartbreak is used as an excuse for self-sabotaging behaviour, including a suicide attempt. But Hindi film and heartbreak have had a long, symbiotic relationship: Bollywood wields heartbreak as a tool to justify toxic masculinity and generates yet another poster child — whoever is the reigning A-list male star. But where are the women and their heartbreak stories? Aren’t they the other half who suffer when a loving relationship comes apart at the seams? So why don’t we see women crying their hearts out on screen with abandon, or beating up people or drinking themselves silly? Or having a streak of lovers, as their male counterparts in films do?

Women, more often than not, are the perpetrators in a heartbreak. The song in *Kabir Singh* uses the phrase “toote hain hum” — broken — and also evokes the fatality of the that emotion, with “Tere bin ab na lenge

DEVIDAS ISN’T A WOMAN

A man’s heartbreak is celebrated on celluloid, a woman’s loss is hardly depicted



ONE OF
800
MILLION
A VOICE, UNDER 35

Hindi films and heartbreaks have had a long, symbiotic relationship: Bollywood wields heartbreak as a tool to justify toxic masculinity and generates yet another poster child — whoever is the reigning A-list male star. But where are the women and their heartbreak stories?

ek bhi dum/ Tujhe kitna chaahein aur hum”. In the 1975 film *Amanush*, Kishore Kumar sings “Dil aisa kisi ne mera toda/ barbadi ki taraf aisa mora”. The next line blames the heartbreak, and in turn the heartbreaker, for turning a man into beast: “Ek bhale manush ko aamanush banaa ke chora.” In *Mumma Bhai M.B.B.S* (2003), there is a scene which shows a young adult male explain his second suicide attempt: “Kyunki ladki chhod ke gayi”. It results in a song and dance routine with Sanjay Dutt flexing his biceps.

Devdas — novelist Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay’s iconic character, and the films that it has spawned — is a pop-culture phenomenon. He is the patron saint of Bollywood’s heartbroken. Actors K L Saigal, Dilip Kumar, Shah Rukh Khan and Abhay Deol have all seen considerable success in their rendition of the alcoholic-heartbroken lover. We never experience the agony of Paro, separated from her childhood sweetheart: We only see her later as the dutiful daughter-in-law of the household that she married into.

There are some exceptions. Kajol cries in the rain to “Tujhe yaad na meri aayi” in *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai* (1998). Karisma Kapoor dances in an envy-fuelled rage when she sees Madhuri Dixit dancing on “her” stage with “her” man (Shah Rukh Khan) in *Dil To Pagal Hai* (1997). A salwar-kurta wearing

In November 2008, at the height of the global financial crisis, Queen Elizabeth asked an assemblage of economists gathered to celebrate the opening of an extension of the London School of Economics, why none of them had anticipated the crisis. The academics responded by letter in July 2009. They catalogued the macroeconomic, regulatory and behavioural reasons for the crisis but they also wrote that whilst “everyone seemed to be doing their own job properly” and “on its own merit”, there was no one who understood the risks (of what they were doing) to the system as a whole. There was no one who saw the whole picture and who appreciated that “whilst individual risks may rightly have been small”, the collective impact of these risks could well trigger a systemic collapse.

Our administrative apparatus is vertically structured within silo-ed compartments. Bureaucrats have a narrow remit and few, if any, have the mandate to take a broad view in order to evaluate the consequences of their decisions on the system as a whole. There is no forum to enable and facilitate interdisciplinary, interdepartmental and collaborative economic decision-making. We do, of course, have the Niti Aayog and the PM’s Economic Advisory Council (although I must admit, I am not clear on the latter’s mandate or role). But the recent exchanges suggest they do not have the executive authority to contextualise sectoral initiatives within the broader sweep of the macro economy. There is a need to fill this lacuna.

This is certainly not the first call for an administrative overhaul. Many reports have been written on the subject and this article is treading a well-trodden path. But, against the backdrop of the current economic downturn, I am reminded of Rahm Emanuel’s (chief of staff to President Obama in 2009) exhortation to not waste a “serious crisis” and to grab the “opportunity to do what (one) could not do before”. The opportunity now exists to dust off and implement the recommendations that call for a cohesive and integrated platform for economic management.

The writer is chairman & senior fellow, Brookings India

SEPTEMBER 2, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO

JAMSHEDPUR RIOTS THE JANATA PARTY blamed “vested interests,” including some political organisations, for the recurrence of communal trouble in parts of the country. The national executive of the party passed a resolution deploring the outbreak of communal violence in Jamshedpur and elsewhere. The executive felt that “in these disturbances there is the hand of vested interests, including some political organisations, which would like to create a fear psychosis among the minorities with a view to securing their political support”. The party apprehended that as the general elections approach “such forces may become increasingly active.”

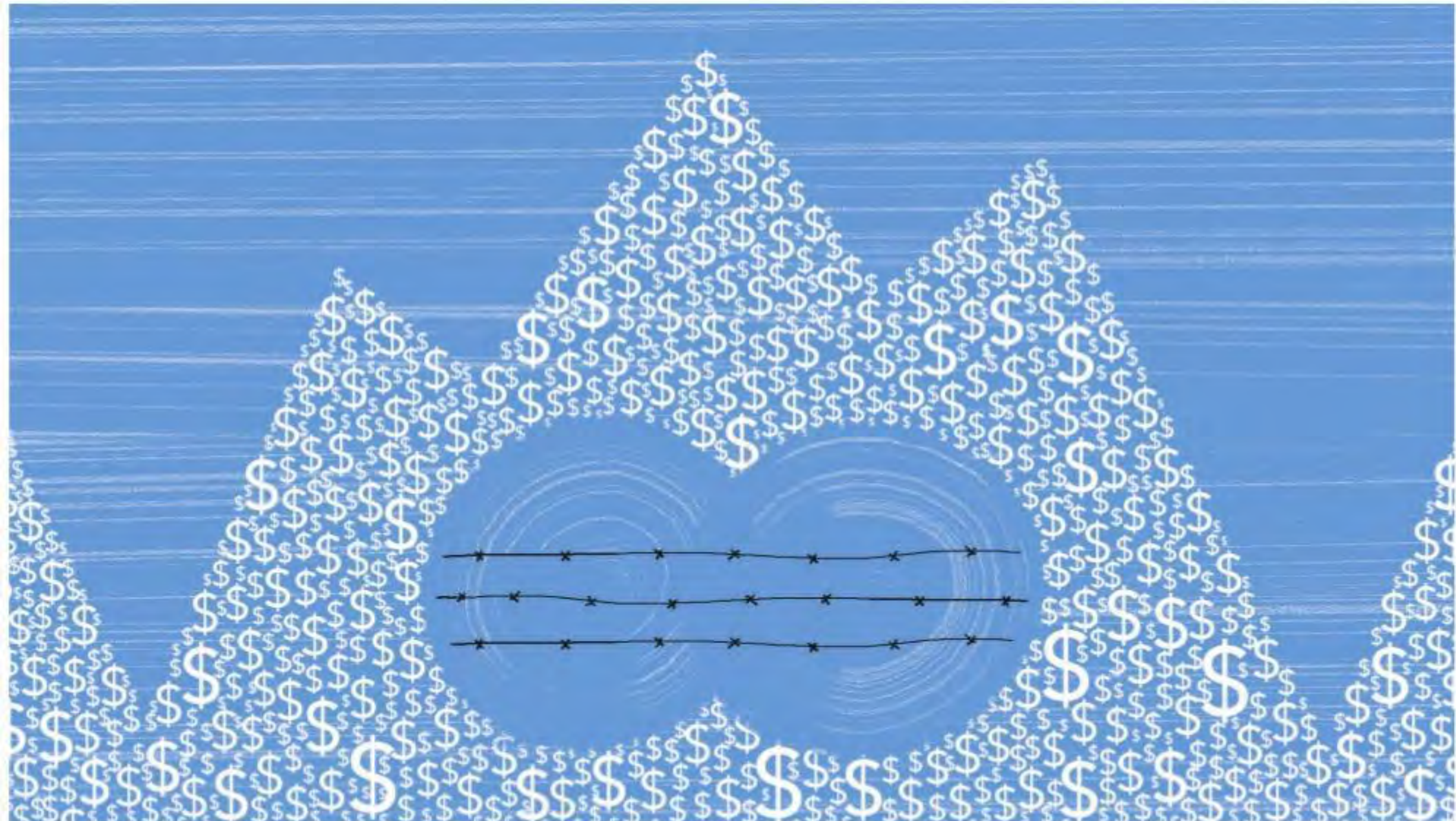
PAYMENT AGREEMENT LEADERS OF VARIOUS workers’ organisations were reported to have agreed to the postponement of the interest payable on compulsory deposits in cash for another year. A finance ministry announcement said that the was meeting convened by the finance minister, H N Bahuguna, with representatives of nine trade union organisations “to contain inflation by restricting money supply in the market”. Leaders of central workers’ organisations were stated to have agreed voluntarily to advise the workers to opt for retention, for one more year, of the amount of interest payable to them in cash as a part of the instalment of compulsory deposits.

NO FREE PASS THE GOLDEN PASS controversy involving the railway minister, T A Pai, and the chief election commissioner, has come at an unfortunate time for the Janata (S) chairman, Raj Narain. Narain will now not get the free travel pass he is reported to have sought from Pai. It is learnt that Narain wrote to the railway minister eeking countrywide free travel facilities for himself. Having already granted Narain’s request for a pass for the Janata (S) leader’s tantrik astrologer, there was little likelihood of Pai refusing Narain a pass. But in view of the considerable embarrassment caused to the involved parties, Pai is unlikely to bestow a similar favour on Narain.

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11 THE IDEAS PAGE



CR Sasikumar

Pakistan's UN fantasy

Global community favours bilateral framework for India-Pak. But Pakistan refuses to see writing on wall



SUJAN R CHINOY

AFTER FAILING TO get the UN Security Council (UNSC) to take formal notice of its antics over Article 370 and the situation in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), Pakistan has yet again attempted to internationalise J&K by writing to the president of the UNSC. It has asked for “doubling the strength of the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) Observers and to persuade India to allow them to patrol on its side of the Line of Control (LoC) as well”. In the letter, Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi further requested the UNSC to consider “all possible avenues available under the UN Charter to fulfil its responsibility of maintaining peace in the region”.

Pakistan knows that India totally rejects third-party involvement. Barring a few aberrant acolytes of Pakistan, the global community, including the US, has openly favoured the bilateral framework to address all the issues between India and Pakistan. Yet, Pakistan clings on to the idea of third-party mediation or a UN role in order to create a false alibi for continuing with the use of terrorism as an instrument to wage a low-intensity war against India. Pakistan has sought UN mediation despite being bound by the principle of bilateralism under the 1972 Simla Agreement.

UN resolutions have proved ineffective in the past in getting Pakistan to withdraw its occupying forces from Jammu and Kashmir, as was required under the UN Resolutions of April 21 and August 13, 1948, which have since been overtaken by the bilateral Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration of 1999.

This has not prevented a desperate

Pakistan from turning its attention to UNMOGIP, another redundant vestige of the past, long overtaken by the bilateral process agreed to under the Simla Agreement. Its genesis can be traced to the UN Commission for India & Pakistan (UNCIP), which was set up through UNSCR 39 on January 20, 1948.

By way of background, UNSCR 47 of April 21, 1948 and the UNCIP Resolution of August 13, 1948, provided the basis for the UNMOGIP's establishment. The ceasefire was bilaterally agreed to by India and Pakistan on January 1, 1949, one day before the UNCIP Military Adviser reached the mission area. The first of the UN military observers arrived there only on January 24, 1949.

As outlined in para 3 of the UNSG's Report S/6651 of September 3, 1965, UNMOGIP's role was very limited, confined to observation of the Cease Fire Line (CFL) and monitoring of violations, if any. The limited mandate was related to the CFL and the Karachi Ceasefire Agreement of July 27, 1949, from which it flowed, both of which ceased to be operative when Pakistan committed aggression against India on December 3, 1971 and declared a state of war against India the following day. The UNMOGIP's mandate lapsed as a result, and did not legally extend to the LoC, a materially different line which came into being on December 17, 1971, following India's unilateral declaration of a ceasefire, later accepted by Pakistan. The Simla Agreement, which superseded all previous agreements and committed both sides to a bilateral framework, delivered the coup de grâce with regard to UNMOGIP's locus standi.

The UNMOGIP's limited mandate renders it incapable of monitoring the terrorist havens on the Pakistani side of the LoC or preventing cross-border infiltration. Nor is it capable of preventing the frequent ceasefire violations.

The Indian side has not lodged any complaint over the ceasefire violations by Pakistan since January 1972, which further buttresses India's standpoint on the UNMOGIP and denies it any role. Pakistan continues to lodge “complaints about ceasefire

Pakistan knows that India totally rejects third-party involvement. Barring a few aberrant acolytes of Pakistan, the global community, including the US, has openly favoured the bilateral framework to address all the issues between India and Pakistan. Yet, Pakistan clings on to the idea of third-party mediation or a UN role in order to create a false alibi for continuing with the use of terrorism as an instrument to wage a low-intensity war against India.

violations by India” with the UNMOGIP, which issues reports containing the unilateral “complaints” made by Pakistan. This is yet another example of obfuscation by Pakistan of facts relating to Jammu and Kashmir.

In recent years, the Government of India (GoI) has taken the right steps vis-à-vis the UNMOGIP. In response to a question in Parliament on August 13, 2014, the then Minister of State for External Affairs, V K Singh, stated that the UNMOGIP was mandated to supervise the CFL established in July 1949 under the agreement between military representatives of India and Pakistan, and that with the signing of the Simla Agreement and the establishment of the LoC, its role had become redundant, and further, that it had “outlived its relevance”. The GoI has taken various steps asking the UNMOGIP to vacate government properties in India, which had been provided free of charge until then. Action has also been taken to monetise various other facilities that were earlier being provided free of cost to the UNMOGIP.

Given President Donald Trump's strong criticism of the performance of the UN and his lamenting the fact that the US provides one-fourth of its budget, it is worth noting that the US alone contributes \$4.3 million, the lion's share, of the UNMOGIP's annual budget of \$19.7 million.

These funds could be better utilised to achieve Sustainable Development Goals in developing countries, including for the long-suffering people of Pakistan, who have yet to realise their true potential as a result of the appalling policies and abysmally poor track record of successive Pakistani governments and military rulers. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has, on many occasions, driven home the point that eradication of poverty and economic development are the primary and common challenges confronting both countries and that both countries should work together for the welfare of their peoples.

The writer, a former Indian Ambassador with extensive experience on UN and national security issues, is director general of Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“President Bolsonaro should assure world leaders he'll use aid to protect the ecological wonder (the Amazon) from fires.” — THE WASHINGTON POST

The farmers' finance minister

Arun Jaitley hoped to transform agri-markets, subsidy structures. Implementing these ideas would be a fitting tribute to him



FROM PLATE TO PLOUGH
BY ASHOK GULATI

THERE HAVE been several obituaries of Arun Jaitley. Most focus on his contribution to the BJP as a political strategist, or to the nation through GST-type reforms, or as personal friend, including by those occupying the opposition benches in Parliament. But I have not read anything about how he contributed to agriculture policies. And that's what I want to focus on.

Before I venture into this less-known aspect of Jaitley's contribution, let me say that we both studied together at the Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC), in the same batch (1970-73), with Arun in commerce and me in economics honours. After SRCC, he went on to do a degree in law and I pursued economics in Delhi School of Economics. But I did watch his rise in politics and public affairs from his Delhi University Student Union (DUSU) president days to being imprisoned during Emergency, and then later being the crowd-puller for Atal Bihari Vajpayee during his election campaigns. Like Arun, I too had the privilege to work with Vajpayee ji when he became prime minister in 1998. But my interaction with Arun on issues related to agriculture started more when he became finance minister in the Narendra Modi government in 2014.

In 2015, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, I happened to be one of those Padma awardees. Immediately after the ceremony, Jaitley, who was sitting in the front row, came to congratulate me and then said, “Ashok, I read your piece ‘Lead from the Centre’ today in *The Indian Express*, and what you are saying, that we need to invest much more in irrigation, makes a lot of sense to me, especially when India is facing occasional droughts. I think we can do it.” I thought his words were a normal gesture on such an occasion. But I was pleasantly surprised when I found him announcing a special scheme for a “Long Term Irrigation Fund” of Rs 40,000 crore through NABARD in his next budget speech. The scheme helped many languishing major and medium irrigation projects to move somewhat faster towards completion. He was a silent doer with regard to many such schemes.

On another occasion, I was called to give a presentation to him and his key advisors in the Ministry of Finance on revamping the crop insurance scheme in the wake of the back-to-back droughts of 2014 and 2015. He listened attentively and then asked how much extra it will cost. And my curt reply was that the central government was already giving away to states about Rs 6,000-7,000 crore per annum through the PM's Disaster Relief Fund. The modalities adopted in compensation were not very scientific. But if you go for a proper crop in-

surance system (I suggested it be weather-based with high-tech automatic weather stations installed all over the country), it may cost the Centre a bit more — say another Rs 5,000-7,000 crore, but it can be made more science based. His immediate response was, “This is doable”. After that presentation, what I heard was an announcement by the prime minister about the revamped PM's Fasal Bima Yojana on Baisakhi day as a gift to Indian farmers. It is still going through teething problems as, instead of being weather based, it was rolled out on crop cutting experiments, which can be manipulated through the patwari system.

But the biggest agri-idea that came from Jaitley, and many heard it during the last year or so on various occasions, was when he said that the highest pay-off from economic reforms, after the GST reform, is to come from agriculture. He knew that agriculture is a state subject, and if one has to reform agri-markets by amending Essential Commodities Act and APMC Act, engaging states in “cooperative federalism” would be essential. He spoke about this idea, loud and clear, at one of the foundation day functions of NABARD. He was also clear that the push for such a reform has to come from the Centre. In fact, he even asked NABARD to initiate some spade work in this direction.

Similarly, if one has to undertake any tenancy reforms with a view to open up land lease markets, the blueprint has to be of something like the GST council, involving both the states and the Centre.

The other big agri-idea with which Jaitley concurred was to gradually transform various subsidies in the agri-food space to cash transfers directly into the accounts of beneficiaries. He said this while releasing one of my books, *Supporting Indian Farms the Smart way*, in 2018. The book was based on two years of in-depth research on how different agri-policies impact Indian farmers, agriculture, food security, natural resources, especially water and soil, etc. The central message was that Indian agricultural policies have an inherent consumer bias, and that input subsidies related to fertilisers, power, irrigation, interest subvention, etc do not promote efficiency in their use. Instead, they are creating several environmental problems like groundwater depletion. The best way forward would be to give these subsidies directly to beneficiaries in cash and free up the highly subsidised prices of fertilisers, power etc. He echoed this in his speech and said that this is surely a “smarter” way to help our farmers.

It is sad that Arun Jaitley's health deteriorated so quickly and he is no longer with us. The best tribute to such a personality is to implement his ideas fully, in good faith. Can the Modi government create a GST-type council for agriculture reforms and realise his wishes by implementing agri-marketing reforms and transferring agri-input subsidies directly to beneficiaries' accounts through Aadhaar? That would be the most meaningful tribute to Arun Jaitley.

Gulati is Infosys Chair Professor for Agriculture at ICRIFER

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

VERDICT REVISITED

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘The darkest hour’ (IE, August 29). Along with Justice Chandrachud and Justice Beg, Justice Bhagwati was one of the judges involved in the *ADM Jabalpur* judgment. Thirty four year after that verdict, Justice Bhagwati confessed that he had made a mistake in concurring with the majority view. The lone dissenter Justice Khanna was not elevated to the post of CJI. However, he was made chairman of the Eighth Law Commission.

Ashwinkumar N Karia via e-mail

TIGERS AND HUMANS

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘Fewer human sightings’ (IE, August 30). It's heartening to know that India's wild tiger population has increased by more than 30 per cent in four years. But the figures should be treated with some caution as the rise may indicate better counting procedures because this comprehensive survey is based on information collected by wildlife officials across 380,000 sq km of land and on the basis of data collected from almost 350,000 images taken by 26,000 camera traps in known tiger habitats. The census may suggest more tigers are breeding in protected areas but there were worrying signs of tigers not able to safely disperse. If we want our numbers to be stable tigers need to disperse.

Sanjay Chopra, Mohali

LETTER OF THE WEEK AWARD

To encourage quality reader intervention, The Indian Express offers the Letter of the Week award. The letter adjudged the best for the week is published every Saturday. Letters may be e-mailed to editpage@expressindia.com or sent to The Indian Express, B-1/B, Sector 10, Noida-UP 201301. Letter writers should mention their postal address and phone number.

THE WINNER RECEIVES SELECT EXPRESS PUBLICATIONS

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘Fewer human sightings’ (IE, August 30). Merely talking about an increase in the tiger population is not just enough. There are many ecological disturbances the world over. The Amazon rainforest fire is one such. Humans should stop encroaching into the world of wildlife and learn to give spaces to species to survive.

Gracy Singh, Delhi

VIEW FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD



A weekly look at the public conversations shaping ideas beyond borders — in the Subcontinent. Curated by Aakash Joshi

THE KASHMIR CATALYST

WHILE DAWN THIS week has brought into focus a variety of issues beyond Kashmir — from Pakistan's political scenario to the economy and climate change challenges — *The Express Tribune* has maintained a somewhat jingoistic stance. Some of its contributors have invoked Nazi Germany in polemical attacks on India, while others have called for a muscular, military response to the change in Jammu and Kashmir's status.

Dr Moonis Ahmar, in his column in *The Express Tribune* on August 30, has taken an alarmist position on “India's ethnic cleansing” in Kashmir. After talking of rape, murder and other heinous crimes to make a polemical point, Ahmar “warns” India on not learning the lessons of history: “The Indian state has failed to learn lessons from the policy of genocide and ethnic cleansing which was pursued in the past by militaries in different parts of the world. India must understand the lesson of the history that despite its 800,000-strong armed force, it will not be able to crush the nine million Kashmiri Muslims who are facing the worst humanitarian crisis in the form of curfews, communication lockdown and shortage of essential commodities, including medicines.”

For Ahmar, the Indian policy has three aspects. First, “to humiliate and degrade

Kashmiri Muslims”. To substantiate this point, he uses as fodder the ill-informed statements by leaders of the BJP and Sangh Parivar claiming that Indian men can marry Kashmiri women, assault them, etc. Second, he acknowledges that there are people in India who are standing up against the government's moves in Kashmir and as such, the jailing of leaders in Kashmir, stifling of dissent within the Indian heartland is an extension of the government's ideological position. Third, Ahmar calls for Pakistan to intervene: “in a situation when the Kashmiri Muslims under the Indian occupation are facing the worst kind of human rights violations, it is high time for Pakistan to practically support them.”

The editorial in *The Express Tribune* on August 31 expresses its admiration for the Pakistanis who showed up on the streets in “solidarity” with the people of Kashmir: “Tens of thousands of Pakistanis yesterday poured onto the streets in almost all big and small cities and towns of the country in a government-led demonstration of solidarity with the Kashmiris who have refused to accept New Delhi's illegal annexation of their abode on August 5.”

The editorial asks citizens of Pakistan “to keep the Kashmir issue burning”.

The implication to be drawn from both the article and editorial is obvious. Kashmir

is becoming a way to whip up nationalists sentiments in Pakistan, too.

ISLAND'S DILEMMA

Jayanath Colombage, a former Navy chief of Sri Lanka and strategic analyst has an article in *The Daily Mirror* taking off from a seminar on the Indian Ocean littoral and its strategic, environmental and economic potential. He cites the speeches from analysts across the region.

According to Colombage, Sri Lanka can “shape the Indian Ocean environment”. But the strategic dilemma comes from being a small economy which can only leverage its strategic position and geography to meet its development goals: “World Bank Group released a report in 2018 stating that 50% of world infrastructure needs are in Asia. The same report indicated that Asia needs USD 460 Billion from 2016-2030 to develop infrastructure. Where can this many come from? Can it be from traditional donors, self-financing, own banks or multi-lateral lending? The answer is no. It has to be FDI. But it is not coming. FDI to Sri Lanka is 1.2% of GDP in 2018... We are unable to make decisions based on economics. We have or we are compelled to undertake strategic balancing.”

For India, which is in competition with China in Sri Lanka as well as vying to be a

power in Indian Ocean, the concerns of its island neighbour are worth paying attention to.

ARUNDHATI'S MISTAKE

The August 28 editorial in *The Dhaka Tribune* attacks Arundhati Roy for defending Pakistan with falsehoods. However, the editorial made an error (which it later corrected): The statement it said was “recent” was actually made by Roy in 2011. Nonetheless, her defence of Pakistan has many in Bangladesh upset. The editorial reads: “The Indian author said: ‘The State of Pakistan has not deployed the army against its own people in the way that the democratic Indian state has.’ We cannot agree with this statement, which at best is incorrect and at worst looks like an attempt to whitewash the sins of the Pakistan army.”

The editorial further responds: “To this day, Pakistan refuses to acknowledge the atrocities committed against our people in 1971 — crimes which included murder, torture, rape, and looting. That is why it is all the more inexcusable that a writer and activist of the stature and reputation of Arundhati Roy would make a blatantly false statement that aligns perfectly with Pakistan's own denials of its crimes.”

The editorial has asked that Roy not diminish the Bangladesh freedom struggle.



12 The Governance Page

BRIDGING THE DIVIDE BETWEEN SPORTS AND STUDIES

Sports Authority of India begins to bring the classroom to the playground

The Indian government will provide tuitions in English, maths and science at national training centres

MIHIR VASAVDA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 1

IT'S BEEN a long-held myth in the country that sports and studies can't go hand in hand. There are countless stories of athletes having to give up on education to pursue sport at an elite level. In a new initiative, the Union sports ministry hopes it won't be a case of "either/or" between sports and studies henceforth.

The government has implemented a new policy, under which all school-going athletes who join national training centres will be provided tuition in mathematics, science and English. Additionally, it is set to roll out another initiative next month wherein it will tie up with residential schools that have sporting facilities.

Sports secretary Radheyshyam Julaniya said they chose English, science and maths as the three subjects because they are tough for children to learn by themselves. "These are a few subjects that the children can't study without anyone's help and it's one of the reasons that hamper their education. Even in the normal course, children and parents find these three subjects challenging. So if they get tutored in these subjects, their academic performance will improve considerably," Julaniya said.

Every junior athlete who trains at a Sports Authority of India (SAI) centre will be eligible for this scheme. According to the minutes of the meetings that the ministry held with all sports federations, the upper ceiling for remuneration to a tutor would be Rs 15,000 per month. The federations, who select athletes for the national camps, will be responsible to appoint tutors.

"Whenever duration of camp in the summer season is more than 90 days and during the non-summer season more than 45 days subject-wise tuition for English, science and mathematics would be arranged by the (respective federation) or SAI," the minutes of the meeting read.

On an average, junior athletes join an SAI academy at the age of 13 or 14. Consequently, they are forced to leave schooling mid-way or join an open school from where they complete their basic education. However, due to their practice schedule, they are barely able to attend lectures or appear for exams on time.

There have been numerous occasions where athletes have been unable to complete their studies because of sporting commitments. Shooter Saurabh Chaudhary



Under a new programme, school-going athletes in SAI facilities will be assisted to complete their education. Abhinav Saha

skipped his Class X exams last year to prepare for the World Cup in New Delhi. Before that, golfer Shubhankar Sharma had to choose between his BA Political Science exams, which were to be conducted by Delhi University's School of Open Learning, and prestigious PGA Tour events. He eventually chose the latter.

Julaniya said having proper education would assist an athlete's on-field performance. "Both (sports and studies) can go hand in hand. Both must go hand in hand. If you are physically fit and active, then you are mentally alert. No sports persons excel at international level till he is very sharp in his observations and reactions. That is what education helps them with," Julaniya said.

Wrestling Federation of India secretary V N Prasood welcomed the move and said it would immensely benefit the wrestlers. "A lot of wrestlers leave their schools when they join an akhara. Lack of education has been a major reason for them being low at confidence at times. If they are even decently-educated, it will improve their personality and prepare them for life after wrestling," Prasood said.

He added that learning English would be

crucial as it would help them in their bouts. "If they have to challenge a referee's call, they will be able to do that in a better and more articulate way. It also helps in your interactions with the other wrestlers," Prasood said.

A couple of years ago, London Olympics bronze medalist Yogeshwar Dutt had considered introducing Russian language course at his academy in Bali, Haryana. That plan hasn't materialised yet as there were few takers. Asked if he expects similar practical difficulties in implementing this scheme, Julaniya said: "No, I do not foresee any practical difficulties. In fact, we are now approaching residential schools that have sporting facilities so that the students can stay on campus, continue studying and also practice their sport."

He added: "We have a proposal from a school in Chennai, who said they can accommodate 200-300 sportspersons. There's also a university in Amritsar where there is existing infrastructure and a tie-up with a national open school. We are working on a policy and hope to roll it out next month. We are working out ways where sports and studies will complement each other rather than be at conflict."

EXPLAINED E How educating athletes helps

THE UNION sports ministry's decision to help India's young sportspersons continue their education even as they compete in sports will help in multiple ways. For one, education is essential for their well-rounded development and makes them more aware and alert in their chosen sport. It also provides them with a sense of security and helps them deal with the low phases in their career. Lastly, it also prepares them for life and an alternate career after their sporting career is over.

‘Providing a basic income not just about social justice; it is about efficiency also’

OVER THE past few years, an increasing number of countries have witnessed a demand for basic income. India too has been evaluating the possibility of such a disbursement. The push for this idea comes from both the economic right and the economic left. UDIT MISRA catches up with PHILIPPE VAN PARIJS, professor at the Faculty of Economic, Social and Political Sciences of the University of Louvain and the author of Basic Income, to understand what is driving the demand for a basic income.



THE POLICY INTERVIEW PHILIPPE VAN PARIJS

Professor, Faculty of Economic, Social and Political Sciences of the University of Louvain

You have written a book titled Basic Income. This is an old idea that has gained a lot of popularity in the recent past. Why is that so? What are the origins of this idea?

Yes, like so many ideas, basic income too had many discoverers. It was Thomas Paine who first proposed something like a basic income — it was rather a basic endowment for every young person. Then there was a basic pension from age 50 onwards. But it was universal and unconditional. Then his idea essentially disappeared. The first real debate about it came from the Left — essentially in the Labour Party circles in England, but shortly after the First World War, it was discarded after the publication of the Beveridge report. Next, the discussion started in the US, often under the name of a negative income tax. Its most articulate advocates in the form of a real universal basic income were people on the Left of the Democratic Party — John Kenneth Galbraith and US presidential hopeful (in 1972) George McGovern.

The idea again emerged in Western Europe in the mid-1980s. And the current debate is a continuation of this last thread. From being supported by a small group of Nobel winners, today it is being discussed worldwide including by presidential candidates in different countries such as the US and France.

Are rising inequalities responsible for this idea becoming popular today?

Well, I think the reason for its popularity varies from place to place. In the US and Western Europe, it's linked to the disappearing of jobs, thanks to the spread of globalisation and the use of technology. The standard recipe for unemployment is growth. But, of course, we have realised that there are some problems with growth — for instance, the environmental limits to growth. So there is a demand for an alternative. This is the key rea-

son for its current popularity.

Some say focus on providing product subsidies. Others argue drop all subsidies and simply give cash directly. Where do you stand?

My position is intermediate. I'm certainly not arguing in favour of replacing the universal access to childcare, let alone universal access to education by a basic income. I'm not saying give cash instead of providing these services. I believe that the most plausible proposal is a moderate variant that has been put forward by people like my old friend, Pranab Bardhan. He says those subsidies that go to the middle class and the rich should be scrapped.

Does a basic income make people lazy and push up labour costs?

The first thing is to understand that compared to handouts targeted at the poor, basic income has an anti-laziness dimension. That's because it is not something that will be taken away once you start an activity; the basic income would stay with you. True, some people may wait a little bit before taking a job but instead of being forced to work, this is preferable. Once you've admitted that poverty is not just about social justice but also a problem of efficiency. Having a large part of the population that is hungry or stressed by one thing or the other is not desirable. Fighting poverty is also an investment in the human capital of the country.

FROM STATES REFORMS TRACKER

GUJARAT HC opens centres for the vulnerable

THE GUJARAT High Court has opened the Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centres (VWDC) in the district courts of Surat and Bharuch on Saturday. The VWDC — a separate room where vulnerable witnesses can depose — is especially aimed at child witnesses and victims of sexual offences. Especially designed while keeping in mind the psychological needs of victims, these centres will have a court hall attached to a waiting room with pantry, toys and TV. These deposition rooms will be equipped with the latest technology of audio-video linkage by using Internet Protocol (IP) address specific camera-based CCTV.

UTTAR PRADESH Incentives to boost investments, jobs

STATE'S INDUSTRIAL development minister has announced that the government will be providing a 25 per cent rebate on land to attract businesses to invest in the defence industries corridor that has been planned over six districts. The government will also provide electricity at a cheaper rate. The move is expected to create as many as 2,50,000 jobs.

BIHAR Sand mining made more transparent

THE STATE government has announced a reform of its mining policy. According to the new template, sand mining firms would not be allowed to mine on more than two ghats or over than an area of 200 hectares, whichever is less. According to the Sanjay Kumar, who is the Principal Secretary in the Cabinet department, the move is aimed at breaking the monopoly of the sand mining mafia. The decision is expected to bring about transparency in the marketing of sand in the state

Street lights to school results mapped by Gujarat Chief Minister's dashboard

ESHA ROY
GANDHINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 1

ON THE first floor of the Gujarat Chief Minister's Office in Gandhinagar, 10 data analysts are hard at work, analysing data gathered from across the state. At one end of the room is a large screen that stretches across its farthest wall. The screen is sectioned into 20 broad categories across 26 state government departments and contains granular details related to the various schemes. This is CM Vijay Rupani's pet project — his dashboard. Every once in a while, sometimes once a week, sometimes twice, Rupani come into the room to check up on the ground realities in real-time and take corrective action if he needs.

For instance, across Gujarat's 129 urban local bodies, there are 6,13,822 LED streetlights. Out of these, 2,143 streetlights are switched on even though it is 11 am. In Surat alone, there are 303 lights on during the day. For example, the streetlight at Lal Darwaza



CM Rupani uses the dashboard to check the ground reality. Twitter

in Anand Nagar Colony in Surat. A phone call is made and it is found that the streetlight is undergoing maintenance.

Rupani tells *The Indian Express*. "Governance would be so much more efficient if we had real-time data. Because of the dashboard, if you ask me what the situation in any sector is in any district, I can tell you,"

he says. With the ready availability of data it provides, the dashboard enables his team to devise schemes which are in sync with the ground realities. It also helps his government handle a crisis immediately.

The dashboard provides the granular details of every department. For instance, he says, "in last year's Class XII exams, the government had the performance records of each student in each school of the state. We found, much to our surprise, that there were eight schools which had a zero per cent passing rate. We decided to focus on these schools and took immediate redressal measures. In this year's examinations the pass percentage of these schools is at 40 per cent," says Rupani.

The dashboard was set up last year and Hitesh Gohil, who heads the command unit, calls it a 'single window platform' that brings all departments together. "We gather information from 600 points across the state right now and look at 458 parameters — but this will go up to 3,000 parameters over the next few years," he assures.

INCENTIVISING RURAL DEVELOPMENT

How Haryana's Rainbow scheme is transforming its villages

VARINDER BHATIA
CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 1

CHHATTAN, A small village on the outskirts of Shahzadpur Tehsil in Ambala district of Haryana, around 46 km from state capital Chandigarh, is transforming at a great pace. From a village's own garbage disposal plant to a herbal park, a two-acre playground for children, a well-maintained drainage system, door-to-door garbage collection system, Atal Sewa Kendra and many other facilities, the village depicts picture of an upcoming small township — all thanks to Haryana government's "7-Star Rainbow scheme" launched on January 26, 2018.

Based on seven social parameters, each allocated a different colour star, the villages are analysed on their performance and given star-ratings. A pink star is for "sex-ratio", blue for "education and zero school dropouts till class 8th", white for "hygiene and serenity", orange for "peace and harmony", green for "environment preservation", golden for "good govern-

MORE AND MORE PANCHAYATS ARE IMPROVING ACROSS SOCIAL PARAMETERS AND PICKING UP 'STARS'

STAR CATEGORIES	2018-19	2019-20
Pink (Sex-Ratio)	109	465
Blue (Education & school dropout)	573	3604
White (Hygiene and Sanitation)	18	240
Orange (Peace and Harmony)	1077	2312
Green (Environment Preservation)	81	1108
Golden (Good Governance)	12	203
Silver (Social Participation)	90	103

nance" and silver for "social participation".

Chhattan is among the 20 villages (gram panchayats or GPs) of Haryana that have been rated "6-star" for the year 2019-20.

Others that have achieved 6-star ratings include Badhra and Baund of Charkhi Dadri district, Wazirpur in Gurugram district,

Bahbalpur in Hisar, Malikpur in Jhajjar, Habatpur, Budha Khara Lather and Nepewala in Jind, Gharrot, Jainpur, Janacholi and Nangla Bhiku in Palwal, Jhattipur in Panipat, Berli Kalan and Khara Alampur in Rewari, Kalnaur and Bhainsru Kalan in Rohtak, Mamerkhara in Sirsa and Khurdban in Yamunanagar.

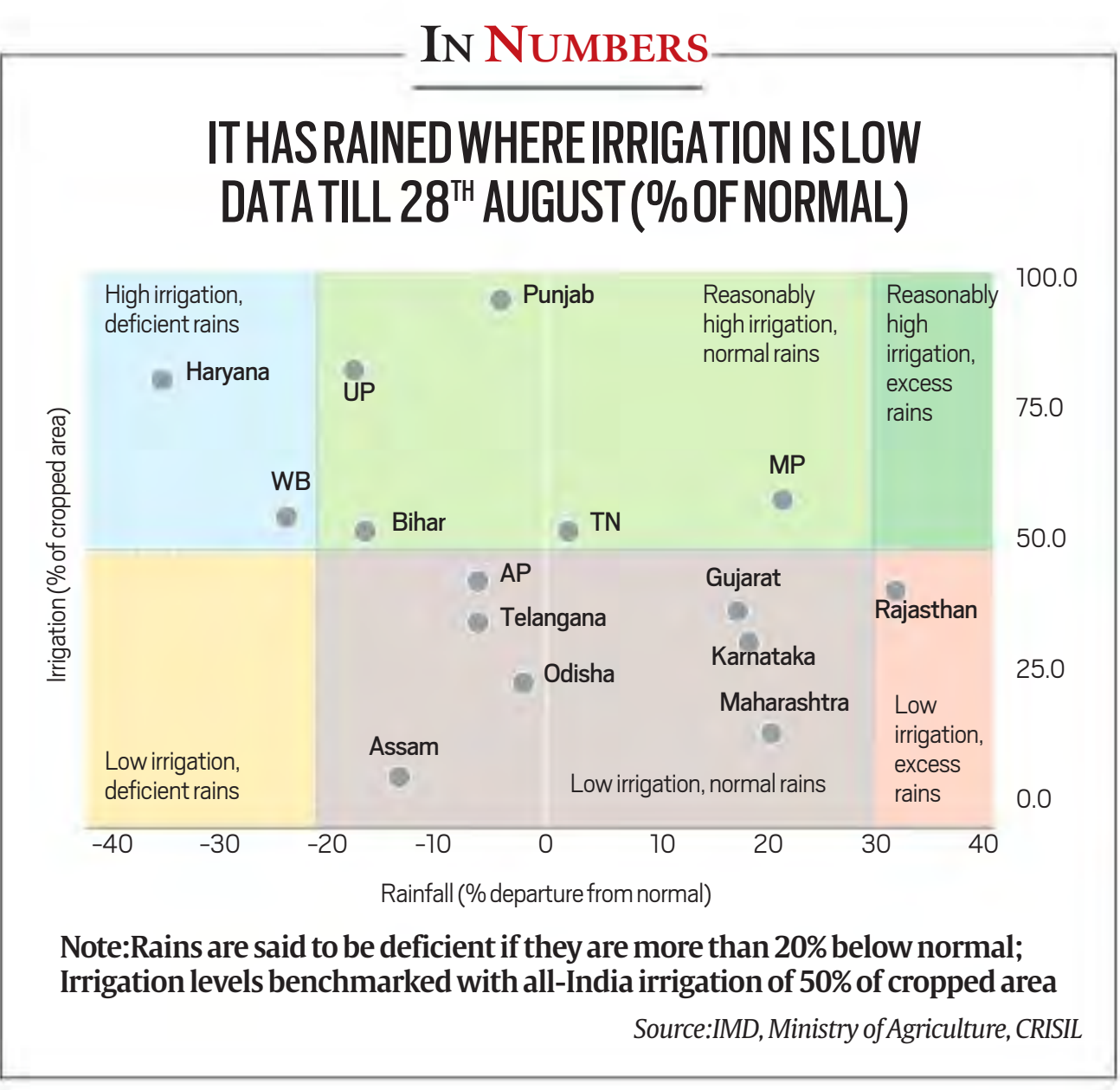
Last year, when the scheme was introduced, out of a total 6,204 GPs in Haryana, only 1,122 (18 per cent) had achieved star-ratings. However, the initiative got a tremendous boost this year with 3,930 GPs achieving star-ratings. Several villages have also shown tremendous improvement — for instance, Chhattan received just "1-star" rating last year, but today has a "6-star" rating this year.

"We were determined to improve our score this time... I am sure we are going to get 7-stars next year", says Meena Rani, the village head. Her husband, Satish Kumar, proudly lists out the achievements: "Chhattan village has around 150 well-built houses... All the children in the village go to school and there is a zero-dropout rate this year. There are more daughters than sons in our village. There is almost zero crime rate. We are also soon going to have CCTVs and solar lights. The work is already on. We have used panchayat land to create a herbal park and also constructed a playground for children". The village, which is 100 per cent Open Defecation Free, is also constructing four

washrooms and two bathing areas on its outskirts for the labourers, who come to the village for construction work.

"The idea behind this scheme is to generate positive and healthy competition among the Panchayats. Another important aspect is that it encompasses all aspects of rural development, not just infrastructure but also socio-economic development... Basically, it encompasses holistic development of the area", said Sudhir Rajpal, Principal Secretary, Department of Development and Panchayats, Haryana. Haryana government has also included another parameter of digital literacy under Education's head from this year onwards.

Besides getting a tag of a 6-star rated village, a GP is also awarded Rs 1 lakh for each parameter. An additional Rs 50,000 is awarded to GPs that have achieved equal or more girl population as compared to boys and Swachhta (cleanliness). Besides that GPs achieving 6-star to 4-star are entitled to receive additional funds. The government gives Rs 20 lakh to a 6-star GPs, Rs 15 lakhs to 5-Star one and Rs 10 lakh to a 4-Star rated GP.



TOPOF THE WORLD



Shireen Mathews

USA

Trump picks US-Indian for powerful federal judgeship

Washington: President Donald Trump has nominated prominent Indian-American attorney Shireen Mathews as a judge of the US District Court for the Southern District of California. If confirmed, Mathews will be the first Asian Pacific American woman and first Indian-American to serve as an Article III federal judge in the Southern District, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association said. Article III judges “hold their office during good behaviour”, which means they have a lifetime appointment, except under very limited circumstances.

ISRAEL

Army: multiple targets hit by fire from Lebanon

Jerusalem: The Israeli military on Sunday said that Lebanese militants fired a barrage of anti-tank missiles at an Israeli Army base, scoring a number of direct hits on Israeli targets. Israel responded with heavy artillery fire toward targets in southern Lebanon. The sudden burst of violence raised the prospect of a wider round of fighting between Israel and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah. The bitter enemies, which fought a monthlong war in 2006 that ended in a stalemate, have appeared to be on a collision course in recent weeks.

BANGLADESH

2 cops injured in IS attack on minister in Dhaka

Dhaka: A Bangladesh minister escaped an assassination bid when a blast carried out by the Islamic State militants missed his car and hit his security team, injuring two policemen in Dhaka, a media report said on Sunday. The bomb was thrown from the footbridge at the Science Lab intersection on Saturday night when Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives minister Tazul Islam was passing through the area, the Daily Star reported, quoting police and eyewitnesses. The minister was unhurt in the attack.

US says deal with Taliban is near as fighting intensifies in Afghanistan

Day after attack on Kunduz, Taliban fighters launch assault on Afghan troops in Pul-e Khumri city

ABDUL QADIR SEDIQI
KABUL, SEPTEMBER 1

US AND Taliban negotiators are close to a deal that would open the way for peace in Afghanistan, a top US official said on Sunday, as the insurgents followed their weekend assault on the strategic centre of Kunduz by attacking a second northern city.

Zalmay Khalilzad, the Afghan-born US diplomat overseeing negotiations for Washington, said he would travel to the Afghan capital of Kabul on Sunday for consultations after wrapping up the ninth round of talks with Taliban officials in Qatar.

“We are at the threshold of an agreement that will reduce violence and open the door for Afghans to sit together to negotiate an honourable and sustainable peace and a unified, sovereign Afghanistan that does not



Afghan security forces take position during a battle with the Taliban in Kunduz, Afghanistan, on Sunday. Reuters

threaten the United States, its allies, or any other country,” he said in a Twitter post.

The comment came as Taliban fighters attacked Pul-e Khumri, in the northern province of Baghlan, just a day after a major show of strength by hundreds of fighters who overran parts of Kunduz, a strategic city the insur-

gents have twice come close to taking in recent years.

The interior ministry said in a statement on Sunday that 20 Afghan security force members and five civilians were killed, and at least 85 civilians were injured in Kunduz city during clashes with the Taliban fighters.

While Kunduz was calm af-

“ We are at the threshold of an agreement that will reduce violence and open the door for Afghans to sit together to negotiate an honourable and sustainable peace and a unified, sovereign Afghanistan that does not threaten the US, its allies, or any other country.”

— ZALMAY KHALILZAD
US SPECIAL ENVOY

ter clearance operations that had driven out insurgents, interior ministry spokesman Nasrat Rahimi said, fighters had taken up positions in two areas of Pul-e Khumri and were battling Afghan security forces.

Afghan forces killed five gunmen and arrested two militants during the clearance operation in

Pul-e Khumri city, Rahimi said.

Local officials and residents said the city was locked down with Taliban fighters occupying positions around one of the main entry points into the centre and cutting the main highway connecting Kabul with the north.

“Right now, clashes are under way between the Taliban and security forces in the city, close to the governor’s compound and police headquarters,” said Abdul Jamil, a Pul-e Khumri resident reached by telephone.

“The city is closed and very little movement can be seen. People are terrified,” he said.

There was also fighting in the province of Ghazni and Laghman province, east of Kabul, Taliban and government officials said.

In a separate incident, a roadside bomb in Chamtal in northern Balkh province on Sunday killed at least eight people, including women and children travelling in a car, officials said. **REUTERS**



Medics stand at the site of strikes in Dhamar, Yemen. Reuters

100 dead in Saudi-led airstrike on Yemen prison: Aid group

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SANAA, SEPTEMBER 1

MORE THAN 100 people are believed to have been killed in an airstrike by the Saudi-led military coalition on a detention centre in Yemen, the International Committee of the Red Cross said Sunday.

The coalition said it targeted a facility run by the Huthi rebels that “stores drones and missiles”, but the rebels said the attack had levelled a building they used as a prison. The ICRC rushed to the scene in the city of Dhamar with medical teams and hundreds of body bags.

“The location that was hit has been visited by ICRC before,” Franz Rauchenstein of the ICRC said. “It’s a college building that has been empty and has been used as a detention facility for a while.”

“What is most disturbing is that (the attack was) on a prison. To hit such a building is shocking and saddening — prisoners are protected by international law.”

Rauchenstein said that over 100 people were estimated to be dead, and that at least 40 survivors were being treated for their injuries in hospitals in the city, south of the capital Sanaa.

ICRC teams collecting bodies were “working relentlessly

to find survivors under the rubble”, he said, but cautioned that the chances of finding any were very slim.

The coalition intervened in 2015 to support the government after the Iran-aligned Huthis swept out of their northern stronghold to seize Sanaa and much of Yemen — the Arab world’s poorest nation.

Fighting since then has already claimed tens of thousands of lives and sparked what the United Nations calls the world’s worst humanitarian crisis.

Both sides stand accused of actions that could amount to war crimes.

The coalition has been blacklisted by the UN for the killing of children, while Saudi Arabia and its allies accuse the Huthis of using civilians as human shields in densely populated areas.

The Saudi-led coalition said in a statement Sunday carried by the state-run Al-Ekhbariya news channel that it targeted a rebel “military position in Dhamar that stores drones and missiles”.

“We took all precautionary measures to protect civilians,” it added.

However, the Huthi television channel Al-Masirah said that dozens were killed and injured in seven airstrikes that hit the building.

Myanmar Army says it will punish soldiers in Rohingya atrocities probe

SAM AUNG MOON
YANGON, SEPTEMBER 1

MYANMAR’S ARMY will court-martial soldiers after a new finding in an inquiry into atrocities in Rakhine state, from which more than 730,000 Rohingya Muslims fled a 2017 army-led campaign the United Nations says was executed with “genocidal intent”.

On Saturday, the website of Commander-in-Chief Min Aung Hlaing said a military court that visited the northern state found soldiers had shown “weakness in

following instructions in some incidents” at a village said to have been a Rohingya massacre site.

In 2018, the Associated Press news agency reported the existence of at least five graves of Rohingya in the village, Gutarpyin, in the township of Buthidaung.

But government officials at the time said 19 “terrorists” had died and were “carefully buried”.

On Sunday, military spokesman Tun Tun Nyi said the investigation’s findings were secret. “We don’t have the right to know about it,” he said. “They will release another statement about it when the procedure is finished.” **REUTERS**

Hong Kong protesters target airport

MARIUS ZAHARIA & JESSIE PANG
HONG KONG, SEPTEMBER 1

THOUSANDS OF protesters blocked roads and public transport links to Hong Kong airport on Sunday in a bid to draw global attention to their fight for greater democracy for the Chinese-ruled city which is facing its biggest political crisis in decades.

Planes were taking off and landing, with delays, but trains were suspended and approach roads to the airport impassable as protesters erected barricades and overturned trolleys at the airport and in the nearby new town of Tung Chung.

Some passengers were forced to walk the last bit of their journey to the airport by foot, dragging their luggage behind them.

The MTR subway station in Tung Chung was closed and demonstrators smashed CCTV cameras and lamps with metal poles and dismantled station turnstiles. Police appeared to be running in all directions and made several arrests.

Chek Lap Kok, built around a tiny outlying island in the dying days of British colonial rule, is one of the world’s busiest and most efficient airports, reached by a series of bridges which were packed with traffic.

“If we disrupt the airport, more foreigners will read the news about Hong Kong,” said one 20-year-old protester, asking not to be named.

Black-clad demonstrators



People and protesters run away from the riot police outside the terminals at Hong Kong International Airport Sunday. Reuters

targeted the airport three weeks ago, jamming the terminal in sometimes violent clashes with police and prompting some flights to be cancelled or delayed.

Police said protesters hurled iron poles, bricks and rocks on to the railway track near the airport station and trespassed on the track. By early evening protesters in the immediate vicinity of the airport had left, but protesters in Tung Chung remained.

Sunday’s demonstration comes after police and protesters clashed overnight in some of the most intense violence since unrest erupted more than three months

EXPLAINED Schools could be set to take centre stage in protest movement

THE PRO-DEMOCRACY protests in Hong Kong have been largely led and manned by the city’s youths, many of them school students. While summer holidays had seen schools closed in the month in which protests have been a near-daily occurrence, classes are scheduled to restart Monday. Many students have already been in touch with school authorities over allowing them to assemble in class and participate in sit-ins, but the government has firmly opposed any planned boycott of schools. It remains to be seen if the reopening of schools will see a dip in the number of protesters or if schools will take centre stage in the movement.

Hurricane Dorian hits Bahamas; parts of Florida evacuate

GABRIELLA BORTER
TITUSVILLE, SEPTEMBER 1

HURRICANE DORIAN became the strongest storm in modern records to hit the northwestern Bahamas and is expected to pound the islands with up to two days of torrential rain, high waves and damaging winds as parts of Florida evacuated before it took aim at the US mainland.



Storm clouds gather in St. Michael Parish, Barbados, Monday. AP

The US National Hurricane Centre (NHC) said Dorian made landfall on Elbow Cay in the Abaco Islands as a Category 5 storm on Sunday with maximum sustained winds of 295 km per hour and gusts of more than 354 kph.

Millions of people from Florida to North Carolina were bracing to see whether Dorian avoids a US landfall and, as predicted, veers north into the Atlantic Ocean after hitting the

Bahamas. Even a glancing blow from one of the strongest storms ever to menace Florida could bring torrential rains and damaging winds, and “a Florida landfall is still a distinct possibility,” the Miami-based NHC warned.

Bahamas residents reported trees snapping and docks being destroyed. The pummeling was expected to last for hours, “prolonging its catastrophic effects,” the NHC said. **REUTERS**



Bernie Sanders says he is ‘deeply concerned’ about Kashmir situation

SEEMA HAKHU KACHRU
HOUSTON, SEPTEMBER 1

US SENATOR and Democratic presidential contender Bernie Sanders told a gathering of Muslims that he was “deeply concerned” about the situation in Kashmir and asked the US government to “speak out boldly” in support of a UN-backed peaceful resolution to resolve the issue.

Addressing the annual convention of the Islamic Society of North America in Houston on Saturday, the 77-year-old leader also sought an immediate end to the communications blockade in Kashmir.

India has categorically told the international community that the scrapping of Article 370 of the Constitution to revoke Jammu and Kashmir’s special status was an internal matter and also advised Pakistan to accept the reality. **PTI**

A POPULAR LIVE STREAM OF A PROBE INTO ATROCITIES PROMPTS A NATION TO CONSIDER IF TRUTH WILL LEAD TO JUSTICE

Now on YouTube: Confessions of a presidential hit squad in Gambia

JULIE TURKEWITZ
SEREKUNDA, SEPTEMBER 1

THE DAY Malick Jatta confessed to shooting one of Gambia’s best-known journalists, he wore the camouflage uniform of the armed forces and said the kill order came right from the former president. The testimony was streamed live, and tens of thousands watched.

“I’m sorry,” he said. Then he hung his head.

Gambia, a nation of 2 million people on the West African coast, is in the midst of a highly public truth and reconciliation commis-

sion established to investigate atrocities committed during the 22-year reign of Yahya Jammeh, a leader who created a culture of fear and misinformation so deep that many still take care to call him a gentleman.

Two years after Jammeh lost an election and fled, investigators are holding what some experts have hailed as the most accessible truth commission in history. Officials have been methodically interviewing killers and victims, eliciting testimony into the deaths and disappearances of hundreds of people. Central to their effort is a live feed that sends that testimony through YouTube,



Bekai Saidy, a lawyer, watches a truth and reconciliation hearing, in Serekunda, Gambia. NYT

Facebook, television and radio — directly into phones and homes

around the country. In Gambia, an overwhelm-

ingly young and quickly urbanising nation that now has one of the highest rates of mobile phone use in Africa, listeners stretch from the capital, Banjul, into the countryside and abroad to the diaspora. Many have been devastated by the testimony; others doubt its veracity.

But for all the excitement about the stream, some Gambians are questioning whether simply hearing the truth will be enough to deliver justice. It’s unclear if the commission will lead to trial or prison for perpetrators. Admitted killers are being released after their testimony, Jammeh is in exile, and no one knows if he will

ever be prosecuted.

For Baba Hydera, the son of Deyda Hydera, the murdered journalist, the confessions have brought only hollow relief.

“They say that it helps with closure,” he said. “That’s a lie.”

What he wants is to see his father’s killers before a judge.

The truth and reconciliation hearings began in January and are expected to last two years. Witnesses are testifying in English and local languages, including Mandinka and Wolof; a sign language interpreter follows along.

Some of the most searing testimony has come this summer. Jatta and other members of

Jammeh’s hit squad, called “the junglers,” have told of the murder of Hydera, an influential editor who the regime code-named “Magic Pen.”

They’ve confessed to the killing of 56 West African migrants whom the government accused of being mercenaries.

And they’ve admitted to taking part in the assassinations of two US citizens, Alhagie Ceesay and Ebou Jobe, who the junglers were told were plotting a coup.

Ceesay, a father of two, was a Chevron employee who had been living in Houston; Jobe, a father of three, was an operations manager for Walmart. **NYT**

14ECONOMY

LITTLE CHANGE IN COMPLIANCE RATE; 75.8 LAKH RETURNS FILED FOR JULY

August GST revenue sees 4.5% rise over last yr, but lowest so far in FY20

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 1

GROSS GOODS and Services Tax (GST) collections declined to the lowest level in this financial year and to a six-month low of Rs 98,202 crore in August (for July), reflecting the overall slowdown in the economy.

GST collections, however, recorded 4.51 per cent growth from Rs 93,960 crore collected in August last year.

The compliance rate remained broadly at the same level as previous month with total number of GSTR 3B returns filed for July at 75.80 lakh till August 31, as against 75.79 lakh in the preceding month.

Of the total Rs 98,202 crore GST revenue, Central GST (CGST) collections stood at Rs 17,733 crore, State GST (SGST) at Rs 24,239 crore, and Integrated GST Rs 48,958 crore, a Finance Ministry statement said.

Overall gross GST collections — which include the central government's and states' revenues — are progressing close to the targeted rate even though the CGST is lagging behind the budgeted target.

A total of Rs 5,14,378 crore has been collected so far in April-August this fiscal, with the aver-

EXPLAINED GST revenue at six-month low reflects slowdown

THOUGH THE Rs 98,902 crore of GST collection in August is 4.5 per cent higher than the last year's mop-up, it is the lowest in the 2019-20 fiscal so far. The weakening trend of indirect tax revenue is a direct indicator of the consumption slowdown in the economy.

With sliding GDP growth, the buoyancy of tax revenue is likely to get impacted, which would strain the central government's fiscal math for this year. With sales and consumption remaining low across sectors, especially automobiles, it is now to be seen whether the remedial measures announced by the Finance Ministry last month would bring some relief.

age monthly collection at Rs 1,02,875 crore.

The government aims to collect approximately Rs 11.89 lakh crore GST revenue on a gross basis. The monthly targeted rate is about Rs 99,112 crore, a result of the sharp cut in Budget targets announced in July from the interim Budget's targeted rate of Rs 1.14 lakh crore that was presented in February.

Revenue stream from both direct and indirect taxes is reflecting the impact of the eco-

nom ic slowdown.

In the remaining eight months of this financial year, gross tax revenue needs to grow at a run rate of 22.1 per cent and net tax revenue needs to grow at 28 per cent, the latest monthly accounts figures released by Controller General of Accounts (CGA) showed.

Tax experts said the lower GST collections will be a crucial factor for determining rate cut decision, if any, in the upcoming

GST Council meeting on

Over 5.65 cr I-T returns filed for AY 2019-20; 4% more than last yr

New Delhi: Over 5.65 crore income tax returns were filed by taxpayers for the Assessment Year 2019-20 as the deadline ended on August 31, showing a 4 per cent rise in ITR filing over the previous year, as per the tax department data.

Total number of income tax returns (ITRs) filed for AY 2018-19 was 5.42 crore.

Nearly 50 lakh people filed their tax returns online on August 31, the last date for ITR filing, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) data showed. "The Income Tax

Department has made history with a quantum jump in the e-filing of ITRs with an all-time high record of 49,29,121 ITRs filed in a single day on August 31," it said in a statement.

From August 27 to 31, 1,47,82,095 people filed online returns, an increase of 42 per cent as compared to the same period of AY 2018-19.

CBDT said the Department is actively interacting with taxpayers on social media to help resolve grievances and e-filing related queries and getting accolades in return. **PTI**

sector as the industry has been pushing for," he added.

Abhishek Jain, tax partner, EY, said, "This slight dip in revenue below Rs 1 lakh crore may be linked to the general slowdown in industry. However, a growth vis-à-vis the same month in the last year does reflect better GST compliance and payment.

"The revenue collections this month may also be a factor of consideration in the rate cut agenda, if any in the upcoming Council meeting."

BANKING WATCH

CENTRAL BANK OFFERS RLIR LOANS

Mumbai: State-run Central Bank of India on Sunday said it will be offering repo-linked interest rate (RLIR) on home and vehicle loan products with immediate effect. It will continue to offer home loan and vehicle loan products linked to MCLR. **PTI**

CONCERNS OVER SLOWDOWN, US-CHINA TRADE WAR HIT SENTIMENT

Surcharge rollback sees little impact, as FPIs continue outflow from Indian equities

SANDEEP SINGH
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 1

THE GOVERNMENT'S announcement on August 23 to roll back the imposition of surcharge on foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) — which was proposed in the Union Budget in July — seems to have failed to rekindle the sentiments on equity investment in India.

In the five trading sessions following the rollback of surcharge, FPIs sold Indian equities worth a net of Rs 5,485 crore from Indian equities as broader concerns around domestic economic growth, slowdown in consumption and threat of escalation of tariff war between US and China played on the investors' mind.

While the Budget announcement on imposition of surcharge on FPIs in July severely dented investor confidence, and between July 5 (Budget announcement) and August 23 (rollback of surcharge) they pulled out a net of Rs 20,260 crore from Indian equity markets, experts say that investors are now concerned more about the basic fundamentals of the Indian economy, including the consumption growth, and therefore the surcharge rollback may not reverse equity flows as of now.

"There is a bit of pessimism on growth, corporate earnings and problems surrounding NBFCs. Both domestic and foreign in-

the small cap indices have lost 9.2 per cent and 12.2 per cent.

However, there is some hope going forward, said the CIO, pointing towards expected ease in liquidity situation and revival of the consumption growth. "The RBI has started providing liquidity and revival should begin in the October-December quarter. While cyclically we are at the bottom as of now, I am hopeful that we will end the current financial year in a better position," he said.

There are some who added that the Centre's latest reform measure to merge six relatively weaker public sector banks into four stronger ones will be beneficial in the long run, though it may block credit disbursement by these banks in the near term as decision making will get impacted.

"There is a slowdown in the economy and private consumption and investments are down, and at a time when you need to lift the economy and increase the credit flow in the short-term, you take a decision that will block the credit in the short term," said the head of the financial services firm.

He, however, added that it will have big benefits in the long run. "Bigger banks have better technology at their disposal and they work more efficiently and so merger of smaller banks with bigger banks will create banking institutions that are more robust and that operate more efficiently."

‘Flexible workplace segment to see major consolidation’

India may see a major consolidation in the flexible workplace segment, as bigger operators will look to acquire smaller ones for inorganic growth, property consultant Colliers said

8.8 MILLION SQFT: Projected leasing by flexible workspace operators in 2019 across seven major markets; flexible workspace operators leased 6.8 million sq ft in 2018

17 MILLION SQFT: Total stock of flexible workplace in India, around 3.5 per cent of total commercial real estate stock

55,000 SQFT: Average size of a flexible workplace in 2019, which has increased 40 per cent over two years

TOP 3 CITIES WITH HIGHEST SHARE:
■ Bengaluru: ~35%, around 6 million sq ft
■ Delhi-NCR: 19%
■ Mumbai: 17%

18-20%

Expected share of flexible workspace leasing in total gross leasing of office space; in 2018, it accounted for 14 per cent of total commercial office leasing

300

Estimated number of flexible workspace operators in India



FACTORS THAT WILL BOOST CONSOLIDATION OF FLEXIBLE WORKSPACE OPERATORS:

■ Acquisition of smaller companies

■ Desire to enter new locations

■ Aim to increase scale of operations

SEVEN CITIES considered for the report: Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi-NCR, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai and Pune

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 1

THE SLOWDOWN in the auto industry and decline in domestic sales extended for yet another month, with leading car manufacturers announcing up to 50 per cent drop in sales in August 2019 as against that in corresponding month last year.

While Maruti Suzuki (MSIL), the market leader with around 50 per cent market share, announced a sharp 36 per cent drop in domestic passenger vehicle sales for August, Honda Cars posted a 51 per cent fall in sales for the month with sales of 8,291 units as against 17,020 units in August 2018.

Toyota India also announced a 24 per cent drop in domestic sales in August 2019 at 10,701 units as against 14,100 units in August last

year. Hyundai Motor India recorded a 16.58 fall in domestic sales, with 38,205 units sold last month as against 45,801 in the corresponding period a year ago.

For MSIL, the domestic car sales stood at 93,173 units last month, against sales of 145,895 units in August last year.

The August sales for MSIL is lowest monthly sales in almost five years, said a source. While the mini and compact sub-segment, (Alto, WagonR, Celerio, Ignis, Swift, Dzire and Baleno) which account for over two-thirds of the automobile manufacturer's sales witnessed a 40 per cent drop in sales last month, its mid-size car Ciaz witnessed a sharp 77 per cent drop in sales in August. The firm sold 1,596 units of Ciaz last month as against over 7,000 units sold in the same month last year.

The utility vehicle segment for

Maruti Suzuki, however, witnessed a marginal 3 per cent rise in sales over that seen in the same period last year.

While the slowdown in auto sales began since the IL&FS crisis hit markets in August-September 2018, on account of slowdown in lending by NBFCs, the first five months of the current fiscal have been very hard for the industry.

MSIL has seen its domestic passenger car sales fall 27 per cent in the period between April and August 2019. In these five months, MSIL has sold 553,068 units, as against 757,289 units sold in April-August 2018 — over two lakh fewer than in the year-ago period.

While the industry has started witnessing loss of jobs across its value chain, even large players have now started reducing the headcount following production cuts on account of decline in sales.

Recently, MSIL chairman RC Bhargava said that the company has not renewed the contracts of 3,000 temporary employees across its manufacturing plants, as it is battling rising inventory amid slowdown in demand.

Commenting on the industry sales, Rajesh Goel, senior vice president and director—sales and marketing, Honda Cars India, said, "The auto sector continues to witness high de-growth due to poor consumer sentiment. This is despite the high discounts prevailing in the market which makes it the best time to buy cars.

"We hope the recent measures taken by the government will help in improving consumer sentiment and demand creation as we move forward. With the impending festive season, the sales are likely to pick-up in coming months," he added.

BRIEFLY

ATF price cut by 1%, LPG rate up by ₹15.5

New Delhi: Jet fuel price on Sunday was cut by about 1 per cent to a four-month low on softening international oil prices, according to state-owned fuel retailers. Market-priced or non-subsidised cooking gas (LPG) price was however raised by Rs 15.5 per cylinder, oil firms said in a price notification. Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) price in Delhi was cut by Rs 596.62 per kilolitre or 0.9 per kl, to Rs 62,698.86 per kl. This is the third straight monthly price reduction. Jet fuel prices were last cut by 5.8 per cent or Rs 3,806.44 per kl on August 1.

Assets up to ₹31.11 lakh crore: LIC

New Delhi: LIC Sunday said its assets have grown to over Rs 31.11 lakh crore, mainly helped by a bouquet of 32 plans under individual business. With the increased business, the market share of the insurer rose to 73.1 per cent at the end of July 2019. "Starting with an initial capital of Rs 5 crore in 1956, LIC has assets of over Rs 31,11,847.28 crore with life fund to the tune of Rs 28,28,320.12 crore," the insurer said in a statement. **PTI**

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
CHENNAI, SEPTEMBER 1

AS THE Central Statistics Office (CSO) said on Friday the country's gross domestic product (GDP) grew at a 25-quarter low rate of 5 per cent in April-June with private consumption and manufacturing faltering the most in a rather broad-based slowdown, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday said the government was responding to the issues confronting the economy "sectorally".

Outlining the government's approach, she asserted that,

"When we spoke about amalgamation of banks I have very clearly underlined the fact that there shall not be one employee removed. Not at all"

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN
FINANCE MINISTER



"every sector of the Indian economy, when it approaches us, we (the government) hear them out for solutions that they want and

we respond to it".

Sitharaman was addressing mediapersons here after a meeting with officers of the Customs,

goods and service tax and income tax departments. Asked what was her message to people who had lost their jobs and those fearing job losses, she said, "I can only say we are responding to the industry requirements. Across the board, there is no one particular answer that I can give, saying this is the magic wand. Sectorally, what they want, we are responding."

On apprehensions of huge job losses, the FM said, the country's official jobs data always concentrated on the formal sector only. This, she said, was the case even before the first Narendra Modi government came into power in

2014 and the period after it.

"Indian informal sector employment has not been appropriately or exhaustively documented. When we are referring to data from government organisations like NSSO, it talks only about the formal sector and not about the informal. In India, the nature of our economy was that it is in the informal sector where majority of our employment is. If there is stress in the respective sectors, I am willing to hear," she added.

Sitharaman also allayed fears of job losses following the proposed merger of public sector banks (PSBs), saying that not even

one employee would be removed following the amalgamation.

"Absolutely, ill informed. I want to assure every union in every one of these banks to please recall what I have said last Friday. When we spoke about amalgamation of banks I have very clearly underlined the fact that there shall not be one employee removed. Not at all," she said.

There would not be any closure of banks and no bank was being asked to do something new.

The minister's remarks are against the backdrop of global agencies cutting global and India's growth outlook and grim progn-

osis by many noted analysts of the India's short-term growth prospects. The RBI said in its annual report 2018-19 last week, "The recent (growth) deceleration could be in the nature of a soft patch mutating into a cyclical downsloping, rather than a deep structural slowdown. Nonetheless, there are still structural issues in land, labour, agricultural marketing and the like, which need to be addressed."

The Centre has been in consultation with various sectors and Sitharaman came out with two tranches of announcement during the last two weeks. **FE & PTI**

CITING COMMENTS FROM US ECONOMIST PETER MORICI, TRUMP CALLS ON US FIRMS TO FIND SUPPLIERS OUTSIDE OF CHINA

Beijing, Washington kick off new round of tariffs in trade war

BEN BLANCHARD & STEVE HOLLAND
BEIJING/WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 1

CHINA AND the United States began imposing additional tariffs on each other's goods on Sunday, the latest escalation in a bruising trade war, but US President Donald Trump said the sides would still meet for talks later this month.

Trump, writing on Twitter, said his goal was to reduce US reliance on China and again urged American companies to find alternate suppliers outside China.

A new round of tariffs took effect from 0401 GMT, with Beijing's levy of 5 per cent on US crude marking the first time the fuel has

been targeted since the world's two largest economies began their trade war over a year ago.

The Trump administration Sunday began collecting 15 per cent tariffs on over \$125 billion in Chinese imports, including smart speakers, Bluetooth headphones and many types of footwear.

In retaliation, China started to impose additional tariffs on some of the US goods on a \$75-billion target list. Beijing did not specify the value of the goods that face higher tariffs from Sunday.

The extra tariffs of 5 per cent and 10 per cent were levied on 1,717 items of a total of 5,078 products originating from US. China will start collecting additional tariffs on the rest from December 15.

Trump on Sunday cited com-

FIRST TIME THAT FUEL HAS BEEN TARGETED

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ments from US economist Peter Morici, who claims the tariffs will not impact US consumers that much given a drop in the Chinese currency, and called on US companies to find suppliers outside of

China. "We don't want to be servants to the Chinese!" he said. "This is about American Freedom. Redirect the supply chain. There is no reason to buy everything from China!"

Later, he told reporters that talks with China were continuing and the two would meet in person in September. "We are talking to China, the meeting is still on, as you know, in September," he said. "We'll see what happens, but we can't allow China to rip us off anymore as a country."

Chinese state media struck a defiant note. "The United States should learn how to behave like a responsible global power and stop acting as 'a school bully,'" the official *Xinhua* news agency said.

"As the world's only superpower, it needs to shoulder its due responsibility, and join other countries in making this world a better and more prosperous place. Only then can America become great again." **REUTERS**

China plans to give its economy more support

REUTERS
BEIJING, SEPTEMBER 1

CHINA PLANS to provide more support for its economy, including investing in infrastructure projects and regional development, while maintaining a prudent monetary policy with "reasonably" ample liquidity, the State Council said on Sunday.

As the second-largest economy weathers its biggest slowdown in decades, the State Council said the government

aimed to better integrate fiscal, financial and monetary policies, deepen capital market reforms and further open up the financial sector.

"We attach great importance to the development of infrastructure, high-tech, traditional industrial transformation, social services and new growth regions," the State Council said in a statement, after a meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Commission (FSDC) chaired by Vice Premier Liu He on Saturday.

BREXIT

Who's gonna stop no-deal?

How Parliament can stop Boris Johnson's no-deal Brexit



On August 28, Boris Johnson, a leading Leaver who is now prime minister, announced that in the run-up to Brexit, Parliament would be suspended altogether. Reuters

ONE BY one, the principles on which the Brexit campaign was fought have been exposed as hollow. Before the referendum, Leavers argued that victory would enable them to negotiate a brilliant deal with the European Union. Now they advocate leaving with no deal at all. Before the vote they said that Brexit would allow Britain to strike more free-trade agreements. Now they say that trading on the bare-bones terms of the World Trade Organisation would be fine. Loudest of all they talked of taking back control and restoring sovereignty to Parliament. Yet on August 28th Boris Johnson, a leading Leaver who is now prime minister, announced that in the run-up to Brexit Parliament would be suspended altogether.

His utterly cynical ploy is designed to stop MPs steering the country off the reckless course he has set to leave the EU with or without a deal on October 31st. His actions are technically legal, but they stretch the conventions of the constitution to their limits. Because he is too weak to carry Parliament in a vote, he means to silence it. In Britain's representative democracy, that sets a dan-

gerous precedent.

But it is still not too late for MPs to thwart his plans—if they get organised. The sense of inevitability about no-deal, cultivated by the hardliners advising Mr Johnson, is bogus. The EU is against such an outcome; most Britons oppose it; Parliament has already voted against the idea. Those MPs determined to stop no-deal have been divided and unfocused. When they return to work next week after their uneasy summer recess, they will have a fleeting chance to avert this unwanted national calamity. Mr Johnson's actions this week have made clear why they must seize it.

Of all her mistakes as prime minister, perhaps Theresa May's gravest was to plant the idea that Britain might do well to leave the EU without any exit agreement. Her slogan that "no deal is better than a bad deal" was supposed to persuade the Europeans to make concessions. It didn't—but it did persuade many British voters and MPs that if the EU offered less than perfect terms, Britain should walk away.

In fact the government's own analysis suggests that no-deal would make the econ-

omy 9% smaller after 15 years than if Britain had remained. Mr Johnson says preparations for the immediate disruption are "colossal and extensive and fantastic". Yet civil servants expect shortages of food, medicine and petrol, and a "meltdown" at ports. A growing number of voters seem to think that a few bumpy months and a lasting hit to incomes might be worth it to get the whole tedious business out of the way. This is the greatest myth of all. If Britain leaves with no deal it will face an even more urgent need to reach terms with the EU, which will demand the same concessions as before—and perhaps greater ones, given that Britain's hand will be weaker.

Mr Johnson insists that his intention is to get a new, better agreement before October 31st, and that to do so he needs to threaten the EU with the credible prospect of no-deal. Despite the fact that Mrs May got nowhere with this tactic, many Tory MPs still see it as a good one. The EU wants a deal, after all. And whereas it became clear that Mrs May was bluffing about walking out, Mr Johnson might just be serious (the fanatics who do his thinking certainly are). Angela Merkel,

Germany's chancellor, said recently that Britain should come up with a plan in the next 30 days if it wants to replace the Irish backstop, the most contentious part of the withdrawal agreement. Many moderate Tories, even those who oppose no-deal, would like to give their new prime minister a chance to prove his mettle.

They are mistaken. First, the effect of the no-deal threat on Brussels continues to be overestimated in London. The EU's position—that it is open to plausible British suggestions—is the same as it has always been. The EU's priority is to keep the rules of its club intact, to avoid other members angling for special treatment. With or without the threat of no-deal, it will make no more than marginal changes to the existing agreement. Second, even if the EU were to drop the backstop altogether, the resulting deal might well be rejected by "Spartan" Tory Brexiters, so intoxicated by the idea of leaving without a deal that they seem ready to vote against any agreement. And third, even if an all-new deal were offered by the EU and then passed by Parliament, ratifying it in Europe and pass-

ing the necessary laws in Britain would require an extension well beyond October 31st. Mr Johnson's vow to leave on that date, "do or die", makes it impossible to leave with any new deal. It also reveals that he is fundamentally unserious about negotiating one.

That is why Parliament must act now to take no-deal off the table, by passing a law requiring the prime minister to ask the EU for an extension. Even before Mr Johnson poleaxed Parliament, this was not going to be easy. The House of Commons' agenda is controlled by Downing Street, which will allow no time for such a bill. MPs showed in the spring that they could take temporary control of the agenda, when they passed a law forcing Mrs May to request an extension beyond the first Brexit deadline of March 29th. This time there is no current legislation to act as a "hook" for an amendment mandating an extension, so the Speaker of the House would have to go against precedent by allowing MPs to attach a binding vote to an emergency debate. All that may be possible. But with Parliament suspended for almost five weeks there will be desper-

ately little time.

So, if rebel MPs cannot pass a law, they must be ready to use their weapon of last resort: kicking Mr Johnson out of office with a vote of no confidence. He has a working majority of just one. The trouble is that attempts to find a caretaker prime minister, to request a Brexit extension before calling an election, have foundered on whether it should be Jeremy Corbyn, the far-left Labour leader whom most Tories despise, or a more neutral figure.

If the various factions opposed to no-deal cannot agree, Mr Johnson will win. But if they needed a reason to put aside their differences, he has just given them one. The prime minister was already steering Britain towards a no-deal Brexit that would hit the economy, wrench at the union and cause a lasting rift with international allies. Now he has shown himself willing to stifle parliamentary democracy to achieve his aims. Wavering MPs must ask themselves: if not now, when?

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THE FEUD BETWEEN JAPAN AND SOUTH KOREA

Unique low

An old grudge between Japan and South Korea is getting out of hand

ORDER A Glass of Asahi lager in a pub in Seoul these days and chances are the bartender will shake his head disapprovingly before suggesting one of the watery local alternatives. Shopkeepers have relegated Japanese products to the bottom shelf or removed them from view altogether. Owners of sushi restaurants have put up signs stressing that though their dishes may look Japanese, the fish was caught in Korean waters. Many fashionistas will no longer be seen dead in a branch of Muji or Uniqlo, though both Japanese brands are usually very popular.

The boycott is the most noticeable popular expression of an escalating row between South Korea and Japan, which has evolved from a diplomatic spat over Japan's conduct in the second world war into a full-blown feud over trade and national security. On August 28th Japanese restrictions on the export of hundreds of products to South Korea came into force. Earlier this week, South Korea conducted scaled-up military exercises around Dokdo, disputed islets which South Korea controls but Japan claims as its own (calling them Takeshima). Days before South Korea had halted an intelligence-sharing pact with Japan.

The deteriorating relations between two American allies will make it harder to manage rising tensions in East Asia. Russia and China have become increasingly assertive in recent months, testing the patience of the two regional democracies with deep incursions into their airspace. Kim Jong Un, North Korea's dic-

tator, has continued to expand his missile programme—and in all likelihood, his nuclear one—despite several rounds of denuclearisation talks with America. Over the past few weeks he has tested new weapons which analysts say are designed to foil regional missile-defence systems, making it all the more crucial to keep tabs on their development.

The spat between South Korea and Japan has little to do with such present-day threats and everything to do with chronic historical grievances, notably over Japan's annexation of Korea and the suffering inflicted on its people during the war. It became acute last year, when South Korea's Supreme Court ruled that Japanese companies that used South Koreans as forced labour during the war should pay compensation to surviving victims. Japan says such claims were settled by a treaty in 1965 and has demanded that the South Korean government rein in the court.

In July Japan elevated the conflict to the commercial realm by restricting exports of chemicals that are essential for manufacturing memory chips, one of South Korea's biggest industries. This month the dispute spread to matters of security. Japan decided in early August to remove South Korea from a list of preferred trading partners on national-security grounds, citing concerns that components might end up in North Korea. South Korea then announced it would not renew its intelligence-sharing pact with Japan, which America had brokered in 2016, as trust had broken down.

American officials say they have been taken aback. The State Department issued a rare public rebuke of the South Korean government. But many observers believe the escalation could have been avoided if America had shown more interest earlier on. President Donald Trump has called on the two allies to "get along", but done precious little to mediate in the dispute, complaining that he has too much on his plate already. He has continued to shrug off Mr Kim's weapons tests. "The problem is that the administration has no plan for the region other than the president staying in the news," says Alexis Dudden of the University of Connecticut.

For all the excitable rhetoric, the immediate consequences for security co-operation are unlikely to be severe. The intelligence-sharing pact does not expire until late November. Even after that, Japan and South Korea will still have access to each other's intelligence through a trilateral agreement with America. The trade restrictions have yet to bite, too. Japan continues to authorise exports. The red tape generated by the new rules is bothersome but not yet lethal for companies. Businesses in both countries are more worried by the trade war between America and China.

The erosion of trust is more serious. "This is a fight between friends that will only benefit actual antagonists such as North Korea," says Park Cheol-hee of Seoul National University. Scrapping the pact is also likely to put South Korea on the back foot in nego-



Members of a conservative civic group attend an anti-Japan protest in Seoul, on August 13. Reuters

tiations about how to divide the cost of hosting American troops, and reduce its standing in the eyes of the world, believes Chun In-bum, a former South Korean army general. "I'm disappointed because it makes us look guilty," he says.

The dispute is also beginning to rile ordinary people. Two-thirds of South Koreans say they support the boycott of Japanese products and would consider taking part. Four-fifths claim they would not go on holiday to Japan at the moment. Sales of Japanese beer and clothing in South Korea have collapsed since July. Airlines have cut back

flights on many popular routes.

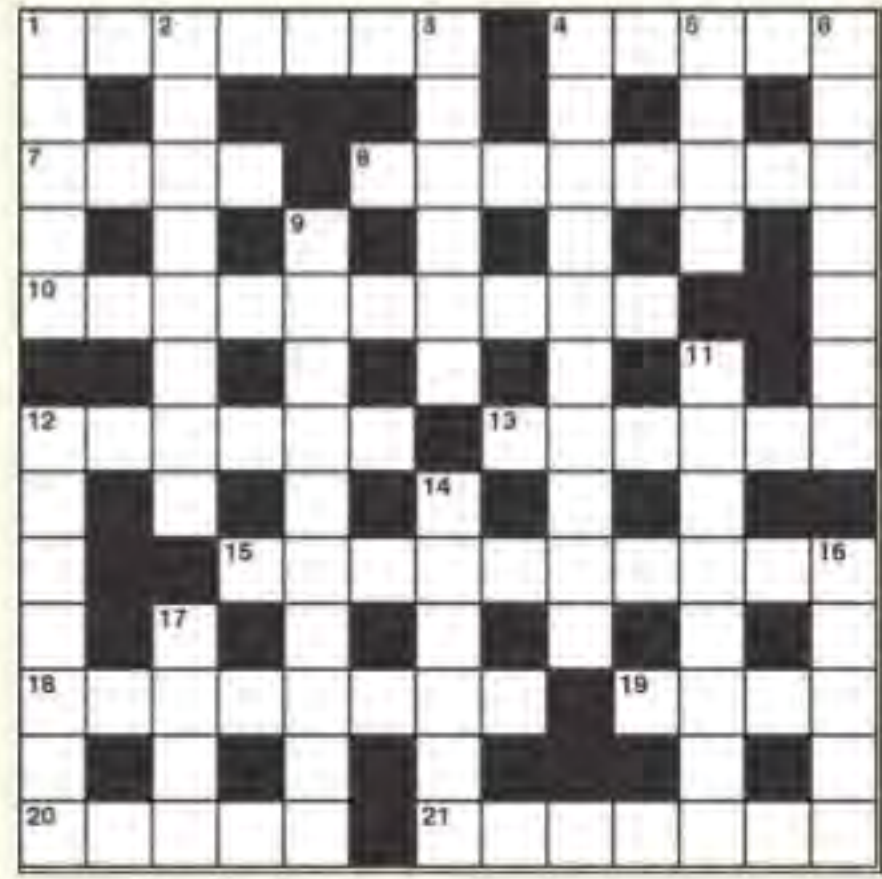
Japanese public opinion is not yet vocally anti-Korean, but a majority of Japanese voters support the government's stance. Right-wing groups are stoking anti-Korean sentiment by recycling old tropes of "untrustworthy" and "faithless" Koreans, says Ms Dudden. Visitors to Tokyo report a mood of exasperation with what many Japanese perceive as South Korean intransigence.

This makes it unlikely that the dispute will be resolved quickly. Neither side feels it can be seen to back down, says Mr Park, who thinks South Korea should take the first step

towards de-escalation by reversing its decision on the intelligence-sharing pact. But Moon Jae-in, South Korea's president, who faces legislative elections in April, is struggling with a sickly economy, deadlock in his flagship policy of inter-Korean rapprochement and controversy regarding his favoured candidate for justice minister. Shinzo Abe, Japan's prime minister, is for his part keen to please his ultranationalist base. As the two allies fan the flames of nationalism, Mr Kim has ample peace and quiet to expand his arsenal.

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CROSSWORD 3899



- ACROSS**
1 Aspired to become a literary giant (7)
4 Two short ways to break in (5)
7 He floated a company to avoid liquidation (4)
8 The offer of money may make them cross (8)
10 Stayed well away from work (10)
12 Unfinished plans of rowdies (6)
13 The inane goddess? (6)
15 Chimney cleaners take a gamble (10)
18 Near the avenue (8)
19 Plant where workers strike for more money (4)
20 Shoot for almost the whole season (5)
21 Is angry about the shrub (7)
- Down**
1 Material that's dug up (5)
2 Becomes confused about laps, runs wrongly (6,2)
3 Staggered, but got in line (6)
4 The shooting of an unknown person? (6,4)
5 The purposes of first-class writing (4)
6 Give a subject a title, perhaps (7)
9 He won't ring when upset and at fault (2,3,5)
11 Uncle perhaps? That would be telling! (8)
12 Make haste with methods for smooth procedure at airports (7)
14 Fights to protect one's property (6)
16 There's an added charge for a special edition (5)
17 A boom in shipping, perhaps (4)

Solutions Crossword 3898 Across: 1 Get-together, 9 Portico, 10 Khaki, 11 Yarn, 12 Umbrella, 14 No more, 16 Hold it, 18 Gardener, 19 Spur, 22 Malta, 23 Antwerp, 24 At a discount. Down: 2 Error, 3 Tail, 4 Grooms, 5 Take root, 6 Enabled, 7 A paying game, 8 Misanthrope, 13 Freehand, 15 Martlet, 17 Replies, 20 Preen, 21 Otto.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

Lead us not into _____, Just tell us where it is; we'll find it. - Sam Levenson (10)

RSAEO
[Shaded squares: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101, 103, 105, 107, 109, 111, 113, 115, 117, 119, 121, 123, 125, 127, 129, 131, 133, 135, 137, 139, 141, 143, 145, 147, 149, 151, 153, 155, 157, 159, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 173, 175, 177, 179, 181, 183, 185, 187, 189, 191, 193, 195, 197, 199, 201, 203, 205, 207, 209, 211, 213, 215, 217, 219, 221, 223, 225, 227, 229, 231, 233, 235, 237, 239, 241, 243, 245, 247, 249, 251, 253, 255, 257, 259, 261, 263, 265, 267, 269, 271, 273, 275, 277, 279, 281, 283, 285, 287, 289, 291, 293, 295, 297, 299, 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, 313, 315, 317, 319, 321, 323, 325, 327, 329, 331, 333, 335, 337, 339, 341, 343, 345, 347, 349, 351, 353, 355, 357, 359, 361, 363, 365, 367, 369, 371, 373, 375, 377, 379, 381, 383, 385, 387, 389, 391, 393, 395, 397, 399, 401, 403, 405, 407, 409, 411, 413, 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AROUND TOWN



Climb On

ATTEND A talk on the challenges that one faces while climbing Nanda Devi. Titled “The Challenge of Nanda Devi East” mountaineer Anindya Mukherjee shall share highlights from his expeditions to Nanda Devi East (7434m) in 2013 and 2014. At India Habitat Centre, September 3, 7 pm.



Tap Along

TUNE INTO the vibrant music of the Columbia with a concert “Cimarron - Music from the Plains of Colombia”. The concert is being presented by Cimarrón, a 2004 Grammy nominated group from Colombia. Their music includes four-stringed cuatro, harp, maracas, and also Peruvian-flamenco cajón. The concert has been organised to commemorate 60 years of diplomatic relations between Colombia and India. On September 4, at 6:30 pm, at the India International Centre, Lodhi Estate.



From the Frontlines

AN EXHIBITION narrates the lives of Himeyuri students through photographs of peacetime and wartime in Okinawa, Japan. Students from the school were mobilised to act as nurses on the front during the Second World War. At the Japan Foundation, on till September 21. From 11 am to 5:30 pm.

Stories Retold

REVISIT THE classic fairy tale *Hansel and Gretel* through nine rooms and immersive mix of audio visual elements and an art installation. Concept by Cristina Galbiati and Ilja Luginbühl, it's supported by Pro Helvetia. At Oddbird Theatre. September 4, 6 pm onwards.

‘I am all for the sheen, not shine’

Designer Kunal Rawal on his menswear collection, staying inspired by Mumbai’s streets and playing guessing games with fabric



(Clockwise from above) Designs from Kunal Rawal's latest collection, Confluence; Rawal Amit Chakravarty; metal detailing from his collection



EKTA MALIK

BY THE time we meet designer Kunal Rawal on a busy Tuesday morning at Dstress, his Juhu store, he is already on his second large coffee, and predictably is buzzing with energy, but that's not just because of the coffee; he is a morning person. He has had a busy weekend — he presented his latest collection Confluence at the recent edition of the Lakme Fashion Week — and a busy month, he opened his Delhi store at Emporio, and there are plans afoot for one in Hyderabad as well.

He started the year with a bang, with his flagship store at the erstwhile Rhythm House, the iconic music store in Kala Ghoda, Mumbai's art district. “I love putting a show together. I love the energy, the crazy hours and 50 cups of coffee. I could not have asked for a better year. Getting Rhythm House was surreal, people don't normally associate a heritage building with fashion. But that's the point, fashion should surprise you *naa*. I did luck out with the venue, that area is a few beats relaxed than the rest of Mumbai,” says Rawal, the man of the moment where men's fashion is concerned.

Rawal is an exception of sorts in the Indian fashion scene, where womenswear has always been the thing that raked in the



I love watching people at signals and talking to them. I have never wanted to be one of those designers who are sketching feverishly in an air-conditioned studio

KUNAL RAWAL

moolah. Menswear was always relegated to the second slot and served as a bonus. But Rawal was always interested in men's fashion, a decision that stemmed from the need to make clothes that he could wear. “I started out by making clothes for myself,

and then for friends. I remember that time when fashion was not taken seriously, it was just a creative hobby. I am glad to be part of the journey where it has become this powerful industry. I see the same with menswear today. I was told that if I don't do womenswear I won't survive, because women shop for men. But, let me tell you, men like dressing up and being involved with the process as much as women do, if not more. We are as concerned about our paunch showing as women,” says Rawal. “And I wanted to bridge the gap between two categories that exist for menswear — the highly opulent, wedding clothes, which all look the same and the simple office wear. How about something cool for a Friday night? Or a casual work party? What does one wear then?”

Rawal's creations have fitted sherwanis with zippers, waistcoats with metal clasps on the shoulder and silk kurtas with minimal embroidery. “When I started my first label Dstress, I was making Western clothes with strong Indian roots. The detailing comes from my grounding in textiles. I am all for the sheen, not the shine,” says the graduate from London College of Fashion, who now has his own label Kunal Rawal.

With his father as a garment exporter, Rawal grew up in a world where words like design, fabric, and consignment were a staple. “I remember going on these drives with

my dad and my sister. He would buy us ice-cream, and then we would go to our factory. My sister and I would jump into the bales of fabric. We played a game, where we would shut our eyes and feel the fabric, and guess a rayon from a cotton,” shares the 33-year-old. “I could have joined my father's business, and expanded it, that would have been easier. But I wanted to break away and do my own thing.”

And break away he did. Rawal has designed the costumes for films such as *Aisha* (2010) and *Once Upon A Time in Mumbai Dobaara!* (2013). A-listers such as Shahid Kapoor and Sonam Kapoor are staunch supporters of his work. He has also had a stint with Being Human. While he may be dressing up the who's who of Bollywood, he turns to the streets of the Mumbai for inspiration. “I love watching people at signals and talking to them. I have never wanted to be one of those designers who are sketching feverishly in an AC studio. My factory is in Andheri East. I often see some jazzy outfits, a simple pant-shirt would be paired with a cropped jacket with a biker head. I think Mumbai has a strong sense of street fashion,” he says.

Rawal channels his inner geek in his photochromatic clothing that changes colour in the sun. A soft pink jacket turns to a hot neon number. “Two for the price of one,” he chuckles.



A still from Gulli Danda; filmmaker Narendra Singh (left)

and longs for a game of gulli danda with Gaya, who agrees only after great persuasion. Even though Manish cheats during the game, Gaya never complains. His aggression is also toned down. “During our childhood, he wouldn't have spared my life had I cheated like this. He would have caught me by the neck, but today I was cheating so openly. The donkey! He had forgotten everything,” Manish thinks aloud in the film. A tad disappointed, as he proceeds to leave, Gaya invites him to watch the game the next day that he will play with his friends. On the field, when Gaya strikes, the

gulli flies into the sky. There is no trace of hesitation, reluctance or lack of interest that Manish saw the day before. It is then that Manish realises that Gaya only pretended to play with him. He confronts the reality that he may have won Gaya's respect but not his friendship.

This film didn't have many takers, says Singh. A retired central government employee, he used Rs 12 lakh of his own money to make *Gulli Danda*. “There were many reasons I wanted to make this film,” he says, “Because, I wanted to put the focus back on indigenous sports that are inexpensive and

simple and I wanted to give a chance to theatre artistes from Lucknow to play lead characters. But most importantly, I wanted to showcase how a story written during the British rule is as relevant today, 70 years after independence.” He observed that even though the zamindari system has been abolished and there is reservation for scheduled castes, on the ground and in the minds of people, nothing has changed.

Lucknow-based theatre artist Yajvendra Pratap Singh, who will next be seen in the Hindi film *Ek Ank*, plays Munna, while his peer in the theatre group, Sharad Raj plays Gaya. Singh says that is his upcoming films also, he will continue to star artistes from his hometown. “Ever since the state government has announced subsidies to production houses, a lot of films are being shot here, but the local artistes are still relegated to supporting roles in Bollywood films,” he says.

Though his family continues to live in Delhi, Singh often heads to Lucknow, to pursue his passion for theatre and films. Previously, he made a 36-minute film on Premchand's *Bade Bhai Sahib*, which talks about idealism and sense of responsibility through the story of two brothers, who are a few years apart in age but their outlook to life is vastly different.

Currently, rehearsals are on at Singh's studio apartment in Lucknow for the adaptation of a third story by Premchand, *Kaphan*, written in 1936, which is a satirical take on the exploitation of manual labourers. “Once the post-production for *Kaphan* is complete, I plan to put them together the three films like an anthology of Premchand stories and take them to festivals.”

STRIDE OF PRIDE

A nine-year-old girl, who is a double amputee, will walk the ramp atop the Eiffel Tower during Paris Fashion Week later this month. Daisy-May Demetre, who has had both her legs amputated, is also the first-ever double amputee child to walk in an official New York Fashion Week show.



ON THE LOOSE



LEHER KALA

Between the Lines

When truth is stranger than legendary fiction

IT TURNS out it wasn't Leo Tolstoy's seminal work *War and Peace* that the Bombay High Court was referring to during the trial of human rights activist Vernon Gonsalves. It was *War and Peace in Junglemahal: People, State and Maoists* by Biswajit Roy, a collection of essays on political doublespeak and the Maoist problem. The Pune Police claim this to be “highly incriminating evidence” (among others) found at Gonsalves' residence (he is under arrest for allegedly making provocative speeches and instigating caste violence). “The CD *Rajya Daman Virodhit* itself suggests it has something against the state. Why did you have this at home?” asked Justice Sarang Kotwal, according to a widely quoted PTI report. Meanwhile, because of a comedy of errors misreporting this story, one of the greatest love affairs in fiction from Russia that everyone has heard of but too few have read, was suddenly trending on Twitter.

It must be said that irrespective of which book the honourable judge was alluding to, it doesn't change a thing. It's a really long shot, trying to incriminate someone by finding a link between literature of any kind, and proving a crime was committed because of it. Our bookshelves represent our interests, our education, our past and our work. By the bizarre logic put forward by the Pune Police maybe I should be chucking my copy of *Narconomics*, a readable dissection of the drug trade, for fear somebody might think I'm considering a new career. However, the fact that so many people thought it's entirely possible for the judiciary to deny someone bail because they own *War and Peace*, speaks volumes of how menacing they believe the reach of the Indian state is. And alas, more tragically, how little they know of Tolstoy.

The facts though, are chilling. Consider, ten law abiding citizens, among them a poet and a professor with no previous criminal records, are arrested citing the draconian Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) under the nebulous claim of participating in anti state activity. Over a year later, it's still not clear what the charges against them are. While the Pune Police may be accusing Gonsalves of being influenced by Marxist literature, to an outsider, the situation is eerily reminiscent of Franz Kafka's *The Trial* — where the protagonist is prosecuted by a remote authoritarian counsel and the nature of his crime not revealed either to him, or the reader.

In reality, the frivolous allegation against Gonsalves that has all of Twitter reacting in outrage follows an accepted practice in the business of law, where the gap between winning and losing a case is painstaking research. You have to hand it to the canny (if slightly desperate) lawyer who could twist an obscure and flimsy fact — a book on a shelf — and magically present it as evidence. The news is rife with examples of cases in court where both the defense and prosecution resort to clutching at straws to pad their cases. Just last week a woman filed for divorce saying her husband “fat shamed” her, causing mental stress and agony. Some years ago, AAP politician Somnath Bharti was accused by his estranged wife, of turning their pet Labrador against her. That dog was possibly the first in Indian history who unwittingly became a co-accused in a case of domestic violence.

The Pune Police's shaky premise to keep Gonsalves behind bars is not entirely without precedence — there is enough evidence to suggest we can't fully separate the work of our favourite artists from our motivations. After murdering John Lennon, Mark David Chapman sat by his side and began reading *The Catcher in the Rye*, that unforgettable ode to adolescent angst. Would Lennon be alive if *The Catcher* didn't exist? There were a spate of similar suicides after the release of film *The Deer Hunter* that so beautifully captured the Russian roulette obsession of a disillusioned soldier. Who knows if Biswajit Roy's *War and Peace in Junglemahal* had the transformative power to compel Gonsalves to an impassioned and illegal new perspective but any work that questions the current status quo, somewhere, opens one's vision to new possibilities for living.

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Street Wise

A film based on Munshi Premchand's story shows how caste discrimination is as rampant in India today as it was 80 years ago

DIVYAA

GAYA IS the strongest gulli danda player in Shivgarh, a village in Uttar Pradesh. On a balmy June afternoon, he and Munna are enjoying a long game, when Munna feels tired and thirsty but Gaya doesn't let him go till his fielding turn is over. Such is his coercion that an awestruck Munna abides by it. “The gulli might be of any shape, he pounced upon it like a lizard at an insect. I didn't know whether his parents were alive, or where he lived or what he ate but he was a champion player of our gulli danda club. The team for which he played was sure to win. On seeing him come we would dash towards him and urge him to join our team,” says Munna, the protagonist of Narendra Singh's recent film *Gulli Danda*, about Gaya. The film is based on Munshi Premchand's eponymous story written in the 1930s. However, Premchand had not given any name to the lead character.



The film moves 20 years later when Munna gets to know more about Gaya. Their relationship has changed and even the game is not the same. Munna has moved to a city, works as an engineer, and is now known as ‘Manish sahib’. He returns to his village where he stumbles upon a group of

boys playing gulli danda. He asks one of them, ‘Does a man by the name of Gaya live here?’ He responds, somewhat overawed, ‘Gaya? Gaya, the charmar?’

And therein appears a dark, gigantic man. Manish wants to embrace him but stops for some reason. He, instead, says, ‘Gaya, do you recognise me?’ Gaya bows to greet him. “Yes, *malik*. Why wouldn't I? How have you been?” “Even though Manish doesn't have a second name in the film, it is apparent that he is elite, lives in a city, is the son of a *thanedaar*, is educated and smug,” says Singh, about the lead character of his 45-minute Hindi film, which was screened recently at Delhi's Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts.

Manish wants to become Munna again,

Brisk knocks by Colin de Grandhomme and Ross Taylor helped New Zealand reach the 175-run target set by Sri Lanka with five wickets to spare in the first T20I of the three-match series in Kandy on Sunday.

Chronicle of dismissals foretold

Bumrah hat-trick victims, like several other batsmen, were aware of the impending danger, but seemed powerless to prevent it



EXPRESS IN WEST INDIES

SANDEEP G
KINGSTON, SEPTEMBER 1

AMONG MODERN-AGE bowlers, no one perfected the art of taking hat-tricks like Wasim Akram — the Pakistani maestro nabbed four, two apiece in Tests and ODIs. Nine of the 12 victims were blasted out in a predictably Akram-esque manner. Bowled. Six of them perished to his signature in-swingers, ripping, devilishly late-swerving corkers, beating batsmen by both pace and movement. Almost frighteningly predictable.

The faces of befuddled batsmen tell a story — they knew the unpreventable eventuality. It's not that they weren't aware of the most shining weapon in Akram's armoury, but it was irresistibly unpreventable. Like death and taxes in life, or the hurricanes in the Caribbean Sea.

Like it's with Jasprit Bumrah these days. In these technologically-intoxicated days, it's not difficult to gather data, dissect and dissemble a bowler, strip him to his elements, however unique or skilled he is, and devise counter-measures. Even before you're in the middle, you can visualise and draw trajectories of the delivery in your mind, condition your reflexes, toughen your mind and bound into the middle. Soon, there could be batting cages that can simulate the actual game scenario. But there's only so much technology, or for that matter gathered wisdom or human will, that can help you against great bowlers when you're facing them out in the middle. It's their predictability that makes them more indecipherable, that infuses a mortal dread, that makes batsmen helpless.

Bumrah took six wickets in the first innings as India bowled out the West Indies for 117 to take a 299-run lead. His 6-27 included a hat-trick, only the third by an Indian in Test cricket (after Harbhajan Singh in 2001 and Irfan Pathan in 2006).

The faces of Bumrah's dazed hat-trick victims reveal the story. Darren Bravo first. He knew exactly how Bumrah would bowl. He would look to slant the ball across him, probing his outside edge — the classical right-arm fast bowler's ploy from over the stumps. So even before Bumrah exploded into his action, Bravo is shuffling across to cover his off-stump, get outside the line and leave the delivery to safety. Only that he can't, he hangs his bat frozen outside the off-stump, sees the ball landing on middle-stump and swinging away. Bravo doesn't know how much it would swing. He has to make a judgment in a split second, or even less when facing Bumrah. And he plonks his bat, praying the ball would miss his bat. It doesn't. The helplessness flickers in his eyes.

Enters Shamarrh Brooks. Even before he marked his guard, those that have watched Bumrah in the last few years knew the impending delivery. A sense of deja vu, if you may. A full, sharp in-swing on middle-and-off, which the batsmen would consider ghastly fortunate to inside-edge. Brooks didn't. He stood still, determined to make his move at the very last moment. But before he could bring his bat down, the ball had cannoned off to his fresh white pads, leaving a tattoo-like mark on them. That would, in time, serve a reminder of Bumrah's in-swing mastery. Bumrah, it seems, hurries time, as much as stops it.

Next was Roston Chase's turn. Among all West Indies batsmen, he seems the sturdiest in defensive technique. He seems to have time, a cool disposition and ability to judge lengths. But he, like his colleagues, couldn't resist Bumrah's fury on a draining, humid afternoon. He's smart enough to second-guess Bumrah's intentions. Most bowlers, especially fast bowlers on a hat-trick, look to repeat the same delivery that had put them on the brink of the accomplishment. So Chase's mind might have been running a reel of Bumrah's in-swing on loop. Just need to



Jasprit Bumrah is the third Indian bowler — after Harbhajan Singh against Australia in 2001 and Irfan Pathan against Pakistan in 2006 — to take a hat-trick in Tests. *BCCI*

BUMRAH AND THE BEAUTY OF PREDICTABILITY



These screenshots show how Bumrah trapped Brooks (left) and Chase (right) on back-to-back deliveries.

FIVE OF Bumrah's six victims in Kingston perished to in-swingers, just as all five of his scalps in the second innings in Antigua were wrought by out-swingers. The dismissals of Shamarrh Brooks and Roston Chase show how helpless batsmen can be while facing Bumrah.

TO BROOKS, Bumrah bowled a full, sharp in-swing on middle-and-off, which batsmen would consider ghastly fortunate to inside-edge. Brooks didn't. He stood still, determined to make his move at the very last moment. But before he could bring his bat down, the ball had

cannoned off to his fresh white pads.

ROSTON CHASE is smart enough to second-guess Bumrah's intentions. Most bowlers on a hat-trick look to repeat the same delivery that had put them on the brink of the accomplishment. So Chase's mind might have been running a reel of Bumrah's in-swing on loop. Just need to bring the bat down in time. Chase tried, but the pad obstructed his bat from coming down fully. The front foot went slightly across than he might have intended. Like his colleagues, Chase knew Bumrah's intentions, yet doom was unpreventable.

He bowled some magic balls today. He got the ball to swing quite late this evening as well. He was difficult. (The dismissal delivery) angled in and left me at the last moment, so I give him all credit for that one.

JASON HOLDER
WINDIES SKIPPER ON BUMRAH

bring the bat down in time, he might have steeled his mind, to manage at least the thinnest fragment of wood on the ball.

The sequence plays out exactly the same way as anticipated. So thinks Bumrah. So thinks umpire Paul Reiffel. Only that Chase hadn't, as the pad had obstructed his bat from coming down fully. The front foot went slightly across than he might have designed it to. Against Bumrah, such minutest of mistakes won't go unpunished. Again, like his colleagues, Chase knew Bumrah's intentions, yet doom was unpreventable.

In fact, five of his six victims perished to in-swingers, just as all five of his scalps in the second innings in Antigua were wrought by out-swingers. It boggles the mind how repetitiveness can be so successful. The same bowler performing the same tricks with the same amount of success.

It's the case with all greatest sportsmen. They keep doing the same stuff, day in and day out, only that they do it with more virtuosity, perfection and conviction to pull it off at any given moment, than the merely

good ones. How many times has one seen Bumrah just striding into his run-up without even warming up and just blasting the stumps or pads? In the World Cup, it was such a commonplace sight that he made one wonder whether he was a bowling robot. Or in other words, it's greatness repeating itself.

It's the same with Lionel Messi — a bulk of his 419 goals have come in a similar manner. A breezy run, a hoodwinking dribble and a neat swish of that left foot that sends the ball spinning through its orbit to the top corner of the far post. Messi, the maestro he is, has scored goals in every manner humanly possible. But it's the sequence that would remain as the indelible image of his career.

Or take Roger Federer, no player in tennis history had such ludicrous command over a range of strokes, but it's the silken forehand that defines him, that brushstroke of a whip, evading the opponent's reach by a fraction, whistling right under his nose to eternity.

Closer to Bumrah's game, Shane Warne, the master of bluff, preyed most of his 708 wickets with leg-breaks. So have James Anderson's in-swingers. Like all of them, Bumrah has a bagful of tricks, but it's the in-swing on which he has imprinted his signature. It's predictable, yet unpreventable.

It shone in the eyes of the fans at Sabina Park. It wasn't antagonism that lit their eyes but admiration, a blessed feeling that they are watching greatness unfold in front of them. A suspension of belief. Not to have been beaten, but to have been there, watching Bumrah wreak havoc, in a predictable yet frighteningly unpreventable way.

SCORECARD >>

WI vs Ind

2nd Test | Kingston | Day 3 (lunch)

INDIA **416 IN 140.1 OVS (AFTER 336/7 ON DAY 2, LUNCH)**

G Vihari c Roach b Holder **111** (225b, 16x4)
I Sharma c Hetmyer b Brathwaite **57** (80b, 7x4)

Mohd Shami c †Hamilton b Cornwall **0** (2b)
J Bumrah not out **0** (4b)

■ **Extras:** (b 11, lb 19, w 1) **31**
■ **Fall of wickets:** 1-32 (KL Rahul, 6.5 ov), 2-46 (Cheteshwar Pujara, 16.5 ov), 3-115 (Mayank Agarwal, 40.5 ov), 4-164 (Ajinkya Rahane, 59.5 ov), 5-202 (Virat Kohli, 72.1 ov), 6-264 (Rishabh Pant, 90.1 ov), 7-302 (Ravindra Jadeja, 110.1 ov), 8-414 (Ishant Sharma, 138.4 ov), 9-416 (Mohammed Shami, 139.2 ov), 10-416 (Hanuma Vihari, 140.1 ov)

■ **Bowling:**
K Roach 30-9-77-1
S Gabriel 21-4-74-0
J Holder 32.1-9-77-5
R Cornwall 41-10-105-3
R Chase 14-4-45-0
K Brathwaite 2-0-8-1

WINDIES **117 IN 47.1 OVS**

K Brathwaite c †Pant b Bumrah **10** (38b, 1x4)
J Campbell c †Pant b Bumrah **2** (16b)

D Bravo c Rahul b Bumrah **4** (8b)
S Brooks lbw b Bumrah **0** (1b)
R Chase lbw b Bumrah **0** (1b)
S Hetmyer b Shami **34** (57b, 7x4)
J Holder c sub (Rohit) b Bumrah **18** (38b, 2x4)
J Hamilton c Kohli b I Sharma **5** (59b)
R Cornwall c Rahane b Shami **14** (31b, 2x4)
K Roach c Agarwal b Jadeja **17** (31b, 3x4)
S Gabriel not out **0** (3b)

■ **Extras:** (b 8, lb 5) **13**
■ **Fall of wickets:** 1-9 (John Campbell, 6.4 ov), 2-13 (Darren Bravo, 8.2 ov), 3-13 (Shamarh Brooks, 8.3 ov), 4-13 (Roston Chase, 8.4 ov), 5-22 (Kraigg Brathwaite, 12.5 ov), 6-67 (Shimron Hetmyer, 24.6 ov), 7-78 (Jason Holder, 28.1 ov), 8-97 (Rahkeem Cornwall, 37.1 ov), 9-117 (Jahmar Hamilton, 46.3 ov), 10-117 (Kemar Roach, 47.1 ov)

■ **Bowling:**
I Sharma 10.5-3-24-1
J Bumrah 12.1-3-27-6
Mohd Shami 13-3-34-2
R Jadeja 11.1-7-19-1

INDIA **16/1 IN 9 OVS**

KL Rahul not out **6** (29b, 1x4)
M Agarwal lbw b Roach **4** (15b, 1x4)
C Pujara not out **5** (10b, 1x4)
■ **Extras:** (lb 1) **1**
■ **Fall of wickets:** 1-9 (Mayank Agarwal, 4.6 ov)
■ **Bowling:**
K Roach 4-1-7-1
J Holder 3-2-4-0
R Cornwall 1-0-4-0
S Gabriel 1-1-0-0

Mother's pride: A ton of joy for Vihari & family

VISHAL MENON
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 1

SEATED ON the couch at her Bowenpally residence in Secunderabad, Vijayalaxmi is groggy. It's close to midnight on Saturday, well past her bedtime. But the 53-year-old makes sure that she is wide awake and glued to the television set. Far away at Sabina Park in Kingston, her son Hanuma Vihari is approaching his maiden Test century. He had come close in the previous Test in Antigua, before falling short by seven runs. Vijayalaxmi would take the blame for his son's misfortune then. "During the first Test (in Antigua), I couldn't stay up all night to watch him bat, which is why he couldn't score the century," she says. This time, Vijayalaxmi was taking no chances.

On Saturday, when Vihari nudged Kemar Roach to mid-wicket, it was the most important single he had ever taken. That run brought up his first Test century, a moment of pure, unbridled joy for the 25-year-old, in his sixth Test.

Vijayalaxmi was overwhelmed with emotion. This was the moment she had been waiting for ever since she and her husband,

G. Satyanarayana decided to let their son follow his dream of becoming a cricketer. However, not having the husband by her side made that moment a bit heart-wrenching.

Unsurprisingly, her son would dedicate this knock to his late father. "My father passed away when I was 12 so ever since, I have decided that when I play international cricket, I want to dedicate my first century to him," Vihari would say after scoring 111. "Today is an emotional day and I hope that he is proud wherever he is and I'm really happy that I have managed to achieve that."

As Vijayalaxmi watched Vihari score his maiden Test century, memories of her five-year-old son rattling names of cricketers from the Caribbean would flood her mind. "He was barely five, but even then, he knew the names of all the cricketers from West Indies. Lara, Chanderpaul, Ambrose, Walsh, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Franklyn Rose, Dillon... he would keep taking their names," she reminisces. It's only fitting that he notched up a century against this team two decades later.

Vihari spent his early childhood in Manuguru, a mofussil town on the banks of the Godavari river known for its collieries. His father, an engineer by profession, was

employed with the Singareni coalfields. The Singareni staff quarters were home for Hanuma and his elder sister Vyshnavi. Interest in cricket was ignited in Vihari by his uncle R. Prasad, a software professional based in Hyderabad, and his mother Vijayalaxmi. The two would devour all the matches aired on television and even the bulk of the discussion at the dinner table would centre on VVS Laxman's exploits against Australia and how Rahul Dravid kept finding ways to score runs in England.

On his uncle's insistence, Satyanarayana decided to let his wife and children move to Hyderabad so that his son could pursue a career in cricket. Vihari was barely eight when Prasad got his nephew enrolled at St John's academy in East Marredpally, Secunderabad. Under the tutelage of R. Sridhar, his cricketing career began to take shape.

"It was my father's decision to get us shifted to Hyderabad so that my brother could pursue cricket. All this while, my father decided to stay back at Manuguru. Looking back, my father made a lot of sacrifices to see his son become a cricketer, and my brother acknowledges this fact," says Vyshnavi.

Cricket would consume the bulk of

Vihari's time, which meant that after graduating from St. Andrew's High School in Secunderabad, he didn't give much thought to college or higher studies. "He kept graduating on the cricketing field though, representing the school at U-13 level, and then Hyderabad till the U-19 levels. Two years ago, he shifted to the Andhra team in Ranji Trophy," his sister informs.

A prolific scorer

As Vihari continued to amass runs on the domestic circuit, the success didn't alter his personality. He would still remain calm and level-headed with the steely resolve to play for India. This is something Jim Crappnell, the head coach of Hutton Cricket Club would attest to. He had watched India's No.6 batsman from close quarters for two seasons — in 2014 and 2015 — when Vihari joined them to play club cricket in England.

"He stayed in my house for a while and would do his thing quietly without creating a problem for anyone. He was friendly to youngsters and was a determined lad who would practice for hours," was his assessment. Even then, there was one particular trait that got Crappnell's attention.

"Initially, I found him calling his mother



Hanuma Vihari dedicated his maiden Test century to his late father. In the picture on the right, a 3-year-old Hanuma is seen with his parents.



often. At first, I thought it was a case of a young kid who was homesick. By the end of his stint here, I realised that it was more about him taking care of her. His was a very close-knit family," he adds. When Vihari was selected for the Indian squad for the England tour, Crappnell would tweet: "My finest piece of recruitment to date."

Vyshnavi calls her brother an innocent boy consumed by cricket. This is why his

over-the-top celebrations after reaching the century on Saturday came as a surprise to her. "He is not the sort of a guy who would show a lot of emotion. But this was his first Test century," she quips.

Back home, Vijayalaxmi's phone has been buzzing incessantly. In the midst of attending to calls from relatives and well-wishers, she only wishes she had her husband by her side in their moment of pride.

Arsenal fight back against Spurs to draw local derby

REUTERS
LONDON, SEPTEMBER 1

ARSENAL STRIKING duo Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Alexandre Lacazette scored as their side roared back from two goals down to draw 2-2 at home to rivals Tottenham Hotspur in a thrilling north London derby in the Premier League on Sunday.

Tottenham's Christian Eriksen nudged the ball into an empty net on the rebound to give the visitors an early lead after a superb piece of hold up play from Son Heung-min allowed Erik Lamela to fire at goalkeeper Bernd Leno.

Arsenal had most of the ball but Spurs were far more threatening on the break and Leno was forced to keep out stinging efforts from Kane and Eriksen before Tottenham were awarded a penalty for a clumsy foul by Granit Xhaka on Son.

Kane scored from the spot in the 40th minute to put Spurs on track for a first league win on enemy territory in nine years but Lacazette halved the deficit right before half-time with an emphatic strike after an exquisite pass from Nicolas Pepe.

Kane came close to sealing the points for Tottenham when he struck the post but Arsenal became galvanised when Spanish midfielder Dani Ceballos came off the bench and smashed a shot which keeper Hugo Lloris did well to tip over.

An equaliser looked ever likelier and duly arrived when Gabon striker Aubameyang prodded a lofted pass from Matteo Guendouzi into the net in the 71st minute, scoring a third goal in four Premier League games this season.

Arsenal's Sokratis Papastathopoulos had a goal ruled out for offside while Tottenham's Moussa Sissoko spurned a last-gasp chance in a thrilling finale by blasting over the bar. Arsenal have seven points while Spurs are on five from four games.

Everton edge Wolves 3-2

RICHARLISON SCORED twice and Alex Iwobi netted his first league goal to hand Everton a 3-2 win over Wolverhampton Wanderers in an electrifying Premier League encounter at Goodison Park on Sunday.

Wolves gifted the home side the opening goal in the fifth minute, a defensive mix-up between defender Conor Coady and goalkeeper Rui Patricio presenting the ball to Richarlison, who thumped a bouncing shot into the net. Everton were equally generous four minutes later as Adama Traore sent a low ball into the box and defender Seamus Coleman stopped it in front of the goal, teeing it up for Romain Saïss to poke home the equaliser.

Iwobi put his side ahead again three minutes later, rising to send Gylfi Sigursson's header flying past Patricio.

Having successfully qualified for the group stages of the Europa League on Thursday by completing a 5-3 aggregate win over Torino, Wolves looked to be running out of steam in the second half until Raul Jimenez stooped to head home a flick-on from a long throw to put them level again.

Richarlison secured all three points for the home side in the 80th minute, out-jumping Willy Boly to give his side the lead for the third time. Boly was sent off in stoppage time after receiving a second yellow card for a foul on Richarlison as Everton hung on to win, and Wolves coach Nuno Espirito Santos expressed his disappointment with his rearguard.

"We should defend better and we must do that. We played on Thursday night which was high on emotions, we recovered and settled down but coming to Goodison Park is always tough. The Premier League has high standards," he told Sky Sports.

From watching idol to beating her

Young Yashaswini beats 2004 Olympic champion Kostevych to seal 9th quota spot for Tokyo Games

NITIN SHARMA
CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 1

IN HER early days of pistol shooting at Panchkula, a young Yashaswini Deswal would often search for videos of champion shooters on her father SS Deswal's computer.

Among the videos she searched were those of 2004 Olympic champion Olena Kostevych. On Sunday, as the 22-year-old Deswal became women's 10m Air Pistol world champion edging out the Ukrainian to claim India's ninth Olympic quota in Rio de Janeiro, it was a surreal moment for the Haryana shooter.

"When I started shooting, I would watch her videos and she remains my idol. To win the gold medal and the Olympic quota defeating her in the final is a moment to remember and when we congratulated each other, I was trying to control my emotions. Even though I led throughout the final, I knew that a shooter like her can always come back. But my focus was to execute each shoot as per my training and preparation and not to think about who I was competing against," Deswal told *The Indian Express*. Deswal shot a score of 582 to top the qualification before winning the gold medal, as she led from the second series onwards.

Catching the bug

While her father, who is now DG, ITBP, Delhi, was posted in Gurgaon in 2010, a young Yashaswini would accompany him to watch the full bore rifle events of the 2010 Commonwealth Games. It ignited her interest in the sport and on her return to their Panchkula home, she also accompanied her father to a police shooting range, where she first saw pistol shooting.

"I was fascinated by the idea of guns and shooting. One of my uncles was in the Indian Army and when we visited him, we would get to see the small weapons during display functions held at his unit. When we came back to Panchkula, my father took me to one of the police ranges near Panchkula and I tried pistol shooting there. While the guns were too big for my physique at that time, I thought I can give pistol shooting a try and that's how it began for me," recalls Deswal.

ISSF jury member Tejinder Singh Dhillon soon took her Deswal under his wings and the youngster started shooting with a second-hand pistol in 2012. The next year, Deswal persuaded her father to make her a 10m range at their residence at Panchkula, and her mother Saroj, the Chief Income Tax Commissioner, Panchkula, would often spend hours waiting for her daughter to finish her training.



Yashaswini Deswal has been training with ISSF jury member Tejinder Singh Dhillon since 2012. *Express file*

"Yashaswini was very particular about her studies and as Panchkula does not have a range, she asked us to get one made at home. But it also meant that sometimes she would end her training sessions at 9-10 p.m. As any mother, I would be worried about her diet schedule but knew that shooting is like having her favourite food," recalls the mother.

The same time, coach Dhillon would face another challenge. Yashaswini was still underweight for her age and apart from the basics, the coach would also formulate a diet plan.

Success and a slump

The youngster won the junior national title in Pune in 2014 before finishing fifth in the 2014 Youth Olympics at Nanjing, China.

The next year, Deswal claimed the silver medal at the Delhi nationals, shooting 384 in qualification. The same year, she shot a qualification score of 386 to claim the bronze medal in Czech Republic before missing a chance to earn the quota for the 2016 Olympics when she finished fourth in the 10m air Pistol final at the Asian Shooting Championships in Delhi, despite shooting

Skiing and mountaineering help me relax my mind and also offer the same kind of thrill which is in shooting. I have read that (2020 Olympics host Japan) has got some good ski slopes and maybe I can visit them later."

YASHASWINI DESWAL,
WOMEN'S 10M AIR PISTOL CHAMPION ON HER LOVE FOR SKIING

387 in qualification.

But her scores in the qualification at the international level would hover around 375 at the international level in 2016, as she won the silver medal in Junior world cup in Suhl. Before the new format of 60 shots was introduced in 2017, Deswal became the junior world champion the same year when she shot 385 in qualification.

"The thing about Yashaswini was that she shot well in the trials and won medals but her qualification scores would show fluctuations. During that time, we worked upon

her grip alignment and it was also about clearing her thought process. When the format changed to 60 shots, we spent time on holding the gun for long and focus on the sight and maintaining stability," says Dhillon, a former IG of Police, CRPF.

Compatriot Manu Bhaker would win the world junior championship only in 2018. But while Bhaker would win medals at the CWG and senior World Cups, Deswal narrowly missed medals at the international level.

Ski and mountaineering expert

The Panjab University law student has also done a diploma in skiing and spent some time practising the sport in Auli, Uttarakhand this year. While Deswal needs to maintain her form this year to book a berth for the 2020 Olympics, getting a chance to visit Japan, which has hosted the Winter Olympics twice, is an extra incentive.

"Skiing and mountaineering help me relax my mind and also offer the same kind of thrill which is in shooting. I have read that the country has got some good ski slopes and maybe I can visit them later," said the youngster.

One champ to rule them all: Lomachenko wins third of four title belts

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON, SEPTEMBER 1

VASYL LOMACHENKO'S big goal in boxing is to become unified champion in one weight category. He's one win away from achieving that dream.

Considered among the world's greatest pound-for-pound fighters, Lomachenko added the vacant WBC belt to his WBA and WBO titles at lightweight with a unanimous points win over Britain's Luke Campbell on Saturday.

Two judges awarded the fight 119-108 to Lomachenko, with the other giving it to the Ukrainian 118-109 at the O2 Arena in London — the city where, seven years ago to the day, he won one of his two Olympic gold medals.

Campbell, also an Olympic champ in 2012, gave Lomachenko problems with his longer reach but struggled to make it to the final bell after being knocked down in the

11th and desperately wrestling his opponent to the canvas in the 12th while in survival mode.

A stunning amateur fighter, Lomachenko is breaking records as a pro, having become the quickest boxer to win world titles at three weights, in just 12 fights.

Only Ghana's Richard Commey, who holds the IBF title, stands between Lomachenko and a sweep of the 135-pound belts. Commey is set to fight mandatory challenger Teofimo Lopez Jr. in December, and perhaps Lomachenko after that.

"Next, IBF. This is my title," Lomachenko said.

The technique, athleticism and foot speed that stands Lomachenko apart from the rest only shone through against Campbell after he made his first breakthrough in the fight — a short left to the face that plunged Campbell back to the ropes in the fifth round.

While Lomachenko connected with more power punches — 136 to 87 in the end — the rounds stayed close, with Campbell, a

southpaw, connecting a few times with his looping left hook.

The 11th was where Lomachenko showed his class, following up a flurry of body shots with a straight right to the face that sent Campbell backward and down for an eight count. Lomachenko landed 31 power punches in that round alone, and Campbell was saved by the bell.

A visibly tiring Campbell struck a low blow in the 12th before virtually rugby-tackling Lomachenko to the floor late in, much to the bemusement of the Ukrainian.

The result wasn't in doubt as they waited for the judges' scoring.

"He's a special fighter, we all knew he was a special fighter," said Campbell (20-3, 16 KOs), who also lost to Jorge Linares in a split decision in 2017. "It's hard to come up with a game plan when someone like that is so good in front of you."

The 31-year-old Lomachenko (14-1, 10 KOs) said he wanted to fight again in Britain. By that time, he might have become undis-

puted lightweight champion and be fighting at another weight.

"We are looking to win the fourth belt to unify the title," his promoter, Bob Arum, said in the ring.

In the undercard, Britain's Charlie Edwards retained his WBC world flyweight title after video evidence overturned his stoppage loss to Mexican opponent Julio Cesar Martinez.

After Edwards took a knee in the third round following a flurry of shots, Martinez landed a punch to Edwards' ribs that was missed by referee Mark Lyson.

Martinez was declared the winner to jeers from the home fans but WBC supervisor Mauricio Sulaiman — watching at ring-side — declared the fight a no contest and said there would be a rematch.

In the heavyweight division, Alexander Povetkin won a unanimous points decision over Hughie Fury — the cousin of former world heavyweight champion Tyson Fury — to claim the vacant WBA International title.

Jinson betters 1500m national record, qualifies for Worlds

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BERLIN, SEPTEMBER 1

ASIAN GAMES gold medallist Jinson Johnson bettered his own 1500m national record while clinching a silver in the ISTAF Berlin event here on Sunday. Johnson clocked 3 minute 35.24 seconds to finish second behind Joshua Thompson of United States at the Olympi Stadium here. The earlier national record in the name of the 28-year-old Kerala runner was 3:37.62 which he had clocked at Nijmegen in the Netherlands in June. He also holds the 800m national record (1:45.65).

With his own national record shattering effort, Jinson also qualified for the World Championships to be held in Doha from September 28 to October 6. The World Championships qualifying time is 3:36.00.

"I was expecting to set new national record but did not expect to win the silver. I will now go to Colorado in USA for further training and then to Doha for World Championships," Jinson said after the event.

"I am very happy. But my ultimate aim is to do well in Tokyo 2020."

Jinson had won the 2018 Asian Games gold in 1500m with a time of 3:44.72. ISTAF Berlin is a part of the IAAF World Challenge meetings, the second tier of global one day athletics events. It is the penultimate leg of the IAAF World Challenge meetings this year.

Grasse powers to 100m win

Reuters: Canadian Andre De Grasse ran down South African Akani Simbine to win the 100 metres in his fastest time of the year.

De Grasse, the Olympic 100m bronze medallist, came on strong in the final 30 metres to take a confidence-boosting victory in 9.97 seconds. Commonwealth Games champion Simbine was second in 9.99.

"This was like a comeback for me," said De Grasse, who missed the 2017 world championships with a hamstring injury that lingered last year. "These were my last 100m before the world championships and this race gives me a good time before I race in Doha."

Olympic 110m hurdles champion Omar McLeod of Jamaica also ran his best time of the year to take victory in a time of 13.07 seconds. The men's pole vault brought together the three top medal contenders for Doha with American-born Swede Mondo Duplantis edging U.S. world champion Sam Kendricks on misses as both cleared 5.80m in windy conditions. Poland's Piotr Lisiek was third at 5.70m.



Lomachenko defeated Luke Campbell to add the WBC belt to his WBA and WBO titles. He needs the IBF title to become the unified lightweight champ. *Reuters*

BELGIAN GP

Leclerc dedicates bittersweet first win to former karting rival Hubert

REUTERS
SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS (BELGIUM), SEPTEMBER 1

CHARLES LECLERC fended off a charging Lewis Hamilton to claim a bittersweet first Formula One win on Sunday as the Belgian Grand Prix brought the curtain down on a dark weekend for the sport after the death of French racer Anthoine Hubert.

Monegasque Leclerc, who had started from pole, crossed the line less than a second ahead of Mercedes driver Hamilton, who nevertheless extended his lead in the overall standings to 65 points over team mate Valtteri Bottas, who finished third.

Sunday's victory must have felt like a long time coming for Leclerc, after engine problems denied the 21-year-old victory in the second race of the season in Bahrain in March. It was also Ferrari's first win this year.

But he took little joy in it after French racer Anthoine Hubert, 22, was killed in a high-speed crash in a Formula Two race at the Spa-Francorchamps track on Saturday.

"One hand I've got a dream since being a child that has been realised, on the other hand it has been a very difficult weekend since yesterday," said Leclerc, who dedicated his win to Hubert.

"We grew up together, my first ever race I did it with Anthoine, Esteban (Ocon), Pierre (Gasly). "I can't fully enjoy my first victory, but it will definitely be a memory I will keep forever," added Leclerc.

Leclerc kept his lead off the line. Behind him, Sebastian Vettel, starting sec-



A minute's silence was held for French F2 racer Anthoine Hubert, who was killed in a crash on Saturday. His mother was consoled by Belgian GP winner Charles Leclerc, who posted an Instagram photo of himself and Hubert during their junior racing days. *AP*

ond in a front row lockout for Ferrari, went wheel-to-wheel with Hamilton who began third. The Britisher briefly got past but Vettel used the formidable straight line speed of his Ferrari to take second place back from the silver car.

Hamilton finally overtook Vettel on the 32nd lap, with the German a sitting duck on fading tyres and chased Leclerc down.

The Mercedes was clearly faster but ultimately ran out of laps. Vettel finished fourth, with the 32-year-old's race going from bad to worse.

Fastest lap

Hunting for his first win since last year's Belgian race, the German was tricked into pitting early by Mercedes. While the early stop initially gave him an advantage, with the four-time champion finding himself in the lead, he eventually began to run out of grip.

He was ordered to make way for Leclerc, who was clearly faster, before stopping for a second time on the 33rd lap.

His only consolation was scoring the single point on offer for setting the fastest lap.

Alexander Albon was an impressive fifth



on his Red Bull debut. The Thai rookie, promoted from Toro Rosso to the former champions in a swap with Frenchman Pierre Gasly, had started 17th due to an engine-related grid penalty. He was the only Red Bull to make it to the finish. Max Verstappen, favourite of the legions of orange-clad Dutch fans thronging the track, collided with Kimi Raikkonen at the start before retiring on the opening lap.

The incident brought out the safety car.

Sergio Perez was sixth for the Racing Point team ahead of Toro Rosso's Daniil Kvyat. Nico Hulkenberg was eighth for Renault while Gasly

scored points on his return to Toro Rosso in ninth. Lance Stroll in the other Racing Point rounded out the top 10.

Solemn weekend

On a solemn weekend for motorsport, drivers twice observed a minute's silence on Sunday in memory of Hubert.

Hubert's mother and brother held his racing helmet in their hands as teams and drivers stood alongside them with heads bowed in the Spa-Francorchamps paddock.

Hubert died after an estimated 160 mph (257 kph) collision with 20-year-old US driver Juan-Manuel Correa's car as they accelerated uphill and then out of the notorious Eau Rouge corner on Lap 2. Hubert's car sustained a huge side-on impact and span around violently. He was pronounced dead at 6:35 p.m. local time on Saturday. Correa is recovering in a Liege hospital from his injuries.

Sunday's scheduled F2 race was canceled out of respect for Hubert. His mother was consoled by Ferrari F1 driver Charles Leclerc, who on Saturday posted an Instagram photo of himself and Hubert during their junior racing days.

Another minute's silence was held before the F1 GP, which started at 3:10 p.m. local time as F1 drivers and others paused to remember him. With Hubert's mother and brother standing in the middle of the grid, a member of Hubert's team kissed Hubert's race helmet and placed it on top of a stand as silence enveloped the circuit. As drivers walked past and expressed their condolences, world champion Hamilton hugged Hubert's mother and Leclerc comforted his brother. After winning his first F1 race on Sunday, Leclerc climbed out of the

cockpit and pointed to the words "Racing For Anthoine" written on the side of his Ferrari. Then, Leclerc looked up and pointed to the skies with both hands as he stood on the podium. "To lose him yesterday was a big shock for me. It was a very sad day," Leclerc said. "We lose someone on track, a track where you need to race the day after. It's obviously quite challenging to then close the (helmet) visor and go through the exact same corner (where the crash happened)."

Giuliano Alesi, the 19-year-old son of former Ferrari F1 driver Jean Alesi, was also involved in Saturday's crash but he was unharmed. Alesi was present along with his father, and also four-time F1 champion Alain Prost, a non-executive director with the Renault team. Hubert, who won the GP3 championship last year, was also part of the Renault Sport Academy and had a great admiration for Prost. At the French F2 GP in June, one of the two F2 races that Hubert won this season, Hubert had unveiled a racing helmet with a tribute to Prost.

"He represented everything I liked in a driver ... He was among those who asked the most questions," Prost told French broadcaster RMC Sport. "I was happy to be an example for him. When he made that special helmet, I wasn't aware of it. When I found out, it was touching."

RESULTS: 1. C Leclerc (Ferrari) 1:49.044, 2. L Hamilton (Mercedes) +00.981 seconds, 3. V Bottas (Mercedes) +12.585, 4. S Vettel (Ferrari) +26.422, 5. A Albon (Red Bull) +1:21.325; **STANDINGS:** 1. L Hamilton (250 pts), 2. V Bottas (188), 3. M Verstappen (181), 4. S Vettel (156), 5. C Leclerc (132)



Teenager makes teary exit

Defending champion Naomi Osaka beats 15-year-old American Coco Gauff on an emotional night at US Open

CHRISTOPHER CLAREY
NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 1

IN A short match long on emotion, Naomi Osaka, the world's No. 1 player, ended the latest Grand Slam run by the 15-year-old American Coco Gauff in the third round of the United States Open.

Osaka's 6-3, 6-0 victory on Saturday night, in a sold-out Arthur Ashe Stadium, was no great surprise and certainly no discredit to Gauff, who has captured plenty of imaginations and attention this summer with her talent and fighting spirit. But for all her precocious power, speed and clear potential, there is still a significant gap in consistency and technical proficiency between Gauff and the best players in the women's game.

"I think she played amazing," Gauff said of Osaka. "She had way more winners than I did, and it was hard to take control of the rallies, but I'll learn a lot from the match. She's the No. 1 player in the world right now, so I know what I need to do to get to that level."

Osaka also demonstrated class and care in victory, counseling Gauff and helping her younger opponent work through her disappointment. "After the match, I think she just proved that she's a true athlete," Gauff said. "For me, the definition of an athlete is someone who on the court treats you like they're your worst enemy, but off the court can be your best friend. I think that's what she did tonight."

Gauff has defeated several of her elders, including 39-year-old Venus Williams, but she is 0-2 against top-10 opposition after losing to Simona Halep in the fourth round of Wimbledon and to Osaka on Saturday.

Osaka broke Gauff's serve six times and focused her attacks on Gauff's forehand side, the younger woman's weaker wing. Above all, it was a rousing, deeply focused performance by Osaka, the reigning U.S. Open champion who returned ferociously and had 24 winners and 17 unforced errors while again being required to cope with a complex psychological dynamic in Ashe Stadium.

Last year, in her first Grand Slam final, Osaka played brilliantly to defeat Serena Williams, the greatest player of this era, in a match that turned contentious as Williams clashed with the chair umpire Carlos Ramos.

Ramos penalized Williams a point and then a game in the second set. The trophy ceremony was interrupted by boos as the crowd vented its ire at Ramos, leaving Osaka



Naomi Osaka consoles 15-year-old Coco Gauff (R), who broke down after losing in the US Open third round. USA Today Sports

in tears and many others, including Williams, with regrets. Williams later said that she sent apologetic text messages to Osaka after last year's final. On Saturday, Osaka, who represents Japan but lives in Florida, again had to play the equivalent of a road game with the majority of the fans behind Gauff, who has become a crowd darling wherever she plays.

There were still tears in the aftermath this time, but they were of a much different provenance. Though the first set was closely contested, Osaka took command of the match for good early in the second set. Gauff, normally poised beyond her years, began to express frustration as the double faults (7) and unforced errors (24) piled up in the face of Osaka's pressure and power. "She was nervous and she over-hit," said Corey Gauff, her father and longtime coach. "You feel like she's hitting hard, and you try to hit even harder."

Gauff pointed to the strings of her racket,

SECOND-SEED BARTY OUT

Second-seeded Ash Barty is out of the US Open, beaten 6-2, 6-4 by Wang Qiang, who advanced to a Grand Slam quarterfinal for the first time. The 18th-ranked Wang, who had never been beyond the third round of a major in 20 tries, kept Barty back with consistent ground strokes that landed deep in the court and she had just 14 unforced errors to her opponent's 39.

AP

yelling "Stop" at one point, in the direction of her parents and team. Osaka would win 28 points to Gauff's 12 in the second set, holding at love to close out the match. When it

was over, Osaka started a conversation after the handshake and embrace at the net. She persuaded Gauff to remain on court for the post-match television interview instead of heading to the locker room immediately.

"I'm going to, like, cry," Gauff said. Osaka responded: "I think it's better than going into the shower and crying."

Osaka later teared up herself as she answered questions on court from ESPN's Mary Joe Fernandez. "I was crying. Everybody was crying," Gauff said. "I was like, I don't know why she's crying. I was like, 'You won the match.' But I think it was a good moment for both of us."

Osaka, 21, who has trained at the same academy in Delray Beach as Gauff, explained. "I wanted her to have her head high, not walk off the court sad," Osaka said. "I want her to be aware that she's accomplished so much, and she's still so young."

Osaka continued, speaking to the news

media: "I know that you guys are kind of coming at her with love, too, but I feel like the amount of media on her right now is kind of insane for her age. I just want her to, like, take care of herself."

Struggling for form

Osaka has struggled to hit the same high notes in recent months after surprisingly splitting with her coach Sascha Bajin in January after winning the Australian Open. She has yet to reach another final since that victory. But with a new coach, Jermaine Jenkins, in her corner, she is back in the fourth round at Flushing Meadows. She will face a tough challenge on Monday in the 13th-seeded Belinda Bencic, who has beaten Osaka twice this year. A former prodigy herself, Bencic, 22, broke into the top 10 as a teenager before wrist surgery in 2017 stopped her progress. But Bencic is back in earnest now. She is one of the game's best counterpunchers and is at her most dangerous on hardcourts. She advanced to the fourth round by walkover on Saturday after Anett Kontaveit, her would-be opponent, withdrew before the match because of a viral illness.

Gauff, born and raised in Delray Beach, Fla., was the youngest player to reach the third round of the U.S. Open in singles since Anna Kournikova in 1996. Though this was only Gauff's fourth tour-level event, she has fast become a crowd darling and even received a high-five from a U.S. Open security guard after coming through the metal detector as she arrived on site on Saturday.

Cocomania began at Wimbledon in July when she became the youngest qualifier there in the Open era. In her Grand Slam singles debut, she then upset Venus Williams, a former No. 1 and five-time Wimbledon champion, in the first round. She went on to save two match points and win her third-round duel with Polona Herczeg in her first appearance on Centre Court. She then lost to Halep, who went on to take the title.

In 2018, Gauff lost in the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open junior tournament and in the second round of the mixed doubles event. One year later, she walked out, headphones and game face in place, to kick off the night session on Labor Day weekend and play her first match in Ashe Stadium. "It was an emotional moment for me," Corey Gauff said. "I looked down and that was my little girl going out on the court. So much pressure. Even though there shouldn't be pressure, you see all those people and you want to do well."

NYT

TRAMLINES



I am not king from nowhere. I just like this colour. I think it's a happy colour. I didn't even know this is a royal color. But, you know it's good to play (wearing) black on the night session and on the day session with some more bright colours.

RAFAEL NADAL

ON BEING TOLD PURPLE IS THE COLOUR OF ROYALTY AND HE IS THE 'KING OF CLAY'

Medvedev fined \$9,000

Russian fifth seed Daniil Medvedev was fined USD 9,000 by the US Open after his unsportsmanlike remarks and obscene gesture in a Friday night triumph. As he reached the chair against Spain's Feliciano Lopez, Medvedev lifted his middle finger to the side of his head away from the view of the chair umpire but not from stadium cameras, which showed the image on the stadium video screen.

Important results

MEN: 2-Rafael Nadal (ESP) bt Chung Hyeon (KOR) 6-3, 6-4, 6-2; 6-Alexander Zverev (GER) bt Aljaz Bedene (SVN) 6-7 (4), 7-6 (4), 6-3, 7-6 (3); 22-Marin Cilic (CRO) bt 14-John Isner (USA) 7-5, 3-6, 7-6 (6), 6-4; 20-Diego Schwartzman (ARG) bt Tennys Sandgren (USA) 6-4, 6-1, 6-3; 24-Matteo Berrettini (ITA) bt Alexei Popyrin (AUS) 6-4, 6-4, 6-7 (3), 7-6 (2); Andrey Rublev (RUS) bt 28-Nick Kyrgios (AUS) 7-6 (5), 7-6 (5), 6-3.

WOMEN: 1-Naomi Osaka (JPN) bt Cori Gauff (USA) 6-3, 6-0; 23-Donna Vekic (CRO) bt Yulia Putintseva (KAZ) 6-4, 6-1, 26-Julia Goerges (GER) bt 7-Kiki Bertens (NED) 6-2, 6-3; 15-Bianca Andreescu (CAN) bt 19-Caroline Wozniacki (DEN) 6-4, 6-4; 25-Elise Mertens (BEL) bt Andrea Petkovic (GER) 6-3, 6-3

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