

OVER 50,000 CHEER LEADERS' BONHOMIE ON STAGE

Modi Trumps Houston



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with United States President Donald Trump at the NRG Stadium in Houston, Texas on Sunday. ANI

Low tax rate for new units is a big reform, says finance minister

No other country offering this, says Sitharaman

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman Sunday said the government's decision to tax new manufacturing units set up after October 1 at 15 per cent would put India at the top of the pecking order amongst its Asian peers.

"It should be seen as a big supply side reform. We are giving 15 per cent... no other country is offering such a low tax rate. Companies availing of this option (and not claiming any exemption or incentive) will not pay the minimum alternate tax.

"The best part is certainty — there is no sunset clause. Companies starting production on or before March 31, 2023, will pay just 15 per cent tax. It will be difficult for any government to go back on this now," Sitharaman told mediapersons.

The Finance Minister was also confident that foreign companies would look at India while considering investment in the

Tax cut will add to India Inc cash pile but may not boost spending

SANDEEP SINGH & ANIL SASI
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22

THE PREMISE that a rise in the profitability of companies following the reduction in corporate tax rates announced Friday will lead to an uptick in private sector-led investment appears to be an optimistic one. Reason: The top 500 companies in India held cash or its equivalent of over Rs 8 lakh crore in their books and therefore lack of funds was not really a deterrent to fresh investment.

According to analyst
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



'Big supply side reform'

CASH HOLDINGS

FY'19	(Rs crore)
Infosys	19,568
Wipro	11,707
TCS	12,848
Interglobe Aviation	8,606
T&T	7,599

Note: Includes cash and cash equivalent and other bank balance. Source: annual reports

'Move on Art 370 has troubled people who support terrorism'

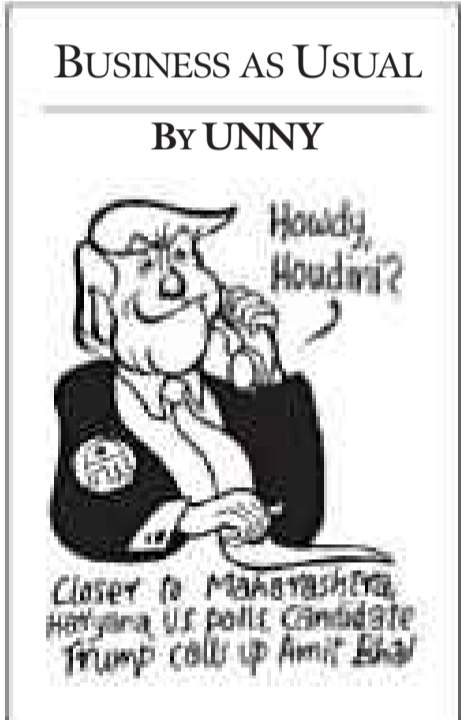


SHUBHAJIT ROY
HOUSTON, SEPTEMBER 22

WITH US President Donald Trump in the audience, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday said India has "bid farewell" to Article 370 because it was denying the benefits of development to Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh, and fuelling terrorism

“You had introduced me to your family when I went to the White House. Today I have the honour of introducing you to my family...”
— NARENDRA MODI TO DONALD TRUMP

“India has never had a better friend in the White House than President Donald Trump. My administration fights for you every day...”
— DONALD TRUMP TO NARENDRA MODI



ON PAGE 6

FIRST STOP: MEETING WITH ENERGY CEOs
'WILL BUILD A NEW JAMMU & KASHMIR'

Quad to meet: Foreign Ministers of India, US, Japan and Australia

SHUBHAJIT ROY
HOUSTON, SEPTEMBER 22

A YEAR after India refused to upgrade its Quadrilateral grouping with the US, Australia and Japan to the level of Foreign Secretaries, the Foreign Ministers of the four countries are scheduled to meet on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meeting in New York.

The Quadrilateral, which was revived in November 2017, has so far met at the level of Joint Secretary-rank officials. The new plan will result in an upgrade by

EXPLAINED A counter to China

THE CONCEPT of quadrilateral cooperation among India, Japan, Australia and the US is inextricably linked to China's emergence as a great power. The fear of China's growing unilateralism drives major nations to strive to reduce the regional imbalance by banding together.

Jharkhand again: A man is lynched, two injured over suspicion of cow slaughter

ABHISHEK ANGAD
RANCHI, SEPTEMBER 22

ONE MAN was killed and two others injured in Khunti district of Jharkhand Sunday after they were assaulted by a mob that accused them of "slaughtering" a cow. Police said the men were attacked around 10 am in Jaltanda Suari village, when villagers spotted them allegedly carving out meat from an ani-

mal carcass. "The three villagers, identified as Kalantus Barla, Philip Horo and Faagu Kacchap, are alleged to have been carving an animal prohibited for slaughtering. Other villagers spotted them and started beating them. However, police reached the spot as we got information and rushed them to hospital. Barla sustained grievous injuries and he died before reaching hospital.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

SRIRAM'S IAS
IAS 2020
GENERAL STUDIES
CSAT, ESSAY
OPTIONALS
Next Batch
3rd October
Kamla Nagar
011-42437002, 09811489560
www.sriramsias.com

Classic IAS ACADEMY
SHAPING TALENT
Since 2009
GENERAL STUDIES
CSAT
OPTIONALS
www.classiciasacademy.com
South Delhi Karol Bagh
9310034050 011-40536473

THE EDITORIAL PAGE
INDIA, ITS MUSLIMS ARE INSEPARABLE
BY ABDUL KHALIQ
PAGE 10

THE GOVERNANCE PAGE
LESSONS FROM MP: HOW TO GET MORE CONVICTIONS
PAGE 12

INSIDE
JUSTICE KURESHI DENIES SPECULATION OVER QUITTING
PAGE 8

Rau's IAS Study Circle
Since 1953
322 SELECTIONS IN CSE 2018

Congratulations OUR SUPER ACHIEVERS

7 TOP 20 **45 TOP 100**

PRE-CUM-MAIN (FOUNDATION) PROGRAM FOR CSE 2020

GENERAL STUDIES INTEGRATED
The program holistically prepares for Prelim (Paper I - General Studies & Paper II - CSAT) and Main (General Studies - All four Papers & Essay) and Current Affairs.
• **Regular Batch** : 9 months duration (4 hours classes daily)
• **Weekend Batch** : 14 months duration (Classes on Sat/Sun). Students pursuing graduation - 1st Year / 2nd Year / 3rd Year can also join.

OPTIONAL SUBJECT FOR MAIN EXAM
Public Administration, Geography, Sociology, History, Economics (for Indian Economic Service also), Psychology and Political Science.
• **Regular Batch Only** : 4 months duration (2 hours classes daily)
• **Hostel facility** can be arranged.
• **Study Material** is also available.

ADMISSION OPEN APPLY NOW

SMALL BATCHES : 80-90 STUDENTS

GENERAL STUDIES INTEGRATED
Regular Batch 18 Oct 11 Oct 04 Oct
Weekend Batch 28 Sept - 16 Nov

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS
Regular Batch Only 08 Nov 27 Sept 01 Nov

305, Manchenjunga Building, 16 Barkhamba Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi - 110001
Tel. 2317293, 23316135/36, 23738906/07

UDB (Nawal) Corporate Tower, 3rd Floor, A-1, J.L.N. Marg, (near Fortis Hospital), Jaipur - 302017
Tel. 0141 - 4106050/57, 2722050

2nd Floor, AKS Plaza, 19 Industrial Layout, Jyoti Niwas College (JNC) Road, 5th Block Koramangala, Bengaluru - 560095
Tel. 080 - 255 3533/37/38/39, 9916035536

www.rauias.com | (011) 40786050

VISION IAS
INSPIRING INNOVATION
LIVE/ONLINE Classes Available
www.visionias.in

9 IN TOP 10 SELECTIONS IN CSE 2018

from various programs of VISION IAS

1 AIR KANISHAK KATARIA
2 AIR AKSHAT JAIN
3 AIR JUNAID AHMAD
4 AIR SHREYANS KUMAR
5 AIR SRUSHTI JAYANT DESHMUKH

"You are as strong as your Foundation"

Foundation Course
GENERAL STUDIES
PRELIMS CUM MAINS 2020
DELHI
Regular Batch 18 Sept 9 AM
Weekend Batch 10 Oct 1 PM
6 July 9 AM

फाउंडेशन कोर्स सामान्य अध्ययन 2020
• प्राथमिक, मुख्य परीक्षा और निबंध के लिए महत्वपूर्ण सभी टॉपिक का विस्तृत कवरेज
हिन्दी माध्यम: 12 Sept | 1 PM

ALL INDIA PRELIMS TEST SERIES
General Studies & CSAT
Starting from 15th Sept

ALL INDIA MAINS TEST SERIES
General Studies & Essay
15th Sept

Scan the QR CODE & download VISION IAS app

DELHI
• 2nd Floor, Apsara Arcade, Near Metro Gate 6, 1/8 B, Pusa Road, Karol Bagh
• 635, Opp. Signature View Apartments, Banda Bahadur Marg, Mukherjee Nagar
• Contact : 8468022022, 9019066066

JAIPUR 9001949244
PUNE 8007500096
HYDERABAD 9000104133
AHMEDABAD 9909447040
LUCKNOW 8468022022

At top law school in Bengaluru, students clamour for their VC

PAGE 1
ANCHOR

APURVA VISHWANATH & JOHNSON T A
NEW DELHI, BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 22

"VOLUMUS NOSTRAM VC" — translated "We want our VC" — says a poster on the wall of the National Law School of India University (NLSIU), the country's premier law school. For several

days now, students have been demanding the immediate appointment of their new vice chancellor — in Latin, among other languages.

Over 400 undergraduate students are set to boycott the semester examinations that are scheduled to begin on Monday to protest the delay in appointing Prof Sudhir Krishnaswamy as the new VC. This is the first time in the NLSIU's 31-year history that students are boycotting classes and exams.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

The Indian EXPRESS

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM



DOWNLOAD APP

- VISUAL STORIES
- DAILY BRIEFING
- PODCASTS
- CUSTOMIZABLE NEWS EXPERIENCE

Indian Express
★★★★ 4.6

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO
DOWNLOAD THE APP



INDIAN AD-AGE: HOW HAMARA BAJAJ FELT THE HEARTBEAT OF A NATION

Bajaj's response to challenges from mainly motorbike-pushing brands like Honda, Yamaha and Suzuki in late 1980s was an ad campaign, called "Hamara Bajaj", that set a new benchmark for Indian advertising – not just motor vehicle advertising

VIDEO OF THE DAY



IDEA EXCHANGE WITH VINOD RAI

Rai talks about the accountability of institutions

FULL COVERAGE



MODI MEGA SHOW IN HOUSTON

This is the third time that Modi addressed the Indian diaspora

EXPRESS AUDIO

How the Corporate tax and GST cuts will impact the economy

On this episode of 3 Things, reporters unpack how the moves are aimed at boosting consumption and investment, why the GST cuts are on varied items, and how it will affect fiscal deficit

ROHTAK RALLY

Dushyant targets Modi, but backs abrogation of Art 370

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 22

JANNAYAK JANATA Party (JJP) leader and former Haryana MP Dushyant Chautala on Sunday asked his party workers to unite, work hard and resort to traditional methods of canvassing in order to beat ruling BJP's "money power and media power".

Attacking Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Dushyant told the gathering that he has realised in his five year stint as MP that you cannot compete with "the power of Modi's picture", adding that "we need to realise the core issues, be it unemployment and deteriorating law and order situation in our state".

Addressing a massive rally in Rohtak, organised by JJP to mark his great grandfather Devi Lal's 106th birth anniversary, Dushyant lashed out at the PM, the media and BJP's government in Haryana.

However, in his over 30-minute address, Dushyant also said that he "salutes Union government's decision of abrogating Article 370", but added that the people will "only recognise this government, if this government brings back PoK".

"Media also rises time and again and says that the upcoming poll will be contested on Article 370. We salute the abrogation of Article 370, because Haryana was the worst affected states due to Article 370. In each and every village of our state, we have statues of martyrs. There is no village in Haryana, whose son has not sacrificed his life on the border. ...But

We will appreciate this government when it will prevent our state's sons' blood loss on the border," he said.

Attacking the BJP, Dushyant said, "Today, BJP has two powers — money power and media power. Records show that, in 2017 Income-Tax records, BJP has accepted that they received Rs 1,000 crore as donations. Even if we all sell our entire landholdings, we cannot match their money power. The other power is media power. Six states were hit by floods, lakhs of people lost their livelihood and jobs, several people died but nobody published it. In our nation's capital city of Delhi, Sant Shiromani Ravidas temple was demolished, but no national channel highlighted it. Everyday, thousands of youths are losing jobs, people's business are getting shut, but nobody is showing it on TV".

He added, "Only one thing is shown on TV — Modi has gone to America, Modi is going to hug Trump, Modi will do this, Modi will do that. But we all should understand that, this Modi will only be left for getting his pictures clicked. When he came here (in Rohtak) 14 days ago, what did he give to Haryana? What promise did he make for Haryana's youth? Today, Haryana stands on rank four in terms of poor law and order situation. Did he take any step for security and safety of our mothers, sisters and traders?".

Without making any mention of INLD, Dushyant asked people to support JJP and its nominees. Dushyant also took a dig at Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar's Jan Aashirwad Yatra.

FROM PAGE ONE

Low tax rate for new units is a big reform: Finance Minister

Asian region. "This is credit positive supply side reform... rating agencies have endorsed it," she said.

While the Minister acknowledged that it entailed a revenue loss of Rs 1,45,000 crore for the full year, she said the fiscal deficit target for 2019-20 was not being revised yet. "We will take a call later in the year. I will look at the numbers at the RE (revised estimates) stage," Sitharaman said. Further, the government was going as per schedule on meeting disinvestment targets, she said. Sitharaman said the government moved at dramatic speed once the decision was taken in principle. Asked about the thought behind reducing the corporate tax rate for existing companies to 22 per cent, she said the idea was to hold the effective rate at 25 per cent so that it makes a meaningful difference to companies.

According to the Finance Minister, she has not applied her mind on any cuts or concessions on personal income tax. "But look at the full picture. Companies would make more profits due to a cut in corporate tax rate, and will give more dividends. This will give more money in the hands of investors, and contribute in improving demand," she said.

Tax cut will add to cash pile, may not boost investments

estimates, BSE 500 companies had cash and cash equivalent of around Rs 8 lakh crore as of March 2019. While Infosys had cash and cash equivalent, along with other bank balance, amounting to Rs 19,568 crore, TCS and Wipro had Rs 12,848 crore and Rs 11,707 crore, respectively. Interglobe Aviation, which runs budget carrier IndiGo, and L&T had Rs 8,606 crore and Rs 7,597 crore, respectively.

While they have been holding on to their cash and not investing, experts say the government's announcement may nudge them to deploy their cash in the economy in the hope of better return on capital — the investment push might come in with a lag, though, and the knock on impact on consumer demand is likely to be minimal.

Given that rated non-financial companies in India reported a total pre-tax net income of about \$35 billion (around Rs 2.45 lakh crore) for the fiscal year ended March 2019, assuming their earnings remain unchanged for fiscal 2019, they will end up saving about \$3 billion (over Rs 21,000 crore) from the tax rate reduction, according to Moody's Investor Service.

The extent of improvement in corporate credit profile, though, will depend entirely on whether the companies choose to reinvest surplus earnings into their businesses, or simply to reduce debt or to boost shareholder returns.

Market players, however, say the decisiveness of the government to step in and pilot proposals to turn around the broader sentiment is the biggest uptake of Friday's booster dose of incentives.

"The biggest boost is on the sentiment front. Earlier, private investments were not happening because profits were not visible. However, now companies will find it more attractive to invest as they will get better return on capital and their break-even time will also get reduced," said

everyone in Jammu and Kashmir, too.

He said the two Houses of Parliament discussed the issue for hours and passed the legislation with a two-thirds majority, despite his government not enjoying a majority in the Upper House.

At this point, he asked the audience to give a standing ovation to India's Parliamentarians — the entire stadium rose, while the US President and the Congressmen remained seated.

Then, in an indirect reference to Pakistan, Modi said that those who cannot manage their own country have "problems" with India's decision. He said they were "supporters of terrorism" and the "entire world knows their identity".

Referring to "America's 9/11" and "Mumbai's 26/11", and their conspirators and planners, Modi said: "Now, the time has come to fight a decisive battle against terrorism. And I want to say strongly that President Trump is standing against terrorism."

Then, he asked the audience to give a standing ovation to Trump. At this point, every-

one, including the US delegation, rose to their feet.

Earlier, Trump said that India and the US were jointly fighting against "radical Islamic terrorism", prompting the crowd, including Modi, to give him a standing ovation.

This common stand on terror sets the tone and tenor before the Prime Minister heads to the UN General Assembly, where Pakistan PM Imran Khan is likely to raise the issue of Kashmir.

Sunday's event was attended by Congressmen from both sides, including Democrat and House Majority leader Steny Hoyer. Apart from Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, the US delegation included Governor of Kentucky Matt Bevin and Senator Ted Cruz.

The event was marked by the personal rapport between Modi and Trump, with both praising each other in their speeches.

Modi called Trump warm, friendly, energetic, accessible, and full of wit, and referenced his own election slogan to say, "Abki Baar Trump Sarkar". He said that Trump's sense of leadership, passion for

America, his concern for every American, and his strong resolve to make America great again has achieved much for the US and for the world.

Describing the event as "history in the making", Modi said: "You had introduced me to your family when I came to the White House. Today, I have the honour of introducing you to my family."

Trump spoke for about 24 minutes and called Modi one of America's "most loyal" friends. Praising the Indian American community for their contribution, he said: "You have no better friend than President Donald Trump."

Praising Modi for "lifting 300 million people out of poverty", Trump spoke about his own economic achievements and "pro-worker" policies. "Economic miracles are just beginning," he said, while pointing out that Indian investments are growing in the US.

"India has not invested like they are doing now... and it is reciprocal, we are doing the same thing," he said.

Then, striking a lighter note, he said that an NBA game would be played in Mumbai soon, and asked Modi, seated

in the front row: "Am I invited?" When Modi nodded, Trump said: "Be careful, I may come."

Referring to security challenges faced by both countries, Trump said: "Border security is vital to the US, border security is vital to India, we understand that."

Modi, meanwhile, said that the event was called "Howdy Modi", and then said his reply was "Everything is fine". He went to say those words in at least six regional Indian languages. "Unity in diversity is our speciality, the foundation of our vibrant democracy... it is our strength, our inspiration," he said.

Stressing that "new India" is impatient for development, he said: "We are competing with us, not anyone. We are challenging ourselves, we are changing ourselves... India wants to grow... There are still some people who think nothing can change... We are aiming high," he said.

As he ended his almost 50-minute speech, Modi reiterated a new commitment to build their countries and invited Trump to visit India with his family.

Quad to meet: Foreign Ministers of India, US, Japan and Australia

at least three levels.

Sources said the meeting has been scheduled for the morning of September 26. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will be heading to New York after attending the Howdy Modi event in Houston Sunday.

Last September, with Beijing watching the Indo-US engagement closely, India had decided to cautiously approach its engagement with the quadrilateral countries in the hotly contested Indo-Pacific maritime domain, where China has been increasingly proactive and assertive.

During the first ever Indo-US 2+2 meeting last

September, the US wanted to upgrade the level of engagement among the grouping to the level of Foreign Secretaries, but the Indian side suggested that it be kept at the Joint-Secretary level.

In November 2017, a meeting of Joint Secretary-rank officials — director general-level in Japan and Australia and assistant secretary-rank in the US — was held in Manila on the margins of the ASEAN and East Asia summit. Since then, at least three rounds of meetings have taken place, with the last in May this year.

Sources said the Indian side has conveyed to the US that the quadrilateral grouping should

not be conflated with the Indo-Pacific concept, and should be kept separate.

At the Indo-US dialogue, sources said there was a "deep discussion" on a free and open Indo-Pacific region. While the Foreign Ministers had exchanged views from the strategic perspective, the Defence Ministers had shared their perspective from military activities.

With the upgraded Quad mechanism, the thrust of discussions, if conflated, will give an impression of the grouping ganging up against one country — China.

The Quadrilateral mechanism will work on agreeing to

increase the possibilities of trade and connectivity. But the subtext of discussions on connectivity is that the four like-minded countries need to work on providing a credible alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative.

In the past, the four countries have come out with separate statements. India has pushed for a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region based on the recognition of ASEAN centrality and respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, rule of law, good governance, free and fair trade, and freedom of navigation and overflight.

Nilesh Shah, MD, Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company.

"The cut in corporate tax rate will surely push the return on capital higher for companies, thereby making a good case for investment. Overall, it will have a profound impact across sectors creating demand, export competitiveness and private sector investment," said Pankaj Pandey, head research at ICICI Direct.

If 5-10 per cent cut in tax rates may significantly improve the export competitiveness of Indian exporters, market participants say it will help consumer-oriented companies to pass on the benefit of lower tax to the consumer, thereby reviving demand. It will help leveraged companies improve free cash flows and debt-equity profile, and enable companies in automobile and some other sectors to go ahead with investment in new technology.

"Exports will witness a big boost as it improves the margin of exports to compete in the global market. India should give preferential access to investors who are leaving China on ac-

count of the US-China tariff war. India should emerge as the landing place for them and the low tax rate of 15 per cent for new manufacturing units will help the cause," said Shah.

However, some feel that the investment may not just depend on cut in tax rates as there are other factors that have hurt the investment climate. "Corporates are happy to see a meaningful cut in their tax rates but what is holding them from investment is low capacity utilisation and overall fear in the ecosystem. The government should look to address the harassment by tax authorities and enforcement agencies," said the head of a financial services firm, speaking on condition of anonymity.

However, he is hopeful that the government will address these issues. "The government has given a powerful statement and they have shown the intent that they can go to any extent to revive the economy and push investment and job creation. Therefore, I am hopeful that other issues will also get addressed," he said.

Private investment in the

economy has stood very low over the last few years. While the year-on-year gross bank credit growth had slipped to under 5 per cent in mid-2017 post demonetisation, it witnessed recovery in 2018 primarily on account of credit demand by the services sector and hit 13.6 per cent in November 2018. For July 2019, while the bank credit growth stock lower at 11.5 per cent, that for industry and services stood at 6.1 per cent and 15.2 per cent.

Law school

Krishnaswamy, who graduated from NLSIU in 1998, was recommended as the first of three choices for VC by a committee headed by Justice S A Bobde of the Supreme Court on August 4, but the university's Executive Council is yet to issue a formal appointment order. Prof M K Ramesh, a member of the NLSIU faculty for over 27 years, was appointed acting VC last month.

Students apprehend the delay is an attempt to negate the recommendation, and repeat the process of finding a new VC. "The Executive Council meeting

pointment, forming the majority opinion. Abstentions and dissent notes have come in from several nominees of the Bar Council of India (BCI). Manan Kumar Mishra, chairman of the BCI, has sent in a dissent note, citing Krishnaswamy's lack of administrative experience.

The acting VC set up a four-member committee on 20 September, comprising two faculty members and two members of the student body, to look at the files related to the appointment process. However, after the committee reported lapses in the procedure and Nandimath's alleged conflict of interest, the VC rejected the report, and walked out of the meeting.

Subsequently, the Student Body Association called an urgent general body meeting to take a vote on boycotting exams.

The recommendation has to be formally endorsed by the Executive Council after a nod from the Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, who is the Chancellor of NLSIU, and a member of its General Council.

The administration, backed by a few senior faculty members, has sought to blame the CJI's office for the delay in the appointment. "The CJI's office has to sign off for issuing a formal notification, and we have not received that," the registrar claimed in a meeting.

On September 13, the NLSIU alumni association had sought the CJI's "intervention in ensuring the logical completion of the process to appoint the newly selected vice chancellor..."

Nandimath, Ramesh, and Mishra could not be reached for a comment. Krishnaswamy declined to comment.

The appointment of a new VC has been in a limbo despite the earlier VC, Prof R Venkata Rao, having retired on July 31, and the panel of experts appointed by the CJI and a sub-committee of the Executive Council having picked his successor. Krishnaswamy, a Rhodes scholar from Oxford University with international teaching experience, is currently professor at Azim Premji University.

Cow slaughter

The other two are said to be stable," said DIG (Chhotanagpur Range) Homkar Amol Venukat.

The DIG said that there was no clarity on the "sequence of events" and that the matter is under investigation. He said no arrests have been made and that "there are a few persons detained for questioning".

This year in April, a tribal Christian Prakash Lakra was killed after being lynched by a mob allegedly after he along with other villagers were allegedly "carving a dead ox" in Jhurmo village of Gumla district.

In the case, the police booked the injured under the Jharkhand Bovine Animal Prohibition of Slaughter Act.

In September alone, at least three similar incidents have been reported across the state. On September 11, a 70-year-old man was beaten to death after he was suspected to be a child lifter in Sahibganj district on September 11, while on September 3, a man in his 40s was assaulted by a mob of over 50 people in Ramgarh district and he died on the way to hospital. On September 6, a man in Kagit Pahari village of Dhanbad died after he was thrashed over similar rumours.

In the last three years, at least 21 people have died in mob violence across the state. The lynchings have stemmed from accusations of animal slaughter, theft and child lifting rumours among others. In addition, more than 90 people have been killed by mobs on suspicion of practising witchcraft in Jharkhand since January 2017.

FOUR ARRESTED

‘Accused of theft, woman beaten to death by landlord and his family’



JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22

A 44-YEAR-OLD domestic help was beaten to death, allegedly by her landlord and his family, over suspicion of theft inside their house in South Delhi’s Mehrauli Saturday. Police have arrested four persons — Satish Pahwa (54), his wife Saroj, their son Pankaj (29) and their domestic help Kamlesh — and registered a case under IPC Section 302 (murder).

According to police, the accused alleged that the woman, Manju Goyal, stole money from their bedroom. They beat her up and called her brother, who took her to his house where she succumbed to her injuries, said police.

She is survived by two children, who live with their grandmother in Haryana’s Rewari. The victim had shifted to Delhi after her husband died in an accident five years ago. She had been staying on rent at the accused’s house for the past seven months. Her relatives said she helped the family with household work, apart from working as a help in Mehrauli.

Pinki Jindal (50), Manju’s sister-in-law, claimed she received a call from the landlord’s wife at 8.15 am on Saturday, saying,



Manju Goyal worked as a domestic help in Mehrauli, said her family. Gajendra Yadav

“Manju is a thief, take her back home or we will kill her.”

Pinki told her husband Mahesh Jindal (57) and her son Prince (30) about the call.

Prince claimed: “We rushed to their house and found Manju lying on the floor. They were angry and told us they would strangle Manju. The landlord’s son slapped her and told us that she stole money from his bedroom. The family, along with their domestic help, continued beating her. We managed to stop them and took Manju home.”

Mahesh said his sister suffered multiple injuries to her head, face and chest and died later in the evening at his house.

“She couldn’t walk so we carried her and took her to our house; she rested for some time. In the

evening, she woke up and complained of chest pain; she told us that the men kicked her in the chest and abdomen. We immediately called the doctor. But she fell unconscious and died before the doctor arrived,” he said.

DCP (South) Atul Kumar Thakur said, “We received a call around 8.12 pm on Saturday from a man, saying that his sister was killed by four-six persons. We reached their house and took the woman to AIIMS Trauma Centre, where doctors confirmed her death. A post-mortem will be conducted on Monday. The victim’s family told us that in the morning, her landlord Satish and four others beat her up. We arrested Satish and his son Pankaj; they claimed the victim was a thief. During inquiry, we found out that two women were also involved in the crime. They were questioned and arrested later on Sunday.”

Rekha Pahwa, Saroj’s sister, alleged, “We didn’t beat Manju to death. Three months ago, she was caught stealing but Saroj forgave her. When she was caught stealing on Saturday, Saroj slapped her and told her to leave the house. Her family members were informed and they took her home. She died later at their house.”

“We did not find any money with Manju. The matter is being investigated,” said police.

For brother who got her the house, all that remains is regret

JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22

WHEN HIS sister Manju Goyal was looking for a new house in February, Mahesh Jindal got in touch with Satish Pahwa and asked him to rent his vacant room in Mehrauli to her. On Saturday, as he headed to the same house, regret washed over him. Manju, who was accused of stealing, was beaten to death allegedly by Pahwa and his family.

“My sister used to stay in Rewari with her husband Naveen and two children. After his death in 2014, Manju left her children with their grandmother and came to Delhi to work. We told her she could stay at our house and we’d help with expenses. But she refused, so we found her a job and told a family friend to give her a room on rent,” said Mahesh, who owns a catering business in Mehrauli and lives with his wife Pinki and their son Prince.

Manju was saving money to send her daughter to college,

said the family. “She was planning to send her to an engineering college in Delhi next year. She sent most of what she earned to Rewari to support her family and would save the rest. We were shocked when the landlord accused her of theft,” said Mahesh. Kishore Lal (50), Naveen’s uncle, said, “We received a call around 10 pm about the incident. Her children had spoken to their mother just hours ago. Manju told us she would visit in October during Dussehra.”

Prince, Mahesh’s son, said the accused landlord was known to them. “Pahwa is a vegetable wholesale trader and his shop is near our office. He had a vacant room on the third floor of his house and agreed to take Manju as a tenant.”

The accused told police they had left the keys with Manju as they were going out, and allegedly caught her stealing when they returned. Prince, however, claimed: “They told us she stole Rs 2 lakh but we found only Rs 4,000 in her bag, which was given to her by my father.”

Gujarat Forensic Science University
NAAC Accredited "A" Grade
APPLICATIONS INVITED

Gujarat Forensic Science University, Sector-9, Gandhinagar – 382007, Gujarat, India invites application from the eligible candidates, as per the Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI), for the Post of **Associate Professor – Clinical Psychology** [No. of Posts – 1 (one)]

The other details about the recruitment is available on the University website: <https://www.gfsu.edu.in>

INF/1153/19-20 Registrar

Health Minister Jain’s house burgled

New Delhi: Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain Sunday alleged that his house in Outer Delhi’s Saraswati Vihar was burgled and all four floors were “searched thoroughly for hours”. Police said the house was vacant. Jain and his family live at the Delhi gov-

ernment’s official accommodation in Civil Lines. “Theft in my house at Saraswati Vihar. All floors searched thoroughly for hours. Anti-social elements and thieves have no fear of Delhi Police,” he tweeted. The incident was reported at 9

pm, police said. Additional DCP (Outer) Rajender Singh Sagar said, “Prima facie, it appears the taps in the bathrooms are missing. A case will be registered as soon as we get a written complaint.” Jain did not respond to calls or messages seeking a comment. ENS

IIFF
INDIA INTERNATIONAL FOOTWEAR FAIR
Website: www.indiatradingfair.com

“Step into the future of Footwear Opportunities”

5th INDIA INTERNATIONAL FOOTWEAR FAIR 2019 Delhi
SEPTEMBER 23 24 25 2019
VENUE: HALLS 7A to 7H PRAGATI MAIDAN, NEW DELHI

Inauguration Today
at Hall No. 7, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi

Over 200 exhibitors from India and abroad
Over 9000 business visitors

MATERIALS
FOOTWEAR
COMPONENTS
MACHINERY
CHEMICALS

Organized by: INDIA TRADE PROMOTION ORGANISATION
Pragati Bhawan, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi-110001 (India)
Tel: 91-11-23371822, 23371319
Email: indiatrade@itpo.gov.in, itpo@itpo.gov.in, itpoindia@itpo.gov.in

Confederation of Indian Footwear Industries
H-32 Udyog Nagar Ind Area, New Delhi-110041, India
Ph: +91-11-49603112 / 45681502 Fax: +91-11-23367140
Mobile: +91-9868935888 | +91-9868877797
Email: cifil@india.com, info@cifil.com

Supported by: Council for Leather Exports, India www.clexi.com Central Footwear Training Institute (CFTI) **UFCOMA**



“The new rates would be comparable with the lowest tax rates in South Asian region and in South East Asia.”

Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Finance Minister

“The step to cut corporate tax is historic. It will give a great stimulus to Make In India, attract private investment from across the globe, improve competitiveness of our private sector...”

Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister



ASSOCHAM on behalf of Industry thanks Government for historic decision of reducing Corporate Tax

The mega ₹ 1.45 lakh crore booster announced by Hon'ble Finance Minister Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman by way of slashing corporate tax to 22 percent and other key fiscal incentives will revive global and domestic investment into the Indian economy.

“The Corporate tax reduction alongwith other measures will give traction to 'Make in India' initiative and pave the way for making our country a 5 trillion dollar economy.”

B. K. Goenka, President, ASSOCHAM



The Game Changer

- Corporate tax slashed to 22%
- Mat slashed to 15%
- 1.2% CSR spending allowed
- No enhanced surcharge
- Domestic Cos incorporated on or after 1 Aug 2019 to be taxed at 15%



A CAPITAL PLAN

Over the next five years, a mega project to reimagine and redevelop the heart of Delhi will take shape. SOMYA LAKHANI & ANANYA TIWARI report on the history, and future, of Lutyens' Delhi



NORTH AND SOUTH BLOCK BUILDINGS

World War I was a roadblock in the construction of New Delhi and work slowed down on the Secretariat buildings (now called North and South Blocks). While the Blocks, designed primarily by architect Herbert Baker, were being built in 1915, Edwin Lutyens pointed out that the view of the Government House or Rashtrapati Bhawan will be obstructed. This led to an old friendship between Baker and Lutyens turning sour. By 1925, the Blocks were partially ready and “several departments started moving into the buildings... by November 1926, the buildings were fully functional even though the domes were yet to be built,” said Liddle. In 1930, the Blocks were ready



VIGYAN BHAWAN

CPWD architect R. Gehlote finished work on Vigyan Bhawan, Krishi Bhawan and Udyog Bhawan in 1957

IN THE Capital's history, few architectural projects have been as divisive as this one. On September 13, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) announced the “PM's dream project” — the ambitious redevelopment of Lutyens' Delhi. While some fear the project will hurt the city's heritage and the 2024 deadline might hasten work that deserves more time, others believe the redevelopment will give the Central Vista — the area from the Rashtrapati Bhawan to India Gate — much-needed change and modernisation, albeit with an “Indian ethos”.

In fact, the last time battle lines were drawn over buildings was in the 1920s, when architects of New Delhi, Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker, disagreed over the height of the Rashtrapati Bhawan and the North and South Block buildings. The disagreement ended an old friendship.

A week before architectural firms deposit their bids for the project, *The Indian Express* looked at the history of the Central Vista and spoke to historians, architects and stakeholders about apprehensions and challenges ahead, and what New Delhi could look like in 2024.

At the coronation of George V as Emperor of India on December 12, 1911, he had announced, “We have decided upon the transfer of the seat of the Government of India from Calcutta to the ancient Capital of Delhi.” And thus began a 20-year-long project spearheaded by Lutyens and Baker, who built Parliament House, Rashtrapati Bhawan, North and South Blocks, Rajpath, India Gate, National Archives and the princes' houses around India Gate. New Delhi was unveiled in 1931.

About the redevelopment project, Najaf Haider, professor of History at JNU, said, “The history of modern India has always been of a dynasty building a new city. I see this project as the present government establishing its own regime.”

The Central Public Works Department, which will supervise the project, has invited bids from architectural firms for this. A senior CPWD official said, “The facade of the Rashtrapati Bhawan, the North and South Blocks and Parliament will not be touched because of their heritage value. Inside, changes will be made and we will see if the Parliament will be used for the same purpose or not.” By Diwali this year, the CPWD will announce the firm that will be handed over the project.

Senior architect Ranjit Sabikhi said, “Since the '60s, the population of Delhi has multiplied manifold, and there are very few public spaces left. I accept the offices need more space, but there is plenty of land across Delhi lying empty; they can build it there as well.”

Historian and INTACH co-convenor Swapna Liddle said attention should be given to the “line of sight and any new construction shouldn't hurt the Lutyens' symmetry”. “The Bhawans reflect post-Independence austerity and were caught between the Lutyens' style and the Modern movement... Some can be done away with, except the Vayu and Rail Bhawans, which are pretty decent,” she said.

RAJPATH

Formally known as the Kingsway, the ceremonial avenue was meant to “enhance the position of the king-emperor as the focal point of the imperial system”, wrote historian Thomas Metcalf in his book, *An Imperial Vision: Indian Architecture and Britain's Raj* (1989). It was named Kingsway as a tribute to King George V

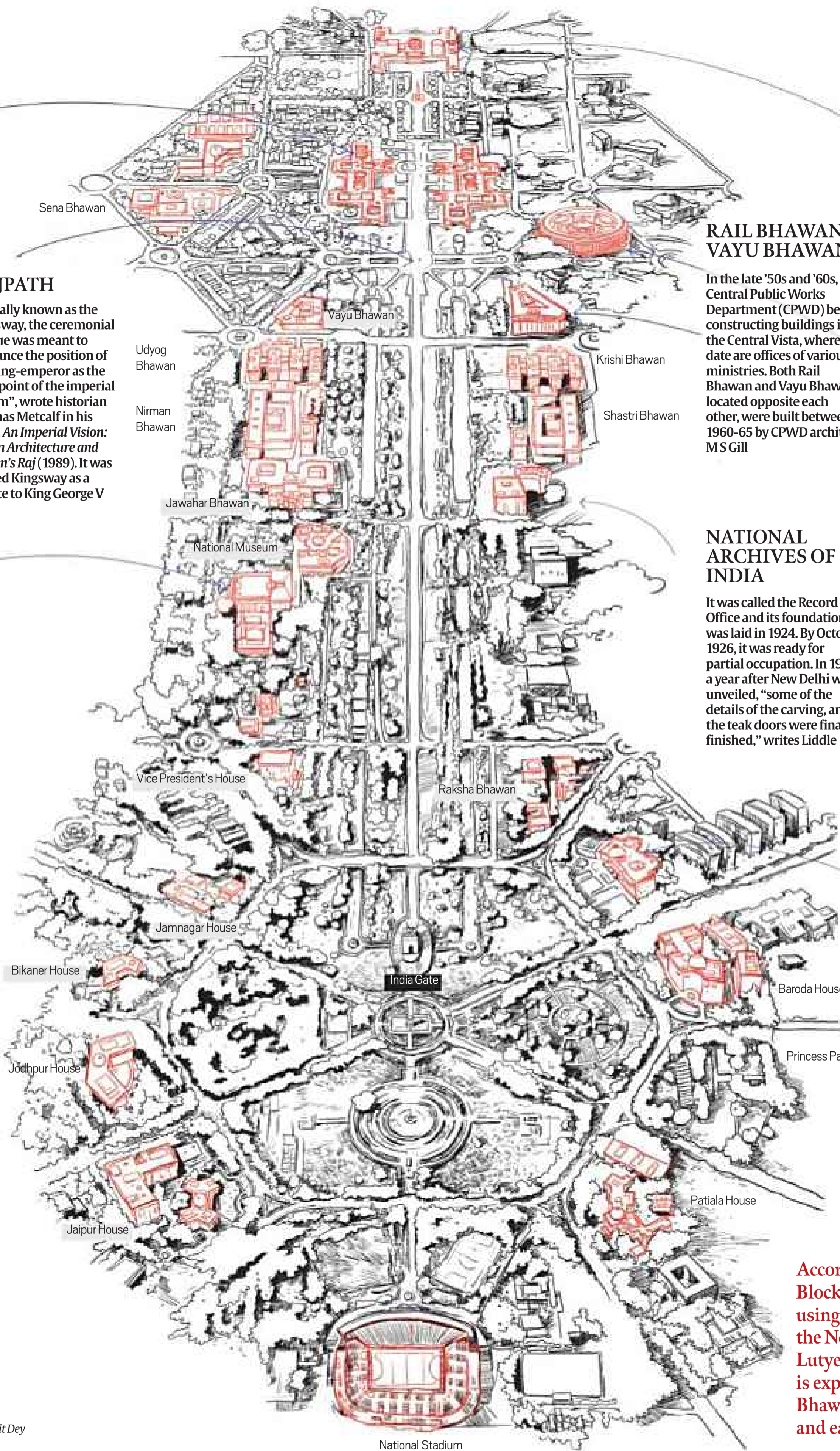


Illustration: Suvajit Dey

INTERVIEW

‘The Bhawans will go... they are in such poor state’

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on the Prime Minister's dream project, utilising space and maintaining symmetry in the Central Vista, and a possible museum of colonial history. Excerpts from an interview:

When was the project envisaged and why?

This is the PM's project, it's been his dream. He mentioned it to me many years ago when I was the Ambassador to Geneva and we were talking about Capitals. He kept it under wraps and has been working on this. As a minister, even I received information on a need-to-know basis. We are determined to make Delhi one of the nicest capital cities of the world. This city has heritage, culture and history, but it has been subjected to unplanned and vigorous urbanisation. In 1947, before Partition, the population was eight lakh, and after Partition, it was a little under 20 lakh. These buildings were designed and built in 1911-1931, and 75 years

later, the population matrix has gone completely off from what it was anticipated then.

These buildings are colonial, and reflect the 190 years of imperial authority. We were a colony then and the decision-making was not in our hands. South Africa, which too was a colony then, has the same buildings. Years ago, the South African ambassador to the UN in New York said to me, ‘You sent us an English-educated lawyer, and we sent you back the Mahatma.’ He said these buildings have been preserved to remind us that we were a colony. Governments can't function out of that when they are independent countries. One idea could be to turn South Block into a museum of colonial history.



No one in their right mind will try to dismantle these buildings and no one said we are going to take apart the Parliament, it is heritage.”

What changes can be expected in the Parliament Building and the North and South Block buildings?

No one in their right mind will try to dis-

mantle these buildings and no one said we are going to take apart the Parliament, it is heritage. The main flaw in the Parliament building is that there are 545 seats in Lok Sabha and 200-plus seats in Rajya Sabha but not enough space for them. Maybe what can be done is that we use the existing Parliament building for Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, and redesign it from inside; and maybe build a tunnel or an overhead link to connect to a new building. Each MP should have a chamber, and they don't today. Many sit in the Central Hall.

The project will be executed by Indians, and supervised by the CPWD. I am very clear and so is the Prime Minister that the North and South Block buildings will stay. The South Block has the PMO, External Affairs and Defence Ministries. To go from one part of a Ministry to another part, one has to first cross Delhi traffic as offices are strewn across various Bhawans. That's not how governments function; there has to be proximity. The idea is to build a completely modern, ecologically



RASHTRAPATI BHAWAN

Designed by Edwin Lutyens, it was first called Government House, and in December 1929, when Viceroy Irwin moved there (even though some electrical work was pending), it came to be known as Viceroy House. Work on it started alongside the North and South Blocks, but several roadblocks, including World War I, scanty stone supply, and a Lutyens-Herbert Baker disagreement led to delay in completion. Four wings of the Government House were completed and the dome was built in 1928



PARLIAMENT HOUSE, PARLIAMENT LIBRARY BUILDING

The Parliament House was not a part of the original plan, and in 1921, work on a new “Legislative building” began, historian Swapna Liddle said. It was designed by Herbert Baker and formally inaugurated in January 18, 1927. Behind it, the library was added to the Central Vista in 2003, built by famous architect Raj Rewal. “It doesn't disturb the symmetry of the Central Vista... if you see the Parliament from Vijay Chowk, you can't see the library,” said Liddle

HYDERABAD & OTHER HOUSES

Around India Gate were built house of various “princes”, and Edwin Lutyens was the architect of the Hyderabad House and Baroda House. In 1928, Hyderabad House and Bikaner House were inaugurated. In 1931, when New Delhi was finally unveiled, Baroda House and Travancore House were under construction. The other houses followed Lutyens' style of architecture. In her book, *Connaught Place and the Making of New Delhi*, Liddle writes, “One category that occupied a special racial and class position was that of the ‘native princes’... after planning of the new city began, the princes began to make applications to be allotted land in the new Capital.”

According to the CPWD, the North and South Blocks are not earthquake-safe and will be fixed using advanced technology, as it was done with the New Zealand Parliament. While the iconic Lutyens and Baker buildings will stay, Rajpath is expected to undergo major changes and the Bhawans, built by the CPWD in the late '50s and early '60s, are likely to be demolished

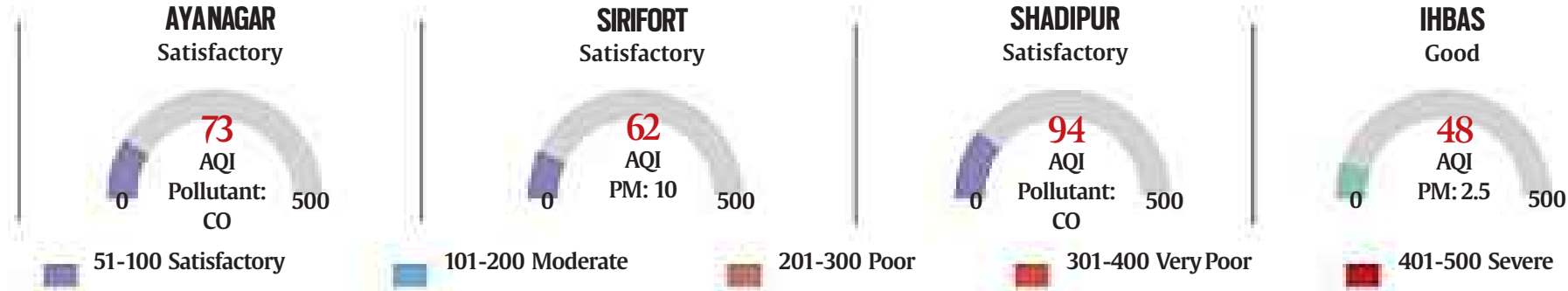
state-of-the-art government district, accessible by Metro. Everything is in the design stage right now.

Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker created the Central Vista with symmetry in mind. If new buildings are constructed, how will they impact that?

We will bring on board people who understand the Central Vista's symmetry. If somebody has made a design which makes it completely asymmetrical, obviously they won't be picked for the job. I mean if you're running a capital city, it should look like a capital city. The aim is to utilise all that space efficiently.

What about the Bhawans, which were built in the late '50s, early '60s?

The Bhawans will go. I am the Minister at Nirman Bhawan and I make it look good, but have you been to the rest, such as Shastri Bhawan? These are government offices, you conduct business here, meet people, but they are in such poor state.



BRIEFLY

Parking policy gets law dept approval

New Delhi: The long-pending parking policy of the Delhi government is likely to be notified soon, with the Law Department clearing it, officials said Sunday. “The Law Department has cleared it. The final policy will have no major changes... The question of whether the L-G or the elected government will notify it was settled during the draft stage itself as the draft was issued in the transport minister’s name,” an official said.

Fire officer held over ‘bribe bid’

Ghaziabad: The Fire Security Officer (FSO) of Noida’s fire department was arrested Sunday over allegations of demanding bribes for fire safety licences, police said. According to police, the matter came to light after a purported audio clip of a conversation between FSO Kuldeep Kumar and a fire vendor “discussing the bribe” went viral. The fire vendor, identified as Arvind Gupta, who was looking to obtain the NOC for a hospital in Sector 48, has been arrested as well, police said.

Firing at Akshardham: 4 criminals flee

New Delhi: While trying to set a trap and arrest four criminals, an exchange of fire took place between a police team and the criminals in East Delhi’s Akshardham at 10.45 am Sunday. Police said the gang managed to flee.

2 juveniles apprehended for murder

New Delhi: Police have apprehended two juveniles from Central range for allegedly killing a 16-year-old boy following a quarrel Sunday. **ENS**

CM TO ATTEND C40 WORLD MAYORS SUMMIT

Delhi’s pollution fight to get Denmark stage

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22

CHIEF MINISTER Arvind Kejriwal will share the AAP government’s experience of dealing with Delhi’s critically polluted air, through a series of mitigating measures, during the upcoming C40 World Mayors Summit at Copenhagen, Denmark.

The summit, to be held between October 9-12, will bring together heads of cities, providing them a platform to present the steps taken by them towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving climate resilience, as per the C40 official website.

In an official statement, the Delhi government said Kejriwal will present the capital’s “pollution success story” at the summit. Measures such as odd-even rationing policy, phasing out diesel generator sets and construction of



The CM will speak on odd-even, construction of highways

the Eastern and Western Peripheral Highways will figure in the CM’s speech, it said.

Earlier this month, Kejriwal announced that the concentration of particulate matter in Delhi’s air has come down by around 25% as compared to 2012 levels. In 2014, a WHO study found Delhi’s air quality to be the worst in the world, prompting executive and judicial interventions, including the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) which mandates separate set of measures based on pollution levels.

One such measure, the odd-even policy, is set to be enforced

in Delhi from November 4-15. The policy was enforced twice in 2016. “The CM is expected to... present the set of initiatives taken by the Delhi government that led to the 25% reduction in air pollution. After many years of gaining notoriety as one of the world’s most polluted capital cities of the world, this is a major shift in the discourse...”

“He is expected to speak about the role of improved electricity supply and the phasing out of generator sets on a large scale, the peripheral highways, the crackdown on construction sites, the increased green cover and the massive reduction in industrial pollution due to the closure of two thermal power plants and shifting industry to CNG,” the statement said.

Apart from Delhi, cities such as New York, London, Paris, Los Angeles and Berlin will have delegations at the summit.

Man kills wife, chops up body and dumps it in septic tank

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22

A 33-YEAR-OLD man allegedly stabbed his wife to death, chopped her body and dumped the pieces in a septic tank at their house in Rohini on Saturday night. On Sunday morning, he surrendered at Prem Nagar police station. Police said the accused allegedly killed his wife as he suspected she was having an affair.

“Around 9 am, the man, Ashu Pal, came to the police station and told officers that he had killed his wife, Seema (30), and chopped the body. He took his wife to their old house which was being renovated and killed her there. A forensic team was sent to the spot... We are trying to recover the body parts. Further investigation is on,” said DCP (Rohini) S D Mishra.

Police said the man later told them he had dumped a few body parts in a drain near the house.

“The accused was taken to

Police said the man committed the crime as he suspected his wife was having an affair. He surrendered Sunday

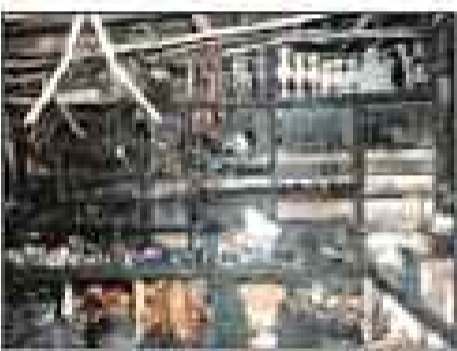
the spot to guide the forensic team... A few parts were found inside gunny bags,” said a senior police officer.

The couple got married 10 years ago and have three daughters aged eight, four and three. The man works at a computer repair shop and the woman was a housewife.

They were living in a rented house as their old house was being renovated.

The victim’s father Shyam Sundar alleged, “We knew that her husband was abusive, he and his mother would harass my daughter for dowry. We didn’t think he would kill her. He called us in the morning at 8 am and told us that he has killed our daughter and chopped her body into pieces.”

Late night blaze at Dilli Haat



Loss of property will be determined after the cooling operation is over

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22

A FIRE broke out at South Delhi’s Dilli Haat late Sunday night. The Delhi Fire Service (DFS) received a call at 10.25 pm about the fire and 11 fire tenders were dispatched. The blaze was brought under control by 11.30 pm.

“Prima facie, the blaze started from a pile of discarded material and spread to stalls, which were shut at the time. There is no casualty, and loss of property will be determined after the cooling operation is over,” said a fire department official.

Tell friends to join dengue drive, CM appeals to residents

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22

THE DELHI government’s drive against dengue entered its fourth week on Sunday, with Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal urging people to rope in their friends for the campaign.

Kejriwal’s appeal to expand the scope of the campaign came two days before the government’s scheduled interaction with RWAs at a convention.

The ruling AAP has been using the campaign as an outreach programme ahead of the Assembly election, due in another four months.

In a video message, Kejriwal said every person should try and call at least 10 friends and urge them to check their households for stagnant water as well.

“We will all have to become champions in the fight against dengue to defeat it,” he said.

The drive began on



AAP MP Sanjay Singh during the drive. Express

September 1. The government said it was necessitated due to warnings from doctors that dengue mosquitoes might see a spike this year.

Last week, the CM, along with several other Cabinet ministers had visited North Delhi’s Tri Nagar to check for signs of mosquito breeding. Talking to residents, he had said: “Several people died due to dengue two-three years ago. In 2015, more than 15,000 cases were reported... I am happy that we have been able to control cases over the last two years.”

Three women allege harassment at GK II restaurant, probe on

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22

THREE WOMEN have alleged they were harassed by two men inside a restaurant in GK-II Saturday night, said police. According to police, one of the women posted the details of the alleged incident on social media, claiming that the accused passed vulgar comments at them.

In her post, the woman alleged, “I went to the Sidecar diner with my two friends at 10.25 pm. There were two men sitting on the table behind us, one of them rested his arm on my chair. After I moved my chair, the other man pushed the chair aggressively. We went to their table and questioned them about their behaviour, after which they yelled at us and... made indecent remarks. Soon the manager came to us. He shifted the men to another section of the diner (sic).”

The woman further said that

the men came back to the same table around five minutes later. She alleged that they sat there for another 20-25 minutes and “disturbed” her and her friends.

“My friend decided to call the police. As she picked up her phone to make the call, the men got up and left,” alleged the woman.

Meanwhile, an employee of the restaurant said the men were asked to leave the restaurant after the women complained about them.

“We have submitted the CCTV footage of the diner to police and given an official statement in the matter,” said the manager of the diner.

According to police, they received a call from a woman following which a complaint was filed. “We have registered a case under IPC sections 354 (assault on woman with intent to outrage her modesty) and 506 (criminal intimidation). The accused will be arrested soon,” said Atul Kumar Thakur, DCP (South).

इलाहाबाद बैंक

विश्वास की परंपरा

ALLAHABAD BANK

A tradition of trust

Head Office: 2, Netaji Subhash Road, Kolkata-700001

Zonal Office: Gaya

NOTICE OF E-AUCTION

E-auction of property on 25.10.2019 on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS, AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" & "WHATEVER THERE IS" on the platform <https://allahabadbank.auctiontiger.net>

E-auction sale notice for sale of Immovable Assets under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s and guarantor/s that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Allahabad Bank Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "whatever there is" basis as on 25.10.2019. The details of bank's dues, Borrower & Guarantors, Reserve Price, Earnest money & Description of immovable properties is given below:

Sl No	Details of immovable properties	Name of the Borrower(S)	Amount of Secured Debt	Reserve Price (in Rs)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Branch
01	All that piece and parcel of land and building along with present and future construction thereon in the name of (1) Registered mortgage of factory Land & Building situated at Mauza:Risiyap Thana:Risiyap Dist:Aurangabad,khata No. 185,plot No. 1123,Thana No. 411 Tauzi no. Govt.of Bihar in the name of M/s Vindhyawasini Agro Processing Pvt. Ltd. Surroundings-Khata No.185, plot No.1123, 28 Decimal North-Mukhan Singh, South-Saket kumar, East-Gridhar Singh, West-Saket Kumar, Surroundings-Khata No.185,plot No.1123,37 Decimal, North-Seema kumari, South-Sideshwar singh, East-Girdhar singh, West-Road, Surroundings-Khata No.185,plot No.1123,16.50 Decimal North-Saket Kumar, South-Nageshwar Singh, East-Jitendar singh, West-Rajender Singh. (2) Registered mortgage of the landed property (land) in the name of Sri saket Kumar S/o Sri Lallu Prasad singh situated at Mauza:Risiyap,Thana-Risiyap, Distt: Aurangabad, Thana No. 411, Khata 185, Plot No. 2280 & 1123, Tauzi No. Govt Of Bihar Area:19 Decimal, Surroundings-Khata No.185, plot No.2280,04.807Decimal North-Mithilesh Singh, South-Road, East-Sideshwar Singh, West-Sagresh. Surroundings-Khata No.185,plot No.2280,5.500Decimal, North-Laxmini Devi, South-Pakka Road, East-sidhehwar Singh, West-Saket kumar, Surroundings- Khata No.185,plot No.2280,1.193Decimal North-Saket Kumar, South-Laxmini Devi, East-Laxmini Devi, West-NH. Surroundings-Khata No.185, Plot No.1123,7.50 Decimal, North-Saket Kumar, South-Arvind Singh, East-NH, West-Gridhar Singh. (3) Registered mortgage of the landed property (land) in the name of Smt Dulari Devi W/O Sri Lallu Prasad Singh situated at Mauza:Risiyap, Thana-Risiyap, Distt: Aurangabad, Thana No. 411, Khata185, Plot No. 2280 & 1123, Tauzi No.Govt Of Bihar Area:19 Decimal, Surroundings-Khata No.185,plotNo.2280,04.807Decimal North-Mithilesh Singh, South-Road, East-Sideshwar Singh, West-Sagresh. Surroundings-Khata No.185,plot No.2280,5.500Decimal, North-Laxmini Devi, South-Pakka Road, East-sidhehwar Singh, West-Saket kumar, Surroundings- Khata No.185,plot No.2280,1.193Decimal North-Saket Kumar, South-Laxmini Devi, East-Laxmini Devi, West-NH. Surroundings-Khata No.185, Plot No.1123,7.50 Decimal, North-Saket Kumar, South-Arvind Singh, East-NH, West-Gridhar Singh. (4) Registered Mortgage of the landed property (land) in the name of Smt.Dulari devi W/O Sri Lallu Prasad Singh situated at mauza:Shahpur,Thana & Distt:Aurangabad ,Thana No.556,Khata 154,Khesra No.168,Area:4 decimal & 1 decimal. Surroundings(Area 4 decimal) North-Pind/Harzan Tola, South-Rasta & Pramod Kumar Singh, East- Hindustan Liver show Room, West-Amar Nath Singh, Surroundings(Area 1 decimal), North-Ajay kumar Singh, South-G.T. Road (NH-02), East- Rasta, West-Ajay Kumar Singh & Pramod Singh. (5) Equitable Mortgage of the landed properties(land) in the name of sri Prabhat Singh s/o Sri Lallu Prasad Singh situated at mauza: Risiyap, Thana:Risiyap, distt: Aurangabad, Thana No.411,Khata No.185, plot no.1123, area: 35 decimal (Sale Deed No. 11242 dated 14.08.2014). Surroundings-(Area-35 Decimal), North-Road, South-Girdhar Singh, East-Laxmini Devi & ravindra Singh, West-Prabhat Singh. (6) Equitable Mortgage of the landed properties (land) in the name of sri Prabhat Singh s/o Sri Lallu Prasad singh situated at mauza:Risiyap, Thana: Risiyap, distt: Aurangabad, Thana No.411, Khata No.185,plot no.1123,area:40 decimal (sale Deed No. 11241 dated 14.08.2014). Surroundings-(Area-40 Decimal) North-Road, South-Girdhar Singh, East-Niz Vekereta, West-Jyoti Modern Rice Mill. (7)-Equitable Mortgage of the landed properties(land) in the name of Smt.Seema Kumari w/o Sri saket kumar situated at mauza:Risiyap, Thana:Risiyap, distt:Aurangabad, Thana No.411,Khata No.185,plot no.1123,area:24 decimal (Sale Deed No. 11852 dated 30.08.2014). Surroundings North-Awdhesh Paswan, South-Vindhyawasini Pvt.Ltd. & Seema Kumari, East-Lalendra singh, West-Niz Kereta Seema Kumari. (8) Equitable Mortgage of the landed properties(land) in the name of Smt.Seema Kumari w/o Sri saket kumar situated at Mauza:Risiyap, Thana:Risiyap, distt: Aurangabad, Thana, No.411,Khata No.185,plot no.1123,area:24 decimal (Sale Deed No. 10907 dated 06.08.2014). Surroundings North-Rajdev Kumar, South-Pakki Rasta Badhu Seema Kumari Niz, East- vijay Singh & Others, West-Rasta	M/s Vindhyawasini Agro Processing Pvt. Ltd. Directors: 1. Sri Saket Kumar S/o Sri Lallu Prasad Singh R/o Vill- Risiap Tola, Shiwan Bigha Kutumba 824101 2. Smt Seema Kumari w/o Sri Saket Kumar R/o Vill- Risiap Tola, Shiwan Bigha Kutumba 824101 3. Sri Lallu Prasad Singh s/o Late Jag Narayan Singh R/o Vill- Risiap Tola, Shiwan Bigha Kutumba Aurangabad 824101	₹ 11,35,57,294/- (Rs. Eleven Crore Thirty Five Lakh Fifty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Ninety Four Only) with up to date interest. as on 10.05.2019 Cost & Charges thereon till the date of realization	₹ 3,29,00,000/- (Rupees Three Crore Twenty Nine Lakh only)	₹ 32,90,000/- (Thirty Two Lakh Ninety Thousand only)	Karakat

Last Date & time for Submission of Process compliance Form with EMD amount: 23.10.2019 till 4.00 PM at Allahabad Bank, Aurangabad Branch, Bihar.

Date & Time of e-auction: 25.10.2019 from 12.30 PM to 2.30 PM at the platform of <http://allahabadbank.auctiontiger.net>

For further details and Terms & Conditions, Contact: Shri Mithilesh Kumar Jha (Chief Manager), Mob-8004585000/9593653562, Shri Ayush Kumar Bhadani (Senior Manager), Mob-8052365563 Rajeev Kumar (Branch Manager)-7979096589.

For downloading further details and Terms & Conditions, Please Visit: (i) <https://www.allahabadbank.in> (ii) <http://www.tenders.gov.in> (iii) <https://allahabadbank.auctiontiger.net>

Date : 19.09.2019
Place : Gaya

Authorized Officer
Allahabad Bank

FROM DARYA GANJ TO MAHILA HAAT

Thrice as many customers, vendors, Sunday book market regains ground

SUKRITA BARUAH NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22

ONSUNDAY afternoon, students, parents with children and book lovers milled around the open space of Mahila Haat in Delhi Gate as the relocated Darya Ganj Sunday book market has begun to find its feet again.

Right outside the walled premises of Mahila Haat — owned by the North MCD and leased out to book vendors to set up their famed shops on Sundays — were flex posters announcing the market’s new location.

The market opened up last Sunday after being shut for nine weeks following a Delhi High Court order that no weekly market be allowed at Netaji Subhash Marg due to traffic problems.

“Business is much better today than it was last Sunday...there are almost thrice the number of customers today. It was only a matter of people getting to know about the market’s new location. We put together our association’s money and printed 12 large posters, which we have put up around Delhi Gate and the Metro station area. We also distributed 2,000 pamphlets this morning,” said Rajendra Singh, former secretary of the Sunday Book Bazaar Welfare Association.

This gradual recovery is taking place even as a section of



Over 100 vendors set up shop this Sunday. Prem Nath Pandey

vendors continue to oppose the location and want the market to operate on the stretch between Golcha Cinema and Delite Cinema.

Last week, when *The Indian Express* had visited the market, it found that only around 30 vendors had set up shop. This week, over a hundred vendors had laid out their wares.

“Around 276 vendors would set up shop at the old location. Today, there are around 170. The customers are also more. It will take time to get as many customers as we had before,” said

Qamar Sayeed, president of the book bazaar association.

The space is open and uncluttered, and the vendors lay out their books at designated spots on a polished stone floor. Also enclosed in the space is a small park and raised platforms for visitors to sit.

“The space is good — it is clean, we have a toilet, there is a garden. It looks like a proper book fair. Customers and sellers are protected from traffic, and pick-pockets and roadside scuffles of the street-market,” said Sayeed.

However, the space is limited, he added. “Here, each seller has only a 6x4 feet space... earlier, space was more flexible,” he said. Rakesh Kumar, another vendor, said the open nature of the space has left them and the books vulnerable to the harsh sun and rain.

Most visitors *The Indian Express* spoke to had found out about the relocation through social media. SK Singh, who was at the market, said the new space is easier for customers: “The place is not chaotic. We can go through the books in peace.”



6 GOVT & POLITICS

Will build new Kashmir that will be for everyone, says PM



THE BIG QUESTION

WILL CONGRESS president Sonia Gandhi campaign for the upcoming Assembly elections in Maharashtra and Haryana? Because of ill-health, she has been off the campaign trail since the 2017 Uttar Pradesh election. But the situation is different this time. She is back as party president now and Rahul Gandhi has visibly taken a backseat when it comes to organisational activities. So the big question in the minds of Congress leaders is that whether Sonia will hit the campaign train again.

TWITTER TREND

PRIOR to Prime Minister Narendra Modi sharing the stage with US President Donald Trump, several BJP workers changed the picture on their Twitter handles to "Howdy Modi". Apart from party workers, Union Ministers S Jaishankar, Smriti Irani, Piyush Goyal, Dharmendra Pradhan and Dr Harsh Vardhan, IJP chief Ram Vilas Paswan and Tripura CM Biplab Deb put up the 'Howdy, Modi' image on their Twitter handles.

PLANNING TO MOVE

THE FOUNDATION stone for the new Congress headquarters near ITO was laid in 2009 by the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. It has been a decade since then. The grand old party is now planning to move into their new office by the year-end. The buzz is that the party is trying to get the new office ready by its foundation day in December. Given the fact that the party could not complete construction of the new office in a decade, many in the party are keeping their fingers crossed this time.

Don't repeat mistake of '65 and '71, Rajnath warns Pakistan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PATNA, SEPTEMBER 22

WARNING PAKISTAN against repeating the "mistakes of 1965 and 1971", Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said the neighbouring country dismantle on account of flagrant human rights violations against Balochis and Pashtuns.

Addressing a Jan Jagran Sabha here, where leaders spoke on the government's move to strip J&K of its special status, Singh said his party has lived up to its promises.

"We do not need to do anything against Pakistan. It will get dismantled because of the very path it has chosen. The country will be devoured by flagrant violation of human rights and flourishing terrorism on its soil," Singh remarked grimly, without elaborating further.

"As a nationalist party, the BJP never softened its stand on the issue. Article 370 was like a



Rajnath Singh

canker (nasoor) which left J&K bleeding. We have now demonstrated that we are an honest and credible party which fulfils its promises," Singh said.

"J&K will now be transformed within five years. In fact, more than three-fourths of its population wanted this provision to go..." Singh said.

"Talks with Pakistan will henceforth resume only after it stops promoting terrorism... All discussions will only take place about Pak-occupied Kashmir."

Among others who addressed the gathering in Patna were Union ministers Ravi Shankar Prasad and Nityanand Rai and Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi.

Khattar our captain: Capt Abhimanyu

SUKHBIR SIWACH
CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 22

HARYANA FINANCE Minister Captain Abhimanyu on Sunday Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar is "our captain for Assembly polls".

During an informal chat with a select group of journalists at his residence, Abhimanyu said, "Manohar ji has demonstratively established his administrative and political leadership in the past five years." Abhimanyu was seen as one of the probabilities for the chief minister's post in the BJP during the 2014 Assembly polls.

"The people had changed the government in 2014 but we have changed the system here under the leadership of Manohar ji," he said, adding that they worked as a team while opponents could not take care of their family and parties. He cited "intense political infighting" in the Chautala family which resulted in a split in the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD).

DECISION
2019

HARYANA

He also referred to alleged infighting in Congress and a clash between former Haryana Congress president Ashok Tanwar and supporters of former Chief Minister Bhopinder Singh Hooda, which allegedly took place in New Delhi in 2016. Tanwar had received injuries in the clash and an FIR was also lodged. "Even after being a CM for ten years, the state party president was assaulted. This shows how hungry these people are for power," said Abhimanyu.

He further said that Tanwar, who was removed from the post of Haryana Congress chief recently, was not a dynasty but the politics of dynasty is back in the Congress.

EXPRESS IN U.S.

SHUBHAJIT ROY
HOUSTON, SEPTEMBER 22

A MONTH-and-a-half after the government revoked the special status granted to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said he held a "special interaction" with a delegation of Kashmiri Pandits and assured them of "building a new Kashmir" which would be for everyone.

The delegation, which included Kashmiri Pandits from across the US, met Prime Minister Modi on his arrival in Houston as part as part of his week-long visit to the US.

"Kashmir mein nayi hawa bah rahi hai (New winds are blowing in Kashmir) and we will all build a new Kashmir together that will be for everyone," he told the delegation.

Modi also thanked the community for their patience for over 30 years.

Earlier, MEA spokesperson Raveesh Kumar tweeted, "In Houston, a delegation of the Kashmiri Pandit community met the Prime Minister. They unequivocally supported the steps being taken for the progress of India and empowerment of every Indian," he tweeted.

The delegation thanked the Prime Minister for the move and said that their 700,000 community members were "indebted".

The Prime Minister also met a delegation of the Dawoodi Bohra community, who felicitated him with a shawl. "The Dawoodi Bohra community has distinguished itself across the world. In Houston, I had the opportunity to spend time with them and speak about a wide range of issues," Modi tweeted.

Members of the Sikh community too met Modi. "I had an excellent interaction with the Sikh Community in Houston. I am delighted to see their passion towards India's development!" Modi tweeted.

The MEA spokesperson said the PM interacted with members of the Sikh community, during which they congratulated him on some of the path-breaking decisions taken by the government.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 21

UNION HOME Minister and BJP president Amit Shah said Sunday that India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru was responsible for the creation of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) as he had agreed to an "untimely" ceasefire in 1949 between Indian and Pakistani forces in Kashmir.

Shah also said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir would have had "homes with gold roofs" had state governments spent the funds given to it by the Centre for its development. He alleged the funds had been "looted".

Shah was addressing a public rally in Goregaon on the Centre's decision to abate Article 370 in J&K a day polls in Maharashtra were announced, and signalled that it would form a major part of the BJP campaign.

Asking the BJP cadre to start a massive campaign to take the government's decision to every household, Shah said the Congress-NCP, which opposed the decision in Parliament, should be shown their "rightful place" in the state elections.

"The decision to scrap Article 370 is for the welfare of the nation. It is for the welfare of Kashmir which is an integral part of India. The decision is in national interest. Now, its time to decide whether people want a party which is *rashtrabhakt* (nationalist) or those who promote



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks at the Howdy Modi event while US President Donald Trump looks on in Houston on Sunday. AP

At Howdy Modi venue, loud cheers — and some protests

SHUBHAJIT ROY
HOUSTON, SEPTEMBER 22

AS THE Indian community in the US came out in full force to cheer for the Howdy Modi event at the NRG stadium on Sunday morning, a relatively smaller group also protested against the event.

The programme began at 9.30 am local time with a kirtan by Sikh singers followed by performances of Bhangra, Garba and the Bengali song "Ekla Cholo re", among others.

Trisha Guduru, CEO of a pharmaceutical company, said, "For the Prime Minister to be coming for the event makes such a huge impact for the youth. He is such an advocate of women's empowerment through his policies."

Guduru, who came to the US as a 10-year-old, is a successful entrepreneur and a winner of Volunteer Service Award during the term of President Barack Obama. Referring to Kashmir, she said, "Somebody had to make a decision to end something that was going on for many years. We must respect his decision. There is lot of hatred towards him... but he is doing this so that more people don't suffer."

Parul Brahmabhatt, an entrepreneur, said Modi is immensely popular here. "As much as we agree with political leaders, he is a people's leader," she said. Brahmabhatt is a board member



Supporters at the Howdy Modi venue. Reuters

for Non-profit One World.

A short distance away, a small group of protesters assembled at Kirby Avenue, under the watchful eyes of the Houston police. The protesters had gathered under the aegis of Alliance for Justice and Accountability.

Earlier, they held a media interaction and announced their plans. The group comprised of activists Sunita Viswanath from Hindus for Human Rights, Ashton P Woods, co-founder of Black Lives Matter in Houston and Syed Ali of the Indian American Muslim Council, among others.

"We are horrified that our religion, which teaches *Vasudaiva Kutumbakam*, is being hijacked by extremists and nationalists who are lynching Muslims, trampling democracy and law and order and arresting, if not

murdering, those who are speaking out," Viswanath said.

"We are especially appalled by the most recent nightmare of the Kashmiri people and the situation of 1.9 million people in India who are rendered stateless due to the imposition of the travesty called the National Register of Citizens," she said.

Ali pointed out that several separatist groups, including Khalistanis, have joined the protests, but Alliance for Justice and Accountability does not endorse them. "We support the Kashmiris, the minorities and Dalits. This is a free country where everyone is allowed to protest, but AJA has a larger agenda of countering Hindutva."

Inside the stadium, the 50,000-strong audience enjoyed the performances, without caring much for the protests.



Amit Shah in Mumbai on Sunday. Prashant Nadkar

DECISION
2019

MAHARASHTRA

parivarvad (dynasty)... When (Rahul) Gandhi (of the Congress) and (NCP chief) Sharad Pawar will be here for the campaign, you should ask them whether they support or oppose the removal of Article 370," he said.

Blaming Nehru, Shah said had Sardar Patel handled the accession of Kashmir, as he had done all other princely states, there would have been a different result.

Nehru had taken Pakistan's invasion to the United Nations

under Article 35 of the UN Charter in 1948.

"Had he gone through UN charter's Article 51, still PoK would have been with India," Shah said. Article 51 says a member of the UN has the "inherent right" to self-defence against an armed attack until the Security Council has taken measures necessary to maintain international peace and security.

"PoK wouldn't have come into existence had Nehru not declared the untimely ceasefire with Pakistan, a mistake of Nehru... Sardar Patel should have handled Kashmir, instead of Nehru handling it".

The United Nations-brokered ceasefire formally brought to an end the first Kashmir war that broke out in October 1947 when tribesmen from the newly created Pakistan invaded the then princely state of Jammu &

Kashmir, and were followed by the Pakistani army. The ceasefire left the Pakistan Army in control of those areas of J&K that its army occupied at the time.

"After Sardar Patel's death in 1950, the Indian government signed the Delhi agreement with Sheikh Abdullah which became the foundation of Article 370," he said. Referring to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's criticism of the Centre's decision, Shah said that for the BJP, the removal of special status to J&K "was a promise of re-integration. You (Congress) see politics in it, but we see it as patriotism".

"Rahul has come into politics now, but three generations of the Jan Sangh and BJP have sacrificed their lives for Kashmir. They fought for the abrogation of Article 370. Our objective is to keep *Bharat Ma akhand* (Mother India united)"

Citing an example of the special status that had been given to Kashmir, Shah said, "Those who came from Pakistan to India, two of them — Manmohan Singh and I K Gujral — (later) became prime ministers, while L K Advani became deputy prime minister. But those who went to J&K never had voting rights..." he said.

"The Indian government has spent Rs 2.27 lakh crore so far on Jammu and Kashmir since its formation. Had it gone to people, their houses would have had roofs made of gold," Shah said.

"Article 370 was not for protecting the culture of J&K. It was for the protection of their (political leaders) corruption," he said.



PM Narendra Modi meets with energy sector CEOs in Houston, Texas on Saturday. PIB/PTI

Modi's first stop in Houston: Meet with energy CEOs

SHUBHAJIT ROY
HOUSTON, SEPTEMBER 22

IN HIS first engagement after arriving in Houston, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met the CEOs and senior executives of 17 global energy companies Saturday and they discussed ways to deepen cooperation as part of the strategic partnership.

"The CEOs talked about enhancing their footprint in India. They lauded the government's efforts towards Ease of Doing Business, steps taken towards deregulation in the sector, supported reforms and policies and were upbeat on the Indian economy," MEA official spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said.

The combined net worth of these energy companies is US\$1 trillion with a presence in 150 countries — all of them have some engagement with or presence in India.

They include: Baker Hughes, BP, Cheniere Energy, Dominion Energy, Emerson Electric Company, ExxonMobil, Perot Group and Hillwood, IHS Markit, LyondellBasell Industries, McDermott, Schlumberger, Tellurian, Total, Air Products, Vinnar International and Westlake Chemicals.

After the meeting, it was announced that US natural gas company Tellurian and India's largest LNG importer Petronet LNG Ltd have signed an MoU for imports up to 5 million tonnes of LNG from America.

The deal will also include PLL's equity investment in Tellurian's Driftwood project after further negotiations on the terms and size of the deal.

A statement from Tellurian said the MoU was signed in Modi's presence. "Petronet, India's largest LNG importer, will

EXPLAINED
E.

Energy ties

THE US began selling crude oil to India in 2017 — in 2017-18, US supplies were just 1.4 million tonnes. It jumped over four-fold in 2018-19 to 6.4 million tonnes valued at \$4 billion. Yet, the US accounts for less than 5% of India's total imports, which opens the way for enhanced cooperation in this sector.

be able to deliver clean, low-cost, and reliable natural gas to India from Driftwood. Increasing natural gas use will enable India to fuel its impressive economic growth to achieve Prime Minister Modi's goal of a \$5 trillion economy while contributing to a cleaner environment." Tellurian's president and CEO Meg Gentile said in a statement.

Tellurian and Petronet hope to finalise the transaction agreements by March 31, 2020.

Petronet, which has a market capitalisation of approximately \$5.1 billion, developed the country's first LNG receiving and re-gasification terminal at Dahej, Gujarat (17.5 mtpa), and another in Kochi, Kerala (5 mtpa).

The meeting with the CEOs was held at Hotel Post Oak, and an MEA spokesperson said its "objective... was to deepen our energy cooperation as part of our strategic energy partnership".

The Prime Minister had a "fruitful" meeting with CEOs on the first day of his week-long US visit, MEA said.

MoS: J&K leaders are 'house guests', given brown bread, movies

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 22

REITERATING THAT detained political leaders in Jammu and Kashmir will be released in less than 18 months, Union Minister of State in the PMO, Dr Jitendra Singh underscored Sunday that Opposition politicians detained across the state were "house guests" of the government, and said they were being provided facilities not available to even guests visiting someone's home.

"This is no house arrest which Amit Shah (Union Home Minister) has done. They are living in five star guest houses where even I may not get a place to stay when I go to Srinagar," Singh said, addressing a public rally on the eve of the birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh, the last Dogra ruler of J&K, who signed the Instrument of Accession in 1947.

Without naming leaders, Singh said: "You (detained politicians) wanted brown bread during breakfast as the other one carries fat, we started providing it. You wanted to watch Hollywood movies and we provided the cassettes. Then, you wanted a gym to do exercise and we provided that as well."

In an apparent jibe, Singh said that those sitting with him at the event Sunday did not eat brown bread, or know much English to watch Hollywood movies and that they were told to either attend a "shakha" or go



Dr Jitendra Singh was addressing a rally on the eve of Maharaja Hari Singh's birth anniversary.

for morning walks.

"...even then, you complain. You are not under house arrest, but you are house guest. Even a guest visiting one's house does not get such treatment," he said, adding that he has not seen a kind-hearted Home Minister like Amit Shah. "People complain that he is very strict, I say that he has changed the meaning of house arrest."

"We have not put them in house arrest like the then Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah government detained Syama Prasad Mookerjee who died after he was kept in two rooms without any medical facilities for 44 days. While he died at 2.30 am, the news of his death was made public at 1 pm," he said.

"We keep them in house arrest like Pt Nehru and his known friend detained Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah 2,000 km away at Kodaikanal in Tamil Nadu."



NORTH

Parents kill 20-day-old twin daughters due to 'expenses'

Muzaffarnagar: Two 20-day-old girls were drowned in a pond by their parents in Bhikki village of the district, with the father claiming they killed the twins as they could not bear their expenses, police said. Waseem, a daily wage, and his wife Nazma were arrested on Sunday, Station House Officer (SHO) Ajay

Kumar said. "Our financial condition is very weak. We could not have borne the expenses for our two daughters," Waseem, who has a seven-year-old son, told police. The couple had an argument on Saturday following which, the newborns were thrown in the pond near their house, the SHO said. **PTI**



Activists take part in a procession with a replica of a one-horned rhino to mark World Rhino Day in Nagaon district of Assam on Sunday. **PTI**

EAST

Virus kills four elephants at Nandankanan Zoo

Bhubaneswar: Four elephants have died at the Nandanakanan Zoo here after being infected by a virus, prompting the Odisha government to seek assistance from experts of Assam and Kerala. All the four calves died of Endotheliotrophic Herpes Virus within a month. "The state government has con-

tacted experts in Assam and Kerala where similar virus has killed several elephants in the past," Forest and Environment Minister of Odisha, B Karukha, said on Saturday. Since there is no such vaccine to check the spread of the virus, the state government has sought assistance of experts to contain any further cases. **PTI**

WEST

Man held with pistol and narcotics in Mumbai

Mumbai: Police have recovered a pistol and 19 bullets from a man of Kashmiri origin in suburban Oshiwara and are investigating his motive behind visiting Mumbai, an official said on Sunday. Police recovered the pistol and bullets from Tanveer Sharif Khan (30), a resident of Pooch district of Jammu and Kashmir, when he, along with three

others, was allegedly smoking charas (a form of cannabis) in a dormitory on Saturday night. All the four have been booked under the NDPS Act, he said. The three others are identified as Ishaq Manzoor Khan (21), who also hails from Poonch, and Anwar Mustak Hussain (30) and Shabbir Qureshi (30), both residents of suburban Jogeshwari. **PTI**

SOUTH

Four held in Kerala for honey trapping NRI businessman

Kochi: Four people including a woman were arrested for allegedly honey trapping a Gulf-based NRI businessman to extort money from him, police said on Sunday. While three of the accused hail from Kannur district, the woman belongs to Kochi. An investigation was launched based on a complaint that

the Qatar-based businessman was lured into a trap allegedly through Facebook, they said. One of the accused had allegedly set up a secret camera in the room where the victim met her accomplice. The accused allegedly then sent him pictures and tried to extort Rs 50 lakh from him. **PTI**

Amid unease in BSY camp, Lingayats bat for his continuation as CM

JOHNSONTA
BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 22

A SUBTLE political message was delivered in Kalaburagi this week by sants of the Lingayats, a dominant community in Karnataka, at an event organised by the B S Yediyurappa-led BJP government to mark the 1948 liberation of the Hyderabad Karnataka region from the rule of the Nizam and integration with the Union of India.

Several influential Lingayat sants hailed Yediyurappa as the foremost leader of the single largest community in the state. The president of Anubhava Mantapa — a 12th century spiritual parliament of the Lingayats — Basavalinga Pattadevaru said no chief minister had done as much for the Lingayat holy town of Basavakalyan as Yediyurappa. Another sant, Shivamurthy Swamy of Devapur Mutt, warned of protests by sants if Yediyurappa is deposed as CM.

The warning against dislodging Yediyurappa came amid growing unease in the Yediyurappa camp of his being sidelined by the BJP central leadership on several fronts — announcement of relief for flood-ravaged northern districts, appointment of three deputy chief ministers, and the takeover of the state BJP by the central leadership.

Though Yediyurappa has not



Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa

spoken in public about the discontent in his camp over being sidelined — since the BJP government was formed on July 26 — the sants are believed to have delivered a message on his behalf in Kalaburagi on September 17. "There is a sense that the BJP high command is toying with the idea of snap polls in Karnataka. It is yet to give the government its full support and confidence," a Yediyurappa camp insider said.

"There is a feeling that central leaders do not want Yediyurappa to be CM for long. This is due to several factors," a political analyst in the government said. One reason, the Yediyurappa camp feels, is lack of clear indication on central support for relief work in 17 districts that were ravaged by floods in August. "The CM has not been able to get an audience with the PM for flood relief. Damages have been assessed to be around Rs 32,000 crore," said the analyst.

EXPLAINED Shadow over current govt as BJP brass keen on stability

THE BJP central leadership is known to have been reluctant in forming a government in Karnataka after the Congress-JD (S) coalition government was dislodged through defections allegedly engineered by Yediyurappa and others in July. The BJP brass delayed clearance to Yediyurappa to stake claim to form the government. The warning from Lingayats comes amid a belief in the Yediyurappa camp that his government will not last beyond 6-8 months as the central leadership is keen on greater stability in numbers and a greater say in state BJP affairs.

The Opposition Congress and JD (S) have picked up the issue to target Yediyurappa.

"PM Modi has not given Yediyurappa an opportunity to meet him on the issue of flood relief," former JDS chief minister H D Kumaraswamy said. "Denying an appointment to the CM for a post-flood emergency is an insult to Yediyurappa and injustice to our state," former Congress CM Siddaramaiah said.

"They are doing politics. The flood situation is the same in six-seven states. Funds will be released to all the states at the earliest by the Centre," Yediyurappa countered.

A second front is in the appointment of three deputy chief ministers, despite Yediyurappa's resistance, to assist in running the state, and thereby prevent-

ing unilateral control of the government by the CM.

The appointment of the deputy CMs — especially Laxman Savadi, a Lingayat like Yediyurappa, who lost the 2018 Assembly polls but is seen as a possible successor to Yediyurappa — has caused tension in the administration. One of the deputy CMs has reported to the BJP high command about interference in administration by Yediyurappa's younger son B Y Vijayendra, BJP sources said.

The Opposition JDS has also accused Yediyurappa's son of interference in administrative affairs. Vijayendra, state general secretary of the BJP youth wing, issued a statement: "A lot of misinformation is being spread on account of the fact that I am the chief minister's son that I am



PRAYAGRAJ UNDER WATER

Houses inundated by floodwater in Prayagraj on Sunday. **PTI**

UP: rape-accused SDM goes missing, cops to attach home

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 22

AFTER OBTAINING orders from the court, police have pasted attachment of property notice at the Chitrakoot and Agra residence of sub-divisional magistrate Saujanya Kumar Vikas, who is wanted in a rape case.

The SDM was suspended fifteen days ago.

Vikas, who is married and has two children, was booked by Jhansi police in January this year

for allegedly raping a 22-year-old woman after promising to marry her. The woman, in her complaint, had alleged that Vikas, then SDM of Chitrakoot, threatened her when she tried to distance herself from him.

In her complaint, the woman said that she had come in contact with the officer when he was posted in Jalaun. She alleged Vikas claimed to be a bachelor and raped her after promising to marry her. But after she came to know that he was married, she started distancing herself from him, said

Abhishek Kumar Rahul, the Circle Officer of Nawabad, where the FIR against Vikas was filed.

As Vikas went missing, the police moved court and obtained a non-bailable warrant against him. Jhansi police approached court again which issued an attachment of property notice and asked him to appear before court or police within 30 days.

If the accused remains absconding, we will move court again for permission to attach his property, Jhansi SSP, Om Prakash Singh said.

meddling in transfers. This is being spread as part of efforts to curb my political growth."

A third cause for anxiety in the Yediyurappa camp is the loss of control over state BJP affairs after the central leadership appointed its man — MP from Dakshina Kannada region Nalin Kumar Kateel — as president soon after Yediyurappa became CM. According to sources, Yediyurappa (76) is keen to install Vijayendra in a key position in the BJP but the high command does not want to promote dynastic politics. Meanwhile, Vijayendra's supporters have issued advertisements in local newspapers hailing the 44-year-old as a "future leader".

"Yediyurappa wants his son to be in a strong position to take over his mantle since he knows that the BJP, which has a retirement age of 75, will ask him to step aside soon," JDS leader H D Revanna said.

Yediyurappa is believed to have fallen out of the good books of the BJP leadership in May 2018 when he attempted to field Vijayendra in the 2018 Assembly polls from Mysuru region without central clearance. In 2011, Yediyurappa was forced to quit as CM after being accused of corruption in a case where his sons were also accused. In 2016, a special CBI court acquitted Yediyurappa, his two sons and 10 others in the Rs 40-crore bribery case.

15-yr-old Dalit girl 'gangraped', one held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 22

A 15-YEAR-OLD Dalit girl was allegedly gangraped by three youths in a village in Kaushambi district on Saturday.

One of three men — all in their early 20s — was arrested after he was captured by local residents when the girl raised an alarm, said police.

The other two accused escaped by firing in the air with a country-made pistol, according to a complaint filed the mother of the girl.

According to police, the incident took place when the girl had gone to collect fodder for the cattle on Saturday noon.

The station house officer (SHO) of the local police station told *The Indian Express* that the accused also made a video of the incident.

"According to a complaint lodged by the victim's mother, the three youths took turns to rape her daughter and also shot

Police: AQIS member held, used to train youth for terror

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
RANCHI, SEPTEMBER 22

JHARKHAND POLICE'S anti-terrorist squad has arrested an alleged operative of the al-Qaeda in Indian Sub-continent (AQIS) terror group. The suspect, Mohammad Kalimuddin Mujahiri, was absconding since 2016 after an Unlawful Activities Prevention Act case was filed against him, police said on Sunday.

"Mujahiri is a member of AQIS who used to train youth for jihad and terrorist activities. He had also sent many youths to foreign countries, including Pakistan... Since he was booked he had been absconding," said M L Meena, ADG (Operations).

An FIR was lodged against him on January 25, 2016 at Bishtupur Police Station.

Meena said Mujahiri, who was also a "madrasa owner", was arrested on Saturday after police got a tip-off that he would be visiting his home in Jamshedpur.

"Mujahiri had been visiting countries like Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia and had been recruiting people to join AQIS..." said the officer.

He had been in close contact with AQIS operatives Mohammad Abdul Rehman Ali alias Katki, Zeeshan Haider, Abdul Sami who are currently lodged in Tihar Jail, and Naseem Akhtar and Ahmad Masood who are in Jamshedpur jail," he said.

a video of the incident. They then fled firing in the air with a country-made pistol. They also threatened to kill the girl if she told anyone about the incident," said the officer.

"We are looking for the absconding accused," he added.

Superintendent of Police (Kaushambi) Pradeep Gupta said one of the accused was caught by residents and beaten up after the girl called for help.

Police have booked the accused under IPC sections 376-G (gangrape), 286 (negligent conduct with respect to explosive substance), 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), and under relevant sections of the POCSO Act and the SC/ST Act.

The girl has been sent for a medical examination and the report is awaited, said police.

"We have deployed forces in the area to keep the situation under control," said the officer.

The officer said the victim's family was on Sunday given Rs 4.12 lakh as compensation.

3 Maoists killed in Andhra

Amaravati: Three members of the outlawed CPI (Maoist) were gunned down in an encounter with security forces in Vishakhapatnam district on the Andhra Pradesh-Odisha border on Sunday, police said. The AP Police's anti-naxal squad, Greyhounds, encountered the Maoists near Gummirevula and that led to an exchange of fire in

which two women and a man were killed. Visakhapatnam district SP Babujee Attada said. The deceased belonged to the Galikonda 'dalam' (squad) of the Maoists that operated on the Andhra-Odisha Border area, said the officer. The officer said one self-loading rifle and two 303 rifles were seized from the encounter spot. **PTI**

A PUNISHING TREK THAT TAKES HOURS

In Jharkhand tribal belt, they carry the sick 5 km on a cot to the nearest road

ABHISHEK ANGAD
GODDA, SEPTEMBER 22

WHAT DOES it take to transfer a sick man (or woman) to the nearest healthcare centre?

In the villages of Maspara or Rajabhita in Jharkand's Godda district, it could mean tying bamboos to the patient's cot and carrying him on the shoulders of four men for a full 5 kilometres along a dirt track to the nearest motorable road, and then seek transport to the Community Health Centre another 10 km away.

It's a punishing trek that can sometimes take two hours to complete. It isn't rare for the men carrying the patient's cot to turn into pallbearers by the time they reach the road.

Maspara and Rajabhita, in Godda's Sundar Pahari block, are home to some 150 households of mainly Santhals and the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) of Pahariyas.

There are no tarmac roads to the two villages, ensuring their residents are cut off from the rest of the world, especially during the monsoon. Even for those who manage to make the long trek, there is no guarantee of getting the help they go looking for.

Lakshiram Hembrem, a Santhal of Maspara, recalls that a couple of months ago, he carried his pregnant wife Talamani Murmu until the service road, where he managed to find transport to ferry her to the Block Community Health Centre — only to be told that it wasn't time



The journey is especially difficult in the rains. *Express*

for the delivery, and that he should take her back.

"My wife was in labour, and we carried her to Ghadiyal from where we got a vehicle to the

hospital. But the doctor said it was not time yet, and asked me to bring her back when the pain increased. So we carried her back to the village. One and a half

months ago, she gave birth at home," Hembrem said.

Since there is no electricity in the village, "the child was born by a phone's torch light".

About a month before he took his wife to the CHC, Hembrem had made the same journey for his neighbour's son, who was limp with fever. The boy was saved, but not everyone is lucky. Four years ago, Hembrem's mother died as she was being carried to the health centre. "Yahaan aisa hi hota hai," Hembrem said. "Bachpan se dekh rahe hain." (This is how it is here. I have been seeing this since childhood.)

A year and a half ago, Babul Marandi, another resident of the village, lost his son Arun, who was then six years old, to "diar-

rhoea and fever". Marandi said: "He died before reaching the hospital. We came back and buried him."

Rashik Murmu, also of Maspara, owns a motorcycle, but says it's of no help in the rainy season. "During the rainy season even riding a two-wheeler is big problem due to the slippery areas. The tyres don't get any grip. Ferrying an ill person on a motorcycle is risky," Murmu said.

Around 3 km from Maspara, across a stream, is Rajabhita village. Electricity has reached this village, but residents say they don't get supply for more than six or seven hours every day.

"It is not that roads cannot be constructed," said Phulmoni Marandi of Rajabhita. "I don't understand the delay."

Phulmoni's relative, a five-year-old boy, died on the way to hospital. Sunder Pahari BDO S K Saurav said: "Not just these two villages, there are some other villages too where there are no roads and ill people are being ferried on cots till a motorable road. However, road construction is not under my domain, and the work is done through the district level only." He said that under NREGA, "there is no provision for constructing pucca roads".

Saurav said he has "informed the district authorities of the problems and the work is going on, and will be completed".

Godda Deputy Commissioner Kiran Kumar Pasi said there were a few villages in the district such as Maspara, which were on hill top with "no

road connectivity".

"We have surveyed the villages and mapped it through Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. Many villages have been connected and the work is to be done in some villages. There are some technical issues which have to be sorted out to construct the roads, but we are on it and the roads will be constructed soon," she said.

Godda Civil Surgeon Ram Deo Paswan said "there are a few non-motorable roads" in the hilly areas. There were designated "pick-up points" from where patients can be brought to hospitals. "There could 1-2 stray incidents of people being ferried on cots, but much of the population has been covered," he said.

Justice Kureshi denies speculation on quitting over Collegium move

PARIMAL DABHI
GANDHINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 22

JUSTICE AKIL Kureshi on Sunday denied speculation that he had resigned from judicial services following a decision of the Supreme Court Collegium to appoint him as Chief Justice of Tripura High Court instead of Madhya Pradesh as decided earlier.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Justice Kureshi made it clear that he had not resigned, but refused to take further questions.

The Collegium, comprising Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and Justices S A Bobde and N V Ramana, decided to recommend Justice Kureshi as Chief Justice of Tripura High Court on September 5.

It was a departure from an earlier decision of the Collegium on May 10 when it had recommended that Justice Kureshi be appointed as Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court.

However, the government referred the proposal back to the CJI with "accompanying material". After considering those communications, the Collegium decided to reiterate its earlier recommendation with a modification that Justice Kureshi be appointed Chief Justice of Tripura High Court.

Following the decision, speculation regarding Justice Kureshi's resignation from judicial services started doing the rounds.

With the Centre delaying the elevation of Justice Kureshi as Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court despite the Collegium's recommendation, Gujarat High Court Advocates' Association had moved the Supreme Court. Justice Kureshi was earlier attached to Gujarat High Court and is currently a judge at Bombay High Court.

President of Gujarat High Court Advocates' Association,



Justice Akil Kureshi

Yatin Oza, expressed disappointment over the Collegium's latest recommendation to appoint Justice Kureshi as Chief Justice of Tripura High Court. He termed this "abject surrender" and said the Collegium should have reiterated its earlier decision of recommending Justice Kureshi as Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court.

Oza said that they would raise the issue when the apex court hears their petition on Monday. He alleged that "signals" are being sent to judges that if they give orders "unfavourable" to ruling party, it will have consequences.

Among many rulings of Justice Kureshi at Gujarat High Court is an order to send Amit Shah (now Union Home Minister) to a two-day police remand in connection with the Sohrauddin Shaikh encounter case. Shah was later discharged from the case.

When Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court Justice Subhash Reddy was elevated to Supreme Court last October, Justice Kureshi was the seniormost judge in the High Court. The Collegium, however, recommended his transfer to Bombay High Court.

Following the transfer order, the advocates' association had called for a strike. In the resolution, the association had said, "The bar, upon detailed deliberation in its meeting held on November 1, 2018, unanimously finds no reason to justify his transfer from being seniormost puisne judge of Gujarat High Court to number five judge in the Bombay High Court ostensibly in the interest of better administration of justice."

Judge judged not only by rulings, but also by character: SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22

"A JUDGE is judged not only by his quality of judgments but also by the quality and purity of his character".

"Impeccable integrity should be reflected both in public and personal life of a judge".

These were the words of the Supreme Court as it upheld the dismissal of a magistrate who passed favourable orders for the clients of a woman lawyer with whom he had a "proximate relationship". The September 16 judgment by a bench of Justices Deepak Gupta and Aniruddha Bose noted that "findings of fact" against the Judicial Magistrate concerned from Maharashtra "have been upheld by all courts and even this Court has not interfered with those findings".

The court said the "first and foremost quality required in a judge is integrity". "The need of integrity in the judiciary is much higher than in other institutions. The judiciary is an institution whose foundations are based on honesty and integrity. It is, therefore, necessary that judicial officers should possess the sterling quality of integrity," it said. The behaviour of a judge, the bench said, "has to (be) of an exacting standard, both inside and outside the Court".

"Judges are also public servants. A judge should always remember that he is there to serve the public," it said.

The judgment sought to remind that "one who stands in judgments over others should be incorruptible". Judges, the court said, "must remember that they are not merely employees but hold high public office".

Judges must decide a case "only on the basis of the facts on record and the law applicable to the case", the court said, and added that "if a judge decides a case for any extraneous reasons then he is not performing his duty in accordance with law".

The top court said "gratification" does not only mean monetary gratification.

"Gratification", it said, "can be of various types" like "gratification of money, gratification of power, gratification of lust etc".

In the case in question, the court said, "the officer decided the cases because of his proximate relationship with a lady lawyer and not because the law required him to do so" and added, "this is also gratification of a different kind".

Upholding his removal, the court said he "did not live up to the expectations of integrity, behaviour and probity expected of him" and "his conduct is as such that no leniency can be shown and he cannot be visited with a lesser punishment".

Multi-crore Mumbai land deal in which Bhujbal faces graft charges scrapped

State takes back Kalina library land, pays private developer Rs 137 crore as compensation

SANDEEP ASHAR
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 22

THE MAHARASHTRA government has scrapped a multi-crore land deal in Mumbai over which former Deputy Chief Minister Chhagan Bhujbal faces graft charges.

On September 19, just two days before the model code of conduct for the Assembly polls kicked in, the Devendra Fadnis government issued orders for the revocation of the contract for the construction of the central library inside Mumbai University's Kalina campus on public-private partnership (PPP) basis.

But this exit option has come at a price. The government has agreed to pay Rs 137.07 crore to Indiabulls Real Estate Limited (IREL), the project's developer, as compensation.

On February 19, 2009, a cabinet sub-committee on infrastructure under then Chief Minister Ashok Chavan had appointed the firm following a tendering process. But the deal got mired in a controversy after the state's Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) accused Bhujbal, the then Public Works Department minister, and his kin

of allegedly receiving a kickback of Rs 2.5 crore from Indiabulls in the form of donation for their NGO, Chhagan Bhujbal Charitable Trust, in Nashik in exchange of facilitating the land deal.

The deal had also come under the scanner of the Enforcement Directorate. After the BJP came to power, the ACB booked Bhujbal, his nephew Sameer, and some officials of PWD in December 2015, and later chargesheeted him. The former minister continues to face the charges in the case, and is currently out on bail.

While no one from Indiabulls has been booked, construction work for the library, spread over 16,188 sq m, has been stalled ever since the allegations first surfaced.

As per the original arrangement, the developer was leased a 7,000 sq m adjoining plot for 99 years at Rs 1 per sq m for commercial exploitation. Incidentally, the ACB had started probing the case following allegations that the developers were making a windfall in the deal. The state government's latest order, issued by Public Works Department, states that "this lease agreement between the government and the developer will also be scrapped and the government will take back the possession



Chhagan Bhujbal

of the leased land as well." Ironically, at the start of the project in 2010, cost of the library project was estimated at Rs 88.90 crore.

The latest order was issued after the cabinet sub-committee on infrastructure under the CM approved the scrapping of the land deal. Denied permission for building on the vacant land, the IREL had, in July 2017, approached the government seeking cancellation of the contract and demanding compensation. Later, it approached Bombay High Court, which had directed both sides to arrive at an "amicable settlement".

On the basis of court orders, the Public Works Department had appointed three valuation agencies to ascertain the extent of construction work that had been carried out on the plot and the

compensation to be paid to the private firm. "The compensation amount finalised by the government has been arrived at taking the recommendations made by these valuation agencies into consideration," said PWD's Deputy Secretary (Buildings) Bapurao Salunkhe, who has signed the latest order. The compensation amount includes the principal cost incurred by the firm for construction work, the interest accrued on it, and the bank guarantee amount (Rs 98 crore) it had deposited with the government after getting the contract, he informed, adding that the "consents of all state departments concerned, including law, planning, revenue, urban development, and finance were taken before PWD submitted the proposal to the cabinet sub-committee."

IREL had raised a total claim of Rs 229.60 crore. On Sunday, the firm hinted that it wasn't totally satisfied with the government's offer, but was willing to study it. "The High Court had ordered an amicable solution between the two parties. We will have to study the basis on which the government has altered the claim approved by the independent government agencies," said an IREL spokesperson.

DANTEWADA BY POLL TODAY

A fight between memories of 2 leaders killed in Maoist attacks

DIPANKAR GHOSE
DANTEWADA, SEPTEMBER 22

ON APRIL 9 in Shyamgiri, there was a crater in the middle of road, its size indicative of the ferocity of the IED blast. Five months later, the crater looks like the many other potholes that dot the roads in Dantewada.

That evening, on the field to the right, were mangled remains of a car and five bodies, one of those of BJP MLA Bhima Mandavi. Now, not many signs of the Maoist attack days before the Lok Sabha election remain. In Bastar, used to violence, life has moved on. The tragedy only survives among the family members of those killed. And in their political campaigns.

About 30 km away, in the main square of Dantewada town, billboards have been put up by the Congress and the BJP, introducing their candidates.

On one billboard, besides photos of national and state leaders, are photos of the candidate and her husband. Her name reads, "Shrimati Devti Mahendra Karma". Next to it, the BJP billboard reads, "Shrimati Ojaswi Bhima Mandavi ko Shri Bhima Mandavi ji ki shahadat ko shhraddhanjali swarup kamal phool pe batan dabakar prachand maton se vijayi banaye. (To pay tribute to the martyrdom of Bhima Mandavi ji, please vote Shri Ojaswi Mandavi to victory by pressing the lotus button."

Laxman Chouhan, a resident of Geedam, said, "Both parties are asking for votes not on the basis of their work or candidates,



Campaign billboards in Dantewada town. Express

but their husbands who were big leaders. After Mahendra Karma was killed in 2013, we voted for Devti Karma. She did little work for the area and Mandavi beat her in 2018. Now he has been killed and his wife is contesting. If we voted for Devti Karma because of Mahendra, should we not vote for Ojaswi to show respect for Bhima ji?"

The Assembly bypoll in Dantewada, necessitated by the killing of Mandavi in the IED blast, is on Monday.

The other elements of the BJP's campaign revolve around what they believe was achieved during the Raman Singh tenure, such as Jawanga Education City and Yuva BPO. It also believes that in areas such as Dantewada, Geedam, Kirandul and Bachel, which have a high migrant population, its nationalist narrative will help.

The Congress message is clear and two-fold. In a roadshow

in Geedam Friday, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel emphasised the state government's work for the poor in nine months and juxtaposed this with allegations of BJP backing mining in Bailadila deposit number 13 on a hill that the tribals consider an abode to their God. The second part of the message is simpler. "Congress workers told us that this is a majority Congress government and only a Congress legislator can get work done," said Lacchu Podiya of Palnar.

But Congress leaders admit there is reason to worry.

Party sources showed an internal survey report, done just over a month ago, that showed the BJP ahead in the key questions "which party will you vote for" and "which candidate will you vote for". Congress leaders have attributed this to infighting within the Karma family and said they have taken corrective steps.

"Bhupesh Baghel and state party chief Mohan Markam have stepped in. We believe we may have clawed the difference back," a Congress leader said.

But an impression of petty corruption may hurt the party. The principal of a school in a remote village said, "Ground-level government officials are angry at the transfer postings. Principals, health workers etc are influential in villages and we are not happy with the Congress government."

While the CPI, Janata Congress Chhattisgarh (Jogi) and BSP are contesting, local residents agree this is set to be a BJP versus Congress fight.

In Palnar, Saturday is the day of the weekly bazaar. People meet and conversations turn to politics. They speak about Mahendra Karma, but also about Mandavi. The fate of this election could depend on whose memory evokes greater sympathy.

Bypolls for two more Assembly seats in Gujarat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22

THE ELECTION Commission on Sunday announced bypolls to two more assembly constituen-

cies in Gujarat, taking the total number of seats going to bye-election across India to 66.

According to a statement issued by the Commission, bypolls to Radhanpur and Bayad assembly seats in Gujarat and the

Samastipur Lok Sabha seat in Bihar will be held on October 21.

Assembly elections in Maharashtra and Haryana will also be held on the same day.

The counting will be held on October 24.

Bypolls to four assembly seats in Gujarat were announced on Saturday.

The notification for the Lok Sabha bypoll and 64 assembly by-elections will be issued on September 23.

Punjab police busts terror module, four arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 22

PUNJAB POLICE Sunday claimed to have busted a terrorist module of the revived Khalistan Zindabad Force (KZF), allegedly backed by a Pakistan and Germany-based terror group that delivered weapons using a drone from Pakistan to Taran Tam three to four weeks ago.

According to a communique by CM Amarinder Singh's office, the terror group was plotting attacks in Punjab and adjoining states. Police seized a cache of arms, including 5 AK-47 rifles, pistols, satellite phones and grenades during the operation. Four members of the module were arrested from the outskirts of Chohla Sahib village in Tarn Taran on Sunday.

CM Singh has decided to hand over investigation into the case to NIA to ensure that the conspiracy is "fully and expeditiously unravelled" as the module is suspected to have international links.

"...the Chief Minister has also urged the central government to direct the Indian Air Force (IAF) and Border Security Force (BSF) to launch necessary counter-measures to check any further threat from drones to the border state of Punjab," the government statement said.

Uttarakhand: Spike in dengue cases, officials cite climate

LALMANI VERMA
DEHRADUN, SEPTEMBER 22

Uttarakhand has recorded 3,846 dengue cases this year and seven people have died. This is the highest figure of dengue patients in the state in the past several years. With maximum cases being reported from plains as compared to hills, Health department officials are citing climate change as a reason for spread of the disease.

According to the data of Health and Family Welfare department, 3,799 cases of dengue have been reported in four districts of the state till Friday. Health officials are saying that the number may increase because post-monsoon weather will continue till mid-October.

This year, till September 20, 2,434 dengue cases have been reported in Dehradun and six people have died. This is followed by tourism destination Nainital, where, 1,134 patients have been diagnosed with dengue and one of them has died. Haridwar district accounts for 146 cases, followed by Udham Singh Nagar (85).

Besides these, 15 cases have been reported in Tehri Garhwal, 12 in Pauri Garhwal, nine in Almora, six in Rudrapur, three in Bageshwar and two in Champawat.

According to government data, in 2016, 2,046 dengue cases were reported from across the state and four people had died. In 2017, the number of dengue cases came down to 849 and no death was reported. In 2018, the number of cases further dipped to 591 and two people died.

Dr Pankaj Singh, Assistant Director (Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme), Health and Family Welfare department, said the geography of hill areas combined with low temperature and humidity do not support a dengue outbreak and breeding of the vector Aedes Aegypti. He said dengue is a cli-

EXPLAINED Behind outbreak, change in rain pattern

ACCORDING TO officials of the health department, the rise in the number of dengue cases is due to a change in the pattern of monsoon rainfall. In the past three years, monsoon rain was regular and water in drains and other open places like gardens never stagnated. But, this year, rainfall has occurred irregularly with sunny days in between, leading to humidity. Stagnant water and humidity are ideal conditions for breeding of dengue larvae. The officials also said less dengue cases were reported in the hills because rainwater did not stagnate there.

mate change-driven disease and its larvae reproduces in temperatures between 20°C and 30°C and humidity above 60 per cent. Such conditions, he said, was in plain areas like Dehradun.

"In conditions of normal monsoon and heavy rain, dengue cases were reported from September to mid-October when water remains stagnant and humidity rises after the end of monsoon. This year, dengue cases have been reported much earlier because of less and disrupted rain," Singh said.

Singh also said more dengue cases have been diagnosed this year because more ELISA test centres have been opened.

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL, G.S.V.M. MEDICAL COLLEGE, KANPUR-208002

Tender Notice No. 257/PS/Bloodbank/2019-20

Dated :12.09.2019

E-TENDER NOTICE

The e-tenders invited from high quality manufacturing firms (Indian/Foreign) or their Indian distributors, of repute, for supply and installation of the various equipments/ items for different department of this medical college. The tender can be downloaded from UP Govt. e-procurement portal <http://etender.up.nic.in> during the date 25.09.2019 to 25.10.2019 and Technical bid opening date is 26-10-2019 till 05.00PM. All the terms & conditions and technical specifications of equipment/jobs, mentioned in the tender documents, will be considered as the integral part of this notice. The Principal as aforesaid has sole discretion of accepting/rejecting any tender and reserves his right to post-pone or refuse the purchase of any item notified in this tender.

S.No.	Name of Equipment	Tender Fee	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)
1	Reagent Refrigerator	1000/- + GST 18%	Rs.3000.00
2	Platelet Agiator	1000/- + GST 18%	Rs.10,000.00
3	Platelet Incubator	1000/- + GST 18%	Rs.6000.00
4	BBR	1000/- + GST 18%	Rs.10,000.00
5	Refrigerated Centrifuge	1000/- + GST 18%	Rs.4000.00
6	Binocular Microscope	1000/- + GST 18%	Rs.2000.00
7	Deep Freezer -80°C	1000/- + GST 18%	Rs.10,000.00
8	Radiant Warmer	1000/- + GST 18%	Rs.1000.00

Sd/-

Principal

G.S.V.M.Medical College
Kanpur

UPID-143995 DATE- 19/09/2019
WWW.UPGOV.NIC.IN

20 days after assault on teacher over Art 370, Ramban tense

ARUN SHARMA
BATOTE, SEPTEMBER 22

THE ASSAULT on a teacher at a school in Batote has brought forth the simmering tension in Ramban district along the Jammu-Srinagar highway since the abrogation of Article 370. The CISF is now deployed at the government higher secondary school, while authorities have assured that the Class 10 teacher, who was attacked on September 2 after he listed the "benefits" of the government's move on Article 370, won't be posted back to the school.

A schoolteacher who refused to be identified said they had to rescue the Class 10 teacher. "The students may have thrown him off the first floor, killed him," said the teacher.

While the students accuse the teacher of making derogatory re-

marks against a community while speaking about Article 370, the 31-year-old has said he was only answering queries of some students. The school authorities claim they have no idea why the violence flared up.

Ramban Deputy Commissioner Nazim Zai Khan has ordered an inquiry by a three-member panel, including Additional District Development Commissioner, Ramban, Nawab Din; Tehsildar (Batote) Pardeep Kumar; and Chief Education Officer, Ramban, Abdul Hamid Fani. Pending the inquiry, the Education Department has attached the teacher with the office of the CEO Ramban and rusticated 14 students belonging to Classes 9, 11 and 12 for 15 days. Police are waiting for the inquiry report before filing an FIR.

Sources said the district administration had recommended to the Education Department that the teach-

ing staff who had completed their tenure at the Batote school be shifted to some other place within the district. Others said both the students and the teacher concerned had submitted a written apology and an undertaking to avoid a repeat of their actions.

The Additional District Development Commissioner insisted that "the matter has been resolved". Principal SK Nanda said the decision to deploy the CISF on the premises was the administration's. "Otherwise the situation is normal." The school has 535 students.

Batote, with a population of nearly 5,000, has almost equal number of Hindus and Muslims, who have now lined up behind the teachers and students along religious lines. "Some people want to disturb the communal amity by trying to blow the tiff out of proportion," said a local businessman, adding that even those

backing the teacher know he was in the wrong.

A hotelier and a member of the school management committee said students had told him some teachers themselves stoked the tension. Regretting the deteriorating relations between the two communities, the hotelier talked about the time his father was kidnapped during peak militancy in the 1990s. "When he came home, the kind of welcome he got from members of the other community was not matched even by his relatives."

A local Communist leader, Arshad Kazmi, said, "While the two communities appear normal in their daily dealings, they now look at each other with suspicion."

The continuing blockade of mobile Internet services, and limited availability of broadband, is also contributing to raised tempers. Traffic

along Jammu-Srinagar national highway is down by 25-30 per cent, according to traffic police officials, and long queues of trucks usually seen along the highway are missing.

Officials admit that with no mobile connectivity in the Valley, no one wants to cart supplies there, fearing a dead end there. Online payment facility is unavailable in the absence of mobile phone services.

"Eleven trucks loaded with livestock recently returned from the Valley. They could not get in touch with buyers," a traffic police officer deployed along the highway said.

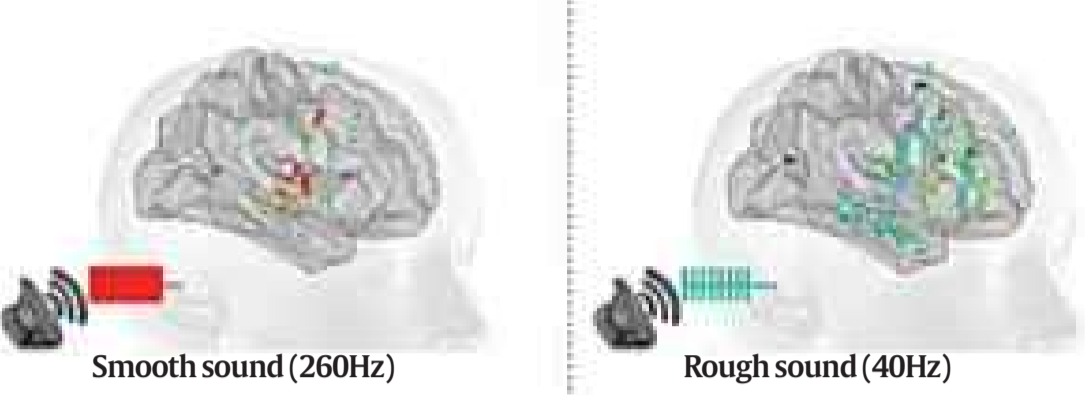
"Against last year when buyers picked up apples at Rs 550 per box at Batote, I am not getting the price even after taking these to Jammu," said orchadist Shams ul Mir. The Deputy Commissioner said trucks carrying supplies, especially apples from Kashmir, only moved during night.

TELLING NUMBERS

Frequencies at which sounds are disturbing, and how brain reacts

CLASSICAL AUDITORY NETWORK

AVERSION NETWORK



While smooth sounds (above 130 Hz) induce responses in the brain's "classical" auditory system, rough sounds (40-80 Hz) activate a wider network involved in processing aversion and pain. *University of Geneva*

CERTAIN SOUNDS, such as a car horn or a human shriek, are jarring to the listener. Alarm sounds, too, are characterised by repetitive sound fluctuations, which are usually situated in frequencies within a certain range. But when a sound is heard within these frequencies, what happens in the brain to hold the listener's attention to such an extent?

Neuroscientists from the University of Geneva (UNIGE) and Geneva University Hospitals (HUG) have now sought to analyse what goes on in the brain when people hear these frequencies. Their results, published in *Nature Communications*, have identified which frequencies are perceived as rough.

The researchers conducted experiments with participants who were made to listen to various sounds with frequencies between 0 and 250 Hz. "We then asked participants when they perceived the sounds as being rough (distinct from each other) and

when they perceived them as smooth (forming one continuous and single sound)," researcher Luc Arnal said in a statement released by UNIGE.

The researchers were able to establish that the upper limit of sound roughness is around 130 Hz, while the sounds considered intolerable were mainly between 40 and 80 Hz. When sounds are in the smooth range, the conventional auditory system is activated. But when sounds are perceived as harsh (especially in the 40-80 Hz range), they induce a persistent response that additionally recruits a large number of cortical and sub-cortical regions that are not part of the conventional auditory system. These regions are related to aversion and pain, Arnal said in the university statement.

This is the first time that sounds between 40 and 80 Hz have been shown to mobilise these neural networks, although these frequencies have been used for a long time in alarm systems.

Why 'final NRC' is not final

In consolidated list of National Register of Citizens applicants in Assam, a note has underlined that no one's position in it is final. What are the ways in which someone listed as a citizen can still be removed?

ABHISHEK SAHA
GUWAHATI, SEPTEMBER 22

WHEN THE National Register of Citizens (NRC) authorities in Assam published a consolidated family-wise list of applicants recently, they appended a note that those included may also be excluded later, and that no position in the list is permanent. As of now, the NRC has included 3.11 crore applicants as citizens, and excluded 19 lakh.

Under what circumstances can an included person's name be deleted?

The note described three circumstances:

- Any fact of misrepresentation of particulars/documents discovered by the authorities;
- Discovery of a person being a Declared Foreigner (or a migrant of 1966-71 who is unregistered with a Foreigners Regional Registration Office [FRRO]); a person with a case pending at a Foreigners Tribunal, or a person being a D (Doubtful) voter or a descendant of such a person;
- Receipt of an opinion by any Foreigners Tribunal declaring a person as a foreigner.

Who is a D-voter or a Declared Foreigner?

D-Voter is a category introduced in Assam in 1997 to mark people unable to prove their citizenship during verification. A Declared Foreigner is one identified as such by one of the 100 Foreigners Tribunals (FTs), which are quasi-judicial bodies that opine whether or not a person is a foreigner within the meaning of the Foreigners Act, 1946.

Under Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955, people who entered Assam between January 1, 1966 and March 25, 1971 need to register with an FRRO. They would have all rights of a citizen except the right to vote, which would be granted after 10 years. In the NRC note, those who entered Assam within this 1966-71 window but did not register themselves, too, are liable to be excluded.

How could such persons have been included in the NRC in the first place?

There have been allegations that Declared Foreigners have entered the final NRC. Parallel citizenship determination processes intersect in Assam, and the NRC process worked without any synchronised database that



Applicants check their names in NRC during a hearing in Guwahati in May. PTI

would have reflected the real-time case status of a suspected foreigner. A centralised database is in the making, as a part of an e-FT programme, which will streamline databases of people declared or suspected to be foreigners by parallel processes (such as Foreigners Tribunals, Border Police reference, and NRC) and also store the biometrics of such people.

Another possible explanation is that a person declared to be a foreigner, having failed to produce papers to convince a Foreigners Tribunal, might have convinced the NRC with the same documents. In fact, many Declared Foreigners from the Foreigners Tribunal process have later been declared "Indian" in higher courts. Also, a large proportion of Tribunal cases are decided by *ex parte* rulings, so that the person has not argued his defence. These same persons could have presented documents to NRC officials.

An NRC official said that the Foreigners Tribunal is a superior authority to the NRC, as ruled by the Supreme Court – "it is of no consequence whether or not a Declared Foreigner is in the NRC".

Are there other circumstances in which a person listed in NRC can get removed?

State officials say it is "legally possible"

for the Border Police to make a reference against a person in the NRC. There is, however, no clarity whether the state will use that option. "If there is solid and genuine ground, then a reference can be made," a government official told *The Indian Express*.

This option with the Border Police was also highlighted by Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma in an interview with the Assamese channel NewsLive recently. He said that the Border Police should investigate those they suspect of having "manipulated" legacy data for inclusion in the NRC.

Is it possible to go for re-verification of the NRC, as demanded by some?

In the interview, Sarma suggested that the government should approach the Supreme Court for re-verification, jointly with the All Assam Students' Union and the NGO Assam Public Works (APW), the original petitioner in the NRC case. APW president Aabhijeet Sharma told *The Indian Express* that they will move the Supreme Court demanding 100% re-verification.

Upamanyu Hazarika, Supreme Court advocate and convener of the anti-immigration platform Prabajan Virodhi Mancha, said in a recent press statement: "In case of the NRC

after its final publication Rule 10 of the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Card) Rule 2003 vests power in the Registrar General or his nominee to remove any names from the citizens list if it is found to be on the basis of incorrect particulars.... The statutory position being that the executive has the authority to re-verify entries in the NRC, a fact-finding investigation in this regard will enable the Registrar General to undertake re-verification."

Rule 10 lists circumstances in which a person's name can be deleted from the final NRC – "by an order of the Registrar General of Citizen Registration or any officer authorised by him". These include (i) death; (ii) the person ceasing to be an Indian citizen under Section 8 of the Citizenship Act; (iii) revocation of Indian citizenship under Section 9; or (iv) particulars provided by the individual or the family found to be incorrect."

The NRC note, too, cites Rule 10 as a provision under which names can be deleted, but it does not mention re-verification.

What happens to the over 19 lakh who are already excluded?

They will have the chance to appeal at the Foreigners Tribunals. The first step is obtaining an "exclusion or rejection" order from the NRC authorities, but there is no clarity on how long this will take. As per amended rules, a person has 120 days (understood to be counted from the day of the issuance of the rejection order) to appeal. If no appeal is filed in 120 days, the Deputy Commissioner of that district will make a "reference" to the Tribunal.

The state government has announced that those excluded will get legal aid through the District Legal Services Authorities. "The real challenge is before FTs where extensive documentation is required. Getting certified copies of documents from appropriate authorities is the first big hurdle. The poor and the illiterate are baffled," said Gauhati High Court advocate Aman Wadud who is among a group of lawyers who have decided to offer *pro bono* services to the poor.

The BJP and its' lawyers' body, the Akhil Bharatiya Adhivakta Parishad, are formulating ways to provide legal aid to "genuine Indian citizens". Several NGOs are also training volunteers to work as para-legals, while activists across the state have formed groups and are holding awareness meetings.

THIS WORD MEANS

SAGITTARIUS A*

A black hole at the centre of the Milky Way. Why has its recent behaviour intrigued scientists?

A SUPERMASSIVE black hole sits 26,000 light years away from Earth, near the Galactic Centre, or the centre of the Milky Way. Called Sagittarius A*, it is one of the few black holes where we can witness the flow of matter nearby. Since the discovery of Sagittarius A* 24 years ago, it has been fairly calm. This year, however, Sagittarius A* has shown unusual activity, and the area around it has been much brighter than usual. In research published recently in *The Astrophysical Journal Letters*, scientists have sought to explain why this is happening.

It may be that the Sagittarius A* has become hungrier, and has been feeding on nearby matter at a markedly faster rate, which one researcher described as a "big feast". A black hole does not emit light by

itself, but the matter that it consumes can be a source of light. A large quantity of gas from the S0-2 star, which travelled close to the black hole last year, may now have reached the latter. Other possibilities of the heightened activity, the paper says, are that Sagittarius A* could be growing faster than usual in size, or that the current model that measures its level of brightness is inadequate and is in need of an update.

The researchers noted three extraordinary occasions this year that marked the black hole's unusual behaviour. On May 13, the area immediately outside Sagittarius A* was twice as bright as compared to any previously recorded instance. Reprocessed recordings from previous years reaffirmed that the brightness had indeed increased.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22

IN THE Atlantic operates a large system of ocean currents, circulating the waters between the north and the south. Called Atlantic Meridional Overturning Current, or AMOC, it ensures the oceans are continually mixed, and heat and energy are distributed around Earth.

For the last 15 years, however, scientists have been worried by signs that AMOC may be slowing, which could have drastic consequences on global climate.

Now a new study suggests that AMOC is getting help from the Indian Ocean. Warming as a result of climate change, the Indian Ocean is causing a series of cascading effects that is providing AMOC a "jump start", in one researcher's words.

How AMOC works

On its website, the UK Met Office likens

AMOC to a conveyor belt and explains how it works. As warm water flows northwards in the Atlantic, it cools, while evaporation increases its salt content. Low temperature and a high salt content raise the density of the water, causing it to sink deep into the ocean. The cold, dense water deep below slowly spreads southward. Eventually, it gets pulled back to the surface and warms again, and the circulation is complete. This continual mixing of the oceans, and distribution of heat and energy around the planet, contribute to global climate.

Another oceanic system, which makes news more frequently, is the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO). This involves temperature changes of 1°-3°C in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, over periods between three and seven years. El Niño refers to warming of the ocean surface and La Niña to cooling, while "Neutral" is between these extremes. This alternating pattern affects rainfall distribution in the tropics and can have a strong in-

fluence on weather in other parts of the world.

What is happening now

AMOC has been stable for thousands of years. Data since 2004, as well as projections, have given some scientists cause for concern. What is not clear, however, is whether the signs of slowing in AMOC are a result of global warming or only a short-term anomaly.

AMOC had weakened substantially 17,000 to 15,000 years ago, and it had global impacts, Yale University researcher Alexey Fedorov said in a statement released by the university. The new study, by Fedorov and Shineng Hu of Scripps Institution of Oceanography, appears in *Nature Climate Change*.

Indian Ocean's role

Fedorov and Hu's work involves climate mechanisms that may be shifting due to global warming. Using observed data and computer modelling, they have plotted out what effect such shifts might have over time. In this study,

they looked at warming in the Indian Ocean. "The Indian Ocean is one of the fingerprints of global warming," Hu said in the statement.

Their finding: As the Indian Ocean warms faster and faster, it generates additional precipitation. This draws more air from other parts of the world to the Indian Ocean, including the Atlantic. With so much precipitation in the Indian Ocean, there will be less precipitation in the Atlantic Ocean. Less precipitation will lead to higher salinity in the waters of the tropical portion of the Atlantic – because there won't be as much rainwater to dilute it. This saltier water in the Atlantic, as it comes north via AMOC, will get cold much quicker than usual and sink faster.

"This would act as a jump start for AMOC, intensifying the circulation," Fedorov said in the statement. "... We don't know how long this enhanced Indian Ocean warming will continue. If other tropical oceans' warming, especially the Pacific, catches up with the Indian Ocean, the advantage for AMOC will stop."

AN EXPERT EXPLAINS

Amazon fires: why issues around forest are complex, what Brazil is doing



ANDRÉ ARANHA CORRÊA DO LAGO

Forest fires in the Amazon are nothing new. But their numbers and intensity seem to have gone up of late. Are more trees being cut and burnt?

Most of the statistics being shown are in what we call the 'legal Amazon'. It is the denomination that includes some areas of Brazil that don't have the Amazon biome, but are very close to the Amazon. It was created in the 1950s for tax breaks and things like that. Many of the fires [being reported] are on land that has already been deforested for many years and is traditionally burnt every year. It is something similar to the agricultural burning you see in India in some months.

The other issue is of deforestation. The fight against deforestation in Brazil has been extremely successful since 2005. We have reduced more than 80 per cent deforestation rate in Brazil since then. There was an increase of deforestation last year and probably this year too, but you have to take into consideration that this is inside the 80 per cent reduction we have achieved in the last few years. So if you say that it increased by 10 per cent, it is 10 per cent of a very much reduced rate of deforestation. Illegal deforestation and illegal burning of trees is a crime. So it is a question of law enforcement.

But there is the issue of scale. The preserved Amazon is larger than all of India. Our President [Jair Messias Bolsonaro] has clearly said that he would allow zero illegal burnings. But there is legal fire too, an agricultural practice, and he has decided that even the legal fires would be forbidden for the next two months. So, even the farmers who have the right to burn, like in India, like everywhere else, would not be allowed to burn trees.

But why is there an increase in tree felling and burning?

There is a huge debate about that in

Brazil. There are those who believe that the fact that the President always had a very strong opinion on these things would have triggered some people in the region to do [cut and burn trees] more than they normally do. There is another set of people who believe that a reduction in the budget of the law-enforcement structure has led to this. Then, there are people who say that the dry season [usually conducive for forest fires] is particularly dry this year. There has been no change in policy, no new legislation, and no move that has reduced the capacity of the government to intervene and act.

Amazon fires were discussed at the recent G-7 meeting. The message that came across, going by what the French President said, is that the international community does not seem to have enough confidence in the Brazilian government's intention to act...

There is one very sensitive issue for my President, and that is the issue of sovereignty. One way in which the French President's statements were interpreted in Brazil was that he was questioning Brazil's sovereignty over the Amazon. I think coun-



Smoke from an area of the Amazon forest in Brazil on September 17. Reuters

tries need to be very careful when they talk about these things. The issue regarding the Amazon has complex elements that sometimes are not taken into consideration.

There is a degree of criticism that you can make, but this criticism cannot be in a sense that questions the capability of a country in dealing with the problem. Nobody knows the Amazon better than the Brazilian people and Brazilian institutions. It is useless to see it in a way that questions the capability of a country.

So, is the international focus on Amazon in a way questioning Brazil's capability, and also its right, to deal with the Amazon on its own?

I don't think anyone is doing it consciously. But there is a possibility that it would get interpreted in that way. That, in fact, is the interpretation of many people back in Brazil, who are worried about Brazil's right and freedom to develop.. All these issues about environment and climate change are a discussion in the context of development.

How would Brazil assure the world that it is doing whatever best it can to control the Amazon fires?

The world can be sure that Amazon is a central issue for us. Of course, there is different opinion inside Brazil about what is to be done. Some people think there is too much forest, others think there is too little forest. Still others think that we need to exploit some minerals in that area. But one has to respect that this debate has to exist within the context of Brazil.

... The fires are real and probably there is an increase too. But the truth is that Brazil

has worked very positively on climate change. The reality is that our agriculture and energy sectors are totally committed to sustainability. The big agri-business [which is often blamed for the forest fires], which has transformed Brazil into one of the most powerful agricultural centres of the world, is also committed to sustainability. I think there is a dimension of misperception about them.

Have the Brazilian President's statements on environmental governance encouraged illegal activities?

What I can tell you is that no important company in Brazil, be it agriculture or industry, will engage in illegal deforestation or illegal fires. There is not a single important Brazilian producer of agriculture, or industry, that would risk to engage in this illegal activity.

André Aranha Corrêa do Lago is Brazil's Ambassador to India. The above comments are excerpts from an interview given to Amitabh Sinha and Shubhajt Roy

Full interview on www.indianexpress.com



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

MISSING THE COUNT

Discrepancies in tiger census raise questions about the credibility of institutions involved in the exercise

IN JULY, THE tiger census report showcased a significant achievement for India's conservation efforts. The population of the animal had gone up by more than 700 since 2014, according to the report. That India was home to nearly 3,000 tigers was a remarkable improvement over 2006-2007, when the population of the animal in the country had hit an all-time low of about 1,400. An investigation by this newspaper, last week, has, however, raised questions over this enumeration. It shows that the survey conducted by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) over-reported the country's tiger population by 16 per cent. The tiger numbers had, no doubt, gone up. But the investigation revealed the population of the animal could be 221 less than that claimed by the survey.

This is not the first time that questions have been asked of the tiger census. The crisis in Sariska in 2005, when this newspaper reported that all tigers had been wiped out from the national park in Rajasthan, shone a light on the flaws of the pug mark method used to arrive at the animal's population. This method was highly subjective and riddled with the possibility of duplication, scientists argued. After 2006, a more rigorous three-phase method was adopted to count tigers. This involved collecting data on the presence of the tiger and its prey base. Satellite surveys were used to assess the state of the animal's habitat. And, finally, camera-traps were set up in selected pockets to identify individual tigers. This method helped the country's conservation authorities to arrive at more realistic numbers of the animal than those enumerated through the pug mark method. Questions, however, continued to be raised about the tiger audits. For example, the quality of the camera traps was a major issue in many tiger habitats. But the WII and NTCA worked on fool-proofing the census's methods. However, the latest tiger census did not follow well-established norms of tiger population estimation. For example, population surveys typically disregard very young tigers because of their high mortality. But 46 tigers counted in the census were less than a year old. The survey also disregarded other protocols, including those used to identify the uniqueness of an individual animal through its stripes.

The Royal Bengal Tiger is the poster child of India's conservation efforts. Its numbers are a matter of international prestige for the country. Confined largely to India, the animal sits at the top of the food chain of several ecosystems and its population is a good indicator of the health of these habitats. Institutions responsible for its enumeration must, therefore, be guided by ecological imperatives — and eschew the temptation of scoring immediate brownie points.

LET PRICES RISE

Boosting farm incomes is essential for economic recovery. Government must avoid containing food inflation at all costs

ON FRIDAY, THE Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Shaktikanta Das said that future interest rate reductions will depend on "incoming data". This came just a day after his statement that the current consumer price index (CPI) inflation levels allow enough "room" for continued monetary easing. While policy rate reductions, beyond the 110 basis points already effected this year, will certainly add to the feel-good from the finance minister's slashing of corporate taxes, a note of caution is in order. If overall retail inflation from September 2016 to August 2019 has averaged only 3.50 per cent, the credit goes mainly to food items, which have a 45.86 per cent in the CPI. Average consumer food inflation has been even lower, at 1.38 per cent, over this 36-month period. If CPI inflation has to remain within the RBI's target of 4 per cent, it would obviously hinge upon sustained low food prices.

This is where the temptation to engage in "supply management" to contain food inflation at any cost, should be avoided. Unfortunately, the beginnings of that are evident. On September 13, the commerce ministry imposed a minimum export price of \$850 per tonne on onions. Also, the state-run MMTC Ltd has been asked to import the bulb in order to control retail prices, which have crossed Rs 50/kg in major metros. These moves have angered onion growers, who say that the government showed no such enthusiasm when prices ruled consistently low for much of the last three years. They have a point. Suppressing food prices through artificial means is surely not the way to meet the RBI's inflation target. Between December 2018 and August 2019, annual wholesale price inflation for food articles has moved up from minus 0.42 per cent to 7.67 per cent. While retail food inflation in August was still only 2.99 per cent, it has to eventually catch up with the trend in wholesale prices. This, if anything, should be viewed as a much-needed price correction.

The supply disruptions and possible crop loss from excess monsoon rains — 15.3 per cent in August and 31.8 per cent so far this month — could well lead to some hardening of prices in the coming weeks. Onion apart, we are seeing this in pulses, maize, jowar and soyabean as well. But in all these cases, prices are only recovering from lows. Also, *arhar* and *moong* rates, while ruling higher than last year, are still trading below their official minimum support prices. The worst thing the government can do now is to invoke the Essential Commodities Act or ban exports alongside permitting duty-free imports. Boosting farm incomes is more likely to guarantee an economic recovery than slashing of interest rates. The current slowdown, remember, began with Bharat. It should end with Bharat.



ABDUL KHALIQ

AFTER A TOXIC election season when the Muslim was everybody's whipping horse, the Prime Minister, showing consummate magnanimity in victory, reached out to all who have felt stigmatised and excluded with a new inspirational slogan — sabka saath sabka vikas sabka vishvas. Heartened by this assurance, some Muslims named their new-born children "Narendra", even as Muslim leaders welcomed his resolve to win over the "trust" of the minorities.

Aware of the sheer magnitude of their powerlessness, most Muslims, however, live in dread of the future. The gratuitous cruelty of the last few years — lynchings, ghar wapsi, anti-Romeo squads, beef vigilantism and the rhetoric of pure hate, cannot be subsumed by catchy slogans of solidarity and togetherness. Had the Mahatma been alive today, he would remind the political class that brotherhood, like non-violence, "is not a garment to be put on and off at will. Its seat is in the heart and it must be an inseparable part of our being".

A few weeks back, the print media made passing mention of the Rajasthan High Court verdict acquitting five Muslims, mainly Kashmiris, of all charges relating to the 1996 Samleti blasts. That these men had spent 23 years in prison for a crime they did not commit aroused neither horror nor indignation, because such injustice has become commonplace. What these victims reportedly narrated of their experience in various prisons during those interminable years is Kafkaesque — bone-chilling techniques of torture, forced signing on blank paper, and hideous treatment at the hands of their fellow inmates. Even among these social outcasts living in wretched prison conditions, Muslims were targeted for being Muslim. It struck me that our jails are a microcosm of India today, with shades of an unwritten National Register of Citizens in force.

These five men have finally got back their freedom, but there are numerous Muslims who remain in custody as alleged terrorists. A 2012 study by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences found that although Muslims account for 10.6 per cent of the Maharashtra population, they comprise over 30 per cent of the prison population. The study observed

The Indian Muslim's fate is tied to that of the country. Destroying one will severely affect the other

that the police and intelligence agencies' bias against Muslims led to a number of arrests under TADA and MCOC Acts, and even the Official Secrets Act. It is common knowledge that in the wake of a terrorist act, scores of Muslims are rounded up and incarcerated — actions viewed as unavoidable "collateral damage" in the war against terrorism.

Instead of addressing the colossal injustice suffered by this community, the government has recently strengthened the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) by introducing amendments that will further imperil the lives of innocent Muslims. The latest amendment — to name and shame an individual by designating him a terrorist even without conviction by a court — will ensure that he remains forever a suspect. An outcast in the eyes of society.

Our Constitution is a secular Republic, but the line separating the state and religion has blurred. Supremacist, ethnocentric Hindutva with its explicit anti-Muslim bias now provides the ideological underpinning for State social policy. There is profound disquiet at the government's plan to extend the National Register of Citizens (NRC) to the rest of the country. In blatant disregard of the fundamental principle of equality, the objective of the NRC is to identify and deport "infiltrators", barring Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists and Christians who are perceived as refugees fleeing persecution.

The entire exercise is clearly aimed at hounding undocumented Muslims and will, inevitably, punish even those among them who are Indian but have no documentary proof of birth or citizenship. This exercise to declare people "non-citizens" based on religion as one of the criteria, will go down in history as one of the most unrighteous state-sponsored acts in a democracy. The fact that the entire Assam NRC operation is being monitored by the Supreme Court makes it even more reprehensible.

The social ecosystem is steaming with schismatic tensions and ubiquitous daily cruelty. The sacred Jai Shri Ram chant has morphed into a political slogan of power and intimidation. On the first two days of the recent Parliament session, the central hall resonated

with religion-tainted sloganeering. BJP MPs chanted Jai Shri Ram to which the Opposition responded with shouts of Jai Hind and Allah-o-Akbar. Predictably, the odious example set by Parliament members has spilt onto the streets, with regular incidents of Muslims being assaulted for refusing to chant Jai Shri Ram.

A leading social scientist has attributed BJP's thumping victory in 2019 to the spread of Hindutva through a relentless RSS machinery and the resultant capture of the collective consciousness of the majority. The decades of indoctrination of the young and old in the Shishu Mandirs, Vidya Bharati schools and shakhas — across the country, have come to fruition. Considering that the millions of disciples churned out by these institutions are infused with ultra-nationalistic fervour and rabid anti-minority views, there is reason for the minorities to be afraid.

In this fraught atmosphere comes the staggering Kashmir decision. A state which has been in turmoil for decades is now a hell-hole, incarcerated behind spoils of barbed wire. This ill thought-out move has dealt a body-blow to peace and brotherhood in the country. And the endless strife in the Valley will inescapably also affect communal harmony in the mainland. As relations with Pakistan have reached a point of no return, the animosity against Pakistan, like always, will mutate into vilification of the "unpatriotic" Indian Muslim. Worst of all, the asymmetry and injustices of the social order and the fear that the dominant evoke in the dominated will turn the country into a veritable tinderbox, vulnerable to insurgency and terrorism.

Tragically, Gandhi's land is now one of the most hate-filled, violent societies on Earth. The state today is in thrall of using brute power to settle conflicts with one's own people. What the all-powerful forces seem to ignore is the inalienable truth that the Indian Muslim's destiny is inextricably tied to that of the country: Both will rise or fall together.

The writer, a former civil servant, is secretary general of the Lok Janshakti Party. Views are personal



IN GOOD FAITH

RAMIN JAHANBEGLOO

SEPTEMBER 26 MARKS the 130th birth anniversary of the German philosopher Martin Heidegger. More than 40 years after his death, the influence of Heidegger's work on different fields of thought is overwhelming. He is not only the most influential influential philosopher of modernity but also its most controversial thinker. His best known work, *Being and Time* (*Sein und Zeit*), although notoriously difficult and complex, is generally considered to be the most important philosophical work of the 20th century. Heidegger is hailed today by many as a groundbreaking thinker whose work in ontology and metaphysics determined the course of 20th century philosophy and exerted a seminal influence on the development of contemporary thought including theology, architectural theory, psychology, literary criticism, cognitive science and political theory.

Heidegger has attracted most attention worldwide in the past 30 years. Part of this has also to do with the controversy around his politics and his Nazi connections in the 1930s, when he was the rector of the University of Freiburg. Heidegger's post-war silence about the Holocaust and his evasive interview with *Der Spiegel* in 1966, published posthumously, added to what is known today as the "Heidegger Affair". But it was Victor

PHILOSOPHER OF THE FUTURE

Though controversial, Martin Heidegger offers clues to understanding modernity

Farias's *Heidegger and Nazism* that unleashed a series of articles, special issues of journals and books on Heidegger. Many of Heidegger's critics tried to establish a link between the ontological foundations of *Being and Time* and Heidegger's membership of the Nazi party.

All this criticism came down to one notorious phrase by Heidegger where he equated the phenomenon of concentration camp with the practice of mechanised agriculture and the nuclear threat. According to Heidegger, "Agriculture is today a motorised food industry, in essence the same as the manufacture of corpses in gas chambers and extermination camps, the same as the blockade and starvation of countries, the same as the manufacture of atomic bombs." What is shocking in Heidegger's observation is his fundamental incapacity for moral discernment. As George Steiner writes, "Like so many other intellectuals, Heidegger was manifestly caught up in the brutal, festive inebriation which swept across Germany after some 15 years of national humiliation and despair. As we know from the *Spiegel* interview, he was preparing a peculiarly mendacious posthumous apologia for his own role in the 1930s and 40s. But the thinker of being found nothing to say of the Holocaust and the death-camps". Heidegger's silence on Auschwitz was the sign of a terrible truth which was never articulated by him in his phenomenology of the existential. As pointed out by many philosophers, includ-

ing Paul Ricoeur and Emmanuel Levinas, Heidegger's ontology overlooks or ignores the ethical relation between *dasein* (the state of being) and the other. We can also point to Hannah Arendt's analysis of Heidegger as a fundamentally un-political philosopher, one whose post-rectorial career was marked by total withdrawal from the public space.

Many of us might not consider Heidegger as an ethical person, but his philosophy continues to have the spiritual power of helping us raise questions about the destiny of humanity and the world. Some interpreters still regard him as a prophet who can show us a way out of modernity's dilemmas.

Generations to come might not spend more time than that of contemporaries to savour the full body of Heidegger's writings, but they will certainly continue to relate to his mode of thinking through other fields of knowledge. This could even be easier when the missionary period of Heidegger studies is over. Heidegger offered us a way of thinking about fundamental human concerns that makes it difficult to pigeonhole him. To understand how thoughts come to us, as Heidegger says, is to learn to think of every other instance of living. Thus we can say, with Heidegger, that the only thing essential to thinking is thinking. If there is some truth to this claim, then the philosophy of Heidegger will belong to our future.

The writer is professor-vice dean, Jindal Global University

FREEZE FRAME

E P UNNY



SEPTEMBER 23, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO

CHECKING HOARDERS THE GOVERNMENT IS likely to arm itself with powers to detain without trial antisocial elements including hoarders and black marketers. An ordinance will be issued in the next few days: The Union Cabinet, which gave its approval to the measure, felt there should be some means of curbing antisocial elements. Conscious of the criticism that such a step would evoke, the government would ensure that the detention was subject to review by a board whose members would be chosen by the chief justices of high courts. Under Article 22 of the Constitution, a law can be made to detain a person for three months "without obtaining the opinion of an advisory board".

CAMBODIA RELIEF WHILE GOVERNMENTS AND aid agencies debate the politics and fine print of the problem, relief officials and diplomats say hundreds, if not thousands, may already be dying in Cambodia every day of hunger and disease. Why isn't large-scale international aid going to Cambodia — a country which has been stalked by wars and a reign of terror, and which now faces what US state department officials say is a famine "terrible beyond imagination?" US officials say the fault rests with the Phnom Penh government and its Vietnamese backers since they have thus far refused to agree on a programme of international controls over relief distributions.

PADDY PRICES FIXED THE CENTRE HAS told state governments to ensure that the implementation of any system evolved by them for procurement of paddy, rice and coarse grains does not impede free flow of kharif cereals from one state to another. The method of procurement has been left to be determined by states taking into consideration local conditions. In a communication to the state governments and union territories, the union agriculture ministry has intimated procurement prices of different varieties of paddy. The procurement price of fine variety has been fixed at Rs 93 and superfine variety at Rs 103 for the 1979-80 marketing season.



The Ideas Page

A lifeline for India

In one year, PM-Jay has created a framework for comprehensive universal healthcare



PREETI SUDAN AND
INDU BHUSHAN

NINE YEAR-OLD Shiv, suffering from a leaky heart valve, sobbed as his despondent father took him back home after being told by the doctor in Bihar that the surgery he required would cost Rs 3 lakh — more than what his father could possibly earn in three years. He got a new heart, and a new life at Delhi's All India Institute of Medical Sciences thanks to the timely and cashless treatment under Ayushman Bharat — the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY). When Shah Mohammad, 50, got treated for a fractured jaw in Gurugram, he could not believe that he did not have to pay a single rupee as he walked out of the private hospital, an exclusive bastion of the wealthy in India thus far. Singri, a 38 year-old, got a new lease of life after a football-sized tumor was removed from his head. Carrying the tumor since his teenage years, he says that PM-JAY helped him become fit and an eligible bachelor in his village in Jharkhand. These are only some of the myriad stories of joy, hope and triumph that have played out over the last few months in the country.

Ayushman Bharat is a conscious attempt to holistically address health, encompassing prevention, promotion and ambulatory care at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels. It promises to bring healthcare to the poorest through two components: Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) delivering comprehensive primary healthcare through the development of 1.5 lakh HWCs, and PM-JAY, the health assurance scheme delivering secondary and tertiary care to 55-crore people through a health cover of Rs 5 lakh per family per year. Ayushman Bharat has been designed on the fundamental precepts that prevention is better than cure, and that no one should fall into poverty because of expenditure on healthcare, or die, because they cannot afford treatment.

The journey of Ayushman Bharat started in Jangla in Chhattisgarh, on April 4, 2018, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the first HWC. On August 15 last year, he formally announced PM-JAY to the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort. This promise of free healthcare to the poorest 55 crore people in the country would help them avoid the catastrophic healthcare expenditure that pushes an estimated 6 crore below the poverty line each year in India. A hugely ambitious and truly transformative scheme, PM-JAY has sought to cover a population larger than that of Canada, United States and Mexico put together. A year ago, on September 23, the prime minister launched the scheme in Ranchi, Jharkhand.

A year later, the dream of Ayushman Bharat, as envisioned by the prime minister, is on its way to becoming a reality and is off to a promising start. More than 20,000 HWCs have been made operational. More than five crore people have been screened for a whole range of common non-communicable diseases. Under PM-JAY, more than 45 lakh hospital admissions have taken place for cashless treatment in more than 18,000 empaneled hospitals across the country, resulting in savings of more than Rs 13,000 crore for the beneficiary families. Every three seconds, a beneficiary is being treated, and the numbers continue to rise.

Ayushman Bharat has provided a platform and framework for the country to ac-

celerate its progress towards comprehensive universal healthcare. Envisaged as an alliance with states, PMJAY has, in several states and union territories, an opportunity to extend the benefits to far larger numbers, beyond those covered under the scheme. Eleven states/UTs have expanded the coverage to include almost all families. In addition, 23 states/UTs have expanded the beneficiary base with the same benefit cover as under PMJAY or lower in some cases. Several states have merged their many ongoing schemes with PMJAY to make implementation simpler for both beneficiaries and participating hospitals. They don't need to deal with different target groups, rates and reporting systems. Karnataka has merged seven different existing schemes into one, while Kerala has merged three different schemes.

The private sector has played an active role in the early pick up of the scheme. More than half of the empaneled hospitals are private. Over 62 per cent of the treatments have been done by private hospitals. PM-JAY has created a massive demand for private (and public) sector services by making hospital facilities accessible to 55 crore people. In tier II and tier III cities, private sector hospitals are already witnessing an almost 20 per cent increase in footfall. Some hospital chains are already contemplating plans for expanding their capacity or opening new facilities in underserved areas. Public sector facilities have streamlined their processes so as to improve service quality and amenities with funds from PMJAY.

With its focus on delivering healthcare to a large population, Ayushman Bharat is set to become one of the largest drivers of jobs in the country. With the setting up of 1.5 lakh HWCs by 2022, an expected 1.5 lakh jobs will be created for community health officers, including 50,000 multi-purpose health workers. It has generated an estimated 50,000-60,000 jobs in the first year itself and is expected to add over 12.5 lakh jobs in both public and private sectors over the next three to five years, with 90 per cent of them in the healthcare sector and the remaining in allied sectors such as insurance and implementation support. As more people seek in-patient care, 1.5 lakh beds will be added in existing and new hospitals. This, in turn, will lead to the creation of around 7.5 lakh new opportunities for doctors, nurses, technicians, phar-

Ayushman Bharat has provided a platform and framework for the country to accelerate its progress towards comprehensive universal health care. Envisaged as an alliance with states, PMJAY has in several states and union territories has an opportunity to extend the benefits to far larger numbers, beyond those covered under the scheme.

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

VIEW FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD



KASHMIR AND THE WORLD

IN PAKISTAN AT least, if not the Subcontinent as a whole, the Narendra Modi government's decision last month to alter the status of Jammu and Kashmir is going to be the focus at the UN General Assembly. Two leading newspapers, *Dawn* and *The Express Tribune*, have editorials on the subject, though with quite differing approaches.

On September 19, *Dawn* comments on the "speculation" that "there has been speculation of a possible meeting on the Kashmir issue at the multilateral moot, with Washington playing the role of facilitator". But the assertion is followed by a caveat: "However, considering India's intransigence — with its stubborn insistence that the decades-old Kashmir issue is an 'internal' or 'bilateral' matter — as well as the American leader's own mercurial nature, it is obvious that not too much hope should be pinned on any breakthroughs in the US over the next few days."

The editorial, then, moves on to criticising the ongoing communications blockade in Kashmir, the arrest of political leaders, most recently Farooq Abdullah, and alleged human rights violations by Indian forces. Yet, what it does not do is use the upcoming UNGA as a peg to praise the Pakistan government's diplomacy. Instead, it calls for New

Delhi to engage in a dialogue with both Pakistan as well as Kashmiris.

The Express Tribune, however, takes a different approach. Taking of from the discussion on Kashmir in the European Union parliament, the editorial first says that EU Minister Tytti Tuppurainen — speaking on behalf of European Commission Vice President Federica Mogherini "said the EU would continue to closely monitor the situation, while demanding that freedom of movement and means of communication in the besieged territory should be fully restored as well as access to all essential services".

Then, it makes a jump to claiming a jingoistic diplomatic victory: "The incumbent government's efforts to internationalise India's illegal annexation of Kashmir on August 5 and the barbarism that continues there ever since are commendable. The PM and his team are leaving no stone turned to keep the issue burning bright."

MEDIA MUZZLED

Going by the press, the freedom of the press and to dissent is under threat across South Asia. In the last week alone, two leading English-language newspapers have commented

"Should we expect public floggings of journalists, as in the days of Gen Zia?" That's how *Dawn*'s editorial ends on September 20.

The newspaper's reaction is understandable, given that the Pakistan government has approved the creation of "media courts" to "dispose with complaints relating to the media within 90 days".

Calling it an "extremely unwise and provocative idea", and acknowledging the "qualifiers" the PTI government in Pakistan has put in place, the editorial claims that "no one buys the fiction that such courts are desired for any benign purpose". It calls the last year "an unrelenting attack on the press".

Dawn acknowledges that no government, especially the military dictatorships of Pakistan, has been comfortable with a free press. It also recalls the "plethora of 'press advices'" issued during the dictatorship of General Ziaul Haq and the restrictions put in place by the Nawaz Sharif government. Yet, it asks this government to hold itself to higher standard rather than do worse than its predecessors: "Instead of acquiring the reputation of a regime that recalls the darkest days of censorship, the government should strengthen Pemra and PCP by respecting their autonomy rather than proposing a system whereby they would function as mere post offices."

VIP CULTURE

The Kathmandu Post in its September 16 ed-

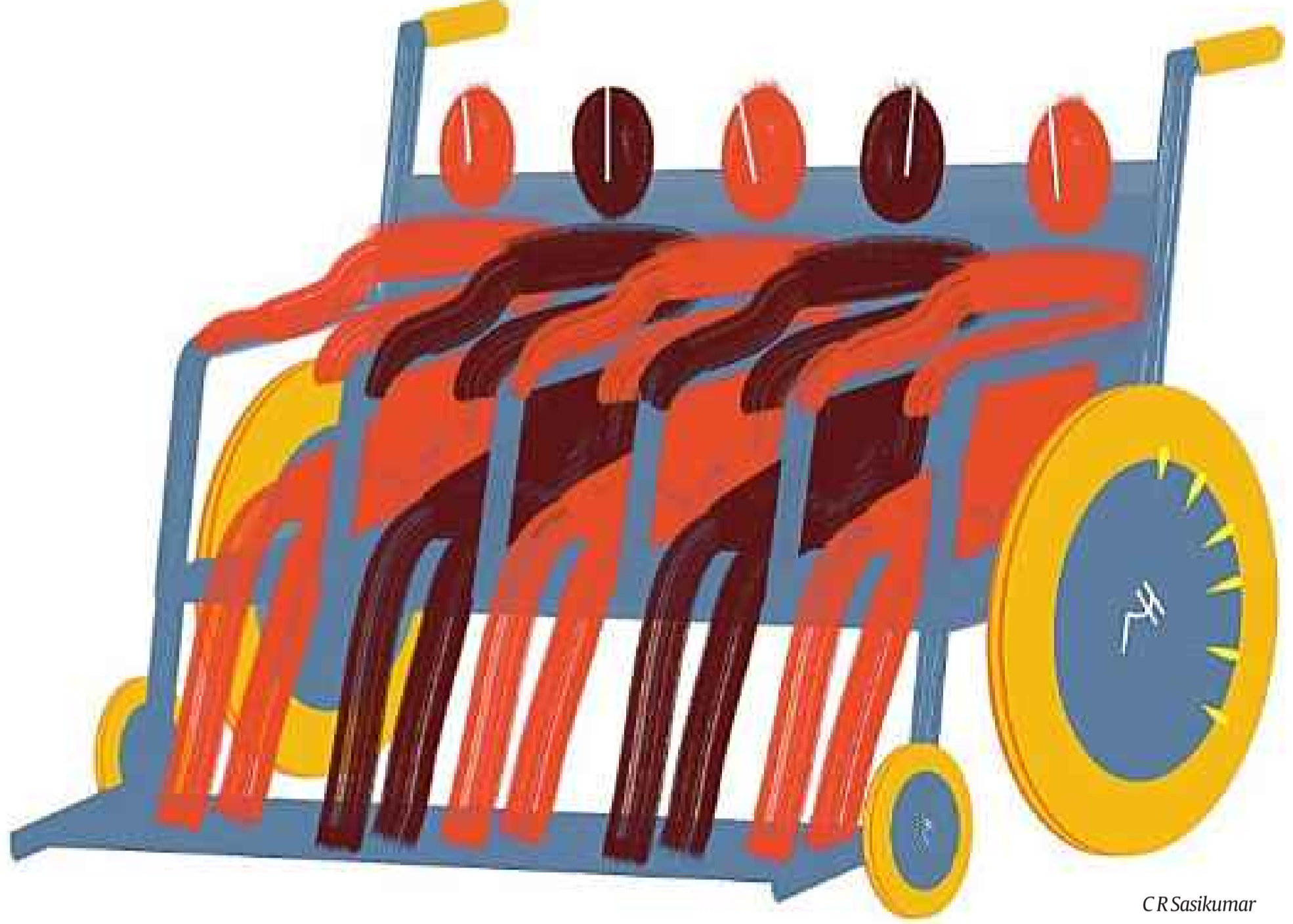
macists and frontline healthcare workers such as Pradhan Mantri Arogya Mitras (functionaries who are the key interface between beneficiaries and the scheme).

This ambitious scheme is supported by a strong IT backbone that facilitates the identification of beneficiaries, records treatments, processes claims, receives feedback, and addresses grievances. A live dashboard helps in monitoring and improving performance, based on real-time data and regular analysis. This platform also helps states to compare their performance. A strong and sophisticated fraud prevention, detection and control system at the national and state level has proved to be critical for PM-JAY to ensure that frauds are largely prevented. If attempted, they are quickly detected and strong action is taken.

A good beginning has been made, but a lot needs to be achieved before we reach our goals. Opportunities that lie ahead need to be effectively harnessed. One such lies in exploiting the potential of collective bargaining and leveraging economies of scale. This could deliver more affordable and quality healthcare by negotiating better prices for various devices, implants and supplies, and also leveraging other policies such as Make in India. Ensuring quality treatment of patients by prescribing and ensuring adherence to standard treatment protocols is another opportunity waiting to be fully harnessed. Further strengthening the linkage between HWCs and PMJAY will improve the backward and forward referrals and enhance overall healthcare services, especially to the poor. "Green field" states with no past experience of implementing healthcare schemes have to work harder to scale up their progress. All states will need to make sincere efforts towards providing seamless health services to the last mile.

As the Ayushman Bharat revolution unfolds, we are optimistic that India will make sure healthcare is no longer a privilege and is available to every Indian. Thus, many more stories of joy, hope and triumph will be written, like those of Shiv, Shah Mohammed and Singri, and of so many others will be assured the gift of life and good health.

Sudan is secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. Bhushan is CEO, PM-JAY



CR Sasikumar

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Trump's outsourcing of the asylum process sets an un-American example to the world."

WASHINGTON POST

Us and them

Politics after NRC threatens to change the old framework of Assamese nationalism for a new identity politics that privileges religion over region



KABIR FIRAQUE

A DISTANT BUT distinct memory from my student days, which I often recall with fondness, concerns an incident so trivial that I would never have thought of bringing it up in connection with something as serious as the National Register of Citizens (NRC). Yet there can be no better illustration of what our identity meant to us:

It was after dinner at our engineering college hostel, and we were taking a new boarder through an introductory routine. We asked him to chant the national anthem; he faltered a little. Are you not Indian, we asked. I am Naga, the freshman said with pride. You are Naga but Indian first, one senior started to preach, when another interrupted him: Let him be Naga first if he wishes, as long as he is Indian; just as we are Assamese first and also Indian.

No need for anyone to outrage. Nearly every Assamese I know is as proud of his or her nationality as an Indian from any other state. That observation by my friend was just a reflection of the times. In the wisdom of the 1980s, "Assamese first" was the identity we wore on our sleeve. A logician might find the idea questionable — each one of us was all his identities simultaneously — but what the phrase conveyed was tied with emotion. It remains in circulation today; the question is whether it carries the same import as before. As we get more and more "mainstreamed" and a new politics of religion competes with the regional pride of old, every Assamese may one day need to reflect on what we once were, and what we are turning out to be.

Take the NRC. The exercise was religion-neutral at its core, seeking to identify citizens on the basis of a cut-off date. But after its completion, the focus has been on the religious faith of one section among the 19 lakh excluded — Bengali Hindus, who may eventually be given citizenship — and even more on one section among the 3.11 crore included. The NRC has given legitimacy to lakhs of migrant-origin Muslims, who had papers to show that they or their ancestors had entered Assam before the cut-off date. For this very reason, many of them had welcomed the NRC, but it turns out that they are still being viewed with suspicion despite — and because of — their high inclusion in districts bordering Bangladesh.

What I have set out to reflect on is not, however, whether the number of exclusions is too low or just right, or the unanswered question of what will happen to those who will still be left out after the NRC is trimmed further after the appeals and legislation. This is about a puzzle called the Assamese identity, now confounded by religion.

Religion has cast its shadow in strange ways. Take the "Miya Poetry" controversy, when verses of self-assertion by Bengal-origin Muslims caused offence to many

Assamese, leading to police booking them. Those who had filed the complaints included a number of Assamese Muslim organisations. In one news report, a complainant was quoted as saying that "we are Assamese first and Muslims later". Those two words again, so nostalgic and relatable. Come to think of it, however, it begs a question: Is it necessary to mention your religious faith to show that you are more Assamese than others?

Indeed, the idea of Assamese identity, for some, has often coexisted with contempt for the other. The 1979-85 agitation against illegal immigration may have limited its focus to those who had entered Assam after a cut-off date, but the emotions it generated were built on larger Assamese anxieties around the migrant communities as a whole. When the cut-off was agreed and signed, it came with the implicit premise that the greater Assamese society would accommodate migrants on the right side of that date. Instead, a number of factors, including population growth and political consolidation around the AIUDF, have raised the anxieties around Bengal-origin Muslims, while the proposed Citizenship Amendment Bill has threatened to reopen a fault line between Assamese and Bengali Hindus.

When the Bill returns, seeking to accommodate Hindu migrants from Bangladesh, it will upset the section of Assamese whose opposition to illegal migrants does not recognise religion. It will also raise a new question, between one Assamese and another. If a Hindu migrant is a better migrant than a Muslim migrant, does it mean, by extension, that an Assamese Muslim is less Assamese than an Assamese Hindu?

As a society, we appear to be holding on. We still pat each other on the back, thump our secular chests with Assamese pride, and still celebrate our shared culture and shared history of centuries — from the Battle of Saraighat when our ancestors brought Mughal invaders to their knees, to the language riots when our elders were killed, and the agitation against illegal immigration when 855 of our generation became martyrs.

As voters, however, we are already divided. In 2016, when the BJP won Assam for the first time, a survey by Lokniti-CSDS, published in this paper, found that two-thirds of Assamese Hindus had voted for the BJP and two-thirds of Assamese Muslims for the Congress. Like Assamese Hindus, two-thirds of Bengali Hindus had voted for the BJP, while Bengali Muslims had split evenly between the Congress and AIUDF.

Maybe I worry too much, but I keep an eye on the Muslim population, already over one-third of Assam's total by 2011. Yes, that population includes both Assamese and Bengal-origin Muslims. But if it keeps growing, will an Assamese who looks at me as a fellow Assamese today, see instead a Muslim tomorrow?

Who knows, that day too may come. It can never be sweeping, though; there will always be some who continue to believe in what we once were. Defined by the cliché we used that night more than three decades ago. Assamese first. Non-negotiable.

kabir.firaque@expressindia.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BOOST FOR ECONOMY

THIS REFERS TO the editorial 'Taxing times' (IE, September 20). No matter how forcefully the Centre tells us about the fast recovery of the economy, the ripple effects of the slowdown will negate all its assertions. The low collection of taxes will discourage spending which is necessary for circulation of money in the market. A leap of faith will not perk up the economy.

Tarsem Singh, Mahilpur

WRONG TARGET

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Vapourised' (IE, September 20). It is perplexing that vaping has been banned when there are more injurious variants of tobacco. Is there any empirical data to back the measure? The ban gives an undue advantage to conventional tobacco business.

Deepak Singhal, Chennai

MAKE IT SAFE

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'SC calls it own verdict on SC/ST act against spirit of Constitution' (IE, September 19). Manual scavenging is unsafe, unhygienic and an underpaid job. The governance has still not provide a large number of people involved in this profession with proper safety equipment like masks and oxygen cylinders. Every few days, someone in this country dies while doing this hazardous job.

Ayushi Bisht, Dehradun

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

NOT MY LANGUAGE

THIS REFERS TO 'The Hindi scare' (IE September, 2019). In the context of languages playing vital role in cultural integration, we need to ask: Which language and what culture? Hindi could fit the bill, the purpose is to foist the dominant Hindu culture on the languages of the South. But then, subaltern groups in India speak more than 780 dialects. Their world view cannot be articulated in any Sanskritised language.

Dev Athawale, Amravati

12 THE GOVERNANCE PAGE

IMPROVING CONVICTION RATES

Lessons from Madhya Pradesh: How to prosecute criminals and get convictions

Through the Public Prosecutor Performance Evaluation System, govt was able to incentivise prosecutors

MILIND GHATWAI
BHOPAL, SEPTEMBER 22

ACROSS THE country, government prosecutors are not known for being efficient. That is the reason India has embarrassingly low conviction rates — somewhere around 40 per cent as against the high 90s in countries like China, Japan and Canada. This conviction rate falls further depending on the state one is in and the concerned crime. For instance, cases of sexual violence see even lower conviction rates. The all-round weakness of the prosecutors to get the wronged party timely justice undermines the citizen's faith in the government and the overall system. But Madhya Pradesh is changing things.

It is doing this by training and incentivising its prosecutors to doggedly go after the criminals. For instance, when in a recent case in Katni district court, the lawyer defending a rape accused requested the court to summon the police because they had recorded statements of certain witnesses but did not produce them in court, Katni's District Prosecution Officer (DPO) Dharmendra Taran was quick to react. "It was obvious that the defence lawyer was delaying the trial by trying to mislead the court," he says. So Taran submitted an application requesting the court to reject the defence lawyer's application. Similarly, in another rape trial, the DPO filed an application requesting the court to initiate action against a witness who had turned hostile.

Submitting applications like the ones Taran did, get state's prosecutors 10 points in a lower court and 20 in a Sessions court. Once the day's proceedings are over, prosecutors across MP open an app — "e-Prosecution MP" — designed and developed by the Directorate of Public Prosecution, and enter the record of their activities in court.

Called Public Prosecutor Performance Evaluation System, the daily activity and monthly performance information is analysed to evaluate best prosecutors at state and district levels using a well-defined formula. The details filled in by the prosecutors are reviewed by their reporting officers. Productivity and performance score for each prosecutor is generated using a matrix and rules. When a prosecutor ensures death sentence he gets 1,000 points, the highest an activity can get; life imprisonment earns 500 points and three-year conviction gets 300 points.

FROM STATES REFORMS TRACKER

ODISHA

New agriculture policy to increase tech use

THE STATE government has updated its agriculture policy and decided to promote greater use of technology — in particular, the use of "internet of things" — to make farming in the state more efficient. The use of IoT would help map the supply and use of farm inputs such as fertilisers. The government also plans to use robotics and other machines to automate sorting and grading of agri produce and ensure that losses due to wastage are reduced to a minimum.

TELANGANA

Drones to be used to deliver medicines



JAYESH RANJAN

JAYESH RANJAN, the principal secretary for information technology, industries and textiles in the state, has announced that the state government would soon start a "first-of-its-kind" initiative to provide healthcare in remote areas of the state. The state government has, at the behest of the World Economic Forum, decided to use drone technology to transport medicines and even blood to tackle health emergencies in far-flung areas. A pilot project will soon be launched.

BIHAR

Patna to have only CNG commercial vehicles

THE STATE'S capital city, Patna, which is the seventh most polluted city in the world according to the World Air Quality report 2018, will soon transition into a city where all commercial vehicles will be run on compressed natural gas or CNG. The Bihar State Pollution Control lay the blame on vehicular emissions among other factors.



Director Prosecution Rajendra Kumar receiving Kalam Innovation in Governance Award (KIGA) from Vice-president Venkiah Naidu in February. *MP Govt.*

Assistant District Prosecution Officer Pradeep Mishra, who was the best prosecutor with 5,092 points in June, says, "Earlier, there was no evaluation. Those who were

lazy, wanting to work for fixed hours and wait for their salaries remained so. But now that the performance is being evaluated everybody is motivated to be efficient and earn points".

Those who do well are felicitated and those who falter are warned. And those who try to game the system by manipulating their numbers are given stiffer punishments.

Director-General of Prosecution Rajendra Kumar, a senior IPS officer who took charge in 2016, said there was no system to evaluate the performance of prosecutors. A seminar was called to discuss how to evaluate their performance which eventually

led to the development of the App, which is now being used by about 850 prosecutors.

"It was linked to their ACRs (annual confidential reports). Probationers are not confirmed until they get certain points. The system has ensured just and fair evaluation because there is no scope for partiality," he says. "When the system was developed we did not know it would bring revolution in the department. This is one single step that has changed the department".

The initiative has led to a better conviction rate. In 2018, there were 21 death sentences, the highest in the country in a year. The state also witnessed quickest death trial and the quickest life term trial that lasted for three days. Besides earning many awards, the effort was praised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his

The initiative has led to a better conviction rate. In 2018, there were 21 death sentences, the highest in the country in a year. The state also had quickest quickest life term trial that lasted for three days.

An app to map Ganga water, aquatic life

LALMANI VERMA
DEHRADUN, SEPTEMBER 22

DEHRADUN BASED Dehradun based Wildlife Institute of India (WII) has launched a mobile application "Ganga Data Collector" under the "Biodiversity and Ganga Conservation" project initiated by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) of Union Ministry of Jal Shakti. The app will provide field researchers with a complete data entry solution to monitor the aquatic population in the river. The scientists of WII, Ganga Prahri volunteers and staff of the forest department in 11 states of the Ganga Basin will use this application on their mobile phones for faster collection of more authentic and accurate data related to water quality and aquatic life in Ganga. In future, similar mobile applications are proposed to be used in the physio-chemical test of other rivers across the country. The new application was launched during the second Endangered Species Recovery Programme organised on the WII campus last week. In the next phase, WII will train nearly 550 Ganga Prahis and staff of the for-



The Ganga Data Collector Android app quickens the tedious process of data collection while improving both data visualisation and security. *WII*

EXPLAINED How MP turned things around

TO BEGIN with, the state government created an institutional mechanism to collect court data and evaluate prosecutor performance. It also created an online app — "e-Prosecution MP" —based system that allowed superiors to monitor prosecutors. Based on their performance, prosecutors were either felicitated or warned; those gaming the system by manipulating their numbers were punished. The government also trained prosecutors to be better at their task. The end result: The state's conviction rate in heinous cases rose by 10 per cent.

Independence Day speech in 2018.

Once the evaluation system was in place, the department realised it did not have a branch to train prosecutors to improve their performance. The prosecutors are now trained by judicial officers who tell them what judges expect during the trial. Even defence lawyers are called during training sessions to train the prosecutors. Underperformers are given separate training. Experts train them to improve verbal and non-verbal communication like voice modulation and expressions.

The department has taken another initiative to build team spirit by insisting they share lunch every Wednesday and share photographs on WhatsApp groups. The groups are also used to post written arguments which allow others to point out lacuna and court judgments that can be cited in support.

Another step taken by the department is to send a team of prosecutors at the time of final arguments to ensure that certain points are not skipped because even defence lawyers come with a team.

‘English language proficiency in govt schools will help in foreign studies, jobs’

KRISHAN KUMAR, the Secretary of School Education in Punjab, is credited with transforming the government schools of the state. ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA finds out how he has turned the Punjabi schools into English medium.

One of the key reforms has been the stress on English learning. What is the reason?

It has been observed that people are sending their wards to private schools because they are English medium. Even people who may not have abundant financial resources prefer those schools because they feel English-medium schools impart quality education. It's to fulfil the need and aspirations of people that we are emphasising on the development of English language skills. Moreover, English is a global international language and proficiency in it will enable our students to tap into an array of employment avenues.

How has this been achieved?

Our resource persons have devised innovative teaching techniques and activities at the state level. Specially-designed teaching/learning material and practice worksheets are provided to the students. The content of the syllabus has been prepared to make the teaching-learning easy, interesting and effective. District- and block-level mentors are provided training in these techniques and they, in turn, hold training workshops at the block level to equip and motivate teachers to introduce these in their classes. They also monitor these classes.

We have also set up English labs and clubs. Students have started conversing in English. They have also taken to reading under the "Library Langar" programme wherein lakhs of books lying in the school libraries have been made available to students.

WhatsApp groups of teachers, students and parents have been formed to share good practices and solve problems.

In a state where clearing the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) and studying in a foreign university is the main concern of every youngster, what role will the government schools play?

The programme for improving English language skills at the school level will certainly strengthen their foundation for learning different skills such as listening, speaking, reading and writing in the English language, and they will be better equipped for challenges abroad. We have also started a special programme on the pattern of IELTS coaching for developing language skills for students from Grade 6 to 12. We also lay



THE POLICY INTERVIEW KRISHAN KUMAR

Secretary of School Education in Punjab

tremendous emphasis on teaching the basics of every subject to our students.

We often come across stories about students from private schools shifting to government schools in Punjab. How did you achieve this shift?

The "School Shikhiya Sudhar Muhim" includes extension and augmentation of infrastructure as well as innovative teaching techniques. Under it, the school buildings have been spruced up, learning aids adorn the walls and we have smart classrooms for e-learning. We also have maths/science/social studies parks. On the whole, the schools have been given a "smart look" in every sphere. The teachers are doing yeoman service in changing the face of government schools. They invite parents to visit schools during science, maths and English fairs.

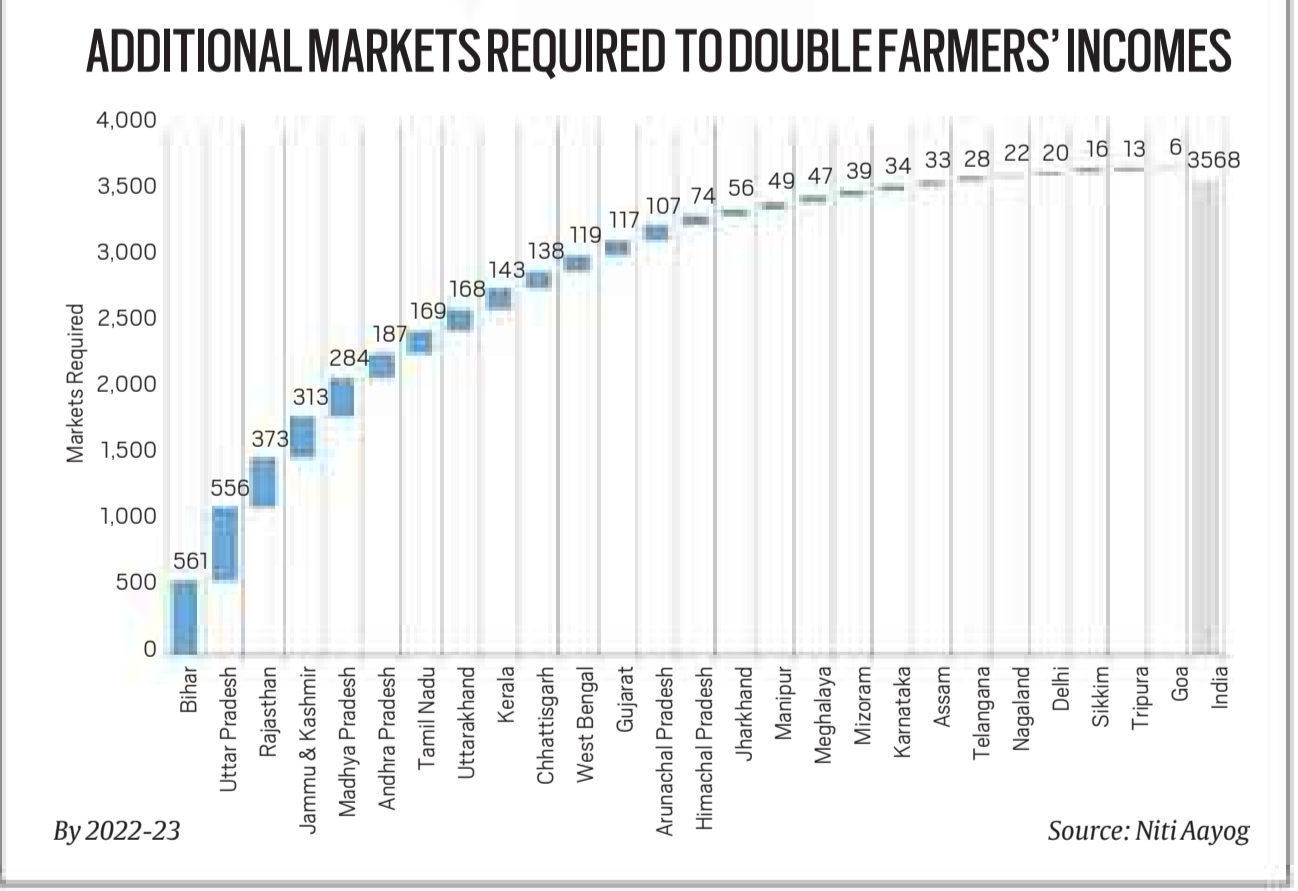
All this has changed the public perception of government schools. People are especially impressed when they see our students speaking in English while explaining concepts or taking part in declamation etc. This motivates many parents to make the switch.

There is an apprehension among a section of people in Punjab that this lopsided emphasis on English is taking away children from their roots. What do you say to that?

Under the "Word of the Day" project, schoolchildren are taught one word each in English and Punjabi.

The idea behind developing vocabulary and language skills in both English and Punjabi is to enable our students to face the challenges of globalisation while strengthening their cultural roots.

IN NUMBERS



HARYANA/ GENDER REFORMS

From worst to best: How a village improved its sex ratio

VARINDER BHATIA
CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 22

TILL 2015, Barna village in Kurukshetra district of Haryana figured among the villages with poorest sex-ratio at birth (SRB) of 548 girls to 1000 boys. By July this year, Barna has touched the SRB of 1,158 and figures among the state's villages with highest sex-ratio. The phenomenal increase was not easy to achieve.

As on August 29, the village had 56 pregnant women. Out of these, 18 already have a daughter, reveals Gulshan Kumar, an ANM (Auxiliary Nurse Midwife) who is carrying with her a register containing the records of all the pregnant women in the village.

"We keep track of all pregnant women to ensure that they do not go in for a sex-determination test or termination of their pregnancy. We indulge in a door-to-door contact programme across the village on a monthly basis and keep track of such pregnancies. Even in a situation, where a medical termination of pregnancy (MTP) is required or has

taken place, we keep a record of it", Gulshan told The Indian Express.

"It was not an easy task to change the psyche of people, especially in the rural areas. Imagine a scenario where the choice of contraception to be adopted by the married women was decided by their mothers-in-law. Repeated counselling, awareness campaigns, crackdown on quacks gradually helped us change people's psychology," says Dr Sumita Singh, Medical Officer in the primary health centre in Barna.

The village has two ANMs — Gulshan Kumar and Kamlesh Kumari — who head a team of six Accredited Social Health Activists (or Asha). Each Asha worker has a designated number of houses under her watch. She not only interacts with pregnant women — thus creating awareness about family planning, ensuring timely vaccination and regular monitoring of the pregnancy — but also works as an "informor" for the health department.

"When I had my first daughter, it felt as if the sky had fallen on my head. The way your husband and in-laws look at you gives you



Students of Primary School on Thursday at Barna Village in Kurukshetra. *Kamleshwar Singh*

shudders. In such circumstances, there is immense pressure to go in for such illegal sex-determination tests. But slowly things have improved. The massive awareness campaign to save girl child in the last few years has def-

initely made an impact," said one of the pregnant women of the village who did not want to be identified.

Dr R K Sahai, Deputy Civil Surgeon, Kurukshetra has been spearheading the crackdown on quacks and doctors indulging in sex determination tests and illegal termination of pregnancies. "These Asha workers have always been a great help. In fact, there was one Asha worker who led us to conduct three successful raids. She earned Rs 3 lakh as reward money. Unfortunately, she is no more now," says Dr Sahai. Haryana government gives a cash reward of Rs 1 lakh to the person giving information on illegal sex-determination tests or illegal termination of pregnancy.

"It is a multi-pronged strategy. While Asha workers maintain the contact with pregnant women and their families, ANMs supervise and ensure early registration of the pregnancy, doctors at PHC provide adequate medical care to the pregnant women and then we conduct raids leaving no scope for anybody to go in for an illegal sex-determination test, even if anybody wants it," Dr Sahai added.

The village's primary school also reveals the gradually changing sex-ratio. As compared to 74 girls to 91 boys in 2018, there are 83 girls to 94 boys currently enrolled in the school. "There has been a visible improvement in the sex-ratio over the last few years. We have more girls enrolling in our school. Also, I believe, it is not only here in our village but across the state. I feel that awareness and massive advertisement-campaigns on Beti Bachao Beti Padhao has helped change people's mindset," says Pawan Kumar, the school principal.

Dr G L Singhal, the nodal officer in Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (B3P) secretariat, says, "On August 28, we conducted a successful raid and nabbed six persons for operating a nexus of illegal sex-determination tests in Delhi. Teams of Rohtak, Charkhi Dadri and Delhi jointly conducted the operation with the help of a Rohtak based pregnant woman who was used as a decoy... We have conducted over a 1,000 such raids across Haryana and in neighbouring states. It surely has worked as a deterrent."

TOPOF THE WORLD



Jeremy Corbyn

UK
Party to guide stance on Brexit, says Corbyn

Brighton: British opposition Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn said Sunday his party would guide him on how to campaign in a second Brexit referendum, pledging to offer voters a choice between staying in the European Union and a “credible” deal. At the start of Labour’s annual conference in the English seaside resort of Brighton, Corbyn was again under pressure by party members and even some of his top team to unequivocally back remaining in the EU in any new vote. But so far the Labour leader has struck a neutral stance.

PAKISTAN
26 killed as bus rams into mountain

Peshawar: A bus rammed into a mountain Sunday after the driver lost control while taking a turn on a hilly road in Pakistan’s northwest, killing at least 26 people, including children, and injuring 13 others, police said. The accident happened in the Babusar Top area. The bus was going towards Rawalpindi from Skardu city and there were 40 passengers, including 16 Pakistan Army personnel, the *Express Tribune* reported. Rasheed Arshad, a spokesman for the Gilgit-Baltistan chief minister, confirmed that 26 bodies, among them women and children, have been retrieved.

BANGLADESH
Rohingya couple killed in gunfight

Dhaka: A Rohingya couple was shot dead during a gunfight in a border town camp hours after they were detained by Bangladesh police, officials said Sunday, the latest killings amid growing tensions between the refugees and authorities. Police in Teknaf town said the refugee couple — Dil Mohammad, 32, and his 26-year-old wife Jaheda Begum — were members of a Rohingya “bandit group”. Authorities claim the gang killed a local ruling party official, Omar Faruk, in a refugee settlement in southeastern Bangladesh last month.

DAYS AFTER ATTACK ON SAUDI OIL FACILITIES

Tehran to present Gulf security plan at UN, Pompeo says US aims to avoid war

REUTERS
GENEVA, SEPTEMBER 22

IRANIAN PRESIDENT Hassan Rouhani will present a plan for creating security in the Gulf in cooperation with other countries in the region when he attends the United Nations General Assembly in New York this week.

Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Sunday said the United States aims to avoid war with Iran and the additional troops ordered to be deployed in the Gulf region are for “deterrence and defense”.

Speaking to Fox News Sunday, Pompeo added that he was confident US President Donald Trump would take action if such deterrence measures failed and that this was well understood by the Iranian leadership.

Pompeo said Washington was taking measures to deter Tehran, but he added that Trump would take necessary action if Tehran failed to change its behavior. “If that deterrence should continue to fail, I am also confident that President Trump would continue to take the actions that are necessary,” he said.

Saudi Arabia and the United States accuse Iran of attacking



Iran’s President Hassan Rouhani at an event just outside Tehran, on Sunday. AP

Saudi oil facilities on September 14, the largest-ever such assault on the world’s top oil exporter.

Iran denies involvement in the attack, which was claimed by Yemen’s Houthi movement, a group aligned with Iran and currently fighting a Saudi-led alliance in Yemen’s civil war.

“This year we will present a plan to the world at the United Nations that the Islamic Republic of Iran in cooperation with the countries of the region can create security for the Persian Gulf

and the Oman sea with the help of the countries of the region,” Rouhani was cited as saying on his official website.

US President Donald Trump on Friday approved sending American troops to bolster Saudi Arabia’s air and missile defences after the attacks on Saudi oil sites.

Rouhani said the presence of foreign forces in the region would create insecurity for oil and shipping. Saudi Arabia has described the strikes on the Abqaiq and

Khurais facilities as a test of whether there is global will to preserve international order, and will seek to form a united front at the United Nations General Assembly.

“We are not someone who will violate the borders of others just as we will not allow anyone to violate our borders,” Rouhani said at a ceremony commemorating the anniversary of the start of the Islamic Republic’s 1980-1988 war with Iraq, according to his website.

AUSTRALIA OFFERS ‘LIMITED’ SUPPORT

AUSTRALIA IS not getting involved with the United States in its pursuit of aims in relation to Iran, beyond a commitment to freedom of navigation in the region, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said after talks with US President Donald Trump.

“There was no discussion about anything else,” Morrison, who made a state visit to the White House Friday, told journalists, as per a transcript.

“There was an appreciation of our involvement in that particular operation which was I remind everyone is about freedom of navigation in the Straits of Hormuz. That’s what that is about. The other matters that are being pursued by the United States are matters they’re pursuing.” In August, Australia joined the International Maritime Security Construct (IMSC) in support of freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz.

What to expect at UNGA: 600 meetings, many conflicts

Against a backdrop of crises — from the warming planet to economic uncertainty to conflicts that threaten to further entangle America in the Middle East — a key question will be ‘what is US policy?’

TENSIONS WITH IRAN

After the September 14 attack on oil facilities in Saudi Arabia US officials are expected to present what they have described as evidence that Iran carried out the attack with drones and cruise missiles. Iran has denied the accusation. A meet between the US and Iran looks unlikely

KEY CLIMATE MEET

The climate crisis is at the top of the agenda. About 60 heads of state plan to speak at the Climate Action Summit on Monday, and officials aim to announce initiatives that include net-zero carbon emissions in buildings. The United States has no such plans

TRADE WAR TALKS

The US and China governments recently



NYT

paused their escalating tariff battle, suggesting they are seeking a more productive atmosphere for resumed trade negotiations after weeks of acrimony. But some officials are pushing for Trump to address other issues considered sensitive by China, including the pro-

democracy protests in Hong Kong and the detentions of over 1 million Muslims

JAPAN-S. KOREA FREEZE

A protracted feud between Japan and South Korea, rooted in the legacy of Japan’s wartime occupation, has led to downgraded trade

relations and the end of an intelligence-sharing agreement. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan and President Moon Jae-in of South Korea are not expected to meet with each other. Whether Trump can induce a conversation remains unclear

ON VENEZUELA REGIME

Foreign ministers from 18 nations, including the US, planned to meet on Monday to discuss what can be done regarding Maduro, who has presided over the biggest economic collapse in Venezuela’s history and a regional crisis caused by the exodus of millions of people. The push will focus on convincing the EU to expand economic sanctions against Maduro’s loyalists, including freezing assets in Europe. NYT

Burqas, ‘illegal’ Islamic videos could land Uygurs in China’s de-radicalisation centres

PRASHANT RANGNEKAR
KASHGAR, SEPTEMBER 22

WEARING A burqa or watching “illegal” Islamic videos could land you in trouble in China’s restive Xinjiang province where the government is running a number of “Vocational Training Centres” to re-educate thousands of Uygur Muslims, who Beijing thinks have radicalised.

Mlherban Ximih, 28, a Uygur

One day, the (cyber) police called me saying I was watching illegal videos. I was given the option to go court and accept punishment, or join vocational centre”

ILXAT TURSUN, 28
AT A TRAINING CAMP, SPEAKING THROUGH AN OFFICIAL INTERPRETER

Muslim from Asku prefecture in Xinjiang, has been lodged at the Wensu County’s Vocational Training Centre since June 2018 for wearing burqa. Ximih’s mother-in-law and her husband lilyim Kader were sentenced to 17 years in jail for “inciting people”.

Fearing Ximih could have also been “influenced by extremist ideas”, authorities sent her to the vocational centre to undergo de-radicalisation. These centres have come under intense criti-

cism from human rights bodies.

Timorjong Eqbal, 22, who hails from Kashgar, said he was “influenced by extremist ideas”. He has been at the Kashgar Vocational Training Centre, larger than the Wensu centre, since September 2018.

China has justified these centres citing the violent attacks by extremists.A White Paper on the centres by the Chinese government said Xinjiang is a “key battlefield” against extremism. PTI



TWITTERATI

“At this point, the bigger national scandal isn’t the president’s lawbreaking behavior — it is the Democratic Party’s refusal to impeach him for it”

ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ, DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSWOMAN, ON ALLEGATIONS OF TRUMP PRESSURING UKRAINE TO PROBE JOE BIDEN’S SON



During a protest in Cairo. Reuters

On Day 2 of Egypt protests, police fire tear gas, live rounds

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CAIRO, SEPTEMBER 22

EGYPTIAN SECURITY forces clashed with hundreds of anti-government protesters in the port city of Suez on Saturday, firing tear gas and live rounds, said several residents who participated in the demonstrations.

A heavy security presence was also maintained in Cairo’s Tahrir Square, the epicentre of Egypt’s 2011 revolution, after protests in several cities called for the removal of general-turned-president Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.

Such demonstrations are rare after Egypt effectively banned protests under a law passed following the 2013 military ouster of Islamist ex-president Mohamed Morsi.

On Saturday, protesters headed to downtown Suez for the second night in a row, where they were met by security forces barricading the streets and armoured vehicles. Another resident, who also preferred to remain anonymous, said the tear gas was so thick it had reached her apartment block a few kilometres away from the downtown area.

“My nose started burning up. The smell was seeping through the balcony. I also saw some youth run and hide in our street,” the woman said.

On late Friday, hundreds of Egyptians poured through the streets of Cairo, chanting slogans including “Leave, Sisi!”.

At least 74 people were arrested after clashes between the crowds and police in the capital, a security source told AFP.

The protests came after

Lanka president forms 5-member panel to probe Easter Sunday bombings

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO, SEPTEMBER 22

SRI LANKAN President Maithripala Sirisena has appointed a five-member committee to investigate allegations of intelligence inputs being ignored and related errors that led to the Easter Sunday bombings, killing over 258 people.

According to an extraordinary gazette notification on Saturday, the committee would comprise two appeal court judges, two retired high court judges and a retired administrator.

The panel will investigate allegations of disregarding of prior intelligence inputs on the Easter attacks and related errors which



MAITHRIPALA SIRISENA

stopped authorities from taking preventive action.

On April 21, nine suicide bombers carried out a series of blasts that tore through three churches and as many high-end hotels in Sri Lanka’s capital Colombo, killing 258 people.

The new five-member committee was constituted following local Catholic church Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith’s demand for an independent investigation.

SCIENTISTS TO DELIVER SOMBRE SPEECHES, ACCOMPANIED BY MOURNFUL TUNES OF ALPHORNS

Dressed in black, the Swiss hold a high-altitude funeral march for glacier

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MELS, SEPTEMBER 22

DOZENS Of people dressed in black went on a “funeral march” up a steep Swiss mountainside on Sunday to mark the disappearance of an Alpine glacier amid growing global alarm over climate change.

Around 250 people including children joined the solemn two-hour climb up the side of Pizol mountain in Switzerland to the foot of the rapidly melting ice formation, situated at an altitude of around 2,700 metres (8,850 feet) near the Liechtenstein and

Austrian borders.

“We’re here to bid farewell to Pizol,” Swiss glaciologist Matthias Huss said in a sombre speech after arriving at the glacier, one of the most studied in the Alps.

Eric Petrini, the chaplain of the Mels municipality where Pizol is located, called on “God’s help to tackle the enormous challenge of climate change”.

The speeches were accompanied by the mournful tones of alphorns — a 3.6-metre (12-foot), pipe-shaped wooden instrument. Some marchers also laid down flowers for the glacier.

Pizol “has lost so much substance that from a scientific

perspective it is no longer a glacier,” Alessandra Degiacomi, of the Swiss Association for Climate Protection, told AFP ahead of the event.

Sunday’s march took place as the UN gathered youth activists and world leaders in New York to mull the action needed to curb global warming.

It came after Iceland made global headlines last month with a large ceremony and the laying of a bronze plaque to commemorate Olkjokull, the island’s first glacier lost to climate change.

But unlike Iceland, Sunday’s ceremony does not mark the first disappearance of a glacier from



During the ‘wake’ for the Pizol glacier on Sunday. AP

the Swiss Alps.

“Since 1850, we estimate that

more than 500 Swiss glaciers have completely disappeared, in-

cluding 50 that were named,” glaciologist Huss, who works at the ETH technical university in Zurich, told AFP before the march.

Pizol may not be the first glacier to vanish in Switzerland, but “you could say it is the first to disappear that has been very thoroughly studied.” The logs kept since scientists began tracking the glacier in 1893 paint a bleak picture of recent rapid changes to the climate.

Pizol has lost 80-90 percent of its volume just since 2006, leaving behind a mere 26,000 square metres (280,000 square feet) of ice, or “less than four football fields,” Huss said.

Pizol, which sits at a relatively low altitude, was never very big.

According to Glacier Monitoring Switzerland, or GLAMOS, it, like nearly 80 percent of Swiss glaciers, has been considered a so-called glacieret.

It has figured among some 4,000 glaciers — vast, ancient reserves of ice — dotted throughout the Alps, providing seasonal water to millions and forming some of Europe’s most stunning landscapes.

But Huss and other ETH scientists recently cautioned more than 90 percent of the Alpine glaciers could disappear by the end of this century if greenhouse

gas emissions are not reined in.

Regardless of what actions humans take now, the Alps will lose at least half of their ice mass by 2100, according to their study, published in April.

And in a subsequent study published earlier this month, the researchers indicated that the Alps’ largest glacier, the mighty Aletsch, could completely disappear over the next eight decades.

Sunday’s “funeral” for Pizol provides an occasion to point out that climate change is not only melting glaciers but is endangering “our means of subsistence”, according to the organising groups, including Greenpeace.

14ECONOMY

TO BE HEADED BY PRINCIPAL CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF INCOME-TAX

National centre for I-T e-assessment to be based in Delhi; CBDT issues order

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22

TO ENACT the faceless e-assessment scheme, the government has announced setting up of a national e-assessment centre (NeAC) in New Delhi. In an order, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), said the centre will exclusively focus on e-assessment and will have 16 officials.

The e-assessment centre will be headed by a Principal Chief Commissioner of Income-tax (PCCIT) as its chief.

The NeAC will be an independent office looking after the work of e-assessment, the recently notified scheme for faceless and nameless assessment for income taxpayers.

The CBDT has appointed 1984-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer K M Prasad the chief or PCCIT of the new Centre, while 1993-batch IRS

EXPLAINED

E-assessment to curb ‘undesirable practices’

AS ANNOUNCED by the Finance Minister earlier, the e-assessment process is aimed at minimising the level of interaction between taxpayers and the Income-Tax Department, which leads to “certain undesirable practices on the part of tax officials”.

With the CBDT notifying the creation of the NeAC — which will serve as an independent office that will exclusively deal with e-assessment — the Centre’s plan to launch faceless and nameless assessment of tax payers has kicked into motion.

officer Ashish Abrol has been appointed the Commissioner or second-in-command of the new unit.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had earlier said the e-assessment scheme will be

rolled out from ‘Vijayadashami’ on October 8.

The government had last week notified the e-assessment scheme to facilitate faceless assessment of income-tax returns through completely electronic

communication between tax officials and taxpayers.

In case of a modification, an opportunity for a personal hearing will be provided to the taxpayer and such hearing shall be conducted “exclusively through video conferencing,” the notification had said.

The NeAC will serve notices to the assessee specifying the issues for selection of their case for assessment and after a response is received from them within 15 days, the centre will allocate the case to an assessing officer using an automated system, an earlier notification by the government had said.

“A person shall not be required to appear either personally or through authorised representative in connection with any proceedings under this scheme (e-assessment) before the income-tax authority at the National e-assessment Centre or Regional e-assessment

Centre or any unit set up under this scheme,” the notification had stated.

Sitharaman had announced the proposal in her Budget speech on July 5, calling it “a paradigm shift”.

She had said the system of scrutiny assessments in the I-T Department involves a high level of personal interaction between the taxpayer and the department, leading to “certain undesirable practices on the part of tax officials”.

“To eliminate such instances, and to give shape to the vision of the Prime Minister, a scheme of faceless assessment in electronic mode involving no human interface is being launched this year in a phased manner.

“To start with, such e-assessments shall be carried out in cases requiring verification of certain specified transactions or discrepancies,” she had said.

MARKET WATCH

FPIs PULL OUT ₹4,193 CR IN SEPT

New Delhi: Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have pulled out a net sum of Rs 4,193 crore from the Indian capital markets in September so far, but the trend is expected to reverse on the back of fiscal relief measures announced by the government, experts said. **PTI**

INTERVIEW WITH SBI MUTUAL FUND MD & CEO

‘Slowdown is a temporary event, govt measures will help in reviving growth’



Ashwani Bhatia

Fund, Corporate Bond Fund and Banking and PSU Fund are positioned with a similar mandate and have seen good traction in terms of investor flows in the recent past.

Have you stopped funding NBFC/HFC sector? Do you think the NBFC liquidity issue will impact MF sector growth?

We haven’t stopped funding the NBFC/HFC sector. We continue to be extremely selective in allocations within the sector and the exposures are being reviewed continuously. We have also aligned scheme-level sectoral exposures in line with the reduced sectoral caps as announced recently by SEBI. We don’t think the NBFC liquidity issue should impact MF growth as fund houses continue to offer solutions in line with investor requirements across equity and fixed income funds.

Do you think the measures announced by the government will boost investments and growth?

The measures announced by the government last week such as corporate tax reduction, rolling back of higher surcharge on FPIs, capital infusion in PSU banks, credit support to SMEs and measures to boost auto sector demand will be a sentiment booster for the markets. These set of reform announcements will help in bolstering growth in the economy.

Has the MF industry been able to recover from the turbulence in the NBFC/HFC sector?

The turbulence in the NBFC/HFC sector that has persisted for a while has impacted the risk tolerance of most MF investors. This has been reflected in the preference of investors towards products wherein the credit allocation is predominantly into high grade i.e. AAA/ sovereign securities. Products such as Short Term Debt

Many MFs had proposed roll-back of Long-term Capital Gains tax on equity MFs, but this hasn’t yet happened. Do you think the government should consider this?

Investment penetration in India is still very low. Additionally, long-term investing trend is further low. To motivate investors towards investing and staying invested for the long term, we need to take different measures and promote it for at least the next 4-5 years. One factor that will help is the roll-back of the long-term tax on equity mutual funds.

INTERVIEW WITH GRUNDFOS PUMPS INDIA MD & CEO

‘Challenge is to see water level does not go down so much that pumping it out becomes very expensive’

WHILE THE water crisis is only growing by the day and the government has increased its focus on restoring water bodies and providing water to all, RANGANATH N KRISHNA, MD and CEO, Grundfos Pumps India Pvt Ltd told SANDEEP SINGH that the challenge was to see that the water level did not go down so much that it became very expensive to pump it out. He also said that solar powered pumps were the solution for states that have scarcity of water and are remotely located. Edited excerpts:

The government has increased its focus on water issues? As water depletion is becoming a big issue, how do you see this?

It is good to see the Centre pushing Jal Shakti Abhiyan and water for all. We are also into water recycling and focus on conserving energy, and water and pumps are the means. The challenge is to see that water level does not go down so much that it becomes very expensive to pump it out. For instance, in Coimbatore and Bengaluru, the bore depth is now 1,200-1,300 feet. Water depletion does impact us and our growth rates will come down if there is no water in certain areas. However, 75 per cent of earth is water and there is enough water in the sea and desalination is something that will pick up.

What needs to be done?

Ground water recharge, restoration of water bodies are the solutions. Agriculture is the most prolific waste of water and is the holy cow that can’t be touched politically. If you don’t touch it, there is an issue. Another holy cow is pricing of water. We don’t pay the municipality enough to even pump the water. These are the issues that need to be sorted out. In the short term, desalination and recharge of rain water should be done. In the medium term, we

should focus on what the Jal Shakti Abhiyan is doing— restore the water bodies, restore the overflows, let the overflow of rain water go in a water body, make man made ponds, etc.

Are you looking at desalination business?

We make pumps for desalination of swamps. We don’t want to get into areas where our OEMs are doing the business of making desalination plant. But, wherever they are not doing, for instance in remote areas, we are experimenting solar powered, low power desalination plants. In Sunderbans, we are doing it and delivering drinking water to the population.

Is business growing on water treatment and desalination?

Water treatment, desalination will grow constantly. The more water you pollute, the more water treatment and desalination would come up. The same rate of growth may not be there in off-grid solar operating plants. It is basically for rural and remote areas that you can’t access. It will grow over a period of time because the government certainly wants to provide drinking water to each house through its mission ‘Har Ghar Jal’.

Are you working on this mission?

The Centre has started the Har Ghar Jal now, but over the last 5-6 years we have been working in five states that are in the middle part of India: Chattisgarh, Odisha, MP, Bihar and Maharashtra. We have provided 35,000 solar driven water pumps which have been set up. These states have remotest of villages, water is underground and people have to walk long distances for water. We are working in other states also. The states want solar powered pumps there and we would be working with the government on this.

I think that Jal Shakti Abhiyan

MF industry’s proposal for a Debt Linked Savings Scheme has also not happened. Do you think such a scheme will be beneficial to the MF industry and investors?

Debt as a category needs to be promoted among retail investors. There is a need to move away from traditional savings such as FD, savings account, and chit funds to market-linked investments, which will help the economy’s development. We believe debt-linked savings scheme can help increase retail investor participation in fixed income market and help increase the depth of the debt market.

ULIPs offer tax-free returns whereas equity schemes are taxed now. Should there be a level playing field?

Yes, we think that there should be a level playing field among the two investment options. Further, we should look at a combination of two products for investors to get both insurance and benefits of mutual funds such as liquidity, transparency and a variety of products to meet different goals.

Debt funds have been showing high volatility of late. Do you think payment delays by NBFCs and HFCs will impact the value of schemes?

Payment delays or rating actions would have an impact on fund NAV and the resultant volatility is an inherent part of investment in any capital market-oriented product.

MF industry’s AUM has not showed significant growth in the last three or four months. Are investors keeping away?

We do not think that investors are keeping away from the markets. We have been seeing strong SIP flows of around Rs 8,300 crore each month since the start of the financial year, despite market volatility and negative market returns.

Cost overruns of ₹3.77 lakh cr in 361 infra projects

As many as 361 infrastructure projects, each worth Rs 150 crore or more, have shown cost overruns of over Rs 3.77 lakh crore, a Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) report for May 2019 said

₹19,25,107.47 cr

Total original cost of implementation of the 1623 projects

₹23,02,230.5 cr

Anticipated cost of implementation of these projects

₹3,77,123.03 cr

Overall cost overruns, i.e. 19.59 per cent of original cost

₹8,91,512.91 cr

Expenditure incurred on these projects till May, which is 38.72 per cent of anticipated cost



1,623: No. of infrastructure projects monitored by MoSPI, each worth Rs 150 crore and above
361: Projects that reported cost overruns
496: Projects that reported time escalation; average time overrun of 36.98

months
166: Projects delayed by one to 12 months
105: Projects delayed by 13 to 24 months
128: Projects delayed by 25 to 60 months
97: Projects delayed 61 months or more

REASONS FOR REPORTING TIME OVERRUNS:

- Delays in land acquisition
- Forest clearance
- Supply of equipment
- Fund constraints
- Geological surprises
- Geo-mining conditions
- Slow progress in civil works
- Labour shortage
- Inadequate mobilisation by contractor

Households’ liabilities stood at ₹7.4 L cr in FY18

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22

GIVEN HOW borrowings by households rose a good 58 per cent in the year to March 2018, it’s clear there’s no let-up in consumer aspirations.

Financial liabilities of households stood at Rs 7.40 lakh crore in March 2018, revised data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) shows.

That’s a modest 4.3 per cent of GDP and assuming borrowings rose by about 25 per cent in 2018-19, the liabilities would be less than 5 per cent of GDP. Data from BIS put the total

Data from BIS put the total credit to households at Rs 20.99 lakh crore at the end of December 2018, or approximately 11 per cent of GDP

credit to households at Rs 20.99 lakh crore at the end of December 2018, or approximately 11 per cent of GDP. That is a comparatively low level of leverage and more or less at the same levels as at the end of 2017. With more consumer credit history at their disposal, lenders today are more comfortable lending to individuals and not only those earning a salary.

In fact, the share of unsecured loans has risen sharply over the past two years as banks are now able to do better due diligence.

Since these loans fetch much better yields, they prefer them to collateralised credit where repossessing the asset in the event of a default can be costly and time-consuming.

While there has been a clear attitudinal shift towards spend-

ing, the slowdown in credit flows from NBFCs over the past year or so, would have left many borrowers without access to loans.

Ironically, this is happening at a time when interest rates are trending down. One interesting trend seen in the past few years is that the average ticket size of loans has been falling; that’s a reflection of rising inclusiveness.

However, home loans dominate the portfolios of lenders in terms of value while personal loans are the fastest-growing segment. The share of NBFCs in the total credit to consumers is expected to have fallen since August last year. **FE**

India’s ICT tariffs: US seeks setting up of WTO dispute panel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22

The US has sought establishment of a dispute panel by the World Trade Organization’s (WTO) in a case against India’s import duties on certain ICT products, including mobile phones.

The US sought consultations in July under the WTO’s dispute settlement mechanism over imposition of import duties by India on certain information and communication (ICT) products, alleging breach of global trade norms.

As both the countries failed to resolve the dispute through the consultation process, the US has sought setting up of the dispute panel. Bilateral consultation is the first step towards resolution of a trade dispute under the WTO norms. “The US held consultations with India on August 1, 2019. Unfortunately, these consultations did not resolve the dispute,” as per a US communication to the WTO.

Care lowers RCap’s debt rating to ‘D’; firm says unjustified

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 22

CARE RATINGS has downgraded Reliance Capital’s (RCap) debt aggregating Rs 17,000 crore to default grade ‘D’ from ‘BB’, citing the recent instance of delay in servicing coupon on several non-convertible debentures (NCDs) by the company.

The coupon on the NCDs was subsequently serviced with a delay of one working day.

The liquidity profile of the group continues to be under stress on account of delay in raising funds from the asset monetisation plan and impending debt payments, the rating agency said.

Instruments with ‘D’ rating are in default or are expected to be in default soon. Instruments with ‘BB’ rating are considered to have moderate risk of default regarding timely servicing of financial obligations.

However, in a stock exchange filing, Reliance Capital

said, “Care has acted in a pre-meditated and prejudiced manner, and has even suppressed the facts completely in its rating action letter, thereby making it appear as if the company had defaulted in payment of interest by a day, whereas the reality is documents had been provided to Care that proved funds had duly been arranged on the due date, and the alleged delay was on account of technical glitches.”

“The company made a stock exchange filing on September 11, 2019, stating that the interest payment for NCDs, which was due on September 09, 2019, was duly activated on the due date, but the same could not go through owing to technical glitch in bank servers on that date, and the payment went through on the very next bank working day — September 11, 2019. These facts were also confirmed by the company’s lenders who had been providing financing for the payments,” Reliance Capital said.

Thomas Cook battles for survival with final creditor meeting

REUTERS
LONDON, SEPTEMBER 22

THE BRITISH government has plans in place to bring home stranded holidaymakers if Thomas Cook goes out of business, an event that would likely spark chaotic scenes at resorts and airports around the world.

The bosses of the world’s oldest travel company were meeting lenders and creditors in London on Sunday in a last-ditch attempt to raise the 200 million pounds (\$250 million) they need to keep the company afloat.

Running hotels, resorts, airlines and cruises, Thomas Cook has 600,000 customers on holiday, meaning governments and insurance companies could be forced to step in and bring them home if the company goes into administration.

Unions and the opposition Labour party have urged the government to stomp up the cash, but the foreign secretary

THE SAUDI ATTACKS

Abqaiq the powder keg

The attacks on Saudi Arabia merit a firm response



A satellite image shows an apparent drone strike on an Aramco oil facility in Abqaiq, Saudi Arabia, on September 14. The strike last weekend reduced global oil supply by 6 per cent. *AP*

TO REDUCE its climate risks, the world needs to curtail its production of oil. But there was nothing risk-reducing about the strike on Saudi Arabian oil facilities on September 14th. The drones and missiles that pumelled Abqaiq and Khurais cut the kingdom's output by 5.7m barrels a day. It was a bigger loss to world markets than that brought about by Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait in 1991. That aggression led to a march on Baghdad by 35 countries. The strike last weekend was not an invasion; but an attack that reduces global oil supply by 6% is everybody's business. Even if Saudi Arabia fulfils its pledge to restore output by the end of September, supplies from the world's largest oil exporter are now vulnerable.

Houthi rebels fighting Saudi Arabia in Yemen claimed responsibility for the attack. They are backed by Iran and used Iranian weapons. America may have evidence the strike came from inside Iran itself. Mike Pompeo, the secretary of state, has called it "an act of war". The details matter, but do not change the question: how to curb the aggres-

sion of Iran and its proxies?

Among the causes of this crisis lie two terrible mistakes. The first is Saudi Arabia's four-year war in Yemen—not just a moral disaster but a strategic one, too. Over 90,000 people have died in the fighting and almost as many children under five from famine and disease. Far from defeating the Houthis, it has turned them into dangerous foes; far from severing their loose links with Saudi Arabia's sworn enemy, Iran, it has strengthened them.

The second blunder was the Trump administration's withdrawal last year from the deal to limit Iran's nuclear programme. America switched to a policy of "maximum pressure": sanctions designed to cause Iranians to rebel against the mullahs or to force Iran meekly back to the negotiating table. Predictably, however, maximum pressure has strengthened the hardliners, who reject talks with America. One reason President Donald Trump ditched the nuclear accord was because it failed to restrain Iran's regional aggression, yet if Iran was behind Saturday's attack, it shows that the regime is

more belligerent than ever.

Over everything hangs the spectre of yet another Middle Eastern conflict. That poses a dilemma. With its back to the wall, Iran may meet any retaliation by striking even harder. But unless Iran sees that aggression carries a cost, it will be emboldened to use force again. That, sooner or later, also leads towards war.

Consider the cost of recent Western restraint. In May Iran hit four tankers in the United Arab Emirates; in June it struck two more tankers in the Strait of Hormuz; later it took down an American drone. Mr Trump was prepared to retaliate only after that last

aggression—and even then he pulled back at the last minute. The attack on September 14th was vastly more consequential. The president has said that America is "locked and loaded". In Tehran they are watching to see whether he is all talk, as they are in Beijing, Moscow, Pyongyang, and in countries whose security depends on the idea that America will turn up.

If any nuclear negotiations are to succeed, Iran must pay a price for Abqaiq. America wants a more sweeping agreement than the original one, but only the pragmatic faction in Tehran, weakened by America's approach, will make such a deal. While Iran can hit out

again, the hardliners will have a veto over any talks. If America is seen as a paper tiger, they will be able to argue that Iran need not give much ground. On the contrary, they will say that their country should pile pressure on America by accelerating its nuclear programme. America and its allies therefore need to convince Iran that it cannot use violence to get its way.

The first stage of a response is to establish precisely where Saturday's attack originated and who planned it. America must share this publicly, partly because Mr Trump's word alone does not carry weight, but also to build a coalition and help stifle the objections of Iran's apologists. Evidence against Iran could pave the way for new sanctions. Mr Trump has promised more—though America is already doing pretty much all it can. He should be backed by the Europeans, who need to understand that peace depends on deterring Iran, and China, which imports over 9m b/d of oil, much of it from the Middle East.

That is not all. If the Abqaiq attack is the

work of Iran's revolutionary guards, they should face direct consequences. That involves covert operations, by cyber-units that can disrupt their communications and finances; and air strikes on guard units outside Iran in Syria. Ideally, these would be carried out by a coalition, but if need be, America and Saudi Arabia should act alone. The risk of escalation should not be ignored, but Iran does not want all-out war any more than Saudi Arabia and America do. Israel frequently launches air strikes against Iranian targets in Syria and Iraq without provoking an Iranian escalation.

A show of force is part of the way back to nuclear talks—and to repairing those two terrible mistakes. Saudi Arabia's allies must press it to sue for peace in Yemen. And America needs to signal to Iran that it will be reasonable in re-establishing the bargain embodied in the nuclear deal. If it demands that Iran surrenders everything, the Middle East will get nothing but more misery.

©The Economist Newspaper Limited 2019

SPAIN'S COMING ELECTION

Back to the ballot box

Will a November election break or prolong Spain's political deadlock?

"I'VE TRIED everything, but it was impossible." So said Pedro Sánchez, Spain's socialist prime minister, as time ran out this week on his efforts to put together a governing majority, thus almost certainly condemning Spaniards to vote again on November 10th in their fourth general election in as many years. Theoretically those efforts could drag on until September 20th. But his statement marked the start of a new election campaign. It was an attempt to shift the blame that other political leaders say attaches to him for a failure that has both personal and structural causes and from which few of them come out well.

Mr Sánchez's Socialists won the most votes in April's election, but with 123 seats (out of 350) fell well short of a majority. His options were limited from the outset by the refusal of Albert Rivera, the leader of Ciudadanos, a centre-right party with 57 seats, to contemplate any kind of deal. In clumsy negotiations in July, Mr Sánchez's team instead offered a coalition government and some plum cabinet posts to Podemos, a left-wing party with 42 seats. In an error of judgment that he soon regretted, Pablo Iglesias, Podemos's leader, turned this down. When negotiations resumed this month, the

Socialists had withdrawn their coalition invitation, claiming that they had lost trust in their potential partner. A last-minute offer by Mr Rivera to abstain in the vote to install a new government if Mr Sánchez promised a harsher line against Catalan and Basque nationalists smacked of a first blow in the blame game rather than a serious move.

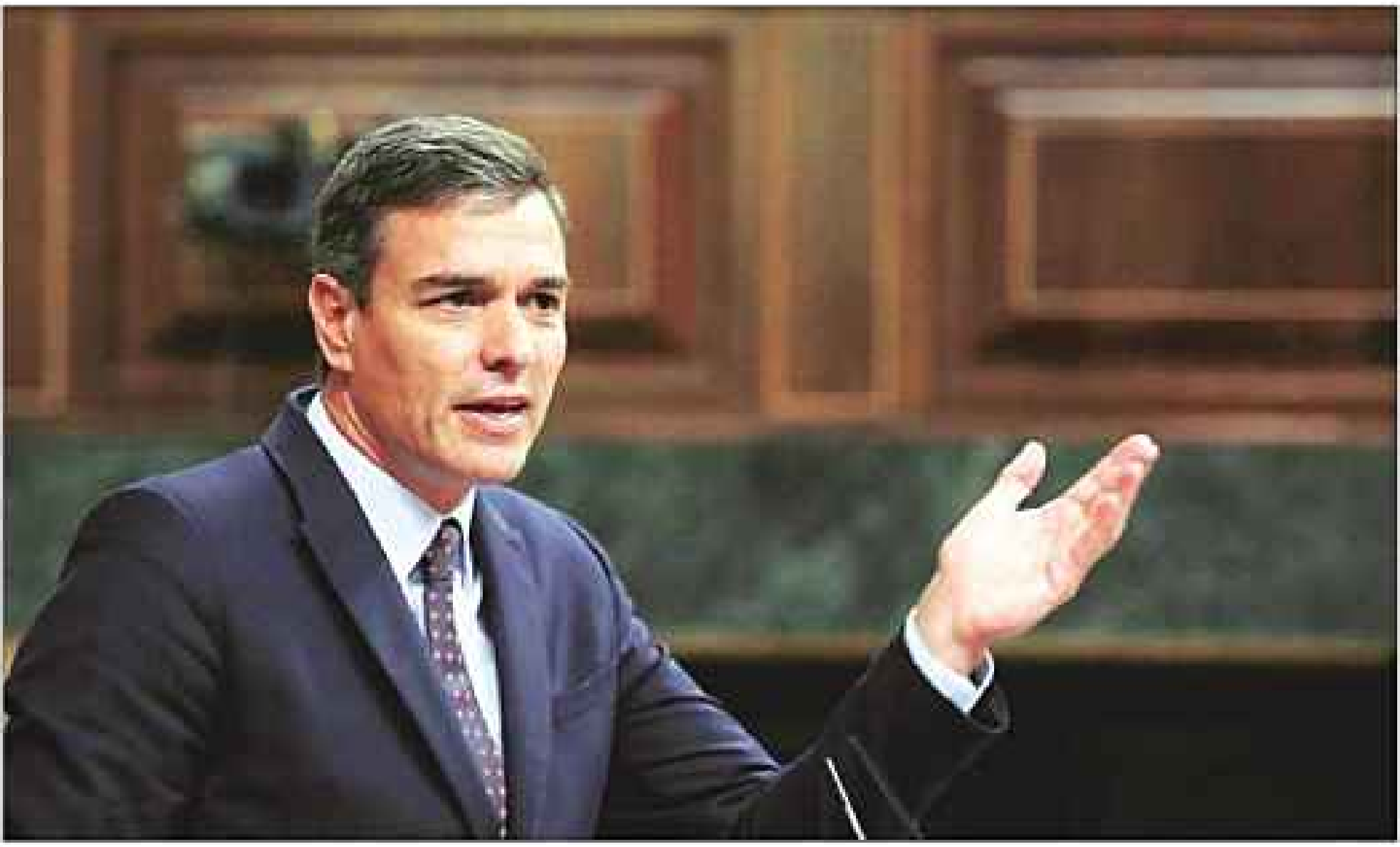
Mr Sánchez's team reckons it will make gains in November. Opinion polls suggest that it may be right, that the conservative opposition People's Party (PP) will do well too, and that voters will turn against the three newer parties, Ciudadanos, Podemos and the

Next month the Supreme Court will deliver its verdict in a long-running trial of 12 Catalan separatist leaders for their part in the unconstitutional independence bid. If it metes out long jail sentences, civil disobedience in Catalonia may follow

right-wing Vox. Their emergence reflects public anger, first at the banking crisis and economic slump in 2008-13, and then at the illegal bid for independence by separatists in the Catalan regional government in 2017. As the political system has fragmented since 2015, the country has been condemned to a series of weak minority governments.

Spaniards generally like voting, perhaps because they were denied it for 40 years under General Franco's dictatorship. But their patience is being tried. The first risk for Mr Sánchez is that turnout drops sharply from April's 76%; lower turnout tends to hit the left disproportionately. The second risk is that the November vote merely prolongs the stalemate.

A strong, stable and reformist government is urgently needed. A robust economic recovery has slowed markedly this year. That is one reason the Socialists had second thoughts about Podemos: their putative coalition would have involved some attractive but unaffordable promises and Mr Sánchez would have been the bad cop who had to say no, says José Ignacio Torreblanca, a political scientist in Madrid. Next month the Supreme Court will deliver its verdict in a long-running trial of 12 Catalan separatist



Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez during a plenary session at Parliament in Madrid, on September 11. *Reuters*

leaders for their part in the unconstitutional independence bid. If it metes out long jail sentences, civil disobedience in Catalonia may follow.

Many commentators long for Spain's political leaders to adopt the coalition habits of other European democracies. They have not

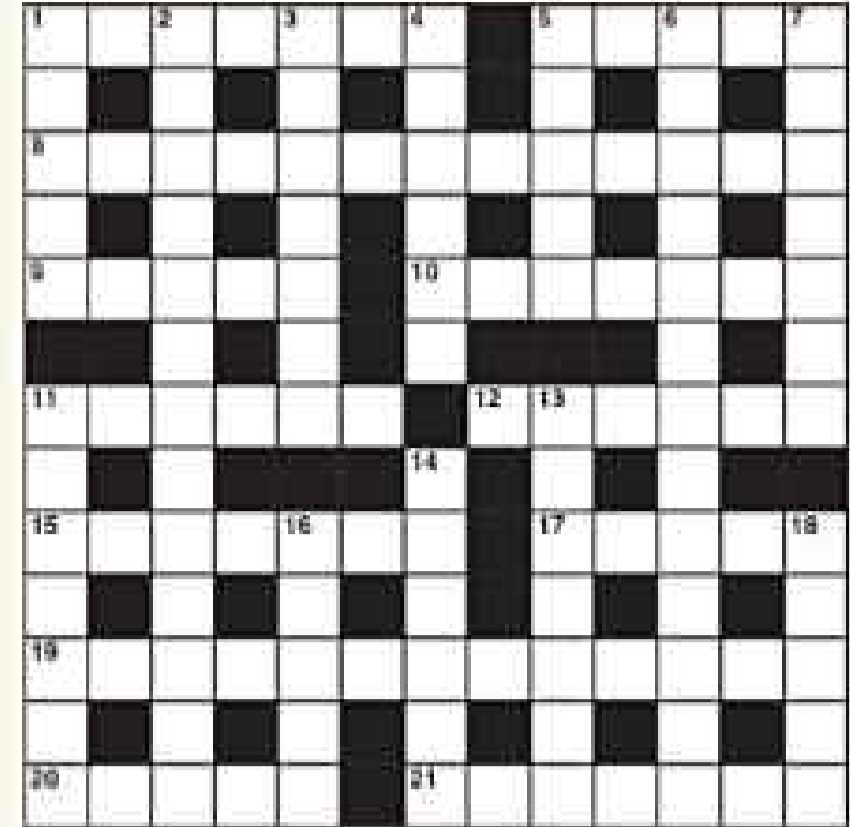
done so partly because the party system is still in flux. "The main players have all been hyper-tactical," says a former official. "They are bad managers of tactics and are not measuring their words well."

Mr Sánchez got to the Moncloa palace through a mixture of obstinacy and daring,

and by tacking left. But he has not handled the past few months well. The November election will be a battle for the centre. Its aftermath will require compromise if Spain's democracy is not to suffer more damage.

©The Economist Newspaper Limited 2019

CROSSWORD 3917



- ACROSS**
- 1 After getting in the beer he went round preaching (7)
 - 5 Bird seed needs it (5)
 - 8 Perspiring right behind the quarry? (3,2,3,5)
 - 9 Investment of capital, possibly (5)
 - 10 Following me is a strange alien girl (7)
 - 11 Pursued, we hear, but remained virtuous (6)
 - 12 The academic field (6)
 - 15 His rise is postponed (3-4)
 - 17 A huge shipping order? (5)
 - 19 Little wonder! (6,7)
 - 20 New stage entrances (5)
 - 21 Quickness of the hand is unimportant, we hear (7)
- DOWN**
- 1 Remains precisely as he is (5)
 - 2 Where the hands are on watch, it would seem (2,3,4,2,2)
 - 3 An outside line to ring (7)
 - 4 Get up late? (6)
 - 5 Flowery piece (5)
 - 6 Frankness recommended by elocutionists (5,8)
 - 7 You'll be hearing from them, they reckon (7)
 - 11 Town crier's profession? (7)
 - 13 A big hit, poetry that is fashionable (1,2,4)
 - 14 Assumes as one's own? (6)
 - 16 Compulsory premarital reading matter (5)
 - 18 Meeting in a country station (5)

Solutions Crossword 3916: Across: 1 Joint, 8 Nauseous, 9 Agate, 10 Draining, 11 Antic, 12 Ado, 16 Dishes, 17 Rioted, 18 Pie, 23 Demon, 24 Sea songs, 25 Plain, 26 Interval, 27 Adits. Down: 2 Organdie, 3 Not right, 4 Sacred, 5 Aspic, 6 Solid, 7 Usage, 12 Asp, 13 Ore, 14 Modelled, 15 Melodist, 19 In gear, 20 Astr, 21 Earth, 22 Board.

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. It is not only fine ___ that make fine ___. Aesop (8,...5)

TAEER

KMIRS

AEWDST

AELBFH

SOLUTION: EATER, SMIRK, WASTED, BEHAF. Answer: It is not only fine fine feathers that make fine birds - Aesop

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

The Executive Engineer, Civil Division No.IX, I&FC Department, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Sector-15, Rohini, New Delhi-110085 invites on behalf of the President of India, online percentage rate tender from approved and eligible contractor registered with Irrigation & Flood Control Department for the following works:

1. NIT No: EE/CD-IX/NIT/21/2019-20 Name of work:- Development works in unauthorized colonies in NCT of Delhi. Sub Work:- Construction of roads by providing factory made cement concrete interlocking paver block and side drains in Unauthorized colonies at Harsh Dev Park Budh Vihar Phase-II in Rithala AC-06. Delhi Regn.No.1398. Estimated Cost: Rs. 3,02,19,198/- Earnest Money: Rs. 6,04,384/- Period of completion: 06 Months, Last date & time of submission of tender: upto 03:00 p.m on 27.09.2019. (Tender I.D.- 2019_IFC_180279_1)

2. NIT No: EE/CD-IX/NIT/22/2019-20 Name of work:- Development works in unauthorized colonies in NCT of Delhi. Sub Work:- Construction of roads by providing factory made cement concrete interlocking paver block and side drains in Unauthorized colonies in Budh Vihar Extn. Near Sec-23, Rohini, Rithala AC-06. Delhi (Regn. No.1399 Part-I) Estimated Cost: Rs. 4,50,08,907/- Earnest Money: Rs. 9,00,178/- Period of completion: 06 Months, Last date & time of submission of tender: upto 03:00 p.m on 27.09.2019. (Tender I.D.- 2019_IFC_180281_1)

3. NIT No: EE/CD-IX/NIT/23/2019-20 Name of work:- Development works in unauthorized colonies in NCT of Delhi. Sub Work :- Construction of roads by providing factory made cement concrete interlocking paver block and side drains in Unauthorized colonies in Budh Vihar Extn. Near Sec-23, Rohini, Rithala AC-06. Delhi (Regn. No.1399 Part-II) Estimated Cost: Rs. 4,52,40,969/- Earnest Money: Rs. 8,85,619/- Period of completion: 06 Months, Last date & time of submission of tender: upto 03:00 p.m on 27.09.2019. (Tender I.D.- 2019_IFC_180284_1)

4. NIT No: EE/CD-IX/NIT/23/2019-20 Name of work:- Development works in unauthorized colonies in NCT of Delhi. Sub Work :- Construction of roads by providing factory made cement concrete interlocking paver block and side drains in Unauthorized colonies in Budh Vihar Extn. Near Sec-23, Rohini, Rithala AC-06. Delhi (Regn. No.1399 Part-III) Estimated Cost: Rs. 4,55,04,027/- Earnest Money: Rs. 9,10,081/- Period of completion: 06 Months, Last date & time of submission of tender: upto 03:00 p.m on 27.09.2019. (Tender I.D.- 2019_IFC_180287_1)

Note. 1) The Tender forms and other details can be obtained from the website <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

The Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division No. II, Irrigation & Flood Control Department, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, I&FC Wing, Vikas Bhawan-II, Civil Lines, Delhi-110054, invites on behalf of the President of India, online tender from approved and eligible contractor registered with Irrigation & Flood Control Department or Manufacturer/Authorized Dealer of Transformers & sub-station equipments etc. for the following works:

N.O.W:- Supplying installation, testing & commissioning Of 800 KVA Transformers and sub-station equipments etc. at LM Bund office complex. (H.O.A:- MH 2711 "Non Plan") Estimated Cost: Rs. 39,54,466/- Earnest Money: Rs. 79,089/- Period of completion: (30) Days, Last date & time of submission of tender: upto 3:00 p.m on 26/09/2019. (Tender I.D 2019_IFC_180314_1)

Note 1) The Tender forms and other details can be obtained from the website <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

DIP/Shabdarth/0708/19-20

Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board

Govt. of N.C.T. of Delhi
Office of The Executive Engineer,
C-11, Rana Pratap Bagh,
Delhi-110007

Email id: eec11.dusib@gmail.com
Press Notice For Inviting e-Tenders

NIT NO. 35/EEC-11/DUSIB/ 2019-20 Tender ID.: 2019_DUSIB_180312_1

The Executive Engineer C-11, DUSIB, invites on behalf of DUSIB online Percentage rate bid on two bid system for following work.

Name of Work:- Pay and Use (JSC)

Sub Head:- Construction of 20 seater JSC at JJ Cluster, AU Block, Ekta Camp, Pitampura.

Estimated Cost Rs. 33,54,739.00
Earnest Money Rs. 67,100.00
Tender Cost Rs. 500.00
Period of Completion- 180 Days.

Last Time and date of submission of bid on 10.10.2019 upto 15.00 Hrs. The bid form and other details can be obtained from the web site (<https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>)

Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER-C-11 DUSIB (9717999284)
DIP/Shabdarth/0707/19-20

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & I Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 3978

Difficulty Level 5s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

			1	6	
	9	5			8 2
3	2		8		
6	5	8			1
4		6	5		7
7		2		5	4
	9		2	3	
2 6		1	4		
	3				

Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius


SOLUTION SUDOKU 3977

7	6	8	1	2	9	4	3	5
1	4	2	6	3	5	9	8	7
5	9	3	7	8	4	1	2	6
9	5	7	4	6	2	8	1	3
8	2	4	3	5	1	7	6	9
3	1	6	9	7	8	2	5	4
2	8	9	5	4	6	3	7	1
6	3	1	2	9	7	5	4	8
4	7	5	8	1	3	6	9	2


DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

 That time of the year is now upon us when communications begin to flow, decisions are easier to take and even vague agreements can be firmed up. You must realise that patience is indeed a virtue and that sometimes fantasies count for more than facts. That has to be a good thing.


TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

 News from abroad is on its way but, while it seems inevitable that some sort of information will arrive, the details and consequences may be unclear for some time to come. You may be in the dark for a week or two - but then that will give you plenty of time to get your act together.


GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

 Whatever mistakes you have made in recent times may soon be repeated, but with a difference: this time you'll have a chance to put things right and repair any rifts that have opened up. You see, although some emotional patterns come round again and again, each time your circumstances are different.


CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

 You may be finding out that there is no such simple thing as 'good luck'. Every opportunity involves a price; every new responsibility brings you into contact with new challenges and conflicts. It is in dealing with these situations that you mature and grow.


LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

 As from today you are going to find it that much harder to make yourself understood - the world will be full of brick walls, all inviting you to come and bang your head. On the other hand, a little flexibility and tolerance will work wonders — and gather goodwill for the future.


VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

 You are still in a fiery phase and, with the correct approach, there is little that you can't achieve. You may, if you wish, sweep all opposition to one side with a single broad gesture. But make sure that you don't get rid of people you need in the process.


LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

 Unless you are careful you may find yourself suddenly left high and dry when friends move on, possibly abandoning agreements that you thought were binding. You must reconsider your own motives over the next week or so — and don't get flustered if other people pressurise you.


SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

 Recent emotional queries and frustrations are shortly to emerge into the open. However, you will still be personally unwilling to come clean about a number of your hopes, wishes and inner motives. But, then, there is no reason why you should reveal all your deepest desires.


SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

 It's difficult to work out whether you feel worse or better as a result of recent expenditure and purchases. One thing is certain, though, which is that your reactions have been overwhelmingly emotional. Perhaps an older relation has the advice you need — but you'll never know unless you ask.


CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

 You're being affected by three different levels of planetary patterns. We'll start today with the short-term alignments that are bringing out your compassionate, maternal instincts but making you rather too sensitive. How about growing a t hicker skin?

AQUARIUS (Jan 21- Feb 19)

 Anything that happens today will be obscured by shadows, perhaps the ghosts of the past. Your response will be an expanding need for privacy. However, it also seems that there'll be a great deal of routine business to attend to, the sort that keeps you good and busy.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

 The next major lunar alignment will bring a healthy dose of excitement. Bear in mind that time is on your side, and that you should therefore spend this week actively defusing the causes of explosive discontent. And, as an added extra, why don't you give partners the benefit of the doubt.

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Charanjeet Singh Bhullar S/O Gursharan Singh R/O B-74, Third Floor, Mansarovar Garden, New Delhi, 110015 have changed my name from Charanjeet Singh to Charanjeet Singh Bhullar for all future purposes. 00405133437

I, Rajendra Prasad S/o Shri Mitranand R/o RZ- 58, A/3,1st Floor, Gali No. 6, Kailash Puri, Palam Colony ND- 45, have changed my name to Rajendra Prasad Raturi for all purposes. 0040513364-1

I, Meena Kumari W/o Rakesh Kumar Jain R/o,2524-B/193,Onkar Nagar-A,Tri Nagar,Delhi-110035, Have change my name From Meena Kumari to Meenu Jain For all Future purposes. 0040513343-3

I, Dezy W/o Sanjay Kumar R/o RZ-189-B, Raj Nagar-II, Palam Colony, New Delhi-77, informs that my name was wrongly written as Dezy Devi in my minor son's (Satyam Kumar) in his school Record. My actual full name is Dezy. 0040513384-1

I, Chetan Kanth R/o Tower-9, Flat-602, Lotus Boulevard Sector-100, Noida (U.P.) have changed my daughter's name from Paavni Pandit to Paavni Kanth for all future purposes. 0040513404-1

I, Sanjeev S/o Surender Gogia R/o-H.No.1A 505,AWHO Society,Gurjinder Vihar, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, have changed my name Sanjeev Gogia for all purposes 0040513343-1

I, Brij Bhushan Singh Kushwah F/O Yashika, R/O 17 Adarsh Puram Bhind Road Gole Ka Mandir Gwalior Have Changed My Minor Daughter Name To Yashika Kushwah Vide Affidavit No IN- DL57301179796320R Dt 18 Sep 19 0050155618-1

I, certify that I, Rajesh Kumar Rustagi S/o Sh. Kishan Lal, has changed my name to Rajesh Rustagi, R/o H.No. A-51, Ashoka Enclave-2, Sector-37, Faridabad, Haryana-121001, for all future purposes. 0040513405-1

I, Anjana Rani W/o Sanjeev Gogia R/o-H.No.1A 505,AWHO Society,Gurjinder Vihar, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, have changed my name Anjana Gogia for all purposes 0040513343-2

I have changed my minor daughters name from Nancy to Nancy phogat for all future purpose. Satnarin s/o Rai singh R/o-D-13, gali no.8, Dev kunj, Raj Nagar-2, palam colony new delhi-110077. 0040513420-7

I Swati Aggarwal D/O Suresh Aggarwal, R/O RZ 10 Gali No.10, Indrapark, Palam Colony, ND-45 Shall Henceforth Be Known As Swati Lohia For All Purpose After Marriage With Parth Lohia Vide Affidavit No. DL57973726444465R Sworn Before Notary Geeta Pal 0050155631-1

I, Brij Bhushan Singh Kushwah F/O Yashita, R/O 17 Adarsh Puram Bhind Road Gole Ka Mandir Gwalior Have Changed My Minor Daughter Name To Yashita Kushwah Vide Affidavit No IN- DL57301842542233R Dt 18 Sep 19 0050155618-1

I, HITHERTO known as Anand Sukumar S/o S. Sukumaran, Residing at 73-Supreme Enclave, Mayur Vihar Phase-I, Delhi-110091, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Anand Sukumaran. 0040513397-1

I, Sunil Kumar S/o Amar Chand Arora R/o WZ-36, J-Block, Beri Wala Bagh, Hari Nagar, New Delhi-110064, have changed my name to Sunil Kumar Arora for all purposes. 0040513341-1

I, Prem Lata, W/o Jagat Narayan R/o.K-Block, Shri Hanuman Mandir, JhangirPuri, Delhi-110033, have changed my name to Hem Lata, Permanently. 0040513420-6

I, Ravi S/o Late.Madan Mohan Sharma R/o-60A, Pocket-6/2,DDA-Flat, Pink-Appartment, Nasirpur,Dwarka, Ph-I, Palam,Village S.O,Dabri, South-West Delhi-110045, have changed my name to Ravi Sharma, for all purposes. 0040513400-10

CONTAINER CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.
(A Govt. of India Undertaking - Ministry of Railways)
North Central Regional Office(NCR)
6th Floor, IMAI Building, A-13, Sector-1, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, (U.P.) 201341, Ph. No. 0120-4052956, Fax-0126-4052968

E-Tender Notice
Dated 23-09-2019

Tender Notice: CON/NCR/P&A/TAXI/DER/2019

CONCOR invites E-Tender in Two bid system for contract for Hiring of Six Commercial Vehicles at Inland Container Depot, Dadri, Vill-Tipta, Greater Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar (U.P.). Last date of sale of tender is upto 17.00 hrs. on 14/10/2019 and last date of submission is upto 17.00 hrs on 15/10/2019 on the website www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL. For detailed information and any corrigendum, please log on to www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL.

Chief General Manager/NCR

FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA
REGIONAL OFFICE AT NENRU PLACE, TONK ROAD, JAIPUR - 302015

E-Tender Notice

An e-tender notice is invited, under two-bid system for appointment of regular Handling/Handling & Transport Contractor for two years at various outlets of Rajasthan region.

Under e-tender notice ROL/ CONTRACT/ HTO/ 03/2019, the bids shall be accepted ONLINE from 23.09.2019, 02:00 PM to 14.10.2019, 02:00 PM. All the Terms & Conditions and other details are available on Central Public Procurement Portal's website <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> and corporation's website: www.fci.gov.in

General Manager (Region)

TELANGANA STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LTD.
(A State Government Undertaking)
Regd. Office : "B" Block, # P-3455/IA, Civil Supplies Bhavan, Senapada, Hyderabad-501 75

Reversed Auction Notice
Dated: 21.09.2019

E-REVERSE AUCTION NOTICE

Tenders for supply of serviceable old 50 kg gunnies to be delivered at various buffer Godowns/ MLS Points of TSCSCL in the Districts of Telangana State for packing of Paddy during KMS 2019-20 are being called for through e-auction platform of NCDEX e-Market Ltd(NeML). The District wise e-auction will be conducted on 30.09.2019 & 01.10.2019 in two slots and RFP can be downloaded from www.neml.in & www.tscscl.telangana.gov.in. Contact details: 7995050703 & 8123580664.

Sd/-
VICE CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR

BBJ THE BRAITHWAITE BURN AND JESSOP CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Regd. Off.: 27, Rajendra Nath Mukherjee Road, Kolkata – 700 001
Phone No. (033) 2246-5841-44; Fax: (033) 2210-3961
E-mail : info@bbjconst.com; Website: www.bbjconst.com

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Sealed tenders are invited, UNDER THREE-BID SYSTEM, from contractors/firms towards construction of School Building, Staff Quarter, Boundary Wall, etc. for Kendriya Vidyalaya at Shrawasti (Uttar Pradesh).

Tender No. : eNIT/DGM(P-V)/CIVIL/KVS/SRAWASTI/54-2019
Dated 23.09.2019
EMD: Rs.20,00,000/-; Cost of Tender Papers (non-refundable): Rs.10,000/-

Tender documents may be downloaded from www.bbjconst.com, <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>

(Tender ID: 2019_BBJC_504662_1). Sealed e-Bids (Three-Cover System) can be uploaded in e-procurement portal up to 15:00 hrs. on or before 10.10.2019 and opening of e-Tenders (Fee/ Techno-Commercial) will be on 11.10.2019 at 15:00 hrs. "Corrigendum", if any, would appear only on the BBJ's website & e-Procurement portal and not to be published in any newspaper.

Section-1
Office of the Executive Engineer U.P.R.E.D. Division Budaun
Address:- Room 226, 1st Floor, Vikas Bhawan,Civil Lines Budaun

Press Notice for Manual Tender

Letter No: 1260/RED/Tender/File No-02/ Bond Clerk/2019-20 dated: 17-09-2019

The Executive Engineer, U.P.R.E.D. Division Budaun on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids through Sealed Bids for **Manual tendering system** from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP RED, in appropriate class A, B, C, D and E as the case may be. The Bidder may submit bids the works.

1. Name of work as per table.

S. No	Name of District	Name of work	Total estimated cost (in Lakh)	Bid security (EMD) in Lakh	Cost of bid document including GST (in Rupees)	Period of completion including rainy season
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
MP Fund Scheme (Budaun)						
1.	Budaun	Construction of CC Road And Nali Nirmad in Avas Vikas Colony From House No-A154 to House No-A162	4.046	0.085	677.00	60 Days
2.	Budaun	Construction of CC Road And Nali Nirmad in Avas Vikas Colony From House No-A170 to House No-A177	4.158	0.085	677.00	60 Days
3.	Budaun	Construction of CC Road And Nali Nirmad in Avas Vikas Colony From House No-A216 to House No-A231	7.807	0.160	766.00	60 Days

2. Date of availability of Bid documents in the offices as mentioned in detail NIT:- 10-10-2019

3. Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids 17-10-2019 up to 12.00 Noon in the office of the **EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT DIVISION BUDAUN**, Superintending Engineer, Rural Engineering Department Circle Bareilly or District Magistrate Budaun.

4. Date of opening of bids: 17-10-2019 at 4.30 PM.

For further details please visit Departmental website <https://upred.gov.in>.

Sd/-
(Rajendra Singh)
Executive Engineer
Rural Engineering Department
Division Budaun

UPID No-144012 dt. 19.09.2019
www.upgov.nic.in

 **For All Advertisement Booking**

Call : 0120-6651214

TALK

ART, MUSIC, STYLE, FOOD

WEEK AHEAD



Melodious Night

CATCH GHAZAL maestro Pankaj Udhass live in a concert titled "Jazbaa: Dilon Ko Dilon Se Jodne Ka". After receiving acclaim as a ghazal singer, he was invited to appear on screen and sing the song *Chitthi aayee hai* in Mahesh Bhatt's *Naam*, which became an instant hit. He has sung for several movies in the '80s, such as *Aahat*, *Mukarrar*, *Tarrannum* and *Mehfil*. On September 27, 7 pm, at Sirifort Auditorium. Tickets on BookMyShow.



The Comedy of Errors

TWO CAMPAIGNS are quietly being waged — one by the lovesick Orsino against the heart of the indifferent Olivia, the other by an alliance of servants against the high-handedness of Olivia's steward, the pompous Malvolia. When Orsino engages the cross-dressed Viola to plead with Olivia on his behalf, a bittersweet chain of events follows. Directed by Atul Kumar, *Piya Behrupiya* is an adaptation of William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. On October 6, 7 pm, Sirifort Auditorium. Tickets on BookMyShow.



Warp and Weft

DASTKAR'S ONGOING Indian Saree: The Grand Saree Fair celebrates the ageless garment. One can find a drape in a variety of prints, including jamdani, mangalgiri, batik, block-printing, Madhubani, ikat weaves, Banarasi and chikankari, among others. This year, Dastkar is also running the on-line campaign #mysareestyle to bring forward the idea that the saree is not just festive wear. Till September 28, 11 am to 7.30 pm, at Nature Bazaar, Kisan Haat, Andheria Modh. Entry: Rs 30.



The Years Gone By

TO CELEBRATE 11 years of Varq, the iconic Indian restaurant at Taj Mahal Hotel, Chef Naren Thimmaiah, from Bengaluru's renowned Karavalli restaurant, will curate a special menu with dishes such as Crab Milagu Fry, Sea Crab Ghee Roast, Malvani Surmai Tawa Fry and Tiger Prawns Roast, among others. Till September 30, 12.30 pm to 2.45 pm, and 7 pm to 11.45 pm. Price: Rs 5,000 plus taxes. At The Taj Mahal Hotel, Mansingh Road. For reservations, call 011-6651 3244.

The Wild Side

THE GROUP show titled "Sightings: Out of the Wild" at the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (KNMA) highlights the increasingly uneasy relationship between the man and the wild through the works of 40 artists, including Raqib Shaw, Arunkumar HG, Ashim Purkayastha, Jitish Kallat and Jyoti Bhatt. The concerns addressed range from encroachment to extinction. The exhibition is on till December 26 at KNMA, Plot No 3A, Sector 126, Noida.

View From the Valley

Designer Wajahat Rather on his clothing label Raffughar and Kashmiri syncretism



EKTA MALIK

WHILE MOST of us in our bashful preteen years were dealing with parents who would ask us to 'recite poetry' in front of guests, designer Wajahat Rather, of the label Raffughar, was sketching portraits of the said guests in his home, at the behest of his father. "I was good at drawing portraits and we would give the portraits to our guests as a takeaway gift," says Rather, 37. Today, with a clothing label to his name, a Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI) show under his belt and creations that sell from Good Earth and Vayu at Bikaner House in Delhi, Rather has come a long way from sketching portraits of his house guests.

The designer recently launched his fourth collection, which has both mens and womenswear and is a result of a collaboration with Paiwand, an upcycling studio. Titled "Hakeemo", it traces its origin to the healers, *hakeems* (medicine men) in his native Kashmir. The valley and its many manifestations are at the core of the aesthetics and design language of the designer. Signature creations from the label include cropped harem pants, loose, fluid tunics and the phiran. The trademark Kashmiri embroidery, in its bright floral form, is conspicuously absent from his works. "I invoke the Kashmiri silhouette, but haven't used the embroidery. It's too direct. *Liya aur bas laga diya*. I think we need to feel the essence of certain things, like how do we really feel when the first snow touches us?" says the designer, who traces his roots to a village near Anantnag, Kashmir. "My work is based on a deeper study of the ethnography and demography of Kashmir. The phiran, for example — there are so many ways it changes.



There is the qurabdaar, which has slits in the arms that can be folded, leaving your hands free to work. I think clothes, and by proxy fashion, can't be viewed in isolation; we need to have a deeper social context when we view and wear clothes," says Rather.

His label, Raffughar, was launched in 2009, after Rather graduated from the National School of Design (NID), with specialisation in textiles. He calls his time in NID "life changing" and "very rewarding". "My parents wished that I become a doctor. While I was preparing for MBBS, it became clear that I wanted to be in the creative field. I initially wanted to paint but my parents were very hesitant. But they came around. I enrolled in Jammu University and specialised in painting for a fine arts degree," says the Delhi-based designer. At the university, he found his mentor, Rajinder Tikku, a renowned sculptor. Tikku helped Rather prepare for NID. "The grounding and exposure that we receive at NID ensures that we get fluent in the language of sustainability. It helped me develop a cognitive relationship with textiles, texture and colours. I began appreciating Kashmiri craft and art much more after my stint at NID," adds

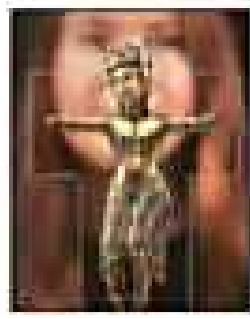


(Clockwise from left) Wajahat Rather; a model in his creation; a design by Rather

Rather, whose latest collection is made from upcycled and scrap material accumulated from his earlier collections. His fluid designs, made from cotton and silk, are almost minimalist, letting the skilled stitching and minute detailing do the talking.

Rather did some craft projects with the Crafts Development Institute (CDI) and also taught at various institutes, like The Pearl Academy, after completing his degree from NID. He launched his first clothing line in 2013, with clothes for men, under his label Raffughar. "The name is very special. It is an ode to the soznikaars of Kashmir — they were skilled embroiders who started off as darning. Legend has it that Emperor Akbar wanted a shawl made where one couldn't distinguish the front of a shawl from the back. The soznikaars, because of their deftness with the needle, were able to embroider such a shawl — Amla Jamavar — to perfection. Raffughars, for me, are healers who mend a torn piece of clothing and make it new. There is almost a Sufi element to it," says Rather.

The designer also feels that his native Kashmir is in urgent need of healing. Due to the current political situation, he has not been able to speak to his mother for the last 35 days. There has been some communication with his brother, who is a government employee. "Kashmir has been a land of assimilation, we have lived harmoniously with Buddhist, Shaivite and Islamic traditions together. Poets like Lal Ded (Lalleshwari) and Nund Rishi (Sheik-ul-Alam) have been equally revered by all communities. *Rajatarangini*, the historical text on the region, is a compilation of songs for the kings. We are losing our composite culture. In dark times, art and creativity flourish with an intensity that is unparalleled," says Rather.



A HOLY JOURNEY

An 800-year-old figure of Christ, that once hung in England's St Mary's Abbey, is now on display at the Yorkshire Museum in York. It was bought at an auction in Germany, where it was discovered in 1920s, and was subsequently purchased by the museum.

ON THE LOOSE

In Public Interest

Smoking is a choice. It doesn't need government intervention



LEHER KALA

IN A move aimed (supposedly) at safeguarding the youth, e-cigarettes have been banned in India with immediate effect. For the uninitiated, the electronic device that costs Rs 6,000 looks like a slightly long pen drive, and contains a nicotine solution that you inhale as vapour (hence the term vaping). While nicotine is the same addictive substance in combustible cigarettes, the battery-operated e-cig doesn't have tar, nor are users filling their lungs with acrid smoke. "E-cigarettes are being used as a style statement," alleged Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, a little sanctimoniously to media, adding that this preventive step is to ensure they don't become an "epidemic" among young adults. Those very same young adults still have plenty of options when it comes to making unhealthy choices — regular cigarettes, beedis, paan masala and suparis will continue to be freely available.

It is truly bizarre that a government can get away with banning e-cigarettes by quoting seven unexplained deaths in the US, while doing nothing to check the access minors have to an obscene range of tobacco products on sale at every street corner in India. One can only wonder what Ms Sitharaman has against people projecting chic, though it's true e-cigarettes look way cooler than the ordinary ones that now seem so dated, like they belong in movies on spies from the Cold War era. The sleek black design lighting up in neon-coloured vape is much more in tune with our gadget-loving age. I'm not a smoker myself. However, the people I know, who have replaced conventional cigarettes with electronic ones, say they feel much better and are no longer plagued by that dreaded, rasping, smokers' cough.

There must be a reason why the NHS

in Britain recommends e-cigs to people intent on quitting the habit, having stated on record, that they're "95% less harmful". In the absence of conclusive evidence against e-cigarettes, surely, they deserve to exist as an option, as much or as little as their smoky counterparts. In fact, there is a strong case for the e-cigarette to be encouraged: even if it might be very harmful to the person inhaling, there is no question of passive smoking for the people around. One is also left wondering if Ms Sitharaman is underestimating millennials. While the cool quotient may have driven them to the e-cigarette, many in this generation are acutely aware of the dangers of smoking, and in their heads they're going for the healthier option.

In an ideal world, none of us would indulge in self-defeating habits that we know, intellectually, are hastening our demise. Smoking, e or otherwise, is dumb. But so is eating bacon, now deemed carcinogenic. Is there a lobby trying to get rid of it altogether? The artificial additives listed in a packet of chips should fill us with terror, as should the bewildering array of high cholesterol junk foods that so much of India regularly partakes in. But the one advantage of being an adult is you get to choose your vices. A friend of mine at my gym, who after years of dogged commitment has shed a miraculous 25 kilos, told me how he has learnt to leave the table a little hungry, cheered by the two cigarettes he allows himself after lunch. An example of the trade-offs, wise or not, we all have to make to hold our lives together. Eventually, we reach our own conclusions of what the lesser evil is.

Not everyone is convinced they would be better off not smoking. It's a noble mission the anti-smoking lobby is on, to spread the ominous message: smoking will make you die. But there will always be those who disregard it, secure in the knowledge that death is our fate anyway. More than an all-out ban, the e-cigarette industry needs strong regulation, and people left free to test their own willpower.

hutkayfilms@gmail.com

SNAP SHOTS



Work of a Lifetime

THE AMERICAN Film Institute is honouring Julie Andrews with its Life Achievement Award. Andrews' acting career spans several decades, from winning an Academy Award in 1965 for her role in *Mary Poppins*, to starring in *The Sound of Music* and *The Princess Diaries*. She received a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 2011. The 83-year-old actor will be the 48th recipient of the honour, joining Mel Brooks, Robert De Niro and Meryl Streep.



On a New Journey

BROADWAY MUSICAL, *13*, which ran for 105 performances in 2008-09 and featured the first and only all-teenager cast and band, is being adapted as a family film by Netflix. It follows the story of a young Evan Goldman, who moves from New York City to small-town Indiana, grappling with his parents' divorce and navigating the complicated social circles of a new school. Robert Horn will adapt the script based on the book he co-wrote with Dan Elish.

Rock Climbing

A new documentary chronicles the journey of rock 'n' roll in India

SUANSHU KHURANA

WHEN LEGENDARY rock band The Police came to India for a performance at Rang Bhawan in Bombay in 1980, the anticipation of the arrival of the band's iconic line-up — Sting (vocals and bass guitar), Andy Summers (lead guitar) and Stewart Copeland (drums) — had the hearts thumping and limbs pounding. Organised by a group of Parsi women, who constituted the local Time and Talent Club, the concert was aimed at raising funds for poor children in India. The women reached out to the band through a city-based agency, which contacted Sting's agent, and the rest, as they say, is history. The tickets were sold immediately, much to the women's surprise. For they thought they had invited a police/military band from Britain, with martial tunes in tow and not one of the



We knew western rock stories but I wondered about stories from our own country. We have become so Bollywood-obsessed that we forget that there is another form of art too
ABHIMANYU KUKREJA

world's most formidable bands.

The incident is documented in journalist-turned-filmmaker Abhimanyu Kukreja's *Rockumentary*, a 79-minute film that chronicles the journey of rock 'n' roll in India and how Indian musicians made a western style of music their own. "When I began my research in 2007, there was nothing available. It was a curiosity project. We knew western rock stories but I wondered about stories from our own country. We have become so Bollywood-obsessed that we forget that there is another form of art too," says Kukreja, who adds that all the research was through word of mouth, where one phone call led to another. "Now there is awareness," says Dharamshala-based Kukreja, who grew up in Bhopal.

Co-produced by Saurav Dutta and Elizabeth Coffey, the film puts together pieces of history through interviews and archival footage. Kukreja begins his



Abhimanyu Kukreja; (above) The Circus in a still from *Rockumentary*

journey with Calcutta of the 1930s. This is when the British Indian Capital was the hub of jazz bands and the Anglo-Indian population was playing jazz at hotels and a slew of clubs. This is also when Pushkal Bahadur Budaprihi, a young trumpeter from Kathmandu, came to the city of joy and made it home. He found an opportunity to play with Teddy Weatherford Band. They called him George Banks, who became one of the first non-

English musicians to be included in the jazz performances. His son Louis Banks is a famous jazz musician. Kukreja then introduces us to Iqbal Singh, a Sikh singer, who impersonated Elvis Presley and sang and danced like him. This was when local educated Indians went to Trinacas, Magnolia, Blue Fox and Flurry's, among others. He takes us through the '60s, the world of bands such as The Mustangs, The Jets and The Savages. The latter was also the

first band to get a record deal from Polydor, becoming the first Indian band to record in English. Goa-based Remo Fernandes, one of The Savages members, says in the film, "Rock 'n' roll was for the Indians exposed to western education and culture, which was for rich people." The accessibility came from radio channels like Voice of America and Radio Rangoon. The '70s and '80s were replete with Niranjana Jhaveri's Jazz Yatras.

The eight-chapter documentary also follows the bands of the '90s — Parikrama, which opened for Iron Maiden, and Indian Ocean, that was doing rock music in Hindi. "Language wasn't a barrier suddenly. While there was a lot of original music in English, there was now also the rock sound paired with Hindi, Bengali and Malayalam, among others. We adapted our languages with a western sound and it worked," says Kukreja, who adds that the arrival of MTV also helped.

There are interviews with Louis Banks, Shillong-based legend Lou Majaw, Usha Uthup, Rahul Ram, Susmit Bose, Luke Kenny, Uday Benegal and Nandu Bhende of Savage Encounter, who used money from his aunt's brothel to start the band, and Neel Chattopadhyay of the famed Atomic First, India's first metal band.

The full-throated, emcee-style narration and Kukreja's presence in too many frames is noticeable. "I was inspired by films like *Exit Through the Gift Shop* and wanted to follow this format," he says.

He concludes the film with spotlight on the current bands, such as The Local Train and Avial, which are finding much attention online and offline. "And they don't sing in English. That's how rock 'n' roll has evolved," says Kukreja.

18 SPORT

High five: Aware adds another bronze to India's kitty

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ASTANA (KAZAKHSTAN), SEPTEMBER 22

RAHUL AWARE won the biggest medal of his career by bagging a bronze while an injured Deepak Punia settled for a silver after pulling out of the final as India celebrated its best-ever performance at the World Wrestling Championship here on Sunday. Aware outclassed Tyler Lee Graff, the 2017 Pan-American champion, 11-4 in the 61kg bronze play-off to take India's tally to five medals. India's previous best show was at the 2013 edition, when the country had won three medals through Amit Dahiya (silver), Bajrang Punia (bronze) and Sandeep Tulsı Yadav (bronze in Greco-Roman).

"I could have won a gold. It was within my reach. I could have won that semi-final (against Beka Lomtadze). I botched it up in the first period," said Aware.

Aware had shown early promise when he won bronze medals at the Asian Championships in 2009 and 2011 but suddenly vanished from the scene after that. "The injuries pegged me back. I was ready in 2014 but then there were no trials for the CWG or the Asian Games. So I did not get a chance to prove my worth," he argued. "I feared for losing this chance. After a long time, something good was waiting for me and I was really scared to lose it. I am glad I pulled it off," Aware heaved a sigh of relief.

Westling of late has been a sport dominated by grapplers from Haryana and Aware is first from Maharashtra to win a senior World medal. "But Maratha sports history will remember me for winning this medal. I am first from that region to do this," he said.

Aware, who now trains under Kaka Pawar in Pune, said he was under a lot of self-imposed pressure going into the bout. The American surprised Aware with a double leg attack, the moment the bout started and earned two points with a takedown.

However, he became alert and twice wriggled out of Graff's right leg attacks. He also scored consecutive takedown points to lead 4-2 at the break. In the second period too, Graff got hold of Aware's right leg but the Indian got himself out of trouble in an impressive manner.

He then pulled the bout away from the American with a flurry of moves — the takedowns and expose — taking a commanding 10-2 lead. It consolidated further when the American lost a challenge. Eventually he won 11-4.

FINAL POINTS TALLY (FREESTYLE): 1. Russia 190, 2. Kazakhstan 103, 3. United States 94, 4. Iran 93, 5. Georgia 85, 6. India 79.

Innate aggression

PTI adds from Aurangabad: Balasaheb Aware recalls the day he identified a wrestler in his "hot-headed" son and decided to channelise that raw aggression into sport. He never regretted his decision. On Sunday, that lad from a nondescript village in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra made the country proud with a bronze medal.

"Rahul used to quarrel a lot when he was in school. He was a short-tempered kid. Everyday some or the other villager would come to me with his complaints. It was then when I recognised the wrestler in him. His hot-headed nature helped him become a good wrestler," Balasaheb, himself a wrestler, told PTI from Patoda village in Beed district.

"Rahul's journey in wrestling began with his hot-headed nature," he recalled.

"Rahul's historic win is the happiest moment for me. I was also a wrestler but due to lack of guidance I could not excel. I used to travel and had stayed away from my family till 1985-86. During that period, I participated in many a wrestling bouts at various fairs," he reminisced.

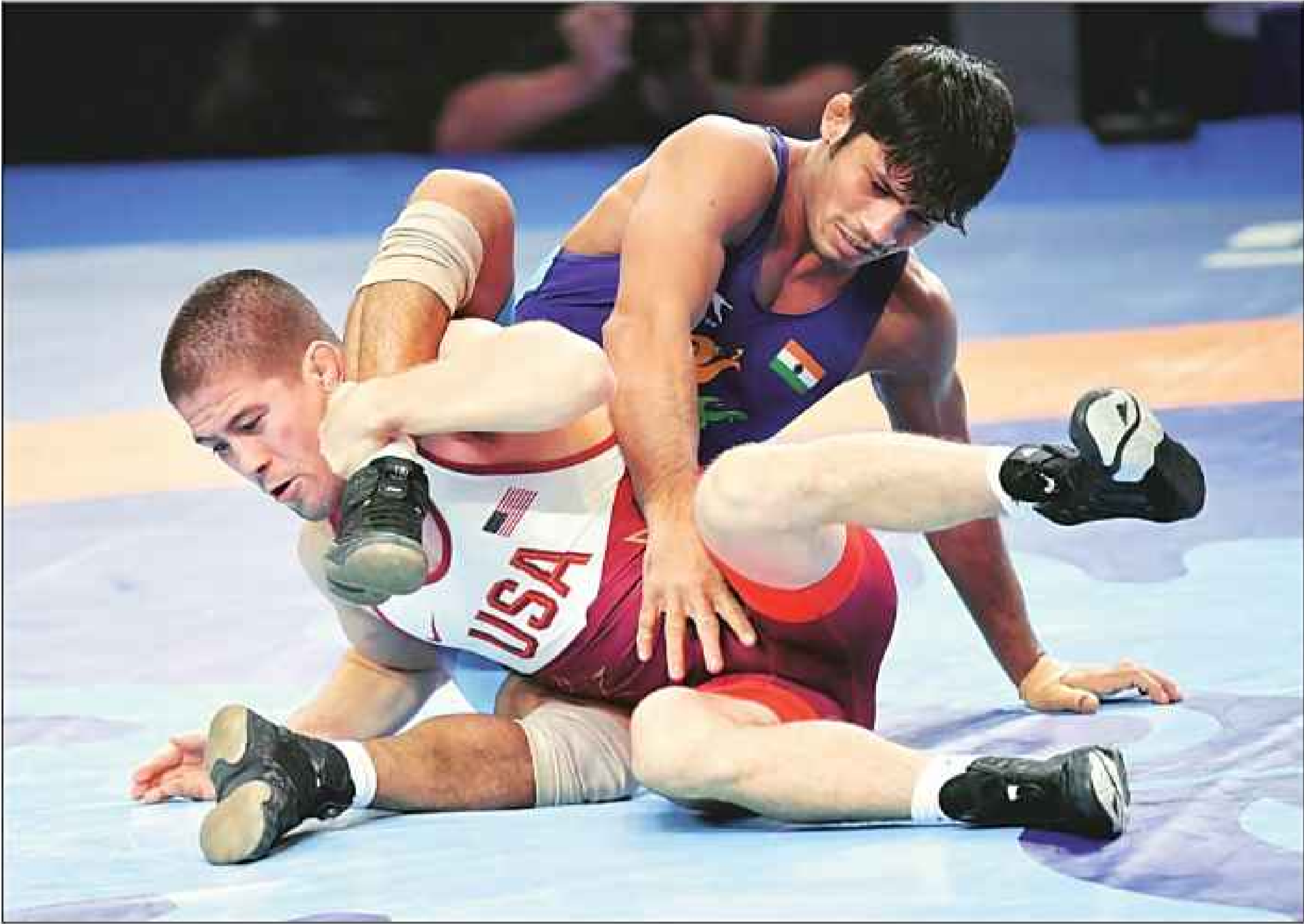
After Worlds silver, Amit wants coach considered for award

New Delhi: Ignored for the Arjuna award due to an "inadvertent" doping violation in 2012, trailblazing Indian boxing ace Amit Panghal (52kg) said he does not care for personal honours, but wants a Dronacharya award for his formative coach Anil Dhankar. Panghal became the first Indian boxer to claim a silver medal at the just-concluded World Championships in Ekaterinburg, Russia. He is also an Asian Games and Asian Championships gold-medallist.

However, he has not been considered for Arjuna award due to a failed dope test back in 2012, for which he served a one-year ban. The "inadvertent" violation was during the treatment he underwent for chicken pox that year.

"I don't really care for awards for myself but I would be grateful if Anil Dhankar, my formative coach is considered for the Dronacharya. He has shaped me in my early years and had it not been for him, I would not be the boxer that I am today," Panghal said.

"I began boxing in 2008 and Dhankar sir has been my rock ever since. Even now, it is



MAT AWARE-NESS

Rahul Aware defeated Tyler Lee Graff of the US 11-4 in their 61-kg bronze play-off on Sunday. *AP*

Punia wins silver on one good leg

Indian wrestler gives walkover in 86 kg final, reveals he suffered ankle ligament tear in opening bout

MIHIR VASAVDA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22

DEEPAK PUNIA went to bed on Saturday hoping for a miracle. He woke up Sunday morning with his worst fears coming true. "I couldn't stand properly; wasn't able to put any weight on the left leg," Punia said. At that moment, he realised the chances of him competing in the World Championship final of the 86kg weight class against a wrestler he idolises, Iran's Hassan Yazdani, were minimal. And the support staff confirmed what they had contemplated the night before — they have to give Yazdani a walkover.

Punia was hoping to become the first Indian world champion since Sushil Kumar in 2010. However, a partial ligament tear in his left ankle, which is likely to keep him out of action for 4-6 weeks, prevented him from taking the mat for the biggest bout of his career. Punia will undergo further scans upon returning to Delhi on Monday to assess the exact nature of the injury.

"I had already got an Olympic quota along with a medal. Of course, I would have loved to fight for the gold but I had to think of the bigger picture and ensure I stay fit for the Games," Punia, who eventually settled for a silver, told The Indian Express.

Punia said he picked up the injury during his first bout on Saturday against Kazakhstan's Adilet Davlymbayen. It was a tricky contest against the home favourite, and a close one too. Davlymbayen, like other Kazakh wrestlers, adopted a rough, physical approach to battle Punia's strength, and even poked Punia in the eye, for which he was warned by the referee.

The unsettling tactics seemed to work initially as the Kazakh took a 5-0 lead, but Punia staged a remarkable comeback and



Deepak Punia poses with his silver medal on Saturday. *AP*

won the bout 8-6. In the process, he hurt his eye — which was blackened and slightly swollen — and injured his ankle.

Punia said the ankle got injured when Davlymbayen attempted a leg-lace move, which is called fitley in India, in the first round. "It was a very rough bout. My eyes, shoulder, ankle... everything was paining. But ankle, in particular, was pretty bad. He tried to pull off a fitley and while I was trying to escape from his grip, I landed on the mat wrongly and twisted my ankle badly," Punia said.

He hobbled off the mat after the win, and had 30 minutes to recover. His physio Munesh Kumar said the gap was barely enough to work on the injured ankle so they just kept him moving, to ensure his

body remained warm, applied some ice and spray and taped it. The taping was done in a way that his sideways movement was restricted to avoid excessive strain on the injured ankle.

Kumar said Punia did not feel acute pain while competing because his body was still warm. Punia, too, said the ankle started hurting only after he reached the hotel on Saturday evening. It has been diagnosed as a Grade 2 ligament tear, which is a partial tear. Kumar said such an injury causes prolonged pain and swelling and although the swelling had reduced in Punia's case, the injury prevented him from putting his full weight on the ankle.

Had he competed in the final, there was a risk of aggravating the injury. "If the an-

INDIA QUALIFY FOR U16 ASIAN C'SHIP

India played out a 1-1 draw against hosts Uzbekistan to finish on top of Group B and qualify for the AFC U-16 Football Championship to be held in Bahrain next year. India finished on seven points from three matches, the same as Uzbekistan, but qualified on goal difference.

Rally deaths: Govt says no permission given for Barmer event

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, SEPTEMBER 22

THE RAJASTHAN chief minister's office on Sunday said that no permission was given for the Barmer car rally during which three persons were killed on Saturday.

Chief minister Ashok Gehlot took cognisance of the deaths on Sunday evening and district collector Himanshu Gupta and SP Shiv Raj Meena were issued Awaiting Posting Orders (APO). The Divisional Commissioner was directed to present a report to the Home Department within seven days.

"No permission was given to the rally, neither security arrangements were made for the rally," the CMO said in a statement.

Arjuna awardee and three-time FIA Asia-Pacific Rally champion Gaurav Gill was among the two drivers booked in connection with the accident, while the companies involved in the event — Maxperienace, Mahindra, JK Tyres, MRF Tyres and the Federation of Motor Sports Club of India — have also been named in the FIR.

The 22-year-old man who lost his parents and younger brother during the rally also alleged that locals were not informed about the rally.

In his complaint, Rahul alleged that his parents, Narendra Kumar and Pushpa Devi, were on a motorcycle at around 8:30 am and had stopped by a farm after spotting their son Jitendra, and were talking to him.

"Upon spotting the rally cars they tried to escape but a fast, uncontrolled rally car with a Maharashtra number plate came on the wrong side and hit all three of them, while also damaging the motorcycle," he said in his complaint, accessed by *The Indian Express*.

Subsequently, two other cars, bearing Punjab and Chandigarh number plates, also rrammed into the three, "killing them on the spot," as per Rahul.

An FIR was filed at Samadari police station under IPC section 304 - culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

The accident took place on Saturday during the third round of The Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India (FMSCI) Indian National Rally Championship 2019.

The event was titled Maxperience Rally 2019, after the organisers Madcap Adventure Xperiences Private Limited, headquartered in Gurugram. FMSCI is the governing body for motorsport in India and its president J Prithviraj was also the Clerk of the Course for the rally. The race, scheduled between September 20 and 22, originally involved a gravel course of about 300 kilometres but was called off after the accident.

Following the incident, the villagers sat with the bodies, reportedly demanding Rs one crore, a job for the kin, as well as action against government officials for not taking necessary precautions regarding the rally.

"The stalemate is continuing. Efforts are being made to end it but the organisers of the rally are not cooperating. The villages are demanding since yesterday that the organisers come to the spot but they are not responding," SHO Buta Ram told PTI.

Arjuna awardee Gaurav Gill was among the two drivers booked in connection with the accident, while the companies involved in the event — Maxperienace, Mahindra, JK Tyres, MRF Tyres and the Federation of Motor Sports Club of India — have also been named in the FIR.

Olympic champ Marin makes a statement on return

REUTERS
SEPTEMBER 22

OLYMPIC CHAMPION Carolina Marin made a successful comeback on Sunday by defending her China Open title eight months after suffering a career-threatening injury.

The Spaniard tore the anterior cruciate ligament in her right leg during the final of the Indonesia Masters in January and had to undergo surgery and a lengthy rehabilitation before returning to court.

The tournament in Changzhou was only the second for the triple world champion after she lost in the first round of the Vietnam Open last week.

Marin faced Tai Tzu Ying in Sunday's final, having lost her last six meetings against the Taiwanese world number four. She took time to get going but rallied to beat the former world number one 14-21 21-17 21-18.

Marin slumped on the court and broke into tears as Tai sent a forehand crosscourt shot wide on match point.

"I cannot describe my feelings right now because I'm so happy," Marin was quoted as saying by the Badminton World Federation



Spain's Marin, who was returning to the court after eight months following a career-threatening knee injury, faced Tai Tzu Ying in Sunday's final, having lost her last six meetings against the Taiwanese world number four. She took time to get going but rallied to beat the former world number one 14-21 21-17 21-18.

on its website.

"There was some frustration with myself in the first game. I tried to keep calm. I had to be patient and find the good length on the shuttle. But the most important thing is I could fight until the end.

"I just waited until she made mistakes. I just wanted to play some long rallies because I knew this match was going to be really tough. She has good strokes, she has so much deception that I had to be careful."

Better than before

Tai found her opponent more skillful than before.

"The wind was coming from a different direction compared to the past few days. I made quick adjustments at the start of the match but towards the end, she played at a very fast pace," Tai said.

"I also made many unforced errors. But I have to admit that she played very well today.

"I think there's not much difference, she is still very fast. I also feel that she is more skillful now. I also noticed that she maintained her speed in every match. She is much better at the net and has more variety of shots."

Shared series, shared concerns

India's 9-wicket defeat to South Africa gives both teams some points to ponder going into Test series

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
SEPTEMBER 22

IT'S USUALLY the left-hander's nip-backer that troubles Rohit Sharma — swinging late into his pads, inducing him to play the wrong line and trapping him dead in front of middle-stump. Trent Boult and Mohammad Amir have masterfully exploited this flaw of Rohit when the ball's still new and hemming around. But Beuran Hendricks — whose inspirational effort of 4-0-14-2 corner-stoned South Africa's series-levelling victory — devoured him with the one that didn't bend at all, rather slid on the angle.

It was a surprising mode of dismissal — the one that slides away on the angle hardly hassles Rohit — considering his tendency to stab at the ball early on. But he has neutered the flaw by opening up his stance and moving slightly across so that he could cover the length. Hence, better discretion outside the off-stump. So he's happy to leave those. When the bowler errs on the fuller side, he would open the bat face and drive it square, a stroke he could unfurl with eyes blindfolded. Even here, his front foot doesn't go really forward and the alignment, which Rohit is obsessed with, goes a little awry, disturbing the free swing of his bat. He looks a trifle uncomfortable, more so when there's sufficient movement, but his superb hands, besides the ability to pick length late, often come to his rescue.

Not this time, though. There was no exaggerated deviation in the air or off the ground, just a routine left-armers' stock ball. But Rohit was already playing an in-swing in his mind. The off-and-middle line too might have coloured his judgment. So his eyes were probing for the late movement, and when he belatedly realised the ball wasn't doing any mischief, he pushed tenuouslly, his front foot frozen in his stride.

It was a delivery he could have dealt on the back foot as well, even dabbed it through third man, if not for the nip-backer he was expecting subconsciously. Call it a rare error in judgment or lapse in concentration, and he can be happily relieved that Hendricks wouldn't return to haunt him in the Tests, where he begins resurrecting his career in the new role of an opener.

Then Rohit likes to feel the ball early on, which could turn out to be perilous in the longest format.

Fatal indiscretion

But it wouldn't have escaped the notice of South Africa's bowling think tank, and it would promptly make its way into the boardroom table when they discuss Rohit before the first Test. Thus, the tenet of minimalism that's fundamental to his limited-overs game could potentially hurt him. Though the subcontinent is where the ball could deviate the least in the air, and Rohit could count himself lucky in this regard, the fresh SG ball does swing around in the first 10 overs. Both Vernon Philander and Kagiso Rabada are quite skilled at moving the balls either way, capable of purchasing both seam and swing, the latter at an incredible pace and the former with incredulous accuracy. To draw Rohit into this fatal indiscretion, the movement needn't be massive, but just a shade away, the ball marginally holding the line. And like against the left-armers' inswinger, Rohit isn't utmost comfortable dealing with the right-hander's nip-backer either.

He's so vigilant of the aforementioned delivery that, often, it's the one that hold the line that accounts for him. It's a double-bluff lot of bowlers have tried against him with a fair bit of success too. Like in the World Cup semifinal against New Zealand, where Matt Henry had him caught behind with a fullish delivery that angled in before holding the line. The stationary front foot was again pronounced. Hence, it's Rohit's outside-the-off-stump discipline, as much as discretion, that would be tested relentlessly from ball one of his Test-match opening trade.

Another colleague of Rohit, whose discipline is under immense scrutiny these days, is Rishabh Pant. From being touted as the latest game-changer of Indian cricket to being vilified for his recklessly carefree methods, Pant is fast acquainting himself with the fickleness of sport.

He did his reputation no good by adding another hideous stroke into his litany of injudicious strokes. The off-side field, with a sweeper at deep cover and wide long-off, was specifically set for his instinctive wait through off-side. It's his favourite scoring arc too, but Bjorn Fortuin smartly pitched the ball away



Captain Quinton de Kock scored a second straight half-century to help South Africa chase down the target of 134 with 19 balls to spare. AP

Pant was gullible, gullibility not so much for the outrageousness of the shot, but the timing of it. His side had just lost its skipper, Virat Kohli, the third wicket, and circumstances warranted Pant to embrace circumspection. He played one attacking stroke too many after a sedate start.

from him, making him stretch his arms to make any significant connection. Consequently, he lost his balance and the bat flipped in his hands.

Pant was gullible, gullibility not so much for the outrageousness of the shot, but the timing of it. His side had just lost its skipper, Virat Kohli, the third wicket, and circumstances warranted Pant to embrace circumspection. An occasional big-stroke was fine — like the incredible whip over square-leg, stamped with his undisputed potential — but he played one attacking stroke too many after a sedate start.

He was clearly stuck between the extremes — much like the 0 off 29 in the first innings of the Southampton Test last year. Either he would attempt a big stroke or look to defend. This lack of flexibility, more than his impatience, that will be further scrutinised as his career progresses. Another failure was a clear indication that he's batting a spot too high in the limited-over formats. Surprisingly, Shreyas Iyer, a more conventional top-order batsman, batted a spot too low.

Ironically, for all his travails in white-ball cricket, Pant has looked relatively organised in Tests. However, he shouldn't let the negativity around his white-ball cricket, what with chairman of selectors MSK Prasad saying his team wouldn't be hesitant to look beyond him, affect his red-ball game. That could potentially hurl his fledgling career into an abyss. So, when both sides resume hostilities in a different format in 10 days' time, they wouldn't have erased the memories of the T20s entirely. As for Rohit and Pant, the word 'discipline' could be ringing loud between their ears.

SCORECARD » Ind vs SA

3rd T20I | Bengaluru

INDIA 134/9 IN 20 OVS

S Dhawan c Bavuma b Shamsi 36

(25b, 4x4, 2x6)

R Sharma c R Hendricks b B Hendricks 9

(8b, 2x4)

V Kohli c Phehlukwayo b Rabada 9 (15b)

R Pant c Phehlukwayo b Fortuin 19

(20b, 1x4, 1x6)

S Iyer st de Kock b Fortuin 5 (8b)

H Pandya c Miller b Rabada 14 (18b, 1x4)

K Pandya c de Kock b B Hendricks 4 (7b)

R Jadeja c & b Rabada 19 (17b, 1x4, 1x6)

W Sundar run out (de Kock/Rabada) 4 (1b, 1x4)

D Chahar not out 0 (0b)

N Saini not out 0 (1b)

■ Extras: (b 1, lb 2, w 12) 15

■ FoW: 22-1 (Sharma, 2.2), 63-2 (Dhawan, 7.2), 68-3 (Kohli, 8.3), 90-4 (Pant, 12.4), 92-5 (Iyer, 12.5), 98-6 (K Pandya, 14.3), 127-7 (Jadeja, 19.1), 133-8 (Sundar, 19.4), 133-9 (H Pandya, 19.5)

■ Bowling: B Fortuin 3-0-19-2; K Rabada 4-0-39-3; B Hendricks 4-0-14-2; A Phehlukwayo 4-0-28-0; T Shamsi; 4-0-23-1; D Pretorius 1-0-8-0

SOUTH AFRICA 140/1 IN 16.5 OVS

R Hendricks c Kohli b H Pandya 28 (26b, 4x4)

Q de Kock not out 79 (52b, 6x4, 5x6)

T Bavuma not out 27 (23b, 2x4, 1x6)

■ Extras: (lb 2, w 4) 6

■ Fall of wickets: 1-76 (R Hendricks, 10.1 ov)

■ Bowling: W Sundar 4-0-27-0; D Chahar 3-0-15-0; N Saini 2-0-25-0; K Pandya 3-5-0-40-0; H Pandya 2-0-23-1; R Jadeja 2-0-8-0

■ South Africa won by 9 wickets

Despite loss, batting first remains the T20 template

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 22

HIS DECISION may have backfired but India captain Virat Kohli made it clear that his team won't deviate from the template of opting to bat first rather than chase on flat decks, going into next year's World T20 in Australia.

Having loaded the team with all-rounders, India bat as deep as nine but it didn't work on a flat Chinnaswamy deck where the 'Men in Blue' scored only 134 losing by 9 wickets to a relatively inexperienced South African side.

"(This is) exactly what we wanted to do and that's going to be the template we'll follow for games we have before the World Cup (on opting to bat after winning the toss). The mindset has to be flexible and to try out things when situations are stacked against us," Kohli said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

For the Indian captain, Sunday's loss was one-off where the execution wasn't top notch.

"We will have games like this, where we don't execute what we want. But as long as the intent is there to improve, we'll be in a good zone. I think South Africa bowled well, the pitch suited them in the first innings and we weren't able to read the tempo of the game well," said Kohli. He added that to challenge the players out of their comfort zone by batting first is precisely because T20 is one format, where chasing is easier than batting first.

"I would say only in T20 cricket (where chasing is easier). In one-day cricket, you have time for the bowlers to comeback, but here a partnership of 40-50 can take the game away from you. One good partnership and you are under the pump even if you are defending 200," said Kohli.

The skipper reiterated that he would like



Opener Shikhar Dhawan was India's top scorer with 36. PTI

to get the core composition ready as quickly as possible. "The squad composition, we will try to get right as soon as we can. The guys, who have done well in the domestic circuit are getting opportunities, so it's not like we are playing random people.

"You have to understand as well that it's a very young side, you have to give them time as a team to come together. We batted till 9 tonight, and that's one area we're looking to strengthen."

Kohli's opposite number Quinton de Kock, on his part said keeping things "nice and simple" worked for them.

"We focused on hitting a good length. Our spinners kept it tight too. Beuran bowled really well and he has got the skills. Sometimes it's better on these wickets to take the pace off. We fixed one or two things from our mistakes in the last game. Our intensity in the field has also been really good."

Srinivasan's daughter, Shah's son elected to top state posts

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 22

THE TAMIL Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) executive committee on Sunday unanimously approved N Srinivasan's daughter Rupa Gurunath's candidature for the post of the president of the body. The TNCA is going to hold its annual general meeting on September 26, while deadline for filing nominations is September 25, 5 pm. As things stand, Rupa is going to be elected unopposed. R Ramaswamy from Salem is set to become the new secretary.

Rupa would be the first female president of a state cricket association. The TNCA ruling faction, though, preferred to wait before making a formal announcement. "Actually, we will have to wait till September 25 evening, 5 o'clock, because there's time for anybody to file. We are confident that she will be elected unopposed. Our executive committee comprising 26 members unanimously approved her candidature," a TNCA functionary told *The Indian Express*. The TNCA had earlier decided to hold its executive committee meeting on September 23. But they advanced it by a day, because some senior members wouldn't have been available on Monday. Sources said, out of 182 voting members of the TNCA — 150 clubs and 32 districts — the ruling faction has the support of around 150 member units. So it's very unlikely that the rival faction led by former BCCI president AC Muthiah can mount a challenge, at least for the top posts.

It is learnt that the decision to nominate Rupa for the TNCA president's post was taken about a couple of months ago. There was one issue though — her husband Gurunath Meiyappan, a former Chennai Super Kings official, was banned for life by the BCCI for his alleged involvement in betting during the 2013 IPL. "Legally it was never an issue. And it was left to the members to decide. The members wanted her to become the president," said a state association insider.

Rupa is not new to cricket. Her father's company, India Cements, has 15 clubs in the Chennai league and Rupa is the secretary of one of those clubs. She has attended CSK's IPL matches as well.

Her rise to the post of president will ensure the continuation of the family rule in the state body. Srinivasan, a former BCCI and ICC president, helmed the TNCA for a decade-and-a-half before stepping down, as the Supreme Court accepted the majority of the Lodha Committee recommendations — the 2013 IPL spot-fixing and betting scandal triggered the reforms — on July 18, 2016. On Friday, the apex court allowed the TNCA to go ahead with its elections with a rider that the election results would be subject to the final order of the court.

Srinivasan is above 70 years of age and he has completed nine years as an office-bearer. That made him 'ineligible' to continue as a cricket administrator. But with her daughter set to become the TNCA chief, it is widely believed that the state association will remain under his control. On Saturday, the Saurashtra Cricket Association (SCA), too, ensured that the dynastic reign would be in place, as former secretary Niranjana Shah's son Jaydev was elected unopposed as the state association president. Like Srinivasan, Niranjana — who held the post of the SCA secretary for over four decades and also served as a BCCI secretary — was 'ineligible' on all counts as per the BCCI constitution, in accordance with the Lodha reforms.

At the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association, former BCCI president Anurag Thakur's brother Arun is going to take charge from September 27. Anurag, who serves as a Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs in the Union government, is 'ineligible' because he holds public office. This paper understands that some senior members in both the TNCA and SCA were ruled out because they had to serve a three-year cooling-off period.

Srinivasan is 'ineligible' to continue as a cricket administrator. With her daughter set to become the TNCA chief, it is believed that the association will remain under his control.

Friends in high places: Performances help Sathiyian's rapport with the elite

SHAHID JUDGE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 22

OVER THE past year, Gnanasekaran Sathiyian has made some new 'friends' on the table tennis tour. He's now gotten used to the mighty Chinese, who otherwise remain content in their own circle, passing pleasantries with him whenever an opportunity arises. On Tuesday, he came across something new.

At a team practice session on Tuesday, during the Asian Championships in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, the Chinese contingent — which had the likes of world no 1 Xin Xu, world no 2 Zhendong Fan and world no 4 Gaoyuan Lin in the midst — entered the training hall and approached the 26-year-old.

"Oh," Sathiyian recites what world no 25 Wang Chuqin said to him in broken English, "you're too good. You're too strong."

By no means was this a comment made in jest. It was, if anything, an acknowledgement by the Chinese, and a hearty wel-

come to the elite club of table tennis players. And it was a word of appreciation that Sathiyian had earned. A day before, after all, during the team event, the Indian pulled off an upset win over world no 5 Tomokazu Harimoto of Japan — "The biggest win of my career," he says, before adding, "so far."

By Saturday, in the singles event, the Chennai-lad became the first Indian player since Sudhir Phadke in 1976 to reach the quarterfinal of the continental event. The run ended at that stage, when Sathiyian lost 3-1 to an in-form Lin, but not without the Chinese being pushed out of his comfort zone.

"I came into this tournament with expectations from myself. I wanted to pull off some upsets — the Asian Championships is almost as good as a world championship because all the top players are here," he says. "What I didn't know is that I'd equal a 43 year old Indian record. But I'm just happy with the way I played some bold table tennis and sent a strong message to the Chinese and Japanese."

The friendship of the Chinese comes

with an underlying message that table tennis' most dominant nation is eyeing Sathiyian as a potential threat. Earlier this year he rose as high as 24th in the world and beat the likes of former world no 3 Chih-Yuan Chuang of Taiwan and current world no 16 (and former 6th-ranked) Chun Ting Wong of Hong Kong. Both those wins came at the Asia Cup, and with the help of a tweak in his serve.

But those same moves would not have helped him against Harimoto, nor would it have put any challenge up in front of Lin.

"I know they're keeping a close eye on me. So I have to keep evolving," he says. "You can't keep playing your usual game. The process has to keep changing. The top players have already analysed your game, so if you keep playing the usual, you won't create any doubts or threats."

Against Harimoto, Sathiyian put to test a new tactic — attacking the opponent's serve.

The Indian's usual style involves him playing a consistent return of serve and then play aggressive ground strokes as the



rally goes on. Against the top players though, that is not enough.

"When you start off with a slow shot, the opponent comes in a strong position very early and can finish off the rally," Sathiyian says. "It was necessary to step up a gear. Harimoto was not expecting that kind of fast returns from me.

Liverpool sustain their perfect start

AP/REUTERS
LONDON, SEPTEMBER 22

LIVERPOOL RESTORED its five-point lead over Manchester City at the top of the Premier League after Trent Alexander-Arnold and Roberto Firmino clinched a 2-1 victory over Chelsea on Sunday.

Chasing a first English title since 1990, Liverpool claimed a sixth successive league win at the start of the season after Chelsea was unpicked twice from set-pieces in the first half. The west London team has now conceded 13 goals in the opening six league games under Frank Lampard. Alexander-Arnold was teed up by Mohamed Salah's free kick to get the opener in the 14th minute.

A defensive mix-up allowed Chelsea defender Cesar Azpilicueta to put the ball in the net in the 27th minute but the equaliser was ruled out once the VAR rolled back the action and spotted an offside. Liverpool's response to the reprieve was to extend its lead in the 30th minute when Firmino headed in Andy Robertson's cross. Chelsea's plans were disrupted by two injury-enforced defensive changes in the first half with Andreas Christensen and Emerson Palmieri forced off.

Arsenal fight back

Ten-man Arsenal twice battled back from a goal down to beat Aston Villa 3-2 with Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's late effort securing the points in a thriller at the Emirates on Sunday. John McGinn gave Villa a 20th-minute lead and Arsenal's task became even harder when Ainsley Maitland-Niles was shown a second yellow card 20 minutes later. Despite being a man down, the hosts dominated possession and equalised on the hour when Nicolas Pepe converted from the penalty spot after midfielder Matteo Guendouzi was fouled.

United slip again

West Ham United beat a toothless Manchester United 2-0 at home on Sunday as Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side ended the game without an established striker after Marcus Rashford came off injured. Ukrainian forward Andriy Yarmolenko put West Ham ahead at the end of a drab first half with a confident first-time finish into the bottom corner and Aaron Cresswell sealed victory with an outstanding free kick in the 84th minute.

Vettel reclaims mettle

German ends 22-race winless streak to clinch Singapore GP; Team-mate Leclerc finishes second

REUTERS
SINGAPORE, SEPTEMBER 22

SEBASTIAN VETTEL ended the torment of 13 months without a win by leading his complaining Ferrari team mate Charles Leclerc across the line in a one-two finish at the Singapore Grand Prix on Sunday.

The German, whose last victory was at the Belgian Grand Prix in August 2018, started third but made the most of an early pitstop to leapfrog the unhappy Monegasque, who had led from pole position. Vettel took the chequered flag 2.6 seconds ahead of Leclerc for Ferrari's third race win in a row — the first such hat-trick for the Italian team since 2008 and their first one-two since 2017.

Dutch youngster Max Verstappen finished third for Red Bull ahead of Lewis Hamilton who was fourth but still extended his lead to 65 points over fifth-placed Mercedes team mate Valtteri Bottas. Hamilton has 296 points to Bottas's 231 with six races remaining while Mercedes have 527 to Ferrari's 394 in the constructors' championship.

The victory under the floodlights was the 53rd of Vettel's career. Having gone into the weekend tied with Hamilton on four Singapore wins, the German is now the most successful driver outright in the city-state. "I'm very happy, great race," said the four-times world champion after the first one-two by any team on Singapore's street circuit.

"Big congratulations to the team, the start of the season was difficult for us but in the last weeks we've come alive." The early stop gave the German a fresh tyre boost that left Leclerc crestfallen when the Monegasque pitted from the lead and emerged just as Vettel swept past for a track advantage he never relinquished.

"What the hell..." exclaimed Leclerc over the team radio, who made no secret of his displeasure in further comments. "My head is down and it will be down until the race (ends). I just want to let you know my feelings," he said during one of the night's three safety car periods. "To be completely honest with you, I don't understand at all the undercut," complained Leclerc, winner in Belgium and Italy and now joint third with Verstappen in the overall standings.

Once ahead of his team mate, Vettel had



Sebastian Vettel, a four-time world champion, jumped a furious Leclerc in the only round of pit stops to finish on top of the podium for the first time since last year's Belgian Grand Prix. Reuters

little to worry about with Singapore's barrier-lined streets notoriously difficult to overtake on. Only the safety car periods and slower cars yet to pit threatened to disrupt his rhythm but the German, whose temperament and future at Ferrari have been the subject of much speculation, kept his head.

Leclerc radioed Ferrari asking for more power to mount an attack during the restarts but was not able to faze his team mate and agreed not to do anything stupid over the final laps.

Barrier-lined streets

Mercedes had been favourites going into the weekend but the champions, who started the year with five straight one-twos, were left licking their wounds.

ON THE PODIUM

- 1 Sebastian Vettel (Ferrari)
- 2 Charles Leclerc (Ferrari)
- 3 Max Verstappen (Red Bull)

Behind the top five, British-born Thai rookie Alexander Albon was sixth for Red Bull. McLaren's teenage rookie Lando Norris was seventh ahead of Toro Rosso's French driver Pierre Gasly. Nico Hulkenberg took ninth for Renault ahead of Antonio

Giovinazzi, who rounded out the top 10 for Alfa Romeo.

The Italian was one of the last to pit and he and his team enjoyed a rare moment in the spotlight by leading for several laps.

Danish driver Kevin Magnussen took the fastest lap for Haas for the second year in a row but without scoring an extra point — available only for those in the top 10 — because he finished 17th. The safety car was first deployed after a tangle between Haas's Romain Grosjean and Williams' George Russell on lap 35 that left the Briton's car in the wall. It came out again when Racing Point's Sergio Perez slowed and stopped while in 10th place and then finally after a collision between Toro Rosso's Daniil Kvyat and Alfa Romeo's Kimi Raikkonen.

From bad to worse for Barca

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
MADRID, SEPTEMBER 22

BARCELONA THREW on their stars of the present and the future but neither Lionel Messi nor Ansu Fati could save them from a dismal 2-0 defeat away at Granada.

Messi was still not deemed fit enough to start at Los Carmenes while Fati, the 16-year-old who has lit up La Liga in recent weeks, also began the game on the bench on Saturday.

But while both came on at half time with Barca trailing to Ramon Azeez's opener, it was Granada that scored again, Alvaro Vadiello converting a penalty after Arturo Vidal was found guilty of a handball. Barcelona have now won only two of their opening five league games and none away from Camp Nou, this their second loss already, just one fewer than the three they suffered during the entirety of last season. With seven points on the board, this is their worst start to a season since 1994.

"Obviously I am worried," said coach Ernesto Valverde. "Because we are not getting good results and when that happens in two or three games, it means we are not playing well." Instead, Granada go top of the table after capitalising on Atletico Madrid's goalless draw at home to Celta Vigo a few hours before. Barcelona are sixth, grasping onto the consolation of Messi's second substitute appearance in five days that now suggests he has finally recovered from the niggling calf injury sustained at the start of August.

Their problems though are unlikely to be solved simply by their captain's return.

Junior Firpo's error two minutes into his first start for the club gifted Granada their opening goal and set the tone for a chaotic night in defence. And up front, Antoine Griezmann was quiet again, with little in any of the combinations to suggest Ernesto Valverde has yet worked out who will form his best attacking trio and in what positions. "In the end, the coach is responsible and I feel responsible," Valverde said.

"I always think you can win or lose but at least you have to deserve to win when you lose, and today it hasn't been like that." Firpo's mistake came early, as he shaped to play a long ball over the top back to his goalkeeper. Instead, the lively Roberto Soldado stole possession and slipped in Antonio Puertas.

Total Rugby

Just as the Dutch reinvented football in the 1970s, the All Blacks may be on the cusp of producing a brand of rugby that will force the world to have a major rethink.

THE BEAST THAT IS ABS

WITH WORRIES over their waning powers silenced with a commanding 23-13 victory over the Springboks in a match of high quality, All Black connoisseurs are now hitting the very high soprano notes. Far from the ABs looking vulnerable, watchers in *NZ Herald* reckon that the ABs are in fact operating at another level and certainly on the brink of catapulting rugby to the next stage of evolution by reinventing the sport.

"Just as the Dutch reinvented football in the 1970s, the All Blacks may be on the cusp of producing a brand of rugby that will force the world to have a major rethink about what might be possible," wrote Gregor Paul a day after the ABs dominated despite the Boks matching them at every step and ruck, going pound to pound in the brutal encounter. "Their intent is to attack their way to a third successive World Cup title — from anywhere and by any means they can conjure. What we know now is that they will force their hand, trust that they can pull off just about anything," he wrote.

THE BEAUTY THAT IS ABS

WHILE THE attacking hustle was in their speed, the All Blacks also went on a charm offensive post their win on Saturday at the Yokohama Stadium which hosted Big Ronaldo's 2002 football triumph. The ABs lined up — and not for a Haka this time — in one straight file, and bowed in unison to the crowd, thanking the many Japanese among the 70,000 present for turning up enthusiastically in black jerseys.

"It's really important for us to connect as much as we can with the Japanese people. We know that they love us as All Blacks, but we need to show a bit of love back to them," *NZ Herald* reported skipper Kieran Read as saying. Earlier, the ABs have been careful to pull on skivvies or tights to cover up their tattoos while visiting a public spa. Tattoos can offend in Japan because of their association with criminal elements in this most traditional of societies, *Herald* added.

TONGA'S MANU BEATS CANCER & CHEMOTHERAPY

IT WAS a triumphant Sunday for Tonga's Nasi Manu who played his first game at the World Cup, and first since being diagnosed with testicular cancer. The 31-year-old had stated at rock bottom while having to undergo emergency surgery and months of chemotherapy.

"I was given the news at 9.45am, and had surgery at 2pm," he said, adding the gruelling chemotherapy last year when he didn't play all of 2018, had weakened him



After All Blacks defeated spirited Springboks, experts believe they are on the verge of reinventing the game. AP

even to walk up the steps at a stadium to watch his teammates at Italian club Benetton Treviso.

Manu recalled his most emotional moment, when he went to meet his teammates in the dressing room after a game, finding they had all shaved their hair in support of him through his treatment. "I was at a pretty low point when I was sent the clip of shaved heads. When I was able to attend a game, I was still pretty sick. I went in the dressing room afterwards and that's a special moment I will always remember." England won 35-3.

O'KEEFE COPS IT BOTH WAYS

WALLABIES COACH Michael Cheika and a host of experts at Fox were fuming over Kiwi ref Ben O'Keefe singling out outside flanker David Pocock for particular punishment. But the classy Pocock downplayed his mentor's claim that he was put under 'severe focus' for his grabbing turnover work in three break-downs, saying he was happy to focus on the 39-21 win over Fiji and not how he got penalised.

"But our *Fox Rugby* experts have reviewed the footage and believe Cheika was well within his rights to call out the match officials," *FOX* declared. Earlier Cheika had roared, "The stuff on the ground, I'm not quite sure what's going on but the team of three were talking

about David Pocock from the first minute of the game," Cheika said.

"I heard his name mentioned between them on the commentary at least half a dozen times in their own chat when he hadn't even been involved in the ruck." But Pocock appeared surprised, praising the work of the officiating team.

"You're not thinking about that stuff out there. We'll have a look at the review and see. I'll leave that speculation to you guys," he said. "Generally refs are doing a really good job. As long as there's clear communication and consistency, as a player that's all you can ask for." *FOX* maintained that when Pocock would get down to review the footage of the penalties, "he won't like what he sees."

TheSouthAfrican.com however lambasted O'Keefe for short-changing Fiji which surprisingly led 21-12 at one point, saying Wallaby Reece Hodge who clumsily connected Peleci Yato's head with his shoulder in a poor tackle (that can be slotted dangerous) was spared the red card. Yato started the game on fire and after the tackle was ruled out of the match. "Hodge had ill-intent in the attempted tackle which Ben O'Keefe ruled was not dangerous, but that really isn't the point. World Rugby are on a serious drive to rid the game of dangerous, life-threatening tackle situations.



AGS
Transact Technologies Ltd.

presents



INDIA'S
BEST BANKS
AWARDS

Honouring the banks that
India can bank on.

Chief Guest

Nirmala Sitharaman

Hon'ble Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs

Panel discussion

**How will India fund the
next round of growth.**

September 30, 2019

Mumbai

Entry by invitation only.



FINANCIAL EXPRESS
GROUP



FINANCIAL EXPRESS
Read to Lead

Associate Partners



Knowledge Provider



#FEBestBanks | Live streaming



FinancialExpress.com



thefinancialexpress



FinancialXpress