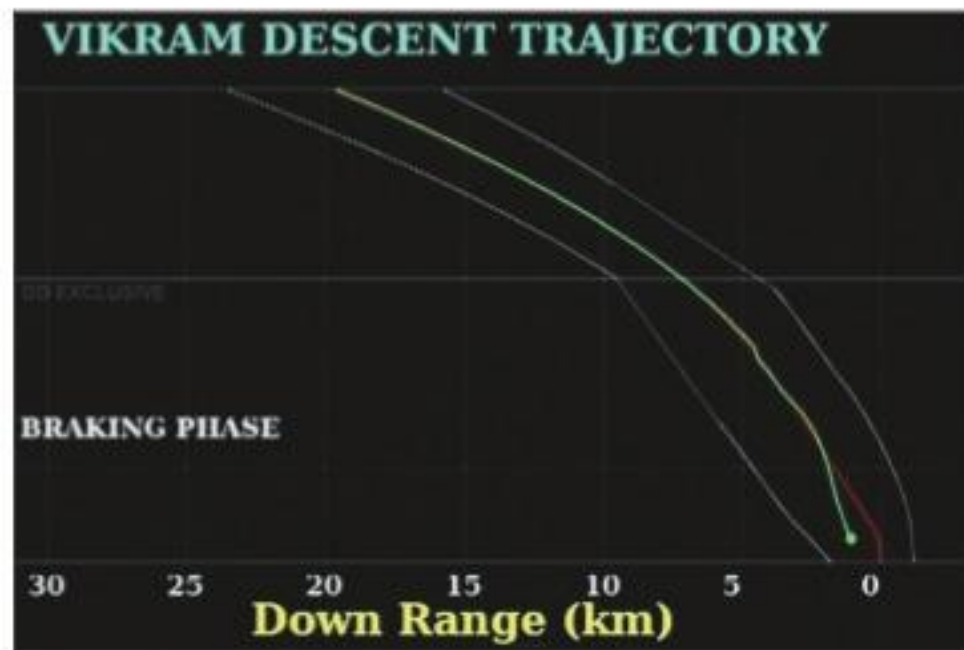




So close and yet



Scenes from the mission control room in Sriharikota after contact was lost with the Vikram lander: Display shows point contact was lost; Prime Minister Modi; ISRO chief K Sivan with his colleagues. Photos courtesy Doordarshan

2 km from moon, lander loses contact with mission control

Am with you, go ahead with courage: PM to stunned team

AMITABH SINHA
BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 6

INDIA'S DREAM of landing a spacecraft on moon lay shattered as the Vikram lander of the Chandrayaan-2 failed to make a smooth soft-landing, unable to bring down its speed to the required level. The failure happened 13 minutes after Vikram began its descent, hoping to reduce its speed from 6048 km per hour to about 7 km per hour or lower to enable a soft landing.

The mission operations complex at the ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network in Bengaluru stopped receiving data from the lander at that point.

At the time of going to press, an official announcement of the failure was still awaited.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who had joined the scientists 15 minutes before the descent began at 1.38 am on Saturday night, was briefed by a glum looking ISRO chairman K Sivan, and other senior officials. Before that Sivan and other officials held consultations immediately after the control room stopped receiving the signals.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with ISRO chief K Sivan at the ISTRAC in Bengaluru

"Be courageous," said the Prime Minister to the dejected scientists after ISRO chief K Sivan announced that contact with the lander had been lost at an altitude of 2.1 km from the moon's surface. "What you have achieved is no mean achievement. Hope for the best. You have done a great service to the nation, science and humanity. Our journey will remain, I am with you, go ahead with courage."

Chandrayaan-2 was India's first attempt at landing a spacecraft on the moon. Only three countries — the United States, the erstwhile USSR and China — have managed to place a spacecraft on moon so far.

The Vikram lander and Pragyan rover were supposed to

land on the moon and carry out observations and experiments for 14 days. The Orbiter component of Chandrayaan-2, however, was doing fine and continued to communicate with the control room.

Rare are occasions when a nation awaits a moment as eagerly as this.

On the ground, at the ISRO control centre, excitement and nervousness had mounted in the final countdown. Far away from the 24x7 TV noise, as messages started pouring in over social media praising the capabilities of ISRO, the Chandrayaan-2 mission control team was at work, quietly doing its job, oblivious to what was happening outside, focused on watching every signal coming from the spacecraft.

To decelerate after starting its descent, Vikram continuously fired its four thrusters in the direction of its movement. It travelled a total of almost 585 km in a parabolic path before losing contact.

Before the touchdown, a few hundred kilometres from the ground, it was expected to hover over the surface, trying to ascertain whether there was a safe place to land.

FROM CHANDRAYAAN

ISRO tweeted this photo of the moon on August 23. It was taken by Chandrayaan-2 from an altitude of 4,375 km above the lunar surface

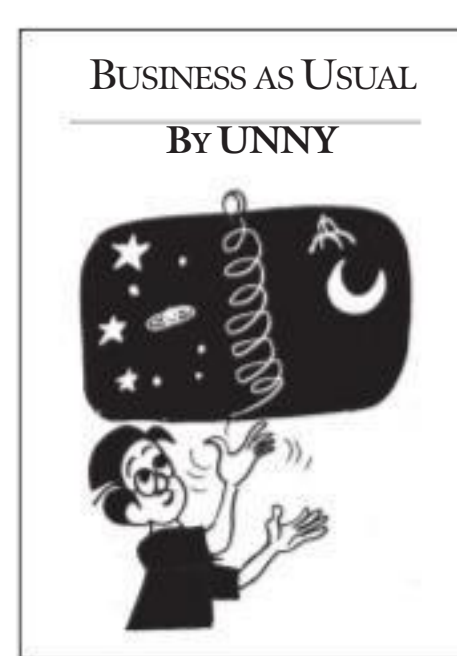


10, 9, 8... in the end, it was the 7 terrifying minutes



IMAGINE A spacecraft hurtling through space, at 10 times the speed of an airplane, having to nearly come to a standstill in order to land gently on the Earth — all in a matter of a few minutes and, more importantly, without any human intervention. This, in a nutshell, is a soft landing.

The thought of a soft landing on another planet or the Moon drives chills down my spine: despite the fact that I have done this quite a few times through my career. The first time was way back in 1997, when NASA's Mars Pathfinder landed on Mars. I still remember the raw happiness when we received the first signal of the spacecraft from the surface of Mars! After that, there was the successful landing of NASA's twin Mars rovers, Spirit and Opportunity, in 2004, followed by the lander, Mars Phoenix, in 2008 and the Mars



to different destinations is of the order of 100,000 miles for the Moon, 100 million miles for Mars and billion miles for a mission to Pluto. TV animation has made space exploration look deceptively simple: there is an animation that plays of the landing, there are shots of the mission control room that erupts in cheers; but the technology, the human effort and the nerves to undertake such a journey is just as harrowing and nerve-wracking.

No signal from the lander means that there are a few possibilities — like a communication glitch, a possible power issue with the rover, but can also carry the dire prognosis that the rover did not survive the landing. That the rover hit the ground at an unacceptably high speed and was destroyed. The huge work done by a few thousand scientists and engineers, over half a decade or more, hinged on this critical signal post landing.

For, what made ISRO's journey so topical and relevant was its landing site.

Though not exactly at the South Pole, the landing site was as far as any spacecraft has gone in the Southern Hemisphere. NASA's human landings about

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Concerned over J&K detentions... Govt should hold polls at earliest: US

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 6

A MONTH after political leaders were detained and communication restrictions put in place in Jammu and Kashmir, the United States Friday expressed concern over the "widespread detentions" and "urged" Indian authorities to "respect human rights".

Washington has also asked Indian authorities to "resume political engagement with local leaders" and hold "elections at the earliest".

This is the strongest statement by the Trump administration so far on the Centre's move to scrap Jammu and Kashmir's special status. It comes after US President

Donald Trump had said on August 26 that he had discussed the issue on August 25 over dinner and had said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi "really feels he has it under control".

There was no official statement from New Delhi in response to the US State Department's comments.

Responding to questions, US State Department spokesperson Morgan Ortigas said: "We continue to be very concerned by widespread detentions, including of local political and business leaders, and the restrictions on the residents of the region. We are also concerned about reports that Internet and mobile phone access continues to be blocked in certain regions."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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PAGE 7

MAHARASHTRA



ALLOTTED 8 SEATS, AIMM CALLS OFF ALLIANCE WITH VBA
PAGE 4

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WEB EXCLUSIVE



'SEVEN MINUTES OF TERROR' APPROACH. BEYOND LIES A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY

A celebrated NASA scientist explains the significance of the Chandrayaan-2 mission – for ISRO, India, the world, and humankind. What makes ISRO's journey so topical is its landing site. Though not exactly at the South Pole, the landing site is as far as any spacecraft has gone in the Moon's southern hemisphere

VIDEO OF THE DAY



CHIDAMBARAM IN JAIL 7 OF TIHAR JAIL

First-time economic offenders are lodged in jail no 7

FULL COVERAGE



CHANDRAYAAN-2 MOON LANDING

The Vikram Lander is scheduled to begin its descent at 1:30 am

EXPRESS AUDIO

Is Bumrah a bigger match winner than Kohli?

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In this episode of Express Sports, hosts Daksh and Gaurav discuss if Jasprit Bumrah is a bigger asset to the Indian cricket team than Virat Kohli

CJ Tahirramani resigns after Collegium transfer order

APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 6

THREE DAYS after the Supreme Court Collegium declined to reconsider its decision to transfer her to the Meghalaya High Court, Chief Justice Vijaya K Tahirramani of the Madras High Court, currently placed at the top in the all-India seniority list of High Court judges, resigned Friday.

Sources told *The Indian Express* that Justice Tahirramani put in her papers Friday evening.

Chief Justice of Madras High Court since August 2018, she was due to retire in October 2020.

Should the resignation be accepted, then only one High Court will be headed by a woman judge — Chief Justice Gita Mittal of Jammu and Kashmir High Court.

Although High Court judges have resigned in the past over allegations or for other reasons, a resignation over differences with the Collegium is rare.

In 2017, Justice Jayant Patel, a judge of Karnataka High Court, resigned after the Collegium transferred him to the Allahabad High Court. Then the second most senior judge in the Karnataka High Court, he did not cite any reason for his resignation. As a judge of the Gujarat High Court, he had ordered a CBI probe into the Ishrat Jahan alleged fake encounter case.

On August 28, the Collegium recommended that Justice Tahirramani be transferred to the Meghalaya High Court "in the interest of better administration of justice". The same day, the Collegium transferred Meghalaya High Court Chief Justice A K Mittal to the Madras High Court as Chief Justice, also "in the interest of better administration of justice". The resolution did not disclose any

other reason for the transfer.

Led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, the Collegium comprises Justices S A Bobde, N V Ramana, Arun Mishra and Robinton F Nariman.

When Justice Tahirramani was asked to respond as per the Memorandum of Procedure, she sent a representation to the Collegium on September 2, requesting reconsideration of her transfer.

But on September 3, the Collegium stood by its decision. "The Collegium has carefully gone through the... representation and taken into consideration all relevant factors. On reconsideration, the Collegium is of the considered view that it is not possible to accede to her request. The Collegium, accordingly, reiterates its recommendation dated 28th August, 2019 for transfer of Mrs Justice V K Tahirramani to Meghalaya High Court," its resolution stated. While the Madras High Court has a sanctioned strength of 75 judges, three judges make the Meghalaya High Court. Currently, it has only two judges — Chief Justice A K Mittal and Justice Hamarsan Singh Thangkhiew.

Prior to her appointment as Chief Justice of Madras High Court in August 2018, Justice Tahirramani had been Acting Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court thrice since 2015. Before being appointed a judge of Bombay High Court in 2001, Tahirramani was a government pleader and public prosecutor for the Maharashtra government.

Her landmark rulings include the order recognising abortion rights of female prisoners and the verdict upholding life imprisonment in the Bilkis Bano gangrape case of the post-Godhra riots.

Lamba returns to Cong fold: Leaving 'Khas Aadmi Party'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 6

CHANDNI CHOWK MLA Alka Lamba joined the Congress Friday, months after she had a fallout with the AAP leadership over a Delhi Assembly resolution on stripping former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi of his Bharat Ratna.

Lamba said she joined the Congress at 10 Janpath in the presence of the party's working president Sonia Gandhi. "I met Rahul Gandhi at his residence before that," she said. "Rahul reached out to me after the Bharat Ratna row, after he saw that I continue to hold the Congress ideology dear."

The Assembly witnessed a row last December, when a resolution was introduced by AAP MLAs demanding that Rajiv's Bharat Ratna be withdrawn over the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

The AAP, which was then in talks with the Congress for an alliance in the Lok Sabha polls, later claimed the resolution was never passed. Lamba claimed she was targeted by the party for opposing the resolution.

"I could not join the BJP because of major ideological differences. I am happy the Congress has reposed faith in me once again... I expressed my wish to contest from Chandni Chowk,"



Alka Lamba tweeted this photo on Friday

Lamba, who spent 20 years with the Congress before switching to the AAP, said.

She also tweeted: @ArvindKejriwal Ji, your spokespersons asked me as per your desire, with the full arrogance that the Party will accept my resignation even on Twitter. So kindly accept my resignation from primary membership of the 'Aam Aadmi Party', which is now a 'Khas Aadmi Party'. Former Delhi Congress chief Ajay Maken said Lamba has long organisational experience, since she has been active in politics, including as a student. She was elected DUSU president as an NSUI candidate in 1995.

"The Congress will benefit with her coming to the fold," Maken said. He also took a dig at the AAP, saying that resignations of leaders "shows there is disenchantment within the party". AAP did not react to the move.

FROM PAGE ONE

Concerned over J&K detentions... Govt should hold polls at earliest: US

"We urge authorities to respect human rights and restore access to services such as the Internet and mobile networks. We look forward to the Indian government's resumption of political engagement with local leaders and the scheduling of promised elections at the earliest opportunity."

This is a clear evolution of the US administration's position, especially weeks before the Prime Minister is scheduled to travel to the US for the UN General Assembly in New York.

Friday's comments - released by the US embassy in Delhi - indicate that this approach is very different from the US position on August 6, when it had said that they "take note" that the Indian government has described these actions as strictly an internal matter.

They had said that they were concerned about reports of detentions and urge respect for individual rights and discussion with those in affected communities.

Last month, on the sidelines of the G-7 meeting in Biarritz in France, Modi had said that all issues with Pakistan are bilateral and India doesn't bother any other country about them. "India and Pakistan were together before 1947 and I'm confident that we can discuss our problems and solve them, together," he said.

Trump had said: "We spoke last night about Kashmir, the Prime Minister really feels he has it under control. They speak with Pakistan and I'm sure that they will be able to do something that will be very good... I

50 years back, have been mostly near the Lunar Equator. In contrast, Chandrayaan-2's landing site is close to permanently shadowed craters near the South Pole that might store water ice.

Human aspiration for lunar colonization is no longer science fiction. A mixture of billionaires and governments have made the Moon the most desirable destination in the Solar System. Amazon's Jeff Bezos, with a reputation of delivering on his ideas, has put his passion and his billions behind his lunar dreams: that include plans to build a large lander that can start transporting tons of material to the Moon to start work on a Lunar base. The target timeline is in the coming decade. NASA, in parallel, is planning to return American astronauts to the Moon with the Artemis project by 2024. The moon is of great scientific interest to the Chinese as well.

The rationale of a lunar base is as follows. The thinking is that humans really live in narrow ranges of temperature, pressure, humidity, radiation levels and other attributes. Such an environment can be replicated in a habitation module. Such a habitation module should be possible on the Moon and Mars. The thought is to build a mini-city on the Moon or a Lunar base with houses (or habitation modules) where humans live, together with support infrastructure like a power generation grid, communication network and vehicles for surface mobility. Between Moon and Mars, the Moon seems to be a preferred destination for a permanent base. This is because Mars is too far away - about 1000 times compared to the Moon - and has a long round trip travel time (of at least 1 year) from Earth. The journey to the Moon, in contrast, can be traversed in 3 days, provided a

have a very good relationship with both the gentlemen (Modi and Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan) and I'm here. I think they can do it (resolve the issue) themselves."

Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale had said there was no discussion on J&K at the meeting between Modi and Trump that followed — their second in 2019, two months after they last met in Osaka on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Japan.

The discussions on Kashmir

powerful launch vehicle is available. But, there is one glitch. In order to rationalize costs, two fundamental human needs, water and oxygen, need to be available from lunar materials and a fundamental logistics requirement, rocket fuel, needs to be extracted and produced on the Moon. Transporting water, oxygen or rocket fuel from Earth would exponentially increase costs to untenable levels. Thus, for the lunar base to be cost effective, the availability of water on the moon is critical. A deposit of lunar water can provide for all three needs.

This is why Chandrayaan-2 was so important.

Chandrayaan-2 would have provided information related to location of water ice deposits in permanently shadowed craters on the Moon. This will have a bearing on plans by NASA and Jeff Bezos's company, Blue Origins, to explore the Moon. Specifically, the lo-

appear to have taken place at a dinner Sunday attended by the two leaders and hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron at the Hotel du Palais.

Since August 5, when the Centre moved to scrap the special status granted to J&K under

Article 370 and bifurcate the state into two Union Territories, the US administration's statements have been carefully crafted.

On August 5, Ortugas said, "We are concerned about reports of detentions and urge respect for individual rights and discussion with those in affected communities." She also called on "all parties to maintain peace and stability along the Line of Control".

On August 8, the US said that it is "closely following" the situation and noted the broader implications of these developments, including the potential for increased instability in the region. The US said it supported "direct dialogue between India and Pakistan" and called "for calm and restraint".

On August 19, three days after the UNSC informal consultations, Trump spoke with Modi and conveyed the importance of reducing tension in the region.

On August 20, US Defence Secretary Mark T Esper spoke to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and "appreciated India's position that the recent developments in J&K are an internal matter of India".

It was the first time the US referred to the Kashmir situation as an "internal matter". Russia was the first UNSC permanent member to underline that the changes have been carried out "within the framework of the Constitution of the Republic of India".

On August 22, Trump suggested — for the third time in a month — that he will do his best to "mediate" on the Kashmir issue.

AIRCEL-MAXIS CASE

Court adjourns proceedings sine die

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 6

A DELHI court on Friday adjourned proceedings in the Aircel-Maxis case involving senior Congress leader and former Union Minister P Chidambaram and his son Karti sine die, noting that the CBI and the ED were seeking repeated adjournments. Special judge O P Saini ad-

joined the matter without giving any date for further hearing, saying that the prosecution may approach the court as and when the probe is complete. The matter was listed for arguments on the cognizance of chargesheet in the case.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who appeared for both CBI and ED, filed an application, seeking deferment of the proceedings. He submitted that let-

ters rogatory have been sent to different countries and the response to them was awaited.

Special Judge Saini said in his order, "Since further investigation is pending since long and the prosecution has been seeking adjournment, it would be in the interest of justice, if the instant case is adjourned sine die, with liberty to the prosecution to get revived as soon as it is able to complete the investigation on

collection of further evidence and/or receipt of response of letters rogatory. Adjourning the matter sine die would save the time of the court and that of the prosecutors and investigators also."

The judge on Thursday granted relief to the Chidambarams in the Aircel-Maxis case while noting that the allegations against them were "not of a grave magnitude".

74-YR-OLD DELIVERS TWINS

'We had to take lot of precautions...we continuously monitored her health'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, SEPTEMBER 6

"THE ADVANCED age of Y Mangayamma was our main concern, but she is healthy and does not suffer from any diseases like diabetes or hypertension. The couple was also determined to have a child and were prepared for all kinds of tests and extended hospitalisation. That made it easy for us," said Dr Sannakayala Umashankar, who headed the

team of four doctors that performed the In-Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) on the 74-year-old woman who delivered twin girls on Thursday at the Ahalya Nursing Home in Guntur.

According to doctors, Mangayamma set a new world record of being the oldest woman to deliver twins. Dr Umashankar said it took seven months to prepare themselves and the couple for the IVF procedure. "We had to take a lot of precautions considering her age. We continuously

monitored her health after she was admitted to the hospital this January... We also provided the couple psychological counselling because neighbours and people around them will talk a lot about it and discourage them," he said.

As Mangayamma had crossed the menopause stage, the team of doctors performed a surgery and inserted a uterus from another woman donor. "Only after she recovered well from this surgery, we decided to go ahead with the IVF," a hospital official said.

Mangayamma was married to Y Raja Rao, a farmer from Nelapratipadu in East Godavari district, in 1962. "In spite of being married for 57 years, the couple did not have children. They went to several doctors and hospitals all over Andhra Pradesh. They even went for a IUI and IVF once at Chennai, but it failed. Here, IVF was successful in the first attempt," Dr Umashankar said.

Doctors conducted a C-section recently and Mangayamma delivered the twins.

Free Metro rides for women: If you give freebies, we will stop you, SC tells Delhi govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 6

THE SUPREME Court, on Friday, cautioned the Arvind Kejriwal-led Delhi government over its plan to provide free Metro rides to women, and warned it would intervene if "public money" is used to provide "sops and freebies" that hurt the financial health of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation.

Overruling the state's objections, a bench of Justice Arun Mishra and Justice Deepak Gupta also ordered that it will have to bear operational losses "as Metro is a conveyance within the state".

"If you will allow people to travel for free, then the Delhi Metro may go into loss. If you will give freebies, we will stop you... Do not give sops, it is public money," said the bench while hearing the matter of construc-

tion of Phase IV.

"If you allow people to travel free, it will be a problem, if you give freebies, there will be a problem," observed Justice Gupta.

Justice Mishra stated the court would be forced to intervene if government policies affect the Metro's financial health. "You are handling public money. Court is not powerless to order proper channelisation of funds," he told the counsel appearing

for the Delhi government.

The court said the state was bound to ensure its policies don't adversely affect the Metro.

"The GNCTD (Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi) is bound to ensure financial health of DMRC is maintained properly and no steps are taken so it may run into loss," the court said.

Commenting on the proposal for free rides, the court remarked that "on one hand you

want to give freebies. You also want the Centre to bear operational losses".

The reference was to the state's stand that the Centre should share any future operational losses that may be suffered by the DMRC as well as the land costs for the project.

The differences had delayed the project. However, on July 12, the top court ordered that it be executed without any further delay.

Additional Solicitor General A N S Nadkarni, appearing for the Centre, told the bench Friday that as per the revised policy of 2017, it could not share the costs and that any deviation in one state might lead to similar demands from other states too.

On the question of repayment of loan to Japan International Cooperation Agency, the court said "the Metro can't bear this cost once you start giving sops and freebies".

3 THE CITY

Gaikwad named Mumbai Congress acting president

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 6

THE CONGRESS on Friday named former MP Eknath Gaikwad as its acting president for the party's Mumbai unit, relieving former Union minister Milind Deora from the post. Gaikwad was already serving as the working president of the city unit.

Following the resignation of Rahul Gandhi as the party national president and losses in the Lok Sabha polls, Deora had resigned as the Mumbai unit president on July 7. On Friday, the Congress high command finally accepted his offer.

"I am happy that my pending resignation as President, Mumbai Congress has been accepted," Deora tweeted. "I am grateful to [the] Congress for having been given the opportunity to serve Mumbai. I wish



Eknath Gaikwad and Milind Deora

Eknath Gaikwadji my very best," he added.

Deora, known to be close to Rahul, had replaced Sanjay Nirupam in March, just before the Lok Sabha polls. The party had failed to win a single seat in Mumbai for the second consecutive time.

The change of guard comes at a time when the party's screening committee for the state polls has been meeting to finalise the names of the probables for the 288 seats in the state. Elections in Maharashtra is set to take place in October, with the

model code of conduct expected to kick in mid-September.

In an official statement, the party said, "The party appreciates the contribution of the outgoing president of Mumbai Regional Congress Committee, Milind Deora."

Sources said the party plans to release the first list of probables, which would mostly include sitting MLAs, by September 10. The Congress and NCP have so far finalised a seat-sharing pact for 224 out of the 288 seats.

Meanwhile, speculations of former Maharashtra minister Harshavardhan Patil switching over to the BJP intensified on Friday after he called upon Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis. The Congress and NCP are yet to arrive a seat-sharing arrangement for Patil's native Indapur seat in Pune, which is at present represented by his political rival from NCP, Dattatray Bhanne.



FIFTH DAY OF GANESH CHATURTHI

Devotees immerse an idol of Ganesh on the fifth day of Ganesh Chaturthi at Girgaum Chowpatty, on Friday. Nirmal Harindran

Woman tips off cops, gets mother among four arrested for abduction

SAGAR RAJPUT
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 6

A 15-YEAR-OLD girl, who was allegedly kidnapped at the age of seven and forced into prostitution, has been rescued by the police after being tipped off by the daughter of the alleged kidnapper.

The police on Sunday raided a brothel in the city and arrested four persons, including the women, who had allegedly kidnapped the girl in 2011 from a railway station.

"The kidnapping had taken place when the girl, along with her mother, were about to board a train. While the girl, then seven, managed to board the train, the mother was left behind. The accused woman approached the girl on the train. She allegedly offered her a chocolate and under the pretext

of taking her to her mother, took the girl to her residence," said an officer.

The woman later took the girl to her family in Jaipur, where she was allegedly made to do household work. "The whole family is involved in flesh trade. The girl was first made to work in a farmhouse the family owned. She was later pushed into prostitution," said a senior officer.

The 23-year-old daughter of the accused met the girl during a visit to Jaipur in 2017. The daughter works at a dance bar, said police.

"Two years ago, when the daughter visited the family in Jaipur, she met the girl, who told her about her ordeal. She did not believe her initially. So, she sent a fake customer to her mother, who was in turn sent to the girl. Following this, the daughter confronted the accused, who

then promised to let the girl go," said the officer.

However, when the daughter visited Jaipur again two weeks ago, she found that the girl was still there. The daughter then took the girl to her Mumbai house and informed the police. A kidnapping case under Indian Penal Code and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act was registered against her mother and uncle.

Following this, the brothel where the accused worked was raided and she was arrested along with her brother and two other women.

"The girl is currently staying at a remand home. We are struggling to locate her parents, as she cannot recollect their names and address," said the officer. A team has been sent to Rajathan, as it is believed that more people are involved in the racket.

State to change regulations for construction inside BKC

Pushes for more FSI for residential construction on MHADA-owned land

SANDEEP ASHAR
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 6

THE STATE government has proposed a change in regulations governing construction activity in the Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) for allowing additional buildable area for lands owned by the state-run Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA) inside Mumbai's premier business district.

While constructions on such MHADA-owned lands are permitted to utilise a total floor space index (FSI) of 1.5 to 2 at present, the proposed modification, once implemented, will increase it to FSI of 3.

FSI is a development tool that determines the extent of construction permissible on a plot. It is the ratio of the buildable area of the plot to the total plot area. In simple terms, a FSI of 3 means that the builder is permitted to build up to three times the plot area.

The chief minister-led Urban Development Department has issued a notification about of the proposed modification, inviting suggestions and objections from the public before implementing the move.

According to the notification, a new section is proposed to be inserted in the development control regulations (DCR) for BKC, extending floor space indices prescribed in the Development Control and Promotion Regulations, 2034, of the Mumbai municipality to such MHADA-owned areas.

The BKC area, which was notified as a special planning zone under the Mumbai Metropolitan Area Development Authority in March, 1977, is governed by its own DCR, which is independent of Mumbai's DCPR-2034.

According to its existing provisions, residential construction on MHADA-owned lands within the district can be carried out with an FSI of 1.5 for lands leased after March 1977 and FSI of 2 for those leased earlier.

With Mumbai's new DCPR-2034, which came into force last September, enhancing the overall FSI for residential construction inside MHADA-owned colonies in the rest of Mumbai to FSI of 3, sources said that some building industry giants had been pushing for a hike in the FSI levels even within the district.

Sources said MHADA owns large land parcels in three blocks within the business district. The move comes at a time when two leading real estate firms are undertaking redevelopment projects on these lands.

The notification issued by the Urban Development Department also mentions that the Mumbai municipal commissioner himself had supported the modification.

Ironically, sources said that MHADA officials had pointed out that the ongoing redevelopment projects in question were slum redevelopment projects, and that the regulation govern redevelopment of properties in MHADA-owned colonies elsewhere.

BMC to extend Rs 400-cr help to BEST

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 6

THE BRIHANMUMBAI Municipal Corporation has proposed to give Rs 400 crore to the ailing Brihanmumbai Electricity Supply and Transport (BEST) to pay off wages to workers.

A proposal in this regard will be tabled before the civic body's Standing Committee for approval, officials said. The proposal, officials added, would also mention the increasing

capital expenditure owing to mega projects and point out that the BEST has not fulfilled certain conditions.

The civic body has already extended a financial help of around Rs 1,700 crore to BEST to help it clear loans and improve transport services by adding more buses to its fleet and reducing fare.

The Rs 400-crore aid, officials said, will be in addition to the amount it has already given to BEST.

With this BMC's financial

help to BEST has reached Rs 2100 crore in last three months.

"Recently, BEST workers' union had demanded fresh wage agreement with the administration and threatened to go on strike. The union had demanded that the wages be revised. This amount would ensure help for workers," an official from the BMC said.

Of the Rs 400 crore, the civic body will, however, deduct Rs 21 crore, which BEST was supposed to return against a loan it had taken.



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Prof. Ganeshi Lal
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Shri Surendranath Panda
Chairman
Bharat Masala



Shri Debi Prasad Mishra
Hon'ble MLA,
Badamba
Constituency



Shri Susanta Ku. Panda
Ex. Board Member
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1

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Actual Image of One Hiranandani Park, Thane

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Sales Office: Eagleton, One Hiranandani Park, Ghodbunder Road, Thane (W) - 400 607.
Corporate Office: Olympia, Central Avenue, Hiranandani Business Park, Powai, Mumbai - 400 076.



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Buildings in One Hiranandani Park have been registered via MAHARERA registration number: Willowcrest - P51700000316 | Preston - P51700000319 | Fairway - P51700000052 | Eagleton - P51700000089 | Cloverdale - P51700000053 | Hampton - P51700000001 | Barrington - P51700000017 | Clifton - P51700000029

Cloverdale has received OC till the 18th floor. Buildings in One Hiranandani Park are mortgaged with HDFC Ltd. The No Objection Certificate (NOC)/permission of the mortgage Bank would be provided for sale of flats/units/property, if required.



Hiranandani
creating better communities

Two held for strangling, running over 23-yr-old man

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 6

TWO PERSONS have been arrested for the murder of a 23-year-old man, whose body was found near Mithi river in Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) area in August, police said.

The case, earlier believed to be a hit-and-run accident, was cracked by the police after they identified the victim using a mobile phone found on the body, police added.

According to police, Roshan Chavan, a resident of Lalipada area in Kandivali (west), was assaulted and strangled to death by five men, who later crushed the body with a vehicle to mislead the police.

On September 2, police arrested two accused — Ravi Jaiswal (24) and Rahul Gaud (22), both residents of Lalipada area. Jaiswal and Chavan reportedly had a fight over trivial issue a week before the latter was murdered, police said. “The men had fought over using a common toilet in the area. Chavan had even slapped Jaiswal’s brother Shubham, which angered them,” an investigating officer said.

Jaiswal reportedly hatched a plan to eliminate Chavan, following which Shubham, along with three others, called the 23-year-old to a party at Lalipada. “The five men got drunk and then took a taxi to buy more alcohol from a restaurant near the airport,” the officer said.

Jaiswal, who was not present at the party, reportedly met the five men near the airport and took Chavan to a service road

EASIER IDENTIFICATION BY VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Internet connection not needed to identify currency notes on cellphone app: RBI to HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 6

THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) informed the Bombay High Court on Friday that the mobile-based app scheduled to be launched on November 1 to identify currency notes and coins would not require an Internet connection.

On Thursday, the bench had asked the RBI how will the app function in places where there is no Internet connection.

A bench of Chief Justice Pradeep Nandrajog and Justice Bharati Dange were hearing a petition filed by the National Association for the Blind, seeking directions to include distinctive features in new coins and notes for easier identification by the visually impaired.

Senior counsel Venkatesh Dhond, appearing for RBI, informed the court on Friday that when a visually impaired person would hold a note in front of his cellphone camera, the app would identify the same and inform him. No Internet connection would be required for this.

The RBI also maintained that

The victim reportedly had a fight with one of the accused over trivial issue a week before he was murdered

outside R-2 ground near Mithi river in BKC where the accused allegedly beat up Chavan and then strangled him to death with a piece of cloth, police said. Jaiswal, who was a driver with an app-based cab service company, allegedly ran over Chavan’s body with the vehicle to make it seem like a hit-and-run accident case, police said.

“Once Chavan was identified, we went to his residential area where locals confirmed that Shubham was the last person to be seen with the victim. While looking for Shubham, police simultaneously scrutinised CCTV camera footage of the spot (where the body was found), which confirmed that the five men killed him,” the officer said.

While Shubham could not be traced, police started looking for his brother Jaiswal, who was traced to Uttarak Pradesh and brought to BKC police station for investigation.

According to police, Jaiswal initially tried to mislead the interrogators but later revealed the identities of the four other accused, following which Gaud, another accused, was arrested on September 2 and booked the duo on charges of murder. Three other accused are absconding.

Mumbai-born researcher invents alternative to Li-ion batteries

New energy-dense rechargeable batteries could change India’s storage application scenario

ABHA GORADIA
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 6

MUMBAI-BORN SCIENTIST Dr Gautam Yadav has invented a new high-voltage, energy-dense rechargeable manganese dioxide (MnO₂) zinc (Zn) battery, which could be an alternative to Li-ion batteries that have dominated the energy storage landscape for decades.

“High voltages in Li-ion batteries have allowed it to capture the electric vehicle, mobile electronics and grid-storage markets. Li-ion batteries contain elements which are geopolitically sensitive and not common to India, so development of energy storage technologies has taken a



The study, conducted by Dr Gautam Yadav, and his colleagues, was published in the journal ‘ACS Energy Letters’.

backseat, while countries like China have benefited tremendously. For renewable energy to grow in India and curb its pollution problems, development of energy storage batteries is extremely vital,” Yadav said.

Organic electrolytes, which are an important feature of Li-ion batteries, allowed for the creation of high-voltages, however, they are also the primary reason for its dangerous flammable and explosive properties.

The new batteries exhibit high voltages between 2.45-2.8 V, delivering high capacities close to its theoretical value, which is a first for aqueous-based batteries.

“Till now there is no aqueous

Zn-based battery that has crossed the 2 V barrier. The energy density stored by this new high-voltage aqueous battery can be much higher than the currently dominant lithium (Li-ion) battery,” Yadav added.

The new high-voltage MnO₂/Zn batteries contain raw materials that are native to India — the country has rich sources of manganese, used to make MnO₂.

The aqueous nature of the battery also reduces its manufacturing costs considerably which are known to be high for Li-ion batteries due to the flammable nature of its electrolyte.

A statement issued by Yadav said that these new highly energy-dense MnO₂/Zn batteries

can now “compete or even replace Li-ion batteries in applications like electric cars and mobile electronics, which can put India in the forefront of the energy storage development and propel incorporation of more renewable sources of energy for power generation”.

The study, conducted by Yadav, along with his colleagues Damon Turney, Jinchao Huang, Xia Wei and Sanjoy Banerjee, was published in the journal ‘ACS Energy Letters’.

The research work was conducted at the City College of New York and was funded by Sandia National Labs and the U S Department of Energy.

Commenting on the study, Prof Arindam Sarkar of chemical engineering at IIT-Bombay said, “They have used clever electro-chemistry in two different media to achieve the high

voltage (one in acidic and another in alkaline) compared to normal alkaline battery. However, the lifetime of such a battery will be very low. I have gone through their published work in details. The battery will work for shorter times.”

Professor of Energy Sciences at IIT Bombay Sagar Mitra said, “The aqueous Zn/MnO₂ electrochemistry is well known as primary battery chemistry. Making the same chemistry reversible and enhancing its open-circuit voltage to a 2.8V is a great scientific challenge and I believe a great achievement has been done by the group. Being an elemental lithium and cobalt neutral country, any new chemistry with abundant materials and comparable battery performance stability in hot climate could change the Indian storage application scenario.”

STATE INDUSTRIES PROMOTION CORPORATION OF TAMILNADU LIMITED
19-A, RUKMANI LAKSHMIPATHY ROAD, EGMORE, CHENNAI - 600 008.
CIN U74999TN1971SGC005967

Tender Notice NIT No.19/CW/DO/IT No.28/2019-20, Dt. 03.09.2019

For and on behalf of State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited, sealed tenders are invited under **“Two Cover System”** for the following work from Class - I State level registered PWD, Highways, National Highways, TWAD, CMWSB or with an equal monetary limit in other Government / Quasi Government Organizations having experience in similar nature of works. Tenders will be received upto 3.00 P.M. on **10.10.2019** and the same will be opened on the same day at 3.30 P.M.

Name of Work	Approx. value of work	EMD
Construction of Pre-Cast cable Duct including 1M vent box culvert opposite to TNEB at SIPCOT Industrial Park, Irungattukottai in Kancheepuram District.	Rs.831.29 Lakhs	Rs.4,26,000/- (Payment by Demand Draft in favour of SIPCOT Ltd., Chennai)

The tender Schedule can be Downloaded at free of cost from the website www.tenders.tn.gov.in and www.sipcot.in.
DIPR/3065/Tender/2019 Superintending Engineer, SIPCOT, Chennai-8

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that my client **MR. AJAY CHHABRA** has lost and/or misplaced the Original Indenture of Assignment dated 25th day of July, 1994 executed by **MR. VASU S. SHETTY** in favour of **MR. MOHINDERSINGH MEHERCHAND CHHABRA and MR. KISHANLAL MEHERCHAND CHHABRA** in respect of business of Rajkamal Lunch Home at Besant Court, Opp. Sion Railway Station, Mumbai-400022.

All persons having any claim into or upon the said indenture of Assignment whatsoever are hereby required to notify the same in writing along with supporting documentary evidence by registered post acknowledgement due to the undersigned at his office at G-5, Mukut, B Wing, 20-B, S.V. Road, Bandra (West), Mumbai-400 050, within 14 (fourteen) days from the date hereof failing which the claims and/or objections, if any, shall be considered as waived or abandoned.

Dated this 6th day of September, 2019.

Sd/-
(*Shabbir S. Kapadia*)
Advocate & Solicitor

IN THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL, BENCH, AT MUMBAI
COMPANY SCHEME APPLICATION NO. 1665 OF 2018 [C.A. (CAA) 1665/MB/2018]

In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013;
And
In the matter of Application under Sections 230 - 232 and other relevant provisions of the Companies Act, 2013;
And
In the matter of Strides Chemicals Private Limited [CIN: U24290MH2003PTC138910], a company, incorporated under the Companies Act of 1956, having its registered office at Plot No. N-39/ N-39-1, Anand Nagar MIDC, Additional Ambemath, Ambemath (East), Thane -421506;
And
In the matter of Scheme of Merger between Strides Chemicals Private Limited ("Transferor Company") and Solara Active Pharma Sciences Limited ("Transferee Company") and their respective shareholders.

Strides Chemicals Private Limited }
[CIN: U24290MH2003PTC138910], a company, incorporated under the Companies Act of 1956, having its registered office at Plot No. N-39/ N-39-1, Anand Nagar MIDC, Additional Ambemath, Ambemath (East), Thane -421506. }
.....Applicant Company

Notice and Advertisement of filing of the Company Scheme Application before the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal by the Applicant Company

Notice is hereby given that by an order dated 6th August, 2019, the Mumbai Bench of the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal ("NCLT") has directed that convening and holding meetings of the equity shareholders and secured creditors of the Applicant Company ("Order"), for the purpose of considering, and if thought fit, approving the Scheme of Merger amongst Strides Chemicals Private Limited ("**Applicant Company**") and Solara Active Pharma Sciences Limited ("**Transferee Company**") and their respective shareholders ("**Scheme**"), pursuant to the provisions of Sections 230- 232 of the Companies Act, 2013 ("**Act**") and any other applicable provisions of the Act, is not required. Furthermore, the Hon'ble NCLT has also directed that convening and holding meetings of unsecured creditors, for the purpose of considering and, if thought fit, approving the Scheme, is dispensed with.

Copy of the Scheme as filed before the Hon'ble NCLT can be obtained free of charge on any day (except Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays) at the registered office of the Applicant Company at Plot No. N-39/ N-39-1, Anand Nagar MIDC, Additional Ambemath, Ambemath (East), Thane - 421506, or at the offices of its Advocates, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, Advocates & Solicitors at 5th Floor, Peninsula Chambers, Peninsula Corporate Park, Ganpatrao Kadam Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai 400 013.

Any person concerned may file their representations, if any, to the Scheme before the NCLT within 30 days of the date of the publication of this Notice in the newspaper(s), and submit a copy of their representations to the Applicant Company at its registered office at Plot No. N-39/ N-39-1, Anand Nagar MIDC, Additional Ambemath, Ambemath (East), Thane -421506.

This Notice is also available on the Applicant Company's website at www.solara.co.in. The above mentioned Scheme will be subject to the subsequent approval of the Hon'ble NCLT. Dated this 6th day of September, 2019

Sd/-
S. Murali Krishna
Company Secretary
Strides Chemicals Private Limited

Mumbai International Airport Ltd.
INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL), a joint venture company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 and owned by GVK led consortium, is developing Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) Mumbai with a vision to transform it into one of the world's best airports.

As a part of airport development programme, MIAL intends to construct **"Quarters for AAI at NAD Colony, Sahar, Mumbai,"** consisting of Two Buildings blocks: Building type B3 (G Silt+ 10 upper Floors with built up area 8,511 sqm having 109 dwelling units), and Building type C1 (G Silt+11 upper Floors with built up area 6,577 sqm having 82 dwelling units) with a total built-up area of approximately 15,088 Sqm. The scope of work broadly comprises of all civil works like piling work, earthwork, structural work, masonry work, plastering work, flooring work, drainage , plumbing, road & fencing work, joinery & finishing work, steel work, painting work, waterproofing work, sanitary & plumbing work, firefighting work, internal electrical works, external development, lifts etc.

Eligible firms of repute, having experience in execution of similar works in Mumbai, having strong credentials and having adequate shuttering materials, scaffolding, construction equipment & skilled manpower to execute such work in a timely manner with good quality are invited to submit their EOI for the above said work.

Interested parties having relevant experience may submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) within 7 days of this advertisement with their credentials, detailed specifications of product/s offered, list of clients, the company's turnover details for last three years etc. to the below mentioned address in a sealed envelope to the address mentioned below and be clearly marked as 'Expression of Interest for the Construction of Quarters for AAI at NAD Colony, Sahar, Mumbai.'

Address for all communication & submission:
AVP - Operation Procurement
Mumbai International Airport Ltd.
Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport,
1st Floor, Terminal-1B, Santacruz-East Mumbai - 400099, India
Tel: +91 22 6685 0604 (D)

This invitation for EOI does not give rise to any right to the prospective suppliers/contractors/firms and is not an offer or an invitation to offer. MIAL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the EOIs or modify the terms hereof without assigning any reasons. MIAL will not be responsible for loss, non receipt or delay in the receipt of any EOI application sent by post or courier.

SML ISUZU LIMITED

CIN : L50101PB1983PLC005516

Regd Office & Works: Village Asron, Distt. Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar (Nawanshahr) Punjab -144 533. **Phone:** 01881- 270255; **Fax:** 01881-270223
Corporate Office: SCO 204-205, Sector 34-A, Chandigarh-160 135
Phone: 0172- 2647700-10; **Fax:** 0172-2615111
Email: investors@smlisuzu.com, **Website:** www.smlisuzu.com

NOTICE OF 35TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
REMOTE E-VOTING INFORMATION AND BOOK CLOSURE

Notice is hereby given that the 35th Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the Company will be held on **Monday, 30th September, 2019 at 1:00 P.M.** at its Registered Office & Works at **Village Asron, Distt. Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar, (Nawanshahr), Punjab-144 533** to transact the business as set out in the Notice of AGM.

The Notice of AGM and Annual Report for the financial year 2018-19 has been sent in electronic mode to those Members who have registered their e-mail address with the Company / Depository Participants / RTA and to all other Members at their registered address in the permitted mode. The communication relating to remote e-voting, inter-alia, containing user ID and password has also been dispatched to the members. The Company has completed the dispatch of Notice of AGM to all members on 6th September, 2019. The Annual Report including Notice of AGM is also available on the website of the Company www.smlisuzu.com and on the website of NSDL www.evoting.nsdl.com.

In compliance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 including Rules framed thereunder and the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the Company is pleased to provide its shareholders the facility to exercise their right to vote at 35th Annual General Meeting (AGM) by electronic means in respect of resolutions contained in the Notice. The facility of casting the vote by the members using an electronic voting system ("Remote e-voting") will be provided by National Securities Depository Limited ("NSDL"). For details relating to remote e-voting, please refer to the Notes forming part of the Notice of AGM. All the Members are informed that:

1. The business as set forth in the Notice of AGM may be transacted through voting by electronic means.
2. The remote e-voting facility shall commence on **26th September, 2019 (9:00 AM)**.
3. The remote e-voting shall end on **29th September, 2019 (5:00 PM)**.
4. The cut-off date for determining the eligibility to vote by electronics means or at AGM is **23rd September, 2019**.
5. The remote e-voting shall not be allowed beyond the said date and time. Once the vote on a resolution is cast by the member, it cannot be changed subsequently.
6. The members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting may attend the AGM but shall not be eligible to vote at the AGM. The facility of voting by ballot shall be made available at the meeting for members who have not cast their vote by remote e-voting.
7. A person, whose name appears in the Register of Members/Beneficial Owners as on the **cut-off date i.e. 23rd September, 2019** only shall be entitled to vote, either through remote e-voting or through ballot paper at the AGM.
8. Any person, who acquires shares of the Company and becomes member after dispatch of the Notice and holding shares as on cut-off date i.e. 23rd September, 2019, may obtain User ID and password by sending a request at evoting@nsdl.co.in or to the Company's Registrar and Share Transfer Agent at helpdeskdelhi@mcsregistrars.com.
- If the member is already registered with NSDL for e-voting, then he/she can use his/her existing user ID and password for casting the vote through remote e-voting.
9. In case of any queries relating to voting by electronic means, members may refer to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and e-voting user manual at the downloads section of NSDL's website www.evoting.nsdl.com or may contact Ms. Pallavi Mhatre, Assistant Manager, NSDL, Trade World, A wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Kamala Mills Compound, Lower Parel, Mumbai-400 013, Phone No. 022-24994545, Toll free No. 1800-222-990, e-mail: pallavid@nsdl.co.in.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 91 of the Act read with Rules made thereunder and Regulation 42 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, the **Register of Members and Transfer Books of the Company will be closed from 21st September, 2019 to 30th September, 2019 (both days inclusive)** for the purpose of AGM and payment of dividend for the financial Year ended 31st March, 2019.

For **SML ISUZU LIMITED (PARVESH MADAN)**
Company Secretary
ACS-31266

Place: Chandigarh
Dated: 6th September, 2019

भारत सरकार / Government Of India, अंतरिक्ष विभाग / Department Of Space
भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संस्थान / Indian Space Research Organisation
इसरो नौदन कॉम्प्लेक्स / ISRO Propulsion Complex
महेंद्रगिरि / Mahendragiri - 627 133

विज्ञापन सं. / Advertisement No. / आईपीआरसी / IPRC/भरती / RMT/2019/01 दिनांक / Dated: 07.09.2019

महेंद्रगिरि, तिरुनेलवेली जिला, तमिलनाडु में स्थित इसरो नौदन कॉम्प्लेक्स (आईपीआरसी) के लिए **बैलन मैट्रिक्स के स्तर 10 (₹ 56100-177500/-) में वैज्ञानिक / अभियंता 'एस.सी.' (औद्योगिक संस्था)** पद की भरती हेतु आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं।

Applications are invited for the post of **Scientist/Engineer 'SC' (Industrial Safety) in Level 10 of Pay Matrix (₹56100-177500/-)** at ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPC) located at Mahendragiri, Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu.

कोड सं. / Code No.	विद्या विशेष / Discipline	पदों की संख्या / No. of Posts	अनिवार्य अर्हता / Essential Qualification
022	औद्योगिक संस्था / Industrial Safety	01	औद्योगिक संस्था में न्यूनतम 60% कुल अंक (सभी सेमेस्टर/बर्षों का कुल) अथवा 10 पाइंट्स काय कम में कम से कम 6.5 के सीजीपीए/सीसीआई के श्रेणीकरण के साथ प्रथम श्रेणी में एम.ई./एम.टेक. की उपाधि। M.E./M.Tech. in Industrial Safety in First Class with an aggregate minimum of 60% of marks (aggregate of all semesters/years) or CGPA/CPI grading of minimum 6.5 on a 10 point scale और / AND यांत्रिक या रासायनिक इंजीनियरी में न्यूनतम 65% कुल अंक (सभी सेमेस्टर/ बर्षों का कुल) अथवा 10 पाइंट्स काय कम में कम से कम 6.8 के सीजीपीए/सीसीआई के श्रेणीकरण के साथ प्रथम श्रेणी में बी.ई./बी.टेक. की पूर्ण योग्यता Pre-eligibility qualification of B.E./B.Tech. in Mechanical or Chemical engineering in First Class with an aggregate minimum of 65% of marks (aggregate of all semesters/ years) or CGPA/CPI grading of minimum 6.84 on a 10 point scale

इच्छुक उम्मीदवार विस्तृत जानकारी व मार्गदर्शन प्राप्त करने, और आवेदन देने के लिए <http://www.iprc.gov.in> पर जाएं। पोर्टल 09.09.2019 से 30.09.2019 तक आवेदन देने के लिए खुला रहेगा। / Interested candidates may visit <http://www.iprc.gov.in> for detailed information, guidelines and applying. The portal will be open for applying from 09.09.2019 to 30.09.2019.

प्रशासनिक अधिकारी (भरती) / Administrative Officer (Recruitment)
इसरो नौदन कॉम्प्लेक्स / ISRO Propulsion Complex

GCSC/Admin/Recruitment/2019/01
Gujarat Council of Science City
Science City Road, Ahmedabad-380 060
Tel: 079-29703122
Website: www.scity.gujarat.gov.in,
Email: scityahmedabad@gmail.com

Advertisement for the various posts

The Gujarat Council of Science City is a registered society, working under the aegis of the Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of Gujarat.

With reference to our earlier advertisement No.GCSC/ Admin/ Recruitment/ 2019/01 for following posts, the last date for submission of duly filled applications on above address is further extended upto 7th October, 2019 at 18:00 hours through RPAD/Speed post.

Sr. No	Name Of the Post	No. Of Post
1	General Manager-Administration	01
2	General Manager-Phase-I	01
3	General Manager-Phase-II	02
4	Sr. Curator	02

The details of eligibility, age, qualification, experience, format of application and job profile, may be seen in the detailed advertisement available at the website of GCSC (www.scity.gujarat.gov.in). The applications received after due date will not be considered under any circumstances. GCSC reserves the right to cancel the recruitment for all/any of the post without giving any reason.
Date: 07/09/2019 **Executive Director**

Science City-Connecting Community with Science

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL, BENCH, AT MUMBAI
COMPANY SCHEME APPLICATION NO. 1671 OF 2018 [C.A. (CAA) 1671/MB/2018]

In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013;
And
In the matter of Application under Sections 230 - 232 of the Companies Act, 2013;
And
In the matter of Solara Active Pharma Sciences Limited [CIN: L24230MH2017PLC291636], a company, incorporated under the Companies Act of 2013, having its registered office at 201, Devavrata, Vashi, Sector - 17, Navi Mumbai -400703;
And
In the matter of Scheme of Merger between Strides Chemicals Private Limited and Solara Active Pharma Sciences Limited and their respective shareholders.

Solara Active Pharma Sciences Limited }
[CIN: L24230MH2017PLC291636], a company, incorporated under the Companies Act of 2013, having its registered office at 201, Devavrata, Vashi, Sector - 17, Navi Mumbai -400703 }
.....Applicant Company

Notice is hereby given that by an order dated August 6, 2019, the Mumbai Bench of the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal ("NCLT") has directed that the meetings of the equity shareholders and unsecured creditors of the Applicant Company be held on Thursday, the 10th day of October, 2019 at the respective time as mentioned below ("**Order**") for the purpose of considering, and if thought fit, approving with or without modification, the proposed Scheme of Merger between the Applicant Company and Strides Chemicals Private Limited and their respective shareholders (the "**Scheme**"), pursuant to the provisions of Sections 230 - 232 of the Companies Act, 2013 ("**Act**").

Sr. No.	Meeting	Time
1.	Equity Shareholders	10:00 a.m. (1000 hours)
2.	Unsecured Creditors	11:00 a.m. (1100 hours) or so soon thereafter after the conclusion of the meeting of the equity shareholders of the Applicant Company.

In pursuance of the said Order and as directed therein, further notice is hereby given that the meetings of equity shareholders and unsecured creditors of the Applicant Company will be held at the Hotel Regenza By Tunga, Plot No.37, Sector 30-A, Vashi, Navi Mumbai -400 703 on October 10, 2019, at the respective time mentioned above ("**Meetings**"), at which place, date and time, the equity shareholders and unsecured creditors are requested to attend their respective meetings.

Copies of the said Scheme and of the Explanatory Statement under Section 230 of the Act can be obtained free of charge at the Registered Office of the Applicant Company or at the offices of its Advocates, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, Advocates & Solicitors at 5th Floor, Peninsula Chambers, Peninsula Corporate Park, Ganpatrao Kadam Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai 400013. Persons entitled to attend and vote at the Meetings, may vote in person or by proxy, provided that all proxies in the prescribed form are deposited at the Registered Office of the Applicant Company not later than 48 (Forty Eight) hours before the aforesaid Meetings.

Forms of proxy can be obtained at the Registered Office of the Applicant Company or at the offices of its Advocates, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, Advocates & Solicitors, 5th Floor, Peninsula Chambers, Peninsula Corporate Park, Ganpatrao Kadam Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai 400 013.

The NCLT has appointed Mr. Vishal Phal, an Advocate, and in his absence Mr. Swanand Ganoo, an Advocate, as the Chairperson of the said Meetings. The above mentioned Scheme, if approved at the Meetings, will be subject to the subsequent approval of the NCLT.

In compliance with the Order and provisions of Section 230(4) read with Section 108 of the Act, read with Rule 20 and other applicable provisions of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 and in accordance with Regulation 44 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the Applicant Company is pleased to provide its equity shareholders, the facility of remote e-voting through e-voting services provided by Karvy Fintech Private Limited ("**Karvy**").

The remote e-voting period for the meeting of the equity shareholders of the Applicant Company, commences on Saturday, October 5, 2019, (at 9.00 a.m. IST) and ends on Wednesday, October 9, 2019, (at 5.00 p.m. IST). During this period, equity shareholders of the Applicant Company, whose names appear in the register of members and the list of Beneficial Owners as received from National Securities Depository Limited/Central Depository Services (India) Limited, as on August 16, 2019 may cast their vote by remote e-voting. The remote e-voting module shall be disabled by Karvy for voting on Wednesday, October 9, 2019, at 5.00 p.m. IST. Once the vote on the resolution is cast by an equity shareholder, he or she will not be allowed to change it subsequently.

The equity shareholders attending the meeting, who have not already cast their vote by remote e-voting shall be able to exercise their vote at the said meeting. The equity shareholders who have cast their vote through remote e-voting prior to the said meeting, may attend the meeting, but shall not cast their votes again. However, in case equity shareholders cast their vote both via remote e-voting and at the venue, then voting through remote e-voting shall prevail and voting done at the venue shall be treated as invalid. In case the equity shareholders attending their meeting have voted both through physical ballot paper as well as through the electronic voting system (Instapoll) available at the said meeting, the vote on the electronic voting system (Instapoll) shall be deemed valid and the vote cast through the physical ballot paper shall be deemed invalid.

The notice including the remote e-voting instructions is available on the Applicant Company's website at www.solara.co.in and a copy is also available on the website of Karvy at <https://evoting.karvy.com>. Copy of the notice is also available at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com.

In case of any queries or grievances relating to remote e-voting, you may refer to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for equity shareholders and e-voting user manual for equity shareholders available at the download section of (<https://evoting.karvy.com>) or contact Karvy Fintech Private Limited, Mr. S V Raju, Deputy General Manager, Karvy Selenium Tower B, Plot Nos. 31 & 32, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Serilingampally Mandal, Hyderabad - 500032, Tel No.040-6716 2222 with your particulars viz., DP ID / Client ID / Folio No. or may write to the Company Secretary at the Registered Office of the Applicant Company.

The NCLT vide its Order dated August 6, 2019 has appointed M/s. Nilesh Shah and Associates, Practicing Company Secretaries, represented by Mr. Nilesh Shah (having Membership No. FCS-4554), residing at 404/B, Poonam Sagar, Poonam Nagar, Off. Mahakali Caves Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400 093, or failing him, Mr. Hetal Shah (having Membership No. FCS-8063), or failing her Mr. Mahesh Darji (having Membership No. FCS-7175) as the scrutinizer for the said Meetings. The scrutinizer will collate the votes downloaded from the remote e-voting system, votes cast at the meetings (through electronic system and physical ballot), as may be applicable, to declare the final result.

The results, together with Scrutinizer's Report, will be announced on or before Friday, October 11, 2019 and will be placed on the website of the Applicant Company at www.solara.co.in, besides being communicated to the BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited where the shares of the Applicant Company are listed. In case of the meeting of equity shareholders of the Applicant Company, the results will also be placed on the website of e-voting agency at <https://evoting.karvy.com>.

Dated this 6th day of September, 2019

Sd/-
Vishal Phal
(Chairperson appointed for the Meetings)

Man kills wife by smashing her head with stone, held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 6

A 33-YEAR-OLD man was arrested from Mankhurd on Thursday for allegedly killing his wife by smashing her head with a stone on the suspicion that she was having an extra-marital affair.

The police said that Mohammad Khalil Mohammad Jalil (33) and Noor Begam Salmani (26) had got married a few years ago and were staying in Govandi.

On Wednesday night, the couple started arguing while travelling in an autorickshaw. "Jalil asked the autorickshaw driver to stop and got off. Salmani followed him. While they were walking on the Sion-Trombay road, Jalil allegedly picked up a stone and threw it at her. The stone hit Salmani and she fell on the road. Jalil

then allegedly picked up another stone and smashed her head," said an officer. He left Salmani, who was still alive, on the road and fled, the officer added.

A passerby informed the Mankhurd police, which took Salmani to Rajawadi hospital, where she was declared brought dead on arrival.

While the Mankhurd police went on to register a case of murder, the Crime Branch started a parallel probe and learnt that Salmani would often fight with her husband. "The Crime Branch brought in Jalil for questioning. He confessed to the crime and maintained that he suspected that Salmani was having extra-marital affair. He claimed to have killed her in a fit of rage," said Inspector Deepak Chavan. Salmani was later handed over to the Mankhurd police for further investigation.

ELGAAR PARISHAD CASE

Gadling says he doesn't want to depose before inquiry panel

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, SEPTEMBER 6

SURENDRA GADLING, an accused in the Elgaar Parishad case, on Friday appeared before the Koregaon Bhima Commission of Inquiry for a scheduled deposition, but instead submitted an application stating that he didn't want to depose "as it will cause prejudice to him in his defence" before the trial court.

Gadling and activist Sudhir Dhawale, a co-accused in the same case, had last year filed their applications before the commission through advocate Siddharth Patil, stating that they should "be called upon to depose before the commission so as to bring to light certain facts" that they were privy to. Gadling and Dhawale were among the activists arrested in June last year by Pune City Police over their alleged links with the CPI-Maoist, a banned outfit. They are currently lodged in Yerwada Central Prison.

The commission had summoned Gadling for a deposition on Friday while Dhawale was asked to depose on Saturday. Accordingly, Gadling was brought before the commission on Friday, but he tendered an application stating that he didn't want to depose. He told the commission that the deposition will "cause prejudice to him in his defence before the trial court", where he is facing serious charges. He also tendered his apology for

Accused lawyer says deposition before commission may cause prejudice in trial court



Gadling was produced before the commission Friday. Pavan Khengre

causing inconvenience to the commission. The commission, headed by former Calcutta High Court Chief Justice J N Patel, then discharged the lawyer and he was sent back to jail.

When asked if Dhawale will depose, Gadling said he didn't know anything about that as the two accused were kept in separate barracks and not allowed to interact with each other. "I am in Suraksha cell and Dhawale has been kept in the Anda Cell inside Yerwada Central Prison," said Gadling. The commission contacted Yerwada Central Prison officials to ask whether Dhawale was willing to depose.

"We have been told that Dhawale wants

to depose and so he will be brought before the commission on September 7," said advocate Ashish Satpute, the lawyer for the commission.

Advocate Shishir Hiray, the lawyer representing Maharashtra government, said, "Gadling had filed an application in July last year saying he wanted to depose before the commission. We were prepared to examine him before the commission. But he took a U-turn, saying he didn't want to depose and cited shallow reasons."

Advocate Niteen Pradhan, who represents Hindutva leader Milind Ekbote, accused of instigating violence in Koregaon Bhima area on January 1, 2018, Jayesh Shinde, a victim of the violence, and Balasaheb Jamadar, the in-charge of the 'Jaytambh', a war memorial in the area, were also present on Friday, along with other lawyers including advocates B G Bansode, Kiran Channe, Pushkar Durge, Pradip Gavade and Rahul Makhare.

The Koregaon Bhima Inquiry Commission was set up by the state government last year to probe the causes of the violence, in which one person died and several others were injured.

Meanwhile, the commission allowed Gadling to meet activist Harshali Potdar, another accused in the Elgaar Parishad case.

J&K curbs set back Ganpati journey from Mumbai to Poonch temple

ABHA GORADIA
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 6

A POONCH resident, who last month took four Ganpati idols with her from Mumbai for a temple in her village and Maratha regiments posted at the Line of Control, found to her disappointment that due to the prevailing restrictions in Jammu & Kashmir, she would have to scale back her plans.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Kiranbala Isher said that when she reached Poonch with the four idols, she was told that she could not take the tallest idol, measuring 6.5 feet, to the Shiv Durga Bhairav Mandir. Poonch is a communally-sensitive area located close to the Line of Control. "Officials from the local administration told me to send the idol to the temple next year when the situation would be less tense. However, they allowed the temple set up one of the smaller idols of one foot that I had taken," she claimed. Isher has taken the tallest idol at her home.



The 6.5-foot Ganesh idol was meant for Shiv Durga Bhairav Mandir. Archive

She was allowed to give two other small idols to soldiers at the LoC for their Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations. "When we reached Poonch, a few soldiers came and took the two idols," said Isher. "While the local administration is trying to control the prevailing situation, it didn't want to disrupt our traditions," she added.

This is the fourth year when Isher, the founder of NGO Progressive Nation that support soldiers and martyrs, had taken Ganpati idols made in Mumbai to Poonch to celebrate Ganeshotsav. The 6.5-foot idol that Isher took from Mumbai was created by specially abled artist Vikrant Pandhre at his workshop in Kurla.

On Sunday, as has been the case in previous years, a feast will be organised on the occasion of Ganeshotsav for people belonging to all communities. However, it is uncertain how many people would turn up, said Isher.

Sd/- (Member Secretary)

MAHARASHTRA POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Kalpataru Point, Opp. PVR Cinema, near Sion Circle, Sion (E), Mumbai - 400 022

Ph: 022-2408 7295 / 2404 1360

Email: ee@mpcb.gov.in Website: www.mpcb.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE

RFP NOTICE No.: MPCB/EIC/B-3308 Date: 06/09/2019

Maharashtra Pollution Control Board invites E-tenders for 'APPOINTMENT OF AN AGENCY FOR PURCHASE OF SOFTWARE LICENSES AND MIGRATION OF MICROSOFT EXCHANGE FROM ON PREMISE TO OFFICE 365 CLOUD - INDIA (FOR 3 YEARS)'. Complete RFP documents can be downloaded and purchased between 07-09-2019 to 17-09-2019 by making online payment of ₹ 10,000/- (Rupees Ten thousand only) towards RFP documents fee, from following sub-portal on GoM e-tender in website https://maharashtra.etenders.in

Sub portal Organizations of Government of Maharashtra URL: https://allgom.maharashtra.etenders.in

The RFP and various Corrigendum's document from time to time can also be viewed from MPCB's official website www.mpcb.gov.in

It is mandatory for all bidders to submit the proof of purchase of RFP documents (receipt of e-payment) to attend the pre-bid meeting and same should be attached with the Bids.

Date of Pre-bid conference : 18-09-2019 15:00 Hrs

Last date for Bid Preparation : 20-09-2019 17:00 Hrs

Date of Technical Bid Opening : 24-09-2019 11:30 Hrs

Sd/- (Member Secretary)

NMDC Limited

(A Government of India Enterprise)

10-3-311/A, CASTLE HILLS, MASAB TANK, HYDERABAD - 500 028

CIN: L13100AP1958GOI001674

E-AUCTION SALE OF ROUGH DIAMONDS FROM NMDC DIAMOND MINING PROJECT, MAJHAWAN, PANNA

NMDC will display lots of rough diamonds of about 24,300 carats from 16/09/2019, 18/09/2019 to 20/09/2019 at NMDC Diamond Mining Project, Majhawan, Panna and from 24/09/2019 to 27/09/2019 at Gujarat Hira Bourse, Ichhapore, Surat to be sold through e-auction conducted by M/s MSTC Limited.

For further details regarding the time of display, E-Auction and appointment procedure, buyers may visit NMDC Website: www.nmdc.co.in or GM, Panna at 07732-271234 or contact DGM (Coml), Panna at mobile no. +91-9490491738 or HO, Hyderabad at mobile no. +91-9490759607; M/s MSTC Limited +91-9650554645 / +91-7406047869.

Sd/- (Member Secretary)

MSAMB's National Institute of Post Harvest Technology (NIPHT)

S. No. 398-400, Next to CRPF Campus, Talegaon Dabhade, Tal. Maval, Dist. Pune-410506.

Mobile : 9850320139 e-Mail: info@nipht.org

e-Tender Notice

NIPHT invites e-Tenders from experienced firms for following work. Document will be available on www.nipht.org and https://mahatenders.gov.in from 11/09/2019.

S. No. Name of Work Estimated Cost in INR EMD Tender Fee in Rs.

(1) Providing Catering Services at NIPHT, Talegaon Dabhade, Dist. Pune Rs. 75.00 Lakh 1% of Tender Cost 5000/-

- Director, NIPHT

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय सिंचाई प्रमंडल पाकुड़ शुद्धि पत्र

इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा जो P.R-215787 Date-01.09.2019 के द्वारा विभिन्न समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित हुआ है के सन्दर्भ में सूचित करना है कि कार्य पूर्ण होने की अवधि 550 दिन के बदले 450 दिन पढ़ा जाय एवं अल्पकालीन SBD-IFB-08/18-19 के बदले अल्पकालीन SBD-IFB-08/19-20 पढ़ा जाय।

बूद - बूद नहीं बरतेंगे तो बूद को तरसेंगे कार्यपालक अभियंता सिंचाई प्रमंडल पाकुड़।

PR 216388 Water Resource (19-20)_D

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय सिंचाई प्रमंडल पाकुड़ शुद्धि पत्र

इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा जो P.R-215788 Date-01.09.2019 के द्वारा विभिन्न समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित हुआ है के सन्दर्भ में सूचित करना है कि कार्य पूर्ण होने की अवधि 550 दिन के बदले 450 दिन पढ़ा जाय एवं अल्पकालीन SBD-IFB-07/18-19 के बदले अल्पकालीन SBD-IFB-07/19-20 पढ़ा जाय।

बूद - बूद नहीं बरतेंगे तो बूद को तरसेंगे कार्यपालक अभियंता सिंचाई प्रमंडल पाकुड़।

P.R. 216390 Water Resource (19-20)-D

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय सिंचाई प्रमंडल पाकुड़ शुद्धि पत्र

इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा जो P.R-215789 Date-01.09.2019 के द्वारा विभिन्न समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित हुआ है के सन्दर्भ में सूचित करना है कि कार्य पूर्ण होने की अवधि 550 दिन के बदले 450 दिन पढ़ा जाय।

बूद - बूद नहीं बरतेंगे तो बूद को तरसेंगे कार्यपालक अभियंता सिंचाई प्रमंडल पाकुड़।

P.R. 216396 Water Resource (19-20)-D

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय सिंचाई प्रमंडल पाकुड़ शुद्धि पत्र

इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा जो P.R-215788 Date-01.09.2019 के द्वारा विभिन्न समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित हुआ है के सन्दर्भ में सूचित करना है कि कार्य पूर्ण होने की अवधि 550 दिन के बदले 450 दिन पढ़ा जाय एवं अल्पकालीन SBD-IFB-07/18-19 के बदले अल्पकालीन SBD-IFB-07/19-20 पढ़ा जाय।

बूद - बूद नहीं बरतेंगे तो बूद को तरसेंगे कार्यपालक अभियंता सिंचाई प्रमंडल पाकुड़।

P.R. 216390 Water Resource (19-20)-D

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय सिंचाई प्रमंडल पाकुड़ शुद्धि पत्र

इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा जो P.R-215788 Date-01.09.2019 के द्वारा विभिन्न समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित हुआ है के सन्दर्भ में सूचित करना है कि कार्य पूर्ण होने की अवधि 550 दिन के बदले 450 दिन पढ़ा जाय एवं अल्पकालीन SBD-IFB-07/18-19 के बदले अल्पकालीन SBD-IFB-07/19-20 पढ़ा जाय।

बूद - बूद नहीं बरतेंगे तो बूद को तरसेंगे कार्यपालक अभियंता सिंचाई प्रमंडल पाकुड़।

P.R. 216390 Water Resource (19-20)-D

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय सिंचाई प्रमंडल पाकुड़ शुद्धि पत्र

इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा जो P.R-215788 Date-01.09.2019 के द्वारा विभिन्न समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित हुआ है के सन्दर्भ में सूचित करना है कि कार्य पूर्ण होने की अवधि 550 दिन के बदले 450 दिन पढ़ा जाय एवं अल्पकालीन SBD-IFB-07/18-19 के बदले अल्पकालीन SBD-IFB-07/19-20 पढ़ा जाय।

बूद - बूद नहीं बरतेंगे तो बूद को तरसेंगे कार्यपालक अभियंता सिंचाई प्रमंडल पाकुड़।

P.R. 216390 Water Resource (19-20)-D

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय सिंचाई प्रमंडल पाकुड़ शुद्धि पत्र

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बूद - बूद नहीं बरतेंगे तो बूद को तरसेंगे कार्यपालक अभियंता सिंचाई प्रमंडल पाकुड़।

P.R. 216390 Water Resource (19-20)-D

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय सिंचाई प्रमंडल पाकुड़ शुद्धि पत्र

इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा जो P.R-215788 Date-01.09.2019 के द्वारा विभिन्न समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित हुआ है के सन्दर्भ में सूचित करना है कि कार्य पूर्ण होने की अवधि 550 दिन के बदले 450 दिन पढ़ा जाय एवं अल्पकालीन SBD-IFB-07/18-19 के बदले अल्पकालीन SBD-IFB-07/19-20 पढ़ा जाय।

बूद - बूद नहीं बरतेंगे तो बूद को तरसेंगे कार्यपालक अभियंता सिंचाई प्रमंडल पाकुड़।

P.R. 216390 Water Resource (19-20)-D

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय सिंचाई प्रमंडल पाकुड़ शुद्धि पत्र

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7 Govt & Politics



DELHI **CONFIDENTIAL**



BIG MEET

SONIA GANDHI will meet AICC general secretaries, state in-charges, state Congress presidents and legislature party leaders for a structured meeting next week, the first such interaction after she took over as Congress president again. While the meeting is meant mainly to chart out programmes for celebrating Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary, it will be an occasion for Sonia to send out a larger message to the party which is struggling to gets its act together. The AICC has asked state units to organise week-long celebrations from October 2 to 9 to mark the Mahatma's birth anniversary and a review meeting was held by general secretaries on Friday.

OVER THE MOON

AHEAD OF Chandrayaan 2's landing on Moon, Indian diplomat and poet Abhay Kumar has written a "Moon Anthem". Kumar started writing the anthem in Antananarivo, the capital of Madagascar, after Chandrayaan 2 took off. It calls the mission "mankind's great leap, final solace, a pit stop to explore the deep space..."

BOOSTING ATTENDANCE

THERE WAS an impressive crowd at the Fit India Movement programme conducted in Parliament complex on Friday evening. Although Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and political leaders were at the centre in front of the Mahatma Gandhi statue, ready to do the exercises, Parliament officials and staff remained at the side as spectators. Seeing that not many had come out, Union minister Anurag Thakur took the microphone and requested TV cameras to focus on them so that their family members can see that they were not fit enough to do the exercises. It took only a few seconds for dozens of officials to join the political leaders on the exercise floor.

Ex-CM Buddhadeb admitted to hospital with breathing problems

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 6

FORMER WEST Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee was admitted to a private hospital in Kolkata on Friday evening after he complained of breathing problems. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Governor Jagdeep Dhankar paid him a visit at the hospital. Senior CPM leaders, including Surjya Kanta Mishra, visited the hospital too.



Former West Bengal CM Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee

According to sources in the hospital, Bhattacharya, who was suffering from low blood pressure, was admitted to ICCU. "He is in ICCU and his condition is stable. We wish him early recovery. He was critical when I first saw him, now he is recovering," said Banerjee.

Sonia steps in to quell feud in MP unit, to meet Nath today

Amid war of words, AICC asks leaders to refrain from making public comments

MANOJ CGG & MILIND GHATAWAI
NEW DELHI, BHOPAL, SEPTEMBER 6

CONGRESS PRESIDENT Sonia Gandhi on Friday stepped in to quell the feud within the Madhya Pradesh Congress unit even as the high command warned of strict action against those making public statements or indulging in indiscipline. Chief Minister and state Congress president Kamal Nath will meet Sonia on Saturday.

The intervention by the Congress president came even as the war of words between senior Congress leaders continued, with former chief minister Digvijaya Singh demanding that individuals be punished for indiscipline, irrespective of their stature. This prompted a sharp retort from Forest Minister Umang Singhar, who said everyone should remain disciplined.

Sonia sought a report from AICC general secretary in-charge of Madhya Pradesh Deepak Babaria. Babaria met her Friday evening with a report. Sources said Babaria has said in his report that Singhar's outburst was un-

EXPLAINED After Haryana, Cong chief's task at hand

AFTER BRINGING the Haryana house in order, Congress president Sonia Gandhi has turned towards Madhya Pradesh where the internal feud is showing signs of getting out of hand. Although the issue of appointment of a new state Congress president seems to be the trigger for the current unrest, the fact that there is deep mistrust among the top leadership of the party in the state is a matter of worry for the central leadership given the fact that the Kamal Nath government is surviving on a thin majority.

warranted. "I am asking Congress leaders and workers in Madhya Pradesh to refrain from making any public statements or indulging in any indiscipline. Otherwise, it will be dealt with very strictly," Babaria told *The Indian Express* after meeting Sonia.

On Singhar's outburst against Singh, he said "it was most unfortunate". "Being a senior minister, how could he do that? He should not have done that. He should have come to the high command and not made statements in the media...but since he is a minister, the matter is now with the high command,"

Babaria said. "He (Singhar) may have some grievances...What I personally feel is that all things should not have been taken to the media," he added.

The Congress high command is concerned about the raging feud. It does not want the situation to go out of hand and affect the stability of the Kamal Nath government, which is surviving on a thin majority. The internal war is also bad optics for the grand old party which is struggling to find its feet after the Lok Sabha election debacle.

With the Congress high com-

mand getting ready to appoint a new PCC president for Madhya Pradesh in place of Nath, Singhar's attack on Singh is seen as part of the tussle between the Jyotiraditya Scindia and the Nath-Singh camps. Singhar is said to be close to Scindia.

In his first media interaction after Singhar accused him of interference, Singh said it was for Nath and and party president Sonia to take a call.

He added, "There should be discipline in every party. If someone indulges in indiscipline, no matter how big an individual, action should be taken."

Hours later, Singhar tweeted, "It's my suggestion that everyone should remain disciplined."

Singh has defended his decision to write to ministers, seeking an audience with them to know the status of transfers and other works he recommended. As an MP, he said, it was his right and duty to write to ministers.

Meanwhile, reacting to senior Congress leader P Chidambaram's arrest, Singh alleged that the Centre was following the Gujarat model of governance where the "innocent are framed and many cases slapped against them".



FIT INDIA

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla leads the Fit India Drive at Parliament on Friday. Prem Nath Pandey

Planning new law for Sabarimala admn: Kerala

New Delhi: The LDF government in Kerala is planning to bring a separate law for administration of Sabarimala temple. The state government conveyed this to a Supreme Court bench on August 27. "Learned counsel appearing on behalf of the respondent — State of Kerala submits that the State is considering enacting a

separate legislation with regard to the administration of the Sabarimala Sree Ayyappa Swamy Temple. He accordingly seeks an adjournment," the court said, and directed that the matter be listed after four weeks.

The development comes at a time when the state government is reeling from aftereffects of its

stand on the Sabarimala issue after the apex court quashed age restrictions for entry of women.

The bench was hearing a plea by seniormost member of Pandalam royal family Revathi Naal P Ramavarma Raja, through Senior Advocate K Radhakrishnan, seeking a separate panel for administration of the temple. **ENS**

DISPUTE BETWEEN KERALA CHURCH FACTIONS

SC irked with HC for ‘disturbing’ its decision: Who is this judge?

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 6

THE SUPREME Court on Friday lashed out at the Kerala High Court over its intervention in a dispute between Church factions in contravention of its judgment.

A bench of Justices Arun Mishra and M R Shah was upset about the March 8 interim order of a single judge of the HC, allowing the Orthodox and Jacobite factions of Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church to conduct religious services in a church in Emakulam district. "The High Court has no right to disturb our decision. This is height of judicial indiscipline. Tell your judges in Kerala they are part of India," Justice Mishra said.

The court's reference was to its July 3, 2017, judgment upholding the Orthodox faction's rights to

administer churches under Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church.

The HC ordered status quo, which, however, had the effect of allowing both sides to conduct services in the Church in question.

On Friday, the top court questioned the HC judgment and said, "It is highly objectionable. Who is this judge? Tell his name aloud. Let all know."

The counsel representing the respondents then read out the name from the HC order.

The apex court was hearing a plea by the Orthodox faction challenging the HC order. The Orthodox faction had filed a civil suit claiming exclusive rights to administer the Emakulam church concerned and seeking an injunction against anyone else intervening in its affairs.

This was dismissed, following which the Orthodox faction

moved the HC.

In an interim order on March 8, the HC ordered status quo.

Upset with the HC order, the Orthodox faction appealed to the apex court.

Appearing for the Orthodox side, advocate Sadarul Anam referred to the SC judgment of July 3, 2017, adjudicating the dispute between the two factions. The court had upheld the Orthodox faction's rights to administer churches under the 1934 Constitution of the Malankara Church.

Taking note, the SC bench on Friday wondered how the HC could pass the interim order which was in contravention of its decision. The court set aside the HC order and disposed of the suit, saying the 2017 decision was in a representative manner and applied to all churches in question.

DR S LAKSHMANAN, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, CACHAR AWARD CATEGORY: BORDER DISTRICTS

How a district in Assam is tackling corruption with just a phone call

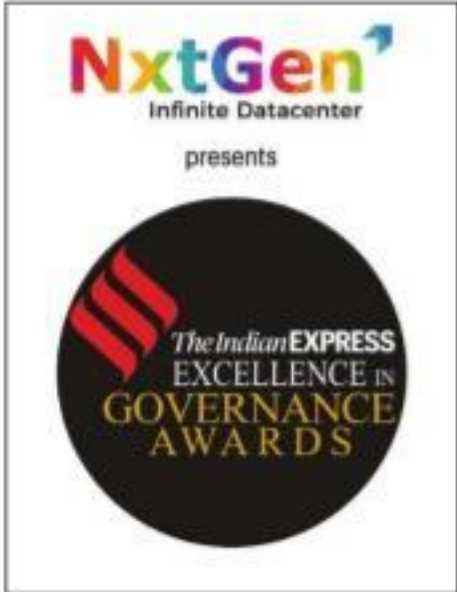
ABHISHEK SAHA
SILCHAR, SEPTEMBER 6

FROM ORDERING a magisterial enquiry following a complaint regarding alleged financial irregularities in the implementation of a mid-day meal scheme in a public high school to conducting reassessment of weights in a weighbridge and penalising overloaded coal trucks — actions were taken immediately after complaints were filed against corrupt practices in Assam's Cachar district.

Both officials as well as residents of the district agree that the administration's umbrella anti-corruption initiatives, 'Debo Na, Nebo Na' (Won't give, won't take), launched in May 2017 and a brainchild of former Cachar Deputy Commissioner Dr S Lakshmanan, has simplified the procedure through which people can file their grievances with the administration. All it takes now is a phone call to register a complaint.

Until September last year, authorities said, as many as 13,075 complaints were received through phone calls, 30,000 through drop-boxes and 472 through the mobile application.

"In accordance with the chief minister's vision, we imple-



mented the initiative at the grassroots... The initiative also helped us identify bad procedures and rectify them," said Lakshmanan after receiving The Indian Express Excellence in Governance Awards that were given away on August 21. He is currently serving as the DC of Sivasagar district.



Abhinav Saha

Cachar Deputy Commissioner Dr S Lakshmanan receives the award from Union Minister of State for Prime Minister's Office Jitendra Singh; (right) a 'Debo na nebo na' box at a government office at Silchar in Cachar district



Express

"The complaints have now increased manifold," said senior district administration official Ruli Daulagupu, adding that on an average, at least 15 complaints are registered everyday and necessary actions are initiated. The actions taken depend on a variety of factors — from confirming the authenticity of the complaint to facilitating the resolution of the issue by coordinating with heads of departments concerned. In many cases, even magisterial enquiries are ordered.

"The initiative has been currently taken over by the district's Grievance and Complaint Redressal Cell. This has given the project a broader prospect. Now, actions are taken more swiftly than when it began. While about five or six officials posted at the district administration office look after the offline section, another group of officials operate the online section out of the National Institute of Technology in Silchar," says Daulagupu.

Documents accessed by *The Indian Express* showed, among others, complaints related to corruption, demand for a bribe, irregularity in attendance of teachers in government schools, corruption by forest department officials etc.

While posters promoting the campaign adorn the entrance of most public buildings, drop-boxes have been placed outside government offices in the districts. In its initial days, the campaign was promoted through SMS and video advertisement on local television channels and YouTube. Officials were also imparted training to enable them to access the mobile app.

"The motive is to ensure that there is no absence of facilities to communicate about a corrupt practice or its possibility immediately from the point of occurrence," said Lakshmanan,

The legislator of Katigora constituency in Cachar district, A C Jain, said, "The positive effects of the campaign are showing on the ground. For the first time, a systematic process has been put in place in the district to report corruption. Prior to this, the people did not have any easy way to register their complaint against corruption."

Sailesh Singh, a junior engineer with the District Rural Development Agency in Cachar, said, "A fear has developed among government employees in the district that if they try to indulge in corruption, anyone can report it to the senior officials."





NORTH

BSP snaps alliance with Dushyant Chautala's JJP

Chandigarh: In a late night development, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) called off its alliance with Dushyant Chautala's Jannayak Janata Party for the upcoming Haryana Assembly election — the third time it has walked out of a tie-up in the poll-bound state in the last seven months. The

Mayawati-led party had called off its alliance with the Indian National Lok Dal in February this year followed by Loktantra Suraksha Party (LSP) of former MP Raj Kumar Saini in June. The decision to call off the alliance with JJP in the state was announced by Mayawati in a series of tweets. **ENS**



Union minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal at the inauguration of the first 'Mega Food Park' in Nizambad district of Telangana on Friday. **PTI**

EAST

Ranchi cop fined Rs 36,000 for riding without helmet

Ranchi: A traffic constable in Ranchi was fined Rs 36,000 under the new Motor Vehicle Act for riding a two-wheeler without a helmet on Friday. This is the first case of a traffic police personnel being fined in Ranchi. Under the new law, enforcement personnel will have to pay twice the penalty if they break traffic rules in the

state. Ranchi traffic SP, Ajit Peter Dungdung, said the official was fined while he was returning home on a motor-cycle without a helmet. "When he was stopped and asked for a driving license, pollution under control certificate and other documents, he was not able to produce them." **ENS**

WEST

Swimming coach accused of molesting minor held

Panaji: A swimming coach accused of molesting a minor girl was arrested in New Delhi late Friday, Goa Police officials said. The police had sent teams to north India and Bengaluru in search of the coach, who was booked on Thursday under charges of rape of the girl, who is a national-level swimmer. "The location of the accused was

finally found in New Delhi's Kashmere Gate area," a Goa Police spokesperson said. The coach was booked under Sections 461, 354, 376 and 506 (ii) of the IPC, Section 8 of Goa Children's Act and Sections 6 and 8 of POCSO Act. According to the father of the girl, the coach molested her at a sports complex in Goa. **ENS**

SOUTH

Three held for provocative messages on social media

Tirupati: Three people were arrested on Friday in Tirumala, where the Lord Venkateswara temple is located, for allegedly posting provocative messages on social media, hurting sentiments of devotees, police said. Mobile phones were also seized from the arrested men, who are in their twen-

ties, Superintendent of Police KKN Anburajan here said. While one of the arrested is from Guntur in Andhra Pradesh, the other two are from Hyderabad, he said. The messages were circulated on August 31, according to the police. The body that administers the temple had lodged a complaint. **PTI**

Modi-Xi meet helped bilateral relations: top China diplomat

Says Pakistan's efforts to fight international terror are 'worthy of applause'

DIPANKAR GHOSE
BEIJING, SEPTEMBER 6

A TOP diplomat in China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) on Thursday said that while there have been setbacks in India-China relationship, the meeting between Chinese President in Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi last year was a milestone event that brought the relationship "back on track".

But senior MFA diplomats also articulated their support for Pakistan and said Islamabad is "fighting international terror", and its efforts are "worthy of applause".

Speaking to journalists from 18 countries who were in Beijing as part of a media delegation organised by the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO),

Yu Jun, Counsellor, MFA, and a senior diplomat, said in response to a question from The Indian Express, "The SCO is committed to the Shanghai Spirit of mutual trust and cooperation. For many years, we have taken the Shanghai Spirit as a set of guidelines between member-states. It is fair to say that (in) recent years, the mutual trust is absolutely growing. Yes, to be frank, there is conflict between China and India, and India and Pakistan. But under SCO we have established a platform of dialogue."

Stating last year saw "some setbacks in the relationship" between India and China, Yu said, "Due to our joint efforts, leaders of the two countries met in Wuhan in an informal summit. This was a milestone event, putting things back on the normal track. We often say that regional countries have a shared future."

The question was about regional conflicts between SCO member-counties being an impediment to cooperation.

In response to a question from another delegate, Yu said, "We also know that Pakistan has been fighting international terror and they have paid costs. We applaud its efforts in this regard and urge support from countries under the framework of SCO."

The ministry reiterated its positions on Hong Kong and Beijing's stance on the trade war between China and the United States.

On Hong Kong, Yu said steps the administration's steps taken against the protesters, which he said have faced condemnation from parts of the international community, were lawful and legitimate. He said, "Hong Kong's problems are China's internal affairs. The steps that have been

taken are legitimate, lawful, and will prevent Hong Kong from becoming a haven for criminals. The outrageous moves of (some) radical elements has gone far beyond what freedom of speech and assembly can allow."

Yu said China would continue to back the administration in Hong Kong, and that some "western countries" were instigating trouble by making "groundless remarks."

On the trade war between China and the US, Yu blamed Washington for initiating it and said the US believes in "unilateralism and bullying". He said, "This (China-US trade war) will hurt the world economy and the US itself.... China doesn't want a trade war - not that it is afraid of one."

(The reporter was part of a media delegation from 18 countries invited to China by SCO).

India never aggressor despite being vishwa guru: Venkaiah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 6

VICE PRESIDENT M Venkaiah Naidu on Friday said that even though India acts with restraint in the face of "grave provocations", the country will give a befitting response if it is attacked.

Speaking at the launch of a compilation of 95 speeches delivered by President Ram Nath Kovind in the last one year, Naidu said, "If you go through the history of India, it was never an aggressor, never attacked any country in spite of being known as 'vishwaguru' (world leader), in spite of having maximum GDP much before others."

He said India "never attacked any other country" even as "all other Tom, Dick and Harry came and attacked us, ruled us, ruined us and cheated us".

"If you want to live in harmony, in peace, you must live together, work together, and then move together," he said.

"In spite of grave provocations, you must be seeing in the recent past, we are not doing anything. But if somebody attacks us, we



Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu (centre), Union ministers Prakash Javadekar (right) and Thaawar Chand Gehlot at the book release event in New Delhi on Friday. **Anil Sharma**

will give a reply to them which they will not be able to forget for the rest of their lives," the Vice President emphasised, without naming any country. He said this should be understood by everyone, including those who try to provoke India. Naidu also quoted from the book regarding India's commitment to protecting its sovereignty through peaceful means and said that the country has always strongly adhered to the values of peace and cooperation.

He said President Kovind expects a high level of commitment among bureaucrats, and that he has inspired hundreds of young civil servants to become change agents, delivering social justice and acting as custodians of constitutional ethic and rule of law.

The books, titled 'Republican Ethic (vol. 2)' and 'Loktantra ke Swar (Khand 2)', have been published by the Publications Division under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and will be on e-platforms such as Kindle and App Store to meet the demands of e-book readers, I&B Minister Prakash Javadekar said.

As students stay away, Kashmir schools ask them to collect video lessons, assignments

ADIL AKHZER
SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 6

AS SCHOOLS in Kashmir continue to remain deserted following the government's decision to open them in phases up to Class 10, the management of various schools has started asking students through advertisements to collect video lessons and assignments.

"Parents are requested to collect video lessons and study material as per mentioned schedule at K.S.E.R.T College Humhama from 7.30 am to 10.30 am... parents are requested to carry a pen

drive (Minimum capacity of 32 GB) or a Hard drive," reads an advertisement issued by Delhi Public School Budgam in a local daily.

Dubai Grand School International, another Srinagar-based school, issued a similar "Important notice for parents"

"Parents are requested to collect the study material of their wards from school office on 11 and 12 of September 2019 from 9.30 am - 2.30 pm," it said.

Dr A G M's City School issued an advertisement saying: "The students of classes 10th, 11th and 12 are informed to submit their board examination forms to

school (Last Date is 7 September 2019). Further, the students of classes K.G to 12, there are informed to collect their assignments from 12th to 15th September 2019 from 9.00 Am to 12.00 noon."

Aamir Khan, a parent in Srinagar, told *The Indian Express* that he first bought a pen drive and then headed to his son's school. "After we saw the notice, I visited the school and collected the assignment. We have been given assignments for a few weeks," he said.

A senior officer from the Education Department told *The Indian Express* that while there are no specific directions to

schools to provide assignments to students, schools are taking these initiatives on their own.

The Indian Express has reported that while the most of the schools in the Valley are open, the attendance remains "very thin". "We have reports of some students attending schools in the districts. But overall attendance continues to be very thin," the officer said.

The government initially announced opening of primary schools followed by middle and high schools across the Valley. While teachers have reported for duty, the students have mostly stayed away from schools.

Proximity to Pak may affect goodwill, BJP team tells China

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 6

A BJP delegation has conveyed to the Communist Party of China (CPC) leadership that the goodwill China enjoys in India could get affected if Beijing is seen as supporting Pakistan, which the delegation said is fostering and promoting terrorist activities in India.

The 11-member high-level BJP delegation led by general secretary Arun Singh also urged China to take measures to increase imports from India so that the \$57.86 billion trade deficit could be brought down.

In discussions between the BJP delegation and the CPC leadership during the seven-day visit that included party MPs, the key message was that "each one should respect the other's concerns, sensitivities and aspirations," Singh told *The Indian Express*.

Incidentally, the BJP delegation's August 26-September 1 visit comes ahead of Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to India in October and also in the wake of the Centre's move to scrap the special status to Jammu and Kashmir state and bifurcate it into two Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh.

Beijing had reacted strongly to the move saying India should avoid "unilateral actions" in J&K that could trigger tensions in the region and maintained that the reorganisation of Ladakh as a UT was "unacceptable".

On August 16, China had pushed the United Nations Security Council to meet for a closed-door, informal consultation on the situation in J&K. China's envoy to the UN Zhang Jun said UNSC members were "concerned about the human rights situation there and also it's the general view of members that parties concerned should refrain from taking any unilateral action that might further aggravate the tension". India has rebutted the claim.

Activist Shehla Rashid booked for sedition

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 6

ACTIVIST SHEHLA Rashid has been booked under sedition and other criminal charges for allegedly spreading misinformation about armed forces in Kashmir. The FIR has been registered on the basis of a complaint by advocate Alakh Alok Srivastava.

On August 18, Rashid posted a series of tweets, out of which two have been mentioned by the complainant. The tweets alleged excesses by the forces against children and youths in the Valley.

In his complaint, Srivastava has said, "The allegations made by her are false, baseless and concocted. She has not provided any evidence of the torture... She is de-

However, BJP leader Arun Singh said the issue was not raised in meetings with top CPC leaders, but the matter came up in "small meetings". "We maintained that there is no change in the territory of any country. And the whole purpose of the move was the welfare of the people in the state," said Singh.

Vijay Chauthaiwale, BJP's foreign affairs department in charge, who was part of the delegation, said the BJP's decision to go ahead with this visit despite the developments at the UNSC showed that the ruling party "was keen to have dialogues".

He told *The Indian Express*: "There was a good attempt to understand each party's functioning and structure. Whenever there was a reference to J&K, we put our position clear and they did theirs."

Another highlight of the visit, Chauthaiwale said, is that BJP's president Amit Shah had written a letter meant for Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The letter, which was handed over to the CPC leadership, apparently said that there should be more interactions between the two parties.

Singh, who described the visit at the invitation of CPC as "extremely successful", said that ruling party leaders have suggested agriculture products, pharmaceutical and tourism sectors as the areas where Beijing can work to bring down the huge trade deficit between the two countries.

Apart from Singh and Chauthaiwale, the delegation included Gopal Agarwal, national spokesperson on economic affairs, party MPs Shivkumar Udasi (Karnataka), Suresh Pujari (Odisha), Raksha Khadse (Maharashtra), Vivek Narayan Shejwalkar (Madhya Pradesh), Mahesh Poddar (Rajya Sabha), Chandigarh BJP president Sanjay Tandon, party spokesperson Ashok Goel and Neetu Dabas, secretary of the party's youth wing BJYM in Delhi. They visited Beijing and Guangzhou.

Cheating case: Plea against bail of SC ex-staffer junked

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 6

A DELHI court on Friday dismissed the Delhi Police's application to cancel the bail of a former woman employee of the Supreme Court who has been accused cheating and criminal intimidation on the pretext of getting the complainant a job at the apex court.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) Manish Khurana dismissed the police's application after the complainant, Naveen Kumar, 31, failed to appear in court for the third time. The court observed that "no fruitful purpose would be served by keeping the application pending".

The accused is the same woman who had levelled allegations of sexual harassment

against Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi.

In May, an in-house inquiry committee of the top court had concluded that it "found no substance" in the woman's allegations of sexual harassment and given CJ Gogoi a clean chit.

In a sworn affidavit, the woman had called the cheating case filed by Kumar against her "false and frivolous", and alleged that that she was being made a victim for her complaint against the CJ.

On Friday, CMM Khurana waited for over an hour for investigating officer Mukesh Antil to arrive in court with Kumar. When the final call for Delhi Police was made, CMM Khurana observed, "In these circumstances, no fruitful purpose would be served by keeping the application pending. The application is thus dismissed and disposed of."

TWO STUDIES ON ANCIENT DNA RELEASED

'No central Asian Steppe ancestry among Harappans'

SOMYA LAKHANI, SOWMIYA ASHOK & DIVYAA

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 6

WITH THE release of two ancient DNA studies on Thursday, scientists may have solved a portion of the mystery around the Indus Valley Civilisation (IVC), also called the Harappan Civilisation, which was spread across north-western South Asia from 2600 to 1900 BCE.

The two studies — which appeared in journals *Cell* and *Science* — show that there was no central Asian Steppe ancestry among the Harappans, indicating that the Steppe pastoralists migrated to India after the decline of the Harappan civilisation.

The study published in *Cell*, titled "An Ancient Harappan

Genome Lacks Ancestry from Steppe Pastoralists or Iranian Farmers", examined DNA samples extracted from 4,500-year-old skeletal remains of a woman found in Rakhigarhi, the IVC site in Haryana's Hisar. Archeologist Vasant Shinde, one of the authors of the study, said, "The study conclusively points to the fact that agriculture is indigenous to the region; that there is no evidence of large-scale migration of any kind in the Harappan civilisation; that hunter-gatherers of the region gradually became farmers; and most importantly, Harappan people are the same as Vedic people."

The study states: "The individual we sequenced fits as a mixture of people related to ancient Iranians (the largest component) and Southeast Asian hunter-gatherers, a unique profile that matches ancient DNA from 11 ge-



Remains of a site of the Harappan civilisation. *Study*

netic outliers from sites in Iran and Turkmenistan in cultural communication with the IVC. These individuals had little if any Steppe pastoralist-derived ancestry, showing that it was not ubiquitous in northwest South Asia during the IVC as it is today."

Tony Joseph, who authored *Early Indians: The Story of Our Ancestors and Where We Came*

From (2018), told *The Indian Express*, "The *Cell* study says that these 12 DNA samples tell us that the Harappans were a mixture of First Indians (or out of Africa migrants who first peopled India around 65,000 years ago and then went on to populate southeast Asia etc) and west Asians from the Zagros region of Iran. It also says these migrants from west Asia reached India before agriculture began anywhere, so in that sense they may not have been farmers themselves yet. In other words, farming may have begun independently in India as my book, *Early Indians*, argued."

The study published in *Science* is the largest ever study of ancient human DNA, which analyses the genomes of 523 ancient individuals spanning the last 8,000 years, mostly from central Asia and northernmost South Asia.



The EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE

ONLY GOD, WHO APPOINTED ME, WILL REMOVE ME
— NOT THE MDC, NOT THE BRITISH. ONLY GOD
WILL REMOVE ME! — ROBERT MUGABE

*The Indian***EXPRESS**

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

RATES AND RISKS

Linking floating rate loans to external benchmarks might improve transmission. But there are challenges

AN ATTEMPT to improve the transmission of monetary policy, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has mandated banks to link all new floating rate loans extended to both retail consumers as well as micro and small enterprises to an external benchmark next month onwards. Banks have the option of choosing the external benchmark which could be either the repo rate or the yield on the three- or six-month treasury bill or any other benchmark interest rate published by the Financial Benchmarks India Private Limited (FBIL). This move comes after repeated attempts by the RBI, such as the shift to the marginal cost of funds based lending rate regime, have failed to improve the transmission of monetary policy in India. As was pointed out by the monetary policy committee in its last meeting, even as the policy rate was slashed by 75 basis points between February and June 2019, lending rates (weighted average) declined by only 29 basis points during the same period. While the shift to this new framework might lead to faster transmission, it poses significant challenges.

For banks, mandating external benchmarking of lending rates could lead to interest rate risks. As external benchmarking will sever the link between bank deposit and lending rates, banks interest margins will come under pressure in a scenario where interest rates are falling, as lending rates will fall faster than deposit rates. Banks may thus want to price in this risk by increasing the spread they have been allowed to charge over the benchmark rate. This may lower the expected benefit from shifting to external benchmarking. The new framework may also lead to banks wanting to link their deposit rates to an external benchmark. This will not please depositors as they may prefer the option of having fixed rates. There is also the issue of small savings instruments to contend with. As rates on these instruments tend to be more sticky in nature compared to bank deposit rates, banks will face greater competition when interest rates are on a downward trajectory, which could lead to a flight of deposits. Then there is also the issue of which benchmark to adopt. There may be a preference for the repo rate as yields on T-bills tend to be more volatile in nature. Sudden shocks to the system could push up short-term yields sharply, which will then have to be transmitted to borrowers.

Instead of mandating external benchmarking, a preferable option would have been to allow banks to gradually move towards this framework. The State Bank of India has already linked its savings deposit and short-term loans to the repo rate. Proposals for linking bulk deposits have also been mooted. Such voluntary moves could have, over time, forced others to follow suit.

IMPERFECT ICON

Robert Mugabe leaves behind a contested legacy which offer insights into building of post-colonial states in Africa

ROBERT GABRIEL MUGABE, who ruled Zimbabwe for nearly four decades before he was ousted by the military in 2017, was a representative figure among Africa's anti-colonial nationalists. Like Gamal Abdel Nasser in Egypt, Patrice Lumumba in Congo, Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, Julius Nyerere, Jomo Kenyatta in Kenya, Leopold Senghor in Senegal, Ben Bella in Algeria, Kwame Nkrumah in Ghana, Mugabe too had led his country to freedom, promising to remove poverty and usher in prosperity. But, like some of his illustrious contemporaries and predecessors, he too overstayed in office and turned into an authoritarian ruler. As the promise of liberation faded and the country began to fall apart, Mugabe, almost as if following a pattern, centralised power; banned all opposition and ruled with an iron-fist, until his luck ran out and he had to leave office.

Announcing Mugabe's demise, Zimbabwe President Emmerson Mnangagwa called him "an icon of liberation, a pan-Africanist who dedicated his life to the emancipation and empowerment of his people. His contribution to the history of our nation and continent will never be forgotten." Every word is true, but so is the sharp criticism in many quarters that Mugabe rule left Zimbabwe in ruins. Soon after he negotiated independence from Britain in 1980, Mugabe spoke about reconciliation with the white minority that had oppressed the native communities, and of building a multi-racial society. This was in sharp contrast to many African nationalist governments which had sought to rebuild their society and economy by expelling minority communities that controlled the resources. However, Mugabe's reconciliation project was stymied by the reality on the ground, where almost all arable land was owned by the white minority while its former colonial ruler, Britain, refused reparations to facilitate distribution of resources. Zimbabwe's largely agrarian economy collapsed in the wake of land seizures in the last decade, leading to hyper inflation, corruption and collapse of the state itself.

Mugabe's record mirrors similar failures elsewhere in the African continent, where a host of nationalists had failed to translate the imagination of the anti-colonial struggles they led to building successful democracies. Ideas like Pan Africanism, African socialism, Pan Arabism and Negritude could not transcend the logic of capitalism and the nation-state. The transition from colony to republic was also complicated by Cold War politics and the reluctance of the former colonial powers to let go of their influence. The projects of nationalisation and socialisation of resources of these leaders could not meet the needs and aspirations of their people. The contradictions that emerged out of the clash between ideals and reality turned many of these leaders into authoritarian rulers, if not outright despots, tainting their legacies in enduring ways.

THE TRUE ORIGINAL

The game has thrown up someone like Steve Smith after years, and the cricketing fraternity doesn't know how to respond

HOW TO GET Steve Smith out" is the cricketing question of our times. Should the bowlers give up trying to get him out lbw? Should they abort the bouncer tactic? Should they give up bowling around off stump? That most experts reckon the best way to bowl to him is at the fifth or sixth stump, way outside off stump, with monotonous regularity, hour after hour, is ridiculous to say the least. But that's the effect he has had. In just his third game after the comeback, he has already become the highest run-getter this year in world cricket.

Cricket has thrown up a true original after years, and it seems the cricketing fraternity doesn't know how to respond. If the conclusion is now to abandon the game's age-old wisdom, gained over 130 years, of either attacking the stumps or teasing the edge by bowling in the off-stump corridor, then there can be no greater compliment to Smith. The soul of his art seems to be distraction. It's an effect that bowlers with unusual actions usually have on batsmen. The lack of rhythm in a strange action puts off batsmen. Smith seems to have that effect on the bowlers, who can't find a rhythm to his batting that they can prey on.

He can drive off the back foot. He can pull off the front foot. He can hit the ball on the legs inside-out to the off if the mood seizes him. The English, in particular, seem to have given up and are waiting for boredom to get him out. The best ball, probably, is still the leg cutter from the off-stump line that paid them rich dividends last time he was in England. But caught in his whirlpool of distraction, they have abandoned that weapon and are bleeding runs. The English crowd came to boo him. They leave the arena in a daze.



UPAMANYU HAZARIKA

THE NATIONAL REGISTER of Citizens in the national debate and discussion has been seen only through the prism of the foreigners who have been excluded from the list. The "human rights" of those excluded has been the primary cause for concern. What has been forgotten and overlooked is that there is virtually no discussion on why the NRC was necessitated, and for whom.

Large scale and continuous migration through a porous border, primarily in quest of land and government-sponsored benefits, is the primary cause. It has seen an exponential increase since the 1980s, Assam being the easiest place to get proof of citizenship. The estimates of the number of infiltrators have shown a consistent increase over time (1992, 32 lakh, state government; 2004, 50 lakh, UPA government; 2016, 80 lakh, NDA government) and they comprise over 25 per cent of the population of the state (3.11 crore, population of Assam, 2011 census).

These are only the post March 25, 1971 migrants, as infiltrators in Assam after Independence and upto this date are granted citizenship (unlike the rest of India), which would be an additional 10 per cent of the population. Three independent studies have estimated that by 2040 to 2051, the indigenous people in Assam will become a minority under the weight of the Bangladeshi influx. The Northeast and Assam are a treasure trove of ethnic diversity — out of 525 ethnic communities in India, 240 are in the Northeast and Assam has 115. The size of such communities varies from 5,000 (Tai Phake, Tai Khamyang etc) to 60 lakh for Koch Rajbongshis (the largest ethnic group). But all of these communities, individually and collectively, face the threat of extinction at the hands of Bangladeshi immigrants.

A significant section of self-described liberals shows sympathy for infiltrators who are economic migrants, and not for the small indigenous groups who face extinction. Only a few days ago, two senior advocates, Raju Ramchandran and C Uday Singh, in these columns, made a strong case for retaining all

Three independent studies have estimated that by 2040 to 2051, the indigenous people in Assam will become a minority under the weight of the Bangladeshi influx. The Northeast and Assam are a treasure trove of ethnic diversity — out of 525 ethnic communities in India, 240 are in the Northeast and Assam has 115. The size of such communities varies from 5,000 (Tai Phake, Tai Khamyang etc) to 60 lakh for Koch Rajbongshis (the largest ethnic group). But all of these communities, individually and collectively, face the threat of extinction at the hands of Bangladeshi immigrants.



KHALED AHMED

PRIME MINISTER IMRAN Khan said in Washington in August that Pakistan had informed the US about Osama bin Laden's presence in Abbottabad and thought that it was therefore unfair on the part of the US to covertly attack Abbottabad and take out the al Qaeda leader without informing Pakistan.

But an ex-head of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) General (ret'd) Asad Durrani, talking to AS Dulat, India's former special director of the Intelligence Bureau and former chief of the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) from 1999 to 2000, in the book *Spy Chronicles* (2017), came out with more detail about how the Americans found that bin Laden was living in Abbottabad.

"I have no doubt that a retired Pakistani officer who was in intelligence walked in and told the Americans. I won't take his name because I can't prove it and also I don't want to give him any publicity. How much of the 50 million dollars he got, who knows. But he is missing from Pakistan. I should know."

After this, Major General Asif Ghafoor, director of Inter-Services Public Relation (ISPR) of the media wing of the Pakistan Army, stated: "Lt Gen Asad Durrani, retired, is being called to the GHQ on 28 May 2018. He will be asked to explain his position".

Who was the officer who took "50 million dollars" to sneak on bin Laden? Will his name be forever hidden from the public? Journalist Amir Mir, author of *Talibanisation of Pakistan: From 9/11 to 26/11 and Beyond* (2010) and *The True Face of Jihadis* (2006), in his blog, dug out the name too; but even then the discussion will not stop about who informed the US

THE ABBOTTABAD MYSTERY

How did the Americans find Osama bin Laden — is the question

Who was the officer who took '50 million dollars' to sneak on bin Laden? Will his name be forever hidden from the public? Journalist Amir Mir, author of 'Talibanisation of Pakistan: From 9/11 to 26/11' and 'The True Face of Jihadis', in his blog, dug out the name too; but even then the discussion will not stop about who informed the US about bin Laden's house near Pakistan's prestigious Pakistan Military Academy.

about bin Laden's house near the prestigious Pakistan Military Academy.

Mir relied on US Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Seymour Hersh "who had claimed on May 10, 2015 that a former Pakistani intelligence official had informed the Americans about the Abbottabad hideout of the Al Qaeda chief". The Hersh story was published in the *London Review of Books* and claimed that the May 2, 2011 raid by the US Navy SEALs was planned by the Americans "with full knowledge and cooperation of the Pakistan Army and the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), which at that time were headed by General Ashfaq Kayani and Lt Gen Ahmed Shuja Pasha".

Hersh had stated: "In August 2010, a former senior Pakistani intelligence officer approached Jonathan Bank, then the CIA station chief at the US Embassy in Islamabad. He offered to tell the CIA where to find Osama bin Laden in return for the [head money] reward that the United States had offered in 2001. The CIA did not believe him, and the intelligence agency's headquarters sent out a polygraph team which believed the Pakistani intelligence official only after he had passed the test."

Amir Mir adds: "The former intelligence official and his family were subsequently smuggled out of Pakistan and relocated in Washington [before the Osama hideout was raided]. He [the former Pakistani intelligence official] is now a consultant for the CIA".

Apart from General Durrani, there was another officer who got into the habit of expressing views that were not liked. Former ISI chief Lt Gen Ziauddin Butt, cashiered abruptly from

scented from a common ancestor (family tree verification). But the entire process fell flat as field verification — which was resorted to when documentation was incomplete, not found and/or appeared to be forged — did not verify documents. Rather, field personnel would record the statements of witnesses, neighbours of the applicant, vouching for the citizenship of the applicant. Surprisingly, while all the records of the applicants were digitised, the field verification reports, crucial for large-scale inclusion of doubtful applicants, were not digitised and consequently not verified or verifiable by the superiors.

The Supreme Court on August 28, 2018, being cognisant of these discrepancies, directed a 10 per cent sample re-verification of those included in the list. However, the government and the state NRC coordinator did not show any enthusiasm. And the court was proved right in as much as nearly 10 months after the final draft, the NRC authorities, after gathering the list of declared foreigners, their descendants, etc from the government, proceeded to exclude them on June 26, 2019 by an additional list of 1.2 lakh, clearly demonstrating the failure of the NRC identification process. The court, however, chose to proceed without re-verification.

The only means to protect indigenous people, to the extent possible, is to take a leaf out of other Northeastern states, which are protected from such infiltration by virtue of legal regimes reserving land, trade opportunities, jobs and other resources for the local indigenous population acting as a disincentive to economic migration from Bangladesh. As a commissioner appointed by the Supreme Court in 2015 on the State of Border and Infiltration from Bangladesh, I had strongly proposed and recommended that the only means of protecting the indigenous population in Assam is through a legal regime reserving land and resources for them.

The writer is Senior Advocate and Commissioner appointed by the Supreme Court on the Indo-Bangla border

his job by Army Chief General Musharraf, had got into the habit of making "revealing" statements. American journalist and novelist David Ignatius revealed in 2012 that Butt had stated to him that "the Abbottabad compound was used by Intelligence Bureau" and that a report in the Pakistani press had quoted Butt as saying that bin Laden's stay at Abbottabad was "arranged by Brigadier (ret'd) Ijaz Shah, during 2004-2008, on General Pervez Musharraf's instructions".

Amir Mir asserts: "Well-informed intelligence circles in...Rawalpindi concede that the vital information about the bin Laden compound was actually provided to the Americans by none other than an ISI official — Brigadier Usman Khalid. The retired brigadier, who has already been granted American citizenship along with his family members, had also persuaded Shakeel Afridi, a Pakistani physician, to conduct a fake polio campaign in the Bilal Town area, Abbottabad to help the CIA hunt down Osama".

Wikipedia adds: "The Abbottabad Commission Report is a judicial inquiry paper authored and submitted by the Abbottabad Commission, as led by Justice Javed Iqbal, to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on 4 January 2013. The report investigates the circumstances surrounding the death of Osama bin Laden in Abbottabad. Upon submission, the report was immediately classified by the Prime Minister as secret and its findings were not made public."

The writer is consulting editor, Newsweek Pakistan

SEPTEMBER 7, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO

JANATA GOVT QUILTS

THE 17-MONTH-OLD JANATA government in the Union Territory of Arunachal Pradesh, headed by P K Thungon, quit office following mass desertions from the party, reducing the government support in the 30-member Assembly to a minority of four. Thungon tendered the resignation of his ministry to the Lt Governor, R N Haldipur at Itanagar, capital of Arunachal, shortly after mid-day. While accepting the resignation, the Lt Governor asked him to continue in office till alternative arrangements were made.

KASHMIR IN HAVANA

PRESIDENT ZIAUL HAQ OF Pakistan brought

up the question of Kashmir in his address to the non-aligned conference in Havana. He said, "Pakistan is determined to seek the resolution of the dispute regarding the future of Jammu and Kashmir in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and the spirit of the Simla agreement. A just and peaceful solution of this problem will usher in a new era of cooperation and amity in South Asia".

PRICES SHOOT UP

THE PRICES OF essential food items have shot up by 10 to 20 per cent in just the last 10 days or so. A survey of retail shops at Karol Bagh, Chandni Chowk, Daryaganj, Bhogal and INA

Market reveals that the price of atta, maida, sugar, ghee, cooking oil, lentils and detergents have shot up.

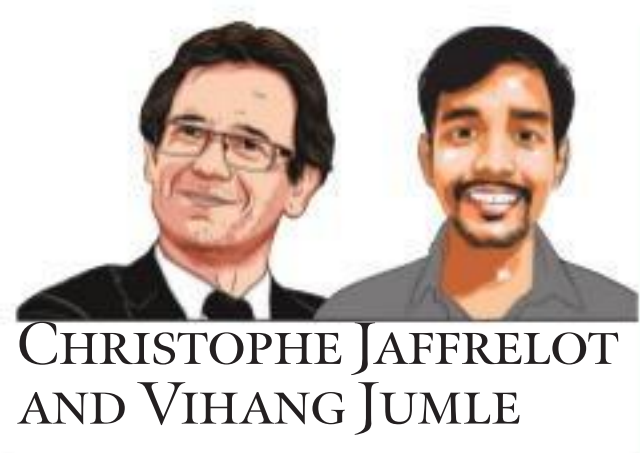
STREAK ACT

SOME STUDENTS OF Delhi University's St Stephens College were caught with their pants down by the police last night. A group of 50 to 60 boys from the college danced, sang and stripped in front of the Miranda House girls hostel around midnight. A bright moon and the streetlight made the boys' revelry very visible to girls who came rushing on to the balcony to see what it was all about. Some boys stripped completely while others shouted naughty limericks.

THE IDEAS PAGE

The problem of skilling India

India's employment crisis calls for more government expenditure in education, adequate training



CHRISTOPHE JAFFRELOT AND VIHANG JUMLE

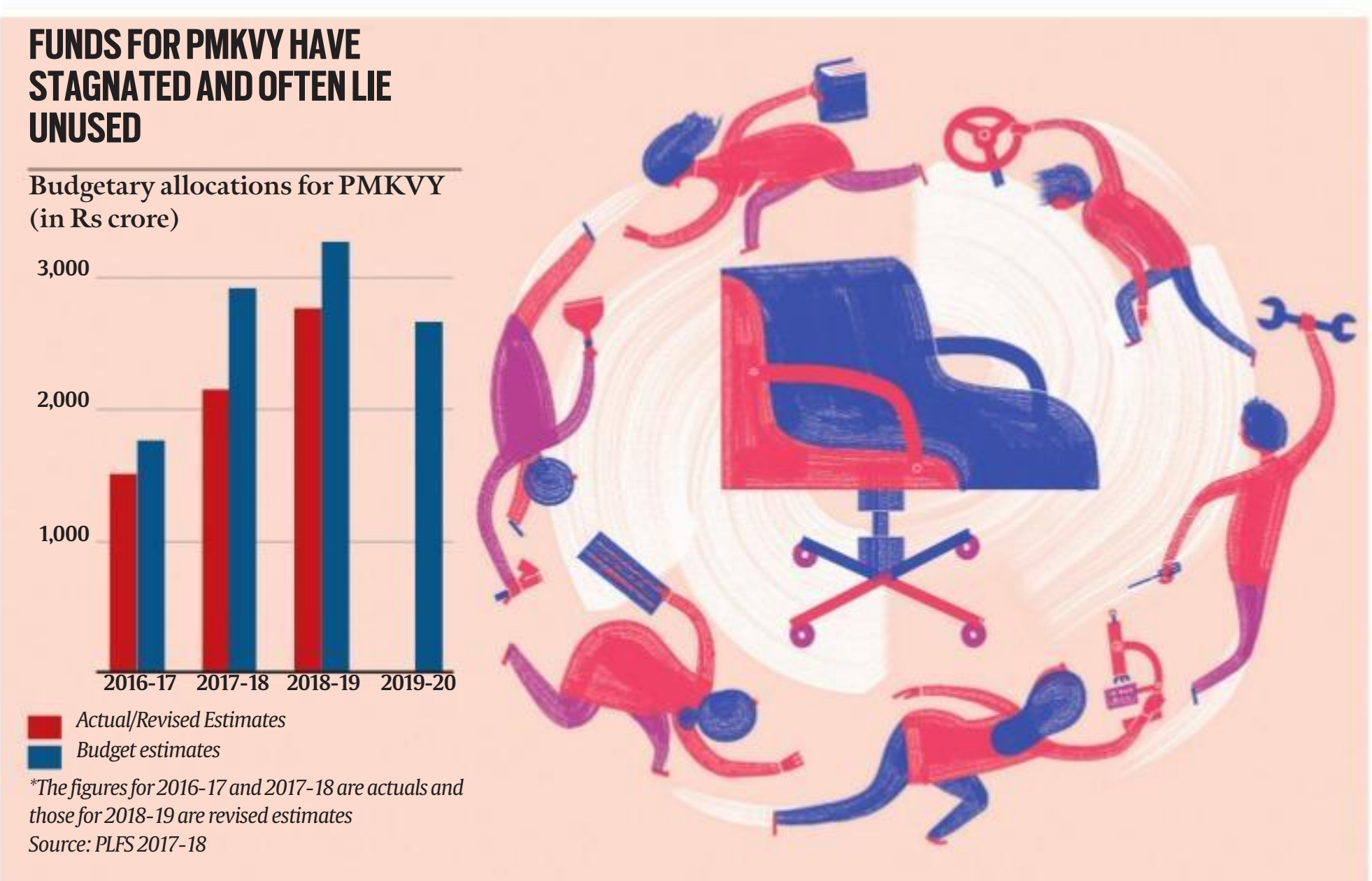
PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA Modi, in his recent Independence Day speech, said, "We need to worry about population explosion". These words stand in stark contrast to his previous references to India's demographic dividend where the country's population was seen as an asset. This shift reflects a new awareness, according to which demography brings a dividend only if the youth is trained properly. Without proper training, instead of benefits, the country gets massive joblessness — at least, this is what common sense suggests. Reality is more complicated.

A minimum of eight million new job seekers enter the jobs market every year. In 2017, only 5.5 million had been created, and the situation is worsening: Unemployment rate is the highest in 45 years today. The Indian youth has become the first casualty, with the unemployment rate reaching 34 per cent among the 20-24-year-olds in the first quarter of 2019 — it was 37.9 per cent among the urban lot, according to the CMIE. Official sources from the government of India do not give very different data: According to the last 2018 Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), the unemployment rate among the urban 15-29-year-olds (a very large bracket) was 23.7 per cent. One may hypothesise that this pervasive joblessness was due to the poor training of the youth as only seven per cent of the people surveyed in the framework of the PLFS declared any formal or informal training.

But there is a paradox here: According to a recent survey, 48 per cent of Indian employers reported difficulties filling job vacancies due to talent shortage. The worst affected sector — which is also one of the strong points of India's economy — has been Information Technology (IT), where 1,40,000 skilled techies could not be recruited in 2018 despite the employers' efforts (a high proportion of the 5,00,000 job offers that had been made that year). Indeed, the CMIE reports show that the more educated Indians are, the more likely they are to remain unemployed too. The last PLFS for 2018 revealed that 33 per cent of the formally trained 15-29-year-olds were jobless.

The Modi government assumed that this problem crystallised because the trained youth were not well-trained enough. Hence, the "Skill India" programme, whose objective was "to train a minimum of 300 million skilled people by the year 2022". In 2014, Modi created a Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to harmonise training processes, assessments, certification and outcomes and, crucially, to develop Industrial Training Institutions (ITIs) — the building blocks of this endeavour. The Executive Committee monitoring the mission gathered representatives of nine ministries, as vocational training was seen at the intersection of different domains, including agriculture, information technology, human resources development.

Modi, who chaired the governing council and announced the setting up of 1,500 new ITIs and 50,000 Skill Development Centres, committed himself to "Skill India" in eloquent terms: "Today, the world and India need a skilled workforce. I also want to create a pool of young people who are able



CR Sasikumar

to create jobs. My brothers and sisters, having taken a resolve to enhance the skill development at a highly rapid pace, I want to accomplish this".

Clearly, Modi saw "Skill India" as a plan complementary to another flagship scheme he launched in 2014 — "Make in India", a policy inviting foreign investors, and, as a way to train entrepreneurs (as evident from the name of the ministry in charge of "Skill India").

Besides the creation of more courses and institutes of vocational training, the main innovation of "Skill India" consisted in integrating "vocational training classes linked to the local economy" with formal education from class nine onwards in at least 25 per cent of the schools and higher education bodies. A very important aspect of Skill India was its PPP character: Companies were requested to " earmark 2 per cent of their payroll bill (including for contract labour) for skill development initiatives". In parallel, the ITIs were supposed to "tie up with industry in the relevant trades to improve placement opportunities for candidates".

One of the most innovative dimensions of Skill India was the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana under which the training fees was paid by the government. The PMKVY's budget was approximately Rs 12,000 crore for four years (2016-2020). Its main tool was the "short-term training", which could last between 150 and 300 hours, and which included some placement assistance by Training Partners upon successful completion of their assessment by the candidates.

While the intentions of Skill India are commendable, the scheme falls short of the initial objectives. The target of this scheme was to reach out to 300 million young people by 2022, but only a mere 25 million have been trained under this scheme by the end of 2018. Partly due to mismanagement and partly due to the fact that funds available for "Skill India" were either not spent sufficiently quickly — because of a lack of candidates — or too little was spent. The money problem is evident from the graph and from the PLF Survey mentioned above which showed that, in 2018, only 16 per cent of the youth who had received "formal training were funded by the government".

THE SKILL INDIA SCHEME

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But the real problem lies elsewhere: Those who have been trained don't find jobs. The number of those who have benefited from the Skill India scheme has increased, from 3,50,000 in 2016-17 to 1.6 million in 2017-18, but the percentage of those who could find a job upon completion of their training has dropped from more than 50 per cent to 30 per cent. If one focuses only on the PMKVY, the results are even more disappointing. Responding to a question in the Rajya Sabha in March 2018, the then minister for skill development, Dharmendra Pradhan, told the House that in the framework of this programme 4.13 million people had been trained, but only 615,000 (15 per cent) of them got a job.

These limitations may be explained from three points of view.

First, the training was not good enough — and this is why the employability rate remains very low. Second, while the government expected that some of the PMKVY-trainees would create their own enterprise, only 24 per cent of the 6,15,000 mentioned above started their business. And out of them, only 10,000 applied for MUDRA loans — a drop in the ocean. Third, and more importantly, India's joblessness issue is not only a skills problem, it is representative of the lack of appetite of industrialists and SMEs for recruiting. The decline of the investment rate is a clear indication that the demand is weak — hence huge idle capacities — and investing is not an easy thing to do anyway because of the limited access to credit that the accumulation of Non-Performing Assets has generated.

Skill India will not be enough to create jobs if the slowdown continues. But in the long run, Skill India will also not be enough if government expenditures in education remain low and if, therefore, the ground isn't prepared for proper training. In fact, under the Modi government, allocation for school education has declined from 2.81 per cent of the budget in 2013-14 to 2.05 per cent in 2018-19. It was above 3 per cent during UPA II.

Jaffrelot is senior research fellow at CERI-Sciences Po/CNRS, Paris, professor of Indian Politics and Sociology at King's India Institute, London; Jumble is an associate at Ikigai Law, New Delhi

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The prime minister (Boris Johnson) sees a route to a hard Brexit by resigning and forcing opponents to answer the question they have yet to find an answer for: who leads the rebel alliance?" —THE GUARDIAN

Misunderstanding Nehru-Patel

They often disagreed with each other. Yet they worked closely, presented a united front



YASHWANT SINHA

THE "HIGHLY educated" and "learned" people who rule the country today are teaching us a new history of India. I am not merely referring to the assertions that in ancient India, we had all the scientific and technological inventions of today like airplanes, rockets, TVs, spacecrafts and artificial intelligence but to their fulminations about the more recent events surrounding our Independence, the integration of the princely states and the roles played by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and the Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Their version is that whatever the Sardar handled was a great success and whatever was handled by Nehru turned out to be a great blunder. Thus, while they are trying to co-opt the Sardar as one of their own (what an irony), Nehru is being projected as a villain.

I recall the angry reaction of the home minister in the Lok Sabha during the debate on J&K when Manish Tewari of the Congress tried to assert that it was Nehru who was responsible for the accession to India of the princely states of Junagadh, J&K and Hyderabad. The moment Tewari mentioned Hyderabad, the home minister sprang to his feet to assert angrily that it was Patel who was responsible for the accession of Hyderabad, not Nehru. Tewari did not respond. I wish he had and said that the home minister was absolutely right because by the same logic the "credit" for doing what was being done in J&K must go to him rather than the prime minister.

Sardar Patel was 14 years older than Nehru and was a leader of the masses in his own right. Though Nehru had become the prime minister, the Sardar, as deputy prime minister and home minister was almost, if not truly, his equal. The recent comparison which comes to mind is that of Atal Bihari Vajpayee and L K Advani during the 1998-2004 period when they were both in government. Like Vajpayee and Advani, Nehru and Patel had their differences, sometimes very sharp ones. But the beauty of their relationship was, like in the relationship between Vajpayee and Advani, these differences were always resolved through discussions, or, in the case of Nehru and Patel, through the Mahatma's intervention. At times the differences became so sharp that they led to Patel offering his resignation from the government, to be followed by Nehru making a similar offer. They also played politics with each other, especially when it came to party affairs or, for instance, the choice of the first president of India. Patel, who had a better grip over the party, invariably won these contests. Do you recall the Loh Purush and Vikas Purush episode when the then BJP President Venkaiah Naidu made a comparison between Advani and Vajpayee and described Advani as Loh Purush and Vajpayee as Vikas Purush? Vajpayee told Naidu that the party could march forward under the leadership of the Loh Purush and left the meeting.

Yet, despite their differences, Patel continued in government until his death and even accepted Nehru as his leader after the death of Gandhi.

The Constitution of India was still being drafted and the country had decided to adopt the Westminster type of democracy with a prime minister and his cabinet, which was supposed to be collectively responsible to Parliament. The Constitution was still a work in progress and so was the system of collective responsibility and the authority of the PM in the cabinet. Nehru was obviously keen to establish his position as *primus inter pares* in the cabinet and wanted his view to prevail. This often led to differences between Nehru and Patel as indeed between them and the other ministers. But is this not natural? In every cabinet there are differences among the ministers and between them and the prime minister on issues which are finally resolved and a joint front presented in Parliament and outside.

There is enough material on record to support those who are interested in only highlighting the differences between these two great men just as there is enough material to support that they got along very well. But both these views represent the two extremes. The truth lies in the middle: Nehru and Patel jointly played a decisive role in the making of Independent India. Those who contend otherwise do not understand the working of the cabinet system. So whether it was the accession of J&K to India or that of Hyderabad after the "police action", there were many rounds of negotiations, ups and downs, harrowing moments and differences of opinion among the decision-makers. Both Nehru and Patel played a vital role in the decision-making process. Governor General Lord Mountbatten also played a key role.

Patel was also party to the idea of plebiscite wherever there was dispute — Junagadh, J&K and Hyderabad. This was the clear position of the government of India then. It was Pakistan which was constantly running away from it. Patel did not resign from the cabinet when it was decided to refer the J&K issue to the UN or when ceasefire was accepted by India. He might have had his reservations, but went along with the decisions.

It is equally clear from contemporary accounts that Patel would not have objected if J&K had acceded to Pakistan but he was absolutely clear that Hyderabad should accede to India.

All the decisions in those tumultuous days were taken either in the defence committee of the cabinet headed by Mountbatten or in the cabinet. Patel was a member of both. He expressed his views freely, frankly and at times, even bluntly. But always went along with the final decision taken, as did Nehru and the others.

It is easy for us to sit in judgement today after 73 years over the great men who fought for India's independence and then ruled the country. Judgement based on hindsight is a dangerous game played by especially those who are in a hurry to use history selectively to prove their prejudiced view of it.

Let us leave history to the historians.

The writer is a former Union external affairs and finance minister



KUNAL RAY

Writer who was a listener

Kiran Nagarkar's oeuvre owes much to his interest in people and their stories

I ALWAYS thought of Kiran Nagarkar as a mythical being. Growing up, I saw little of Nagarkar on television or in print. Many writers were featured on a regular basis and there were long commentaries about their work. Some publications would dedicate weekend issues to celebrating the genius of a writer. But there was no Nagarkar. Or, did I miss him?

I read *Ravan & Eddie* during my school days. I understood the novel much later while pursuing my undergraduate education in Pune. It demands a political consciousness or the appreciation of a context, which a school-goer might not always have. My proximity to Mumbai and later familiarity with the city's history aided my reading of this remarkable novel.

Having said that, Nagarkar's bawdy and iconoclastic humour is never easy. His self-mockery is evident. Ravan is Hindu, Eddie is Catholic. Nagarkar's novel also takes you inside the congested *chawls* of Mumbai where the private and the public constantly intersect. It is one of the best Mumbai novels that captures the city's zeitgeist, while also addressing the ascent of conservative religious forces that were undermining the cosmopolitan, multi-ethnic character of the city. Nagarkar was threatened with conse-

quences. His play *Bedtime Story*, written soon after the Emergency and based on episodes from the Mahabharata, was banned for years and released not too long ago, in 2015. In *God's Little Soldier*, Nagarkar holds forth on his pet peeve, religious fanaticism.

For anyone interested in English writing in India, *Cuckold* is unmissable. It is Nagarkar's magnum opus and a work of great artistic imagination. *Cuckold* weaves together history, mythology and poetry into a compelling narrative about Meerabai's (Green Eyes in the novel) love story told through a fictional character, Maharaj Kumar, who is quite anachronistic to the feudal setting of the novel. There have been very few attempts in Indian writing in English that would parallel the scope of *Cuckold*. It is a watershed for historical fiction written in English in India.

Cuckold was sadly eclipsed by the phenomenal success of Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things*, which appeared in the same year and also went on to win the Booker Prize. Would *Cuckold* be treated differently if the two novels had appeared at different intervals? Good writing is never time bound. It is engaged in constant self-renewal as we have seen with *Cuckold*. The question, however, remains — who else could have written a *Cuckold*? This perhaps applies to a lot

of Nagarkar's other writing, including his rendering of Indian mystic and poet Kabir's life in a contemporary setting in his last novel, *The Arsonist*. To me, his works evidence a strong bilingual sensibility, which is paramount to understand and discern the complexities of our nation. This makes Nagarkar unique amongst his peers writing in English in India. The critic George Lukacs draws parallels between the epic and the novel. I would like to think of *Cuckold* in that respect.

I first met Nagarkar at a literary festival in Pune, which I had helped organise. In our first meeting, Nagarkar became Kiran and the facade of the serious and taciturn writer disappeared. He asked my opinion about his books. I wondered why was he asking. Why should it matter to a celebrated author what a young graduate thought about his work?

UR Ananthamurthy did something similar when he asked me about *Samskara*. I am not prone to generalisations but Kiran, like Ananthamurthy, was a great listener. He wasn't keen to only let the world know what he thought but had a great capacity and interest to listen — listening with empathy is increasingly a rare quality in the times we live in, when shrill debate gets prioritised over discussion.

He was generous in his praise and affec-

tion for Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru and spoke freely against any kind of autocratic or fascist regime. At a lit fest, I remember his excitement on spotting someone with a pile of his books. He invited the reader and inscribed each copy with a personal message. His immense reserves of warmth often perplexed me. Perhaps the genesis of his writing was his vast interest in people and their stories.

His later work, which includes novels like *The Extras*, *Jasoda* and *Rest in Peace* didn't resonate with a large section of his readers as deeply as his earlier pieces of writing. Kiran never understood the lack of enthusiasm towards his later writing and often complained in private about it.

Kiran was always at work though he never shared details about what he was writing. I disassociated myself after his name featured in the Me Too allegations. I thought why should Kiran do this? Some months ago I was in Mumbai and wondered if I should meet him. I didn't. He wrote me an email soon after asking, "Will you come this side anytime soon?"

I will now look for him in his books.

The writer teaches literary and cultural studies at FLAME University, Pune

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FRIENDS IN NEED

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Restoring the bond' (IE, September 6). Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin have taken initiatives to improve the relationship between the two countries. India is looking forward to Russia's support in its war against terrorism as well as on the economic front. Russia's support is crucial in the current geopolitical context: The abrogation of Article 370 has strained India's relations with Pakistan and China. The country also needs to be prepared for the ramifications of the US-China trade war.

Vihaan Gupta, Ujjain

LESS MONEY

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The revival path' (IE, September 6). There seems to be a consensus amongst economists that lack of demand is the main reason behind the economic slowdown. There are toll taxes on roads, bills for water, public transport fares have gone up, many trains run on flexi fare, education and health are privatised to a large extent and the Motor Vehicle Act imposes stringent penalties. So people have less money to spend.

Suchak D Patel, Ahmedabad

HUMAN ERRORS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'The heal-

LETTER OF THE WEEK

NAVY MATTERS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The world's most happening place, (IE, September 4). Indian Ocean is the theatre of changed geopolitical situation. But is India ready to take advantage of the situation? A powerful navy is must to defend our borders and marine trade routes. Unfortunately the navy's budget this year was slashed by about 5 per cent.

Vasant Nalawade, Satara

ing touch' (IE, September 5). The doctor who was beaten to death in Assam was reportedly a septuagenarian who was working amongst tea garden labourers and his past record was exemplary. He possibly made a mistake by not being present when the patient in concern developed complications. The question, however, is why was the fate of these patients left to a physician working past his retirement years? Much of the tension between doctors and patients is exacerbated by the shortage of doctors. This needs to be addressed urgently.

Prachee Deshpande, Pune

IAS officer quits: ‘Unethical to continue when building blocks of democracy being compromised’

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, SEPTEMBER 6

S SASIKANTH Senthil, a 2009-batch IAS officer of Karnataka cadre, resigned on Friday, citing that it is “unethical” for him to continue as a civil servant when the “fundamental building blocks of our diverse democracy are being compromised”.

This comes after Kannan Gopinathan, a 2012-batch IAS officer from Kerala, resigned last month, citing curbs on the “entire state” of J&K.

Thirty-nine-year-old Senthil, who was posted as deputy commissioner of Dakshina Kannada since February, told *The Indian Express*, “The (political) framework that has come to our country now is very easy to spot in history. It has all the ingredients of what happened in Poland, Germany, Burma; even Russia. any sort of such fascist approaches...I need to come out to talk about it.”

He said the decision was not taken in a day. “Kashmir...was one of the check boxes in that framework I mentioned, absolutely one of the triggers for my decision...”

In a letter to his friends, Senthil wrote, “I have taken this decision as I feel that it is unethical for me to continue as a civil servant in the government when the fundamental building blocks of our di-



Kashmir...was one of the check boxes in that framework I mentioned, absolutely one of the triggers for my decision...

S SASIKANTH SENTHIL
2009-BATCH IAS OFFICER OF KARNATAKA CADRE

verse democracy are being compromised in an unprecedented manner. I also feel strongly that coming days will present extremely difficult challenges to the basic fabric of our nation and that I would be better off outside the IAS to continue with my work at making life better for all.”

Known to be a no-nonsense bureaucrat in Mangaluru region, Senthil is liked by politicians from across the spectrum for his effective negotiation to prevent communal clashes.

He said he had “absolutely no problem” with the BJP-led state

government or the MLAs in Mangaluru. “I don’t have a problem against any of them as they do not have any role in framing national policies,” he said.

The son of a retired district judge in Chennai, Senthil completed his engineering from Regional Engineering College, Trichy. He worked at a private engineering college and a software company before starting preparations for civil service. He cleared the entrance in his third attempt with an all-India rank of 9.

“I was never an IAS officer who wanted to become a cabinet secretary. I wanted to work at the grassroots,” he said, adding that he has no plans to join a political party.

A top source who worked with Senthil said, “He was hurt at many national developments. In bureaucracy, curtailing fundamental rights is the last thing we do. Clampdown in Kashmir deeply upset him,” he said.

A senior colleague said, “The biggest challenge as a civil servant is not changing the world overnight but manoeuvring in it with a realistic approach to keep up the fight within the system.”

A source said BJP MLAs had ensured that Senthil was not transferred out after the party came to power in Karnataka. “Several officials were transferred but he was retained as he was credited for keeping Mangaluru free of communal problems.”

Chandrayaan landing: ‘Feels like result day at school’

SWEETY MISHRA
KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 6

IN THE tense hours before the moon lander of Chandrayaan-2 was to touch down on the lunar surface, an elderly couple in a Shibpur village in Hooghly district was especially excited and nervous.

Madhusudan and Ashima, the parents of Chandrakanta Kumar, the Deputy Project Director responsible for the RF system of Chandrayaan-2, were ready to watch the live telecast on TV with their neighbours. “We can’t miss the opportunity. I never thought my son would be part of the historic landing of Chandrayaan’s lander Vikram,” said Madhusudan.

Their television set was not working, so they got it repaired on Thursday.

“Chandrakanta called us yesterday and told us that today would be a busy day and he might not call. We are hoping for the best,” said Ashima.

Madhusudan and Ashima’s two sons are both named after the moon. While the elder Chandrakanta Kumar is part of India’s moon mission, the younger Sashikant is also a scientist with ISRO.

“I was toying with names of



Madhusudan and Ashima — parents of Deputy Project Director Chandrakanta Kumar

the sun, but finally named him after the moon. I had no clue Chandrakanta would end up making a significant contribution to India’s lunar mission. It might just be a coincidence, but it feels good that he has given meaning to his name,” his father said.

“Many people are coming to us, to see how the house looks, where my son spent his childhood, and that’s a different feeling. With a few hours left for the big event, I am feeling what I used to feel years ago when they used to go to school on result day. We are excited and nervous. My blessings are always with them,” said Madhusudan.

Chandrakanta joined ISRO in 2001 after completing his MSc and MTech from Rajabazar



Science College. He did his schooling from Ramkrishna Mission Vidyamandir Belur. He is now Deputy Project Director responsible for the RF system of Chandrayaan-2, and heads the Electromagnetics section of the U R Rao Space Centre.

“Dada (Chandrakanta) used to cycle 9-10 km to school every day. Those days were not easy. But he was hardworking. After this moon mission, many villagers are telling their children to follow his footsteps,” Swapan Kumar, Chandrakanta’s cousin, told *The Indian Express*.

According to their cousins and neighbours, Chandrakanta’s parents live a simple life. His father was a farmer. The family still owns cattle and supplies milk to local residents.

BANTER BEFORE TOUCHDOWN

Hours before the touchdown of ‘Vikram’ module on the lunar surface, ISRO came out with the Chandrayaan-2 chronicles on a “banter” involving the orbiter and the lander Vikram. The banter was illustrated through a comic strip tweeted by ISRO.

ORBITER TO LANDER: ‘It was great travelling with you so far, Vikram’

LANDER TO ORBITER: ‘It was quite the journey indeed! I’ll see you around -- in the orbit.’

Then, the orbiter wishes ‘Vikram’ good luck as the latter goes out of sight to discover the unexplored regions of the south pole of moon

ERNAKULAM

Demolish illegal apartments by Sept 20, SC tells Kerala govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 6

TAKING THE Kerala government to task over non-compliance of its order to demolish illegally built apartment complexes in Ernakulam district, the Supreme Court on Friday directed that the demolition be completed by September 20.

It also asked the state Chief Secretary to be present before it on September 23.

A bench of Justices Arun Mishra and M R Shah rejected the state’s request to grant it more time in view of Onam festivities. Justice Mishra said “not a day more... Your state is known for not following the directions of this court...”

The state’s standing council G Prakash requested the court to exempt the chief secretary from appearing but the court did not relent.

It asked the state to file a compliance report by September 20 and ensure the chief secretary’s appearance.

The bench of Justices Mishra and Shah had on May 8 ordered demolition of five apartment complexes totalling over 300 units in Maradu municipality for flouting Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) guidelines. The court directed that the structures be demolished in a month’s time.

Subsequently, the Kerala State Coastal Zone Management Authority approached the court — which was on summer vacation — with an application seeking extension of time for carrying out the demolition. The plea came up before a vacation bench of Justices Mishra and Shah which rejected it on May 21.

LAKHIMPUR KHERI

Dalit official hangs self, suicide note cites humiliation at farmers’ outfit meet

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 6

A 23-YEAR-OLD village development officer has allegedly committed suicide at his residence in Lakhimpur Kheri district of Uttar Pradesh, days after he allegedly faced casteist remarks and humiliation at a meeting of a farmers’ outfit.

In a suicide note recovered by police, Trivendra Kumar has reportedly accused “Kisan Union” and family members of two village pradhans of harassing him and hurling casteist abuses.

Kumar’s family has alleged that he was humiliated when he went to collect a memorandum at a meeting Bharatiya Kisan Union-Loktantrik (BKU-L) at Gola block of Lakhimpur Kheri on August 28.

Hailing from Lakhimpur Kheri, Kumar joined as village development officer around eight months ago. He was unmarried and lived with his family at Shiv Sagar colony.

Circle Officer, City, Vijay Anand said that after receiving a call early Thursday morning, a police team rushed to Kumar’s residence. Police found his body hanging from a hook in his room with a rope around his neck. The body was brought down and sent for autopsy, which confirmed that death occurred due to hanging.

Police said Kumar’s father Komal Prasad has alleged that Devariya village head’s son Hardev Singh, Rasoolpur village pradhan’s husband Zubhair Ahmed and Rasoopur resident Gayasuddin used to harass his son, who was in charge of Devariya and Rasoolpur gram

panchayats. Prasad also alleged that the accused would threaten him and demand money from him.

He further said Kumar was publicly humiliated and abused on casteist lines during the BKU-L meeting on August 28. Prasad added that the accused also posted objectionable comments on the social media about his son and would threaten him.

An FIR has been lodged against nine people, including BKU-L president Rakesh Singh Chauhan and its officer-bearers, on charges of abetment of suicide at the City Kotwali police station. The police have invoked SC/ST Act against the accused, including the two relatives of pradhans.

On Friday, the police arrested five people — district-level officer-bearers of BKU-L Mahesh Chandra Verma, Ram Singh Verma and Anil Swami, and Zubair and Gayasuddin. Four of them were produced before a local court, which sent them to judicial custody, said SHO, City Kotwali police station, Fateh Singh.

Zubair, who was arrested on Friday evening, would be produced in court on Saturday, said Addl SP, Lakhimpur Kheri, Shailendra Lal. He said charges under the Information Technology Act would be added to the FIR because a video of the August 28 meeting went viral.

Police are conducting raids to trace the other accused, he said.

District Magistrate Shailendra Kumar Singh said he has received information that other officials had accompanied Kumar to the meeting and they are trying to identify them.

India declared free of Avian Influenza

ABANTIKA GHOSH
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 6

INDIA HAS been declared free of Avian Influenza (H5N1).

With effect from September 3, the OIE-World Organisation for Animal Health declared the country free of the virus, the Centre’s Animal Husbandry Department informed the states in a letter. In the last two years, outbreaks of the disease had been reported from several places, including Budhibara, Patharaganja, Malud, Brahmandeo, Kanheipur, Epinga and Nandala in Odisha, Goraho, Mubarakchak and Babura in Bihar and Fazil Khuthari in

EXPLAINED How H5N1 affects humans?

THE SYMPTOMS of an H5N1 infection in humans include mild upper respiratory tract infection (fever and cough), early sputum production and rapid progression to severe pneumonia. It can lead to sepsis with shock, acute respiratory distress syndrome and even death. The WHO warns that while the current Avian Influenza virus does not easily transmit from person to person, the continued transmission among animals is a serious concern as “these viruses cause severe disease in humans and have the potential to mutate to become more contagious between people”.

Jharkhand. All of them had been reported to the OIE and containment measures undertaken as per protocol.

STUDENTS’ UNION ELECTIONS

68% turnout in JNU as poll panel, administration trade charges

ARANYA SHANKAR
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 6

ELECTIONS TO the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students’ Union held Friday saw a high voter turnout of 68% for the second year in a row. “A total of 5,762 votes were polled out of 8,488, which makes it 67.9%,” said Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Shashank Patel. Last year, the turnout was 67.8%.

The Left United Panel is up against the ABVP, the only two organisations to have fielded candidates on all four seats. BAPSA, NSUI and Chhatra Rashtriya Janata Dal are in the running on a few posts each.

The polls, however, saw the Election Committee and the administration going head to head, with the former accusing the latter of “interfering in the election process” by entering polling areas. “Chairperson of GRC, i.e Dean of Students, has interfered in the election process by com-



The Left United Panel and ABVP have fielded candidates on all four seats. Amit Mehra

ing inside the polling venue. This is a clear violation of LCR and the High Court order,” claimed Patel.

Grievance Redressal Cell (GRC) chairperson and Dean of Students Umesh Kadam, on the other hand, said he had every right to do so and accused the EC of violating Lyngdoh Committee Regulations (LCR)

time and again.

Representatives of the Left United Panel, NSUI and CRJD wrote to the EC complaining about “intimidation” by Kadam and other administrative officials. Outgoing JNUSU president N Sai Balaji said the move was “unprecedented”.

Kadam, however, said that as

HC restrains JNU from declaring result

PRITAM PAL SINGH
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 6

THE DELHI High Court Friday restrained JNU from declaring results of its students’ union polls after a plea sought that it be held in accordance with Lyngdoh Committee Recommendations to maintain transparency and control excess expenditure. Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva, however, re-

frained from stopping the polls after he was apprised that polling is underway and counting has to start from 9pm, with the result to be declared on September 8.

It was also informed by JNU Standing Counsel Monika Arora and advocate Harsh Ahuja that after “declaration of result, it has to be placed before the university and a notification has to be issued by the university accepting the result, and it is only after (this) that

the newly elected student body can take charge”.

Justice Sachdeva said, “... it is directed that declaration of final result shall be subject to further orders to be passed by this court... the University is directed not to notify the result till next date of hearing. List on September 17.”

The court’s interim order came on a plea by students Anshuman Dubey and Anuj Kumar Dwivedi. It issued notice

Delhi BJP chief targets AAP govt over 2016 JNU case

New Delhi: Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari Friday said the AAP government not sanctioning the prosecution of former JNUSU president Kanhaiya Kumar and others in the 2016 sedition case means it feels the alleged “anti-national slogans” raised at the

university are “patriotic”.

As reported Friday, sources told *The Indian Express* that the Delhi government has decided to turn down Delhi Police’s request for sanction to prosecute Kumar and other students.

Chief Minister Arvind

Kejriwal Friday said the Home Department will take an appropriate decision after considering all facts.

At a press conference, Tiwari and Leader of Opposition Vijender Gupta sported black armbands in protest over the is-

“It is pertinent to note that following the completion of the operation (including culling, disinfection and cleanup) at the above epicenters, there has been no further reports of the presence of the HPAI (highly pathogenic Avian Influenza) virus. Accordingly the country has been declared free from Avian Influenza (H5N1) w.e.f 3rd September 2019 which has already been notified by OIE,” Joint Secretary Upamanyu Basu wrote in the letter to the states the same day.

The status will last only till another outbreak is reported. India was last declared free of the disease in 2017.

Avian Influenza was first re-

Separated 2 yrs ago, Odisha’s conjoined twins on way home

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 6

AFTER SPENDING two years at AIIMS, Jagga and Balia, conjoined twins from Odisha’s Kandhamal district who underwent complicated surgeries for separation of their heads, were discharged on Friday.

The twins were admitted at AIIMS on July 13, 2017. The first phase of the surgery was performed on August 28 when doctors created venous bypass to separate veins that return blood to the heart from the brain. The final separation was done on October 25 in a 20-hour operation. During the surgery, Jagga suffered a cardiac arrest, but he was successfully revived after 15 minutes.

Accompanied by a neurosurgeon, a neuroanaesthetist, a paediatrician and a nurse from AIIMS, the twins, now four-years-old, boarded a train to Cuttack on Friday.

Health Minister Harsh Vardhan praised the team of doctors. “The way Indian scientists have brought global recognition to the country through the Chandrayaan-2 mission, doctors at AIIMS have achieved a feat by performing this rarest of the rare surgery on a craniopagus conjoined twins,” said Vardhan, who met the children on Thursday.

ported from Hongkong in 1997. Since then, there have been many outbreaks across the world. India too has had multiple outbreaks since 2005.

This declaration is important not just from the poultry industry standpoint, but also because humans can contact the disease from animals though the pathogen is not capable of sustained human-to-human transmission. “Humans can be infected with avian, swine and other zoonotic influenza viruses, such as avian influenza virus subtypes A(H5N1), A(H7N9), and A(H9N2) and swine influenza virus subtypes A(H1N1), A(H1N2) and A(H3N2),” says World Health Organization.

Court convicts 4 men in 2014 Nido Tania murder case



19-year-old Nido Tania was from Arunachal Pradesh

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 6

OBSERVING THAT “a definite message needs to be given so that citizens, particularly from the North East region, feel safe in any part of the country”, a Delhi court convicted four men in connection with the murder of Nido Tania, a 19-year-old student from Arunachal Pradesh, on January 29, 2014.

Nido, son of former Congress MLA from Arunachal Pradesh Nido Pavitra, was beaten to death by several shopkeepers in Lajpat Nagar, who also made fun of his hairstyle and hurled racist slurs at him. He was assaulted on three separate locations with a stick and succumbed to injuries the following day. His death had ignited a public debate on racism and the case was handed over to the CBI.

The court sentenced the four accused under IPC sections 304 (punishment for culpable homicide not amounting to murder) and 34 (common intention).

The court held that Farman was the main accused, and sentenced him to simple imprisonment for 10 years and a fine of Rs 20,000. Two other accused, Pawan and Surrender, were sentenced to seven years and a fine of Rs 20,000. The fourth accused, Sunny Pal, was sentenced to three years after he was found involved in one incident of beating which took place at the BSES office.

However, it did not consider it a fit case for grant of compensation to Nido’s family, considering their socio-economic status.

TOPOF THE WORLD



Mark Esper

UK

US defence secy cautions Europe about China

London: US Defense Secretary Mark Esper cautioned European allies against cozying up to China, arguing on Friday that Beijing seeks greater global influence by leveraging economic power and stealing technology “The more dependent a country becomes on Chinese investment and trade, the more susceptible they are to coercion and retribution when they act outside of Beijing’s wishes,” Esper said. “I would caution my friends in Europe — this is not a problem in some distant land that does not affect you,” he said.

PAKISTAN

IMF to send SOS team to Pakistan

Islamabad: The IMF is sending its SOS mission to Pakistan this month for suggesting ways to curtail the yawning budget deficit being faced by the country, according to a media report on Friday. In July, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) formally approved a USD 6 billion loan to Pakistan, which is facing “significant” economic challenges on the back of “large” fiscal and financial needs and “weak and unbalanced” growth. The decision was taken in the wake of the worsening fiscal situation of Pakistan’s economy.

US

Sherin murder: Adoptive father denied new trial

Houston: Wesley Mathews, the Indian-American foster father of 3-year-old Sherin Mathews, will continue to serve his life sentence after a Texas court denied a new trial in the tragic death of the Indian toddler in 2017, in a case that attracted much international attention. Mathews, 39, who was sentenced to life by a Dallas County jury on June 26 in connection with the death of his adopted daughter, was denied a motion for a new trial on Thursday, US media reported. In June, Mathews pleaded guilty to injuring a child by omission.

Rather be dead in a ditch than delay Brexit, says Boris, as Oppn gathers

Labour to vote against election on Monday; PM says not thinking of resigning

KYLIE MACLELLAN AND GUY FAULCONBRIDGE LONDON, SEPTEMBER 6

BRITISH OPPOSITION parties said on Friday that they would block Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s second bid to call an early general election in mid-October, setting up a showdown with the government over delaying Brexit. Brexit remains up in the air more than three years after Britons voted to leave the EU in a 2016 referendum. Options range from a turbulent no-deal exit to abandoning the whole endeavour. Johnson says he wants to take Britain out of the EU on October 31 with or without a deal with the bloc. But he lost his parliamentary majority this week and expelled 21 lawmakers from his ruling Conservative Party’s group in parliament after they supported an opposition plan to try to bloc a no-deal exit. Johnson says the only solu-

HOUSE CLEARS LAW

London: The British parliament’s upper chamber Friday approved a bill aiming to block a no-deal Brexit by forcing Prime Minister Boris Johnson to seek a delay to Britain’s European Union departure. The bill, which requires Johnson to ask for an extension to Britain’s EU membership if parliament has not approved a deal by Oct 19, is expected to be signed into law by Queen Elizabeth Monday

tion is a new election, which he wants to take place on October 15, allowing him to win a new mandate with two weeks left to leave the bloc on time. He needs two-thirds of parliament’s lawmakers to back an early election. But opposition parties, including the Labour Party, said they would either vote against or abstain on calls for an election until the law to force Johnson to seek a Brexit delay is implemented. Johnson failed to win enough support in a vote on



Prime Minister Boris Johnson in Darnford on Friday. Reuters

Wednesday for an election. Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn held a call with other opposition leaders on Friday to discuss their plans. “We will have that election when the time is right but I will make you this promise, we are not going to have a long wait,” the leader in the British parliament of the opposition Scottish National Party, Ian Blackford, said. Johnson has said he would rather “die in a ditch” than delay Brexit. “I’ll go to Brussels, I’ll get a

deal and we’ll make sure we come out on October 31, that’s what we’ve got to do,” he said. When asked if he would resign if he could not deliver that, Johnson said: “That is not a hypothesis I’m willing to contemplate.” England’s High Court rejected a challenge, against Johnson’s move to shut down parliament, on Friday. But the issue could be taken to the Supreme Court for a final appeal. REUTERS

EXPLAINED Road ahead narrowing

THE APPROVAL of a bill blocking no-deal Brexit by the British upper chamber has left fewer viable options on the table for Boris Johnson. Opposition parties have persisted with their strategy of not allowing an election until Boris goes back on his decision to not seek a Brexit delay. However, recent events, have left Johnson without a working majority in parliament. The UK PM still has options, such as the parliament shut-down, which the London High Court on Friday declined to act against. However, the matter is still in the air, as the Supreme Court will soon begin hearings on the issue.

Hong Kong police disperse rally using tear gas, leader says Bill withdrawal first step

MARIUS ZAHARIA & JESSIE PANG HONG KONG, SEPTEMBER 6

HONG KONG police fired rubber bullets and tear gas on Friday to clear renewed protests outside a subway station on the densely populated Kowloon peninsula, the latest clashes in 14 weeks of sometimes violent anti-government unrest. Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam announced concessions this week to try to end the protests, including formally scrapping a hugely unpopular extradition bill, but many said they were too little, too late. Hundreds of demonstrators, many of them masked and dressed in black, took cover from



During a demonstration in Hong Kong on Friday. Reuters

the tear gas behind umbrellas and barricades made from street fencing. Some had broken through a metal grill to enter the station where they pulled down signs, broke turnstiles and daubed graf-

fiti on the walls. “We’re angry at the police and angry at the government,” said Justin, 23, dressed in black and wearing a hoodie. “Police was very brutal with us at this station

on August 31. We cannot let them get away with it.” Protesters gathered outside Prince Edward station in Mong Kok, one of the world’s most densely populated regions, 3 km (two miles) from the harbourside hotel and shopping district of Tsim Sha Tsui. On the night of August 31, police stormed trains at the station, using batons against passengers cowering on the floor, to make arrests. On Friday, the protesters withdrew when police fired rubber bullets, but regrouped in smaller pockets to light fires in the street from wooden pallets, cardboard boxes and other debris. Some protesters smashed up an elevator and entrance at the nearby Yau Ma Tei MTR station and traffic lights outside. REUTERS

Christian girl forced to convert to Islam in Pak

M ZULQERNAIN LAHORE, SEPTEMBER 6

IN A third incident of conversion of girls from minority communities in over a week, a 15-year-old Christian girl was allegedly forced to convert to Islam by her teacher in Pakistan’s Punjab province. According to a complaint filed by the girl’s father Mukhtar Masih at a police station, Faiza was taken to a seminary in the Sheikhupura city, some 50 kms from Lahore, by her school principal Saleema Bibi, who forced her to embrace Islam. Mukhtar said the girl had gone to school on Wednesday but did not return home. “We contacted the school to inquire about her. A class teacher told us that Principal Saleema Bibi had taken our girl to a madrasa (seminary) to convert her to Islam,” he said. Mukhtar said they visited at least three seminaries and found her in one of them but the staff did not allow her to return with them. Police raided the seminary on the basis of the complaint, recovered the girl and shifted her to a Darul Aman (shelter home) in Sheikhupura. “We took action and recovered the girl on Mukhtar Masih’s complaint but FIR has not been registered against any one yet. However, we are investigating the matter,” Muhammad Nawaz, the police official investigating the case said. “The principal had also offered us to convert to Islam and in return she would compensate us by paying for our needs but we refused,” Mukhtar said. The parents of the girl have appealed to authorities to allow their daughter to return home. PTI

PICKING UP THE PIECES IN THE BAHAMAS



At the Abaco Islands in the Bahamas, which were hit with winds up to 220 mph. NYT

- The death toll from Hurricane Dorian has risen to 30 in Bahamas, Prime Minister Hubert Minnis told CNN on Thursday.
- Authorities had previously reported 20 dead, but have warned that the final figure is sure to be far higher.
- So many people have been pushed from their homes by the hurricane that in Marsh Harbour, the main town on Abaco, as many as 2,000 were seeking shelter in a clinic and a government complex.
- Norwegian energy company Equinor said an oil storage terminal on the island of Grand Bahama had been damaged. AGENCIES

JAPAN

SCIENTISTS FIND NEW DINOSAUR SPECIES

Japanese scientists have identified a new species of dinosaur from a nearly complete skeleton that was the largest ever discovered in the country, measuring eight metres (26 feet) long. The team named the dinosaur ‘Kamuyasaurus japonicus’, which means ‘Japanese dragon god’, according to a statement issued by the university

Robert Mugabe, strongman who said Zimbabwe is mine, dies at 95

ALAN COWELL SEPTEMBER 6

ROBERT MUGABE, the first prime minister and later president of independent Zimbabwe, who traded the mantle of liberator for the armor of a tyrant and presided over the decline of one of Africa’s most prosperous lands, died Friday. He was 95. The death was announced by his successor, President Emmerson Mnangagwa. “It is with the utmost sadness that I announce the passing on of Zimbabwe’s founding father and former President, Cde Robert Mugabe,” he wrote on Twitter on Friday, using the abbreviation for comrade. “Mugabe was an icon of liberation, a pan-Africanist who dedicated his life to the emancipation and empowerment of his people. His contribution to the history of our nation and continent will never be forgotten.” In August, Mnangagwa had said Mugabe had spent several months in Singapore getting treatment for an undisclosed illness.

Mugabe, the world’s oldest head of state before his ouster in 2017, was the only leader Zimbabweans had known since independence, in 1980. Like many who liberated their countries, Mugabe believed that Zimbabwe was his to govern until the end. In a speech before the African Union in 2016, he said he would remain at the helm “until God says, ‘Come.’” Throughout, Mugabe remained inscrutable, some would say conflicted. Remote, calculating, ascetic and cerebral, a self-styled revolutionary inspired by what he once called “Marxist-Leninism-Mao-Tse-tung thought,” he affected a scholarly manner, bespectacled and haughty, a vestige of his early years as a schoolteacher. But his hunger for power was undiluted.



ROBERT MUGABE 1924-2019

In his final years in power, Mugabe presided over a shattered economy and a fractured political class that was jockeying for influence in anticipation of his death. Mugabe had in his early days belonged to a generation of African nationalists whose confrontation with white minority rule fomented guerrilla warfare in the name of democracy and freedom. But once he won power in Zimbabwe’s first free elections, in 1980, after a seven-year war, he turned, with a blend of guile and brutality, to the elimination of adversaries, real and imagined. Mugabe morphed into a caricature of dictatorship: vain and capricious, encircled by the flashy spending of his second wife and other family members, who lived in luxury at home and went on shopping sprees and long annual vacations in the Far East. “His real obsession was not with personal wealth but with power,” British writer Martin Meredith observed in his book “Our Votes, Our Guns: Robert Mugabe and the Tragedy of Zimbabwe” (2002). “I will never, never sell my country,” he declared in 2008. “I will never, never, never surrender. Zimbabwe is mine, I am a Zimbabwean, Zimbabwe for Zimbabweans.” NYT

2 killed as Taliban attack third Afghan province this week

ASSOCIATED PRESS KABUL, SEPTEMBER 6

THE TALIBAN attacked a third provincial capital in Afghanistan in less than a week, killing at least two civilians, an official said Friday as a US envoy was back in Qatar for unexpected talks on a US-Taliban deal he had described as complete just days earlier. Farah provincial governor Mohammad Shoaib Sabet told *The Associated Press* that another 15 people were wounded in the latest attack, citing local hospitals, and that airstrikes had been carried out against the militant group. Small clashes continued in the city, he said. This week’s spike in violence, including two shattering Taliban car bombings in the capital, Kabul, comes after US envoy Zalmay Khalilzad said he and the insurgents had reached a deal “in prin-

PEACE DEAL STATUS

AFGHANISTAN’S PRESIDENT has postponed a planned visit to Washington early next week where he was to discuss the US-Taliban talks on ending America’s longest war, an official said Friday

THIS EMERGED after the US envoy negotiating with the Taliban, Zalmay Khalilzad, abruptly returned to Qatar for unexpected talks on the deal he had described as complete just days ago

ciple” that would begin a US troop pullout in exchange for Taliban counter-terror guarantees.

TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, 2019

On Day 1, horror flicks take the spotlight with *Parasites*, *The Long Walk*



EXPRESS AT TIFF 2019

SHUBHRA GUPTA TORONTO, SEPTEMBER 6

FOR SOME of us returning ‘foreign press’, it’s like the festivities never really ended: there’s the same bustle on Kings Street where the TIFF Bell Lightbox is situated, the same smiling volun-

teers in neon orange jackets, the same fevered glint in the eyes of the delegates, all debating that impossible question: how do you watch 40 films in a day? On Day 1 at the latest edition of the Toronto International Film Festival, among the many excellent choices, the one that will stay with me was Bong Joon-ho’s *Parasites*. It created major buzz at Cannes 2019, and you can see exactly why the South Korean director is one of the most exciting filmmakers currently. His storytelling is distinctive, each frame almost like a painting demanding multiple viewings. *Parasites* is many things rolled into one: a sharply observed

satire, black comedy, thriller, tragedy. We are introduced to two families, so far apart on the social ladder as to be on different planets. Ki-woo is a young man who lives with his sister and parents in an overcrowded basement in a sorry part of town. The Parks, husband, wife, and two kids, are also four to a house, but what a house — all chrome, glass, classy, expensive interiors, surrounded by lawns where each blade of grass feels manicured. A stroke of luck gets Ki-woo into the Parks’ home, and from here we see the fortunes of the two families collide and change. With great stealth and imagination, the family which has noth-



Parasites director Bong Joon-ho with one of the film’s actors, Song Kang-ho, at the Cannes Film Festival in May. Reuters/file

ing begins preying upon the family which has everything, and we see the parasites at work, nibbling, tasting, burrowing deep,

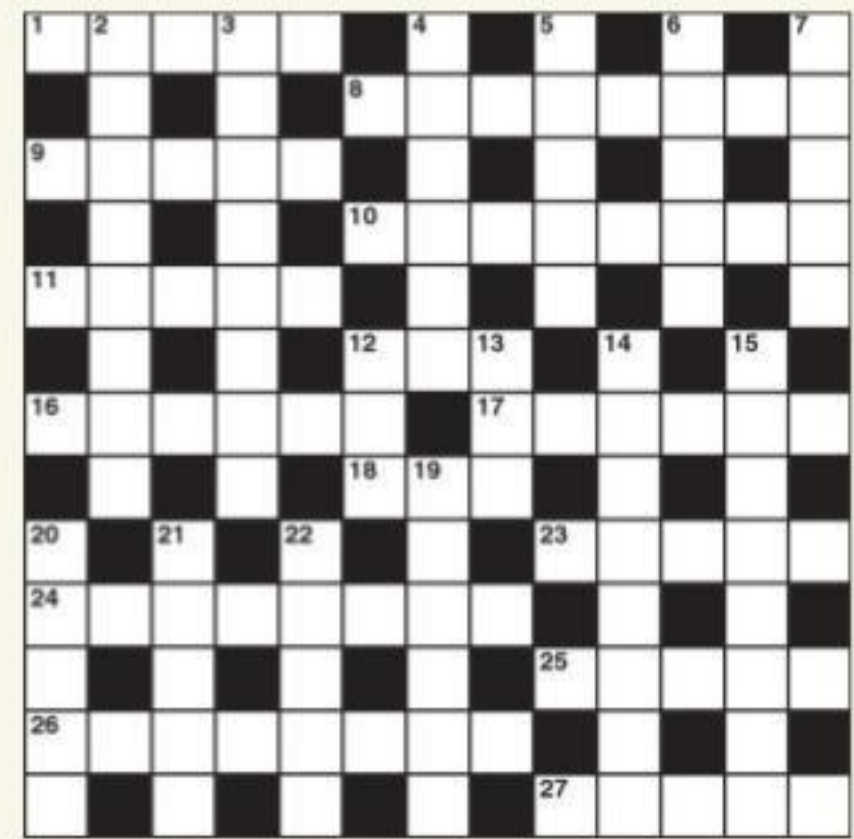
fattened with bile and blood. Social inequities exist. We know. There will always be those who have and those who don’t.

There will be men who give orders and women who execute. *Parasites* doesn’t preach; it just shows how its characters behave when opportunities present themselves, and gets us to vantage where it is difficult to judge. Aspiration is now a handy weapon which knows no class. Anyone can aspire to anything and a WhatsApp message can change a life. But what Bong Joon-ho, who has become a global festival darling, manages, is remarkable: we are left asking uncomfortable questions. Who, really, are the parasites? The poor who are waiting on the sidelines, planning their moves, or the rich who amassed wealth battenning on the labours

of those less fortunate? The elements of subterranean horror that play out in *Parasites* are brought to the surface in another, very different film — *The Long Walk* by Mattie Do, who has also been making a name for herself on the international circuit. The Laotian American director has used horror to tell her stories from the start (Chanthily, 2013), but it is in the way she subverts tropes that makes her creations interesting. *The Long Walk* is not an easy film, featuring a strangely impassive middle-aged man, a young woman in a black-and-white striped dress, another young woman who is brutally injured and a boy,

all criss-crossing each other in a rural outpost. It takes a while to get into this weird world: is it real, are these people alive or dead, is it the past or present or future? But slowly you settle in, and see, somewhat, where the director is going with her strange, unsettling tale. And then you realize that it is a universal story of how differences can drive people apart, and get them together, and how pain can sometimes be a great reliever, and how time is merely *maya*. *The Long Walk* is a tough, demanding film and reveals its rewards slowly. An odd but good way to kickstart one of the most rewarding film festivals there is.

CROSSWORD 3904



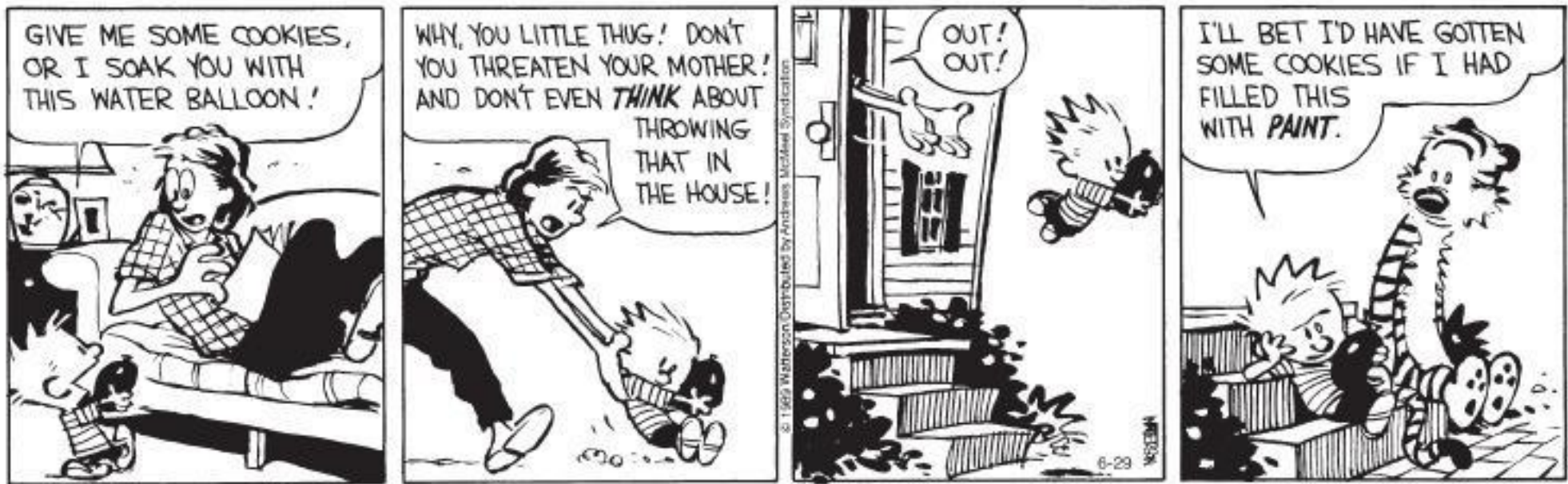
- ACROSS**
- 1 The House then rose (5)
 - 8 I'm off food and water (8)
 - 9 I'd the wrong name for a girl (5)
 - 10 HQ until captured was Parisian fortress (8)
 - 11 Put in charge (5)
 - 12 A warning to say nothing after the fire (3)
 - 16 A new bride's bits and pieces (6)
 - 17 Mistakes in a Shakespearean comedy (6)
 - 18 The whole lot, though it sounds like only several (3)
 - 23 Stiff resolution shown in disputes (5)
 - 24 Worn thin perhaps, so it's included free (6,2)
 - 25 Watering place in the country (5)
 - 26 Technician born in a disturbed reign (8)
 - 27 He joins a biblical character - an old slave (5)
- DOWN**
- 2 Put over a German and Irish submarine (8)
 - 3 Trust Mao to show greater cleverness (8)
 - 4 A class given by an expert cellist (6)
 - 5 Number with odd bets needing to be settled (5)
 - 6 Gave the players a hand (5)
 - 7 Is extravagant with music (5)
 - 12 A fool is one who can be taken for a ride (3)
 - 13 It borders part of the Mediterranean (3)
 - 14 Tart, but may be sweet (5,3)
 - 15 In a way has a gift for writing on the wall (8)
 - 19 Joined in a duet, perhaps (6)
 - 20 Say something extreme? (5)
 - 21 Unused grounds (5)
 - 22 To be paid nothing to fly (5)

Solutions Crossword 3903: Across: 1 Home and dry, 6 Come, 10 Inset, 11 Candidate, 12 Charcoal, 13 Ibsen, 15 Applies, 17 Stealth, 19 Landing, 21 Risside, 22 Alibi, 24 Listless, 27 Ebullient, 28 Drama, 29 Tier, 30 Unromantic. Down: 1 Hair, 2 Misschaps, 3 Alter, 4 Doctors, 5 Ranks, 7 Ovals, 8 One in three, 9 Big Ideas, 14 Parliament, 16 Initials, 18 Look smart, 20 Galleon, 21 Risotto, 23 Inure, 25 Lydia, 26 Tale.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

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

One shouldn't be afraid of the humans. Well, I am not afraid of the humans, but of what is ____ - Ivo Andric (7,2,4)

LMAEI
YINNT

ACEMNU
RTYHHM

SOLUTION: EMIAT, TINY, ACUMEN, RYTHIM
Answer: One shouldn't be afraid of the humans. Well, I am not afraid of the humans, but of what is ____ - Ivo Andric

SUDOKU 3962

Difficulty Level 1s 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.

SOLUTION SUDOKU 3961

Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
You can't win alone so you may as well team up with other independent souls and learn what you can. You are wrestling with tricky decisions, and the results could be exciting, if harsh. But then, as you know, you don't really get anywhere without extra effort.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
There is every reason to expect a fulfilling, inspiring and enjoyable time, but only if you take a leap into the dark. The moment you succumb to doubts and questions, then the future may unravel. However, perhaps you should summon up the courage to ask suitable people for support.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
You've a knack of smiling and keeping everyone happy, but perhaps at the cost of accepting that you won't get what you want. If you push too hard then you may only antagonise people whose affection and support you need. That's why extra subtlety is called for today.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
You may not be free to act exactly as you want, but that doesn't mean that you can't safeguard your own interests financially and at work. It's a busy day, and one in which not to be distracted from your goals. If you're not satisfied with social engagements, then take the lead and make your own arrangements.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
Something just doesn't seem to be working out socially. It may be best to mix with people with whom you feel genuinely close and not to labour the point with more distant acquaintances. After all, you don't want to waste your time on those who you may never see again.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
Although superficially you have no real reason to worry about anything, it takes a lot to deal with your secret fears. However, you can easily forget your woes by confessing all to family members or immersing yourself in a favourite hobby. A problem shared could turn out to be a problem halved.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
Your stars are notably pleasant, and even certain combative influences may emerge only as a sort of sharp and ready wit, perhaps a healthy burst of sarcasm. Short trips could prove surprisingly stimulating, and you may never know what lies around the next corner.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
Some people just don't know when to leave well alone. Others still imagine that they can run your life. How wrong they are. If they haven't learned that you are an independent soul, they never will, and you may have to consider changing your old friends for new ones.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)
This is a special time of year, a time to make wishes and shape your destiny for the coming period. In about another week or so you'll be flying high, and nobody will be able to stop you. Remember, the more you believe in yourself, then the better off you'll be.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
A development that touches you deep in your heart will please you, but may cause you to think again. If you are moved to make a generous gesture, then don't let anyone hold you back. Don't be afraid of being thought to be flashy, either; sometimes you have a perfect right to show off.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
Family influences are friendly, so get the most out of any welcome engagements and make up for any past rifts or misunderstandings. One friend or colleague will be happy to hear from you, so if you've been wondering whether to get in touch, then go right ahead.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
Keep your personal plans open and your options flexible. Some would say that all you need do is go with the flow, but you may rightly regard other people as slightly out of touch with reality. Those who intrude on your private space will not be thanked.

The Indian EXPRESS
Classifieds
FROM ANYTHING TO EVERYTHING.

PROPERTY
ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE
NAVI MUMBAI
AIROLI 3 BHK for sale, 950 carpet, Sector 14, Low outgoing, well maintained society, 1.75 Cr. Inspection call 9821037852 Naik.
0070672763-1

OUT OF MUMBAI
GOA 1 BHK urgent sale, 452 sq.ft.s., 30 lakhs, Verem Bardez, Goa-NEGO. Good for holiday makers and investment. 8425948046.
0070673085-1

VIDYAVIHAR-THANE
GHATKOPAR East Pantnagar For Investment. Rera Registered Project Under Construction And Ready Possession For Sale/ Purchase. Jayesh Kantilal Mehta (Property Consultant) 1/A Soral Building No. 9, Pantnagar Ghatkopar East. 9870130730.
0070666667-2

RENTAL
MULUND (East) Mithagar Road, Sachin Society, 2 BHK, 24,000/-, Office 150 Carpet, Fully Furnished, available for Rent. Contact: 773881030.
0070672850-2

SHOP FOR SALE
560 sq.ft. shop, 2 cabin in the shop, Toilet-bath, main road, Gorai, Borivali, Mumbai- 92. Contact- 7718838840.
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BUSINESS
BUSINESS OFFERS
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FINANCE
S.F.I. Pvt. Ltd. We are provide all type of big loans like N.P.A. Agriculture Loan, Project Loan, Third Party Collateral Forgen funding, loan against property. Note: No required financial document for private funding and also no upfront payment. Contact:- 9372476538/ 02249744810.
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LOANS
Express Loan upto 500Cr available @ 6-9% against Property for Purchase of Asset / Business Use/New Project. We do Critical NPA/Take Over cases. Call us 8585837267/ 587 or visit marketpurs-global.com
0040510916-1

POULTRY
N.E.C.C. Suggested Price For 100 Eggs In Mumbai On 07.09.2019 Rs. 372/- (Three Hundred Seventy Two) Only. NECC 22834107.
0070672182-1

NEW Dolly Eggs today's Egg Rate Rs. 330/- Good News for Bakery Tich Eggs Rs. 150/- Mobile: 09110526654.
0070672017-1

TUITION/ TUTORS
होम ट्यूशन VIII, IX, X, Sate, ICSE, CBSE, XI, XII, Commerce, Science, F.Y., S.Y., T.Y. B.Com. Savant Sir- 9820649468/ 9082579461.
0070660167-2

CHANGE OF BIRTH DATE
I No.8035844M Rank-NK(GD) name Khade Shivaji Mahadev declare that my wife Chandrakala Shivaji Khade date of birth wrongly mentioned in army record as 02.05.1985 but her true date of birth is 04.02.1983 Affidavit no.1952242141268100086 453.
0090262125-1

RECRUITMENT
SITUATION VACANT
ON contract Airport Jobs available for Mumbai Airport. Vacancies: Cabin Crew, Supervisors, Customer Service Associate, Ground Staff, Duty Free Shop, other vacancies also available for Engineers. Age: upto 45 years. Salary between 15,000/- to 45,000/- Awarded for recruitment industry Since last 3 years. Call and Inquire. 8425815819/ 8425815818.
0070672936-1

SERVICES
SERVICES
RELIABLE Female/ Male House Servant, Patientcare, Babycare, Housekeeping, Oldagecare available for 8, 12, 24 hours. Contact- Bhandup 022-49768909, 9372575827, 7045085124.
0070666796-2

To place your ad in Classified
Call : 9967966093
Sanjeev : 9967552226
Harsh Dwivedi : 7021818976
Vinay Yadav : 8451957053
Steffi : 9920288236

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME
I have changed my name from Hatim Fakhruddin Haryanwala To Hatim Fakhruddin Haryana As Per Pan Card No. AAAPH2832H.
0070673215-1

THANKS GIVING
THANK you Saint Jude and Sacred Heart of Jesus for favours and blessings received. Continue to help us. E. D'Souza.
0070673092-1

GURU GHASIDAS VISHWAVIDYALAYA
Koni, Bilaspur (C.G.) Ph. 260491, www.ggu.ac.in
Ref. EO/No.29/Engg/GGV/CPSU/2019 Date-26/08/2019
e-Tender Notice for EoI cum RFP
GGV, Invites EoI cum RFP for Empanelling Central Public Sector Unit (CPSU), Gol as PMC for Project Management & Supervision with Architectural Services for Execution of GGV Projects Works. Details etc. can be downloaded from the websites www.ggu.ac.in or www.eprocure.gov.in. The last date time for submitting the EoI etc as 18-09-2019 upto 4.00 P.M. Tender cost-Rs. 20,000/- & EMD Rs. 10.1 Lakh.
Registrar

SCHOOL OF PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE, VIJAYAWADA
(An institution of National Importance under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India)
Sy.No.4/4, ITI Road, Vijayawada - 520 008, Andhra Pradesh, India, Ph.0866-2469446
Advt. No. SPA/14/2019, SPA/15/2019 & SPA/16/2019 Dated September 05, 2019
Applications are invited from eligible Indian Nationals for the following:
1. For the post of 'Registrar (Level-14)' on deputation or on contract basis for a fixed term of five years.
2. For the post of 'Administration and Finance Consultant' purely on contract basis.
3. For the post of full time 'Physical Instructor' purely on contract basis.
For further details regarding qualifications, experience, etc. please refer SPA, Vijayawada website www.spav.ac.in Last Date for submission of Application for the post of Registrar is October 04, 2019 and for Administration and Finance Consultant is September 26, 2019. Sd/- Registrar

: CORRIGENDUM-2 :
Following rectification is made in E-Tender Notice No. 11 OF 2019-20 of Executive Engineer Ukai Division No.1, Ukai PIN CODE NO.394680 Phone No. 02624-233221 Dist : Tapi.

Event	Old Date	New Date
1. Downloading and Uploading of tender Document	Dt.12-09-2019 up to 18.00 Hrs.	Dt.19-09-2019 up to 18.00 Hrs.
2. Last date & Physical Submission	Dt.19-09-2019 up to 18.00 Hrs.	Dt.25-09-2019 up to 18.00 Hrs.
3. P.Q. Bid Opening Date & Time	On Dt.20-09-2019 12.00 Hrs	On Dt.26-09-2019 12.00 Hrs

Further details please visit us at above stated office during office hours. details are also available on web Site www.nprocure.com other conditions remains unchanged.
No.: INF-Surat/711/2019

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
Regd. Office.: PSPCL Head Office, The Mall, Patiala
CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033813; Website: www.pspcl.in
GURU HARGOBIND THERMAL PLANT, LEHRA MOHABBAT
Tender Enquiry No.: 505/GHTP/EMC/SSMC-181/Vol-III Dated: 04.09.2019
SHORT DESCRIPTION: Hotline (online) washing of 220kV & 66kV insulator strings, porcelain portion of switchyard equipment i.e. CTs, PTs, Breakers, Isolators etc. installed at 220kV substation, GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat as per detailed Scope of work mentioned in technical specifications.
Last Date & Time for bid submission 01.10.2019 upto 11.30 hrs
Date & Time of opening of Fee stage bid 01.10.2019 upto 12.00 hrs
Tender specification can only be downloaded from PSPCL website <https://pspcl.abcpocure.com>
Note: The prospective bidders can obtain clarification regarding tender specifications from this office. For registration of digital signatures and uploading of tender information may be sought from <https://pspcl.abcpocure.com>
It is informed that in case the tender process is not completed due to any reason no corrigendum will be published in newspapers. Detail regarding corrigendum may be seen on PSPCL official website i.e. <https://pspcl.in>
Sd/- SE/EMC, GHTP, PSPCL, Lehra Mohabbat, Ph. No. 0164-2756427
GHTP-48/19 C-6994/Pb

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E TENDER NOTICE No. EI-OD-BYPL-04-2019-20 Dated : 04.09.2019
The undersigned, on behalf of The President of India, invites E-tenders for the following work.

Name of Work	Approx Value (In Rs.)	Cost of Tender Document (In Rs.)	EMD (In Rs.)	Period of Completion
Provision of Electronic Interlocking and Outdoor Signaling arrangements at Baiyyappanahalli Station of Bangalore Division.	5,70,68,406.56	11,350/-	4,35,400/-	12 Months

Last date of submission of bids : 30.09.2019 up to 11:00 hrs & tender will be opened on the same date
For details log on to www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Signal and Telecommunication Engineer (Construction) South Western Railway, Bengaluru Cantonment
No.PUB/12/1AAL/PRB/SBC/19-20

AIR Officer Commanding, Air Force Station, Ojhar invites sealed tenders on prescribed tender form upto **1030 AM on 23rd September 2019** for running the Regimental shops (1) Milk Booth (2) Vegetable Shop (3) Provision Shop- 1 (4) Cafeteria (Domestic Area) for the period from 01st October 2019 to 30th September 2020.
Tender forms can be obtained from C Adm O Office, AF Stn. Ojhar on payment of Rs. 1,000/- per form & Earnest Money Deposit of Rs. 2,500/- per form. Shop location can be seen for assessment from any day between 09th September 2019 to 19th September 2019 between 1000 Hrs. to 1200 Hrs. Tender will be opened on 25th September 2019 at 1130 hrs. Sealed tenders to be marked as "Tender for Milk Booth, Vegetable Shop, Provision Shop- 1 & Cafeteria (Domestic Area) NOT to be opened by Central Registry". The applicants name and contact details must be mentioned on the envelope. Priority will be given to applicants in the following order. 1. War widows/ widows of defence personnel killed while on duty 2. Disabled Soldiers 3. Ex-Servicemen 4. Spouses/ widows of ex-servicemen 5. Government Agencies, Including Public sector undertaking 6. Civilian whose spouse or dependent family members who do not own any shop in Air Force Station, Ojhar shopping Complex.

Government of India
Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
Nuclear Recycle Board Tarapur
On line item rate tender in two parts i.e. Part A – Documents related to eligibility criteria and Part B – Financial Bid are hereby invited through e-tendering mode on behalf of the President of India by the General Manager, RAWM/ INRP (O), NRB, BARC Tarapur for the following work from the contractors having adequate experience in similar works

NIT	
Tender Reference No.	TRP/INRP (O)/NRB/BARC (T)/OPA-50230/01 dated 03.09.2019
Name of work	"Fabrication, Supply, Installation and commissioning of self-supported steel chimney at INRP (O), NRB, Tarapur.
Mode of tendering	Online e-tendering on www.tenderwizard.com/DAE
Estimated Cost	Rs. 59,00,000/- (Rs. Fifty Nine Lakh Only)
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs.1,18,000/- (Rs. One Lakh Eighteen Thousand Only)
Cost of Tender Document	Nil
Tender processing fee	Rs.3481/- by e-payment through electronic mode (Non-returnable) in favour of M/s ITI Limited, New Delhi
Period of Completion	06 (Six) Calendar months
Tender Sale Period	From 09.09.2019 (10:00 Hrs.) to 30.09.2019 (15:00 Hrs.)
Date of Pre Bid-Meeting	10/10/2019
Last date & Time of a. Last date and time of closing of online submission of tenders. b. Date and time of online opening of Part A	17.10.2019 (12:00 Hrs.) 24.10.2019 (15:00 Hrs.)

The detailed tender notice can be seen on the website <http://www.barc.gov.in/tenders> For clarification contact: (02525) 265116 /265133 /265243.

HEADS OF PUBLIC SECTOR FIRMS MEET MINISTRY OFFICIALS

To boost capex, FinMin asks CPSEs to accelerate investments, clear dues

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 6

IN ORDER to boost capital expenditure (capex) and inject liquidity in markets, the government suggested large central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) to "accelerate investment activities" and speed up clearance of outstanding dues to contractors.

Senior Finance Ministry officials on Friday held a meeting with heads of CPSEs including NTPC, SAIL, NHAI and PGCIL, as well as financial advisors of infrastructure ministries, to review and speed up the planned capex.

The review is part of the measures being taken by the government to arrest economic slowdown and to boost growth.

Friday's meeting was co-chaired by Department of Economic Affairs Secretary Atanu Chakraborty and Expenditure Secretary GC Mumm.

The meeting was held to "boost capital expenditure of the Union Government so as to pump liquidity in the market to boost de-

EXPLAINED Govt measures aimed at restarting investment cycle

THE GOVERNMENT'S decision to accelerate investments by large public sector companies, along with the push to clear outstanding dues, will have a sanguine effect on boosting capital expenditure in the economy.

Along with measures including upfront capital infusion of Rs 70,000 crore in public sector banks, these initiatives are aimed at arresting the slowdown in GDP growth, which fell to 25-quarter low of 5 per cent in April-June this fiscal.

mand," the Finance Ministry said in a statement.

CPSEs "were impressed upon to adhere to the expenditure plan and accelerate investment activities," the Ministry said. The officials also stressed the need for release of payments for procurements and other contracts without delay to infuse liquidity in a time-bound manner.

Resolution of outstanding payments which may have been held

up on account of disputes also came up for discussions.

After the meeting, ONGC Executive Director NC Pandey said that as many as 27 projects worth Rs 87,000 crore are on stream. He was quoted by *PTI* as saying that these projects will be completed in three-four years. "We are on track. We are hopeful that these projects will be completed on time," he said. On issues related to payment, Pandey said it was em-

phasised in the meeting that steps should be taken to make payment ahead of scheduled date.

Financial advisors of railways, health and family welfare, petroleum and natural gas, road transport and highways, shipping, power, civil aviation, housing and urban affair, water resources, rural development and HRD ministries participated in the meeting.

These meetings come in the backdrop of economic growth falling to a six-year low and other lead indicators (such as car/tractor sales, FMCG volume growth) presenting a pessimistic picture.

The government said more such review meetings are lined up to push expenditure in the infrastructure projects. "Ministry of Finance would constantly monitor the progress of large infrastructure projects for ministries as well as CPSEs and further follow-up meetings would be held," it said.

Weak manufacturing and consumption numbers dragged the country's gross GDP growth to a 25-quarter low of 5 per cent in the first quarter (April-June) of the current fiscal, data released by

National Statistical Office last Friday showed. The GDP growth rate has now slowed for the fifth consecutive quarter, with the previous low recorded at 4.3 per cent in March 2013.

While the Centre reviewed CPSEs' capex plans, it is also working on using the surplus funds received from the Reserve Bank to push up capital investment in the economy, an official indicated.

Apart from this, a Rs 70,000 crore upfront capital infusion into public sector banks announced last month is expected to spur credit growth in the economy. The Centre will get an additional Rs 58,000 crore as compared to Rs 90,000 crore accounted for as surplus transfer from the RBI in the Union Budget 2019-20, for spending in the current fiscal.

Additional capex will happen if the government is able to meet its revenue targets from taxes and non-tax receipts. The steady slide in investment activity has been progressively intensifying – evidenced by a nearly 30 per cent drop in capex by the government in the June 2019 quarter.

Will respond to challenges faced by all sectors, says FM

EXPRESSNEWSERVICE
KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 6

UNION FINANCE Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said that the government will respond to the challenges faced by all the sectors.

"We are looking at the challenges which the sectors are facing. We will respond to the challenges and extend every possible help," she said to a query on the ongoing slowdown of the economy. The Finance Minister was holding an interaction with reporters after meeting tax officers as well as traders and professionals in Kolkata — a part of a series of tours across various cities — on Friday. Amid demand for GST rate cut by automobile firms, Sitharaman said that it was for the GST Council to decide. "The government is aware about the challenges being faced by the firms and is reacting to the issues. Many of the government's responses are in accordance with recommendations by stakeholders," she said.

She also talked about measures aimed at bringing transparency in the tax collection process. From October 1, any notice issued by the Income Tax department for tax claim will have to be issued with a Document Identification Number (DIN), she said.

"Unless there is a DIN, the assessee is well within his rights to consider the notice as not issued. We are adopting technology to make the process non discretionary and transparent," she said.



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Kolkata. *PTI*

Also, from October 8, the revenue department will bring in faceless assessment. "With faceless assessment and randomised scrutiny the probability of any irksome harassing intrusion in their activity can be cut down. Department is taking lot of measures bringing faceless technology," Sitharaman said.

She added that while it is necessary for tax officials to perform the duty, they should not overreach, so that the entrepreneurs are seen being troubled. Responding to a question on Cafe Coffee Day founder VG Siddhartha's death and if these measures were an outcome of the incident, the Finance Minister said the death was unfortunate. "The whole process requires more transparency, rather than a discretion-driven process," she said.

Sitharaman further assured that the Central government is engaging with stakeholders to make the process more transparent and

ensure that the interests of wealth creators are protected. "The tax assessment process must be forced-driven and not discretion driven. One-on-one interactions with tax assesses can sometimes run into rough weather. Use of technology will make the assessment process a lot more transparent," she said.

The Union minister also said that any tax collection shortfall will not affect commitments made for social sector spending. "If there are any challenges, as a result of which collections will be far lesser, we'll look into it as and when the situation develops. But certainly it will not affect the commitments towards social sector spending made in the Budget," she said.

On inflation, she said, "Nobody can question our government on inflation. Inflation has not risen since 2014. It was up during 2009-14 (during the UPA-II). The price rise was in two digits for commodities during that period."

US hiring slows; wages, hours offer silver lining

REUTERS
REUTERS, SEPTEMBER 6

US JOB growth slowed more than expected in August, with retail hiring declining for a seventh straight month, but strong wage gains should support consumer spending and keep the economy expanding moderately amid rising threats from trade tensions.

Nonfarm payrolls increased by 130,000 jobs last month, flattered by temporary hiring of 25,000 workers for the 2020 census. The economy created 20,000 fewer jobs in June and July than previously reported. The unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.7 per cent for a third straight month in August. Average hourly earnings gained 0.4 per cent last month. Wage growth has held at or above 3.0 per cent for 13 straight month, helping to drive consumer spending and the economy.

China 'eating the tariffs,' Trump says

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 6

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump on Friday said the costs of his protracted trade war were falling squarely on China.

Top-level negotiators are due to gather in Washington early next month while lower-level staff will meet in late September, according to officials on both sides.

"China is eating the tariffs," Trump said on Twitter, repeating his claim that higher duty rates meant Washington collected billions of dollars from the Asian economy, and not US importers.

"China having worst year in decades. Talks happening, good for all!"

'Growth of cement demand likely to halve this year'

Impacted by weak government spending in the first half of FY20, in addition to the liquidity crunch faced by real estate market, cement demand growth is expected to halve to around 5-5.5 per cent in the year, Crisil said

12% growth in cement demand was recorded in financial year 2018-19

6-year high profit margins are expected to be recorded by the cement industry for April-June quarter, due to recent price hikes

35-40% of cement demand is generated from government spending

5-8% of cement consumption is accounted for by the real estate market

8-10% growth expected in second half of current financial year, led



by gradual pick up in government's release of funds for institutional projects

2-4% growth expected in cement demand in southern and eastern

regions of the country, due to constrained spending by state governments

5-6% growth expected in cement demand in western and central regions of the country in

current financial year

80-85 MT (million tonne) cement demand to be generated, on account of 22 lakh under-construction housing units in Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) urban and the targeted 60 lakh units under PMAY-Gramin

14-15 MT of capacities expected to be commissioned in second half, which may soften cement prices in coming months

6-7 % rise in prices expected in current fiscal, primarily led by a robust first quarter

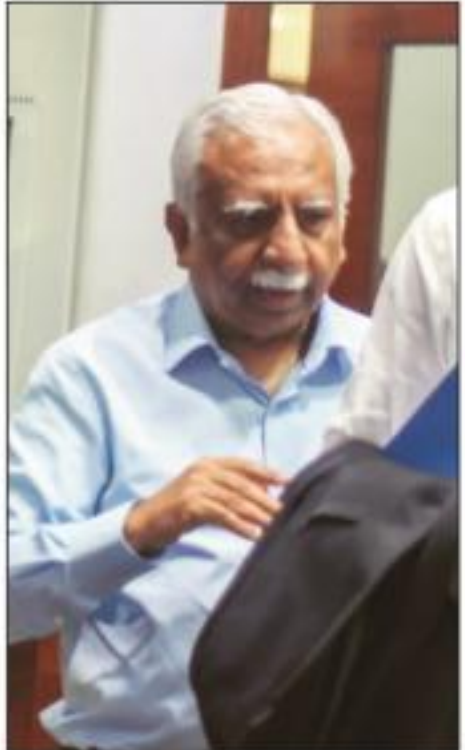
ED questions Jet founder Naresh Goyal

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 6

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) on Friday questioned Naresh Goyal, founder of Jet Airways (India) Ltd, in connection with a case of alleged contravention of the foreign exchange law, according to officials familiar with the development. This is the first time the agency has questioned Goyal.

According to ED sources, Goyal has 19 privately held companies out of which 14 are in India and 5 abroad. ED has alleged that Jet Airways has executed aircraft lease agreements with offshore entities that have made payments to firms which have allegedly "diverted" the money to Goyal. Sources said the ED is examining transactions of the airlines pertaining to sales and distribution.

Earlier in May, ED began



Former Jet Airways chairman outside the Enforcement Directorate office in Mumbai. *Ganesh Shirsekar*

probing Etihad Airways investment in Jet Airways' frequent

flyer programme — Jet Privilege Pvt Ltd (JPPL).

The agency is ascertaining whether foreign direct investment (FDI) norms were violated by Etihad that took a stake in JPPL in 2014. JPPL was incorporated as a wholly-owned unit of the airline in 2012 and was split as an independent entity in 2014 after Etihad's purchase of 50.1 per cent stake for \$150 million. Jet Airways holds 49.9 per cent stake.

The agency has also questioned a few top officials of Jet Airways in connection with its FEMA case.

Last month, the ED searched Goyal's residence and 11 other locations in Mumbai and Delhi. The agency also searched Hasmukh Deepchand Gardi, a partner of Goyal's Isle of Man-firm Tail Winds Corporation. Tail Winds, the ED said, controls all the financial activities of Jet Airways.

Gardi, who lives in Dubai, has

also been named in The Panama Papers, according to the investigation agency.

In March, Goyal stepped down as chairman of the airline. In April, Jet, shuttered operations due to cash crunch. Since then, the airline has come under the scanner of multiple investigative agencies, including the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) and Income Tax Department. The SFIO has questioned Goyal a couple of times in connection with its case.

A Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) inspection report had allegedly found large-scale irregularities, including diversion of funds, at the airline. The Income Tax Department also searched the carrier's offices and found discrepancies in their books.

Currently, Jet Airways is undergoing resolution process under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.

Thakur to automakers: Take up GST cut demand with state FMs

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 6

MINISTER OF State (MoS) for Finance Anurag Thakur Friday asked automobile sector players to take up their demand for reduction in GST rate on cars with state finance ministers as well, who are part of the GST Council that takes a decision on such rate reductions. He assured the sector of all possible support from the central government. The Centre has already indicated that it will take up the proposal of Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate cut on automobiles to the GST Council, which is meeting later this month in Goa.

Automobile and component manufacturers are seeking GST cut on automobiles to 18 per cent from 28 per cent to help the sector come out of a prolonged slump that has resulted in job losses.

"You are aware that any rate cut on GST needs to be approved first by the fitment committee, then by the GST Council. I request all of you to also reach out to the state finance ministers who are part of the GST Council," Thakur said, speaking here at the annual convention of the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association (ACMA).

He said the Finance Ministry has received multiple representations from car manufacturers, dealers and many of the stakeholders regarding the GST rate cut.

"Various OEMs (original equipment manufacturers) are based out of various parts of the country. The issue is whether they (the manufacturers) are taking these issues with their finance ministers or not," Thakur said, as

Participant counters minister, says note ban caused slowdown

New Delhi: MoS for Finance Anurag Thakur was heckled at an ACMA event on Friday after he asked auto industry players why sales had not picked up despite measures taken by government, RBI intervention and big discounts by manufacturers, to which a participant interjected and said it was because of the "demonetisation effect".

Thakur was seeking inputs from industry players on the reasons behind the slowdown, despite government's efforts

to support the ailing sector, at the ACMA annual summit here. Jasbir Singh of GS Auto Ludhiana interrupted the junior finance minister's address, saying "This is the delayed effect of demonetisation. People don't have money!"

Thakur, however, kept his composure and repeatedly said "Thank you". Seeking to calm down the atmosphere after the interruption, he added, "If that is the delayed effect, how do you move ahead from here? How do you go forward?" *PTI*

per a *PTI* report.

He said state finance ministers should be equally aware of the challenges faced by the OEMs or the automobile manufacturers.

"Our humble request is to apprise them also so that whenever this issue is discussed in the GST Council meeting, everyone should have their view point," he added.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has already suggested in the last meeting that the Centre was open to take it to the GST Council for deliberation, and most of the decisions were unanimous in the previous GST Council meeting, Thakur said.

With sales of automobile products across segments in the slow lane for the past 10 straight months now, almost all manufacturers of passenger vehicles and two-wheelers have been resorting to production cuts in the past

six-seven months to clear unsold inventory. Thakur said the government will consider various measures including the scrapping policy to push growth in the sector.

Automotive industry body Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) on Friday sought government intervention to help the sector in smooth transition to BS-VI emission norms from April next year.

Speaking at the ACMA convention, SIAM president Rajan Wadhwa said vehicle manufacturers and component suppliers were on track to meet stricter emission norms, but expressed concern over availability of BS-VI fuel across the country. "The transition is very abrupt on March 31, both manufacturing and sales (of BS-IV vehicles) stop. This has never ever happened anywhere in the world," Wadhwa said.

'Auto sector problems minor in nature ... will be resolved soon'

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 6

IF PRIME Minister Narendra Modi's government can extend Parliament session to abrogate Article 370, solving the problem of the auto industry which is facing a slowdown is a "minor" thing, Union minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said on Friday.

Addressing the annual convention of the ACMA, the minister of state for heavy industries and public enterprises said issues plaguing the auto industry will be "tackled and settled".

"When Lok Sabha (session) was going on and (decision on) Article 370 had not yet come up,

Deepak Jain is new president of ACMA

New Delhi: Auto components industry body ACMA Friday said it has appointed Lumax Industries CMD Deepak Jain as its new President.

Besides, Sona Comstar Chairman Sunjay Kapur has been appointed as vice president for 2019-21 term, an ACMA statement said. Jain said the sector is undergoing one of the most difficult times ever and it needs to prepare itself for future. *PTI*

many MPs (parliamentarians) used to come to me and ask me if session is being extended," Meghwal said.

He added that many MPs did not want extension of the session.

"By extending the session, if we can remove evil thing like Article 370 then your problems are minor in nature, it will be resolved soon don't worry," Meghwal assured executives of the automotive industry.

"We will bring your issues in front of the Finance Minister, Prime Minister and when Modi ji is aiming for \$5 trillion economy then all these issues will be tackled and settled. You don't worry,"

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 6

US FEDERAL Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said on Friday that the Fed is not expecting a US or global recession. But it is monitoring a number of uncertainties, including trade conflicts, and will "act as appropriate to sustain the expansion."

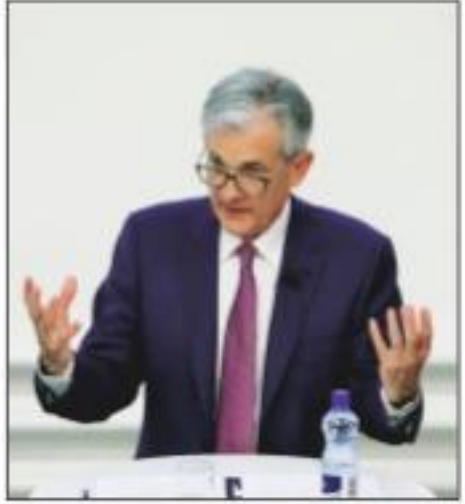
Powell gave an upbeat view of the US economy during an appearance with Swiss National Bank Chairman Thomas Jordan in Switzerland. Powell said that trade policy is causing "some uncertainty" but that the US consumer is in good shape.

"I would not see a recession as

the most likely outcome for the United States or the global economy," Powell said. Powell was speaking at a conference sponsored by Swiss Institute of International Studies at University of Zurich in Switzerland.

It was his first public appearance since his remarks at the Fed's annual monetary conference in Jackson Hole, on August 23. Financial markets were eager to see whether Powell would provide any more clues about what the Fed will do at its next meeting on September 17-18.

At its last meeting in July, the Fed cut rates for the first time in a decade, lowering its key policy rate to a new range of 2 per cent to 2.25 per cent. US President



US Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell in Zurich on Friday. *Reuters*

Donald Trump has expressed unhappiness with the small move in July and has continued to attack

Powell in tweets since then, suggesting in one tweet that Powell should be considered an "enemy."

Powell strongly rejected a suggestion that the Federal Reserve should consider influencing the outcome of the next presidential election through its interest-rate policies. Former Fed official Bill Dudley, former head of the Fed's New York regional bank, had made that suggestion in an opinion piece last month.

"Absolutely not," Powell said. "Political factors play absolutely no role in our process... We are strongly committed to nonpolitical decision making. We serve all Americans regardless of their political party." Dudley said in a follow-up opinion piece that "my in-

tention as to be provocative."

Powell was asked about opposing comments this week from two Fed colleagues, James Bullard, head of the Fed's St. Louis regional bank, said he favoured a half-point reduction in benchmark rate in September. But Eric Rosengren, president of the Fed's Boston regional bank, said he does not believe rates should be cut further. Rosengren was one of two officials who dissented at the July meeting, arguing that there was no need for the July rate cut. He said sometimes it is easy to get a unanimous decision when the economy is sending clear signals but "other times it is murky out there and there are a range of views. That is one of those times."

Supreme Court stays Amtek Auto liquidation

INDU BHAN
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 6

THE SUPREME Court on Friday stayed the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)'s decision ordering liquidation of debt-ridden Amtek Auto. A bench led by Justice Arun Mishra — while seeking responses from UK-based Liberty House Group PTE, Deccan Value Investor LP, resolution professional Dinkar Venkatsubramanian and ex-promoter Arvind Dham — stayed the liquidation of Amtek Auto, which was among the first list of the 12 companies that were referred by the Reserve Bank of India for initiation of insolvency process in 2017.

Liberty House was selected as the highest bidder by Amtek Auto's committee of creditors (CoC). However, it later backed out citing some reasons, following which lenders requested for another 90 days to find a new buyer. However, the NCLAT had last month declined the CoC's request for extension of the insolvency resolution process deadline.

Challenging the August 16 liquidation order, the lenders led by Corporation Bank told the SC that the appellate tribunal had failed

to uphold the tenets of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) to resolve a financially viable entity. It said Amtek Auto, being a financially viable entity, was being pushed into liquidation merely on account of the fact that Liberty House, the successful resolution applicant, had defaulted in implementing the resolution plan. "Resolution of the financial affairs of a distressed company is the primary aim of IBC and a failure/frustration of the processes on account of the conduct of a resolution applicant ought not to undermine the primary objective sought to be achieved," the lenders said.

"The deliberate failure to implement the RP is a fraud committed on the process carried under the Code" and in such circumstances the NCLAT should have allowed the CoC's request to invite and evaluate fresh RPs and ensure that a financially viable entity is not liquidated, the CoC said in its appeal.

It further said "maximisation of the value of the assets of the corporate debtor is embedded in the Code" and, therefore, an opportunity should be given to CoC to make an attempt at resolution, especially keeping in view the

availability of suitable resolution applicants in the market.

The Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process of Amtek Auto was initiated on July 24, 2017 by the NCLT and lenders of the company had selected the resolution plans by two firms — Liberty House and Deccan Value, which later withdrew from the race. A revised plan of Liberty House was selected by the CoC on April 2, 2018 with 94.20 per cent votes and the same was upheld by the NCLT on July 25, 2018.

However, Liberty House backed out from the race and even refused to furnish the performance guarantee and other terms and conditions which were approved.

The NCLAT on August 16 had directed the Chandigarh Bench of the National Company Law Tribunal to pass an order of liquidation as 270 days mandated under the IBC for finalising a resolution plan had already lapsed. It has given liberty to RP and CoC of Amtek Auto to move an application before the NCLT "to decide as to whether the matter is required to be referred to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India or the central government for taking any action". **FE**

RUPEE LOGS THIRD STRAIGHT SESSION OF GAINS

Sensex rises on auto sop hopes, easing of US-China trade war

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 6

STOCK MARKETS on Friday rallied smartly on expectations of more measures from the government to prop up the auto sector and the bullish fervour on global markets amid easing trade tensions between the US and China.

The 30-share BSE Sensex vaulted 337.35 points, or 0.92 per cent, higher at 36,981.77. The broader NSE Nifty spurted 98.30 points, or 0.91 per cent, to finish at 10,946.20 on Friday

Even as the auto industry players clamoured for a GST rate cut, Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur on Friday assured all support from the Centre. Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari has also assured the crisis-hit automobile sector of all possible support from the government, including taking up the demand of GST reduction with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

"Expectation of sops to the falling auto sector lifted market sentiments today, while gain across Asian markets on a hope of

SENSEX GAINS 337 POINTS, NIFTY UP BY 98

■ While the 30-share BSE Sensex vaulted 337.35 points, or 0.92 per cent, higher at 36,981.77, the broader NSE Nifty spurted 98.30 points, or 0.91 per cent, to finish at 10,946.20 on Friday

■ Stocks around the world rallied on Thursday after the US and China agreed to meet soon to resume trade talks, with the news sparking optimism that the two could work toward breaking the stalemate

ease in trade tension supported the upside.

Continuous selling by FIIs remained as a concern, but market may trade positively in the short-term in anticipation of policy actions," said Vinod Nair, head of research, Geojit Financial Services.

During the holiday-truncated week, the Sensex lost 351 points or 0.94 per cent, while the Nifty shed 77.05 points or 0.69 per cent. Stocks around the world mostly rallied on Thursday after the US and China agreed to meet soon to resume trade talks. That news sparked optimism that the two sides could work toward breaking the stalemate in negotiations.

Meanwhile, the Indian rupee

appreciated 12 paise to trade at 71.72 per US dollar due to firm stock markets and capital inflows.

Auto stocks ended in the green. Maruti Suzuki soared 3.61 per cent, Bajaj Auto 2.90 per cent, Tata Motors 2.58 per cent, Mahindra and Mahindra 2.34 per cent and Hero MotoCorp (2.14 per cent). Sectorally, BSE auto, power, metal, utilities, energy, bankex, consumer durables and finance indices gained up to 2.54 per cent. However, realty and FMCG indices ended in the red. Broader BSE midcap and smallcap indices followed the benchmarks to settle up to 0.79 per cent higher.

Deepak Jasani, head retail research, HDFC Securities, said,

"markets rallied sharply on Friday after taking a breather in the previous session. The indices clocked their best gains of the week, but ended lower for the week. The gains came on the back of positive Asian markets amid easing US-China trade tensions. The Nifty index ended 98.3 points or 0.91 per cent higher at 10,946.2." Banks and auto stocks in India rose reflecting the upward thrust likely due to the Chinese moves on reserve requirements, Jasani said.

China's central bank on Friday said it was cutting the amount of cash that banks must hold as reserves for the third time this year, releasing a total of 900 billion yuan (\$126.35 billion) in liquidity to shore up the slowing economy.

The People's Bank of China (PBOC) said it would cut the reserve requirement ratio (RRR) by 50 basis points (bps) for all banks, with an additional 100 bps cut for some qualified smaller lenders.

In Asia, Hang Seng, Shanghai Composite Index, Nikkei and Kospi settled in the green. Exchanges in Europe were also trading in the positive zone in their respective early sessions.

BRIEFLY

'Gold bond price fixed at ₹3,890/gram'

Mumbai: Price of the next tranche of the Sovereign Gold Bond issue opening on September 9 has been fixed at Rs 3,890 per gram, the Reserve Bank said on Friday. The Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2019-20 - Series IV will be opened for subscription from September 9 to 13, 2019. Further, the Centre has decided to offer a discount of Rs 50 per gram for those investors applying online and making payment for the purchase of the bond through digital mode.

30% stake sale of CFHL: Bids invited

New Delhi: Canara Bank on Friday invited bids to sell 30 per cent stake in its housing finance subsidiary Can Fin Homes Ltd (CFHL). Bids have been invited through merchant bankers for sale of 3,99,30,365 equity shares of the face value of Rs 2 each, constituting 29.99 per cent, Canara Bank said in a filing.

Indiabulls Housing shares close 5% lower

New Delhi: Indiabulls Housing Finance shares Friday ended 5 per cent lower, amid reports that a public interest litigation has been filed against the company and its promoters. The scrip closed at Rs 425.75 on the BSE, down 4.95 per cent.

Mitsui Sumitomo to buy MFS stake

New Delhi: Shareholders of Max Financial Services (MFS) have agreed to allow Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance (MSI) to swap 19.98 per cent of its shareholding in Max Life Insurance with 21.45 per cent stake in MFS. MFS is the holding company of Max Life Insurance Company, wherein MSI holds nearly 26 per cent stake. **PTI**

Alibaba buys e-comm biz Kaola for \$2 bn

Shanghai: Alibaba Group has agreed to buy e-commerce business Kaola from Chinese gaming company NetEase for \$2 billion, adding a platform that specializes in supplying curated luxury goods from abroad to domestic consumers. **REUTERS**

'File appeals in organised tax evasion cases'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 6

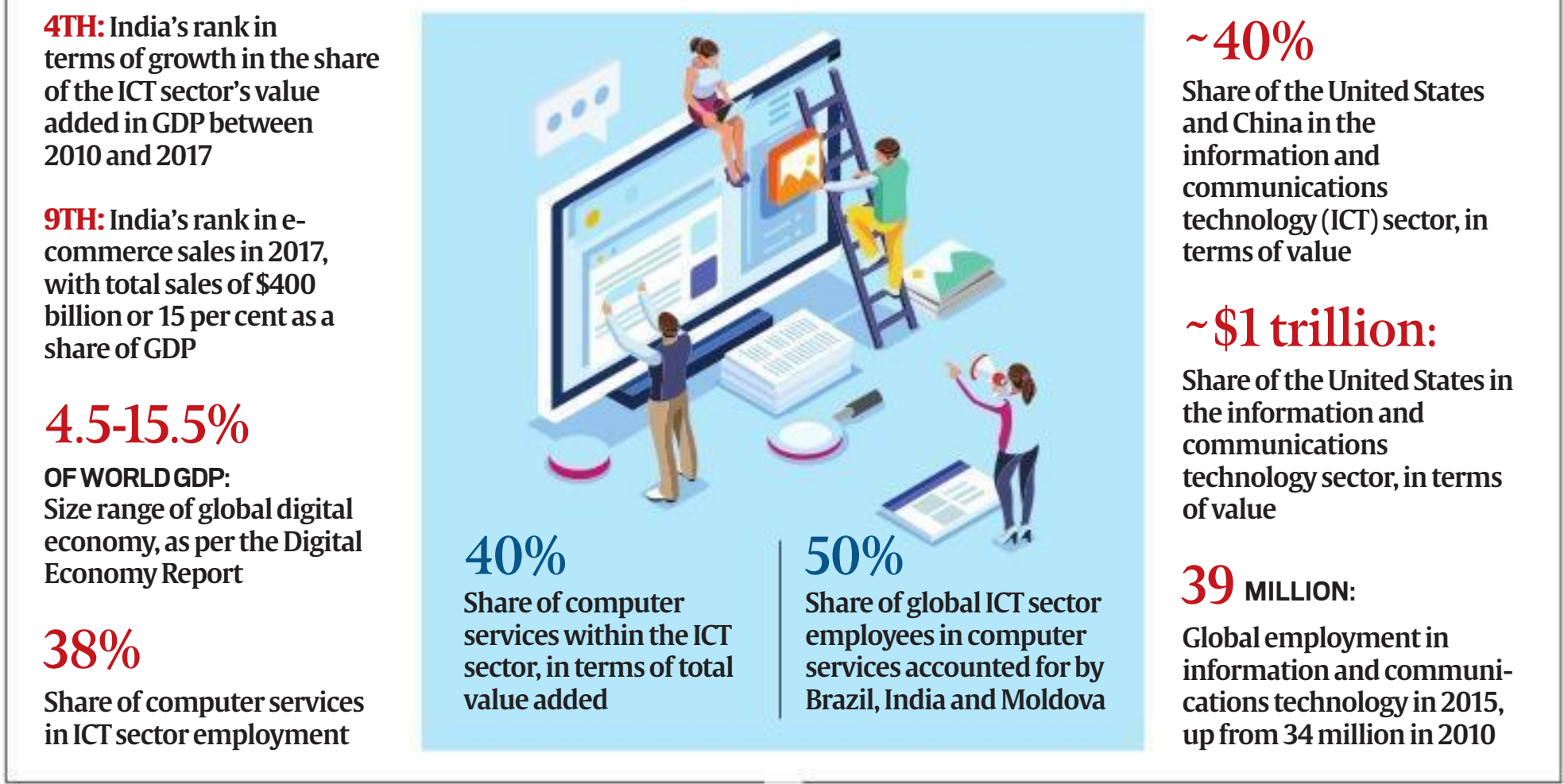
THE CBDT directed the income tax authorities Friday to pursue cases of "organised tax evasion" through long-term capital gains (LTCG) or short-term capital loss (STCL) in courts as it set aside the condition of sticking to the established monetary limits for filing appeals.

A Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) order accessed by PTI said the decision was being taken after "several references" were received by the board, where a large number of cases of organised tax evasion through LTCG and STCL on penny stocks were noticed.

The I-T department had told CBDT that it was "unable" to pursue these cases in higher judicial forums on account of the recently-enhanced monetary limits.

'Computer services: Local market to grow faster than exports'

India's domestic market for computer services is likely to grow faster than exports, fuelled by Centre's Digital India programme and the start-up environment, a report by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development said



'Slowdown in diamond industry ... units forced to cut manpower'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, SEPTEMBER 6

HARI KRISHNA Exports, one of the biggest diamondtaires in Surat, well-known for distribution of largesse among employees, will be struggling to break-even this Diwali. Despite an upcoming festive season, the company struggles to cope up with a 30 per cent dip in demand, while the smaller diamond units are forced to cut

down manpower, and slash working hours.

"There is a slowdown in the diamond industry. The demand is down by 25-30 per cent. The US and China are the biggest markets for diamonds polished in our country. Due to the trade war between the two, there is a lot of uncertainty regarding duty structures. This is resulting in less demand. The diamond units have reduced their production," said Ghanshyam while interacting

with mediapersons on the sidelines of the CII-Young Indians seminar organised at Ahmedabad Management Association (AMA). He was speaking at a seminar on "Romancing with risk" where speakers shared secrets of success during an economic slowdown.

According to him, the slowdown has been severe for the last seven-eight months where diamond units in Surat have slashed working hours and even laid-off employees. "While the bigger

companies like us have not reduced their workforce, smaller players have cut down on manpower by 10-20 per cent. Many of them, instead of cutting their workforce, have reduced their work-hours to six hours from nine. Apart from Sunday, some diamond units have even started giving holidays on Saturday as well," added Ghanshyam, the younger brother of Surat-based billionaire and diamond merchant Savji Dholakia, who handles

the operations from Mumbai.

Surat is one of the world's key diamond processing centres, exporting around 80 per cent of the production, and has over 3,500 diamond processing units. Hari Krishna Exports employs 7,500 diamond workers in Surat and Mumbai. Talking about his company, which is known to gift cars and flats to employees as bonus, Ghanshyam said, "That will not happen. This month, business has been flat."

China cuts banks' reserve ratios, injects \$126 billion liquidity

YAWEN CHEN & KEVIN YAO
BEIJING, SEPTEMBER 6

CHINA'S CENTRAL bank said on Friday it was cutting the amount of cash that banks must hold as reserves for the third time this year, releasing 900 billion yuan (\$126.35 billion) in liquidity to shore up the flagging economy.

Analysts had expected China to announce more policy easing measures soon as the world's second-largest economy comes under growing pressure from escalating US tariffs and sluggish domestic demand.

The People's Bank of China (PBOC) said it would cut the reserve requirement ratio (RRR) by 50 basis points (bps) for all banks, with an additional 100 bps cut for qualified city commercial banks. The RRR for large banks will be lowered to 13.0 per cent.

The PBOC has now slashed the ratio seven times since early 2018. The size of the latest move was at the upper end of market expectations, and the amount of funds released will be the largest so far in the current easing cycle.

The broad-based cut, which will release 800 billion yuan in liquidity, is effective Sept. 16. The additional targeted cut will release 100 billion yuan, in two phases effective October 15 and November 15.

"The move shows policymakers are increasingly worried but it's far from enough to stabilise the economy," said Larry Hu, head of Greater China economics at Macquarie Group in Hong Kong.

"The key constraint is that everything is slowing down — corporates are not willing to invest because of the trade war, a global slowdown, and weak infrastructure and property sector growth."

The latest move to spur bank lending followed a cabinet meeting on September 4 that pledged to implement both broad and targeted cuts in the RRR "in a timely manner".

The PBOC said it will maintain a prudent monetary policy and avoid flood-like stimulus, while increasing counter-cyclical adjustments and maintaining reasonable and abundant liquidity.

Analysts say China's economic growth has likely cooled further this quarter from a near 30-year low of 6.2 per cent in April-June. Morgan Stanley says it is now tracking the lower end of the government's full-year target range of around 6-6.5 per cent. With Washington imposing new tariffs from September 1, and threatening more measures from October 1 and December 15, some economists have recently cut their China growth estimates for next year to below 6 per cent, which would breach Beijing's longer-term development goal. **REUTERS**

Yields tick lower as data, Fed firm up 25 basis point cut expectations

REUTERS
NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 6

A MIXED employment report on Friday morning and an even-keel message from US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell left yields modestly lower, firming up market expectations the central bank will cut interest rates by the expected 25 basis points at its September meeting.

Treasury yields were modestly lower than where they had been going into the panel discussion, with the two-year yield down 1.6 basis points to 1.524 per cent and the 10-year yield down 1.7 basis points to 1.548 per cent. The Labor Department's report showed job growth had slowed more than expected in August, but losses were cushioned by strong wage gains, which should support consumer spending and keep the economy expanding moderately amid rising threats from trade tensions. Meanwhile, gold turned positive Friday, after falling as much as 1 per cent earlier, as a weaker-than-expected US nonfarm payrolls report weighed on the dollar and increased appetite for safe-haven bullion, putting it on course for a weekly gain. Spot gold was up 0.1 per cent to \$1,519.96 per ounce at 1428 GMT.

FB, Amazon among tech giants to face antitrust probe in US

REUTERS
BENGALURU/WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 6

A BIPARTISAN group of state attorneys general will announce on Monday an investigation into large tech companies, like Facebook and Google, for potential violations of antitrust law, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton's announced on Friday.

Paxton's office did not name the companies but the Justice Department and Federal Trade Commission are probing Facebook, Alphabet's Google, Apple and Amazon for potential violations of antitrust law.

New York Attorney General Letitia James announced on Friday that she was leading a bipartisan probe into Facebook.

"I'm launching an investigation into Facebook to determine whether their actions endangered consumer data, reduced the quality of consumers' choices, or increased the price of advertising," she tweeted. "The largest social media platform in the world must follow the law."

The New York attorney general's office said it expected more states to join the investigation.

"People have multiple choices for every one of the services we provide. We understand that if we stop innovating, people can easily leave our platform.

"I'm launching an investigation into Facebook to determine whether their actions endangered consumer data, reduced the quality of consumers' choices, or increased the price of advertising"

LETITIA JAMES
NEW YORK ATTORNEY GENERAL

This underscores the competition we face, not only in the United States but around the globe," said Will Castleberry, Facebook's vice president for state and local policy.

He added that the company would work constructively with state attorneys general.

Google has said that it was cooperating with the state officials. Attorneys general investigating the company also include those of Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee and the District of Columbia, as per a statement.

Technology companies are facing a backlash in the United States — as well as across the world — fueled by concerns among competitors, lawmakers and consumer groups that the firms have too much power and are harming users and business rivals.

RCEP trade ministers to meet on Sept 8

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 6

TRADE MINISTERS of 16 countries, including India and Japan, which are negotiating mega free trade agreement RCEP, will hold a crucial meeting in Bangkok on September 8 to take stock of the negotiations.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will attend the seventh RCEP Ministerial Meeting, East Asia Economic Ministers Summit and 16th ASEAN India Economic Ministers meeting being held in Bangkok from 8-10 September, an official statement said on Friday.

The meetings will be attended by economic ministers and senior leaders of ten ASEAN member countries and eight east asia summit countries, the statement added.

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement is being negotiated among 10 ASEAN members (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam) and Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea and New Zealand.

The negotiations for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) has reached at a fundamental phase as the member countries are targeting to conclude the talks by November.

Patanjali's bid for Ruchi Soya: NCLT gives nod

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 6

THE NATIONAL Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has approved the resolution plan submitted by Yoga guru Ramdev-led Patanjali for the debt-ridden Ruchi Soya. A two-member Mumbai NCLT bench, comprising Rajesh Sharma and V P Singh, approved the resolution plan after observing that all eventuality has been discussed by it.

"It is also to be clarified that every eventuality has been discussed in the approved resolution plan, and in implementation of the resolution plan circumstances

Security an issue in 5G: NCSC on Huawei

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 6

SECURITY IS a big issue in 5G and the decision around participation of Chinese telecom gear major Huawei should be taken after proper consideration, the country's top cyber security officer said on Friday.

National Cyber Security Coordinator (NCSC) Lt General (Dr) Rajesh Pant also said that 5G will not be limited to telecom networks but will have an impact across all sectors. Meanwhile, Huawei said security and privacy

may arise for which clarification can be sought by the monitoring agency for effective implementation of the plan," said the NCLT.

It added: "In the circumstances, we hereby approve the resolution plan."

The NCLT also ordered the registrar to "immediately communicate this order to the resolution professional, resolution applicant, corporate debtor and IBB". Ruchi Soya owes over Rs 9,345 crore to financial creditors led by State Bank of India, which has an exposure of Rs 1,800 crore, followed by Central Bank at Rs 816 crore, PNB at Rs 743 crore and StanChart at Rs 608 crore and DBS at Rs 243 crore.

are its highest priority and the company strictly adheres to all local laws and regulations.

"Government has to decide on it (participation of Huawei). We can tell you from technology aspect. Thereafter, its economics and political part will be seen. Security is an issue, there is no doubt in it. 5G is not just a pure telecom network. It has many things that are connected to our lifestyle," Pant told reporters on the sidelines of CII Telecom Convergence Summit.

He was responding to a question on the views of his office over participation of Huawei in 5G trials in India.

17 BODY & MIND

It takes courage to be a teacher

Great teachers are like witches and wizards of their magic craft: lighting the spark of curiosity, wonder and thrill at the possibilities of the world around us



IMAGINE

BY SHELJA SEN

“HE TAKES a simple idea, wraps it around our head nice and slow, and then pulls and blows our minds.” These are the words my son used to describe his teacher and once again, I could not help thinking that teaching is the art of magical enchantment. Great teachers are like witches and wizards of their magic craft: the mighty Dumbledores, Dronacharyas and Gandalfs of our times. They light the spark of curiosity, wonder and thrill at the possibilities of the world around us.

If I were to ask you to look back at the time when you were in school and think of a teacher who changed your life completely, I am sure you will not talk about a teacher who was just highly knowledgeable and well-informed. You will remember that one teacher who made you feel good about yourself, whose eyes would “light up” when you greeted her, who respected and honoured the

dignity of each person in the classroom and made learning so much fun. The simple truth is that children do not learn from teachers they do not like. When children experience worthiness, acceptance and are given an emotionally safe space, the magic of learning is inevitable.

When I was in senior school, I thought I had a special connect with my school principal. He gave me a deep sense of worthiness. Even after leaving school, I carried that feeling with me. Twenty-five years on, we had our batch e-reunion (as everybody was spread across the globe) and one question raised was, “Which teacher in school changed your life?” Imagine my astonishment when most people named him! Spurred by this discovery, I checked with my brother, who was my senior in school and some other seniors and juniors, and everybody named him. A part of me was irked, but a large part of me was left in wonder at this incredible power of a teacher to touch so many lives.

As a mother and a therapist, I have seen children go through this magical transformation every time they have an exceptional teacher. I remember working with a child who was struggling with depression and recurrent self-harm. We had tried all kinds of interventions for months, but the darkness was not budging. Then the school decided to change his section and put him with a teacher whose magic skills were known far and wide



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

(no, not Hogwarts). And magic is what she did – in a couple of months, this child had not only pushed depression out of his life but was actively involved in the class play, being a buddy for another child with learning disability and making new friends. When I asked him what had changed, he replied with a shrug and, “Dunno!” Not satisfied with this answer and thoroughly intrigued, I contacted the teacher and asked her what “strategies” she had used. Her answer was very simple, “I just make sure the child knows that he is loved, he belongs and that the whole class is

with him. He is not alone.”

I remember just sitting still for a long time after talking to her as the power of her words struck me. All that talk and the buzz we hear about classroom management, teaching strategies, inclusion all amount to nothing if the teacher is not able to love each and every child in the class and make sure they know it.

I can say this with full conviction that people I admire most in the world are teachers. However, I can also say this with an equal sense of despair that the people that invoke most anger and pain in me are teachers too.

These are the teachers who perpetuate the culture of shame in classrooms. These are the teachers who incite the class to ridicule children who are different in any way due to their disability, race, sexual orientation, religion, looks or family background. These are the teachers who make PTMs about humiliating the children and their parents with the report cards reading, “not up to the mark”, “not able to keep up”, “not at par”, “not using her potential” – every “not” shrinking them further from any possibilities of blossoming. These are the children who are rejected, branded and who come to school for the daily disgrace of never being good enough. I have witnessed children being abused, left unheard and invisible and who have internalised the story of being somewhat damaged. My heart sinks when I meet teachers who dislike their jobs and do it just because it is “convenient”, “time pass”, “nothing else to do”, or “gets me some pocket money.”

The only thing that keeps me from becoming bitter is the knowledge that the problem is not the teachers, it is our society that encourages and propagates the rusty and gnarled practices that are eroding our children's early years. Great teachers are like warriors. Their craft requires a daily practice of immense fortitude, compassion and courage. Courage to walk into a class with a smile even when they are exhausted. Courage to love a child who feels unloved. Courage to persevere and find that light in that child when the whole world is telling him that he is no good. Courage to never give up on a child. Courage to speak up for the child who has no voice.

I do not think people from any other profession have as much an impact on us as teachers. We might leave school at the age of 18, but we carry our teachers in our hearts for the rest of their lives. Sometimes, it is full of warm memories and at times, just painful scars.

It is my deep faith that the magical rela-

tionship that a teacher builds with each child is the heart, the lifeblood and the barebones of learning. That's one of the reasons I have spent years reading, researching and observing great teachers in their labs, that is, their classrooms. Like most magic, great teaching is also no rocket science. Teachers are like prisms, waiting to catch the light and make splendid rainbows. Yes, the most important element is catching the light. Every child carries this light but somehow it gets overlooked, pushed aside or dimmed out.

We need a call to action not against teachers or schools but against the culture of shaming that seeps in and damages so many lives. There is nothing like a good teacher or a bad teacher – it all comes down to whether the teacher has the courage to stand up to the culture of shame and give the message of WOW:

W: You are **Worthy** as you are now! I will not define your worth by your marks, abilities or background.

O: You are **Original**! I will value your uniqueness, what makes you 'you' and not compare you to others.

W: You are **Welcome**! I will accept you as you are, I will not shame you and will make sure I give you an emotionally safe space to grow.

The core thing in WOW is: “no matter what”, you are worthy, you are original and you are welcome – no matter what your gender, ability, marks, sexuality, looks or background.

This Teachers' Day, let's commit to practising courage with “WOW, no matter what” so that together we can build a world where no child is left invisible.

(Dr Shelja Sen is therapist, writer and co-founder of Children First, a child & adolescent mental health institute)

write to shelja.sen@childrenfirstindia.com

DIET DIARY

Offices should have fewer snacks, offer healthier alternatives



BY ISHI KHOSLA

POORDIET is responsible for more deaths globally than tobacco, high blood pressure, or any other health risk, according to a new scientific study; yet we often don't pay attention to what we eat, when we eat and how we eat. Keeping in mind the fact that most busy professionals are devoting more than half of their waking hours to work – be it office, outside or even at home, expecting them to be mindful of what they eat is a tall order.

Not only are they multi-tasking but they are perpetually stressed and fueled by an adrenaline rush. And in such a state, nothing is more comforting than food. Emotional eating is often the result of this kind of work pressure. No matter how much information one has, it takes a lot for any busy person to manage their food. Either they forget to eat or they binge on high-carbohydrate and high-fat foods.

More often, these are foods which have addictive properties, containing caffeine, sugar and wheat. Most processed foods are designed chemically to make them addictive. The caffeine high and sugar rush are so familiar.

The obvious consequences range from weight gain and belly fat to digestive disorders and skin issues like acne, hair fall and dandruff. Eventually these disorders take the shape of diseases like thyroid disorders, diabetes, high blood pressure, joint pains and deficiency disorders including anaemia and osteoporosis, to name a few.

There is no point in simply saying NO. We cannot give people only information about foods or ask them to be mindful when the environment is not controlled. Healthy eating at work has to be a holistic approach, else we add another burden on already stressed minds.

Non-compliance to dietary wisdom will make them feel like failures and ridden with guilt. So, we need to have a workplace which provides or serves healthier alternatives, such as salads, fruits, vegetables, nuts, seeds, soups, etc.

We need to restrict serving deep-fried snacks like *samosas* and trans-fat laden biscuits in meetings and instead serve nuts, seeds and roasted snacks.

In lieu of sweetened beverages, workplaces must serve infusion teas and options of unsweetened teas and coffees. Employers need to take responsibility to make the workplace safer and healthier. Food safety is closely related to people's lives, health and economic development as a healthy nation is a wealthy nation.

Author is a clinical nutritionist and founder of www.theweightmonitor.com and Whole Foods India

JOANNE CHEN

THE ONLY thing worse than feeling completely wired at 11 pm, when you are ready for sleep, is being stark awake at 3 am. Blissfully passing out at an appropriate bedtime is cold comfort when the brain wakes up too soon and refuses to take advantage of those eight full hours. I toss and turn and scrunch up my pillow every which way, exasperated and fixated on the impending doom of the alarm clock set to go off at 6 am.

About half of all insomnia sufferers experience this middle-of-the-night “sleep-maintenance” insomnia, either by itself or along with the “sleep-onset” sort, trouble falling asleep in the first place, said Jennifer Martin, PhD, a professor of medicine at the University of California at Los Angeles.

If, after 20 minutes, you're still up, the American Academy of Sleep Medicine recommends stepping out of the bedroom and doing some reading or other quiet activity.

But I didn't realise that it's actually a last-resort tactic. “Get up only when you're so upset you can't fall asleep anyway,” said Dr Martin, an insomnia specialist. In fact, some of the best first-line strategies are pursued (more or less) lying down. The next time you find yourself staring at the ceiling at 3 am, try these six things:

Remain in bed

For you to fall asleep, your heart rate needs to slow down, said Michael Breus, PhD, a Los Angeles area clinical sleep psychologist. But when you get up, you elevate it. So my impulse to use the bathroom just because I am awake only makes matters worse. “Do that only if you need to,” said Breus.

And skip the middle-of-the-night snack, unless you have diabetes or low blood sugar. To prevent untimely internal wake-up calls, keep hydrated during the day so that you don't drink and fill your bladder before bed. Don't eat too little or too much for dinner, and keep it balanced, complete with protein and fiber, both of which help sustain blood sugar levels until morning. Most important, avoid alcohol in the evening – although it may make you fall asleep faster, it also disrupts your sleep later.

Stay in the dark

When you can't sleep, LED indicator lights on, say, printers and cable boxes can feel intru-



Gettyimages

sive. The same goes for light streaming in through cracks in the curtain.

“They are point sources of light that your eyes are drawn to, and that can keep you up,” said John Hanifin, PhD, an assistant professor at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia who studies circadian rhythms, the brain's internal sleep/wake cycle.

Dr Hanifin covers indicator lights with black electrical tape and wears a sleep mask. Of course, avoid scrolling through your smartphone and turning on the lights. If light outside your window consistently keeps you up, it may be worthwhile to install blackout shades.

Block out noise

For you to fall asleep, your soundscape doesn't have to be completely silent, but it does need to be monotonous, which signals the brain that it's safe to sleep. That's why rattling radiators and dripping faucets keep you up even if you hardly notice them during the day.

Some people like to sleep with a fan running. If you have a white noise machine (or an app) for bedtime, turn it on.

Adjust the temperature

Another part of the sleep equation is skin temperature. “A cool core and comfortably warm skin is best for sleep,” said Roy Raymann, PhD, vice president of sleep science at SleepScore Labs. You cool your core by breathing in the cool bedroom air; you warm your skin with bedding and PJs.

Socks can also help, said Dr Raymann, who has published research on the phenomenon in the journal *Physiology & Behavior*. Feet have lots of temperature sensors: When they're warm, that information gets transmitted to the brain areas involved in both sleep and thermoregulation to help you doze off. In a small study published in the journal *Physiological Anthropology*, subjects with socks took half as long as those without socks to fall asleep.

Quiet your mind

Ruminating about past events or worrying excessively can cause a surge in stress-related chemicals, which in turn sparks a rise in heart rate and core temperature. It also charges up the regions of the brain responsible for memory and emotion at a time when

they should be calm.

Give relaxation techniques (deep breathing, meditation, mindfulness exercises) a try. “What works is personal preference,” said Dr. Raymann, who also suggests doing simple math problems in your head or imagining all the things that come in, say, green. “The point is to keep your brain busy with something that doesn't require effort or trigger emotional responses.”

Think positive

If your wake-up time is 6.30 am, and the clock reads 3 am, don't think, Oh no! I have only three hours left! Negativity only sets off a stress response that keeps you up. Instead, say, Oh great! I have three more hours to sleep!

“It sounds hokey, but it works,” said Dr Breus. Also remind yourself that even if you've slept less than you'd like, plenty of people do just fine with less sleep on any given day, and you will too. But if insomnia strikes more than three times a week for more than three months, and it affects your quality of life, find a sleep specialist who can help identify the root cause and customise a plan for you. **NYT**

SHORT COURSE

[0-20 YEARS]

Warm weather tied to lower blood pressure

KIDS WHO grow up in warmer climates and in walkable neighbourhoods may have lower blood pressure than those who live where it's cooler and people drive everywhere, a new European study suggests. Researchers examined data on 1,277 mother-child pairs to see how exposures to outdoor factors like air pollution and weather, chemicals like pesticides and metals, and lifestyle factors like diet and exercise impacted blood pressure in children age 6 to 11 years old. “Our results show that, starting in the fetal stage, where we live, the food we



eat, the air we breathe and the chemical compounds that reach our bodies can affect blood pressure before adolescence,” said a researcher. “This is important because evidence shows that children with high blood pressure are more likely to be hypertensive as adults”. Exposure to negative lifestyle factors in pregnancy, such as obesity, physical inactivity and poor diet have long been established as heart disease risk factors for mothers, researchers note in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*. **REUTERS**

[20-50 YEARS]

Soft drinks may raise the risk of early death

CONSUMPTION OF soft drinks, whether they are sweetened with sugar or artificial sweeteners, may raise the risk of premature death, new research suggests. In a study that followed more than 400,000 adults for more than 16 years, the risk of premature death was heightened in those who consumed two or more glasses per day of soft drinks, according to the report published in *JAMA Internal Medicine*. “Our results for sugar-sweetened soft drinks provide further support to limit consumption and to replace them with other healthier beverages, prefer-



ably water,” said a researcher. “For artificially sweetened soft drinks, we now need a better understanding of the mechanisms that may underlie this association and research such as ours will hopefully stimulate these efforts.” The new findings don't mean that soft drinks cause early death, because “in these types of studies (observational epidemiology) there are other factors which may be behind the association we observed,” said the researcher. “For instance, high soft drink consumption may be a marker of overall unhealthy diet.” **REUTERS**

[50+ YEARS]

Even a little exercise linked to a longer life

PEOPLE WHO get even a small amount of exercise may be less likely to die prematurely than their more sedentary counterparts, a research review suggests. Researchers examined data from 10 previously published studies that used accelerometers that track movement to measure the exact amount of active and sedentary time spent by more than 36,000 older adults. After an average follow-up period of 6.7 years, a total of 2,149 people died, or about 6 per cent of the participants. Compared to people who got virtually no exercise, people who got the



most physical activity were 73 per cent less likely to die during the study, regardless of how intensely they worked out. With even a little exercise, people were 52 per cent less likely to die. When researchers looked only at people who did light workouts, they again found that even a little bit of low-intensity exercise was associated with a 40 per cent lower risk of death during the study compared with doing nothing at all. People who got the most light-intensity exercise were 62 per cent less likely to die. **REUTERS**



CHHICHHORE ★★

Director: Nitesh Tiwari Cast: Sushant Singh Rajput, Shraddha Kapoor, Varun Sharma, Prateik, Naveen Polishetty, Tushar Pandey

Losing the Plot



SHALINI LANGER

WITH A very confused idea about who is a 'loser' or what it means to be one, and a very fixed, '3 Idiots', template on making a crowd-pleasing college-life film, director/co-writer Nitesh Tiwari follows up on his super-successful *Dangal* with a disappointingly average *Chhichhore*.

Once upon a time there were four—no, five; no, no six—collegemates, and a girl. There appear to be several reasons why the six were dubbed Losers by the cool gang, but it transpires late, quite late, in the film that it is because their hostel has consistently lost a college championship year on year for 15 years.

You know how that goes, of course. What you won't know is how the aforementioned hostel, H4, in one of India's most prestigious engineering colleges, goes about doing the winning. Usually films with a message about winning/losing, and winners/losers—to underline that all it matters is trying—draw the line somewhere. Not here.

Still, much as it may be difficult to swallow the whole lot of these very grown-up men as fresh-out-of-school greenhorns, how the film hangs the whole story is worse. The lessons about winning/losing are imparted against the backdrop of a boy struggling between life and death, after having failed an engineering entrance exam.

The plot is cruelly manipulative, besides

being narrationally uneven, as hospital and hostel jostle for space while the film interchanges between present and past. The six friends don receding hairlines and greying beards to indicate the passage of years. When the film is on hostel territory, there are still some occasional laughs, usually along the well-trod lines of love, sex, *dhokha* and *daaru*.

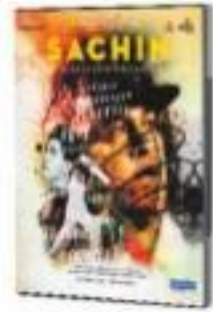
Rajput (playing hotshot executive Aniruddh), a dependable actor otherwise, cringingly struggles here both as a college student and a grieving father. As his ex-college mate and now former wife, Kapoor (playing Maya), has only so much to do. After donning pleated skirts all through college, she moves on to exquisite cottons in motherhood and hospital. But her role remains the

same, of a placid eager cheerer as the boys have all the fun. Prateik, meanwhile, is wasted in the role of the college's cool dude and bully.

Interestingly, in the beginning, the fact of Aniruddh and Maya's divorce is treated with a lightness missing in most of Bollywood. The development has left no lasting scares on either the two of them or their teenage son. It is also a brave decision to have the son living with Aniruddh, with Maya having given up custody.

Now, exploring that strand alone may have lent itself to a better film—about choices and the definition of winning.

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IT CHAPTER TWO

★★

Director: Andy Muschietti Cast: Jessica Chastain, James McAvoy, Bill Hader, Isaiah Mustafa, Jay Ryan, James Ransone, Bill Skarsgård

IN FILM world, it has been 27 years since six children fought back a scary clown in the small town of Derry in the US. In our world, it's just about two years since the first *IT*, from Stephen King's quill, did roaring business. The second may be a better explanation for why we need to revisit that pasty-white ghost with a sneering smile, just ahead of Joaquin Phoenix's much-anticipated *The Joker* hits theatres.

Never mind the reason, *IT Chapter Two*, also taking off from the King bestseller, is completely unnecessary. Repeating the same scares, falling back on the same people, taking recourse even to extended flashbacks of the six as children, it advertises its own superfluosity. As the horror trick tropes pile on and Native American lores are invoked,

and the film stretches into a painful three hours, you wonder what got actors like Chastain and McAvoy to attach themselves to this material. King himself lends a shoulder with a cameo.

In the 2017 *IT*, what worked the best was that it were children, mostly quite wonderful in their roles, who were in harm's way. It's not as easy to empathise with middle-aged people, who are not as nice in their older avatars, like any of us. Chastain has the heaviest burden of taking on from Sophia Lillis as Beverley, the scared but remarkably brave girl who was the heart of *IT*. *Chapter Two* has no one to breathe life into it.

McAvoy plays Bill, Beverley's confidant and conscience keeper from childhood. As a successful writer of horror tales which make it to films, the older Bill is clearly a man after Stephen King's heart. Bill also keeps getting told in the film about how the endings of his stories don't work. As *Chapter Two* drags on well past its welcome, one wishes someone had paid heed. **SL**

Stories in a Song

LINDA RONSTADT: THE SOUND OF MY VOICE (Documentary)

Director: Rob Epstein, Jeffrey Friedman Cast: Linda Ronstadt, Bonnie Raitt, Dolly Parton, Emmylou Harris, Jackson Browne Running Time: 1h 35m

AO SCOTT

IF YOU were listening to the radio in the mid-1970s—AM or FM; pop, country, R&B or AOR—at some point you were probably listening to Linda Ronstadt.

Kids these days, with their curated playlists and SoundCloud streams, may not understand what it was like back then. A lot of music was never heard on the radio at all, while certain songs and artists made up a communal soundtrack that transcended genre and individual taste. Maybe you thought Ronstadt's chart-topping cover of *You're No Good* wasn't all that great, but its organ riff and declamatory chorus probably settled into your ears anyway, and more than 40 years later you're likely to remember it as a classic.

In *Linda Ronstadt: The Sound of My Voice*, a new documentary by Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman, someone uses the word "auteur" to describe Ronstadt's relationship to her material, and it doesn't seem exaggerated. Her versions of songs by Warren Zevon, Lowell George and Kate and Anna McGarrigle (to name just a few) still sound definitive.

Epstein and Friedman, whose other films include *The Celluloid Closet* and *Lovelace*, trace Ronstadt's career in the standard music-doc manner. The singer herself, who is 73 and has Parkinson's disease, appears on camera mostly at the beginning and the end, and narrates the story of her early years and her rise to fame in voice-over.

Her account is fleshed out by remembrances from friends and colleagues—enough to fill a Southern California wing of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. There's Jackson Browne, Emmylou Harris, David Geffen, Dolly Parton, Bonnie Raitt and a couple of Eagles. (That group was formed by members of Ronstadt's touring band.) That's just a partial list, and they all pay tribute to Ronstadt's talent, taste and decency.

Concert footage and old television interviews confirm their judgment. Ronstadt had a voice tender enough to beguile audiences in small clubs and mighty enough to shake the rafters of big arenas. Her charisma was tough, charming and sexy, combining various feminine pop archetypes without quite conforming to any of them.

In a clip from the '70s, she walks along the beach near her Malibu home, succinctly analysing the self-destructive arrogance of the era's male-dominated rock-n-roll culture. The political intelligence and matter-of-fact feminism that emerge in this por-



trait are among its most intriguing aspects. Her clear-eyed, down-to-earth thoughts on her profession, her family and American culture (musical and otherwise) make her someone you want to know better.

But *The Sound of My Voice* isn't a tell-all, 'behind-the-music-style' production. Ronstadt's personal life is addressed circumspectly. The singer-songwriter J D Souther airs some nostalgic not-too-dirty laundry, and the story of Ronstadt's relationship with the California Governor Jerry Brown receives some attention. (She's shown singing *My Boyfriend's Back* at a campaign fund-raiser.) A politician dating a rock star! It seemed pretty wild at the time.

But nothing in the movie gets too wild. Compared to some of other recent movies about baby boomer musicians—*Bohemian Rhapsody*, *Rocket Man*, *David Crosby: Remember My Name*—*The Sound of My Voice* goes easy on the sex and drugs. And there's more to the story than just rock 'n' roll. Part of what secures Ronstadt's place in the pantheon of great 20th-century American vocalists is her eclecticism. Starting out in the '60s at the crossroads of folk and rock, she adapted her style to the major pop trends of the next decade and a half, from country-rock to New Wave.

And then she released three albums of songbook standards with the Nelson Riddle orchestra. She appeared in Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance* on stage and in the movies. In 1987 she released *Canciones de mi Padre*, an album of traditional Mexican songs that explored a family heritage many of her earliest fans and collaborators never knew she had.

Ronstadt grew up in Tucson, Ariz., her father's hometown. He was of Mexican and German ancestry. Ronstadt's mother was from Michigan. Ronstadt's work, and her words in this film, testify to the multicultural, cross-pollinating vitality of American vernacular music. She shows herself to be one of its indispensable interpreters, as a vocalist and also as a thinker—covering a sprawling landscape with elegance, passion and insight.

NYT

Heart of Darkness

UNTOUCHABLE (Documentary)

Director: Ursula Macfarlane Cast: Rosanna Arquette, Hope Exiner D'Amore, Paz de la Huerta, Caitlin Dulany, Ronan Farrow Running Time: 1h 38m

HELENT T. VERONGOS

ONE BY ONE, the women suffer for us. Pinned by the camera as if they were butterflies, they retell their stories. The narratives share a thread: A hopeful younger self just breaking into show business meets a big-name moviemaker, and the encounter devolves into threats, exhibitionism, unwanted physical contact or violence. Fighting back tears or shaking with anger, they talk about being trapped, disgusted, about freezing up, dissociating, hearing their career prospects are dead. When they speak, we squirm in sympathy.

They are a handful of the accusers of Harvey Weinstein, who is to be tried in

January on charges of rape and other sex crimes in what will probably be the next moment of reckoning in the #MeToo movement. (Weinstein denies having ever had nonconsensual sex.)

Untouchable, a documentary by Ursula Macfarlane, now streaming on Hulu, credibly reviews the revelations thus far and effectively pieces together the words of the accusers, former Weinstein employees and the journalists who brought the story to light. Notably, Macfarlane presents the recorded voice of a cornered-sounding Weinstein pleading with a woman, and a series of voice mail messages he left in connection with one encounter that ended in a settlement and nondisclosure agreement.

Male employees also acknowledge his flamethrower temper. One calls Harvey Weinstein an "equal opportunity abuser," while another says he has dodged missiles his boss hurled, including a five-pound marble ashtray.

The ultimate documentary on the sub-



ject—if one film can encompass it all—will be deep and sweeping. It will offer nuanced insights into women's struggles with a man who could snap them in two professionally, and perhaps physically. It will examine the pathology of power in the service of self-gratification and self-protection—from the law and from accountability.

At this point, as the film rightly notes, the problem is not over. The #MeToo movement is too new for us to know if it will bring lasting change. But for now, we have *Untouchable*, a respectable and all-too-real introduction to a chilling chapter of a Hollywood horror story.

NYT

BREAKING DOWN NEWS



BY PRATIK KANJILAL

BY THE time you read this, the news would have been flooded by coverage of the Chandrayaan 2 moon landing, and ISRO's "15 terrifying minutes" during the final sequence. The moon mission has been making progress and news through the week. On Monday, the Vikram lander separated from the main craft and took on an independent orbit of the moon. On Friday, it completed the fourth lunar orbit manoeuvre, in preparation of the final descent. And in the meantime, back on the home planet, parliamentary affairs just gave and gave, in terms of drama and entertainment.

Never before, perhaps, has the UK Parliament echoed with unparliamentary terms like "towel head..." from Bongo Bongo land". In an impassioned speech about intolerance within the House, Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi, Labour MP representing Slough, spoke of politicians of ethnic origin in the UK being able to feel the pain of burqa-clad women being described as "letter boxes" and "bank robbers". "So rather than hide behind sham and whitewash investigations, when will the Prime Minister finally apologise for his derogatory and racist remarks? Racist remarks which have led to a spike in hate crime." He demanded a probe into

Say What?

The Brexit silly season is producing a fine harvest, a pleasant change from our own parliamentary television

Islamophobia within the Conservative party. Dhesi's intervention has drawn as much attention as the violent protests outside the Indian embassy in London over the gagging of Kashmir, at a time when Boris Johnson was being excoriated by Jeremy Corbyn over his "mystery" Brexit plan and de-

If brevity is the soul of wit, P Chidambaram is on the ball. In a clip just 17 seconds long, he is seen being asked by a reporter about his 15 days in custody. "Five per cent. What is five per cent? Don't you remember five per cent?" he replied as he was led away. The three-liner referred

The British parliament has been noted for its rhetoric and humour at least from the fabled skirmishes between Winston Churchill and Lady Astor

manding fresh elections, and shortly before his brother resigned from parliament citing a conflict between family interest and national interest. The British parliament has been noted for its rhetoric and humour at least from the fabled skirmishes between Winston Churchill and Lady Astor, and the Brexit silly season is producing a fine harvest. It's a pleasant change from our own parliamentary television, now dominated by politicians who are incredibly touchy, and whose sense of humour, when it is in evidence at all, is often crude. The UK parliament heard this sentence this week: "This isn't a government. This is a racket." If the Indian Parliament could tolerate that sort of thing, ratings of its channels would lead the market.

to the grim GDP figures, and amounted to god-tier off-line trolling. The coverage that followed in the evening, as he was taken away to Tihar Jail, wasn't a patch on his parting shot. The usual, dreary details of his diet and his accommodation. Tales of dal-roti-sabzi are no match for GDP trolling. Especially at a time when, on average, the Sensex falls by over 350 points per press conference held by the finance minister.

For classic online trolling, please see a video which has surfaced from the bowels of the Prasar Bharati archive, in which Subramanian Swamy is interviewed by Vinod Dua. It contains embedded evidence of its vintage quality—both gentlemen have a respectable head of hair. And Swamy dis-

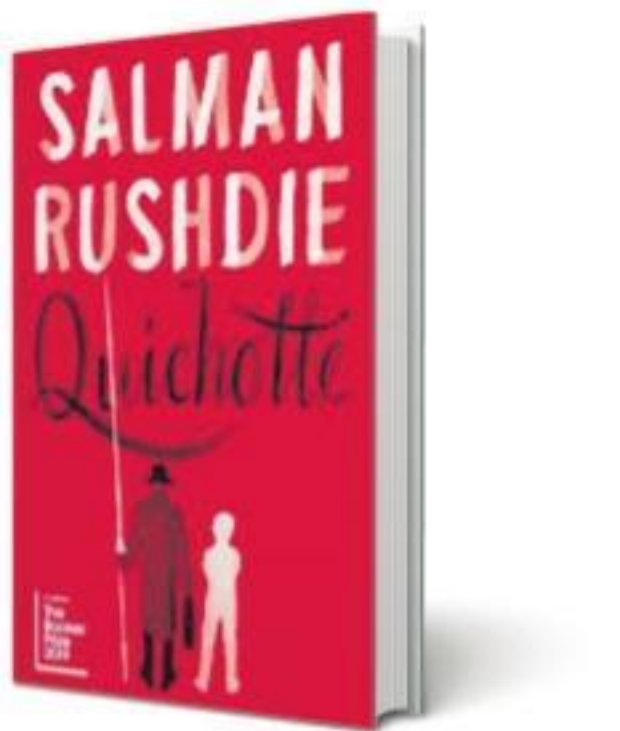
misses the BJP as a party with a very small dream—the removal of Muslims from the game-board: "The problem with the BJP's definition of nationalism is that it's totally negative. It is defined in terms of how much the Muslims lose." He points out that while the BJP focuses in Article 370, it has nothing to say on Article 371, which applies to the Northeast and "says the same thing, but they'll never talk about that... They talk about Ram Mandir, but never about Kailash-Mansarovar, which is even more pavitra for us... No constructive programme, but only how the Muslims can be brought down." Who knows what could emerge if researchers really had a go at the Prasar Bharati archives?

The merger of 10 banks into four to de-stress them has brought forth a rash of merger jokes, and the WhatsApp forward of the day suggests the merger of Zee News, Republic TV, Times Now, India TV and Sudarshan TV onto a single transponder, to reduce audience distress. If that happened, perhaps there would be no airtime for drivel like the holocaust survival guide offered by Zee News. Almost all the tips are hilarious. One, don't look directly at the site of a nuclear explosion, or you could go blind. Would it matter, since you would also be dead, and possibly vapourised? Two, take shelter in a sturdy building. Why, so that you can be automatically buried? Three, take a bath instantly to wash off radioactive dust. Well, some logic there, but it presumes that you would be capable of rational action. And that, in the midst of a nuclear holocaust, you would recall the advice of Zee's friendly survivalists.

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A Very Long Journey

Salman Rushdie’s Booker Prize-shortlisted new novel concerns the interpenetrability of reality and fiction in the era of true lies. But it sure takes its time getting to the point



QUICHOTTE
SALMAN RUSHDIE
Penguin
390 pages
₹ 699

PRATIK KANJILAL

SALMAN RUSHDIE’s new novel reached the Booker shortlist this week, though English and American critics have more or less closed ranks to pan it as his worst ever. They are mistaken, of course. Parts of it are excellent, as in the observation that the broken families which people the book offer the most accurate lens through which to see our fractured times. Or where a victim of trolling thinks: “Character, narrative, history, were all dead. Only the flat caricature of the present remained, and that was what one was judged by.” It is a novel of the times, and for the times: the “age of kangaroo courts of instant opinion”, of a wilful and fabulist American president who golfs, of trigger-happy anti-immigrant sentiment, of Brexit atavism in the UK, and of a man named Sad-Faced Older Painter, who is hounded out of India. It is a picaresque novel (Quichotte is Don Quixote, via opera), concerning a 70-year-old travelling salesman (debt to Arthur Miller acknowledged) who has suffered an “Internal Event” of a vascular nature, acquired a dragging leg, lost parts of his memory, surrendered reality in favour of cable TV binge-watched in motel rooms, and conjured up an imaginary teenaged son named Sancho. Together, the two set out across America in a gunmetal Chevy Cruze in search of the salesman’s love fixation, an Indian-American TV star named Salma.

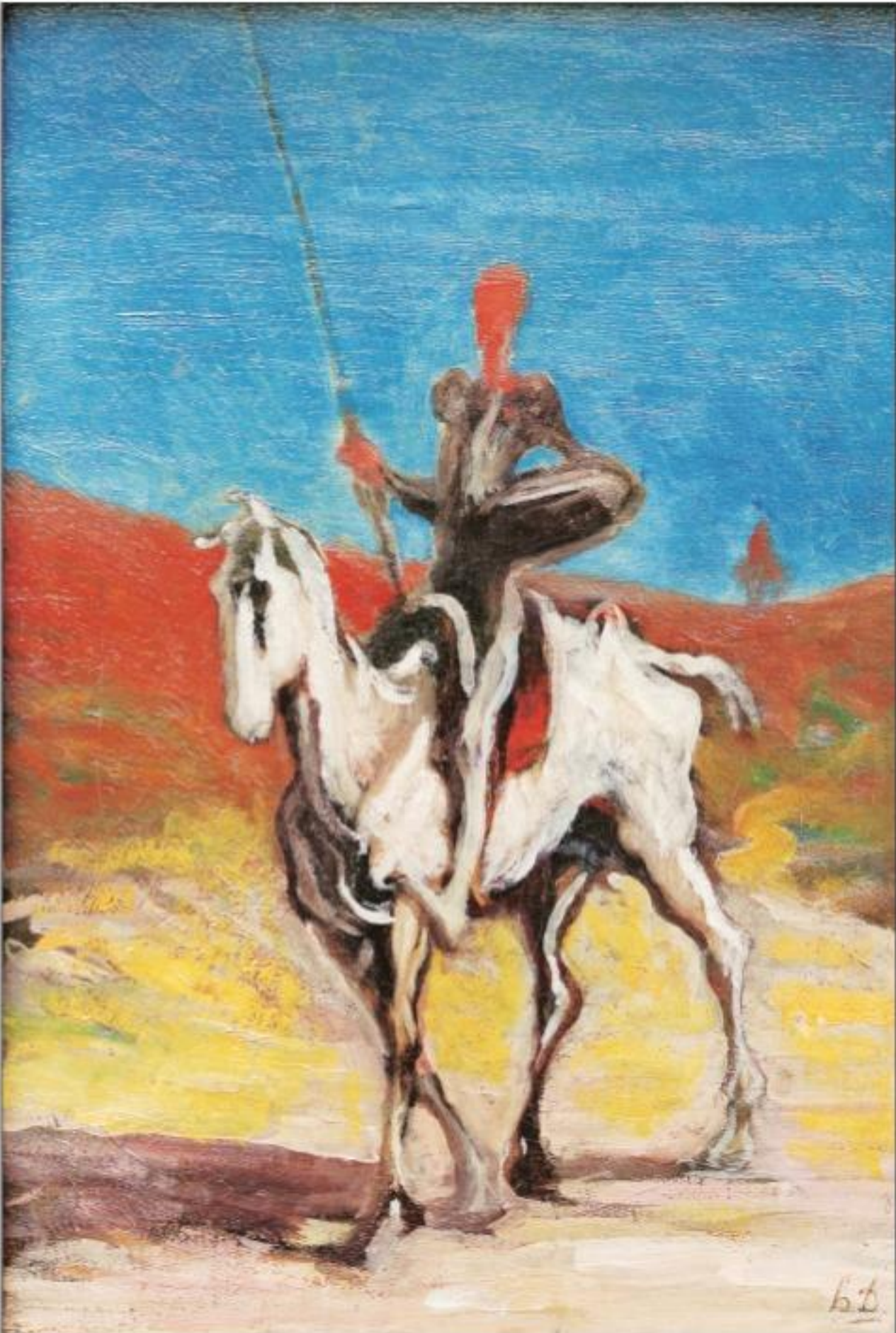
But *Quichotte* appears in an age when everyone is on the move, and the picaresque is no longer the man who strikes out and stands apart. Now, someone who stubbornly sits still, perchance under a Bodhi tree, would be deemed to be unusual and insightful. Maybe Rushdie chose the form because, as Joseph Campbell noted, journey stories jack into the collective unconscious and are easier to tell. But *Quichotte*’s trail is muddied by a multiplicity of back stories reaching back to Mumbai neighbourhoods and Notting Hill, apart from numerous American locations. All of this is encapsulated within a frame tale whose border with the core tale is so porous that if it were on a geographical map, it would be the illegal migrant’s delight. While Sancho is a product of the fictional Quichotte’s imagination, Quichotte is the product of a real, narcissistic, paranoid and

counterphobic B-grade spy fiction writer identified as Brother (*nom de plume* Sam DuChamp). And Salma, the goal of the fictional Quichotte’s journey, is a real film and TV star who gains fame playing the CIA chief in a web series based on Brother’s books, and is pursued by the fictional Quichotte.

Rushdie’s theme is the interpenetrability of reality and fiction in our uncertain times, in which the line between truth and falsehood has been wilfully blurred by a new kind of politics, made possible by a new medium. Or, perhaps, it is the oldest politics, and the beast had only lurked impatiently under the veneer of modernity and liberalism, waiting for a new medium to give it voice. “Anything can happen,” thinks Sancho. “Here can be there, then can be now, up can be down... I’m beginning to understand why people get religion. Just to have something solid that doesn’t change into a slippery snake without a word of warning.”

The new medium is the internet, which made convergence possible, turning discrete information streams into a deluge of digital pap where formal media and social media, truth and lies, dreams and nightmares, flow down the same pipe, and no perceptible difference remains between them. *Quichotte* is the work of a writer who has consumed too much, like Quichotte himself. In the course of three pages, Sancho examines his father through about a dozen cultural lenses — Jules Verne, Edgar Rice Burroughs, Ray Bradbury, Kurt Vonnegut, Arthur C Clarke, the Arthurian cycle, O Soglow, Jason aboard the Argo, Super Mario Brothers, Farid-ud-din Attar and Dante. Elsewhere, there are references to Paul Simon’s *Graceland*, Hitchcock, L Sprague de Camp, Guccifer 2.0, *Terminator*, Elon Musk, phone phreaking, Anonymous, the Legion of Doom and a whole section on the American right, residents of the town of Berenger who have transmogrified into mastodons (Eugene Ionescu is duly credited). The reference range here is roughly from Lester Del Rey to Lana Del Rey.

In *The Trotter Nama*, I Allan Sealy had written of a confection so rich that it could not be eaten. “It could only be embezzled.” In *Quichotte*, the density of allusions to popular and high culture — and memes from internet culture and streaming video — is high enough to give the reader intellectual hyper-



Wikimedia Commons

glycaemia. Over 40 different registers of snoring are catalogued at one point, and the debut of a character with a moustache immediately calls forth references to both Rumpelstiltskin and Yosemite Sam. But Rushdie has always laid it on thick. On the first page of *Midnight’s Children*, Saleem Sinai

was supplied with six different aliases. On the second, he declared: “I have been a swallow of lives; and to know me, just the one of me, you’ll have to swallow the lot as well. Consumed multitudes are jostling and shoving inside me...”

But there is a difference. Saleem Sinai’s journey was of subcontinental and historic scale, while Quichotte only drives a Chevrolet in search of love. Too much icing on a very simple cake can offend the senses, and readers will find themselves speeding impatiently through tediously elaborate sections of the novel. They might miss minor plot elements, but would eventually find that it doesn’t matter. Like *Shalimar the Clown*, *Quichotte* is written satisfactorily lean towards the end, where all illusions collapse into reality, like Schrödinger’s cat. Here, though, Schrödinger is a teleporting dog on a long leash.

So, is this Rushdie’s worst novel, as advertised in the Western press? Of course not. *Fury* holds unassailable claim to that dishonour. Then, is this the one modern retelling of Cervantes that you must read? Again, no. Contemporary picaresque literature may never produce an image more memorable than Graham Greene’s parish priest Monsignor Quixote, perplexingly elevated by the Pope, driving his Seat 600 in search of his fictitious ancestor, with the Sierra de Guadarrama shimmering in the distance.



(Top) *Don Quixote* by Honoré Daumier (1868); *Salman Rushdie* Express Archive

Keep Calm and Humour On

With nostalgic reminiscences and juicy anecdotes, Berjis Desai holds up a mirror to the feisty Parsi community

COOMI KAPOOR

AS A faithful chronicler of his community, Berjis Desai’s name is familiar to most Parsis. His articles, laced with subtle wit, wisdom and affection, offer deep insight into *Parsipanu*, the Parsi way of life, which is rapidly disappearing. Along with nostalgic reminiscences and juicy anecdotes bordering on the bawdy, Desai also introspects on where the community is heading today. There are stray but sly references to trustees of the Bombay Parsi Panchayat hurling chairs and tables at each other and the orthodox resorting to physical force to evict outsiders attempting to enter their closed club.

Desai, a leading lawyer and former managing partner at one of India’s major law firms, has diverse interests, including thoroughbred horse breeding and the study of Zoroastrianism and comparative religion. But apart from all his other activities, he is committed to holding up a mirror to his feisty community, replete with its idiosyncrasies and distinctive mores. This book is a compilation of the pieces he penned for the respected English magazine *Parsiiana*, the house journal of the community, between

2014 and 2017.

Several of Desai’s allusions will come as an eye opener to non-Parsis, even those who live in Mumbai and claim to know the community well. For instance, frequent diners at Parsi restaurants, weddings and *navjots* may be familiar with such standard delicacies as dhansak and laganu custard, but they are unlikely to have sampled the exotic fare which forms part of Parsi temple cui-

sine, such as malido papri, or Parsi rural cuisine, robust and Spartan, where no part of a bird, animal or overripe fruit is wasted. Such magnificent dishes as oomberioo, (vegetables cooked overnight in a clay pot in the using a charcoal fire) aambakalyo (made of overripe mangoes and tons of sugar), sooka boomla no patio (dried Bombay duck), bhoojan (barbecued goat liver, kidneys and testicles) and garab (roe) are dishes which even I, as a Parsi, have tasted seldom in recent years.

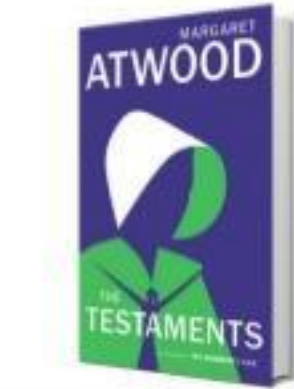
Desai wryly lumps the Parsis of Mumbai into two broad categories. He refers to the elite, tongue-in-cheek, as the NCPA Parsis, who religiously attend every Western music concert at the Tata-funded National Centre for Performing Arts and wince noticeably when anyone is crass enough to clap in the middle of a movement. Their tastes in culture and food tend to be highly Anglicised, and, usually, they do not appreciate Indian classical music.

The *hoi polloi* he dubs as the “masoor paavs”, those who gobble their masoor dal with smelly cut onions and suck the marrow from bones using their hands, rather than an elegant marrow spoon. Their musical tastes tend to Asha Bhonsle and Kishore Kumar. Desai’s theory is that the social divide in the community is related to when the family migrated to Mumbai from Gujarat. The early migrants were richer, spoke better English, went to the best English schools, had residences in the posher parts of the city and were connected to well-known business families. The later migrants took up professions and became doctors, lawyers, engineers and architects,

or were employed by the big Parsi business houses like the Tatas and the Godrejes.

The highly progressive community is known for its bonhomie and *joie de vivre*, graciousness, and fabled sense of humour. Parsi philanthropy is legendary. But not all Parsis are wealthy, as outsiders generally assume. There are Parsi farmers in far-flung villages in Gujarat living in debt and penury, the long-retired who have run out of savings, but are too self-respecting to seek help, widows in sanatoria making do with one meal a day. The community’s many charities do not always reach the deserving, though all Parsis have a natural instinct to try to look after their own. There is also, as Desai points out, a xenophobic streak — a strict closed-door policy towards non-Parsis in matters of religion and a gender bias against women who marry outside the faith. Nearly 31 per cent of the community is aged over 65, as compared to the national average of 7 per cent. The population in Mumbai is down to around 37,000. But Parsis generally aren’t bothered about being dubbed a dying race. Their attitude, says Desai, is, “Why worry when you won’t even be there?”

Desai takes digs at the eccentricities of his co-religionists, but without malice and with the fond familiarity of a fellow traveller. He jokes about the Parsi partiality for milky-white complexions; the domineering Parsi alpha female who often ends up raising a Mama’s boy who doesn’t ever want to leave the maternal nest; the obsessive sense of hygiene; drawing rooms filled with enormous, ornate carved furniture, even if the family has lost all its fortunes and is struggling to make ends meet. Swear words pepper every sentence, which are really terms of endearment. Indeed, life would be too drab without a dash of Parsi idiosyncrasy.



HER TESTAMENT

Margaret Atwood’s unpublished novel *The Testaments* — the sequel to her 1985 dystopian novel *The Handmaid’s Tale* — is among award favourites this season. Apart from making it to the Booker Prize shortlist, the novel, to be released globally on September 10, has also made it to this year’s CS100,000 Giller Prize longlist, Canada’s top literary award for fiction.

Written on the Body

An intriguing debut novel on the connections between the cerebral and the physical

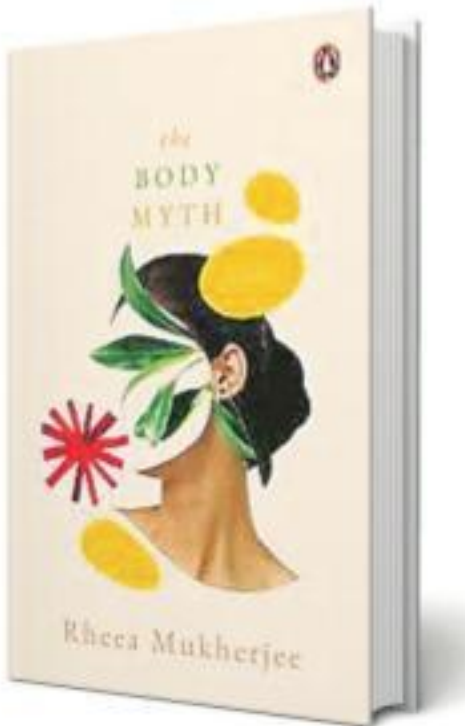
POOJA PILLAI

THE BODY MYTH is a novel full of potential. Reading it, one can almost see the ideas jostling each other in the writer’s head. Ideas about existentialism and sufism, questions about the connection between the mind and the body, and the ways in which we use intellectualism — books, conversations, work — as a bulwark against the world with all its real and imagined threats to our internal stability. Names of philosophers and writers pop out at you as you read — Jean Paul Sartre, Albert Camus, Simone de Beauvoir, Aristotle, Doris Lessing — and you know that there is so much that the writer is trying to convey to you within the space of a novel.

It’s not as if Rheea Mukherjee fails at this completely. There are frequent points at which an observation made by her narrator, Mira, startles you and you pause to fully absorb the import of what you’ve just read. For example, somewhere towards the end of the book, at a point where Mira has surrendered herself to the stormy realities of her emotional life, she admits that she has forgotten who she was before. She no longer recalls, in the granularity of facts and figures, much of the knowledge that she had accumulated by way of propping up her notion of herself. “I could no longer recall inferences, contextual references, or pedagogy. Knowledge was no longer my anchor. Instead it was the simplicity of nothingness.”

This would resonate with anyone who has sought distraction from the anxiety and pain of uncertainty by seeking firmer ground in the knowledge found in books or the illusion of conviviality that social media serves up. There are other parts in the book which reveal Mukherjee as an astute and compassionate observer of human nature. In the scene where Mira is asking her father some difficult questions about her long-dead mother, the writer has beautifully portrayed the moment in which a parent stands revealed in all his vulnerability before his child: “*Appa* spent too much time telling me about this fight, leading me to wonder if it was just a white lie. The more details he went into, the more it seemed like a desperate cry for validation. I wanted to tell *Appa* that his younger self didn’t have to match the progressive mind of the present, but instead I just nodded my head, wanting him to go on.”

There are many such moments, but unfortunately, they do not always make up for the flaws in the storytelling. The elisions in the plot make it difficult to fully understand why we should be invested in Mira’s story in the first place. Recently widowed Mira is only just beginning to find herself on stable ground when she meets Sara and Rahil,



THE BODY MYTH

RHEEA MUKHERJEE
Penguin Random House
231 pages
₹ 499

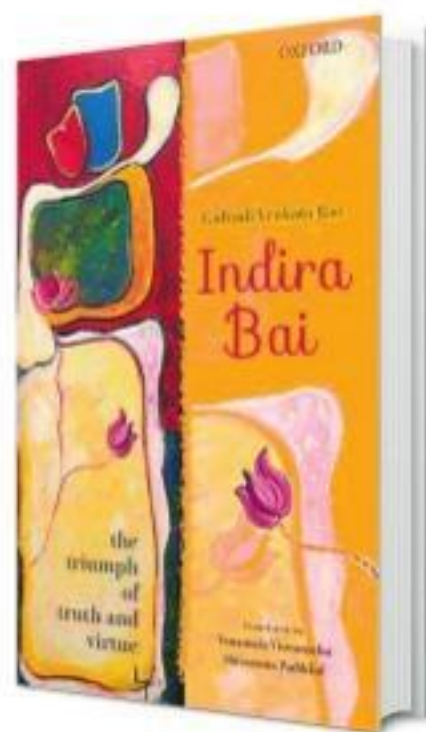
an intriguing couple, of whom she is soon enamoured. Sara is fragile and suffering from a mysterious ailment, and Rahil’s world revolves around taking care of her. As the *menage-a-trois* progresses, we begin to catch glimpses of the secrets that lie beneath everyone’s carefully cultivated facade — we understand that Sara may be faking her symptoms, and we begin to suspect that Rahil is simply playing along for his own reasons.

Yet, despite all its promise, the novel fails to take off for the simple reason that we are not convincingly told how it is that Mira falls so deeply in love with this couple. We are left to guess that it is because her husband’s death has left her too vulnerable to resist. Then there’s that strange fruit *rasagura* which only grows in this fictitious city of Suryam. We’re treated to quite a bit of detail about this fruit and we are told how much pride the residents of Suryam take in this fruit that only thrives in their city’s micro-climate. There’s also one portion later in the book where some people are lynched because they are accused of not treating the *rasagura* with enough respect. Reading this, one senses there’s a deeper reason for this fantastical fruit to find a place in an otherwise realistic novel, but what that deeper reason could be is hard to understand.

And yet, it’s not possible to be entirely dismissive of this book. That Mukherjee has the writing chops is undeniable, as is the fact that she is brimming with the kind of big, philosophical questions that are often the driving force behind first-rate novels. *The Body Myth* leaves one dissatisfied but, at the same time, also curious about what the writer will produce next.

ON THE SHELF

Dwelling on the Past



INDIRA BAI: THE TRIUMPH OF TRUTH AND VIRTUE

GULVADI VENKATA RAO; Translated by VANAMALA VISWANATHA & SHIVARAMA PADIKKAL
Oxford
232 pages
₹ 695

THE SIGNIFICANCE of reading *Indira Bai* — published in the 19th century and one of the earliest Kannada texts on social history and dealing with widow education and remarriage — in our times is to understand the evolution of the novel over the years as a literary genre. It also helps analyse the evolution of local cultures in the face of modernity, through a fictionalised account that takes you back in time. Of course, there is also the added advantage of scrutinising a social reform movement through its nascent stages, peering into a tiny plot of history, and feeling relieved at how far (relatively) we have come in the 21st century.

Indira Bai, written by Gulvadi Venkata Rao and translated into English by Vanamala Viswanatha and Shivarama Padikkal, is born to Bhima Raya and Amba Bai, well-off Saraswat Brahmins living in the

south Canara region in Karnataka. An ambitious Amba Bai instigates Bhima Raya to covertly murder his assistant, Sundara Raya, for “peddling obnoxious rumours” to tarnish their reputation. By virtue of his financial and social status, Bhima manages to get away with the murder. A few years later Indira, now a girl, is married off to a rich man, Vittala Raya. It is when Vittala dies of a disease contracted through multiple sexual engagements with other women, that Indira is forced into observing the austerities meant for a widow. But Indira, well-read and strong-headed, often derides them, much to the vexation of her parents. Consequently, someone is brought home to “mend Indira” through religious discourses. Indira runs away from home and a lawyer takes her under her tutelage, helping her complete her education. It is the same lawyer who had helped Bhaskara Rao, the son of the murdered Sundara Raya, by sending him abroad. Indira and Bhaskara marry, thereby completing the cycle of life with gender and social justice.

Indira Bai is a noteworthy read for its feminist intent and content. The novel helps us to critically question the socio-cultural practices of today against the backdrop of a new pan-Indian consciousness ushered in by the reform movement centuries ago.

The reach of Gulvadi’s *Indira Bai*, compounded with a refashioned sense of modernity among Saraswat Brahmins, helped to cast the community in a progressive mould, but not without creating ideological and religious discord among families. The text serves not only as a mirror to a community’s social reality, but also as a means to look within itself to write, and rewrite, perspectives. After all, even two centuries later, literature stands strong as a tool to recast identities.

ANSHIKA RAVI

Youth versus icon

Canadian teenager Bianca Andreescu, who was not born when Serena won her first US Open title, to play legend in women’s final

REUTERS
NEW YORK, SEPT 5

CANADIAN TEENAGER Bianca Andreescu’s dream run at the US Open continued on Thursday as she powered past Belinda Bencic 7-6(3), 7-5 to set up a highly-anticipated final with Serena Williams on Saturday.

Andreescu, who has already won titles at Indian Wells and Toronto during her break-out 2019 season, unleashed a torrent of bruising groundstrokes after falling behind 2-5 in the second set, winning five straight games to punch her ticket to her first Grand Slam final.

“It is just surreal,” the 19-year-old said in an on-court interview at Arthur Ashe Stadium. “I don’t know what to say. It is a dream come true to play Serena in the finals of the US Open. It’s crazy.”

After a strong start from the Swiss, momentum shifted on the first point of the first set tiebreak when Bencic double faulted and her previously immaculate play began to crumble. Andreescu quickly ran out to a 5-0 lead in the breaker that she won comfortably to capture the first set.

Bencic finally broke Andreescu to open the second set but despite stretching her lead to 5-2, Andreescu fed off the supportive crowd to level at 5-5 after another costly Bencic double fault.

A flustered Bencic struggled from there, giving a sarcastic thumbs up to the crowd when they applauded the double fault before sending a forehand into the net on match point to end the first-time encounter between two of the game’s rising stars. The final will pit power against power when Andreescu takes on her childhood hero Williams, who claimed her first U.S. Open title in 1999 before Andreescu was even born.

Despite being sidelined at times with injury this year, Andreescu has been a giant slayer when healthy, posting a 7-0 record against top 10 opponents and a 33-4 record overall. Her route to the final has included wins over former world number one Caroline Wozniacki and rising Belgian Elise Mertens. Thursday’s win marks a remarkable turnaround for the Ontario native who was born to Romanian parents in 2000.

Andreescu lost in the first round of U.S. Open qualifiers last year and finished 2018 ranked world number 178 but will be at least world number nine on Monday and world number five if she can upset Williams.

In their only previous meeting Andreescu led Williams 3-1 at the Rogers Cup final in Toronto last month before the 37-year-old was forced to retire due to back spasms. The Canadian was widely praised for comforting the tearful Williams after the match.

Andreescu will have her work cut out for her when she takes on an in-form Williams, who crushed Elina Svitolina 6-3 6-1 earlier in the evening to put her on the brink of a record-tying 24th Grand Slam title.

Another chance

A rampaging Williams moved to the brink of a record equalling 24th career Grand Slam title storming past Elina Svitolina 6-3, 6-1. Since returning to action after the birth of her first child Williams has come agonisingly close to matching Margaret Court’s mark three times and will have a chance on Saturday to do so in front of an adoring home crowd for a second successive year.

Last year Williams was left in tears following a chaotic and controversial loss to Naomi Osaka on Arthur Ashe Stadium. She has also lost two Wimbledon finals since her return. “To be in yet another final, it seems honestly crazy,” said Williams. “But I don’t really expect too much less. I’ve had so many chances to pass it (Court).

If you look at the span of the career, the



Serena Williams beat Elina Svitolina 6-3, 6-1 to enter the final. She will aim to equal Margaret Court’s all-time mark of 24 Slams. *USA TODAY Sports*

Last year Williams was left in tears following a chaotic and controversial loss to Naomi Osaka on Arthur Ashe Stadium. She has also lost two Wimbledon finals since her return.

players I’ve played, it’s amazing that I was able to get this many.”

The semi-final offered a classic matchup of styles with Williams and her prodigious power up against Svitolina, one of the best counter punchers in the women’s game. Williams did not have her ‘A’ game in warm conditions but the former-world number one knew exactly what was needed particularly on the big points. “I don’t think she played amazing today but she played very high level at the beginning where you had to make a difference,” said Svitolina. “I think she knows what she has to do. There’s lots of power behind her shots all the time.

On the important moments she always steps up, always brings her best game.”

The fifth seeded Ukrainian had no shortage of chances herself but could not convert any of six break opportunities.

A ruthless Williams, however, bombarded Svitolina with punishing forehands and six aces to register her 101st U.S. Open win, which tied her with Chris Evert for the most at Flushing Meadows. Williams arrived at the year’s final Grand Slam with a scowl and an all business demeanor that has swatted aside a raft of challengers throughout her run to the final.

Any concerns over the back spasms that forced her to quit the Toronto final and out of Cincinnati were eased when she opened her Flushing Meadows account with a 6-1, 6-1 thrashing of old rival Maria Sharapova.

That was followed by routine wins over Karolina Muchova, Petra Martic and Cat McNally before blasting her way into the last four with a jaw-dropping 44-minute 6-1 6-0 rout of China’s Wang Qiang. But as cold-blooded as those performances were, Williams 70-minute dismantling of Svitolina in front of a packed house said more by delivering an emphatic message she would not be content leaving Flushing Meadows without a share of Court’s record.

The match had looked to be a long and competitive affair when Svitolina forced Williams to fight off three break points to hold her opening serve. Williams, however, was ready for the challenge breaking Svitolina at the first opportunity by firing a winner down the line the Ukrainian could only look at.



Andreescu, 19, is just the second women’s Grand Slam finalist from Canada after Eugenie Bouchard. She will also bid to become the first teen Grand Slam champion since Maria Sharapova won at Flushing Meadows in 2006. *AP*

In tennis, hugging at net is the new handshake

CINDY SHMERLER
SEPTEMBER 6

NOT THAT long ago, Naomi Osaka was struggling to adapt to the shifting tradition in tennis of using hugs instead handshakes as the gesture of grace at the end of a match.

“I’m told that I give out the worst hugs,” Osaka said last year, after winning the United States Open at 20 years old. “The thing is, I’m used to handshakes,” she added. “Every time someone comes for a hug, I’m very confused.”

By Saturday night, after the third match of her title defense, Osaka had more than perfected her take on the new brand of sportsmanship. She not only hugged a tearful Coco Gauff, the 15-year-old sensation she had just knocked out of the Open — she took Gauff completely under her wing. Osaka consoled the younger player, encouraging her to address the crowd in an on-court interview that typically belongs to the winner, and assuring her that it would be better to keep crying openly in front of the fans than to retreat inconsolably to the showers.

The scene was extraordinary but hardly unique for a 21st century Grand Slam tournament. When Novak Djokovic, suffering from a sore shoulder at the Open, retired mid-match against Stan Wawrinka on Sunday

night, the two draped their arms around each other’s necks.

And there was a moment of affection last year that became an instant meme. After Djokovic beat Juan Martin del Potro to win the Open, they skipped the traditional post-match handshake.

Instead, Djokovic and del Potro embraced for several seconds, as if they were long-lost brothers seeing each other for the first time in years. The image was replayed on screens throughout the world. “I think it’s because we both love each other,” said del Potro, who missed this year’s US Open with a knee injury. “We have a great relationship, and we always play the great battles. The people love when the two players are fighting until the last point. A huge hug means a lot to the crowd and to us as well.”

There was a time when the end of a tennis match required nothing more than a firm handshake and maybe a few kind words before both players gathered their belongings and left the court. The same held true for men and women.

Today, hugging has become the new handshake, providing a level of intimacy that may make post-match meetings at the net as unrecognizable to past players as innovations like the Hawk-Eye ball tracking system and serving time limits.

“We never hugged,” said Pam Shriver,

who played throughout the 1980s against Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova. “The closest I came was when I beat Martina, who was my friend and doubles partner, in 1982. I only beat her three times out of 42. It was a huge upset. We still shook hands, but we put an arm around each other as we walked to the umpire’s chair. It was such a big deal that the picture ran, above the fold, in the next day’s New York Times.”

In 1980, Bjorn Borg sank to his knees after outlasting John McEnroe in a classic fourth-set tiebreaker in the Wimbledon final. After he arose, Borg did little more than approach the net with his head down and share a limp handshake with McEnroe before walking off.

In an awkward moment after Pete Sampras beat Andre Agassi in a five-set semifinal at the 2000 Australian Open, the two looked as though they were actually going to hug. But their arms got jumbled, and they ended up settling for a traditional handshake.

Eighteen years later at the Australian Open, when Caroline Wozniacki beat Simona Halep to win her first major, their prolonged embrace looked more like two camp friends saying goodbye at the end of the summer than two top-flight athletes after a fierce battle. Same when Sloane Stephens defeated her close friend Madison Keys to win the 2017 U.S. Open. As they waited for the tro-

phy presentation, Stephens and Keys sat side by side, laughing.

So why has on-court hugging become a thing? Has everyone on tour suddenly become BFFs?

“You’re not going to do it with everyone,” said Kevin Anderson, the 2017 runner-up at the U.S. Open. “But most guys know that we’re out there working as hard as we can. We’re all competitors, but we’re also friends.”

For Djokovic, hugging has become part of his mental routine, the result of time with Pepe Imaz, a Spanish spiritual guru who specialized in a technique with meditation and prolonged hugs called Amor y Paz (“Love and Peace”).

Allen Fox, a California-based sports psychologist who has counseled athletes for more than 40 years, said hugs now are “part and parcel of every athletic competition, no matter the sport.”

“Back in the day, athletes were trying to be classy, so they kept their emotions in check, shook hands at the end of a match and left the court,” he said. “Men, in particular, were taught to be strong, not to share their personal struggles and to be quiet about their issues. They were trained not to be sappy out there, to take a loss with a stiff upper lip.

“Now people think nothing of hugging and crying after their matches.”

NYT

TRAMLINES

"For sure last two Slams been good for me. I'm very happy the way I could handle the tough moments. Unfortunately it's both times finished really one-sided, which I have to analyze."
ELINA SVITOLINA
AFTER THE LOSS TO SERENA WILLIAMS



Schwartzman, Osaka win awards

New York: The way Naomi Osaka consoled Coco Gauff after beating the 15-year-old American in the US Open’s third round was admired by many. On Thursday, Osaka was given the women’s 2019 U.S. Open Sportsmanship Award. Diego Schwartzman was the men’s honoree. Both get a trophy and a \$5,000 donation to a charity of their choice. Todd Martin, the former player who is co-chair of the committee that chooses the recipients, said the two “demonstrated a level of sportsmanship that is even more impressive than their play on the court.” **AP**

WOMEN’S SINGLES:

SEMIFINALS: Serena Williams (8), United States, def. Elina Svitolina (5), Ukraine, 6-3, 6-1; Bianca Andreescu (15), Canada, def. Belinda Bencic (13), Switzerland, 7-6(3), 7-5.

MEN’S DOUBLES:

SEMIFINALS : Marcel Granollers, Spain, and Horacio Zeballos (8), Argentina, def. Kevin Krawietz and Andreas Mies (12), Germany, 7-6(2), 7-6 (5); Robert Farah and Juan Sebastian Cabal (1), Colombia, def. Jamie Murray and Neal Skupski (15), Britain, 7-6(5), 7-6(8).

WOMEN’S DOUBLES:

SEMIFINALS: Victoria Azarenka, Belarus, and Ashleigh Barty (8), Australia, def. Aliaksandra Sasnovich, Belarus, and Viktoriya Kuzmova, Slovakia, 6-0, 6-1.

[SPORTS BAR]



Easwaran’s 153 puts India Red in charge

Bengal right-hander Abhimanyu Easwaran staked his claim for a place in the senior side with a 153-run knock as India Red marched towards the title by building a 114-run lead over India Green at stumps on day three of the Duleep Trophy. Easwaran (153 off 300 balls) added 51 runs to his overnight score as India Red finished the day at 345 for 6 in 116 overs in reply to India Green’s first innings score of 231 in 72.1 overs. Aditya Sarvate and Unadkat were at the crease at the draw of stumps. **BRIEF SCORES:** India Green 1st Innings: 231 all out in 72.1 overs (Mayank Markande 76*, Rajpoot 30; Unadkat 4/58, Warriar 2/38, Avesh 2/56); India Red 1st Innings: 345 for 6 in 116 overs (Easwaran 153, Kishan 39, Panchal 33; Sarvate 30 batting, Rajpoot 3/77, M Markande 1/24, Tanveer ul-Haq 1/63).

Stimac and team gutted by loss to Oman

India’s over-reliance on forward Sunil Chhetri and the team’s inexperience cost them their Asian qualifying tie for the 2022 World Cup against Oman, coach Igor Stimac rued after the 2-1 loss on Thursday. Udanta Singh hit the crossbar and Sandesh Jhingian’s header missed the mark before the talismanic Chhetri’s 24th-minute strike put the hosts ahead in the group E match in the east Indian city of Guwahati. “We’re very sad. We deserved more from this game,” the Croat, who was appointed India coach in May, said after the match. “We could’ve punished the Omani team heavily in the first half, we could have killed the game before the break, but we were not lucky there.

Bangladesh school lifts U-17 girls’ Subroto Cup

Bangladesh Krida Shiksha Prothishtan (BKSP) thrashed Nilmani English School, Manipur 4-0 to successfully defend their U17 Girls’ Subroto Cup International Football title here on Friday. In the first half, the game started with Bangladesh Krida Shiksha Prothishtan (BKSP) enjoying the majority of the possession. In the fifth minute, the first attempt came from the Bangladesh team as Aklima Akter side netted a strike from the right flank. Aklima’s moment came soon after, as she scored with a thunderous strike from inside the box in the 19th minute.



Sanju Samson scored 91 off just 48 balls against South Africa A. *PTI*

Samson stars in victory over South Africa A

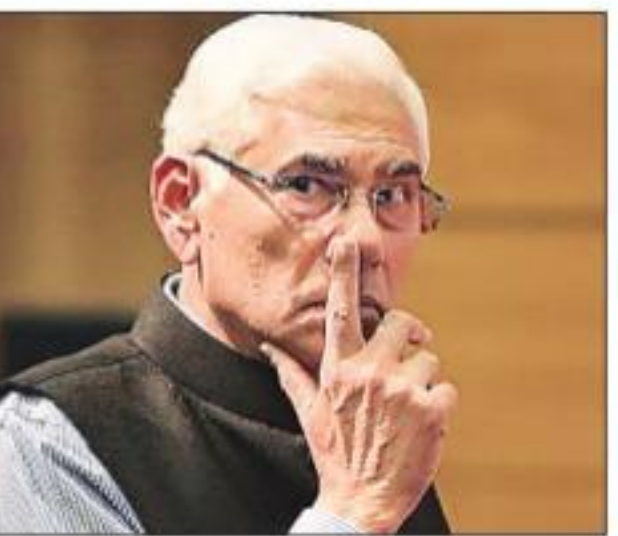
Sanju Samson struck a blistering 48-ball 91 as India A romped to a 36-run win over South Africa A in the fifth and final unofficial ODI, helping the hosts claim the series 4-1 here on Friday. Kerala wicketkeeper batsman Samson, who has played one T20 International for India, showcased his skills in another rain-affected game at the Sports Hub here. In a rain-affected 20 overs-a-side game, India A made 204 for 4 before restricting South Africa A to 168 all out with Shardul Thakur taking 3 for 9 from three overs. Samson exhibited his hitting abilities, smashing some huge sixes as he toyed with the rival Proteas attack during his 135-run second wicket partnership with India regular Shikhar Dhawan (51 off 36 balls), who posted his second straight half-century. **BRIEF SCORES:** India A 204 for 4 in 20 overs (Sanju Samson 91, Shikhar Dhawan 51, Shreyas Iyer 36, Beuran Hendricks 2/29, George Linde 2/43) beat South Africa A 168 all out in 20 overs (Reeza Hendricks 59, Kyle Verreynne 44, Shardul Thakur 3/9, Washington Sundar 2/39)

Payas Jain storms into Asian Junior TT final

India’s Payas Jain stormed into the cadet boys final of the 25th Asian Junior Table Tennis Championships beating South Korean Lin Yunoh 4-3 here on Friday to assure himself of at least a silver medal. The seventh seeded Indian won 15-13, 11-9, 9-11, 3-11, 11-9, 11-6. Besides the medal, Payas also earned a place in the Asian squad that will compete in the World Cadet Challenge, to be held at Wladyslawowo, Poland, this October. This will be the second medal for the Indians at the championships after the junior boys had clinched a silver medal. Jain will take on top-seed and world No. 1 Yuanyu Chen in the final on Saturday.

Karthik gets notice for attending CPL match

The BCCI has issued a showcase notice to out-of-favour India player Dinesh Karthik for attending a promotional event of the Caribbean Premier League (CPL) franchise Trinbago Knight Riders. The 34-year-old Karthik, who was a controversial pick in India’s World Cup squad, was seen in Trinbago Knight Riders dressing room and attending their opening CPL match against St Kitts & Nevis in Port of Spain. “Yes, Dinesh Karthik has been issued a showcase notice by the BCCI. We have received photographs where Karthik is seen in the dressing room of Trinbago Knight Riders.



CoA extends deadline for state unit elections

The Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators (CoA), chaired by Vinod Rai, on Friday extended the deadline for the completion of elections for the BCCI’s state associations till September 28. The earlier deadline for these polls was September 14. “The deadline for completion of elections of state associations is extended from 14th September 2019 to 28th September 2019,” the CoA said in a statement after a meeting here. “No further extensions will be feasible beyond September 28, 2019 since the notice of AGM for BCCI elections has to be issued 21 days prior to 22nd October which is 30th September 2019. The state associations are required to send the names of their representatives to the BCCI for the BCCI election on 28th September, 2019,” the CoA stated. The CoA also made it clear that the date for BCCI polls will remain unchanged.



ABDUL QADIR
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Qadir, leg-spin
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PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KARACHI, SEPTEMBER 6

PAKISTAN'S MASTER leg-spinner Abdul Qadir died in Lahore on Friday after suffering from a massive cardiac arrest, his family confirmed. Qadir was 63 years old and is survived by his wife, four sons and a daughter who is married to current Pakistan star batsman Umar Akmal.

Former Pakistan wicketkeeper-batsman, Kamran Akmal, Umar's elder brother, confirmed the tragic news about Qadir's death. It is learnt that the veteran suffered a cardiac arrest when he was at home and was declared dead on arrival after being rushed to a hospital.

Qadir, who played in 67 Tests and 104 ODIs had a total 368 wickets in his international career, would have celebrated his 64th birthday on 15th September.

"It is a great loss to Pakistan cricket because it was Qadir bhai's leg-spin magic and artistry that inspired a generation of young leg-spin bowlers in Pakistan and around the cricket world," former Pakistan



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But the fondest memories would certainly be related to 16-year-old Sachin Tendulkar attacking him with great gusto during an exhibition match. Qadir, who was at the twilight of his career, repeatedly tossed it up and Tendulkar would just dance down the track to hit him for four sixes. There were many stories how Qadir mildly sledged Tendulkar and enticed him to go after him. However many times after that he acknowledged that it was the moment he thought that he has seen something special.

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If he were playing now, he would have had 500-600 Test wickets. Nobody could understand his flippers. He had two different types of googlies and very few batsmen could read him. Even Viv Richards struggled to pick him. Unfortunately, front-foot LBWs were virtually non-existent those days. So batsmen used the front foot as an escape route. Umpires these days don't hesitate to give front-foot LBWs.

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AP & AFP
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He further stated: "I decided that we should go ahead with the camp even if all the players are unable to report. We are way behind in terms of preparation compared to other teams. For us it starts now. The players who are from Jammu could be contacted but it was difficult to contact those who were from Kashmir. But it is good that the players are here and we are looking forward to the



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"Issues will be there but you have to find a way to overcome it. Either you crib here and keep thinking about what is happening or you do everything possible for the team to succeed. At least we can start to focus on

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The players faced difficulty in getting to Jammu and some of the players took the help of local police officials to travel out of the valley. One of the support staff members managed to reach the home of Parvez Rasool, the India international, in Bijbehara to inform him that he should report to Jammu.

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Baroda: Former India pacer Munaf Patel has been appointed mentor of Baroda's senior and U-23 teams. In his new role, he will work closely with senior team coach Sanath Kumar. "I always wanted to be part of cricket after my retirement. When the Baroda Cricket Association (BCA) approached me, I accepted the offer. I want to pass on my experience to the youngsters. I will travel with the senior team and sometimes will also be helping the U-23 squad. I will also work as the bowling coach for the senior team," Munaf told *The Indian Express*. Munaf said the challenge will be to help U-23 players make the transition to the senior team. BCA has also appointed former India wicket-keeper Nayan Mongia as a mentor for junior teams.

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humidity in Baroda for the next few days. The players will travel to Jaipur to play their Vijay Hazare Trophy games in last week of this September.

The players will take part in a tournament organised by the Baroda Cricket Association called the Challengers Trophy, which will give them some vital match time.

The team has already missed the Vizzy Trophy as most of the players, including India international Rasool could not be contacted.

Rashid's all-round show
puts Afghanistan on top

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
CHITTAGONG, SEPTEMBER 6

SPIN SENSATION Rashid Khan starred with bat and ball on Friday as Afghanistan took command in the one-off Test against Bangladesh here. Rashid hit 51 off 61 balls to take Afghanistan to 342 in their first innings and then claimed 4-47 to leave Bangladesh struggling at 194 for eight at stumps on the second day.

Mominul Haque scored the only half-century for Bangladesh, 52 off 71 balls, while Mosaddek Hossain remained unbeaten on 44 to spare some blushes for the home side against the Test minnows. Bangladesh lost a wicket in the very first over of their innings when Yamin Ahmadzai dismissed opener Shadman Islam for nought but Soumya Sarkar and Liton Das steadied the innings with a 49-run stand.

Mohammad Nabi removed Soumya leg-before for 17 before Rashid introduced himself in the attack with immediate impact as he bowled Liton for 33. Rashid unleashed further destruction in his fifth over, trapping Shakib Al Hasan leg before for 11 and removing Mushfiqur Rahim for a duck two balls later as Bangladesh were reduced to 88-5 at tea. They did no better after play resumed in the final session as Rashid, who made his debut as the youngest ever Test captain in this Test, bowled Mahmudullah Riyad for seven and left others with little clue against his leg-spin. Mominul launched a counter-attack to

bring his fifty off 69 balls but paid the price for his aggression as he gave a catch to Asghar Afghan at mid-off by Mohammad Nabi, who finished the day with 2-53. Mosaddek survived the day with tail-ender Taijul Islam, 14 not out, but Bangladesh still face a mountain to climb, trailing Afghanistan by 148 runs in the first innings with just two wickets in hand.

Rashid earlier led Afghanistan's batting charge with his maiden Test fifty after they lost early wickets, having resumed the second day's play at 271-5. Former skipper Asghar, who was unbeaten on 88 overnight, managed to add just four runs to his score before gifting his wicket to left-arm spinner Taijul, just eight runs short of what would have been his first Test century.

Taijul then bowled the other overnight batsman Afsar Zazai for 41 but Rashid, making his debut as the youngest-ever Test captain, launched a counterattack. Shakib struck back to remove tail-enders Qais Ahmad and Yamin Ahmadzai for nine and zero respectively but Rashid fought on, bringing up his 50 in as many balls.

Off-spinner Mehidy Hasan took a sharp catch off his own bowling to stop Rashid's onslaught and end Afghanistan's innings. Taijul finished with 4-116 for Bangladesh while Shakib and off-spinner Nayeem Hasan claimed two wickets each.

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Baroda: Former India pacer Munaf Patel has been appointed mentor of Baroda's senior and U-23 teams. In his new role, he will work closely with senior team coach Sanath Kumar. "I always wanted to be part of cricket after my retirement. When the Baroda Cricket Association (BCA) approached me, I accepted the offer. I want to pass on my experience to the youngsters. I will travel with the senior team and sometimes will also be helping the U-23 squad. I will also work as the bowling coach for the senior team," Munaf told *The Indian Express*. Munaf said the challenge will be to help U-23 players make the transition to the senior team. BCA has also appointed former India wicket-keeper Nayan Mongia as a mentor for junior teams.

DEVENDRA PANDEY

humidity in Baroda for the next few days. The players will travel to Jaipur to play their Vijay Hazare Trophy games in last week of this September.

The players will take part in a tournament organised by the Baroda Cricket Association called the Challengers Trophy, which will give them some vital match time.

The team has already missed the Vizzy Trophy as most of the players, including India international Rasool could not be contacted.

Rashid's all-round show
puts Afghanistan on top

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
CHITTAGONG, SEPTEMBER 6

SPIN SENSATION Rashid Khan starred with bat and ball on Friday as Afghanistan took command in the one-off Test against Bangladesh here. Rashid hit 51 off 61 balls to take Afghanistan to 342 in their first innings and then claimed 4-47 to leave Bangladesh struggling at 194 for eight at stumps on the second day.

Mominul Haque scored the only half-century for Bangladesh, 52 off 71 balls, while Mosaddek Hossain remained unbeaten on 44 to spare some blushes for the home side against the Test minnows. Bangladesh lost a wicket in the very first over of their innings when Yamin Ahmadzai dismissed opener Shadman Islam for nought but Soumya Sarkar and Liton Das steadied the innings with a 49-run stand.

Mohammad Nabi removed Soumya leg-before for 17 before Rashid introduced himself in the attack with immediate impact as he bowled Liton for 33. Rashid unleashed further destruction in his fifth over, trapping Shakib Al Hasan leg before for 11 and removing Mushfiqur Rahim for a duck two balls later as Bangladesh were reduced to 88-5 at tea. They did no better after play resumed in the final session as Rashid, who made his debut as the youngest ever Test captain in this Test, bowled Mahmudullah Riyad for seven and left others with little clue against his leg-spin. Mominul launched a counter-attack to

bring his fifty off 69 balls but paid the price for his aggression as he gave a catch to Asghar Afghan at mid-off Mohammad Nabi, who finished the day with 2-53. Mosaddek survived the day with tail-ender Taijul Islam, 14 not out, but Bangladesh still face a mountain to climb, trailing Afghanistan by 148 runs in the first innings with just two wickets in hand.

Rashid earlier led Afghanistan's batting charge with his maiden Test fifty after they lost early wickets, having resumed the second day's play at 271-5. Former skipper Asghar, who was unbeaten on 88 overnight, managed to add just four runs to his score before gifting his wicket to left-arm spinner Taijul, just eight runs short of what would have been his first Test century.

Taijul then bowled the other overnight batsman Afsar Zazai for 41 but Rashid, making his debut as the youngest-ever Test captain, launched a counterattack. Shakib struck back to remove tail-enders Qais Ahmad and Yamin Ahmadzai for nine and zero respectively but Rashid fought on, bringing up his 50 in as many balls.

Off-spinner Mehidy Hasan took a sharp catch off his own bowling to stop Rashid's onslaught and end Afghanistan's innings. Taijul finished with 4-116 for Bangladesh while Shakib and off-spinner Nayeem Hasan claimed two wickets each.

BRIEF SCORES: Afghanistan 342 (Rahmat 102, Afghan 92, Rashid 51, Taijul 4/116) lead Bangladesh 194/8 (Mominul 52, Mosaddek 44*, Rashid 4/47, Nabi 2/53) trail by 148 runs

In Abu Dhabi, Khabib looks to enhance legacy

Nurmagomedov, the undefeated lightweight champion, will look to extend his unblemished record at UFC 242, where he takes on Poirier

GAURAV BHATT
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 6

THE LAST time lightweight champion Khabib Nurmagomedov was in the UFC octagon, he choked out the promotion's biggest star and jumped out of the cage and into a nine-month suspension. His absence necessitated an interim title, won by Dustin Poirier (25-5) in April.

On Saturday, the undefeated Dagestani (27-0) returns to fight Poirier in an attempt to unify the 155-pound belt, at UFC 242 in Abu Dhabi; an event designed to cash in on the Muslim fighter's popularity in the Middle East. And unlike his showdown last October in Las Vegas, marred with a build around personal jabs from Conor McGregor and ugly spat between the two camps, the road to UAE has refreshingly been about the fighters themselves.

"My last fight was a bit crazy... but now I have an opponent I want to show respect to," Khabib said during a media conference call from Abu Dhabi. "I think the sport of mixed martial arts is all about respect. Even if you don't like your opponent, you have to respect them, because this is a very unforgiving sport and you and your opponent have families. A lot of people, a lot of kids watch you guys."

Dagestan dreams

Barring his fight with McGregor, which seemed to bring the worst in Khabib, the Dagestan native has been a great ambassador for the Russian republic located where the Greater Caucasus range and Caspian Sea meet.

His title win last April made him the first Muslim or Russian national UFC champion, and the blockbuster title defence meant Khabib and his father-cum-coach now need

police escort to avoid being mobbed by fans. While he was being criticised by purists for bringing the sport into disrepute, Khabib embarked on a victory tour across Russia, UAE and Saudi Arabia.

While Khabib brought mainstream attention to Dagestan, Dagestan has been a steady supplier of world and Olympic champions — including the Olympic and three-time world champ Abdulrashid Sadulaev — and the mountainous region has become a sought-after destination for foreign athletes.

India's only two-time individual Olympic medallist Sushil Kumar chose Dagestan as training ground for his comeback, bringing native and former Russian international Kamal Malikov as coach, who lined up a number of Dagestani grapplers at the Kayakent Sports School for the 36-year-old to work with.

"The people in that region were lovely, and the wrestlers are talented. They appreciate wrestling and coach's family treated me like their own," said Sushil at the selection trials last month.

World championship silver-medallist Bajrang Punia won the 65kg gold at the Ali Aliev invitational tournament in Kaspysk, Dagestan in May, and stayed back to train in Makhachkala. During his training stint, Bajrang tweeted a photo with Sadulaev captioned: "Different country, different race, different faith. But still bonded by heart, soul and spirit. That's the power of sports and the culture of sportsmanship."

"After we opened (Kayakent) school in 1996, we saw the first results already in four-five years," Magomed Arangereyev, who coaches at the Kayakent sport school in Dagestan, said in an interview last year. "After six years... our boys started winning in Europe, then world championships. The success of wrestlers trained in Dagestan has now



The 155-pound belt at UFC 242 in Abu Dhabi is an event designed to cash in on Khabib's popularity in the Middle East.

made the region a top draw for the sport,"

Even in Russia, the region is an outlier. At the national championships in July, Dagestani wrestlers won 16 medals. North Ossetia-Alania was second with 8.

"Wrestling is the number one sport in Dagestan. It's an honour to me to represent

my traditional headgear around the world, my culture, my history," Khabib said, referencing the traditional sheepskin Papakha which has become a top-seller as the fighter's stock has gone up.

"I have an opportunity. People know me and I want people to know where I am from.

I want to show people Dagestan, Dagestan culture, Dagestan history, because we have very, very big history in Dagestan. If I have the opportunity, why not?"

No pushover

All eyes are firmly on Khabib, and Poirier takes no issues with that. The Louisiana native is a 30-year-old veteran, with 31 fights over 11 years. Primarily a boxer, Poirier has 19 finishes (12 KOs, 7 subs) and is versatile; dangerous in the pocket and at distance and has faced wrestlers in the cage before.

But Khabib's wrestling reduces all stand-up talks to a series of hypotheticals. Khabib averages 5 takedowns per 15 minutes, and scored a record-breaking 21 takedowns against Abel Trujillo. Poirer has scored 21 in his career. Poirier talked about switching up the training camp to acclimatise to the heat and food in Abu Dhabi.

"I've got out under the sun and done a lot of sprint work and a lot of stadium work, and a lot of hard pushes directly under the sun. Not that we're fighting outdoors, but just to get my body in that heat. I'm also bringing a nutritionist, a chef with me. We're pre-planning for all those challenges that come with the food and spices and the time change," said Poirier. "I can trust myself that when I get in there and they lock that door for 25 minutes, that I'm the better fighter, and I'm in there to win."

Khabib too asked the casual fans to give credit to Poirier. "Dustin is a much more complete fighter than Conor. He is better, and actually beat a lot of good guys. But now, no more interim. Because in the jungle there's only one king. That's why I have to kill this problem." **LIVE: UFC 242 Sony Ten 2 (English), Sony Ten 3 (Hindi) at 11:30pm IST, Saturday 7th September**

Hope shooting talent gets reflected at Olympics: Rijiju

New Delhi: Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju lauded the Indian shooters for their unprecedented medal haul at the recently-concluded World Cup and hoped they would carry the stupendous form into next year's Tokyo Olympics as well.

"We are going to set the record of highest number of athletes, in terms of participation, in shooting for Tokyo Olympics. We have already secured nine berths and I am told there is a possibility of 12 quota places," he said. "We are now best in the world and I am looking forward to it that the talent that we have in shooting should reflect in the Olympics. We must be able to secure a good number of medals at the Olympics. One of the strongest disciplines from which we will have high hopes is shooting." The Sports Ministry had recently written to UK Secretary of Sport for shooting's re-inclusion in the Birmingham Commonwealth Games.

When asked about the issue, Rijiju said: "India is one of the most important nations in the Commonwealth Games Federation and excluding shooting from 2022 has upset all of us... the decision was taken in the CWG organising executive committee, there were no Indians to put up India's case. So it is not proper to take a decision which is not in the interest of India because everybody knows India has the greatest strength in shooting. We will take it up through diplomatic channels also but since it is a sporting event, we would prefer that the CWG executive committee considers our case, or else we will be very upset and register our protest. I have already written a letter so let's see, the IOA will meet me again." **PTI**

Semenya joins South African football club

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SEPTEMBER 6

CASTER SEMENYA has signed to play with a South African football team, a strong hint that the two-time Olympic 800-meter champion might be ready to give up track and field after a decade-long legal battle with the IAAF.

Semenya wrote on Twitter on Friday that she had joined Johannesburg-based women's club JVV FC and said she was looking forward to a "new journey."

The club said Semenya began training with the team this week but will only play league matches next year because the window to sign new players for this season is closed. Next year's Tokyo Olympics are in July and August, when the women's football season will be in action. Semenya didn't directly say if she was retiring from track and field.

"I am grateful for this opportunity and I appreciate the love and support I already get from the team," Semenya said. "I am looking forward to this new journey, and hopefully I can contribute as much as I can to the club."

JVV FC is owned by South Africa national women's team captain Janine van Wyk, a former Houston Dash defender.

"I am extremely elated to have such an iconic athlete join my football club," van Wyk said. "I am absolutely honored that out of all the other women's clubs around the world, she (Semenya) has chosen JVV as the club where she would like to start showcasing her football skills."

Semenya is barred from defending her 800 title at this month's world championships — and cannot compete in any top-level events in races from 400 meters to one



Semenya has joined South African club JVV FC as she appeals a CAS ruling that has brought her athletics career to a halt. *File*

mile — after refusing to follow IAAF rules requiring her to reduce her natural testosterone to compete. She is appealing against those rules at the Swiss supreme court but faced a setback in July when the court provisionally upheld the rules, ending her ambitions to defend her title at the worlds in Doha, Qatar.

The Swiss supreme court hasn't yet announced a final verdict in Semenya's appeal but she appears to be thinking about life af-

ter track.

Semenya has often posted messages on social media in the past few months hinting she would walk away from track and field if she wasn't allowed to run without taking hormone-suppressing medication.

In the hours after the Swiss supreme court upheld the IAAF regulations in that temporary ruling in July, Semenya wrote on Twitter: "First chapter of my life done, look-

I am absolutely honoured that out of all the other women's clubs around the world, she has chosen JVV as the club where she would like to start showcasing her football skills. I welcomed her at her first training [session] with the team on Tuesday and was impressed to see that she definitely has all the fundamentals."

JANINE VAN WYK,
CLUB FOUNDER AND SOUTH AFRICA CAPTAIN

ing forward to my second chapter."

The 28-year-old Semenya is one of several elite female athletes with one of a number of conditions known as differences of sex development, which result in male and female biological characteristics.

She was legally identified as female at birth and has identified as female her whole life but was born with the typical male XY chromosome pattern and has testosterone levels higher than the typical female range. The IAAF says that testosterone gives her an unfair athletic advantage over other female runners and she must medically reduce it to be allowed to compete.

The IAAF has argued that athletes with her condition are "biologically male," an assertion that Semenya calls "deeply hurtful."

Semenya is fighting for the testosterone regulations to be thrown out but lost her case at the Swiss-based Court of Arbitration for Sport earlier this year, prompting her to appeal to Switzerland's supreme court.

Argentina, Chile stalemate in LA friendly

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
LOS ANGELES, SEPTEMBER 6

ARGENTINA AND Chile ground out a 0-0 draw here Thursday in a niggly friendly international between the two South American rivals. Argentina, missing the suspended Lionel Messi and several other European-based stars including Sergio Agüero and Angel Di Maria, enjoyed the better chances but were unable to find a goal in front of a sparsely populated Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

Chile, with Alexis Sanchez leading their attack, were similarly uninspired in front of goal. Thursday's game was the latest instalment of an increasingly bitter rivalry between the two sides who met in both the 2015 and 2016 Copa America finals, won by Chile on each occasion.

The two sides also faced off in this year's Copa, with Argentina winning a third-place play-off. The intense rivalry was evident throughout, with US referee Jair Marrufo showing no fewer than 10 yellow cards in an often ill-tempered contest.

Chile midfielder Charles Aranguiz was lucky to stay on the pitch after picking up an early booking and then committing a brutal stamp on Tottenham Hotspur's Giovani Lo Celso in the first half.

Marrufo had brandished his yellow card three times within the first 15 minutes, cautioning Paris Saint-Germain midfielder Leandro Paredes in the sixth minute for a rugged tackle on Sanchez.

Aranguiz got Chile's retaliation in moments later, flattening Rodrigo De Paul to earn a yellow card before later flying in on Lo Celso. Argentina came closest to breaking the deadlock on 23 minutes, Lo Celso releasing Lautaro Martinez on the edge of the area who teed up Paulo Dybala for a shot that was superbly saved by Chile's Manchester City reserve goalkeeper Claudio Bravo.

Chile's best chance of the half came five minutes from half-time, with Aranguiz forcing a save from Porto goalkeeper Agustin Marchesin.

River Plate defender Lucas Martinez Quarta almost gave Argentina the lead in the second half, glancing De Paul's cross just wide. Chile then missed a golden chance to go in front when Eduardo Vargas cut back to find Cesar Pinares only for the midfielder's shot to clip the top of the bar.

Smalling sees long-term future in Italy

Manchester United defender Chris Smalling says he will be happy to extend his stay in Italy if his season-long loan deal at AS Roma is successful. England international Smalling fell out of favour at Old Trafford following the arrival of Harry Maguire as the world's most expensive defender from Leicester City. The 29-year-old centre back has been brought in at Roma to help fill the void left by Kostas Manolas at the heart of the defence, and he suggested he could look to make the move permanent.

"This is an opportunity that came to me that I was very interested in, and I was very eager to come," Smalling said.

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