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RALLY IN HARYANA

In 100-day message, PM cites 'big change' in J&K, invokes 'ISRO spirit'

'In those 100 seconds (at ISRO), saw nation come together'

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
ROHTAK, SEPTEMBER 8

TERMING "THE 130 crore people of India" as the "inspiration" behind the major decisions taken during the first 100 days of his government, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday said work had started towards fulfilling the dreams and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh.

Addressing the BJP's Vijay Sankalp rally in poll-bound Haryana's Rohtak, Modi also made a mention of India's moon mission Chandrayaan-2, saying that while the country had known sportsman spirit so far, it had now found "ISRO (Indian Space Research

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



PM Modi with Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar at the 'Vijay Sankalp' rally in Rohtak on Sunday. Prem Nath Pandey

Slowdown temporary and cyclical... fundamentals of economy strong: Javadekar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 8

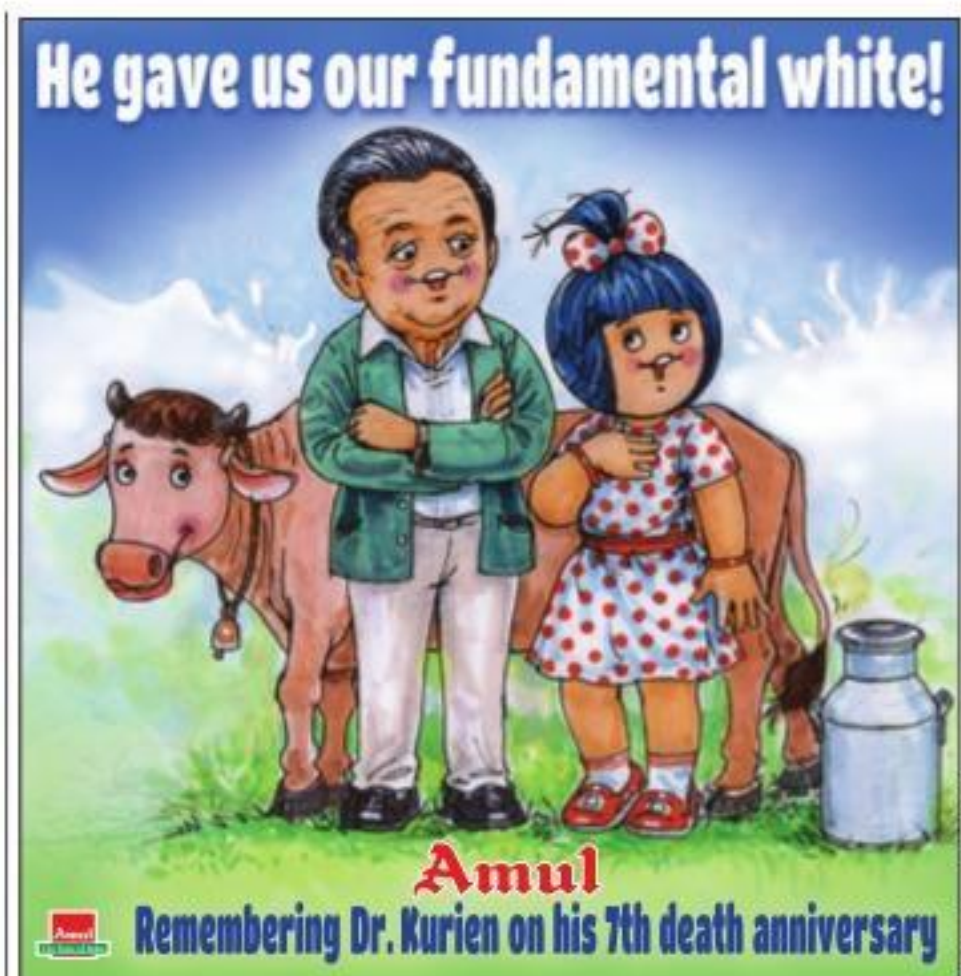
DESCRIBING THE current economic slowdown as "cyclical" and "temporary", Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said Sunday that the country's "fundamentals are strong", and that the economy is on "strong footing". India's GDP growth, which clocked an average of 7.7 per cent during 2014-18, contracted to 5% in the first quarter of the current fiscal year, the lowest in six years.

Last month, the Reserve Bank

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED
Echoes
RBI

THE CENTRE'S view that the slowdown is temporary echoes what the RBI said last month. Analysts differ, however, given that the slowdown stems from a sustained dip in investments. And the RBI's rate cut notwithstanding, some constraints to growth are likely to continue.



ISRO says lander spotted on moon, but no contact yet

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, SEPTEMBER 8

THE LOST lander module of the Chandrayaan-2 mission has been located on the surface of the moon with the help of its orbiter, ISRO Chairman K Sivan said on Sunday, adding that they had not been able to establish contact with it though.

Sivan was quoted by ANI news agency as saying the Chandrayaan-2 orbiter had managed to click a "thermal" image of the lander. Thermal images are produced by capturing infrared radiations coming from an object. They use temperature differences, rather than colour differences, to create an image.

"We have found the location of the Vikram lander on the lunar

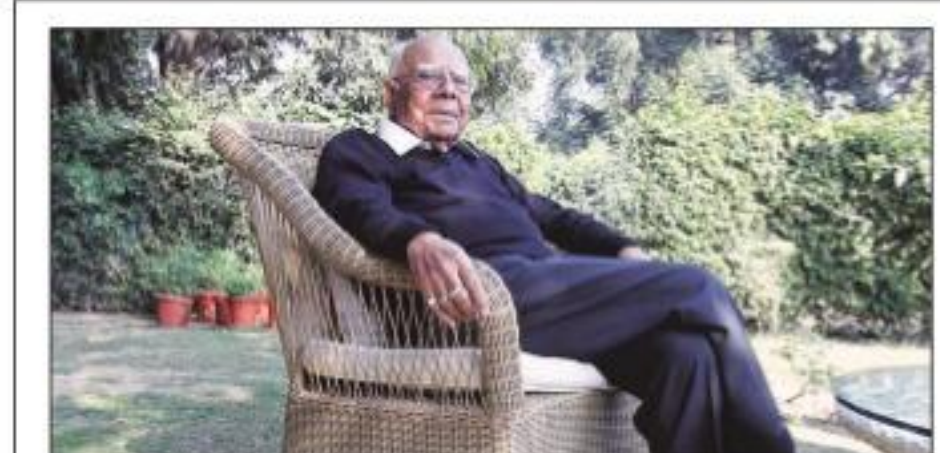
BUSINESS AS USUAL
By UNNNY



surface and the orbiter has clicked a thermal image of the lander. We are trying to establish contact. It will be communicated soon," ANI quoted Sivan as saying.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Working to his own brief, the lawyer who held court for 70 yrs



RAM JETHMALANI 1923-2019

APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 8

IN 2015, then chief justice of India T S Thakur asked Ram Jethmalani, already a nonagenarian then, when he planned to retire. "Why is My Lord asking when I will die," he retorted, as the courtroom erupted in laughter.

Veteran lawyer and former Union minister Ram Jethmalani, possibly a lawyer with the longest and perhaps most controversial career in the country, passed away Sunday morning. He was 95, and just two years into retirement from a practice

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

JETHMALANI LOVED THE LAW

BY UPENDRA BAXI
PAGE 10

MORE REPORTS
PAGE 8

going back to before Partition, during the course of which the non-conformist represented a long list of clients, from politicians accused of corruption and death row convicts to terror accused, accused in the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Mother dead, baby given up for money, family to get 'help'

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

ABHISHEK ANGAD
GUMLA, SEPTEMBER 8

STANDING IN front of her *kuchcha* house in Champanagar village in Jharkhand's Gumla district, 15-year-old Sulekha Oraon speaks impassively about her mother's death. Jhibal Tirkey, 40, died on August 26, having given birth at home to her eighth child just a couple of days earlier. Sulekha says they didn't have money to take her to a hospital, and villagers put together money for her cremation.

It's what happened to the eighth child that has now



Sulekha outside their house in Gumla. Abhishek Angad

brought the tribal family's story to government attention. The infant girl was handed over by Tirkey to a family allegedly for Rs 10,000, as she needed the money for her treatment and for her ailing husband's.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPRESS NETWORK



MUTED MUHARRAM IN SRINAGAR PAGE 8

WORLD

TRUMP CALLS OFF TALIBAN TALKS P 13

If we pick up 5, we keep one... just a few hundred with us: J&K DGP

NAVEED IQBAL
SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 8

DILBAG SINGH, who has been Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police for about a year now, says raising slogans is not always an expression of anger in Srinagar. In an interview to *The Indian Express* over a month after the clampdown in the state,



Slogans don't always mean anger: DGP Dilbag Singh

the police chief says the detention rate is much lower than the pick-up rate. Police have used community bonds to pick up and then immediately release

some 300 stone-pelters in the capital during the period, he says, and in the process successfully engaged with 3,000 people.

It's over a month since the state's special status was revoked and the massive clampdown imposed. How do you rate the current situation?

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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WEB EXCLUSIVE



HOW 'MUMMY, I AM HUNGRY' MADE MAGGI A HOUSEHOLD NAME IN INDIA

Although simple, the "Mummy, I am hungry" ad had so many nuanced messages right under that surface. No one found it spectacularly entertaining, but it got the message across - moms trust Maggi for their kids. So it had to be good!

VIDEO OF THE DAY



RAM JETHMALANI, VETERAN LAWYER DIES

Passed away Sunday at his residence in New Delhi at the age of 95

FULL COVERAGE



CHANDRAYAAN 2: LANDER SPOTTED

Trying to establish contact; must have been hard landing: Sivan

EXPRESS

AUDIO

What happened to Chandrayaan-2's lander and what it means for the mission

In this episode, we look at what led to the communication being lost, what it means for the mission and whether it will affect ISRO's future projects

FROM PAGE ONE

Lander spotted

Vikram had lost contact with the ground control station when about 2.1 km above the moon's surface. At that time, it was travelling at the speed of about 50 metres per second and not decelerating at the rate required for a safe landing. It was programmed to achieve a speed of about 2 metres per second just after touchdown, but most probably it hit the moon at a much faster pace, and could have been damaged in the process.

The extent of the damage would depend on the speed at which the lander touched down, and that is not clear as of now. It is possible, assuming that it had slowed down enough not to get completely destroyed, that some of the instruments on board survived the crash and are in usable condition. It is also possible that such instruments can be brought back to life from the ground station and made to work towards their intended objectives.

But so far attempts to restore contact with the lander or its individual components have not succeeded.

Vikram had four instruments on board, and two more instruments were installed on the rover Pragyan, which was supposed to come out from the lander after the landing, and roam on the moon's surface. The rover could have come out only if Vikram had landed erect, as designed to do. It is unlikely that the Vikram would have managed to stand erect after hitting the moon at a great speed. Therefore, the chances of the rover coming out are all but ruled out.

The four instruments on the lander were installed on different sides of it. So, it is possible that the instruments not on the face-down side of Vikram could be restarted and made to operate. For example, the instrument called RAMBHA, or Radio Anatomy of Moon Bound Hypersensitive Ionosphere and Atmosphere, was supposed to study the moon's atmosphere. If it survived the crash, it is possible it can be made to start sending data.

J&K DGP

I say with great satisfaction that the situation has been by and large peaceful, barring some minor incidents at different places. The most volatile areas are most peaceful. In the entire south Kashmir, you have the least number of law and order incidents. Most incidents being reported are from Srinagar. And (in these), there has been certain amount of motivated reporting, especially by the foreign press. Routine incidents, blown beyond proportion.

I spent two hours at downtown (Srinagar) yesterday... Safakadal, Nowhatta, Khanyar, just talking to my people. Two years ago, one of our Deputy SPs was lynched in the area. In that thana, I was told not a single inci-

dent worth reporting. That is actual downtown.

People were walking around. Shops are shut and I am not interested in forcing anyone to open shops, why should I? This is their business, their job. Only thing is we have to be a little careful in the evening that koi advantage na uthaye (no one should take advantage). Secondly, restrictions have been revoked from areas under 92 thanas. Only 13 police stations are left where there are restrictions. There are no restrictions anywhere in Jammu and Ladakh. In Leh and Kargil, Internet is working too.

Is the increase in the number of incidents at Srinagar a new development? In that light, was the death of a shopkeeper in Parimpora alarming?

In certain incidents, there is no violence or FIR. There is some venting of anger, that doesn't come into cognizable offence. Why should I record it and spoil the career of that boy? When they cross a level, there is violence, stone pelting or someone is injured, there is a report. Raising slogans is a pastime here. It's not always an expression of anger. You have seen downtown, routine mein bhi aadmi jayega to pathar pad jayega.

We are trying to use community bonds. In some 300 cases, we have used community bonds to pick up and then release stone-pelters in Srinagar alone. And if 10 people come to seek release of 10 people per case, we have successfully engaged 3,000 people. They are released the same day.

In case of Parimpora, in the kind of movement that we are allowing, one odd element with a pistol is not a difficult thing. Three of them came and did it. I believe police have good leads and they will be identified. That was painful, a person enjoying a very good reputation, he was about 65, being killed only for opening his shop.

The thing that was worrisome was misuse of social media in a very big way by Pakistan and by Pak-sponsored stooges here. Very venomous in their posts. So only under that compulsion (did we clamp down). Otherwise, no one would like to inconvenience people. People are very dependent on mobiles now and there are so many services that are based on this platform. We will try to ease out those restrictions.

What is the next phase?

Militants have tried to pressure people not to carry out trade. They have gone around pasting posters in some places and people are resisting it strongly. At some places they tried to tell people not to use any transport but vehicles are plying. Then they warned petrol pump dealers, telling them that because of them civilian traffic is plying as normal. So they are concerned about how to tell the world that Kashmir is at

a standstill. So far people have resisted this.

There have been reports and allegations of torture from South Kashmir. Are you aware of these?

We are monitoring the situation every day. There was one case where a boy was hit on the head accidentally by an army "tukdi". We took a very serious note of it. They had gone to search a home and this happened, but that's a whole different category of incident. However, people being picked up and tortured, I even saw some video alleging torture. I don't understand where those boys are now. We do not have the convention of torture anymore. Nothing of that sort.

Also, we have excellent rapport with the people that I'm very proud of. Yes, we are tough on militancy but we are also trying to bring (militants) back and hand them over to the family. There are times we don't even book cases. In the last six or seven months, we returned 16 boys back to their families. A girl had run away from home in Tral to join militancy, we brought her back in 48 hours, we counselled her.

Was the constabulary disarmed during the implementation of the Centre's August 5 decision?

In normal law and order duty, there are only lathis. We carry weapons only for operations. Weapons are only for PSOs or people on guard duty or security duties. We heard this (reports of police disarmed) right at the start and it's absolutely wrong. In law and order duties, if a person has a stick he will use a stick, if he has a weapon, he will use a weapon. And if you can use a stick, why should you fire a weapon? That is why we have not fired a single weapon. In one month's law and order deployment, not a single bullet has been fired anywhere.

What about detentions? How many people are currently detained in the state under different sections?

The figures are not specific, they change every day. Only thing is that our detention rate is much lesser compared to our pick-up rate. If we pick up five, we keep only one and the rest are released under community bonds. We have just a few hundred with us. It's not a very high figure.

Political people who are under house arrest and such are not more than 35. With them, there was a concern that they might provoke people. So the administration decided that they should be restrained and it is for their security as well.

If you can save lives with some restrictions, what is more advisable? People say life with liberty but I say life first and then liberty.

How many militants are active at the moment?

Their numbers are not very high but their movement has been notable. About 150 in South Kashmir and 250 or so overall.

We have heard that police's own information gathering is suffering because of the communication lockdown.

Police also works with sources, but now if the source's phone is not functional so how do we speak to them. To some extent, yes. Information is a little delayed but it is reaching us.

Could the August 5 decision have been implemented any other way?

This was perhaps the only option. If (restrictions) looks very harsh but it has been very useful in maintenance of law and order. Of course, this has happened at a cost for the people but we are thankful for their cooperation. Human life is more important than communication.

Cites J&K, invokes 'ISRO spirit'

Organisation) spirit".

Towards the end of his nearly 50-minute-long speech, Modi talked about the mission, which met with a major setback in the early hours of September 7 when it lost contact with a lander headed for the surface of the moon. "In those 100 seconds after 1.50 am, I experienced something. I saw how one incident kept the entire country awake, I brought the country together. I want to say that like sportsman spirit, we have ISRO spirit. The country is not ready to accept negativity today. The country has changed the parameters of success and failure. *Ab desh purusharth ki puja karta hai, parakram ki puja karta hai, ab desh parivartan ki astha ko leke chal pada hai* (The country now

honours showing of might, projection of strength, and has started moving forward with faith of change)," he said.

Earlier in his speech, Modi said, "In the last 100 days, the country and the world have seen that every challenge, be it decades old or of the future, India today challenges every challenge. We know how to take on challenges. Be it Jammu-Kashmir, Ladakh, or the deepening water crisis, 130 crore Indians have started looking for new solutions. *Jammu-Kashmir, Ladakh mein, ek nayi soch ke saath, unke sapne aur akankshaon ko poor karne mein hum jud gaye hain* (We are working to fulfill the dreams, aspirations of the people of J&K, Ladakh, with new thinking)." Last month, the Modi gov-

ernment had abrogated Article 370 giving special status to J&K, soon after putting it under a lockdown, which entered its 35th day on Sunday.

"These 100 days have been of development, trust, and big changes in the country. These 100 days have been of decision, dedication and good intentions. Whatever major decisions we have taken, the inspiration has come from the 130 crore Indians," Modi said.

Going on to take a jibe at the Opposition without naming anyone, he said, "In the last 100 days some people are clueless as to how to react... It's as if the poll defeat has numbed them and turned their minds blank."

He said the government had made laws on agriculture, issues related to national secu-

rity while also securing the rights of Muslim women.

"To strengthen the economy and banking sector, we have come up with roadmaps. In the coming days we will reap the benefits of those steps."

Modi showered praises on the Manohar Lal Khattar government, expressing confidence that it would return to power with a bigger mandate. He said that Khattar had seen what he himself had gone through when he first became the chief minister of Gujarat, when "all kinds of things" were said about him. Some say Namohar, some say Manohar, one name includes both," he said.

Khattar and Haryana BJP chief Subhash Barala were among those present.

Slowdown temporary, says Javadekar

of India, too, had said that the economy is going through a cyclical slowdown rather than a "deep structural" one. However, it had also warned that a broad-based downturn is underway in manufacturing, trade, hotels, transport, communication and broadcasting, construction and agriculture and that issues related to land, labour and agricultural marketing should be addressed.

Javadekar said the slowdown was "temporary" and that even during the UPA government's term GDP growth had slumped to 5% in one quarter.

The Union Minister was addressing the government's first press conference to mark 100 days in office, which was dominated by questions on the state of the economy.

"We have received the maximum FDI. Our fundamentals are very strong. There are sometimes issues of sentiment. There will always be some patches because the world over there is slowdown which also impacts

markets here and people's behaviour, as a result, also changes. We should not be worried too much. The government is responding with whatever actions are immediately necessary. This is a temporary phase," he said, responding to one of many questions on the economic slowdown.

The minister's constant refrain at the press conference was that there is nothing to worry. "Even an economic superpower like America has also faced a slowdown. This is temporary. We will march as per our plan. We will achieve our target of becoming a five trillion dollar economy," he said in response to another question on the economy.

Referring to the recent decision to merge public sector banks, Javadekar was asked how two bad banks can make a good bank. He disagreed saying, "That is not always true. I was a banker, and I know that mergers carried out systematically will help because there will be a synergy between banks. This is the right

step in the right direction."

Asked to respond to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's tweet in which he took a dig at the Modi government by congratulating it for "100 days of no development", Javadekar said, "I do not want to respond to criticism from a person who was missing for 90 out of those 100 days. Our work is visible to everyone. The speed with which this government has taken decisions is unprecedented."

Counting the scraping of Jammu and Kashmir's special status as one of the government's major achievements in its first 100 days, Javadekar said that, barring a small terror act Saturday, not a single bullet had been fired in the Valley over the last 35 days.

He claimed that videos of unrest shown by the foreign media were old and said that Doordarshan was showing "the country's truth". "Pakistan knocked on many doors, but the international community is standing with us," he said, a day after the United States ex-

pressed concern over the "wide-spread detentions" and "urged" Indian authorities to "respect human rights".

Asked if the government is confused over what it should do with those excluded from the National Register of Citizens (NRC), he said, "The NRC was a result of the Assam Accord and its revision was ordered by the Supreme Court. Those who are aggrieved (about being left out) can approach the (Foreigners) Tribunals. However, I do want to say that no country in the world will give rights to intruders. This is practice world over."

The passage of the Triple Talag Bill, the amendment to the POCOA Act and the launch of the Fit India Movement were cited as the government's achievements in its first 100 days.

He also counted the Chandrayaan-2 mission as an achievement of the incumbent government.

He said that the Prime Minister's attempt to console ISRO chief K Sivan showed the government's "sensitive" side.

Jethmalani

assassinations of Indira and Rajiv Gandhi, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah in their legal battles. Jethmalani, who had not been keeping well for a few months, breathed his last at 7.45 am at his official residence on New Delhi's Akbar Road, a few days before his 96th birthday on September 14. His last rites were held in the evening.

"In the passing away of Shri Ram Jethmalani ji, India has lost an exceptional lawyer and iconic public figure who made rich contributions both in the Court and Parliament. He was witty, courageous and never shied away from boldly expressing himself on any subject," Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted. Modi and Shah visited Jethmalani's residence to pay their respects.

Born in Shikarpur (now in Pakistan) in 1923, Jethmalani was a brilliant student. He completed his matriculation by the age of 13 and began his career at 17 when he pleaded his own case against the minimum age rule for a lawyer to enrol at the bar, which was 21. Interestingly, he did not graduate in law but only obtained a two-year diploma — a condensed course introduced by Bombay University in 1939.

Despite having spent six years at the bar in Sindh, Jethmalani had to qualify the Bombay bar once his family moved there after Partition. His first big break was the celebrated Nanavati trial, in which Jethmalani appeared for Prem Ahuja, the man killed by Naval Commander KM Nanavati.

Ahuja's sister roped in Jethmalani. Though he did not appear in the trial court, after Nanavati was let off by the jury and the judge referred the case to the Bombay High Court, Jethmalani assisted the public prosecutor for Maharashtra, Y V Chandrachud (later Chief Justice of India), secure a conviction for Nanavati.

During the Emergency, Jethmalani, as the chairman of the Bar Council of India, mobilised lawyers against the government. A group of around 300 lawyers, led by Nani Palkhivala and Soli Sorabjee, appeared before the Bombay High Court securing a stay on an arrest warrant issued against him.

Later, Jethmalani defended the men charged with assassinating Indira Gandhi, as well as the accused in the killing of Rajiv Gandhi seven years later. In fact, his on-off party BJP once expelled him for his decision to represent Mrs Gandhi's killers, leading to acquittal of one of the accused given the death sentence, Balbir Singh.

But in politics and his practice, Jethmalani remained a man of deep contradictions. While he wrote 10 caustic questions every day for then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on the front page of *The Indian Express* on the Bofors scandal for a few days, he also represented the Hinduja brothers, key accused in the same case, and secured an acquittal for them. When asked to respond, Rajiv had said he did not have to "respond to every dog that barks". In response, Jethmalani said he was a "watchdog" and "watchdogs only bark at thieves".

But, despite defending terror

accused Afzal Guru and Khalistani terrorist Devinder Pal Bhullar, Jethmalani was in favour of retaining the death penalty law in terror and political violence-related cases.

Jethmalani's decision to represent the Gujarat government was a turning point for the Modi-Shah duo in their legal battles. He defended Shah in the Sohrabuddin Sheikh alleged fake encounter case. Jethmalani argued that Justice Tarun Chatterjee, one of the two judges on the bench that ordered a CBI probe into the case, was under the scanner of the central agency in the multi-crore provident fund scam at that time. When Justices R M Lodha and Aftab Alam told Jethmalani that making allegations against judges could harm his reputation, he shot back in his trademark style, "I have no reputation to lose. If it is so, I don't care."

In 1977, Jethmalani first forayed into politics, defeating then law minister H R Gokhale from Bombay-North West constituency. In 1996, PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee appointed him the Union minister for Law and Justice. However, he resigned in 1999 following differences with then Attorney General of India Soli Sorabjee and then CJI A S Anand.

In 1998, he was given the portfolio of Urban Development and Planning and famously opened up the files in his ministry for public scrutiny. The move eventually contributed to the passing of the Freedom of Information Act in 2002, the predecessor of the Right to Information Act. Jethmalani briefly floated own

party, the Pavitra Hindustan Kazhagam, and even contested against Vajpayee from Lucknow in 2004, but lost. He later mended his relationship with the BJP by appearing for L K Advani in the Jain Hawala case. After he appeared for Shah in the encounter cases, he was rewarded with a Rajya Sabha seat by the party in 2010.

In just three years though, the relationship again soured and Jethmalani was expelled by the BJP for six years for "anti-party remarks". He sued the party for damages and only "settled" the case after Shah formally expressed regret over his expulsion.

One of India's highest paid lawyers, Jethmalani had since many years put up a board outside his house saying he would not be accepting any fresh cases and had upped his fee considerably to put off new clients. Still, lawyers, even seniors, would swarm already crowded courtrooms to witness Jethmalani argue whenever he did.

Such was his presence that during one hearing, Supreme Court judge U U Lalit, a criminal law expert himself, alternated between referring to the veteran as "Mr Jethmalani" and "Sir".

Gumla family

After the news broke on Saturday, the baby was taken into its care by the Gumla Child Welfare Committee (CWC). Police haven't identified the couple who took her. Meanwhile, the Rs 10,000 is almost all gone, spent on treatment, to pay off some old debt, and for the rituals following Tirkey's death.

Tirkey had been working till the morning of her delivery at a local grocery store, where she did odd jobs as a helper. Sulekha, who studies in Class 10, says they don't have a ration card, and lived hand to mouth. Tirkey's husband Charva Oraon, a rickshaw puller, has been bedridden for the past 10 months due to a stomach ailment, and the Rs 200 she made daily was the family's only source of income. Since Tirkey's death, Charva has been in hospital.

Sulekha, the second eldest of her siblings, recounts that just a few hours after Tirkey came home, the labour pains started. "Mother did not want to go to hospital because she thought she wouldn't be able to work in case she was operated upon. She used to say who would look after us. Also, we did not have any money to spare for hospital."

So, a sheet was spread on the floor of the family's kuchcha home and Tirkey delivered the baby with the help of relatives. The nearest health centre, Sadar Hospital, is just 2 km away, in the Gumla main market.

Says one of the family's relatives, Rita Tirkey, "Jhibal did not want to raise the child because she had no money. Her husband was also unwell. A couple were ready to take the child and gave Rs 10,000 in return." Rita says the women of the village helped carry Tirkey's body for cremation. "It was raining that day."

Says Gumla CWC member Kirpa Kher, "As per the statement given to us, the woman was not in a condition to raise the child so she gave her up. She received Rs 10,000." Kher adds that they are waiting to record Charva's statement. "If he expresses inability to raise her, we will initiate procedure for the girl's adoption."

Dr Sachanand Munda, who is treating Charva at Sadar Hospital, says he appeared to have a major stomach ailment. "I am assuming his haemoglobin is also down. We have conducted various tests. One of the major problems is that Charva does not have an Ayushman card which could have helped him monetarily."

The Ayushman Bharat Yojana started in Jharkhand in 2018. Under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), covering the poorest of poor households, the family should have got 35 kg foodgrain a month. But it doesn't have the AAY card either.

Kushalmay Kenneth Munda, Circle Officer of the area, says they have started the process to give the family a ration card now. Asked how they had got left out, he says, "The block procurement officer will be able to give more details."

Last month, Chief Minister Raghubar Das announced a second-gas cylinder refill under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana to 29 lakh women in the state. However, Tirkey and her family did not have a connection and cooked on wood fire.

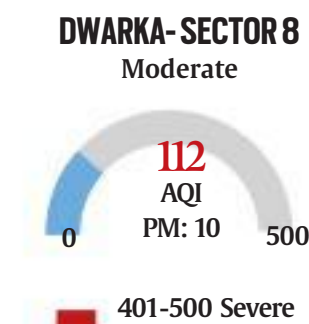
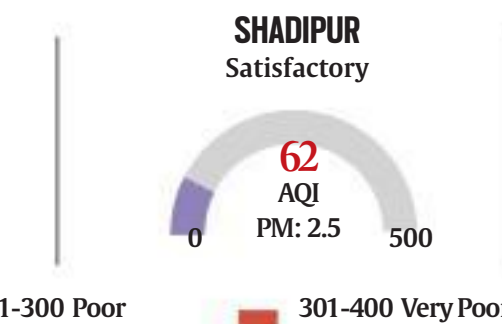
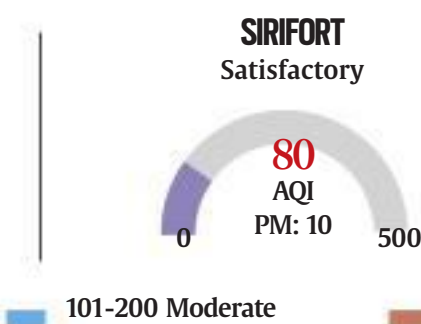
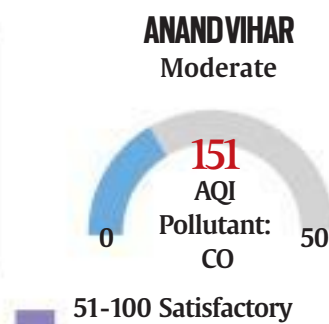
Charva's mother Maudo, who stays in a kuchcha house besides theirs, is eligible to pension under the National Social Assistance programme, but says she has never got any money. While her voter I-card registers her age as 67, her Aadhaar card says she is 51. This anomaly has led to the "confusion".

Says Rita, "*Kitne baar gaye hum log block office, mukhiya ke paas, lekin kuchch nahin hua. Ek bhi sarkar ki scheme ka fayda nahin ho raha hai* (We have gone to the block office and mukhiya several times, but nothing happened. We are not getting the benefit of a single government scheme)."

Says Deputy Commissioner, Gumla, Shashi Ranjan, "No doubt this is a very poor family and their circumstances led to the incident. But one has to understand this was their eighth child... We are providing them ration now. They are being helped now."



0-50 Good



BRIEFLY

3 get life term in rape case

Gurgaon: The Gurgaon district court sentenced three persons to life in jail for the gangrape and murder of a bar dancer in February 2016. The accused were also fined Rs 5,00,000. **PTI**

Cops get a health check

New Delhi: Police conducted six health check-ups for personnel in the South East district Saturday. More than 500 officers were tested for blood pressure, BMI, sugar levels and bone density.

Man cheats garment makers, held

New Delhi: A 44-year-old man was arrested for allegedly cheating multiple garment manufacturers by posing as the proprietor of a firm, police said.

3 injured in altercation

New Delhi: An altercation between five vendors in Shahdara left three of them with bullet injuries. Police said that they have arrested the prime accused with the weapon.

Man on run arrested

New Delhi: The Special Cell has arrested a murder accused, who had been evading arrest for a year, from Gurgaon Friday. **ENS**

CLOSE CONTEST FOR SECOND PLACE BETWEEN ABVP, BAPSA

Left panel clean sweep expected in JNUSU polls, results await HC nod

ARANYA SHANKAR
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 8

AS PER the last counting leads made public by the Election Committee (EC), the United Left Panel seemed to be heading for a sweeping victory in the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) polls. Declaration of final results has been stayed by the Delhi High Court due to pending petitions.

Two students had approached the HC arguing that Lyngdoh Committee Rules were not being followed during polls. The court then directed JNU not to notify the result till the next date of hearing, September 17.

Chief Election Commissioner Shashank Patel said, "EC completed counting of ballots for posts of Central Panel and councillors of schools at 9 pm... As per direction of Delhi HC... declaration of final result is being withheld and submitted to Jawaharlal Nehru University through Dean of Students in sealed envelopes on September 8 at 11.30 pm."



Outside a counting centre in JNU Saturday. *Praveen Khanna*

The EC Saturday had decided that the last 150 votes for the Central Panel seats would not be announced, so as to not violate the HC order. On Sunday, it withheld from announcing over 700 votes — 5,050 of 5,762 votes polled were announced.

On all four positions, the Left Panel alliance — comprising Students' Federation of India (SFI), Democratic Students' Federation (DSF), the All India Students' Association (AISA) and the All

India Students' Federation (AISF) — seemed to be way ahead of the runner up.

For the post of president, SFI's Aishe Ghosh was leading ahead of Jitendra Suna from Birsa Ambedkar Phule Students' Association (BAPSA). If the HC accepts the results, SFI would get the president's post after 13 years.

"The result... is because of the struggles we have led all year on various issues. It's also an ideological victory; it sends

out a political message that Right-wing forces can be wiped out," said Ghosh.

Similarly, on the post of general secretary, AISA's Satish Chandra Yadav was leading, followed by ABVP's Shruti Agnihotri. At joint secretary too, ABVP's Sumant Kumar Sahu was trailing behind AISF's Mohd Danish.

The remaining 700 votes would decide who comes second, BAPSA or ABVP. In the two posts that BAPSA is contesting in alliance with Fraternity, inspired by the Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, it is in close contest with ABVP.

At president, Suna was ahead of ABVP's Manish Jangid. Similarly, on the post of general secretary, Fraternity's Waseem R S was trailing behind ABVP's Sabareesh.

Suna said he was expecting BAPSA to perform better: "The Left's propaganda against Jamaat seems to have worked. We need to work better and make inroads

in the School of Languages, which is their stronghold."

ABVP's Agnihotri said the close contest between ABVP and BAPSA was due to Left votes going to the latter. "Since SFI and AISA exchanged posts this year, AISA voters who were upset with SFI fighting for president voted for BAPSA in that position. On general secretary, since the AISA candidate had been called out for sexist remarks in the past, Left votes shifted to BAPSA instead of going to him," she said.

ABVP had hoped to gain votes by celebrating the abrogation of Article 370, which found mention in their speeches. However, Agnihotri said she didn't see the results as a mandate on Kashmir.

Congress' National Students' Union of India and Chhatra Rashtriya Janata Dal also contested. NSUI fielded a candidate only for the post of president. CRJD candidates were faring poorly on posts of president and vice-president.

The Left has been sweeping all four seats since 2016. The ABVP came second on all posts last year.

Tailor's son who got into IIT gets some help from Delhi family

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 8

VIJAY KUMAR (16), who got admission to IIT-Delhi after he attended classes at a private coaching centre under the Delhi government's Jai Bhim Mukhyamantri Pratibha Vikas Yojana, has found support in a Delhi-based business family, which has decided to fund his college education.

"After hearing about Vijay's case, Varun Gandhi and his family decided to fund his education at IIT-Delhi. Their gesture will inspire others to contribute to society too," said Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal at a press conference Sunday.

The fee, including course fee of Rs 90,000 per semester, of the teenager, whose father is a tailor and mother a homemaker, will be borne by the family till he graduates from the institute.

Vijay and his parents, along with Gandhi and his mother, were present at the event. "The scheme can help several students like me who do not have resources to attend coaching," said Vijay.

Gandhi, who studied at Shri



16-year-old Vijay with CM Arvind Kejriwal. *Amit Mehra*

Ram College of Commerce, said he wanted to help those who do not have sufficient resources to compete at the same level as others. "... We should help our brothers and sisters shine... Education has been an integral part of our family — my mother, younger brother and I, we have been toppers and gold medalists. It is through this education that we have achieved such great heights. Education is not a privilege, it is a right," he said.

Last week, the scheme, under which students from reserved categories can attend classes in coaching centres free of cost, was extended to all children from the economically weaker sections.

Kejriwal is a graduate of IIT-Kharagpur. His son too got admission at IIT-Delhi.

Hit by ambulance, truck driver dies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NOIDA, SEPTEMBER 8

A 35-YEAR-OLD truck driver was crushed to death by a moving vehicle in Greater Noida Sunday morning. The driver, Ranjit Singh, had stepped out of his Canter after crossing the toll when a speeding vehicle, allegedly an ambulance, hit him.

"The incident took place on the Eastern Peripheral Expressway. It appears the driver



The accident took place on the Eastern Peripheral Expressway. *Archive*

was hit by a speeding ambulance which did not stop. We are yet to

identify the vehicle, but we are scanning CCTV footage from the area. A case has been filed for rash driving," said Jitendra Singh, SHO, Dadri.

Police said Singh had stopped his truck a few metres ahead of the toll. Just as he was getting out, the speeding vehicle hit him. The impact was such that he was flung into the air and landed in front of his truck.

The truck, ferrying labourers, was travelling from Kasganj towards Haryana. They rushed

him to a nearby hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival. Police said he sustained serious injuries.

Singh hailed from Haryana and was working as a driver for a private firm. Police said since the vehicle in question was travelling at such high speed, no one could identify it, despite several eyewitnesses being present at the spot.

Police said they are examining CCTV footage from the toll plaza as well, to trace the accused.

Ex-BSP candidate shot dead in car

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 8

A 44-YEAR-OLD man was shot dead in his car in Outer North Delhi's Narela Sunday morning. Police said five unidentified persons allegedly fired multiple shots at the victim, and suspect the shooting to be a case of personal enmity.

The victim, Virender Mann, had contested the 2013 Assembly polls from Narela on a BSP ticket

and lost, his family said, adding he had joined AAP in 2016.

"We were informed of the incident at 10.45 am. We rushed to the spot and found Mann lying in his car with bullet injuries to his face, chest and abdomen. He was rushed to Satyawadi Raja Harish Chandra Hospital and declared dead on arrival. We also found he was involved in around 14 criminal cases. Witnesses are being questioned and CCTVs are being checked. We will identify and nab the accused soon," said Gaurav

Sharma, DCP (Outer North).

Akshay (25), an eyewitness, told *The Indian Express*, "I was in my shop when I heard gunshots and people screaming. When I went outside, I saw people running towards the DDA market. Four or five men in a white Swift had fired 15-20 shots at the driver of another white car. I called police, who came in 10 minutes. The men had fled by then."

Mann is survived by his wife and his father and lived in North West Delhi's Khera Khurd village.

Shri Rajeev Sharma
Chairman & Managing Director

PFC – INDIA'S LARGEST INFRA FINANCE COMPANY & LARGEST GOVERNMENT NBFC

Chairman's Speech at the
33rd AGM of Power Finance Corporation
held on 27th August, 2019

28th March 2019 was a Red Letter Day in the history of PFC, when your Company acquired Government of India's 52.63% equity stake in REC Limited (formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited), for a total consideration of ₹ 14,500 Crs. With this landmark deal, PFC is now a promoter and the holding company of REC Limited.

to ₹ 6,00,000 Crores

Assets Up from ₹ 3,00,000 Crores

diversification of assets of the group as well as better management of portfolio risk and would also help in resolution of stressed power sector assets of the group in a better and coordinated manner.

I am pleased to share that post the acquisition transaction, PFC's credit rating has been retained and your company has also kept the Capital Adequacy Ratio at comfortable levels to reassure shareholders, investors & credit rating agencies about the business growth going forward.

On the business front, the year also saw some significant landmarks for PFC on a standalone basis. We achieved our highest ever annual profit of about ₹ 7,000 Crs. Your Company has recorded its highest ever disbursements for three years in a row and with this year's loan disbursements crossing ₹ 67,600 Crs mark. The loan assets also crossed the ₹ 3 lakh milestone and saw a robust growth of 13% during the year.

On the borrowing front, the share of foreign currency borrowings in the overall borrowing increased to 10% on the back of fresh foreign currency mobilization of USD 1.5 billion during the year. In June 2019, PFC raised USD 1 billion under its MTN programme with 5 years and 10 year tenors, which was the first dual and largest USD bonds transaction for Government owned Indian NBFC and also the first 5 year issuance by PFC. Going forward, we expect the foreign currency borrowings to contribute to our portfolio to a greater extent. As indicated earlier, 54EC Capital Gain Tax bonds are an important source of funds for PFC owing to its low cost. I am happy to share that the mobilization under the capital gains tax bonds has witnessed a 2.7 time jump from the previous financial year. Due to the various efforts made by your Company on the borrowing front, the cost of funds has reduced significantly from 8.21% in FY18 to 7.95% in FY19.

A decisive majority for NDA 2.0 under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi would only add to India's political and economic muscle in the comity of nations. The Government's commitment to an 'all inclusive economic and socially harmonious' order would further the cause of spreading prosperity and a spirited campaign against poverty in line with United Nation's millennium development goals. Taking the economic growth story to rural India would be natural extension of the country's journey thus far.

With a healthy GDP of around 7% in the last five years, India's economic profile has never been better globally. Liberal policies adopted by the Central Government have only lent an edge to India as an attractive investment destination amongst emerging markets.

Stabilization and reduction in Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates across product categories seem to have enticed investors within and outside the country. Strong domestic consumption demand has provided a big fillip to industry, services, farm sector and exporters laying a firm foundation for long haul investments. Various government initiatives like 'Make in India' & 'Digital India' have given opportunities to foreign companies for setting up their facilities in India.

India's famed labour force is expected to touch 170 million by next year, turning the country into a powerhouse for human resources and key supplier of manpower internationally. Leveraging the demographic potential also seems to have begun in the right earnest with pan-India skills development campaign taken up by centre in partnership with State Governments, corporate world and other stakeholders.

India is firmly on its way to catapult into the big league. It's all set to become the third largest economy in 10 - 15 years backed by strong democracy and partnerships. India's GDP is expected to reach USD5 trillion in next few years and achieve upper-middle income status on the back of digitization, globalization, favorable demographics and reforms.

The growth of Indian economy has been supplemented by the power sector despite facing several challenges. Now every village has access to quality and affordable electricity while power to every family has become a near reality. Energy deficit has been reduced to almost zero and India emerges as net exporter of electricity to Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar. More than 1,07,000 MW Generation Capacity has been added between April 2014 and March 2019. These developments coupled with a huge capacity creation in renewable and new

energy resources have provided a great business opportunity to your Company. Under Saubhagya, a flagship scheme of Government of India, almost 100% household electrification has been achieved. More than ₹ 34,000 Crore interest cost has been saved by DISCOMs under UDAY within two years. Providing electricity to all, round the clock, 365 days a year has become the next big challenge that's being tackled head on.

Various steps have been taken by Government of India to tackle the issue of stressed assets in Power Sector. Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala Transparently in India (SHAKTI) was launched to provide coal to the stressed power projects. SHAKTI covers projects which have PPAs but do not have Fuel Supply Agreements in place and also those which do not have Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs). The objective of this scheme is to eliminate the stress in generation utilities. Some of these stressed projects have already started to receive coal under the scheme. Also, a Pilot Scheme for mid-term PPA for stressed projects was launched by the Ministry of Power for which PFCL, our subsidiary company is the Nodal Agency and PTC is the aggregator to purchase power for three years from commissioned projects with no PPA. Under the scheme, beneficiary states have signed PPAs for 1900 MW with eligible bidders at a tariff of ₹ 4.24 per unit. Now Phase II of the Pilot PPA scheme has been finalized with a tariff of ₹ 4.41 per unit. Ministry of Power has also issued significantly important guidelines with respect to timelines for approving the petitions for tariff increase due to change in law and also the directions mandating the power distribution licensees to open and maintain adequate Letter of Credit as a payment security mechanism under Power Purchase Agreements. These initiatives will help the projects to sell power on sustainable basis and resolve the stress going forward.

I am pleased to share that under these schemes some of the projects financed by PFC have received coal linkages and also mid-term PPAs, which will help in resolution of stress.

In order to encourage Renewable Generation, Ministry of Power extended the waiver of ISTS Transmission

charges and losses for Solar & Wind based Projects upto March 2022. Further, in order to achieve the Renewable target of 1,75,000 MW of Renewable Capacity by 2022, MOP issued Long Term Growth trajectory Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) for Solar as well as Non-Solar till the year 2022.

India's rank improved to 24 in 2018 from 137 in 2014 on World Bank's Ease of doing business - 'Getting Electricity' Ranking. Several measures have been initiated to reform and strengthen the power sector as a whole including power generation, transmission and distribution. These also include achievements in capacity addition and also important reforms being undertaken for increasing energy efficiency and increasing accountability and transparency by launching Mobile applications like PRAAPTI, Ash Track etc.

Your Company's philosophy of Corporate Governance stems from its belief that the spirit of good governance lies in adherence to highest standards of transparency, accountability, ethical business practices, compliance of law in true letter and spirit, adequate disclosures, corporate fairness, social responsiveness and commitment to the organization to meet stakeholders aspirations and societal expectations.

Your Company is a socially responsible corporate entity which is committed to improving the quality of life of the society at large by undertaking projects for Sustainable Development. PFC's focus on the CSR front has been on the projects for national as well as local importance. Some of the projects like skill development for economically and socially backward men and women, installation of solar street lights, provision for medical equipment etc. have a wide reaching impact on our society as a whole. Your company has disbursed ₹ 118 crore under the CSR activities in FY19.

I am extremely thankful to the shareholders, who have reposed faith in us. My sincere and heartfelt thanks go out to the Hon'ble Union Minister of State (I/c) for Power & New and Renewable Energy and officials of the Ministry of Power for their continued support and guidance. I am also truly grateful to Board of Directors, Investors and Valued Clients for their support.

Rajeev Sharma
Chairman & Managing Director
DIN No.: 00973413

Place : New Delhi
Date : 27.08.2019

(This does not purport to be a record of the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting held on 27 August, 2019. For full text, please visit : www.pfcindia.com)

13% Loan Assets (Gross)

₹ 3,14,667 cr.

₹ 2,19,639 cr.

2x jump in 54EC Capital Gain Tax Bonds

Maiden US \$1 Billion Bond Issue

Cost of Funds 26bps

8.21%

7.95%

58% Profit After Tax

₹ 16,953 cr.

₹ 10,681 cr.

PFC

प्री एफ सी

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(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
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4 HARDLOOK PARKING CRISIS



Praveen Khanna

"TODAY, THE social fabric of neighbourhoods is being torn asunder because of fights over this most petty issue of parking," the Supreme Court observed on September 2. "Therefore, we feel there is a need to pass a detailed order on a mundane issue like parking because this may impact town planning."

What prompted the country's highest court to intervene in such a "mundane" matter, and how the mess can be fixed will be a priority for authorities in the national capital in the weeks ahead.

To understand the root of this "petty issue", one needn't go beyond the city's bustling Lajpat Nagar market.

A yellow house with an asbestos sheet roof, two rooms and open space on a 100-square yard plot near Lajpat Nagar's railway crossing is among a handful of homes that have not seen any changes since it was built in the 1950s — a reminder of how the area was designed with limited open space for refugees who came from Pakistan.

While this house remained entangled in a property dispute, most buildings in the area reached four floors. And along with this vertical growth came an influx of vehicles.

The locality in Lajpat Nagar I, which had cycles parked inside most homes in the 1950s, was referred to in the recent Supreme Court judgment as an area that was supposed to have only one vehicle, but now has about eight cars per plot.

With the capital fast running out of space, three things are set to happen in Delhi in the coming months to address its parking crisis. In an order last week, the Supreme Court directed civic bodies to remove all encroachments from pavements in residential areas; notify the draft parking policy; and implement suggestions of a report submitted on better management of — and last-mile connectivity from — parking spaces by studying the viability of radio frequency identification (RFID) and other systems.

For Lajpat Nagar, one of the three colonies selected for a pilot project, the court referred to a report submitted by the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) about how movement of even ambulances and fire tenders is hindered since most cars are parked on the road.

Noting that such a situation "cannot be allowed to go on", the SC suggested a slew of measures, directing the Delhi government to ensure that a proper assessment of parking needs for the next 25 years is done, before granting permission to build "any structure".

The EPCA and other bodies have been asked to prepare pilot projects for Krishna Nagar, Kamla Nagar and Lajpat Nagar. Municipalities had already identified these areas for running a pilot similar to Lajpat Nagar III, where the environment authority drew up a shared parking programme with hospitals and educational institutions to meet demand. The EPCA has also suggested issuing stickers to identify residents and visitors.

Visits to the three colonies showed the challenges authorities are up against.

Lajpat Nagar

A gated colony with guards outside most blocks, wider roads, plush houses with backyards and a handful of shops, Lajpat Nagar III is unlike other areas in the locality, which have a higher density of cars and commercialised streets. But when it comes to cars, the EPCA report shows that even this area is beyond capacity.

The EPCA said Lajpat Nagar III envisages a demand for parking 3,510 cars whereas the demarcated parking can only accommodate 1,830. To make space for the rest, hospitals and educational institutions are supposed to open their doors.

Resident Welfare Association (RWA) of office bearer Poonam Bhasin said, "The RWA has already issued stickers and we ensure visitors' cars are parked correctly... for us, the main issue is shoppers coming to neighbouring Central Market and parking their cars here."

In neighbouring Lajpat Nagar I, residents feel the main challenge the civic body will face

Space programme

Choked markets, neighbourhoods on edge — the capital's parking crisis extracts a heavy toll on residents. With the Supreme Court putting authorities on a deadline, the next few months will be crucial. SHIVAM PATEL & ABHINAV RAJPUT report



Praveen Khanna



Anita Mehra

(Clockwise from top) The three localities — Lajpat Nagar, Krishna Nagar and Kamla Nagar — have been identified for a pilot parking project

CITY PARKING POLICY

Aug 2017: Delhi government forms panel of experts to formulate parking rules

Jan 2018: Draft rules issued for public comments

Feb-Mar: Revisions made after consultations

April-May: Approved and ready for notification

June: Awaiting notification. Authorities enquire if Lieutenant Governor's approval is needed

Jan 18, 2019: SC directs final decision should be taken in 10 days

Feb 7: Delhi government files affidavit seeking time to re-publish and invite suggestions

Feb 11: SC directs EPCA to review proposed modifications

Sept 2: SC directs Delhi government to notify rules by September 30, also asks for a report on management of parking spaces.

(The Delhi Maintenance and Management of Parking Places Rules; Source: EPCA)

ANNUAL PARKING DEMAND OF DELHI



1.66 lakh
new cars registered in 2016-17

382 hectares
Additional area required for car parking



6 lakh
two-wheelers registered in 2016-17

277 hectares
Additional area required for parking

659 HECTARES: TOTAL ADDITIONAL AREA REQUIRED

is replicating the Lajpat Nagar III model. Pawan Arora, who came to Lajpat Nagar from Lahore with his family in 1952, said, "Till the mid 1980s, the area had very few cars. People who owned a Maruti 800 were local celebrities."

Four decades on, with streets being notified as commercial, hundreds of shops have mushroomed. There is encroachment on both sides and vehicles are parked haphazardly. "We welcome the move to shift additional cars to schools or hospitals, but is there enough space?" said Arora.

Following economic liberalisation in 1991, Central Market, like many other shopping hubs, saw a boom — from roughly 50 shops in the 1960s, it has more than 800 today.

Bharat Shah, a resident, said, "But a nexus between officials and shoppers led to encroachment. There was a massive anti-encroachment drive last year; a year later, all such areas have been reclaimed by hawkers."

Pressures to keep constituents happy also plays a part. A senior official in the South MCD said: "Rooms for guards are mostly built on public land by influential people. If we send our team for action, we face a lot of political pressure. The same is the case if we try to tow vehicles from inner lanes."

In its order, the court has directed the

MCDs to remove all encroachments, after giving 15 days' notice to encroachers.

South MCD deputy commissioner Prem Shanker Jha, however, said the idea is to take RWAs along. "Locals also want regulated parking. If we convince them it is ultimately for their good, it will be done." He said a drive to earmark legal parking space in Lajpat Nagar III will start next week, with yellow stripes put in place in consultation with RWAs.

Kamla Nagar

In the 1980s, Kamla Nagar was dominated by residential apartments with commercial shops peppered in lanes that merge in the centre, where a shopping mall now stands. Today, the North Delhi neighbourhood resembles a market more than a residential area.

Its close proximity to Delhi University's North Campus also makes it a popular location among students. "There's been a sudden burst of commercialisation here since the late 1980s which has caused residents a lot of trouble. It's always noisy and congested, and many people have left as a result over the years," said R K Seth, RWA president of Kamla Nagar's F Block.

"We have asked the North Corporation to

either declare this as a totally commercial area or make it completely residential, because our children do not want to live here anymore," he said.

Residents complain they have no place to park their cars during the day as market visitors take over the area. Authorities claimed the only designated parking site for the entire Kamla Nagar neighbourhood is a multi-level underground space below Spark Mall, in the centre of the busy market.

Action against those who park in the by-lanes is taken by traffic police every now and then, and vehicles being towed is a common scene, shop owners said. Despite this, there are few takers for the authorised parking space.

Pranav Kumar, executive director of Spark Mall, said their fully automated eight-level parking lot can accommodate 800 cars and over a 100 motorcycles. Despite this, in the last five years, only 200 cars are parked there on an average every day.

"It's a total loss of a Rs 207-crore project. We thought we would break even in 12 years but looking at our current situation, even 50 years won't be enough. I am having to pay salary to my parking staff out of my own pocket; we have come to a point that we will

have to close this mall," he said.

Under a pilot project for better management of parking spaces in the area, North corporation officials said they plan to use the full capacity of the mall parking, streamline on-road parking and find alternative sites which could meet the spillover demand.

Ira Singhal, North MCD deputy commissioner, said, "We are trying to develop the market area to make it congestion free. We will find a solution for parking according to requirements of people."

An earlier draft of the parking policy — put up on the transport department's website for the public — had a crucial component of making parking on streets in residential areas chargeable. The clause, however, was deleted later fearing backlash from people — a move strongly criticised by the EPCA.

The revised draft rules have made provisions for determining parking fee with help from municipalities and other official agencies.

At present, people parking illegally on the streets are fined by traffic police, but municipal authorities said they face enforcement issues in getting people to use legal parking. Charges for parking inside the mall are Rs 25 per hour for four wheelers and lesser for two-wheelers. A monthly pass of Rs 3,000 is also available for

cars, and around 400 of them have been issued.

Krishna Nagar

The East Delhi area faces a similar problem, with all streets facing the markets choked.

East Delhi RWA president B S Bohra said that when residents bought the land, the rates were vis-a-vis the open spaces and road length. "This means that we have paid for the roads as well. We are ready to support civic bodies in their other endeavours, but not in charging fee for street parking," he said.

There are just two schools in the area with space for not more than 100 cars, a multi-level parking inaugurated before Lok Sabha elections is not yet functional, and encroachments remain a concern.

East MCD officials said they will soon declare some market areas in Krishna Nagar pedestrian-friendly, after which drives will be started to clear encroachments.

Professor P K Sarkar, director of transport at the Asian Institute of Transport Development, said there is a lack of effective enforcement measures when it comes to unauthorised parking. He suggested that in order to motivate people to use legal parking spaces, authorities can levy higher charges for street parking and lower charges for parking in designated spaces.

Sarkar added that the current system of towing away vehicles parked illegally is inefficient and that more stringent measures, such as deflating tyres, could be considered.

He also said RWAs can set a parking charge after consultation with residents. "Money collected can be used to improve road safety infrastructure or to acquire more public transport buses..."

He also said the parking payment system can be automated just like booking a movie ticket, where a person can pay in advance and reduce human interference: "Through apps, parking areas in Delhi can be mapped and visitors can see how long it would take for a space to become available and plan their journey accordingly."

The gap

A report submitted to the Supreme Court by EPCA in February says the annual demand for additional parking space in Delhi can be equivalent to 310 football fields. It also pointed out that personal vehicles occupy more than 85% of parking area in Delhi but meet minuscule travel demand. "Buses take up barely 4-5% of the total equivalent car space (ECS) of parking spaces, but carry 20 times more people," the report said.

Another EPCA report stated that a survey was carried out in randomly selected localities in Delhi, and among its findings were that residential parking charges are being collected by RWAs in some areas.

"Other places that do not charge are running out of space, creating safety hazards by leaving no room for fire engines... lack of parking regulations implies that local agencies (municipal corporations) cannot regulate residential parking spill-over on public road," it said.

The survey report also found that several multi-level car parks in the city were under-utilised because there was no parking charge on public land. "The policy must be designed to restrain growth of demand, as much as it is designed to manage supply," it said.

The Centre for Science and Environment is consulting with agencies that are implementing the parking pilot project in the three Delhi localities. Anumita Roychowdhury, executive director, CSE, said the plan in general is to identify parking spaces that exist in these localities and integrate them for more efficient use.

She added that use of modern technology, such as RFID, will help in better management of parking fees and space identification. "In multi-level parking, you have dashboards showing the space that is available. A similar system with use of technology that is connected to an application will help identify available surface-level parking... This would also help in automated collection of parking fees," she said, adding that the projects are in the planning stage at present.

Mercury sees slight dip in city after rain

New Delhi: A day after moderate rain was witnessed in parts of Delhi, the mercury dipped by a notch in the city, with the minimum temperature settling at 26.4 degrees Celsius.

The national capital recorded an average rainfall of 47.4 mm from 8.30 am on Saturday to 8.30 am on Sunday, according to the Meteorological Department. The relative humidity in the evening was recorded at 60%.

The maximum temperature recorded at the Palam, Safdarjung and Ayanagar stations were 36.6, 35.5 and 35.6 degrees Celsius respectively.

On Saturday, Delhi recorded a high of 35.5 degrees Celsius, three notches above normal, and a low of 27.8 degrees Celsius.

A fresh spell of moderate rain in Delhi on Saturday provided much-needed relief from the sultry weather.

Weather stations at Palam, Lodhi Road and Ayanagar had gauged 47.4 mm, 37.6 mm and 18.5 mm of rain. **PTI**

TRUCK FINED FOR OVERLOADING
Driver given Rs 1 lakh for challan, flees with it

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 8

WHEN YAMIN Khan, a Delhi-based transporter, incurred a challan of Rs 1.16 lakh for an overloaded truck in Haryana's Rewari last week, he turned to the driver to take the money and deposit it at the RTO office. Khan, who faced an increased penalty under the amended Motor Vehicles Act, was in for another shock when he realised the driver, Jakar Hussein, was avoiding his calls and had not submitted the money to the authorities.

Police, who had registered an FIR against Hussein for criminal breach of trust, arrested the 57-year-old from his village in UP's Firozabad. Police said Khan had hired Hussein five months ago

and this was the first time he gave him cash to pay a challan.

After the amendment to the MV Act, the penalty for overloading was increased from Rs 2,000 to Rs 20,000. The charges for the extra weight were also increased from Rs 1,000 per tonne to Rs 2,000 per tonne.

According to a police officer, Hussein wanted to teach Khan a lesson as he had scolded him for incurring such a hefty challan. "He was waiting for an opportunity which came when Khan gave him the money," the officer said.

Khan's company usually transports grain and he told police that since the challan was issued in Rewari, he gave the money to Hussein. Khan realised something was wrong when despite calling him repeatedly, he couldn't reach Hussein.

"On September 1, the truck was moving from Delhi to Haryana when it was challaned for overloading. Since the driver didn't have enough cash at the time, he gave me the challan. I had a week left to pay the fine and gave the money to Hussein Friday to make sure it was paid on time. The next day, when I called him, he didn't take my calls. I called the RTO in Rewari found out that he never reached Rewari," said Khan.

Police said technical surveillance showed Hussein was en route his village Saturday.

"An officer went there and instructed the family to not call or message Hussein. Later at night, when the accused reached his house, he was arrested, the cash was recovered and he was brought back to Delhi," said Atul Kumar Thakur, DCP (South).

6 held for robbing house, holding 3 women captive

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 8

SIX MEN have been arrested for allegedly robbing a house in West Delhi's Naraina Vihar Friday. Police said that two of the accused entered the house and threatened the owner of the house with a pistol at 11 am.

They then confined the woman, her daughter-in-law and their help in the kitchen. In her complaint, the woman said one of the accused pointed a pistol at her and the other held the help.

"The men forcefully took the woman's gold jewellery (rings, bangles and necklaces). They then went to the bedroom and took Rs 1,50,000 cash. The men then locked the women inside a bedroom and left. The woman filed a complaint about the incident in the evening. An FIR was registered against the accused. Police recovered CCTV footage and identified one of the accused, Mohammad Razi. He was later arrested. During questioning, he disclosed the names of his associates who were arrested. We also arrested the jeweller who bought the stolen items from the accused," said a senior police officer.

Police recovered a country-made pistol, five phones, Rs 1 lakh cash and gold jewellery from the accused.

DELHI UNDERGROUND

A little too enthusiastic

During the Jan Aashirwad Yatra held across Haryana the past month, which culminated at Rohtak Sunday, CM Manohar Lal Khattar found himself spending a significant amount of time trying to calm people who came to hear him speak. Their sloganeering and cheers more often than not, drowned out his words. On multiple occasions, he had to grab the mike from the compere at the venue and request the crowd to calm down and allow him to speak.

Warming up

The Delhi government and the Supreme Court-mandated anti-pollution watchdog EPCA have crossed swords several times in the past, but CM Arvind Kejriwal has seemingly warmed up to the organisation. He recently praised the EPCA for its role in controlling pollution in the city. It is learnt that the government has also reached out to the EPCA, through its advisory body Dialogue and Development Commission, for suggestions in tackling the winter months when pollution spikes.

Delhi-Alwar RRTS link: Phase I work gathers pace, testing on at Rajiv Chowk

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GURGAON, SEPTEMBER 8

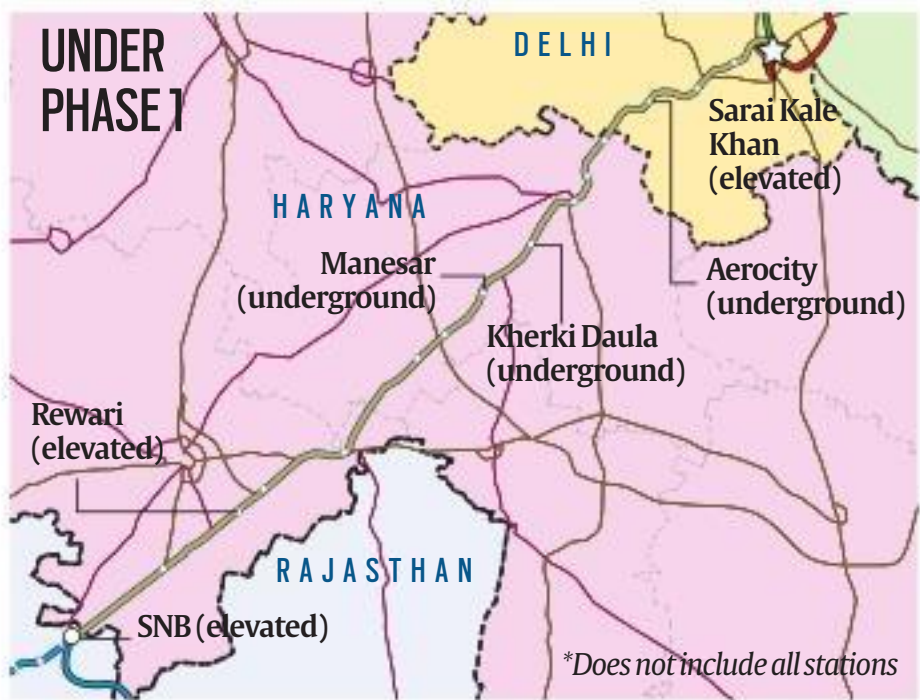
SEVEN MONTHS after the Haryana government approved the detailed project report of the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridor between Delhi and Alwar, work on phase one — which links Delhi, Gurgaon, and the SNB (Shahjahanpur, Neemrana and Behror) Urban Complex — is picking up pace.

Officials said while soil testing, geotechnical investigation and utility diversion are already underway, the National Capital Region Transport Corporation has begun conducting pile load tests — a critical step to determine "resistance and load-bearing capacity of the soil" before setting up piers, viaducts — at Rajiv Chowk.

"A tender has also been floated for engaging a Detailed Design Consultant for civil, archi-

CONNECTING DELHI, GURGAON, RAJASTHAN

UNDER PHASE I



164 km
LENGTH OF DELHI-ALWAR CORRIDOR

TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN 3 STAGES

- Delhi-Gurgaon-SNB Urban Complex
- SNB Urban Complex-Sotanala
- SNB Urban Complex-Alwar

*Does not include all stations

tectural and E&M works for the design of three elevated stations in Gurgaon-Udyog Vihar, Sector 17, and Rajiv Chowk, and for an elevated viaduct between IDPL complex ramp to Rajiv Chowk


ramp," said an official.

The 106-km-long Delhi-Gurgaon-SNB Urban Complex corridor will be elevated for 71 km and will run underground for 35 km. It will converge at Sarai

Kale Khan with the other RRTS corridors — Delhi-Meerut corridor and Delhi-Panipat corridor. It is expected to reduce travel time between Delhi and SNB to around 70 minutes.

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

MARTYR OF 1/11 GORKHA RIFLES



Capt B Subramaniam

IC-13718H Capt B Subramaniam and JC-45151L Nb Sub Chhabhi Lal Limbu of 1/11 Gorkha Rifles (BATALIK) had made the supreme sacrifice during OP ORCHID in a true act of valour. The brave soldiers will always be remembered for their enthusiasm. To these brave Martyrs we pledge that we shall always be guided by their immortal spirit and make their name proud.

CO AND ALL RANKS, 1/11 GORKHA RIFLES (BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE) (BATALIK)

HSIIDC
SELECTION OF AGENCY FOR IMPLEMENTING STREET VENDOR PROJECT

Haryana State Industrial & Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC) invites proposals from reputed Firms for Selection of Agency for implementing Street Vendor Project under the 'Street Vendors' Act 2014 IE, Udyog Vihar Gurugram, IMT Manesar, Bawal (Rewari), Pachkula Industrial Estate of Faridabad.

The RFP document detailing the Eligibility Criteria, Scope of Work Terms & Conditions for undertaking the assignment can be downloaded from the HSIIDC official website at www.hsiidc.org.in.

Prebid meeting will be held on **24.09.2019**. The bids should be submitted latest by **2.00 P.M.** on or before **14.10.2019**.

For any queries contact Mr. Manoj Bansal (DGM)- 94170-19447.

All details including any Proposal Due Date extensions, clarification amendments, addenda, corrigenda, etc., will be uploaded only on the website of HSIIDC and will not be published in Newspapers. Hence Applicants may regularly visit the website of HSIIDC to keep themselves updated about such developments.

Note: HSIIDC reserves the right to make changes to the terms of RFP document & reject any or all offers without assigning any reason thereof.

Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Dev. Corpn. Ltd.
Regd. Office: C-13 & 14, Sector-6, Panchkula. Ph.: 0172-2590481-83
Fax: 2590352, Website: www.hsiidc.org.in E-mail: info@hsiidc.org.in
CIN U29199HR1967SGC034545

78579/HRV

बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda
POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immoveable Property)

[As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **BANK OF BARODA** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 and rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the borrower(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the receipt of the said notice.

The borrower(s)/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s)/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules.

The borrower(s)/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of the **BANK OF BARODA** for the amount stated herein below and further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time, available to redeem the secured assets.

Name of Borrower / Guarantors & Description of Immoveable Properties

Branch / Name of Borrowers/ Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession / Amount Outstanding	Description of the properties
Branch: Daudnagar Shri Avinash Kumar Demand Notice: 13.03.2018 Date of Possession: 06.09.2019 Amt: ₹7,51,107.32/- (Rupees Seven lakhs fifty one thousand one hundred seven and paisa thirty two only) as on 12.03.2018 + Int., charges & expenses.	A) All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Khata No.165, Plot No.10, Mauza- Chauram, Thana-Daudnagar and District- Aurangabad, Area- 2 decimals (bearing Sale Deed No.1995 dated 07.06.2013) in the name of Avinash Kumar. Bounded: On the North-Rasta 10ft, On the South-Brijnandan Singh, On the East-Nij Vandor, West-Nij Vendor. B) All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Khata No.165, Plot No.10, Mauza- Chauram, Thana-Daudnagar and District- Aurangabad, Area- 2 decimals (bearing Sale Deed No.4536 dated 12.08.2013) in the name of Avinash Kumar. Bounded: On the North-Rasta 10ft, On the South-Brijnandan Singh, On the East-Madan Sao, West-Nij Vendor.

Date : 06.09.2019
Place : Sasaram

Authorised Officer
Bank of Baroda

संत शिरोमणि गुरु श्री दुर्बल नाथ जी महाराज

गरीबों एवं पिछड़ों, दलित, खटीक समाज के धर्म गुरु जिन्होंने अपने संदेश से दलितों, गरीब लोगों को नशीली वस्तुओं का सेवन न करने, जीवों पर दया करने, शिक्षित बनने तथा सनातन धर्म का प्रचार करने आदि के लिए जागृत किया, को उनके

158 वें जन्म दिवस पर शत्रु शत्रु नमन

- अरविंद केजरीवाल
मुख्यमंत्री, दिल्ली

अ.जा./अ.ज.जा./अ.पि.व. कल्याण विभाग
राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र, दिल्ली सरकार
बी-ब्लॉक, विकास भवन, द्वितीय तल, आई.पी. एस्टेट, नई दिल्ली-02

दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार

6 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI **CONFIDENTIAL**



QUOTE, 'MISQUOTE'

HOURS AFTER a controversy erupted over Minister of State for Health Aswini Choubey's reported remark that the AYUSH Ministry is working with cow urine to prepare medicines and to cure cancer, the minister's office issued a clarification saying that he had been misquoted because of language issues. In his reply, his office said the minister had said "very clearly that it is a subject related to Ministry of AYUSH and they are working on it seriously and in fact for ages cow urine was used very effectively in alternative medicines. It was totally misinterpreted to public by the reporter and media houses due to language issues."

SET FOR LAUNCH

THE NEW national education policy has been in the making for five years now, but the final policy is finally taking shape. It's been three weeks since the government's deadline for feedback on the draft policy expired. The HRD Ministry has set up several internal groups to study the suggestions and decide what changes should be incorporated. The ministry plans to get the Cabinet's approval for the final policy in the last week of this month and formally launch it on November 11, National Education Day.

TORONTO DATE

THE CANADIAN High Commission has decided to launch first-ever Toronto chapter of the prestigious Jaipur Literature Festival (JLF) to be held in Toronto from September 27-29. Apart from William Dalrymple and Shashi Tharoor, several Canadian writers of eminence are likely to participate, including Margaret Atwood, Yann Martel, Michael Ondaatje, Manjushree Thapa and Rupri Kaur. The fact that the Indian envoy to Canada, Vikas Swarup, is also an acclaimed author, helped in organising the event which will include readings, discussions, outdoor performances, art installations, culinary offerings, and an exciting and colourful street festival. Canadian envoy Nadir Patel has been worked for quite a long time for this festival.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR NORTHEASTERN STATES

Govt won't interfere with Article 371: Shah in Assam

Will not allow even one intruder to live in the country, says Home Minister

ABHISHEK SAHA
GUWAHATI, SEPTEMBER 8

THE CENTRAL government will not interfere with Article 371 of the Indian Constitution - that ensures certain special provisions for Northeastern states — Home Minister Amit Shah said on Sunday in Guwahati.

He added that the government would not let any illegal foreigner reside in the country.

Article 371A of the Constitution lays out special provisions with respect to Nagaland, while 371G does that for Mizoram. Article 371B deals with special provisions with respect to Assam. Article 371H lists two special provisions for Arunachal Pradesh and Article 371C does it for Manipur. Congress leaders and civil society groups in Northeastern states had said after the special status of Jammu and Kashmir — under Article 370 — was scrapped that Northeastern states could also face the same fate.

Addressing the 68th plenary session of the North East Council (NEC), Shah said misinformation was spread when the Centre abrogated Article 370 for J&K. He said, "It is a democracy, and opposition parties have the right to oppose. But an issue was raised that 'today 370, tomorrow 371'. They tried to spread a message to Northeastern states that the BJP government will now abrogate Article 371."

Remarking that he has clarified this earlier also, Shah said Article 370 was a "temporary provision" while Article 371 is a "special provision".

"I want to clarify that the



Union Home Minister Amit Shah at the 68th plenary session of North East Council in Guwahati on Sunday. *Dasarath Deka*

Narendra Modi-led BJP government completely respects Article 371 and 371 A to J, and there is no question of any *ched-khani* [tampering] with it," Shah said, adding that it was important to clarify because people "who do not want peace in the Northeast, those who do not want the Northeast to come into the mainstream and become an engine for India's growth" were spreading misinformation.

Shah expressed his satisfaction over the timely completion of the exercise and said that several questions were raised on it but no illegal migrant would be allowed to live in the country. "Different people are raising different questions about it. The process has completed within the time frame. But let me specify that one even one *ghuspetiya* (illegal migrant) will not be allowed to live here. That is our *sankalp* (resolution)," he said.

During his visit, a state BJP

delegation met Shah and submitted to him a memorandum highlighting the state unit's take on NRC. Since its publication, state BJP leaders have repeated their dissatisfaction with and said "genuine Indian citizens" were among the 19 lakh people excluded from the final list.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, state BJP president Ranjit Dass said, "We have submitted a memorandum to the Home Minister regarding NRC. We have highlighted that genuine Indian citizens have been left out and several illegal foreigners have made it to the list. We have also highlighted the plight of people whose ancestors' refugee documents were not accepted and the Gorkhas who have been left out. He has assured all the support from the Centre to resolve these issues."

In his speech, Shah also stressed on how the Modi-led BJP government has prioritised

development of Northeastern states and said they were determined to connect all eight states via rail and air by 2022.

He added that there had been an increase of one-and-a-half times in NEC's budget from the 13th Finance Commission (Rs 3,376 crore), under the Congress government, to the 14th Finance Commission (Rs 5,053 crore).

He also said that in the push for development, the focus on protecting the culture of the Northeast should not be lost. He said the identity of India was never "geo-political", rather, it was "geo-cultural" and added that if this principle is accepted by everyone, the Northeast would be never be treated differently.

Governors and Chief Ministers of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura also spoke at the plenary session.

In his speech, Sonowal urged the NEC to "play an important role in the implementation of the Act East policy with a special focus on issues relating to trade, investment, tourism, connectivity and building relations with Southeast Asian countries in close coordination with various ministries of the Government of India".

A press statement from the office of Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal noted on Shah's speech, "The Union Home Minister further reiterated that not a single infiltrator would be allowed to stay in the region as the Government's zero tolerance policy against illegal migration and insurgency would continue unabated."

100 DAYS OF MODI GOVERNMENT

Difficulties of common man are increasing: Cong

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 8

AS THE Narendra Modi government completed 100 days in office, main opposition Congress on Sunday launched a scathing attack on it, claiming that this period had been marked by arrogance, politics of vendetta, and uncertainty over the economy.

"The BJP once again got the majority on its own in the Lok Sabha elections. It had an opportunity to take some concrete steps in the first 100 days to provide relief to the common man... but what has happened is exactly the opposite. The difficulties of the common man are increasing... atrocities against women are continuing, there is no strategy vis a vis education and health."

"Small traders are in distress, there is vendetta politics against political opponents; Income Tax, ED and CBI are being misused..." Congress spokesperson Kapil Sibal said at a press conference.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi too hit out at the government.

"Congratulations to the Modi Govt on 100 Days No Vikas, the continued subversion of democracy, a firmer stranglehold on a submissive media to drown out criticism and a glaring lack of leadership, direction & plans where it's needed the most — to turnaround our ravaged economy," he tweeted.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said: "The government is silent after ruining the economy. Companies are in crisis, while trade is in doldrums. Through drama, deceit, lies, and propa-



Senior Congress leader Kapil Sibal in New Delhi on Sunday. *Renuka Puri*

ganda, they are trying to hide the country's grim situation."

Accusing the government of being arrogant, Sibal said the "abrogation of Article 370, dilution of Right to Information Act, criminalisation of Triple Talaq are instances of this government's arrogance... 39 new Bills were introduced out of which 28 were passed in the Budget Session of Parliament. However, none of the Bills were sent for scrutiny to either the Standing Committee or Select Committee."

While there is uncertainty in Jammu and Kashmir and Assam, there is anguish over the slowdown in economic growth, he said.

"As there is suspense over whether scientists would be able to make contact with Chandrayaan's lander, there is deep suspense over whether economy will recover in the near future. The April-June 2019 quarter results do not bode well for an early recovery," he said.

TELANGANA: WOMEN DEBUT IN MINISTRY

KCR inducts six new ministers, including son and nephew

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, SEPTEMBER 8

TWO WOMEN were among six new ministers inducted by Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao in a Cabinet expansion on Sunday. This is the first time women have been inducted in the Telangana Cabinet since the state was carved out of Andhra Pradesh in 2014.

The Cabinet expansion, which comes nine months after Rao won a second term in office, also saw the appointment of his son KT Rama Rao and nephew T Harish Rao as ministers.

Harish Rao has been given the portfolio of Finance and KT Rama Rao got Municipal Administration and Urban Development, IT and Industries, which he held in the previous term. KTR will also remain the working president of the TRS.

The six new ministers were sworn-in by the new Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundarajan at Raj Bhavan at 4 pm. Earlier in the day, Soundarajan took charge as Governor after arriving from Chennai.

Maheshwaram MLA Sabita Indra Reddy, who defected from the Congress, has been allotted the Education portfolio. Reddy was Home Minister in the YSR government. Member of Legislative Council from Warangal, Satyavathi Rathod, is the other woman who has been made minister and allotted ST Welfare, Women and Child Development portfolio.

P Ajay Kumar, MLA from



KT Rama Rao with CM KCR in Hyderabad on Sunday. *PTI*

Khamma and G Kamalakara Reddy from Karimnagar are the two others who were sworn in on Sunday.

With the induction of the six ministers, the Cabinet now has reached its full strength of 18. After the swearing-in of the six new ministers, a Cabinet meeting was held at the office-cum-residence of KCR, Pragati Bhavan, to discuss the budget and approve it for presentation in the Assembly on Monday when the session begins.

KCR is also expected to appoint 12 MLAs as chairpersons of various corporations. "The Chief Minister decided to give higher posts to senior party leaders who have lost the last elections such as Madhusudhanachary and Jupally Krishna Rao. Others may be given Rajya Sabha member-

EXPLAINED
E Bid to prevent factional feud

THE INDUCTION of KCR's nephew T Harish Rao into the Cabinet is significant because he had been sidelined within the party after the TRS returned to power. While elevating his son KT Rama Rao as working president of TRS, KCR kept both KTR and Harish out of cabinet so that there is no rebellion from TRS leaders close to Harish. However, the faction was unhappy at Harish being sidelined. At a time when the BJP is trying to make inroads into Telangana, appointing Harish a minister is KCR's attempt to ensure that the party is not weakened by factionalism. He has balanced it by the induction of his son KTR.

ship; some will get the TSRTC and Rythu Coordination Committee Chairmanship. The Chief Minister is preparing an action plan to not only strengthen the state's administration but also make the party emerge as the most formidable force. He also decided to appoint the party committees and complete the construction of the party offices in the state," a party leader said. "KCR is making a plan to strengthen both the party and government," the leader added.



Earthen pots kept for drinking water during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public rally in Rohtak on Sunday. *Prem Nath Pandey*

At Rohtak rally, an echo of PM's call against plastic

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
ROHTAK, SEPTEMBER 8

THEY CAME on foot, cars, SUVs, buses and autos. For hours, they braved the sapping heat to cheer for Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The rally at Rohtak on Sunday was similar to most mass political gatherings in India. Except in what it left behind.

This time, after the rally, the venue was not carpeted with plastic waste in various forms and shapes — disposable glasses, cups, bottles, posters and banners.

What remained instead were thousands of earthen pots arranged into neat rows, some full, many empty. Outside, men and women could be seen carrying many such pots to use at home.

One of them was Om Vati from Sonipat's Gohana village.

"*Matke ka paani swasth hota hai*. (Water from earthen pots is healthy). We have a fridge at home but I will drink water from this pot only. There are many benefits. The young generation, including the ones at my home, does not know

that," said the 65-year-old.

Her neighbour Surajmati, however, feels Om Vati could have bought one. "It costs only around Rs 100. I would never touch anything which is not meant for me, even if it is gold," she said.

"*Ab mujhe chor ki list mai daal do* (Now call me a thief)," retorted Om Vati, breaking into a smile.

Rohtak Deputy Commissioner R S Verma told *The Indian Express* that responding to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for a plastic-free India, the administration decided to make arrangements for a plastic-free rally.

"We bought around 7,500 earthen pots from potters living in Rohtak and neighbouring districts for around Rs 120 each. Apart from helping them financially, it also marked a step towards realising the government's vision. No social change will come overnight but these steps can help generate awareness," Verma said.

He said the administration had kept a provision of 1.5 litre water for every person who at-

tended the rally. "Even the cabin made for the Prime Minister behind the stage was plastic-free. Imagine the amount of plastic waste that would have been generated by the around 1 lakh people who came. It is okay if people took some matkas home. We are planning to recycle the rest in government offices. They are disposable as well," Verma added.

However, in a hall created for mediapersons, lunch was served to journalists in plastic dishes wrapped with plastic films.

The need to conserve water also found mention in Modi's speech.

Besides earthen pots, steel tumblers and 15-litre campers with filtered water were provided. Sandeep, who was part of the crew that filled the pots with water, said, "Around 1,000 such campers were brought. My brother's RO company provided some. They cost Rs 500 each. But many people took them home. We will apply for compensation from the administration," he said, also pointing out that a large quantity of treated water which went unconsumed will now be wasted.

1,000 'descendants' of Lord Ram reach Ayodhya, demand temple at disputed site

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 8

AROUND 1,000 people from Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan reached Ayodhya on Sunday, claiming to be the descendants of Lord Ram and the Ikshvaku dynasty.

BJP MLA from Madhya

Pradesh's Shivpuri district, Birendra Raghuvanshi, was also part of the rally, which had started from Bhopal on Friday under the banner of Akhand Raghuvanshi Samaj Kalyan Mahaparishad.

Addressed to the President and the Prime Minister, a memorandum was also given to the district administration, demand-

ing a Ram temple be built at the disputed site in Ayodhya.

Last month, the Supreme Court had said it was "curious" to know whether any descendants of Lord Ram were still living in Ayodhya. Mahaparishad national president Harishankar Singh Raghuvanshi said the yatra was in response to the Supreme Court's poser.



NORTH

Minor killed, 3 hurt in firing at wedding in Punjab

Ludhiana: A 16-year-old boy died and three others were injured in a clash between two groups during a pre-wedding function in Kotkapura town of Punjab's Faridkot district, police said Sunday. The incident took place on Saturday night during the 'jago' ceremony of one Gurjit Singh's son. The

function had been organised in a tent on a road near Gurjit Singh's residence. A group, led by one Ankush Arora, was consuming liquor when another group started firing at them, police said. Both the groups engaged in firing, in which a bullet hit 16-year-old Lovpreet Verma, who later died, police said. **ENS**



Gay rights activists participate in a pride rally at Kolkata on Sunday. **PTI**

EAST

Life-term for woman who poisoned two boys in 2014

Dumka (Jharkhand): A Jharkhand court sentenced a woman to life imprisonment for poisoning two boys. Additional District and Sessions Judge (second), Pawan Kumar, on Saturday found Mukhi Hembrom guilty and also fined her Rs 27,000. Hembrom had on November 19, 2014, invited

two brothers — seven year-old Ganesh Hansda and six-year-old Avinash Hansda — for dinner at her residence in Dhaka village and served them food laced with poison. It was found that the woman had poisoned them as they had allegedly stolen food from her house, according to the prosecution. **PTI**

WEST

20-year-old missing after jumping into river

Pune: A 20-year-old man was reported missing after he and his friend jumped off a bridge in Pune into the Mutha river on Sunday evening, police said. The duo jumped off the bridge after they dared each other to do so, police said. They have been identified as Asim Ukil (18), who is from Kolkata and Prakashsingh Bohra (20), who is from Uttarakhand.

Both work as kitchen help at an eatery in the city. While Ukil managed to swim to the riverbank, Bohra was reported missing. When the incident took place, Mutha river was swollen due to discharge of water from Khadakwasla dam. The police and fire brigade have launched a search for Bohra, police officials told reporters. **ENS**

SOUTH

Ragpicker killed in 'chemical explosion' in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: A 40-year-old ragpicker was killed in a suspected chemical explosion here on Sunday, police said. The blast took place when he opened a bag containing the chemical substance, they said. He sustained serious burns on both his hands and was admitted to a hospital where he died, the police

said. The official clarified that it was not a bomb explosion. He said the police were verifying from where he brought the substance and also what kind of chemical it was. The Commissioner told reporters that preliminary investigation revealed there was a blast when the man was removing the chemical. **PTI**

Politicians, legal luminaries pay tributes to Jethmalani

ANAND MOHAN J

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 8

POLITICIANS FROM across the spectrum and members of the legal fraternity paid tributes to veteran jurist and former law minister Ram Jethmalani on Sunday.

He passed away at his Akbar Road home on Sunday morning at the age of 95. He was cremated at Lodhi crematorium.

Among those in attendance were Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Deputy CM Manish Sisodia, the standing counsel for Delhi Government, Rahul Mehra and AAP leader Raghav Chadha. Former law minister in the Congress government Ashwani Kumar, Bihar politician Sharad Yadav and several prominent jurists, including former Attorney General Soli Sorabjee, also attended the funeral.

Kejriwal was represented by Jethmalani in a defamation case filed by the former union minister late Arun Jaitley.

Prasad, offered condolences to the family and said, "I have always said this, Ram Jethmalani is the best criminal lawyer in the country".

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh went to Jethmalani's residence to pay their last respects.

Jethmalani was a sitting member of Rajya Sabha from the RJD.

Kejriwal, who met Jethmalani's son Mahesh outside the crematorium, said: "Ram Jethmalani's demise is



Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad meets Ram Jethmalani's family members in New Delhi on Sunday. **Amrit Mehra**

very sad for the entire country. We all know he was the most experienced and able lawyer in the country. He was an institution in himself in the area of criminal jurisprudence. He was also a Cabinet minister. Due to his departure a vacuum has been created which can not be filled. I used to meet him quite often, he even fought some cases for me. I know that he would fight cases of several poor people without taking a fee."

Senior advocate, Vikas Pahwa told *The Indian Express* that he met Jethmalani in 1994 in the Supreme Court. "I was fortunate that he was sitting next to me. He wrote a small paper for me which became my source of inspiration. He wrote that there is no substitute to hard toil and absolute integrity, you reach the top if you have these two."

Pahwa added, "I still have that note with me and showed it to him 18 years after, when I became a senior counsel. That is the kind of impact he had on my

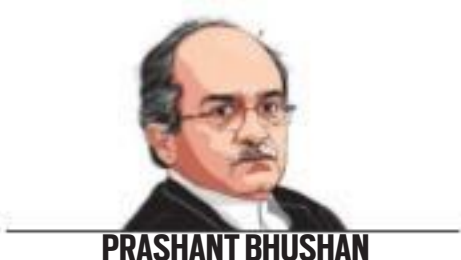
life. I learned criminal law from him. When I showed that piece of paper to him there were around 15-20 people in that conference room and he told all his juniors that I was his real *shishya* (student)".

Senior counsel Geeta Luthra recalled the time her father and Jethmalani had become senior counsels.

"One of the first big cases I handled was with my father, KK Luthra. Ram was also working on that case and he and my father represented two of the accused. It was a great pleasure being the smallest fry in that galaxy of seniors. In my opinion he was a legal underdog. The public opinion was against him and the media was against him and yet he had the courage to fight fearlessly. He was also very kind to students," she said.

Congress president Sonia Gandhi and former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh also extended condolences to Jethmalani's family.

'His fearless and outspoken voice is being sorely missed'



SPECIAL TO THE EXPRESS

RAM JETHMALANI passed away on Sunday after having more than a full life at the ripe old age of 95 years.

He was always a larger-than-life figure in the courts and in the country. He had the unique distinction of having completed 75 years at the Bar, having been enrolled at a very young age.

I had known him ever since I started practice in the early 80s. I had the privilege of accompanying him and many other senior lawyers of the Supreme Court on a peace mission to the worst riot-affected areas during the anti-Sikh riots after Indira Gandhi's assassination.

At one place, we were surrounded by a violent mob which was baying for the blood of the Sikhs. When they learnt that we were there to rescue the Sikhs who were being attacked,

they started preparing to attack us. Mr Jethmalani bravely told the mob who he was (an MP then) and sat down in the middle of the mob, saying that if they wanted to attack anyone they should first attack him.

At that, the mob became a bit wary and let us go. He was undoubtedly one of the bravest people that I have come across.

We together formed the Committee on Judicial Accountability in the wake of the impeachment of Justice V Ramaswamy in 1990 to take up the issues of judicial corruption and accountability.

He was never afraid to confront corrupt judges and to call them out. His fearless and outspoken voice is being sorely missed at a time when judicial misconduct and lack of judicial independence is reaching a crescendo.

In the midst of the Bofors scandal, when Rajiv Gandhi was in power and called him a barking dog, Jethmalani took it upon himself to write five questions for Rajiv Gandhi everyday, which were duly published in *The Indian Express* for the next several months.

I have no doubt that these uncomfortable questions contributed a great deal to bring about Rajiv Gandhi's downfall.

More recently, he become an outspoken critic of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government.

Unfortunately, however, by this time his voice was no longer being heard by many people in the country.

He was not only an outstanding and perhaps the best and most feared criminal lawyers, but also had one of the deepest understanding of the Constitution.

He was faulted by many people, including me, for being 'amoral' in his choice of cases and willing to take up the cause of any corrupt person who was willing to pay his high fees. That, however, is the case with most senior lawyers who become amoral about the kind of cases that they are willing to take up.

This unfortunately is the legal morality that is taught to students in law schools, that they must never refuse the case of any person who is willing to pay their fees. He was a very personable and affectionate man and was always very kind and loyal to his friends, as he always was to me.

He will be missed by the Bar and the country alike.

(The writer is a human rights advocate.)

How he led the fight for people's right to information

SHYAMLAL YADAV

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 8

RAM JETHMALANI will be remembered for his fight for the people's right to information.

When the NDA government under Atal Bihari Vajpayee took over in March 1998, Jethmalani was given charge of the Ministry of Urban Development. At the time, a debate was on regarding the enactment of the transparency law. Jethmalani, however, did not wait for the government and on October 17, 1998, his ministry issued an order allowing inspection of documents by citizens.

The government felt uncomfortable and then Cabinet Secretary Prabhat Kumar wrote to the ministry, asking it not to implement the order and saying that the process for the Freedom of Information Bill was already on.

Later, Jethmalani was shifted to the Ministry of Law.

But the unimplemented order gave a new momentum to activists. Prashant Bhushan's Centre for Public Interest Litigation and Common Cause, founded by the late H D Shourie, filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court seeking that the Cabinet Secretary's restraint on Jethmalani's order be declared "violate of the citizens' right to information".

The Freedom of Information Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha on July 25, 2000. It was, thereafter, referred to the Standing Committee on Home Affairs which presented its report a year later. Jethmalani was later removed as Union minister but he continued his fight for the transparency law by consistently questioning the government in

Parliament on the status of the Bill and the delay in its passage.

The Freedom of Information Bill was passed by Lok Sabha on December 3, 2002 and by Rajya Sabha on December 16, 2002.

After the Bill got the assent of President A P J Abdul Kalam, Jethmalani asked on July 30, 2003, "What are the reasons that this Bill has not been notified in Gazette of India?" But since the rules were not framed, it was not notified for implementation and in 2004, NDA lost the election and the Vajpayee government lost power.

After the Manmohan Singh government took over, Jethmalani asked again when the information legislation is likely to come into force. When the RTI Bill 2004 was referred to Parliamentary Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice, Jethmalani was its member.

Within a year of the implementation of the legislation, there was a buzz that the UPA government was thinking of amending the RTI Act. Jethmalani, on August 24, 2006, asked, "Whether it is a fact that Government has taken a decision to amend the Right to Information Act, 2005; if so, the details of the amendments and reasons for bringing the same".

Amid the criticism of RTI Act from leaders of various political parties, Jethmalani had once said, "Any interference with the Right to Information which has been incorporated in the Constitution of India is going to be serious fraud on Indian democracy." And when former PM Manmohan Singh raised his concerns on "frivolous" RTI applications, Jethmalani said, "PM Manmohan Singh seems to think he has made a gift to people, which he can revoke at will."

BEFORE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL, PRINCIPAL BENCH AT NEW DELHI
COMPANY APPLICATION NO. (CAA)- 112 (PB)/2019

IN THE MATTER OF:
BEST AGROCHEM PRIVATE LIMITED
Having its Registered Office At, S-1A Bhagwan Dass Nagar, East Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi-110026

(TRANSFEROR COMPANY/APPLICANT COMPANY 1)

WITH
SAHYOG MULTIBASE LIMITED
Having Its Registered Office At House No. 9, Road No.-13, East Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi-110026

(TRANFEREE COMPANY/APPLICANT COMPANY 2)

ADVERTISEMENT OF NOTICE OF THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL CONVENED MEETING OF SECURED CREDITORS, UNSECURED CREDITORS OF (TRANSFEROR COMPANY) AND THE EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS OF (TRANFEREE COMPANY)

Notice is hereby given that by the order of Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Principal Bench at New Delhi, vide Order dated 21st August, 2019 (the "Order") has directed to convene meeting of Secured Creditors, Unsecured Creditors of Transferor Company and meeting of Equity Shareholders of Transferee Company for the purpose of considering, and if thought fit, approving with or without modification(s), the arrangement embodied in the Scheme of Arrangement for Amalgamation of Best Agrochem Private Limited ("Transferor Company") with Sahyog Multibase Limited ("Transferee Company") and their respective shareholders and creditors ("Scheme") under the provisions of Section 230-232 of the Companies Act, 2013. In pursuance of the said order and as direction therein, further notice is hereby given that aforesaid meeting of the Secured Creditors, Unsecured creditors of Best Agrochem Private Limited and Equity Shareholders of Sahyog Multibase Limited will be held as under, at which Secured Creditors, Unsecured Creditors of the Transferor Company and Equity Shareholders of the Transferee Company are requested to attend.

Sr. No.	Class of Meeting(s)	Name of the Company	Date of Meeting	Time	Place of Meeting
1.	Equity Shareholders	Sahyog Multibase Limited		12:00 Noon	5/2 Agarwal Bhawan, Jaidev Park, East Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi-110026
2.	Secured Creditors	Best Agrochem Private Limited	Saturday, 12.10.2019	11:00 A.M	
3.	Unsecured Creditors			12:30 P.M.	

Copies of the said Scheme, the Explanatory Statement, under Sections 230(3), 232(1) and 232(1) of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 6 of the Companies (Compromises, Arrangements and Amalgamations) Rules, 2016 and form of proxy can be obtained free of charge within one (1) day (on all working days) on a requisition being so made for the same by the Secured creditor, Unsecured creditors of the Transferor Company and Equity Shareholders of the Transferee Company at their respective registered office as stated above or at the office of its advocate, Corporate Professionals, Advisors & Advocates, D-28, South Extension -I, New Delhi - 110049.

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 Transferor Company or Transferee Company as mentioned above, not later than Forty Eight (48) hours before the scheduled time of the commencement of the aforesaid meetings. Forms of proxy can be obtained from the registered office of the Transferor Company or Transferee Company.

NCLT has appointed undersigned as Chairperson, Mr. Ajay Bhagwati as Alternate Chairperson and Mr. Suresh Goyal, Chartered Accountant as the Scrutinizer of the said meeting of Secured Creditors, Unsecured Creditors of Transferor Company and Equity Shareholders of the Transferee Company. The Scheme, if approved in the aforesaid meetings, will be subject to the subsequent approval of the NCLT.

Further Notice is hereby given to the Equity Shareholders (including public shareholders) of the Transferee Company, that:

- In compliance with the provisions of (i) Section 230(4) read with Sections 108 and 110 of the Act; (ii) Rule 6(3)(xi) of the Rules; (iii) Rule 22 read with Rule 20 and other applicable provisions of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014; (iv) Regulation 44 and other applicable provisions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015; (v) SEBI Circular No. CFD/DIL3/CIR/2017/21 dated 10th March, 2017, as amended from time to time ("SEBI Circular") and other relevant laws and regulations, as may be applicable The Transferee Company has provided the facility of voting by postal ballot and e-voting so as to enable the equity shareholders which includes the public shareholders, as per directions of Hon'ble NCLT vide order dated August 21, 2019 on Company Application No.(CAA) - 112 (PB)/2019 to consider and approve the Scheme. The Transferee Company has also provided the facility of ballot or polling paper at the venue of the meeting. The Transferee Company has engaged the services of National Securities Depository Limited ("NSDL") for facilitating e-voting services;
- The cutoff date for determining the eligibility of the equity shareholders for voting through postal ballot or e-voting or voting at the venue of the meeting is Friday 6th day of September, 2019. A person, whose name is recorded in the register of members or in the register of beneficial owners maintained by the depositories as on the cut-off date only shall be entitled for voting. Persons who are not equity shareholders of the Transferee Company as on the cut-off date should treat this Notice for information purposes only;
- Voting through postal ballot and e-voting by the equity shareholders will commence at 09:00 AM on Thursday 12th day of September, 2019 and shall close at 5:00 P.M on Friday 11th day of October, 2019;
- Duly completed and signed postal ballot form should reach the Scrutinizer on or before 5:00 p.m. on 11th day of October, 2019. Any postal ballot form received after 5:00 p.m. on Friday 11th day of October, 2019 shall not be considered and shall be treated as if the reply from the equity shareholders has not been received. Further e-voting module shall be disabled by NSDL for voting on 11th day of October, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.;
- The Transferee Company shall be completing the dispatch of Notice along with the postal ballot form with instructions and a self-addressed postage prepaid Reply Envelope amongst others, to the equity shareholders holding shares in either physical form or in dematerialized form, as on the cut-off date i.e. Friday 6th day of September, 2019.
- Equity shareholders who have not received the postal ballot form can either download the same from the website of the Company, (<http://www.sahyogmultibaselimited.com>) or obtain duplicate postal ballot from the registered office of the Transferee Company as stated above;
- During the voting period, the equity shareholders can opt for only one mode for voting i.e. either by postal ballot or e-voting. In case any equity shareholder cast the vote both via postal ballot and e-voting, then voting validly done through e-voting shall prevail. Equity shareholders who have cast their votes through postal ballot or e-voting may attend the meeting but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again;
- Once the vote is cast by an equity shareholder, he or she will not be allowed to change it subsequently.
- The cut off date for determining the eligibility of the secured creditors and unsecured creditors of the Transferor Company for voting at the venue of the meeting is 31st day of May, 2019;
- The Notice including the postal ballot and e-voting instructions are available on the company's website at (<http://www.sahyogmultibaselimited.com>) and on the website of NSDL at www.evoting.nsdl.com.
- In case of any query/grievance in relation to the voting by postal ballot may be addressed to Ms. Himanshi Negi, Company Secretary of the Transferee Company at the registered office of the Company as stated above, Email, sahyogcreditslimited@yahoo.in; Phone No. 9811876512; In case of any query you may refer to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for members and e-voting user manual for members available at the Download sections of www.evoting.nsdl.com or contact NSDL at the following toll free no., 1800 222 990.

Dated: 09.09.2019
Place : Delhi

S/-
Vivek Goyal, Chartered Accountant
Chairman Appointed by National Company Law Tribunal for the aforementioned meetings

एन एस आई सी
NSIC
ISO 9001:2015
Expression of Interest for

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The National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC), invites online **Expression of Interest for Aggregation** for the following products/services to facilitate the MSMEs, as commercial services:

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- Authorised Indian Dealers** of Imported machines/equipments
- Information Communication & Technology (ICT)** enabled Digital Services (Software, App/Cloud/Digital Infrastructure/B2B/B2C/e-Com service providers)
- Computer Hardware and Peripheral Manufacturers/Authorised Indian Dealers for Imported Items**
- Fin-Tech companies/NBFCs/Micro Financing Institutions (MFIs)**
- Transportation and Logistics** service providers
- Agro Business Entities/Agencies**
- Solar & Renewable Energy Equipment Suppliers**
- Raw Material Suppliers**
- Communication Agencies and Media Solution Providers**
- Providers of any other **products/services** required by **MSMEs**

Reputed Companies/Organisations may submit their "Expression of Interest" by filling up & submitting the online form available on the link <https://nsic.co.in/NSIC-MSMEAggregationServices.aspx>, within 15 days of publishing of this EOI. Any further announcement in this regard would be made only on the NSIC website www.nsic.co.in

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1995 TRIPLE MURDER CASE

BJP MLA acquitted, five others get life term

MANISH SAHU

LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 8

A SESSIONS court in Bahraich district on Saturday acquitted BJP's Mahasi MLA Sureshwar Singh and three others for lack of evidence in a 1995 triple murder case.

However, the MLA's elder brother, Brijeshwar Singh, and four others were sentenced to life imprisonment. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 50,000 on each of them. The convicts, who were out on bail, were taken into custody and sent to Bahraich district jail.

"Additional District Judge Sunil Kumar Mishra

on Saturday pronounced the judgment, acquitting MLA Sureshwar Singh and three others for want of evidence," said government counsel Manoj Kumar Singh.

"Nine prosecution witnesses, including three who were at the spot, were examined by the court. Among the five convicts," he said. Two other accused — Nankunna and Bindra Lodhi — died of natural causes during the trial.

The court also examined four defence witnesses, said the counsel. Sureshwar Singh said he would move the Allahabad High Court against the judgment. The case dates back to June 29,

1995 when Gokharan Singh, his brother America Singh, nephew Bajrang Singh and several others were returning home from Kaiserganj tehsil. They had gone there to complete formalities to buy property.

Near Pasiyanpur village, a group ambushed them, killing Gokharan, America and Bajrang and injuring their relative Munijar Singh, said the prosecution.

The victims were residents of Sisaiya Churamani village under Hardi police station area of Bahraich. The firing occurred a few metres from their village.

Hardi police lodged an FIR against 11 persons, including Sureshwar.

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Shraavi Tibrewala U/G Vishal Tibarewalla D/o. Mr. Vishal Tibarewalla R/o. A-31, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110025 have changed my name to Khushi Tibrewala U/G Vishal Tibarewalla. 0040511485-1

I, Rajjat V Agarwal R/O C-37, Sector-26, Noida (U.P.) have changed my daughter's name from Sanvi Agarwal to Saanavi Agarwal for all future purposes. 0040511518-1

I, KM. Zeenat Praveen W/o Imran Khan R/O A-1-103/104, Madangir, Delhi- 62 have changed my name to Zeenat Khan for all purposes. 0040511554-6

I, Inna Jolly Khanduja R/O 1430 Park View Apartments, Sector-29, Noida (U.P.) have changed my son's name from Gaurav Shanker Khanduja to Gaurav Shankar Khanduja for all future purposes. 0040511518-2

I, Gurmeet Kaur W/o Tirok Singh R/O BE-133, Gali No-3, Hari Nagar, New Delhi-110064 Have Changed My Name To Nirmal Kaur. 0040511473-1

I, Devender Kumar S/O Bhola Nath Taneja R/O Cd-100C, Pitampura, Delhi-110034. Have Changed My Name To Davinder Kumar. 0040511554-10

I, Balraj Singh S/O Satnam Singh Panesar R/O Wz-94, Sham Nagar Extension, Vishnu Garden, Delhi-110018. Changed my Name to Balraj Singh Panesar. 0040511554-9

I, Alok Kumar S/o Upendra Kumar R/o- Village-Purva Bandi, P.O.- Pura Kalan, Distt- Auraiya, U.P.-206244, informs that in my Class 12th Certificate (Issued by UP Board, Roll No.0337594) my name & father's name is wrongly mentioned as 'Alok Kumar Tripathi S/o-Upendra Kumar Tripathi. Correct name of mine & my father is Alok Kumar S/o-Upendra Kumar 0040511474-1

I, hitherto to known as Rita Alias Rita Devi D/O Shesh Nath residing at B-207 Jawalapur camp no-4 Sunder Vihar West Delhi Delhi-110087 Have change my name and Shall hereafter we known as Ritu Gautam. 0040511554-7

I, Subhash Goyal S/O Devi Sharan Aggarwal, R/O G-1/171-A Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-59 have changed my name to Subhash Chand Goyal for all purposes. 0040511249-1

I, Khadeeja Bint Mohammad R/O FK-5/A 1st Floor Abdul Fazal Encl 2, Shaheen Bagh Okhla Have Changed My Name To Khadija Bint Mohammad. 0070673451-1

It is for general information that I KABUL DEVI W/O BUJENDER, residing at H.O.-E-84, Aman Vihar, Kirari Suleman Nagar, Sultanpuri C Block, Saraswati Vihar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110086 inform that name of my minor daughter KHUSHBOO aged 14 years has been wrongly written as KUMARI KHUSBU in her school records. The actual name of my minor daughter is KHUSHBOO, which may be amended accordingly. 0040511508-1

I, Shweta Verma D/o Sh. Dayanand Verma, R/O H.No. 230P, Sector-12A, Gurugram, Haryana, do hereby inform that the name of Shweta Verma and Shweta belongs to same and one person for all purposes and Correspondence. 0040511507-1

I, Rakesh Jain R/O K-35, Ii-Floor, Kirti Nagar, Delhi-110015. Have Changed My Child Name Parshv Jain To Parshva Jain. 0040511554-8

LOST & FOUND

I, Sanjeev Luthra owner of flat No. CGC141 in Capital Greens 15, Shivaji-Marg Moti Nagar New Delhi-15 R/O-C/37 Rajouri-Garden Delhi-27, lost my Original Allotment-Letter if anybody found please inform me. Mob.No.9811725260. 0040511561-10

EDUCATION

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EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

E-Tender Notice No. : CE/2019/09, Date : 06.09.2019, E-Open tender No.-02196447 SP to be closed on 27.09.2019, 11:30 Hrs.

SI. No. : 01, Name of the work with its location : Manufacture & Supply of Metal Liner for use with ERC MK-V on concrete sleeper (RT-7008 & RT-8527) suitable to 60 Kg. (UIC) rails to RDSO Drg. No. T-8616 & T-8617 with Alt. 1 and as per IRS Specification for metal liners for use with ERC (Prov.) 2013, with corrigendum No. 1 of Oct. 2016. (Qty.- 7,03,999 Sets).

Location : Office of Principal Chief Engineer, East Central Railway, Hajipur, SI. No. : 02, Approx. cost of the work : Rs. 4,27,82,019.00, SI. No. : 03, Earnest Money to be deposited : Rs. 8,55,640.00, SI. No. : 04, Date & Time for closing of tender : 27.09.2019, 11.30 Hrs., SI. No. : 05, Website particulars where complete details of tender can be seen : Related tender documents can be seen or downloaded from website: <http://www.ireps.gov.in>

Dy. CE/TSP, ECR, Hajipur

PR/1168/HQ/ENGG/7/19-20/32

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

ECR-CAO-C-N-ETN-72-19-20

E-tender is invited on behalf of the President of India for the under mentioned work:

Particulars : S.N. 1. Name of work with its location : Construction of RCC Drain and Sump House at Jhanyharpur in connection with gauge conversion of Sakri-Nirmal section. 2. Approx cost of the work of : Rs. 10,09,74,449.55. 3. Earnest money to be deposited : Rs. 6,94,900/- 4. Date and time for closing of tender : 25.09.2019 at 14.30 hrs. 5. Website particular, Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and addressed of the office from where the tender form be purchased etc. : The above E-Tender, E-Tendering document alongwith full information is available on website i.e. <http://www.ireps.gov.in> Note : In case of any discrepancies found in tender notice, English version will be final. Tenderers are requested to visit the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> atleast 15 days before last date of closing for latest corrigendum/corrections etc in response to this E-Tender.

CAO/Con/North/E.C. Rly. MHX, Patna

PR/01175/CON/ENGG/7/19-20/36

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

ECR-CAO-CON-NORTH-ETN-69-19-20

E-tender is invited on behalf of the President of India for the under mentioned work:

Particulars : S.N. 1. Name of work : Construction of Station cum S&T building, gate lodges, PF sheds, Foot Over bridges, Passenger Platforms, Station approach roads, Level crossing roads, Supply and fixing of lifting barriers, yard drain, circulating area, Deep tube well, Construction and fixing of various sectional boards and other allied and misc. works between Harinagar (excluding) to Valmikinagar road station (including) in connection with Narkatiaganj-Valmikinagar doubling project. 2. Approx cost of the work : Rs. 46,72,39,034.81. 3. Earnest money : Rs. 24,86,200/- 4. Date and time for closing of tender : 30.09.2019 at 14.30 hrs. 5. Website particulars, Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form be purchased etc. : The above E-Tender, E-Tendering document alongwith full information is available on website i.e. <http://www.ireps.gov.in> and also can see in the office of CAO/Con/ECR, MHX, Patna. Note : Tenderers are requested to visit the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> atleast 15 days before last date of closing for latest corrigendum/corrections etc in response to this E-Tender.

CAO/Con/North/E.C. Rly. MHX, Patna

PR/01174/CON/ENGG/7/19-20/44

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

e-tender Notice No. 44 of 2019-20 (Open)-Engg/MGS, On line (through e-tendering) for the following work is invited by DRM/Engg/MGS for and on behalf of the President of India from experienced and financially as well as technically sound contractors including those enlisted with the Railway, CPWD, BSNL, MES, PWD and other public sector undertakings.

Tender No. 14-MGS-SRDEN-I-19-20 (i) Name of work with its location: Provision of anti-flood majors like dewatering system, cover shed etc. at newly constructed LHS/RUB No.2 & 21 in ARA-SSM section under ADEN/XBKJ. (ii) Approx. cost of the work: ₹ 12818840.59 (iii) Earnest Money: ₹ 214100.00 (iv) Date & time for submission of e-tender: 25.09.2019, Up-to 12.00 hrs. (v) Website particulars of e-tendering: www.ireps.gov.in (vi) DRM, E.C. Railway, Mughalsarai PR/1162/MGS/ENGG/T/19-20/44

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-TENDER NOTICE NO.- ECR/CAO/COM/TS/2019-20/06

E-TENDER NO.- 11/09/2049/FBW/TS (e-Open)

SEALED OPEN TENDER IS INVITED ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA FOR THE UNDER MENTIONED WORK.

S.N. : 1, Name of work : Flash Butt Welding of 60 Kg./52kg. higher sections (110/90/72 UTS etc.) New / S.H rails/rail panels of all lengths using road-cum-rail mobile flash butt welding plant for various Construction / projects of East Central Railway under Chief Administrative Officer/Construction/ East Central Railway., **S.N. : 2, Approx cost of the work :** Rs. 8,86,26,130/-, **S.N. : 3, Earnest money :** Rs. 5,93,100/-, **S.N. : 4, Cost of tender form :** Rs. 10,000/-, **S.N. : 5, Period of work completion :** 18 (Eighteen) months, **S.N. : 6, Date and time for closing of tender :** 26.09.2019 at 15.00 hrs., **S.N. : 7, Any E-Tenders which is sent by Post/ Courier/Fax or self, Manual proposals although the letter is on firms letter pad or received in time will not be accepted. The above E-Tender, E-Tendering document alongwith full information is available on website i.e. <http://www.ireps.gov.in> Note : Tenderers are requested to visit the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> atleast 10 days before last date of closing for latest corrigendum/corrections etc. in response to this E-Tender.**

CAO/Con/South, E.C. Railway, MHX, Patna

PR/1165/CON/Engg/T/19-20/44

EXPRESS NETWORK

No black banners, big processions: A muted Muharram in Kashmir

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 8

THERE ARE no black banners at the city centre and no big processions — this year, for the first time in decades, there are little signs of Muharram in Srinagar.

It is a muted Muharram in Kashmir, particularly in Srinagar city, where even the customary processions were not allowed this year.

“This is for the first time that there is no semblance of Muharram in the Valley,” said a resident of Alamgari Bazar, a neighbourhood in Srinagar. “In the past, the government wouldn’t allow a few big processions taken out from particular places of Srinagar. But this time, the ban is strict and even the smaller processions which were allowed in past are not being allowed.”

On Sunday, the Jammu and Kashmir administration reimposed the restrictions on civilian movement in several parts of the city, including the city centre Lal Chowk. The restrictions were im-



Shias being stopped as severe restrictions were put in place in Srinagar to prevent Muharram processions Sunday. AP

posed to prevent Muharram processions from being taken out from the Shaheed Gunj locality.

While the Shaheed Gunj procession was not allowed in the past as well, the police and paramilitary forces on Saturday swooped on the mourning procession taken out at Hassanabad in the city. In the past, the Hassanabad procession would be

allowed. Several people taking part in the procession and at least five journalists were injured in the action by police and paramilitary forces.

The Shia clerics say that such is the clampdown in Valley that they have to be very careful while addressing Muharram gatherings. “Muharram is all about Karbala and Karbala is all about

fight against oppression,” said a cleric from Zadibal neighbourhood of Srinagar. “In our usual Muharram sermons, we talk about the oppression and eulogise the fight against it. Oppression inadvertently comes into our sermons. But this time, there is so much pressure that we are very careful while talking about it. Some of our clerics, who were vocal in their sermons, have already been picked up.”

The Jammu and Kashmir administration is planning to continue restrictions in parts of Srinagar for Monday and Tuesday, the 9th and 10th day of the month of Muharram when major processions are taken out in different parts of the Valley.

While a few black banners and flags have appeared in some other parts of the Valley, the pictures of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and the yellow flags of his militant organisation are missing this time. People from the Shia community have also stayed away from hoisting Iranian flags at most places of the Valley this time.

Pak, China discuss Kashmir issue

SAJJAD HUSSAIN
ISLAMABAD, SEPTEMBER 8

PAKISTAN AND China on Sunday discussed the Kashmir issue and underlined the need to settle disputes in the region through dialogue on the basis of mutual respect and equality, as Beijing reaffirmed its support for its all-weather ally in safeguarding its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In a joint press release issued at the end of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi’s two-day visit to Pakistan, the two countries emphasised that their strategic ties would remain unaffected by any regional or international situation.

Wang, who was here to attend China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Trilateral Foreign Ministers’ Dialogue, called on President Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Imran Khan. He also held talks with Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa. During the meetings, both sides had an in-depth exchange of views on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Wang’s visit to Pakistan took place amid fresh India-Pakistan tensions after New Delhi revoked Jammu and Kashmir’s special status on August 5.

The two sides underlined that a peaceful, stable, cooperative and prosperous South Asia is in the common interest of all parties. “Parties need to settle disputes and issues in the region through dialogue on the basis of mutual respect and equality,” the statement said.

Pakistan and China exchanged views on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. The Pakistani side briefed the Chinese side on the situation, including its concerns, position, and “urgent humanitarian issues”. “The Chinese side responded that it was paying close attention to the current situation in Jammu and Kashmir and reiterated that the Kashmir issue is a dispute left from history, and should be properly and peacefully resolved based on the UN Charter, relevant UN Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements. China opposes any unilateral actions that complicate the situation,” according to the statement. PTI

ABROGATION OF ARTICLE 370

Posters on benefits in South Kashmir, courtesy Army

NAVEED IQBAL
SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 8

IN THE days since the revocation of special status to Jammu and Kashmir, the Army has put up and distributed posters in parts of South Kashmir, explaining to the local people the benefits of abrogation of Article 370.

Lt Gen KJ S Dhillon, responding to a question about whether the Army was driving the information campaign on its own or if the effort was being directed by the Centre, said at a press conference on September 4: “There is no organised campaign.”

“For the last 30 years, Army has been involved in Sadbhavana activities, lot of interaction with opinion-makers, the moulvis, teachers, students and sardarches, for the benefit of the area. As also to get from them what is to be done for the benefit of the area’s develop-

ment,” he said.

In Atriha, Pulwama, locals showed *The Indian Express* posters — in Urdu — on the walls of a shopping complex. The posters detailed benefits of the “removal of Article 370 and Article 35A” from the state.

These benefits were mentioned under categories of health, education, tourism, property rights and RTI. It also listed the benefits of the extension of Central government schemes such as Ayushman Yojana and initiatives such as mid-day meal.

“Naye coaching centre aur private school banenge. Naye hotel banenge. Markaz ki nigraani mein rehne ka mahaul accha hoga. Zameen ki keemat badhegi (new coaching centres and schools will be opened, new hotels will be constructed and under the Centre’s watch, the quality of life will improve. Also, the cost of real estate will increase),”

the poster said.

It also spoke about new factories coming in, and that local people will get jobs. Additionally, women from the state marrying outside will retain rights to their properties, it said.

“Some days after the special status was removed, the Army came and handed these photocopies to us and they also stuck posters to the walls, trying to explain to us why this will be good for us,” Zahoor Ahmad, a shopkeeper at the Atriha crossing, told *The Indian Express*.

Another local, Ishfaq Feroz, said the forces, while they were distributing posters, said that with the apple crop round the corner, “we will be able to do business freely with other states”.

While most of these posters have been removed by the people, some are still in place on closed shop fronts or vacant buildings.

5 booked for sensitive posts: Police approach FB for details

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 8

THE JAMMU and Kashmir Police have approached Facebook officials seeking technical details of “sensitive” posts made by five people hailing from Rajouri and Poonch districts over a week ago.

On August 29, the police had booked the five under various provisions of IT Act for allegedly putting up posts which “had the potential to disturb peace and create law and order problem”.

Identifying the accused as Zaheer Chowdhary Kala, Imran Qazir, Zakir Shah Bukhari, Naziq Hussain alias Qazi Naziq and Sardar Tariq Khan, police said they are currently working in Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). They had allegedly posted videos of unrest in Kashmir in protest over the scrapping of the

On August 29, police booked the five under IT Act for allegedly putting up posts which ‘had the potential to disturb peace’

state’s special status.

A police official said that they have also issued notices to the accused asking them to appear before it for questioning. “In view of situation post August 5, we want to find out, through technical data, the circumstances under which these people made such posts, involving photographs of even terrorists,” he added.

Rajouri SSP, Yougal Manhas, had earlier said that the police will approach the Union Ministry of External Affairs to get the pass-

ports of the five cancelled so they could be brought back for initiation of legal proceedings. Several posts were deleted after an FIR was registered, he had added.

So far, seven people have been booked for making “sensitive” posts on social media since the government’s decision to revoke the state’s special status and bifurcate Jammu and Kashmir state into two Union Territories.

Earlier, two people had been booked for making such posts. The FIR had come less than 24 hours after Governor Satya Pal Malik’s administration had last month ordered the restoration of mobile phone services in five districts of Jammu division.

Manhas also appealed to the people of Rajouri and Poonch working abroad to use social media responsibly and not to indulge in any act that may be construed as against the Constitution.

Kerala village bids farewell to beloved wild tusker

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, SEPTEMBER 8

KERALA’S ATTACHMENT to elephants is well known. But on Sunday, an entire village in Wayanad district — an epicentre of animal-human conflict — paid tribute to one wild tusker who was beloved to the region.

Named ‘Maniyan’, the wild elephant — believed to be in his 40s — was a popular sight in Irulam and nearby villages on the fringes of the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary. He was gored to death on Saturday by another wild pachyderm.

On Sunday, traders and local residents in Irulam took out a silent march to pay tribute to Maniyan.

Panchayat member K A Riyas said the elephant was named



Irulam residents took out a silent march for Maniyan on Sunday. Express

Maniyan around 15 years ago by a lottery vendor. “Maniyan used to come close to our football ground when children play. When fruits were shown, he used to extend his trunk. At night, Maniyan was seen at Irulam town to lift salt bags kept

outside the shops. He never attacked anyone. Strangers have got frightened seeing Maniyan at the roadside. But, he never tried to scare anyone,” said Riyas.

Kurichiad (Wayanad) Forest Range Officer P Ratheesan said Maniyan was killed by another

Human-animal conflict hotbed

ACCORDING TO official data, 67 people had been killed in Wayanad the last decade due to man-animal conflict. Besides, 158 farmers and tribals have been seriously injured from animal attacks in the same period. In several villages on the fringes of forests, farmers have abandoned cultivation due to frequent raiding of crops by animals, mainly wild elephants.

wild elephant believed to be in musth — a period characterised by a spike in aggression and reproductive hormones in animals. “Maniyan had sustained several injuries and died at Pullumala forest under Kurichiad range. This tusker was spotted in the region about three decades ago and was familiar in the locality. In four previous incidents, he sustained

BOOKED FOR REPORT ON DALIT FAMILY

Named journalists in FIR out of fear, says Bijnor woman

SUKRITA BARUAH
BIJNOR, SEPTEMBER 8

“Yeh makaan bikau hai (This house is for sale)”. A contention over who wrote this statement on the wall of the home of the only Valmiki family in a Bijnor village has resulted in an FIR against two local journalists.

While the Bijnor police said the FIR was registered for “fake news reports claiming that a family” in Titarwala Basī village “was not allowed to collect water from a village hand pump”, Lokesh Devi Valmiki, who lives with her four children, said she reached out to journalists in Bijnor because she was not allowed to access drinking water by other residents of the village.

In the Dalit-majority Titarwala Basī village, hers is the only Valmiki family. Following the news reports, the journalists now face charges of making assertions prejudicial to national integration and causing public nuisance, after a magisterial inquiry found the journalists guilty of spreading “false” and “negative” news.

The FIR against them records Lokesh Devi as saying that the journalists had written the statement on the wall, saying it would help her get justice. “What the journalists wrote on my house is wrong. I told them not to do it but they still took photos and videos of it,” the FIR records her as saying.

Lokesh Devi said that she did tell officers who visited her home that the journalists had written the statement but that

she had said it out of fear. “A havaladar had told me that we would go to jail if we had written it, so I said that to the officers. But we wrote the statement, and are even now considering leaving the village if we don’t get justice,” she said.

Ashish Tomar, who works with Dainik Jagran in Bijnor is among the journalists facing the charges. “I got a call on September 4 from Lokesh’s relative. I visited the village with reporters from three other organisations the next day. We did our work and returned,” he said. The other journalist named in the FIR is Shakeel Ahmed from News 18.

According to Lokesh Devi, there is only one hand-pump in the village. “My family is not being allowed to use it. On August 29, my son went to get water and some men began to trouble him. When my 17-year-old daughter and I went to get him, they began attacking us and tore my daughter’s clothes as well. That day we went to complain at the police station in Mandawar,” she said.

Following this, the police booked 15 people under section 151 of Code of Criminal Procedure - preventive arrests - and they were released within 24 hours.

“The ones who dishonoured my daughter are still walking around the village. I decided that we can no longer live in this village and wrote that the property is on sale on the outer wall with a piece of charcoal. I have some relatives in Bijnor and we reached out to some journalists to tell them about what is happening here,” she said.

CM Yogi and ministers take leadership lessons at IIM-Lucknow

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 8

IN A first of its kind, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and his Cabinet colleagues on Sunday took lessons on “leadership and decision-making” from the faculty members of the Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow. For many ministers, it was like going to school as they were seen carrying bags with study materials.

The Sunday’s session — that began at 8 am and ended by 6 pm — was the first of such three sessions under the ‘Leadership Development Programme’, ‘Manthan’, initiated by the Uttar Pradesh government. The programme has been designed to help leaders demonstrate capabilities to think strategically and implement them, keeping in mind today’s dynamic and globally integrated scenario, said an official, adding that the government was taking the help of IIM to understand governance, management, enhancement of leadership qualities as well as public participation in a better way.

“Every incident in life offers an opportunity to learn something. Whenever there is an opportunity to learn, it should be grabbed. Training programmes like these will prove beneficial for the state’s holistic development,” Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said at the event, adding that it was “the first time that a state government has

taken training from the number one management institute in the country for its political leadership”.

Speaking to the mediapersons, the CM said, “It was not a one way programme. Instead, there was a group discussion and everyone participated in a positive manner. Though the programme went for 10 hours, there was no sign of tiredness on anyone’s face.”

According to a statement issued by the government, the Sunday’s session focused on three aspects — “understanding of the economic environment at the state level, leadership and visioning; as well as communication and persuasion skills”.

Sources said that modules have been designed in a way to have a blend of individual and group learning methods that would include group discussions, case analysis, exercise, simulations, audiovisuals and groups assessment.

“Uttar Pradesh is the backbone of the country. Only by developing this state can we develop the country. People have high expectations from their leaders. This programme will play an important role in fulfilling their expectations,” Professor Archana Shukla, Director, IIM-Lucknow, said at the programme.

As part of the programme, the Chief Minister and his ministerial colleagues will be attending two more sessions on September 15 and 22.

as Maniyan had become used to the presence of human beings. “It was never indulged in crop raiding. Maniyan was not trouble maker and hence people were tolerant towards him. The elephant also might have felt safe in the region. In Wayanad, where man-animal conflict is a serious issue, people loved Maniyan because of this tolerant behaviour.”

Forest veterinary officer Dr Arun Zachariah said every elephant has its own traits. “Maniyan has become an icon in the region and his story tells us how we should love a wild elephant. In Maniyan’s case, there was no negative impact from him to the local community. He was happily staying around a human settlement but never got fodder from local community. It had been a gradual adaption for both sides,” said Zachariah.

SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

Chandrayaan-2, in perspective

Vikram's failure to land may have caused disappointment, but much of the Chandrayaan-2 mission remains on track. A reminder of the tasks of the orbiter, which remains functional, and some ideas on what might have happened to the lander

AMITABH SINHA
PUNE. SEPTEMBER 8

INDIA'S FIRST attempt to land a spacecraft on the Moon has not been successful. The lander of Chandrayaan-2, called Vikram, did not slow down at the expected rate towards the latter part of its descent, and most likely hit the lunar surface at a speed greater than required for safe landing. The ground control station had lost contact with the lander when it was about 2.1 km above the Moon.

On Sunday, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairman K Sivan was quoted as saying that the lander had been located on the Moon, and a thermal image of it had been taken by instruments on board the Chandrayaan-2 orbiter that is going around the Moon in a near-circular orbit of 100 km. He said efforts to re-establish contact with the lander had not yet been successful.

So, has Chandrayaan-2 failed?

The mission has not failed, although the attempt to land a spacecraft on the Moon certainly has. The mission comprised an orbiter, a lander and rover. The orbiter part is functioning normally. Most of the scientific investigations of the mission are supposed to be carried by instruments onboard the orbiter, including studies to find more evidence of water on the Moon. The lander and rover had a mission life of only 14 days while the orbiter will function for at least one year. Scientists insist that 80-90 per cent of the science output of the mission have to come from the orbiter, and that has not been affected at all.

Is Vikram destroyed?

We don't know as yet, but more likely than not it is. When contact was lost, it was travelling at 50 to 60 metres per second (180 to 200 km per hour). It was decelerating, but not fast enough to slow down to a speed of 2 metres/second (7.2 km/hr) that was required for a safe landing. Vikram was designed to absorb the shock of an impact even at 5 metres/second (18 km/hr). At the rate it was decelerating, it could not even have attained a speed of 5 metres/second before touchdown. It is likely to have hit the Moon at a far greater speed, possibly damaging itself and instruments on board.

So, why is ISRO still trying to look for it and re-establish contact?

For very good reasons. Science would not simply accept the assumption that the lander would have been destroyed. It would want to ascertain that, and assess the damage. Locating the lander and restoring contact is just the first step in trying to figure out what exactly happened and why.

Is it possible to do so?

The lander has already been located. At the time it had begun to deviate from its pre-programmed flight path, the lander was barely a few kilometres from the Moon. Its final point of landing, therefore, could not be away from the selected location by more than a few km. ISRO eventually used the instruments on the orbiter to locate the lander. The orbiter has only taken a thermal image—possibly because it passed over the site at a time when there was not enough sunlight—and not a normal image, which too is possible.

The more difficult part is to restore contact with the lander. That would depend on how much damage it has suffered, and whether its communication unit is intact.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with scientists at ISRO on Saturday. The Vikram lander was scheduled for touchdown in the early hours that day. ANI

The individual instruments onboard the lander as well several of its components are capable of sending signals that can be picked up either through other nearby space assets or by the ground station. Every such signal will offer valuable clues to its current state and what it could have gone through.

Restoration of contact can be done only in the next two weeks. After that, the Moon will enter its night (14 Earth days) during which temperatures would be so cold that the instruments are unlikely to behave normally.

What is the best-case scenario now?

It is possible that some of the instruments on the lander are functional. It is also possible that two-way communication can be re-established with them from the ground station and they are revived. In the best-case scenario, it can be imagined that these instruments perform the functions they were intended to. The lander was supposed to remain stationary on the Moon's surface, and the four instruments on it, installed on its different sides, were to be meant to make observations and collect data. As of now, it is unlikely that the lander is standing vertically as it was supposed to. The instruments, if they can be revived, can possibly take readings and communicate with the ground station.

One of these instruments was the NASA-built Laser Retroreflector Array, essentially only a group of mirrors. This was only meant to be deployed on the Moon, not do anything. These mirrors are used by control stations on the ground to reflect signals from the Moon. At least five such reflectors are already on the Moon, deployed by earlier missions. They are used for a variety of purposes. It is by sending

signals back and forth to these mirrors that the distance between the Earth and the Moon has been calculated to a very high degree of precision. All these existing retroreflectors are in the equatorial region of the Moon. The one being carried by Vikram lander would have been deployed near the polar region for the first time. If this instrument has not been totally destroyed, it can be used. It is supposed to be a "passive" instrument; it only has to act as a reflector of signals. On the other hand, the rover could have come out of the lander only when it was standing vertically. It is therefore unlikely that the rover and the two instruments on it could be put to any use now.

How big a setback this is to ISRO?

ISRO, and other space agencies as well, has gone through several such setbacks in space exploration. It is most probably a good learning experience. Even Chandrayaan-1, launched in 2008, had suffered a partial failure. It had a mission life of two years but remained functional for barely nine months. An issue with heat shielding had created

problems within a few weeks of its reaching the orbit, and some of the onboard instruments had to be switched off. They were restored once but many of them developed problems again. By May 2009, less than eight months after reaching its designated orbit of 100 km from Moon's surface, Chandrayaan-1 had to be moved to a higher orbit of 200 km. A few months later, it became almost a dead spacecraft. It is still going around the Moon but without communicating.

However, the main science objectives of Chandrayaan-1 had already been achieved by that time. This included the blockbuster finding of irrefutable evidence of presence of water on the Moon.

The science produced by the Chandrayaan-2 mission, too, might remain completely unaffected by what has happened to the lander, though the hype surrounding the landing attempt might not let people forget this failure very soon. But there would also be very important learning for ISRO to be implemented in its future missions.

GAINS & LOSSES



ORBITER

This is functioning normally. Instruments onboard will conduct most of the scientific investigations of the mission. The orbiter will function for at least one year.



LANDER

Damage yet to be ascertained. Vikram was designed to withstand the shock of an impact at a speed of 5 metres/second. But at the rate it was decelerating, it could not even have attained that speed before the touchdown.

AN EXPERT EXPLAINS

Why experimentation is important, and why the journey matters, too



AMITABHA GHOSH

AS WE drive away from an important moment in our lives back towards our daily grind, it is perhaps time to look into the rear view mirror and reflect on what Chandrayaan-2 made us realise: about us, about the broader Universe, and about India.

Forty-eight hours have passed since the signal from the lander was lost. The loss of signal sounds very innocuous but usually belies a much deeper problem. Why would a perfectly healthy spacecraft suddenly stop communicating? And, if contact was really broken because of a non-dire reason, it would have been re-established in minutes, or at most hours.

One dire prognosis is that the vehicle was in danger, most likely overheated, and that the communication system was damaged. ISRO seems to have located the lan-

der a few hours back. Whatever the underlying issue was, and whatever the final status of the lander is, it is important to accord the ISRO team the necessary time to look through the available data and reconstruct what happened in the final minutes. Without the study of the data sent out by the lander, it is not possible to hypothesize what happened: the engineering possibilities are far too many.

The average Indian's involvement in the mission was historic. There was huge interest in this scientific event: a lot of households stayed awake to watch the landing. Not just did people follow the mission, many followed along with the intricate and esoteric engineering procedures: from lander separation to the various steps of the landing. Indians in India and abroad came together to celebrate one of the finest moments of Indian scientific history.

Perhaps the public participation, and the scientific enthusiasm created as a result, is one the biggest contributions of Chandrayaan-2. Perhaps in some way, this was India's Apollo moment, when the majority of American households stayed glued to their televisions, to watch Neil Armstrong take the first steps on the Moon. And for a moment, let us just imagine that the lander had

landed perfectly, and the rover had driven off the ramp in a matter of hours, to explore the lunar soil. Just imagine what the public interest and participation would have been!

Chandrayaan-2 perhaps reminded us how insignificant humans are in the Universe, even with our most developed spacecraft. A small difference in spacecraft attributes, like speed, orientation, relative timing of different engineering sequences, can have potentially disastrous consequences. And, recall, this is to just to visit our nearest neighbour in space - less than half a million miles away.

Even in the 21st century, humans are remarkably helpless when it comes to space travel. Distances in space are way too large, and our spacecraft are comparatively very slow. The star nearest to us, Alpha Centauri, is about 4 light years away - or approximately of the order of 10,000 times farther than the Earth-Mars distance. Currently, it takes about a half-year to travel to Mars - which means it will take something of the order of 5,000 years for a human spacecraft to reach the nearest star. And the centre of our galaxy is 1,00,000 light years away - which is beyond our wildest dreams.

The Chandrayaan mission teaches us the importance of experimentation. Indeed, in

a spacecraft and in life, it is important to experiment in order to move forward. If we worked within our comfort zone, without any risks, we would never progress. The story of the human race is based on experimentation and risk taking. I think the setback for Chandrayaan-2 teaches us the importance of experimentation: that all progress is a result of risky endeavours, which could have failed.

Many leaders in the worlds of business and politics try to distance themselves from failure. They dissipate in the background while someone down the chain of command takes the questions and the brickbats. The Prime Minister's gesture was uplifting. He took ownership of the outcome, and stood with ISRO at the moment when it mattered the most. It was clear that he would continue to support ISRO in its journey of exploration, regardless of the outcome of Chandrayaan-2.

What Chandrayaan-2 also teaches us is to savour the journey, rather than to be fixated on the outcome. In the journey of half a million miles, the Vikram lander could not complete just the last 2 kilometres. If we fixate on the final outcome, we miss out on the beauty of its journey from the lab to almost the surface of the Moon. We have become

an increasingly outcome-driven society - but unless you can celebrate the journey, it is hard to justify undertaking the effort. Because most efforts, at some level, carry the risk of failure.

What happened with Chandrayaan-2 is a very possible outcome in the space business. A decade-long space project can be destroyed in seconds: it takes away the sweat and toil of thousands of engineers who have poured years of their lives into it. For an astronaut, in addition to the uncertainty of the final outcome, there is a risk of bodily harm, should the spacecraft experience an anomaly.

I remember driving up to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory at Pasadena, California, the day before the Mars Pathfinder landing in 1997. The road leading to the laboratory was lined with satellite trucks from the media. The press room was packed with journalists who had flown in from all over the world. As a young scientist, I felt a sense of apprehension. It was intimidating to process scientific results and present them to the world in a matter of hours. Scientific enquiry requires thought and peer review: a press deadline does not necessarily help in arriving at the correct solution.

While the huge public interest in science

is very welcome, at some point it is important to realise that this might create pressure on the scientists. Scientific discovery, unfortunately, does not respond to deadlines. While science under the arc lights is the new normal today, it is important to remember that the real science happens afterwards - and away from the media glare. Discoveries that will result from the Chandrayaan-2 orbiter, or any spacecraft mission for that matter, will come after days of thought, collaboration with fellow scientists, and review by a peer group - perhaps a year or more into the future.

In 1993, I left India to pursue planetary science research in the US. At the time, ISRO had no Planetary Science Program. Today, a youngster in India has much greater possibilities, if indeed their aspiration was to pursue planetary science as a career. Today, ISRO is on to its third planetary mission, set to launch missions to Venus and Mars in the next decade, with perhaps more missions being announced going forward. ISRO will inspire children to look beyond traditional choices, as they go about planning their careers.

(Dr Amitabha Ghosh is Chair of the Science Operations Working Group of the NASA Mars Exploration Rover Mission)



FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

MISSION CONTINUES

Part of Chandrayaan-2 has not gone according to plan. But ISRO knows well how to bounce back from disappointment

INDIA'S ATTEMPT to land a spacecraft on the moon has not gone according to plan. Trial and error is at the heart of science. With space technology, however, the results of an error can get exaggerated - it takes place in full public view. But landing a spacecraft was only one, though the most visible, part of the mission. This has certainly gone awry but as several scientists have pointed out, most of them not part of ISRO, there is substantive science left in the mission through the Orbiter which has been functioning normally. The lander and rover were to collect data only for 14 days. The Orbiter will remain operational for at least one year. Eight of the 14 instruments in the mission are onboard the Orbiter. The big science objectives of the mission, including the search for water, are supposed to be fulfilled by these instruments. All these cannot be ignored just because the showpiece part of the mission has gone awry.

Space exploration is increasingly becoming performance science. Immense public expectations and emotions are on display. And that can bring its own set of complications for space agencies like ISRO which seem ill-equipped to deal with such situations. It is thus important for ISRO to acquire better skills of communication and public relations. In the run-up to the Chandrayaan-2 launch, this was done effectively, as ISRO engaged with the public, put out videos and animations, organised quiz contests, and attempted to satisfy, and also arouse, the curiosity of the people about the moon and space exploration.

After this setback, however, there seems to be some reluctance, on the part of ISRO, to accept what went wrong. There was a loss of communication with the lander, it has maintained, and efforts were being made to restore contact. Subsequently, it has said that it has located the lander on the lunar surface. But what happened was the failure of Vikram to make a soft-landing on moon. Evidently, at the time contact with the lander was lost, it was moving towards the moon with a speed that was more than what was desired. From thereon, there can be only one possibility. That the lander went on to make contact with the moon's surface at a speed higher than required for a soft-landing. Whether it got completely destroyed in the process, or suffered partial destruction, or was fully intact and therefore still contactable, is something that will be ascertained later. It is irrelevant to the mission objective of making a soft-landing and carrying out scientific investigations on the surface of the moon. There is no shame in admitting the failure to achieve these mission objectives in this attempt. ISRO knows, better than most, how to bounce back from disappointments.

SWEET FREEDOM

Raising rates for ethanol payable to sugar mills is a good step. Now, dismantle monthly sale quotas, selling price restrictions

ONE SECTOR WHERE the Narendra Modi government seems to be getting things right is sugar. After the decision in July not to hike the fair and remunerative price of sugarcane for the 2019-20 season (October-September) - a bold move, given the upcoming Assembly elections in Maharashtra - it has now increased the rates for ethanol payable to mills by public sector oil market companies (OMCs). This comes even as mills have been given much greater flexibility to make ethanol used for blending with petrol. Till the 2017-18 season, they could produce ethanol only from "C" molasses, the residual mother liquor after the maximum possible recovery of sugar from the cane juice for crystallisation. But from 2018-19, the Modi government has permitted ethanol to be manufactured from the earlier "B heavy" stage and even directly from sugarcane juice. Further, mills were offered higher prices for ethanol derived from cane juice and "B heavy" than the conventional "C" molasses route. For the coming season, not only have the differentials been widened, but mills have been allowed to convert even sugar and sugar syrup into ethanol by adding them to the molasses/juice for further fermentation.

Simply put, the sugar industry today has the freedom to do what it wants with its primary raw material. It is for the mills to decide whether to crystallise the total fermentable sugars in the cane juice right till the final "C" molasses stage, or divert these much earlier for producing alcohol. At current ex-factory sugar prices and the rates fixed for ethanol from different routes, they would actually gross more from fermentation of the entire cane juice, as opposed to any crystallisation. Of course, not many mills can do this immediately, as it requires investing in additional distillation capacities. But against the backdrop of a production glut in sugar - the new season will open with stocks equivalent to more than six months' domestic consumption - and the country's rising oil import bill, incentivising mills to use more cane juice for ethanol makes sense. The Modi government deserves credit for helping boost ethanol procurement by OMCs from 38 crore litres in 2013-14 to over 200 crore litres this season. Considering the estimated 330 crore litres-requirement for 10 per cent ethanol blending - and the target of 20 per cent to be achieved by 2030 - there is certainly something that both sugar mills and cane growers can look forward to.

The logical next step the Modi government should take is to dismantle the monthly sale quotas and minimum selling price restrictions imposed currently on mills. Simultaneously, it must push states to implement a transparent cane pricing formula, linking this to a certain minimum percentage of mills' average realisations from the sale of sugar, ethanol and co-generation power. That, combined with freedom for farmers to sell to the mill of their choice sans any cane area reservation, will unleash the true potential of this energy crop-based agro-industry.

FREEZE FRAME

E P UNNY



UPENDRA BAXI

HOW DOES ONE pay tribute to a dear friend, a sagacious political leader and a juristic colossus? As a friend, he knew how to quietly stand by you in a public cause. There was not a single social action matter where he declined legal consultation or appearance, thus lending his energetic assistance to socially worthy causes. In response to a question on where these wellsprings of empathy flowed from, he narrated the story of his early life as a Partition refugee, restarting his legal practice in a Bombay garage. Unmerited social suffering of others and denial of human dignity mattered most to him and moved him to social and legal action. My friendship with him was based on these constitutional values and virtues.

I had heard of him in Bombay, where I studied law, but it was his daughter, Rani Jethmalani, who brought us closer. I discovered a doting father in him, and he was such till the very end of Rani's life, which ended with her untimely demise in December 2011. Rani, too, adored her father but valiantly differed from him on feminist grounds. I was often an arbiter of many a discord between them. But nothing disturbed the strong foundations of affection between them. I still recall Ram at St John's hospital, London, where, in the antechamber, he would immerse himself for hours in an audio tape of Jajji Sahib, praying for her in a liver transplant situation. When I visited Ram to offer my condolences, he told me how Baba Ramdev revived her for two days and Rani spent those two days meeting friends and shopping just before she died. The figure of a secular Ram praying is forever etched in my consciousness as an affirmation of faith in private life being consistent with secularity in the public sphere.

Ram is also, in a way, responsible for my being known as "Professor of Canine Jurisprudence". Ram asked, in *The Indian Express*, 10 questions on Bofors, which Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi did not reply to. When, as MP, he asked the PM why he did not respond, the PM said that he does

Ram Jethmalani brought empathy and passion to every case, every cause he fought for

UPENDRA BAXI

not respond to every dog that barks! Whereupon Ram thundered: "Mr Prime Minister, I am no ordinary dog, but I am a watchdog of democracy." I wrote an article in *Mainstream*, greeting the birth of a properly Indian school of jurisprudence! I received many queries from European professors asking for more enlightenment on this new school, all of them addressed to me as "Professor of Canine Jurisprudence, University of Delhi"!

Ram and I shared a common passion: Private international law. He was exceptionally well-informed about this area, and I had virtually invented this field in my doctoral studies at Berkeley. Probably, he dovetailed his interests when teaching courses on comparative constitutional law at the Michigan Law University during the Emergency. I still recall his stoic fortitude (his Bombay House being unfruitfully raided in the early days of the Emergency), his heroic resistance and reading blank (censored) lines in the editorials he penned for the *Journal of the Bar Council of India*, his dramatic escape to Michigan, where he did a lot of human rights advocacy, and his triumphant return to Indian law and politics.

Ram belonged to many parties and to no one as well, for he was robustly independent in thought and action. Rani and I requested him several times to tape conversations on cross examination, evidence, and Indian criminal law and procedure, but that alas was never to be, and we have, in his sad demise, lost a treasure trove of forensic memory.

Even so, the National Law School at Bangalore (and indirectly elsewhere) is a momentous monument to his tireless work, innovating further on modern Indian legal education. As the Chair of the Indian Bar Council (with able help from others, specially Justice M N Mathur of the Rajasthan High Court and V Raja Reddy, Senior Advocate, the Supreme Court and the Managing Trustee of the Council) he steadfastly pursued this vision. He invited me in

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as Director-Designate (which I remained for 13 long years) and helped me at every step in this long journey.

He enthused his friend, Ramakrishna Hegde, to adopt this idea. The chief minister enthusiastically did so with the offer of temporary premises in the Central Engineering College in central Bengaluru and then, at the University of Karnataka with a large amount of land (now shrivelled to 17 acres). Hegde was also amenable to our suggestion to pass an ordinance, which Ram, Raja and I soon drafted. It was then promulgated and before it was finally enacted, there was a murmur of protest by many universities in the state and legislators at the design which made the Chief Justice of India the Visitor rather than the Governor. This deliberate departure was insufficiently appreciated.

The idea of a National Law School beyond the effective control of the state under whose legislative authority the law was enacted was very new, although care was taken that in constituting the various authorities of the university, the state was adequately represented. What impressed me all through was Ram's respect for the dignity of legal academics. Probably, this came naturally to him because he himself embodied the academic spirit that magnificently drifted into legal practice.

Ram would have said with the poet Walter Savage Landor that: *I strove with none, for none was worth my strife./ Nature I loved and, next to Nature, Art:/ I warm'd both hands before the fire of life;/ It sinks, and I am ready to depart.*

Ram was fond of saying that he was in the lounge, waiting for his name to be called from the high abode. Now it has. We may merely substitute the word "law" for "art" in the second line of the poem, and salute well-beloved Ram because he loved the law and made us love it, too.

The writer is professor of law, University of Warwick and former vice chancellor of Universities of South Gujarat and Delhi

FAKIR IN THE DETENTION CAMP

An administrative register cannot record nuances of culture of a land, its people

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ally become a faqir-like legend. Baba Allauddin Khan, who settled in Maihar in Madhya Pradesh. Imagine, sending back the fakir of the Jatra tradition to a detention camp as he doesn't have proof of his origin. I am sure, he, with a meditative smile on his face, would captivate the gatekeepers with a Jajjaiwanti.

A similar thought crossed my mind while listening to a beautiful Kabir bhajan by Parveen Sultana. Born in Assam in 1950, she became one of the youngest Padma awardees at 26. I wonder to which nation-state India will send her as she was born at Daccapatty in Nagaon city, Assam, to Maroofa Begum of Iran and also Ikramul Mazid of Afghanistan. I once asked Pradip Jyoti Mahanta, a cultural historian of Assam and the Northeast, how Parveen Sultana was able to move with such ease through all octaves. He said, "it's there in the music of our land. Our folk singers too can reach difficult octaves with ease". To which place would Assam send the social phenomenon of Parveen Sultana?

An administrative register based on material proof of origin won't be able to record the nuances of the cultural roots of a land and its people. Any attempt to bifurcate evolved heritages would leave painful echoes. Parveen Sultana, faqirs like Lalon or Baba Allauddin Khan or a boy born in Munsii Ganj in present Bangladesh after whom a lunar crater is named, Jagadish Chandra Bose. They all represent a common heritage.

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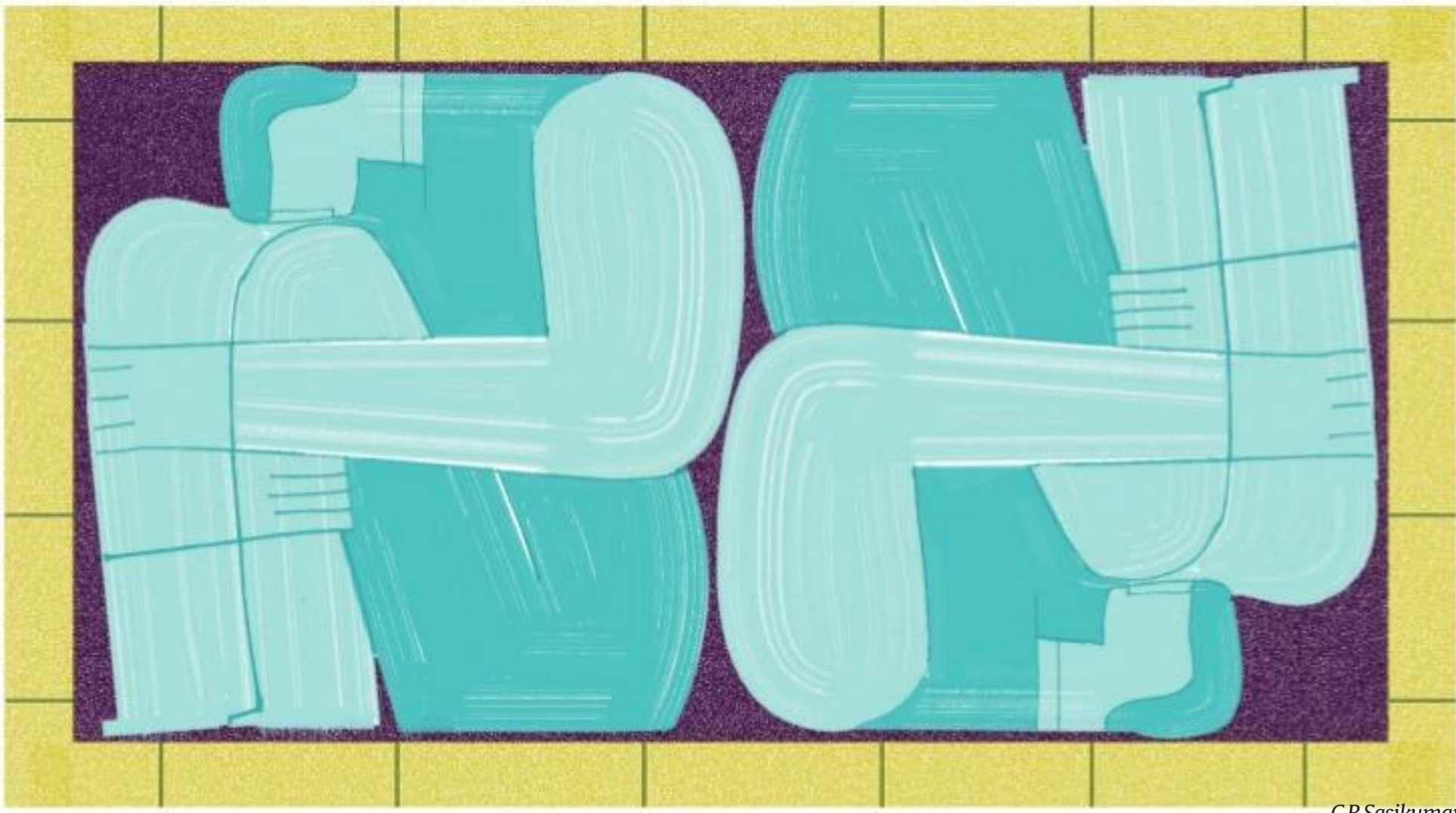
Satyajit Ray, who had ancestral roots in Sherpur, Bangladesh, wanted to make a film on the new nation's liberation struggle, but couldn't. While abandoning the idea he said that he was more interested in the travails of the refugees and not politics. Ray himself was an amalgamation of many cultures, with an intense understanding about the folk music traditions of East Bengal and a finely-tuned ear for the sophisticated Ali Akbar Khan or Ravi Shankar. He once said this too: "At the age when a Bengali youth is invariably into writing poetry, I was listening to western classical music".

Curt Daniel, who spent years in Nazi concentration camps, wrote in 1941 about the theatrical activities in Dachau and Buchenwald camps, which had 10,000 and 25,000 inmates respectively. He wrote: "Performances in Dachau were, in the nature of things, extremely undercover, being carried out by the prisoners at great personal risk. There were no specific camp orders forbidding these forms of entertainment but its discovery would have infuriated the S.S. camp guards leading to torture and deaths."

Let us hope India won't have literatures of this kind a few decades from now - stories about how a fakir was finding it difficult to sing a song in detention, or the tragic journey of a singer to untraceable roots in Kabul or Iran.

The writer is a commentator and broadcaster in Malayalam

THE IDEAS PAGE



C R Sasikumar

Hearing the silence

The abrogation of J&K's special status is being seen through one prism: The fear of demographic change



THERE IS a Kashmiri proverb: "Nav kath che rozan navan dohan" (New talk remains fresh for only nine days). It's over a month since August 5 and the new talk is just beginning to be heard.

For, the noise swirls around clampdown and lockdown, bifurcation and downgrade. And the questions revolve around what will happen if and when curbs are eased, who will do politics when even politicians who swore by the Indian Constitution are detained?

But the new talk is in hushed whispers, behind closed doors: August 5 will change the fundamental character of J&K, particularly the Valley.

That New Delhi decides policy unilaterally for Srinagar is an old script. This time, though, the abrogation of the state's special status is being seen on the empty, angry street through one and only one prism: That of demographic change.

J&K's Muslim majority fears that once the Permanent Resident Act is removed, it eases the plan to set up settlements amid massive military presence. The revocation of Article 35A removes all curbs on non-J&K residents and corporates. The Valley's current population is around 70 lakh and while the cold logic of mathematics may suggest that any plan to organise an influx of people from outside the state won't happen overnight, the fear is inescapable. The decision to abrogate special status is seen as a threat to the very existence of Kashmiris, and J&K's Muslim majority.

That's why it's simplistic to interpret the reaction to August 5 by looking at earlier upsurges: 2016 (Burhan Wani's killing), 2010 (staged encounter), 2009 (Shopian rape and murder) and 2008 (transfer of Amarnath land). In each of these, the anger was reflexive, raw. This time, it has coalesced around a real threat — that the state's Muslim majority has been politically and administratively disempowered and the next step is to turn them into a minority in their own home.

This is what's spelled out unambiguously as the Sangh Parivar's civilisational project. The RSS has called J&K's 68 per cent Muslim majority "coercive", the conflict "a thorn in our flesh," and a chronic "headache". The Sangh sees the last seven centuries of Kashmir's Muslim history and character as an aberration. It is the land, not the people, that matters in this scheme of things.

This ideological view is seen as the reason why Kargil was clubbed with Leh in a UT when the demand for a breakup was exclu-

sively from a section of Buddhists in Leh. Or why Jammu wasn't allowed to become a separate entity despite a long demand from the Sangh's own constituency from the Hindu majority, especially the Dogras.

To this, add the fact that anyone with any following in the Valley is in detention. The separatist leaders and their workers were already in jail outside the state. Now many prominent business leaders, lawyers and civil society members too have been arrested and shifted to jails outside J&K. The entire pro-India leadership and their workers are detained. The BJP wants fresh political faces who subscribe to the post-August 5 arrangement, and follow the Sangh outlook on Kashmir. They won't be easy to find. The Centre's pet project of Panchayat empowerment hasn't produced a crop of leaders who can replace the existing political elite.

When the future is used as a justification for action in the present, it is vital to draw from history. On November 2, 1947, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru told All India Radio that the fate of J&K "is ultimately to be decided by the people. The pledge we have given not only to people of Kashmir but also to the world. We will not and cannot back out of it."

Nehru was PM of India and his assurances of plebiscite came after New Delhi secured a conditional accession of J&K to the Indian Union, thanks largely to Sheikh Abdullah, the state's most popular leader at the time, who argued for J&K to throw in its lot with India rather than Pakistan. He even represented India's case at the United Nations. "I and my organisation never believed in the formula that Muslims and Hindus form separate nations," he said. "We do not believe in the two-nation theory, nor in communal hatred or communalism itself."

Sheikh Abdullah's words carried formidable weight, which is why the Valley, unlike other Muslim majority parts of J&K, didn't rise in revolt against his decision. While British India was fighting for independence, Sheikh was leading a mass rebellion against autocratic Hindu Dogra rule. In 1932, he launched the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference, which he renamed as National Conference seven years later to emphasise his faith in secularism and underline his rejection of the two-nation theory. In 1945, the NC adopted a manifesto called Naya Kashmir, which provided an inclusive roadmap for J&K.

His support, though, came with a condition: J&K was to have "special status" within India. It took Nehru, Sardar Patel and their team and Sheikh and his team around five months until October 1949 to negotiate its terms. The result was Article 370.

Parliament's legislative power over J&K was confined to matters of defence, foreign affairs and communications. Any other constitutional provisions could be extended through Article 370 with prior concurrence of J&K's Constituent Assembly, which dispersed in 1956, making the arrangement between J&K and New Delhi permanent.

If the strife in Kashmir was born out of the erosion of J&K's special status, how can its unilateral removal by New Delhi bring peace now? One government answer is that this is a solution to the Kashmir dispute and a way to improve the lot of the people. But if, indeed, New Delhi believes the decision is for the good of the people, then what explains the siege around every household, an unprecedented communication blockade, a record troop build-up and the detention of almost everyone who has a political or social standing in Kashmir?

Soon Sheikh was made to realise that his decision to challenge the basis of the two-nation theory and his unflinching faith in the constitutional guarantees for Kashmir's special status were nothing but political gullibility, and lack of statecraft.

New Delhi repeatedly fiddled with the solemn compact with J&K: In 1953, Sheikh was arbitrarily arrested while he was the J&K PM. This followed stage-managed elections, and further disillusionment of a vast section of the Muslim majority, leading to the beginning of a resistance movement. In the two decades after Sheikh's arrest, his party turned into Plebiscite Front seeking a referendum because New Delhi hadn't kept its side of the bargain. After years in jail, Sheikh surrendered in 1974 and returned to the Indian fold after he was promised that J&K's special status wouldn't be further tinkered with. But once he died, the tinkering restarted. The rigging of the 1987 polls changed everything — and set the stage for militancy.

So, if the strife in Kashmir was born out of the erosion of J&K's special status, how can its unilateral removal by New Delhi bring peace now? One government answer is that this is a solution to the Kashmir dispute and a way to improve the lot of the people. But if, indeed, New Delhi believes the decision is for the good of the people, then what explains the siege around every household, an unprecedented communication blockade, a record troop build-up and the detention of almost everyone who has a political or social standing in Kashmir?

The proposed UT government in J&K will have an eight-minister cabinet and a Chief Minister with hardly any powers. The real power will be with the unelected Lieutenant Governor chosen by New Delhi. Unlike anywhere else in the country, the new law has lifted the freeze on delimitation. This is being seen as an attempt to increase the seat share from Jammu's Hindu majority areas and alter the political landscape. August 5 has already ensured the entry of West Pakistan refugees in the assembly voter list while removing J&K Resettlement Act, a law passed in 1984 to give the right to return home to the Muslims forced to leave during the November 1947 massacre in Jammu.

Over a month on, the only way forward for the Centre seems to be to continue the status quo: Keep political actors detained; continue the lockdown and the communication blackout to prolong the silence.

A recent tweet by a Kashmiri activist based in Europe, who is a harsh critic of Pakistan on J&K and intervenes in the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva to rebut any unfavourable report against India, sums up the situation. "Spoke to a friend in Srinagar after a two week hiatus and asked about the situation. His reply: There are only two Kashmiris left. One who feels betrayed & humiliated. The other, who tells the first one: 'We told you so'. That was all we spoke. Both not knowing what else to say."

muzamil.jaleel@expressindia.com

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The movement along the Kartarpur Corridor is significant in that it reflects Pakistan's consistent position of pushing for dialogue between its leadership and those who must make decisions on the behalf of the Indian people."

— DAWN

Brexit dreams

Boris Johnson's desire to exit EU may fizzle out in the face of multiple roadblocks



KARAN THAPAR

TODAY IS A new day, but for Boris Johnson it's bound to seem no different to the one before. Indeed, that's how it was all last week. This is because the British Prime Minister has got himself into a pretty pickle and large sections of the opposition Labour Party are inclined to let him stew in it. He not only could end up as Britain's shortest serving Prime Minister but also it's weakest. And all he can do is rue the mess he's got himself into.

Last week, the House of Commons voted to stop Johnson from taking Britain out of the European Union without a deal. Even though he's repeatedly claimed he wants one, it's no secret he's willing to crash out without it. That has now been stopped. In the process 21 of his MPs voted against him.

This left Johnson in power but without a majority. He attempted to get around this conundrum by seeking the Parliament's permission to set aside the Fixed Term Parliament Act and agree to an election on October 15. It required a two-thirds majority but Johnson fell 133 votes short. He's going to try again today, but it's very unlikely that he can get the House of Commons to change its mind. In fact, the Labour and the Scottish Nationalists have crafted a joint strategy to ensure there isn't an election before the October 31 Brexit deadline has passed. This also rules out opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn moving a vote of confidence, something he had earlier said he would.

There is, however, one other way an early election can be called. Johnson could himself call for a vote of confidence knowing he would lose. The problem is that would not lead to an immediate election. Under Britain's Fixed Term Parliament Act the opposition would have two weeks to try and form an alternate government.

Not so long ago, Corbyn spoke of cobbling together such an administration on a purely interim basis to ensure the Brexit deadline of October 31 is extended. The idea appealed to other opposition parties, but none was keen on Corbyn being prime minister. If he agrees to someone else taking the job, a coalition of opposition parties could come to power. That would mean that Johnson would have to step down as prime minister without an election following.

There's been an interesting twist in the last few days. Corbyn, is no longer pressing for an opposition government, but has said he's willing to accept an election once the Queen gives her assent to the Parliament's law extending Brexit. However, large sections of his Labour party, as well as other smaller ones like the Scottish Nationalists, the Liberals and Plaid Cymru, are implacably opposed to an election before October 31. They want to avoid any possibility of an election on the 15th which gives Johnson

a majority and the ability to take Britain out of the EU without a deal on the 31st. So Corbyn's altered position is of little help to the embattled Prime Minister.

Now, look at the situation Johnson finds himself in. He's in office, but without power, and he can't even be certain that losing a vote of confidence would lead to the election he wants. Meanwhile, the "do or die" commitment he made to ensure Britain leaves the European Union by 31 October is not going to be fulfilled.

This also means that whenever an election is held, Johnson will have to face the British electorate having failed to live up to his Brexit pledge. Had the election happened either with success in the bag or in the offing he could have been confident of a majority. Now that's far from certain.

Of course, Johnson does have a few tricks up his sleeve. First, he can try for a new deal with Brussels thus permitting Britain to leave the EU before October 31. He said his "powers of persuasion" would achieve this. Unfortunately, very few people share his confidence. Certainly, the EU does not.

A second possibility is that he could ignore Parliament's decision to ask for a Brexit extension and crash out without a deal. This would, of course, amount to defying the law. But as a senior Whitehall source said to *The Times*: "What are they going to do, get the Supreme Court to send the Cabinet Secretary to Brussels to sign off the extension?" Perhaps that's what Johnson was hinting at when he said on Thursday that he would rather "die in a ditch" then let Britain remain in the EU.

A third possibility is that Johnson could quit rather than be forced to ask EU for a Brexit delay. This would rescue him from the predicament of having to do what he's sworn he never will, but it will also end his political career abruptly. Many thought his speech on Thursday suggested he hasn't ruled this out.

Finally, if all this wasn't bad enough, Johnson has also upset his party. His authoritarian decision to purge the 21 Tory MPs, who rebelled on Tuesday and voted with the opposition to delay Brexit, faces a growing backlash. Johnson is under pressure to reverse it. On top of all this, his brother, Jo, has resigned leading commentators to ask if his siblings don't trust him why should the country?

Not surprisingly, Johnson's behaviour is now widely viewed as bumbling. His speeches seem to ramble almost incoherently. Even when he attempts a joke he forgets the punchline. After the calamitous week he's suffered, this embarrassing performance could be understandable, but the damage it's done to his image will not easily be forgotten.

Monday might be a very long day in British politics. Unforeseen events could lead to the political situation altering considerably. Johnson must hope that happens. But if it doesn't he could end up resembling a car crashing into a wall in slow motion with the brake pedal missing.

The writer is a senior journalist based in Delhi

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SET AN EXAMPLE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Owning the problem' (IE, September 7). It is abundantly clear that sick PSUs are an albatross around the government's neck. But it is not doing much to get rid of it. Capital infusion into the IDBI bank, especially compelling LIC to pump investors money, is uncalled for. The vicious cycle of bad loans shall continue till the government decides to put brakes on such reckless re-capitalisation. The government needs to ensure that non-performing organisations shall not be bankrolled.

Deepak Singhal, Noida

BABUS TO BLAME

THIS REFERS TO article, 'Whose civil services?' (IE, September 7). While politicians deserve to be condemned for the plight of our civil services, the major portion of blame must rest with civil servants themselves. If an impartial assessment is carried out, many of them will be found guilty of having assets disproportionate to their known sources of income. The author is wrong in saying that the common man wants his daughter to join civil services to serve society. The civil services are seen as the shortest route to power and money without accountability.

H N Bhagwat, Chiplun

HEAL THE SYSTEM

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'The healing touch' (IE, September 4). Patients seem to have high expectations of doctors. This is not irrational given that in the private sector, costs of treatment are very high. Government hospitals very often do not provide patients the right

LETTER OF THE WEEK AWARD

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

editpage@expressindia.com or sent to The Indian Express, B-1/B, Sector 10, Noida-UP 201301.

Letter writers should mention their postal address and phone number.

THE WINNER RECEIVES SELECT EXPRESS PUBLICATIONS

atmosphere for treatment. Teaching good communication skills to doctors is important in its own right. However, this is not a substitute for addressing the deficiencies of the medical system.

Kartik Chandrasekhar, Mumbai

SET HOUSE IN ORDER

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'For children's sake' (IE, September 4). The UP administration's reaction against journalist video, which highlighted problems with the mid-day meal scheme, reeks of high-handedness. Instead of taking steps to rectify it, the administration punished the journalist.

SZA Hussain, Delhi

VIEW FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD



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

KARTARPUR OPENING

THE SEPTEMBER 6 editorial in *Dawn* congratulates the Imran Khan government in Pakistan for keeping the Kartarpur corridor open. The access to the Sikh holy site, it says, "will be without visa" to pilgrims of all faiths, seven days a week, throughout the year", according to a statement by the Foreign Office. Kartarpur, according to the editorial, provides an opening in the diplomatic tensions between Indian and Pakistan following the abrogation of Kashmir's special status: "Taking a break from war rhetoric, provided that India demonstrates the same willingness as Pakistan, the two appear poised to enter a new (as well as return to a bygone) era of people-to-people contact, with Sikh pilgrims being allowed travel across the corridor, only needing to be issued an identification card issued by the authorities on side of the border."

The editorial argues that Pakistan's attitude on Kartarpur, as well as a lifting of ban

on imports of medicines from India, signifies a maturity in country's diplomacy, and will serve its international image well. On the other hand, it hopes that New Delhi too will be able to display a similar maturity, implying that the latter should disengage from its muscular rhetoric.

OIC AND ROHINGYA

The Rohingya crisis is the subject of *The Daily Star's* editorial on September 6. The editorial "cannot help but be puzzled by the lack of interest from the OIC in helping their member Bangladesh to resolve the crisis".

The editorial asks some tough questions of the 57 member-states of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation: "If the OIC is truly concerned about looking out for Muslims all over the world, why is it so indifferent when it comes to the Rohingya Muslims who have suffered the worst kind of persecution in the land that they once called home? Why is Bangladesh left in the cold to

manage such a huge crisis created solely by Myanmar?"

It asks that OIC members "play a significant role in creating the necessary pressure on Myanmar to comply with the basic conditions for voluntary repatriation". It also adds: "And if it continues to ignore this crisis which is debilitating one of its fellow members and humiliating and destroying the lives of Muslims, how can it continue to have any relevance as an organisation that claims to safeguard dignity and rights of the Ummah and strengthen solidarity and co-operation amongst peoples of the Muslim world?"

MISBAH'S LEGACY

Ahmer Naqvi, writing in *Dawn* on September 8, comments on the dangers of the appointment of former Pakistan captain Misbahul Haq as Pakistan's cricket coach, in addition to being the chief selector. Naqvi argues that this is symptomatic of a phe-

nomenon in Pakistan's society, "that one man can fix everything, if he's given free rein". Misbah will also, contrary to Pakistan Cricket Board rules, be allowed to work with a PSL cricket team as well.

The concentration of power is dangerous for two reasons: First: "For Misbah, who had long been celebrated for his integrity and sagacity, surely the pitfalls of holding three powerful positions via a seemingly tainted process should be obvious. The best case is that he genuinely believes he can be objective and do justice to all three, which has a whiff of hubris. Worst case, he doesn't care." Second, Naqvi argues it is a "troubling precedent that is vulnerable to abuse". "Even if Misbah's reign proves to be a huge success, the consequences of this move would be truly felt afterwards. In the future, anyone can justify usurping a lot of power, even without experience, by citing Misbah's precedence," argues Naqvi.

Pakistan cricket, hints Naqvi, hasn't learnt lessons from the country's politics.

12 THE GOVERNANCE PAGE

PUBLIC SCHOOL REFORMS

Tamil Nadu schools get an upgrade: Blackboards outs, Smart boards in

From a dedicated TV channel to free laptops for all teachers, state government reboots public schools

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, SEPTEMBER 8

ON TEACHER'S Day, Tamil Nadu's school education minister K A Sengottaiyan took everyone by surprise when he announced a bold new scheme that aims to turn old fashioned classrooms into digital ones. Sengottaiyan had just returned from Finland, where he studied their model of the school education system, and wanted to reform the state's school system on similar lines.

As part of a comprehensive package, the state government has launched a new television channel dedicated exclusively for school students. In the past, TN had provided free laptop computers to students. In the latest announcements, it promised a laptop for every teacher in government and government-aided school in the state. To complete the digital experience, classrooms are also set to get a massive makeover that will see blackboards being replaced by digital boards and students receiving "smart" report cards with QR codes. The disbursement of laptops is already underway in higher secondary schools, and the state is figuring out how to provide it for the rest of the eligible teachers in the state.

This is not the first time that Tamil Nadu has led with such an innovation aimed at improving education and health systems in the state. The laptop scheme for students, for instance, attracted a lot of experts from other states, wanting to study its feasibility. The fact is, regardless of which political party ruled the state, Tamil Nadu has been known for unconditional allocation of funds in education and health systems.

Ever since the 1960s, when the government of K Kamaraj pioneered the midday meal scheme in Tamil Nadu to prevent school dropouts and to increase the number of students coming to schools, the state has led the country in unveiling one innovative scheme after another. The state has pioneered several schemes that have made its public education system one of the finest in the country. Often enough, the state's schemes have served as models that have been replicated in the rest of the country.

Pradeep Yadav, the school education secretary who accompanied the minister Sengottaiyan on the Finland trip, said the government aims to bring a new learning experience in schools. "We may not be able to bring a radical change like in Finland but we



Tamil Nadu's school education minister K A Sengottaiyan distributing free laptop computers to students. *Twitter*

EXPLAINED

What are digital classrooms

TAMIL NADU'S public schools ecosystem is being overhauled. All govt school teachers are being given laptops, classrooms are being equipped with smart boards and schools are being brought online. Students can now get smart report cards, complete with QR codes for ease of access. There's even a full-fledged TV channel, with a YouTube link, solely for the curriculum.

TAMIL NADU HISTORY OF SPENDING ON PUBLIC SCHOOLING

- Free textbooks for all school children
- Free uniforms for all Classes I to VIII students
- Free bicycles for all higher secondary students
- Special financial assistance for children of manual scavengers and sweepers
- Free bus pass to all students (Classes I to VIII) during an academic year
- Scholarship for children of school teachers
- Scholarship for girl students (Classes III to VIII)

had a visit as we have been hearing a lot about Finland and their wonderful model of education. We may be able to contextualise our system, and improve our quality of teaching and learning with lessons from Finland," said Yadav, adding that they have already digitised report cards of school students with a QR code. "Parents who use the QR code will get details of the student in our portal, which

includes attendance, marks and other academic performances," he explained. Classrooms are being digitised and each school will have a dedicated server which will be connected to the main server.

Kalvi, a television channel launched last month with a team of 50 selected school teachers from across the state; they are assisted by professionals who help them to run

the channel. Yadav said that generating content is a major challenge in the initial stages of the television project. "We have started airing lectures. The channel is now available in government-owned Arasu Cable network. But accessibility and reach is still a problem as there may be families who do not have access to this network. We are uploading all programmes onto a YouTube channel as well as the website of the education department where students can access the content even if they miss the broadcast on TV," Yadav said. The state government is planning to write to the Centre to make the channel available on Doordarshan as well.

The state school education department was provided with an allocation of Rs 27,205 crore in the last financial year. But, funding such an ambitious initiative is a concern. For instance, there are around 2.9 lakh school teachers eligible for a laptop in the scheme. As a pilot project, the government has already distributed some 29,000 laptops; each costing about Rs 12,000. Yadav said the government is exploring ways to implement the scheme. For instance, digitising classrooms with digital boards, instead of blackboards, is a project funded by the central government.

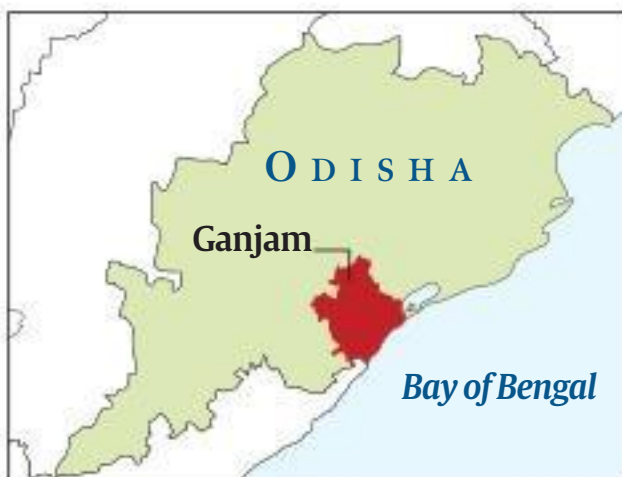
Apart from these digital changes, the government is also spending money on improving the other infrastructure as well. Already, Rs 721 crore has been spent in the last two years to provide school buildings, toilets, drinking water, compound wall, kitchens and facilities for children with special needs.

Waste management, Rs 10 per home

SAMPAD PATNAIK
BHUBANESWAR, SEPTEMBER 8

ODISHA'S GANJAM district is witnessing a pioneering effort to implement solid waste management in rural areas. The move comes in the wake of a National Green Tribunal order, asking Solid Waste Management Rules (2016) being employed beyond the urban areas. As such, in the first phase, the sanitation regulations will be enforced in 10 Gram Panchayats of Ganjam by September 30, while the whole district will be covered by March 31, 2020. The GPs included in the initial phase are Chamakhandi in Chhatrapur block, Malada in Ganjam, Nandika in Hinjili, Langaleswar, Pathara, Kanheipur, Keshpur, Srikrushnasaranpur, Kairasi and Bikrampur in Khallikote block.

Each GP will prepare an action plan for the management of solid waste after evaluating local practices. A levy will be imposed to collect revenue to implement the entire programme. While Rs 10 per month will be collected from each rural household for garbage disposal, hotels, lodgings, banks, police stations, government and private offices, hospi-



tals and educational institutions will be charged with Rs 500. A sum between Rs 100 to Rs 500 will be collected from business establishments. Residential schools and colleges, village haats, bus stands, railway stations and meeting venues will be charged with Rs 2,000 per month. These amounts were decided after wide-ranging discussions with all stakeholders such as the Panchayati Raj Institutions, the district officials and NGOs.

Apart from levies, violators will be penalised as well. Dumping plastic, polythene and non-biodegradable items will attract fine of Rs 100 to Rs 400 for shopkeepers, Rs 1000 for hotels, lodgings, food stalls, chicken

and mutton shop owners, Rs 400-Rs 1,600 for small and medium industrial units, Rs 4,000 for kalyan mandaps and Rs 20,000 for large industries.

"The idea is not just to punish people or collect fines, but to convey to them that this initiative of waste management needs to be brought under a mission mode. The aim is to make them deeply involved in the process", assures Siddharth Shankar Swain, the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) Project Director. The money collected will be deposited in special accounts at the GP level.

But officials concede that collecting levies would be challenging. "Any sort of change through a government initiative needs time before it is accepted by the public," says Robi Rao, a livelihood and environment activist. District officials are concerned that the collection of levy at the individual household level will be labour intensive. "Our strength, fortunately, is that we have required manpower through our self help group network, informal systems called kotho (village development committees)," says Swain. Yet, he agrees it will not be easy to collect funds and keep track of deposits on a vast scale, especially since the process will be largely offline.

MAHARASHTRA/IMPROVED FARM EARNINGS

When farmers form a company to procure from farmers

PARTHA SARATHI BISWAS
PUNE, SEPTEMBER 8

ON AUGUST 28, Shivaji More and other directors of the Ramling Farmers Producer Company (FPC) in the village of Wadzure in Ahmednagar's Parnar taluka heaved a sigh of relief as the 113 tonnes of onion they had procured on behalf of the central government left for the Azadpur Mandi in New Delhi. This was the first time their FPC had ventured into government procurement. As a result, their farmers saved on the transport cost – instead of taking their produce to the wholesale market they sold it at the farm gate – and yet received better remuneration.

For a long time, it has been argued that FPCs can improve the returns farmers get for their produce while possibly reducing the prices that consumers pay for the final product. FPCs are village level companies registered under the Companies Act. The central



Geo-tagged onion storage structures at Wadzure in Ahmednagar district *Express*

'The national medical college network makes tele-consultations possible across India'

AYUSHMAN BHARAT, NDA government's flagship health programme, has two components – the tertiary care Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) and the less well known primary care component comprising health and wellness centres. The target is to set up 1,53,000 such centres. Health secretary PREETI SUDAN talks to ABANTIKA GHOSH about these primary care centres that are intended to work as the foundation of India's health care system.



THE POLICY INTERVIEW

PREETI SUDAN
Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) are a component of Ayushman Bharat but all we hear about is PMJAY. Why is that?

Strengthening of existing sub health centres (SHCs), primary health centres (PHCs), and urban primary health centres (UPHCs) as Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) to deliver a comprehensive range of services requires a lot of ground-work. Till now, our primary health care was more focused on maternal, newborn child care and selected communicable diseases. With the launch of AB-HWCs, the vision is to expand the range of services available closer home, by adding services related to non-communicable diseases, mental health, ENT, ophthalmology, oral health, geriatric and palliative care, and trauma care in a phased manner. This would enable us to deliver primary health care which is comprehensive as well as universal.

However, in order to equip AB-HWCs to deliver comprehensive primary health care, substantial inputs are required in terms of expanding the range of medicines and diagnostics, infrastructure strengthening, availability of skilled HR and training lakhs of workers, creating IT systems to facilitate a continuum of care and a paradigm shift in terms of nature of services and its delivery.

These efforts are critical to develop HWC as the first port of call for primary health care for the community. AB-HWCs being primary health services focused require far more complex groundwork than what was required for PMJAY. Also, PMJAY, being the world's largest public health insurance programme, garnered a lot of attention, and this should have been too. Catastrophic expenditure on health care can be traumatic especially for a family that is barely making ends meet. With PMJAY now there is an assurance that the government will pay for hospitalisation expenses. It has brought relief to lakhs and thus should be in the news.

The conversion of 1,50,000 SHCs and PHCs to HWCs has been planned in a phased manner. The target for FY 18-19 was 15,000 HWCs, and over 17,000 was achieved till March end and already, 20,622 AB-HWCs are functional across the country.

What are the challenges and how are you overcoming them?

The human resource remains our biggest challenge. The SHC, AB-HWCs, will be

manned by Community Health Officers (CHO). So far, 8,531 CHOs have been appointed at AB-HWCs and about 3,000 more are expected to be posted by the end of September 2019. Nearly 13,000 CHOs are expected to enrol in the upcoming batch. About 261 programme study centres have been notified by IGNOU and 111 programme study centres have been notified by state universities in states where the programme is being run by state universities. In addition, all basic and post-basic nursing colleges and universities have been recently notified to integrate CHO training in existing curriculum of nursing. This will enable the production of over 40,000 eligible candidates annually to serve as CHOs.

The expanded range of services would also require training of the new as well as existing service providers and frontline workers. We have entered into MOU with ECHO Trust India, to utilize the virtual tele-mentoring platform for capacity building.

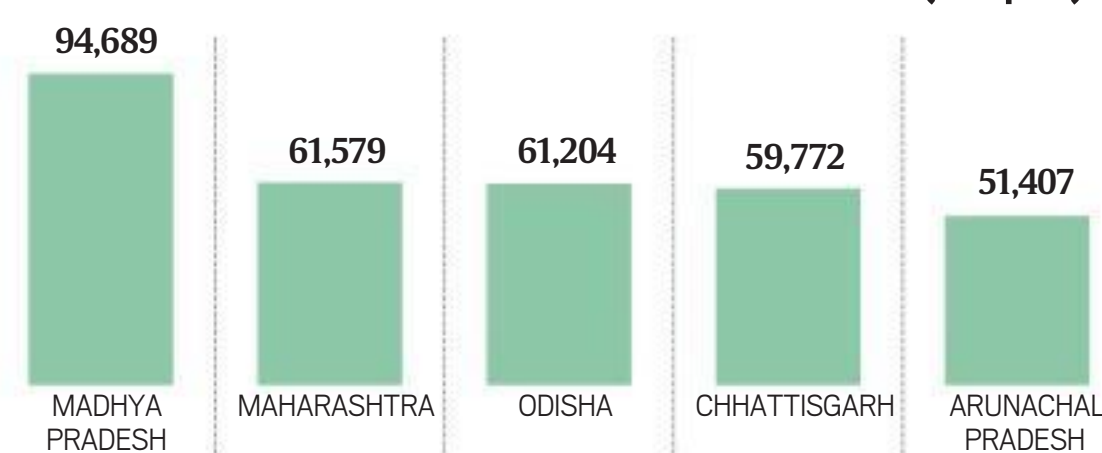
Another area that requires improvement is the streamlining of logistics supply to ensure uninterrupted supply of medicines and diagnostics. We already have an online inventory management system functional in most states till PHC level, this is now being extended to the SHC-AB-HWCs level to facilitate forecasting of requirements and supporting timely supply.

What is the tele-consultation module?

We have created a National Medical College Network of 50 colleges. Each of these will be given a catchment area of AB-HWCs to mentor and give tele-consultation services. States are being supported under National Health Mission to create hubs at medical colleges and link with AB-HWCs as spokes to improve clinical care coordination. Some states like Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Telangana have already started their tele-consultation services.

IN NUMBERS

STATES WITH THE MOST FOREST COVER IN INDIA (insqkm)



Source: Niti Aayog's EnviStats 2019



Vijay Inder Singla

THE STATE education minister Vijay Inder Singla announced the initiation of the Smart Schools Policy 2019-20 last week. The new policy opens the way for businesses, non-government organisations and even non-resident Indians to contribute to school infrastructure in schools. Around 25,000 government schools in 22 districts are expected to benefit from this.

KARNATAKA Expanding the scope of the IT revolution

E V RAMANA Reddy, Karnataka's Additional Chief Secretary of Information Technology has announced that the government will come out with a revised IT policy. The scope of the existing IT policy will end in 2020. The revised policy will be aimed at taking the IT revolution to the tier-2 cities such as Mysuru.

TOPOF THE WORLD



Abdulaziz bin Salman

THE GULF
Saudi Arabia replaces energy minister with king's son

Riyadh: Saudi Arabia's King Salman on Sunday replaced the energy minister with one of his sons, state media said, in a major shakeup as the OPEC kingpin reels from low oil prices. The appointment of Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman, half-brother to de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, marks the first time a royal family member has been put in charge of the all-important energy ministry. He replaces veteran official Khalid al-Falih as the world's top crude exporter accelerates preparations for a much-anticipated stock listing of state-owned oil giant Aramco, expected to be the world's biggest.

SRI LANKA
2 die, 13 critical after 'faith healing' session

Colombo: Two people died from heat exhaustion after attending a mass open air faith healing session in northeast Sri Lanka which left 13 others fighting for their lives, police said Sunday. Around 10,000 people, some of whom were seriously ill, had gathered at a school to listen to a man who claimed he could use "powers of the gods" to cure the sick. Police in the town of Horowupotana, 260 kilometres northeast of Colombo said 18 people were taken to hospital, with 13 in a critical condition. Officials at the local hospital said the two who died suffered heat exhaustion.

JAPAN
Tokyo braces for typhoon Faxai

Tokyo: A strong typhoon that could bring record winds and rain was poised to make a direct hit on Tokyo later Sunday, as authorities issued evacuation warnings amid a risk of high waves, landslides and flooding. Typhoon Faxai, packing winds of up to 216 kilometres per hour, is forecast to reach coastal areas near Tokyo in the late hours of Sunday into Monday morning, Japan's meteorological agency said.



SHUBHRA GUPTA
TORONTO, SEPTEMBER 8

OFTEN WHEN a film comes riding with a great deal of buzz, even the most case-hardened critics are bound to get swayed, one way or another. But *Waves*, the new offering from Trey Edward Shults, the writer-director who has made a mark with

PRESIDENT SAYS CANCELLED PLANS FOR SECRET MEETING AT CAMP DAVID

Trump scraps talks with Taliban

Cites suicide attack in Kabul that killed US soldier, 11 others

MICHAEL CROWLEY, LARA JAKES & MUJIB MASHAL
WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 8

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump said on Saturday that he had cancelled a secret meeting at Camp David with Taliban leaders and the President of Afghanistan and was calling off monthslong negotiations that had appeared to be nearing a peace agreement. "Unbeknownst to almost everyone," Trump wrote in a series of tweets, Taliban leaders and the Afghan President, Ashraf Ghani, were headed to the United States on Saturday for what would have been a politically electrified meeting at the President's official Camp David retreat in Maryland.

But Trump said that "in order to build false leverage," the Taliban had admitted to a suicide car bomb attack Thursday that had killed a US soldier and 11 others in the capital of Kabul. "I immediately cancelled the meeting and called off peace negotiations," he wrote. "If they cannot agree to a ceasefire during these very important peace talks, and would even kill 12 innocent people, then they probably don't have the power to negotiate a meaningful agreement anyway," Trump added. "How many more decades are they willing to fight?"

Trump's announcement was startling for multiple reasons. A surprise summit at Camp David with leaders of an insurgent group that has killed thousands of Americans since the October 2001 invasion of Afghanistan would have been a sensational diplomatic gambit, on par with Trump's meetings with the once-reclusive North Korean leader,



The Taliban had claimed responsibility for Thursday's suicide car bomb attack in Kabul. Reuters file

EXPLAINED Cancellation points to deeper issues in Afghan peace deal

TRUMP CITED the attack in Kabul that killed a US soldier and 11 others as the reason for cancelling talks. But the Taliban have conducted numerous attacks across Afghanistan, killing scores of people since the peace talks began. According to sources quoted in a *New York Times* report, one of the reasons for the cancellation was the Taliban's reluctance to meet Afghan government officials at Camp David in a secret meeting called by Trump. One of the main disagreements between the Taliban and US negotiators since the beginning of the peace talks stemmed from the insurgents' refusal to talk directly with the Afghan government. The Taliban, according to the *NYT* report, thought it would be political suicide to meet with Afghan officials at the Camp David meeting.

Kim Jong Un. A senior administration official said the meeting had been planned for Monday, just two days before the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, which were plotted from Afghanistan and led to the United States' invasion of the country. The move also appears to

scuttle — for now — Trump's long-standing hope to deliver on a campaign promise to withdraw US troops from an 18-year conflict that he has called an aimless boondoggle. It was unclear whether Trump's halt to the peace negotiations would be permanent. **NYT**

Johnson won't seek Brexit delay, govt says as another of his ministers quits

ELIZABETH PIPER
LONDON, SEPTEMBER 8

PRIME MINISTER Boris Johnson is sticking to his Brexit plan and will not seek a delay to Britain's departure from the EU at a summit next month, two of his ministers said on Sunday following a resignation from his government.

After work and pensions minister Amber Rudd's shock resignation late on Saturday over Johnson's Brexit policy, two ministers said the prime minister was determined to "keep to the plan" to leave the European Union by Oct. 31 with or without an agreement.

Johnson's determination to leave "do or die" by that deadline has been shaken by the events of recent days, which have prompted critics to describe him as a tyrant and deepened uncertainty over how Britain's 2016 vote to leave the EU will play out.

He has lost his Conservative government's majority in parliament, expelled 21 rebels from the party and failed to force



Amber Rudd resigned as work and pensions minister over the govt's 'disproportionate focus on preparing for a no-deal Brexit'

through a new election. Then his own brother quit, saying he was torn between family loyalty and the national interest.

Saturday's resignation of Amber Rudd as work and pensions minister over what she described as the government's disproportionate focus on preparing for a no-deal Brexit has only heightened the sense of crisis. **REUTERS**

EILEEN NG & ALICE FUNG
HONG KONG, SEPTEMBER 8

THOUSANDS OF demonstrators in Hong Kong urged President Donald Trump to "liberate" the semiautonomous Chinese territory during a peaceful march to the US Consulate on Sunday, but violence broke out later in the business and retail district as police fired teargas after protesters vandalised subway stations, set fires and blocked traffic.

Demonstrators flooded a park in central Hong Kong, chanting "Resist Beijing, Liberate Hong Kong" and "Stand with Hong Kong, fight for freedom." Many of them, clad in black shirts and wearing masks, waved American flags and carried posters that read "President Trump, please liberate Hong Kong" as they marched to the US Consulate nearby.

"Hong Kong is at the forefront of the battle against the totalitarian regime of China," said Panzer Chan, one of the organisers of the march. "Please support us in our fight."

Hong Kong has been rocked by three months of unrest sparked by a proposed law that would have allowed criminal



Protesters at a rally to the US Consulate General in Hong Kong on Sunday. Reuters

suspects to be sent to mainland China for trial. Many saw the extradition bill as a glaring example of the erosion of civil liberties and rights promised under a "one country, two systems" framework when the former British colony returned to Chinese rule in 1997. Hong Kong's government

MEANWHILE DORIAN REACHES CANADA

Canada's government authorised hundreds of troops on Sunday to help clear trees after Storm Dorian tore through the Atlantic coast overnight, leaving almost half a million people in three provinces without power. Dorian, classified as a strong post-tropical storm, hit Nova Scotia hard, leaving more than 370,000 people without power.



Kamala Harris apologises for laughing after man says Trump actions 'retarded'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 8

SENATOR KAMALA Harris, the first Indian-origin US Senator, has apologised for laughing and saying "well said" in response to a question from an Indian man who called President Donald Trump's actions "mentally retarded."

The 54-year-old California Democrat and presidential candidate termed as "upsetting" the video, circulated on social media, of the Friday's incident at the New Hampshire town hall. She denied she had heard the offensive term.

"When my staff played the video from my town hall yesterday, it was upsetting. I didn't hear the words the man used in that moment, but if I had I would've stopped and corrected him. I'm sorry. That word and others like it aren't acceptable. Ever," Harris said Saturday.

The questioner at the Londonderry town hall identified himself as being from Chennai, the same hometown as Harris' mother, and said he had spent "all this effort" to live the American dream and then Trump was elected, the CNN said in report.

"...I am scared for this country. I am scared for the people of colour in this country," the man said. He then asked Harris what she would do, "in the next one year, to diminish the mentally retarded action of this guy?" the report said. Harris laughed and responded: "Well said, well said"... "I plan to win this election, I'll tell you that," she was quoted as saying in the report.

Director of MIT's Media Lab steps down over ties to Epstein

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MASSACHUSETTS, SEPTEMBER 8

THE DIRECTOR of a prestigious research lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology resigned Saturday, and the school's president ordered an independent investigation amid an uproar over the lab's ties to disgraced financier Jeffrey Epstein.

Joi Ito, director of MIT's Media Lab, resigned from both the lab and from his position as a professor at the Cambridge school, university President L. Rafael Reif said.

The resignation was first reported by *The New York Times*.

Ito's resignation comes after *The New Yorker* reported late Friday that Media Lab had a more extensive fundraising relationship with Epstein than it previously acknowledged and tried to conceal the extent of the relationship.

Epstein killed himself in jail on August 10 while awaiting trial on sex trafficking charges. Federal prosecutors in New York had charged with sex trafficking,

about to become a father.

As befitting a black comedy with plenty of graveyard humour, all kinds of strange things happen — Vassil is convinced that his wife wanted to tell him something significant before she passed away, and wants his son to help discover what that is. A road-trip ensues, and we see this duo dance around each other in irritation and affection: this is precisely how close family members negotiate tricky hairpin bends in their relationships.

In the end, we know the secret. It's quite mundane, but it takes these two men who have been used to driving each other away, and getting them closer than they have been in years. As they say, even in the best of families.

off his mother's care, and stalking his girlfriend who's angry with him for not listening.

Sometimes, it all seems too much. And some of it feels a bit constructed and stretched. But for the most part, *Waves* is wonderful, the camera hovering literally a few inches away from the faces, each blemish and frown and smile and tear in sharp focus. Being hand-held, it brings the sense of urgency and immediacy to the proceedings, and sometimes we want it to back off, and just observe. Shults is interested in everything the characters do, and how their impulsivity and their unthinkingness, leads to a kind of reluctant growing up. Love, or something like it, can be the only redemption.

The Father, a Bulgarian film that won the Karlovy Vary top prize in July, topline family too. But while *Waves* gives us a long, hard look at the dynamics which can hopelessly skew families, *The Father*, directed by Kristina Grozeva and Petar Valchanov, takes refuge in the absurd, and making us laugh through sheer exasperation.

When Pavel's mother dies, he has to go to the village where his home, and his father, is. But this is no ordinary condolence call. The father, Vassil, is a real character. For reasons best known to him, Pavel lies to his wife and fudges the reason for his travelling to his village ; for the same obscure reasons, he omits to tell his father that he, Pavel, is now



A scene from Waves

the tough love his father exhibits (clearly, for the father, like so

many parents, showing affection is a sign of weakness), throwing

14 ECONOMY

SENTIMENT REMAINS DAMP, WITH SENSEX SEEING 7.9% FALL SINCE JULY 5

Surcharge rollback fails to pay off as FPI outflows from stocks continue

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 8

THE GOVERNMENT'S decision to roll back the super-rich tax on foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) and other measures to revive the economy have failed to boost investor sentiment, as the stock markets continued to witness capital outflows as a slowing economy dampened the enthusiasm of the investor community, with the Sensex falling 7.9 per cent — or over 2,900 points — since the Budget presentation on July 5.

After pulling out around Rs 30,000 crore in July and August, FPIs have withdrawn Rs 4,200 crore from stock markets in September so far. Though FPIs continued to invest in the debt market, net outflows since July 1 this year have crossed Rs 10,000 crore, according to NSDL data.

On the other hand, the debt market received over Rs 23,000 crore since July, with Rs 3,000 crore coming in September so far, the National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) data reveals.

On August 23, the central government withdrew the enhanced surcharge levied on the foreign portfolio investment on long and short term capital gains, in the wake of protests from FPIs.

The surcharge of 25 per cent was imposed on those having taxable income between Rs 2 crore and Rs 5 crore, and 39 per cent on those with taxable income over Rs

EXPLAINED

Global factors as well as domestic woes at play

DESPITE THE Centre's move to rollback the surcharge on FPIs, outflows have continued on account of a gamut of factors. These include slow demand growth in major economies, weakening current account surpluses in nations like China, as well as geopolitical and trade tensions.

To add to these woes, many domestic sectors are facing a slowdown and the GDP growth has fallen to a six-year low.

5 crore in the Budget 2019-20.

While the Finance Minister earlier suggested the FPI trusts to convert into companies where the Budget has not made any change in tax treatment, FPI investors called it a cumbersome process and an impractical solution. The selling spree intensified after July 19 when the FM declined to remove or relax the applicability of the new surcharge on the super rich and FPIs.

India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) said it expects headwinds to FPI flows into India to continue over the near-to-medium term, despite the accommodative global monetary policy stance and the Centre's efforts to alleviate uncertainty regarding the higher surcharge. "A gamut of factors, such as slower-than-expected demand growth in major economies, geopolitical and trade

tensions, and a gradual weakening of the economic growth prospects in India, have contributed to a build-up of risk aversion, which has impeded the demand for emerging market (EM) debt instruments," Ind-Ra said.

The impact of these factors has been exacerbated by the weakening current account surpluses of major economies, including China and Germany, which has impaired their ability to export capital. In fact, countries such as China and Saudi Arabia have actually been borrowing large quantum of funds from the global markets.

The government's plan to borrow from overseas markets has not made much headway after the Budget announcement and the GDP growth declined to 5 per cent for the June quarter, with many sectors like auto, FMCG and cement witnessing a slowdown.

INVESTMENTS BY FPIs (Rs crore, in 2019-20)				
MONTH	EQUITY	DEBT	HYBRID	TOTAL
April	21,193	-5,099	634	16,728
May	7,920	1,187	2,264	11,370
June	2,596	8,319	2,196	13,111
July	-12,419	9,433	-17	-3,003
August	-17,592	11,672	49	-5,871
September **	-4,264	3,001	-5	-1,268
Total - 2019	44,373	33,177	8,768	86,315

** Up to Sept 8, 2019
Source: NSDL

The FPI outflow has also impacted the rupee which fell below the Rs 72-level recently. "Recently-announced measures by the Finance Minister have failed to boost investors and FPI flows have not improved since July 2019. Crisil lowered India's GDP growth forecast to 6.3 per cent and says that the slowdown is deeper than suspected," said Abhishek Bansal, chairman, ABans Group of companies.

Deepak Jasani, head—retail research, HDFC Securities, said, "The withdrawal of surcharge on capital gains tax for FPIs and local investors (along with the recent relaxation in eligibility criteria for FPI registration by Sebi) will remove major irritants, though its positive impact on markets will depend on growth issues being sorted out over the near term."

With the Sensex having lost

another 351 points in the bygone week, the benchmark has lost 2,927 points since the Budget presentation to end at 36,981.77, with slowdown in many sectors adding to the bearishness.

"As corporate margins are under pressure, there's very little chance of making money in stocks. That's why FPIs have shifted focus to the debt where there's scope to get better returns," said an analyst.

The corporate sector registered an 11.97 per cent fall in net profit in the June quarter, even as the Reserve Bank cut the key policy interest rate by 75 points between February and June this year and the banks went slow in passing on the benefits of rate reduction to their customers. Stock markets are now banking on more measures from the government for a turnaround in their fortunes.

BANKING WATCH

11 PNB NPA ACCOUNTS FOR SALE

New Delhi: Punjab National Bank (PNB) has put up for sale 11 non-performing assets (NPA) to recover dues of over Rs 1,234 crore, and has invited bids from asset reconstruction companies (ARCs)/ NBFCs/ banks/ financial institutions for these accounts. **PTI**

Repo-linked loans: Cheaper now for borrowers, but rate hike cycle may turn up heat

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 8

THE RESERVE Bank of India's (RBI) decision to link interest rates on personal and MSME loans to a benchmark rate like the repo rate will cheer borrowers in the short-term; but it can turn the heat on them when the rate cycle changes and turns upwards, analysts and rating agencies have warned.

The first casualty will be housing loan customers who generally opt for variable interest rates. The banking system has seen both rate hike and easing cycles many times in the last two decades.

Although retail customers would receive cheaper loans now, the cost of increased interest rate causes volatility, as the changes — both lower and higher — would be reflected much faster. "In the current falling interest rate cycle, it is to the benefit of the borrowers. However, if the interest cycle turns, retail borrowers might face the heat," Care Ratings said.

This would primarily impact the housing loans segment (over 13 per cent of bank credit) which has variable interest rate, as vehicle or any other asset financing generally has a fixed interest rate.

The RBI has traditionally altered the repo rate in increments of 25 basis points (bps), with the last policy action being an outlier with a cut of 35 bps. "Such large changes in the repo rate may cause increased volatility in the EMIs for the borrowers, which may pose hardship during the rate

The RBI move to link interest rates on some loans to the repo rate has been undertaken to enable faster transmission of benefits of lowering of interest rate to retail and MSME borrowers

hike cycles. Hence, we expect the future monetary policy actions may be asymmetric, with a relatively lower increment during the rate hike cycles and frontloading during rate cuts," said Anil Gupta, vice president, ICRA.

The latest RBI initiative has been undertaken to enable faster transmission of benefits of lowering of interest rate to retail and MSME borrowers, who constitute over 30 per cent of the bank credit.

Faster transmission of interest cost benefit will in turn boost consumption supporting economic growth.

"Further, given the declining interest rate scenario and competitive pressures, HFCs are likely to face volatility in their customer base and cede a portion of the market share to the banks. The banks' NIMs could be squeezed to the extent of lag in lowering their deposit rates," Care Ratings added.

The new dispensation could aggravate their asset-liability mismatch. Ideally, both sides should be moved to similar benchmarks

to ensure an appropriate operational environment. PSU banks have been quicker off the mark for launching such products compared to their private peers. This could be another reason for PSU banks to face some erosion in the deposits as they have been losing ground to the private banks, Care Ratings noted.

"The external bench-marking of retail and MSME loans requires banks to reset their lending rates at least once in three months, as opposed to the longer reset frequency for the term deposit rates, which is likely to create volatility in the interest spreads for the banks," Gupta said. Banks will need to better manage their interest rate risks, either by widening their deposit product offerings by pricing floating rate products more attractively than fixed rate products, or through interest rate derivatives, he added.

According to a Kotak Research report, there are some key risks in the long term if the external benchmark achieves its desired objective. "Regulators are likely to introduce it to all segments from the smaller current subset. A natural reaction to such changes from a bank would be to manage/ reduce volatility in NIM," it said.

It also cautioned about the ability of borrowers of recent vintages to adjust to a sharp rise in interest rates, as the banking system has seen in 2005-08 and 2011-12.

Banks may also increase the share of fixed rate loan offering, though borrowers may not be comfortable, said an analyst.

BRIEFLY

Patanjali to infuse ₹3.4 cr in Ruchi Soya

New Delhi: Patanjali Ayurved, which got the NCLT approval last week to acquire Ruchi Soya in an insolvency process, will infuse over Rs 3,438 crore as equity and debt to settle dues of creditors of the debt-laden firm. Ruchi Soya informed the exchanges that the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Mumbai in its order dated September 6 approved Patanjali's Rs 4,350 crore resolution plan with certain modifications that were accepted by the bidder. Ruchi Soya informed that resolution applicant Patanjali group will infuse Rs 204.75 crore as equity and Rs 3,233.36 crore as debt.

Bol offers loan processing charges waiver

New Delhi: State-owned Bank of India (BoI) under its festive offer for retail products is offering home loans at concessional interest rate with no processing charges to woo customers. The bank has waived loan processing charges and will provide home loan at concessional rates. Bol general manager Salil Kumar Swain said. Home loan of up to Rs 30 lakh would be available at 8.35 per cent while loan above Rs 30 lakh would be linked to repo rate, he said. At the same time, the bank offering education loan at competitive rate, he added.

Industry leaders pay tribute to Jethmalani

New Delhi: Industry leaders have condoled the demise of former Union minister and eminent lawyer Ram Jethmalani, who passed away on Sunday at 745 am at his official residence here. "Ram Jethmalani was a colossus who straddled the legal landscape of India for over 70 years," Hinduja Group co-chairman Gopichand Hinduja said. Former Infosys chief financial officer and multi-sector investor T V Mohandas Pai also condoled the death of Jethmalani. **PTI**

'PSU debt raising via bonds up; NBFCs face challenge'

The loss of fund-raising capability through corporate debt bonds by NBFCs resulted in the gain for public sector financial institutions in 2018-19, said a joint study by Assocham and Crisil

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES: Government securities, or G-secs, have seen notable growth over the years, commanding a penetration ratio of nearly 30 per cent of GDP

0.55%
TRADING RATIO FOR G-SECS

CORPORATE BONDS: Corporate bonds, which are rather illiquid even in the secondary market, have a penetration ratio of 16 per cent

0.22%
TRADING RATIO FOR CORPORATE BONDS



IL&FS CRISIS DENTS CONFIDENCE: Defaults by IL&FS at the beginning of September 2018 created panic and led to a dip in investor confidence towards lending to non-banking finance companies (NBFCs)

CORPORATES OPT FOR PRIVATE PLACEMENTS: Corporates prefer raising funds through private placements, though private placements lack transparency

12
PERCENTAGE POINTS
Rise in the share of AAA-rated issuances, with investors opting for safer investments

8
PERCENTAGE POINTS
Rise in share of overall issuance of corporate bonds by PSU financial institutions, with NBFCs losing their share

RCEP nations pledge to clinch deal this year

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 8

TRADE MINISTERS from the 16-nation Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) grouping on Sunday pledged to address contentious issues and clinch a deal this year, underscoring the fact that continuing uncertainties in trade and investment environment had dampened growth outlook.

Without explicitly mentioning

the escalating trade war between the US and China, the countries participating in the 7th RCEP ministerial meeting in Bangkok said in a joint statement that the trade uncertainties would likely impact businesses and jobs, "adding to the urgency and imperative of concluding the RCEP". Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal attended the meeting.

"While noting that certain developments in the global trade environment may affect the RPC's (RCEP participating countries) in-

dividual positions in the course of the negotiations, ministers agreed that RPCs should not lose the long-term vision of deepening and expanding the values chains in the RCEP," according to the statement.

"The ministers underscored that, successfully concluded, the RCEP will provide the much-needed stability and certainty to the market, which will in turn boost trade and investment in the region. To this end, ministers reaffirmed their collective resolve to bring negotiations to a conclu-

sion," it added.

Despite making some progress, the RCEP negotiations have dragged on for years, having missed its deadline continuously. As for India, sources had earlier said that the country could rethink its RCEP engagement and might even be forced to pull out of the mega trade deal if negotiations were sought to be concluded hurriedly without addressing its concerns on its massive trade imbalance with other members, especially China. **FE**

IMPORTS OF AMERICAN GOODS FALL 22% IN AUG FROM A YEAR AGO TO \$10.3 BILLION

China's trade with US shrinks as tariff war worsens

JOE MCDONALD
BEIJING, SEPTEMBER 8

CHINA'S TRADE with the United States is falling as the two sides prepare for negotiations with no signs of progress toward ending a tariff war that threatens global economic growth.

Imports of American goods tumbled 22 per cent in August from a year earlier to \$10.3 billion, customs data showed Sunday. Exports to the United States, China's biggest market, sank 16 per cent to \$44.4 billion.

Both sides have raised tariffs on billions of dollars of each other's imports in the fight over complaints about Beijing's trade surplus and technology development plans.

The United States, Europe, Japan and other trading partners say those violate Chinese market-opening commitments.

US and Chinese negotiators are preparing for talks in October. Despite that, the two governments escalated their fight on September 1, imposing or increasing penalties on billions of dollars of goods. President Donald Trump plans another increase October 15.

Chinese exporters also face pressure from weakening global consumer demand. That hurts efforts to find markets to replace the United States.

"The tit-for-tat escalation shows how unlikely a trade deal and de-escalation have become," said Louis Kuijs of Oxford Economics in a report.

CHINA'S GLOBAL EXPORTS SEE 3% FALL

■ China's global exports fell 3 per cent to \$214.8 billion, while imports were up 1.7 per cent at \$180 billion; for first eight months of 2019, exports were off 1 per cent from a year-ago and imports were down 5.6 per cent

■ China's global trade surplus rose 25 per cent from

a year earlier to \$34.8 billion; exports to the European Union rose 3 per cent from a year earlier to \$38.3 billion

■ US-Chinese negotiations broke down in May over how to enforce any agreement. Beijing says Trump's punitive tariffs must be lifted once an agreement takes effect

"Meanwhile, the global trade weakness looks set to linger, which will continue to weigh on demand for China's exports."

The conflict has disrupted trade in goods from soybeans to medical equipment, battered

traders on both sides and fueled fears in financial markets of a global economic slowdown.

China's politically sensitive trade surplus with the United States narrowed to \$31.3 billion in August from \$27 billion a year

earlier.

China's global exports fell 3 per cent to \$214.8 billion, while imports were up 1.7 per cent at \$180 billion.

For the first eight months of 2019, exports were off 1 per cent from a year earlier and imports were down 5.6 per cent.

China's global trade surplus rose 25 per cent from a year earlier to \$34.8 billion. Exports to the European Union rose 3 per cent from a year earlier to \$38.3 billion. US-Chinese negotiations broke down in May over how to enforce any agreement.

Beijing says Trump's punitive tariffs must be lifted once an agreement takes effect. Washington says some must stay to ensure Beijing carries out any promises it makes. **AP**

UNREST IN HONG KONG

Carrie Lam's blues

Hong Kong's leader has made a concession to protesters



Riot police use water cannons to disperse anti-extradition bill demonstrators in Hong Kong, on August 31. *Reuters*

DURING THE past nearly three months of popular unrest in Hong Kong, unprecedented in size and intensity, the territory has become accustomed to surprises. Participants themselves have been taken aback by the scale of some of the protests, the violence they have spawned by protesters and police, and their persistence in spite of the economic harm that some residents fear they are causing and the risk they may be incurring of intervention by the mainland's security forces. Now the territory's chief executive, Carrie Lam, obdurate for weeks in the face of the protesters' demands, has changed her tune.

On September 4th, after days of speculation that the government was preparing to get far tougher, perhaps by invoking sweeping colonial-era emergency regulations, Mrs Lam made a pre-recorded televised address that was clearly intended to sound conciliatory. In it she said she would formally abandon the proposed legislation that sparked the unrest in June—a bill that would have allowed criminal suspects in Hong Kong to be

extradited to Communist Party-controlled courts on the Chinese mainland. Mrs Lam shelved the bill a few days after the protests broke out, but had hitherto rejected protesters' demands that she scrap it entirely. She now says a government motion declaring its withdrawal will be submitted to the legislature when it reconvenes next month.

This was hardly a dramatic step—she had already declared the bill “dead”. But it was striking in the context of recent reports that she had been refusing to ditch it completely because the leadership in Beijing would not let her. On August 30th Reuters news agency quoted unnamed sources in Hong Kong as saying that Mrs Lam had proposed doing so in a report submitted to the central government. This document had also suggested accepting one of the protesters' other demands, namely that an independent inquiry be conducted into the protests, including the use of excessive force by the police. Reuters said the response from Beijing was that no further concessions should be made.

Many pro-democracy activists have responded dismissively to Mrs Lam's announcement. They note that Mrs Lam repeated her consistent line that complaints about police violence would be handled by the Independent Police Complaints Council, which protesters say is not independent enough. She also made no concessions to their other demands: that arrested demonstrators be released and no charges pressed, that the government stop classifying the unrest as a “riot” and that full democracy be granted. The party has promised eventual “universal suffrage” in Hong Kong. But it applies the term only to the ability to cast a vote. It reserves the right to decide who can stand.

Few protesters expect the party to grant more democracy. But a slogan they often chant is “Five demands, not one less”, implying that they intend to maintain pressure on the government even though they know their goal is unrealistic. Before Mrs Lam's address, the stances of both sides had appeared to be hardening. Last week, for the first time,

the police refused to give permission for a proposed big rally in central Hong Kong. Organisers called it off, but thousands turned up anyway on August 31st. This led to some of the worst violence since the unrest began.

Protesters threw dozens of petrol bombs and lit bonfires in the streets. The police responded with water cannon (a recent addition to their armoury) with blue dye to stain protesters at the scene and help with identification later. They also fired live rounds in warning. On the following day protesters gathered at the airport, disrupting flights and ground-transport links. They later vandalised train stations elsewhere in Hong Kong.

The scale of the unrest fuelled mounting speculation that the government might apply the martial-law-like Emergency Regulations Ordinance which was introduced by the British 75 years before their withdrawal from the territory in 1997. It was last used in 1967 to crush riots by Communist Party supporters. Under it, the government could impose censorship, seize property and

arrest people far more freely. Party-controlled newspapers in Hong Kong have been braying for the law's deployment.

But using the ordinance may not help the government as much as the party's cheerleaders expect. Restricting liberties could strengthen support for the demonstrators. Business confidence could plummet should the authorities start confiscating assets. Some firms are already deeply worried about being caught in the crossfire, Hong Kong's flagship airline, Cathay Pacific, is one. The participation of some of its staff in the protests has infuriated Chinese officials. In mid-August the company dumped its chief executive as Chinese pressure on the firm grew. On September 4th its chairman, John Slosar, also said he would resign. (Cathay says he is retiring.)

Ronny Tong, a member of Mrs Lam's cabinet, says he personally has reservations about invoking the ordinance. He is concerned, for example, that if it were used to ban masks at protests (the pro-party press is eager for this

to be done), the police might not be able to enforce the new rule strictly. If the police were struggling, in turn, he is worried that might prompt the mainland authorities to intervene as allowed for in the basic law.

In a recent off-record speech to businessmen, published by Reuters on September 3rd, Mrs Lam said officials in Beijing were not planning to send in the army. “They know that the price would be too huge to pay,” she said. But she admitted that she had few options. “Political room for manoeuvring is very, very, very limited,” she said, given the need to “serve two masters”: the central government and the people of Hong Kong. She admitted that she had caused “unforgivable” havoc in the territory and said that if she had a choice, she would quit. Later, pressed by reporters, she denied having asked the central government for permission to do so and insisted she had not even thought about it. She must surely be tempted.

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SYRIA

Assad's hollow victory

Syria will poison the region for years to come

“ASSAD OR we burn the country.” For years Bashar al-Assad's troops have daubed that phrase onto walls in the towns they recapture. The insurgents pushed the dictator to the brink. But Mr Assad shrugged off the empty threats of Western leaders, and enlisted the help of Iran and Russia. True to his slogan, he destroyed whole cities and gassed and starved his own people. What rebels remain are holed up in Idlib province. It, too, will soon fall. Against all the odds, the monster has won.

Yet it is a hollow victory. Far from bringing order to the country, as the Russians and Iranians claim, Mr Assad has displaced half the population. Eight years of civil war have destroyed the economy and cost 500,000 lives. Mr Assad has nothing good to offer his people. His country will be wretched and divided. The consequences will be felt far beyond its borders.

The precise moment of Mr Assad's triumph will be determined in Idlib. About 3m people live there, many of whom fled fighting elsewhere. The area is controlled by the hardest-core rebels, jihadists linked to al-Qaeda, who will not go quietly. That, too, is a legacy of Mr Assad's ruthlessness. He released hundreds of jihadists from prison in 2011, hoping that they would taint the once-peaceful, multi-confessional uprising. Now the regime is bombing them, along with civilians and hospitals. The offensive will take time—and it will be bloody.

When the fighting stops, the tensions that originally threatened the regime will remain—but they will be worse than ever.

Start with religion. Mr Assad's father, Hafez, a member of the Alawite minority, clung to power partly by holding the line between the country's faiths. His son, though, painted his Sunni opponents as fundamentalists as a way of rallying Christians, Druze and secular-minded Syrians to his side. Millions of Sunnis have fled the country, creating what Mr Assad calls “a healthier and more homogeneous society”, but millions remain. They have seen their homes looted, property confiscated and districts overrun by Assad supporters. Resentful, fearful and oppressed, they will be a source of opposition to the regime.

Next are Syrians' grievances. Back in 2011 corruption, poverty and social inequality united the uprising. Things have only got worse. Syria's GDP is one-third of what it was before the war. The UN reckons that more than eight in ten people are poor. Much of the country lies in ruins. But the government's plans to rebuild Syria risk tearing it further apart. Reconstruction will cost between \$250bn and \$400bn, but Mr Assad has neither the money nor the manpower to carry it out. So he has focused resources on areas that remained loyal. The Sunni slums that did not are being demolished and redeveloped for his bourgeois supporters. His cronies reap the profits, as the country's class and religious fault lines grow wider.

Then there is Mr Assad's cruelty. Hafez kept Syria in check with a brutal secret police and occasional campaigns of murderous violence. His son, in danger of losing power, has tortured and killed at least

14,000 people in the regime's sprawling network of clandestine prisons, according to the Syrian Network for Human Rights, an NGO. Nearly 128,000 people are thought to remain in the dungeons, though many are probably dead. Even as the war nears its end, the pace of executions is increasing. Almost every Syrian has lost someone close to them in the war. Psychologists speak ominously of a breakdown in society.

Last is Mr Assad's debt to Iran and Russia. He owes his victory to their supply of firepower, advice and money and their willingness to back a pariah. They will expect to be paid, with interest.

For Syrians, therefore, Mr Assad's victory is a catastrophe. But his opponents are exhausted so, in spite of his weaknesses, he could yet cling to power for years. And for as long as he is in charge, Syria's misery will spread across the region.

The war has already drawn in a handful of outside powers, but the chaos could grow. Iran treats Syria as a second front against Israel to complement Hizbullah, its proxy in Lebanon. Israel has launched hundreds of air strikes on Iranian positions during the war. One in August prevented Iranian and Hizbullah operatives from attacking Israel with armed drones, the Israeli army says. Turkey, which has troops in the north, is threatening to launch an offensive against Kurdish forces, whom it considers terrorists, near its border. That could lead to a face-off with America, which supports the Kurds and had been trying to calm the Turks.

Refugees will destabilise Syria's neigh-



Syrian President Bashar al-Assad during an interview in Damascus, Syria, in 2018. *Reuters*

bours, too. Those who have fled Mr Assad do not want to go home—indeed their numbers will grow because of the offensive in Idlib. The longer they stay in camps, the greater the danger that they become a permanent, festering diaspora. They are already unsettling host countries, such as Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, where many locals accuse them of draining resources and taking jobs. Turkey is sending some back, even to places like Idlib.

And that could spill over into the wider world. Dispossessed at home and unwanted abroad, refugees are at risk of radicalisation. Mr Assad's ruthless tactics have left large parts of his population bitter and

alienated. His prisons will incubate extremism. What better breeding ground for al-Qaeda and Islamic State (is), which the American government says is already “resurging in Syria”? In May America dropped 54 bombs and missiles on jihadists in Iraq and Syria. That number rose to over 100 in each of June and July.

Having failed to act in the war's early days, when they might have pushed the dictator out, Western countries can do little now to change Syria's course. Some European leaders think it is time to engage with Mr Assad, participate in reconstruction and send the refugees home. This is misguided. The refugees will not return willingly.

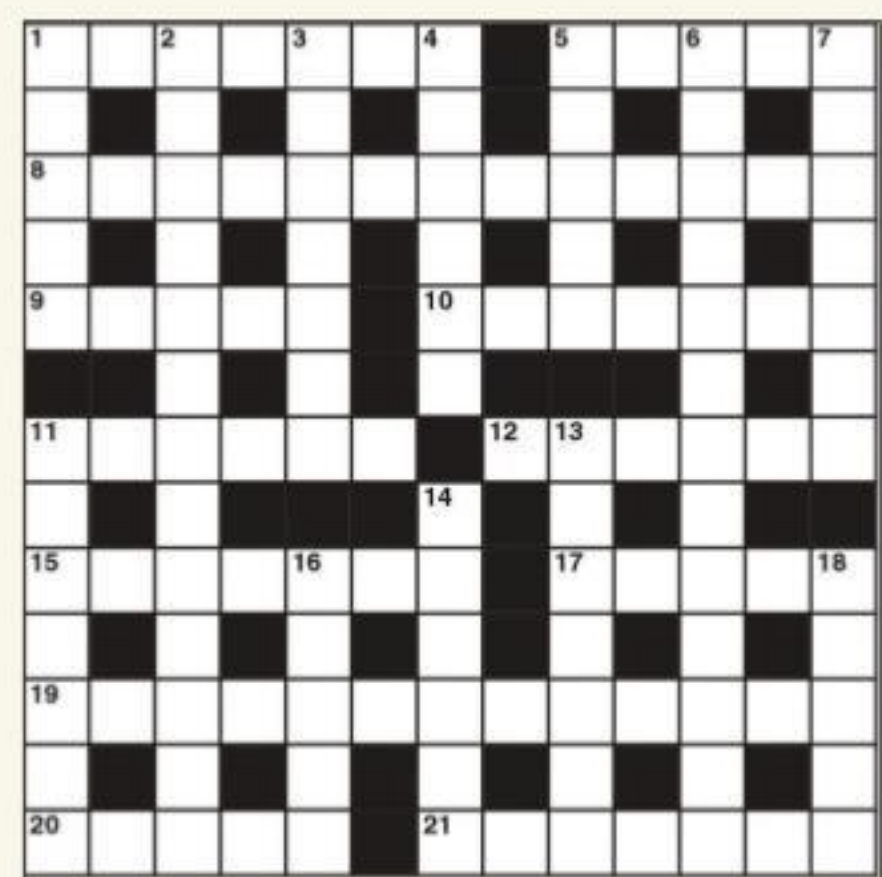
Reconstruction will only benefit the regime and the warlords and foreigners who backed it. Better to let Russia and Iran pay.

Instead the West should try to spare Syria's suffering by offering strictly humanitarian assistance and threatening retribution for heinous acts, such as the use of chemical weapons. America should stay to keep IS and al-Qaeda in check. But for as long as Mr Assad is allowed to misrule Syria, most aid money would be better spent helping its neighbours. Syrians have suffered terribly. With Mr Assad's victory, their misery will go on.

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CROSSWORD 3905



- ACROSS**
1 Cultured and splendid in crimson (7)
5 Slight resentment? (5)
8 Act altruistically, but lose control (6,7)
9 Difficulty in hearing (5)
10 Cast in a devilish mould (7)
11 In one way he's not sincere (6)
12 Wanders aimlessly in the snow? (6)
15 Is stout perhaps, so doesn't dance (4,3)
17 Surveys opinions (5)
19 Release after a confession without a charge (9,4)
20 Sees a new way and so relaxes (5)
21 He was invited, we hear, and gave an estimate (7)
- DOWN**
1 Source of pointless strife in a shipyard? (5)
2 They're likely to get stuck abroad (7,6)
3 Irritates by the unnecessary loss of a point (7)
4 Words get muddled at the end of the day, when tired (6)
5 Petal-shaped fold (5)
6 Do all card players fall for her? (5,2,6)
7 The impressions provided by one's belongings? (7)
11 As he got found out, he was taken prisoner (7)
13 Reg gets even somehow in retaliation (7)
14 The way to loop cord (6)
16 Well-equipped place for caravans en route (5)
18 Lay out and consume (5)

Solutions Crossword 3904: Across: 1 Tudor, 8 Farewell, 9 Edith, 10 Bastille, 11 Prime, 12 Ash, 16 Debris, 17 Errors, 18 Sum, 23 Tiffs, 24 Thrown in, 25 Spain, 26 Engineer, 27 Helot. Down: 2 Undersea, 3 Outsmart, 4 Casals, 5 Debts, 6 Dealt, 7 Blues, 12 Ass, 13 Hem, 14 Fruit pie, 15 Graffiti, 19 United, 20 Utter, 21 Dregs, 22 Owning.

JUMBLED WORDS

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

Good people are good because they've come to ____ through ____ - William Saroyan (6,,7)

EIAER

DMIIIO

EEQLSU

AELDFW

SOLUTION: AERIE, IDIOM, SEQUIL, FLAMED
Answer: Good people are good because they've come to wisdom through failure

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 3964

Difficulty Level 5s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

		2	7		4	3		
	7		6		1			2
1								8
8	5				4		2	
			9		8			
6	7				5		9	
7								1
4		2	5		9			
	9	4		7	6			

SOLUTION SUDOKU 3963

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

3	2	5	8	1	9	4	6	7
9	8	7	3	4	6	2	5	1
6	1	4	2	5	7	8	3	9
2	3	6	5	8	1	7	9	4
1	4	9	7	6	2	5	8	3
5	7	8	9	3	4	1	2	6
4	5	1	6	2	3	9	7	8
7	6	2	1	9	8	3	4	5
8	9	3	4	7	5	6	1	2

KERALA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
e-Tender Notice

E-Tender ID	Items	Bid submission end date
2019_KSRTC_29945_1	HIRING OF SINGLE AXLE 12 Mtr NonAC Electric Buses (Fully Battery Powered) on WET LEASE (OPEX Model) Jasper FAMEI-250nos (Thiruvananthapuram Zone 100, Ernakulam Zone-100, Kozhikode Zone-50)	19.10.2019 06:00 PM

For more details visit: www.etenders.kerala.gov.in & www.keralartc.com/tenders/purchase
Ph.No: 0471-2471011 Extn: 252/312
Date : 09.09.2019 (Sd/-) Chairman & Managing Director

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY
e-Tender Notice

Tender No. : T No. 14/2019-20/SE/Q. KIIFB-WSS to Kalluvathukkal Paripally and Velinalloor (Parl) Villages- Phase I-Package-II-Construction and commissioning of 7.5 MLD capacity WTP, Construction and commissioning of 9LL OHSR, Construction and commissioning of 11.30 LL capacity OHSR, Supply and laying 350mm DI K9 clear water pumping main, Supply and laying 250mm DI K9 gravity main. Construction of RCC pipe bridge or slab, PWD Road restoration, Supply and erection of 2 Nos. of 30HP Clear Water Pumps. EMD : Rs. 500000. Tender fee : Rs. 15000+2700, (18% GST) - It will be paid by the contractor on reverse charge basis while filing his returns. Last Date for submitting Tender : 09-10-2019 02:00pm. Phone: 0474 2745293. Website: www.kwa.kerala.gov.in

KWA-JB-GL-6-271-2019-20
Superintending Engineer, PH Circle, Kollam

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
(Distt. - Saran), Bihar 841221

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
For opening of fifty bedded Hospital by a private Hospital or Hospital group on lease rent basis at Rail Wheel Plant, Bela (Saran)

1. Rail Wheel Plant/Bela, Dist. Saran (Bihar) is an independent Production Unit under the Ministry of Railways, Government of India. There is a requirement of a full-fledged hospital facility (50 bedded) in its campus for 1000+ permanent officers and employees and their dependents for which residential accommodation is almost ready within the plant premises. 2. It is proposed to provide railway land of suitable size on lease rent basis to the reputed hospital/ hospital group who are willing to open, construct & operate their hospital on the railway land provided by RWP administration and/or utilizing Railway Polytechnic facilities by suitably upgrading the same. 3. Hospital should at least provide secondary level Health care facilities with specialties like medicines, surgery, obo/Gynaec., pediatric, Orthopedics and run a twenty four hours casualty services. 4. Governance of Hospital will be partly by RWP/Bela administration on mutually agreed terms and conditions. Any reputed private hospital or hospital group interested to open a 50 bedded hospital facilities for officers, employees and their dependents of Rail Wheel Plant, Bela including local public of the surrounding areas, can contact the office of the CMS, 1st floor, Rail Wheel Plant, Administrative building, Bela, PO-Arvind Nagar, Block-Dariyapur, Dist-Saran (Chhapra), Bihar, Pincode-841221, on any working day before 30.09.2019 and for details, may visit RWP/Bela website at www.rwp.inciainrailways.gov.in
Contact Details:- Dr. Sanjay Kumar, ACMS/RWP/ Bela, Mobile no. - 9771488053, Fax-06158-272136
Additional Chief Medical Superintendent, RWP Bela (Saran)
RWP/CPRO/AdvU/2019-20/29

CENTRAL WAREHOUSING CORPORATION
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

Corporate Office: 4/1, Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016
Ph: 011-26967245, Telefax: 011-26518031, E-mail: dmcp.cwhc@nic.in

No. CWC/CO-ENGG./PRESS NOTE/2019-20/2671 Date: 06.09.2019

PRESS NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
CWC invites online tenders from the contractors for the following works:-

Sr. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (In Lakhs)	Last date of online submission & opening of tender
1.	Replacement of AC sheet roofing and internal road at CW, Jahangirabad- I & II (UP)	365.03	01.10.2019

Detailed Tender Notice alongwith conditions of contract and Notice Inviting E-Tender may be seen and downloaded from the CWC website www.cwecor.nic.in or e-tender website www.tenderwizard.com/CWC or CPP Portal <http://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app>. Further Corrigendum / Addendum to this Tender, if any, will be published on website www.cwecor.nic.in or e-tender website www.tenderwizard.com/CWC or CPP Portal <http://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app> (CPP) only. Newspaper press advertisement shall not be issued for the same.

Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER

UJVN LIMITED
(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprise)
H.O.: "UJJWAL" Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun - 248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808, 2763809, Fax No.: 0135-2763597
CIN No.: U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.uttarakhandajalvidyut.com

e-Procurement Notice
NIT No.: PDD-06/2019-20

Office of Executive Engineer, Project Distribution Division, Dakpathar (D.Dun), invites e-tenders from interested firms for following work.
Name of Work:- Supply and Installation of ACSR Raccoon conductor of 11KV Dakpathar & Barrage feeder lines from DPH Khodri.
Approx. Value of Tender : Rs. 33, 61,864/- + GST Extra.
Earnest Money : Rs. 67,500/-
Tender Cost : Rs. 2,360/-
Date of availability of tender on the portal : - 09.09.2019 (17:00 Hrs.)
Last date of receipt of bid on the portal : - 02.10.2019 (up to 16.00 Hrs.)
Last date for submission of hard copy of bid : - 03.10.2019 (11.00 Hrs.)
Date of Opening tender on the website : - 05.10.2019 (at 15:00 Hrs.)
Name & address of the officer inviting the bid : - Executive Engineer, Project Distribution Division, Dakpathar.
Further details regarding tender and subsequent addendum/ corrigendum/ cancellation etc. may be obtained from the e-procurement portal <https://uktenders.gov.in>.

Executive Engineer
509 यूजेवीएन लिमिटेड/विजल/पिनकोड : 07.09.2019

"Avoid Wasteful Use of Electricity"

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

Short Term e-Tender Notice
Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil-Maintenance), Yamuna Bhawan, Yamuna Colony, Dehradun Invites online bids from interested firms. Brief summary of tender is given below :
Tender No: 08/EE(C-M)/DDN/2019-20
Name of work: Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Fire-Fighting system and Addressable Fire Alarm System Work at Pre-engineered Multi storey Corporate Office Building at UJJWAL CAMPUS, GMS Road, Dehradun.
Estimated cost : ₹ 1,62,24,376.00
Earnest money deposit : ₹ 4,05,610.00
Tender Fee : ₹ 11,800.00 (inclusive GST)
Date of availability of bid : From 17:00 hrs of 9th September, 2019
Last date for submission of bids on website : Upto 17:00 hrs of 24th September 2019
Last date of submission of hard copies of bids : Upto 17:00 hrs of 24th September 2019
(Tender Fees, Earnest Money, Non-judicial stamp paper of ₹ 100/-)
Date of opening of bids : at 11.30 hrs of 25th September 2019 on website
For further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal "http://uktenders.gov.in"
प्रारंभिक: 517 - 07/09/2019
Executive Engineer (Civil-Maintenance)
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN STATE LEVEL PURCHASE COMMITTEE, SHEEP HUSBANDRY DEPARTMENT, J&K

e-tenders

For and on behalf of the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Chairman state Level Purchase Committee, Sheep Husbandry Department, J&K Jammu invites tenders by e-tendering mode for following items from the original manufacturer/ National/ Inter-National Companies of Repute/direct importers for fixing the Rate Contract for the year 2019-20.

S. No.	Tenders for Item/work	Tender fee Rs.	EMD Rs.	Last date of submission of tenders	Date of opening of tender
1	Supply of Drugs/Medicines Vide e NIT no DSHJ/supp/NIT/2018-19/01 Dated 06/03/2019	500	100000	30-09-2019	01-10-2019
2	Supply of Indigenous Drugs Vide e NIT no DSHJ/supp/NIT/2018-19/02 Dated 06/03/2019	500	50000	30-09-2019	01-10-2019
3	Supply of Equipments for embryo transfer technology (ETT) lab at Zakura Srinagar Vide e NIT no.DSHJ/ supp/ SLPC/ NIT/2019-20/08 Dated 20/06/2019	500	50000	30-09-2019	01-10-2019
4	Supply of cattle feed(pelleted)Vide e NIT no DSHJ/supp/NIT/2019-20/09 Dated 29/08/2019	500	100000	20-09-2019	23-09-2019

The complete information about the tenders can also be seen / downloaded from the web-site <https://www.jktenders.gov.in>.The prescribed tender fee and earnest money deposits in the form of DD and FDR should be pledged to the Accounts Officer, Sheep Husbandry Department, Railhead Complex Jammu payable at Jammu.

Sd-
Chairman
State Level Purchase Committee
Sheep Husbandry Department, J&K
(Director, SHD Jammu)

DIP/J-2544-P/19

NLC India Limited
'Navratna' - Government of India Enterprise
Regd. Office : First Floor, No.8, Mayor Sathyamurthy Road, FSD, Egmore Complex of Food Corporation of India, Chetpet, Chennai - 600 031.
Corp. Office : Block-1, Newtropolis 607 801, Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu.
CIN No.: L93090TN1956G01003507, Website: www.nlcindia.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR SUPPLIES (e-Tender Notices SI.No.1 to 7)

SI.No.	Tender Ref./Scope of supplies & Qty. Reqd.
1.	UNIT: M.M. COMPLEX: PTE No: ENQ No.19-20/001567/MM01 (01), Dt: 30.08.2019: Two wheel Bogies. Due date of opening: 01.10.2019
2.	PTE- ENQ/19-20/001610/MM01 (05), Dt: 30.08.2019: 10 items of Cardan Shaft. Due date of opening: 03.10.2019
3.	PTE No: ENQ No.19-20/001641/MM01 (01), Dt: 02.09.2019: Gear Box Internals - 8 items. Due date of opening: 03.10.2019
4.	PTE: ENQ/19-20/001676/MM18 (03), Dt: 02.09.2019: Procurement of (i) Site Mixed Bulk Explosive Cast Booster. Qty.: 4000 Kilograms. (ii) Site Mixed Explosive High Strength: Qty.:2000000 Kilograms. Due date of opening: 03.10.2019
5.	ENQ/19-20/001437/MM04 (08) Dt: 02.09.2019: Circulating Water Pump Motor. Due date of opening: 04.10.2019
6.	ENQ/19-20/001702/MM25(01) Dt:04.09.2019: 245 KV single phase outdoor oil filled type capacitance voltage transformer – 13Nos. Due date of opening: 01.10.2019
7.	ENQ/19-20/001724/MM22(01) Dt:05.09.2019: 3D Terrestrial Laser Scanner-1 No. Due date of opening: 03.10.2019

FOR e-TENDER DOCUMENTS/DETAILS/CORRIGENDUM VISIT: www.nlcindia.com
PUBLIC SECTOR IS YOURS : HELP IT TO HELP YOU

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

e-tender is invited on Behalf of the President of India for the under mentioned work:-
SN. 1. e-Tender No. : ECR-CAO-C-S-E-TEN-25-19-20. Name of work : Earth Work in embankment, Compaction, Blanketing, Turfing, Construction of minor bridges, FOB, Station building Platform and others associated works from km 32.4 to Km 39.0 in connection with construction of new BG Rail line from Koderma to Talaiya under jurisdiction of Dy. CE/C/2/DHN. Approx cost of the work in (Rs.) : Rs. 161,56,63,826.43. Cost of tender form in (Rs.) : Rs. 25,000/- Earnest money in (Rs.) : Rs. 82,28,300/-. Period of work completion : 18 [Eighteen] Months. Date and time for closing of tender : 26.09.2019 at 15.30 hrs. Any e-tenders which is sent by Post/Courier/Fax or by hand will not be accepted. All such manual submission of tender even if it is on firm's letter pad or received in time will not be accepted. The above e-tender document alongwith full information is available on website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. Note : In case of any discrepancies found in tender notice, English version will be final. Tenderers are requested to visit the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> atleast 15 days before last date of closing, for latest corrigendum/ corrections etc in connection with this e-tender. Any change/addendum/ corrigendum will be published on IREPS website only.
CAO/Con/South E.C. Ry. MMX, Patna
PR/01171/CON/ ENGG/T/19-20/48



FILLING A GAP
London's V&A museum has put Tampax's silicone menstrual cup on display, in an attempt to fill a gap in its Rapid Response collection that includes items responding to 'major moments in recent history that touch the world of design and manufacturing'.

ON THE LOOSE



LEHER KALA

Clock Work

Teachers should embrace technology, not resist it

THE GUJARAT Primary Teachers Association (GPTA) is doing everything they can to stall a government initiative, a facial recognition attendance app to keep track of 2.5 lakh educators in the state. Note the irony that along with the children, the proposed new system requires teachers to mark their presence every day after reaching school, by clicking a selfie and posting it on the app. This initiative took shape after complaints by parents that random people of questionable antecedents were acting as proxy's for teachers in rural areas. The Microsoft-developed app ensures the very least; that only people hired for the job were showing up for it. The teachers, unsurprisingly, have protested vehemently, citing privacy violations. The GPTA President, Digvijaysinh Jadeja said, "Due to security concerns for female teachers, we have decided no teacher will download Kaizala App on their personal phones." (The Indian Express, September 3, 2019.)

Tracking employee behaviour is an accepted business practice and people in the private sector have had to bear the ignominy of clocking in and out since time immemorial. There are serious consequences for repeated absences and late clock-ins: leaves are cut, half days noted, sick days duly counted and productivity assessed vis a vis the number of hours spent in the office.

Considering the video surveillance that 90 per cent of the working world endures in the 21st century, these Gujarat teachers have been incredibly lucky to be off the grid with zero accountability. At one level, their resentment is understandable because a huge privilege is being snatched away from them. After all this time, how dare anyone ask them to furnish proof that they went to work?

The rage against the machines is a genuine grouse across industries. Two hundred years ago in England, manual skilled workers organised themselves to smash equipment that increased productivity during the Industrial Revolution. The Luddites, as they were called, knew that their lifestyles as they knew it were coming to an end. Hard nosed factory owners would put them to the grind in 12-hour shifts, every second of their workday accounted for. This plays out currently as well, like restaurants boycotting Zomato, or when the taxi union brought Goa to a standstill last month by striking against the entry of app-based taxis. Though the chief minister relented, it's a matter of time before Uber begins in Goa. No union can compete with a global behemoth that aims to replace private car ownership entirely. Similarly, it's evident the teachers resisting Kaizala isn't about being anti technology, it's about their own survival.

The GPTA's weak argument against installing the app, that their safety will be compromised, just doesn't fly because our cellphones are mini GPS devices broadcasting our location constantly. If you have WhatsApp or Google Maps, arguably apps we can't do without, they're chronicling our movements in any case. The reality is that nothing most of us do is particularly private anymore, unless one is willing to forego using a mobile entirely and live like it's 1980. The Gujarat teachers have also attempted taking the moral high ground, questioning the government's skepticism of their commitment towards the job. "Taking online attendance through Kaizala is like they're not trusting their own teachers," reads the order. Surely, the reverse holds true as well. If the educators were inclined to come to work enthusiastically, they should be more than happy to post that selfie.

Many of us have had a wonderful teacher whose value is difficult to estimate. Which is why it's so heart-breaking to read articles in newspapers that out of the 32,000-plus government schools in Gujarat, over 1,20,000 were being run by just one or two teachers. In a system so broken, it's doubtful if an attendance app can be the solution to anything, unless one accepts that the best you can hope for in India is small, incremental changes. Meanwhile, the teachers resisting the Kaizala App can take solace in the fact that it just ensures they show up — it's still up to them to decide if they want to do their job, and teach.

hutkayfilms@gmail.com



Growing Up With Enid

With Enid Blyton being denied a coin to her name by the British Royal Mint, Delhi-based children's author **Richa Jha** talks about turning into an incorrigible dreamer with Blyton, how the spell was broken and then redeemed

A sketch of Enid Blyton. Suvajit Dey; covers of some of her books

DHANBAD'S BUSTLING Rajendra Market of the early '80s had mostly one big draw for me — Vinod Prakashan. It was our one-stop shop for everything from school books to sketchpens. And, for Enid Blyton. Every month, I would dial 3192 from our black, heavy-bottomed home telephone to enquire if they had a new title in. They were most likely to say no, but nothing could beat the excitement of drawing imaginary whiffs of shelves full of Blyton over the mouthpiece.

Like many from my generation, it was Blyton who turned us into incorrigible readers, dreamers, spin doctors. She gave us a reason to curl up in bed after school, she made us the night owls we ended up becoming, she fed us ideas for our mid-night feasts with cousins, and later, Maggi-parties with hostelmates. She and she alone gave me the nose-in-the-book girl identity that stuck on through my growing up years well into adulthood.

And, by George, my love for Georgina (and exclamations)! She was that original spunk I wanted to model myself upon, little realising that there was way more to being one than just getting my hair cut short in a 'boy-cut'. My gentle soul lacked her pluck, her fierceness, her stubbornness, but hero worshipped her, I did (with Darrell Rivers trailing by just a wee bit).

It is impossible to see my growing-up years without any flashes of *Noddy*, *Famous Five*, *Malory Towers* or *Wishing Chair* in it. What was there not to love about this charming world of impossibly beautiful unspoilt landscapes, brave adventures, unwavering friendships, mothers who baked goodies after goodies without screaming (or complaining), and a world where the children owned their agency, no matter what?

As it turns out, a lot.

Over the years, I have followed how the debate around political correctness in lit-



Whitewashing swathes of writing to make them palatable to all will lead to generations of children not learning to appreciate how societal contemporariness finds ways of seeping into any form of literature"

erature past and present has consumed many a heavyweight, Blyton included. When I first read about the criticism around her, my reaction was a startled "Really?". So when a few years ago, I started revisiting her books through adult eyes, I saw what the brouhaha was all about (not all of which I am in agreement with). It was not as if the entire enchanted Blyton edifice that my young mind had created for posterity came undone, but the spell lay somewhat broken. While the books were

(and are) still fun to read, my personal baggage of awareness was no longer allowing me the luxury of unquestioning adulation.

Did that undermine her importance in my book journey? Heck, no!

I wondered how these books were being understood by today's children. Could they see the overt sexism that I couldn't when I was their age? Were they able to find problems with Georgina's female "masculinity" shown as a desirable subset of masculine machismo, or were they seeing the dangers of simplistic gender binaries and stereotypical portrayals, the social snobbery, or the class privilege slapped all over the hundreds of books? Much of the racist overtones that she is criticised for came from the way Gilbert the Golliwog was portrayed when I was young; those have long since been sanitised by replacing the character with Martha Monkey.

I turned to my children for their views. Neither of them had taken to Blyton beyond the Noddy phase. The only explanation my daughter (then eight) gave me was that the books seemed too old-fashioned. She was already drawing her magic through the much-layered, much-multi-dimensional worlds of Eva Ibbotson, Eoin Colfer, Lemony Snicket, Roald Dahl and Jacqueline Wilson. Blyton's books would have appeared too black-and-white to her.

What did she think of George, I casually asked her one day around the same time. She liked Georgina, she said; what she didn't like was the way the author was showing her in the series — "just because she looks and behaves like a boy, she is shown as being strong and special and not scared of anything — and who is Blyton to decide how all boys and girls should behave?"

My daughter had given the books a

chance, after all; it was Blyton's belief system that had failed to resonate with the reader in her. But for every child today who fails to connect, there are many who are still able to. And that's the beauty and purpose of literature of any kind: giving the reader the choice to embrace a work or reject it.

I find the recent trend of erasing or replacing the past offenses in books problematic. Whitewashing swathes of writing to make them palatable to all will lead to generations of children not learning to appreciate how societal contemporariness finds ways of seeping into any form of literature — mirrors, roses, warts and all. Our job as parents or book creators is to give them a canvas propped within its relevant milieu that they can both savour and critique, not spoon-feed them a honey-dripping world that reflects noills. Some children may get the larger contexts early, some may get it later, and still others may not get it at all. And that is okay, too.

Cut to this summer when I was pruning the shelves to make way for newer buys. Given my children's lukewarm attitude towards Blyton, these were the first to get dropped into the giveaway carton. But my daughter, now 14, refused to part with them.

In the middle of our discard-rescue tussle, out dropped a handmade bookmark from *Adventures of the Wishing Chair*. It had three stick figures sitting on what must have been intended to be a chair with wings. The only words on the bookmark? Mollie, Peter, Iha.

Iha, my daughter, picked it up, grabbed whatever Blytons she could between her arms and stomped away muttering, "These books remind me of my childhood. They are NOT going, and that's FINAL." Then she came back for some more.

Richa Jha is an author and publisher of Pickle Yolk Books

WEEK AHEAD



Festive Feast

WITH ONAM around the corner, enjoy Onam Sadya at Zambar, Ambience Mall, Gurgaon, on September 11. The menu includes 27 vegetarian dishes like Aviyal, Eriserry, Khichadi Beetroot, Mambazha Puliserry, Inji Puli, Thiyal, Pineapple Pachadi, Choru, along with Nendran and Jackfruit Chips. End your meal with the Ada Paradhama and Pal Payasam. From 11.30 am to 4.30 pm, 7 pm to 10.30 pm. Price: Rs 999 plus taxes.



Cinema Legends

ACTORS IRA DUBEY, Joy Sengupta and Rishi Khurana bring on stage the life of Devika Rani, who is often described as "India's first cinema goddess". Lillete Dubey has directed the eponymous play on the life of Rani, who established Bombay Talkies along with her husband Himanshu Rai. Grandniece of Rabindranath Tagore, she grew up in the crucible of the Bengali renaissance and studied in England from the age of nine. On September 14, 8pm, at Sirifort Auditorium. Tickets on Bookmyshow.



On Her Own

CELEBRATED GOND artist Jangarh Singh Shyam's daughter Japni carries forward her father's legacy in a solo show titled 'Tribal Traditions'. In her work, she delves into the meaning and significance of flora and fauna in Gond art and wants to narrate stories of nature. "Every artist has their own unique language. While my father had more variation and complexity in his sketching, I draw straighter lines," she says. On till September 22, at Gallerie Ganesha, E-557, Greater Kailash-II.

SNAP SHOT



JLF Goes to Toronto

HOW DO you take one city to another? The Jaipur Literature Festival has mastered the art — adding one destination after the other — London, Belfast, New York, Boulder, Houston, Adelaide, and, now, Toronto. Close on the heels of the three JLF editions in the US later this month, the JLF bandwagon will be stationed at Toronto's Distillery Historic District from September 27 to 29. In the past, JLF India featured many Canadian authors, including Yann Martel, Michael Ondaatje, Rupi Kaur and Margaret Atwood (pictured). On Friday, at Delhi's Canada Residence, the festival line-up was announced. JLF Toronto will feature *The New York Times* bestselling novelist Andre Aciman (*Call Me By Your Name*), Pico Iyer with his book *Autumn Light*, celebrity Chef Madhur Jaffrey and Congress leader Shashi Tharoor.

'Indian music is the mother of all music'

Bhutanese folk artiste Kheng Sonam Dorji, who performed at the Mountain Echoes recently, on preserving his musical past

TANUSHREE GHOSH

YOU'D EXPECT that the dulcet notes escaping the mouth of a staid Bhutanese traditional folk musician — dressed in a gho — would be country folk. Instead, it's an Indian song, a "romantic" Jagjit Singh ghazal: *Tere baare mein jab socha nahin thha... Mere kamre mein aaina nahin thha*. "I used to sing it," says Kheng Sonam Dorji, recalling his student days in India, on the sidelines of 10th Mountain Echoes literature and culture festival in Thimphu, which concluded recently. At the event, Dorji deliberated on his guru Aku Tongmi (who composed Bhutan's national anthem, *Druk tsendhen*), whose works he is digitising through the Music of Bhutan Research Center (MBRC) that he co-founded in 2008.

The MBRC team travels across Bhutan to find and archive practitioners of Bhutanese music (it has interviewed 500-600 of them till now) and collects traditional instruments, including the oldest dulcimer to be made, dating to 1965. "Bhutan doesn't have any perform-



Kheng Sonam Dorji (left) during his performance in Thimphu

ing arts museum, so I want all these instruments to be displayed in the future," says Dorji, 40, who plays multiple instruments, both Bhutanese and Indian, including the drangyen (lute), the santoor-like yangchen (dulcimer), lim (flute), the tamuru and the tanpura.

Being "the first person to write and sing in Kheng dialect" earned him the title of Kheng. "I'm the only guy in the country who does in-depth studies of music — research, documenting and archiving," he says. "We don't have the finances, only four people are working on the field. I'm giving priority to national musicians, age-old traditional-music-practices keepers, royal court performers of yesteryear. For me, they are like a huge building that historians built, and if they are gone, it will be a great loss."

Dorji, who was into contemporary music in his younger days, says the influx of Western music has led to the decline of traditional music. "Techno/EDM and contemporary noise masquerading as music has entered Bhutan, too, and youngsters are listening to them," he says. "That's why I started my journey here." He formed the group Druk Folk Musicians to "revive old folk instruments and tunes, and apply them to our songs".

He was 11 when the Bhutan Broadcasting Service went to his village school concert, recorded his singing and broadcasted it. The Third King's younger brother, Prince Namgyel Wangchuck, saw that and adopted Dorji as his son. Dorji stayed at the royal court until adulthood and got a chance to learn from the mas-

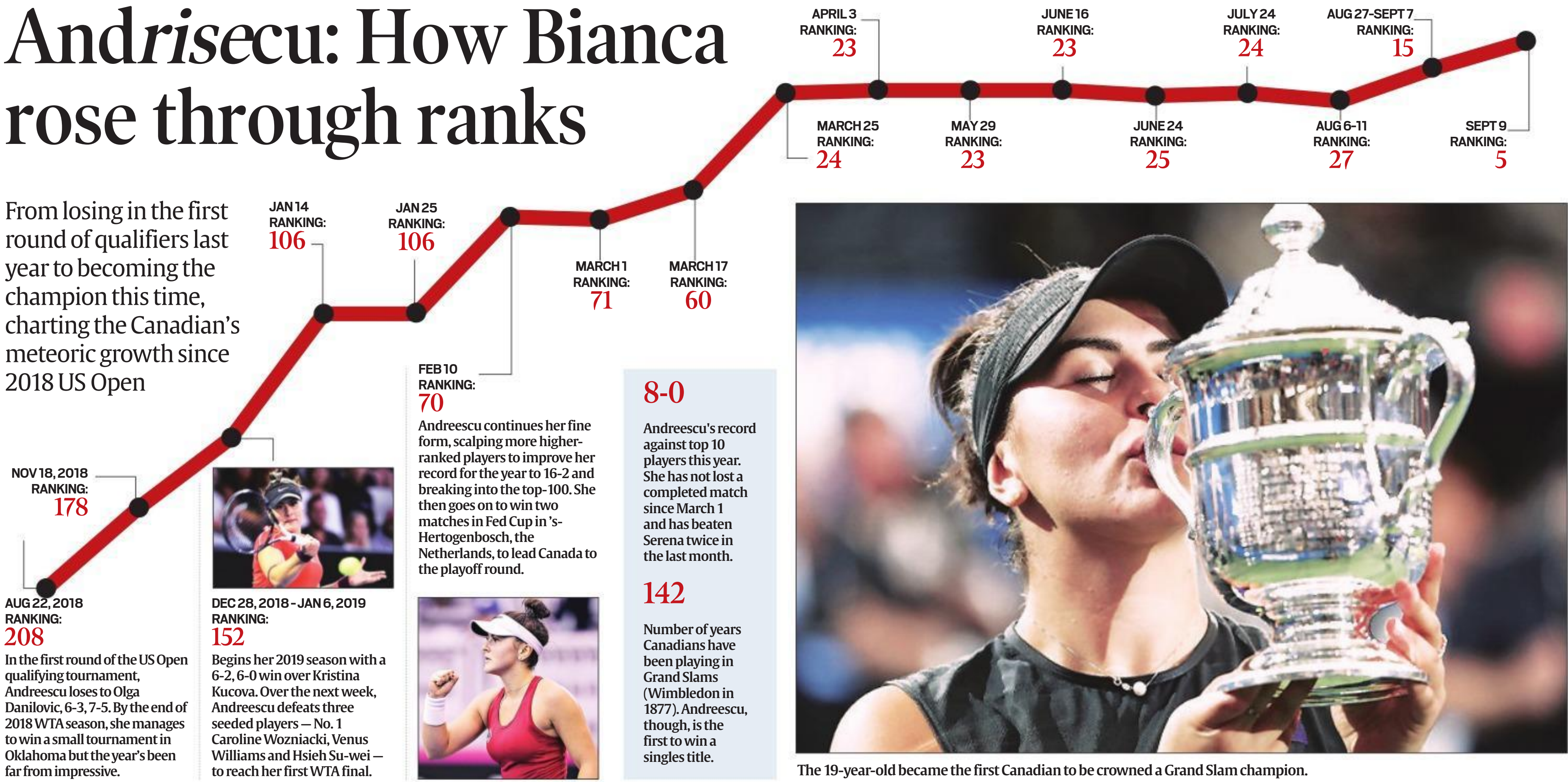
ters. In 1996, the Indian ambassador to Bhutan suggested that Dorji come to India to further study music. So, he landed at Visva Bharati in Santiniketan, "where I chose vocal Hindustani classical, and took esraj. My fingers bled, as it's a very difficult instrument," he says. "Learning Hindustani classical was very difficult, because in Bhutan there's no music institution; the music is in our first language, but there were a lot of things to learn in India: the sargam, to first get the 'Sa' right. In Bhutanese music, we don't have sargam, we follow Do Re Mi," he says.

During his four years at Visva Bharati, Dorji witnessed legends such as Pandit Bhimsen Joshi, Bismillah Khan, Ravi Shankar and Zakir Hussain perform. "Indian music is the mother of all music. I'm not talking about film songs, but Hindustani classical and raga-based songs," he says, adding, "I love ghazals and baul songs." He returned to India in 2007 for his Masters at MS University, Baroda, where he switched to sitar. "Because Bhutan has lots of plucked-string instruments, and I wanted to experience it and apply the technique to the drangyen back home," says Dorji, who trained under Rahul Barodia at MSU. He has been performing all over ever since — including the SAARC's 2017 music festival in Mumbai.

Given a chance, Dorji says he would love to collaborate with AR Rahman, but for now, Delhi-based Kaushik Dutta, who coordinates the Musicconnect Asia, is prodding Dorji to set up an annual Bhutan Music Week, which would bring musicians from 30 countries together. Dorji sounds excited but adds, "It's not easy in Bhutan to conduct such huge events because of financial constraints."

Andriscu: How Bianca rose through ranks

From losing in the first round of qualifiers last year to becoming the champion this time, charting the Canadian's meteoric growth since 2018 US Open



The 19-year-old became the first Canadian to be crowned a Grand Slam champion.

A star is born

Andreescu, 19, beats Williams 6-3, 7-5 to become the youngest Grand Slam winner since Kuznetsova at the 2004 US Open

CHRISTOPHER CLAREY
NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 8

IF YOU have been considering active visualization, this seems a fine time to start. The technique certainly has worked wonders for Bianca Andreescu, a 19-year-old Canadian tennis player, who for years has been closing her eyes and envisioning herself winning the United States Open against Serena Williams.

On Saturday afternoon, with her eyes wide open and her shots so often bold and true, Andreescu went out and did just that. "For it to become a reality is so crazy," Andreescu said, breaking down in tears in her post-match news conference. "I guess these visualizations, really, really work."

Her remarkable 6-3, 7-5 victory, which capped her first appearance in the U.S. Open, thwarted the 37-year-old Williams's latest attempt to match Margaret Court's record of 24 major singles titles. Much more significant to Andreescu's compatriots was the fact that her victory gave Canada its first Grand Slam singles title in a sport where Grand Slam tournament play began with Wimbledon in 1877. Shortly after Andreescu's victory, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau sent her a congratulatory message with the hashtag #shethenorth.

"So many Canadian athletes have paved the way for me when I was young," said Andreescu, born in the Toronto suburb of Mississauga. "Hopefully I can be that person to them."

It was the latest Grand Slam setback for Williams, who is beyond question the greatest player of this era. But against Andreescu, she made too many unforced errors (33 in all), double-faulted on break points three times to lose her serve, and put only 44 percent of her first serves in play. That was by far her lowest percentage at this Open. "I love Bianca; I think she's a great girl, but I think this is the worst match I played all tournament," Williams said. "It's hard to know you could do better."

Williams, who was also complimentary of Andreescu's game and mentality, has shown remarkable drive and resilience in her comeback to the tour after giving birth to a daughter, Olympia, in September 2017.

She is back in the top 10, back in contention for tennis's biggest prizes. But for a proud champion who has had long stretches of dominance and has won 23 major singles titles, only one result is cause for genuine celebration.

The bottom line for now: Williams has yet to win a tournament since her comeback and is 0-4 in major finals without managing to win a set in any of them. She alluded to her struggles at the award ceremony as she thanked her team for being supportive in "the ups and downs and downs and downs and downs and downs and downs." "Hopefully," she added, "we'll have some ups soon."

Andreescu has had no shortage of ups and downs in her short career. Her rise has been astonishingly swift. She lost in the first round of qualifying at the U.S. Open the last two years and was ranked outside the top 150 when the season began.

But she has long believed that tennis greatness awaited her. After winning the prestigious Orange Bowl junior title for the second time in 2015 at age 15, she wrote herself a mock check as if she were champion of the U.S. Open and then updated it each year, with the new prize money total. "Every year," she said. But she has been prone to injury, includ-



Andreescu celebrates after beating Williams in the US Open final. USA Today Sports

ing back problems, and said earlier this season that she had weaknesses in her core that needed to be addressed. After deciding last year with her new coach, Sylvain Bruneau, to focus more on using the full range of her shot-making and tactics, she broke through in earnest this March by winning the prestigious hardcourt tournament, the BNP Paribas Open, in Indian Wells, Calif.

But she then was forced to miss nearly all the clay-court season and miss all the grass-court season with a torn rotator cuff. Since returning to the tour last month, she has resumed dominating her elders. Andreescu is 8-0 against top 10 players this year and has not lost a completed match since March 1. She has prevailed twice against Williams in the last month: winning the Rogers Cup in Toronto when Williams retired with a back problem in the final after just four games and defeating Williams on Saturday in the biggest stadium in tennis.

The sellout crowd pulled hard for Williams and occasionally applauded Andreescu's errors and missed serves, prompting the British chair umpire Alison Hughes to turn "Please" into a mantra as she tried to keep the crowd under control.

The sellout crowd pulled hard for Williams and occasionally applauded Andreescu's errors and missed serves, prompting the British chair umpire Alison Hughes to turn "Please" into a mantra as she tried to keep the crowd under control.

Andreescu could so easily have cracked. She started out superbly, striking the ball

CANADIANS EMBRACE #SHE THENORTH

New York: Canadians took to social media on Saturday to hail their first tennis Grand Slam champion Bianca Andreescu after the 19-year-old's U.S. Open win over Serena Williams.

The hashtag #SheTheNorth shot to the top of Canada's trending topics on Twitter, as social media users reimagined the "We the North" slogan used by the Toronto Raptors during their NBA championship-winning run. "Congratulations @Bandreescu_!" Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau tweeted at the champion. "You've made history and made a whole country very proud. #SheTheNorth."

Toronto Mayor John Tory got the party started early as well, announcing on Twitter that the Toronto sign would be lit in gold to celebrate the win. "Toronto is celebrating this victory and looking forward to a career filled with many more. #SheTheNorth," he wrote. The 19-year-old also caught the eye of her home country's high-profile athletes with fellow tennis player Genie Bouchard calling the victory "Canadian history". The National Hockey League's Vancouver Canucks, Ottawa Senators and Toronto Maple Leafs, along with Major League Baseball's Blue Jays and NBA champion Raptors all tweeted their congratulations. "SHE THE CHAMP! Congrats, @Bandreescu_," tweeted the basketball team. "#WeTheNorth x #SheTheNorth."

At a media conference after her match, Andreescu made clear that the warm feelings were mutual. "I've said this many, many times before. I'm going to say it again: It's been a goal of mine to inspire many people, especially Canadian athletes."

REUTERS

cleanly even though she admitted feeling intimidated by Williams. "Of course," she said. "Before the match I was super nervous."

Matching Williams's power

And yet she danced and sang to herself, headphones in place, in the tunnel leading to the court and then matched Williams's power and intensity from the start, returning aggressively and breaking her in the opening game as Williams double faulted twice in a row. Andreescu came up with well-placed serves and groundstroke winners on key points in her own service games and gradually built a 6-3, 5-1 lead and served for the match. "The game plan right from the start was to make her work for every ball, to get as many returns in the court as possible," Andreescu said. "I think she was intimidated by it."

But Williams fought back in that game, saving a championship point with a forehand re-

I've been dreaming of this moment for the longest time. Like I said after I won the Orange Bowl (in 2015)... Since then, honestly I've been visualizing it almost every single day. For it to become a reality is just so crazy. I guess these visualizations really, really work."

BIANCA ANDREESCU

Serena seeks answers after 'inexcusable' effort in final

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 8

SERENA WILLIAMS is wondering when she will start playing like a 23-time Grand Slam champion again in a major final, calling her poor showing in Saturday's US Open final loss "inexcusable." Williams fell to 19-year-old Canadian Bianca Andreescu 6-3, 7-5 at Arthur Ashe Stadium on the same court where she won her first Grand Slam title 20 years ago, nine months before Andreescu was born.

"I love Bianca. I think she's a great girl. But I think this was the worst match I've played all tournament. It's hard to know that you could do better," Williams said. "Bianca obviously played well. I think her returns make me play better and put pressure on my serve. At the same time it's inexcusable for me to play at that level."

Williams had 33 winners but just as many unforced errors. She hit nine aces but misfired eight double faults and hit only 44 percent of her first serves. She dropped 30 of 43 points on her second serve. "I believe I could have played better. I believe I could have done more. I believe I could have just been more Serena today," Williams said. "I honestly don't think Serena showed up. I have to kind of figure out how to get her to show up in Grand Slam finals."

Williams, who remains one Slam title shy of matching Margaret Court's all-time record, has lost the past two Wimbledon and US Open finals since returning after having a baby two years ago. And she's struggling to find answers for bad performances in the biggest matches. "All of it honestly, truly is super frustrating," Williams said. "I'm so close, so close, so close, yet so far away. I don't know what to say. I guess I got to keep going if I want to be a professional tennis player. And I just got to just keep fighting through it."

Williams, who turns 38 later this month, downplayed the pursuit of Court's record. "I'm not necessarily chasing a record. I'm just trying to win Grand Slams," she said. "It's definitely frustrating, but for the most part I just am still here. I'm still doing what I can do."

Williams fell behind 5-1 in the second set, sounding somewhat embarrassed and humbled at her situation before saving a match point in the seventh game to begin a fight-back. "I was just thinking, honestly at that point, 'Wow, this is terrible. You got to play better. I have to do better,'" Williams said. "I just couldn't go down like that, so I just wanted to play a little bit better."

Most spectators in the crowd of 26,191 cheered on Williams, helping revive her to level the set at 5-5 before Andreescu broke again in the 12th game to win the title. "Well, I was thinking, 'OK, Serena, you didn't miss a serve, you lost serve maybe twice in the whole tournament, and you didn't hit a first serve in today,'" she said. "So that was obviously on my mind: 'How do I play at a level like this in a final?'" As her recent Slam finals losses go, she rated the effort superior to that against Simona Halep in dropping last July's Wimbledon final -- "I definitely did better than I did against Halep" -- and discounted last year's Wimbledon loss to Angelique Kerber, saying, "Kerber doesn't count because I was exhausted. My baby was eight months, and that's tough."

NYT

BRIEFLY
CRICKET

Dinesh Karthik tenders unconditional apology for violating BCCI clause

New Delhi: India discard Dinesh Karthik has tendered an “unconditional apology” for violating BCCI’s Central clause by watching a Caribbean Premier League game from the Shah Rukh Khan co-owned Trinbago Knight Riders’ dressing room. Karthik is the captain of IPL franchise Kolkata Knight Riders but being seen in a Trinbago Jersey while watching the match from the dressing room forced the BCCI to issue a show cause notice, asking why his central contract should not be cancelled. Karthik, in his reply, a copy of which is in possession of PTI, has informed through a four-point submission that he went to Port of Spain on coach Brendon McCullum’s request and watched the match wearing the TKR jersey on the New Zealander’s request. “I wish to tender unconditional apology for not seeking permission from BCCI prior to embarking on this visit,” Karthik wrote in his apology letter. “I wish to reiterate that I have neither participated in any TKR related activities nor played any role whatsoever for TKR,” he added. The 34-year-old Tamil Nadu keeper has also assured the BCCI that he “will not be seated in the TKR dressing room for the remaining matches” prior to his departure from Trinidad. Since he has tendered an unconditional apology, the Committee of Administrators (CoA) is likely to close the matter.

COA show-causes Choudhary for missing ICC, ACC meetings

New Delhi: The Committee of Administrators (CoA) on Sunday show caused BCCI acting secretary Amitabh Choudhary for not attending recent meetings of the International Cricket Council (ICC) and Asian Cricket Council (ACC). Though the CoA recently banned him from convening national selection committee meetings as secretary, Choudhary remains BCCI’s representative at the ICC and ACC. Choudhary has seven days to respond to the show cause notice. “It has now come to the notice of the Committee of Administrators that in the last meetings of the ICC and the ACC, not only did you not attend the meetings but kept the BCCI in dark about your unavailability either until it was too late or altogether,” wrote the three-member CoA in its notice to the secretary. “Your aforesaid conduct left the BCCI unrepresented in the said meetings and exposed the organisation to considerable risk.” The ICC conference was held from July 14-20 in London while the ACC Annual General Meeting took place in Bangkok on September 3. “The CoA came to learn of your unavailability to attend the ICC Conference scheduled in London for the 14th July on 12th July when you merely forwarded your e-mail dated 12th July 2019 to ICC, informing the ICC of your unavailability for the said meetings.”

Saxena receives India A call-up as cover for injured Gowtham

Thiruvananthapuram: Karnataka all-rounder K Gowtham is set to sit out of the first unofficial Test between India A and South Africa A that begins here from Monday as he is unwell. He will be replaced by Kerala’s spin bowling all-rounder Jalaj Saxena. Gowtham, who was in his element during the ‘A’ team’s tour of Caribbean and shone in the Karnataka Premier League, is currently being monitored by the BCCI medical team. Shubman Gill, who will renew his quest for selection in the senior team, will be lead the team. PTI

The urn stays Down Under

Australia retain the Ashes on English soil for the first time in 18 years, digging deep on Day 5 at Old Trafford



Australian players are cock-a-hoop after winning the fourth Test at Old Trafford by 185 runs. AP

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MANCHESTER, SEPTEMBER 8

AUSTRALIA RETAINED the Ashes after beating England by 185 runs in the final session of the fourth Test at Old Trafford on Sunday. Josh Hazlewood claimed the winning wicket, trapping Craig Overton lbw, as Australia dismissed England’s second innings for 197 deep into the evening session to take a 2-1 lead in the five-match series. As the holder, Australia only needs to draw the series to keep cricket’s famous urn.

“We’ve retained it, we haven’t won it,” Australia captain Tim Paine told the BBC. He added: “We’ll have a bloody good night together.” The fifth and final Test in cricket’s oldest regular international series starts September 12 at The Oval. Australia star batsman Steve Smith was player of the match — and the major difference between the two teams — with scores of 211 and 82. England resumed Day 5 on 18-2, went to lunch on 87-4 and tea on 166-6. Jack Leach, who scored a 51-ball 12, was promoted to No. 10 and batted for an hour with England fans hoping for a repeat of his third test heroics, or even bad light.

Australia held on to the Ashes in England for the first time in 18 years. It thrashed England by 251 runs in the opening test at Edgbaston, the second test at Lord’s was drawn before England won at Headingley by one wicket to level the series 1-1. England captain Joe Root said it was disappointing “to come so close to taking it to The Oval is quite hard to take.” Pacer Patrick Cummins finished with 4-43 off 24 overs.

He bowled Jason Roy (31) in the 18th over of the day, knocking over his off stump, and then claimed the key wicket of Ben Stokes, hero at Headingley with Leach. The England allrounder got an inside edge and was well caught behind the wicket by Paine.

NUMBERS GAME

1 Tim Paine becomes the first Australian captain to bring the Ashes home from English shores since Steve Waugh in 2001.

2 Steve Smith, who has scored 671 runs in five innings so far in the series, has hit two centuries in two his Tests at The Oval, the venue for the fifth Test starting on Thursday.

I didn’t enjoy watching last week, but what a feeling today. Been here in ‘13 and ‘15 and we weren’t able to get it done. Special feeling and really proud to be part of this group of boys. Winning key moments, a build-up of pressure, I’m not really sure [what made the difference]. A year off where I could freshen up, I’ve been so relaxed and chilled out but working incredibly hard on my game. I love batting, don’t really like watching cricket.”

STEVE SMITH,
AFTER THE WIN

Stokes, who had scored just one, did not wait for a decision from the umpire and walked as Australia appealed.

That left England in deep trouble on 74-4. Joe Denly brought up his half-century after lunch with a crisp off drive off Cummins. It was his sixth boundary and took him to 53 off 112 balls. He fell without

adding further to his score when he was caught out by the bounce from a delivery from Nathan Lyon (2-51) and offered a catch to Marnus Labuschagne at short leg.

Jonny Bairstow and Jos Buttler came together and steadily took the score to 138-5 after 53 overs as Paine turned to part-time bowlers Labuschagne and Travis Head in the hope of breaking their concentration.

But it was Starc (1-46) that made the next breakthrough when he won an lbw verdict against Bairstow for 25. That left England 138-6, with Australia needing just four more wickets to retain the Ashes.

Australia thought it had removed Overton with the first ball after tea as Labuschagne grasped a catch fielding close to the bat but the ball had hit the body.

Buttler misjudged the line off Hazlewood (2-31) and was bowled leaving the ball. His removal for 34 left England 172-7 and needing a rearguard from the tail.

Jofra Archer did not last long, scoring only one before being trapped lbw by Lyon with a ball that kept low. Overton formed a stubborn ninth-wicket partnership with Leach, taking the score to 195-8 off 85 overs, with 20 remaining in the day.

The game ended when Hazlewood trapped Overton lbw, ending his stubborn innings of 105 balls for 21. The England man called for a review but the decision stood. BRIEF SCORES: Australia 497 for 8 (Smith 211, Labuschagne 67) and 186 for 6 dec (Smith 82) beat England 301 (Burns 81, Root 71) and 197 (Denly 53, Cummins 4-43) by 185 runs.

Amazing to retain Ashes: Smith

Steve Smith said it “feels amazing” to retain the Ashes after Australia finally ended a stubborn rearguard effort from England on Sunday to win the fourth Test by 185 runs.

“It feels amazing to know the urn is coming home,” former captain Smith told Sky

Sports. He has scored an astonishing 671 runs at an average innings of 134.2, including three hundreds, despite missing England’s one-wicket win in the third Test at Headingley with concussion.

“I’ve been here a few times when things haven’t gone our way,” he added. “This was always one to tick off my bucket list. It’s extremely satisfying. “We thought we would get our eight chances. I thought (Craig) Overton was exceptional but fortunately the boys got the job done. Australia captain Tim Paine said he was overcome with emotion.

“The atmosphere, I was just saying to the guys, at every ground has been unbelievable. The noise they make here and the passion they have for cricket makes this moment all the more special. “We’re thrilled. This is what we came here to do, to take the Ashes home. We’ll have a bloody good night tonight together and celebrate but we’ll be back on deck next week. We want to win the Ashes 3-1.”

Root hails Smith

England captain Joe Root said he was “bitterly disappointed” after England slipped to defeat in the fourth Test against Australia on Sunday despite a defiant effort to keep their Ashes dream alive.

“I’m bitterly disappointed,” England captain Root told BBC Radio. “I thought the way we fought today, the character we showed, every single one of them can be proud of that today.

“To come so close to taking it to the Oval is hard to take. We’ve still got to look forward and make sure we level the series. Root hailed Steve Smith, who has scored an astonishing 671 runs at 134.2 including three hundreds in the series. “Steve Smith has played very well,” he said. “He’s a world-class player. You need to take any chance you get at him early. The first Test is probably the difference between the two sides.

Spinners put Afghans on the cusp of a historic win

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
CHITTAGONG, SEPTEMBER 8

SPINNERS RASHID Khan and Zahir Khan shared five wickets between them as Afghanistan came within four wickets of historic win over Bangladesh in the one-off Test in Chittagong on Sunday. The visitors – playing only their third Test ever — reduced Bangladesh to 136-6 before rain forced early stumps on the fourth day, with the hosts, who were set a record target of 398 runs, still needing 262.

The highest successful run chase in Bangladesh is 317-7 by New Zealand at the same ground in 2008. “Yes, we are bit excited because we are in a good position,” Afghanistan’s wicketkeeper-batsman Afsar Zazai said. “It means a lot to be honest,” he added. “The people know about us good enough in white-ball cricket. We’ve discussed in our dressing room that this Test match is very important for us to win because we want to show we can play Test cricket.” Skipper Shakib Al Hasan remained unbeaten on 39 runs, giving a little hope to Bangladesh amid the gloom at the Zahur Ahmed Stadium, where rain interrupted play in all three sessions much to Afghanistan’s frustration.

Shakib will resume the fifth day’s play along with Soumya Sarkar, the last recognised batsman for Bangladesh, who was yet to open his account. Shakib seemed to be preparing for a loss. “The realistic result is we are very close to defeat. Unless there is some rain..., probably we are losing,” he said.

Rashid, who made his debut as youngest-ever Test captain, led Afghanistan from the front, finishing the day with 3-46 while left-arm chinaman Zahir claimed 2-36 runs.

Retiring all-rounder Mohammad Nabi claimed the other wicket. Zahir started the victory push when he dismissed opener Liton Das, who was trapped leg before for nine two balls after a caught-behind decision against him was overturned by the TV umpire on review. One-down Mosaddek Hossain chased a ball from him wide outside the off-stump to give a catch to Asghar Afghan at long off after making 12 runs. Rashid trapped Mushfiqur Rahim plumb in front after the former Bangladesh skipper started confidently to make 23 off 25 balls.

Rashid delivered another blow in his next over to dismiss Mominul Haque out lbw for three. Nabi removed Shadman Islam, who made 41 runs, the highest for Bangladesh so far in the second innings.

BRIEF SCORES: Bangladesh 136/6 (Shadman 41, Shakib 39), Rashid 3-46) and 205 need another 262 runs to beat Afghanistan 342 and 260 (Ibrahim 87, Shakib 3-58).

Nabi to retire from Tests

Former Afghanistan captain Mohammad Nabi has announced his decision to retire from Test cricket after the ongoing one-off match against Bangladesh. The 34-year-old seasoned all-rounder, who has featured in three Test matches for Afghanistan, including the landmark maiden game against India last year, will continue to play white-ball cricket.

He wants the country’s youngsters to take centre stage in the longest format.

“Test cricket is an important format that every cricketer wants to play. I have served Afghanistan for the last 18 years. It was my dream as well to help Afghanistan obtain Test status and that dream is realised now,” Nabi said in a video message released by the Afghanistan Cricket Board.

“We have a maximum of 1-2 Test per year and I want, instead of me, that a young player gets to play, since the emerging youngsters are playing well in domestic cricket. I want them to get the chance they deserve so that we have a good Test team in the future as well.” Nabi has played an important role in the rise of Afghanistan cricket at the world stage in recent years, featuring in the country’s first-ever Test, T20I and ODI.

‘King’ Coman leads France to dominant win over Albania

REUTERS
PARIS, SEPTEMBER 8

KINGSLEY “KING” Coman lived up to his nickname when he made the most of Kylian Mbappe’s absence to lead France to a 4-1 win over Albania in a Euro 2020 qualifier on Saturday.

The Bayern Munich forward was handed a rare start by coach Didier Deschamps and he made the most of his extreme pace, terrorising the Albanian defence throughout. Coman opened the scoring with a burst into the area and made sure there would be no comeback for the visitors by netting the hosts’ third in the 68th. It appears the 23-year-old’s poor 2018 is behind him after Deschamps omitted him from the World Cup squad following an injury-marred season. France stayed top of Group H with 12 points from five games, ahead of Turkey and Iceland on goal difference.

Portugal back on track

European champions Portugal got their campaign back on track with goals from William Carvalho, Goncalo Guedes, Cristiano Ronaldo and Bernardo Silva helping them to a 4-2 Group B victory in Serbia on Saturday.

The victory lifted the Portuguese to second place in the group on five points from three games, eight behind runaway leaders

Andorran anthem played for Albania

Paris: The kickoff of the Euro 2020 qualifier between France and Albania was delayed slightly on Saturday after organisers played Andorra’s national anthem for the visitors. Albania’s players listened in disbelief as the anthem of Andorra, France’s next opponents in Paris on Tuesday, was played. The stadium announcer then apologised “to Armenia” before the right anthem was played. REUTERS

Ukraine who have 13 from five matches after their 3-0 win in Lithuania earlier on Saturday. Third-placed Luxembourg and Serbia in fourth both have four points from as many games. Carvalho fired Portugal ahead in the 42nd minute when he poked the ball into an empty net from three metres after Serbia keeper Marko Dmitrovic spilled a Bruno Fernandes cross from the right.

Guedes doubled Portugal’s lead with a fine individual effort.

The forward capped a flowing move as he sidestepped a defender and rifled in an unstoppable shot past Dmitrovic into the far corner from 12 metres.

Leclerc triggers Ferrari frenzy with Monza win

REUTERS
MONZA, SEPTEMBER 8

CHARLES LECLERC triggered frenzied Ferrari celebrations on Sunday after holding off a race-long Mercedes challenge to take the Italian Formula One team’s first home grand prix victory since 2010. Valtteri Bottas was second for Mercedes with five-times world champion Lewis Hamilton a distant third after tyre wear took its toll in a thrilling battle with the 21-year-old Monegasque.

“What a race! I have never been so tired,” gasped Leclerc as a sea of fans, starved of success at Monza since Fernando Alonso won in the red overalls, swept onto the pit straight to party below the overhanging podium with flags and flares. “Winning here is just a dream,” continued the winner, switching to fluent Italian to address a crowd cheering a fitting triumph on the 90th anniversary of both Monza and Formula One’s most glamorous team.

“Last weekend (in Belgium) was my first victory, but the emotion of winning here is 10 times that,” said Leclerc, now a two-times winner — and Ferrari’s sole one so far this season — in only his 14th race for Ferrari.

“Thanks to everybody. I have no words. Hamilton’s lead over closest rival Bottas was cut to 63 points from 65, with the Briton limiting the damage by making a late pitstop for fresh tyres to set the fastest lap and gain an extra point. “He did a great job, congratulations to Ferrari,” said Hamilton, who took the fight to Leclerc from the start but dropped be-



Charles Leclerc secured his second successive win, having earned his first ever at the Belgian GP. Hamilton’s lead over closest rival Bottas was cut to 63 points. Reuters

hind Bottas 10 laps from the end when he cut the first chicane. “A lot of pressure from both Valtteri and I. I did the best I could. Obviously following so closely for such a long time, the tyres eventually just went off the cliff.

“But nevertheless they were just quicker today, quicker in a straight line, so even if we did get close we couldn’t pass. So not our day but still strong points for the team,” added the 34-year-old. Leclerc’s German team mate Sebastian Vettel had an afternoon to forget, going from bad to worse at the one circuit

where every Ferrari driver wants to impress. While Leclerc led from pole position, the four-times champion spun off, plunged to last place and served a 10 second stop/go penalty for a dangerous return to the track.

He was then lapped by his impressive team mate, who is now 13 points above him in the standings and fast becoming the main man at Maranello.

Mercedes lead Ferrari in the constructors’ standings by 154 points. Stewards also handed Vettel three penalty points, taking

ON THE PODIUM			
Pos	Driver	Car	Time
1	Leclerc	Ferrari	1:23.722
2	Bottas	Mercedes	+0.835
3	Hamilton	Mercedes	+35.199

his 12 month tally to nine. Three more in the next three races will trigger a one-race ban. “I lost the rear, a mistake by me,” the German, 13th at the flag, said of the incident. “A good day for the team but not good on my side. I can’t be happy with my day today.”

Australian Daniel Ricciardo was fourth for Renault, just ahead of team mate Nico Hulkenberg in a strong race for the French manufacturer. Thai driver Alex Albon was sixth for Red Bull, with team mate Max Verstappen eighth and Mexican Sergio Perez seventh for Racing Point.

Antonio Giovinazzi, the first Italian to compete in his home race for eight years, was ninth for Alfa Romeo and British teenager Lando Norris took the final point for McLaren. Vettel’s early spin drew the ire of the stewards when he steered his Ferrari back on track into the path of other cars, with Canadian Lance Stroll making a glancing contact and also going off.

Stroll, the innocent party turned offender, then almost hit Toro Rosso’s Pierre Gasly when he came back on and was served with a drive through penalty.



No berths, bragging rights at stake

With World Championships in Russia no longer an Olympic qualifying event, Indians eye a better medal haul

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
SEPTEMBER 8

THERE ARE no Olympic spots up for grabs, but the men's World Boxing Championships will provide a pointer to India's readiness before they step into the ring when the big prize is at stake.

The event, due to start at Yekaterinburg in Russia on Monday, lost its qualifier status when the International Olympic Committee (IOC) took control of the process from the International Boxing Association (AIBA) due to its administrative mess. The Olympic qualification process will now start next year.

The event was earlier meant to be an Olympic qualifier and feature the revised eight weight categories (52kg, 57kg, 63kg, 69kg, 74kg, 81kg, 91kg, +91kg) earmarked for Tokyo 2020, instead of the traditional 10 divisions, before the IOC stepped in.

Nevertheless, this being the world championships, there is a lot of prestige riding on the event. India have won just four medals - all bronze - over the 20 editions of the world championships, but all of them have come in the last decade.

Vijender Singh (2009), Vikas Krishan (2011), Shiva Thapa (2015) and Gaurav Bidhuri (2017) know what it feels like, but Asian champion Amit Panghal (52kg) is among those tipped to follow in their footsteps. The Haryana pugilist, also the Asian Games gold medallist, has been seeded second and got a bye into the pre-quarterfinals.

His compatriots and Asian Championship silver medallists Kavinder Singh Bisht (57kg) and Ashish Kumar (75kg) as well as Sanjeet (91kg) have been placed directly in the last 16. "We have got a decent draw and it is up to us to make it a good draw," PTI quoted Indian Boxing's High-Performance Director Santiago Nieva as saying.

"It is going to be tough. The aim is to improve on what we have done in the past. That's what we work for."

The 23-year-old Panghal is probably India's biggest contender in the championship. He was close to a medal two years ago before going down narrowly to defending champion Hasanboy Dusmatov in the 49kg quarterfinals. But the armyman got the better of his fancied opponent in the Asian Games final. Bisht also lost in the quarterfinal in 2017 but since then, has beaten reigning



India's hopes will be pinned on pint-sized dynamo Amit Panghal in the 52kg category. *Express*

world champion Kairat Yeraliyev at the Asian Championships.

The Indian squad is a bit short on experience if one is talking about previous World Championship history. Satish Kumar (+91kg) is the only other Indian, apart from the two mentioned above, who has competed at the Worlds previously. The former Asian Games bronze medallist was laid low by ill health in the last edition but will hope that doesn't hamper his campaign, which begins against Richard Torrez of the United States.

Among the rest of the contingent, Manish Kaushik (63kg), silver medallist from last year's Commonwealth Games, had to battle with Shiva Thapa to claim his spot for the World Championship. And if he were to return from Russia with a medal, it will help him cement his place going into the Olympic

year. He begins against Kyrgyzstan's Argen Kadyrbek on Thursday.

Sanjeet, a Services boxer, can fly under the radar but can outsmart a few fancied pugilists. His first opponent is Scotland's Scott Forest. Ashish, who won a gold at Thailand Open this year, is also making his way in the 75kg category, made famous by the likes of Vijender and Vikas.

The world championships will feature around 450 boxers from 87 countries in 400 fights spread across 12 days. India will start their campaign on Tuesday with Brijesh Yadav (81 kg) taking on Poland's Maleusz Goinski in his opening round bout.

But the reorganisation of the weight categories has resulted in the omission of certain classes in which India has been traditionally strong.

"There is no 49kg and 60kg this time, categories that we are really good at. I think we are going to get a very good idea of where we stand viz-a-viz the Olympic qualifiers," Nieva said, alluding to the Asian Olympic qualifiers in February next year.

The eight Indians in the competition will be in action according to a staggered schedule, but have not left anything to chance in their preparation. "We landed here early and have focused on staying busy with training and sparring with a couple of off days thrown in. Draws are important, but they only shape strategy, not our approach," said Nieva.

THE SQUAD: Amit Panghal (52kg), Kavinder Bisht (57kg), Manish Kaushik (63kg), Duryodhan Singh Negi (69kg), Ashish Kumar (75kg), Brijesh Yadav (81kg), Sanjeet (91kg) and Satish Kumar (+91kg).

Sindhu credits Korean Kim for improved performance

SHAHID JUDGE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 8

IT WAS back in April when the services of former South Korean shuttler Kim Ji Hyun were secured to aid PV Sindhu. The 1994 Asian Games gold medallist joined ranks with a team that had been working with the 24-year-old in her pursuit of an elusive gold in the badminton majors.

The target was achieved a fortnight ago as Sindhu became the first Indian player, of any gender, to be crowned world champion. And over the course of her preparation for the event, each member of her team had been given a clear role.

"She's now concentrating under the guidance of both (Pullela) Gopichand and Kim," says Sindhu's father PV Ramana. "On court, Gopi and Kim are discussing and making a plan. Fitness-wise, I'm taking care of it with Srikanth Verma. I'm happy with it."

From the initial days of her career, Sindhu had been training under Gopichand, who coached her to a silver medal at the 2016 Rio Olympics. But as the number of quality Indians increased and he was able to give Sindhu less time, Kim was appointed to step into the void. And in her run to her first world title, Sindhu acknowledges Kim's crucial role.

"It definitely helped a lot because I've been training with her for the few months that she's been here," Sindhu says. "She had a few changes in her mind and I think that really helped me. We worked on that, of course under the guidance of Gopi sir, and it went very well. I have improved a lot of skills, and I have a lot more to improve."

"You need to come up with something new every time because you know the other players know your game. It's important to keep changing all the time. So I think (Kim) has helped me one way because every coach has a different mindset and each coach gives their inputs and that is a good advantage for me."

The smashes and all-out aggression propelled Sindhu through the draw to an eventual 21-7, 21-7 demolition of third seed Nozomi Okuhara in the World Championship final. What Sindhu has to work on, Ramana claims, is her strokes at the net. "She requires to play nearer the net and get more confident in her strokes," he says. "The opponents don't lift for Sindhu because they know she's a hard smasher. So at the net is where we want her to improve, the net-dribble. If she gets that confidence, and if she's injury-free, she'll have a



World Champion PV Sindhu feels she's become more skillful after working with Korea's Kim Ji Hyun. *PTI*

good chance in the coming tournaments."

Work has already started on the world no. 5 sharpening her net-play.

"She's doing around four hours in the morning and one-and-a-half hours in the evening on the court with Kim," Ramana adds. "Every Wednesday and Saturday she plays against the boys - there are lot of youngsters helping her. This is all apart from the fitness work she does."

Sindhu continues to evolve, but her tactics and skills were on song when she entered the World Championships. En route to the title clash against Okuhara, Sindhu, seeded fifth, had to take care of world no. 2 Chen Yu Fei of China. But it was neither Chen, nor Okuhara - who had beaten Sindhu in the final of the 2017 World Championships - that Ramana was worried about. It was her quarterfinal clash against the tricky former world no. 1 Tai Tzu-Ying. "I was confident about Chen because she's not that strong physically. If you keep the shuttle at the baseline, and if the rally goes on for 13-14 shots, Sindhu has a chance to kill the shuttle. Okuhara is short, she's good in fitness. That match I was a bit worried," Ramana says. "But for me, the toughest player was Tai Tzu-Ying. Winning against Tai was crucial. Other players like Okuhara, Chen, (world no. 1) Akane Yamaguchi, the rallies are longer and Sindhu is confident of killing the shuttle. But Tai is a tricky player."

Getting the gold in her fifth World Championship final has given Sindhu the drive to push forward. And with a new coach in her corner, Ramana sees his daughter developing into an all-round player.

"With Kim coming in now, it takes four to five months to become an overall player," he says. "But if she gets the confidence, she can become totally polished."

BRIEFLY

Men's hockey team retains no 5 spot

The Indian men's hockey team was static at number five while the women's team climbed a place to number nine in the FIH rankings released on Sunday. The fresh list was released following the conclusion of the Oceania Cup. There is no change at the top of the rankings with Australia's Oceania Cup triumph ensuring that they stay ahead of second-placed Belgium but the points gap between the two nations has narrowed to just two. Australia have 2350 points. European bronze medallists the Netherlands (2155) remain third in the rankings, followed by the Pan American Games gold medallists Argentina (1988).

Played like it was my last game: Ashique

Returning from a long injury lay-off, midfielder Ashique Kuruniyan says "I played like it was the last game of my life" during India's 1-2 defeat against Oman in their FIFA World Cup Qualifiers opener in Guwahati. The 22-year-old produced an impressive performance for the Blue Tigers against Oman, creating a number of chances with his speed. It was he who won the free-kick that led to India's only goal in the match played on Thursday. "There was only one thing on my mind - I have to play like it is the last game of my life," Kuruniyan told the AIFF website. "I had decided that I will give my all against Oman. After the injury, I never thought I will get my chance to come back so early and so, I was motivated to leave everything out on the pitch."

Kochhar bags a Top-10 finish

Karandeep Kochhar rounded off the week with a card of two-under 70 to log his first Top-10 finish on the Asian Tour in close to two years on Sunday. Kochhar totaled 11-under 277 with rounds of 67-71-69-70 at the USD 500,000 Yeangder Tournament Players Championship (TPC) and picked up just under USD 8,500 for his efforts. Kochhar, who had a career-best Tied-second with six others at the Panasonic Open India in 2017, was the best Indian finisher on Sunday as he had three birdies against one bogey. Korea's Yikeun Chang finally ended his title drought when he closed with a flawless six-under-par 66 to seal a three-shot victory for his maiden Asian Tour title.

ITF tweak makes India's Davis Cup challenge tougher

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 8

IN YET another modification to the Davis Cup format, the world governing body ITF has abolished Groups I and II at the regional level competition, making India's road to the Qualifiers even tougher.

From 2020, the Indian team will have to contend with superior European, South and North American nations in order to qualify.

As of now, there are four Groups - I, II, III, IV - in each of the three zones which are Americas, Asia/Oceania, and European/Africa. As per the new format, Groups I and II will cease to exist from 2020 onwards and instead a 24-team World Group I and a 24-team World Group II will be formed.

"It's interesting but obviously, it will be tougher for us. We were always dominant in Asia. The format needed a change so they did it but from India's perspective, every match will be tough," India's non-playing captain Mahesh Bhupathi told PTI, reacting to the development.

The 12 losing nations from the Qualifiers in March next year, along with 12 winners from the newly-introduced World Group I Play-offs, will form the World Group I. The 12 losers from World Group I Play-offs and 12 winners of World Group II Play-offs will form the World Group II.

The Play-offs will be held alongside the Qualifiers in March 2020 and they continue to be the home-and-away format for the two-day ties.

"The expanded structure, which follows extensive consultation with National Associations, will ensure more nations are able to compete on a worldwide basis, with more opportunities for home-and-away ties against a wider variety of opponents," the ITF said in a statement.

It is the second big change the International Tennis Federation has brought about in Davis Cup after introducing the year-end Finals, where 18 teams will fight it out for the title at one place in one week, instead of competing on the home-and-away format. India has been a dominant force in Asia/Oceania Group I for many years as it has consistently reached the World Group Play-offs stage.

In the current format, the Indian team competes against the likes of Korea, New Zealand, China, Pakistan, Chinese Taipei, Lebanon and Uzbekistan, who do not have many top players to challenge India, but with the new format being introduced from 2020, it will not be an easy job for Bhupathi's team.

"When we were playing against New Zealand or Chinese Taipei or Pakistan, Indonesia or Philippines, we were expected to win but that luxury is not going to be there anymore," Bhupathi agreed.

Asked if format required another change



Mahesh Bhupathi feels it would be tough for India to continue its domination in Asia. *Express*

As of now, there are four Groups - I, II, III, IV - in each of the three zones which are Americas, Asia/Oceania, and European/Africa. As per the new format, Groups I and II will cease to exist from 2020 onwards and instead a 24-team World Group I and a 24-team World Group II will be formed.

like this, Bhupathi said only time will tell.

"We have to wait for about two years to see how the players respond to this. Right now, the players will accept it but we have to see if it works or not."

The line-up for the 2020 Davis Cup Qualifiers and the Play-offs in World Group I and II will be finalised after next week's regional Group I and Group II ties.

India, though, will have to wait to see where it is positioned since its tie against Pakistan has already been postponed due to prevailing tension between the neighbours.

There will be no change to the structure of Davis Cup Group III and Group IV, which will continue to be played as week-long regional events on a round-robin basis.

"They are coming up with these changes because there is lot of competition for the Davis Cup now. They want to make Davis Cup more appealing to the world. We have to see how it pans it. It's too early to say whether it will bring Davis Cup back to the limelight," said India's Davis Cup coach Zeeshan Ali.

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