



**IDEA EXCHANGE** PAGE 12

**'STUDENTS ARE WORRIED ABOUT SLOWDOWN, BUT THEY ALSO FEEL CHANGE IS HAPPENING'**

SUNIL AMBEKAR, ABVP's national organising secretary

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**A new Lal**

From a divided Opp to a successful job hiring scheme and appeal of Art 370, why Manohar Lal Khattar is sitting pretty in Haryana



**Truth Be Told**

As the Malayalam cartoon turns 100 this month, a look at its glorious culture of standing up to power, with tongue firmly in cheek

**WORLD**



**UK PM DEFIANT AS LAWMAKERS VOTE TO FORCE DELAY IN BREXIT PLAN**

**ERDOGAN VOWS TO 'CRUSH THE HEADS' OF KURDISH FORCES** PAGE 13

## Counsel for Ramlalla seeks both disputed, acquired land for temple

**ANANTHAKRISHNAN G**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

BESIDES STAKING claim over the entire disputed land in Ayodhya, deity Ramlalla Virajman, one of the parties in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid case, on Saturday told the Supreme Court that the adjacent land, which was acquired by the Centre in 1993, would also be needed for the "convenience of devotees"



when a "grand" Ram temple is built at the disputed site. In 1993, the Centre had

acquired 67,703 acres in and around the demolished Babri Masjid under the Acquisition of Certain Area at Ayodhya Act, 1993.

Underlining that both the disputed site and the acquired area were important to Hindus and urging the court not to grant any relief that would unsettle the plan, the deity's counsel, Senior Advocates K Parasaran and C S Vaidyanathan and Advocate PV Yogeswaran, in their written

submissions filed in the court, said that "the small area which is the subject matter of the suit is one integral unit and is indivisible. The convenience of worshippers and devotees necessitates the entire disputed area to offer worship at Ram Janmasthan and the acquired area".

"...there are no good ground for moulding the relief in any manner which will impact the entire acquired area including

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## As campaigning ends, BJP steps up pitch on Art 370



**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

AN ELECTION campaign dominated by the BJP's aggressive narrative on the nullification of Article 370 and marked by the Opposition's lacklustre canvassing, drew to a close on Saturday in Maharashtra and Haryana.

Elections to 288 Assembly seats in Maharashtra and 90 seats in Haryana will be held on October 21, and the results will be announced on October 24.

While the BJP dismissed any suggestions of anti-incumbency against its chief ministers Devendra Fadnis and Manohar Lal Khattar, top party leaders did not hesitate to campaign extensively in both the states.

While the Prime Minister ad-



**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

WHILE THE momentum is with the BJP, the incumbent in Haryana and Maharashtra, these polls are an opportunity for the Opposition, particularly the Congress, to recover the ground lost in LS elections. The BJP has used abrogation of Article 370 as a campaign tool, while the Opposition has tried to leverage the economic slowdown.

dressed nine rallies in Maharashtra, he devoted four days to address seven public meetings in the relatively

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Achimtya Mondal outside his house in Sirachar village, West Bengal. Express MORE REPORTS, P 10

## 'If the river is not safe for BSF, it is not safe for fishermen'

**SANTANU CHOWDHURY**  
MURSHIDABAD, OCTOBER 19

SITTING IN front of his mud-house in the border village of Sirachar, in Murshidabad district, fisherman Bikash Mondal (32) considers himself lucky to be alive. He was one of the three fishermen detained by the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) on October 17, after they reportedly strayed into the Bangladesh side of the Padma river.

The incident led to a flag meeting on Thursday, during which a BSF jawan, Vijay Bhan Singh, was killed and another injured after the BGB opened fire.

After the three fishermen were caught by the BGB, Pranab Mondal (41), the boat owner, was detained, while the other two — Bikash and Achintya Mondal (28) — were sent back and told to call the BSF for a flag meeting. Bikash accompanied the BSF personnel for the flag meeting, which took place in

Bangladesh waters, while Achintya remained on the river bank.

"When they said they would not release Pranab, we were returning to our boat. The next minute, they fired shots at us," said Bikash. "When I heard bullets being fired, I ducked inside the boat just in time to save myself. I didn't know what was happening. Later, I saw a BSF man in a pool of blood and another with injuries on his hand," he said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**CLERIC AMONG THOSE ARRESTED**

## Three held in Gujarat for murder of ex-Hindu Mahasabha leader

Police tracked suspects from box of sweets left at Kamlesh Tiwari's house



The three suspects arrested in Surat on Saturday; Dharti Sweets, from where they allegedly bought sweets. Express



Family says conspiracy, demands NIA probe



Kamlesh Tiwari's grieving family members. ANI

**KAMAAL SAIYED & MANISH SAHU**  
SURAT, LUCKNOW, OCT 19

A DAY after Kamlesh Tiwari, former working president of the Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha, was killed in Lucknow, three persons, including a cleric, were arrested in Surat on Saturday. While two others were detained, they were freed after questioning.

Maulana Mohsin Sheikh (24), Rashid Ahmed Pathan (22) and Faizan Shaikh (21) were arrested in a joint operation by the Uttar Pradesh Police, Gujarat ATS and Crime Branch, Surat.

"All the three arrested have confessed their involvement in



**Kamlesh Tiwari was killed in Lucknow on Friday**

the murder. We have got the names of two other accused who carried out the killing." K K Patel, Deputy SP, Gujarat ATS, told *The Sunday Express*. "Maulana Mohsin Sheikh hails from Bharuch district, Faizan is from Rajasthan, and Rashid was born in Surat," he said.

According to police, Rashid Ahmed Pathan was working in a computer shop in Dubai for the last two years, Maulana Mohsin

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**MANISH SAHU**  
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 19

ALLEGING A conspiracy behind his killing, Kamlesh Tiwari's family said that he had made repeated requests for his security to be upgraded — the last one was reportedly sent just a few days ago — but no action was taken.

Demanding that the investigation be handed over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), Tiwari's son, Satyam (22), a law student, said: "My father was killed despite having police security. He had been demanding a security upgrade due to threats, but nobody paid attention. A few days ago, he had also

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## Govt flags 'gaps' in Rahul's SPG detail

In 143 of 156 foreign trips since 1991, Rahul didn't take SPG; officials said no specific rules on SPG overseas

**DEEPTIMAN TIWARY & MANOJ CG**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19



**Avoided bullet-resistant vehicles on multiple occasions**

bullet-resistant (BR) vehicle in Delhi — this works out to at least once a day.

On 247 occasions in this period, (June 2019 included), Gandhi chose to avoid a BR vehicle while travelling out of Delhi. Between 2005 and 2014, sources said, Gandhi travelled in a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## J&K shutdown, Internet ban take toll: Projects stuck, govt work hit

**DEEPTIMAN TIWARY**  
SRINAGAR, NEW DELHI, OCT 19

IN THE days following its August 5 decision to scrap the special status to Jammu and Kashmir, the Centre had said that the move would "usher in a new era of development" and bring private investment to the region. The shutdowns post-August 5 have, however, meant that the administration is struggling to meet these promises.

The communication shutdown, particularly the suspen-

sion of Internet, has been among the biggest roadblocks. Given that most government work is now mandated to be either tendered online or has procedures that mandatorily require online work, most of these projects are stuck. Though landlines and post-paid mobile phones have been restored, over 20 lakh pre-paid mobile phones and mobile and other Internet services remain deactivated in the Valley.

While infrastructure projects have come to a grinding halt because of paucity of labour, the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**BIG PICTURE**  
PAGES 14-15

**BLOCKED POLLS**

## New technology at brick kilns helps Punjab's fight against pollution: 70% cut in emissions

**KANCHAN VASDEV**  
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 19



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Witness Change? Write to us at [change@expressindia.com](mailto:change@expressindia.com)

AFTER GRAPPLING for decades with its 2,800-odd polluting brick kilns, Punjab has got most of them to switch to a new technology, thereby cutting emissions by an estimated 70 per cent.

After a few initial hiccups, officials of the state pollution control board say they have been able to convince the owners of at least 1,800 kilns to opt for the newer 'induced draft' kilns with zigzag brick settings.

In the new kilns, the bricks to

tion more efficient. Besides, the mixing of air and fuel in the new kilns allows for complete combustion, thus reducing coal consumption by about 20 per cent. The new kilns also use fans to regulate air.

Officials say kilns in Punjab produce around 15-20 billion bricks per annum, making up about 8 per cent of the total production in the country, and employ about 5 lakh workers.

Following orders from the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and guidelines from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB),

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



At an Induced Draft brick kiln in Sarabha village of Ludhiana. Gurmeet Singh

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ACCOUNTS THAT RETRACE HISTORY OF AN ARUNACHAL PRADESH FOREST

A writer and an illustrator pair up to create 'The Eaglenest Memory Project', a book that tells the story of a forest and its people through warm personal accounts of its residents.

VIDEO OF THE DAY



BJP'S NAUKSHAM CHOWDHURY  
 A Hindu face in a Muslim-dominated constituency

FULL COVERAGE



HARYANA ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS  
 Why did Cong not dilute Art 370 when it was in power, asks PM

EXPRESS AUDIO

Why the sedition law still exists, with Chitranshu Sinha

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In this episode of The Sandip Roy Show, Sandip talks to the Supreme Court lawyer about the history of the sedition law in India and why it still exists in the 21st century.

FROM PAGE ONE

3 held for murder

Sheikh teaches at a madrasa in Umarwada area of Surat, and Faizan Shaikh does odd jobs. Rashid reportedly returned to Surat about two months ago for the wedding of his brother, Saeed Pathan, on November 3.

Uttar Pradesh DGP O P Singh said the motive behind the killing seemed to be to avenge Tiwari's comments against the Prophet in 2015. "We are working with Gujarat ATS and no link with any terrorist organisation has been established so far," he said.

The DGP also denied any link with two alleged IS operatives, Kasim Stimberwala and Obaid Mirza, who were arrested in Gujarat in October 2017. A chargesheet filed against them had mentioned that the duo had confessed about a plan to kill Tiwari.

Asked about a message being circulated on social media that a group called Al-Hind Brigade had claimed responsibility for Tiwari's murder, Singh said its authenticity had not been verified.

Police said the lead came from a box of sweets that the alleged killers left behind at Tiwari's home, which had the address of 'Dharti Sweets', a shop in Udhna area of Surat. Sources said a bill of purchase, dated October 16, for gharri, a local sweet, was found with the box. Police then checked the CCTV footage at 'Dharti Sweets', from which it reportedly identified Faizan as the person who bought the sweets.

Faizan was picked up from his house in Padmavati Society, in Limbayat area of Surat. Police said he led them to Rashid Pathan and his brother Saeed Pathan (23). Their questioning reportedly pointed to the involvement of Maulana Shaikh, who was picked up from Umarwada area of Surat.

Saeed Pathan and Gaurav Tiwari, who had also been detained, were released after questioning. According to sources, Gaurav had called up Kamlesh Tiwari recently and expressed his willingness to join his party and work in Surat.

"They had been planning to kill Tiwari for the last four years. When Rashid returned from Dubai (a couple of months ago), all the accused met and hatched the plan. Faizan bought the sweets from Dharti Sweets, while Rashid provided financial assistance, and Maulana Mohsin Sheikh brainwashed them. A total of five persons are involved in the murder — two are still absconding," said Gujarat ATS Deputy SP Patel.

"The accused involved in the conspiracy and the killing have been identified. Further investigations will reveal if more people are involved," said Additional Director General, Lucknow Zone, Satya Narain Sabat.

Meanwhile, two clerics from Bijnor, Maulana Anwarul Haq and Mufti Naeem, who were named in the FIR filed by Tiwari's wife for having announced a reward for beheading him after his comments against the Prophet in 2015, have been detained for questioning.

Rashid's father, Khurshid Pathan (79), who hails from Pilibhit in Uttar Pradesh, moved to Surat about 40 years ago. He worked in a dyeing and printing factory in Udhna area. "We are shocked by the police action. We don't know who Kamlesh Tiwari is and who killed them. My children are innocent, we have full faith in the judicial process," said Khurshid.

Khurshid has two other sons, Fareed (25) and Moeed (21). He said Fareed went to Chandigarh with a friend, Ashfaq Shaikh, three days ago. "Since then, both his and his friend's phones are switched off. We are worried about them," said Khurshid.

As the then working president of the Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha, Tiwari had appealed

on behalf of the organisation in the Ayodhya case before the Supreme Court. A controversial leader, Tiwari founded the Hindu Samaj Party about three years ago. He was jailed in 2015 over a remark he made about the Prophet that triggered protests and violence. The Lucknow police had invoked the NSA against him but it was set aside a year later by the Lucknow bench of Allahabad High Court.

Tiwari was killed at his Lucknow home on Friday. After a preliminary check, doctors told police that Tiwari's throat had been slit. Later, Additional SP (West Lucknow) Vikas Chandra Tripathi said the postmortem report "stated that there is a bullet injury near the neck." CCTV footage showed two youths entering his house around noon. A pistol and an empty cartridge were recovered from the spot.

NIA probe sought

sent a representation to the Lucknow district administration and the police in this regard."

He said that in 2016, the state government had assigned 16 policemen for Tiwari's security. "Later, at regular intervals, his security was downgraded and the number of policemen reduced. Currently, he had only one police guard. This guard, too, was not present when my father was killed yesterday. The gunman's role should also be probed," said Satyam. Police have denied this and said the gunman was at Tiwari's house-cum-office, where he was killed on Friday.

"After the post-mortem, police initially refused to hand over the body. When we protested, police used force, causing injuries to my brother and mother. Later, they agreed to give us the body if we took it to Sitapur. We were forced to take the body to Sitapur at 2 a.m.," alleged Satyam.

Meanwhile, Tiwari's mother, Kusum, alleged that a local BJP leader of Sitapur was behind the murder. But Satyam denied this. "There is a dispute over a temple land between a local BJP leader and my father. The matter is in court. My grandmother took his name in anger. I am sure he is not involved in the murder," he said.

On Saturday, Tiwari's family members and supporters refused to cremate the body until their demands were met. It was only after Lucknow Commissioner Mukesh Kumar Meshram met the family and gave a written assurance that the final rites were carried out in Sitapur.

The administration assured the family that an investigation would be conducted by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) or NIA, headed by an IG-rank officer. The family was also assured that they would get financial assistance, a government job for Satyam, and arms licences.

Fishermen

The Padma river acts as a riverine border between India and Bangladesh in Jalangi area of Murshidabad district.

"We were in the centre of the river, yet the BGB said we had entered Bangladesh waters. They took our nets and the Hilsa we had caught. We have been fishing in the Padma for over 15 years, but never faced such a situation," said Bikash.

"We are too scared to go back to the river. If the river is not safe for BSF jawans, it is not safe for fishermen. I don't know when I will be able to fish in Padma river again," said Achintya, who has a family of five to feed.

Meanwhile, Pranab is still in the BGB's custody. His wife, Rekha, a bidi worker, said Pranab makes about Rs 20,000 to Rs 30,000 in the Hilsa season. She said she is now finding it difficult to feed her four children. "We want the BSF to make attempts to bring back my husband...," she said.

Ramlalla counsel seeks land for temple

the disputed area being utilised in accordance with the wishes of the Hindus, if they succeed in these proceedings", the counsel said.

The written submission said that "the basis of suit 5 (filed by Ramlalla) is to build a grand temple of Lord Ram commensurate with His stature" and that "in case equity is exercised in any manner, then it would impinge the sacredness of the place, which, besides the disputed site, is also filled with numerous holy sites, as well as detract from the ability to construct a grand temple including all associated and sacred sites which are integral to the shrine".

The counsel also pointed out that the government, with which the acquired land is currently vested, had already stated in court that its "action will be in support of the party which succeeds in the proceedings".

The written submission added that "having built a structure over the sacred and revered Ramjanmasthan, and claiming it was a vacant land, having questioned the very existence of a structure (a temple) beneath the disputed structure, and hav-

ing been proved erroneous on all such submissions, the Muslim parties are not entitled to any equitable relief, more so when the structure is no longer existent".

During the hearing on the appeals against the September 30, 2010, verdict of the Allahabad High Court, which had ordered a three-way division of the disputed area among Ramlalla Virajman, Sunni Waqf Board and Nirmohi Akhara, the Board had asserted that it had the right to have the Babri Masjid re-constructed at the site as it stood on December 5, 1996.

Opposing this, the deity said "to pray for reconstructing the mosque at the disputed site is inequitable and unjust. It is contrary to Hindu dharma, Islamic law and all principles of Justice, Equity and good conscience".

The submission said that the HC judgment had stated the significance of the disputed site for Hindus. Although it was contended then that the mosque was of significance for Muslims as an ancient mosque built by Mir Baqi in 1528 AD, it said the Waqf Board counsel "has now... clarified that it was not of impor-

tance in the 16th century or even thereafter but became important only when disputes arose in the 20th century."

"In fact, it was stated that the dispute now is of RVANITY," the deity added.

Reiterating the importance of the Ram Janmasthan for Hindus, it said their faith and belief that there was a temple of antiquity which was improved upon from time to time and which existed till the sixteenth century "is supported by archeological evidence".

The janmasthan was divine and was a deity on its own even without an idol, it said, adding that "Ayodhya is one of the places of Pilgrimage for Hindus. It is the very life of Hindus for which at the appropriate time they derive attainment of 'Moksha' (salvation)... The right to life they humbly pray is not to be deprived of".

The deity's counsel also said that the Nirmohi Akhara has "desintitised themselves from any relief" by setting up a claim adverse to the deity, by questioning the very status of the Ram Janmasthan and by disputing the maintainability of the suit filed by Ramlalla and the lo-

cus standi of the plaintiffs therein.

The Akhara and the Wakf Board also filed their written submissions Saturday.

Seeking possession of the disputed area, the Akhara said it had 'Shebait' rights there since the 18th Century. A shebait under Hindu law is entrusted with the task of maintaining and preserving an idol and its property.

In case the SC upholds the HC view giving joint ownership of the place, the Akhara wants the court to give it the inner courtyard and also a direction to the Wakf Board to give its share of the land on long-term lease to it for construction of temple. In return, the Waqf Board could be given land in the acquired premises or somewhere else in Ayodhya, it said.

Other Hindu parties like Gopal Singh Visharad, Akhil Bharatiya Hindu Mahasabha and Muslim parties like the Shia Waqf Board have also submitted their stance to the court.

The SC, while reserving its verdict on the appeals against the HC order on October 15, had given the parties three days to file their written submissions in the matter.

BJP steps up pitch on Article 370

smaller Haryana. BJP chief and Union Home Minister Amit Shah addressed 18 rallies in Maharashtra while addressing seven in Haryana. Former party chief and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh addressed nine rallies in Haryana and three in Maharashtra. Party sources counted 177 public rallies by national leaders from outside the state in Maharashtra while the state leaders together addressed 312 election meetings.

Apart from the general secretaries in charge of these states, Saroj Pandey (Maharashtra) and Anil Jain (Haryana), BJP chief Amit Shah deployed Bhupender Yadav (Maharashtra) and Narendra Singh Tomar (Haryana) as in-charges specifically for the elections.

Throughout its campaign, the BJP leadership peppered the developmental claims of its state units with a dose of nationalism, with repeated references to Article 370 and the pitch for a nationwide NRC. The state unit

of the BJP also sought to raise the Hindutva pitch, demanding the Bharat Ratna for Hindutva icon Vinayak Damodar Savarkar. As for the Congress, interim party chief Sonia Gandhi did not address any rally. The rally in Mahendragarh (Haryana) that she was slated to address on Friday was cancelled. Former party chief Rahul Gandhi addressed seven rallies across the two states - five in Maharashtra and two in Haryana (including the one Sonia was supposed to address).

The BJP's pitch on Savarkar and Article 370 forced the Congress to nuance its position on both the issues, with former prime minister Manmohan Singh clarifying that the Congress was not against the scrapping of special status to Jammu and Kashmir and saying that the party is not against Savarkar, but his Hindutva ideology.

Shadows of factionalism and internal feud were also vis-

ible during the Congress campaign in both these states. Former Haryana chief minister and legislature party leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda did not share the stage with Rahul Gandhi in both his Nuh and Mahendragarh rallies, triggering speculation that all was not well within the party. Incidentally, Rahul did not campaign in regions considered to be Hooda's home turf in the state. Additionally, the Congress suffered a setback in Haryana when former state unit chief Ashok Tanwar quit the party and shared the stage with JJP leader Dushyant Chautala.

In Maharashtra too, where the party witnessed many of its leaders switching to the ruling alliance in the run-up to the elections, there were some discordant notes during the campaign. Former Mumbai unit chief Sanjay Nirupam's outbursts during the candidate selection exposed the strain within the state unit.

Additionally, the fact that both Nirupam and Milind Deora, former presidents of the Mumbai Regional Congress Committee, stayed away from Rahul Gandhi's two rallies in Mumbai also cast a shadow on the party's campaigning in the metropolises.

The Opposition campaign in Maharashtra was mainly spearheaded by NCP patriarch Sharad Pawar, who took on PM Modi and the BJP. However, the Congress and the NCP failed to hold a single joint rally in contrast to the jointly held by PM Modi and Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray in Mumbai on October 18.

While trying to pin down the incumbent BJP on the issue of economic slowdown, the Congress leadership stuck to many of the issues drawn from its Lok Sabha campaign earlier this year - GST, demonetisation, unemployment and the alleged Rafale scam, among others. — WITH PTI INPUTS

out why such an incident took place. As per our inputs, there was no aggressive stance from our end, as there was prior intimation of a flag meeting," he said.

Rahul's security

non-BR vehicle on 18 occasions in various parts of the country.

Government sources said Gandhi has also been reluctant to use SPG cover abroad. Since 1991, sources said, Gandhi had made 156 foreign trips. In 143 of these, sources said, he did not take the SPG with him.

While some officials red-flag this as "non-officials of protocol", there are others who said there were no rules under the SPG Act specifically mandating a protectee to take SPG cover abroad.

"Under the Act, the protectee is supposed to be protected all the time. It is silent on where. So it is to be assumed that it applies to foreign visits as well," an official said.

Officials said that though a protectee was to be protected all the time, there have been certain courtesies extended to all SPG protectees. Also different countries have different norms and rules for protection of foreign dignitaries. For example, officials said,

there are times when the protectee doesn't want a security detail to accompany them when they are dropping off their child for to a school or college.

"It is embarrassing to walk into an educational institution with a large security detail. Privacy of the protectee is respected in certain situations abroad as well. Many countries do not allow for weapons to be carried into their country. In all such situations, advance preparations are made. There are drills for security without weapons as well," an official said.

Sources said that in August 2017, Gandhi was travelling in a non-BR vehicle in Banaskantha in Gujarat. There was an incident of stone-pelting on Gandhi's private car and an SPG PSO was injured. The matter was raised by Congress in Parliament and then Home Minister Rajnath Singh had told Lok Sabha that Gandhi did not avail of SPG BR vehicles on 100 occasions out of his 121 visits between April 2015 and June 2017.

Responding to a questionnaire sent to the Congress communication department by The Indian Express on these findings, lawyer Tarannum Cheema wrote on behalf of the party: "The All India Congress Committee can neither

confirm nor deny the material in your possession. If genuine or bonafide, this information could only have been shared with you by the SPG. The information is either directly or indirectly in contravention of the law and express provisions of the (SPG) Act. You are, therefore, directly or indirectly illegally in possession of material that endangers the lives of SPG protectees including the Prime Minister of India and former Prime Ministers and their immediate families."

The SPG is a force raised specifically for the protection of the PM, former PMs and their immediate families. The force is 3,000 strong and protects four people — PM Narendra Modi, Congress president Sonia Gandhi, her son Rahul Gandhi and her daughter Priyanka Gandhi. The SPG cover of former PM Dr Manmohan Singh was removed after the 2019 elections and he was provided with Z-plus security cover.

The SPG was raised in 1985 in the wake of the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1984. Earlier, Delhi Police (before 1981) and Special Task Force (raised by the Intelligence Bureau in 1981) provided residence and proximate security to the PM.

A review committee of secretaries, constituted in the wake of Indira Gandhi's assassination, recommended formation of a special group under a designated officer and for STF to provide immediate security cover both in New Delhi and outside as a short-term measure.

Subsequently, a committee under the Ministry of Home Affairs recommended raising a Special Protection Unit (SPU) under the Cabinet Secretariat. The SPU was then re-christened Special Protection Group (SPG), which functioned under executive orders for three years till Parliament passed the SPG Act in 1988.

At the time, the Act did not include former PMs and the SPG protection given to his predecessor Rajiv Gandhi was withdrawn when V P Singh came to power in 1989. The assassination of Rajiv Gandhi in 1991 led to amendments in the SPG Act to offer SPG protection to all former prime ministers and their families for at least 10 years.

In 2003, during the Vajpayee government, it was amended again to bring the period of automatic protection down from 10 years to "a period of one year from the date on which the former prime minister ceased to hold office" and beyond one year based on the level of threat as decided by the general government.

During the Vajpayee government, the SPG cover of former PMs such as H D Deve Gowda, I K Gujral and P V Narasimha Rao was withdrawn. Vajpayee had SPG protection until his death last year.

Under the current SPG Act, family members of an incumbent PM or that of a former PM can decline security cover. Manmohan Singh's daughters had declined SPG cover after he ceased to become PM.

J&K shutdown

uncertain law-and-order situation and the communication blockade, projects to be undertaken by the panchayats have not even taken off in most districts.

Sources in the J&K administration said the government has disbursed over Rs 500 crore to all panchayats in Kashmir. However, most sarpanches The Sunday Express spoke to said no work had begun on the ground.

While most were unwilling to come on record, Manzoor-ul-Islam, a sarpanch from Kangan in Ganderbal, said, "I have sent my resignation to the deputy commissioner. We put our necks on the line for these polls. But it has been a year and no work has taken off on the ground. Now the winter will set in and nothing will happen for the next six months either. The August 5 decisions have delegitimised us among local people."

The state administration agrees that work on the ground has not picked up, barring in a few areas in Kupwara. "We are struggling. Our first disbursement happened in March-April this year. These included disbursements for 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and the first installment for 2018-19. However, by the time the plans were made, gram sabhas constituted and the bureaucratic exercise completed, it was late July. And then, we had the shutdown in August," said an official.

The official added that the money has been released under the 14th Finance Commission and deposited in the accounts of the sarpanches. However, separate bank accounts for various schemes are yet to be opened.

The Internet blockade has also hit work in rural areas. "According to Government of India rules, all the work at the rural level, whether through panchayats or the MGNREGA, has to be geo-tagged. Pictures of projects need to be uploaded at different stages of work completion

and digital signatures are required for approval of payments. These can happen only after an SMS is received on the registered mobile number. None of this is working as of now, so no work can take off either," said another official.

To top it, there are many panchayats in J&K that are still vacant, mostly in South Kashmir, because no one contested. The administration is now planning a re-election in these constituencies after the Block Development Council elections are over. While administrators have been appointed in such panchayats, in the absence of Internet, not much work has taken off here either.

The administration is struggling too. Only recently, it set up a camp office in Delhi to meet the World Bank deadline for disbursement of Rs 1,500 crore for infrastructure projects in the state. The administration was supposed to tender out all the work before the disbursement of funds, but it was unable to do from Kashmir because of the communication blockade.

Lack of visible work at the panchayat level must rattle Delhi as Home Minister Amit Shah has repeatedly said in Parliament and outside that the government has taken development to the grassroots through last year's panchayat elections and that a new political class would rise from among the panches and sarpanches.

To make up for the slow pace of projects on the ground, the administration has decided to take Central welfare schemes to more people in the state. According to an official, the government has identified 85 beneficiary-oriented schemes, out of over 350 Central ones, where broadbanding can be done - Old Age Pension Scheme, Minority and Scheduled Tribe Scholarship Scheme, PM Kisan pension scheme and PM Jan Dhan Yojana, among others.

Brick kilns

the Punjab government had directed traditional kilns to stop operating by March 31. But less than 500 converted, forcing the government to extend the deadline to September 30. Since then, officials say, over 1,200 kilns have converted.

Recently, the Punjab and Haryana High Court refused to grant any relief to kiln owners who had appealed against the government's orders.

"Punjab's air turns toxic during this time of the year due to paddy stubble burning. The traditional kilns have been adding to the problem. But now, we are not only trying our best to stop paddy stubble burning but also preventing polluting kilns from functioning. The Ambient Air Quality (AQI) is less than 200 this time," said an official of the state pollution board.

While districts such as Bamala and Sangrur have seen 100 per cent conversion to the new technology, of about 270 kilns in Ludhiana, about 100-125 are still to convert. Conversion costs around Rs 12-14 lakh. But we can spend that much as also save fuel in the process," he said.

The Department of Science and Technology, through the Punjab State Council for Science and Technology, is providing technical assistance for the conversion. The results have been encouraging, said Pritpal Singh, senior scientist at the Council.

"With this technology, not only have emissions been cut by 70-80 per cent, kiln owners save fuel too. The brick quality is also much better," said Singh. "Only 800-900 kilns are yet to convert to the new technology. They have sought an exemption as the NGT... If their plea is turned down, we will ensure complete adherence to the new technology," said Satwinder Singh Marwaha, Chairman, Punjab Pollution Control Board.

## Sapna plan to campaign for rival sends alarm bells ringing in BJP

ABHINAVRAJPUT  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

THE DELHI BJP unit, which played an instrumental role in bringing Haryana singer Sapna Chaudhary to the party fold in July, was left red-faced after she decided to campaign for a rival candidate, Gopal Kanda, in the Haryana Assembly elections.

In a video uploaded on the official website of the Haryana Lokhit Party, she says: "I, Sapna Chaudhary, am coming to Sirsa to support my brother Gopal Kanda and Govind Kanda. I request you all to support and vote for them."

She was scheduled to hold public meeting in Kanda's support Saturday — but this was cancelled after Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari and head of media relations of the Delhi BJP Neelkant Bakshi reached her Gurgaon residence Friday night and dissuaded her from campaigning for leaders of parties the BJP is pitted against.

BJP has fielded Pradip Ratusaria from Sirsa, where



Sapna Chaudhary with Manoj Tiwari at her Gurgaon residence Friday

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed a rally Saturday, the last day of campaigning for the October 21 polls.

Bakshi said, "It was an inadvertent mistake; she did not realise she could not hold programmes. She has cancelled it after Manoj Tiwari reached out to her."

A senior BJP leader, however, said, "She would have taken the decision as she was ignored by the Haryana BJP. She has not been called on for campaigning by the Haryana unit; what else will she do in such a case?"

## SIT-IN AT STUDENTS' BODY OFFICE CONTINUES

# After JNUSU office, access to Parthasarathy Rocks blocked

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

AFTER ISSUING a circular to lock the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) office, the administration's decision to block entry to the Parthasarathy Rocks, better known as PSR, has left JNUSU seething.

The union held an overnight vigil outside the locked gates of PSR Saturday night as a mark of protest. The 'cultural protest' saw music and dance performances.

The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), too, had organised a 'dera dalo' protest at the spot, which is a ridge area commonly frequented by students.

The JNUSU is currently on an indefinite sit-in at the union office as a mark of protest, in a bid to prevent the administration from locking it down.

"In recent days, the JNU administration, led by the Dean of Students, has been putting no



Students have been protesting outside the JNUSU office for three days now

stops in its attempts to make the campus a restricted and securitised zone with attacks on the democratic spaces cherished by students... The area has always been accessible to all students at all times. No untoward incident or any occurrence has happened which could even remotely explain the rationale behind such a move. Moreover, unlike its other dra-

gon moves, the admin has not even cared to bring a circular to inform, let alone explain away such a step," said JNUSU president Aishe Ghosh.

"Recently, JNU's security contract was changed and given to a different company. Since then, the number of security guards on campus has reduced. PSR is one of the places which was left unguarded and now has

been put off limits for students. This move is beyond rhyme and reason, and is unacceptable to the student community..." she said.

While JNU Registrar Pramod Kumar did not respond to calls and texts, official sources said the area had been closed down to prevent any "untoward incident" as there were complaints of students visiting the area late at night in groups.

However, they said students could still visit the area after seeking permission.

JNUSU general secretary Satish Chandra Yadav said, "In 2009, the then JNU administration sold out PSR to a film-making company and made it inaccessible to the JNU community. Collective students' struggle ensured the private company left and PSR remained open for the JNU community. Exactly after 10 years, the current JNU administration has locked out PSR. Now we must ensure the same."

## Delhi cabinet nod to barber welfare board

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

REACHING OUT to the barber community ahead of Assembly polls in the capital, the Delhi Cabinet Saturday cleared a proposal for constituting a skill development board for the community, along the lines of similar bodies in states such as Haryana and Rajasthan.

The Delhi 'Kesh Kala Board' will work towards "promoting" the "traditional art" of hair grooming and salon, and will suggest measures to adopt latest technologies, the government said in a statement.

It added that the barber com-

munity hasn't been able to adopt "new capital intensive technologies" and has failed to reap benefits of growth of the industry.

While the proposed five-member board will have to be notified, an AAP functionary underlined the political significance of the move.

"Barbers meet people from all walks of life. For example, a barber shop is likely to be next to a tea stall. So there will be engagement. This holds true especially in lower middle class areas. We are not targeting salons, which are fancier and more refined," the leader said.

The state BJP has a barber cell, which is usually activated ahead of the polls.

## 23-yr-old dead as bike rams BSES gate

New Delhi: A 23-year-old man died and his two friends were injured after their motorcycle rammed the gates of a BSES office in East Delhi's New Ashok Nagar Saturday morning. Initial investigation has revealed that the victim lost control after the bike hit a speed bumper.

"The incident took place around 1 am Saturday. Police were informed about the incident by Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital. The victim, Vikas, was riding a black Royal Enfield bike and the injured were riding pillion. All of them were riding without helmets," a senior police officer said.

He added that a case has been registered and more details are being ascertained. ENS

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Date: 19th to 23rd October 2019  
Time: 10AM to 7 PM daily

Venue: National Crafts Museum  
Pragati Maidan, New Delhi- 110001

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PHASE II, III PROJECTS

# Metro's earning from property development falls short of mark

SOURAV ROY BARMAN  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

THE DELHI Metro's current earning from property development on its Phase II and III projects is Rs 2,716 crore less than the target it had set for itself, due to "poor market conditions" and "regulatory bottlenecks".

According to DMRC records, the corporation's revenue generation target from Phase III was Rs 2,505 crore, out of which Rs 540 crore has been realised so far. From Phase II, the target was to generate Rs 960 crore through property development, but the actual earnings stand at Rs 209 crore.

Examples of property development initiatives in the Metro include renting out space for food kiosks, ATMs, magazine stalls, commercial establishments such as shopping malls, and construction of residential properties.

Under the 124-km Phase II network, a number of busy stretches came up in the DMRC network, including major parts of the Yellow and Blue lines, while the Pink and Magenta lines are

the most notable additions from the nearly 167-km network built as part of Phase III.

A perusal of DMRC documents revealed that the corporation, a Special Purpose Vehicle with equal equity participation of the Centre and the Delhi government, has been jostling with a number of issues with the Delhi Development Authority for years.

The DMRC has been demanding that the DDA allow calculation of Floor Area Ratio (FAR) of its properties on a par with public land, exemption from paying additional FAR charges, pending Transit Oriented Development (TOD) policy, no fresh allotment of land for housing development, and a five-star hotel project pending since 2008.

The Union government, while sanctioning the Delhi Metro Phase I project in 1996, had mandated that income should be generated through property development for paying back debts.

DMRC got land at nominal rates and mostly on 99-year lease. Later, in 1999, it set up a Property Development wing.

The corporation did make a good beginning, earning Rs 782

crore from property development, against the target of Rs 300 crore, from the Phase I project, under which a 65-km network was built. Since then, though, it has been dealing with shortfalls.

When contacted, DMRC declined to comment on the issue.

Sources attributed the situation to a number of "impediments". "Firstly, market conditions are not good for property development at present. The DDA does not allow FAR in properties built on our standalone plots to be calculated on a par with public, though there is no restriction as per the Master Plan of Delhi. Parts of stations like the concourse, platforms, technical rooms are being counted for FAR calculations, leaving no scope for property development at stations. And lastly, the TOD policy has not been notified yet," a DMRC source said.

According to documents, the DMRC has also demanded that it be exempted from getting completion certificates for construction inside operational buildings from civic bodies. The Centre had earlier exempted it from availing prior approvals for such construction from the civic bodies.



## BRIDGING THE GAP

At a parent-teacher meeting, conducted by the Delhi government, in East Delhi's Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya Saturday. Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia later tweeted: "I visited some schools during PTM. It's always such a wonderful experience to meet parents." Amit Mehra

# 'Having two-three CM faces is not a crime'

BJP's Rajya Sabha MP VIJAY GOEL speaks to Abhinav Rajput and Rahul Sabharwal on claims of infighting in the Delhi unit, MCD's image crisis and NRC plans in the capital

The Aam Aadmi Party is counting on its work for a poll win, but there doesn't seem to be clarity on what the BJP has to offer to the Delhi voter.

The advantage of BJP coming to power in Delhi is that we are already in the Centre and MCDs, so this will ensure total coordination. Central schemes AAP hasn't implemented will be rolled out. It's better if an auto has all three wheels of the same company.

Second is checking pollution, where Delhi government has not done any work — the work they are showing has all been done either by the Centre, like building eastern or western peripheral expressways, or by MCDs. Plus Modi's charisma is there, which means governance, bold decisions... People believe in us because they know that when Modi promises something, he does it.



Vijay Goel at his residence, Saturday. Tashi Tobgyal

have so far not decided whether we will project a CM face or not, so there is no reason for disputes.

What's your opinion on whether or not the party should go with a CM face?

It doesn't matter to the public because people will vote on Modi's administration and governance. Because they know he's the one who will get work done.

You recently held a protest claiming the CM's remarks on healthcare were anti-Purvanchal, but in 2014, you had said in Parliament that inflow of migrants into Delhi needs to be checked and infrastructure in other states needs to be upgraded. What changed from then to now?

I never demanded stopping anyone from coming to Delhi; I just said these people come because of compulsion. If there is development there, they will not have to come here. SRCC or Hindu College franchisee should be opened in every state, I have talked regarding this to the chairman. If there's an SRCC in Bihar, a person from there won't come here... Like we have opened AIIMS, these trusts can also open colleges all over India.

You've spoken about good governance, but BJP's rallies have been centred around Article 370, NRC, the 'tukde tukde gang'.

These are also our agendas but that doesn't mean local issues are not important. I was the first one to say the next election will be fought on pollution...

Many people are now getting electricity for free. What will you stand on this if you come to power?

We will not give subsidy but create such an environment that electricity is cheaper. People will take free benefits but still vote as per their wish — what is Kejriwal doing other than buying votes through this?

Manoj Tiwari has been vocal on NRC, but you have so far not commented on it. Is it his individual push or the party's standpoint in Delhi?

It is the party's stand that illegal infiltrators like Bangladeshis should be out.

But implementation of NRC has seen issues in Assam.

In demonetisation, too, people saw the intention. People knew that Modi ji's intention was to kill black money. They were in the queue but did not panic despite the Congress's efforts. Similarly, there can be ten mistakes in implementation of NRC but my party is clear we will bring a Citizen Amendment Bill and through NRC, we will identify illegal infiltrators. It is the National Register of Citizens, not Assam Register of Citizens.

You have been the DUSU president and were active during the Emergency, but your party's statements on JNU are very critical of the protest culture.

One should (protest) but it shouldn't be anti-national.

# Ankit Saxena's father takes witness stand

ANAND MOHAN J  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

YASHPAL SAXENA took to the witness box Saturday, fielding questions by lawyers representing men accused of killing his son Ankit Saxena.

For two hours, Yashpal recounted the night his son was murdered — from the distance between Ankit and him at the time to whether he saw a weapon in the hands of the ac-

cused to the direction of Ankit's face during the assault.

Ankit was stabbed to death, allegedly after an altercation with an 18-year-old woman's family who disapproved of their relationship. Akbar Ali, Shehnaz Begum and Mohd Salim, the father, mother and uncle of the woman, are facing trial.

Yashpal's cross-examination was completed Saturday, and his wife's statement will be recorded before the court in December.



Ankit Saxena was stabbed to death in February last year

Yashpal told the court that he did not see any of the accused carrying weapons, that he was a few feet away from his son during the assault, and gave the direction Ankit was facing at the time.

He also told the court that the four accused abused and punched his son. He also recounted the three times he gave a statement to the police, including after his son's body had come back from the mortuary.

The court had appointed spe-

cial public prosecutors, senior advocate Rebecca John and advocate Vishal Gosain. John stood beside Yashpal and asked him to reply to every question that the lawyers of the accused asked.

Advocate Vijay Mehta, who appeared for the accused couple, came with questions jotted down. When he asked Yashpal about what he did when he saw his son getting assaulted, he replied that he moved forward to save his son, but the accused did not let go of him.

Recently, during an outreach programme in unauthorised colonies, leaders from your party were involved in verbal and physical spats. Doesn't this betray infighting?

My party is the most disciplined party, what you are talking are minor incidents. When the family is big, such small things happen. In AAP, 50 people left due to their dictatorial attitude. At least no one is leaving us.

AAP's Sanjay Singh has targeted the Delhi BJP for having several contenders for the CM post.

Having two-three CM faces is not a crime, it is not wrong. We



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उ.प्र. प्रदेश पावर ट्रांसमिशन कार्पोरेशन लि. ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना अनुभवो/फर्मो/टेकेदार/ कार्यदायी संस्थाओं से विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल मेरठ के अन्तर्गत निम्न कार्य/आपूर्तियों हेतु मोहर बन्द ई-निविदायें ई-पोर्टल ([www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in)) पर दो भागों में आमंत्रित की जाती है। भाग-1 में ई-निविदाओं के प्रपत्र निर्धारित शुल्क आर.टी.जी.एस./एन.ई.एफ.टी. एवं निर्धारित धरोहर राशि आर.टी.जी.एस./एन.ई.एफ.टी./बैंक गारन्टी (अलग-अलग) के माध्यम से अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल, मेरठ के पक्ष में State Bank of India, Cantt Branch, Meerut Account No. 11047201099, IFSC Code SBIN0006080 में जमा करायी जायेगी। बैंक जमा की साक्ष्य यथा योज्य यू.टी.आर. संख्या, पे-इन रिलफ मूल की प्रति निविदा के प्रथम भाग के संलग्न किये जाये। ई-निविदा के प्रथम भाग (यू.ओ.आर. संख्या, पे-इन रिलफ प्रति निविदा प्रपत्र, पैन कार्ड, इन्कम टैक्स रिटर्न, जी.एस.टी. प्रपत्र की स्वयं प्रमाणित छायाप्रति एवं तकनीकी अनुभव आदि) ई-पोर्टल पर स्कैन प्रतियाँ (PDF format) तथा ई-निविदा के द्वितीय भाग (प्राइजबिड) में दर्े एवं वाणिज्यिक नियम व शर्तें ई-पोर्टल ([www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in)) पर निम्नलिखित तालिका के अनुसार अपलोड की जायेगी। निविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि एवं अन्य व्यावसायिक प्रपत्र हार्ड कॉपी में अथवा व्यक्तिगत संवाहक के माध्यम से इस कार्यालय में प्राप्त नहीं किये जायेंगे। ई-निविदा भाग द्वितीय (प्राइजबिड) खुलने की तिथि हेतु तदनुसार वेबसाइट पर सूचित की जायेगी। ई-निविदा का प्रथम भाग, तालिका में अंकित दिनांक एवं समय अनुसार सार्वजनिक रूप से खोला जायेगा। ई-निविदा खुलने की तिथि पर अवकाश होने की स्थिति में ई-निविदा अगले कार्य दिवस पर निर्धारित समय तक स्वीकार की जायेगी एवं निर्धारित समय पर खोली जायेगी। ई-निविदाओं को अस्वीकार/विभाजित करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के पास सशर्त ई-निविदायें स्वीकार नहीं की जायेगी। कृपया विस्तृत जानकारी, डाउन लोड, अन्य संशोधनों एवं ई-निविदा प्रस्तुत करने के दिनांक तक विस्तार आदि के संबंध में कृपया [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) पर लॉग आन करें। निविदाओं का विवरण निम्न प्रकार है:-

क्रम सं. 1 निविदा संख्या एवं कार्य का

विवरण टी-93/19-20 (अल्पकालिक) :- विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड-द्वितीय मेरठ के अन्तर्गत 220 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र चरला पर 160 एम.वी.ए. परिवर्तक 'बे' स्थापित करने से संबंधित कार्य। धरोहर राशि 2000.00 निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य 590.00 जी.एस.टी. सहित ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय 04.11.2019 सायं 05 बजे तक ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का प्रथम भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय 05.11.2019 प्रातः 12 बजे तक ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का द्वितीय भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय तदनुसार वेबसाइट पर सूचित की जायेगी। क्रम सं. 2 निविदा संख्या एवं कार्य का विवरण टी-94/19-20 :- विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड मेरठ के अन्तर्गत 220 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र मोदीपुरम पर स्थापित विभिन्न मेक के 245 के.वी. आइसोलेटर हेतु मैकेनिज्म आपरेटिंग क्यूबिकल बक्सों को उपलब्ध कराकर लगाने से संबंधित कार्य। धरोहर राशि 7000.00 निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य 118.00 जी.एस.टी. सहित ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय 20.11.2019 सायं 05 बजे तक ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का प्रथम भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय 21.11.2019 प्रातः 12 बजे तक ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का द्वितीय भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय तदनुसार वेबसाइट पर सूचित की जायेगी। क्रम सं. 3 निविदा संख्या एवं कार्य का विवरण टी-95/19-20:- मै. एन.सी.आर.टी.सी. के अनुरोध पर 132 के.वी. मोदीपुरम-सरथना ट्रांसमिशन लाईन, आर.आर.टी.एस. कॉरिडोर में आने के कारण डायवर्जन से संबंधित कार्य। यह कार्य विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड-मेरठ द्वितीय मेरठ के अन्तर्गत किया जायेगा। धरोहर राशि 51000.00 निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य 7080.00 जी.एस.टी. सहित ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय 20.11.2019 सायं 05 बजे तक ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का प्रथम भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय 21.11.2019 प्रातः 12 बजे तक ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का द्वितीय भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय तदनुसार वेबसाइट पर सूचित की जायेगी। क्रम सं. 4 निविदा संख्या एवं कार्य का विवरण टी-96/19-20:- मुख्यालय पारेषण पश्चिम, मेरठ (पारेषण भवन) में विडियो कॉन्फ्रेंसिंग हेतु उपकरण स्थापित करने से संबंधित कार्य। यह कार्य विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड-द्वितीय मेरठ के अन्तर्गत किया जायेगा। धरोहर राशि 27000.00 निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य 3540.00 जी.एस.टी. सहित ई-

पोर्टल पर निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय 20.11.2019 सायं 05 बजे तक ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का प्रथम भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय 21.11.2019 प्रातः 12 बजे तक ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का द्वितीय भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय तदनुसार वेबसाइट पर सूचित की जायेगी। क्रम सं. 5 निविदा संख्या एवं कार्य का विवरण टी-97/19-20:- विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड बड़ौत के अंतर्गत विभिन्न 220/132 के.वी. लाईनों का हॉट स्पॉट स्कैनिंग इन्फ्रारेड थर्मोग्राफी कराने से संबंधित कार्य धरोहर राशि 4000.00 निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य 590.00 जी.एस.टी. सहित ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय 22.11.2019 सायं 05 बजे तक ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का प्रथम भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय 23.11.2019 प्रातः 12 बजे तक ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का द्वितीय भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय तदनुसार वेबसाइट पर सूचित की जायेगी। क्रम सं. 6 निविदा संख्या एवं कार्य का विवरण टी-98/19-20:- विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड बड़ौत के अंतर्गत 220 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र बड़ौत पर स्थापित 12 के.वी. स्कॉटिड ब्रेकरों हेतु एयर कम्पैशर की रिपेयरिंग एवं अनुरक्षण से संबंधित कार्य धरोहर राशि 2000.00 निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य 590.00 जी.एस.टी. सहित ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय 22.11.2019 सायं 05 बजे तक ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का प्रथम भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय 23.11.2019 प्रातः 12 बजे तक ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का द्वितीय भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय तदनुसार वेबसाइट पर सूचित की जायेगी। क्रम सं. 7 निविदा संख्या एवं कार्य का विवरण टी-99/19-20:- विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड मेरठ के अंतर्गत विभिन्न 132 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र कंकरखेडा एवं परतापुर पर विभिन्न अग्निशमक यंत्रों की आपूर्ति। धरोहर राशि 2000.00 निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य 590.00 जी.एस.टी. सहित ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय 22.11.2019 सायं 05 बजे तक ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का प्रथम भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय 23.11.2019 प्रातः 12 बजे तक ई-पोर्टल पर निविदा का द्वितीय भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय तदनुसार वेबसाइट पर सूचित की जायेगी। अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल, 130-डी, "पारेषण भवन" विकटोरिया पार्क, मेरठ। "राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचायें"



# Promising outcomes with Endovascular Surgery

## Can you tell us about vascular diseases and what vascular surgeons do?

Your vascular system is like the highway of your body and is made of three types of blood vessels. Arteries carry oxygen-rich blood from the heart, nourishing every part of the body. Veins carry the blood back to the heart where it is replenished with oxygen. The one exception is the pulmonary artery, which carries oxygen-poor blood from your heart to your lungs, where it exchanges carbon dioxide for oxygen. The newly oxygen-rich blood gets pumped back into the heart via the pulmonary vein. And lastly the capillaries, which are tiny, blood vessels that connect your small arteries to your small veins.

Vascular surgery is still a neglected specialty in the country, and several big medical institutions, including AIIMS does not have a dedicated department for vascular surgery. I would say vascular surgeons are like glorified plumbers - we fix problems to the blood flow systems in people. When I started out, treatment for all vascular diseases were surgeries - you would open up the patient at places where the problems existed, clean up the arteries and repair them. That however, has been changing with endovascular therapies.

## What are the common types of vascular diseases?

Not to sound scary, everyone is at risk for vascular disease. Vascular disease commonly occurs at sites of turbulent blood flow, such as when the blood flow in the arteries changes direction abruptly. The most well known form is cardiovascular diseases which is caused when the coronary arteries that supply blood to the heart are diseased, causing a block to the blood flow causing a heart attack. This is a cardiovascular disease and is primarily managed by cardiologists.

Carotid arteries supply blood to the brain, which when diseased, can cause life threatening strokes. The renal arteries supply blood to the kidneys and, when diseased, can cause high blood pressure and eventually, kidney failure.

There are arteries that supply blood to the lower limbs and, when diseased can cause leg pain and impact movement of both legs. Likewise, femoral arteries supply blood to the legs; if they become diseased, it may cause severe pain in the calf muscles. This lack of circulation can lead to continuous pain in the toes and foot, and may progress to critical limb ischemia (CLI).

The most common vascular diseases are stroke, peripheral artery disease (PAD), abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA), carotid artery disease (CAD), arteriovenous malformation (AVM), critical limb ischemia (CLI), pulmonary embolism (blood clots), deep vein thrombosis (DVT), chronic venous insufficiency (CVI), and varicose veins.

## Can you explain the symptoms of each of these and what actually are these diseases?

The most common symptoms of vascular disease is pain in the legs. Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) occurs when the wall of a blood vessel weakens and balloons out. In the aorta this ballooning makes the wall weaker and more likely to burst. Aneurysms can occur in any artery, but most commonly occur in the section of the aorta that passes through the abdomen. The wall of the aorta normally has layers of supporting tissues. As people age, they may lose some of this tissue. This is thought to explain why aneurysms are more common in older people, especially men in their 60s who also have high blood pressure (hypertension).

Peripheral arterial disease (PAD) is the name given to occlusive disease that occurs in the peripheral or outer arteries of the body, such as the legs. However, if you have been diagnosed with PAD, it is likely that the same process will be happening in the arteries which supply your brain and heart; leaving you at higher risk of suffering a heart attack or stroke. In PAD your arteries begin to narrow, because when the blood is travelling through the arteries it can leave behind deposits, known as plaque, which stick to the inside of the artery. This is known as atherosclerosis. Gradually, over many years, these deposits can build up and cause the inside of the artery to narrow. This is often called furring up of your arteries.

## VASCULAR SURGEONS ARE LIKE GLORIFIED PLUMBERS - WE FIX PROBLEMS TO THE BLOOD FLOW SYSTEMS IN THE BODY.

Our brain survives on a continuous supply of oxygen and glucose carried to it by blood. CAD is the narrowing or blockage of these arteries due to plaque build-up. The plaques can then crack, and develop an irregular surface, which is when it begins to cause problems. If a piece of plaque or a blood clot breaks off from the wall of the carotid artery it can block the smaller arteries of the brain. When blood flow to the brain is blocked, the result can be a transient ischemic attack (TIA), which temporarily affects brain function, or a stroke, which is permanent loss of brain function. Common symptoms of TIA include brief attacks of weakness, clumsiness, numbness or pins and needles of the face, arm or leg on one side of



the body. The eye can also be affected resulting in loss of vision in one eye. CAD is in fact the most common cause of stroke.

## What causes vascular diseases?

Although everyone is affected to some extent, there are several influences determining how severe it is in individual people. Smoking, diabetes, hypertension, high cholesterol, weight and family history are all probable causes for vascular diseases. It is for this reason that discovery of vascular diseases typically happens by chance or because when exploring something else in a patient it is discovered. For instance, most men as they get older would get their prostate checked, and the scan would indicate some form of vascular problem. Likewise, when a cardiac patient is being evaluated, they may find some form of CAD, which would need attention. Then there are diabetics who develop problem with blood flow in their legs. So, we land up being approached because of a referral or when other physicians seek more tests and find something that needs vascular intervention.

## What about DVT and Varicose veins?

Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) is clotting of blood in the deep veins of the legs. It can cause swelling and pain in the leg, but often occurs without giving any symptoms. A DVT may well settle completely, as the thrombosis is dissolved by natural processes. If a DVT extends up the deep veins, two things can happen - the clot can be dislodged from the vein, and get carried through the main veins and heart to lodge in the lungs; this is called a pulmonary embolism and cause chest pain, and sometimes coughing up of blood or breathlessness this can be potentially fatal. Thrombosis can cause chronic blockage in the deep veins or damage to their valves, leading to long term swelling.

All the veins in the leg have valves which should di-

## AWARENESS OF VASCULAR DISEASE IS LOW AND ALSO THE SYMPTOMS ARE NOT ALWAYS PICKED EARLY, WHICH CAN TURN PRETTY BAD FOR SOME OF THE PATIENTS.

rect blood flow upwards, towards the heart. The deep veins lie between the muscles, and muscular activity (moving the legs, walking, or any leg exercise) helps to pump the blood up these veins. When the legs are inactive, and particularly when sitting or standing, blood tends to stagnate in the deep veins. Stagnation of blood can eventually lead to thrombosis. Sitting with the legs bent (as in an aircraft) may also restrict flow of blood up the veins in the calf. For instance, in long flights, the ambient temperature is such that many people are dehydrated without realising, which can complicate things if one has any other health problems which gets augmented. In long flights many elderly are advised to keep drinking water, take walks and wear compression socks.

Varicose veins are veins under the skin of the legs, which have become widened, bulging, and twisted. They are very common and do not cause medical problems in most people. There are two main systems of veins in the legs - the leg muscles squeeze the deep veins during walking, carrying most of the blood back up the legs to the heart and superficial veins, under the skin which are less important and can form varicose veins.

Basically, all of these veins contain one-way valves

*Advances endovascular therapy have expanded the treatment options for patients, which is not only treating them, but also improving their quality of life says*  
**Dr. Varinder Singh Bedi,**  
*Chairman, Institute of Vascular and Endovascular Sciences, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital*

to ensure that the blood flows towards the heart. Failure of these valves allows blood to flow backwards down the veins and results in an overload of pressure when standing. This excess pressure leads to widening of the veins so that they do not close properly. Blood then flows back into the leg along these veins and causes varicose veins to develop. Raised pressure in these veins also encourages the development of spider veins and discoloured areas which look like bruises.

Varicose veins often run in families and there may be a hereditary component. Women are more likely to suffer from varicose veins because of hormonal factors including puberty, pregnancy and menopause.

## What is the treatment for all these diseases?

A lot has evolved in the treatment of vascular diseases. When I started off in the early 1990s, it was all invasive surgeries and the mortality rates were pretty high. It was also to do with lack of awareness before a patient landed up and also there weren't that many centres that were treating vascular diseases. I was with Army hospital, which also gave me the opportunity to explore newer opportunities to treat patients and I started minimally invasive approach commonly done through needle puncture and a sheath, known as endovascular procedures. This was aided with better access to equipment and technology. For instance, most of our cases are typically picked by radiologists who use contrast that indicate problem areas. However, many times radiologists may not be able to pick up these indicators.

So, I started to use procedures that a radiologist / cardiologist performs after training for it. This way, instead of operating on reports which were not always accurate, I was exposed to working data that was vetted by me and my team. We started getting better results, and mortality rates reduced signifi-

## THE MOST COMMON SYMPTOMS OF VASCULAR DISEASE IS PAIN IN THE LEGS, KNOWN AS CLAUDICATION.

cantly. The procedures also worked in the better interest of patients - their recovery was faster.

## So, what role has technology played in the treatment of vascular diseases?

If I look back over the past 25-30 years things have changed and improved tremendously. With minimally invasive endovascular treatments to expand the opening of the artery, such as angioplasty, are now used more often than bypass surgery as the initial treatment approach for PAD. A common technique deployed is balloon angioplasty with stents. This procedure uses a balloon tipped catheter, advanced over a thin guide wire, and filled with contrast fluid to push the plaque against the wall of the artery, widening the opening to increase blood flow. Some of the newer angioplasty technologies also use a drug-coated balloon to reduce post-treatment cell proliferation.

We are able to do all of these with the aid of robotics, which helps in precision surgeries, which is minimally invasive, with shorter hospital stay for patients in the hospital. In fact, I was the first to use covered stents in the case of an injured soldier during the Kargil aftermath in 1999. It was expensive in those days, but I must say that the Army was very supportive in making it possible. This outcome was a landmark event, as it boosted my belief that endovascular was the way forward. Today, almost 50% of patients are treated endovascular way. I am sure that India will emerge into an endovascular interventions centre, because of the way we are geared to operate; we optimise the equipment we have by maximising the outcome with minimum invention.

## Given the rise in patients with vascular diseases, are we geared to handle so many patients?

Sadly, awareness of the disease is low and also the symptoms are not always picked early, which can turn pretty bad for some of the patients. We have about 400 vascular surgeons in the country and that is largely still in the metros and big cities. The answer to your question - we could do with more specialists in the field. To give you an idea; about a decade ago, I used to look at about 100 major surgeries in a year, that number with endovascular procedures now has gone up manifold. Yes, technology has helped and also the affordability has gone up with insurance and other schemes.

To bridge this pressing need, I along with my team at IVES, SGRH have initiated two continuous medical education (CME) programmes - Evolve and Endovascular Live. Both these programmes have been successful and a hit with doctors who are participating in them. Evolve is a workshop where new techniques and cases are presented and discussed. Endovascular Live, as the name suggest is a live streaming event where doctors across centres in Pune, Bengaluru, Delhi, Chennai, Hyderabad and other places perform live surgeries for the benefit of participants. This real life experience has made the programme much sought after and I must confess that it has made several non vascular surgeons to participate to treat their patients with vascular diseases. In a sense cardiac surgeons and vascular surgeons and radiologists can work collectively to treat patients with some of the vascular diseases.

## What about diabetic foot, given the high number of diabetics in India?

It is a grave matter that every second as we speak some person with diabetes is undergoing an amputation. Most of these amputations are avoidable. Foot disease affects several people with diabetes and includes infection, ulceration, or destruction of tissues of the foot. It can impair patients' quality of life and affect social participation and livelihood. Most problems start with ulcers and can be prevented with good foot care and screening to assess the risk for foot complications. We provide an update on the prevention and initial management of diabetic foot in primary care, yet most often patients come to us pretty late. My only advice to diabetics - treat your feet better than your face. Think of your feet as god; keep it clean, don't walk barefoot, use the right kind of footwear and make sure you show yourself to a doctor for evaluation anytime you feel numbness or any form of discomfort in your feet.

## What's your advice to our readers as precaution to vascular diseases?

While one cannot completely fight genes; people can take care of what they consume in life and how they manage their lives. Stay active, exercise, eat healthy, don't smoke, watch your weight and more importantly, get your health checked as you age to know of any threats to your health. Adopt healthy life style to prevent hypertension; if you are one, control them to avoid probable incidence of vascular diseases later in life.



**BRIEFLY**

**Hussain writes to Paswan on onion trucks**

New Delhi: Delhi Food Minister Imran Hussain Saturday wrote to Union Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan, rejecting the Centre's claim that Delhi was turning back onion trucks. He claimed only five trucks were rejected with onions "unfit for human consumption."

**Campaign on air pollution**

New Delhi: The Delhi government is set to launch a public awareness campaign on anti-pollution measures, an official statement said Saturday. The Cabinet has cleared a Rs 36-crore proposal in this regard.

**Two women held for threat**

New Delhi: Two women were nabbed for making threat calls to DCW chief Swati Malhiwal. ENS

**Kejriwal spells out healthcare target: One mohalla clinic per square km**

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

THE DELHI government is planning to open one mohalla clinic every square kilometre, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said after inaugurating 100 mohalla clinics at an event in Timarpur Saturday. Health Minister Satyendar Jain said 500 more such clinics will be opened by January.

With Saturday's launch, the number of operational mohalla clinics in the capital crossed 300. There are 30 separate clinics that are operational during evening shifts.

"Delhi has an area of one-and-a-half-thousand square kilometres, of which 500 sq km are green or forest areas. Much of the population is settled within the remaining 1,000 sq km area. Our mission is to open one mohalla clinic within one sq km. Hundred more mohalla clinics will open next month. This will bring us a step closer to our target of 1,000 mohalla clinics," Kejriwal said.

Jain said that over the next two-and-a-half months, around 200 more mohalla clinics would



The CM gets his blood pressure checked at a newly inaugurated mohalla clinic in Wazirabad, Saturday. He said 100 more clinics will be inaugurated by next month. Praveen Khanna

be ready.

Meanwhile, the event also witnessed political jockeying between supporters of Timarpur MLA Pankaj Pushkar and former AAP Delhi convenor Dilip Pandey. As Kejriwal rose to speak, Pandey, who is likely to be fielded by the party from Timarpur in the upcoming Assembly polls, stood next to the

CM. Soon after, Pushkar, who is the sitting MLA, took another flank.

While one group of supporters indulged in sloganeering in Pandey's name, a few supporters of Pushkar started raising slogans as well. Pandey's supporters had turned up in large numbers with posters bearing his images, including a few printed during the

last Lok Sabha polls, in which Pandey lost to Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari in the North East Delhi Lok Sabha seat.

The AAP has so far announced only Durgesh Pathak's candidature from the Karawal Nagar seat, which was represented by Kapil Mishra until his disqualification in August under the anti-defection law.

**24-YR-OLD LOSES BICYCLE AND IPHONE**

**Snatchers target 2nd cyclist in CP this week**

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

TWO BIKE-BORNE men allegedly snatched a bicycle and an iPhone from a 24-year-old man who had come to cycle in Connaught Place area from Dwarka Friday morning.

This is the second such incident this week, after an Air Commodore's phone was snatched Thursday morning by two men, as he was cycling back from a gym after his workout session.

DCP (New Delhi) Eish Singhal said they have registered an FIR and teams are working to solve the case.

The latest incident took place on Friday when the complainant, Nishant Singh, who is preparing for competitive exams came to cycle in CP.

"Around 5.45 am, he reached the Outer Circle and stopped to buy a water bottle from an outlet. As he was parking his bicycle, two bike-borne men without helmets emerged and snatched his bicycle, the basket of which had his iPhone XS Max. One escaped on the motorbike and the other on the stolen bicycle," a senior police officer said.

"Police believe these snatchers come from the Central district area and are targeting only morning walkers and cyclists in the CP area," the officer said. Eyewitnesses told police Singh raised an alarm, but there were very few people on the road. He tried to give chase, but they managed to escape, and some locals informed police. Police said a team already stationed in the area began chasing them after they received information.

"A team managed give chase to the accused driving the motorbike, but upon seeing several police personnel, he left his bike. He sat in a car parked in the carriageway and escaped," an officer said.

A senior police officer said they have tightened security in the CP area to avoid any untoward incident.

Six motorcyclists for area patrolling, two quick reaction team (QRT) vehicles, one emergency response vehicle (ERV), four PCR vans and heavy-armed special weapon and tactics team (SWAT) teams along with trained commandos are currently deployed in the area.

On Thursday morning, two men snatched an Air Commodore's handbag, as he was riding towards Rivoli cinema at CP from Baba Kharak Singh Marg.

**No gear, compensation missing: Manual scavengers have their say**

**ANANYA TIWARI**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

SEVERAL MANUAL scavengers employed by the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) on a contractual basis continue to work without protective gear and are not being paid full salaries, despite laws and guidelines in place for the same. They aired these concerns at a public hearing at Gandhi Peace Foundation Saturday.

Ved Prakash, president of the DJB sewage department mazdoor sangathan, claimed, "Since 2007, 82 safai karamcharis have died cleaning sewers in the city. Private contractors do not provide them protective gear or training."

Sunil (34), a safai karamchari, added, "We get a cheque of Rs 14,000 every month, but contractors take a cut and we are left with Rs 7,000-8,000. Though we visit authorities in case of any problem, no one listens. They make us wear the gear only for photos. On October 8, I was removed from



At Saturday's event. Tashi Tobgyal

the job as I asked for a raise."

Families of many workers who died cleaning sewers alleged they did not receive compensation, or the amount paid to them was not enough. As per the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, the government is liable to provide scholarship to children of manual scavengers who died, in addition to providing skill training to an adult member of the family.

However, Sher Singh (40), who was injured while trying to save two workers cleaning a sep-

tic tank at Bhagya Vihar in May, alleged he did not receive the compensation of Rs 2.5 lakh promised by the Delhi government. Two labourers died and three, including Singh, were injured.

Families of the two workers who died in the incident said they were given Rs 10 lakh each in compensation, but none of their kin were provided government jobs as mandated under the Act.

Dr Neelam, a professor at Delhi University and a Dalit activist, said, "All manual scavengers belong to the SC/ST category. It is illiteracy and poverty, but mainly society's casteist leanings, which make them believe they are made to do this job."

AAP MLA Dinesh Mohaniya, who is vice-chairman of the DJB, said, "All our employees get direct money transfer straight to their account. But we don't pay contractual workers, that the private companies pay." On the Bhagya Vihar incident, he said: "This should not have happened. We will investigate this."

**Stories of love, loss and learning intersect at event to discuss how to be a better parent**

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

FROM THE father of a transgender child to an actor who lost his mother in his teens — people from different walks of life gathered Saturday to talk about their experiences and share lessons on parenting.

Organised by the child and mental health institute Children First, the event, IMAGINE 2019, brought together parents, teachers, psychologists, counsellors, therapists and medical practitioners.

Sharing his experience of raising a transgender daughter, Dr Sanjay Sharma, CEO and managing director of Association for Transgender Health in India, shared how crucial it is for a par-

ent to focus on the happiness of children rather than worrying about the society: "I learned not to say things like 'aisa toh nahi hota hai', 'hamare time mein toh aisa ye nahi hota tha' to my child. I learned to listen and understand. It was my 96-year-old father who provided support and said, 'Takis is a child and you will stand with him. I am with you,'" he said.

Centred on the theme, Parenting With Courage, the day-long conclave focussed on taking collective responsibility for children in society and creating a safe environment for future generations.

Dr Amit Sen, founder-director of Children First and founder of the mental health programme at Salaam Baalak Trust, shared his experience of living with ADHD,



At Saturday's event, held at India International Centre

and of realising that celebrating oneself requires great understanding from friends, family and the society at large.

Sitting across a small table, experts — divided into 'story weavers' and 'story tellers' — spoke about life experiences as children and as parents.

Aditi Chaudhary, who lost her child to pulmonary fibrosis and

whose life inspired the film, *The Sky is Pink*, spoke about the importance of expressing oneself.

"Losing my first child Tanya changed me as a person. I was a quiet person and did not have any self esteem. When Tanya was sick, I kept feeling there is something wrong but no one listened to me. I decided that I will never be silent if there is something related to my children. Tanya gave birth to that part of me. It's okay to be angry and frustrated. We judge everything as positive and negative," she said.

Arjun Mathur, an actor from the web series, *Made in Heaven*, who lost his mother in a car accident when he was 13, said: "Before I started acting, at some point of life, I wanted to be a counsellor because I was feeling

misunderstood myself... The most important thing I should talk about is my father, who was driving the car (at the time of the accident), and probably carries a lot of guilt for the loss... But unfortunately, I think he lacked the emotional support that we needed at that time, and I rebelled in every possible way."

Sanjoy K Roy, founder trustee of Salaam Baalak Trust, spoke of the work they do with street children.

"We need a village to raise a child, and that village doesn't exist anymore," he said.

Dr Shejla Sen, one of the co-founders of Children First, summed it up: "IMAGINE is a call to action for our society to come together as a community so that we can build a better world for our children."

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE**  
e-tender Notice No. 57 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. 28-MGS-Sr.DEN-III-19-20, Name of work with its location: Provision of anti flood majors like de watering system, cover shed etc at newly constructed LHS/ RUB No. 13, 31 & 35 in BD section under ADEN/JPL. Approx. cost of the work: ₹ 9936184.81. Earnest Money: ₹ 198700.00  
Date & time for submission of e-tender: 07.11.2019, Up-to 12:00 hrs., Website particulars of e-tendering: www.ireps.gov.in  
Divisional Railway Manager, Mughalsarai PR/1467/MGS/Engg./T/19-20/32

**कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय लघु सिंचाई प्रमंडल, हजारीबाग**  
पत्रांक:- 1269 हजारीबाग / दिनांक:- 17.10.2019  
**शुद्धि पत्र**  
इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 1200 दिनांक 01.10.2019 के द्वारा निर्गत ई-निविदा WRD/MID/ Hazaribagh /F2-03/2019-20 पी0आर0संख्या 218664 (Minor Irrigation) 2019-20 द्वारा प्रकाशित निविदा अपरिहार्य कारण वशा आंशिक रूप से निम्नवत् संशोधित किया जाता है।  
1). वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि एवं समय - 05.11.2019 at 11:00 AM  
2). ई-निविदा प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय - 12.11.2019 at 5:00 PM  
3). हार्ड कॉपी जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय - 13.11.2019 at 5:00 PM  
4). ई-निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय - 14.11.2019 at 11:00 AM  
कार्यपालक अभियंता, लघु सिंचाई प्रमंडल, हजारीबाग  
PR220350 (Minor Irrigation)19-20'D

**कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमंडल संख्या-2, राँची**  
अति-अल्पकालीन निविदा / कोटेशन आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-44 / 2019-20  
1. विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता: कार्यपालक अभियंता, भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमंडल सं-02, राँची।  
2. परिमाण विपत्र बिक्री की तिथि एवं समय: दिनांक 26.10.2019 को 1.00 बजे अपराह्न तक  
3. निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय: दिनांक 27.10.2019 को 3.00 बजे अपराह्न तक।  
4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय: दिनांक 27.10.2019 को 3.30 बजे अपराह्न।  
5. परिमाण विपत्र बिक्री का स्थान: 1) अधीक्षण अभियंता, भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन अंचल सं-02, राँची के प्रतिनियुक्त पदाधिकारी द्वारा  
2) कार्यपालक अभियंता, भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमंडल सं-02, राँची के प्रतिनियुक्त पदाधिकारी द्वारा नगर नियंत्रण कक्ष राँची।  
6. निविदा प्राप्ति का स्थान: नगर नियंत्रण कक्ष राँची, कार्यपालक अभियंता, भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमंडल सं-02, राँची के प्रतिनियुक्त पदाधिकारी द्वारा।  
7. निविदा खोलने का स्थान: अयोहस्ताक्षरी का कार्यालय।  
8. कार्य की विवरणी

| क्र० | कार्य का नाम   | प्राक्कलित राशि (₹.) | परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (₹.) | अग्रघन की राशि (₹.) | कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि। |
|------|--|----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1    | Construction of Conference Hall at 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor of Canteen Building in the Campus of Project Building at HEC Dhurwa Ranchi. | 4250000.00           | 5000.00                     | 85000.00            | Four Month             |
| 2    | Renovation of Main Building, Out House, Boundary Wall and Garage in E Type Qtr. No.-223 at Sector-2 HEC Dhurwa Ranchi.               | 1136100.00           | 2500.00                     | 22000.00            | Three Month            |

नोट: निविदा की शर्तें www.jharkhand.gov.in एवं कार्यालय के सूचना पट्ट पर देखी जा सकती है।  
PR 220385 (Building) 19-20 (D) कार्यपालक अभियंता भवन निर्माण विभाग भवन प्रमंडल संख्या-2, राँची

**ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL, SHANKAR VIHAR DELHI CANTT-10**  
Tele No - 26153559  
**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)**  
EOI is solicited from the leading vendors for supply and installation of Computers. All vendors must submit OEM certificate. Details for the above and technical specification forms are available from school counter against draft/cash of Rs 1000/- each. Forms duly filled to be submitted by 04 Nov 2019. All quotes to be forwarded for branded items and not assembled ones. Bids will be separate for technical specification and commercial bids.  
Chairman

**OFFICE OF THE COMMANDANT 178 BATTALION BSF BAADMATHURA**  
Prov/178Bn/Auction/2019/6021-40  
**AUCTION NOTICE**  
A public auction of following condemned/ unserviceable stores will be held at Bn HQR, 178 Battalion Border Security Force, Baad Mathura (UP) on 31st October 2019 at 1000 Hrs.  
01. Comn Store 02. QM Store 03. MT Store 04. Misc Stores  
05. Old News/ paper/Magazines 06. Construction Branch  
**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**  
1. All interested bidders either owner of a person having valid power of attorney can offer bid for the auction.  
2. Each bidder will have to deposit a sum of Rs. 10,000/- as an earnest money in the shape of bank draft or by cash before participating in the auction. Bank draft should be prepared in favour of Commandant 178 Bn BSF payable at SBI Mathura (Code No. 006228). Earnest money will be adjusted/ returned after completion of auction formalities.  
3. Each bidder must be in possession of their PAN cards in original along with proof of last income tax return and copy of GST registration. Which will be seen by Board of Officers failing which they will not be allowed to participated for the auction.  
4. All bidders will report Bn HQR 178 Bn BSF on 31st Oct' 2019 at 1000 Hrs to register their names and verification of documentary by BOO.  
5. The highest bidder has to lift auctioned unserviceable stores within 24 hrs at his own arrangement.  
6. The highest bidder will have to remit the value of auction and prescribed GST as applicable immediately.  
7. In case highest bidder fails to deposit value of auction in form of either cash or through RTGS/NEFT/CBS into Govt. bank account of Unit, his earnest money of Rs. 10,000/- will be forfeited.  
8. Commandant 178 Bn BSF reserves all rights to accept/reject all the bids without assigning any reason.  
9. Other terms and conditions if any shall be announced at the time of auction.

Sd/-  
For **COMMANDANT**  
davn 19110/11/0067/1920  
**178 Bn BSF**

**झारखण्ड सरकार**  
**कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, गोन्दा, राँची**  
अति अल्प कालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं-41 / 2019-20  
Email Id - eedwsd.gonda@gmail.com  
1. विभाग का नाम: पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग, झारखंड, राँची।  
2. विज्ञापनदाता का नाम: कार्यपालक अभियंता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, गोन्दा, राँची।  
3. परिमाण विपत्र बिक्री की तिथि एवं समय: 25.10.2019 को अपराह्न 1.00 बजे तक।  
4. निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय: 26.10.2019 को अपराह्न 1.00 बजे तक।  
5. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय: 26.10.2019 को अपराह्न 3.50 बजे।  
6. परिमाण विपत्र बिक्री का स्थान: (1) कार्यपालक अभियंता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, गोन्दा, राँची। (2) अधीक्षण अभियंता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता नागरिक अंचल, राँची।  
7. निविदा प्राप्ति एवं खोलने का स्थान: कार्यपालक अभियंता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, गोन्दा, राँची।  
8. कार्य की विवरणी

| क्र० | कार्य का नाम  | प्राक्कलित राशि | अग्रघन की राशि | परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य | कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि। |
|------|---|-----------------|----------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1    | Construction of 200 mm x 165 mm dia x 225.0 M deep HYDT with installation of 2.0 HP submersible motor pump ( suitable for discharge of boring ) with 32 mm dia PVC column pipe and its allied work at New Police Line kanke Road, Ranchi H-Block in campus under D W. & S. Division, Gonda, Ranchi. | 6,14,950.00     | 12,500.00      | 1250.00                | 1 Month                |
| 2    | Special repairing of water supply pipe line and cleaning of fountain and charging burnt cable wire and Motor and bulb in campus of Hon'ble chief Justice residence under D.W.&S Division, Gonda, Ranchi. For Year: 2019-20  | 2,21,842.00     | 5000.00        | 500.00                 | 15 Days                |
| 3    | Renovation and special repair of bathroom with water supply pipe line, sanitary fitting, sewerage work wall tiles and construction of Vat for 2000 liter water tank at police barrack in the campus of Honble Minister D.W.&S. Division, Gonda, Ranchi.   | 10,03,284.00    | 21,000.00      | 2500.00                | 1 Month                |
| 4    | Urgently repair and maintenance for regular water supply sanitation work and sewerage work at C.M. House, C.M. secretariat, Speaker House & Chjef Justice Residence under D.W. & S. Division, Gonda, Ranchi   | 7,44,420.00     | 15000.00       | 1250.00                | 30 Days                |
| 5    | Replacement of damaged chocked existing of different size of Rising delivery GI pipe in UPVC pipe at UG Girls Hostel No. 1, 2, 3 & 4 in RIMS Bariyatu under D.W. & S. Division, Gonda, Ranchi.  | 9,53,597.00     | 20,000.00      | 1250.00                | 10 Days                |
| 6    | Seepage repair and renovation of bath room cum toilet & improvement of Sewerage work and W/S & Sanitary fittings at Quarter No. D-5 Dindayal Nagar Booty Road & Qtr. No. 13/16 New Police Centre kanke Road Ranchi under D W. & S. Division, Gonda, Ranchi.   | 6,62,078.00     | 13,242.00      | 1250.00                | 1 Month                |

नियम एवं शर्तें सूचनापट्ट एवं daa.jharkhand.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।  
(तपेश्वर चौधरी) कार्यपालक अभियंता पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, गोन्दा, राँची  
P.R. 220380 Drinking Water and Sanitation(19-20)-D

**SOUTHERN RAILWAY**  
Central Workshops, Ponnmalai, Trichy - 620 004.  
**MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT**  
E-Tender Notice for the supply of Stores -  
No.GOC/Stores/E/15/2019  
The following e-tender has been published in IREPS website. Firms are requested to login to http://www.ireps.gov.in->login->Goods & Services (New) and quote against the tender. Manual quotations will not be entertained. Closing time: 14:30 Hrs.  
Chief Materials Manager, Golden Rock

| Sl. No. | Tender No. | Description  | Due Date    |
|---------|------------|--|-------------|
| 1       | 68196487   | INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF CAB MOUNTED COMPACT HVAC | 06.NOV.2019 |

Attention: Micro Small Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The benefits provided to MSMEs under Public Procurement Policy for goods and services are as per details provided in the link http://www.ireps.gov.in->ireps public documents-> Southern Railway.

**SOUTHERN RAILWAY**  
**CENTRAL WORKSHOPS / PONMALAI - EXTRA DIVISION**  
E-Tender Notice No.CW/TC/SCRAP CONTRACT/2019-21 dated: 16.10.2019  
Chief Workshop Manager, Central Workshops, Southern Railway, Ponnmalai, Tiruchchirappalli - 620 004 for and on behalf of the President of India invites ONLINE tenders for the following work as per tender notice given in our e-tender portal www.ireps.gov.in. The Tenderer(s) / Contractor(s) intending to apply for e-tender for works in Golden Rock Workshop Extra Division, need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal www.ireps.gov.in and only online tenders will be accepted. It is the responsibility of the Tenderer(s) / Contractor(s) to obtain digital signature certificates for participating in e-tendering.

| Sl.No. | Name of the Work & Qty.   |
|--------|---|
| 1.     | E-Tender No.CW/TC/SCRAP CONTRACT/2019-21 dt.16.10.2019<br>Outsourcing of Scrap Segregation, Collection and Disposal from various shops/sections/areas of Central Workshops/Southern Railway/Golden Rock/Tiruchchirappalli 620 004 on daily basis for a period of two years. |
| 2.     | Approx Value of the work (₹): 1,25,32,167/- (Rupees One Crore Twenty Five Lakh Thirty Two Thousand One Hundred Sixty Seven only)  |
| 3.     | Cost of Tender Form (₹) : 5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand only)   |
| 4.     | Amount of EMD (₹): 2,12,700/- (Rupees Two Lakh Twelve Thousand and Seven Hundred only)  |
| 5.     | Period of Contract : 24 Months  |
| 6.     | Tender Closing Date and Time : 15.11.2019 @ 15.00 hrs.  |

1. The cost of tender form and EMD can be deposited only through online gateway payment through multiple Bank's net banking. Offline mode of submission of EMD and cost of tender form will not be entertained. So there is no need to upload the scanned copy of financial instrument for cost of tender form and EMD.  
2. All documents to support experience and financial status should be scanned and uploaded along with tender.  
3. A complete detail of the above tender is given on the e-portal www.ireps.gov.in.  
4. For details of bid submission, please refer website portal www.ireps.gov.in.  
5. The online bids for tenders floated through the above portal are required to be digitally signed.  
6. Offer submitted by the tenderer must be kept valid for a period of 45 days.  
Dy.CME/Production/GOC  
For Chief Workshop Manager / Golden Rock

# 7 DECISION 2019

MAHARASHTRA, HARYANA

## I HEREBY DECLARE



ROHINI KHADSE  
BJP, Muktainagar

₹15.85 cr  
TOTAL ASSETS (self, spouse)

IMMOVABLE ₹11.14 cr  
MOVABLE ₹4.71 cr

CASH (self, spouse) ₹6.25 LAKH  
Income in 2018-19 ₹76.4 lakh  
Income in 2017-18 ₹70.71 lakh

CRIMINAL CASES 0

ASSETS IN LAST AFFIDAVIT FILED FOR 2014 ASSEMBLY POLLS  
N/A

## BALLOTIN

### AAP promises Rs 1 crore to kin of martyrs in Haryana

**Rohtak:** The AAP Saturday released its election manifesto for October 21 Haryana Assembly election, promising Rs 1 crore to the next of kin of armed forces personnel killed in the line of duty, implementation of the Swaminathan Commission report, and drug-free state. Haryana AAP president Navin Jaihind released the party's election manifesto hours before canvassing for the Assembly polls comes to an end. Up to 200 units power will be provided free of cost, besides each family will get 20,000 litres free water, the manifesto, in which 51 promises were made, said. **PTI**

### Shah chopper's emergency landing

**Mumbai:** Home Minister Amit Shah's helicopter made an emergency landing at Ozar airport in Nashik, around 160 km from here, due to heavy rain on Saturday. The helicopter was on its way to Akole in Ahmednagar district, over 70 km from Nashik, where Shah was to address a poll rally, the official said. The pilot decided to land the chopper at Ozar airport at 2.25 pm due to inclement weather, he said. **PTI**

## MODI WRAPS UP HARYANA CAMPAIGN

# In 1964, Cong vowed to scrap Art 370 in House, failed: PM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 19

KEEPING ABROGATION of special status of Jammu and Kashmir as his key election plank, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday ended the campaign for Vidhan Sabha elections by lambasting the Congress for "trembling in front of terrorists".

Modi, who addressed rallies in Haryana's Ellenabad and Rewari, said Congress leaders failed to scrap special status to J&K despite their promise to Parliament in 1964. "Parliament mein vaada kiya tha, nibhaya nahi gaya (they promised it in the House, but it was not fulfilled)."

Referring to the "big debate" in 1964, he said the country's top leaders were angry — the whole Opposition and even a section of leaders in the Congress demanded removal of Article 370.

He said: "Uss samay Congress ke नेता ने haath jod karke kaha tha, apki maang maan li jayegi; ek saal ke bheetar 370 hata di jayegi. 1964 mein kaha tha, lekin fir maamla dibbe mein bandh. Kya majboori thi? Kya khel chal raha tha? Delhi mein baithe hue Congress ke sardar, Congress ke uss samay ke नेता kisse dare hue the? Kiske saamne bikay hue the? Yeh sawal desh ke mann mein uhttha hai. Delhi kuchh nahi kar paya. (With folded hands, Congress leaders had said that Article 370



PM Narendra Modi during an election rally in Haryana on Saturday. **PTI**

would be nullified within a year. But the matter was put on the backburner. Why? What was the game being played? Who were Congress leaders in Delhi at the time scared of? Who had they sold themselves to?"

At Ellenabad, which has a significant Sikh population, Modi showcased his government's work on the Kartarpur corridor, which links Dera Baba Nanak in Punjab's Gurdaspur district with Gurdwara Darbar Sahib, the final resting place of Guru Nanak in Pakistan. "It is nearing completion and the government is making arrangements to celebrate the 550th

birth anniversary of Guru Nanak," he said.

On Kartarpur, too, Modi targeted the Congress's "inability" to bring the gurdwara within Indian territory during the Partition. "The Congress and parties connected with their culture never respected the belief, tradition and culture of Indians," he said.

Linking the two, Modi said, "What has been the Congress's approach towards our holy places is the same it had towards Jammu and Kashmir."

He said, "Should Kashmir have been allowed to be destroyed for the sake of power in Delhi? Should Kashmir be more important, or the post of Prime Minister? Every Indian's reply will be that PMs will come and go, but Kashmir has to remain and prosper. (But) for 70 years, no honest effort was made to find a meaningful solution to the issue..."

At Ellenabad, considered the Chautala clan's stronghold, Modi referred to their family feud. Without taking any names, he said, "Yeh ladai malai baantne ke liye chal rahi hai (this fight between INLD and splinter outfit JJP is over the riches)."

At Rewari, he tried to strike an emotional connect with the people by recalling that in 2013, after he was nominated as the BJP's PM candidate, he had addressed his first public rally in Rewari, and today he was finishing the Assembly poll campaign in Haryana — and in Rewari at that.

## Pak's integral part split from it due to Cong: Sibal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

THE CONGRESS on Saturday accused the BJP of raising the issue of revocation of Article 370 provisions in Assembly election campaign for electoral gains and said Prime Minister Narendra Modi must tell the people that it was because of the Congress that Pakistan's integral part split from it.

"Modi-ji only remembers (Article) 370. He does not know when Pakistan split and who did it. It was we (Congress) who split Pakistan's integral part from it... where were you (Modi and Jan Sangh) then," senior Congress leader Kapil Sibal asked.

"Tell the people of Haryana that it was because of the Congress that Pakistan's integral part was split from it. This happened under the Congress. Praise the Congress, but you don't have the guts to do that," he said.

Training his guns at Modi, the Congress leader asked what his government has done for implementation of Article 47 of the Constitution, which states that raising the level of nutrition and standard of living and improving public health is the duty of the State. "You do not keep in mind your constitutional duties. Around 93 per cent children are not getting proper nutrition and your entire focus is on Article 370," Sibal said.

"You are doing this because of the Assembly polls.... You are least bothered about sufferings of the people," he said.



Kapil Sibal addresses the media in New Delhi on Saturday. **PTI**

The Congress leader also criticised Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah over their remarks that Jammu and Kashmir lagged in development because of Article 370.

Citing poverty, infant mortality and unemployment rates, along with gross enrolment ratio in higher education and human development index rank of Haryana, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat, Sibal said, "These states did not have Article 370, but most of the corresponding figures of Jammu and Kashmir were way better than those states."

He said poverty rate in J&K is 10.35 per cent as opposed to 17.35 per cent in Maharashtra, 11.16 per cent in Haryana, 29.43 per cent in UP, 16.63 per cent in Gujarat and 31.65 per cent in Madhya Pradesh. "Unemployment rate in J&K is 5.3 per cent; it is 28.7 per cent in Haryana," he added.

## 1.5 lakh villagers to boycott polls to protest against Wadhwan port

GARGI VERMA  
PALGHAR, OCTOBER 19

HOARDINGS, BANNERS and posters announcing a total boycott of the October 21 Assembly elections greet people as soon as they cross Chinchoti village in Palghar, around 10 km from Dahanu. "We want to send a clear message to all politicians, they are not welcome here," Dharmidhar Patil, 56, says.

Over 1.5 lakh voters from 10 villages in Palghar have boycotted the Assembly elections to protest against the proposed Wadhwan port in the Arabian Sea, near their village. The port, a proposed project of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) and Maharashtra Maritime Board, is being built as an extension to the existing ports in Mumbai and Navi Mumbai.

"The location is very favourable as there is an ease to get the ships to port due to the topography. The plan was that JNPT will helm the project with 74 per cent stake in it, but we are also checking the possibility of a privately owned project," an official from the maritime board says. The project, however, is yet to get the Central government's approval.

Mukund Patil (38), a resident of the Wadhwan village, says villagers of Chinchoti, Wadhwan, Varol and nearby *padas* have been protesting against the project since 2015, when it was proposed. "The government wants to send all the coal-bearing and oil-leaking ships to our side, so as to keep the urban waters clean," he adds.

According to villagers, if the port is built there, it would spell the end to their livelihood. "We understand and respect the sea. Already, because of reckless development downstream, the sea has been pushed further in-land in our coastline. If there is a reclamation of 5,000 acre, our villages will go underwater eventually," claims Raghunath Patil, 55, a former sarpanch of Wadhwan village.

Most villagers, especially the Adivasis, Patil says, depend on fishing as a means of their livelihood. "Where are they to go? Already fish are dying, because of pollution from the cities," he says.

## INTERVIEW: SUKHBIR BADAL 'Punjab doesn't have a single drop of water to share with Haryana'

SHIROMANI AKALI Dal (SAD) chief SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL, who addressed more than 50 public meetings in Haryana and Punjab (for by-polls), speaks with **RAAKHI JAGGA**. Excerpts:

**How do you explain opposite equations with the BJP in Punjab and Haryana?**

The SAD-BJP alliance in Punjab is decades old; (it is) an example of communal harmony... We all will grow old but this alliance will always remain young. Our alliance in Punjab has no comparison with our alliance in any other state. Although in Haryana there was a fresh start with BJP — they themselves asked for support — things couldn't work out due to a series of incidents. But there is nothing to feel surprised about in Haryana — we are in alliance with our old partner (INLD).

**But Haryana CM M L Khattar has said SAD kept on reaching out to them repeatedly?**

I don't want to comment on the statements of the Haryana Chief Minister. He is a very senior politician.

**INLD general secretary Abhay Chautala has said that SAD has agreed to abide by the court's decision on Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal issue. The two parties have had different stands on the issue based on priority for their respective states. What is your stand now?**

The Congress and the BJP need to be asked first about their stand on this issue. The Akali Dal will express its stand later. I am not aware of Abhay Chautala giving any such statement... Until he says so in public, I am not going to comment on it. But at the same time, my stand on the SYL issue is very clear, as is the stand of the Akali Dal: that Punjab does not have a single drop of water to share with Haryana.

We are already facing water scarcity, so it cannot be shared with anyone.

FULL INTERVIEW ON [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)



'Haryana alliance with old ally, INLD'



## POLL DUTY

Security personnel conduct a route march in Nagpur on Saturday, ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly elections on October 21. Over 3 lakh security personnel from local police and central paramilitary forces will be deployed across the state. **PTI**

# Fadnavis's Vidarbha state googly stirs poll pot

SANDEEP ASHAR  
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 19

MAHARASHTRA CHIEF Minister Devendra Fadnavis has said that the BJP has not given up on its demand for separate statehood for Vidarbha region.

"We have not given up on the demand. It is the BJP's principled stand. The party is in favour of smaller states. Carving out a separate state comes under the jurisdiction of the central leadership. The decision will be taken when the time is right," Fadnavis said during an interaction with mediapersons late Friday evening.

In 2014, the BJP had struck a chord with voters in the cotton-rich belt pledging to carve a separate state of Vidarbha once elected to power. In that election, the party won 44 of 62 seats in the region. But the promise remained unfulfilled, with alliance

partner Shiv Sena being a strong votary of a unified Maharashtra. While the BJP's party's manifesto for the upcoming election omitted mention of separate statehood, the Chief Minister's latest remark, made in reply to a query, comes just three days before the state goes to the polls.

In another reachout to ally Sena, Fadnavis indicated that the proposal of offering the deputy chief minister's position to the ally if the alliance is re-elected to power can be considered. Admitting that the last five years had seen ups and downs in the alliance, Fadnavis said, "We have learnt to coordinate with each other." He also admitted that rebellion in BJP and Sena ranks will hamper election prospects on certain seats.

On the economic slowdown, Fadnavis said the government has already taken steps to spur demand. "It's true that the economic growth projection for the current fiscal has slipped from 7 per cent to 5.8 per cent, but I

feel that the growth rate will be good in a year's time." According to Fadnavis, the Centre's decision to push Rs 100 lakh crore as capital investment in the public sector would boost demand and production. He also said that banks should be "more proactive" in lending money for public and private infrastructure after the government's remonetisation move.

Justifying the move to make the removal of J&K's special status a poll issue, Fadnavis said the issue was resonating with the masses during the campaign, and has "exposed the Congress-NCP's stance on it".

On the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank, Fadnavis, besides indicating that the government would push for a merger of the bank with another willing bank, said he had plans to approach the Centre for permission to "use the powers" at the state's disposal to the return the money to the scam-hit investors.

## EXPLAINED Bettering tally may not be easy

WITH CHIEF Minister Devendra Fadnavis hailing from the Vidarbha region, the BJP has set its eyes on "bettering its 2014 tally" this time. However, according to some sources, the 2014 performance in the region would be difficult to beat. In the run-up to the polls, a section of Opposition leaders and crusaders for separate Vidarbha have criticised the BJP for "non-fulfilment" of the demand for a separate state.

## Teach those misusing power a lesson, Pawar tells voters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
PUNE, OCTOBER 19

NCP CHIEF Sharad Pawar on Saturday hit out at Union Home Minister Amit Shah and said the Centre was misusing power and foisting cases against leaders who were speaking out against their wrong policies.

Addressing a rally in Baramati, from where nephew and former deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar is in the fray, Pawar asked the people to teach those misusing power a lesson in the October 21 polls.

Lashing out at Shah, he said, "I am asking you, did you hear Shah's name five years ago? The person whose name people don't know, whose contribution the country does not know is asking what I have done for Maharashtra," he said.

In a reference to senior leader P Chidambaram, Pawar said, "When a former finance minister criticised the government on its economic policies, some case was made and he was put behind bars. Similarly my name was brought into the case of a bank



Ajit Pawar at a rally in Satara district on Friday night. **PTI**

in which I am not even a member."

Pawar was named by the ED in an alleged scam in the Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank.

Asserting that he was not scared of such tactics, Pawar said, "Do what you want to do. We have the power to face these things. In this election, time has come to answer them. We have to show those who misuse power their place."

MANOJ MORE  
BARAMATI, OCTOBER 19

BARAMATI CONSTITUENCY, the bastion of the Pawar family, did not see any fireworks during the election campaign despite the BJP's vow to unseat NCP leader Ajit Pawar, who is fighting for his seventh straight win from the seat.

To end the Pawar family's hold in Baramati, from where members of the family have won both Assembly and Lok Sabha polls for decades, the BJP had roped in Dhangar community leader Gopichand Padalkar. But NCP and Pawar seemed unflustered by the BJP's attempts. In fact, Ajit Pawar campaigned for only one day — on Saturday, the last day of the campaign.

While party chief Sharad Pawar and Baramati MP Supriya Sule didn't hold any rallies for Pawar, his wife Sunetra, son Jay and other NCP leaders campaigned for him. NCP district chief Sambhaji Holkar said there was no need for Pawar to campaign. "The kind of development that he has brought



Ajit Pawar at a rally in Baramati. **Express**

to Baramati will ensure that the election is a cakewalk for him... We believe Ajit Pawar will win by a record margin of 1.5 lakh votes."

Counting "development work Ajit Pawar has brought to Baramati, NCP's city unit chief Intiaz Shikilkar said, Top schools, engineering and medical colleges, smooth roads, underground drainage and electricity lines, several top industrial units, improved drinking

## CONSTITUENCY WATCH: BARAMATI No fireworks despite BJP vow to unseat Ajit Pawar

water facility..." Pawar himself said, "I won by 90,000 votes in 2014 Assembly elections. This time, I am confident of winning by 1 lakh votes."

NCP leaders and workers relied on corner meetings and door-to-door campaigns. "Since we had no leader to deliver speeches, we relied on contacting each and every voter," Holkar said.

On the other hand, while BJP candidate Padalkar reached out to voters, party leaders failed to generate interest among the electorate. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and BJP state chief Chandrakant Patil were the only senior leaders to campaign for Padalkar.

BJP's Baramati unit chief Yashpal Bhosale said, "We may not win the seat, but we will put up a tough fight against Ajit Pawar."

Bhosale said the image of Baramati projected by the NCP, that of a most developed city, is inaccurate. "Even in Baramati city, six tankers provide water daily. This shows that Ajit Pawar has failed to cater to the needs of even city residents," he said.

According to him, drought conditions prevail throughout the year in at least 42 vil-

lages of the district. "These are basically villages in the rain-shadow area. Over the years, NCP and Ajit Pawar have made little effort to alleviate the misery of these villagers. They have neither drinking water nor water for their farms. Villagers are forced to migrate to other places in search of jobs," he said.

He said the Fadnavis government had sanctioned Rs 250 crore to the Baramati civic body, after which it was able to carry out several development works. "The medical college was also sanctioned by the government. The NCP is falsely claiming credit."

Even the Dhangar community in Baramati, which has a sizeable presence, has pitched its lot behind Ajit Pawar. Dhangar leader Popatrao Deokate said the community will vote for the development of Baramati. "Padalkar is an outsider, he has to first prove himself before seeking votes," he said.

Local residents also seemed to be in favour of Pawar. Prashant Sangvi, a shopkeeper, said, "Whatever development that you see in Baramati should be credited to Ajit Pawar — water, light, underground drainage system, good roads, colleges..."

# 8 GOVT & POLITICS

## Police cooked up story, Kamlesh Tiwari's killers not yet held: Akhilesh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
RAMPUR, OCTOBER 19

EVEN AS the police arrested three persons in connection with the murder of former working president of Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha Kamlesh Tiwari in Lucknow, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday termed the police version a "cooked-up story", alleging that "the perpetrators of the crime have not yet been arrested".

Addressing a rally on the last day of campaigning for the Assembly bypoll in Rampur, Akhilesh said, "The BJP supporters are unhappy that their people are being killed. You must watch the statement of the mother of the person killed in Lucknow on TV. See the full statement and then you will understand who is the perpetrator. That story is being changed by the BJP."

"They are saying that he (Tiwari) was threatened in 2015. If he was threatened in 2015, then what was your government doing in the last two-and-a-half years? They are just cooking up a story. And the perpetrators of the crime have not yet been arrested. The ones arrested are those who were conspiring to kill him in 2015. That is why I am telling you to listen to what his mother has said," the former chief minister said.

Stating Tiwari's mother has praised the previous SP government and party leader Azam Khan for giving protection to her son, Akhilesh said, "She (Tiwari's mother) is saying that they got protection only during the Samajwadi Party government and during Azam Khan's time."

## An act of mischief to create terror: Adityanath

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 19

TERMING THE murder of Kamlesh Tiwari "an act of mischief to create terror", Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday said that such incidents will not be tolerated and those involved will not be spared.

"This is an act of mischief to create terror... The elements who create an atmosphere of fear and terror in the state will be strongly dealt with, and their plans crushed. This type of inci-



Akhilesh Yadav

## Cong slams UP govt over law and order

New Delhi: Reacting to Uttar Pradesh police chief's comments that Kamlesh Tiwari was killed probably because of a controversial statement he made in 2015, senior Congress leader Kapil Sibal said, "A state for which the Supreme Court of the country said that there is 'jungle raj', should we believe the DGP or the Supreme Court?... Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath should be saluted for the prevailing lawlessness."

"Anything is possible in this 'jungle raj'. You know how (Kuldeep Singh) Sengar and Chinmayanand (accused of rape and sexual harassment) are being protected by police, so how can they be believed? Stern action should be taken against those who killed Tiwari," he said. PTI

She is saying that they got security and a gunner, and that the Yogi Adityanath government did not give them security. As a result, she lost her son."



Yogi Adityanath

dent will not be tolerated, and those involved will not be spared," the Chief Minister said in Lucknow.

## Row over Iqbal poem: Headmaster's suspension revoked, gets transferred

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 19

THE BASIC Shiksha Adhikari (BSA) of Pilibhit district on Saturday temporarily revoked suspension of Bisalpur primary school headmaster Furqan Ali on "humanitarian grounds" and transferred him to another school.

On October 14, the administration had suspended Ali after local VHP members complained that he made students recite a religious prayer at the morning assembly. They had alleged that the particular prayer is recited in madrasas.

But, an inquiry by Bisalpur's Block Education Officer (BEO), Upendra Kumar, had found that Ali made students recite the poem 'lab pe aati hai dua', written in 1902 by the poet Muhammad Iqbal, who also wrote 'Sare Jahan se Achha'.

According to an order issued by BSA Devendra Swarup on Saturday, Ali has been issued a strict warning to abide by the government rules.

Furqan Ali's suspension is being temporarily revoked on 'humanitarian grounds', but a disciplinary inquiry is also in progress against him

all departmental rules in the future and that he performs his duties by following directions of senior officials," said the order, adding that Ali would be paid for the days when he remained suspended.

In a statement, the BSA also said that a disciplinary inquiry was also in progress against the headmaster.

Meanwhile, speaking to *The Indian Express* on Saturday, Pilibhit District Magistrate Vaibhav Srivastava said, "Headmaster Furqan Ali was suspended because a video went viral on social media in which he is seen and heard saying that because most of the students of the primary school belong to a particular community and following their request, he used to get the Iqbal's poem recited during the morning assembly."



## STAR POWER

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday met Bollywood actors and filmmakers, including Shah Rukh Khan and Aamir Khan, to discuss initiatives to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. During the interaction at his residence in New Delhi, Modi said plans are afoot to host an international entertainment summit in India. ANI

## Mookerjee's industrial policy sowed seeds of Make in India: Goyal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
PANAJI, OCTOBER 19

UNION MINISTER Piyush Goyal said that the "seeds" of Make In India campaign were sown with India's "first industrial policy" under Syama Prasad Mookerjee — the first commerce and industries minister of Independent India.

"Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee had come out with the first industrial policy of India, which had sown the seeds of Make in India. Even way back in 1948, his leadership of this sector was evident in the first industrial policy of 1948, which had acknowledged the significance of foreign capital for industrialisation of the country," Goyal said, giving the valedictory speech at the three-day Vibrant Goa Conclave, which ended on Saturday.

"He had also said that the control should remain within Indian hands and had talked of a very good marriage between international investment and domestic partnership. Of course, over time, business has evolved, today we have a situation where a large number of sectors are opened to almost 100% or 74% of FDI and we welcome ownership also to be held by foreign companies," he said.

"But we certainly are looking to attract investment, to promote investment and we have one government in Delhi and one here, both running like a double engine powering the train of progress so that we can see faster progress, faster growth."

With the mining industry having shut extraction after a Supreme Court ban, Goyal said both the governments in New Delhi and Goa were looking to develop a solution to bring mining back to Goa. On other initiatives in which the state can look for investment, Goyal pointed to infrastructure potential at ports and airports, but said the scope of development was being stalled by "NGOs and activists".

"Because you have a port, because you have an airport, you are setting up another new international airport. Frankly, I heard that the airport is under some litigation and it's gone to the court... I fold my hands and appeal to those NGOs and those few people who are coming in the path of development, who are not helping Goa grow, who are not helping the cause of the people of Goa by this form of litigation. It is the worst form of obstructing justice for the poor of India," he said.

## Cong: BJP can't appreciate Nobel laureate's work because they focus on the rich

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
PUNE, OCTOBER 19

REACTING TO Union minister Piyush Goyal's comment on Nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee, in which he termed the latter as 'left-leaning', senior Congress leader Anand Sharma on Saturday said the BJP is unable to appreciate Banerjee's work because it is on poverty alleviation, while most of the saffron party's politics is focussed on "welfare of the rich".

Sharma also warned that if the issues in the economy persist, "2020 may turn out to be the worst for the country since the Independence".

"The scheme NYAY would have given Rs 72,000 in a common citizen's hands. That would have brought in more money in the market, demand would have gone up and manufacturing would have boosted. However, the party lost the elections, hence we did not see its actual impact. On the contrary, the BJP has responded to the slowdown by cutting the taxes of the rich corporates. The BJP clearly cares about the rich and not of the common folks," said Sharma.

## Govt set to bring in stipend to skill up MGNREGA workers

HARIKISHAN SHARMA  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

FACING CRITICISM over rising unemployment and rural distress, the Union government plans to launch a new project under which a stipend of up to Rs 20,000 will be given to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) labourers who undergo training in skills such as masonry or carpentry.

The project, called Unnati, is aimed at training unskilled MGNREGA workers so that they can move from distress employment to full-time jobs, sources said.

The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) is piloting the project, and the standing finance committee (SFC) headed by the MoRD secretary is expected to approve the proposed project on October 22, sources said.

An official with knowledge of the development said, "The programme (Unnati) is meant to train one adult member (between 18 and 45 years) per household, who has completed 100 days of work under MGNREGA in the previous financial year. The candidate undergoing training will be paid stipend for a maximum period of 100 days, and for one programme per household, as per the prevailing wages in the state concerned."

EXPLAINED

## Compensation worries taxed earlier training scheme

THE NEW project has been taken up because earlier interventions to skill MGNREGA workers have not yielded desired results. For instance, under 'Project-LIFE' 3.69 lakh candidates were targeted for training, but only 39 per cent (1.43 lakh) could complete the training. The main reason more than 60 per cent candidates could not complete the training was lack of provision to compensate wage losses for MGNREGA family members during the training period. With the provision of stipend now incorporated under UNNATI, candidates undergoing skill training will not lose wages for the period if they are not working.

According to data available on the MGNREGA portal, people from 5.27 crore households worked under the rural job guarantee scheme in the last fiscal. Of these, 52.59 lakh households completed 100 days of work, thus making them eligible to avail benefits of Unnati.

"The registration of candidates will be done through Aadhaar identification. The household from which a candidate will be selected for training will continue to enjoy 100 days of work under MGNREGA," a source said.

Stating that duration of the project will be three years, the source said, "It is estimated that a total of 2 lakh MGNREGA beneficiaries can be trained between

2019-20 and 2021-22."

According to sources in MoRD, based on the duration of the skill training programme and prevailing wage rates in their states, MGNREGA workers who complete the course will get stipend from Rs 5,970 to 21,500 between 2019 and 2022. The total fund requirement to implement Unnati for three years is approximately Rs 307.34 crore, and funds will be made available from the fund earmarked for capacity building and technical support under MGNREGA, officials said.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005, provides unskilled manual work for 100 days to eligible rural households.

## Daughter of ex-MLA accuses him of harassment, seeks protection

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
BHOPAL, OCTOBER 19

DAYS AFTER former BJP MLA from Bhopal Surendra Nath Singh lodged a missing person's complaint, his daughter approached the Madhya Pradesh High Court accusing her father and other family members of harassing her for 10 years and sought protection from them.

Singh had filed a police complaint claiming that his daughter was mentally unstable.

On Saturday, in a video appeal, the daughter said she was mentally sound but her father and other members were bent on proving that she was unstable because she was not ready to marry a person of their choice. She said she had left home on her own and was safe at her present location.

The former legislator told *The Indian Express* that she was being treated for depression. He admitted that she wanted to marry someone against the family's wishes, and that the man follows a different faith.

His daughter said she did not want to return to her family and alleged that he was powerful and could arrange papers to prove she was not mentally sound.

## ASSEMBLY BYPOLLS ON OCTOBER 21

## After Dantewada, Cong eyes another bypoll win in Bastar

DIPANKAR GHOSE  
CHITRAKOTE, OCTOBER 19

FORTY KILOMETRES separate the dusty, bustling town of Jagdalpur, the biggest in Bastar range, from the Chittrakote waterfalls, considered Chhattisgarhi's "Niagara Falls". It is in this area that the Congress and BJP are poised for battle again, in the second bypoll in Bastar in two months. Yet, along the 40-km stretch, there is a sense that only one party is contesting the election.

From posters of Congress candidate Rajman Benjam, to flags on roadsides, to a stream of bikes campaigning, the Congress seems to have the headwind. In contrast, there is little to show that the BJP is putting up a fight.

The bypoll was necessitated after MLA Deepak Baij contested the Lok Sabha polls and won.

A primary factor working on the ground for the Congress is that Chittrakote is home to Lohandiguda, where the



A Congress rally in Chittrakote. Praveen Khanna

Congress in its initial days in the state government announced it would return to farmers the land acquired for a Tata steel plant that never materialised.

The CPI also fought a long battle for the return of land, and one of its principal figures, Hidmo Ram, is standing for election. However, Sonnu Korsia, a resident, said, "Some villages will always vote for CPI. But that is it. While for many years the

Congress and even Baij was in the Tata camp and against us, it is clear that the Congress helped in the return of the land..."

Issues of failure to keep promises and petty corruption are being used as arguments against the Congress, but sources within the BJP said they were far too divided a camp to take advantage of that.

FULL REPORT ON  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## In Assam's Muslim-majority Jania, NRC is on everyone's mind

ABHISHEK SAHA  
KALGACHIA (BARPETA),  
OCTOBER 19

HAFIZUR REHMAN, a farmer at Kalgachia in Assam's Barpeta district, is a Doubtful Voter (D-Voter) and hence has not been included in the final National Register of Citizens (NRC) published in August. He won't be able to vote in the upcoming Jania bypolls, but believes AIUDF candidate Hafiz Rafiqul Islam is the strongest contestant.

Firdous Ali, a student leader in Kalgachia, says, "Here, the biggest discussion going on is about the NRC and how lakhs of genuine Indians have been excluded from it. People who have all papers and documents have been left out. And we know which party is committed to helping the poor and illiterate people in solving their citizenship issues."

Jania, a Muslim-majority constituency, is among four Assembly seats scheduled for bypolls on October 21. It has historically been a Congress stronghold, but that party's star is waning.

Monday's bypolls are the first elections in Assam following the publication of the final NRC, and much of the political narrative in the state currently is driven by conversation around the list.

Amir Ali, a resident of Jania town, says, "The AIUDF candidate is much stronger than the Congress one. Secondly, certain recent statements by Congress leaders — like (former CM) Tarun Gogoi's comment that NRC is a 'waste paper' — has not gone down well with people here. We want a correct NRC, we do not oppose it."

FULL REPORT ON  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)



BJP's Sushil Kumar Modi and IJP's Chirag Paswan campaigning for NDA candidate Prince Raj (not in picture). Express

## SAMASTIPUR LOK SABHA BYPOLLS

## NDA united, Cong fights lone battle at Karpoori's bastion

SANTOSH SINGH  
SAMASTIPUR, OCTOBER 19

AT THE house of former Bihar Chief Minister and socialist icon Karpoori Thakur at Pitaunjia, his bust reminds one of his legacy. Such was Thakur's popularity that after his death in 1988, the village was renamed Karpoori Gram.

Today, Nisha Thakur, a relative of the former CM, says it gives the family a sense of pride when current Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, his predecessor Lalu Prasad, and IJP chief Ram Vilas Paswan use Thakur as a reference point of their politics. Though 31 years have passed since his death, no election could take place without mention of the legendary leader, she says.

On Friday, Deputy CM and BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi and Jamui MP and IJP leader Chirag Paswan passed through Karpoori Gram while campaigning for Prince Raj, the NDA candidate for the Samastipur Lok Sabha bypoll. Prince, from the

IJP, is contesting the bypolls after the death of his father and sitting MP Ramchandra Paswan.

At the 7-km roadshow, Modi said BJP president Amit Shah had made it clear that the NDA would contest 2020 Assembly polls under Nitish Kumar, and that the NDA is united.

Congress's Ashok Kumar, meanwhile, has been single-handedly campaigning for himself. A vehicle with posters of him along with senior Congress leaders would stop at some locations of town and play recorded messages, riling against the government for the economic downturn.

Shanker Sah, a local shopkeeper, said, "Ashok Kumar could have done better with some support from his alliance partners. He is trying his best and can give a good fight to Prince, a rookie." Ramsunder Das, another local resident, however, differed. "Prince will carry on the legacy of his father Ramchandra Paswan. There is an NDA government in Bihar and at Centre, why should we try any other combination?" he said.





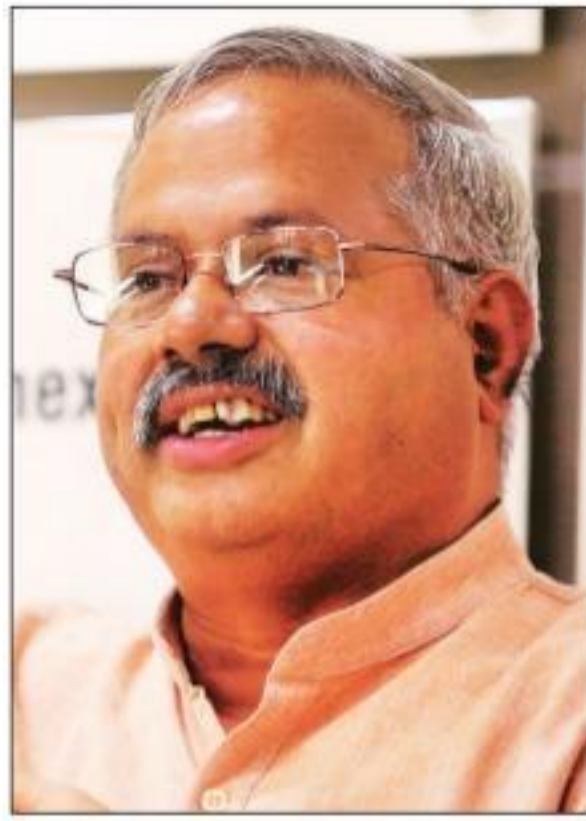




# 12 IDEA EXCHANGE

NEWSMAKERS IN THE NEWSROOM

RSS does not believe in the caste system. Now the question is how do we get rid of this system? A new system is needed to replace the old one... The Sangh is working to create a conducive atmosphere for this”



## WHY SUNIL AMBEKAR

As the national organising secretary of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's student wing, the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad — one of the largest such organisations in the country, which claims to have over three million members — Sunil Ambekar is part of the Sangh's core team. His new book, *The RSS: Roadmaps for*

*21st Century*, throws light on several issues pertaining to the RSS, including the Ram temple, Uniform Civil Code, the Sangh's efforts to revise history, among other things. He was also one of the RSS members pushing for the new education policy, demanding more 'Bharatiyata (Indianness)' in the system



“One can disagree with someone's views. The Sangh might disagree, or it could be one person. But conclusions should not be derived from it on Gandhiji's past, his life, or his greatness

### LIZ MATHEW: What made you write this book on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh now?

This is not the first book on the RSS. After the Idea Exchange programme (in 2017), Rupa, the publishers of my new book, approached me. The idea of the book was not mine. I discussed it with RSS office-bearers and then decided to write it. I am not a writer, I am a worker. But yes, I visit universities, and there I got a sense that people wanted to know about the RSS. Some people are curious, some people want to serve the country, and they think they can do it through the RSS... But they don't know enough about the organisation. For them this book will be useful. It will also be useful for those who have formed a certain opinion about the RSS, without really knowing the organisation.

### LIZ MATHEW: You have written that the RSS does not interfere in the BJP's affairs. Has the BJP's emergence helped the RSS or vice-versa?

Doctorji (K B Hedgewar) founded the Sangh as a social organisation. At the time, people were forming political parties and there were many political movements taking place against the British. He wanted to form an outfit to strengthen the society. So he founded the RSS as a social organisation. After Independence, when Syama Prasad Mookerjee and others came to him and said that the Sangh should become a political outfit, he maintained that the Sangh's agenda will remain the same. So then he (Mookerjee) asked Guruji (MS Golwalkar) that if he formed a political party, will (the RSS) help. Guruji said that as long as our vision for the country is the same, we can give you some of our *karyakartas*. He gave some RSS men to Mookerjeeji, but maintained that the Sangh will not be involved in the day-to-day running of the party.

So the Sangh's position is clear. At the time of the Emergency, the Sangh had some political involvement, but that was to restore democracy. And once that was done, the Sangh returned to its work. Now if people from the Sangh go and work in a political party and spread the Sangh's positivity, it is a good thing.

### LIZ MATHEW: What difference does the RSS see between Atal Bihari Vajpayee's and Narendra Modi's governments?

There will be a difference. This is the second (Modi) government, and because of his experience, leadership, understanding of issues, there have been a lot of positive changes. In terms of the difference between the two, the previous (Vajpayee) government was an NDA government, this government has a clear majority. It makes a difference.

### SHYAMLAL YADAV: In your book you say that by 2047 the society and Sangh will become one, and that the country will not need the Sangh. Can you elaborate?

To understand these issues, one has to understand the Sangh better. Do we want a good government in the country? We do. Do we want a good political party? But the Sangh does not just want a good government and good political party. The Sangh is taking action to change many other things. The Sangh wants good professionals, good doctors, engineers... In every place, where there is corruption, discrimination... The Sangh wants good people everywhere. That is why the Sangh stresses on 'man-making'. The Sangh wants people to get good entertainment, the Sangh wants good intellectuals, journalists... We want an atmosphere in the country where people can live with honesty, and have a sense of responsibility towards society.

### RAVISH TIWARI: In your book you write, 'The Sangh feels that every community and faith must be able to locate its history in India'. Why are people, the roots of whose faith can be traced to outside India, less Indian? Isn't it exclusionary and divisive?

You missed out on what I wrote before these sentences. I was talking about reclaiming history. For instance, many people, many communities were part of the freedom struggle. There were people from Tamil Nadu in the Azad Hind Fauj. We don't know about the people from the Northeast who have fought in our battles, and also for freedom. People want everyone to get their rightful place in history. If you talk about Muslims and Christians, 99 per cent of them are from here. They have also contributed to the country. There were Muslims in Shivaji's army. I have written in detail about this. Even if you take the Battle of Panipat, it wasn't like there were Hindus on one side and Muslims on the other. There were people from both communities on either side. So it is in this context,

## ‘Students are worried about slowdown, but they also feel change is happening... I see a lot of patience in them’

ABVP's National Organising Secy Sunil Ambekar says his book will dispel myths about RSS, lays out its relationship with BJP, says one needs to give Kashmir situation some time, explains Sangh's concept of 'Bharatiyata', and talks about why history is important for RSS



Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad's National Organising Secretary Sunil Ambekar with Associate Editor Liz Mathew in *The Indian Express* newsroom. Praveen Khanna

that I have written that everybody should find their place in history. It is reclaiming history. You are taking it in a different context. Our history is a little exclusionary now, where only a certain section of people are given credit for the Independence struggle, or for fighting the Emergency... There are a lot of people who fought against the Emergency. Everyone should be given their place in history.

### VANDITA MISHRA: Who does the Sangh attribute the BJP's winning streak to? Is it the Prime Minister or have the people of the country changed?

In our democratic system, people vote for a leader. They look at the party also, but the leader is important. The main issue is that people's aspiration, that had been suppressed since Independence, was waiting to come to the fore. People wanted all hurdles to development, such as corruption, to be removed. They wanted the country to move forward. I visit universities often, and I have seen a surge in this aspiration. So people were in search of a leader, of a party... In 2011, if you remember, people said 'Sab party chor hain (All political parties are corrupt)'. Then people started a movement... So they were searching, and felt that this (Modi, BJP) model was suitable. And, in a democracy, a party is evaluated every five years. So in 2019, once again, people put their stamp on the BJP.

### SANDEEP SINGH: Given the rise in unemployment, the economic slowdown, is the RSS satisfied with the development work done by the Centre?

The Sangh does not consider itself an expert on economics. It has been just a few months since the general elections. The people will evaluate the government. The Sangh does not do such evaluations on a day-to-day basis. There are Sangh-inspired organisations, labour and farmer groups, who look into such matters and give their views to the government. The government listens to them. They agree to a few things, disagree with some. If these groups don't agree with the government, they also publicly protest against it. As far as the role of the Sangh in such (economic) matters goes... the Sangh works on the ground. We get inputs from people, what they feel... So we speak to the people and perform our role in the form of a social organisation, but it's not on a day-to-day basis.

People like to visit universities every day. We hear students talk about their concerns. When they read about the economic slowdown in the newspaper, of course, they get worried... And these concerns have always been there among students. But, the students also feel that there is a change happening, new sectors are opening up,

decisions are being taken, new schemes are being launched... So they are saying, 'Let us wait'. They realise that the economy cannot be fixed in one day after the damage of so many years. So, in universities, I am also seeing patience. I am also seeing a lot of people getting inclined towards entrepreneurship. So I am very hopeful.

### AAKASH JOSHI: Your book talks about bringing about a correction in education and history on the basis of 'Bharatiyata'. How exactly does the Sangh define it?

We were under colonial rule for a long time and there were many changes made then — most in education. They set up an entirely new education system and till today we are suffering from a colonial hangover. We need to change that. For example, our students think that we have not contributed to science and technology. They don't know that 'zero' is our contribution. If the students know of such things, it will help. Now, there is so much awareness about yoga because of the International Yoga Day. The whole world is now moving towards organic foods... All these concepts need to be talked about. The Sangh discusses things publicly, academics write about it, parents make suggestions... And changes (in syllabus) are not being done by the BJP government alone. Many changes were made by the Telangana government as well. Even in places where there are no BJP governments, changes have happened. I think people want to shed the colonial baggage. We cannot cut-copy-paste from Russia, China and America. We need to come up with a model keeping in mind our resources, potential, situations and needs. Based on that we will need an economic, education and employment model. That is what an Indian *awdharma* means.

### SHYAMLAL YADAV: You have written in your book that Indian languages

should be encouraged. Are you happy with the efforts the government has been making for this? The Centre removed the '3-language' clause from the revised draft National Education Policy (NEP) after an uproar, as this was seen as an attempt to impose Hindi on non-Hindi speaking states.

The 3-language formula has been there for a while. It's an old policy... Sure it's not completely implemented, we should discuss it.

### SHYAMLAL YADAV: In 2013, 17 per cent of the UPSC candidates gave the exam in Hindi. In 2014, the number dropped to 2.11 per cent. It's 2.04 per cent this year. So while on the one hand you are talking about promoting Indian languages, on the other you are creating a ruling class that speaks a completely different language.

A lot of the systems in our country are still in English. The main point is not to impose a language on anyone. All the developed countries in the world work in their own language. We started conducting work in a language that was imposed on us. This is not just about Hindi, but all languages of our country. Each one of them has the potential to communicate issues related to modern development. We have even suggested that a university be made to help the cause (of regional languages). Also, our *shastras* should be translated and made available in all Indian languages. I understand the topic of languages is sensitive; English is trendy. We are making efforts to ensure that all state and other boards have Indian language options.

### LIZ MATHEW: You have mentioned in your book how funds are collected for the RSS. Does the Sangh have bank accounts? Who manages the money?

No donations are accepted for the Sangh's work. Separate organisations accept the money but not the Sangh. There is

no centralised system. Different *shakhas* are clubbed together, and they function like one independent *shakha*. They then accept contributions. At the end of the year, if some money is left, they are free to hand it to another *shakha*.

### AAKASH JOSHI: There is a lot of deliberation on caste within the Sangh. RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat spoke about reservations during the Bihar elections. In his book *A Bunch of Thoughts*, Golwalkar is unequivocally in support of varna if not jaati. He says it is part of the Hindu ethos. Has the Sangh reached a stage where it is viewing caste ideologically?

The Sangh does not believe in the caste system. Now the question is how do we get rid of this system? A new system is needed to replace the old one. That is what happens in societies. But the Sangh can't do that. People from society need to sit together and come up with a plan. The Sangh is working to create a conducive atmosphere for this. This is the Sangh's priority for improving the Hindu society.

### LIZ MATHEW: In your book you have been fairly critical of Mahatma Gandhi, whether it is about a party being centered around one personality, or his views on Partition. We have been hearing a few voices in the BJP, who are associated with the RSS, praising Nathuram Godse.

If Gandhiji and Doctorji's views are being discussed, there is nothing wrong in that. They are two different views. Recently, Mohan Bhagwat also wrote a detailed article on the Sangh's views on Gandhiji. One can disagree with someone's views. What is wrong in that? The entire Sangh might disagree, or it could be one individual. But conclusions should not be derived from it on Gandhiji's past, his life and contribution, or his greatness.

Secondly, on some people from the Sangh (being critical of Gandhiji)... there are so many people in the Sangh. Not many people are talking like this. Everyone is taking Gandhiji's name. Now if someone has a Communist ideology, they are free to have that. It is also a thought process for the society's upliftment. I might have a different view, we can have differences... And, what you have said (about the criticism of Gandhiji), I feel the Sangh does not endorse it. It is clear from the reaction of the people. In 1947, Gandhiji had come to a *shakha*. I have spoken about it at length in my book.

### VANDITA MISHRA: What is your view on the lockdown in Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370?

Every year J&K has remained shut for four months, six months. So many people lived in fear. Let's wait. There is peace.

The situation will not be the same forever, we should give it some time. Everyone wants normalcy to return soon. There have been inputs from Pakistan, there is terrorism across the world. The people of Kashmir have suffered for so many years. It's such a big issue, we should wait for some time.

In the last six years, I have interacted with many students from Kashmir... There may be one section that wants terrorism, but there is another big section which knows the reality of Pakistan. There is a huge section of people who want to move forward with peace. In our country, not just Kashmir, every state has an identity. A lot of identities have synchronised in our country, and that is why we are one.

### RAVISH TIWARI: Why does the Sangh lay so much stress on history? What is the need to remind people that we did this or that? In doesn't happen in the West. Is there an inferiority complex?

The Sangh wants to uplift people who suffer from an inferiority complex. England was not colonised, neither do they have a history to be proud of. They have ruled the world for 200-300 years. We were colonised. When a country becomes independent, it establishes its pride. If you don't have a history to be proud of, you can't be confident. When any civilisation progresses, it turns to its past to look at things that were good. It also tells the younger generation what it lacks, so that they don't repeat the same mistakes. There are so many museums across the world, but so few in India. Any country that is empowered, re-establishes its history. America took credit for the Second World War, and now Russia is rewriting it. They are saying they played a major role in it. So every country, generation and civilisation does it. It's very natural. The ones that brush it under the carpet are the ones suffering from an inferiority complex.

### RAVISH TIWARI: The Sangh is critical of Jawaharlal Nehru, but not Indira Gandhi. Why is that?

Neither of them is our enemy. Nehru was the first prime minister of Independent India. The criticism is based on issues. He also contributed to the fight for Independence. No one has any prejudice against him. Since he was the first PM, and stayed prime minister for many years, he took several important decisions. So he will definitely be mentioned. There is no grudge against him. But there should be criticism in politics. We spoke a lot about Indira Gandhi during the Emergency. We spoke about the war in Bangladesh. We also appreciate her. In the discussions in the Sangh, I have never felt any imbalance.



“People vote for a leader. They look at the party also, but the leader is important... I have seen a surge in people's aspiration. They were in search of a leader, party... and felt that this (Modi, BJP) model was suitable

# 13 SUNDAY STORY

DECISION  
2019

**W**HEN the Narendra Modi-Amit Shah combine picked his name out of nowhere to head the BJP government in Haryana, it was in line with the party's strategy in successive states, of choosing chief ministers outside dominant castes. Unknown to most, it was also at a piece with Manohar Lal Khattar's steady and behind-the-scenes rise as a BJP troubleshooter, across states and crises. Those who have monitored that ascent know it began with Modi handpicking him to manage an election in earthquake-hit Bhuj in 2002 soon after he took over as the Gujarat CM for the first time. Khattar's 2014 swearing-in completed that circle: he became the first BJP leader to be made CM in his debut poll, after Modi.

Five years later, the 65-year-old leader remains as firmly ensconced within that sphere as outside it. When Haryana votes on October 21, five months after the BJP got 58.21 per cent of the state's votes, Khattar is the man to beat. A large part of it is due to the Opposition's weak and split ranks, Modi's continuing popularity, and the appeal of the BJP's strident campaign over abrogation of Article 370. But, it is also a recognition of Khattar's success in delivering a corruption-free government.

At the height of one of the worst crises faced by him — the Jat agitation in 2016 — Manohar Lal 'Khattar', derided for being a "Punjabi" and an "outsider", in a deeply clan-bound state that has no love lost for either Punjabis or outsiders, announced that he was dropping his surname. Three years later, that is far from an issue. Instead, Haryana may well be witnessing the addition of another 'Lal' to its famous troika of Devi Lal, Bhajan Lal and Bansilal: Manohar Lal.

Another nickname bears equal weight, with a BJP slogan for Haryana declaring 'Mano Again'.



The Jat agitation, leading to violence across districts and death of 20, was the second time the Khattar government found itself on the backfoot. The first was in November 2014, within weeks of Khattar taking over as CM, when the followers of Sant Rampal held off police for a week. Then, a year after the Jat stir, the BJP government found itself fumbling against protests following the arrest of Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim. The televised embarrassment included protesters running riot in Panchkula, a heartbeat away from capital Chandigarh.

While calls were made for Khattar's head each time, BJP president Amit Shah stood by him. To those who trooped to the BJP headquarters in Delhi with their concerns in August 2017, Shah was categorical, "Koi sawaal hi nahin uthta (There is no question of replacing Khattar)." This was after Modi had himself called the violence "deeply distressing" and said it was being "closely monitored".

The BJP's reasoning in choosing Khattar was garnering the anti-Jat votes, with the dominant Jats solidly behind entrenched regional parties like the INLD. The decision to stick to this, especially through the Jat stir, has proven profitable so far.

In December last year, the BJP's mayoral candidates swept elections held in five cities. In February 2019, it won the high-stakes Jind bypoll, defeating, among others, Congress heavyweight Randeep Singh Surjewala. Between 2009 and 2014 Assembly polls, its vote share rose from 6.73 per cent to 33.2 per cent. By the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, it had crossed the half-way mark.



The kharif millet crop has been harvested, and the farm lands of South Haryana (Gurgaon, Rewari, Mahendragarh), which are not as fortunate as other parts of the state in terms of irrigation, either have standing cotton plants or are being readied for the winter mustard and wheat crops. Up north, in Bhiwani and Hisar, a canal sustains paddy fields, which are also ripe for harvest. With time on their hands for the next few weeks, farmers hang around village *chowks* playing cards.

With the competition lopsided, the campaigning is lacklustre and polls hardly a topic of conversation. But mention them, and opinions tumble out.

In Pataudi and Rewari Assembly segments, the voters could have been the Opposition's for the taking, it seems. If there had been an Opposition around. Those who voted for the BJP in 2014 and the 2019 Lok Sabha elections say they are backing Independents, with the BJP denying tickets to sitting MLAs Bimla Chaudhary and Randhir Singh Kapriwas.

"It is good that they denied ticket to Chaudhary, but we will vote for Narendra Pahadi, who has been associated with the BJP and RSS but was not fielded," says Amrit Singh, a Yadav in his mid-40s, at Uncha-Majra village in Pataudi Assembly constituency, going on to talk about Chaudhary's "poor performance". In Rewari, Kapriwas, rebuffed by the BJP, is contesting as an Independent. Waiting for a bus at the Chillar stand, Vijay, a Jat in his early 50s, says, "It was unfair to deny ticket to a sitting MLA. Kapriwas didn't do anything wrong."

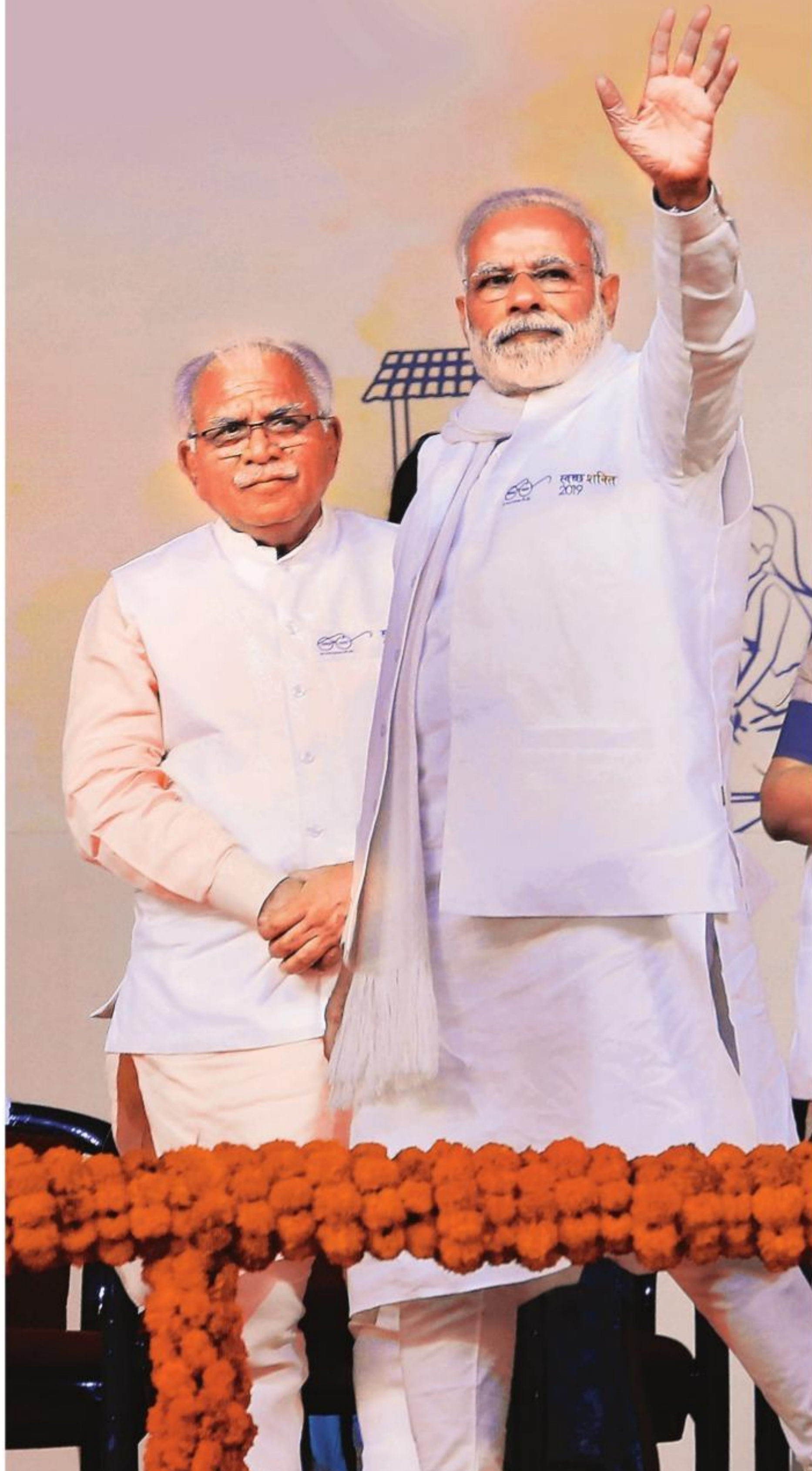
Many of them go on to admit that the winning Independents may anyway veer towards the BJP if it returns to power.

One of the biggest Opposition candidates in Southern Haryana is party veteran Captain Ajay Yadav's son Chiranjeev Yadav, contesting from the family seat of Rewari. RJD leader Tejaswini Yadav, whose sister is married to Chiranjeev, has turned up to lend a hand.

The Congress, which ruled Haryana till 2014, is trying to capture the space vacated by

## A new Lal

A few months ago, BJP won all 10 LS seats and more than half the votes in Haryana. However, it is not this alone that is holding Manohar Lal Khattar steady. From a feeble, divided Opposition to a successful job hiring scheme and appeal of Art 370, RAVISH TIWARI and MANRAJ GREWAL SHARMA travel across the state to find out why BJP is sitting pretty



Modi has had a long association with Khattar, going back to 2002 and his first stint as Gujarat CM. Express

EXPLAINED  
**E.**

### Khattar's test

A SURPRISE choice for Chief Minister in 2014, Manohar Lal Khattar has survived many a crises, including the Jat agitation that led to 20 deaths, even as the BJP has gone from strength to strength in Haryana. However, with both 2014 and 2019 seen as essentially Modi wins, Khattar has a point to prove with the coming Assembly polls.

example, Congress rebel Rakesh Kamboj is giving a tough fight to party candidate Ram Kumar Kashyap, a turncoat from the INLD. Says Nagpal, "Kamboj has been working here for 22 years and there is a strong sympathy wave for him following the death of his only son." If Hooda would like to be seen as Sonia Gandhi's man though, there is no evidence

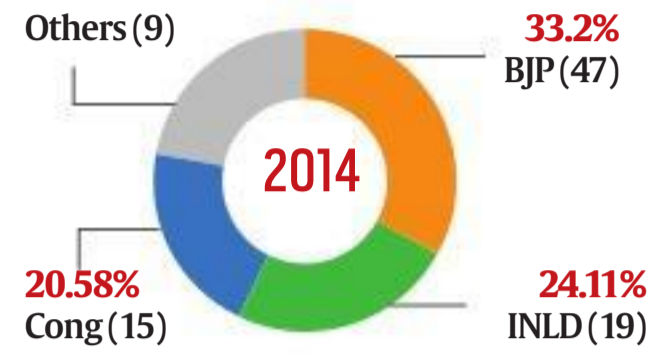
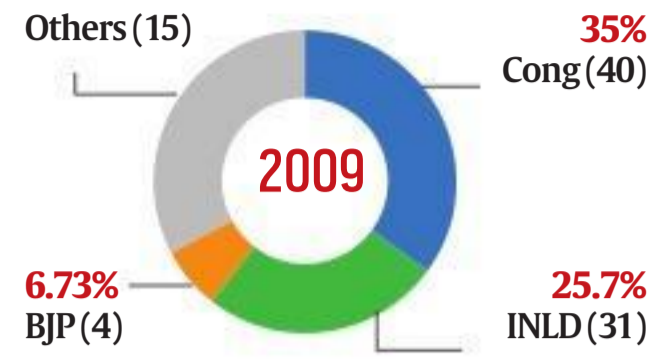
of high command benefaction on the ground. He has been fending off questions regarding the Gandhis' virtual absence from campaigning, even as Modi is scheduled to hold seven rallies and Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh 15 public meetings between them. Still, the only seats where the Congress is actually putting up a fight are in Hooda's bastion of the Rohtak-Sonepat belt. Putting up a brave front, Hooda says, "The response the Congress is getting is beyond our expectations. The bubble of the BJP's slogan — *Ab ki baar 75 paar* — has already burst."



If Hooda, a two-time CM, is feeling the drag of his virtually moribund party, young Jannayak Janata Party (JJP) leader Dushyant Chautala is rising from the ashes of his. The great-grandson of INLD founder and former deputy prime minister Devi Lal, the 31-year-old who floated a separate party less than a year ago is now taking away its votes. Struggling since Om Prakash Chautala was jailed in a teachers' recruitment scam in 2013, along with elder son and Dushyant's father Ajay, the INLD has suffered a series of divisions. In November 2018, Chautala precipitated the first crisis by expelling Ajay and Dushyant, seeking to pass on the reins to younger son Abhay.

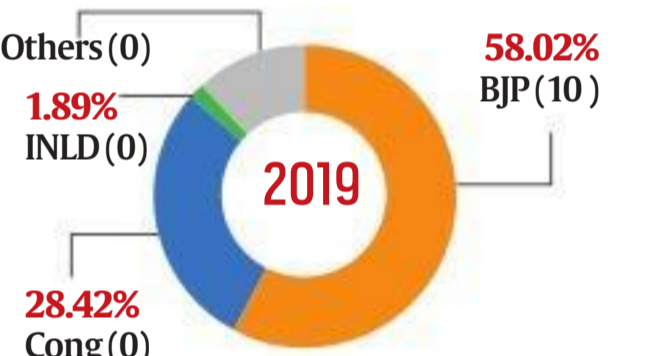
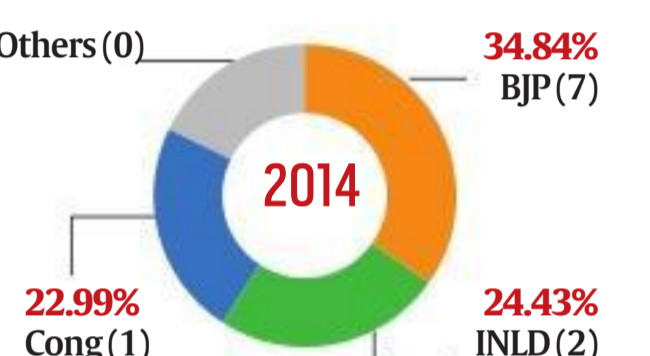
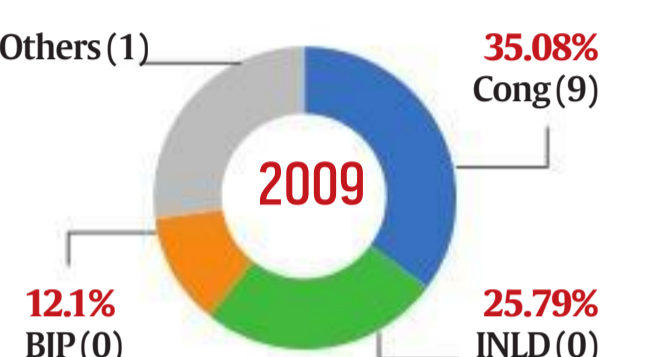
### HARYANA ASSEMBLY ELECTION RESULTS (90 SEATS)

VOTE SHARE; SEATS IN BRACKETS



### HARYANA LOK SABHA ELECTION RESULTS (10 SEATS)

VOTE SHARE; SEATS IN BRACKETS



### THE ALSO LALS



INLD's votes seem to be going to Dushyant Chautala-led JJP. Express

**DEVI LAL'S FAMILY:** Grandson Abhay Singh Chautala is INLD candidate from Ellenabad; great grandson Dushyant (JJP) is contesting from Uchana Kalan; another grandson, Aditya Devi Lal, is BJP candidate from Dabwali; Devi Lal's son Ranjit Singh Chautala is fighting as an Independent from Rania.

**BHAJAN LAL'S FAMILY:** Sons Kuldeep Bishnoi and Chander Mohan are contesting on Congress tickets from traditional seats Adampur and Panchkula. Bishnoi, who has won the seat twice, is pitted against Tik Tok star Sonali Phogat (BJP).

**BANSILAL'S FAMILY:** Daughter-in-law Kiran Chaudhry (Congress) is contesting from family's Tosham seat; in Badhra, his son Ranbir Mahendra (Congress) is pitted against JJP's Naina Chautala, the mother of Dushyant.

Soon after the 2014 Assembly elections, 17 of the INLD's 19 MLAs crossed over to the BJP. In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, its vote share plunged from 24 per cent in 2014 to 1.9 per cent — lower than the BSP's 3.6 per cent. The JJP polled 4.9 per cent.

This time, the only seat where the INLD is confident of a good performance is Ellenabad, from where Abhay is contesting.

From the start, Dushyant positioned himself as the inheritor of the legacy of Devi Lal, naming his party after the title 'Jannayak (People's Leader)' enjoyed by the late stalwart. In 2014, he became the youngest ever Lok Sabha MP, defeating Kuldeep Bishnoi, scion of the Bhajan Lal clan. The JJP itself made rivals sit up when, barely two months after its formation in December 2018 and months before the Lok Sabha elections, Dushyant's younger brother Digvijay gave a scare to the BJP in the Jind Assembly seat bypoll.

While Dushyant lost this year's Lok Sabha elections as a JJP-Aam Aadmi Party candidate, it was in the pocketborough of another big name in Haryana, Union minister Birender Singh. Each of these moves established him as a veritable leader, not afraid of taking risks.

Having studied in the US as well as holding a law degree, Dushyant also made a judicious choice of candidates in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. While none of the JJP nominees won, they were talked about for their "youth"

and "educational qualifications".

Says Bag Singh, a Jat farmer in his mid-50s, at Bhattu village in Fatehabad Assembly seat in Sirsa, "The JJP is a new party. It has a new leader and he is an educated leader, for the future. Chautala did not seek popular opinion before expelling Dushyant."

Others, traditionally INLD supporters, predict, "Dushyant will become CM, either in alliance this time or in the very near future."

Before that happens though, the JJP may have to widen its appeal, which remains largely restricted to the INLD's Jat vote bank. The JJP has fielded 34 Jat candidates, followed by the Congress (27) and BJP (20) this time. While the community forms 27 per cent of the state's population and hence is a force to reckon with, the BJP has shown that tapping into the remaining 75 per cent can pay rich dividends.



Across constituencies, what also seems to be clearly paying off for the BJP is the transparency in recruitment for government jobs under the Khattar government — in a state where youths from farming families are looking for a way out (agriculture and allied sectors contribute over 17 per cent of gross value added in Haryana).

This was done by tasking the Haryana Staff Selection Commission with recruiting Class IV employees. Last year, over 34,000 such posts were filled up without a single complaint of corruption, which was unprecedented. Haryana Agriculture Minister Om Prakash Dhanker says this "restored the faith of people in government". Transfers of teachers is now decided online — freeing it of notorious political interference.

"In my 80 years, I haven't seen so many people from South Haryana get government jobs. That too without any bribe or interference," says Ramprakh Yadav of Siha village in Kosli Assembly seat in Rewari.

Agrees Ashok Kumar, a Rajput in his late 40s, at Haluwas village in Bhiwani seat. "Youngsters in village after village have got jobs without a bribe. What else do you want?"

Says Ajit Yadav, also of Siha village, "Children of our Ahirwal community are talented. All they need is fair opportunity. Earlier, you got jobs either if you had money to pay bribes or you belonged to a particular caste or region. With hiring made on merit, our children are getting jobs."

Karnal-based advocate Narinder Singh Cheema gives the example of Hooda "favouring" Rohtak as CM — this time he is contesting from Garhi Sampla-Kiloi in the district. "All development works were concentrated in Rohtak to benefit a particular community," he says. A Jat farmer in his late 40s, of Bhattu village in Fatehabad, counters community members as they declare their opposition to the BJP, on the same grounds. "Unlike previous CMs, Manohar Lal doesn't do anything for his family. He is working for the entire state," says Vikram Singh, going on to list people from his village who have got government jobs.

One of the Khattar government's first directives was a circular asking heads of all departments to list "officers of doubtful integrity" and "undesirable contact men". The image of a clean government was reinforced through a CM's portal, modelled after that of the PM and open to people, and a CM Window in every district where public could file complaints. From daily crop procurement records to e-challans, a wide range of services in Haryana are now digitalised.

In 2016, the Haryana government started a programme called 'Chief Ministers Good Governance Associates (GGAs)' under which youngsters from across the country were recruited for each of the state's 22 districts, and tasked with overseeing public delivery systems. They also handled the CM Window and reported directly to him.

The CM Window has since acquired a reputation for quick redressal with dismissals and suspensions of several officials.

Former Haryana Chamber of Commerce President Chander Bhan Goel calls it an effective tool that he has himself used.

This, coupled with popular Central schemes such as Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (launched from Haryana), have held Khattar in good stead. Haryana heavyweights and old hands such as Ram Bilas Sharma, OP Dhankar, Anil Vaj and Capt Abhimanyu Singh, who were seen as his opponents and placated with ministries, seem to have reconciled to their roles.

The BJP is also getting good traction with its Article 370 campaign, with Haryana having sizeable numbers in the defence forces. Ex-serviceman Gurmeet Singh, former sarpanch of Kalsa village in Kurukshetra, says he and his friends used to be Congress or INLD supporters but had shifted to the BJP because of its "strong leadership". "PM Modi has removed the thorns sown by Jawaharlal Nehru. It is a historic step in the right direction," he says.

At the Karnal Bar Council office, Cheema speaks for a group of lawyers. "The step was overdue but no one had the spine to take it."

Even BJP voters angry with the party's sitting MLAs or nominees generally don't have a harsh word against Khattar. Among BJP leaders facing the heat is state unit chief Subhash Barala, who doesn't appear to have even his Jat community vote sealed up in Tohana, bordering Punjab. Incidentally, in Haryana, unlike Maharashtra, the BJP has re-nominated three-fourths of its incumbent MLAs.

Come polls, another issue would be watched closely: the Khattar government's token system of procurement in *mandis*, which imposes daily limits on producers, and requires farmers to return for cash payments. It can mean a lot of disgruntled farmers. A minor irritant lately is the stringent Motor Vehicles Act extending to farm tractors.

However, days away from voting, that is not expected to be enough of a hurdle for the BJP to stumble. For the Opposition, here is a thought: three years after the Rajiv Gandhi-led Congress won the biggest mandate in India's history, it was Haryana that indicated a turning of the tide when, in 1987, Devi Lal stormed to power defeating the Congress under Bansilal.