

**y can't banking
be at our fingertips?**

**y can't investments
be on the spot?**

**y can't shopping
be on the go?**

**y can't environment
be saved every day?**



happy yonoversary India.



**Lifestyle &
banking, dono.**

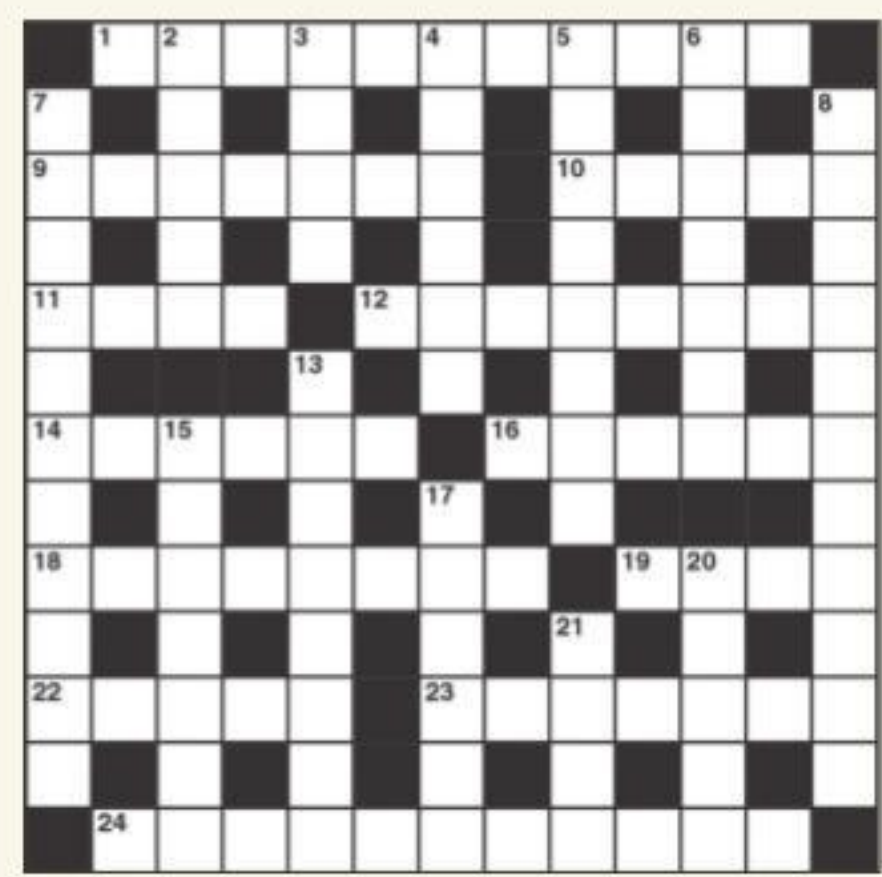


Scan to download
the yono app.

yono turns 2, and we gladly thank you for your endless trust and support for making yono a grand success. As we look into the future, we aim to deliver better products and services in the coming years.

yonoversary milestones:		
15 Million+ Registrations	₹1,884 Cr.+ Value of SBI Credit Card Payments	1.18 Lakh+ yono Cash Touchpoints
₹33,383 Cr.+ Value of Fund Transfers	₹535 Cr.+ Value of Bill Payments	2.20 Lakh+ Daily Online Market Visits

CROSSWORD 3971



- ACROSS
- 1 Intrigued at a form of non-appreciation (11)
- 9 Timely measure a couple of favourites recalled (3-4)
- 10 Where to see runners, as on a bed (5)
- 11 On which many initial declarations of love have been made (4)
- 12 Strong man in club team (8)
- 14 Love to point out there's a choice (6)
- 16 Nicest form of invertebrate (6)
- 18 A dog to the Spanish, a bird to us (8)
- 19 Turning knocks into a pole (4)
- 22 Steal game to cook (5)
- 23 Important match involving large animals (3,4)
- 24 Bullet that meant goodbye for someone? (7,4)
- DOWN
- 2 Ring in the nose for a halter (5)
- 3 Rising star? Nonsense! (4)
- 4 Repast, perhaps, comes to a fine end (6)
- 5 Teaching art in disorder, gin cocktail needed (8)
- 6 Refuse to take a drop? (7)
- 7 It determines the regularity of beatings (11)
- 8 Public announcements of secret rites (6,5)
- 13 How teams are organised to a certain extent (8)
- 15 Composition that calls for assurance of touch (7)
- 17 A French beer brewed by Jacob's son (6)
- 20 Quietly played at home? (5)
- 21 Gets on in stages (4)

Solutions Crossword 3970: Across: 1 Tomtit, 4 Scabious, 9 Wanted, 10 Co-driver, 12 Adam, 13 Links, 14 Help, 17 Helping hands, 20 Stretched out, 23 Even, 24 Rides, 25 Idea, 28 Absconds, 29 Sprang, 30 Landlady, 31 Stoker. Down: 1 Towpaths, 2 Mentally, 3 Ideas, 5 Clock-watcher, 6 Burn, 7 On view, 8 Scrape, 11 Single-minded, 15 Bitts, 16 Idler, 18 Hold back, 19 Stranger, 21 Detail, 22 Lets in, 26 Toll, 27 Spot.

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.
___ is also a way of saying something ___ - T SEliot (6...7)

REORR

AGTSUU

DMIOS

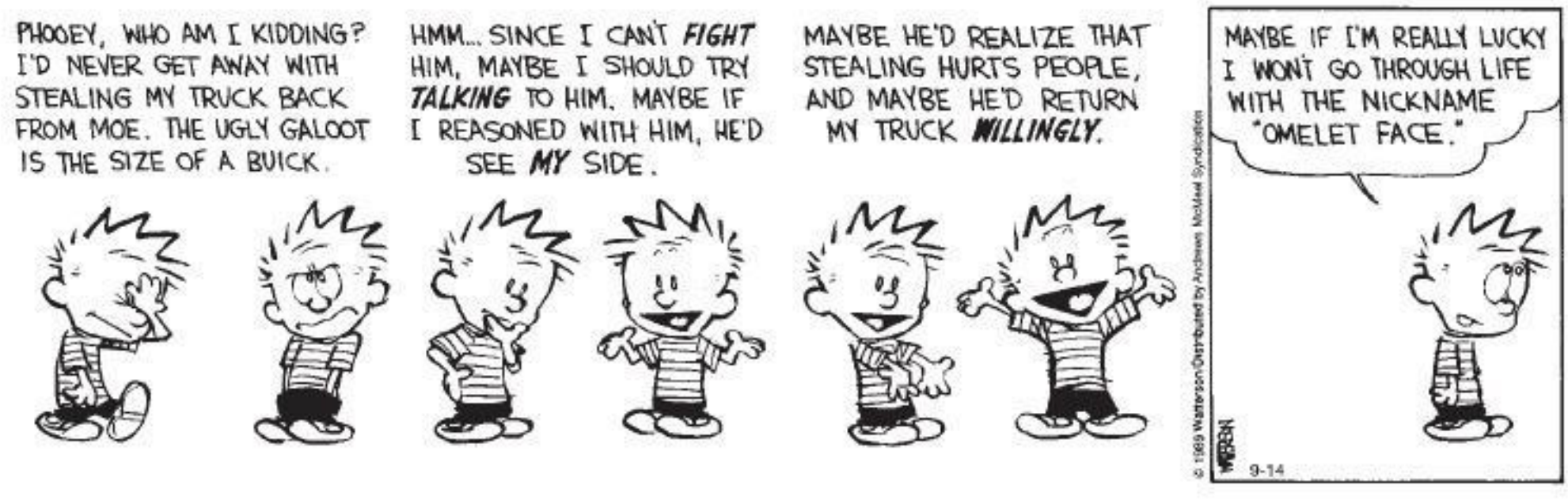
STYHMU

SOLUTION: ERROR MISDO, AUGUST, THYMUS
Answer: Humour is also a way of saying something serious - T S Eliot

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 4040

Difficulty Level 2s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4039

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

DAY TODAY BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
In general, your planetary configurations are looking decidedly more relaxed. In addition, Mercury is now behaving itself, enabling you to take a long-delayed decision, and the Moon is encouraging you to question all existing assumptions. Allow yourself time to pause for a sigh of relief this week.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
You should now know how the next stage of major alterations in your personal life are to occur. I don't think you'll be able to put it into words, but I am convinced that on an intuitive level you understand exactly what is going on and what must be done.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
One thing that always impresses me is that you have the honesty and courage to admit when you are wrong, even if only to yourself. That's important, because today offers an ideal moment for family and domestic reconciliation. And about time too, some people might say.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)
Accept what is offered and be thankful that the world is basically on your side. The current helpful planetary alignments indicate that, if you take more than your fair share, you won't have it for long, so be generous and do the right thing now.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
The right interpretation of planetary energies over the next few weeks indicates that you had better become a little less belligerent, a little more eager to please. However, you still have another three or four days during which you can put your foot down - and get away with it.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
This is not the moment to break the rules or habits of a lifetime. You can, however, consider whether you will do it all better next time round. You must realise that you now have a chance to end a very negative cycle of events - as long as you listen to people who have more experience.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
Have you taken the planets' advice yet and settled a financial decision? If not, then please do so within the next few weeks. Time is now running out, events are moving on and it's very much a question of the sooner the better. A partner may have some unexpected advice, by the way, so listen carefully.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
People born under your sign are more obstinate than most, although in a way which is utterly endearing, delightfully modest and totally disarming. The simple message for the whole of this week is: remember that you are number one. On the other hand, being top does bring its responsibilities.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
You have learnt how to put up with people you'd rather ignore, but just as you're feeling happy with the situation, the planets insist on further changes. Now you must gear yourself up for a period during which you will learn how to be alone - or at least not so dependent on others.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Hopefully you listen to the stars, but do you take their advice? It's a matter of tuning in to your intuitions, never an easy thing. The point is that if your high standards slipped last week, you will have to make amends by next week. Right now you're in a transitional period.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
Although you have some serious problems of a business or joint financial nature to contend with, I maintain that in the long run the outcome will be favourable. In fact, today you have a chance to sort everything out once and for all, or at least until next month.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
It is said that you are hard-working, loyal and efficient. Well, today is the day to prove the astrologers right, for it seems that you will be entering the fray to clear up the chaos left behind by more careless people. You may have little time left over after the daily graft.

"IMPORTANT"

Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

Martyr of CISF on 25 th November

CT/GD D.P.R. SWAMY-ONGC AGARTALA 25-11-1996

CT/GD ANIL TOPPO 4 TH RES. BN. RANCHI 25-11-1996

L/N BISWAJIT JAMATIA ONGC AGARTALA 25-11-1996

The CISF proudly remembers the supreme sacrifice of these brave-hearts. On this day, they laid down their lives at the altar of duty while fighting with the terrorist outfits. Their courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiration for the force. The force will remain eternally indebted to them for their noblest deeds.

Government of India
Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways
(Department of Road, Transport and Highways)

No.: LAQ/NH-167/Krishna Bridge/CR-30/2018-19 Dated : 11-11-2019

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 30th August 2019.

SO 3564 (E) In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956), (hereinafter referred to as the said Act.), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for Construction of Major Bridge at Km. 180.865 across River Krishna on National Highway No. 167 (Hagari - Jadecherla Section) in the district of MAHABUBNAGAR in the state of TELANGANA hereby declares its intention to acquire such land :

Any person interested in the said land may, within Twenty One Days from the date of publication of this Notification in the Official Gazette, Object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section (1) of section 3C of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the competent authority, namely, **The Special Land Acquisition Officer and Competent Authority, National Highways, (NH 167), K.R. Circle, Bangalore - 560 001**, in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the competent authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the competent authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the competent authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land covered under this Notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the competent authority.

Note : The land proposed for acquisition should not be alienated or develop the land.

SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling in the Stretch of Land at KM 180.865 across River Krishna on National Highway No. 167 (Hagari - Jadcherla Section) in the district of Mehaboob Nagar in the State of Telangana.

State : Telangana	Dist. : Mehaboob Nagar	Taluk : Krishna	Village : Gudebellur		
Sl. No.	Survey / Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Local Unit)	Area (in Hectare)
1.	792	Private	Dry	10,186 (Square Meter)	1.0186000
2.	795	Private	Dry	5,671.00 (Square Meter)	0.5671000
3.	809	Private	Dry	767.00 (Square Meter)	0.0767000
4.	810	Private	Dry	2,659.00 (Square Meter)	0.2659000
5.	811	Private	Dry	2,087.00 (Square Meter)	0.2087000
			Total	21,370.00	2.1370

F.No. NH-12014/Karnataka (13/2016-S&R(B)3A2), Rajesh Gupta, Dy. Secy.

Sd/- (RANGANATH, KAS)

Special Land Acquisition Officer and Competent Authority

National Highways, K.R. Circle, PWD Compound, Bangalore - 560 001.

TIDEL PARK LTD

No.4, Rajiv Gandhi Salai, Taramani, Chennai 600 113
Ph: 044-22540500/01; Fax: 044-2254 1744
Website: www.tidelpark.com
Email: md@tidelpark.com

TENDER NOTICE NO.TIDEL/2019-20/9
INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Package-1)

TIDEL invites item rate tender under two bid cover system from eligible bidders for
Construction of New IT Park BUILDINGS including Civil, Plumbing, Structural
Facade, Landscaping, STP, WTP & External Works at Pattabiram, Avadi,
Chennai as per the schedule given as under:

Estimated Cost	Rs. 130 Crores plus GST(@ 18%) Rs.23.4 Crores
Period of Construction	24 Months
EMD	Rs.1,53,40,000/- in the form of DD drawn from any Nationalized Bank/Scheduled Banks in favour of TIDEL Park Ltd., Payable at Chennai.
Tender Document Cost	Rs 32,000/- in the form of DD drawn from any Nationalized Bank/Scheduled Banks in favour of TIDEL Park Ltd., Payable at Chennai.
Pre -Bid Meeting	11.00 hrs on 03.12.2019 at TIDEL PARK LTD
Downloading of Tender Document	Tender Document can be downloaded from www.tidelpark.com Start date 26/11/2019 & End date 26/12/2019
Submission of Tender	27/12/2019 before 15.00 hrs @ TIDEL PARK LTD
Technical Bid Opening	27/12/2019 at 15.30 hrs in TIDEL PARK LTD

Tender documents submitted without paying cost of Tender document and EMD will be summarily rejected.

MANAGING DIRECTOR

epch

हस्तशिल्प निर्यात संवर्धन परिषद्
Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts

CIN: U20299DL1986NPL023253

Regd. Office: EPCH House, Plot No. 1, Pocket 6 & 7, LSC, Sector - C, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi - 110070,
Tel.: +91-11-26135256 Fax: 011-26133518 / 19 Email id: mails@epch.com Website: www.epch.in

NOTICE OF THE 33rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, INFORMATION ON E-VOTING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the 33rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Company is scheduled on Saturday, December 14, 2019 at 10 A.M at Govt. Servants Co-operative House Building Society Ltd., Kalyan Kendra, 9, Paschimi Marg, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi - 110057 to transact the business as stated in the notice of meeting sent to the members individually.

The Annual report for the Financial Year 2018-19 of the company along with the Notice of AGM has been dispatched to all the members whose email IDs are registered with the Company. Physical copies of the same have been sent to members at their registered address in the permitted mode who's email ID's are not registered with EPCH.

The same are also available on the EPCH website www.epch.in. Additionally, the notice of AGM is also available on the website of National Securities Depositories Limited ("NSDL") at <https://evoting.nsdl.com>.

In terms of Section 108 of Companies Act, 2013, read with rules thereto, as amended, the company is pleased to provide Remote E-Voting facility to the members to cast their vote by electronic means (Remote E-voting) on all the resolutions set forth in the notice. The company has engaged services of NSDL for providing e-voting facility. Kindly refer the notice of the AGM regarding instructions on e-voting and same is also available EPCH website www.epch.in.

The remote e-voting commences on Saturday, December 07, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. (IST) and will end on December 13, 2019, Friday at 5:00 p.m. (IST). The remote e-voting shall not be allowed beyond the said date and time.

- The cut-off date for determining the eligibility to vote by electronic means or at the AGM is Sunday, June 30, 2019.
- A person whose name is recorded in the register of members as on the cut-off date, i.e. Sunday June 30 2019, shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting or voting-in-person available at the meeting, as the case may be.
- The company shall also provide facility for voting through polling paper / e-voting at the venue of the meeting and Members attending the meeting who have not already casted their vote by remote e-voting shall be able to exercise their right to vote at the AGM.
- The members who have casted their vote by remote e-voting prior to the meeting may participate in the meeting but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again
- In case of any queries, you may refer to the 'Frequently Asked Questions' (FAQs) and 'e-voting user manual' available in downloads section of NSDL's e-voting website <https://evoting.nsdl.com>. In case of any grievances, you may contact Ms. Pallavi Mhatre, Assistant Manager of NSDL at 022-24994545 or call on Toll free number 1800-222-990; email: pallavi@nsdl.co.in or evoting@nsdl.co.in in who will also address grievances connected with the voting by electronic means.
- The results of voting would be declared as stipulated under the relevant rules and will also be posted on the EPCH website and website of NSDL.

By Order of the Committee of Administration
Sd/-
R.K. Verma
Secretary-EPCH

New Delhi
Date: November 25, 2019

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (P&W)
M.P.P.G.C.L.:A.T.P.S.; CHACHAI
Phone 07659-263469; FAX 07659-263283
Web site : www.mppgenco.nic.in, E-mail- sepnwatps@gmail.com
No. 001-04/P&W/NIT/3923 Chachai dtd. 22/11/19

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

"Through E-tendering only"

M.P. Power Generating Co. Ltd. Invites electronic tenders from experienced contractors/vendors for the works/ supplies as detailed below for ATPS, MPPGCL, Chachai:-

Tender ID.	Name of works/ Material	Estimated cost (In Rs.)	Duration of work / Quantity / Period	Tender cost including GST	EMD Rs	Last date of submission of tender	Due date of Technical opening of tender
2019_MPPGC_62579	Work contract for picking of stone/shales and other foreign materials from running conveyor of CHP of 210 MW unit at ATPS Chachai.	1,10,83,314/-	24 months	5000/-	1,10,800/-	13.12.19 Up to 15:00 HRS	16.12.19 From 15:30 HRS onwards

Note: For details please visit the website www.mptenders.gov.in For any change in specification/technical data please visit regularly our website www.mptenders.gov.in. Any addendum/corrigendum shall not be published in news paper.

Sd/-
SE (P&W)
ATPS MPPGCL Chachai

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER AND DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURAL MARKETING
Government of Andhra Pradesh, Guntur, Amaravati

APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS

E-procurement T.No.SE(AM)/AP/GNT/Ep/29/2019-20, Dated: 22-11-2019

Online applications are invited by Spl. Commissioner & Director of Agri. Marketing, Guntur for appointment of individual consultants from IIMs to Provide consultancy services on Marketing Startaegies to be adopted for doubling Farmers income etc., in the State of Andhra Pradesh. e RFP document can be downloaded from <http://market.ap.nic.in> and applications to be sent through email: seamap2019@gmail.com from 25-11-2019 at 04.00 p.m. For any further information : Contact No. 9182361172.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (AM) (F.A.C)

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT MUMBAI

GVK

Mumbai International Airport Ltd.

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN BIDDING PROCESS FOR VARIOUS NON-AERONAUTICAL CONCESSIONS AT CSMI AIRPORT

Mumbai International Airport Limited ("MIAL") is inviting parties to participate in the competitive bidding process for various non-aeronautical concessions at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport ("CSMIA")

Parties are requested to visit the website: (<https://csia.in> → Businesses → Business Opportunities → Commercial Opportunities) for downloading form of Application for purchase of Request for Proposal document(s).

Please check the website for Last date and time for submission of Application.

VISVESVARAYA JALA NIGAMA LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka Enterprises)

Office of the Executive Engineer, Challakere Division No.06, Challakee.
Phone No: 08195-250307 email ID: ubpee06@gmail.com
No.: EE/VJNL/UBP/Div-6/Challakere/AE-2/Tender/2019-20/576
Date: 21-11-2019

CORRIGENDUM-5 TO TENDER NOTIFICATION

Ref:-

1) Tender Notification No:462, Dated: 15.10.2019.

2) Corrigandum-1 No: 518, Dated: 02.11.2019.

3) Corrigandum-2 No: 527, Dated: 06.11.2019.

4) Corrigandum-3 No: 551, Dated: 14.11.2019.

5) Corrigandum-4 No: 556, Dated: 19.11.2019.

With reference to the subject and reference cited above, the Financial Bid opening was Sheduled on 05.12.2019. Due to some reasons the Financial Bid opening date is preponed to 02.12.2019.

RO No. 647: DIPR/CTA/MCA/2019-20

Sd/- Executive Engineer



Andhra hikes bar licence fees, says prohibition soon

REENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, NOVEMBER 24

THE ANDHRA Pradesh government has cancelled the existing licences of all the 798 bars in the state and announced a new policy which includes a sharp hike in the fees for obtaining a bar licence. This comes less than two months after the government reduced the number of liquor shops in the state. Deputy Minister (Excise) K Narayana Swamy said the decision is in line with the government's commitment to implement total prohibition next year.

Under the new policy, which will come into effect from January 1 and remain in force for two years, only 479 bars will get new licences. The application fee for 3-star and above hotels has been increased from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 1.45 crore, with a 10 per cent hike after one year, while it



Cancels all existing licences

has been hiked from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh for the other bars.

"The new (bar licence) policy issued on Friday is aimed at reducing the number of bars in the state by 40 per cent, as announced earlier. On October 1, we had issued a new policy by which the number of liquor shops in the state was reduced from 4,380 to 3,500, and the AP State Beverages Corporation took over these 3,500 liquor shops. These are steps towards implementing total prohibition in the state as Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy promised in his election campaign. It is not a sudden decision, we had

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

AYODHYA JUDGMENT

Review plea will signal Muslims against important Hindu temple: NCM chief

ABANTIKA GHOSH
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

NATIONAL COMMISSION for Minorities chairman Ghayorul Hasan Rizvi has said Muslims should refrain from filing a review plea against the Supreme Court ruling in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid case as it sends out the message that they are creating obstructions in the construction of a temple for Ram — "the most important Hindu God". It will also amount to breaking the "word" given to the nation to abide by the SC order, he said.

"It is important to understand that the entire country, Hindus, Muslims and even the AIMPLB (All India Muslim Personal Law Board) had promised the country before the judgment that they would abide by



Ghayorul Hasan Rizvi

it. Muslims never said they would abide by the judgment only if it is in their favour. So essentially, they have now reneged on that word. But what is far more dangerous is the message that a review petition would send out — that Muslims are deliberately creating obstructions in the building of a Ram temple, to celebrate the most important

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

MOVING FORWARD WITH FRESH HOPES, SAYS PM [PAGE 9](#)

SENA-NCP-CONGRESS PLEA AGAINST GOVERNOR'S DECISION

Mumbai swearing-in: To test spirit, Supreme Court asks for letters today

Court tells Centre to produce Fadnavis letter claiming majority support, Governor's invitation to form govt

ANANTHAKRISHNAN
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

PUTTING OFF a decision on the Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress's plea for a floor test in Maharashtra "within 24 hours", the Supreme Court on Sunday asked the Centre to produce by 10.30 am Monday the letters of Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari inviting Devendra Fadnavis to form the government, and of the BJP leader claiming the support of the required number of MLAs to stake claim.

A bench of Justices N V Ramana, Ashok Bhushan and Sanjiv Khanna said it would pass orders on the petitioners' demand for an urgent floor test only after perusing these letters.

"We have taken note of all the arguments, particularly the argument that the Governor's decision dated 23-11-2019 inviting the Respondent No.3 to form a Government on 23-11-2019 is unconstitutional... As adjudication of the issues and also the interim prayers sought by the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

EXPLAINED
A test of due process

THE LETTERS the court has asked for are crucial for determining whether the Governor applied the "prima facie" test that a Constitution bench laid down in 2006, to establish whether Governor followed due process as per constitutional norms, and reasonably verified the promise of a stable government when recommending revocation of President's Rule.

INSIDE

PRO-TEM SPEAKER HOLDS KEY

PAWAR, UDDHAV MEET NCP MLAs [PAGE 8](#)

At NCP's Nov 17 meeting, Ajit Pawar backed tie-up with BJP

SANDEEP ASHAR
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 24

DAYS BEFORE he broke ranks, Ajit Pawar gave the first indication that he wanted the NCP to align with the BJP for government formation in Maharashtra at the party's core committee meeting in Pune on November 17, said party sources.

Exposing the division within the Pawar family and the party over forming an alliance with the Shiv Sena, Ajit Pawar, who was



Ajit Pawar in Mumbai on Sunday. Nirmal Harindran

then the legislature party leader, is learnt to have openly backed

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Congress leaders Prithviraj Chavan and Randeep Singh Surjewala on Sunday. Gajendra Yadav

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

IN DARKNESS

Given stealth in swearing-in, a prompt floor test is only way to bring the light in [PAGE 10](#)

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



Ajit says still with NCP, Sharad says no question of alliance with BJP

MANOJ MORE & ZEESHAN SHAIKH
PUNE, MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 24

WHILE THE NCP on Sunday claimed the support of most of its MLAs, including four of the five who could not be accounted for on Saturday, senior NCP leader Ajit Pawar, who had sprung a surprise by joining hands with the BJP and taking oath as Deputy Chief Minister, exuded confidence that the new government would win the floor test.

"You will see...we will win the



Sharad Pawar in Mumbai on Sunday. Amit Chakravarty

trust vote on the floor of the house," Ajit Pawar, who was sacked as the NCP party

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

With Op Lotus, BJP prepares for floor test



Fadnavis in Mumbai on Sunday. Prashant Nadkar

SHUBHANGI KHAPRE & SANDEEP ASHAR
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 24

WHILE THE Supreme Court on Sunday did not set an immediate date for the Devendra Fadnavis-led BJP government in Maharashtra to undertake a floor test, the party began working to shore up its numbers.

The BJP, the single largest party with 105 MLAs, requires the support of 40 more MLAs to get to a simple majority of 145 in the 288-member state Assembly.

While expressing confidence about retaining the Ajit Pawar-led NCP faction on their side, BJP insiders said the party has launched 'Operation Lotus',

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

EXPLAINED



SIMPLY PUT
WHEN SC REVIEWS A DECISION
[PAGE 12](#)

THE GOVERNANCE PAGE



HOW AI ANSWERS COMPLAINTS IN KANNADA
[PAGE 13](#)

WORLD



HONG KONG: HIGH POLL TURNOUT SEEN AS REFERENDUM ON PROTESTS

BILLIONAIRE BLOOMBERG ENTERS WHITE HOUSE RACE
[PAGE 14](#)

322 SELECTIONS IN CSE 2018

PRELIMS 2020		PRELIMS TEST SERIES + QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (QIP)	
60+ Tests Topic + Thematic Current Affairs + FLTs	4500 MCQs + Explanatory Videos	QIP Videos	
Flexible Scheduling Online/at Rau's Campuses in Pen Paper Mode	15 Focus Magazines	PRELIMS Compass Subject specific thematic compilations	
MAINS 2020		MAINS TEST SERIES + QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (QIP)	
31 GS Tests Mini + Sectional + FLT's	6 Essay Tests Mini + FLT's	Discussion Videos Test Discussion + QIP	
Multi-Layered Feedback 1. Model Answers & Evaluation 2. Review of evaluated copies 3. Personal Mentorship	Flexible Scheduling Online/at Rau's Campuses in Pen Paper Mode	MAINS Compass Subject specific thematic compilations	

ENROLL NOW

GENERAL STUDIES (INTEGRATED) BATCHES

	New Delhi	Bengaluru	Jaipur
REGULAR	06 Jan	---	03 Jan.
WEEKEND	04 Jan.	04 Jan.	---

SMALL BATCHES OF 80-90 STUDENTS
Admissions Open • Apply Now

NEW DELHI CAMPUS
Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place
Tel: 011 - 40786050, 23317293,
23318135/36, 23738906/07

BENGALURU CAMPUS
5th Block, Koramangala
Tel: 080 - 25535536/ 37/ 38/ 39,
9916035536

JAIPUR CAMPUS
Jawahar Circle, J.L.N. Marg
Tel: 0141 - 4106050/ 57,
0141 - 2722050

www.rauias.com | contact@rauias.com | youtube.com/rauias

Pinklay
@pinklayIndia

With digital skills, small businesses grow. India prospers.

"We used Facebook to double our online sales."

Daisy Tanwani
Founder: Pinklay, Home Decor

Today, digitised India is home to millions of budding entrepreneurs, the future of our country. Digital skills are essential for their success and therefore for India's economic growth, just like how Pinklay used Facebook to double their online sales. However, 89%* of Indian small and medium-sized businesses feel that a lack of familiarity with the digital tools available, is a challenge for their business.

At Facebook, we believe in empowering businesses and entrepreneurs with digital skills set to enable their business to become as big as their dreams. Which is why, we're bringing **Boost With Facebook** to your city – a free digital skills program which will connect thousands of entrepreneurs and equip them with the digital skills required to grow their business.

Boost with facebook
CHALO, KUCH BADAA KARTE HAIN!

Delhi, 26th November

<http://bit.ly/boostwithfacebookdelhi>

*Facebook Economic Impact Report 2017 powered by Morning Consult.



DOWNLOAD APP

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

Indian Express
★★★★★ 4.6



SCAN THIS QR CODE TO
DOWNLOAD THE APP



EXPLAINED: THE EB-5 US VISA NOW REQUIRES A BIGGER INVESTMENT; HERE'S HOW

On Thursday, new rules governing the EB-5 visa of the United States came into effect, which include a significant increase in the investment amount required to obtain the visa. The EB-5 is one of five employment-based immigrant visas that can be obtained in the United States

VIDEO OF THE DAY



DELHI'S FIRST OXYGEN BAR

As pollution persists, Breathe in 'pure air' for Rs 300

FULL COVERAGE



MAHARASHTRA CRISIS LIVE UPDATES

Sharad Pawar says no question of aligning with BJP

EXPRESS AUDIO

Understanding the Maharashtra govt formation twist

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In today's episode of the 3 Things podcast, we breakdown how Fadnavis became Chief Minister again and what this now means for the NCP

Man gunned down at Hapur wedding

Attack could be linked to court case in which victim was witness, police

AMIL BHATNAGAR
NOIDA, NOVEMBER 24

A MAN was killed and four others, including a minor, were injured after armed assailants opened fire at a wedding ceremony in Hapur on Sunday. The victim, Sudheer, was attending a relative's wedding when multiple masked men entered the venue and opened fire, police said. According to them, Sudheer was allegedly the target of the attack.

"We received information that there was an attack during a wedding ceremony and that one person had succumbed to injuries. Chaos ensued after the firing at the function. Three injured people are out of danger while the minor continues to be critical. As per prima-facie information, the victim had been a witness to a case in Faridabad which had irked the accused side. This attack is linked to it. We are trying to ascertain further details," said Hapur Superintendent of

Police Sanjiv Suman.

According to the police, the wedding procession had left from Faridabad to Nangla Udayrampur in Hapur. A part of the wedding formalities were taking place inside the pandal when the gunmen entered and opened fire.

"The victim had appeared as a witness in a prosecution case where his testimony aided the conviction of the accused. The case had been filed in Faridabad itself. Prima-facie, it appears that the accused in this case have a connection from that court case since Sudheer was the only target," said Suman. The police are yet to determine if the shooting was carried out by the accused on bail or hitmen allegedly hired by them.

The attackers were wearing masks and allegedly fired multiple rounds from country-made pistols and fled, police said.

In view of the attack, checking at the border of Ghaziabad and Gautam Buddh Nagar has been intensified, police said.

Ban on NDFB extended by five years, says MHA

New Delhi: The Centre has extended the ban on Assam-based Bodo insurgent group NDFB by five years, saying the outlawed outfit has continued to indulge in violent activities, including killing and extortion, and undermining the country's territorial integrity in collusion with anti-India forces.

The National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) has

been indulging in illegal and violent activities, intending to undermine the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India in furtherance of its objective of achieving a separate Bodoland, said Union Home Ministry in a notification. It extended the ban under the provisions of sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

PTI

FROM PAGE ONE

Ajit Pawar

legislature leader on Saturday, told *The Indian Express*.

His comments came moments after his tweets, in which he thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and insisted "Pawar saheb is our leader".

In one of the tweets, Ajit Pawar said, "I am in the NCP and shall always be in the NCP... and Pawar saheb is our leader. Our BJP-NCP alliance shall provide a stable government in Maharashtra for the next five years which will work sincerely for the welfare of the state and its people."

In another tweet, he said, "There is absolutely no need to worry, all is well. However, a little patience is required. Thank you very much for all your support."

Thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Ajit Pawar tweeted, "Thank you Hon. Prime Minister @narendramodi ji. We will ensure a stable Government that will work hard for the welfare of the people of Maharashtra."

Acknowledging his tweets, Ajit Pawar told *The Indian Express*, "Yes, they are my tweets. I am in the NCP and we are all together. Our NCP-BJP government will win the floor test."

Hitting back at his nephew, NCP chief Sharad Pawar tweeted, "There is no question of forming an alliance with @BJP4Maharashtra. NCP has unanimously decided to ally with @ShivSena & @INC Maharashtra to form the government. Shri Ajit Pawar's statement is false and misleading in order to create confusion and false perception among the people."

Claiming that most of its MLAs are in touch with the party, the NCP on Sunday released separate videos and statements by four of its MLAs. The MLAs are among the five, apart from Ajit Pawar, whom the party could not make contact with until Saturday. They included Dindori MLA Narhari Zirwal, Shahpur MLA Daulat Daroda, Amalner MLA Anil Patil, Kalwan MLA Nitin Pawar and Ahmedpur MLA Babasaheb Patil. On Sunday, the NCP released video statements of three MLAs - Babasaheb Patil, Daulat Daroda and Nitin Pawar - where they are seen pledging their fidelity to the NCP and saying that they will work under the leadership of both Sharad and Ajit Pawar. Anil Patil, meanwhile, released a statement saying he has faith in Sharad Pawar's leadership and that he had gone to Raj Bhavan on Saturday at Ajit Pawar's insistence. The only MLA the party has not been able to contact is two-time MLA Narhari Zirwal.

The NCP had on Saturday made a submission before the Supreme Court with documents bearing signatures of 41 of its 54 MLAs who turned up for a party meeting held to remove Ajit Pawar as legislature party leader. On Sunday, NCP leaders claimed they now had the support of 48 MLAs.

The NCP leadership, meanwhile, sent its senior leaders Dilip Walse-Patil and state NCP president Jayant Patil to goad Ajit Pawar to return to the fold. The two leaders held discussions with Ajit Pawar at his Churchgate residence, where he met supporters through the day.

"The bulk of the MLAs are with us. We do not want Ajit Pawar to be left alone. I will try to convince him to come back," said Jayant Patil.

Ajit Pawar, however, seemed in no mood to relent. His statement that the BJP-NCP government would rule the state came after his meeting with the NCP leaders.

His son, Parth Pawar, when contacted by *The Indian Express*, too sounded confident that the "NCP-BJP alliance" would win the trust vote. "Everything is on the right track, we will provide a strong government for five years," said Parth, who has been with his

petitioners to conduct floor test within 24 hours has to be considered after perusing the order of the Governor as well as the letters submitted by Mr Devendra Fadnavis — Respondent No.3, even though none appeared for the State Government, we request Mr Tushar Mehta to produce those two letters by tomorrow morning at 10.30 am, when the matter will be taken up, so that appropriate order will be passed," the bench said.

The bench said the Sena-NCP-Congress's plea, seeking a direction to the Governor to invite them to form the government, would not be considered at present. The court was hearing a plea filed by the Sena-NCP-Congress, challenging the Governor's decision to recommend revocation of President's Rule and invite Fadnavis to form the government.

Appearing for the Sena, Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal said the BJP-Sena pre-poll alliance had broken down, and hence the question involved was of a post-poll alliance. He referred to the chain of events — from the declaration of Assembly poll results, to the break-up of the BJP-Sena coalition, and the Sena-NCP-Congress alliance holding a press conference on the evening of November 22, wherein it was announced that Uddhav Thackeray would be the Chief Minister candidate.

He said what happened after that was "bizarre". "...it also appears that he (Governor) was acting under direct instructions," said Sibal. The Governor's decision to recommend the lifting of President's Rule and the subsequent developments smack of bias, are mala fide and contrary to all norms set by the court, he said.

Sibal said if Fadnavis believes

he has the confidence of the House, then he must be told prove it on the floor of the House on Sunday itself. He said the BJP wanted to delay the floor test as "they want to do something else during this time" and urged the court not to allow more time. "If they can't prove majority, we will," he said.

Justice Bhushan asked if the details of the MLAs' letter of support were known. Sibal replied that there was nothing in the public domain.

Senior Advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for the NCP and Congress, said the Governor had the obligation to satisfy himself on the basis of written documents, whether they had the signatures of MLAs, and had to physically verify these.

Recalling the November 22 press conference after the Sena-NCP-Congress meeting, Singhvi asked how the Governor could have invited Fadnavis to form the government the next morning. "Could he not have said, you physically parade, I will also look at the other side," he said.

He referred to the resolution passed by the NCP on Saturday, replacing Ajit Pawar as the legislature party leader, and said it had been signed by 41 of the party's 54 MLAs. Singhvi said an English translation of the resolution, which was in Marathi, had been submitted to the Governor on Sunday. "How on earth (Ajit Pawar) could be Deputy CM after 41 of the MLAs had said they don't support him," asked Singhvi, adding, "is this not murder of democracy".

Both Sibal and Singhvi cited the Supreme Court's 2018 ruling in the case of Karnataka, and said BJP leader B S Yediyurappa had been given only 48 hours to prove majority.

Recalling the court's judg-

ment in the S R Bommai case, Singhvi said a floor test is the ultimate test to prove majority and sought to impress upon the court the need to hold this "today or tomorrow". He also referred to the court's decision in the Uttarakhand case.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who had been served a copy of the petition, said he was not representing the Governor or the state, and added that the question was whether the petitioners should have first moved the High Court.

Appearing for some BJP MLAs, Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi submitted that in the recent matter of disqualified Karnataka MLAs, the bench headed by Justice Ramana had expressed displeasure at the legislators directly approaching the SC, and said they should have first moved the HC.

Justice Khanna agreed that the point had come up in the Karnataka MLAs' issue, and said it was raised by Sibal then. Sibal was quick to add that his objection "was overruled".

Rohatgi said the Governor's decision to call a political formation to form the government is part of his discretionary power under Article 361 which is immune to judicial review.

Justice Ramana said the issue of who the Governor can invite is already a settled law.

Referring to the petition, Rohatgi said one of the prayers was to direct the Governor to invite a certain party to form government. "This is unheard of," he said.

Justice Ramana replied, apparently in a lighter vein, "Mr Rohatgi, in this court, sky is the limit for asking anything. Tomorrow, somebody may even come and say, 'make me Prime Minister'."

Rohatgi said the modalities

Andhra Pradesh hikes bar licence fees

announced it earlier," said Swamy.

Swamy said the government's aim is to reduce the consumption of liquor, whether in bars or elsewhere, and shut down all liquor shops. "We will make it very, very expensive for people to consume liquor in bars, so they will stop visiting. Our aim is to close all bars in the

state," he said.

The government has said that each bar can procure only Rs 1.50 crore worth of liquor every month, and set 10 pm as the deadline to close bars. The timing for liquor shops is from 10 am to 9 pm. The AP Beverages Corporation has closed the drinking rooms attached to liquor shops.

"We will gradually make liquor unavailable in the state and put a total ban on sale and consumption," Swamy said.

Meanwhile, the AP Wine and Liquor Dealers Association said it would challenge the government's decision in the High Court.

"It is an arbitrary decision. Not only will 319 bar owners

lose their business but hundreds of workers employed by these bars will become unemployed. The new policy also makes running a bar very expensive. The increased levy on liquor served in bars makes consumption much more expensive... We will challenge it in court," said R Subba Rao, member of the association.

father since Saturday, when Ajit Pawar took oath. When asked if his father was under pressure, Parth said, "There is no pressure of any sort on my father... He is fine."

Op Lotus

which is to be helmed by four senior leaders — Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil, Ganesh Naik, Babanrao Panchpute and Narayan Rane. All four leaders had joined the BJP from the Opposition camp — Vikhe-Patil and Rane from the Congress, Naik and Panchpute from the NCP. Party sources said their "cordial relations" with some members in their former parties and other smaller parties would be "useful" during the floor test.

The BJP has been asserting that there is no legal validity to Ajit Pawar's removal as head of the NCP legislature party.

On Saturday, Ajit Pawar and BJP leaders, including former minister Ashish Shelar, held meetings with legal and constitutional experts on the NCP leader's removal from the post.

"BJP is of the view that Ajit Pawar's appointment as NCP legislative party leader was valid and the appointment of Jayant Patil in his place is invalid," Shelar said.

Sources said the only way the BJP-Ajit Pawar government can

escape the anti-defection law is by projecting the NCP as a whole unit and Ajit Pawar as the NCP legislative party leader.

The Tenth Schedule of the Constitution states that "a member of the house belonging to a political party shall be disqualified if he votes or abstains from voting in the house contrary to any directions issued by the political party to which he belongs or by any person or authority authorised by it in this behalf, without obtained prior permission of the party or the person authorised by it."

Ajit Pawar's public assertion on Sunday, of a "BJP-NCP alliance", is being seen by many in the state BJP as being part of a strategy chalked out jointly with the BJP Central leadership.

Party sources indicated that in order to avoid last-minute legal and constitutional complications, the BJP was also considering reaching out to select MLAs across parties to persuade them to remain absent on the day of the trust vote.

"Bringing down the half-way mark from 145 — that is also a strategy that is under consideration. In 2014, the BJP won the trust vote with 122 MLAs. The NCP, with 41 MLAs, remained absent. As a result, the half-way mark re-

quired was just 128 MLAs. We got support from six to seven Independent MLAs," said a BJP source, who is familiar with discussions in the party.

"There is no ambiguity about the BJP passing the vote of confidence on the floor of the House," state BJP president Chandrakant Patil said at a meeting of the party's newly elected MLAs.

NCM chief

Hindu God. Muslims should let go of this if they want empowerment. How will they move forward if they are consumed by this decades old Mandir-masjid dispute," Rizvi asked. He also said that instead of refusing it, Muslims should build a mosque on the 5-acre land allotted by the Supreme Court that would become the emblem of communal harmony.

Last week, the AIMPLB working committee had decided to file a review petition in the SC. The Jamiat ulama-i-Hind, though, is divided on the issue with one faction deciding to file a review petition and the other holding that it would be a fruitless exercise, as the outcome is unlikely to be any different from the original verdict.

Rizvi agrees with that assessment. "It is precisely because the

Muslim side has conceded that there is little hope of a different outcome that the review would give the impression of being obstructionist. This is not about Mecca or Medina or the mosque in Jerusalem that Israel has occupied. Muslims should let go. Also from the statements that once a mosque always a mosque is factually incorrect. Had that been the case, why had Prophet Mohammed razed Masjid e Zarat where the kabilas planned their wars against each other? They are just making it a matter of ego. They should let go and think what they would have done had a similar dispute arisen for Mecca or Madina," Rizvi advises.

Rizvi also said, "They have recognised that there are ruins of a non-Muslim structure underneath. Also it is a fact of history that many temples have been ravaged. Muslims should show large heartedness and give up the Babri battle or else there will be more trouble in future."

Asked if he expects similar claims to arise in Varanasi and Mathura, he said, "No, I am just talking about the distance created. There are 7-8 mosques in Ayodhya. Hindus have asked for just this one site not the others. Let them have it and move on."

On the 5-acre land that the court ordered to be given to the Muslim side, he said: "If they do not take it, that will vitiate the atmosphere because an impression goes out that Muslims are sulking. Instead, they should build a mosque there and make it a symbol of national integration and communal harmony."

Rizvi, who has a diploma in Mechanics from ITI, Kanpur, worked for 30 years in the telecom and manufacturing industry before becoming chairman of the UP Minority Finance Development Corporation. Originally from Lucknow, Rizvi has been national general secretary of the BJP Minority Morcha. During his stint, the NCM formed a committee to look into whether Hindus should get minority status in eight states where they are not the dominant religious group.

At NCP meeting

the idea of aligning with the BJP at the meeting chaired by Sharad Pawar.

It was immediately after this meeting that the NCP first announced its intention to join hands with the Shiv Sena and Congress. Three other senior NCP leaders — party MP Sunil Tatkare, MLA Dhananjay Munde and former Union Minister Praful Patel — are also learnt to have favoured an alliance with the BJP. Tatkare and Munde are known to be Ajit Pawar's loyalists.

But with most of the other leaders opposing the move, Sharad Pawar shot down Ajit Pawar's suggestion and decided to explore the option of a post-poll pact with Shiv Sena and Congress instead.

While the NCP initially maintained that the public mandate was for the party to sit in the Opposition, Sharad Pawar took the initiative of convincing the Congress's central leadership to join a Sena-led government, after the BJP initially declared its inability to form the government without Sena's support.

After the core committee meeting, state NCP president Jayant Patil and national spokesperson Nawab Malik announced the party's intention to "form a non-BJP government in the state."

Pawar's daughter Supriya Sule, former ministers Jitendra Awhad, Anil Deshmukh and Dilip Walse Patil, and two other legislators specially invited by Pawar also attended the meeting.

The day after the meeting, when Sharad Pawar met Congress president Sonia Gandhi in New Delhi on November 18 to discuss the possibility of joining a Sena-led government, Ajit Pawar was also in Delhi. Sources confirmed that he did not accompany Sharad Pawar to Sonia Gandhi's residence, and may have met BJP leaders instead.

The same day, Navneet Kaur Rana, a Congress-NCP backed independent MP from Maharashtra, told TV channels in Delhi that the BJP and NCP would soon come to power in Maharashtra.

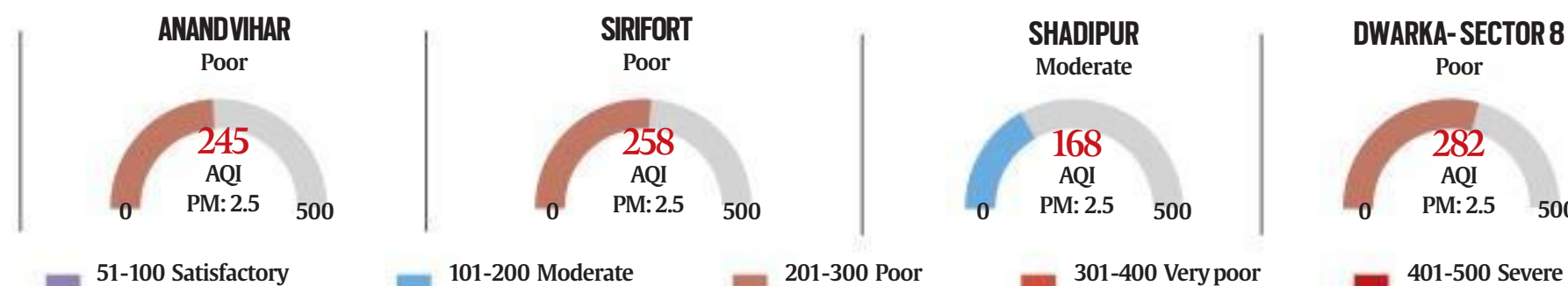
While Ajit Pawar was present for all the subsequent discussions between Congress and NCP leaders in the state and also attended the Sena-NCP-Congress meeting on Friday, a senior Congress leader said he was uncharacteristically silent during the deliberations. On Saturday, Sena leader Sanjay Raut, who also attended Friday's meeting, had claimed that Ajit Pawar's body language during the meeting had aroused suspicion.

Ajit Pawar's departure from Friday's meeting midway went unnoticed as Sharad Pawar, who also stepped out around the same time, announced Uddhav Thackeray's name as the Sena-NCP-Congress alliance's chief ministerial candidate.

Hours later, Ajit Pawar submitted a letter of support in favour of Devendra Fadnavis and was sworn in as the Deputy CM.



0-50 Good



Cab driver found dead in his car in Gurgaon

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GURGAON, NOVEMBER 24

A DAY after a 22-year-old cab driver went missing from Gurgaon's Pataudi, police found his body in his car near a dried-up drain in Pataudi's Khor village Saturday morning. Police said they identified the man, Yusuf, after they issued an advertisement in a local newspaper and were approached by his family.

According to police, Yusuf's family told them that he left home Friday morning to pick up a passenger from Pataudi and didn't return home.

Yusuf's brother Farrukh said, "On Saturday, I couldn't find him at his home or with his friends. Later, we learned that Yusuf's car was found near a drain in Sohna district. Police had seized the car and recovered his body. I went to the hospital and identified his body later."

Yusuf lived in a rented accommodation in Imam Nagar in Gurgaon.

A case of murder and causing disappearance of evidence was registered against unknown persons by Pataudi police after they found injuries on the victim's head and back.

Police suspect that he was killed in a robbery gone wrong and his body may have been dumped in the car later.

A post-mortem was conducted and police are awaiting its result.

Veer Singh, ACP, Pataudi, said, "A case was registered Sunday and we are checking the victim's phone for possible leads. We haven't identified suspects yet and are probing the matter."

THEY WERE RETURNING HOME FROM WEDDING: POLICE

Men on bike fall on 'chemical' spilt on road, 2 dead, 1 injured

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

TWO MEN died and a third sustained injuries after the bike they were travelling on skidded and they fell on a "chemical" that had spilt on the road, police said. The incident took place near Mori Gate at 5.45 am on Saturday. Police suspect the substance caused severe burn injuries to the victims and led to their death Sunday. Investigation revealed that a truck was carrying the substance, which leaked on the road.

DCP(North) Monika Bhardwaj said the three men were on a black Splendor. "After they fell, they experienced a burning sensation on their bodies due to the chemical which is suspected to have leaked from a vehicle. A picket team from Kashmere Gate police station rushed to rescue the men and took them to Aruna Asaf Ali Hospital. Later, the men were referred to Lok Nayak Hospital where two of them died during treatment. The third man is undergoing treatment."

The victims were identified as Mahesh Chand (23) and Shivam Lal (21), while the injured man has been identified as Monu Sharma (22). The men were contractual workers at the New Delhi Railway Station. Police said initial investigation showed that the men weren't speeding and that their bike skidded due to the substance. While Chand and Lal fell on the substance, Sharma fell on the footpath, said police.

A post-mortem examination was conducted and police are awaiting the reports to ascertain the cause of death. A case under IPC sections 285 (negligent conduct with respect



The victims Mahesh Chand (left) and Shivam Lal

to combustible matter) and 337 (causing hurt by act endangering life) has been registered against unknown persons.

Police said the three men were returning home from a friend's wedding in Shiv Vihar and were using their phones to find their way. They had left around 4 am but lost their way and took a long route from Sadar Bazaar to Mori Gate. A senior officer said they have recovered their half-burnt bike.

Police scanned CCTV footage and identified a truck which they suspect was carrying the substance and are now trying to trace the owner. "A Crime branch team went to the spot and collected samples. We have sent them to the Forensic Science Lab to identify the substance and its nature," said DCP Bhardwaj.

Dr Kishore Singh, Medical Director at Lok Nayak Hospital, said Chand and Lal were in a coma when they were brought to the hospital. "Doctors attempted to revive them but they died. The injured man is undergoing treatment in the Neurology department."

He added: "It's hard to say what caused their deaths; we are checking the chemical and considering others factors as well."

JIGNASA SINHA

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

SECONDS AFTER the three men fell from their bike, eyewitnesses said they squirmed on the ground and tried to tear off their clothes. When police arrived at the spot, they noticed a foul-smelling substance on the road.

A head constable posted at Kashmere Gate police station said: "I was deployed with the picket staff at Pul Dufferin when I saw the bike skid around 5.45 am. We rushed to the spot and noticed a foul-smelling chemical. The men were screaming and trying to take off their clothes. Before we could help them, they fainted." An FIR was filed based on his statement.

Picket staff called an ambulance and a PCR van, and rushed Mahesh Chand, Shivam Lal and Monu Sharma to the hospital. Chand and Lal succumbed to their injuries Sunday morning.

Police later found that the substance had leaked from a vehicle a night before the incident.

The victims' families were informed around 9 am.

Chand's father, Subhash (51), said that he took the bike to the wedding on Friday.

"He told me he would first drop his friends and then return home Saturday. I told him to stay back but he said he had to work



The bike was half-burnt, said police

the next day. Later, I received a call from one of his friends that he was injured. I was shocked when I reached the hospital... his head, chest and limbs were red. Police told me that his vital organs were probably burnt but doctors told me to wait for the post-mortem report," said Subhash, who works for a local weekly newspaper. The family lives in a rented accommodation in Dayalpur.

Meanwhile, Lal's family said they are not aware of the cause of his death.

"Doctors said it was the accident, while police said the chemical killed Shivam. On Saturday, we thought that it was only a road accident and that Shivam would survive but doctors later informed us that he is critical. A day later, he died," said Ashish (26), Shivam's elder brother, who lives with his family in Rohini Sector 20.

The men were electricians and were contractual workers at the New Delhi Railway station.

Puri says will make Tiwari Delhi CM, clarifies later

ABHINAV RAJPUT

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

A STATEMENT made by Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri at a public event, where he said the BJP will contest polls in Delhi to make Manoj Tiwari the chief minister, which was followed by a clarification Sunday gave the Aam Aadmi Party a handle to target the party.

Addressing party workers in Tiwari's constituency of North East Delhi, Puri said: "Manoj Tiwari ke netritwa mein hum election ladne ja rahe hain aur inko hum chief minister bana kar hi chorange (We are going to contest Assembly elections under the leadership of Manoj Tiwari and we will ensure that he becomes the chief minister)." Puri is also the co-incharge of the Delhi BJP.

As AAP leaders, including Manish Sisodia and Sanjay Singh, started "congratulating" Tiwari on Twitter, Puri clarified in a tweet: "BJP is moving towards a victory in Delhi. The party has not named anyone as the CM face. Shri Manoj Tiwari is the Delhi BJP president. The party is working enthusiastically under his leadership. My statement meant that BJP will win the upcoming elections with a heavy majority under his leadership."



Union Minister Hardeep Puri addressed party workers in Manoj Tiwari's constituency of North East Delhi. *Express*

According to sources, the BJP has no plans to project a CM face before polls.

Tiwari, who was present at the event, said: "As a state president, my duty is to ensure that we form a government in the state. The issue is not who will be CM; instead we should look at the AAP's restlessness. This shows that they will not be able to sleep at night."

Asked about the possibility of him being the CM face, he said that such decisions are taken by the parliamentary board.

Soon after Puri's statement, AAP leaders Sisodia and Singh had posted a series of tweets.

"I congratulate Manoj Tiwari for being declared the CM candidate for the upcoming assem-

bly polls by BJP," Sisodia wrote.

Singh said that with the announcement, it is certain that AAP would perform better than it did last time. AAP had won 67 out of 70 seats in 2015 polls.

When Puri clarified his statement, Singh tweeted asking BJP to declare the name of its CM face: "Respected Hardeep Puri ji, People of Delhi want to know who is your face in opposition to Arvind Kejriwal. You took Tiwari ji's name but exited the battlefield within two hours. Has BJP given a walkover to Kejriwal?"

BJP sources said that apart from Tiwari, Union Minister Harsh Vardhan and former Union Minister Vijay Goel also fancy their chances should the BJP win in Delhi.

Air quality sees improvement

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

AN UPTICK in windspeed brought air quality in Delhi from 'very poor' Saturday to 'poor' Sunday. While the daily average Air Quality Index (AQI) of 321 was recorded Saturday, it dropped to 234 Sunday. Neighbouring NCR towns also saw an improvement

in air quality.

As per an official forecast by SAFAR, due to an expected dip in windspeed, the concentration of PM2.5 and PM10 — primary pollutants in Delhi — is expected to increase on Monday and Tuesday.

"Strong surface windspeed is the main factor... The AQI is likely to stay in the 'poor' category on November 26, and may improve further, in case of sufficient rains.

The fire counts, as per the SAFAR multi-satellite product estimate, is 349. Stubble transport-level winds are Northwesterly and favourable for plume transport, but high winds won't allow pollutant accumulation," the SAFAR forecast said.

The IMD has forecast a cloudy sky in the capital on Monday. Light rain is expected on Tuesday and Wednesday.

JNU sets up high-level panel to solve fee impasse, keeps out students' union

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU University (JNU) has set up a high-level committee to get "suggestions from student representatives" to find a solution to the ongoing hostel fee hike protests. The circular issued on Sunday, however, was not sent to the four JNU Students' Union (JNUSU) office bearers.

The move comes at a time when the Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry-appointed high-powered committee, set up to look into restoring normalcy on campus, is yet to submit its report in the matter. It is likely to be submitted Monday.

In the circular, Registrar Pramod Kumar said the deadline to submit suggestions was till 5.30 pm Sunday. The university has kept the JNUSU out of meetings, claiming that it had not yet been "notified" due to violation of Lyngdoh Committee Regulations during elections.

"This is for the information of all concerned that a High-Level Committee has been constituted



Students have been protesting for the past few weeks against the hike in hostel fee. *Gajendra Yadav*

by the competent authority to get suggestions from student representatives on finding a solution to the hostel issues," Kumar said in the circular, adding that the suggestions had to be sent to Dean of Students (DoS) Umesh Kadam "before 5.30 pm" on Sunday.

The committee comprises seven members, all members of the administration, and is chaired by Rector III Rana P Singh. The other members in-

clude the DoS, the Associate DoS, one of the five Provosts, and Deans of three schools which include the School of International Studies, School of Sanskrit and Indic Studies, and School of Biotechnology.

JNUSU vice-president Saket Moon said the circular was sent to hostel presidents, and "a few JNUSU councillors", some of whom replied to Kadam with JNUSU's official stand.

"The level of shamelessness

with this administration continues to rise wherein the mail has not been sent to the JNUSU, even as government-appointed committees... recognise the legitimacy of the elected union," said the JNUSU.

"We respectfully submit before the esteemed committee that its very formation is but an act of subverting the IHA (Inter-Hall Administration) Committee, which is a statutory body unto itself... it is the IHA Committee, and not a group of arbitrarily chosen members of the faculty with obvious vested interests, which has the mandate to look into issues concerning the hostels," it added.

The JNUSU said the "only means by which the current impasse" could be broken was by "an unequivocal revocation of the IHA Manual "passed by the IHA Committee on October 28", in which fee hike was also passed. It also reiterated the demand for the V-C's resignation.

Kadam did not respond to calls and texts asking if suggestions had been received by other hostel presidents or councillors.

Before Debts Recovery Tribunal-III, Delhi 4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi - 110001

Notice under section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993

In the matter of O.A. No. 589/2018

CORPORATION BANK

vs Applicant Shri Gaurav Rastogi and Ors.

Defendants To, D-3 Newtech LA-PALACIA Pvt. Ltd. Registered Office at : Unit 219 S/F, Vasundhara Enclave, Plot No. 1, Vardhmann Sunrise Plaza, LSC, Delhi-110096 and Corporate Office at : H-190 Ground Floor, Sector-63, Noida, District Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh - 201301

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in this Tribunal 21-12-2019 at 10.30 A.M.

Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the 31th day of Oct, 2019.

By Order of the Tribunal Assistant Registrar DRT-III, New Delhi

Toddler dies after fall from two-wheeler

New Delhi: A nine-month-old toddler died after she allegedly fell from her grandmother's lap, who was riding pillion on a two-wheeler. According to police, the incident took place outside GTB Hospital last Friday.

Police said the child, a resident of Ghaziabad, was suffering from pneumonia and her uncle and grandmother decided to take her to the hospital. Her uncle was driving, while she was sitting behind on her grandmother's lap.

Police said just as they were entering the hospital, a car was exiting. The child's uncle lost control of the two-wheeler and she fell, a senior police officer said. Police staff at the hospital rushed the child to doctors, where she was declared dead on arrival. **ENS**

Exhibition-Cum-Sale of Handicrafts SPECIAL MARKETING EVENT (For the benefit of Handicraft Artisans)

PRODUCTS ON DISPLAY: Jewellery • Doll • Toy • Leather Goods • Mithila Painting • Applique • Wood Craft • Embroidery & Crochet Goods • Wall Hanging

Date : 21st to 27th November 2019 Time : 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

VENUE : CRAFT MUSEUM Bhairo Marg, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi

Before Debts Recovery Tribunal-III, Delhi 4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi - 110001

Notice under section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993

In the matter of O.A. No. 589/2018 CORPORATION BANK vs Applicant Shri Gaurav Rastogi and Ors. Defendants To, D-3 Newtech LA-PALACIA Pvt. Ltd. Registered Office at : Unit 219 S/F, Vasundhara Enclave, Plot No. 1, Vardhmann Sunrise Plaza, LSC, Delhi-110096 and Corporate Office at : H-190 Ground Floor, Sector-63, Noida, District Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh - 201301

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in this Tribunal 21-12-2019 at 10.30 A.M.

Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the 31th day of Oct, 2019.

By Order of the Tribunal Assistant Registrar DRT-III, New Delhi

Join us on the 11th anniversary of the 26/11 attacks, for a special memorial

Chief Guest Shri Rajnath Singh Hon'ble Union Minister of Defence

Guest of Honour Shri Nitin Gadkari Hon'ble Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways; Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises

Featuring Shri Amitabh Bachchan

Artists Vicky Kaushal, Radhika Apte, Dr. L. Subramaniam, Kavita Krishnamurthy, Zane Dala, Rekha Bharadwaj, Mahesh Kale, Harshdeep Kaur, Divya Kumar, Shilpa Rao, Shiamak Davar Dance Company, Symphony Orchestra of India, The Indian Navy Band, Maharashtra Police Pipe Band

A memorial directed by Anand Tiwari

Free registration on bookmyshow.com

5:00 pm, November 26, Gateway of India, Mumbai

Sat, November 30 9:30 pm StarPlus hotstar

Event produced by WIZCRAFT Hospitality partner THE KJ MARRAS PALACE Mumbai Associate partners TATA LIC IIFL HEALTH Production partner BRIGHT Outdoor partner

Powered by U f adani Star

Supported by BSE sol

Telecom partner Radio partner Youth partner

BRIEFLY

Mandoli Jail inmate beaten with tile, dies

New Delhi: A 46-year-old inmate of Mandoli jail was killed after he was attacked with a tile allegedly by another inmate. The victim was identified as Rajeev Khanna, who was lodged in jail 20 days ago in a case of cheque bouncing. According to police, on Wednesday, Khanna was sleeping inside the bar-rack when Vinod Kumar (26) allegedly attacked him. The motive behind the attack is not known. A Metropolitan Magistrate is conducting a judicial enquiry, police said.

Delhi Cong chief holds rallies in city

New Delhi: Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee president Subhash Chopra Sunday addressed three major Aakrosh Rallies in North East Delhi and East Delhi Parliamentary constituencies. The rallies were part of the Delhi Congress's third phase of the Halla Bol rally, holding the BJP-led Centre responsible for the high unemployment rate, financial slump and the crisis in the farm sector. **ENS**

Man held for pickpocketing

New Delhi: A 23-year-old man was arrested for allegedly stealing the wallet of a passenger in a DTC bus enroute ISBT Anand Vihar, police said Sunday. The accused was identified as Devi Singh, a resident of Jahangirpuri. A case was registered and the accused was handed over to local police.

Man held with Rs 50 lakh at Metro station

New Delhi: A 19-year-old man was apprehended by CISF personnel at Barakhamba Metro station for allegedly carrying Rs 50 lakh cash on behalf of a Gujarat-based transport operator, officials said Sunday. As he was unable to explain why he was carrying such a huge amount, CISF officers summoned his manager who confirmed that he was carrying the cash for the transport operator. As cash transactions of over Rs 2 lakh in one single transaction has been banned since 2017, the case was handed over to Income Tax department. **PTI**

SANITATION WORKER DIES CLEANING DRAIN: MEN OFFERED Rs 300 FOR JOB

Forced by supervisor to enter drain, victim's co-workers tell police

JIGNASA SINHA

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

CO-WORKERS of the 35-year-old sanitation worker who died after inhaling toxic fumes while cleaning a drain alleged they were forced to go inside the manhole by the site supervisor, said police. Investigation also found that the men were offered Rs 300 each for the job and promised safety gear — which they were never given.

The incident took place in North West Delhi's Shakurpur Saturday. Police arrested two men, Public Works Department (PWD) contractor Rajkumar (27) and private supervisor Babloo Ram (25).

DCP (North West) Vijayanta Arya said the men were contractual workers with the PWD and were pressed into service by the department to clean the drain which falls under its jurisdiction. Police said the Delhi Fire



The incident took place in Shakurpur Saturday

Services and locals helped rescue the workers. Ashok, who first entered the drain, was declared dead on arrival. Police said Rohit (30) is critical and was referred to Safdarjung Hospital Sunday. The other two workers, Sai (50) and Gorelal (35), re-

ceived minor injuries and have been discharged.

Police said the accused supervisor, Babloo, has been working with the men for five years. While Ashok's co-workers usually did odd jobs, he mostly worked on maintenance of

roads. This was his second time cleaning a sewer, which proved to be fatal, said police.

The men begun working on the drain on Thursday and had noticed the fumes, added police.

Gorelal, in his complaint, alleged that he asked for safety equipment but Babloo did not give them anything: "Babloo assured us we would get masks and shoes for the job... When we asked for the safety gear after reaching the spot, he told us we wouldn't need it. When I insisted, he threatened us and said he wouldn't pay us for the previous job if we didn't clean the drain."

An officer said: "The victim wasn't aware of the equipment required to clean the manhole and, hence, went in first wearing just a jacket."

Police said Rohit followed Ashok into the drain. When the men didn't come out, Sai climbed down to help them. "All three got stuck inside. I immediately informed Rajkumar and

Babloo but Rajkumar fled the spot," alleged Gorelal.

Meanwhile, police are trying to trace the families of Ashok and Rohit who live in Madhya Pradesh. "We have uploaded their details, along with their pictures, on the Zonal Integrated Police Network and also sent teams to their villages to contact their families. Nobody has come forward to claim Ashok's body. We received information that the victim and his co-workers left their homes 25 years ago."

Meanwhile, hitting out at Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan visited the hospital Sunday and told doctors to ensure the worker gets the best possible treatment.

On Saturday, Leader of Opposition Vijender Gupta had claimed he was prevented by authorities from entering the hospital. Delhi PWD Minister Satyendar Jain has ordered an enquiry into the incident.

‘Will do anything to get unauthorised colonies registered’

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

ASKING PEOPLE to be wary of the Centre's announcement that ownership rights in unauthorised colonies will be granted soon, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Sunday said he will ensure that properties in these areas are registered soon.

"In 2008... two months before the elections, provisional certificates were issued. But the promise to regularise was not carried out. The BJP wants to regularise the colonies but does not want to register them. I promise you all I will do anything to register these colonies... Do not trust anyone unless they grant registration," said Kejriwal, who was speaking at Burari's Sant Nagar after inaugurating development work in the unauthorised colony.

On Saturday, Union Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said the process of regularising unauthorised colonies will be completed within three



Oppn will revoke free travel for women, free power: CM

months, with the DDA set to launch a portal enabling people to file applications for ownership rights on December 16.

While residents from unauthorised colonies supported the AAP in 2013 and 2015 Assembly polls, the BJP is trying to capture the vote bank this time. "Delhi BJP is going from colony to colony to tell people about the announcement," said a senior BJP leader.

Meanwhile, the CM said that the Opposition will roll back initiatives such as free travel for women and 200 units of free power, if elected to power.

New detention policy in schools unlikely this year

SUKRITA BARUAH

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

DELHI SCHOOLS are yet to be notified of amendments in the no-detention policy, which were to be implemented in the 2019-2020 academic year. As a result, educationists believe it is too late in the day to enable schools to detain students in classes V and VIII this session.

Earlier this year, the no-detention policy of the Right to Education Act (RTE), 2009, was amended through a parliamentary bill, stating that a child who fails a regular examination at the end of classes V and VIII will take a re-examination. The relevant central or state governments were asked to decide if they will allow schools to detain children who fail the re-examination.

Amendments in Delhi's policy were cleared in August by the state government, allowing all government, MCD and private schools to hold back students in classes V and VIII if they are unable to clear the re-exam. However, implementation has been stalled.

An education department official confirmed that the notification had been drafted by the department but is still being processed.

"It has to be cleared by a number of different departments; at the moment, it is with the Delhi Law department. Our efforts are directed towards implementing it at the earliest," said the official.

EXPLAINED

Assessment based on written test, extra-curriculars

THE COMMITTEE has recommended changing the assessment model so children are assessed on a variety of criteria apart from standard testing. This includes 15% for attendance; 10% for participation in co-curricular activities like dance, theatre, debates, sports, community service and Olympiads; and 5% based on the attendance of any one of the student's guardians in PTMs.

The 70% of assessment on the basis of testing is recommended to be broken into three parts — 10% based on minimum competency to be attained at primary and upper primary levels; 30% based on 'generic assessment' through questions on a passage, picture or diagram from each subject; and 30% based on standard subject-wise testing as is practiced in schools.

However, another department official said: "It is too late in this year to introduce a change as momentous as this. This is something which needed to be done at the beginning of the academic year... At this stage, students cannot be told they might be detained in the final exams, which are a few months away."

Recommendations for changes in the policy had been made in March by a committee formed to help the Delhi government amend the Delhi Right to Education Rules.

"It will be difficult to notify schools of such wide ranging changes now. The recommendations had been made early, keeping in mind the amount of time that will be required to prepare

for them," said a committee member.

The head of a government school said that while teachers are not ready to implement a "rollback in no-detention" this year, low learning levels in government schools could lead to a large number of drop-outs.

"Right now, many students are reaching class IX without even basic reading, and then are dropping out after not being able to clear class IX examinations. A sudden rollback might see an increase in the number of dropouts at class VI itself. I think we should wait for a few years, until learning levels have improved and at least 70% students are passing without the support of the no-detention policy," said the school head.

Man held for betting on SA league

New Delhi: A 27-year-old man was arrested for allegedly placing bets in the ongoing South Africa's Mazansi Super League cricket match being played in Port Elizabeth, police said

Sunday. According to police, the accused placed bets from his residence in South Delhi's Rajpur Khurd. Police said the accused made a living solely through online betting. **PTI**

VISVESVARAYA JALA NIGAMA LIMITED

(Government of Karnataka Enterprises)

Office of the Executive Engineer, Challakere Division No.06, Challakee. Phone No: 08195-250307 email ID: ubpee06@gmail.com No.: EE/VJNL/UBP/Div-6/Challakere/Tender Notification/2019-20/573 Date: 21-11-2019

CORRIGENDUM TO TENDER

On behalf of the Managing Director, VJNL, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer, VJNL, UBP Division No.06, Challakere, was invited the tenders from the VJNL/KNNL Category-I enrolled contractors with reference to tender notification no.:492 dated 23.10.2019 for construction of Tank filling project of Challakere- Molakalmuru taluka (2019-20 Head of Account IEBR scheme). Due to technical problems tender was cancelled under reference No 536 dated 11.11.2019. Since same work is now divided in to 3 packages& the dates have been changed as follow. The detailed work are listed below.

Name of work: CONSTRUCTION OF CHALLAKERE-MOLKALMURU GRAVITY MAIN PIPED DISTRIBUTION NETWORK FOR TANK FILLING FROM CHITHRADURGA BRANCH CANAL UNDER UPPER BHADRA PROJECT INCLUDING OPERATION AND MAINTAINANCE FOR 5 YEARS AFTER SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF WORK (INDENT NO:1333). **Indent No:** 1333. **Estimated Cost Put to Tender:** 44128.24 Lakhs. **Earnest Money Deposit (EMD):** 441.28 Lakhs. **Last Date for Tender Queries/Clarifications:** 29.11.2019 at 4.00PM. **Pre Bid Meeting at CE, VJNL, Upper Bhadra Project Zone, Chitradurga Office:** 26.11.2019 at 11.00 AM. **Last Date for Receipt of Tenders/Bids through e-portal:** 30.11.2019 at 4.00 PM. **Date of Opening of Technical Bid:** 01.12.2019 at 4.15 PM. **Date of Opening of Financial Bid:** 03.12.2019 at 3.00 PM.

Eligible contractors may obtain all the details from <http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in> online and submit their bid process.

Sd/- Executive Engineer

RO No. 671: DPCR/CTA/MCA/2019-20

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Shabana Khan D/o Khalil ur Rehman W/o Mohd. Amir R/o 1050, Muftiwalan, Gali Shakti Mandir, Tirah Behram Khan, Darya Ganj, New Delhi-2, have changed my name from Shabana Khan to Shabana Begum for all future purposes. 0040521583-1

I, Veenita Pal D/o Natthu Singh Pal R/o Flat-No.-6065, Salwood Tower-1, Mahaganj Mywoods, Sector-16C, Greater Noida West, Uttar Pradesh, have changed my name to Vinita Pal. 0040521612-1

I, Ruby Saluja, W/O Gurdeep Singh R/O-1203, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-110009. Changed my Name to Ruby Sethi, For All Future Purpose. 0040521681-12

I, Sanjay Kumar S/o Ramkumar Garg R/o-33, R-3-A-3, Mohan Garden, Delhi-110059 have changed my name to Sanjay Garg. 0040521800

SALE

I, Rajesh Sharma S/o Late. Birbal Sharma, have Lost Original Possession Letter and Allotment Letter of House No.504, Emperor-1, Supertech Emerald Court Sector-93A, Noida(U.P.) Contact: 9810011227

0040521618-1

SALE

FOR Sale, In Working Condition The Following: Wheel Loader (HM 2021), 2005 Model- 30000 hrs- 2 Nos, Excavator (JCB JS-210) 2011 Model- 16000 hrs- 1 No, Mobile Crane (Escorts K 10) 2006 Model- 7400 hrs (Fully Refurbished By Escorts 6 Months Ago)- 1 No. The Items Are Available For Inspection At Mormugao Harbour, Goa. Only Interested Parties May Contact Mr. Anthony Fernandes On email : anthony.fernandes@jsw.in 0070685112-1

FOR Sale, In Working Condition The Following: Small Sweeping Machine (Dulevo) 2010 Model- 1 No., LT Electric Motor- ABB Make (90, 110, 132 & 200 KW)- 2 Nos. Each, HT Electric Motor- ABB Make (200 & 250 KW)- 2 Nos. Each, Gear Boxes (Eleccon/ Shanthi)- 4 Nos. The Items Are Available For Inspection At Mormugao Harbour, Goa. Only Interested Parties May Contact Mr. Anthony Fernandes On email : anthony.fernandes@jsw.in 0070685117-1

PUBLIC NOTICE

Indian Bank Janak Puri Br: is going to create interest in the property being sold by Sh. Ranbir Sehgal S/o, Sh. N.K. Sehgal and Mrs. Shalini Sehgal W/o, Ranbir Sehgal R/o, 2101 Joy Appt, Sec-2 Plot-2 Dwarka, New Delhi who have lost their original documents Allotment Letter, Demand Letter, Possession Letter and Letter of NOC for Water and Electricity connection for Flat No. C-3A/125A, Janakpuri, New Delhi. If found and if anybody has any interest, right or title in the above Property then please contact within 15 days of this Notice to Shri J.P.Sharma, Br. Mgr, Indian Bank, C-26-27, C Center, Janakpuri, N. Delhi Tel. No. 25501081 Mob: 9958999573



MANY HUES

At the Delhi Queer Pride Parade Sunday. Participants walked from Barakhamba Road to Jantar Mantar. *Gajendra Yadav*

Helpline comes to patients' aid at Delhi govt hospitals

ASTHA SAXENA

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

NEHA SRIVASTAVA (27), who was in her last month of pregnancy, had gone to Pt Madan Mohan Malviya Hospital last month for an ultrasound. Due to give birth on November 22, she was asked to wait till December for the test. After repeated requests to doctors failed, she finally called the Delhi government helpline, 1031.

The helpline is meant for patients and their relatives/attendants at government hospitals to report any kind of lapse in policies of providing free medicines, tests, and surgeries.

"Doctors were rude and told me to come back in December for a simple diagnostic test. They did not even refer me to another hospital. I saw a poster of the helpline number at the hospital, made a call and explained the problem. Within 20 minutes, I received a call from the hospital administration. They gave me a referral prescription and my test was immediately done at another hospital," said Srivastava, who gave birth to a healthy girl two days ago.

Launched by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in 2014, the helpline, initially meant for anti-corruption complaints, was among the major initiatives introduced by the AAP government after free water and elec-

ON THE CALL			
HOSPITAL	COMPLAINTS RELATED TO		
	DRUGS	FREE TESTS	SURGERY DATE
GTB	3,739	771	538
GB Pant	4,262	1,084	566
Lok Nayak	2,627	1,118	548
Baba Saheb Ambedkar	2,668	742	291
DDU	1,978	669	150

Total number of grievances received till date: 80,616

tricity. In 2015, services were extended to hospitals. Administrative charge of the number was given to the health department in 2017.

Dharmendra Kumar, a resident of Kalyan Awas in East Delhi, said: "I was refused medicines at Lal Bahadur Shastri hospital earlier this month. While leaving the premises, I saw the poster about the helpline number and called it to see how it works. Within 30 minutes, I received a call from the hospital's drug store and my problem was resolved."

Long queues, shortage of drugs, unavailability of surgery dates and beds are among top queries raised by patients, said officials.

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain told *The Indian Express*, "Through this helpline number, we have been able to

address patient-related issues across government hospitals in Delhi. Now, if any patient or an attendant is unable to get medicines, beds, or face any other issue, they can simply dial the number. We have a nodal officer in each hospital to coordinate with patients."

As per officials, when a complainant dials the number, the issue is passed on to the nodal officer at the hospital concerned. The officer has to immediately call the patient to his/her room to address the issue and report the resolution.

Notices and display boards displaying the number have been put up in hospitals for patients to call if they do not get medicines for free; face problems in free tests or surgery in private hospitals; or if government hospitals fail to conduct surgeries within 30 days.

Soon, survey to legalise hawkers in the capital

ANANYA TIWARI

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

TO LEGALISE street vending and hawking across the capital, town vending committees (TVCs) will conduct surveys of vendors as per the Street Vendors Act, 2014, in the coming weeks.

As per the Street Vendors Act, 2014, eviction of vendors is illegal before a survey is conducted by the TVCs, and before vending zones are declared and licences are issued to surveyed vendors.

The Delhi government's urban development department has agreed to assist municipalities in the survey. Manisha Saxena, principal secretary of the department, said, "We are empanelling agencies to help the TVCs."

The proposal inviting bids from surveying agencies was put online on October 31 and on November 6, the urban development department held a pre-bid meeting with five agencies.

Several evicted vendors met SDMC and DDMC officials on November 19 to demand their inclusion in the survey. Ramesh Verma, additional commissioner SDMC, said, "We will meet vendors and officials to discuss it."

In the past few months, hawkers have been evicted from Jama Masjid, Darya Ganj Book Bazaar, Lajpat Nagar and Karol Bagh.

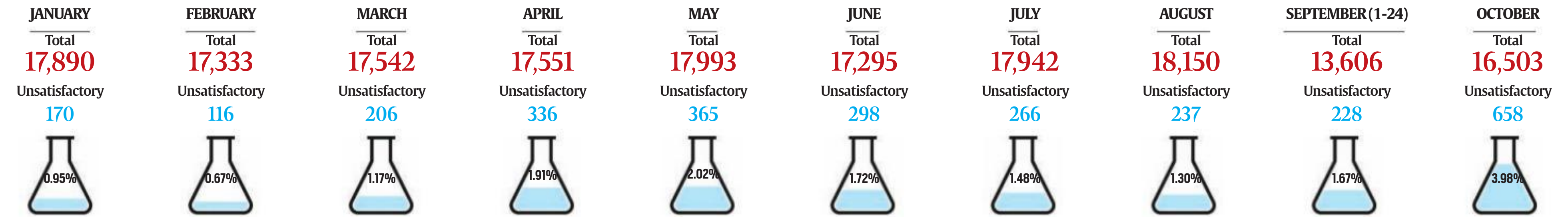
der Priority-II", it read.

An education department official had told *The Indian Express* that the aim is to transition a portion of these schools into co-ed single-shift schools by April, in time for the next academic session, and the rest by July, in time for when the children return from their summer vacation.

For now, deputy directors of education have been asked to "comment on the feasibility of the conversion" and send proposals for conversion of other schools.

7 HARDLOOK

WATER SAMPLES TESTED BY THE DELHI JAL BOARD IN 2019



Source: DJB

A CHALLENGE has been thrown to the Aam Aadmi Party-led Delhi government by the Centre just before the national capital goes to polls early next year, this time over the city's water quality. A recent report by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), released by Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan, found the capital's drinking water quality as the worst among 21 cities surveyed, including Mumbai, Hyderabad and Kolkata. Soon after, debates raged in the Parliament, press conferences and online, with terms such as "politically motivated," "poison water" and "scaremongering" thrown into the mix. A re-test is about to happen over the next few weeks of 3,000 water samples from across the city — a far higher number than the 11 samples assessed by the BIS — to determine the "truth".

Against this backdrop, *The Indian Express* followed the journey of Delhi's water, from the source to the tap, to understand and assess how it reaches our homes.

The process

"An experienced eye can easily tell the turbidity in water by just looking at it," said a central laboratory officer at the Delhi Jal Board's Haiderpur water treatment plant (WTP), who did not wish to be named. Turbidity is a measure of suspended particles in water — a higher turbidity makes water more cloudy.

"There have been times, around monsoon, when it reached as high as 6,000 and the water then looks red because a lot of mud gets mixed in it. But we can still bring it down to 1, as is the quality standard," the officer said.

Delhi's two main surface water sources are the Yamuna and Ganga which, officials said, account for around 90% of the water supply. The remaining is covered by ground water. Of the 10 treatment plants run by the DJB, the Sonia Vihar and Bhagirathi WTPs in East Delhi get raw water from the Ganga through pipelines stretching from Muradnagar in Uttar Pradesh, while eight others rely on the Yamuna and ground water supply. The process starts after raw water enters the treatment plant.

At Haiderpur, guards are on patrol near a Yamuna canal that supplies water to it to keep "miscreants" away. Inside, the water passes through four processes before it is released to the public. The first is pre-chlorination, which removes impurities at the start. In the next step, polyaluminium chloride and alum is mixed into the water to remove mud and dirt.

"Together they act as a coagulant, meaning they clump the suspended particles in the water so they can be removed in the clariflocculator," the Haiderpur officer said. In a clariflocculator, which is a large round open tank, clumped particles settle at the bottom and are scraped away as sludge from an outlet below, while clear water is sent further and passed through sand and gravel filters.

An officer, who is part of the treatment operations team in the plant, keeps a register with a neatly drawn table of 13 columns for each parameter that is checked in the water on an hourly basis, before and after treatment, including turbidity, pH level and ammonia. A recent graduate assists the team in testing the water samples in a one-room laboratory.

The plant runs day and night, and staff keep changing every eight hours. The central lab in the plant, equipped with more advanced testing technologies, also checks raw and treated water quality against 30 parameters, with standards set by the BIS. "If any parameter is found to be higher than the standard, we have to make quick decisions. For instance, if ammonia is found to be high, then we either have to dilute raw water or shut production completely," the officer said.

In the BIS report, all 11 water samples had failed in 19 parameters, including ammonia,

WATER'S JOURNEY

The recent face-off between a Union Minister and the Delhi government has raised a crucial question: How clean is Delhi's water?
SHIVAM PATEL traces its route from two rivers to your tap, and discovers the checks and balances along the way

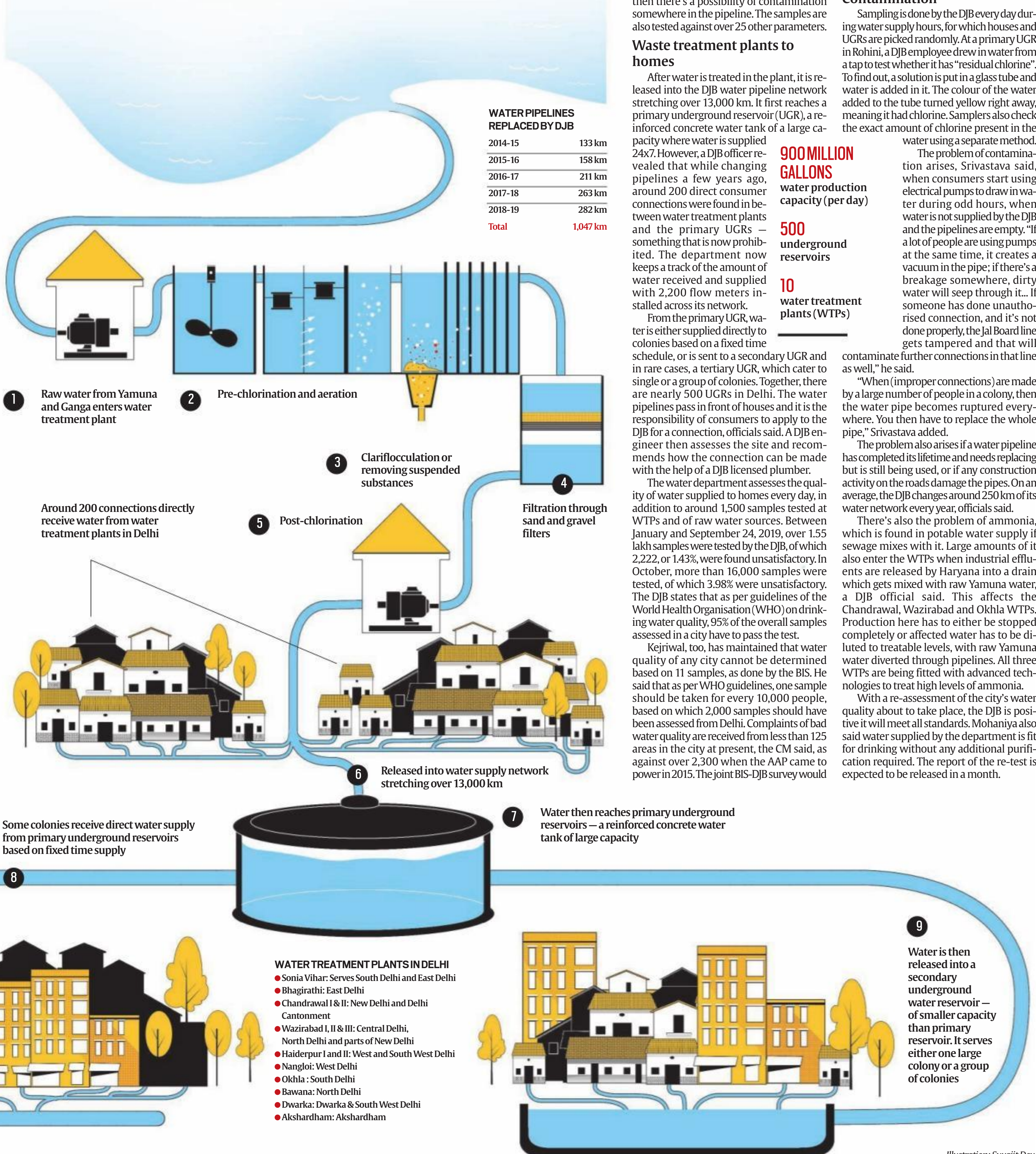


Illustration: Suvajit Dey

turbidity and pH level. Paswan, who had released the report on November 16, had said in Parliament that water supplied by the DJB was not fit for drinking and had challenged Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for a retest. The CM, in turn, called the report false and politically motivated. At present, officials from both DJB and BIS have been appointed for a re-assessment.

Back at the Haiderpur plant, the "political situation" is mentioned occasionally and quickly shrugged off, but a certain pressure is apparent. "I can guarantee that the water which goes out to the public from here is safe for drinking," the operations officer at the plant said, holding up clear water in his hand after it has passed through the sand and gravel filters.

The final treatment process is post-chlorination. "We add chlorine because... if there is any bacteria, virus or contaminant somewhere in the pipeline, the chlorine reacts with it and kills it after which its own presence is reduced," said Ankit Srivastava, technical advisor to the DJB.

He said the presence of this "residual chlorine" is tested in about 500 water samples the DJB collects every day from its supply network across the city. If it is not found, then there's a possibility of contamination somewhere in the pipeline. The samples are also tested against over 25 other parameters.

Waste treatment plants to homes

After water is treated in the plant, it is released into the DJB water pipeline network stretching over 13,000 km. It first reaches a primary underground reservoir (UGR), a reinforced concrete water tank of a large capacity where water is supplied 24x7. However, a DJB officer revealed that while changing pipelines a few years ago, around 200 direct consumer connections were found in between water treatment plants and the primary UGRs — something that is now prohibited. The department now keeps a track of the amount of water received and supplied with 2,200 flow meters installed across its network.

From the primary UGR, water is either supplied directly to colonies based on a fixed time schedule, or is sent to a secondary UGR and in rare cases, a tertiary UGR, which cater to single or a group of colonies. Together, there are nearly 500 UGRs in Delhi. The water pipelines pass in front of houses and it is the responsibility of consumers to apply to the DJB for a connection, officials said. A DJB engineer then assesses the site and recommends how the connection can be made with the help of a DJB licensed plumber.

The water department assesses the quality of water supplied to homes every day, in addition to around 1,500 samples tested at WTPs and of raw water sources. Between January and September 24, 2019, over 1.55 lakh samples were tested by the DJB, of which 2,222, or 1.43%, were found unsatisfactory. In October, more than 16,000 samples were tested, of which 3.98% were unsatisfactory. The DJB states that as per guidelines of the World Health Organisation (WHO) on drinking water quality, 95% of the overall samples assessed in a city have to pass the test.

Kejriwal, too, has maintained that water quality of any city cannot be determined based on 11 samples, as done by the BIS. He said that as per WHO guidelines, one sample should be taken for every 10,000 people, based on which 2,000 samples should have been assessed from Delhi. Complaints of bad water quality are received from less than 125 areas in the city at present, the CM said, as against over 2,300 when the AAP came to power in 2015. The joint BIS-DJB survey would

test five samples from homes in every municipal ward — apart from UGRs, treatment plants and raw water sources — and the results would be put out in public domain.

The AAP has questioned the process adopted by the BIS for its recent water quality report. DJB vice-chairman and AAP MLA Dinesh Mohaniya has alleged that the standards body may not have tested all 11 samples — he claimed one was taken from an address that did not exist and the occupant of another said no sample was collected from his place.

He also claimed that one sample was taken from the house of a member of Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) and that at a fourth address, the occupant said an LJP worker had collected the water sample and not the BIS. The DJB also tested samples from 9 out of 11 addresses covered by the BIS, of which eight were found fit for drinking, Mohaniya said.

Paswan, on the other hand, has challenged the CM to remove ROs (reverse osmosis purifiers) from Delhi government offices: "If tap water in Delhi is pure, then Kejriwal should announce the removal of ROs from government offices and start providing tap water in official meetings."

Contamination

Sampling is done by the DJB every day during water supply hours, for which houses and UGRs are picked randomly. At a primary UGR in Rohini, a DJB employee drew in water from a tap to test whether it has "residual chlorine". To find out, a solution is put in a glass tube and water is added in it. The colour of the water added to the tube turned yellow right away, meaning it had chlorine. Samplers also check the exact amount of chlorine present in the water using a separate method.

The problem of contamination arises, Srivastava said, when consumers start using electrical pumps to draw in water during odd hours, when water is not supplied by the DJB and the pipelines are empty. "If a lot of people are using pumps at the same time, it creates a vacuum in the pipe; if there's a breakage somewhere, dirty water will seep through it... if someone has done unauthorised connection, and it's not done properly, the Jal Board line gets tampered and that will contaminate further connections in that line as well," he said.

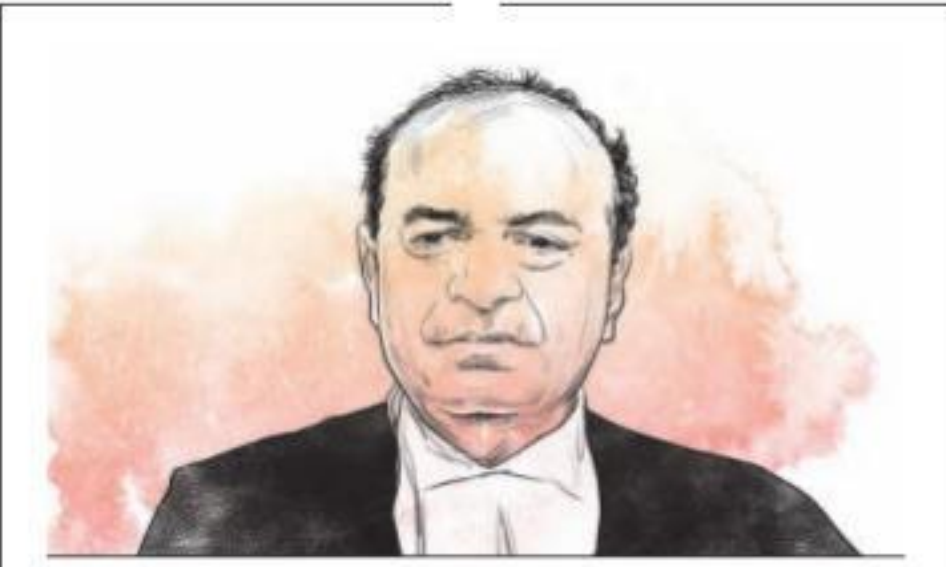
"When (improper connections) are made by a large number of people in a colony, then the water pipe becomes ruptured everywhere. You then have to replace the whole pipe," Srivastava added.

The problem also arises if a water pipeline has completed its lifetime and needs replacing but is still being used, or if any construction activity on the roads damage the pipes. On an average, the DJB changes around 250 km of its water network every year, officials said.

There's also the problem of ammonia, which is found in potable water supply if sewage mixes with it. Large amounts of it also enter the WTPs when industrial effluents are released by Haryana into a drain which gets mixed with raw Yamuna water, a DJB official said. This affects the Chandrawal, Wazirabad and Okhla WTPs. Production here has to either be stopped completely or affected water has to be diluted to treatable levels, with raw Yamuna water diverted through pipelines. All three WTPs are being fitted with advanced technologies to treat high levels of ammonia.

With a re-assessment of the city's water quality about to take place, the DJB is positive it will meet all standards. Mohaniya also said water supplied by the department is fit for drinking without any additional purification required. The report of the re-test is expected to be released in a month.

8 GOVT & POLITICS

DELHI **CONFIDENTIAL**

THE UNNAMED MLAS

IN A repeat of the 2018 Supreme Court hearing in the Karnataka government formation case, a "group of independent Bharatiya Janata Party legislators" got a hearing in the apex court on Sunday in connection with the government formation in Maharashtra. Curiously, in both cases, the BJP MLAs remained unnamed and former Attorney General and senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi appeared for them. While the court noted that Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and the BJP were not represented, the arguments advancing the party's position were made by the unnamed MLAs.

EXPANDING OFFICE

THE BJP, which is keen to expand its footprints across the country, seems to be in a mood to expand its space in Parliament Building too. The room between BJP's parliamentary party office and the room used by Atal Bihari Vajpayee and L K Advani was allotted to the TDP. However, with the TDP shrinking in size, it has been officially slotted for the YSRCP, although the TDP is not in a mood to vacate it immediately. But the small office attached to the TDP's room is locked out and the party MPs are using only the main hall. Sources said the BJP wants to extend its office to this room, which would give them more space and a smooth passage in between its two rooms. The BJP's argument is that neither the TDP nor YSRCP requires such a vast space inside the complex whereas with 303 MPs, it needs that space.

STAYING AWAY

AFTER SEVERAL requests and reminders for restoring Internet connection on the campus of National Institute of Technology in Srinagar, the J&K administration finally restored partial access to Internet. This, however, may not lead to final-year students coming back soon. A large number of fourth-year students have left the institute to prepare for GATE examination and for job placements. Since, there is no WiFi access on campus even now, students who left to prepare for GATE may not come back.

MP's first non-Cong CM Kailash Chandra Joshi dies at 90

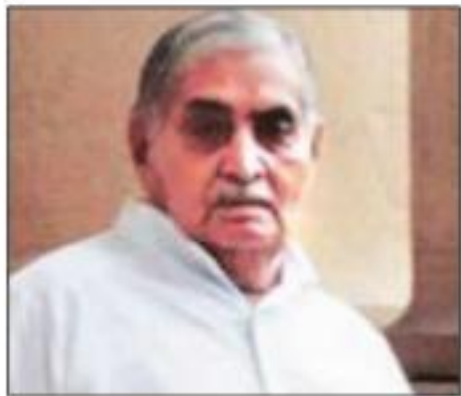
EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BHOPAL, NOVEMBER 24

KAILASH CHANDRA Joshi, the first non-Congress chief minister of Madhya Pradesh, died at a private hospital in Bhopal after prolonged illness. He was 90. The state government has announced a three-day state mourning.

Joshi will be cremated at his native place in Hatpipliya in Dewas district on Monday.

In the elections held immediately after the Emergency was lifted, the Janata Party defeated the Congress and Joshi became CM for less than seven months between June 1977 and January 1978 — he resigned on health grounds. Before being elected as the CM, he was the Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly for five years.

His long career began with a membership of the Bharatiya Jansangh. Describing him as a stalwart who contributed strongly to MP's growth, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Joshi worked hard to strengthen



Kailash Chandra Joshi

the Jana Sangh and the BJP in central India and made a mark as an effective legislator.

Chief Minister Kamal Nath said the loss was irreparable and described the BJP stalwart as soft spoken.

Besides representing Bagli in Dewas district eight times, Joshi was also the Bhopal MP between 2004 and 2014. He also represented the state in the Rajya Sabha. He was twice the state president of the BJP. His son Deepak Joshi was the school education minister in the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government. Calling him 'saint-like', Chouhan said Joshi was simple and avoided pretence.

UP Cong expels 10 over indiscipline

MAULSHREE SETH LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 24

THREE DAYS after the Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee (UPCC) issued showcause notices to 11 state leaders for holding an "unnecessary" meeting against a decision of the All India Congress Committee, 10 of the leaders were expelled from the party for six years on Sunday.

The 11 leaders had recently held a meeting at the residence of former MP Santosh Singh in Lucknow and raised concerns over fresh appointments in the state Congress committee, including those who had recently joined the party. They had also

decided to meet Congress president Sonia Gandhi to express their concerns and to hold a convention in Western UP of state leaders who felt sidelined in the new committee.

Those expelled include veteran leader Ram Krishna Dwivedi and Satya Dev Tripathi, who served as chairman and member of the disciplinary committee, respectively, and were also state ministers. Others on the list include former MLAs Mudhar Narayan Mishra, Vinod Chaudhary, Nek Chandra Pandey, former Youth Congress president Swayam Prakash Goswami and former Gorakhpur district president Sanjeev Singh.

MAHA DRAMA

In show of unity, Pawar, Uddhav meet NCP MLAs

NEERAJ TIWARI & IRAM SIDDIQUI MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 24

IN AN attempt to put up a united face after the Ajit Pawar-led split in the NCP, party chief Sharad Pawar and Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray met NCP legislators together on Sunday.

During the two-hour meeting at the Renaissance hotel in Andheri (East) where the MLAs have been sequestered, both leaders told the NCP legislators that they had no reason to be worried and that the Sena-NCP alliance was sustainable and long-lasting.

Legislators told *The Indian Express* that Sharad Pawar also asked if the MLAs felt pressured or were at the hotel under duress. Many of them are said to have replied that they had been contacted by the Ajit Pawar camp.

The NCP has claimed that 48 of its 56 MLAs were present during the interaction. Sharad Pawar was the first to arrive at the hotel and he subsequently held talks with them.

"He asked whether the MLAs were fine and whether they were under any duress or pressure. Some of them said that they had been contacted by members of the Ajit Pawar camp to switch over. The MLAs, however, said that their loyalties were with Sharad Pawar and they would stay with him," an insider who was privy to the meeting said.

After Uddhav arrived, the two leaders had a detailed discussion before meeting the legislators together. The two leaders also had an extended personal chat with NCP leader Dhananjay Munde, a close associate of Ajit Pawar. It was at Munde's residence that the rebel MLAs had gathered on Saturday morning ahead of the swearing-in of Devendra Fadnavis as Chief Minister and Ajit Pawar as Deputy Chief Minister.

Munde had remained incommunicado to Sharad Pawar. His phone had remained switched off after the swearing-in ceremony, and no NCP leader was able to reach him until his appearance at the legislators'



Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray addresses NCP legislators at Hotel Renaissance, Mumbai, on Sunday. NCP chief Sharad Pawar and Sena leader Sanjay Raut were also present. PTI

meeting on Saturday evening.

Subsequently, the two leaders held a joint meeting with all the NCP legislators where Uddhav assured them that the NCP-Sena relationship was not for short term gains but was an alliance for the future. Yuva Sena chief and Worli MLA Aaditya Thackeray was also present.

"Don't think that this relationship is limited to five years. This pact is for long term. We have the majority and be rest assured that the 'Maha Vikas Aghadi' will form the government in the state," Uddhav told the MLAs.

Interestingly, the Shiv Sena as well as NCP leaders and workers kept a combined vigil around the hotel premises to ensure that any attempts to poach MLAs were stalled.

NCP MLA Jitendra Awhad complained about the presence of policemen in plainclothes on the hotel premises and accosted a few of them. "I do not understand the need for deployment of plainclothes policemen in the hotel when the political situation in the state is volatile. This is a classic case of intimidation by the government," Awhad said.

Meanwhile, Congress leaders also complained that their legislators were being approached. The 44 Congress MLAs are presently at the Marriott near the international airport.

Former CM Ashok Chavan said attempts were being made to poach Congress MLAs. "There are attempts being made to contact our MLAs. We have had instances of BJP members booking rooms in the hotel and trying to get in touch with our MLAs," he said, adding that he was sure the legislators would stay united despite all such attempts.

Meanwhile, the Congress legislators were also given a briefing on the impact of defection on membership of the Legislature Assembly. The MLAs were given a detailed briefing on how legislators in Karnataka lost their membership when they defected and how they had to approach the SC to be eligible to fight elections again. "They were also reminded of the pact between the Congress-NCP and Shiv Sena to field a combined candidate against any member who defects," a source said.

BJP, Ajit shying away from floor test: Cong

New Delhi: The Congress thanked the Supreme Court for taking up a joint petition of Congress, NCP and Shiv Sena on Sunday "considering the urgency" of the matter. "The BJP and Ajit Pawar are shying away and running away from proving majority on the floor of the House, while the alliance of the three parties constituted in the interest of Maharashtra has full majority...it will be proved that the BJP in a surreptitious midnight operation...constituted an illegitimate government, which will fall in a floor test," Congress communication department head Randeep Surjewala said.

ENS

What SC said on Gov's role in earlier rulings

ANANTHAKRISHNAN NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

THE SUPREME Court on Sunday sought the letter submitted by Devendra Fadnavis to Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari claiming majority support, and the Governor's letter inviting him to form the government. A perusal of these documents will help decide whether due process was followed in inviting the BJP leader to take oath as Chief Minister.

A corollary to this is the independence of the office of the Governor, as discussed in various judgments of the top court, starting with the historic March 1994 decision in the S R Bommai case.

Discussing the scope of exercise of powers under Article 356 of the

Constitution, the Supreme Court, in the Bommai judgment, had laid down limits of the President's power in dismissing state governments, and established that the floor of the House is the only place to conclusively test majority.

In their petition, the Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress have contended that at the time of government formation, the Governor is duty bound to select a chief minister who can demonstrate that he enjoys the confidence of majority of the legislators in the House. They have cited the Supreme Court's decision, in January 2006, in the case of Rameshwar Prasad and Others Vs Union of India and Another to buttress this.

Discussing the role of Governors in government formation, a bench headed by then Chief



Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari

Justice of India Y K Sabharwal, and including then Justices K G Balakrishnan, BN Agrawal, Ashok Bhan and Arjit Pasayat, had said that a political party having prima facie support has to be permitted to form the government, and it would have to ultimately prove majority on the floor of the House.

The petitioners have said there has to be some cogent material, in the form of letters of support, to arrive at such a prima facie conclusion, and the discretion

bestowed on the Governor cannot be arbitrary, but must be bound by constitutional provisions and conventions.

The petition says the BJP has shown no such demonstration, either by way of letters of support or physically parading the MLAs, and the party clearly falls short of the halfway mark. The three parties have also contended that the BJP cannot achieve the numbers by breaking other parties in view of the anti-defection law.

The verdict in the Rameshwar Prasad case referred to the Bommai judgment, which was delivered by a nine-judge bench, and said the role of the Governor had come in for considerable criticism on the ground that some Governors had failed to display the quality of impartiality ex-

pected of them. The Sarkaria Commission Report, the court noted, had said that "many have traced this mainly to the fact that the Governor is appointed by, and holds office during the pleasure of the President, i.e., in effect, the Union Council of Ministers."

The Supreme Court had said the Governor's action should be to protect the Constitution and not to promote the political interests of any political party. "Undisputedly, a Governor is charged with the duty to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the laws, has a concomitant duty and obligation to preserve democracy and not to permit the 'canker' of political defections to tear into the vitals of the Indian democracy," it had said, adding that the courts could look into any mala fide decision.

Later on November 9, the apex court delivered its historic verdict, again on Saturday, in the Ram Jannabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute case in Ayodhya granting entire 2.77 acre of disputed land in Ayodhya to deity Ram Lalla. This is the third instance when the apex court this year held hearing on a holiday. Last year in May 2018, the top court had heard a matter during midnight when Congress challenged the invitation by the Governor to the BJP to form the government in Karnataka.

On July 29, 2015, the apex court had sat through midnight to consider an urgent plea to stay the scheduled execution of lone death row convict of 1993 Mumbai blasts case, Yakub Memon, at 6 am the next day.

In 1985, the apex court's doors were opened past midnight to hear the bail plea of a prominent businessman who was charged under the stringent FERA law.

In the infamous Ranga-Billa case, a bench headed by Justice Y V Chandrachud, who held office of Chief Justice of India from February 22, 1978 to July 11, 1985, sat late in the night to consider a plea that they should not be hanged.



Ajit Pawar

of the legislative assembly to permit several local channels to broadcast the trust vote live.

In the 2016 trust vote, in which then Congress chief minister Harish Rawat proved his majority, the Supreme Court had directed that the registrar general of the Uttarakhand High Court would be present as an observer.

Another issue that would be key to the outcome of the floor test is who is recognised as the NCP's legislature party leader.

Although the NCP MLAs on Saturday sacked Ajit Pawar as the legislature party leader, denouncing his letter of support to the BJP and appointed Jayant Patil in his place, the Speaker would ultimately decide on who would be recognised as the party whip on the floor of the House. Since Patil's election was after Ajit Pawar extended NCP support, if the Speaker allows him to issue a whip to NCP MLAs, then the Speaker could disqualify the party's MLAs who defy the whip. NCP lawyers told the apex court that 41 MLAs were present in the meet sacking Ajit Pawar.

Maharashtra BJP leader Ashish Shelar has already called the sacking of Ajit Pawar "legally invalid" since it did not have the Governor's approval.

The Congress-NCP-Sena's lawyers would be conscious of the advantage of getting the court's nod on this aspect as well.

Third special hearing in top court on non-working day this year

New Delhi: The hearing on Sunday in the Supreme Court on the Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress combine plea is the third instance this year when the apex court held a special proceeding on a non-working day.

On April 20, the top court held an extraordinary hearing on Saturday after a former employee of the apex court accused then Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi of sexual harassment and persecution.

Later on November 9, the apex court delivered its historic verdict, again on Saturday, in the Ram Jannabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute case in Ayodhya granting entire 2.77 acre of disputed land in Ayodhya to deity Ram Lalla.

This is the third instance when the apex court this year held hearing on a holiday.

Last year in May 2018, the top court had heard a matter during midnight when Congress challenged the invitation by the Governor to the BJP to form the government in Karnataka.

On July 29, 2015, the apex court had sat through midnight to consider an urgent plea to stay the scheduled execution of lone death row convict of 1993 Mumbai blasts case, Yakub Memon, at 6 am the next day.

In 1985, the apex court's doors were opened past midnight to hear the bail plea of a prominent businessman who was charged under the stringent FERA law.

In the infamous Ranga-Billa case, a bench headed by Justice Y V Chandrachud, who held office of Chief Justice of India from February 22, 1978 to July 11, 1985, sat late in the night to consider a plea that they should not be hanged.

PTI

EXPLAINED

Discretionary powers limited

ALTHOUGH THE decisions made by the office of the Governor enjoy immunity from judicial review, the Supreme Court has in a series of verdicts defined the contours of the discretionary powers of a Governor. The court has held that the discretionary power of a Governor is very limited and even in that limited area, the exercise of power cannot be arbitrary or fanciful and must be in good faith and bound by convention.

petitioners also alleged that the Governor overlooked a post-poll alliance and administered the oath to the BJP's chief ministerial candidate. In Karnataka, the Congress and JD(S) had announced a post-poll alliance though the Governor invited the BJP, the single largest party, to form the government.

In the Karnataka case, senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, who appeared for Congress, hinged his

case on whether the Governor wrongly relied on Yediyurappa's letter claiming to have 111 MLAs (BJP has 104) staking claim to form the government. However, Singhvi did not produce the letter and the court did not stay the floor test that was scheduled for the next day. The court asked Yediyurappa to produce his letter to the Governor after an unprecedented three-and-a-half-hour marathon hearing that took place

in the early hours of May 17, 2018.

The SC noted in the next hearing, after Yediyurappa was sworn in as chief minister, that the letter only conveyed Yediyurappa's assertion of having majority to stake claim, and not numbers or signatures of the MLAs. The court then ordered a floor test the very next day, virtually setting aside the Governor's order granting the government 15 days to prove its majority on the floor of the House.

On the same lines, Singhvi, appearing for the Congress and NCP, questioned the Governor's decision to rely on Fadnavis's letter. Both Singhvi and senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who appeared for the Shiv Sena, argued that the Governor's decision was "unconstitutional".

Since Fadnavis has already been sworn in, the court agreed to look into the merits of the Governor's decision. On Sunday, the Supreme Court asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta



NORTH

SIT formed to probe Akali leader's murder

Chandigarh: The Punjab Police on Sunday constituted a special investigation team (SIT) to probe the murder of an Akali leader in Punjab's Gurdaspur. The move came days after police failed to make any arrest in the case. Batala Senior Superintendent of Police Opinderjit Singh Ghuman on Sunday said the SIT will comprise two senior officers, two inspectors and the station house officer of the Kotli Surat Malhi police station. Dalbir Singh Dhilwan (51), who was a two-time sarpanch and the vice-president of the Gurdaspur unit of the Shiromani Akali Dal, was killed following an altercation on November 18. **PTI**



Security personnel use water cannons to disperse protesting Congress workers during Jan Vedna March, in Patna on Sunday. **PTI**

EAST

Chhattisgarh: 3 Maoists held, two women ultras surrender

Sukma: Three Maoists were arrested and two women ultras surrendered in separate places in Sukma district, police said on Sunday. Lower rung operatives Kawasi Singa (40), Podiyam Aayta (42) and Madkam Somda (22) were apprehended on Saturday near Timelwada village by a security team on a search operation, a police official said. In the other incident, women ultras Podiyam Somdi (24) and Madvi Muke (27) surrendered before senior police and CRPF officials in Sukma town on Saturday, he said. While Somdi was active as a militia platoon member, Muke was part of the Chetna Nayan Mandli (CNM), a cultural wing of the Maoists, he said. **PTI**

WEST

Man held with 'purple ecstasy' worth Rs 4.85 lakh

Mumbai: A 25-year-old man was arrested from outside a mall in suburban Malad on Saturday with Rs 4.85 lakh worth of 'purple ecstasy' tablets, or methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), a psychoactive drug, police said. These tablets can pass off as purple confectioneries to the untrained eye and help peddlers sell it to youth, especially collegians, without arousing much suspicion, an official said. Utkarsh Patange was held with 97 purple ecstasy tablets by the Kandivli unit of the Anti-Narcotics Cell (ANC) from outside Inorbit Mall in Malad West on Saturday, he said. "We are working on unravelling the peddler network in this case," he said. **PTI**

SOUTH

Retired policeman found dead in Kerala

Kottayam: A 62-year-old retired policeman was found dead with stab injuries near here on Sunday morning, police said. Retired Additional Sub Inspector C R Sasidharan was found lying in a pool of blood in Mudiyoorkkara area on Gandhinagar-Medical college road at around 6 am by the pedestrians, they said. Police suspect the death of Sasidharan to be a case of murder. Sasidharan was allegedly hacked to death when he had gone for a morning walk at 5 am. There were injury marks on the backside of his head and left hand, they added. He is survived by wife and two children. An investigation has been launched into the incident, police said, while speaking to reporters. **PTI**

MANN KI BAAT: MODI THANKS NATION FOR EMBRACING SC VERDICT

PM: Country moving forward with fresh hopes after Ayodhya verdict

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi thanked the nation on Sunday for embracing the Supreme Court verdict in the Ayodhya case peacefully.

In Mann Ki Baat, his monthly radio address to the nation, he said, "130 crore Indians have proved that there is nothing above national interest for them by upholding the values of unity and harmony. The verdict on Ram Temple was welcomed by people across the country peacefully."

"While the long legal battle has ended, the respect towards the judiciary has also grown. This verdict has also proved to be a milestone for our judiciary," he said.

The Prime Minister also said that after the Supreme Court's verdict, "the country is moving forward with fresh hopes and expectations in a new direction".

"I wish that the new India

moves forward with this message of peace, unity and harmony," he added.

The Prime Minister also urged school students and teachers across the country to participate in the 'Fit India Week', an initiative by the Central Board of Secondary Education to promote fitness among students.

"Do not forget that Fit India does not mean only mental fitness, or watching fitness videos on mobiles and computers. It means sweating it out and changing unhealthy food habits," he said, urging every school to observe Fit India week in December.

He announced that schools will be ranked according to their approach towards fitness and schools achieving the top rankings — three stars and five stars — will be awarded the Fit India logo and flag. Schools can declare themselves fit on the Fit India online portal.

The Prime Minister expressed regret that the Brahmaputra Pushkar, a cultural

festival on the banks of the river Brahmaputra that was held from November 4-6, did not "get the publicity it deserved" even when celebration of our culture, languages and civilization gives the message of "unity in diversity".

"Maybe if someone had named it International River Festival or used such big words, then surely there are some people in our country who would have discussed it," he said. He encouraged citizens to participate in such celebrations not only in their regions but also in other parts of the country.

He also spoke about the country's linguistic diversity and highlighted the efforts of a small group of people in Uttarakhand's Dharchula, who came together to preserve their language and further their culture.

The Prime Minister began his address by interacting with four NCC cadets, marking NCC Day that falls on the fourth Sunday of every November.

"I have also been an NCC cadet and I am still one at heart,"

he said, recalling his experiences as a cadet.

When one of the cadets asked him had he not been a politician, what he would have been, he said, "Now this is a very difficult question because every child goes through multiple phases in life. Sometimes one wants to become this, sometimes one wants to become that, but it is true that I never had the desire to enter politics, nor did I ever think about it."

He said that now that he is a politician, "I keep thinking how I can work for the welfare of the country." He also talked about the Armed Forces Flag Day which falls on 7 December and urged everyone to raise the flag of the armed forces. "Merely remembering the valour and contribution of our soldiers is not enough and we must also contribute to the celebrations," he said.

Answering a question from a student on the MyGov app about the 'Pariksha pe Charcha' event, he said that the event might happen in January.

Punjab woman murdered in Canada

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JALANDHAR, NOVEMBER 24

A 21-YEAR-OLD girl from Jalandhar has been murdered in Canada, her family were informed Sunday. Prabhleen Kaur (21) hailed from Chitti village near Lambra in Jalandhar district and had gone to Canada on a study visa.

"My daughter has gone there on November 14, 2016 and was working full-time after completing her course," said Prabhleen's father, Gurdial Singh Matharoo. Prabhleen studied business management from Langara College in Vancouver and was living in Surrey. The family was not informed about how she was killed and who were the culprits.

"Her room has been sealed by the police and we do not have any information about how she was murdered," said Matharoo. Prabhleen's mother said that the place where she lived was one of the safest places in the main city.

The family now plans to visit Canada to speak to her friends to ascertain what happened to their daughter. Prabhleen has a younger brother who studies in Jalandhar.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
RANCHI, NOVEMBER 24

ADDRESSING A rally in Palamu district ahead of Assembly elections in Jharkhand, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday condemned recent incidents of Maoist violence in the state and warned that the armed rebels shall be given a "befitting reply".

Rajnath also made a strong pitch for a Ram temple in Ayodhya, saying that "no power in the world can stop that from happening" as the "path for construction of the temple has been cleared by the Supreme Court".

"I got to know of a couple of incidents reported from Jharkhand. You should be rest assured that the BJP governments at the Centre and state will not allow anybody to use guns. A befitting reply will be given to them (Maoists)," he said.

Six people, including one policeman and three homeguards, were killed in Latehar and Palamu districts in separate incidents on Friday and Saturday.

Talking about the abrogation of Article 370, the BJP leader said, "In 1952, Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee



Rajnath Singh at a rally in Palamu on Sunday.



(founder of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh) had said that there cannot be two Constitutions, two PMs and two flags in one country. We have fulfilled his dream and lived up to the promise made in our poll manifesto." Rajnath said the Congress's attempts to malign the central government with corruption al-

legations failed to bear any fruit. "The allegations of corruption in Rafale deal were aimed at maligning the government's image. The Congress tried hard... but its efforts were futile. I visited France to receive the fighter jet and also flew a sortie," he said.

He said the country had sent out a clear message that it would not cower in the face of terrorism. "Rafale fighter jets are coming to India... We can target terror camps across the border. That is the power India has achieved under the Narendra Modi government," the BJP leader said.



President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the concluding session of the 50th Conference of Governors and Lt Governors in New Delhi on Sunday. **ANI**

Governors, L-Gs most important link for coordination: Kovind

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 24

GOVERNORS AND Lt-Governors are the "most important link" for ensuring better coordination between the Centre and states, and efforts should be made by them to shun the common perception that gubernatorial posts have a "colonial legacy of inaccessibility", President Ram Nath Kovind said on Sunday.

In his concluding remarks of the two-day 50th conference of Governors' and Lt Governors', the president also asked them to ensure that Raj Bhavans become people-friendly.

The President said that on Tuesday, the nation would be celebrating 70th anniversary of the Constitution.

"On that day, a campaign will be launched to create awareness about fundamental duties among the citizens," he said, expressing the hope that all Raj Bhavans will

celebrate Constitution Day in an effective manner and governors will play a major role in creating awareness about the fundamental duties.

"The post of governor is the most important link in our federal system. Governors have a role in ensuring better coordination between the Centre and states," Kovind was quoted as saying in an official release.

The President also made suggestions to governors to make their Raj Bhavans more interactive and accessible to ordinary people and representatives of different organs of the state.

The conference laid emphasis on tribal welfare and issues related to water, agriculture, higher education and ease of living.

During the meeting, five groups of governors submitted their reports on these issues, and deliberated and identified actionable points in which governors can play a facilitating role.

BHU ROW

Cancel Firoze Khan's appointment: SVDV scholars to President, PM

ASAD REHMAN
LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 24

A GROUP of former professors of BHU's Sanskrit Vidya Dharma Vignyan (SVDV) and Sanskrit scholars have written to the President and Prime Minister, demanding their intervention to cancel the appointment of Dr Firoze Khan.

Contacted by *The Indian Express*, Rewa Prasad Dwivedi, who had received the Sahitya Akademi Award for Sanskrit in 1991 and is a former Head of Department at SVDV, said that the letter was drafted by him and a

few other Sanskrit scholars. "Those who have appointed the non-Hindu professor do not know the subject matter very well. The appointment must be cancelled and that is our only demand. A non-Hindu can't teach at SVDV," said Dwivedi. There are 20 signatories to the letter.

The letter dated November 23, 2019, said: "Please take cognizance of appointment of Mr Firoze Khan... and give your approval to cancel the appointment of Mr Khan. We would have been very happy if Mr Khan was appointed as per his qualification at any other faculty," the letter read.

16-year-old boy tied to pillar, burnt alive in Punjab: Police

RAAKHI JAGGA
LUDHIANA, NOVEMBER 24

A SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD boy was tied to a pillar at an abandoned rice-sheller in Punjab's Mansa and burnt alive, police said on Sunday.

Three people have been arrested. Both the victim and the accused belong to the Dalit community. The incident happened on Saturday, while the body was recovered on Sunday morning.

SHO, Mansa city police station, Sukhjeet Singh said, "As per our investigation, Jaspreet Singh was first tied to a pillar with a rope, and then petrol was poured over him before setting him on fire." SSP Mansa Narinder Bhargav confirmed the arrest of all three accused — Jashan Singh, Gurjeet Singh and Raju Singh.

"Jaspreet's elder brother, Kulwinder Singh, had eloped with Jashan's sister, Rajo Kaur, about two-and-a-half years ago and later got married... and had not visited their parents' houses even once after getting married. As per information gathered from the family of Jashan, Jaspreet would tease him (Jashan) and his family about this marriage..." said the SHO.

Jaspreet's father, Surat Singh, said that on Friday the three accused picked up Jaspreet from their home. After he did not return, Jaspreet's family went to nearby police station.

WINTER LINK FOR VILLAGES IN LAHAUL-SPITI

With new deadline in sight, work on Rohtang tunnel picks pace

MAN AMAN SINGH CHHINA
MANALI, NOVEMBER 24

SIXTY FIVE-YEAR-OLD Jhumki Devi is lined up at a checkpoint along the snow-bound Chandira river, firmly holding on to a permission slip which will allow her to travel to Manali in a bus. She is making a visit to her doctor — a trip that would have been unthinkable this time of the year if it wasn't for the partially opened Rohtang tunnel.

Most winters, heavy snowfall in the Rohtang Pass cuts off villages in Lahaul-Spiti from the rest of the country. That's set to change with the tunnel, which cuts through the mighty Pir Panjal range, providing a winter

link to the outside world not only to residents of Lahaul and Spiti but also to those living in Zaskar valley of Ladakh. At 8.8-km, it's the world's longest highway tunnel above 10,000 feet.

With work on the tunnel nearly complete, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh recently told Himachal Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur that the tunnel would be operational by May 2020 as against the official schedule of September 2020. The new deadline has given fresh impetus to the remaining work inside the tunnel — the paving of the concrete road, among other work.

That means that the tunnel, which had been opened for civilian traffic a week ago, will again be closed from November 25 on-



The under-construction Rohtang tunnel on the Lahaul-Spiti side. *Jasbir Mallhi*

wards, with access only to the sick and those in need of emergency medical treatment.

"We are considering stationing an ambulance some distance into the tunnel, where patients

can be brought in on stretchers. This may only be required only in rare cases because the state government's helicopter service is very active. However, in case there is inclement weather and patients need access, we will take them through. Just the fact that people of Lahaul and Spiti now know that the Manali end is now connected to them and available is a major psychological boost for them," says KP Parshothanam, Chief Engineer of the project.

Inspecting the ongoing road paving works in the tunnel, Purshothaman adds, "There are a lot of electrical works which remain to be done."

One of the most prestigious projects in the country, the tunnel

is expected to overhaul the lives of people in Lahaul and Spiti.

"Ahead of every winter, residents of most of the villages in Lahaul and Spiti would lock their homes and move to Kullu as it was very difficult to get any medical aid when the area was under snow. If you were unwell, you could only fly out by helicopter, but then you are stuck if the weather is bad. Now, since the word has gone out that the tunnel is almost ready, people are already chalking out plans for hotels, warehouses and other construction activities. You cannot imagine what it means to their lives. It will transform how they live," says Purshothaman.

The team working on the

project - 3,000 contractual workers and 650 regular employees of the Border Roads Organisation, who work in shifts, round the clock - have encountered their share of problems. The Seri Nullah, which flows on top of the tunnel had almost threatened to derail the project and it took several years to devise methods to tackle the massive flow of water.

The rocks encountered by the tunneling team were a challenge due to their wide variety and structure. "While the south portal had schist, migmatites and phyllite, the north portal had incoherently folded gneiss and biotite schist which were brittle and ductile in nature," said a BRO officer associated with the project.



RENDER TO LABOR WHAT IS JUSTLY DUE TO LABOR,
AND THEREBY GIVE THE PEOPLE SECURITY,
COMFORT, AND LEISURE. — MIKHAIL BAKUNIN

The IndianEXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

IN DARKNESS

Given the stealth in the swearing-in, a prompt floor test in Maharashtra is the only way to bring the light in

THERE IS HARDLY any moral high ground left in Maharashtra's political arena. But the question raised by the events of Friday night-Saturday morning is this: Is the constitutional ground also slipping rapidly? That question is, now, before the Supreme Court. On Sunday, the Court gave a notice to the respondents, after the Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress knocked on its door, and directed that two letters be produced before it on Monday morning - the letter of support presented by Devendra Fadnavis in support of his claim and the Governor's letter inviting him to form the government. Those two letters feature in the bizarre sequence of events that led to the swearing in of Fadnavis as Chief Minister of Maharashtra in the early morning hours on Saturday, after President Ram Nath Kovind revoked President's Rule at 5.47 am, in the wake of the Narendra Modi government invoking a special provision of The Government of India (Transaction of Business) Rules which gives the Prime Minister special powers to permit a departure from rules - to circumvent the need for a meeting of the Union cabinet. The court will be watched for the urgency with which it orders a floor test, the only way in which the legitimacy of a government can be tested, a principle established by its own Bommai ruling. The court, it is hoped, will not only show the way forward, but also restore a semblance of constitutional propriety, offer a restatement of constitutional presence, after a night in which the darkness drew into its fold high constitutional officials like that of president, prime minister and governor.

In Maharashtra, the political tug and pull has now been overtaken by serious questions of adherence to, rather betrayal of, constitutionalism, in letter and in spirit. But let there be no doubt that when it comes to playing with the mandate, all parties are in the dock, no side conducted itself honourably. After the break-up of the long-standing Shiv Sena-BJP pre-poll alliance, which won a majority of the votes, the jarring unlikelihood of the Congress-Sena partnership has been followed by the swearing-in of Ajit Pawar as Fadnavis's deputy. The Congress has for long decades fought the Sena and its brand of politics in Maharashtra and used that stated antagonism to bolster its own "secular" credentials. Fadnavis and the BJP have loudly and insistently targeted Ajit Pawar, for the alleged irrigation scam and the multi-crore scam in the Maharashtra State Cooperative Board - the high court is scheduled to hear the irrigation case this week.

But the question before the court goes beyond the tawdriness in the air, the secretive parleys between parties, the meetings of MLAs holed up in three Mumbai hotels, the twists and turns in the Pawar family drama, playing out in real time on Twitter. Can a government be sworn in while a nation sleeps, can it be a result of pre-dawn moves and stealth in the night? The court must bear in mind that whatever it says will be read closely by a nation looking for answers.

RULE OF RAJAPAKSAS

Sri Lanka needs a politics of national reconciliation. It looks unlikely to get it

GOTABAYA RAJAPAKSA'S PRESIDENCY has started off predictably and disquietingly. There is no pretence that this time it will not be the Rajapaksa family rule. After Ranil Wickremesinghe stepped down as Prime Minister following the Gotabaya victory, the new president lost no time in appointing Mahinda as the new prime minister of a caretaker government. Another brother, Chamal, has been appointed a minister in the government, which will hold fort until fresh parliamentary elections are held in March 2020, the earliest that the present parliament can be dissolved before the end of its five year term next August. At the height of the previous Rajapaksa rule, there were 40 family members in government. There is little doubt that Mahinda, who was barred from the presidential election because he had already held the office twice, will run the country in close coordination with his brother. At the moment, the parliamentary configuration is not such as to allow the new dispensation to do away with progressive amendments to the Constitution made by the last government to check the powers of the executive presidency, including the two-time bar. But it would surprise no one if the Rajapaksas turned the clock back on these 2015 amendments when the opportunity arises.

That moment may not be far away. President Rajapaksa is confident of winning the 2020 parliamentary election, and that self-belief may not be far off the mark. A divided opposition, engaged in a tug of war between Wickremesinghe and the unsuccessful presidential candidate, Sajith Premadasa, is unlikely to get its act together to put up a fight to the Rajapaksa purpose built political vehicle, Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna. In any case, Sri Lankan voters have seen that cohabitation - in which the president and prime minister are from different parties - is another name for paralysis of governance. It happened in 2001, and once again in 2015, although in the second instance, it was dressed up as a "national unity government" and showed some promise before imploding because of irreconcilable differences between former President Maithripala Sirisena and Wickremesinghe.

External affairs Minister S Jaishankar is said to have communicated Delhi's desire for hastening national reconciliation in Sri Lanka. The Rajapaksas have a poor record on this front. In the post-war years, the first family oversaw an unprecedented militarisation of the Sinhala Buddhist majority community. Voters from the majority community have not forgotten that it was the brothers, Mahinda and Gotabaya, who crafted a victory over the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. This is what powered Gotabaya's majoritarian victory in these elections. Nor did Tamil voters forget what it was like in the years following the 2009 defeat of the Tigers. National reconciliation requires statesmanship of a tall order. It would be a pleasant surprise if Gotabaya, the newest majoritarian right wing leader to join the growing ranks of such leaders in the world, can pull it off.

FREEZE FRAME



E P UNNY



HARSH MANDER

THE COUNTRY TODAY stands at the brink of catastrophic human suffering and injustice, if the government implements, nation-wide, the National Register of Citizens (NRC), as announced by Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Combined with the Citizenship Amendment Bill - assuring citizenship to all undocumented persons except those of Muslim faith - it risks tearing the country apart, reopening the wounds of Partition, and ultimately destroying India's secular democratic Constitution.

For six years, the people of Assam were compelled to scramble for documents of land ownership, birth, schooling and voters' lists to establish that their parents and they were citizens of this country. Too much was at stake. If they failed, they ran the risk of being lodged for years in detention centres carved out of jails, separated from their families, and threatened with deportation. Impoverished people in desperation sold all their belongings to engage expensive lawyers, and weathered often hostile or corrupt officials. Some despaired and killed themselves.

When the final list was published, nearly 2 million people were excluded, but at least the rest hoped that they would at last be able to get on with their lives. But the announcement by Shah that the NRC would be reopened in Assam has reignited dread and uncertainty even among those who found their names in the NRC. Even more gravely, after the CAB, this means only Muslim residents of Assam will be subjected to this renewed interrogation of their citizenship. There is no closure to their suffering. The defence of the ruling establishment is that the NRC process was led by the Supreme Court. This, indeed, is true. The Supreme Court, most of all under Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, not just monitored, but energetically drove the NRC.

Justice Gogoi chose a moment, a few days before he remitted office, in a public function in Delhi, to vigorously defend the NRC in Assam. It is unusual for an incumbent Chief Justice to publicly declare his views on highly politically fraught matters. He described the NRC as "a base document for the future", which musters the facts about "illegal immigration", in order to end the "turbulence whose effects changed the course of life of not only individuals but of communities and cul-

On NRC, Home Minister Shah and former CJI Gogoi show a similar disregard for suffering of the vulnerable

The NRC in Assam was envisaged as an instrument to end a long, troubled history of violence in Assam, to address legitimate anxieties of vulnerable communities about culture, land and migration. But we combated the way it was implemented, violating constitutional guarantees and due process, extracting a huge toll of avoidable suffering. A decade earlier, the Supreme Court described illegal immigration as 'external aggression' and an 'invasion' of India. It used this to shift the burden of proof to the person who claims to be a citizen, and not the state which accuses person of being a foreigner.

tures across the region." He dismissed the critics of this process variously as "armchair", "careless", "irresponsible", "worsening the situation", people "playing with fire" who "thrive through their double speak", are "far removed from the citizenry", with "vile intentions". Many of these critics were litigants in his court. I was one of them.

The NRC in Assam was envisaged as an instrument to end a long, troubled history of violence in Assam, to address legitimate anxieties of vulnerable communities about culture, land and migration. But we combated the way it was implemented, violating constitutional guarantees and due process, extracting a huge toll of avoidable suffering. A decade earlier, the Supreme Court described illegal immigration as "external aggression" and an "invasion" of India. It used this to shift the burden of proof to the person who claims to be a citizen, and not the state which accuses the person of being a foreigner.

Injustices of the process mounted through the period when the judiciary directed the NRC. The Supreme Court, between 2014-2019 - a decisive part of this was under Justice Gogoi - resembled more an executive than judicial forum. A People's Tribunal including many respected retired judges and thinkers, held on September 7 and 8, observed that in the normal course of things, "administrative processes are managed by the executive, and in cases of rights violations, the remedy lies before the courts. However, when the courts themselves 'take charge' of such processes (and in executive-style fashion, as indicated by the opacity and use of sealed covers, and by the Court's insistence on setting deadlines despite the scale of the exercise and the potential injustices that might follow), the entire system of remedies is taken away, as there can hardly be an appeal against the Supreme Court's own devised procedures."

This resulted in "huge burdens on millions of impoverished and unlettered people because the burden of proof was shifted to the resident to prove that they were citizens, based on documents such as of birth, schooling and land-ownership which impoverished and unlettered rural residents anywhere would find hard to muster. Even when residents succeeded in producing

these documents, these were often rejected for small discrepancies such as in the English-language spelling of Bengali names, or in ages even though it is well-known that most rural people do not know their date of birth. Many do not have legal land records. And in the middle of the NRC process, an arbitrary category was introduced of 'indigenous' Assamese, who were treated much more leniently even when they could not produce the required documents."

I had approached the Supreme Court questioning the constitutional legality of detaining persons deemed "foreigners" by these processes indefinitely in inhuman detention centres. Detainees are housed in prisons within prisons. Families are separated, with husbands in one detention centre and wives in another, not allowed to communicate with each other. Children are often alone outside. Detainees have no work or recreation, and are denied parole. They have no hope of release, because there is no question of Bangladesh accepting them.

I was deeply dismayed by remarks made by Justice Gogoi during the hearings, reported in the press. For instance, he said to the Chief Secretary of Assam, "The existing centres are housing 900 people as against the so many who have been declared foreigners. Why are there not thousands?" This spurred further panic among Bengali-origin Assamese people, and a reported drive to detain more people.

I therefore sought the recusal of Justice Gogoi from hearing this matter. Justice Gogoi ruled that there was no question of recusal. Instead, he took the singularly unorthodox step of removing me as petitioner from my own petition. As I said to him in court, I am convinced that true justice is always tempered with compassion. And it is compassion, above all, that I found conspicuously absent in the actions of Chief Justice Gogoi.

It is this same compassion that I find mislaid in his now public remarks about the NRC, and as much in the announcement of Home Minister Shah. They seem profoundly indifferent to the intense human suffering the NRC process has left in its trail for millions of our most impoverished and vulnerable people.

Mander is a human rights worker and writer

WHERE PINK FLOYD MEETS PASH

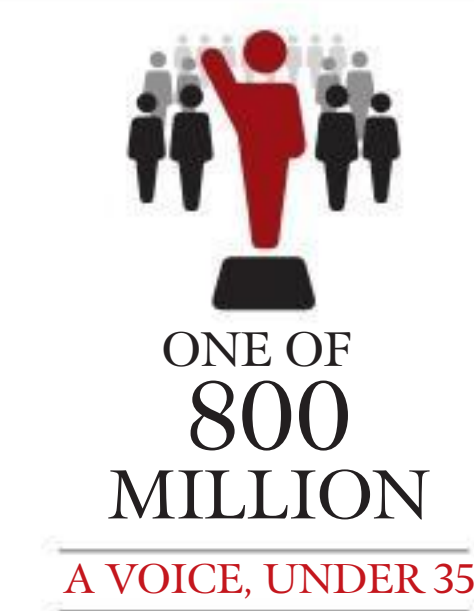
JNU is anything but an elite campus - its students are fighting to preserve its ethos



EKTA MALIK

"WE DON'T NEED no education" was the first thing Parnal Chirmuley wrote on the blackboard in our first class. The famous lines from the Pink Floyd song made me chuckle. "Cool teacher," I thought. But as I looked around, I realised that none of my 16 classmates in the BA(Hons) course registered the cool quotient, neither of the song nor the teacher. I rolled my eyes, happy in my bubble from a private school education and relative privilege. But three years later, as I passed out of JNU, I was aware not only of Pink Floyd, but of Pash, Brecht, Firaq Gorakhpuri and Namdeo Dhasal.

The sprawling JNU campus upended my life and all its trappings. This was the JNU of about 15 years ago. The majority of students were from small townships and rural areas. In the days before the internet exploded, and the time before the university became synonymous in the national imagination with "anti-national" sentiments, JNU's popularity spread to the hinterland through sheer word of mouth. One distant cousin, one random school senior, or one small news clipping about its academic excellence sufficed to draw students from across the country, to get not just a degree but an education. This was a place where your Class 12 marks didn't matter, nobody cared which school you came from. All that mattered was if you had a mind of your own, and were not afraid to speak it. "Talkative", "hyper", "distracted", words used by teachers in school to describe me nega-



One distant cousin, one random school senior, or one small news clipping about its academic excellence sufficed to draw students from across the country, to get not just a degree but an education. This was a place where your class XII marks didn't matter, nobody cared which school you came from. All that mattered was if you had a mind of your own.

tively, had the opposite effect on campus.

This is where I met people from Muzaffarpur, Supaul, Siwan and Warangal. Many of them depended heavily on the merit-cum-means scholarships provided by the university. Post the morning lectures, a horde of students would rush to the hostel mess, so as not to miss the day's meal, as they could ill-afford even the modestly-priced offerings in the canteens.

Contrary to the perception that some have consistently sought to popularise, teachers and professors at JNU do not indoctrinate students with a Marxist ideology and Left philosophy. They do their job, and uphold the high standards of academic excellence that the university is known for. The real learning happens outside the classrooms, in the lawns, canteens, at the dhabas, where a constant exchange of ideas take place.

The hostels are not just halls of residence, they are what feed the academic schools. I lived for three years at the Chandrabhaga hostel with PhD scholars, MA/MPHil students and even shared my room with some of them. The daughter of a prominent Left leader lived next door but I was not aware of her lineage for the longest time. And on the other side resided a Sanskrit PhD scholar who spoke a dialect of Hindi I barely understood. She was from Gorakhpur, and kept to herself, but she always got mithai from home after Chhath Puja, which she distributed in the corridor. All three

of us, and many more, stood in line everyday with our buckets at the geyser for hot water in the winter, and cribbed about the interminable wait.

Dinner time in the mess was always something to look forward to, the palak-dal notwithstanding. The rich pamphlet culture, which was thriving a decade ago, was literally food for thought. We chewed on the current political/social issues on campus, country and the world at large, as we made our peace with the aloo-variant subzi of the day. Often, the floors would be littered with pages, but would be cleaned post haste, as the mess was needed for a post dinner public meeting. It is at such a public meetings that we had the opportunity to listen to voices like Prakash and Brinda Karat, Sachin Pilot and Baba Ramdev.

JNU is often perceived as a bastion of the "elite liberal", but the students protesting on the roads of Delhi are anything but elite. They are fighting for the spirit of the university, which enabled them to question, debate and discuss the status quo. A steep fee hike, for instance, will turn this egalitarian space into something like a private university - where people from the same economic and social background pontificate, secure in the knowledge that their worldview will not be challenged.

ektaa.malik@expressindia.com

NOVEMBER 25, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO

US-IRAN CRISIS

DESPITE STRONG PUBLIC postures, many observers in Washington have the impression that the US and Iran are searching for a peaceful solution to the hostage crisis. The Nobel Peace Prize winner and Irish statesman, Sean Macbride, a US Congressman, Representative George Hansen, and the United Nations are all exploring ways to put together a package deal to give the USA its hostages and Khomeini the satisfaction that his charges against the Shah will at least be investigated. The New York Times reported that the US has indicated it has no objection to an informal formula proposed by the UN Secretary General, Kurt Waldheim, for set-

ting the Iranian crisis.

CPI CHIDES DANGE

THE CPI CENTRAL Executive Committee is understood to have considered even the expulsion of its chairman, S A Dange, for his declared soft-line towards Indira Gandhi but finally thought it wise to go no further than a public repudiation of his stand. The central executive disapproved of Dange's repeated public expression of his personal views which were at variance with the party's line. The central executive found Dange's telegram to H N Bahuguna harmful to its efforts to unite anti-authoritarian and anti-communal forces in the electoral battle.

MECCA SEIGE

TERRORISTS IN THE Grand Mosque of Mecca have demanded talks with the Saudi King Khaled and Crown Prince Fahd, a halt to oil deliveries to America, and recognition of a young man from their ranks as Mahdi (messiah). Kuwaiti newspaper Al Watan reported. Saudi Arabian spokesmen have hitherto insisted that the terrorists and hostage-takers in the mosque were "fanatical religious heretics without political motives." Reports from Mecca and Jeddah said the hospitals in the two cities were filled to the brim. And Radio Cairo reported that the terrorists were holding prominent Saudi citizens as hostages.