

OPINION 8
IGNORING ITS ICONS
WILL COST CONGRESS**WORLD 12**
TRUMP: N KOREA SERIOUS
ABOUT DISMANTLING NUKES**SPORT 15**
CROATIA BEAT DENMARK
IN WORLD CUP

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY JULY 3, 2018; PAGES 16 ₹3

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BHUBANESWAR RANCHI RAIPUR
CHANDIGARH DEHRADUN*Late City Vol. 28 Issue 182
*Air Surcharge Extra if ApplicableKANGANA
TALKS ABOUT
STRONG WILL
13 VIVACITYSC to speed
up hearing of
nikah halala**Woman facing eviction
from her in-laws' home
seeks urgent listing**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday decided to fast-track the hearing on petitions challenging Muslim personal law practices of polygamy and nikah halala after one of the petitioners approached the court claiming her in-laws are putting pressure on her to withdraw the petition or face eviction from her matrimonial home.

Reacting to the plea of aggrieved woman Shameena Begum, the SC Bench, headed by Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra, directed the Centre to file its response on the validity of these practices. The CJ indicated a Constitution Bench will be formed to hear the matter. On March 26, a three-judge Bench headed by the CJ had issued notice on a bunch of four petitions, including that of Shameena, and referred the matter to a larger Bench.

Shameena's lawyer told the court her client is under tremendous pressure to withdraw the case against her in-laws and demanded an urgent



listing of her petition. The lawyer submitted that the case was listed for this week, but somehow got dropped from the Advanced List.

The Government will file its response at the earliest, Additional Solicitor General Tushar Mehta informed the court. The court assured the petitioner that once the Centre files its response, an appropriate Bench will be formed to hear the petitions.

The petitioners drew strength from a recent verdict of the SC that by a 3:2 majority declared instant triple talaq as unconstitutional. Nikah halala is a consequence of instant triple talaq where a Muslim woman intending to remarry her divorced husband needs to marry another man and obtain divorce from him.

Continued on Page 4

Ambulances carry the bodies of 11 family members, who were found hanging at their residence in Burari, for cremation at Nigambodh Ghat in Delhi on Monday PTI

neighbour's house showed Lalit entering his house with his pet Labrador around 11.15 pm on Sunday. There was no movement afterwards, they said. We are also probing the role of a tantric or an astrologer who practiced occult and was inside their house and somehow managed to evade the CCTV installed in the neighbourhood, said the police.

"We have scanned the notes written on two registers kept in the house. Writing experts who were roped in to throw some light on the writing patterns have opined that there are chances of the involvement of an outsider whose influence was quite overbearing on the family," the official said.

Handwritten notes and a diary indicate the deaths were planned and that the family followed so-called instructions for "mass salvation".

However, a relative sus-

pects foul play in the incident, saying, "they were educated people and not superstitious". Ketan Nagpal, whose maternal grandmother was one of the deceased, alleged they were killed and dismissed the police theory that it could be a case of "suicide pact".

Nagpal contended that even if they had to commit suicide, they would not have covered their faces and taped their mouth. Another relative said they had spoken to the family on the fateful night. They sounded "normal" and did not show any signs of depression, he added. "The family did not have enmity with anyone. But we suspect someone killed them," he alleged.

The relatives claimed that there was no "religious angle" linked to the deaths.

See P3: 2 surviving members contest suicide theory
■ Mental health experts suggest psychological autopsy



The "mysterious" 11 pipes protruding out of the house where 11 members of the family were found dead in Burari, on Monday PTI

Crime Branch officials said the 16-page handwritten note contains details of a "Badh puja" (a ritual, which means "everybody should hang like the branches of a banyan tree"). Everybody should be on board, it was asserted in the note. According to tantric rituals, Badh puja is performed for longevity but the vivid description of this ritual in the note recovered from the house has

left the investigators perplexed. The notes said no one should use phone, so six phones were found together on silent mode.

Senior police officials involved in the probe said they are probing the case from different angles as this is "one of its kind case" where 11 members of a family from 12 years to 77 may entered into some pact to die together. The CCTV footage procured from the

Cong plans dole bait to woo jobless

As Assembly polls inch closer, party tries to cash in on unemployment

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress is eyeing unemployed youths in a big way in the upcoming State Assembly polls. The party is planning to promise job guarantee to educated youths and a "respectable" unemployment allowance similar to that in some European countries if the job is not provided to deserving ones. The idea is to exploit growing resentment among the youth against the Narendra Modi Government for failing to tackle the unemployment issue.

AICC sources said the Youth Congress wing of the party will prepare the "employment charter" and the format required to reach out to the needy.

The party believes that in poll-bound Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, the party can do well if it targets the young voters in the age group of 18-30 years. The voters in the age group would be

registered and a proof of the same will be handed to them which can be "encashed" for job by the beneficiary if the party forms Governments.

"Ours will be a promise to be made and not the election jumla," said the AICC source recalling how BJP chief Amit Shah termed 'chunavi jumla' to some of the promises made by the party and Prime Minister Modi in the run up to 2014 General Elections.

"There will also be a scheme where the administration can think upon to give unemployment allowance to those who have a certain classified degree but somehow not getting jobs.

But this idea is just in discussion round because how much assurance of an allowance could be met is being deliberated. We are studying the MNREGA pattern for this," said the AICC leader. With such type of new schemes to lure voters, the Congress is in fact focusing on the young voters for the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

A similar exercise to woo young voters was carried out in Karnataka during the elections campaign where the Congress for the first time reached out to



Representational image

youths by seeking to address their aspirations. The Congress held Townhalls with youngsters between age 17 and 27 and in some of them party chief Rahul Gandhi too conducted sessions.

Also, the grand old party has launched a fellowship public policy programme "Future of India" to reach out to students.

The programme is being executed by the party's student body, National Students' Union of India (NSUI).

According to the NSUI, this fellowship will include public administration and management, bridge the 'Bharat Vs India' divide, country's legal system, the fundamentals of democratic countries, electoral management

and conflict management in a democracy.

"To improve the quality of public discourse by facilitating substantive, issue-based discussions, broad-base the NSUI platform to offer space for multiple forms of political activity and give bright young people an opportunity to engage with the Congress leaders they may otherwise not have access to," said Ruchi Gupta, AICC secretary incharge of the NSUI.

The fellowship will allow anyone—students and professionals under the age of 30—to interact with Congress leaders, like Sam Pitroda, P Chidambaram, Salman Khurshid, Shashi Tharoor, Jairam Ramesh, Sachin Pilot among others.

CAPSULE

BRAZIL IN QUARTERS WITH 2-0 WIN OVER MEXICO

Samara: Neymar and Roberto Firmino scored the goals as Brazil beat Mexico 2-0 here on Monday to reach the FIFA World Cup quarter-finals, where they will play against Belgium or Japan.

46 MALARIA CASES IN DELHI THIS SEASON

New Delhi: At least six fresh cases of malaria have been reported during the past week in Delhi, taking the total number of people affected by the vector-borne disease this season to 46, according to a municipal report released on Monday. P2

PUNJAB SEEKS DEATH PENALTY FOR DRUG SELLER

Chandigarh: Faced with criticism from several quarters over alleged spate of deaths due to drug overdose in the State, the Punjab Cabinet on Monday decided to recommend to the Centre death penalty for drug peddlers and smugglers. P4

Macabre tale of Burari 'pipe' dream

11 pipes exiting outer wall substantiate 'occult' angle; Lalit used to claim late father dictated terms in his dreams; police don't rule out tantric's role

PRAMOD KUMAR SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The probe into the mysterious death of 11 members of a family in North Delhi's Burari area on Sunday morning has revealed strange and chilling details pertaining to sorcery and apparition of the late father of the Bhatia family.

The notes recovered by the Delhi Police from the Bhatias' house indicate that Lalit, the 42-year-old male member of the family, was deeply influenced by his departed father's soul as he used to claim to have seen him in his dreams and his father had often guided him to do things. Some of the notes stated that "one will not die" but attain something "great", a police officer said.

Lalit had narrated his dream sequences with his father's soul to his family members and relatives and they had then claimed to have attained success by following the soul's orders. "We are now investigating whether the soul of his father was dictating him to leave this world or he (Lalit) was just hallucinating," said a top cop.

Investigators are flummoxed to find 11 pipes in vicinity protruding from the outer wall of the house even as there is no need for water out-

let there. Four of the pipes point straight while other four are bent. One pipe is a little away from the others. Sources said the positioning of pipes on the outer wall does point towards some occult influence over the family. The police are investigating the significance of the pipes.

Though the police suspect that the deaths were part of a suicide pact carried out in accordance with a superstitious practice, it has not ruled out the involvement of some outsiders or a tantric who could have been present in the house on the fateful Saturday night to guide the family to perform the "saadhna" that the family may have rehearsed early. "We have identified a particular sorcerer who was in touch with the family and could have played a role in the deaths of all the 11 members of Bhatia family," police said.

The Delhi Police is also probing whether Bhatias had bequeathed their property to someone, say a tantric or an astrologer. Cops are also verifying financial transactions to know whether they had transferred money to any particular account. This will throw some light in identifying the mysterious man who could have cast a spell on the family to do away with the worldly belongings, said the official.

Interpol issues notice to find, extradite Nirav

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Accepting the Central Bureau of Investigation's request, the Interpol has issued a red corner notice (RCN) against billionaire diamondaire Nirav Modi in connection with the ₹13,500 crore Punjab National Bank (PNB) scam.

The Interpol has listed money laundering charges levelled by Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the CBI in the RCN.

In its RCN, the Interpol has asked its 192 member countries to arrest or detain the person if spotted in their countries after which extradition or deportation proceedings can begin. Along with Nirav, Interpol RCN has been issued against his brother Neeshal Modi and close aide Subhash Parab in the PNB scam.

Nirav, along with his wife Ami Modi, a US citizen, brother Nishal, a Belgian citizen, and uncle Mehul Choksi, all accused in the CBI FIRs in the case, had left the country in the first week of January, weeks before country's biggest banking scam surfaced.



RCN is issued to seek the location and arrest of a person wanted by a judicial jurisdiction or an international tribunal with a view to his/her extradition.

"The notice was issued on June 29 but has been made public on Monday by the International police cooperation agency," said sources, adding that it will make unhindered movement of Nirav across border difficult and might lead to his arrest. The Interpol has issued the RCN on the basis of charge sheet filed by the CBI in a special court in Mumbai and the arrest warrant issued by the judge Special JC Jagdale.

Continued on Page 4

16,500 trees in Delhi survive felling till NGT takes call on July 19

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Delhiites are breathing easy as the National Green Tribunal (NGT) stayed felling of 16,500 trees in South Delhi colonies to build residential complex till further hearing.

The NGT on Monday not only directed the National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC) and Central Public Works Development (CPWD) to not cut trees but also served a notices on them and asked Government agencies to submit their replies before next hearing on July 19.

Showing concern about trees felling, the Bench headed by acting Chairperson Justice Jawad Rahim issued notice to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoUD), the Central pollution Control Board (CPCB) and other Government agencies and asked them to file their replies before next hearing, other



agencies served notice are — Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), COF, Delhi Police, New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), CPWD, Delhi Development Authority (DDA), South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) and NBCC.

The Bench also directed the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF &CC) to submit a response.

Continued on Page 4

Money can't buy happiness, but this period will!

Delhi CM, the Dalai Lama launch Happiness Curriculum for Govt schools from nursery to Class VIII

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

To create cheerful environment for budding nation-builders, the Delhi Government on Monday launched "Happiness Curriculum" for students of Government schools. The curriculum will involve a "Happiness" period of 45 minutes for all students studying in nursery up to class VIII at all the Delhi Government schools. Each class will begin with a five minute meditation practice.

Encouraging young minds on the occasion, spiritual leader the Dalai Lama said India can lead the world by uniting the modern and ancient knowledge and help it overcome

negative emotions.

Congratulating the Delhi Government for its initiative to include "Happiness curriculum" in its schools, the Dalai Lama said, "Only India has the ability to combine modern education with ancient knowledge which is necessary for fulfillment of human emotions."

He said such a combination will pave way for physical and mental well-being, solving troubles caused due to negative and destructive emotions like anger, hatred and jealousy.

The Dalai Lama called for revival of the ancient Indian knowledge in the country of its origin and its subsequent spread across the world, including the countries following Buddhism.



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, spiritual leader the Dalai Lama, and Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia during the launch of Happiness Curriculum at Thyagaraj Sports Complex in New Delhi on Monday PTI

"By reviving this ancient knowledge, India can become the modern Guru," he said.

Seeking blessings from the Dalai Lama, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal termed the occasion "historical". Kejriwal termed the 'Happiness curriculum' launched on Monday as the third stage of reforms in education sector initiated by his Government after focusing on infrastructure development and motivation of teachers at the Government schools.

"Education is our topmost priorities. The Centre and other State Governments should give one year, focussing on education at a war-footing," he said.

The Chief Minister said that there was a need to "overhaul" the present education system that has not been able to produce "good human being" and added that "Happiness Curriculum" was a "solid step" towards this aim.

Deputy Chief Minister and

Education Minister, Manish Sisodia, who conceived the curriculum, asserted that the experiment might one day spread across the country and the world as well.

"The effect of this involving 10 lakh students and around 50,000 teachers can be imagined. It is our belief that the modern day problems like terrorism, corruption and pollution can be solved through schools and a human centric education," Sisodia said.

The Happiness Curriculum, including meditation, value education, and mental exercises, was designed and prepared by a team of 40 Delhi Government teachers, educators and volunteers over a period of six months, he said.

The Ministers of the Delhi Government, besides a large number of teachers and officials of Education directorate of the State Government, attended the function.

DU admission

Robbers take down portal, students left in lurch

Varsity loses access to internet for hours after miscreants steal internet cable

ABHINAV SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

While admissions to Delhi University (DU) are at its peak, the online process came to halt for hours on Monday morning, this time not because of any "overload" on its server but due to loss of internet network in the university and adjoining areas leaving aspirants in despair.

The network went down as 200 metre of optical fibre cable providing internet connectivity to the university was found missing near Vishwavidyalaya metro station area. According to DU officials the fibre was allegedly stolen by robbers.

Monday being the second day of admission against the third cut-off which was announced on Saturday, quite a good rush was witnessed both for taking admissions and making cancellations.

However, students were left worried as they were not able to download their admis-



Admissions on Monday (Paid)	2680
Admissions approved on Monday	5012
Admissions Cancelled on Monday	742
Total Admissions till Date	36560

*65 percent of DU UG seats are already filled.

sion application form nor were able to pay the fees on the DU portal. The chaos which started in the morning lasted till 1 pm in the afternoon until the issue is resolved and the connection was resumed.

According to Sanjeev Singh, Director, Delhi University Computer Centre (DUCC) only "intranet" worked while the "internet" network went down.

"The colleges were able to do the admission and send the data as the intranet which is our internal network was still at work. However, the internet was not working as result students were not able to download admission application form nor

were able to pay the fees as the fee gateway is also outside the purview of university's internal network," said Sanjeev Singh. Only those students who downloaded their form by 4 am were able to take admissions.

Keeping in view the precious loss of time at the peak of admission process the DU has decided to extend the admission process by a day. Thus the admissions against the third cut-off slated to end on Tuesday will now last till Wednesday.

The DU has brought the incident to the notice of National Informatics Centre (NIC) and RailTel, said DU official.

12 fresh cases of malaria reported, 2 of dengue

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With 12 fresh cases of malaria, the total number of people hit by the disease has reached to 90 this year, according to a data released by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) on Monday. While only two fresh cases of dengue were reported in the city between June 23 and 30, taking the total number of cases to 58. The trend reflects that malaria continues to spread faster than dengue in the national Capital.

The report of SDMC the said domestic breeding checkers have found mosquito-breeding in 42,547 households in the city till June 30. It said 48,521 legal notices have been served for various violations and "3,506 prosecutions have been initiated".

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal on June 28 directed local bodies and other agencies to intensify vector-control measures. Bajjal also asked for regular review meetings at the level of district magistrates with all stakeholders to review the situation in their respective districts.

Bajjal had directed officials of municipal corporations to intensify vector-control measures by domestic breeding checkers and to distribute



Information Education and Communication (IEC) material for creating public awareness in identified high risk wards and underprivileged areas, unauthorised colonies, JJ clusters, construction sites etc.

Ten people died due to dengue in Delhi last year, according to South Delhi Municipal Corporation. Five of the victims were not Delhi residents, but they died in the city. Overall, the vector-borne disease has affected 9,271 people in the city last year.

The total number of the people affected by dengue was 9,271 in 2017 and the numbers of malaria and chikungunya cases recorded in 2017 stood at 1,142 and 940 respectively. Of the 9,271 dengue cases, 4,726 patients were from Delhi, while 4,545 had come to the city from other states for treatment.

Dengue and chikungunya are caused by Aedes Aegypti mosquito, which breeds in clean water. The female Anopheles mosquito, which causes malaria, breeds in both clean and muddy water.

Come July 5, Goel to take out march to save havelis of Chandni Chowk

Union Minister says the area has become like Mumbai's slum Dharavi, blames city Govt for the mess

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI



Describing Chandni Chowk as becoming worse than Dharavi of Mumbai, Union Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Vijay Goel on Monday said he will march on July 5 demanding Shahjahanabad development board to take prompt action to save the havelis of Chandni Chowk and to prevent the area from illegal construction.

"The Chandni Chowk, which should have been included in the UNESCO Heritage List, has become as crappy and dirty like Mumbai's slum Dharavi" said the Minister.

Attacking Delhi Government, he said, "The entire Cabinet of the Delhi Government did not do anything except protest against the Lieutenant Governor. If they protest here in the Chandni Chowk, then at least they could know about the problems."

Goel said 'Shahjahanabad Development Board' of the Delhi Government is responsible for the development of the

area but the Board has only passed the proposals in the meetings.

Apart from the Delhi Government, the former BJP president also condemned Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) officials for not being able to stop illegal constructions. He said he had complained to the municipal commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner of the area about the rest of the havelis of the Chandni Chowk but no action was being taken.

"The biggest example of corruption in the municipal corporation is the building adjacent to the Town Hall. The building was so weak and a structure on its first floor fell down recently. Now a big cassette shaped building has been constructed on it, which looks like the black spot on the beauty of this area," the Minister said.

Goel said his biggest concern is the destruction of a Haveli every day. In the previous survey of Delhi Government 551 havelis were marked. "These havelis are now being destroyed every day and are turning into a market and the metro has become the saviour of Chandni Chowk. According to the Minister, when he last visited the place, he found that havelis were getting destroyed one by one in 'Kucha Patiram' in Sitaram Bazaar and now the havelis in Balimaran are also being destroyed.

2 national level players of kabaddi among gang of 10 robbers busted

SP SINGH ■ GHAZIABAD

The Ghaziabad police busted a gang of 10 robbers, two of them national players of kabaddi (under-19 category), who after robbing passengers in the upper Ganga Canal area, bought whisky and swim in the canal for recreation.

Police have recovered 10 vehicles stolen by the gang and confiscated four mobile phones, fire-arms including an foreign made pistol and seven country made pistols along with live cartridges and jewelry from the possession of accused.

Ghaziabad SSP Vaibhav Krishna said an all out drive was launched by the Niwari Police and the 10 robbers, who were member of the same gang, were apprehended. According to police, the accused have confessed to their crimes and enabled police to recover 10 motorbikes of different brands, some jewellery

and fire-arms including country made and English pistol along with live cartridges from their possession.

The accused are identified as Ravi Kumar and Harsh Chaudhary of Meerut, Kalkal alias Akash a resident of Modi Nagar, Prashant and Sumit both residents of Sikrod of Ghaziabad and both had participated in the national game of Kabaddi in category under 19.

Vikas Tyagi, Nikhil and Ashu Chaudhary all three residents of Sardhana in Meerut. Nikhil and Ashu were students of BTech and LLB. Harsh a resident of Sikrod and Rahis a resident of Sardhana.

"They confessed that they were active in Meerut and Ghaziabad in upper Ganges canal area. They used to rob the passengers bought whiskey and enjoyed in swimming in upper Ganges canal. They used to have meal on road side Dhabas" said SSP Vaibhav Krishna.



Mobile connectivity in underground metro to improve as DMRC acts

GAYATHRI MANI ■ NEW DELHI

After receiving several complaints from the passengers of very poor mobile connectivity, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has awarded bid for providing mobile network connectivity in all the underground stations of Violet and Magenta line.

The step was taken after a complaint made by consumer activist and advocate Mohit Kumar Gupta. Witnessing the issue daily, Gupta filed a complaint on June 16 at Chirag Dilli Metro Station. But he was disappointed with the reply of the official at the station. "Our network does not work here, what will happen with the complaints. You go network will come tomorrow," the DMRC official replied when Gupta went to file a complaint.

Gupta made several complaints to the higher officials. DMRC officials got in touch with him. "We would like to inform you that tender for providing mobile network connectivity in all the underground stations of Pink and Magenta line has been awarded and the work of laying infrastructure in tunnels to currently underway and will be completed soon," the communiqué from DMRC read.

However, people have also



complained of poor connection in the heritage corridor (Violet line) from ITO to Kashmere Gate. "It is good that the DMRC is working on to solve the issue but the management should focus on the other stretches also. It's been almost one year, but the connection problem in the ITO-Kashmere section is not resolved yet. Even, it connects only after you reach the upper floor. The question is why the management do not complete the work before its opening," said Heena who travels daily in the stretch.

The Magenta Line also known as knowledge corridor was inaugurated in May by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It connects to Botanical Garden in Noida from Janakpuri west consisting 25 stations. The pink line has 12 stations connects from Maljis Park to Durgabai Deshmukh South Campus.

Gurugram admin to crack down on realtors behind illegal colonies

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

In the wake of complaints against illegal colonisers duping people of their hard-earned money the District administration said an FIR will be lodged against builders who promote unauthorised colony in Gurugram.

District town and country planning (enforcement) wing will keep a tab on illegal constructions and colonies. Also, the expense of the demolition drive will be charged from the colonizers.

Earlier in June the DTCP had recommended an FIR against 11 persons for carving out an illegal colony in Pataudi area. The team had razed the colony on April 30, demolishing 54 structures.

"All 11 had been accused of promoting illegal construction without having a valid licence in Pataudi tehsil's Bhora Kalan area. Despite several warning, they had constructed an illegal colony," DTP (enforcement) Rajendra Sharma said.

The officials claimed that the developers did not stop construction work in unauthorised colonies despite the fact that they imposed a ban on registries and also conducted demolition in these areas.

Moreover, buyers will get trapped once they invest money in such illegal colonies where no development will

District town and country planning (enforcement) wing will keep tabs on illegal constructions and colonies

take place in future.

"Developers are not mending their ways despite several demolition drives so FIR is the last option. The demolition cost will also recover from the colonizers. The action aims at saving people who are duped by such colonizers of lakhs of rupees for purchasing land in such colonies," Deputy Commissioner Vinay Pratap Singh, said.

"We direct municipal corporations and other agencies to inspect areas under their jurisdictions and file complaints with police wherever unauthorised constructions are found," he said.

Sources in the administration said most of these suspects are private landholders, who in order to cash in on the demand for plots, sell plots or set up colonies without taking approval from the authority.

The matter was raised in a district grievance committee meeting earlier in March, and chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar had directed officials to take strict action.

29 female African nationals found without visas, travel papers in raid

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Around 29 female African nationals were allegedly found in suspicious circumstances during a special drive, carried out by the staff of Delhi south district police, with the assistance of the Foreign Regional Registration Office Delhi, according to police sources.

The foreign nationals found could not produce any travel document like their passport or visa. They were also not able to provide proof of identity, even after being given adequate opportunity, following which they were taken to Government hospital for medical examinations. They were then produced in the FRRO, Delhi who issued restriction orders against them, according to the source.

A senior police official

stated that the raid was conducted from 12 am till 5 am on Monday, after several information and complaints were received about suspicious movements and activities by foreign nationals, in some areas of south district Delhi, in and around Aurobindo Marg and Green Park.

Sources also stated that different teams were formed consisting of police officials and also women staff. The teams were given specified target areas to check and patrol, between AIIMS and Adhchini.

The source also revealed that the female foreign nationals will be given sufficient opportunity to produce their travel documents, failing which they will be deported to their parent country. Special drives will further be conducted in certain areas of the South District, they said.



DIESEL LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI - 221 004

E-Tender Notice

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Maintenance, DLW, Varanasi acting for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tenders for the following work: SN.1. Tender No. **EL/902/W-1106**, Name of Work: **Provision of ANPR Camera at DLW Gate with 05 Year warranty..** Approximate Cost: ₹ 43,58,202.25 (Rupees Forty Three Lakh Fifty Eight Thousand Two Hundred Two and Twenty Five Paise only), Completion Period: 06 Months, Tender Cost: ₹ 3,776/- (Rupees Three Hundred Seven Hundred Seventy Six Only), Earnest Money: ₹ 87,170/- (Rupees Eighty Seven Thousand One Hundred Seventy Only), Tender opening date and time: **31.07.2018** at 15.30 hrs., For details and to participate e-tender visit Indian railways website **www.irops.gov.in**, **PRO/DLW/E-04** Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Maintenance

"Serving Customers with a Smile"

PUBLIC NOTICE

Known to General public that my client Manju Sharma/Vikas Sharma is going to mortgage property i.e third floor with roof rights, bearing no. 10/10, plot no. 5, area 70 sq. yds. Azed Nagar-Bagh Kere Khan, Padam Nagar, (Kishan Garg) Delhi-110007 with New Habitate Housing Finance Development Ltd. And said Manju Sharma purchased the property from Poonam Kundra and Poonam Kundra purchased thesame from Dwarika Devi . And Dwarika Devi became owner of the same wide relinquishment deed executed by legal heirs of Sharda Ram, Shekharchand, Bharat Bhushan, Ramsawaroop Bhardwaj and Omprakash Bhardwaj after death of said persons. And if any person is having any objection, right or claim in respect of the said property in capacity of legal heirs of said Sharda Ram, Shekharchand, Bharat Bhushan, Ramsawaroop Bhardwaj and Omprakash Bhardwaj, or said mortgage or in any manner then he may contact the undersigned within 15 days of publication of this Notice.

AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION (M): 9899013918

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER XVIIIth CIRCLE

UP, JAL NIGAM

Sector-19, Opp. New Ghaziabad Railway Station, Ghaziabad.201002

Letter: 1616 /विगि-13/110 dated: 28.06.2018

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-tender for "Survey, investigation, Construction of 3 nos. Ranneywell Cum Pump House, RCC UGR 400kl, 300kl and 300kl with Pump House Cum Chloronome. RCC OHT 2500kl, 2100kl and 2100kl capacity, C.P.Tank 750kl capacity, Rising Main 250mm dia to 700mm dia DI K-7, Feeder Main 200mm dia to 600 mm dia DI Class K-7, Boundary Wall of Ranneywell campus and gate and ground water recharge units including 6 months trial run & defect liability period of 12 months" works for Ghaziabad (THA) Water Supply Reorganisation Scheme Part-III under AMRUT programme are hereby invited by U.P. Jal Nigam, which shall be available at e-procurement website **http://etender.up.nic.in** from **12.07.2018 at 14:00 hrs onwards upto 25.07.2018 at 16:00 hrs**. E-Tender will be opened on dated **26.07.2018 at 16:00 hrs** at the office of Superintending Engineer, XVIIIth Circle, U.P. Jal Nigam, Ghaziabad. Detailed information of E-Tender will be available on U.P. Jal Nigam website **www.upjn.org**.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to all concern that Bangali Baboo S/o Late Sh. Gulab Singh R/o 404 Udaigiri Apts/ Koshambi Ghazabad, U.P., who is the original allottee of Res. Flat No. B-350B, Sector-19, Noida (U.P.) had sold the said property on General Power of Attorney basis to the following person(s) General Power of Attorney was executed on 1.1.2003 in favour of Sh. Rakesh Chandra Kohari S/o Sh. Bachu Ram Kohari R/o B-350B, Sector-19 Noida (U.P.) which is registered and the Agreement to Sell was not registered or not executed Because the Agreement to Sell is not registered or no Agreement to sell executed, so it is informed to all concern that the said Res. Flat No. B-350B, Sector-19, Noida (U.P.) is going to be transferred in favour of Monika Kohari W/o Sh. Rakesh Chandra Kohari R/o B-350B, Sector-19, Noida (U.P.), if any one has have any objection he/she may file his/her objection alongwith the sufficient proof in the Housing Department of the Noida Authority within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Rakesh Chandra Kohari

The Shipping Corporation Of India Ltd.
(A Government of India Enterprise)

'Shipping House', 12th Floor, Technical & Offshore Division, 245, Madame Cama Road, Mumbai - 400 021

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TENDER NOTICE

Ref: MDS/GIR/SBH/ENGG/ELECT/2018/01 Due Date: 26/07/2018, (Two bid tender [Digital Certificate Mandatory]) 1700 hrs (IST) Tender Fee: ₹ NIL EMD: ₹ NIL

Tenders are invited from reputed firms for onboard **Supply of LED LIGHT FITTING for managed vessel MODU SAGAR BHUSHAN**. Bids to be submitted online at **https://etender.sci.co.in/rfp/portal**. Interested parties may visit SCI website **www.shipindia.com** or Govt website **www.eprocure.gov.in** from 03rd July, 2018 onwards for tender details.

TRANSPORTING GOODS. TRANSFORMING LIVES.

Open schools in minority populated areas: NCERT

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The National Council of Education Research and Training (NCERT) has recommended opening schools in minority populated areas and giving their culture due representation in curriculum.

It has also suggested that festivals related to religious minorities be celebrated in schools. This all is being done to address various problems like alleged discrimination and harassment of minority community children.

Besides some "general issues of discrimination and harassment faced by children of minorities, minority children go through some other modes of discrimination like a different school and classroom environment, cultural and religious domination", according to a manual drafted for the purpose by the NCERT.



The council has also recommended sensitisation of all teachers to issues of cultural and religious diversity, espe-

cially in relation to religious minorities.

"Children of minorities at times find the prayers in the school assemblies and picture of Gods and Goddesses on the walls alien to them as unfriendly environment.

"Sometimes comments on food habits are found to be offensive by one or the other community. Some of the community members may find different uniform as undesirable," it said. It recommended that due representation of minorities culture in curriculum and pedagogical processes.

Urdu medium schools should be established in Muslim concentrated areas where the language is likely to be the mother tongue of children, the manual said.

"Ensure option of learning Urdu as a second language and availability of Urdu teachers in such schools," it said.

Burari death mystery

2 surviving members contest suicide theory

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With the Crime branch cops digging their heels to unravel the mystery of the 11 deaths of Bhatia family in Burari area of North Delhi, two of the surviving members of the family, contested the theory that they committed suicide. They alleged that the family members were killed.

The Delhi Police are investigating whether the 11 members of one family aged between 15 and 77 killed themselves on Sunday as part of a suicide pact after they found handwritten notes from the house, which indicated a "religious or spiritual angle" to the deaths.

The handwritten notes said "the human body is temporary and one can overcome fear by covering their eyes and mouth".

Sujata Nagpal — daughter of the 77-year-old Narayan Devi who was found dead on the floor in the house — accused the media of speculating things and circulating suicide theories.

"I used to speak to my mom every alternate day. Everything was going fine within our family. We are a well educated family and do not believe in babas. It's not a case of suicide. Media has been speculating things and publishing wrong info about my family members committing suicide," she said.

Geeta Thakral, Devi's niece, said she suspect someone from outside the family was involved in the deaths.

Thakral came to know about the incident at 6.30 pm yesterday. She said the family was gearing up for the wedding of Priyanka (33), who was among the deceased, and cel-

ebrated her engagement last month. "They were religious like any other normal family. After hearing about various cases involving babas and tantriks, our family hardly believed in them.

"The family business was going fine. There was no fight within the family. They were busy with wedding preparations. They were all happy. So why would they commit suicide at all," she questioned.

The 11 deceased were identified as Devi, who was

found dead on the floor, her daughter Pratibha (57), her two sons Bhavnesh (50) and Lalit Bhatia (45). Bhavnesh's wife Savita (48) and their three children - Meenu (23), Nidhi (25) and Dhruv (15) were among the deceased. Lalit Bhatia's wife Tina (42) and their 15-year-old son Shivam were also among those found dead along with Pratibha's daughter Priyanka (33). Except Devi, others were found hanging from an iron-mesh in the ceiling, police said.

Post-mortem report of 8 members reveals no signs of struggle: Police

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The post-mortem examination report of eight of the 11 people, who were found dead at their house in north Delhi's Burari locality, has revealed there were no signs of struggle and all of them died as a result of hanging, a senior police officer said on Monday. The autopsy was performed at Lok Nayak hospital by a medical board and was video-graphed.

Eleven members of a family, including seven women and two children, were found dead under mysterious circumstances at their residence on Sunday morning. The post-mortem of eight persons, including the two children and their grandmother Narayan Devi, has been carried out and so far, police have not found any signs of strangulation or scuffle, according to the officer.

Ten of those dead were found hanging from an iron-mesh in the ceiling for ventilation, while the body of 77-year-old Narayan was lying on the floor in another room of the house.

Earlier, it was suspected that Narayan died due to strangulation. But doctors have said that she had died due to "partial hanging", the officer said, adding that a rope was found hanging near her body. It is being probed who took out the rope from her neck, he said.

"From initial examination it seems that they all died due to ante-mortem hanging. The final report is awaited," the officer said. Those who were found hanging had their mouth taped and their faces covered with cloth pieces cut from a single bed sheet. Only Narayan's face was not covered. The bodies will be handed over to the family for last rites later in the day, the official said.

Mental health experts suggest psychological autopsy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

As the deaths of 11 family members in a North Delhi home remained shrouded in mystery, mental health experts said on Monday, victims in mass suicide cases generally "show commonalities" and suggested that a "psychological autopsy" be conducted in the case to unravel the puzzle.

The deceased, including seven women and two children, were found hanging from an iron-mesh in the ceiling yesterday.

The incident has baffled investigators and psychiatrists. Police suspect the deaths were part of a suicide pact after handwritten notes found at the house indicated a "religious or spiritual angle".

But two members of the family today dismissed the suicide pact theory and insisted the 11 people were killed. A senior doctor from the department of psychiatry at AIIMS suggested that a "psychological autopsy" be conducted in the case to get to the bottom of the mystery.

"In layman's term, a psychological autopsy would mean interacting with the victims' relatives, friends and acquaintances to see if there was any pattern - like if they were reading the same book or similar themed books or were part of any cult or were influenced by any occultist," he told PTI on the condition of anonymity.

The doctor said the cause of the deaths has not been ascertained yet and therefore a 'suicide pact' remains only a theory at this point of time.



A policeman carries papers of post-mortem reports of the family of 11 members who were found hanging in their house in Burari, outside Maulana Azad Hospital Mortuary in New Delhi on Monday

Asked what are the factors that drive people to commit suicide en masse, he said: "People who are emotionally very unstable, gullible or vulnerable are prone to enter into suicide pacts". Generally there are several commonalities in such cases, whether of age, religion or some other aspect.

"In the Burari case, there is an entire spectrum of age from 15 to 77. And the emotional status of a young person is very different from a middle-aged or old person. Also the number 11 in this case is rather overwhelming for committing such acts," he said.

Ten of those dead were found hanging from the iron-mesh, while the body of the 77-year-old Narayan Devi was lying on the floor in a room of the house. The deceased had their mouth taped and faces covered with pieces of cloth cut from a single bed-sheet. Only Devi's face was not covered.

Bhawna Barmi, senior clinical psychologist at Fortis Escorts Hospital in Okhla, said: "A common theme in majority of suicidal cults is that they believe in an apocalyptic theology."

"Mass or cult suicides occur mostly in groups that feel

stuck in their lives and they believe that they are unable to control the consequences of their life. Hence, they often believe that death is the only possible option," she said.

This has occurred in a number of cases in the past. Groups of Jews killed themselves or each another to avoid torture, painful execution or being made a slave, Barmi said.

Asked what are some of the behavioural signs these people exhibit before taking an extreme step, she said: "Signs include isolation from any group activity or gathering or

avoidance of any social interaction with behavioural changes that can be evident if paid attention to."

Other signs include talking about feeling hopeless or having no purpose; talking about feeling trapped or being in unbearable pain; and talking about being a burden to others.

"The society around such people should be aware of what is happening around us for our own and other's safety. We should be vigilant and remove the idea of being ignorant just because it is convenient," Barmi said.

Running of pet shops: HC upset with Centre for failing to come up with law

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday was displeased with the Centre for not yet finalising the rules to regulate running of pet shops and warned that it will call the Secretary concerned to appear before it if the situation continues.



A Bench of Acting Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice C Hari Shankar said the Central Government's stand, for the last three years, that the file on the rules was under examination "conveys nothing".

It further said, "We are on the verge of calling the secretary" and listed the matter for further hearing on July 9. The court was hearing a PIL by animal rights activist Gauri Maulekhi, seeking framing of rules under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act to regulate functioning of pet shops.

She has alleged in her plea that animals were subjected to intense cruelty in several pet shops. The high court had earlier also told the central government that it cannot wait "indefinitely" for finalising the pet shop rules.

South civic body to roll back hiked taxes for residential properties

NEW DELHI: The South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) has decided to roll back the increased rate of taxes for non-residential properties measuring less than 150 Square metre for the financial year 2018-19. The properties in question will henceforth be levied tax as per rate applicable in their respective category of colony i.e. 10, 12 and 15 per cent instead of increased rate of 20 per cent taxes, mentioned in the original schedule of taxes for the financial year 2017-18.

It may be recalled that the rates were increased for the financial year 2018-19 in respect of all shops, offices showrooms and warehouse having covered area of less than 150 Square. SDMC Mayor Narender Chawala said that the new rates will come into force with immediate effect.

SDMC Standing Committee Chairperson Shikha Rai said that the schedule of taxes for the financial year 2018-19 has been modified in order to provide relief to the owners/occupiers of shops, offices, showrooms, including warehouses from where woods are sold. "The owners of the properties will have to pay property tax for the financial year 2018-19 at the rate of taxes applicable in the financial year 2017-18, hence, there will be no hike in the rate of property tax,"

she said.

Rai also said that the excess amount of property tax already paid till date on this account in respect of above properties will be adjusted during financial year 2019-20. She added that around 30000 property owners will be benefited with this liberal decision of SDMC. She further stated that the civic body wanted to give relief to the small commercial property owners with an aim to protect them from any enhanced amount of property tax.

Meanwhile, the East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) announced a rebate in property tax to neutralise the effect of increased tax rate due to implementation of recommendations of 3rd Municipal Valuation Committee (MVC).

Mayor of East Delhi Bipin Bihari on Monday said that the rebate in property tax is being offered as per the recommendations of 1st Municipal Valuation Committee (MVC-I).

As per the new provisions, commercial and non-residential properties of 139.35 square meters or more will fall under A category and are granted exemption equivalent to pre-existing MVC-I, he said.

He further said that the rebate is also available on all industrial properties comes under B category as per the recommendations of MVC-I. SR

AAP's Statehood movement attempt to hide its failures, alleges BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Hitting out at the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which plans to launch a "movement" from Tuesday demanding full Statehood status for Delhi, the BJP on Monday accused it of trying to "divert" people's attention from the "failures" of its Government in the national Capital.

"BJP is trying to tell the people that full Statehood demand by Kejriwal Government is aimed at diverting attention of people from its failure to deliver in the areas of water and power supply, transportation, education and health," a statement issued by the Delhi BJP read.

The party also claimed that a survey on social media by a Delhi BJP general secretary has revealed that "95 per cent respondents" believe that the AAP's full statehood demand was an attempt to divert attention from "failures" of its government.

Delhi BJP general secretary Kuljeet Chahal said that his party will "actively" use social media to "expose" the Arvind Kejriwal government. He claimed that in the survey being conducted by him on Twitter, there were 8,600 respondents till 7 pm on Monday.

People want Centre to inform HC that no trees felled: AAP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Buoyed by the National Green Tribunal's (NGT) putting stay on felling of trees for redevelopment of colony in South Delhi till further orders, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) asserted that the people want that Centre should inform Delhi High Court that the entire project is being redesigned so that no tree is cut.

The green panel also directed the project proponents to make a categorical statement and inform it about the exact number of trees proposed to be cut for the redevelopment project for about half a dozen colonies.

"The AAP welcomes the order of the NGT to stall any tree cutting by Central Govt's NBCC redevelopment (sic)," the AAP spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj tweeted.

He also accused the National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC) of not stating in the tribunal that it is "replanning" the whole project.

"HardeepS Puri, Ur Dept's Media statement and Court statement r different!! (sic)," Bhardwaj said in another tweet.

Union Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri had on last said no trees would be cut in the process of redevelopment of seven colonies in



South Delhi.

He had said that the national capital's green cover would not be damaged and steps would be taken to enhance it, while asserting that the NBCC and the CPWD - entrusted with the task of executing the redevelopment project have been asked to rework and redesign the plans to avoid tree felling.

In a statement, Bhardwaj said, "The AAP appeals to the Central government that they should officially communicate to the Forest Department, Government of Delhi, about their decision to redesign the project."

"As the matter is coming in the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, the people of Delhi also expect that Central government should officially state before the High Court of Delhi that they are redesigning the entire project so that no tree is felled," he said.

The AAP has alleged that around 17,000 trees are to be cut for redevelopment of the seven colonies.

Tracking devices with GPS in portable water pumps to tackle waterlogging

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In order to deal with waterlogging in the city during monsoon, the Delhi Government has decided to install GPS-enabled tracking devices in portable water pumps. The decision is said to be first of its kind move to effectively deal with the problem. The move is aimed at ensuring proper accountability of temporary mobile pumps to drain out stagnant water.

Delhi PWD Minister Satyendar Jain has directed officers that the location of the temporary mobile pumps along with their capacity and specification should be uploaded on the department's website, a senior official said.

"The decision was taken at a recent meeting chaired by the minister. He has directed that the temporary mobile pumps should be fitted with GPS so that the pumps can be monitored properly. The password of the GPS trackers should be given to higher authorities for proper monitoring," the official said.

The official said the department has started working out modalities for introducing the new system in the national capital.

Every monsoon, people in Delhi face water-logging problem, while the authorities often



blame each other for not dealing with the issue properly.

According to officials, GPS-enabled trackers would help keep a tab of the location of the pumps and if the need arises following complaints of water-logging, nearby portable water pumps can be shifted there.

In the meeting, which was chaired by the PWD minister, the officials concerned were also directed that de-silting data, details of pumps, manpower and other relevant data must be regularly updated on the department's website.

Last year, de-silting of drains had become a contentious issue between the AAP government and the bureaucrats.

The Delhi Assembly's Petitions Committee had recommended the chief secretary to divest the then principal secretary Ashwani Kumar of his charge in the Public Works Department and Vigilance Department, and to conduct a "detailed inquiry... to fix responsibility for false claims" of de-silting of drains.

City to remain dry with only drizzle in isolated areas till Saturday

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

Even as the Met has declared the arrival of monsoon here, the national Capital and surrounding regions will remain dry with only drizzles in isolated areas till Saturday.

The mercury is set to rise through the week and maximum temperatures may hover around 41 to 42 degrees Celsius by the end of this week, officials at the India Meteorological Department (IMD) told IANS.

According to the private weather forecasting agency Skymet, the National Capital Region (NCR) will see good rainfall from July 9.

"There are hardly any chances of good rains in



A man holds a child's hand as they make way through heavy rainfall in New Delhi on Monday

Delhi till at least July 7. The NCR will remain mostly dry and temperatures will rise," Kuldeep Srivastava, senior scientist at IMD, told IANS.

He, however, added that over the next two days, some parts of Delhi may see drizzles.

"There had been deficiency of rains in June in Delhi but as monsoon rains are expected to catch up by mid-July, the overall rainfall would be balanced," Srivastava added.

Earlier, the weather agencies had predicted the arrival of monsoon and good rainfall in the national capital between June 28 and July 1. The scenario changed due to the meteorological reasons.

"The axis of monsoon

trough have shifted to the foothills of Himalayas, so the entire north-west plains will remain dry till at least July 7 to 8. The rainfall will return to Delhi around July 9 to 10," Mahesh Palawat, Director of Skymet, told IANS.

He added that while north-western plains will remain dry this week, good rainfall was expected in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

"During the next 24 hours foothills of Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and eastern parts of Uttarakhand would observe active to vigorous monsoon conditions that could give moderate to heavy rains, with one or two very heavy spells,"

Skymet said.

Monsoon will remain active over Konkan, Goa and Coastal Karnataka that would see moderate to heavy showers.

So far in June (till June 27), Delhi saw 24 mm rainfall (pre monsoon activity) which is 49 per cent deficient as the normal rains should have been around 47.5mm, according to IMD.

For the country as a whole, 7 per cent deficiency in the overall rainfall has been registered from June 1 to July 1, according to Skymet.

"Division-wise, South and Northwest India are surplus by 13 per cent and 12 per cent respectively. East, Northeast saw 26 per cent deficiency and Central India remained deficit by 6 per cent," Skymet said.

Punjab proposes death for drug peddlers

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

In the backdrop of a spate of deaths due to drug overdose in the state, Punjab Cabinet on Monday decided to recommend to the Centre death penalty for drug peddlers and smugglers.

The move was aimed to act as a deterrent to the heinous crime, which was "destroying" the lives of youth in Punjab and many other places.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh, which resolved to send a formal recommendation soon to the Union Government to this effect, according to an official

spokesperson.

The Chief Minister had called for the meeting to discuss the issue, particularly in the context of the recent spate of deaths due to alleged drug overdose and adulterated drugs in the state.

Opposition parties including AAP and SAD have been criticising the 15-month old Capt Amarinder Singh led Congress government for allegedly failing to contain drug menace in the state despite promising before assembly polls wiping out drugs within four weeks.

There was a widespread outrage over the deaths of youths in several parts of Punjab because of drug overdose and a campaign against

drugs called 'Black week against Chitta' was being observed by some activists in the state starting from July 1 in the wake of drug abuse.

The Cabinet also decided to constitute a special working group under the chairmanship of Additional Chief Secretary (Home) N S Kalsi to review and monitor, on a day-to-day basis, the action being taken to check and control drug abuse.

The special working group constituted to review and update the government strategy against drugs will have ACS (Health), DGP (Law & Order), DGP (Intelligence) and ADGP (STF) as members, the spokesperson said after the meeting.

SC extends time till April 2022 for setting up of facility at Kudankulam plant

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday directed the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) to set up a facility for safe storage of radioactive spent nuclear fuel at Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KKNPP) by April 2022.

The apex court, which had earlier granted time till May 30 this year for the purpose, extended the time for the NPCIL to set up the 'Away From Reactor Facility' (AFR) to store the spent nuclear fuel.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justices A M Khanwilkar and D Y Chandrachud considered the submission of Additional Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the cor-



poration, that the deadline for setting up of the storage facility be extended till April 30, 2022.

The bench, however, made it clear that no further extension of time shall be granted to the corporation for setting up of the AFR at the nuclear plant in Tamil Nadu.

The apex court had earlier allowed the Centre to operationalise the nuclear plant subject to compliance of various safety measures including the safe storage of the spent nuclear fuel.

Trainee cop held for taking selfie in judge's chair

Umaria: A trainee police constable's enthusiasm for 'selfies' landed him in the police lock-up after he took his picture while sitting in a senior judge's chair in a court here, an official said on Monday.

Ram Avtar Rawat, 28, the trainee constable at the police academy in Umaria, was later arrested on charges of trespassing, the official said.

On Saturday, Rawat, who was allegedly in an inebriated condition at that time, passed by the district judge's room in the court premises here, Kotwali police station in-charge R B Soni said.

On noticing that the room was open and empty, he went inside, sat in the district judge's chair and started clicking selfies on his mobile phone, Soni said.

The court peon, Shakti Singh, saw the trainee constable's act and caught hold of him.

The peon informed court officials who in-turn called the police and Rawat was arrested, Soni said.

The police registered a case against Rawat under Indian Penal Code section 448 (trespass), he added.

He was later granted bail at the police station itself, investigating officer Sarika Sharma said. **PTI**

Give us a time frame for appointing Lokpal in 10 days: SC to Govt

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday directed the Centre to apprise it within 10 days about the time frame for steps to be taken to appoint anti-graft ombudsman Lokpal in the country.

A bench of Justices Ranjan Gogoi and R Banumathi said this after Attorney General K K Venugopal, who placed before it the written instructions which he had received from the government and said that the Lokpal selection committee would meet soon.

The apex court asked the Centre to file within 10 days an affidavit indicating the steps which were likely to be taken for appointing the Lokpal and also the time frame.

When the Attorney General referred to the relevant paragraphs of the written instructions, the bench said, "We would like the concerned officer to say on affidavit whatever he wants to say".

Senior advocate Shanti Bhushan, appearing for NGO Common Cause which has filed a contempt petition raising the issue of non-appointment of Lokpal despite the apex court's judgement of April 27 last year, said that even after four-and-a-half years, the anti-graft ombudsman has not been appointed.

"The time has come when the Supreme Court should exercise its powers under Article 142 (related to enforcement of decrees and orders of the apex court) to appoint the Lokpal till such time the Lokpal is not appointed by the government," he said.

The bench, however, said that before passing any order in the matter, it would like to have an affidavit in this regard by the competent authority in the government.

"Before passing any order, we would like the competent authority in the Union of India to place before us on affidavit the details of steps which are likely to be taken for appointment of Lokpal, indicating the time frame during which the steps of appointment would be taken," the bench said.

The bench posted the matter for hearing on July 17 and asked the Centre to file an affidavit within 10 days.

On May 15, the Centre had told the apex court that senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi has been appointed as an eminent jurist in the selection committee for appointment of Lokpal.

Rohatgi was appointed the Attorney General of India on June 19, 2014, soon after the Narendra Modi government assumed power in May.

Over 184 special trains to run during Jagannath Rath Yatra

Bhubaneswar: As many as 184 special trains to and from Puri will be pressed into service during the nine-day Lord Jagannath's Rath Yatra in Odisha from July 14, official sources said.

The trains will ply from Khurda, Bhubaneswar, Bhadrak, Cuttack, Paradip, Berhampur, Bhawanipatna, Keonjhar, Bangiriposi, Palasa and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, Kharagpur, Shalimar in Kolkata between July 14 and 25, an official of East Coast Railway (ECOR) said on Monday.

Fourteen special trains will run towards Puri. One special train each will start from Visakhapatnam, Kharagpur, Shalimar and Junagarh Road for Puri on July 13.

One each train will start from Bangiriposi, Kendujhargharh, Bhadrak, Cuttack, Paradeep, Brahmapur, Palasa and three from Khurda Road for Puri on July 14.

In the reverse direction, 14 special trains will leave from Puri for Visakhapatnam, Kharagpur, Shalimar, Junagarh Road, Bangiriposi, Kendujhargharh, Bhadrak, Cuttack, Paradeep, Brahmapur, Palasa and three towards Khurda Road on the Rath

Yatra day.

As many as 24 special trains will run to and from Puri between July 15 and 20.

One pair of special train will run between Bangiriposi and Puri during the period.

Three special trains from Khurda Road will ply towards Puri and two to Khurda Road. One special train will ply to Bhubaneswar, said the official.

Besides, eight special trains will run for Sandhyadarshan on July 21 while 13 special trains will move to Puri for Bahuda Yatra (return journey of the deities).

One special train each from Visakhapatnam, Shalimar and Junagarh Road will leave on July 21 from the originating stations to Puri.

Ten special trains, include one each from Bangiriposi, Kendujhargharh, Bhadrak, Cuttack, Paradeep, Brahmapur, Palasa and three from Khurda Road, will be run to Puri on July 22.

In the return directions, 13 special trains will be pressed into service.

A total of 13 special trains will be run to Puri for Suna Besha (golden attire of deities) event. As many as 13 special trains will leave from Puri in the reverse directions **JANS**

Naxal killed in encounter with police in Chhattisgarh

PTI ■ RAIPUR

A Naxal was gunned down in an encounter with the police in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, a senior official said on Monday.

The face-off took place late last evening at a forest in Etapal village when a team of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) was out on an anti-Naxal operation, Inspector General of Police (anti-Naxal operations) Sundarraj P told PTI.

The DRG personnel were cordoning off a forest patch near Etapal, located about 450 km from Raipur, when a group of rebels started firing at them leading to the gun-battle, he said.

After guns fell silent, the body of a Maoist clad in 'uniform' was found at the spot, he said, adding that the deceased was yet to be identified.

An Insas rifle and some Naxal-related material were also recovered from the spot, the official said. **PTI**

State, Board must protect Vaishno Devi shrine, environment: SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court today took note of the problem of pollution in the Vaishno Devi shrine in Jammu and the surrounding areas and made it clear that the Jammu and Kashmir government and the shrine board would have to "protect and preserve" both.

A bench of Justices Madan B Lokur and Deepak Gupta also asked them to protect the pony and mule owners, who are operating there for a long time ferrying devotees to and from the shrine, and look into issues of their rehabilitation on "humanitarian grounds".

The bench, after perusing some recent pictures of waste dumped in Banganga river near the shrine, observed that if the photographs were true, then there were lot of problems which needed to be looked into.

"It is very clear that you have to preserve and protect the shrine and protect the environment also. You will also have to protect the mule owners. We do not know whether you are looking at it (issue of rehabilitation) on humanitarian grounds," the

bench observed.

Additional Solicitor General Maninder Singh and advocate Shoeb Alam, appearing for Jammu and Kashmir, said the plan for rehabilitation of pony and mule owners was to go before the sub-committee of the Cabinet, but as of now, there was no government in the state which is under Governor's Rule.

"The sub-committee was constituted, but before they could look into the issue of rehabilitation, the government fell in the state," they said.

Singh also told the bench that NGT was also looking into some of the aspects relating to the shrine and has passed several orders. The lawyers for Jammu and Kashmir said that since the apex court was seized of the matter, the NGT should not proceed with the case pending there. The counsel for activist Gauri Maulekhi, who had filed a plea in the NGT seeking removal of horses and mules from the path to the shrine, placed before the bench the recent pictures of Banganga river, and said waste was being dumped into the river causing environmental degradation.

Reddy may return to Cong

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The last Chief Minister of the undivided Andhra Pradesh N Kiran Kumar Reddy is likely to return to the Congress fold in a few days. This is said to be the direct consequence of AICC President Rahul Gandhi telling the rank and file to woo back leaders who left because of the party's role in the bifurcation. Gandhi told the media that leaders who joined the YSR Congress also would be brought back.

Reddy would meet former Kerala Chief Minister and AICC person incharge of Andhra Pradesh Oommen Chandy in Hyderabad on July 1. Chandy is coming to attend a wedding in the family of

Congress leader T Subbarami Reddy.

Kiran Kumar Reddy, the last Chief Minister of integrated Andhra Pradesh till 2014 had quit the party in a huff in protest against the party's decision to support the bifurcation and carving of Telangana State.

Amid the speculations that Reddy was keen to end his political hibernation and return to Congress Oommen Chandy, general secretary incharge of Andhra Pradesh affairs met him at his residence in Hyderabad last night and invited him to join the party.

Kiran Reddy, who belongs to Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh had after quitting Congress had launched his own Samaikya Andhra party

but it failed to click. Except occasional speculations that BJP was trying to lure him, Reddy remained out of new and away from active politics for the last four years while Congress continues to be marginalized in the state politics despite a handful of party leaders like N Raghuvendra Reddy keeping the party flag aloft

After the hour long meeting Kiran Kumar Reddy told the media that he would take a decision at an appropriate time.

Oommen Chandy said that the country was passing through a crucial time and the Congress president Rahul Gandhi had invited all the former Congressmen to return to the party and strengthe it for the sake of the nation.

OMER FAROOQ ■ HYDERABAD

There was a good news and a bad news for the tiger lovers from the Kawal forest range in the erstwhile Adilabad district. The good news is that a tigress has given birth to three cubs bringing cheers to the forest officials at a time when doubts were being raise whether the reserve has any big cat or not.

The bad news was that another tigress in the area was left badly injured by an snare left by the hunters and authorities were making all out efforts to save the injured animal.

The news that the three-year-old tigress Phalguna has given birth to three cubs was confirmed by the camera trap



in Kagznagar forest in Kumaram Asifabad district. Though the photos of the tigress with three cubs were taken in mid June, official believe that the tigress with her home in the forest around Sirpur-Kagaznagar had borne the litter in March or April this

year. This was her second litter. Meanwhile in quick response to the reports that K-4 tigress was injured, Telangana state government has formed a Rapid Response Team to look for her and rescue her life. The animal, reportedly injured by a trap set by hunters was moving around with a wire snare around her lower abdomen in Chennur Forest of Mancherial district. Camera trap revealed that the tigress was moving in Kagaznagar and Chennur in Kawal Reserve.

Both Mancherial and Kumaram Bhim Asifabad were earlier part of Adilabad district.

Telangana forest department has sought the help of Ravikant S Kobragade, wild life expert from Tadoba reserve in

Maharashtra and Ajay Marathe, a sharp shooter from the special tiger protection force of Maharashtra. Rapid Response Team also include Chennu Forest Development Officer D Raja Rao and a member of Hyderabad based society for the Tiger Conservation Imran Siddiqui. The force will be assisted by veterinary experts from Hyderabad and Warangal Naveen Kumar and Praveen Kumar and Forest Development officer, Mancherial Ramalingam.

Interestingly the injured tigress is from the first litter of Phalguna. Forest officials say that they were monitoring Phalguna since the direct sighting in December last had confirmed that she was pregnant.

Release 31.24 TMC water to TN in July: Cauvery Management Authority to K'taka

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Cauvery Water Management Authority, in its first meeting on Monday, ordered Karnataka to release 31.24 TMC water to Tamil Nadu in July.

Even as the Karnataka Government had on June 30 decide to appeal in the Supreme Court against the setting up of the Cauvery Water Management Authority, chairman of the body Masood Hussain, on Monday said the meeting was held in a very cordial atmosphere with a "spirit of cooperation".

Representatives of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Puducherry attended the meeting. According to the minutes of the meeting, the authority directed Karnataka to release 31.24 TMC water to Tamil Nadu in the month of July.



• CHANGE OF NAME •

I, Rajeshwari Raghav w/o Yashpal Raghav R/o 475, Gali No. 8, 24 Feet Road, Adarsh Nagar, Ballabgarh, Faridabad have lost my original GPA bearing no. 507 dated 22-3-1993 registered with Sub Registrar, Ballabgarh regarding my above house measuring 100 square yards. Said GPA is not mortgaged anywhere. Finder please contact on 9711131112.

PUBLIC NOTICE

BE IT KNOWN TO ALL THAT MY CLIENTS SH. OM PRAKASH YADAV S/O LATE SHRI BASANT SINGH YADAV AND SMT. BIMLA DEVI W/O SH. OM PRAKASH YADAV, BOTH R/O H.NO. 94-A, GALI NO. 5, DEEPAK VIHAR, NAJAFGARH, NEW DELHI-110043, HAS DEBARRED AND DISINHERITED THEIR SON NAMELY VINAY KUMAR, FROM ALL THEIR PROPERTIES, BOTH MOVABLE AND IMMOVABLE AS MY CLIENTS HAS NO CONTROL OVER HIM AND HAS SEVERED ALL THEIR RELATIONS WITH HIM. ANY PERSON (S) DEALING WITH HIM WILL BE DOING SO AT HIS/HER/THEIR OWN COSTS & RISKS.

SUBHASH DIXIT-ADVOCATE
Ch. 741, Dwarka Court, N.D.-75

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(A Government of India Enterprise)

'Shipping House', 12th Floor, Technical & Offshore Division,
245, Madame Cama Road, Mumbai - 400 021

Website: www.shipindia.com • Twitter: [@shippingcorp](https://twitter.com/shippingcorp) • CIN-No: L63030MH1950G01008033

TENDER NOTICE

Ref: MDS/GIR/SBH/ENGG/MARINE/E-65 Due Date: 26/07/2018,
(Two bid tender [Digital Certificate Mandatory]) 1700 hrs (IST)
Tender Fee: ₹ NIL EMD: ₹ NIL

Tenders are invited from reputed firms for onboard Supply & Installation of SCR PACKAGE AC UNITS - 2 Nos. for managed vessel MODU SAGAR BHUSHAN. Bids to be submitted online at <https://etenders.sci.co.in/irj/portal>. Interested parties may visit SCI website www.shipindia.com or Govt website www.eprocure.gov.in from 03rd July, 2018 onwards for tender details.

TRANSPORTING GOODS. TRANSFORMING LIVES.

16,500 trees in Delhi survive...

From Page 1

"Therefore, even though we give sufficient time to the project proponent to file their replies to the interim relief, but we are satisfied that a prima facie case is made out for grant of ad-interim order in the nature of protective order so as to protect environment ... And its preservation is essential.

"Hence applying the precautionary principle, we direct the Respondent No. 1 and 2 to maintain status-quo, particularly in the matter relating felling of the trees and direct that there shall be no felling/cutting/destruction of the trees till further order by this tribunal," the Bench said.

Incidentally, the NBCC on the direction of the MoUD had started chopping of fully grown old tress in Netaji Nagar, the matter came in to limelight when locals objected and glued themselves with tress marked Chipko-II.

Interestingly, the Bench served noticed to all twelve Government agencies State and Central involved in passing proposals to build township.

The green Bench also directed the project team to mention exact numbers of tress which are proposed to be cut for the redevelopment project.

The tribunal was hearing a plea by NGO - Society for Protection of Culture, Heritage, Environment, Traditions & Promotion of National Awareness (SPCHETNA) seeking a stay on the proposed felling of 16,573 trees for redevelopment of the colonies.

The petitioner claimed that environmental clearance has been granted for seven general pool residential colonies without taking into account possible adverse effect on the ecology.

It said the clearance has been granted for colonies in Sarojini Nagar, Netaji Nagar,

Nauroji Nagar through the NBCC and in Kasturba Nagar, Thyagraj Nagar, Srinivaspuri and Mohammadpur through the CPWD.

The plea claimed that planting of saplings at another location as compensatory afforestation would not reduce the burden put on the environment due to the large-scale felling of trees.

Anil Sood, president of the NGO, said the Centre had given clearance to the projects without considering several factors, such as existing population density and the impact of cutting 16,500 trees on the ambient air quality in the area.

Sood said , "Though MoUD Minister made statement in Press that they are reviewing projects but no such statement has been made before the NGT which means the Ministry is blowing hot and cold in the same breath. Sincerity is missing on ground."

The plea said an environment impact assessment report for the project around south Delhi showed that 11,000 trees will be cut in Sarojini Nagar, 1,465 will be cut in Nauroji Nagar, 3,033

will be chopped off from Netaji Nagar and another 520 will be cut in Kasturba Nagar, out of a total of 19,976 trees in these areas.

The re-development scheme plans to replace existing flats of Type I to IV with a built-up area of around 7.49 lakh square metres with Type II to VI units with built-up area of around 29.18 lakh sq m

SC to...

From Page 1

The practice of polygamy, on the other hand, allows a Muslim man to have multiple wives with the earlier marriage still continuing.

Two of the petitioners — Shameena Begum and Nafisa Khan — related their ordeal how their husbands mistreated them and without obtaining divorce, married second time. Sameena got married in 1999 and had two sons from the wedlock. Throughout, her husband tortured her to bring in more dowry or face talaq. She filed a complaint of dowry harassment under IPC Section

with supporting infrastructure facilities.

The projects will also develop Government office accommodation of nearly 2.42 lakh sq m in Netaji Nagar. The total estimated project cost of Rs 32,835 crore includes maintenance and operation costs for 30 years and will be completed in five years in a phased manner.

498A. Nafisa too met with the same fate.

Left without any remedy due to polygamy and triple talaq getting the legal cover under Muslim personal law, both petitioners demanded to put polygamy, nikah halala, and triple talaq as offence under Sections 498A (dowry harassment), 375 (rape) and 494 (bigamy) of the IPC.

They argued that giving recognition to talaq-e-bidat, nikah halala and polygamy as a valid form of divorce interferes with the Muslim women's right to profess and practice her religion under Article 25. It also treated women unequal as polygamy is not permitted for married Muslim women.

Interpol issues notice to find, extradite Nirav

From Page 1

"In the RCN, Interpol has given details of all the five passports of Nirav, issued between May 2008 and May 2017, including that these passports have been cancelled by the Government yet he has managed to travel on the basis of revoked and cancelled passports", CBI officials said.

In a bid to track down Nirav, the CBI has also written several times to the UK, United States, United Arab Emirates, Belgium and Singapore. In response to a diffusion notice, the agency said, the Interpol's Manchester office had earlier informed it about his movements till March 31.

Nishal and Parab have also been charge sheeted by the CBI along with Nirav and Mehul Choksi for alleged corruption and cheating. Nirav and his uncle Mehul have refused to return India to join probe citing business and health reasons among others.

PD(8140)C

I, Pavitra W/O Manoj Singh Chauhan R/o Village Nangli Wazidpur Noida Gautambudh Nagar (U.P.) have changed my new name Dolly Chauhan for all purposes.

PD(8142)A

Congress divided over Govt formation in J&K

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress seems to be divided over formation of Government in Jammu and Kashmir with a section of its leaders calling for an early election while another section wants to exploit the political situation. The Congress' core group on Jammu and Kashmir met at the residence of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Monday to discuss the political situation in the State.

The group includes senior Congress leaders Karan Singh, P Chidambaram, Congress general secretary in charge of the State Ambika Soni and J & K chief Ghulam Ahmed Mir. After the meet, Soni said the party wanted early polls in the State. The party will hold a meeting of its legislators in the State in Srinagar this week and discuss the way forward. The Congress is in a wait and watch mode in the State, which is under Governor's

JK ASSEMBLY: 89

PDP: 28
BJP: 25
NCJ: 15
Cong: 12
JKPC: 2
CPIM: 1
JKPDF: 1
Ind: 3
Others: 2

Rule after the BJP pulled out of its alliance with the PDP. There are reports of the National Conference and the PDP approaching the Congress for Government formation in the State and a section of leader pondering to form the Government in the interest of the party.

However, senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad has ruled out that the party will form a Government with the PDP.

Azad said there is no question of any alliance with the PDP, which lost power in the State after the BJP withdrew support from the coalition Government.

"There is no question, for now or in the future, of forging an alliance with the PDP," Azad had said while denying having met any PDP leader. Mir on his part claimed that the BJP is making "desperate attempts" to "explore possibilities" to return to power in the state, days after pulling the plug on its alliance government with the PDP.

The speculation are abuzz about a possible meeting congress leadership and former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti who reached Delhi on the weekend. The PDP has 28 seats and the Congress has 12 in the 87-member state Assembly. A simple majority of 44 seats is required to form the government and some PDP members have been trying to seek the support of the CPI (M) and independent members.

NIACL scam: CBI books broker, firms, officials

RAJESH KUMAR/MADHUSUDHAN SAHOO ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has registered an FIR against an insurance broker, two insurance brokerage firms and three senior officials of New India Assurance for criminal conspiracy, cheating and criminal misconduct.

According to CBI's First Information Report (FIR), a copy of which has been accessed by *The Pioneer*, New India Assurance Company Limited (NIACL) was cheated by the accused by paying a commission to the brokers without producing a written mandate as per IRDA guidelines." A total brokerage of Rs 45,16,572 was paid fraudulently to Salaskar BS Insurance Brokers Pvt Ltd and Prudent Broker Pvt Ltd in this manner," the FIR said. New India Assurance, a public sector concern, had issued policies to Etisalat DB Telecom Pvt. Ltd, which was being probed for its alleged role in the 2G scam.

CBI FIR said NIACL deputy manager Pallavi Sinha, Suresh Prafulkar and Gyan

Ranjan (both branch manager), Dharam Sharma private person and broker, Salaskar Insurance Brokers Private Limited and Prudent Brokers Private Limited have entered into criminal conspiracy by abusing their officials position and cheat the insurance company without producing the written mandate of the insured. .

"The NIACL issued policies to M/s Etisalat DB Telecom Pvt. Ltd. covering the fire, public liability and Burglary and the premiums were booked under the broker's codes. Further it revealed that no insurance broker was appointed for Cellular Network Package Policy (Package with BTS, Office Burglary, Office Fire & Public Liability) for insured sum of Rs. 1967.59 Crores (Premium Rs.24,26,041/-) during the period from April 1, 2013 to September 30, 2016. Total brokerage of Rs. 45,16,572 was paid fraudulently to two broker firms by NIACL, Powai Branch through its disbursement account No. 910020011082950," CBI FIR said.



CBI officials said that Dharma Sharma, Manager of M/s Salaskar Brokers Pvt. Ltd. had made correspondence by private mail ID only with Pallavi Sinha, Branch Manager, NIACL, Powai Branch for placing the above said business but not submitted the written Mandate of client.

Further, in 2013, he left the company and joined M/s Prudent Broker Pvt. Ltd and transferred the whole policy business to the new broker company from July 2013 to September 2016 without written mandate of changing the

broker from client. According to CBI, Pallavi Sinha, had herself issued, accepted and approved these policies six times during her tenure without obtaining written Mandate from insured M/s Etisalat DB Telecom Pvt. Ltd. and without approval of the policies from Head Office, NIACL.

Further, on next renewal of the said policy, she had sent these policies to Regional Office, NIACL for the period October 01, 2014 to December 30, 2014 for further proceeding of approval.

Subsequently, after transfer of Pallavi Sinha , Suresh

Probhalkar took over the as Branch Manager, NIACL.

He also recommended and sent the policies for the period January 2015 to March 2015 to Brundawan Mallik, Senior DM for approval. Mallik had recommended for issuance of the policy and again did not sent them to Regional Office NIACL for approval.

Furthermore, he issued the said policies four times during the period from January , 2015 to March, 2016 based on which brokerage was released.

According to CBI, Gyan Ranjan who was appointed as an officiating branch incharge after Prafulkar's retirement, issued an accepted the policy renewal from the period from April 2016 to September 2016 which was not within his delegated powers. Further, he had also sent these policies for approval to Mallik, Sr. DM. Divisional Office, NIACL.

Further Mallik recommended those policy and sent to Regional Office, Mumbai for approval. Further, Dilip Sonawane, had approved these policies on March 2016.

Apex court seeks Yogi Govt's response over encounters in last 1 yr

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday sought response of the Yogi Adityanath Government over the encounter deaths in Uttar Pradesh over the past one year.

A public interest litigation (PIL) filed by NGO Peoples Union for Civil Liberties brought the spotlight on the rising number of encounters and alleged criminals being eliminated by the state police as part of a state-sponsored plan to enforce law and order.

Arguing the PIL, advocate Sanjay Parikh submitted to a bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra that as per facts available, about 1100 encounters took place in the last one year killing 49 persons and injuring 370. On a latest count, Parikh claimed that 58 persons were eliminated as part of this action



plan of which several were allegedly fake encounters.

The bench, also comprising Justices AM Khanwilkar and DY Chandrachud, asked the petitioner to serve a copy of the PIL to UP government. The petition stated that since the state government endorsed the encounters, there would be no probe into the killings. It demanded a fair probe by Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in addition to monitoring by a Committee headed by a former Supreme Court judge into excesses committed by police officials.

India can play a major role in unstable world to achieve peace: PM Modi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India can play a major role in the present "unstable world" to achieve global peace and prosperity, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday told the country's heads of missions in foreign countries at a conference here.

The Prime Minister addressed the envoys on the last day of the three-day conference during which the country's foreign policy priorities were deliberated upon.

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, at the session, said, "India's global profile and prestige have gone up significantly" since Prime Minister Modi has assumed office.

"India can play a major role in today's unstable world to achieve global peace & prosperity": Inspiring address by PM @narendramodi — his

4th — at the 9th Heads of Mission Conference, "Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said.

Swaraj, ministers of state for external affairs V K Singh and M J Akbar, senior officials, and heads of missions were present at the event.

The envoys had yesterday deliberated upon the country's foreign policy priorities, including the role of India's soft power in achieving its objectives.

President Ram Nath Kovind has also met the envoys at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. The President had told them that the litmus test of India's engagement with the external world is what it is able to do to propel domestic growth and development.

Indian envoys in multilateral forums also attended the conference.

Military Services engineer held in graft case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has arrested a Kochi-based chief engineer of the Military Engineering Services (MES) and five others and recovered an alleged bribe of Rs 1.21 crore. According to CBI, searches were conducted in 20 locations, including the home of Rakesh Kumar Garg, who is posted as chief engineer (naval works) MES in Kochi. The raids, which began on Sunday , covered several cities, including Delhi, Kochi, Ajmer, Rohtak, Hisar and Kolkata.

During the searches, an additional recovery of Rs 3.97 crore and six kilograms of gold biscuits was made by the agency, the sources said. According to CBI, incriminating documents recovered during searches are being scrutinised for further investigation.

The searches were made after the agency received inputs that Garg was "collecting and demanding illegal gratification of 1 per cent of contract amount from the contractors

for issuing various civil contracts in the Kochi naval base", officials said.

It was alleged that the Garg was demanding and collecting illegal gratification from the contractors for issuing various civil contracts in Naval Base Kochi. It was also alleged that the accused was receiving bribe amount through his conduit and others through hawala route/direct payment by private contractors and their associates. It is learnt that the bribe money is usually handed over to Kanav Khanna through hawala route and through direct payment by private contractors.

CBI alleged that the accused persons have entered into criminal conspiracy with each other in Delhi and Kochi while commission of offences. "Sanjeev Kumar Agarwal who is the brother of Rakesh Kumar Garg, retired Executive Engineer from Haryana State Public Works Department. He was staying at No. 106, Sector-4, HUDA, Near Skytech Mall, Rohtak. The corrupt money was initially parked in the residence of Kanav Khanna and

later it is transferred to the residence of his brother Sanjeev Kumar Agarwal. The amount is normally carried by Kanav Khanna himself or his associates," the FIR said.

The office of Chief Engineer (Naval Works) Kochi had called for quotation for constructing provision of deficient married accommodation for sailors at Mundamveli, Kochi in the month of April 2018. Last week the tender was opened and it was decided to award the contract for an amount of Rs. 177.33 crores to two contractors on sharing basis - P u s h k a r r a j Constructions Pvt. Ltd., and Jain Builders based in Ajmer . Pushkar Bhasin, who was one of the Directors of M/s Pushkarraj Constructions Pvt. Ltd., is looking after the affairs of the company at Naval Base Kochi whereas Praful Jain is looking after the affairs of Jain Builders at Kochi. It was alleged that Garg demanded an amount of Rs. 83 lakhs from Bhasin and Rs. 89 lakhs from Jain, which they agreed to pay. They were asked to hand over

the bribe amount to Kanav Khanna in Delhi.

The MES functions under the control of the Engineer-in-Chief of Ministry of Defence. They are responsible for the design, construction and maintenance of all infrastructure assets of armed forces. Garg was working as Chief Engineer (Naval Works) in Kochi since January 2017. He was the head of office in Kochi.

The agency has booked Rakesh Kumar Garg, Chief Engineer (Naval Works), Military Engineer Services (MES), Kathari Bagh Naval Base, Pushkar Bhasin, Director of M/s Pushkarraj Constructions Pvt. Ltd, Praful Jain, M/s Jain Builders, based in Ajmer, Kanav Khanna and Sanjeev Khanna (private persons), Subodh Jain from Ajmer, Chanchal Jain from Delhi and others under section 120 B of Indian Penal Code and sections 7, 8, 10 & 12 of Prevention of Corruption Act on the allegations of demanding and collecting illegal gratification etc from the contractors.

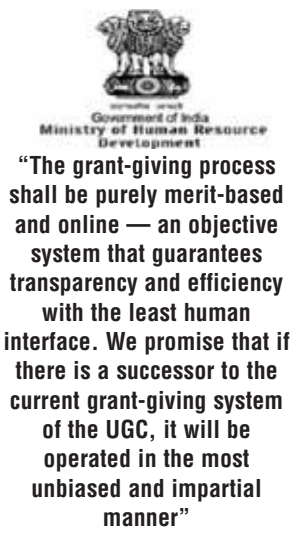
No final decision on shifting funds-sanctioning power: HRD

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

HRD Ministry on Monday clarified that a final decision on transferring the power to sanction funds to higher educational institutes to itself, following the scrapping of the UGC, was yet to be taken. The Ministry had last week announced its decision to replace the University Grants Commission (UGC) with the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) by repealing the UGC Act, 1951.

According to a draft, which has been placed in the public domain by the ministry to seek feedback from the stakeholders, the new commission will solely focus on the academic matters and monetary grants would be under the purview of the ministry.

The decision has not gone down well with a section of the academicians, who have ques-



tioned the move saying politicians should not be involved in academic matters.

"Apprehensions regarding the recommended shift of the grant-related functions

to the ministry under the proposed HEI Act, 2018 are purely misplaced. No final decision has been taken to shift the grant-related functions to the ministry, even though the recommendation to separate the regulator and the grant-giving entity was made by several expert committees in the past and is rooted in the sound principles of governance," a HRD Ministry spokesperson said.

"The grant-giving process shall be purely merit-based and online -- an objective system that guarantees transparency and efficiency with the least human interface. We promise that if there is a successor to the current grant-giving system of the UGC, it will be operated in the most unbiased and impartial manner," he added.

According to the draft, less government and more governance, separation of the grant-related functions, end of the inspection raj, focus on

academic quality, powers to enforce compliance with the academic quality standards and to order closure of sub-standard and bogus institutions are some of the highlights of the new Act -- the Higher Education Commission of India Act, 2018 (Repeal of the University Grants Commission Act). The new Act is likely to be tabled in Parliament during the Monsoon Session, which begins on July 18. The government was earlier mulling to have a single regulator for technical education, national council teachers training and UGC.

However, it has been decided to strengthen the higher education regulator as it was felt that the UGC remained preoccupied with disbursing funds to institutes and was unable to concentrate on other key areas such as mentoring the institutes, focussing on research to be undertaken etc.



Devotees cheer as they leave for Amarnath Yatra in Pahalgam on Monday

PTI

LAW COMMISSION CONSULTATION Discussion on feasibility of simultaneous polls

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Law Commission is set to hold consultations with all major political parties on July 7 and 8 to discuss the feasibility of conducting simultaneous Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections.

The Congress on Monday confirmed that they had received the note from the Law Commission but it did not disclose whether its representatives will attend the meeting. The Commission's previous attempt to seek the views of the political parties on the issue had evoked no response.

None of the political parties had responded to the Law Commission's 'working paper' on holding simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly polls.

None of the political parties had responded to the Law Commission's "working paper" on holding simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly polls. The proposal is being pushed by the Central Government

The proposal is being pushed by the Central Government.

BJP, Congress, CPI, CPI(M), TMC, BSP and NCP are the national parties recognised by the Election Commission. Recently, Chief Election Commissioner Om Prakash Rawat had a word of caution on simultaneous polls. He said the legal framework required for holding the two elections together will take a lot of time to get ready.

Seeking to give shape to the government's concept of "one nation, one election", the Law Commission's internal

working paper has recommended holding the Lok Sabha and assembly polls simultaneously but in two phases beginning 2019. The second phase of simultaneous polls can take place in 2024, the document states. States which will come under phase-II are Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Delhi and Punjab. To hold elections in these states along with LS polls, the terms of the assemblies have to be extended.

"Some provisions of the Representation of the People Act would also have to be

amended by a simple majority in Parliament", it said. The document has proposed amending the Constitution (Articles 83 (2) and 172 (1) dealing with tenures of the Lok Sabha and the state Assemblies) and the Representation of the People Act to extend the terms of state legislative Assemblies to effect the move. It suggests that in case a government falls mid-term, the new government would be elected for the remaining period of that term, and not for a fresh five-year rule.

SC breather for CVC, Vigilance Commissioner

Refusing to replace the decision of the Committee with its own merely on basis of certain allegations, the Bench dismissed the PILs and observed, "We are nowadays in the scenario that such complaints cannot be taken on face value. Even against very honest persons, allegations can be made"

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday found no fault with the appointment of Central Vigilance Commissioner KV Chowdary and Vigilance Commissioner TM Bhasin after a set of PILs alleged that the duo did not possess a clean track record. The two were appointed in June 2015.

A bench of Justices Arun Mishra and Mohan M Shantanagoudar was satisfied that the complaints against the two officers were probed by the Selection Committee which found the allegations baseless.



Refusing to replace the decision of the Committee with its own merely on basis of certain allegations, the bench dismissed the PILs and observed, "We are



nowadays in the scenario that such complaints cannot be taken on face value. Even against very honest persons, allegations can be made."

The PILs were filed by NGOs Common Cause and Center for Integrity Governance and Training in Vigilance Administration. It was alleged that Chowdary's investigation was found wanting in the controversial Niira Radia phone tapping case.

The Bench said that earlier when complaints were filed against persons occupying important officers, it would be taken as serious aspersion on individual's integrity. But with time, the Court felt that even honest persons can be subjected to any complaint and hence the need to take it with a pinch of salt.

SFI activist stabbed to death in Kerala Church sex scandal: 4 priests booked

VR JAYARAJ ■ KOCHI

A 20-year-old activist of pro-CPI(M) student outfit SFI, Abhimanyu, was stabbed to death in the famous Maharaja’s College in Kochi Sunday midnight allegedly by Islamists belonging to the Campus Front of India and SDPI, student and political wings respectively of the Popular Front of India.

Two other students, also belonging to the SFI, were injured in the Islamists’ attack and the condition of one of them, Arjun from Kottayam, was stated to be serious. Three Campus Front-SDPI activists were taken into custody on Monday morning itself, according to the police. Abhimanyu was also a member of the SFI’s Idukki district committee.

Abhimanyu, a second-year degree student from a poor family in Vattavada in Idukki district, was stabbed to death by a gang of 20 Islamists, majority of whom were outsiders who invaded the campus, following a dispute over sticking posters on college walls for welcoming new students to the college on Monday, the first day of the new academic year.

The incident triggered protests across the State against turning campuses into killing fields. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who also holds the Home portfolio, said preliminary inquiries had confirmed that people of extremist orientation were behind Abhimanyu’s killing and that



stringent action would be taken against the culprits.

Those taken into custody were identified as Bilal of Kottayam, Farooq from Pathanamthitta and Riyas of Fort Kochi. The police indicated that the remaining culprits including Muhammad, the person who had invited the gang of Islamists to the college, might have left Kochi. The police have also identified ten other members of the gang.

Eyewitness Ananthu, a student of the college and also an SFI activist, said there were around 20 men in the gang that had invaded the campus Sunday midnight and stabbed Abhimanyu to death. He also said that only one in the gang

was a student of Maharaja’s and that the gang had come prepared to attack the pro-CPI(M) students.

“They reached the college gates at midnight and wanted to enter the campus but we opposed it. Amidst the dispute, someone from the gang took out a knife and waved it at us forcing us to disperse. One member of the gang chased Abhimanyu and stabbed him,” Ananthu said, adding that he did not think a small dispute could develop into such a gruesome incident.

Students of the college said that tension had been prevailing for the past few days between the SFI and the Campus Front over the latter’s

TWO OTHER STUDENTS, ALSO BELONGING TO THE SFI, WERE INJURED IN THE ISLAMISTS’ ATTACK AND THE CONDITION OF ONE OF THEM, ARJUN FROM KOTTAYAM, WAS STATED TO BE SERIOUS

efforts to gain a foothold in the college which is seen as one of the strongest fortresses of the SFI in Kerala. They said the gang had come well-prepared with weapons and their attack was obviously preplanned.

Stating that the attack was preplanned, the Chief Minister said the secular society should unite against religious extremism. State CPI(M) secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan said that the murder of the SFI activist was part of a well-planned bid by extremist forces that had been swept away from the campuses to establish their domination over students by terrorizing them.

Finance Minister TM Thomas Isaac, a former student of Maharaja’s College, said, “The Campus Front has been on a provocative campaign in the college for some time. We will confront these forces of communalism politically.” College principal KN Krishnakumar said enforcing a code of conduct for students would have to be considered in the context of the incident.

VR JAYARAJ ■ KOCHI

The Kerala Police’s Crime Branch has booked four priests of the influential Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church in the sensational case pertaining to the sexual abuse of a young married woman by blackmailing her using her confession secrets.

The four priests – Abraham Varghese (Sony), Jais K George, Job Mathew and Johnson V Mathew, as per reports – were charged with rape and outraging the modesty of woman. The Crime Branch registered the case after recording the statement of the woman whose husband had earlier petitioned the Church leadership about the sexual exploitation.

Though the complaint was originally against five priests and the woman had identified all of them, the FIR has been registered only against four of them. A Crime Branch official said though there were reports earlier about the involvement of five priests, the woman had mentioned only four of them.

He said the Crime Branch would now approach a court in Thiruvalla, Pathanamthitta for recording the statement of the woman under Section 164 of the CrPC. The police might not for the time being arrest the four accused as there were “formalities and procedures to be completed”, he added.

The four priests had reportedly gone into hiding immediately after the news of the registration of the case

against them came despite the fact one of them had told the media the other day that he was ready to cooperate with any kind of probe, even for a polygraph examination. The priests were said to be preparing to move the High Court for anticipatory bail.

With the registration of the case against the four priests, the inquiry initiated by the commissions appointed in three dioceses by the Church’s leadership on May 15 – Niranam, Thumpamon and Delhi – to which the five priests belonged on the basis of a complaint lodged by the woman’s husband, a native of Anikkad in Pathanamthitta district, on May 7 has lost its relevance.

After receiving the complaint from the woman’s husband, the Church leadership had instructed the five accused priests to stay away from performing priestly duties. A three-member Crime Branch team headed by Superintendent of Police Sabu Mathew had the other day recorded the statement of the woman and her husband.

The Crime Branch took up the probe into the scandal that has stunned not just the Orthodox Church but other Churches of Kerala as well as per instructions issued by the State police chief, DGP Loknath Behera, on the basis of a letter written to him by former chief minister VS Achuthanandan demanding a police probe.

The scandal had erupted a



few days ago after an audio clip containing a purported conversation between the young woman’s husband and an official of the Orthodox Church in which he alleged sexual abuse of his wife by the priests came out through social media. The man alleged that the priests had sexually abused his wife by blackmailing her using her secret confession.

In the audio-clip, the woman’s husband was heard saying that she had been abused by a priest before marriage. “She had confessed the matter later to a priest in her confession but he exploited her sexually by threatening to reveal the confession secret to me,” he said. Three other priests also had allegedly abused her by blackmailing her with the

confession secret.

Reports quoted the woman as saying in a statement that Fr Abraham Varghese, who was a neighbour, had exploited her sexually when she was only 16 and this had continued even after her marriage. She had cited this in 2009 in her confession heard by Fr Job Mathew, who allegedly exploited her sexually by blackmailing her with this confession secret.

It is said that the other priests who exploited her using the confession secret to blackmail her had come to know of it from Fr Job. She reportedly said that Fr Jais K George had exploited her sexually using threats and force. Fr Jais had abused her sexually at a star hotel in Kochi several times, according to her.

Dissension in PDP; former Min hits out at Mehbooba

KHURSHED WANI ■ SRINAGAR

Less than two weeks after Mehbooba Mufti resigned from Chief Minister’s post following withdrawal of support from the BJP, her People’s Democratic Party (PDP) suffered first bout of dissension on Monday after a senior leader heralded rebellion against the party leadership.

Former Minister and legislator from Pattan constituency of north Kashmir Imran Reza Ansari on Monday accused Mehbooba of being ‘incompetent’ that led to the collapse of her Government. Ansari said the coalition partner BJP lent every support to the government including ‘magnanimous central funding’ but Mehbooba was incompetent enough to throw it down the drain.

The PDP vice president Sartaj Madni described Ansari’s allegations as “unfounded and illogical.” The PDP-BJP coalition fell on June 19 when the BJP pulled out of the alliance citing the national interest. The state came under Governor’s rule on the next day.

Ansari, 44, was Youth Services and Sports Minister in Mehbooba’s cabinet and had

voiced his displeasure over allocation of an insignificant portfolio several times during his tenure. He is scion of a powerful Shia dynasty holding sway on a section of minority Muslims in Srinagar and Baramulla districts. He inherited the leadership from his father Molvi Iftikhar Hussain Ansari who died in 2014 and was one of the most prominent leaders of the PDP. Like PDP founder Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, Ansari had quit the Congress to contribute in the making a vital regional party, which reached the echelons of power twice in last 20 years.

Imran was elected from his father’s pocket borough Pattan in north Kashmir while his uncle Abid Ansari was elected from Zadibal constituency of Srinagar. The dissention of Ansari’s would affect a huge loss to PDP, say observers.

Ansari said that Mehbooba not only failed the PDP as a party but also knocked down the hopes and the dreams of her own father and the PDP founder Mufti Mohammad Sayeed.

He said that blaming BJP for pulling the government down only for the sake of power was rubbish and that it was instead

Mehbooba’s failure to lead the government efficiently.

He said that BJP supported the coalition government wholeheartedly and it was because of their endeavors that such a huge chunk of money was released to state for various developmental activities.

Ansari said the PDP and the government had off late been reduced to a family opera where the relatives would play protagonist and to continue with such a party was not only useless but a humiliation too.

The former IT minister said that he has now decided to distance himself from the party where the opinion of the senior leaders doesn’t carry any meaning. He however added that he has not resigned as a legislator or from the basic membership of the party as of now, but clarified that the party has lost its essence and being called the leader of such a party was itself meaningless.

Reacting Ansari’s diatribe Sartaj Madni said that it was the sweet choice of Ansari to choose whatever path he may like. He said a political party founded by late Mufti Sayeed, has a well-defined unambiguous pro-people political vision and agenda for J&K.

Owaisi holds BJP responsible for trolling of Sushma Swaraj

OMER FAROOQ ■ HYDERABAD

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen President and Member of Parliament from Hyderabad Asaduddin Owaisi has strongly condemned the hateful attacks on country’s External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and said that the IT Cell of her own party BJP was behind the vicious campaign.

He was responding to a question about the attacks in social media on Sushma Swaraj. He said more than the attacks by the hateful trolls, the silence of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other Ministers and BJP leaders was shocking and reprehensible.

“This is part of their strategy that whoever slightly deviates from their path become target of their hateful and vicious campaign”, he said. “BJP IT cell has been organising and encouraging such campaigns against the opponents of the party. But now they have turned against their own Minister and no BJP leader has come to her defence”.

He expressed shock that when the hate campaign forced Sushma Swaraj to conduct a poll in twitter 43% respondent justified attacks on her. “This



itself is evidence that the BJP was behind these attacks and it was encouraging such elements”, he added.

Sushma Swaraj was under sustained attack by the trolls evr since her ministry issued passport to an inter faith couple and transferred an official of Lucknow passport office Vikas Sharma who had earlier reportedly unsuited the couple and denied them the passport.

While many of the trolls were demanding her removal from Modi cabinet some of them have used unprintable and filthy language against her. Sushma in her part has retweeted some of those messages to highlight her victimisation.

one of the trolls has even asked her husband to beat her up.

Pradesh Congress faces dilemma: To be or not to be with Mamata

Cong high command summons Bengal leaders to Delhi

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Congress high command has summoned Bengal party leaders to Delhi apparently to discuss the system of alliances in the election year following reports of division in the Pradesh Congress on whether to realign with the Trinamool Congress or to follow a confrontationalist approach with Mamata Banerjee who has allegedly engineered defection in the parent party and hijacked its leaders. The meeting is likely to take place on July 6, insiders said.

According to sources the party’s central observer for Bengal, Gaurav Gogoi have reported to the high command about the prevailing division in the WBPCC over its Trinamool Congress policy. A majority of Bengal Congress leaders have told Gogoi about the prevailing anger in the rank and file against Mamata Banerjee in which case they have requested the leadership to follow an

independent path.

Another, yet the smaller group has reportedly told Gogoi that going against Banerjee would further ruin the organisation, particularly in the areas like Murshidabad, Malda and Raiganj where the Congress had a traditional stronghold.

These minority dominated districts that account for all the four MPs of Congress from Bengal have in the recent past seen a mass migration towards the Trinamool Congress — apparently out of sheer fear of a rising BJP. A number of MLAs have already joined the Trinamool while some others including an MP and an MLA from Malda were likely to join it on July 21, the Trinamool Congress Martyrs’ Day, the high command have been informed.

The pro-TMC group in the Congress has wondered whether it would be possible to retain or win seats from Murshidabad by going against the TMC, particularly at a time when Banerjee has managed to establish itself as the messiah of the minorities. Besides the parallel group is also not sure about a decaying Left Front’s plans which is



itself divided over its future course of actions vis a vis the Congress. This, particularly in the wake of Forward Bloc State secretary and former Minister Naren Dey going on record saying his party would not be swayed by the CPI(M)’s views on the Congress. “If the Front tries to ally with the Congress then the Bloc will come out of it,” Dey said.

“A whole lot of issues will be discussed in Delhi,” a PCC leader said reminding in Lok Sabha elections the minority community will vote to strengthen the hands of the Congress in Delhi and not the hands of Mamata Banerjee who is planning to divide the anti-BJP vote bank to pursue her own interests. “In that case it will be difficult for the Trinamool to ignore the Congress or defeat it in its strongholds. Hence the high command will keep these things in view before coming to a decision.”

Cong alleges ₹1,767 cr land scam in Mumbai

BJP denies charge

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Seeking to “expose” a ₹1,767 crore land scam involving the state-run the City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO), the Mumbai Congress on Monday charged that Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis had allotted a prime plot of land at Navi Mumbai to a builder for a measly sum.

Addressing a joint news conference, Mumbai Congress chief Sanjay Nirupam and party’s national spokesperson Ranjeet Singh Surjewala alleged that Fadnavis-led saffron alliance Government had transferred 24 acres of land worth ₹1767 crores, to Paradise Builders, for a mere sum of ₹3.60 crore.

They alleged that the plot of land belong4ed to the CIDCO and it was reportedly meant to rehabilitate project-affected persons and farmers of the Koyna dam project.

Within hours after the Congress’ news conference, Maharashtra’s BJP spokesperson Madhav Bhandari dismissed all the allegations terming them as “false and baseless,” while party’s legislator and a Fadnavis’ associate Prasad Lad threatened to file a

₹500-crore defamation against Nirupam and the Congress.

“Getting photographed with chief minister Devendra Fadnavis is no proof for the scam. There is no truth in the allegations made by Nirupam. I have had close relations with many political leaders and builders over the years,” Lad said, at a news conference held later in the evening.

“Causing loss to the public exchequer and betraying the poor in order to shower the rich crony friends is deeply intrinsic character of the BJP. The ‘suit-boot’ governments at the centre and in BJP-ruled states seek to outbid each other in benefitting their handful of crony friends,” Nirupam alleged.

Nirupam charged that Fadnavis had doled largesse to the builder in his capacity as the Minister in charge of the Urban Development portfolio.

According to Nirupam, Paradise Builders had in 2017 sought land in Navi Mumbai close to the proposed international airport and “the officials allegedly identified gullible farmers ousted in the Koyna Dam project to getting CIDCO land allotted and then transferring it to the realtor”.

In February 2018, Nirupam said Raigad collector allotted the 24 acres of land in Survey Nos. 180/0, Village Ranjanpada to eight ousted farmer families of Koyna Dam



project.

“The Paradise Buildes had already entered into an agreement to transfer this land for ₹15 lakh per acres with the farmers. The CIDCO and Urban Development Department headed by Fadnavis gave their NOC to denotify the land so it could be transferred to the builder,” Nirupam alleged.

Nirupam also alleged that all other formalities were completed speedily and the builder was given the possession of the land last month, at a pittance of Rs.15 lakh per acre, when CIDCO had sold the adjoining plots of lands for a staggering ₹184,000 per square metre.

Dubbing the Navi Mumbai land deal as a mega-scam, Nirupam and Surjewala have demanded a committee of two

sitting judges of the Bombay High Court.

Among the questions they posed to the Maharashtra government were: who were the eight project-affected farmers, how were they identified, how were they allotted prime CIDCO lands instead of agricultural land, how did the builder make the agreements of sale with the farmers and why did the famers sell immediately the CIDCO land, after the allotment and that to for a pittance compared to the market value.

They wanted to know what was the relationship between CIDCO-UDD and the Paradise Builders, and why they secured Fadnavis’ blessings for a ‘sweet-heart deal’ at a pittance of ₹3.60 crore for prime land worth around ₹1,767 crore.

Congress conducts exams for media panelists

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Congress brass conducted a written exam and interview to select media panelists, despite large scale criticism by senior leaders.

Till Monday evening, the last date for filing of applications to appear in the second round of exams, about 250 leaders submitted their bi-data which will now be scrutinised by a team from Delhi before callingthem to appear for the exam which was to take place in the national capital.

Last week, a written test and interview was conducted to constitute the new media team in the state unit of Congress.

Party sources confirmed that unlike selecting the best amongst 65 aspirants last Thursday, senior leaders already gave a list of half dozen leaders, who were spokesman before UPCC chief Raj Babbar disbanded the Media Cell last month.

It now remains to be seen whether their names would figure in the new team to be announced later this week.

Amongst those who submitted fresh applications, a majority of leaders will be selected for media team in districts.

Cricketer Vinod Kambli faces charge of assaulting 59-year-old man at Mumbai mall

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Known for his unending controversies, former test cricketer Vinod Kambli was at it again. This time around, he allegedly manhandled a 59-year-old man in a Mumbai mall on Sunday.

Kambli reportedly manhandled is Raj Kumar Tiwari, the father of singer Ankit Tiwari and Ankur Tiwari, after the senior Tiwari had allegedly misbehaved with his wife Andrea Hewitt.

The incident was caught in the CCTV camera of the InOrbit Mall at Malad in north Mumbai.

“The man touched and brushed me inappropriately,” Andrea alleged. Her husband Kambli asked: “How anyone could tolerate such a thing?”

The matter reached the Bangur nagar police station at the Goregaon suburbs of Mumbai. However, no concrete action had been initiated by the police till Monday evening.

“We will not take the allegation (made by Kambli’s wife Andrea Hewitt) lying down. The allegations are baseless,” Sr Tiwari said. He also threatened to file a defamation suit against the Kambli and his wife.

It may be recalled that in May 2014, Ankit Tiwari’s ex-girlfriend had accused him of rape and his brother of threat-

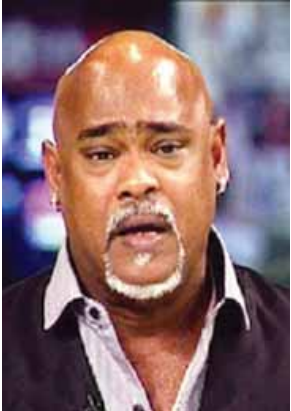
ening. Though in April 2017, both the brothers were acquitted of all charges by the Mumbai Sessions Court.

Kambli – who played 17 Tests and scored 1084 runs at an impressive average of 54.20 and piled up 2477 runs in 104 ODs (at an average of 32.59), played his last international match in 2000 and retired from first class cricket in 2011 – has had more his share of controversies over the years.

In July 2014, Kambli had landed in real trouble when he and wife were declared as “defaulters” by a local co-operative bank through a newspaper advertisement after they failed to return arrears amounting to the tune of Rs 50 against a loan taken by the bank’s Mumbai branch more than five years ago.

In November 2013, the Managing Committee of Jewel Cooperative Society, a housing society where he lives with several former Mumbai cricketers at Bandra in north-west Mumbai, had decided to move the state-run Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA) for recovery of Rs 10 lakh in dues from Kambli.

Around the same time, the stylist left handed batsman was in the news for having gone to town expressing his disappointment at not having



found a mention in Sachin Tendulkar’s farewell speech delivered after the latter 200th Test match at Wankhede stadium.

Kambli has had health issues over the years. Having undergone an angioplasty on two of his blocked arteries in July, 2012 at Lilavati Hospital, the yesteryear cricketer survived a minor heart attack on November 29, 2013, after a circumspsect women traffic police officer rushed him to Lilavati Hospital at Bandra in north-west Mumbai just in time.

Kambli was driving a white Pajero from Chembur in north-east Mumbai to his Bandra residence, when he developed massive chest pain and pulled up his vehicle by the roadside at Sion on the Eastern Express Highway.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Two cheers


Sure, Mercs and milk can't have the same rate under GST, but is the 'Good and Simple Tax' all that it's claimed to be?

There is no doubt that the Goods and Services Tax brought in a new age of indirect taxes to India. After years in the making, the new tax system ostensibly simplified India's maze of separate State taxes on a range on items easing inter-State commerce. The old joke that India was an amalgamation of 29 separate tax codes, and thus 29 separate countries, vanished overnight. However, confusion over tax rates, refunds and the inevitable teething issues have meant that the heartburn over GST persists.

When the Prime Minister pointed out that there cannot be a single tax slab for a bottle of milk and a Mercedes car, he inadvertently made a reference to the one industry for which GST rates have brought immense amounts of needless confusion; that is the automotive industry. While the Government is right to promote small, fuel-efficient cars, taxes on passenger vehicles are needlessly confusing and do not, peculiarly enough, encourage fuel efficiency. They leave far too many loopholes and lacunae, with six to eight different rates for cars. In fact, when GST started, rates for cars were simpler and set off a higher demand for more expensive cars but rates were quickly amended upwards and fuel-efficient, emission-friendly hybrids were punished. That, in a nutshell, describes GST's multiple rate confusion. While Rahul Gandhi has promised one universal rate under GST, that is too simplistic as well. All GST-like systems across the world do impact lower income groups disproportionately and differential rates for essential items and non-essential items will therfore have to be maintained.

In a growing economy with more and more consumers, rates have to be balanced to ensure domestic consumption keeps growing. We cannot risk killing the golden goose. On this front, the Government has been less than successful; for example, by classifying some products like air-conditioners as 'luxury items' whereas in a country with a growing middle-class these are far from luxury items. Also, more thought has to be put in to the GST system for cars, where taxes should not be determined solely by size, but as has happened in the West, by emissions as well. This would encourage people to buy more fuel-efficient hybrids and possibly zero-emission vehicles as well, reducing our fuel import bill. Indeed, the GST system has been successful in bringing in thousands of smaller and medium businesses that for years dodged taxes and collections are up even for personal income tax. Combined with the power of artificial intelligence running on the tax departments servers, which can analyse millions of data points in seconds, red flags are being raised on all sorts of anomalies allowing tax officials to act. But, at the same time the Government should understand that delays in GST refunds and the high rate of GST for certain products run the risk of alienating the salaried and trading classes and while it is out promoting social sector schemes. If India is to grow even faster, tax rates have to come down. Sure, milk and Mercs can't be at the same rate. But that is missing the point about the problems with GST.

50 WORD EDIT



Pilgrims' progress

Despite the muddy tracks, inclement weather and constant threat of terror attacks, pilgrims on the Amarnath Yatra have embarked upon the most difficult part of the trek between the two base camps, climbing up to an altitude of 11,000 feet. Devotion such as this, whatever one's religious beliefs, is awe-inspiring. Faith, truly, can move mountains.

Tech tree

Learning from the Himachal Pradesh forest department's initiative to save trees is essential

So finally, the forestry division of Himachal Pradesh, spurred on by the High Court's tough talk and the unprecedented water crisis that hit Shimla during peak tourist season, has begun using technology to save receding forests. Much like radio-collaring and sensor cameras that are put in place to monitor tiger species, forest officers are tagging each tree with numbers and implanting sensor chips that would trigger an alarm the moment the unfamiliar sounds of tree-cutters or fire come within striking distance of destruction. Beside these sensors, whose GPS signals will be available on mobile phones, an aerial army of drones will keep monitoring the density of pine forests. Shimla has been denuded over time due to over-felling, frequent change of land use patterns, a forest fire, some of which is surreptitiously man-made to clear a patch for encroachment or felling by timber mafia. And while foolproof monitoring and conservation of botanical reserves is a tall physical order in the Himalayas, technological devices can help be the hawk's eye. Particularly at a time when climate is challenging the priorities of how we live and, more importantly, how we provision for our continuity as a species. While satellite images can give us a broad perspective of the larger forest cover, geospatial technology is key to an objective assessment of changes at the local and micro levels. For example, if there is a change in the health of existing old species with new invasive varieties destroying the soil balance and even changing the topographical character, it would have a huge impact on arboreal life and supporting wildlife. Chip implants and camera traps can go a long way in mapping the potential causes of a depleting forest cover.

World over, technology has been used to revitalise forests. While the Shimla pilot will gradually be extended to the rest of Himachal, Delhi, too, can use tracking devices to regrow and maintain its urban forests. Delhi could also follow the tree bond model, where developers deposit a huge security amount with the authorities while ensuring that no tree gets scratched or impaled during construction. The money is given back only after a survey of the completed project certifies that the greens are intact. Meanwhile, our tree-hugging citizens can introduce a new form of *bhagidari* by tracking the minutest change in their vicinity and sharing it with apps and online communities. This database can be used by the Government, which then will have no choice but to be accountable.

Ignoring its icons will cost Congress

It is only a matter of time before the BJP appropriates Narasimha Rao just as it did Sardar Patel and other Congress leaders. The Grand Old Party of India will only have itself to blame for it

A SURYA PRAKASH



Friends and admirers from across the country paid rich tributes to former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao on his 97th birth anniversary last week and recalled his sagacity and statesmanship in pulling India out of the economic crisis of 1991 and for stamping out terrorism and secessionism in Punjab. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was first off-the-mark with a glowing tribute to his predecessor on Twitter. Modi said, "Remembering our former Prime Minister Shri PV Narasimha Rao on his birth anniversary. Shri Rao is widely respected as a statesman who provided stable leadership during a critical period of India's history. Blessed with immense wisdom, he made a mark as a distinguished scholar as well."

The Telangana Rashtra Samithi Government in Telangana observed the day by holding events to remind the people of Rao's

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

I wish to put up a board proclaiming no entry for uncle Nitish Kumar here, at my mother's residence. —BJD leader TEJ PRATAP YADAV



Their's is a house that is frequently raided by CBI, IT-Department and the Enforcement Directorate. Who would like to enter it? —BJD spokesman NEERAJ KUMAR

Separate electorates redux?

By asking Muslims to vote only for co-religionists in elections, Owaisi has renewed an old debate which has the potential to lead to a national crisis



PROFULL GORADIA



On June 25, Asaduddin Owaisi of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimin declared that henceforth Muslims should only vote for Muslim candidates in elections. Separate electorates, first introduced by the Morley-Minto Reforms in 1909, amounted to the same thing. This, as we shall see, opened the door to Partition, as was feared by the torian KM Panikkar. This repetition of a 20th century demand has enormous potential for a national crisis.

The Indian National Congress was conceived by a British retired bureaucrat, Allan Octavian Hume and was, hence, a British creation. The first Congress was held in Surat in 1885 with non-communal intentions. There were no elections and no vote banks in those days. It was, therefore, possible to meet, discuss public problems and generally compliment the British Government. The first Congress was led by Badruddin Tyabji because the Congress chief (1887) and Syed Ahmad Khan cautioned the Muslims to not join the Congress as it was essentially a Hindu party. He went on to reiterate what he had declared at Lucknow and a year later in 1888 at Meerut that the Hindus and Muslims were separate nations. Sir Syed's articulations had two effects. The Congress became sensitive to the two communities being distinct; religion began ceasing to be essentially a personal matter. It also had a public significance.

Second, a quiet ferment began among the upper echelons of Muslims which eventually led 35 emissives led by Sir Aga Khan in October 1906, to call on Viceroy Lord Minto with a petition of three demands. One, that Muslims should be given reservations in Government jobs. Two, in any elections, local or Provincial, there should be separate electorates. Third, the Aligarh Muslim University should be recognised as an Islamic institution, although incidentally, the land was donated by a Hindu Raja, Mahendra Pratap and all expenses were met by the Government.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

VICIOUS REPORT

Sir — This refers to the article, "Malicious UNHRC report" by Bhopinder Singh (June 29). India is a democratic country that is governed by law. Unlike in communist and authoritarian regimes, chances of violation of human rights in Kashmir, as reported by the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), are remote and unthinkable.

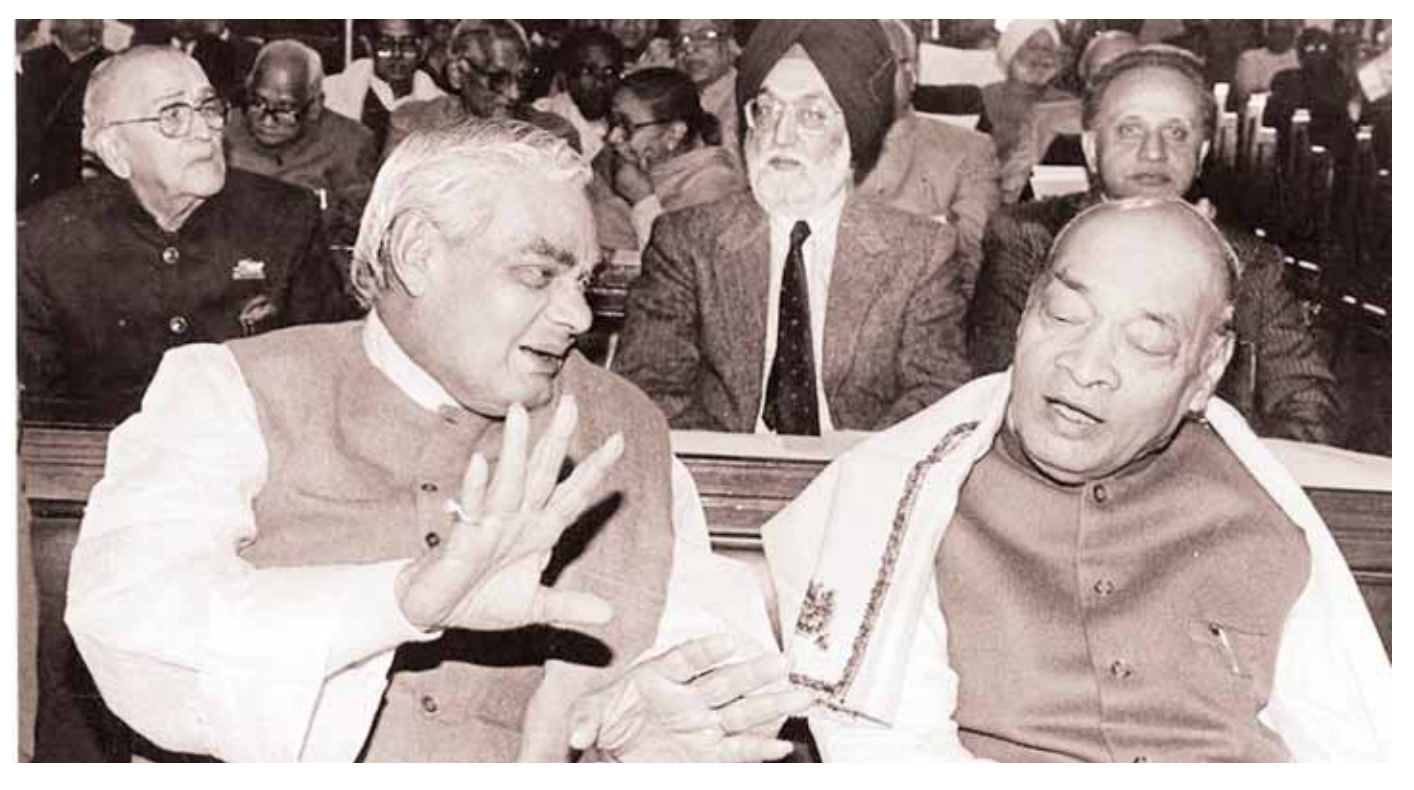
It is an undisputed fact that terrorists from across the border as well as and separatists in the region are unleashing unrest and violence in the

Kashmir Valley.

Vitriolic, vicious and virulent attacks on Army camps and other places are resulting in deaths of hundreds of innocent people besides causing widespread destruction. It is also the Government's duty to provide shields to prevent security forces from completing their operations. India has all the sovereign rights to contain and neutralise these extremist elements.

UNHRC's report is, therefore, misleading and is based on factitious concoction without tangible evidence.

Nimaj Charan Swain
Bhubaneswar




judicious and philosophical leadership at a critical moment in India's history and took immense pride in the fact that Rao was not just a Telugu Bidda but also a Telangana Bidda. Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao said that "the people will remember forever and ever" the great services rendered by Rao. The Chief Minister had earlier urged the Union Government to confer the Bharat Ratna on Rao.

On the other hand, the Congress, the party to which Rao owed allegiance all through his life, was not so enthused. It seemed to be dragging its feet when it put out a Tweet hours later remembering Rao for pushing through legislative measures in Parliament although he headed a minority Government. The party underplayed the fact that he had courageously opened up the economy, retrieved Punjab from the clutches of hardcore terrorists and laid the foundation for a new India. This is in line with its policy of underplaying the contribution of party leaders not belonging to the Nehru-Gandhi family.

Rao became the Prime Minister at a very crucial time, soon after the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi. When he took oath as the Prime Minister, the country's foreign exchange reserves were perilously low at ₹2,100 crore; just enough to pay bills for a fortnight. The predecessor Government headed by Chandra Shekhar had mortgaged gold to raise foreign

J S RAJPUT



Courageous judgement of democracy were under test by Indira Gandhi. The Legislature emerged in poor light. The judiciary could not emerge as the defender of law and the Constitution. Not much was expected from the bureaucracy as they always have a defence. We are not policy-makers but implementers. While Justice Sinha and also Justice Iyer kept the flag of the judiciary flying, there was too much of disappointment in store when a five Judge Bench of the apex court examined what is known as the ADM Jabalpur case. In his brilliant analysis of the Emergency in the volume, *Emergency: Indian Democracy's Darkest Hour*, veteran journalist A Surya Prakash writes: "The case was decided on 28 April 1978. Four Justices Krishna Iyer of the Supreme Court. What followed next was a sordid saga of unshamed mutilation of the Constitutional provisions by the executive order of 27 June 1975 or to challenge detention as illegal." Of the three judges, Justice Beg went so far as to praise the 'maternal' attitude of the Government. He said: "We understand that the care and concern bestowed by the state authorities upon the welfare of the detenus, who were all well-fed and well-treated, is almost maternal. Even parents had to take appropriate preventive action against those children who threaten to burn down the house they live in." This probable Indian was aware of his/her rights for which the leaders of the freedom struggle had made every possible sacrifice. The Emergency was imposed at a time when traditional respect for political leaders had begun to fade; those in power had become self-centred and drifted away from the welfare of the people. For the informed Indian, the manner the Emergency was declared was shocking.

The Prime Minister was in such a terrible hurry that she had no time for even a formal Cabinet Meeting before going to the President. And what a supportive President, who was supposed to be the defender of the Constitution! He accepted the recommendation without blinking an eyelid. The Cabinet 'met' at 6 a.m., just in time to hear that the Emergency had been proclaimed. And it is said that the Cabinet consists of Ministers in which the Prime Minister is only the first amongst equals. One wonders why all or even one of them did not protest. They just meekly acquiesced.

All three major organs of democracy were under test by Indira Gandhi. The Legislature emerged in poor light. The judiciary could not emerge as the defender of law and the Constitution. Not much was expected from the bureaucracy as they always have a defence. We are not policy-makers but implementers. While Justice Sinha and also Justice Iyer kept the flag of the judiciary flying, there was too much of disappointment in store when a five Judge Bench of the apex court examined what is known as the ADM Jabalpur case. In his brilliant analysis of the Emergency in the volume, *Emergency: Indian Democracy's Darkest Hour*, veteran journalist A Surya Prakash writes: "The case was decided on 28 April 1978. Four Justices Krishna Iyer of the Supreme Court. What followed next was a sordid saga of unshamed mutilation of the Constitutional provisions by the executive order of 27 June 1975 or to challenge detention as illegal." Of the three judges, Justice Beg went so far as to praise the 'maternal' attitude of the Government. He said: "We understand that the care and concern bestowed by the state authorities upon the welfare of the detenus, who were all well-fed and well-treated, is almost maternal. Even parents had to take appropriate preventive action against those children who threaten to burn down the house they live in." This probable Indian was aware of his/her rights for which the leaders of the freedom struggle had made every possible sacrifice. The Emergency was imposed at a time when traditional respect for political leaders had begun to fade; those in power had become self-centred and drifted away from the welfare of the people. For the informed Indian, the manner the Emergency was declared was shocking.

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GST has been successful but loopholes remain



His refers to the article, "One year of GST" by Sanju Verma (July 2). It was but expected that the Goods and Services Tax (GST), the single biggest tax reform in the history of India, last year, was bound to attract criticism and face more than a few teething problems. But it is to the credit of the GST Council that at this day, GST has been more than accommodating to market and industry demands. At present, there are five tax slabs. Ideally, however, there should be a maximum of two or three slabs.

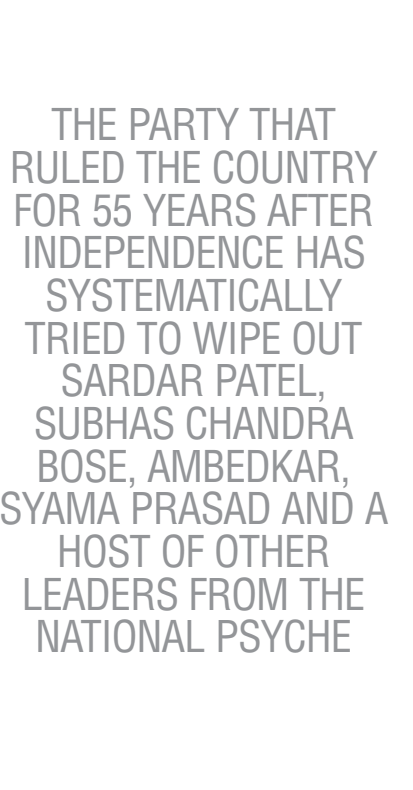
However, the need is to get petrol and diesel under the ambit of the new indirect tax regime. This, in its true sense, will transform the Indian economy as it will simplify the way petrol and diesel are treated. It will, hence, directly impact inflation and the economy in a positive way.

To recall, the idea behind GST was to not only formalise the economy, but also to make the tax net wider. This has been achieved to some extent. Many non-taxpayer companies have fallen under the tax net. With e-way Bill and invoice matching, it will be difficult for them to evade tax.

The Government as well as the GST Council must now focus on making the entire process of filing returns cumbersome for small traders and micro, small and medium enterprises. As the GST enters into the second year, we hope that the tax structure too is simplified.

Bal Govind
Noida

THE PARTY THAT RULED THE COUNTRY FOR 55 YEARS AFTER INDEPENDENCE HAS SYSTEMATICALLY TRIED TO WIPE OUT SARDAR PATEL, SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE, AMBEDKAR, SYAMA PRASAD AND A HOST OF OTHER LEADERS FROM THE NATIONAL PSYCHE



exchange of \$200 million. Rao realised that India's economy would go into a spiral if the continued with the moth-eaten socialism of the Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi variety. The country could emerge out of its economic crisis only if the opened up the economy, dismantled the licence-permit raj and encouraged foreign direct investment.

He chose Mammohan Singh as his Finance Minister and backed him to the hilt to push through economic reforms. He shielded Singh from attacks from within the Congress and from the communists. Many Left-leaning Congress leaders targeted Singh and accused him of being a lackey of America, but Rao stood by him and retained him as the Finance Minister all through his five-year tenure. The Rao-Singh combine slowly and effectively opened up various sectors from telecommunications to infrastructure to global investors and lifted many restrictions that had impeded the domestic investor and entrepreneur. Things started to look up within a couple of years and Indians began to feel that they could compete with the rest of the world. In short, Rao enabled Indians to transit from hopelessness to hope.

Although Rao was an outstanding Prime Minister who put the country on a new growth trajectory, the Congress has always been reluctant to remember him and to acknowledge his extraordinary contribution to the nation. It

Learning from Emergency

The Emergency is the darkest chapter in Independent India's history. The very description of democracy in textbooks would remain deficient if the learner is not educated through its example



ography that his colleagues — normally very vocal about human rights — were sitting tongue-tied listening to the Justice Khanna asked him what the remedy was. "It is a police officer because of personal enmity killed another man?" The Attorney General's response shall remain an eye-opener for the Indian judiciary: "There would be no judicial remedy in such a case so long the Emergency lasts". Can anyone ignore, forget and not learn from it?

Before June 25, 1975, teachers throughout the country were articulating the principles of democracy and the salient features of the Constitution with a sense of pride. Students were rehearsing to participate in 'mock Parliaments'. But Indira Gandhi's coterie was rewriting the principles of democracy for the 'person, family and the dynasty'. India will never allow a repeat.

Thousands were already in jail, most of them unaware of why they were there. Within days of the Emergency, people gathered that the country was being run by Sanjay Gandhi and a couple of people around him. Stories of citizens being forced to undergo sterilisation became the talk of the town. A sense of fear gripped practically every household. As a rough estimate, victimhood, he shall continue to inspire young generations in times to come. He followed Gandhian ideals in letter and spirit. Unfortunately, those who learnt the politics at his feet were swept away by power and perks. They did not learn the lesson that the Emergency taught us. But lessons must be learnt. Indira Gandhi's return to power cannot justify her imposition of the Emergency. India cannot ignore the darkest period of its democracy. It cannot forget how the offspring of the Prime Minister could become a power centre without accountability. Dynasties have debilitating, destructive tendencies. These have no place in dynamic democracies.


Some would not like any mention of the Emergency in textbooks. That indeed is an amazing view of history and the lessons it offers for future generations. Why should young Indians not know how the implications of suspension of fundamental rights, including the right to life, were interpreted by the then Attorney General Niren De before a Bench of the Supreme Court? Justice Khanna wrote in his autobiography that his colleagues — normally very vocal about human rights — were sitting tongue-tied listening to the Justice Khanna asked him what the remedy was. "It is a police officer because of personal enmity killed another man?" The Attorney General's response shall remain an eye-opener for the Indian judiciary: "There would be no judicial remedy in such a case so long the Emergency lasts". Can anyone ignore, forget and not learn from it?

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ON THE PEOPLE'S FRONT, NONE SHOULD FORGET HOW AN UNDERGROUND MOVEMENT WAS ORGANISED BY THE YOUNG THROUGHOUT INDIA



ple, he became courage incarnate. A motherland, he shall continue to inspire young generations in times to come. He followed Gandhian ideals in letter and spirit. Unfortunately, those who learnt the politics at his feet were swept away by power and perks. They did not learn the lesson that the Emergency taught us. But lessons must be learnt. Indira Gandhi's return to power cannot justify her imposition of the Emergency. India cannot ignore the darkest period of its democracy. It cannot forget how the offspring of the Prime Minister could become a power centre without accountability. Dynasties have debilitating, destructive tendencies. These have no place in dynamic democracies.

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GST, A FAILURE?

Sir — One year, on the GST has been draconian at least for the trading community and the public in general. Though it is too early to conclude, one can say that the GST has been a little change. To the contrary, it is the Government that has been netting crores every month. The fate of the poor remains the same.

Shadab
Chennai

Send your feedback to: lettersstopioneer@gmail.com


(The writer is the Indian Representative on the Executive Board of UNESCO)

(The writer is an alumnus, National Defence College)

DOCYARD

DR ASHUTOSH UPADHYAY

SENIOR FIELD APPLICATION SCIENTIST
PREMAS LIFE SCIENCES PVT LTD





Check your blood pressure regularly

Hypertension is a vital risk factor for cardiovascular disease in women but is often underestimated and undiagnosed. Hypertension seems to claim more women lives than any other diseases. Elevated blood pressure (BP) >140/90 mm Hg is associated with a shorter life expectancy overall. Although hypertension more commonly occurs in older people of age 50 and above, the number of women under age 35 being diagnosed with hypertension is on rising. As per a report published in Harvard *Women's Health Watch*, hypertension affects 13 per cent of women under age 44, nearly half of women in their 60s, and 80 per cent or more of those over age 75. In many studies conducted on women with hypertension, it has been found that oral contraceptive tends to cause hypertension in many of the women who rely on this method of contraception.

WHAT IS HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE OR HYPERTENSION
High blood pressure indicates how hard the heart has to pump blood in order to get it flowing through the body. While 120/80 mm Hg indicates the normal blood pressure, anything above 140/90 indicates the occurrence of hypertension. An untreated hypertension can double the chance of getting a stroke and a heart attack while affecting the kidneys as well.

CAUSES OF HYPERTENSION
■ **Diet:** An unhealthy diet high in salt, fat, and cholesterol leads to obesity and puts women at the risk of developing high blood pressure. According to a recent report by the American Association of kidney patients, the high intake of sodium through food can also increase the fluid volume being filtered by kidney putting an extra pressure on their functioning. Therefore, women, who have a family history of obesity and hypertension, should closely monitor their salt, cholesterol and the fat intake.
■ **Drugs/ contraceptive pills:** Many legal and unpopular drugs, as well as various beverages, can contribute to hypertension in women. Tobacco, alcohol and birth control pills have shown to increase blood pressure by contributing to increased body weight, water retention and thinning of the arteries. Most of the birth control pills have one or the other form of progesterone hormone which has been shown to elevate blood pressure in women.
Drugs such as ibuprofen and acetaminophen can increase the body's fluid retention and therefore, severely impact the functionality of the kidneys. Pain management drugs, antidepressants, caffeine, cold medicines (decongestants), herbal supplements, immunosuppressants, and stimulants may contribute severely to hypertension.
■ **Pregnancy:** Pregnant women are at high risk of developing gestational hypertension. While it is a temporary condition and goes away after pregnancy but in some women, it may prevail for a lifetime. Moreover, gestational hypertension not only increases risk and complication for the expectant mother but for the fetus as well. There are few blood-pressures regulating drugs which are available upon prescription for pregnant women which has been shown to have the minimum deleterious effect on the baby and the mother during pregnancy.

Pain management drugs, antidepressants, caffeine, cold medicines, herbal supplements, immunosuppressants and stimulants can contribute majorly to hypertension

HYPERTENSION MANAGEMENT
Some of the steps to manage hypertension includes weight reduction, physical activity, dietary sodium reduction and moderation of caffeine and alcohol consumption. A diet rich in fruits, vegetables and low-fat dairy products, and with reduced saturated and total fat, helps in lowering the blood pressure. If women develop high blood pressure due to oral contraceptives, they should stop the contraceptive and switch to a different form of birth control.
Better education and information on treating hypertension is needed and more studies on the interaction between gender and response to antihypertensive drugs are of interest. There is not enough awareness about hypertension in women, but they, in fact, are very prone to develop high blood pressure at all ages. Furthermore, acknowledgment of risk factors that are unique for women could help to prevent the great number of hypertension-related events in women.

SUMMERCOOLER

PEACHES: The fruit is a rich provider of Vitamin A and beta-carotene. They are also a good source of Vitamin E (alpha-tocopherol), Vitamin K, Vitamin B1, Vitamin B2, Vitamin B3, Vitamin B-6, folate and pantothenic acid. With 2.6 gm of fibre, 1.5 gm of protein, no fat or cholesterol and 68 calories, a large peach fills you up and helps you maintain your weight.
The fruit also helps maintain blood pressure. It boosts cardiac health. Peaches contain ascorbic acid and zinc which helps in boosting immunity and has anti-aging properties. Since, it is also a rich source of Vitamin C, it keeps the skin and eye healthy. It contains phosphorus and zinc which helps in strengthening bones and teeth. It is also beneficial in detoxifying the body by flushing out toxins from the body.



Get monsoon ready

This monsoon, keep waterborne diseases at bay by building up your immunity by eating right and following smart workouts at home, says PAYAL KOTHARI

With the arrival of monsoon season in North India, start gearing up to build your immune system to protect yourself from deadly water born diseases like malaria, dengue, typhoid, cholera, diarrhoea, gastroenteritis, viruses, flus and many other illnesses. Now is the time to prep your immunity just before the monsoons so you can enjoy the season without getting sick. Avoiding a few foods during this season can help you steer off many health problems. Here is what you can avoid and incorporate in your meal:

- FOODS TO AVOID**
■ **Raw leafy greens:** Avoid eating raw leafy and green vegetables like cauliflower, broccoli, and spinach especially in restaurants. They are home to many harmful germs in this weather. If you have to use them for their nutrients then make sure they are thoroughly washed and cooked.
■ **Previously peeled or cut fruit:** Never eat a peeled fruit or previously cut fruit as flies are carrier of many viruses and infectious diseases.
■ **No seafood:** Monsoon is a breeding season for seafood. So avoid eating seafood to prevent yourself from any kind of infections and allergies.
■ **Outside water:** Carry your filtered boiled water around. If you must drink outside water then make sure it's a clean reliable source and the glasses are also washed well and bone dry.

- FOODS TO FIGHT ALLERGIES**
■ **Ginger & turmeric warm tea:** The antiseptic anti-inflammatory properties of ginger and turmeric anytime during the day can keep your immunity strong and keep the sniffles at bay.
■ **Traditional badaam ka sheera:** Enjoy traditional *sheera* made in pure *desi* ghee as it is easily digested than other heavy oils. One tablespoon a day is just right.
■ **Monsoon fruit:** Make sure you eat seasonal hydrating fruits which have ascorbic acid (vitamin C) and retinol to keep your immunity high. Eat freshly cut papaya, peaches, pears, plums and bananas



to build up your stamina.

WORK OUT REGULARLY
Along with foods, workouts can also be restrictive. Commuting to the gym or reaching a park could be challenging because of flooding and traffic jams. So a smart workout at home on your own floor or a quick run followed by some yoga asanas and stretches in your garden are smarter ways to get your workout in place. A fun high-intensity interval training (HIIT) workout com-

prising of burpees, jumping jacks, on the spot jogging and mountain climber could be effective without getting stuck in traffic or floods. Make sure you use a firm slip proof mat to work-out on.

Nothing feels better than sitting by your window peacefully sipping a warm cuppa, listening to the pitter patter of the rains giving off that fresh earthy smell. But mon-

soons can be enjoyed to the fullest only if you are fit and healthy and your immunity is at its peak to protect you from dreadful diseases.

So be healthy and wise this monsoon. Make sure you enjoy the view and are able to smell the wet muddy fragrance feeling fit and healthy without sniffing on tissues or disdainfully from a hospital bed window.
The writer is Integrative Nutritionist and Life Coach

HEALTHY EAT

Are the monsoons whetting your Appetite for fried and heavy meals? Make your meals nourishing, healthy and mouthwatering instead. Indulge in easy to whip up monsoon delights and don't forget to pre-order your ingredients. Try out this healthy recipe at home:

VEGETABLE PHAD THAI
Ingredients
■ ½ packet flat wide rice noodles
■ 1½ tbsp soya sauce
■ ¼ fresh lime juice
■ Red crushed chilli flakes

- 1½ tbsp vegetable oil
- ½ tsp jaggery
- 1 carrot grated
- 1 bowl grated cabbage
- 1 grated turnip (shal-jam)
- 1 cup bean sprouts
- 2 tsp roasted peanuts
- 1 clove chopped garlic
- ½ cup diced semi-firm tofu
- ½ cup broccoli
- Salt as per taste



Method
■ Boil the oodles as per the instructions on the packet.
■ Heat oil in a pan, add garlic and grated vegetables and cook on high heat till the veggies turn slightly soft.
■ Add soya sauce, jaggery, salt and lime juice.
■ Toss in the noodles and sprinkle the peanut powder, chilli flakes and tofu and toss again gently without breaking the tofu.
Enjoy your home-made warm Phad-Thai
Serves: Two people

DadiKaKehna

Nausea, constipation or indigestion are common when you eat out during monsoons. Here are a few home remedies that can one follow to feel better without medicines, says ROSHANI DEVI



Stomach aches, cramps, nausea, constipation and indigestion are something that almost all of us have experienced at one point or another. Most times, we don't have to rush to a doctor or pop a pill. There are several ingredients in our kitchen that one can use for a solution.
Believe it or not, ginger is a cure for almost all ailments — from pain to nausea. Chop an inch of ginger and make tea. Drink this slowly to treat an upset tummy.
Almost all parents of toddlers know the BRAT diet — bananas, rice, apple sauce, and toast — to cure stomachaches. It can help rid of the nauseous feeling as well as diarrhoea.

Pudina is good when it comes to fixing nausea and an upset stomach. Extract a teaspoon of mint juice. Add one teaspoon honey and lime juice and mix it well. Drink this twice daily to get rid of stomach ache and or diarrhoea.
Dahi is just as good a cure for an upset tummy. Eat two to three *katoris* of yogurt daily until you get relief from an upset stomach. You can also add banana to add to the effectiveness.
Another great home remedy to get rid of an upset stomach is fenugreek seeds. Swallow one teaspoon of fenugreek seeds powder followed by one tablespoon of yogurt two to three times a day for instant relief.



TIPTOP: NATURAL IS IN

GURBANI SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Natural beauty treatments have picked up rapidly. You often hear words like rejuvenation, oxygenation and hydration, all of these terms are now used by many beauty brands to sell skin care product to consumers.
Switching to commercial cosmetics from grand-parental home remedies has been a big generational move. However, commercial cosmetics are good for the skin only to a point and they might not suffice to prevent damage from pollution and the scorching sun. Thus, natural beauty products made of aloe vera, shea butter or rose are now in demand.
To take it to the next level, Olivier Claire, a French skincare brand, has partnered with Roseate Hotels to bring a range of unique skin treatments that combine

Nature and pleasure. The use of sea fennel in their products makes them extra special. One of the most popular facial treatments — *Soin Majeur de Beaute* — includes pinpoint techniques and potent ingredients that can restructure the skin.
“Organic products are proven to have better effects on the skin,” says Dr Marie Hélène Abbo, director, Divine Virgins Pvt Ltd. She adds: “Chemicals can be very harmful to our body whereas products that come from plants are gentle on the skin. The key is for them to be active.” The ‘no-make-up’ trend came from this concept and has been the go-to do for most celebrities. Chantal Nardo, aesthetic expert at Olivier Clair, says it is all about the attitude while giving the treatment and everything, including the hand and body movements, count. The treatment is available for ₹10,000, plus taxes.



Chantal Nardo

SLIMLINE

Indian women are more susceptible to rheumatoid arthritis (RA), a chronic inflammatory disorder affecting many joints. Common symptoms of RA are painful joints, warm, tender and swollen joints as well as stiffness in joints, especially in the mornings and after inactivity. Rheumatoid Arthritis initially affects smaller joints in hands and feet.

As the disease advances, other joints like wrists, knees, ankles, elbows, hips shoulders are also affected — usually it affects same joints of both sides. Rheumatoid arthritis may also affect other organs such as eyes, skin, lungs, heart, kidneys, salivary glands, nervous tissue, blood vessels, etc. Patients may have fatigue, fever, weight

DRIVE TO END ELEPHANTIASIS

MUSKAAN JAIN ■ NEW DELHI

An accelerated plan for the elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis was launched at the recent Global Alliance to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (GAELF) summit held in Delhi. This aims to eliminate the disease in India by 2020. This global initiative, on track for 20 years, has delivered treatments to more than 6.7 billion patients across 67 nations and cured 97 million cases.

WHAT'S LYMPHATIC FILARIASIS
Lymphatic Filariasis (LF), commonly known as Elephantiasis, is a disease which causes excessive swelling in a person's legs, arms, breasts or genitals. It causes pain, disability and disfigurement. It causes severe harm to the body and the immune system. Nematode worms form nests in the lymphatic system. It spreads mainly through carrier mosquitoes.
As per a report presented at the summit, India accounts for 40 per cent of the global burden of Filariasis. “The biggest challenge is stopping the transmission which happens when the microfilaria parasite is released into the blood of a person through a mosquito bite,” Dr Pranab Kumar Sen, director, National Vector-borne Diseases Control Programme, explains.

TREATMENT
Multi-drug administration (MDA) is needed for treating this disease. Diethylcarbamazine Citrate and Albendazole are used for prevention and treatment. “The two pillars of preventive therapy are through a single annual dose of MDA to interrupt the cycle of transmission and take care of Filariasis patients. Through this twin approach the disease has been eliminated in 100 districts in India. But in the rest of the 156 districts, LF eradication is yet to be achieved, probably because of low coverage and compliance among the public,” says Dr Promila Gupta, Director General of Health Services.

NEW TRIPLE DRUG THERAPY
The new Triple Drug Therapy, also known as IDA (Ivermectin, Diethylcarbamazine and Albendazole) has been tested globally and shown a success rate of 96 per cent. In this therapy, Ivermectin has been introduced along with the old ones.
“The triple drug combination is better and even one round can bring down the LF parasite count to negligible levels. So, two rounds should be good enough to eliminate it. An extra dose doesn't harm. We need to ensure high coverage which requires awareness and involvement of local district administrations in this programme,” Dr Soumya Swaminathan, WHO Deputy Director General of the programme, tells you.
Talking about the impact of IDA, Dr Sen says: “There was no drug to kill an adult worm. With those drugs, they stopped producing microfilaria for some years, but it would come back. There was false hope that it would eliminate the disease. Adding Ivermectin has solved the problem as it kills the adult worms too. Before putting IDA in all districts, it is being tested in Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Bihar.”
In the accelerated plan, new initiatives are being launched to increase compliance of MDA intake and social mobilisation.

CHALLENGES
The drugs can't be given to children and pregnant women. Though the bridging for children is happening but pregnant women will have to wait until the child-birth.
While China and Korea were the first countries to eradicate the disease, GAELF honoured nations that successfully interrupted transmission of Filariasis. The awards were given by Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda to 11 out of 73 endemic countries, namely, Cambodia, Cook Islands, Maldives, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Niue, Togo, Egypt, Tonga, Vanuatu and Marshall Islands.



STUDYCENTRE

A recent research has found that the immune cells called natural killer (NK) cells may be used to develop future malaria vaccines. The NK cells are found among people living in areas where the parasite is common. The team identified a molecule that was essential for activation of NK cells in response to malaria-infected blood cells. PfEMP1 is crucial for activating NK cells in a manner dependent on antibodies.
More than 90% of India's population is at the risk of a malaria infection, as compared to Bangladesh at 11% and Nepal at 48%. According to the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme, last year, there were 840, 838 cases of malaria in India, while 103 people died due to the disease. Some tips:
■ Malaria mosquitoes grow in fresh water. It is therefore important to not let water stagnate in your house and the surrounding areas.
■ Mosquitoes can lay eggs in money plant pots or in water tanks on the terrace if they are not properly covered. If the water pots for birds kept on terraces are not cleaned every week, then mosquitoes can lay eggs in them.
■ Using mosquito nets/repellents in the night may not prevent malaria because these mosquitoes bite during the day time.
■ Wearing full sleeves shirt and trousers can prevent mosquito bites. Mosquito repellent can be helpful during the day.
— Courtesy: Heart Care Foundation of India



Trump: N Korea serious about dismantling nukes

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

North Korea is “very serious” about dismantling its nuclear weapons, US President Donald Trump said on Monday, dismissing reports that Pyongyang does not intend to fully surrender its nuclear stockpiles.

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un had pledged to work towards “complete denuclearisation” during a historic meeting with Trump in Singapore on June 12 in return for security guarantees from the US.

The Washington Post reported yesterday that North Korea was considering ways to conceal its nuclear weapons and secret production facilities.

Responding to the report, Trump said, “I think they (North Koreans) are very serious about it (denuclearisation). I think they want to do -- we had a very good chemistry.”

“I made a deal with him. I shook hands with him. I really believe he means it,” Trump told Fox news.

The daily, citing intelligence officials, said that the US intelligence officials have concluded that North Korea does not intend to fully surrender its nuclear stockpiles.

Appearing on a different

Kremlin: Putin, Trump will not discuss Crimea

Moscow: The Kremlin on Monday said Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump can discuss “all other issues” except Crimea, the peninsula Moscow annexed from Ukraine in 2014, at their first summit this month. Putin has “repeatedly stated and explained that Crimea cannot be and will never be on the agenda because it is an inseparable part of Russia,” Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters. “All other issues are ones of consensus, discussion and finding possible points of contact,” he added. Peskov also said while Moscow and Washington “differ” on “many” issues, “political will has prevailed and understanding is growing.” On Saturday, Trump refused to rule out accepting Russia’s annexation of Crimea when he meets Putin for a first one-on-one summit of the two leaders in Helsinki on July 16.

Sunday talk show on CBS News, his National Security Advisor John Bolton said that the US has developed a programme to dismantle North Korea’s nuclear weapons.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will be discussing with the North Koreans in the near future about really how to dismantle all of their weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs in a year, he said.

“If they have the strategic decision already made to do that, and they’re cooperative, we can move very quickly. It’s to North Korea’s advantage to see these programmes dismantled

very quickly, because then the elimination of sanctions, aid by South Korea and Japan and others can all begin to flow.

“We would be able to dismantle the overwhelming bulk of their programmes within a year,” Bolton said.

Noting that the US is very well aware of North Korea’s pattern of behaviour over decades of negotiating with the US, he said that the Trump administration knows exactly what the risks are of them using negotiations to drag out the length of time they have to continue their nuclear, chemical, biological weapon programmes and ballistic missiles.

Afghan Prez mourns killing of 19 citizens, including 17 Sikhs

PTI ■ KABUL

Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani on Monday mourned the deaths of 19 Afghans, including 17 Sikhs, in a targeted suicide attack by an Islamic State bomber in the eastern city of Jalalabad that also killed the only candidate of the Afghan parliament election from the minority community.

“We mourn their deaths as a nation and remind their loved ones that we are there for them. I offer our heartfelt condolences to their families and friends as we grieve together,” President Ghani tweeted.

The victims when on their way to meet the president when a suicide bomber targeted their convoy in Jalalabad yesterday, killing 19 people, including 17 Sikhs.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack, saying the strike targeting a group of “polytheists” was carried out by its Khorasan unit.

Avtar Singh Khalsa, a long-time leader of the Sikh community who had planned to run in the parliamentary elections set for October, was

PAK STRONGLY CONDEMNS TERROR ATTACK ON SIKHS, HINDUS IN AFGHANISTAN

Islamabad: Pakistan has strongly condemned a suicide attack in Afghanistan’s Jalalabad city that killed at least 19 people, mostly Sikhs and Hindus, the Foreign Office said on Monday. “We are distressed and grieved at the loss of precious human lives,” the Foreign Office said in a statement here. “We express our deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of those who have lost their lives and pray for early recovery of the injured,” it added. It said Pakistan reiterates its condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

killed in the attack. Prominent Afghan social activist Rawail Singh was also among the victims.

“Our hearts are broken for the families of our fellow Afghans who were lost in the Jalalabad attack. I am saddened at the loss of our proud and resilient Sikh Afghans. I had the honour of interacting with some of them many times in the past,” Ghani said.

Guterres hears of ‘unimaginable’ atrocities



UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres speaks as World Bank chief Jim Yong Kim looks on during a press conference in Cox’s Bazar on Monday

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said he heard “unimaginable” accounts of atrocities during a visit on Monday to vast camps in Bangladesh that are home to a million Rohingya refugees who fled violence in Myanmar.

Guterres described the situation for the persecuted Muslim minority as “a humanitarian and human rights nightmare,” as he prepared to tour makeshift shelters crammed with people who escaped a huge Myanmar army operation last year that the UN has likened to ethnic cleansing.

“In Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh, I’ve just heard unimaginable accounts of killing and rape from Rohingya refugees who recently fled Myanmar. They want justice and a safe return home,” Guterres said on Twitter. “The Rohingya are one of the most discriminated against

and vulnerable communities on Earth,” he said in tweet before his visit to the camps in southern Bangladesh.

Accompanied by the head of the World Bank, Jim Yong Kim, he called it a “mission of solidarity with Rohingya refugees and the communities supporting them. The compassion & generosity of the Bangladeshi people shows the best of humanity and saved many thousands of lives.”

The bulk of the Rohingya in Bangladesh, or some 700,000 people, flooded across the border last August to escape the violence. They are loathed by many in Myanmar, where they were stripped of citizenship and branded illegal immigrants from Bangladesh, despite calling Rakhine their homeland.

A UN Security Council delegation visited Myanmar and Rakhine state in early May, meeting refugees who gave detailed accounts of killings, rape and villages torched at the hands of Myanmar’s military.

GLOBE TROTTING

INDIAN WOMAN DIES OF ALTITUDE SICKNESS
Kathmandu: An Indian woman has died of high altitude sickness in Nepal after returning from Kailash Manasarovar pilgrimage in Tibet, according to a media report.

BP LAUNCHES \$28BN AZERBAIJAN GAS PIPELINE
Baku: British petroleum giant BP has started operating a \$28-billion pipeline in Azerbaijan to supply gas to Turkey and elsewhere in Europe, the company said on Monday.

BILAWAL BHUTTO’S CONVOY ATTACKED

Karachi: Angry protesters attacked the convoy of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto in the party’s traditional stronghold Lyari, leaving two people injured and vehicles damaged, police said.

2.7L DISPLACED BY SOUTH SYRIA FIGHTING: UN

Amman: A regime offensive in southern Syria has forced more than 270,000 people from their homes, the United Nations said on Monday.

SWRAJ PAUL COMES TO LONDON ZOO RESCUE

London: Leading NRI industrialist Lord Swraj Paul has come to the rescue of London Zoo once again and will provide a substantial financial donation for the world-famous zoo’s latest transformation project.

Leftist ‘AMLO’ sweeps to Mexican presidency

Mexico City: Anti-establishment leftist Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador swept to victory in Mexico’s presidential election on Monday, in a political sea change driven by voters’ anger over endemic corruption and brutal violence.

According to exit polls, the sharp-tongued, silver-haired politician known as “AMLO” won by a large margin over his two main rivals, who both conceded defeat shortly after the polls closed -- laying to rest concerns that a deeply divided country could face prolonged uncertainty over the winner.

Thousands of ecstatic supporters flooded central Mexico City’s Zocalo square and Alameda park, celebrating to the sounds of mariachi music as Lopez Obrador slowly made his way there from his campaign headquarters in a motorcade, swarmed by huge crowds.

“The government was failing. We needed a real change,” said one elated supporter, Jose Gutierrez, 44.

Runner-up Ricardo Anaya

TRUMP CONGRATULATES NEW MEXICO LEADER

Washington: US President Donald Trump has congratulated Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador on his victory in Mexico’s presidential vote, saying he looks “very much forward to working” with the anti-establishment leftist. “There is much to be done that will benefit both the United States and Mexico!” tweeted the US Republican leader, whose anti-trade, anti-immigration policies have plunged bilateral ties between the neighbours to a historic low.

of the conservative National Action Party (PAN) and third-place candidate Jose Antonio Meade of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) both congratulated Lopez Obrador and wished him success. It is a major shift in Mexican politics: the PRI and PAN have governed for nearly a century, and Lopez Obrador will be the country’s first leftist president in recent history when he takes office on December 1.

Philippine mayor on Duterte’s ‘narco list’ slain by ‘sniper’

AFF ■ MANILA

Philippine mayor on President Rodrigo Duterte’s list of allegedly narcotics-linked officials was shot dead on Monday by a “sniper” in a broad daylight attack at a town ceremony, police said.

Antonio Halili was hit in the chest by a single shot fired from a distance, unleashing chaotic scenes during the weekly flag raising ceremony at the town hall in Tanauan, south of Manila.

In the moments that followed, terrified onlookers screamed and the mayor’s security details opened fire, video of the scene showed.

However, the shooter managed to escape and Halili was pronounced dead at hospital.

Town police chief Renato Mercado told AFP the shot was fired from about 150 metres (490 feet) away.

“The distance from the position was extraordinary. It

could not be done by an ordinary person. His skill can be compared to a trained sniper,” he told AFP.

The controversial Halili had compared himself to Duterte as he publicly shared the president’s hardline position against crime and illegal drugs.

But in 2017, Halili’s name surfaced on a “narco-list” presented by Duterte, of officials allegedly linked to narcotics.

Halili was stripped of control of the police following the publication of the list, but he denied any ties to drugs.

Though the Philippines sees occasional slayings of local politicians, the brazen nature of the killing and links to Duterte’s drug war drew immediate outrage.

“This is clearly another case of EJK (extra-judicial killing) resulting from the so-called drug war launched by the government,” opposition leader Senator Francis Pangilinan said in a statement.

Yemeni reporter who criticised coalition arrested

AP ■ SANAA (YEMEN)

Yemeni officials say a journalist who was critical of the Saudi-led coalition has been arrested.

The officials say Fathy bin Lazrq, the editor-in-chief of Aden *Al Ghad* newspaper, was arrested in the southern city of Aden today, and that his whereabouts are unknown.

They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to brief the media. The coalition has been at war with Yemen’s Houthi rebels since March 2015 on behalf of the internationally recognized government.

Coalition forces are based in Aden, while the rebels control the capital, Sanaa.

On Facebook, bin Lazrq had accused the coalition of failing to provide basic services and dismissed as untrue reports that the coalition provides millions of dollars in aid.

The UN considers war-torn Yemen the world’s worst humanitarian crisis.

Iranian President flies to Europe to rally support

AFF ■ TEHRAN

President Hassan Rouhani departed Iran on Monday for a trip to Europe billed as of “prime importance” after the US pulled out of the 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers.

Rouhani was set to visit Switzerland and Austria as part of Tehran’s ongoing efforts to secure Europe’s continued support for the landmark agreement.

The Iranian president left Tehran on an early afternoon flight and was due to land in Zurich in the mid-afternoon, Iranian state media reported.

His delegation will travel on to Vienna Wednesday, according to authorities in Austria, where the historic nuclear deal was signed in July 2015.

The trip will be an “opportunity to talk about the future of the (nuclear) agreement,” Rouhani told reporters at Tehran’s Mehrabad Airport before boarding his flight, state television showed.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif is also



Swiss Federal President Alain Berset welcomes Iranian President Hassan Rohani during his visit to Switzerland at the Zurich airport in Kloten on Monday

scheduled to hold talks with Swiss officials in Bern. The visit comes nearly two months after US President Donald Trump unilaterally pulled out of the agreement, to the ire of the other signatories — China, France, Germany, Britain and Russia -- which along with the EU have continued to back the accord.

Rouhani’s European trip will be of “prime importance” as it could “provide a more precise picture of cooperation between Iran and Europe,” Iranian foreign ministry

spokesman Bahram Ghassemi said in comments carried by the semi-official ISNA news agency on Saturday.

Austria today took over the European Union’s six-month rotating presidency, while Switzerland represents US interests in Iran owing to the absence of diplomatic relations between Washington and Tehran. Vienna, where the deal was signed, is also the home of the United Nations’ nuclear watchdog, the IAEA, which monitors Iran’s compliance with the accord.

Pak Army chief confirms death sentences to 12 ‘hardcore terrorists’

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Monday confirmed the death sentences awarded to 12 “hardcore terrorists” who were involved in the killing of civilians, Shia minorities and security personnel.

These terrorists include those who planned and executed an attack on Markazi Imam Bargah Parachinar that killed 22 Shia members, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the army’s media wing, said in a statement.

“On the whole, they were involved in killing of 34 persons including 26 civilians, 8 Armed Forces/Frontier Constabulary personnel and injuring 133 others. Arms and explosives were also recovered from their possession,” it said.

Portugal wants more migrants

AFF ■ LISBON

Unlike most European nations, who are trying to reduce the influx of migrants, Portugal is bucking the trend by looking to immigration as a way to counter its declining population.

“We need more immigration and we won’t tolerate any xenophobic rhetoric,” Prime Minister Antonio Costa told activists at a party conference in May, drawing resounding applause.

Demonstrating this openness, Portugal was one of the first that volunteered to take in some of the migrants on board the Lifeline, a rescue ship which had been stranded at sea since June 21 after Italy refused it safe harbour.

And as European leaders struggled to reach a deal at a summit last week over who should take in migrants rescued off the coast of North Africa, Portugal’s socialist government was already taking steps to make itself a more attractive destination.

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Rukhsar D/o Md. Khalil R/o 1770, Katra Khawasapura, Pataudi House, Daryaganj, Delhi.** Age: 15 Yrs., Height: 5' 2", Sallow Complexion, Medium Build & Long Face. Wearing pink colour suit-salwar & ladies chappal in feet is missing since 26.06.2018 from her house.

In this regard a **case FIR No. 109/18 U/s 363 IPC dated: 27.06.2018** has been registered at **PS Chandni Mahal, Delhi.**

Any person having any information or clue about this missing girl may kindly inform to the following.

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph.: 011-24368638
011-24368641
DP/5588/CD/18

**S.H.O.,
P.S., Chandni Mahal, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23271751, 23279338**

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unknown dead body was found at **Platform No. 9 Old Delhi Railway Station, Shahdara Side, Delhi, Dated 01.07.2018.** In this regard a **DD No. 9-A, dated 01.07.2018,** has been lodged at **P.S. Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi.**

The Description of the dead body is given as under:
Name: Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Sex:** Male, **Age:** 50-55 years, **Height:** 5'5", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Wearing:** No Cloths.

Sincere efforts have been made by local Police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone having any information about this dead person, please inform undersigned.

**SHO
P.S. Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi
Ph: 011-23961522, 08750871302**

DP/3274/RLY/18

PUBLIC NOTICE

ICICI Bank Limited

Registered Office: ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara- 390007, Gujarat.
Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai – 400051
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd., Landmark Building, 4th Floor, 228A, AJC Bose Road, Kolkata 700020
CIN No: L65190GJ1994PLC021012, www.icicibank.com

A notice is hereby given that the following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non Performing Assets (NPA). The notice dated were issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses as provided to the bank by them, that in addition thereto for the purposes of information of the said borrowers enumerated below, the said borrowers are being informed by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice/Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Rahul Mittal/ Chandni Gupta / No C 1 225 Ground Floor Sector 16 Rohini North West Delhi 110089 / LBBLI00003278191	Flat No 635/E On 6th Floor Madhurisha Heights Phase III Block A At Pragati Nagar Mouja Risali Pc No 19 (65) Kh No 295/2, 299/2, 300/1-2, 301, 303, 304 District Durg Chhattisgarh Bhillai - 491003, Admeasuring An Area Of 2067.58 Sq.ft.	28-05-2018 / Rs. Rs.5183448/-	31/3/2018

The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (where ever applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of issuance of notice U/s. 13 (2), failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of 60 days from the date of issuance of notice U/s. 13 (2) dated mentioned above as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

**Sd/-
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited**

**Date : 03-July- 2018
Place: Delhi**

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that Bajrang Lal Garg, is the owner of Property No. 48-B, Area Measuring 143 Square Yards, Kharsa No. 44/23, Mohan Garden, Village Hastasi, Uttam Nagar, Delhi and its original GPA (Registration No. 1742, Book No. 4, Dated 26.02.2007) and Notarized GPA dated 12.08.2001, has been lost Mr. Bajrang Lal Garg is going to sell Flat Second Floor to Sunil Kumar & Renu. The same is financed by Aavas Financiers Ltd, Noida, Delhi. If any person is having objection against the said property, contact to undersigned along with supporting documents within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by any one.

**Naveen Kumar Verma, Advocate,
23, Lawyer's Chambers, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi-110001**

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that Rajbala Bhat is owner of Plot area measuring 42 Square Yards, Kharsa No. 55/1, Dundahera, Ghaziabad, and it's Original Sale (Registration no. 3988, Book no. 1, Jid No. 6603, Page No. 81 to 94, Dated 03.05.2006 with Sub-Registrar I, Ghaziabad) has been lost. Rajbala Bhat is going take loan against the said Plot. The same is financed by Shriram Housing Finance Ltd, Noida.

If any person is having objection against the said property, contact to undersigned along with supporting documents within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by any one.

**Naveen Kumar Verma, Advocate,
23, Lawyer's Chambers, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi-110001**

Bihar Medical Services & Infrastructure Corporation Limited

4th floor State Building Construction Corporation Limited.
Hospital Road, Shastri Nagar, Patna 800023
Phone/Fax: +91612 2283287, +91612 2283288

RE-TENDER NOTICE

Re-Tender for rate contract and supply of Drugs for different healthcare facilities of state of Bihar

Notice Inviting Tender Ref No.-: BMSIC/DRUGS/18-05 Dated:-29-06-2018
(Only through E- Tender on website:-www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)

Bihar Medical Services and Infrastructure Corporation Limited (BMSICL) invites E-Bids from the interested parties for “Re-Tender for rate contract and supply of Drugs for different healthcare facilities of State of Bihar”, vide Notice Inviting Tender No.-BMSIC/DRUGS/18-05. Detailed tender document containing eligibility criteria, selection mechanism, other terms and conditions are available on the website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in.

Re-Tender Schedule	
Tender Reference No.	BMSIC/DRUGS/18-05
Date and time for downloading of bid document	7 th July 2018 from 10:00 Hrs. to 23 rd July 2018 till 1500 Hrs.
Date of Pre-Bid Meeting	13 th July 2018 at 14:30 Hrs. in Conference Hall BMSICL, 4 th Floor, BSBCL, Hospital Road, Shastri Nagar
Last date and time of submission of online bids	25 th July 2018 by 18:00 Hrs.
Last date and time for submission of original bid documents with EMD and Tender Fees	27 th July 2018 till 14:00 Hrs.
Date, Time and Place of opening of Technical Bid	27 th July 2018 (at 15:00 Hrs.) on the website of www.eproc.bihar.gov.in in the office of BMSICL
Date and time of opening of Financial Bids	To be announced later on www.bmsicl.gov.in and www.eproc.bihar.gov.in
Validity of Tender	180 Days
Cost of the tender document	Rs. 10000/- (Ten Thousand only) Non-refundable.
Bid Processing Fee	Rs 1180/- (One thousand one hundred eighty only) Non-refundable.

GM (Procurement)
BMSICL


विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए www.prdbihar.gov.in पर सम्पर्क करें


PR.4515 | (Ni Ni) 2018-19 आओ सब मिलकर बात करें, बंद हो दहेज, शुरूआत करें!

Trend Slazer

Ranbir Kapoor's Sanju hits 120 cr

Actor **RANBIR KAPOOR** starrer *Sanju* beats Salman Khan starrer *Race 3* to become the highest grossing film of the year. The film collected ₹120.06 crore in its first week of opening. With a spectacular opening of ₹ 34.75 crore on day 1, ₹ 38.60 crore on day 2 and ₹ 46.71 crore on day 3, director Rajkumar Hirani's film has also recorded the highest single day collection at the box office beating the single day collection of *Baahubali* on day 3, which was ₹ 46.50 crore. The film also stars Sonam Kapoor, Dia Mirza, Paresh Rawal, Anushka Sharma, Manisha Koirala, Vicky Kaushal and Jim Sarbh.





"I am not trying to be modest when I say that its faults are solely mine and all its merits genuinely belong to others. I just swam blindly through the wonderful current of energies, and somehow accidentally managed to reach the shore of success. This is the actual truth of Satya."

— **Ram Gopal Verma**

Actress **KANGANA RANAUT**, who will be seen in a never seen before avatar in new video campaign for a fitness brand, says that a strong will and tough mind can make anything possible "Shooting for this video was physically challenging but with a strong will and tough mind anything is possible. It is all about training the mind to succeed and overcome fears. The idea was to deliver my best," she said.



Who is Ant-Man's man crush ?

When actor **PAUL RUDD** was asked who his man crush is, he said, "Seems like everybody's got a crush on Chris Hemsworth. He is 6'4 and is the strongest of the Avengers." By his statement, it looks like Chris has one more name added to his humongous fan following. The excitement for the release of the sequel of Marvel's ant-sized superhero is on the high. This time Paul is on a new mission fighting alongside the Wasp. The film releases on July 13 in India. After the success of Avengers Infinity War, Marvel Studios is gearing up for the much-awaited superhero sequel. Ant-man and The Wasp will release in English, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.



Scion of a hospitality chain KESHAV SURI has been a champion of LGBTQ+ rights for sometime. DIVYA GIRI catches up with the man who is ready to take on the world for love

BREAK OUT OF THE CLOSET

Hotelier Keshav Suri, 33, who returned to India from Paris recently after marrying his decade-long partner, Cyril Feuillebois, said that he wished for a big, fat Indian wedding but celebrations were not possible because the law of the land didn't favour such a do. He has been a frontrunner in seeking decriminalisation of same-sex relationships and providing support for his LGBTQ+ staff and the larger community through various policies at the Lalit Hotels, of which he is the scion.

In April 2018, he also challenged Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), a British era law that prohibited "unnatural sex" and is still followed. The appeal was bunched together with those of other celebrities and has been brought to a Constitution Bench.

But for all his status and powers of argument, all Suri could do was announce his big moment on social media. "Ten years of being miserable together, I loved every second of it. Lead the way for the next 10 years babe, am sure it will be torture but I am a sucker for punishment," he wrote while addressing his long-time partner, who runs a skincare brand in India.

Fresh off the boat from conjugal bliss, all he could do was spend an evening at the Lalit in New Delhi furthering his campaign towards raising awareness about the community. He spoke about the hardships he faced while studying at an all-boys Catholic school, where he was once stopped from wearing a saree while portraying the role of a woman. Later, he pretended to be heterosexual while studying at the University of Warwick, fearing persecution. Through his story and those of others, who have faced acid attacks for transitioning, he wanted to point out the emotional and physical trauma the members of the LGBTQ+ community faces due to intolerance.

The hotelier also spoke of the guilt he faced when his father, Lalit Suri, died of heart attack. For the longest time, he believed that he was the cause of his death since he had "come out" before his family. "Even when I say husband, it's difficult since I am forcing people to face this fact slowly but I am not going to stop because no law can define the legality of my relationship with my husband. I'm lucky that my husband is French and in his



'I WANTED A BIG, FAT INDIAN WEDDING BUT IT IS NOT LEGAL IN INDIA FOR ME TO BE MARRIED TO A MAN. I'M LUCKY MY HUSBAND IS FRENCH AND IN HIS COUNTRY OUR MARRIAGE IS LEGAL'

country both of us are considered legal. I will not move there because I want to be here and make sure that people like me can get the freedom," said Keshav.

Apart from being public about his sexual orientation, he has also teamed up with an insurance company to benefit his LGBTQ+ staff, their partners and children. Kitty Su, the hip bar, is another LGBTQ+ friendly space at the hotel in New Delhi where drag queens' performances and parties for the community are held without the fear of persecution.

Lalit has been at the forefront of initiatives for the LGBT community. It opened CU Next Thursday, the country's first inclusive night for the LGBTQ+ community. It has popularised drag shows in India. RuPaul's drag race winners like Violet Chachki and Alaska Thunderfuck 5000; and Derrick Barry performed at Kitty Su. This also created a performance platform for local drag queens. Indian drag queens like Rani Kohé-Nur, Maya-the Drag Queen, Kushboo and Betta Naan Stop now regularly at Kitty Su and their talent is being nurtured.

Lalit has an Equality & Diversity Policy" and Prevention of Sexual Harassment and has not only hired people from the community but also held sensitization training sessions on LGBTQ+ community.

The mediclaim policy offered by the Group also includes same Sex Couples, Single Parents and Children Born through Surrogacy. The Group negotiated aggressively with the insurance company to include the LGBTQ+ members and their partners under its mediclaim policy.

Popping the mix

It is not often that you could experience sitting in one of the best bars in the world without flying for thousands of miles, but if you were in Delhi's Ek Bar recently you could have done just that. ASMITA SARKAR catches up with the co-bar captains of 28 HONG KONG STREET to find out how they make their magic

The idea of pop-ups is not new in India but what was new about 28 Hong Kong Street's (28HKS), a Singapore-based hotspot, is that they brought their bar, kitchen and ambient props for the first time to Delhi. So not only could you experience their unique take on mixology but sample their bites and their uber atmospherics while sitting in Delhi.

"As with most international guest shifts that we undertake, we took on this collaboration with Ek Bar because of close personal relationships with the people behind the venue. We're always open to opportunities for cultural exchange and exposure. We rarely say no to friends as long as our schedules back home allow for our team to travel," said Lukas Kauffman and Charmaine Thio, co-bar captains at 28HKS. Their latest collaboration was with Ek Bar, a Defence Colony bar with a classic look, which was newly renovated. The young duo has had success in Singapore with their venture, which has become one of the must-visit locations on the list of tourists who want to experience the night life of the city state. However, currently they have no plans to expand outside of Singapore. "Although perhaps we might consider if somewhere in India there exists a quaint street called Hong Kong Street as well," they said jokingly.

Like other mixologists around the world, they too are concerned over inculcating sustainable methods. "Sustainability has been the word on everyone's lips and that's something we think is pertinent to everyone working in this industry. One thing we were particularly impressed by is that in Delhi,



businesses use as little plastic as possible. If you order food, all of it is wrapped in paper packaging. As Delhi has a population of 20 million people, limiting plastic use does huge favours for the environment. We hope that more F&B venues continue to adopt sustainable long-term practices," they said.

They mixed some signature cocktails paired with their most popular bar snacks. There was 93 *Til Infinity*, a twist with Encanto Pisco Grand and Noble (a Peruvian pisco), lemon juice, pineapple cor-

dial and sparkling wine; *Czech The Method*, coffee, Jameson Original, Shepherd Neame Double Stout, Becherovka (herbal bitters), and burnt malt syrup; *The Real Slim Shandy*, Ketel One Vodka, AmaroNonino (grappa), Marie BizardPêche Du Verger (a peach-based liqueur), lime juice, ginger honey and Hoegaarden; and Fernet about Dre, Fernet Branca (a bitter Italian amaro), Bacardi Black Rum, Tempus Fugit Crème de Cacao, simple syrup and orange bitters. Each cocktail featured garnishes with a flourish and balanced ingredients that were all house-made.

It is not easy to maintain high-level standards in a cut-throat industry, where everyone is looking for the next new trend and trying to one-up each other. For the Singapore-based bar, which was named among one of the world's 50 best bars in 2017, there acclaim can be attributed to their unique brand of service and hospitality, and the team that delivers it. "Most of the work that goes into maintaining standards goes into staff training and welfare. We have training sessions every week where we cover anything from bar, floor, kitchen SOPs, spirits and cocktail knowledge, bartending techniques, cooking techniques etc, to ensure that our team members are equipped with the tools they need to grow and succeed in this industry," they said.

They also make efforts to make sure that senior members take ownership over maintaining foundations, reinforcing the essential pillars that make 28HKS unique but also passing them down to every new team member to ensure consistency and continuity.



'No stable partner, not career, behind women freezing eggs'

A study disputes a long-held belief that women delay maternity because of goals lasting reproductive relationship with a stable partner. This is why they turned to egg freezing," said Marcia Inhorn from the Yale University in the US.

"The medical literature and media coverage of oocyte cryopreservation — egg freezing — usually suggest that elective egg freezing is being used to defer or delay childbearing among women pursuing education and careers. Our study, however, suggests that the lack of a stable partner is the primary motivation," Inhorn said.

For the study, presented at the 34th Annual Meeting of ESHRE in Barcelona, the team conducted in-depth interviews with 150 women who had chosen to freeze their eggs at fertility clinics and had completed at least one cycle of oocyte cryopreservation.

"Clinicians must be aware of the role partnership 'troubles' play in the lives of egg freezing patients and make patient-centred care for single women a high priority," Inhorn said.

Among these, career planning was found as the least common reason. Moreover, those with partners had circumstances such as a man not ready to have children, in a relationship too new or uncertain, with a partner who refuses to have children, or with a partner with his own multiple partners.

"Most of the women had already pursued and completed their educational and career goals but by their late 30s had been unable to find a

WHEN ART SAVES TUSKERS

Thirty elephants are parading the world to raise awareness about their survival and habitat. Take a look at the beautiful display in London



(Left) Varun Bahl and (Right) Suhansini Kejriwal's works at the London exhibition

Indian artists and designers have become the latest crusaders to join a band of creative talent from across the world in a collective mission to save Asian elephants. The elephant parade — the world's biggest touring public elephant art exposition — is an initiative of Ruth Ganesh, Trustee of Elephant Family, the UK-based charity that organised the initiative, and is on display in London currently. Designers like JJ Valya, Rohit Bal, Varun Bahl, Gaurav Gupta, and others contributed to the cause, meant to save elephant corridors. The London chapter will wrap in an auction and the proceeds would go towards conserving the spaces inhabited by elephants.



(Left) Gaurav Gupta and (Right) Rohit Bal's works for the Elephant Parade

Should age or skill matter?

AMAAN and AYAAN ALI KHAN refuse to accept the under-40 Yuva music award of Sangeet Natak Akademi, saying they cannot be judged as cubs after 25 years of recitals. By SHAILAJA KHANNA

Awards are, of course, always a matter of discussion and differing opinions and the Sangeet Natak Akademi awards for 2017, which were announced recently, were no different. Sarod players Amaan and Ayaan Ali Khan refused to accept the Bismillah Khan Yuva award, which is given every year to artists up to 40 years old, saying they had more years of experience, implying they were mainstream beyond their age and not greenhorns waiting to make their mark.

The Yuva awards are usually given to those “who have shown/demonstrated conspicuous talent in the fields of music.” This year’s awards for North Indian music were given to vocalists Aditya Khandve and Sawani Shende, tabla player Rimpa Siva and Amaan and Ayaan Ali Khan. The latter refused to accept the awards with Ayaan saying, “After serving the world of music for over 25 years, and receiving many awards, we are very surprised at the members of the general council of the SNA at their thought of nominating us for this award at this stage of our lives, especially since we have been sharing the same concert platforms for over 15 years with them. It’s height of insensitivity. I wish they had taken our consent before making a public announcement. There should be some clarity on what makes a ‘yuva’ and what doesn’t.” His urbane elder brother Amaan shared that in the West, before nomination of awards, the awardee is informed and his consent taken.

Akademi chairman Shekhar Sen



HOW CAN WE POSSIBLY ASK EACH NOMINEE BEFOREHAND? AN AWARD IS ANNOUNCED, NOT GIVEN. IT’S THE RIGHT OF THE ARTIST TO REFUSE. FOR ME ALL ARTISTS ARE BLESSED SOULS AND ARE DOING GOOD WORK, NOT GETTING AN AWARD DOES NOT MATTER TO AN ARTIST.
— SHEKHAR SEN, AKADEMI CHAIRMAN



countered by asking, “How can we possibly ask each nominee beforehand? An award is announced, not given. It’s the right of the artist to refuse. For me all artists are blessed souls and are doing good work, not getting an award does not matter to an artist.”

Truly, the 72 members of the General Council selection committee have a tough task of choosing eight musicians from a list of over 800 selected nominees in both mainstream and youth categories. The board members include doyens like Pt Shiv Kumar Sharma, Vidwan Karaikudi Mani, Dr Yella Venkateshwara Rao, Vidushi Aruna Sairam, Pt Vishwamohan Bhatt, Pt Ajoy

Chakravorty, Ustad Wasifuddin Dagar, Dr Bombay Jayashri and Kalapini Komkali among others.

Perhaps, the esteemed panel needs to work on an alternative when an award is refused, like it has happened this year. A worthy artist has been denied an award, as there is no provision for encouraging another aspirant.

The North Indian music awardees for 2017 are Vidushi Lalith Rao (Agra *gharana*), joint awardees Dagarvani *Dhrupad* vocalists Pt Umakant and Ramakant Gundecha, Pt Yogesh Shamsi, Punjab *gharana* tabla and Pt Rajendra Prasanna, Banaras *gharana* flautist. Each of these artists is undoubtedly meritorious and has achieved distinction in his respective field. The relative youth of Pt Yogesh Shamsi, at 49 years, merits special mention. As the son of the erudite vocalist late Pt Dinkar Kaikini, Yogesh is an unusual musician. Despite his own rich musical legacy, he is today one of the torch bearers of the Punjab *gharana*, whose “*khalifa*” is none other than the incomparable Ustad Zakir Hussain Khan. With such a *gurbhai*, to still carve out a niche for himself in the world of tabla and to add to his repertoire of rare compositions from many great unknown repositories, is truly commendable. Pt Shamsi is rightly regarded as a musician’s musician. Said he, “I am extremely heartened to receive this award; I was not expecting it so soon in my life and did not think the committee would find me so deserving. I have always taken art for art’s sake, not for its rewards. I take this award as a

satkar (felicitation) of the *parampara* (tradition) to which I belong, a *parampara* which my Ustad Allah Rakha Khan got from Punjab. It is a tribute to all my gurus; most importantly my father Pt Dinkar Kaikani, and my mother Smt Shashikala Kaikini, a great vocalist. My elder brother Rajesh and sister Aditi Upadhyay helped me so much. I can never forget how my brother used to help me notate the tabla *bols* in Devnagari script, which my guru taught me, that I was too young then to write myself. In fact, the interaction with my *gurubhais* and other percussionists from whom I learnt so much; the entire fraternity has contributed to my being felicitated. The guru *shakti* of generations of musicians in my lineage has blessed me; I shall try to keep this great tradition alive, the award is just one more stepping stone in this journey.”

This was the second year in a row with no awardee for sitar or sarod, (last year’s winners were violinist Kala Ramnath and veteran tabla player Pt Arvind Mulgaonkar).

The venue of the decision-making process was in Imphal. “We must get away from this big city obsession. Why should everything always be in Delhi or Mumbai? When we go to Imphal, in far-away Northeast, we meet the artists, watch their performances. There is interaction between artists and a cross-pollination of ideas which is useful,” said Sen.

One looks forward to watch each awardee perform when they are formally acknowledged at a ceremony, which usually takes place at Rashtrapati Bhawan.

REMEMBERING RAZA

Whether he created simple elemental strokes or a conjunction of universal opposites, the small showing at Shridharani Gallery tells us how to look at a master, says UMA NAIR

The Shridharani Gallery at Triveni is one of the finest spaces in the capital. Little wonder then that the Raza Foundation’s tribute to its founder and the abstract master Syed Haider Raza through 55 works cherishes his memory as well as his journey. *Uttar Raag*, as it is titled, has about it a lyrical nuance, bringing as it does to mind Raza’s love for music and his subtle works that were a testimony of geometry and symbolism.



ly to India and would visit my hometown Mandla in Madhya Pradesh. I was constantly filled with the nostalgia of the land I left behind when I settled in Paris. So the landscapes I did in those years were born of memory; they were rhapsodic and were abstractions born of nature. Mandla and the forests became a confluence of colours.”

The works on display were roughly painted between 2011 and 2016. In these last years, confined to a wheelchair because he had become very frail and weak, he would spend the entire day painting. And what he painted was from his memory. Between the geometry of the exquisite *bindu* and the resonance of brisk strokes, we see a duality of the universe, his love for nature and the primordial essence of man’s connection to *Prakriti*.



The strokes in crimson and black remind us of Raza’s early career and expressionist strokes. In the works of the concentric rippled *bindus*, we are reminded of how he came full circle and began to integrate vital elements of his Indian childhood and cultural heritage into his paint-

‘The deep forests of Barbaria, the nights with their sounds...everything was ingrained in me’

forest ranger, were impactful. I would roam the Kanha thickets, my regular haunt. I was soaking in every single feature of that unforgettable landscape.”

We can recall Raza’s mastery of landscape, expressionistic use of colour and spiritual and symbolic engagement with the notion of creation and the *bindu*. *Aabha* and *Arjun Vasant* invoke a deep reverence of sunrise and sunset by fusing abstract, representational and symbolic forms into a powerful and mystic expression of the mood and atmosphere of the Indian landscape.

Then you look at the black *bindu*-tinted *Tammy* that brings together the past and the present. It is rooted in Raza’s childhood memories of densely forested land along which the river Narmada flowed. This work, that was created in the summer of 2015, exemplifies the finest in an evocative holistic expression of all that is rich and strong and sensory. It is inherent in the pensive poise of the *bindu* and its rippled splendour even as you see the strokes of disturbance on one part of the black dot.

Raza’s *Tree* is an evocative echo of his love for nature, because it is a pictorial metaphor: this work celebrates a summation of his memories and associations. The forest, the river, the ravines, the blinding sunlight and the parched earth. When you look again at his rippled *bindus*, you can imagine that for Raza, the sun was magnified a hundred times and he wanted to translate on canvas how it exploded with energy and dynamism as the sole luminary.

Whether he created simple elemental strokes or created his conjunction of universal opposites, this small showing tells us how to look at a master. And you must recall his words from the past: “The notion of *tama suna* — the dark *bindu*. Dark nothingness, but yet charged. Radiating energy in terms of colour that move from black to grey and going in space towards white. That is exactly the theme of my work.”

(The author is an art critic)



Catwoman bows out

Choreographer GILLIAN LYNNE of the famous musical dies at 92

Choreographer Gillian Lynne, who worked closely for many years with composer Andrew Lloyd Webber on some of his most famous works, has died in London. She was 92.

Her husband, the actor Peter Land, said on Twitter that she died Sunday evening at the Princess Grace Hospital. He said she “leaves behind a huge legacy and is adored by many.” Land said he was “heartbroken” at the loss of the woman who had been his friend and his love for 40 years.

Lynne’s many credits included the phenomenally successful *Cats* and *Phantom of the Opera*. Last month, Lloyd Webber renamed his New London Theatre as The Gillian Lynne Theatre, making it the first in London’s theatre district named after a woman. After hearing of her death, he tweeted: “Three generations of the British musical owe so much to you.”

Lynne’s career began with dancing as a leading soloist with Sadler’s Wells Ballet in 1944 and continued for decades as she moved into directing and choreography. She directed many productions in London’s West End and on Broadway in New York.

She worked on TV specials for performers from a variety of musical genres, including Ray Charles, Perry Como and Petula Clark. She told the BBC that her longevity was due to her love for her job. Lynne also said she had no musical talent of her own, and had stopped taking piano lessons when she was a girl because a mean piano teacher smacked her for playing poorly. Lynne received many honours for her decades of theatrical work and was made a dame in 2014.

AP



One of India’s premier cultural institutions, the India International Centre, brings you the must-see solo painting exhibition — *Homecoming* — by the award-winning artist from Manipur, Oinam Dilip. The solo exhibition will showcase over 15 works by Oinam from recent years which recount the artist’s honest internalisation of experiences that are rooted in his identity and the culture of North East India. *Homecoming* traverses the philosophical domains that fuelled the artist’s hunger and eagerness for experimentation. **WHEN:** July 4 to 10 **WHERE:** Art Gallery, IIC Annexe.



ArtReach India and Ojas Art are conducting an exhibition of works by children of Salaam Baalak Trust who were participants of Artreach’s Teaching Fellowship Programme 2017-18, led by artist Sonam Chaturvedi. Along with her, 19 young artists’ talent will be on display as well. **WHEN:** July 1 to 20 **WHERE:** Ojas Art Gallery, 1AQ Qutab Minar

WATCH OUT

After enthralling over 30,000 people in Mumbai, Disney’s *Aladdin* is all set to spread its magic in Delhi and take the audience to a whole new world. The show has been re-imagined for the Indian stage and the fable will come to life with 450 costumes and 14 locations depicted on stage by 50 performers. The entertaining musical has foot-tapping music, dazzling choreography and stellar performances transporting the audience through a myriad of emotions. The talented actors, who will bring to life this iconic tale on stage, include Siddharth Menon (Aladdin), Taaruk Raina (Aladdin), Kira Narayanan (Jasmine), Mantra (Genie), and Vikrant Chaturvedi (Jafar) **When:** July 6 **Where:** JLN Indoor Stadium



Wari Jalsa is a celebration of an initiative which provides a platform for the lost art of live narration of folk tales. Curated by Nicky Chandam, *Kaalchakra* is about a curious and humorous tale of the unpredictable path trodden by the wheel of time — of priorities, of fortune and misfortune and a refreshing new perspective on both.

WHEN: July 8 **WHERE:** The Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre



Beyond Colors 2 Art exhibition is a five-day exhibition by Amrita Prakash and other emerging artists. The group show brings various types of thinking on the canvas. The exhibition will witness folk art, murder art, realistic patching and other paintings as well. **WHEN:** Till July 3 **WHERE:** Visual Art Gallery, India Habitat Centre.

