



Shatabdi Roy got the amount as the brand ambassador of Saradha Group of Companies

Saradha scam: TMC MP returns Rs 30.64 lakh to agency

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 4

TRINAMOOL CONGRESS MP Shatabdi Roy returned Rs 30.64 lakh, which she got as brand ambassador of Saradha Group of Companies, to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in Kolkata on Wednesday.

The ED had interrogated Roy multiple times. On July 31, Roy had written to the ED expressing her desire to return the money.

According to ED sources, they received a bank draft of Rs 30.64 lakh, sent to the agency office on Wednesday.

"Yes, I have sent the money," Roy told media persons.

Actress-turned-politician and two-time MP from Birbhum, Roy was one of the brand ambassadors of Saradha chit fund company. In April 2013, the chit fund company went bust. Initially, the case was being probed by the Special Task Force of Bengal Police. However, the CBI later took up the case after the Supreme Court's direction.

The move comes at a time when the CBI and ED have stepped up the probe in both the chit fund and Narada sting cases.

The CBI recently summoned 10 accused, including Trinamool Congress MPs, ministers and an IPS officer, in connection with the Narada sting operation. According to CBI sources, the accused have been summoned for interrogation and to give their voice samples.

TMC leaders, including Sougata Roy, Prasun Banerjee and Subrata Mukherjee have already appeared before the CBI after receiving the summons.

23 killed, 27 injured in Punjab firecracker factory explosion

KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR
BATALA, SEPTEMBER 4

TWENTY-THREE people were killed and at least 27 injured when a blast brought down a firecracker factory in Batala late on Wednesday afternoon. Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh has ordered a magisterial inquiry into the incident.

The blast rocked Mattu Pathaka Works located in Guru Ramdas colony, a residential area, at 3.45 pm. Residents reported hearing multiple small blasts later. The rescue operation continued late into the night amid fears of the toll going up further. The impact of the blast was felt in a diameter of 300 metre.

The factory sits on the banks of the 100-foot-wide Hansi drain. While the drain flowed in front of the factory, at the back it had residential units. There was a car garage on the left and a computer centre separated by a narrow lane on the factory's right side. Both the computer centre and the garage nearby were badly damaged.

The firecracker making unit, built over 20 marlas (roughly 4450 sq ft), also had two schools



Rescue workers and police personnel at the blast site in Batala on Wednesday. Rana Simranjit Singh

within a 100 metre diameter.

Around 40 persons were working or present inside the factory at the time of the blast. Apart from manufacturing, the unit also sold firecrackers.

Among the dead were five persons who were just passing by at the time of the blast. Similarly, at least six injured were either working in the

nearby car garage or at the computer centre. The firecracker factory was being run by three brothers. One brother lived in the factory premises along with his family.

"Five of the dead and six injured don't belong to the factory. Other dead and injured were either working or living in the factory," said Lakhwinder Singh, a

senior police officer on spot.

Teams of the NDRF, the SDRF were deployed along with fire brigade in the rescue operation soon after the tragedy.

The blast shook the city that was getting ready to welcome the procession from Sultanpur Lodhi to celebrate the marriage anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev.

Expressing shock and dismay at the fatalities in the incident, the CM tweeted: "Deeply anguished to learn about the loss of life due to the blast in the firecracker factory in Batala. Rescue operations are underway with the DC and the SSP heading relief efforts."

However, at ground zero, there was no one designated from the administration to provide information to families of victims who were reaching there looking for their loved ones.

"My brother-in-law Shamu has died. I have seen his dead body in hospital. But I don't know where is my husband Vicky. No one is telling me," said Seema, who had come from Fatehgarh Churian with her two children. Both brothers worked at the factory.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

ROAD, RAIL TRAFFIC CRIPPLED AS RAIN LASHES MUMBAI



Mumbai received 206.6 mm of rainfall in six hours on Wednesday. Nirmal Harindran

RAINFALL in Mumbai has already surpassed its September average of 327.1 mm. The Santacruz observatory recorded 488.7 mm rain in Mumbai from September 1 till 2.30 pm on September 4. The Met department issued an orange alert with a forecast of "heavy to very heavy" rainfall at some places for Thursday for Mumbai and its neighbouring areas.

FLIGHT operations were partially crippled, with around 20 flights cancelled and another 280 delayed since Tuesday.

TRANSPORT system was hit with suburban train services disrupted on all three lines and road traffic movement affected by waterlogging and consequent gridlocks. Nearly 40 long distance trains were cancelled.

Law student can be admitted in another college: UP to top court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 4

THE UTTAR Pradesh government on Wednesday informed the Supreme Court that the Law student who went missing after alleging harassment by the management of her college in the state's Shahjahanpur district, and was subsequently found in Rajasthan, can be accommodated at a different university to continue her studies.

Appearing for the State, Additional Solicitor General Vikramjit Banerjee told a bench of Justices R Banumathi and A S Bopanna that her brother, who

is also a law student, can also be admitted at a different college.

On Monday, the bench asked the ASG whether her brother can also be accommodated in the new institution since the woman had expressed the desire whether he can also be shifted.

Banerjee, however, said there is a "practical difficulty", as admission process in the identified colleges is "already over and the total sanctioned strength of students have already been filled up". He requested the bench to direct the Bar Council of India to pass suitable orders so that the institutions can admit them.

Agreeing, the bench ordered, "Considering the submissions of

learned Additional Solicitor General, and in the interest of justice and peculiar facts and circumstances, we request the Bar Council of India to pass appropriate orders to increase the sanctioned strength of seats by one as an exceptional case in the respective institutions at the earliest."

The court gave the woman and her brother four weeks to submit their applications for admission. "She has got the best of institution... Ask her to join and study," the bench observed. Banerjee said other formalities will be taken care of by the state government. The fees deposited in the old college will be adjusted by the new institutions, he said.

Conspiracy to malign image: Chinmayanand

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 4

A DAY after a UP Police team returned from Haridwar in Uttarakhand after "failing to question"

Swami Chinmayanand in connection with the alleged kidnapping of a 23-year-old law student, the former Union minister and BJP leader appeared before media-persons in Shahjahanpur on Wednesday and said that he has full faith in the judiciary.

Stating that the ongoing SIT investigation in the case will "bring out the truth", the 73-year-old former BJP MP alleged

that "some people" have conspired against him as they do not want to see his college progress.

The 23-year-old woman is a student at the law college, whose management committee has Chinmayanand as chairman.

"I am happy and satisfied with the directives given by the Supreme Court and I am sure that the truth will come out in the SIT investigation. People will respond to the attempts made to malign my image. However, what is making me sad is that even when I tried to give LLM degree, some people... tried to affect this good work by causing ruckus," Chinmayanand said at the press meet.

Wakf board accepts idols worshipped in outer courtyard of site

ANANTHAKRISHNANG
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 4

IN A significant development in the Ayodhya case, the Sunni Wakf Board on Wednesday accepted before the Supreme Court that there existed idols of Hindu deities in the outer courtyard of the disputed site and that they were being worshipped by Hindus.

Senior Counsel Rajeev Dhavan, who is appearing for the Board, and appellant M Siddiq accepted this while discussing she-bait rights claimed by Nirmohi Akhara, one of the three parties to the title suit.

A shebait under Hindu law is entrusted with the task of maintaining and preserving an idol and its property.

The Akhara has claimed she-bait rights, saying it had been managing the affairs in Ram Janmasthan since long.

On Tuesday, Dhavan told the Constitution Bench comprising Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and Justices S A Bobde, D Y Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and S A Nazeer that he was conceding shebait rights claimed by the Akhara.

On Wednesday, Justice Nazeer asked him, "You don't dispute the shebait?"

"No," replied Dhavan.

The significance of the sub-



mission was not lost on the bench which quizzed Dhavan again on his stand.

"When you are not disputing the shebait rights, are you not accepting that part of the mosque was also temple?", asked Justice Bhushan.

"Yes, may be, but what part?" replied Dhavan.

The idols, he said, were in the outer courtyard and the Hindus were allowed to pray. This, he said, did not mean Hindus had the title to the place.

Justice Chandrachud pointed out that Dhavan's clients have in the suit claimed title over the whole area comprising the inner and outer courtyard.

Justice Chandrachud added, "Shebait rights exist in relation to an idol. Moment you concede shebait rights, you are giving up part of your claim."

Dhavan replied that it was not so as the Akhara only had easement rights — Hindus were allowed to pray there — but had no

title.

"But then such part is taken out of the mosque," added Justice Chandrachud. He also wondered if the idol being a juristic person would not have other rights too.

Dhavan answered that idol only had a "limited juristic personality".

"Does the fact that they prayed there give them title? It's a risky situation, but that's the Indian situation," Dhavan said.

Justice Nazeer asked if there was a difference in the Indian situation where such places of worship could exist side by side unlike the foreign position under Islamic law, Justice Nazeer referred to the influence of Sufism and asked if a mosque and another place of worship could exist side by side.

Dhavan said it was possible in Sufi places of worship for a dargah and temple to co-exist.

Asked Justice Chandrachud, "So at the highest point, your case is one of co-existence based on user. You are not claiming exclusive possession?"

Dhavan replied that his case was of title by Wakf.

The court also took judicial notice of the alleged attack on Iqbal Ansari, one of the litigants, on Tuesday. The bench assured Dhavan who brought the development to its notice that it will look into it and "do whatever is needed".

Andhra nod to end Polavaram contract given under TDP rule

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, SEPTEMBER 4

THE ANDHRA Pradesh Cabinet on Wednesday approved the cancellation of the Polavaram Hydel Power Project contract awarded to Navayuga Engineering Company Ltd (NECL) by the previous Telugu Desam Party (TDP) regime.

The project is centrally-funded and the Centre and the Polavaram Project Authority (PPA) had advised Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy not to cancel the contract given to Navayuga — worth Rs 3,216.11 crore. The state government has now called for new tenders for the projects and approved the recovery of advance amounts paid to NECL.

After NECL's petition, the Andhra Pradesh High Court had on August 21 issued a stay order on the cancellation of the contract.

The Centre had warned that the move would lead to cost escalation and further delay the project. Last month, Union water resources minister, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, and Polavaram Project Authority CEO R K Jain wrote to Jagan, asking him not to cancel NECL's contract. "Such a step will result in unforeseen consequences and will plunge the project into uncertainty," Jain wrote.

The letters were written after the government decided to terminate NECL's contract on July 29.

46 CHOSEN FOR NATIONAL AWARD

From J&K to Kerala, teachers who battled odds to help students learn

SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 4

CHALLENGING CONDITIONS in remote districts, shabby infrastructure and first-generation learners, teachers in the country often have the odds stacked against them. For their innovative methods, the HRD Ministry has chosen 46 teachers for the National Award for Teachers which will be given away by President Ram Nath Kovind this Teachers' Day. Prime Minister Narendra Modi met the teachers on Tuesday. A look at some of the winners:

DR BENCY JOY, ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS
GOVERNMENT MIDDLE SCHOOL KINMAI, CAR NICOBAR

For Dr Joy, who teaches mathematics to middle school students in a tribal area, the priority is to tackle the fear of school in his students. "I teach in an area where enrolment is very low. I



(From left) Dr Bency Joy, Gurnam Singh, Mahesh Kumar, Ashutosh Anand and Mutum Tombimacha Singh will be given awards by the President today.

believe that in order to overcome that, two fears need to be eliminated — fear of the subject and fear of teachers," said Dr Joy, who holds a PhD in psychology.

To help his students tackle the fear of mathematics, he makes small kits for them to tinker with concepts like the number line "so that they can play like it's ludo while learning".

He also counsels the children to understand which teachers



(From left) Dr Bency Joy, Gurnam Singh, Mahesh Kumar, Ashutosh Anand and Mutum Tombimacha Singh will be given awards by the President today.

they are afraid of. "Instead of confronting the teacher, I conduct group counselling with teachers and students. Through such activities, a relationship is built."

GURNAM SINGH, JAMMU AND KASHMIR
GOVERNMENT UPPER PRIMARY SCHOOL LAHARI, BARNOTI, KATHUA

When Singh was posted to this school four years ago, he found it operating out of a single-



(From left) Dr Bency Joy, Gurnam Singh, Mahesh Kumar, Ashutosh Anand and Mutum Tombimacha Singh will be given awards by the President today.

room tin shed. The school is in a remote location and it takes Singh two hours to reach everyday after a 25 km bike ride and a 10 km trek. "I got a grant from government to build a pucca school but the challenge was getting land. I sought the local community's support and they donated four bighas. Now, we have a pucca school with three classrooms, a headmaster's office, a TV and satellite dish, and a speaker sys-



(From left) Dr Bency Joy, Gurnam Singh, Mahesh Kumar, Ashutosh Anand and Mutum Tombimacha Singh will be given awards by the President today.

tem. There are a 110 schools in my zone. None of them have these facilities," he said.

MAHESH KUMAR, KERALA
GOVERNMENT LOWER PRIMARY SCHOOL CHERIYAKKARA, KAYYUR, NILESHWAR, KASARAGOD

After his posting, Kumar found local residents were not interested in enrolling their children at the school. When Kumar joined last year, there were only



(From left) Dr Bency Joy, Gurnam Singh, Mahesh Kumar, Ashutosh Anand and Mutum Tombimacha Singh will be given awards by the President today.

13 students in the school. He started working to make the school attractive with contributions from the local community, mostly comprising daily wage labourers. "We received around Rs 11 lakh from the community over seven months. We built a park, a playground and reading hutments. With these interventions, the school's atmosphere changed," he said.

The school raised Rs 3 lakh

from its alumni to buy a van for transporting students. Kumar drives the van. Today, the number of students in the school has gone up to 43.

ASHUTOSH ANAND, UTTAR PRADESH
UPPER PRIMARY SCHOOL MIYANGANJ, DARIYABAD, BARABANKI

Anand's mission is to make learning science fun for his students, most of whom are first-generation learners from Muslim and SC families. "I think there is nothing which cannot be used for learning. We have a box which students fill up with scrap items from their homes. Then they make learning materials from these items. They have made models of digestive and nervous systems using scrap materials," he said.

He also encourages his students to ideate on which scientific phenomena can be illustrated through everyday objects.

MUTUM TOMBIMACHA SINGH, MANIPUR

TEKCHAM GIRLS UPPER PRIMARY SCHOOL, TEKCHAM VILLAGE, THOUBAL

Mutum's aim has been to bring more children with special needs to the school which has 175 students. "In the village, most people try to hide children with special needs in their homes. I am in touch with various youth clubs and local volunteers and have requested them to look out for such children," he said.

Mutum tries to provide facilities to these students so that their parents do not need to put in any effort into their schooling. He pays for a van which transports them to school and back and also buys uniforms for them. "Now we have 24 children with special needs. Unfortunately, only 17 attend classes regularly. The rest require helpers which we are unable to provide. I bring them to school on occasions."

SC allows UP law student, brother to change college

CHINMAYANAND CASE Court says their future is important, advises woman to focus on studies

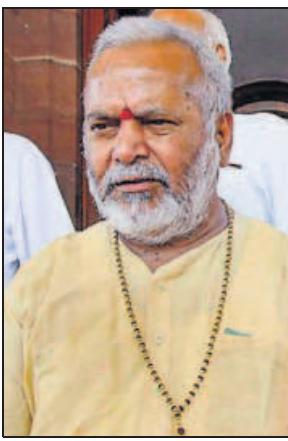
HT Correspondent
■ letters@hindustantimes.com

NEWDELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday ordered the transfer of a Shahjahanpur student, who has accused former Union minister and Bharatiya Janata Party leader Swami Chinmayanand of harassment, and her brother to law colleges affiliated to the Bareilly university.

“For us, their future is important,” the court said as it disposed of a suo motu petition. The court said that it had taken cognisance of the matter when the woman went missing. It added that nothing much survives in the issue as she has been traced now.

The court rejected the plea of group of lawyers that judges should meet the student one more time. “We do not want to meet anyone. Just ask her to tell the Allahabad High Court or SIT [Special Investigation Team] whatever she wants to say.”

The Uttar Pradesh government constituted the SIT on Tuesday to probe the harassment charges a day after the Supreme Court ordered it to do so. The UP government told a bench of justices R Banumathi and AS Bopanna that they have made arrangements for the transfer of the woman and her brother from SS Law College to Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Rohilkhand (MJPR) University, Bareilly, and Shreeji



Institute of Legal and Vocational Studies (SILVS) in compliance with the court’s earlier order. Chinmayanand is the chairman of the SS Law College. Additional solicitor general Vikramjeet Banerjee, who appeared for the Uttar Pradesh government, said that SILVS, Bareilly, does not have any hostel. He added they have made arrangement for the accommodation of the woman’s brother in the hostel attached to the university, where both of them will stay till they complete their courses. He said whatever fees and other incidental charges the two have paid in their respective colleges will be adjusted against the fee payable at the colleges they are to be

There has been an attempt to malign my image and thwart my efforts for elevating the college to university level. I even met finance minister and was scheduled to meet CM. It is clear some people don’t want the college to prosper.

SWAMI CHINMAYANAND, senior BJP leader

transferred to. The court said it listed the matter for Wednesday to see that their studies and future are not affected. “This is the benevolence shown by the state government. She has got best of the institution. Education is very important for her. Ask her to join the institution and study. It is only with education that people can grow in this country,” the court said.

It requested the Bar Council of India (BCI) to increase the seats of the colleges in which the woman and her brother will be shifted for LLM and LLB courses.

“In the interest of justice and peculiar facts and circumstances, we request the BCI to pass appropriate orders to increase the sanc-

tioned strength of seats by one as an exceptional case in the MJPR University, for LLM course and SILVS, Bareilly, for LLB course, at the earliest,” it said.

The court gave four weeks to the woman and her brother to make an application for admission in the concerned educational institutions. It said the woman and her parents are at liberty to go home in Shahjahanpur accompanied by Delhi Police. If any further direction, including with regard to the safety and security, is required, then they can approach the Allahabad HC, the court added.

The judges had earlier interacted with the woman. She had said that she told the judges that she did not want to continue her study in the college run by Chinmayanand’s ashram at Shahjahanpur.

The court had asked the state to provide police protection to the family and explore the possibility of admitting the woman and her brother in another college at Bareilly. The woman went missing after levelling allegations against Chinmayanand in a video and was later found in Rajasthan. In Shahjahanpur, Chinmayanand said: “The matter is in the Supreme Court. An SIT has been constituted. I have full faith in the judiciary and I will say whatever I have to say before the SIT.”

(With PTI inputs)



■ Harish Rawat

CBI could register FIR against former Utkhanda CM Rawat in 2016 CD case

Neeraj Santoshi
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DEHRADUN: The Central Bureau of Investigation has told Uttarakhand high court that it would file a first information report related to a 2016 sting in which former chief minister Harish Rawat was purportedly shown striking a deal with a journalist to bring in rebel legislators back to Congress.

Sandeep Tandon, counsel representing CBI, said during a hearing on Tuesday, he informed the HC that as a probe in the matter had been completed, it was duty of the CBI to inform the court before registering an FIR in the matter. HT has a copy of the order issued by the HC on Tuesday.

The order stated, “Counsel(s) appearing for CBI argued that as per the directions of the coordinate bench (of HC) issued on June 20, 2016, the preliminary probe has been conducted by CBI, and it was the duty of the CBI to inform the court before registering the FIR. Today it was simply informed by both the counsel(s) appearing for the CBI that since the preliminary probe has been conducted in the matter, CBI is going to file the FIR in the matter.”

Tandon said the high court will hear the case on September 20. He said during a hearing of the case on August 21, he had moved an application in HC informing it that CBI had completed its preliminary report in the sting case, following which the HC directed that the report be submitted to it on September 20.

VBS Negi, counsel representing Rawat, said: “On September 20, the court will also discuss the point raised by it in its order issued on Tuesday. CBI on Wednesday sought modification in the last paragraph of the order and ‘did or’ was added in the paragraph. All these issues will be discussed in the next hearing.”

AYODHYA CASE HEARING

Idol worship in part of site doesn’t prove title, SC told

HT Correspondent
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NEWDELHI: The Sunni Waqf Board told the Supreme Court on Wednesday that idols of Hindu deities were worshipped in the outer courtyard of the disputed site before they were installed in the inner courtyard under the central dome of the Babri Masjid.

Senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan made the submission before a five-judge bench led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi while he advanced his arguments on the Shebait rights, or management rights, claimed by the Nirmohi Akhara, a religious denomination. Dhavan had on Tuesday conceded the Akhara’s Shebait rights. Justices SA Bobde, DY Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and SA Nazeer are the other judges on the bench.

As the senior advocate resumed his arguments, justice Nazeer asked him if he disputed the shebait rights. When Dhavan replied in the negative, justice Bhushan posed another query. “When you are not disputing the shebait rights, are you not accepting that part of the mosque was also (a) temple?” the judge asked, to which Dhavan’s response was: “Yes, maybe, but what part.”

To worship the idols in the outer courtyard did not mean

BEFORE PROCEEDINGS BEGAN, THE COUNSEL BROUGHT TO SC NOTICE AN ATTACK ON IQBAL ANSARI, SON OF HASHIM ANSARI, WHO WAS ONE OF THE FIRST LITIGANTS IN THE CASE

that Hindus had the title to the place. “They were allowed to play,” he said. At this, justice Chandrachud pointed out that Dhavan’s clients had asserted property rights over the whole area, including the outer courtyard. Conceding shebait rights would mean giving up part of the claim, he told Dhavan.

The senior counsel argued that the Akhara had easement rights (to use a property) only but not the title. “But then such part is taken out of the mosque”, added justice Chandrachud, seeking a response from Dhavan on whether the idol being a juristic person had other rights too. “The idol only had a limited juristic personality,” Dhavan contended.

“Does the fact that they prayed there give them title? It’s a risky situation, but that’s the Indian situation,” Dhavan said. Justice Nazeer asked him if the Indian

situation allowed places of worship belonging to different religions to exist side by side, unlike the foreign position under Islamic law. Or was it Sufi influence, he said, asking if a mosque and another place of worship could co-exist. Dhavan said it was possible in Sufi places of worship.

Before the proceedings began, the counsel brought to the court’s notice an attack on Iqbal Ansari, son of Hashim Ansari, who was one of the first litigants in the case. Dhavan said that Ansari had been attacked although he had been given police protection. “What kind of protection is this?” asks Dhavan. The court then said: “We will see what we can do.”

Hindu groups say that the disputed site in Ayodhya marks the birthplace of the warrior-god Ram and that a mosque, Babri Masjid, had been built there during Mughal rule on the ruins of a temple. In December 1992, Hindu activists campaigning for the construction of a temple on the site razed the mosque.

The Supreme Court is hearing appeals against a 2010 Allahabad high court judgment that called for the disputed site in Ayodhya to be divided equally between the Sunni Waqf Board, the Nirmohi Akhara, and Ram Lalla Virajman, an organisation that represents the infant deity Ram.

Saradha case: TMC leader returns money to ED

HT Correspondent
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KOLKATA: West Bengal’s ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) lawmaker and actor Satabdi Roy on Wednesday said she has sent a demand draft of ₹30.64 lakh, the money she received from the Saradha Group as its brand ambassador, to the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

Roy is among those facing the CBI and ED probe for their alleged role in the Saradha ponzi scam. The Saradha Group ran an unlicensed fund, which went bust

in 2013 and wiped out deposits from around 1.8 million, mostly poor, depositors from West Bengal, Assam, Jharkhand, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh.

“I have sent a draft of ₹30.64 lakh to the ED,” said Roy, who was this year elected as a Lok Sabha member for the third time from Birbhum.

An ED official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, confirmed the agency has received the draft but refused to comment. “The court had asked the agencies to investigate the larger conspiracy behind Saradha. If some-

one has promoted the group that, in turn, has mopped up deposits from a large number of people, returning the income for promoting the group is not likely to be a mitigating factor,” said Riju Ghosal, advocate at Calcutta high court.

BJP state unit vice-president Jay Prakash Majumdar said merely returning the money is not enough. He said Roy got the money years back and has returned it now. Majumdar said many of those who lost their money were driven to suicide. “Who will give the victims their

lives back?” he asked. “She must be ready to face whatever punishment the law will give her.”

Former TMC Rajya Sabha member and actor Mithun Chakrabarty had in 2015 returned ₹1.16 crore to the ED that he had received from the group when he was its brand ambassador. TMC leaders Madan Mitra and Kunal Ghosh have spent over two years for their alleged role in the scam.

The CBI and ED have questioned several TMC lawmakers for their alleged involvement in an estimated ₹2,460 crore scam.



हस्तशिल्प निर्यात संवर्धन परिषद्

Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts

NOTICE FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR SELECTION OF AGENCIES

The Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) is organising the IHGF Delhi Fair and other exhibitions in the IEM, Greater Noida. EPCH invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from Experienced firms/companies / agencies etc. having experience of:

- Construction, Erection, Fabrication of Exhibition booths, Spot Lights & Electrical Distribution, Carpeting, Fascia, Basic Furniture, General Lighting, Hangar Structure, Genset supply, Air-conditioning etc. for a net display area of approximately 40,000 sq. mt. and
- Interior and Exterior Jobs

The eligibility criteria and other details are available in EOI document on website www.epch.in/eoi. EPCH reserves its right to accept or reject any or all the EOIs without assigning any reason thereof. EOI in the prescribed format, supported by requisite documents in sealed envelope subscribing on the top “EOI for IHGF Delhi Fair” must reach to the Director – EPCH latest by 11th September 2019 upto 3.00 pm on the below address:

EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL FOR HANDICRAFTS
EPCH HOUSE, POCKET 6 & 7, SECTOR – C, LSC, VASANT KUNJ, NEW DELHI – 110 070.
Email: ihgf@epch.com, Tel. 011-26135256 / 57 / 58, Ext. 110



30x30 लोक सेवा आयोग

आनलाइन/विज्ञप्ति


सर्वसाधारण को एतद्द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि संस्थामत विल्ल बीमा एवं वाहय सहायसित परियोजना निदेशालय के अन्तर्गत सहायक निदेशक पद हेतु विज्ञापन संख्या- 02/2018-19 विभाग संख्या-एस-5/2 द्वारा आन लाइन विज्ञापन जारी किया गया था।

क्रम संख्या	पद नाम	पदों की संख्या व श्रेणी	अन्तिम अभ्यर्थी का प्राप्तांक प्रतिशत जहाँ तक के अभ्यर्थियों से आवेदन पत्र की मॉग की गयी है।
1	सहायक निदेशक	02, अनारक्षित	81.00 प्रतिशत
		01- अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग	81.00 प्रतिशत
		01-अनुउज्जति	70.17 प्रतिशत

उपरोक्त प्राप्तांक प्रतिशत तक के आन लाइन आवेदकों को एतद्द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि उक्त आवेदक आयोग की वेबसाइट <http://uppsec.up.nic.in> से आवेदन पत्र देशना पत्रक तथा प्रमाणिकरण-पत्रक व प्राप्तांक का विवरण प्रपत्र डाउनलोड कर और उन्हें भरकर तथा उनके साथ समस्त शैक्षिक प्रमाणपत्रों/अंकपत्रों (सभी वर्ष/सेमेस्टर)-हार्डस्कूल से अनिवार्य अर्हता व अन्य (जिसमें पूर्णांक व प्राप्तांक हो) प्रमाण पत्रों की प्रमाणित प्रतियों संलग्न कर सचिव लोक सेवा आयोग, उ०प्र० (सेवाय-5 अनुभाग), प्रयागराज को सम्बोधित करते हुए निधार्जित अन्तिम तिथि 20 सितम्बर, 2019 तक व्यक्तिगत रूप से आयोग के काउन्टर पर अथवा रजिस्टर्ड डाक द्वारा प्रेषित करना सुनिश्चित करेंगे। अन्तिम तिथि के बाद प्राप्त होने वाले आवेदन पत्र किसी भी दशा में स्वीकार नहीं किये जायेंगे तथा अभ्यर्थन स्वतः निरस्त माना जायेगा।

नोट:- ऐसे अभ्यर्थी जिनके अनिवार्य अर्हता के प्राप्तांक ग्रेड प्वाइन्ट में दिये हों, वे कुलसचिव/सक्षम प्राधिकारी द्वारा निर्गत इस आशय का प्रमाणपत्र अवश्य प्रस्तुत करेंगे जिसमें ग्रेड प्वाइन्ट के समतुल्य प्राप्तांक प्रतिशत तथा ग्रेड प्वाइन्ट की प्रतिशत में परिवर्तित करने का सूत्र (फार्मुला) का उल्लेख हो।

संख्या- 07/01/डी.आर./एस-5/2018-19 पुष्कर श्रीवास्तव
दिनांक : प्रयागराज 04 सितम्बर, 2019 (उप सचिव)



EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
E-tender Notice No. RE-DNR-Engg-GR-176-WT-19A
Dated: 02.09.2019

On behalf of the President of India, Chief Project Director, Railway Electrification, Danapur, invites open & sealed e-tender for the following work from experienced, financially and technically sound contractors, to be opened on 01.10.2019

1. Name of the work & its location :- Construction of (4 Units Type-II, 04 Units Type-III, 04 Units Type-IV & 01 unit Type-V) Qtrs. in Chogan along with all ancillary works viz. Earthwork, Boundary wall, Water supply, Sanitary Installation, drain, Road, pathway etc. in connection with Electrification of GH-D-CPUSGR Section in GR-176 in Dhabad Division of E.C.Railway.

2. Approximate cost of the work: Rs. 3,03,82,123.05/-, 3. Earnest Money to be deposited : Rs. 3,01,900.00/-

4. Date for submission of the tender and opening of Tender: For submission:- From 17.09.2019 & up to 11:00 Hours on 01.10.2019. Tender will be opened at 11:30 Hrs on 01.10.2019.

5. Website particulars, Notice board location where complete details of E-tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. :- website <https://reps.gov.in/> Notice board location & Add. of the office :- Office of the Chief Project Director (Engg.), Railway Electrification, Danapur, (Near Jagjeevan Stadium), PO-Khagaul, Patna-801105, (Bihar).

Chief Project Director (Engg.), Railway Electrification, Danapur, PR/1141/RE/Engg./T/19-20/44

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ACTOR



KATRINA KAIF
ACTOR



VIRENDER SEHWAG
FORMER INDIA CAPTAIN



VIJAY SHEKHAR SHARMA
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BANKS MUST LINK INTEREST RATE ON CERTAIN LOANS TO EXTERNAL BENCHMARK, SAYS RBI >>htbusiness p21

IRAN TO FREE SEVEN FROM SEIZED TANKER >htnation p13

FEDERER'S US OPEN RUN COMES TO A HALT
DIMITROV STUNS 38-YR-OLD SWISS WITH 5-SET VICTORY TO REACH SEMIS >>p24

Modi thanks Putin for support on J&K stand

VLADIVOSTOK MEET India, Russia against interference in others' internal matters

HT Correspondent
■ letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: India and Russia are opposed to "external interference" in the internal affairs of any country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday as the two countries signed several energy deals to bolster bilateral economic ties.

Although Modi didn't name any country in his remarks following the annual summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin in the Far East port city of Vladivostok, they came against the backdrop of Pakistan's efforts to internationalise India's move to scrap Jammu and Kashmir's special status last month.

"Both of us are against external interference in the internal affairs of any country," Modi said, speaking in Hindi during a joint media interaction with Putin. The Russian leader described India as a "key partner" and said he maintained "close official and personal ties"



■ PM Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin visit the Zvezda shipyard, accompanied by Rosneft CEO Igor Sechin (centre), ahead of the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok, Russia. REUTERS

with Modi.

India has told the world community the changes in Jammu and Kashmir are an internal matter and Moscow has backed New Delhi's moves, saying they were within the framework of

the Indian Constitution.

Foreign secretary Vijay Gokhale told a media briefing that Modi had explained to Putin the rationale behind the changes in Kashmir and thanked the Russian President for giving a "clear

message" on the issue. He added that Russia stood firmly behind India on its stand regarding Kashmir.

A joint statement said the two sides "emphasised their commitments" >>>
CONTINUED ON P 6

DK SHIVAKUMAR IN ED CUSTODY TILL SEPT 13

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Wednesday sent Congress leader DK Shivakumar in Enforcement Directorate (ED) custody until September 13, saying the allegations against him were very serious in nature and required his custodial interrogation.

The ED arrested Shivakumar on Tuesday citing enough evidence of alleged money laundering. Earlier in the day, ED informed the court that it found "some loose sheets" from Shivakumar's residence mentioning "cash payments of ₹44 crore to different persons between 2014 and 2016". Shivakumar's lawyer, Abhishek Singhvi, argued that his client has been interrogated for 33 hours. >>>
P 8

Dawood, Saeed designated terrorists under new UAPA

Neeraj Chauhan
■ letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: A month after Parliament amended an anti-terror law to enable individuals (as opposed to organisations) to be designated as terrorists, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government on Wednesday declared four of the most wanted men in India as terrorists, arming investigating agencies with additional powers to act against them.

The four individuals are Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) chief Maulana Masood Azhar, Lash-

CONTINUED ON P 6

INFILTRATORS WITH LINKS TO PAK HELD

SRINAGAR: Two Pakistani nationals associated with the Lashkar-e-Taiba were caught while trying to enter Kashmir, top security officers said on Wednesday. "Pakistan is desperate for terrorists to infiltrate... to disrupt peace in the valley," Lt General KJS Dhillion said at a briefing. >>>
P 9

KARTARPUR TALKS HIT A ROADBLOCK

NEW DELHI: India and Pakistan on Wednesday failed to finalise a draft agreement on the Kartarpur Corridor after the Pakistani side adopted an inflexible attitude on certain conditions, including a service fee for pilgrims and the presence of Indian consular officials to facilitate pilgrims, officials said. >>>
P 9

Hit by slowdown, Maruti to suspend work for two days

NEW DELHI: Maruti Suzuki India Ltd said on Wednesday that it will suspend vehicle production at its plants in Gurugram and Manesar as the automaker battles an unprecedented slowdown in sales. India's largest passenger vehicle maker by sales will shut the two plants on Saturday and Monday, according to a company statement.

This will be the first time the company will close both plants simultaneously for two days. The step is an indication that Suzuki Motor Corp expects sales to remain weak even during the upcoming festive season that is crucial for business. >>>
P 21

Muslims say idols in outer courtyard can't prove title

NEW DELHI: The Sunni Waqf Board told the Supreme Court on Wednesday that idols of Hindu deities were worshipped in the outer courtyard of the disputed site before they were installed in the inner courtyard under the central dome of the Babri Masjid. Senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan made the submission before a five-judge bench while advancing his arguments on the Shebait rights, or management rights, claimed by the Nirmohi Akhara, a religious denomination.

When the bench asked him if he disputed the shebait rights, Dhavan replied in the negative. "When you are not disputing the shebait rights, are you not accepting that part of the mosque was also (a) temple?" the bench asked, to which Dhavan's response was: "Yes, maybe, but what part." >>>
P 11

J&K move timed to avoid fresh violence, checkmate Pak: Rawat

Harinder Baweja
■ harinder.baweja@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: One month after the nullification of Article 370 of the Constitution, army chief General Bipin Rawat has backed the timing of the move, and called upon the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the militants to give peace a chance.

"Another phase of violence was going to start and the timing was right because Pakistan was also under pressure of being placed on the black by the Finan-

▶ We are not going after the terrorists because we don't want a gunfight to vitiate the atmosphere... Think about it and drop your guns

GENERAL BIPIN RAWAT, army chief



cial Action Task Force (FATF). I told the government the army would provide the military support it needed to implement the decision," Rawat said in an interview with HT.

The army chief said the people of Kashmir and the militants should give peace a chance. "There has been violence for 30 years... Leave the anger behind and give peace a chance." >>>
P 9

mustread

SEBI SEEKS REPLY FROM INDIGO

The markets regulator has sought a response from InterGlobe Aviation Ltd on a fresh letter by the company's co-promoter Rakesh Gangwal regarding corporate governance issues. >>>
P 21

JEWELLER'S THROAT SLIT IN DELHI HOME

A 14-year-old boy woke up to find his father, a jeweller, sitting on his bed with his throat slit at their home in Delhi's Madhu Vihar near Dwarka on Wednesday. The man died before his son could get help. >>>
P 2

TRANSFER LAW STUDENT: SC

The court ordered transfer of the Shahjahanpur law student, who levelled harassment charges against Chinmayanand, and her brother to other law colleges affiliated to Bareilly university. >>>
P 11

RANK 118

Crime, bad air make Delhi less liveable

HT Correspondent
■ letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Capital dropped six places to rank 118th on a list of the world's most liveable cities due to increase in crime and poor air quality, an annual survey by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) showed on Wednesday.

Delhi registered the biggest decline in Asia while Mumbai fell two places to 119th on the Global Liveability Index for 2019 that was topped by the Austrian capital of Vienna for

CONTINUED ON P 6

THE FAULT IN OUR CITIES

Delhi and Mumbai fared worse than last year in the 2019 Global Liveability Index that ranks 140 cities

CITY	2018	2019	Reason
DELHI	118	112	Increase in crime and poor air quality
MUMBAI	119	117	Downgrade in culture score

THE TOP THREE

- 1 Vienna, Austria
- 2 Melbourne, Australia
- 3 Sydney, Australia

AT THE BOTTOM

- 138 Dhaka, Bangladesh
- 139 Lagos, Nigeria
- 140 Damascus, Syria

RANKING CRITERIA

The EIU survey takes into account:

- Stability
- Culture and environment
- Healthcare
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India & Russia ink 25 pacts to boost energy, def ties

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: After a top-level meeting between PM Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Vladivostok, the two countries on Wednesday signed 25 agreements and MoUs in areas like defence, air and maritime connectivity, energy, natural gas, petroleum and trade. Modi will participate in the Eastern Economic Forum on Thursday. He will also have bilateral meetings with PMs of Japan, Malaysia and Mongolia.

With Russia firmly backing India on J&K, Modi thanked Putin for his support, explained the rationale behind the government's move and apprised him of the "false and misleading" propaganda by Pakistan, foreign secretary Vijay Gokhale said. Russia recently made it clear that J&K was a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan. "Our un-



Modi and Putin in the town of Bolshoi Kamen on Wednesday

derstanding is that Russia firmly stands with India on Kashmir," Gokhale said.

India and Russia agreed to open a maritime route between the ports of Chennai and Vladivostok to ensure connectivity between the two countries. A Memorandum of Intent was signed between the Indian ministry of shipping

and Russia's ministry of transport for development of maritime communications between Chennai and Russia's Far East region. The nations also signed a roadmap for cooperation in the hydrocarbons sector with Moscow agreeing to explore supplying coking coal from the region and the nations expanding en-

PM hails Russia's Gaganyaan help

PM Narendra Modi, in a joint statement with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Vladivostok on Wednesday, said Russia would train Indian astronauts for India's maiden human spaceflight mission Gaganyaan. Both leaders welcomed the work being carried out actively within the framework of the signed MoU on support of the Russian side for Gaganyaan project. **TNN**

ergy ties in hydro and thermal power. "The leaders are determined to forge cooperation in geological exploration and joint development of oil and gas fields in Russia and India, including offshore fields," the joint statement said. Modi and Putin also discussed the possibility of joint production of nuclear fuel in India.

'Can Muslims, Hindus pray together?'

► Continued from P 1

The concession was the result of a debate sparked by eagerness of Muslim parties to support Nirmohi Akhara's plea against the suit filed on behalf of the deity. Senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan said evidence suggested that an idol of Lord Ram was worshipped at the 'chabutra' in the outer courtyard of Babri Masjid before it was surreptitiously placed under the central dome on the night of December 22, 1949.

Dhavan strategically embarked on defending the Akhara's 'sevait' (priestly) rights to defeat the suit filed in 1989 by Devki Nandan Agrawal as next friend of the deity. He said 'sevait' alone had the right to manage the affairs of the deity and only if it was derelict in its duty, a next friend could file a suit on behalf of the deity. He said there was no pleading in the suit filed on behalf of the deity that

'Will look into attack on Ayodhya petitioner'

The Supreme Court on Wednesday assured senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, who appeared for Muslim parties in the Ayodhya land dispute case, that it will look into the case relating to attack on one of the appellants, Iqbal Ansari, in Ayodhya on Tuesday. Before commencing arguments, Dhavan told a five-judge bench, "With some regret I say that Ansari was attacked despite being protected by police. We cannot go on filing contempt petitions and I do not blame the other side. But a simple word from the court will help. I am not saying this prevents me from arguing." **CJI Ranjan Gogoi** consulted Justice S A Bobde and said, "We will look into it. We will do whatever is required." **TNN**



there was dereliction in the Akhara's 'sevait' functions.

But the bench of CJI Ranjan Gogoi and Justices S A Bobde, D Y Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and S Abdul Nazeer caught on to this argument and asked if the Akhara had 'sevait' rights in the outer courtyard of the mosque, then, as a natural corollary, the deity too existed there within the mosque even prior to 1949. "Can Akhara perform sevait rights without the dei-

ty?" the bench asked.

Gogoi added, "You concede that Ram Chabutra belongs to Akhara." Justice Chandrachud elaborated on it to say, "If you concede sevait rights of Akhara, you necessarily concede the rights of deity, because sevait rights cannot arise without the deity. If you concede that the Hindus have a right to pray at chabutra inside the mosque, then can it still remain a mosque under Quranic law?"

Dhavan replied, "The deity was there. The idols were there. We cannot pretend the idols were not there. But in the 1985 suit filed by one Raghuvhar Das, the Hindus' right to worship was granted but their claim to title was denied." Having said so, Dhavan said he had deep concern about what interpretation the court would give in this case about right to worship as it could open a Pandora's box.

Justice Nazeer asked, "Can Muslims and Hindus pray together? What is the norm under Islamic law in Indian context where Sufism was predominant?" Dhavan said, "It is true Quranic law is the ideal law. But the Supreme Court has to decide how Quranic law is to be applied in the modern sense." Justice Chandrachud asked, "So you are not seeking exclusive right over the disputed land but advocating co-existence with Hindus?"

'Sati wrong, but it was her decision'

► Continued from P 1

The sentiment finds favour at Deorala. Keeping alive memories of Roop, who was 18 when she died, is her room at her in-laws' house. It's been kept as a shrine, with visitors from across the state trickling daily in quiet reverence.

Acquitted long ago in the case along with his wife, the father-in-law, Sumer Singh, previously a teacher, said he doesn't want to talk about it. "I am in no condition to speak," he mumbled.

In the village, Roop is still venerated as a symbol of "caste culture". Local resi-

dents, young and old, are vociferous that Sati is not acceptable but they don't fail to add that "respect for her" will never fade from their hearts. They remain firm in the community legend that she took her life "willingly".

Jawan Singh, a village elder, said, "We are absolutely against Sati but this decision came from within her and so no one can say or think anything negative about her." A youth, who did not wish to be named, said, "There is no scope for this now, obviously. I wasn't even born in 1987 but we have grown up hearing her stories. Sometimes I too go in

the evenings to light incense sticks at the spot. It is just a matter of faith."

Fondly recalling events of the day, Shekhawat said in Jaipur that he was informed by a journalist over phone that his sister was ready to observe Sati. "I shared the news with my siblings (four brothers and a sister) who were filled with pride and rushed to the cremation in Sikar." The family was minutes late and reached only when Roop was afire, said Shekhawat. "But I remember the crowd chanting slogans. Over 10,000 villagers were there. My sister sat on the pyre with folded hands. She became immortal for fol-

lowing the centuries' old practice of Rajputs." He then went on to describe how the pyre was encircled by young men holding swords to prevent police from interrupting. "Roop had a lot of devotion for our caste culture and rituals," the proud brother said.

Thousands of pilgrims from across the country still visit the 400-year-old Rani Sati temple in Jhunjhunu all year around. It was constructed, so the legend goes, after 13-year-old Narayani Devi committed Sati. The sprawling temple complex has rooms and dormitories for visitors.

(With inputs from Intishab Ali)

Troops from either side routinely patrol the area, says Army

► Continued from P 1

Chaglagam is 100km from the McMahon Line, which demarcates the Tibetan region of China from India's Northeast along the northern boundary of Arunachal Pradesh. "The construction of a suspension bridge means the Chinese have come almost 60 to 70km inside. This is a serious issue... A decade ago, I had informed the Lok Sabha about the Chinese coming up to 50km inside our territory," Gao said.

In a statement, the Indian Army said there was "no permanent presence" of either Chinese soldiers or civilians in the area. "There is differing perception on the alignment of the Line of Actual Control (LAC), as in many other areas. The terrain is thickly vegetated and all movements are undertaken on foot along nullahs and streams. During monsoon, whenever the nullahs are in spate, temporary bridges are constructed by the patrol teams. Being an area of differing claims, troops from either side routinely patrol the area. In addition, civilian hunters and herb collectors also frequent the area during the summer months."

The last time an incursion by the People's Liberation Ar-

In a statement, the Indian Army said there was 'no permanent presence' of either Chinese soldiers or civilians in the area

my of China was reported in this area was in September 2016. On that occasion, the Chinese troops retreated after four days and a flag meeting was held at Damai in China to resolve the issue.

In January 2010, porters had spotted Chinese workers allegedly preparing to build a road across the border at Tuting in Upper Siang district of northern Arunachal. The Army rushed troops to the area, forcing them to return.

"India and China have well-established diplomatic and military mechanisms to address all issues in our border areas. The two sides agree that maintenance of peace and tranquillity in all areas of the India-China border is a prerequisite to smooth development of overall bilateral relations. Both countries have agreed to work towards a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question on the basis of the 2005 Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles," the Army said.

Listen to Manmohan on economy, Sena tells BJP

Ambarish Mishra | TNN

Mumbai: Saamna has urged the Modi government to pay heed to former PM Manmohan Singh's assessment of the current fiscal crisis. While the Modi government has displayed spunk in taming Pakistan on the Kashmir issue, it has failed on the economic front, Saamna opined.

"The protestors in Kashmir can be curbed by guns. But how can you fire a gun on the escalating economic slowdown? If hordes of hungry Indians pour out on the streets because of largescale unemployment, are you going to open fire on them?" it said in an editorial on Wednesday.

This is the third Saamna piece which has criti-

cised the Modi regime for its failure to address economic issues.

"Singh has for nearly 35 years been closely monitoring India's economic issues. He nursed the economy back to health (during an earlier spell of slowdown). Modi had once remarked that Singh wears a raincoat before going under the shower. The new arbiters of power are of the view that Singh lacks in-depth knowledge of Indian economy. Singh may well be wearing a raincoat before he takes the shower or he may be taking a dip in the lake under an umbrella. But the man knows his economics," the Sena mouthpiece stated and added that Singh had every right to comment on the slowdown.

Orders delayed, NRC-excluded may get more time to appeal

Bharti.Jain@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: While rules give those excluded from the final NRC, 120 days to file appeals before foreigners' tribunals, the NRC authorities' preoccupation with securing NRC data as directed by Supreme Court, has for now held up the process of issuing certificates listing reasons for their exclusion.

The certificate is necessary to approach a foreigners' tribunal challenging exclusion from the NRC. As per the guidelines amended by the Centre, the 120 day time-limit was to start from August 31, the day of NRC publication. However, with indications that NRC authorities would take some time to secure the data before they start issuing certificates to the 19 lakh excluded people, a way out could be to approach the Supreme Court for delayed start of the 120-day time-limit.

The NRC coordinator is expected to approach the SC after fully securing NRC data. A review of threshold for the 120-day period may be sought alongside, suggesting that the time-limit be counted from the date on which the order of exclusion is served. The Centre has set up 200 foreigners' tribunals, in addition to the 100 already existing.

Residents had complained about factory

► Continued from P 1

The explosion was so strong that it was heard from nearly a kilometre away. Window panes of a shopping mall and houses located in a radius of over 500 metre were shattered. The blast also damaged nearby buildings, including a school and gurdwara. Vehicles parked near the factory were hurled into a nearby nullah due to the intensity of the blast.

Hundreds of students of the nearby St Francis School had a miraculous escape as the blast took place half-an-hour after classes ended.

The condition of the seven injured who are in hospital is critical. People in the neighbourhood said they had submitted several complaints to the Batala administration against the illegal firecracker factory in the residential area. Punjab CM Captain Amarinder Singh announced an ex-gratia grant of Rs 2 lakh for the kin of each deceased, Rs 50,000 each for the seven severely injured and Rs 25,000 each for those with minor injuries.

Five arrested in Jharkhand over lynching

► Continued from P 1

Ramgarh SP Prabhath Kumar said five persons — Basant Munda (24), Santosh Kumar (22), Raju Karmali (24), Giridhari Bhokta (29) and Mahendra Mahto (35) — have been arrested in the case.

They have admitted to their involvement in the lynching. "Others involved in the crime will be behind bars soon," Kumar added. Police said rumours that the victim was a child-lifter started circulating in Gandhke after he was seen in the village around 8pm on Tuesday. Soon, a mob gathered and thrashed him brutally. He was rescued by cops and taken to sadar hospital in Ramgarh, which referred him on Wednesday to Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences in Ranchi due to his critical condition. The lynching in Jharkhand comes a day after six people were thrashed by a mob in the state's Kodarma district over child-lifting rumours.

Full report on www.toi.in

REVENUE DEPARTMENT AND ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI


PUBLIC NOTICE


Revised list of artificial ponds for Green Idol Immersion on the occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi & Durga Pooja 2019

S.No.	District	Sub-Division	Name and address of artificial ponds with land marks
1.	East	Mayur Vihar	Buddha Park near H.No.-9, Pocket-1, Mayur Vihar, Phase-1.
2.	East	Mayur Vihar	Rajesh Pilot Park, B-Block, Kondli, Dairy Farm
3.	East	Mayur Vihar	Behind Red Fox Hotel, Mayur Vihar Phase III
4.	East	Mayur Vihar	MIG Complex, Near Durga Mata Mandir Kondli
5.	East	Mayur Vihar	Chhat Park, Santan Shiv Mandir A-2 Park Mayur Vihar, Ph-III.
6.	East	Mayur Vihar	Chhat Pooja Ghat Park, New Kondli
7.	East	Mayur Vihar	Opposite Neelam Mata Mandir.
8.	East	Mayur Vihar	36 Block Trilokpuri, DDA Land
9.	East	Preet Vihar	Children's IP Ext. West Vinod Nagar
10.	East	Preet Vihar	Behind Park Inn Hotel DDA District Center, Mandawali
11.	East	Preet Vihar	Dr. Rajender Prasad Park, Shanti Marg, Delhi
12.	East	Preet Vihar	Chander Vihar, Between Street No. 4 & 5, Madhu Vihar
13.	East	Preet Vihar	Natural Pond in front of Kala Niketan Public School
14.	East	Gandhi Nagar	Vacant Site Between Mayur Dhwaaj Appartment And Indian Oil Petrol Pump, Geeta Colony
15.	North	Model Town	DDA, Park, Jahangir Puri
16.	North	Model Town	Chhat Ghat Near SR Office Bhalswa
17.	North	Model Town	Open land at 50 Foot Road, Shah Alam Band Marg
18.	North	Alipur	Adarsh Senior Secondary School, Samaypur
19.	North	Alipur	Gali No. 15, Swaroop Nagar, Delhi
20.	North	Narela	Chhat Ghat, JJ Colony, Bawana
21.	North	Narela	Chhat Ghat, Pehlادpur Bangor
22.	North	Narela	Chhath Ghat, Pkt-1, Sec-A-10, Narela
23.	New Delhi	Chanakya Puri	NDMC Park, Opp. Laxmi Narayan Mandir, Kalibari Marg, and Mark: Birla Mandir.
24.	New Delhi	Chanakya Puri	Raja Bazar Park, Opp. Union Academy Sr. Sec. School, Land Mark: Union Academy Sr. Sec. School.
25.	New Delhi	Delhi Cantt.	Krishni Kunj Ground, Near Inderpuri, Loha Mandi
26.	New Delhi	Delhi Cantt.	Ram Leela Ground At Delhi Cantt, Sadar Bazar, Near Gurudwara
27.	New Delhi	Vasant Vihar	C.P.W.D., Central Park, Sec-12 R.K. Puram, New Delhi
28.	New Delhi	Vasant Vihar	DDA Community Centre Park, Near Vasant Lok Market, Vasant Vihar
29.	New Delhi	Vasant Vihar	DDA Park, Sec-06, 12 Near Hotel Hayat, R.K. Puram
30.	New Delhi	Vasant Vihar	CPWD Park Sec-01, R. K. Puram, Offsite Mohan Singh Market, New Delhi
31.	New Delhi	Vasant Vihar	MCD Park, Adarsh Basti, Mohammad Pur Village, New Delhi
32.	New Delhi	Vasant Vihar	SDMC Park, Vasant Kunj, Near GD Goenka School, Sec-12, Near CNG Pump
33.	New Delhi	Vasant Vihar	NDMC Subhash Park, Netaji Nagar, New Delhi
34.	Central	Kotwali	Gopal Malik Park, Opposite Shastri Nagar, Delhi
35.	Central	Civil Lines	Nirankari Ground near Nirankari Sarovar Bhawan, Burari, Delhi (Site-A)
36.	Central	Civil Lines	Nirankari Ground near Nirankari Sarovar Bhawan, Burari, Delhi (Site-O)
37.	Central	Civil Lines	Nirankari Ground near Nirankari Sarovar Bhawan, Burari, Delhi (Site-C)
38.	Central	Civil Lines	Sunil Colony, Burari, Delhi
39.	Central	Civil Lines	Shakti Enclave, Burari, Delhi
40.	Central	Civil Lines	Yamuna Pusta Thokar No. 02, Hanuman Mandir near Baba Colony, Burari, Delhi
41.	South-East	Defence Colony	Aastha Kunj Park, Near Iskon Temple, East of Kailash, New Delhi
42.	South-East	Defence Colony	Near Barapulla Nalla, Bangali Camp, Opp. Jain Mandir
43.	South-East	Sarita Vihar	Adjacent to Shiv Ghat, Opposite Jaitpur PS Old
44.	South-East	Sarita Vihar	Khadda Colony, Jaitpur NTPC Open Ground Jaitpur
45.	South-East	Sarita Vihar	Khadan Tajpur Village, Sarita Vihar
46.	South-East	Kalka Ji	DDA Flats, J-3, Park, (Kalka Ji)
47.	South-East	Kalka Ji	Sewa Singh Park, Opp. Govind Puri Police Station
48.	West	Patel Nagar	Rameela Park, Prem Nagar, Patel Nagar
49.	West	Patel Nagar	B-58, Rama Road Circle
50.	West	Patel Nagar	H-Block, MCD Park, Karmapura
51.	West	Patel Nagar	NW-143B, Vishu Garden, Chowkhandi, New Delhi
52.	West	Rajouri Garden	A-1/37, Jawahar Park, Kirti Nagar, Delhi
53.	West	Rajouri Garden	Furniture Block (Timber Market), Kirti Nagar, Delhi
54.	West	Rajouri Garden	Pilli Kothi, Hari Nagar, Delhi
55.	West	Rajouri Garden	DMS Colony, Hari Nagar, Delhi
56.	West	Rajouri Garden	Jheel wala Park, Fateh Nagar, Delhi
57.	West	Punjabi Bagh	Jheel Park, Madipur, Delhi
58.	West	Punjabi Bagh	Nihal Vihar Pul, Near Fire Station, Nihal Vihar, Delhi
59.	West	Punjabi Bagh	Talab Park, Budh Bazar, Kunwar Singh Nagar, Delhi
60.	West	Punjabi Bagh	Brahmpuri Ranhola (Gram Sabha Land/Delhi Govt.)
61.	West	Punjabi Bagh	I & FC land near Nallah, Oppo. C-Block, Harphool Nagar Vihar, Nangli Vihar Extn, Baprol, Delhi
62.	West	Punjabi Bagh	Land in MPCC Building, Opp, Talab in Bakkarwala Kh. No. 83
63.	West	Punjabi Bagh	Land near Talab, Village Kamruddin Nagar, Village Kh. No. 38/1/2
64.	West	Punjabi Bagh	DDA Land Opp. Talab, Village Mundka No. 142
65.	West	Rajouri Garden	G. S. Land in Community Center, Near Talab, Village Hiran Kudna Near Shiv Mandir, Kh. No. 134
66.	West	Rajouri Garden	PWD land in Baba Haridass Colony, Tikri Kalan Near Metro Station, Tikri Border.
67.	North-East	Karawal Nagar	Park Near T. B. Hospital, Karawal Nagar
68.	North-East	Seemapur	Shastri Park, Opp. Northern Engineering College
69.	North-East	Yamuna Vihar	Chhath Ghat at Bhagirathi Vihar
70.	North-East	Yamuna Vihar	Ambedkar Park, Gokalpur
71.	North-East	Yamuna Vihar	Vacant DDA land near Le-Diamond Banquet Hall
72.	North-East	Yamuna Vihar	Opp. Water Treatment Plant, Bhagirathi Vihar
73.	Shahdara	Seemapuri	Deer Park, Dilshad Garden, Oppo Mukherjee Public School
74.	Shahdara	Seemapuri	Road No. 89, District Park, Khel Parisar, Tahirpur Village
75.	Shahdara	Seemapuri	Kusth Ashram, Tahipur, Delhi
76.	Shahdara	Vivek Vihar	Central Park, CBD Ground, Shahdara
77.	Shahdara	Vivek Vihar	Krishna Market Park, Jhilmil Colony, Delhi
78.	Shahdara	Shahdara	BabarpurJohar
79.	North-West	Kanjahwala	Lekhram Chowk Hanuman Mandir, Jain Nagar, Karala, Near Dry Canal
80.	North-West	Kanjahwala	Shiv Shakti Mandir, J-Block, Shiv Vihar, Mohammad Pur Majri
81.	North-West	Kanjahwala	Ghevra Village, RWA Pond Ghevra
82.	North-West	Kanjahwala	Pond in Jyoti Colony, Jaunti Village
83.	North-West	Kanjahwala	Durga Enclave Punjabi Khod
84.	North-West	Rohini	Chhat Pooja Ghat, Gadda Wala Park (in DDA Park) Opp. Sec-20, Rohini
85.	North-West	Rohini	Chhat Pooja Ghat at Inder Enclave Part-2, Prem Nagar-III, Kirari
86.	North-West	Rohini	MLA Ground, Prem Nagar Part-III, Kirari
87.	North-West	Rohini	DDA Park Laxmi Nagar, Prem Nagar-III, Kirari
88.	North-West	Rohini	A-245 Inder Enclave, Mubarakpur Road, Kirari
89.	North-West	Rohini	P-4/607 Sultanpuri
90.	North-West	Rohini	Babu Park, Mangolpuri
91.	North-West	Rohini	Hind Vihar, Prem Nagar-III, Kirari
92.	North-West	Saraswati Vihar	Ashok Vihar, New Delhi
93.	North-West	Saraswati Vihar	Haiderpur, Shalimar Bagh
94.	North-West	Saraswati Vihar	PU Block, Uttari Pitampura, Pitampura, Delhi
95.	South-West		Middle of Kali Basti, near the drain behind Uttam Nagar Terminal (DDA land)
96.	South-West		MP Green Field, Village Hastsal
97.	South-West		Dushera Park, b Block, Janakpuri in front of Maharaja Suraj Mal College
98.	South-West		Durga Park, West Sagarpur, Nasirpur (DDA land)
99.	South-West		DDA land in south of Sector 12 and 13 metro line
100.	South-West		Vacant land near DDA Sport Complex in Sec-11 Dwarka
101.	South-West		M. C. Primary School Near Rabta Mor, Jafarpur Kalan
102.	South-West		I & FC, Land near the drain besides the Vipin Garden
103.	South-West		Land near Nala Road in Sector 23, Dwarka
104.	South-West		DDA Vacant land at Sec-1, Dwarka in front of Mata Mandir
105.	South-West		Kh. No. 199 & 200, Existing at Dinpur Goyla Road.
106.	South-West		Kh. No. 338 (5-6) Village Deen Pur
107.	South-West		Satyam Puram, Jharoda Kalan Najargarh
108.	South	Hauz Khas	Sector-4, Pushp Vihar, Double Story Colony, Near Mother Dairy, New Delhi
109.	South	Hauz Khas	South Enclave DDA Flats, Near Ambedkar Nagar Police Station
110.	South	Hauz Khas	Dussera Ground, Chirag Delhi
111.	South	Hauz Khas	DDA Park, Begumpur, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi
112.	South	Saket	Freedom Fighter, Chhat Ghat
113.	South	Saket	Near Ashtini Mandir, Devli
114.	South	Mehrauli	Aya Nagar, Kh. No. 1575
115.	South	Mehrauli	Jonapur Water Body Kh. No. 194
116.	South	Mehrauli	DDA Park, Chat Ghat, Kishangarh

SDM (Environment)
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Govt. of NCT of Delhi
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No. ATDC/2792/2017/

Date : 03.09.2019

EXTENSION NOTICE

It is for information of all concerned that the last date for submission of EOIs for the work **"Providing Financial and Transaction Advisory Services for Development of Ropeway to Kamakhya Temple through PPP mode"** published vide Memo No. ATDC/2792/2017 dt. 14.08.2019 is hereby extended upto 1400 hours of **16.09.2019**. Details may be seen at e-procurement portal of Govt. of Assam www.assamtenders.gov.in & ATDC portal www.awesomeassam.org/page/tendernotice.

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Delhi slips six spots to 118th in liveability index

New Delhi and Mumbai have slipped six and two places respectively to end up 118th and 119th on a list of the world's most liveable cities.

Increase in cases of petty crimes and poor air quality as also a downgrade in its 'culture score' are behind the capital's drop, according to an annual survey by the Economist Intelligence Unit released on Wednesday.

Vienna tops the list, followed by Melbourne, Sydney and Osaka. Karachi (136th) and Dhaka (138th) are among the 10 least liveable cities. "This year, we note the impact of the climate change, such as poor air quality, undesirable heat and inadequate water provisions on liveability," the report said. **P17**

3 Amity students held for campus riot over parking

Three students of Amity University in Noida were arrested on Wednesday for allegedly thrashing three others following an argument over parking. The arrested students were booked for rioting and criminal intimidation. The incident took place on August 28. The arrests took place following outrage on social media. **P3**

SHO removed as woman says tortured in Ggn

The police on Wednesday removed the SHO of DLF 1 police station in Gurgaon, suspended two women cops and ordered a probe into allegations by a woman from Assam that she was detained there for nine hours, stripped and tortured while being questioned in a burglary case. She was called to the police station on Tuesday. **P8**

DKS in ED custody, Congress protests

With a special court in Delhi sending Karnataka ex-minister D K Shivakumar to ED custody till September 13, thousands of Congress workers staged protests and burnt vehicles across the state on Wednesday. He was arrested in a money laundering case on Tuesday. The special court observed allegations against DKS were of "serious" nature. **P14**

Maruti to have two no-production days

Maruti Suzuki will have two no-production days on September 7 and 9 at its Manesar plant, which insiders call "scary and never seen before in the recent past". The company had an unprecedented full-day shutdown at the Haryana unit in August due to over-flowing inventory on the factory premises. **P19**

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Mohammed.
Q2. Who did Roger Federer
lose to in the 2019 US Open?

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Cops had 'verified' GK-II help, failed to detect crime record

Killer Had Past Cases Of Theft And Snatching

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The murder of 91-year-old Kishan Dev Khosla by the household help in south Delhi's Greater Kailash II on Saturday reveals how the police's verification process for domestic helps may turn

► **Elderly demand spl cell, police post in GK-II, P 8**

out to be an eyewitness.

Local beat constables had visited the Khosla household in the run-up to Independence Day as part of their routine verification drill, enquired about Khosla and his wife, and ta-

POLICE VERIFICATION AN EYEWASH?

► Beat cops visited Khoslas' GK-II home in the run up to Independence Day, took down details of the help, Kishan

► They checked his record at the CR Park thana level and found nothing

► Kishan had two theft cases in Hauz Khas area, one snatching in Saket

► This record would have showed up had cops accessed district-level crime data

► Police say district-level



data is scrutinised only when employers formally seek verification of a person

► Days after 'verification', Kishan allegedly murdered his 91-year-old employer and took away the body in a fridge

ken down details of the help, Kishan. The cops then checked the crime records at the thana level, which in this case was CR Park, and found him clean.

As it turns out, Kishan did have a crime record — two ca-

ses of house theft in Hauz Khas and one snatching case registered in Saket.

Last Saturday, Kishan allegedly murdered Khosla after drugging him and his wife while robbing the house. He and

his accomplices stuffed Khosla's body in a fridge and transported it to Sangam Vihar, where it was buried in a pit.

So, how did Kishan's crime record go undetected when the cops verified his antecedents? It emerges that the local police, as per protocol, verified his details at the thana level while the cases against him were registered in the police stations of Saket and Hauz Khas.

Police sources say beat constables do not access district level crime records unless a formal request for verification comes from the employer of the person concerned.

Had cops checked Kishan's details in the central database, his previous crimes would've been detected and Khosla's murder, possibly, prevented.

► **Midnight meetings, P 8**

Ayodhya: Muslim parties ready to coexist with Hindus

But Insist On Title Over Disputed Land

Dhananjay Mahapatra
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Muslim parties created a flutter on Wednesday during the hearing of cross-appeals for ownership of the disputed 2.77-acre Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land in Ayodhya by telling the Supreme Court that if the title of the disputed land was vested to them, Hindus could be allowed to worship deity Ram Lalla in the outer courtyard of the demolished mosque.

Appearing to dilute the demand for exclusive rights over the land, advocate Rajeev

Will look into attack on petitioner: SC

The Supreme Court has assured advocate Rajeev Dhavan, who appeared for Muslim parties in the case, that it will look into the case relating to attack on appellant Iqbal Ansari on Tuesday. CJI Ranjan Gogoi consulted Justice S A Bobde and said, "We will do whatever is required." **TNN**

ev Dhavan said on behalf of Muslim parties, "Co-existence is okay. But title should vest in Sunni Waqf Board. We (Muslims and Hindus) may co-exist. But it is my property. Some people came and wanted to pray, so I had allowed them to pray."

► **Praying together, P 15**

1 more lynched over rumour of child-lifting

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

One more innocent person fell prey to a mob lynching fuelled by rumours of child-lifting that have plagued many parts of the country in the last few weeks. An unidentified man in his 40s, who was thrashed on Tuesday evening by a mob of over 50 people in Gandhke village in Jharkhand's Ramgarh district, died on Wednesday while he was being taken to a hospital in Ranchi.

With this, at least nine innocent people who were branded child-lifters have died in lynchings across India since August 1. Mob violence fuelled by child-lifting rumours was also reported from Kanpur and Jalpaiguri (West Bengal) in the last 24 hours.

► **5 held in Jharkhand, P 15**

23 killed in explosion at illegal firecracker factory in Punjab

Yudhvir Rana @timesgroup.com

Batala: Twenty-three people were killed and over 30 others injured after a powerful blast ripped apart an unauthorised firecracker factory in Batala, a densely populated residential area in Punjab's Gurdaspur district, on Wednesday.

Apart from one of the factory's owners, most of those killed were workers of the illegal unit, deputy inspector-general (border range) SPS Parmar said. A couple of people passing in front of the factory near Hansali Pul on Batala-Jalandhar Road were also killed in the blast that took place at 3.45pm.

Though the exact cause of the explosion was yet to be ascertained, Parmar said a huge cache of firecrackers were stored in the factory,



Thirty people were injured, seven of them seriously, in the blast at the fireworks unit at Batala in Gurdaspur district on Wednesday

which could have caught fire, leading to the blast.

Nearly a dozen fire tenders, along with police and NDRF teams, were rushed to the spot to rescue the injured. The fire was later under control when reports last came in.

The NDRF team was sifting through debris to check if anyone, dead or alive, was buried under the rubble.

► **Locals complained, P 15**

India, Pak still stuck on service fee for Kartarpur

India and Pakistan on Wednesday failed to finalise an agreement on the Kartarpur Sahib corridor during their third round of talks at Attari over the thorny issue of \$20 service fee per pilgrim being demanded by the latter. However, the two countries agreed on visa-free travel by Indian pilgrims. **P11**

As fines spook Delhi, 4-fold rise in rush for PUC certificates

Somreet Bhattacharya & Dipak Dash | TNN

New Delhi: Haunted by the prospect of paying thousands of rupees as fines under the new Motor Vehicle Act rules that kicked in from September 1, people across the city are making a beeline for pollution checking cent-

res and transport offices. The number of vehicles lining up for the pollution un-

► **Truck driver fined ₹59,000 in Gurgaon, P 3**
► **Errant govt officers to pay double, P 3**

der check (PUC) certificate at petrol pumps has gone up nearly four times. Such was the

rush on Wednesday that the PUC server crashed.

Similarly, almost all regional transport offices are seeing a 50-60% rise in the number of applicants for renewal of driving licences, getting duplicate ones issued or applying for a new one.

► **Separate queues, P 3**

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