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DID BORIS LIE TO THE QUEEN? THE QUESTION BEFORE BRITAIN'S TOP COURT

At any time starting the end of Thursday, the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom will deliver its judgment on an extraordinary legal question: Did Prime Minister Boris Johnson "lie" to the Queen? And, if he did, can the courts do anything about it?

VIDEO OF THE DAY



ELEPHANT LAXMI FOUND

35-year-old was found by the police on Wednesday

FULL COVERAGE



MAJOR CABINET DECISIONS

Bonus for rail employees, ban on e-cigarettes

EXPRESS Jaishankar's PoK

statement and India's change in strategy

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In this episode of 3 Things podcast, we look at the context behind the statement and the repercussions that it might have

FROM PAGE ONE

E-cigarette ban

manufacture, import, export, transport, sale, distribution, storage and advertisement) Ordinance, 2019, provides for imprisonment of up to one year or fines up to Rs 1 lakh or both for the first offence; imprisonment of up to three years and a fine up to Rs 5 lakh for a subsequent offence.

Storing e-cigarettes is punishable with imprisonment up to six months or a fine up to Rs 50,000 or both. Those with existing stocks of e-cigarettes on the date of commencement of the Ordinance will have to suo motu declare and deposit these stocks with the nearest police

The Centre, in a statement, said: "The decision to prohibit ecigarettes will help protect population, especially the youth and children, from the risk of addiction through E-cigarettes. Enforcement of the Ordinance will complement government's efforts for tobacco control and will help in reduction of tobacco use and reduction in associated economic and disease burden."

Union Health Secretary Preeti Sudan said: "Why are we debating whether it more or less harmful...it is a good move to ban it," she told reporters at a Cabinet briefing.

Classifieds

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INDIAN ECONOMY

Last year, the government had sent an advisory to all states to consider banning e-cigarettes. Sixteen states and 1 UT have already banned e-cigarettes.

TRENDS - the trade body representing importers, distributors, and dealers of e-Cigarettes - said in a statement that taking the Ordinance route itself was clear evidence of the fundamental unsustainability of the government's position.

Praveen Rikhy, convenor of TRENDS, said, "We believe that the Health Ministry ran with this proposal to ban on a selective basis, refusing to meet stakeholders, and was defeated in courts and therefore, managed to scrape an Ordinance to ban it. This does not look good...We are confident that given a chance we will be able to explain to Hon'ble MPs across the country that ENDS (electronic nicotine delivery systems) are a viable alternative to traditional tobacco burn cigarettes and that they are being increasingly mandated for legal sale by developed and progressive countries globally."

The Centre's decision comes at a time when governments across the world are taking a more stringent view of e-cigarettes. The decision is also backed by scientific reports, including a white paper brought out by the Indian Council of

Medical Research, which pointed out that a typical e-cigarette cartridge contains "about as much nicotine as a pack of 20 regular cigarettes and can act as a potential source for nicotine addiction".

> The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported that there are 380 cases of lung illness across the US.

Incidentally, the Centre's move has support from tobacco farmers. Murali Babu, general secretary, Federation of All India Farmer Associations, said, "Tobacco farmers across India do not support these new generation products i.e e-cigarettes, Heat-not-burn etc. as extraction of nicotine from tobacco for products like ENDS happens largely outside India, from tobacco grown outside the coun-

"I thank the government for this decision and for protecting our livelihood. The use of ENDS in India would hugely impact the livelihood of Indian tobacco farmers. These farmers are already under stress due to excessive regulation and taxation."

Tobacco stocks

government recorded notional gains of around Rs 1,000 crore over the course of Wednesday's

Share prices of some tobacco firms listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) rose as much as 9 per cent intra-day Wednesday.

This includes even Godfrey Phillips India, which has its own portfolio of e-cigarettes for the Indian market.

For instance, share prices of ITC Ltd, in which the government and its entities own 28.64 per cent stake, rose 1.03 per cent, or Rs 2.45 apiece, to close 239.60 apiece Rs Wednesday. While it holds 7.96 per cent stake in ITC through the Specified Undertaking of Unit Trust of India (SUUTI), state-owned insurer LIC holds 16.32 per cent stake in the

General insurer GIC, New India Insurance and Oriental Insurance own an aggregate of 4.36 per cent in the company. The notional gain for these state-owned firms put together on Wednesday works out to around Rs 859 crore.

Similarly, share prices of VST Industries rose Rs 58.15 apiece to close at Rs 3,560 apiece. Given that New India Assurance Company holds around 1.53 per cent stake in VST, the share movement translated into a notional gain of Rs 137.07 crore for stateowned New India Assurance.

Satya Pal Malik basis of development of Jammu

and Kashmir."

"If we give respect to the people of Jammu and Kashmir... make, demonstrate a bright future for the children here, bring businesses here... I guarantee that in a year, there will be a revolt in PoK and you will get PoK without war. Everyone in PoK will start saying I want to go to the other side," he said.

While on power projects, Malik said: "In Jammu and Kashmir, we used to have a Roshni Act. The aim was that unutilised government land should be allotted to people, sold and the money generated used for roshni, bijli. It was implemented in such a way that there was a scam of Rs 25,000 crore."

He said he had handed over the case to the Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB). "When I came here, I first annulled it (the scheme). A week ago, Chief Secretary sahib, others and I were together. We decided that if we don't investigate it, all our talk against corruption will sound hollow. We have asked the ACB to open the case, investigate it," he said.

Supreme Court deadline on Ayodhya: Let us end arguments by October 18 terminus with the railings" and

when can they conclude arguments. After listening to them, it said it hopes that the proceedings are wrapped up by October 18 — the target date assumes significance since CII Gogoi is due to retire on November 17.

As soon as the hearing began, the CJI mentioned the communication the court had received from the mediation panel comprising retired Supreme Court judge Justice F M Ibrahim Kalifulla, Art of Living founder Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and senior advocate Sriram Panchu.

The mediators had sought "directions" from the bench on two letters they had received. The letters, written by Zufar Farooqui, chairman of the Sunni Waqf Board, and Dharam Das of the Nirvani Akhara, called for resumption of the mediation process.

The bench said that "the hearing of the appeals, which is at a very advanced stage, will continue without any interruption. If, in the meantime, the parties desire to settle the matter(s), including, by resort to mediation by the earlier constituted mediation panel, they may do so and place the settlement before the Court, if

It also made it clear that

"the terms and the process of settlement including mediation, if resorted to, will abide by our earlier order dated 8th March, 2019, with regard to confidentiality".

During the hearing, the bench questioned the Sunni Central Wakf Board on the "close proximity" of the Ram Chabutra to railings installed by the British at the disputed site after the 1855 communal riots to demarcate the area into two zones for Hindus and Muslims to pray separately. It said that Hindus, while

praying at these railings which were adjacent to the mosque structure — may have been actually praying to something beyond it, to what they believed was their deity inside the dome of the mosque. Appearing for the Wakf

Board, senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan took the bench through the accounts of travellers and witnesses as well as the gazetteers cited by parties in favour of a temple. He said the gazetteers could not be totally believed. "I am not saying they should be rejected altogether, but there are gradations," he said.

The bench wanted to know the distance between the Ram Chabutra and the main structure and concluded that it was not far from it. Justice Chandrachud then

asked: "Before 1855, there was no exclusion (both Hindus and Muslims visited the place). Why was the Chabutra set up almost simultaneously with the railings... and in close proximity to it?". "May be because Hindus

believed that by offering prayers at the Chabutra, they were offering prayers to the deity in the mosque. The presence of the Chabutra in close proximity to the railings assumes significance," Justice Chandrachud said.

Countering this, Dhavan said: "It's your Lordship's conjecture." He said the mosque was a walled one and "the entire area was a Muslim mosque". He said it cannot be assumed that they (Hindus) were actually praying to the central dome. Justice Bhushan said "that

has come on record". And Justice Bobde said "there is evidence that they prayed at the railings". Dhavan sought to contra-

dict this, saying it was only in the accounts of some trav-

"There is oral evidence," Justice Bhushan replied. Justice Chandrachud said the Chabutra was "almost coasked "why does the Chabutra become the focal point after the railings were put up?" He said that till 1855, Hindus and Muslims were going to the site but then came the "upsurge" and the railings. "It is in reaction to the exclusion that this takes place," he pointed out.

Dhavan repeated that this was only a conjecture.

Justice Chandrachud said it was "within the scope of reasonable probability" and asked "why do people pray at a railing?" Justice Bhushan said they went there because they believed it to be "janmasthan".

Dhavan said there was no contemporary evidence that people prayed there. He then said they may have gone there "to destroy it". He said the matter has to be

seen in the context that Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs were fighting for each other's religious places. "It was a case of inter-se conflict and conquest" and "why they went to railing is something your Lordships don't know whether it was an acquisitive act or otherwise".

CJI Gogoi told Dhavan to refer to the evidence he cited in support of this argument when the hearing resumes Thursday.

since not many within the party appear to have questioned the proposal of simultaneous elections. So far, only Opposition par ties like the Congress, Trinamool Congress, CPI, AIMIM and NCP have expressed reservations and questioned the feasibility, given the existing constitutional provisions on the fixed tenure of State Assemblies and Parliament.

However, speaking at a public event in March 2017, Jaitley had echoed Modi's views on simultaneous polls. "It (simultaneous elections) will hugely reduce the quantum of expenditure, because if Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections are held together, the campaigns will be common, and, in a common campaign, the money spent will be much less. It won't be duplicated," PTI quoted him as saying at a discussion on 'Campaign Finance Reform in India' in New Delhi.

Simultaneous elections is a BJP pet project which was flagged by its veteran leader LK Advani in 2011. The EC, as first reported by The Indian Express, expressed its support for simultaneous elections in 2016, provided the legal and financial challenges are overcome.

The first elections to the Lok Sabha and all State Assemblies were held simultaneuosly in 1951-52. This practice continued in the three subsequent general elections held in 1957, 1962 and 1967. But, with the premature dissolution of some State Assemblies in 1968 and 1969, this cycle was disrupted.

Direct tax

advance tax payment and by when, companies are required to pay 45% of their tax liability. Companies pay 30% and 25% of their liability in the next two installments due December 15 and March 15 respectively.

The slowdown has translated into single-digit growth of 6% in advance tax collection up to September 15, as against 18% during the corresponding period last year. "Clearly, the slowdown in growth has started to reflect in tax collections," an official who did not wish to be named, told The Indian Express.

This below-than-expected growth in direct tax collections will also muddy the government's fiscal math and pose a challenge in meeting its fiscal deficit target of 3.3% of the GDP. With refunds at Rs 1 lakh crore during the period, which is only 4% higher, gross direct tax collections have also risen by just 5.5% in the first five-and-a-half months.

Coming ahead of Friday's GST Council meeting, the poor show on the direct tax side will render it next to impossible for the government to make any meaningful cut in GST rates despite increasing pressure from industry.

In August, GST revenues, though 4.5% higher year-onyear, had slowed to a six-month low of Rs 98,902 crore.

With the sharply slower revenue growth, the government's direct tax targets are looking out of reach for the second consecutive year.

The government had missed its direct tax targets in the previous financial year by Rs 63,000 crore. In 2018-19, the government had initially estimated direct tax revenue at Rs 11.5 lakh crore, which was revised up to Rs 12 lakh crore. However, the actual direct tax receipts for

Following the shortfall in direct tax revenue target for 2018-19, the government had reduced the tax targets for the current financial year. Direct tax revenue target has now been pegged at Rs 13.35 lakh crore for the current financial year, Rs 45,000 crore lower than the initial estimate of Rs 13.8 lakh crore in the interim Budget presented in February.

2018-19 was Rs 11.37 lakh crore.

Khan's remarks come ahead of his crucial visit to the US, where he will address the UN General Assembly and meet US President Donald Trump. He said he would "forcefully present the Kashmir issue like never before" at the UNGA session next week.

Earlier this week, a planned march by some political and religious parties towards the Line of Control was put off after Khan asked them to postpone it till his address at the UNGA on

Indian High Commissioner.

peace process in Afghanistan.

sought from a second medical board of directors, which opined that Ansari's death was due to the combined effect of "injury and cardiac arrest" and that the video was not tampered with. A welder, Ansari (22) was ac-

cused of theft by a mob in Dhatkidih village of Sarikela-Kharsawan on June 18. He was tied to a pole and forced to chant "Jai Shri Ram, Jai Hanuman". Police later arrested Ansari and booked him on theft charges while doctors at the Sadar Hospital declared him "fit for travel". Four days later, Ansari died while being rushed to hospital after he collapsed inside

In the first chargesheet presented to court on July 23, police the move, saying the viscera report did not point to anything "conclusive" and that the murder was "not premeditated".

Wednesday said: "It is clear that in the previous chargesheet, doctors had reserved their opinion on the cause of death as per post mortem report received by police. After the viscera report was received, doctors said that death was due to cardiac arrest."

the cause of cardiac arrest was not clear, police sent the entire report to a board of doctors at MGM Hospital. The doctors opined: "The fracture of bone is grievous injury caused by hard and blunt object. The combined effect of fracture of bones, pale organs and heart chambers full of blood resulted in cardiac ar-

karenge." ("You go to settle down in

England, the Netherlands, America, nobody will allow you to enter. Then how can anyone just come to India and settle down here? Can anyone come and stay here? Countries do not function like this. A register of Indian citizens is the need of the hour. In our election manifesto, we had promised that not only in Assam, we would bring NRC in the entire country, make a register of Indian citizens. For others, action will be taken as per the law.)

the people of country took a de-

"The name itself is National Register of Citizens, not National Register of Assam," he said, adding, "Assam ke naagrikon ka register nahin hai yeh (It's not a

register of Assam's residents". "I have said this before, and

cision in 2019. We are here to bring the NRC, and those who are excluded will be sent out of the country after due legal

Referring to the NRC exercise in Assam, which has excluded over 19 lakh people, he said those who had been left out would get a chance to press their case before the tribunal. He said the state government had made arrangements to appoint lawvers for those who couldn't afford legal fees.

Ex-SC employee

before the CMM on September 16, along with the investigating officer, Inspector Mukesh Antil. Kumar, according to the September 16 court order, accessed by The Indian Express, "stated (before the judge) that he is satisfied with the investigation conducted by the police in this case".

"He (Kumar) also stated that he does not want to file any protest petition and therefore, the closure report may be accepted as he does not want to pursue the present case. Statement of complainant to that effect has been recorded," the court stated. The order also said: "In view

of the facts and circumstances, statement given by the complainant and the investigation conducted by the police in the present case, the Closure Report filed in the present case is hereby accepted. File be consigned to Record Room". Kumar had accused the woman of taking Rs 50,000 from

him on the pretext of getting him a job at the Supreme Court. Kumar had earlier told The Indian Express, "It is my personal matter and decision. I don't want any further action and there is no pressure on me. It is my personal choice, no one should worry for me." While the woman could not

be contacted, her husband had said: "I am not aware of the closure report. Last I know is that the court dismissed their application to cancel my wife's bail."

An FIR for the alleged offences of cheating, criminal intimidation and criminal conspir-

acy was lodged against the woman on March 3, after a complaint was filed by Kumar at the Tilak Marg Police Station in Central Delhi.

During the investigation, the woman was arrested by police on March 10 and sent to judicial custody. She was granted bail on March 12. On March 14, the investigation into the case was taken up by the Crime Branch and the complainant addressed an application to the DCP that he was being threatened by the woman and her associates.

Joint polls

polls, was asked by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) to also examine the feasibility of holding simultaneous elections. At a meeting of the CoM held

on April 11, 2016, Jaitley voiced his

reservations. "Regarding holding of simultaneous election to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies, Hon'ble FM (Jaitley) averred that this is a sphere which is fraught with many pit-falls and we should tread with abundant caution in the matter." state the minutes of the meeting. "Hon'ble EAM (Sushma Swaraj) was of the view that we should not summarily dismiss the

idea and there is a need to give a

serious thought to it. She further

added that the Hon'ble PM is keen

to examine this issue and that in an all party meeting held recently, political parties were favourably

the issue". The meeting was also attended by then Law Minister DV Sadananda Gowda, MoS PMO litendra Singh, Legislative Department Secretary G Narayana Raju, Bhaskar Khulbe, who was then additional secretary in the PMO, and Deputy **Election Commissioners Umesh** Sinha and Sudeep Jain.

Jaitley's remarks at an internal meeting assume significance

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Imran Khan

Khan also ruled out talks with India unless New Delhi lifts "curfew" in Kashmir and revokes its decision on Article 370.

September 27. Tension between India and Pakistan escalated after New Delhi revoked I&K's special status on August 5. Islamabad downgraded diplomatic ties with New Delhi and expelled the

Khan also said that Pakistan would make its utmost effort for the resumption of the stalled

Tabrez Ansari

evidence" like the opinion

had not included murder charges against the accused, and invoked instead IPC Section 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder). Then, SP Saraikela Karthik S had justified The police statement process," he said.

The statement said that since

Shah on NRC

aapko. To phir Bharat mein aakar koi kaise bas sakta hai? Yahan koi bhi aakar bas sakta hai kya? Desh aise nahin chalta hai. Desh ke naagrikon ka register hona, veh samay ki zaroorat hai. Aur humne chunaavi ghosna patra mein, desh ki janta ko vada kiya tha ki kewal Assam nahin, desh bhar mein hum NRC lekar aayenge, aur desh ke naagrikon ka register banega. Iske alawe... aur aage kanooni prakriya mein karyawahi

inclined to the idea," state the minutes. The meeting, chaired by then Home Minister Rainath Singh, concluded with the members agreeing that the CoM is not the forum to discuss the issue and an expert committee should be assigned "to examine the entire gamut of the nuances involved in

(hindustantimes.com) hindustant THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2019

CUTS BENCHMARK INTEREST RATE FOR THE SECOND TIME THIS YEAR

MAMATA MEETS PM, RAISES WB **NAME CHANGE** >htnation p12

Ayodhya case: SC gives till Oct 18 for arguments

LAND DISPUTE Verdict expected by mid-November, before CJI Gogoi's retirement

Ashok Bagriya

NEW DELHI: Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi clearly wants to deliver a verdict in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid case before he retires on November 17 and the bench headed by him that is hearing the case articulated its willingness to work weekends to do so even as it gave the petitioners room to settle the case through mediation. On Wednesday, the five-judge

bench headed by him that is hearing the case expressed hope that the hearing of the land dispute case would be over by October 18. as indicated in the schedule given by Hindu and Muslim parties to the case.

"Let us make a joint effort to conclude the hearing by October 18. If need be, the court could sit on Saturdays and even extend hearing in the case daily by an hour," said the bench.

That will give the judges just under a month to write their judgement.

As many as 14 appeals were filed in the apex court against the 2010 Allahabad high court verdict, delivered in four civil suits. that the 2.77-acre plot of disputed land in Ayodhya be partitioned equally among three parties the Sunni Waqf Board, the Nirmohi Akhara and the representatives of Ram Lalla, the child deity.

A large section of Hindus believes the 16th century mosque, Babri Masiid, in Avodhya was built over a temple dedi-

ENTERING THE FINAL LAP The apex court said the parties are

TARGET OCTOBER 18: The Supreme Court asked both Hindu and Muslim parties to complete their arguments in the Ayodhya land title dispute case by Oct 18 **BEFORE NOVEMBER 17:** If hearings conclude by the deadline, the court may pronounce its verdict before CJI Gogoi retires on

free to find an amicable solution through mediation, if they want

hearings in the case after the mediation process failed earlier this year The case, referred for mediation in March this year, did not reach a settlement in four months and the

The top court is conducting daily

panel's report remains confidential "Let us make a joint effort to conclude the same [hearings]

by October 18." Ranjan Gogoi, Chief Justice

FAILURE OF MEDIATION

cated to Hindu god Ram, whose birthplace is also considered to be at the site. A mob of thousands demolished the mosque in December 1992, triggering a cycle

of violence and riots across India. On Tuesday, the five-judge Supreme Court bench asked the Hindu and Muslim parties to the case to give it a tentative schedule of their arguments in the case.

The court also reopened the possibility of mediation after it was brought to its notice that some parties to the case had written to the three-member mediation panel appointed by the top court earlier this year to settle the dispute. The court said, "The hearing of

The Supreme Court took up the case after appeals were filed against a 2010 Allahabad high court order that divided the disputed land in Ayodhya among three parties

the appeals, which are at a very advanced stage, will continue without any interruption. If, in the meantime, the parties desire to settle the matter(s), including, by resorting to mediation by the earlier constituted mediation panel, they may do so and place the settlement before the court, if reached.

"We also make it clear that the terms and the process of settlement including mediation, if resorted to, will abide by our earlier order dated March, 8, 2019, with regard to confidentiality," the bench said.

Earlier this week, the threemember panel approached the top court with a request from two of the 16 parties to the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land title dispute seeking that mediation efforts continue even as the constitution bench of the top court holds daily hearings in the

CONTINUED ON P8

CABINET CLEARS ORDINANCE TO IMPOSE BAN ON E-CIGARETTES

Rhythma Kaul

NEWDELHI: The Union Cabinet, at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday proposed an ordinance to ban production, import, export, transport, sale, storage, distribution, even advertising of e-cigarettes in the country. E-Hookahs. and online sale and advertising of these products, have also been included in the ban, which has been prompted by a belief in government circles that young people who may otherwise have not

users of these devices. E-cigarettes, technically known as Electronic Nicotine Delivery Devices (ENDS), are increasingly being seen by smokers as a harm reduction alternative to cigarettes, specially among the young, with at least a 900% increase in usage between 2011 and 2016 in the United States.

taken up smoking are becoming

Apart from e-cigarettes, ENDS include heat-not-burn devices. which generate a flavourful nico-**CONTINUED ON P8**

78-DAY WAGES AS BONUS FOR **RAILWAY STAFF**

mustread

SC SLAMS GOVT OVER MANUAL SCAVENGING

Nowhere in the world are people sent to "gas chambers to die", the top court fumed, expressing concern over deaths during manual scav**STRIKE AGAINST HEAVY FINES**

Most buses, taxis, autos won't ply on roads today

HT Correspondent

htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Residents of Delhi and the national capital region (NCR) are likely to face a harrowing commute on Thursday as a big chunk of private buses, autos. app-based taxis, trucks and other modes of transport will stay off the roads in protest against steep new fines under the amended Motor Vehicles (MV) Act.

A number of schools declared holidays as many privately run school bus services also backed the strike. Buses run by the Delhi Transport Corporation and the Delhi Metro will ply normally, government officials said.

Many buses, autos and cabs

ODD-EVEN: ₹20K FINE LIKELY

NEW DELHI: People violating the odd-even road rationing scheme between November 4 and 15 could end up paying ₹20.000 as fine under the amended Motor Vehicles' Act, officials said.

"The violation under the odd-even scheme is a compoundable offence (offences for which fines can be paid on the spot). The only way to

are expected to join the strike in Noida but the protest is unlikely to have an impact in Gurugram

November 4, then all oddeven fines will have to be paid in full at court. try.including Madhya Pradesh,

reduce the fine is if the Delhi

government notifies lower

senior traffic officer said.

compoundable amounts," a

The Delhi government said

its notification on the issue

will take time. This would

does not arrive before

mean that if the notification

Punjah, Harvana, and Tamil Nadu, trucks are likely to stay off CONTINUED ON P9 In some other parts of the coun-

New military doctrine to be submitted in Oct

Shishir Gupta shishir.gupta@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: India's Defence Planning Committee (DPC), headed by national security adviser Aiit Doval, is expected to submit the National Security Strategy (NSS), effectively the country's military doctrine, to the government in October, focusing on future war fronts, the requirement(if any) of naval expeditionary forces, and the projection of comprehensive national power.

The much-awaited report has been mostly completed and some finishing touches are being put to it before its submission next **CONTINUED ON P8**

PAK DENIES PM AIRSPACE

ISLAMABAD/NEW DELHI: Islamabad on Wednesday rejected New Delhi's request to allow

PM Modi's flight to use its airspace, hours after it said India's remark on PoK jurisdiction was "irresponsible". Pakistan PM Imran Khan also said he won't hold talks with India until Kashmir's status is restored.

Three injured in 7-vehicle pile-up near CWG Village

NEW DELHI: At least three people were wounded in a pile-up of at least seven vehicles, including a cluster bus, on Delhi-Meerut Expressway near the Commonwealth Games Village in east Delhi on Wednesday afternoon, the police said.

Police said the driver of a cluster bus, which was allegedly speeding, lost control near Akshardham Temple and hit an autorickshaw and subsequently a scooter. The vehicles then hit a car which then hit other vehicles, causing a massive pile-up on the road. The condition of two of the injured persons was serious, police said.



- Delhi's last elephant, 47-year-old Lakshmi, who was missing for more than two months was traced and rescued from east Delhi's Yamuna Khadar late on Tuesday. >> P3

NEW DELHI: The government may

levy differential rates of interest

on taxpayers for delayed pay-

ment of Goods and Services tax

(GST) in an attempt to prod busi-

nesses to pay their taxes on time

and to boost revenue collection,

The interest levied could be

18% for the first three months and

24% thereafter. The government

will charge the interest on the net

old to change their unscrupulous ways

Rajeev Jayaswal

two officials said.

Govt plans differential

rates for delayed GST

murder charges in Tabrez lynching

Police reimpose

Police on Wednesday reimposed murder charges under section 302 of the Indian Penal Code in a supplementary charge sheet filed against 11 accused in a case involving the mob lynching of 24-vear-old Tabrez Ansari in Jamshedpur's Dhatkidih village on the night of June 17-18 this year, district police officials said.

The police had dropped murder charges in the first chargesheet submitted in the Seraikela court on July 23 and charged the 11 accused for culpable homicide not amounting to murder. >>P11

Next big pandemic

NEW DELHI: The world is not prepared for the next big pandemic, which can potentially spread between continents in 36 hours and kill up to 80 million people. disrupt economies, and destabilise national security, according to a new assessment of the global preparedness to confront health

tion has tracked 1,483 epidemics in 172 nations from 2011 to 2018. said the Global Preparedness Monitoring Board (GPMB)The World At Risk report released on

can kill 80 million, warns WHO report

emergencies

Vadra firm's permit for 'colonization' to be cancelled

Universal Limited for ₹58 crore. the licence

The World Health Organiza-

CHANDIGARH: The Haryana Town and Country Planning (TCP) department has decided to cancel the so-called colonization licence granted to Robert Vadra's Sky Light Hospitality Private Limited in 2008 and subsequently transferred to realty company DLF The company of Vadra, son-inlaw of Congress president Sonia Gandhi, was granted the licence when the party was in power in Haryana. The TCP department said it had completed the procedural formalities for cancelling

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Meet Capital's criminals who are too

Prawesh Lama

Netanyahu fails

tight Israel vote

to win majority in

JERUSALEM: Israel Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu failed to

win a ruling majority in an elec-

tion that produced a virtual tie

between his right-wing bloc and a

centre-left grouping led by

former military chief Benny

Local media reported that Net-

anyahu's right-wing Likudhad 31

seats, while Gantz's Blue and

White took 32 out of a total 120

seats. This could mean the end of

Netanyahu's long rule. "P21

NEW DELHI: Dhani Ram Mittal, 80. wants movie scriptwriters to approach him to tell them the story of his eventful life and a criminal record spanning six decades. An unidentified filmmaker approached him earlier this year, took details of his crimes and offered to pay him. He never received any money and, for the first time in his life,

In 1968, Mittal committed his first crime by forging a degree

he felt like a victim.

Habitual offenders

First case: 1965 (Smuggling liquor) Cases: Attempted murder, rioting, drug

to get a station master's job. He

before leaving to pose as a judge

in a court in Haryana's Jhajjar

worked there for six years

First case: 1988 (Drug smuggling) Cases: Smuggling of drugs/narcotics smuggling, robbery

Dhani Ram Cases Mittal, 80 174 Mittal, 80 First case: 1968 (Forgery) Cases: Cheating, impersonation, vehicle theft

GST amount and not on the gross

amount as has been the case so

far said the officials cited above.

requesting anonymity. Taxpay-

ers have so far been paying inter-

est on the full amount without

adjusting for the input tax

credit. Under the existing law,

late payment of tax attracts a flat

tial rate of interest has been

referred to the Law Committee of

the GST Council before it is con-

CONTINUED ON P8

The proposal to levy a differen-

rate of 18% interest.

in the 1970s. He even issued bail orders for almost two months until he was caught. Mittal was **CONTINUED ON P8**

frompageone

Avodhva

In its application, the panel, comprising former apex court judge FM Ibrahim Kalifulla, Art of Living founder Sri Sri Ravishankar and senior advocate and mediator Sriram Panchu, told the court that it had received written requests from two parties—one from the Hindu side. Nirvani Akhara, and the second from the Sunni WaqfBoard -- for resumption of mediation.

On Wednesday, the Constitution bench questioned lawvers for Muslim parties on their claim that Hindus have all along prayed only at the Ram Chabutra (platform) in the outer courtvard of the disputed site, and that an idol was put in the central dome only in 1949.

Justice DY Chandrachud asked senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, representing the Muslimparties. "Why is that the Ram Chabutra has become the focal point in this case? Why was Ram Chabutra set up at the same time as the railings [put up by the British in the 1850s after riots broke out between the Hindus and Muslims]? Did people think praying at the Ram Chabutra was akin to offering prayers to deity under the central dome? Why is the Ram Chabutra so close to the central dome?

Dhavan replied, "It would be conjecture on the part of the judges to assume that Hindus went to the railings and prayed to a deity under the central dome. There is no contemporary evidence on record to suggest whether this happened out of animosity or faith. Till 1855, the only prayers by Hindus that took place at the disputed site was (at) Ram Chabutra.

Dhavan cited statements of six witnesses saying that it was only in 1949 that the idol of Ram was installed under the central dome. The judges also said that the 1991 report by historians RS Sharma. M Athar Ali, DN Jha and Surai Bhan relied on by the Muslim parties and which states that the disputed site wasn't the birthplace of Ram was, at best "an opinion" . "At the highest, it would be an opinion, "justice DY Chandrachud said.

E-cigarettes

tine-containing vapour, vapes, e-sheeshas and e-nicotine flavoured hookahs.

"Wedon't agree that ENDS is a harm reduction device. Secondly. the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) data shows there's a decline in the number of smokers. with only about 10% of population smoking cigarettes in India. Actually the young population is being targeted as customers for ENDS," said Preeti Sudan, Union health secretary.

The ordinance proposes an imprisonment of up to 1 year or a fine of ₹1 lakh or both, for first time offenders. For repeat offenders, the term could extend up to 3 vears and fine of ₹5 lakh. Defaulting will be a cognisable offence, except for storage of the device.

Storage of e-cigarettes shall also be punishable with an imprisonment up to six months or fine up to ₹50.000 or both. However, possession for personal use is not banned.

"For personal use, it's not banned but over a period of time these products will stop being made available in India after the ban," a health ministry official said on condition of anonymity.

Association of Vapers India (AVI), an organisation that represents e-cigarette users across the country, called the ordinance "regressive"

"The government may be patting its back for banning e-cigarettes but this is a draconian move considering the risk to the health of millions of smokers. On one hand we talk about transitioning from a developing to developed nation but on the other we are closing our doors to new technology that has been embraced globally by governments and used by millions worldwide to quit smoking," said Samrat Chowdhery, director,

Finance minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, who chaired the group of ministers that discussed the adverse health impact of the use of e-cigarettes or vaping, said that the group extensively referred to the data available from the United States on use of ENDS during their discussions.

About three million people in the US are regular users of e-cigarettes.

"The data available until vesterday reports seven deaths directly linked to use of e-cigarettes. There has been a 77.8% growth among school students (classes 10-12), and even surprising is that middle school students have become victims and taken to e-cigarettes and the growth increase among this section is about 48.5%." Sitharaman said at a press briefing after a Cabinet

meeting. "It's odourless but the smoke which is exhaled by the e-cigarette users contains very high

level of residual nicotine that may be inhaled by people around standing as passive smokers. It has already caused a lot of concern in the US and other developed countries, so our Cabinet rightly thought to ban it for the sake of the health of our people," she added.

hindustantimes

As per estimates, at least 400 brands of e-cigarettes are available in India and there are 150 flayours to choose from. The e-cigarettes, however, are not yet manufactured in India.

"E-cigarettes got promoted initially as a way in which people can get out of the habit of smoking cigarettes but if you look at reports they suggest people are smoking as well as vaping. There are some who are getting into the habit because it is cool. You don't evenneed a match stick; it just has to be fully charged like your mobile phone," Sitharaman said

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) earlier this year also recommended a ban after going through the data on ENDS

"We received several representations from experts, including our apex research body, ICMR, that recommended banning ENDS. It's not a question of more harmful or less harmful; it's harmful. Period. Our next generations are going to go down the drain if it's not controlled now," said Sudan.

The ordinance becomes effective after the President of India signs it. The owners of existing stocks of e-cigarettes on the date of commencement of the ordinance will have to suo motu (on their own) declare and deposit these stocks with the nearest police station.

"We hope to take this matter up in the next session of Parliament," said Sitharaman.

Some experts welcomed the move.

"E-cigarettes and other forms of ENDS are like ticking bombs for the youth of a developing economy like ours. It's good to nip the menace in the bud," says Dr Ravi Mehrotra, CEO, Indian Cancer Research Consortium, (ICMR-DHR).

But others pointed out that cigarettes pose a bigger threat than e-cigarettes.

Trade Representatives of ENDS (TRENDS) in India criticised the move. "Since e-cigarettes do not contain tar, they are proving to be a much safer alternative for smokers. India has one of the highest smoking populations in the world. This decision by the government is strange-it's like saying we will remove the

safer product from the market. and allow the more dangerous one to be sold," said Prayeen Rikhy, convenor, TRENDS.

The difficult part will be to implement the ban.

"The enforcement agencies will have to be alert because chances of spurious products entering the market through illegal channels become high and do more harm," says Dr SK Arora. additional director, health, Delhi government, who used to head the state's anti-tobacco cell.

Congress leader Ajay Maken on Wednesday asked the government why cigarettes and 'paan masala' should not be banned in the country if it can ban e-cigarettes, saying: "We want to ask the government if it will ban other cigarettes in the country

Military

month, three senior officials involved in the exercise said on condition of anonymity. The unclassified part of the report will be made public after the Narendra Modi government or the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) accepts the fundamental document defining the Indian military

posture. The DPC was formed in April 2018, but the report was held up pending the announcement of a new post of chief of defence staff (CDS), the single point military adviser to the government. The announcement of the creation of the post was made e by PM Modi from the ramparts of the Red Fort on Independence Day last month. The first Indian CDS is expected to be current Army chief General Bipin Rawat with a tenure of two more years.

While the defence ministry is tight-lipped about the report, the draft NSS is expected to define India's position on no first use (of nuclear weapons) in the current context as well as other red lines that could lead to strategic escala-

The report is also expected to define the military threat to India in terms of the possible number of fronts. For instance, the Indian military today is readying itself to face threats simultaneously on two fronts, north and the west, in a worst-case scenario. It is this definition that will be used by the defence ministry to decide the quantity of ammunition to be kept in ready stock. As of now. India is prepared with ammunition inventory for a 10-day intensive war.

The NSS document will also

spell out the Indian naval posture in the coming years, including the requirement for an expeditionary force. The Doval commit tee will also answer whether the Indian Navy requires more air craft carriers worth billion of dollars or development of air bases in any of the 611 islands under India in the Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea to venture deep across the Indian Ocean or the Persian Gulf, even the South China Sea. For instance. the tri-service Andaman and Nicobar Islands Command could easily project Indian might into the South China Sea with the existing air bases being upgraded and naval bases being equipped with jetties to handle larger warships. The A & N Command sits on the mouth of Malacca Straits with Banda Aceh in Indonesia a mere 163km away as the bird flies from Campbell Bay in Nicobar.

Although the Indian Navy has been calling itself an expeditionary force in the new millennium on paper, the NSS will define where there is any need to keep ₹20.000 crore carriers without any distant enemy in near future.

With the CDS expected to take over all tri-service structures including Special Operations, Cyber and Space Commands, the NSS will also define the role of stand-off and anti-satellite (ASAT) weapons in future wars. keeping in mind the Indian doctrinal posture.

GST

sidered by the Council, which oversees the indirect tax regime introduced in July 2017. The decision on charging interest on net amount of GST has been taken already and the law has been amended accordingly. The amendment will be notified soon. the officials said.

The Law Committee has an advisory body, which has about two dozen members, mainly tax officials representing the Centre and states. Email queries sent to the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) and the Union finance ministry did not elicit any responses.

The proposed move is aimed at prodding businesses to pay tax on time and to boost revenue collection, officials said, Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection in August this year dropped by 3.8% to ₹98.202 crore compared to the previous month, the lowest monthly collection in first five months of the current financial

Pratik Jain, partner and leader

of the indirect tax practice at PwC India, said interest is charged in cases of delayed payment of tax or reversal of credits in certain

"The proposed differential interest rate system seems to be a measure to curtail extent of tax evasions/delayed payment (as interest rate would be higher post a specified period of time) as well as a method of {inducing an} increase in revenue collections. he said, adding that the move would also raise expectations of the industry to get a higher rate of interest in case of a delay in refunds by the government.

Experts sounded a note of caution on the proposed differential interest rate regime.

"This would not be the first

time that the government is considering levving differential interest rates on delayed payments," said Mekhla Anand, a partner at the law firm Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas. "An interest rate corresponding to the period of delay was introduced under the erstwhile service tax regime as well. However, this experiment was rolled back in 2016 and a uniform interest rate was introduced again." The differential tax was rolled back due to operational reasons, officials quoted above said.

The government would be required to amend the law to put in place a differential interest rate regime, said Vishal Raheia. deputy general manager of the tax research and consulting firm Taxmann.

"Currently, there is cap of maximum 18% interest for delayed payment of GST. If the government wants to impose higher rate of interest for delay exceeding three months, there would be requirement of amendment to GST Act." he said.

Experts said the move to charge interest on net instead gross amount of GST was a relief to businesses. "Currently, the interest on delayed payment is charged on gross GST amount. In terms of the Finance Act, 2019, the GST legislations have already been amended to levy interest on the net tax liability only i.e. the amount which is paid by debiting the electronic cash ledger after setting off the input tax credit. However, this amendment has not yet been operationalised," said Anand.

Raheja said, "This amendment is very logical as it is very harsh to charge interest even if a taxable person has ITC [input tax credit] balance in credit ledger.

Elderly

last arrested in 2016 for a car theft and is currently out on bail According to police records, this was his 126th car theft across at least five states.

Mittalis not alone. Defying age and criminal psychology, several elderly men and women refuse to mend their ways and continue to be involved in crimes in Delhi. according to police officers who have dealt with such cases. The age factor helps them stay off the police radar. From selling drugs to posing as police officers, robbing passers by, to stealing and even murders, there is no dearth of the elderly involved in crimes.

The Delhi Police last month arrested Rajrani Topli, 88, an alleged drug dealer, with 16gm of heroin. It was the 10th time she was arrested over 63 years. Topli is the mother of seven and was granted bail in another drug case because of her age.

On Tuesday, a 60-year-old mother of five was held for smuggling heroin for the fifth time.

At a west Delhi police station. inspector Rajpal Dabas has a record of elderly criminals in Delhi, Dahas arrested Mittal in 2016 for stealing a car. Mittal's name features on number 43 on Dabas's list of elderly criminals. Dabas said there are over 100 such criminals.

LNRao, a former deputy commissioner of Delhi Police, said elderly men and women do not quit crime because it is lucrative. Do you know that these habitual elderly criminals also have fixed lawvers? I have seen cases in which elderly criminals pay their advocates in advance so that they do not have to hire them after their arrest. Another reason is loss of reputation. For such prisoners, there is no difference between time spent in jail or out side. They are habitual and know everyone in prisons. So, they do not mind going there.'

 $Their arrests and {\it regular deal}$ ings with police officers even help some of the elderly criminals in their crimes. A majority of such elderly prisoners pose as police officers or those from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to con or rob unsuspecting people.

Men like Kishen Lal. 65, who has a 48-year criminal record. have told police they know the law well and can also talks like a policeman to make it difficult for their victims to suspect them. Since 1976, Lal. a resident of

Ghaziahad, has been arrested in 38 cases in Delhi alone. The number of cases against Lal across

north India could be in hundreds

"When he was voung, he kid napped people by posing as a police officer and took them to isolated places to rob them... In recent years, we have seen that he poses as a policeman but does not kidnap people. He steals bags in the name of frisking. It is age catching up with such prisoners. but mentally, people like Lal are still young and active," a police officer, who has questioned Lal.

said on condition of anonymity Shyam Sunder, an Uttar Pra desh resident whom Lal conned in 2014, said there is no way anyone could have figured out that he was not a police officer. "He stopped me by saving it was a routine check. Also, he looked very elderly and I assumed that he is a genuine police officer.'

There are 10 such elderly men above 60, who have been caught posing as police officers recently. Police say that the main places where these imposters strike are near railway stations since they are always full of people from small towns and villages.

Like Lal, Bhushan Prasad, 69 a Madhya Pradesh resident, has been arrested in Delhi at least four times for posing as a policeman. Prasad was last arrested in 2014 for duping a man outside the Old Delhi railway station, Police records show that Prasad is fluent in at least five languages and uses that to his advantage.

Narain Dass, 64, an alleged drug smuggler in police records, is currently in prison for alleg edly smuggling 3kg heroin in 2012. He faces at least eight cases in Delhi alone. Records show that Dass lost his two brothers because of drug addiction. But he continued to smuggle drugs. Like Dass, even Rairani, 88, arrested for drug smuggling last month lost her children to addiction, but that didn't stop her.

Dr Nimesh Desai, director of the Institute of Human Behav iour and Allied Sciences, said it is startling to know that the city has elderly criminals, who are habitual offenders, "It defies the commonly believed logic. I am surprised to know that there are such elderly criminals. Each case must be different. There cannot be a similar thread in all cases There cannot be a trend." Desai He added that often repeat offend ers have a criminal tendencies or personality disorders but that, too, diminish after crossing 50 Shedding light on what prompted an 88-year-old to sell drugs, Rai rani told a cop on the evening of her arrest last month: "This is all that I know. This is my life.'

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New Delhi Municipal Council Executive Engineer (BM-III)
Palika Parking, New Delhi-110001

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Name of Work: Improvement to Palika Bazar. Sh:- Water Proofing Treatment at the Terrace of Palika Bazar. Estimated Cost :- 2,94,87,178/-

Date of release of tender through e-procurement solution 03.09.2019 Date of Pre-Bid Meeting on 23.09.2019 at 3.00 PM in the Chamber of CE (C-II) 16th Floor Room No. 1601 Palika Kendra New Delhi. Last date/time for receipt of tenders through e-procurement solution 30.09.2019 at 4.00 pm

Further details can be seen at site www.govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in Note: To participate in e-tender in NDMC registration with e-tendering system Government of NCT of Delhi is mandatory.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (BM-III)

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General Manager S-22717/4

Vacancy Notice

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For further details regarding qualification, experience and job description,						

visit recruitment section of www.pbdwss.gov.in Last date of application: 03.10.2019 up to 5.00 PM (1) Any corrigendum (s) to this recruitment notice shall be published on

(2) Applications received through any mode other than online applicatio will not be considered.

6575 **Head DWSS**

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr.P.C.)

Where as complaint has been made before me that Ram Dayal Diwedi, S/O Brij Bilas Diwedi, R/o Village Post Tulsipur, Manjha Police Station, Nababganj Distt, Gonda, U.P. is involved in case FIR No. 412/16 u/s 420/467/468/471 IPC Act has been registered at P.S. Geeta Colony, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said Ram Dayal Diwedi cannot be found and where as it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Ram Dayal Diwedi has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant)

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused FIR No. 412/16 u/s 420/467/468/471 IPC Act has been registered at P.S. Geeta Colony, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **01.11.2019**.

Sh. Jitendra Pratap Singh Metropolitan Magistrate, Room No. 15, Shahdara District, Karkardooma Court, Delhi DP/1098/SHD/19

Office of Jodhpur Municipal Corporation, Jodhpur

Nagar Nigam Bhawan, Inside Polytechnic college campus, Residency Road, Jodhpur-342004

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) Designing, Building, Installation, Operation, Maintenance and Transfer of Multi-Level Car parking (MLCP) along with Smart parking System and Construction of state of art Police Control Room At Nai Sadak, Sojati Gate, Jodhpur (Rajasthan)

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U.B. No .:- DLB1920WSOB10395 DATE- 17.09.2019 S.No.:-13647 Jodhpur Muncipal Corporation invites "Expression of Interest (EOI)" to undertake the

concept and mentioned documents.

ast date of submission of EOI 18/10/2019 (6.0PM) Pre-submission meeting 01/10/2019 (3.0PM) The EOI needs to be submitted hardcopy and soft copy to addressed Commissioner, JMC, Jodhpur, Residency Road, Jodhpur, Rajasthan 342004

Jodhpur Municipal corporation

JAIPUR VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED

(A Govt. of Rajasthan Undertaking) detair." Office of the Superintending Engineer (M&P), Chambal Power House Premises, Hawa Sarak, Jaipur CIN No.: U40109RJ2000SGC016486, Website: http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jvvnl

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at above web sites. JPR-2507(2019) Rai.Samwad/C/2601/2019-20 For electricity Complaints Toll Free No. 1800 180 6507

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(SECTION 82 Cr.Pc.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused, Prince Bansal S/o Bharat Bhushan R/o A-10/109-C, Gali No.10, Bhajanpura, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 04/12 u/s 498-A/406/34 IPC, P.S. Geeta Colony, Delhi, and it has been returned to warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused person Prince Bansal. cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Prince Bansal, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Prince Bansal, Under the FIR No. 04/12 u/s 498-A/406/34 IPC, P.S. Geeta Colony, Delhi, is required to appear before the court on or before 23.10.2019.

DP/1208/SHD/19

Ms. Harshita Vatsayan, MM, Mahila court No-01, Room No.-14 Shahdara District, Karkardooma Court, Delh

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EOI Document can be downloaded from the website https://jodhpurmc.org and https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in form the date of this notification Last Date of Submission is 18/10/2019 (6.0PM) Amendment/ Modification in document. If any, shall be uploaded only on

Commissioner

SC sets Oct 18 deadline to conclude Ayodhya hearings

Judges To Get 4 Wks To Write Order By Nov 17

Dhananjay.Mahapatra

New Delhi: The 70-year-old litigation by Hindu and Muslim parties for the ownership of the 2.77 acre disputed Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land in Ayodhya, which ranks among the most important cases in the history of India, inched closer to finality on Wednesday, with the Supreme Court confirming that its verdict would be pronounced on or before November 17, the day CJI Ranjan Gogoi retires.

After counsel for Hindu and Muslim parties - K Parasaran, C S Vaidyanathan and Rajeev Dhavan—gave a rough estimate of the time they wo-

- ➤ Muslim parties said they would finish their arguments by October 27
- Hindu parties said they would require 2-3 more days, with Muslim parties to get a day or two more for concluding arguments
- > 5-judge constitution bench said it hopes to conclude hearings by October 18; will consider hearings on

uld need to finish arguments, the five-judge constitution bench of CJI Gogoi and Justices S A Bobde, D Y Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and S Abdul Nazeer held a brief consultation and said, "We hope to conclude the hearing by October 18, which will give us four weeks to write the judgment."

The bench also said if extra days for hearing were requiSaturdays, if required ➤ SC allows court-appointed mediation to resume, in parallel with hearings

> Says if parties want settlement through mediation, they may do so and place the settlement before SC

SC is closed Oct 2 for Gandhi Jayanti and for Dussehra holidays from Oct 7-12

➤ CJI Gogoi retires on Nov 17

red, it would consider sitting on Saturdays. This gives the parties 15 more hearing days to complete arguments as the court will remain closed on October 2 for Gandhi Jayanti and six days, beginning October 7, for Dussehra holidays.

Muslim parties said they would complete arguments by October 27, while Hindu parties said they would need two or parties giving concluding arguments for a day or two. The bench also asked parti-

es to suggest what kind of relief they expected on the verdict given by the Allahabad high court which apportioned the disputed land equally among the deity, Sunni Waqf Board and Nirmohi Akhara. "Argue on how the Supreme Court can mould the relief," it said. Anxiety has been building

►Everyone has to accept verdict: Amit Shah, P 14

up on both sides as the hearing continued without an end in sight. If the hearing didn't finish and the judges didn't get enough time to write their opinions prior to pronouncement of judgments, and CJI Gogoi had retired, then the bench would have to be reconstituted for fresh hearings

► Verdict significant, P 14

Q&A WITH PIYUSH GOYAL

How a country with a massive trade deficit can benefit from a depreciating rupee is difficult for me as a common man to understand...

RCEP is an agreement opens up a huge global footprint for



U-turn: ₹gains 55p against \$, most this fiscal

napping its two-day fallingstreak, the rupee rebounded by 55 paise—the most this fiscal — to finish at 71.2 against the US dollar. The six-month-high jump (last si-▶Fed makes 2nd straight

rate cut, by 25bps, P 19

milar gain was when the Indian currency spurted by 55p on March 18) on Wednesday came as sliding crude oil prices eased pressure off emerging market currencies. However, unabated foreign fund outflows capped the gain, forex traders said. P19

U'khand HC: No maternity leave for third child

etting aside a single-judge bench's July 2018 order, the Uttarakhand HC ruled on Tuesday that state government employees are ineligible for maternity leave after their second child. P13

#Beat Heart Failure A TOI INITIATIVE

Heart Failure is not the end of the world! Timely detection and

Turn to **Page 9** to know more MCD sank ₹38L in half-built

treatment can help manage it.

Paras.Singh@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The rusted iron

door has 'Municipal Corporation Primary School, Andha

Mughal' painted in white. It opens to the ruins of eight halffinished rooms, unplastered

brick walls and cement pillars with iron rods jutting out. A

flight of steps leads nowhere.

bi Bagh, but astonishingly

the Municipal Corporation of

Delhi began erecting it witho-

ut ascertaining the owners-

hip of the site. A decade later,

it stands as an ugly monu-

cleared the project in April

2009, but in October 2011,

Northern Railway laid claim

The then undivided MCD

ment to administrative folly.

This was meant to be a school in north Delhi's Gula-

Pak insinuates India hand in retd Lt Col's Nepal disappearance

Omer Farooq Khan | TNN

Islamabad: Pakistan on Wednesday raked up the issue of its retired army officer Lt Col Habib Zahir, who had gone "missing" in Nepal in April 2017, alleging that the involvement of "hostile agencies" behind his disappearance could not be ruled out.

A statement issued by Pakistan's foreign ministry said, "Responding to a media query, regarding Indian media reports/tweets claiming that Lt Col Habib is in Indian custody and speculation about a swap with Commander Jadhav, the spokesperson stated that Lt Col Habib Zahir is a retired Pakistani officer who went missing in Nepal, where he had gone for a job interview in April 2017...Pakistan

Pak no to overflight request for PM plane

akistan has turned down an overflight request by India for PM Modi's upcoming US trip. Pakistan foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said on Wednesday that permission was refused due to the situation in J&K. P15

> ▶Don't go to J&K for jihad: Imran to Pakistanis, P 15 ▶ Development in J&K will help wrest POK: Guv, P 15

maintains that involvement of hostile agencies cannot be ruled out.'

It added that the Pakistan government "shall not rest until he is home".

►Claim intriguing, P 15

At 17.5m, Indian diaspora remains largest in world

t 17.5 million, India's diaspora continues to be the largest in the worldconstituting 6.4% of the total world migrant population of

272 million in mid-2019. While India's diaspora in absolute numbers has increased 10% from 15.9 million in

SEE FLAP OPPOSITE

2015, as a share of total world migrant population, it's remained largely static, according to the UN's International Migrant Stock released on Wednesday. And it trails the 12% rise in total migrant population, which was 243 million in 2015.

The UAE, the US and Saudi Arabia - with 3.4 million, 2.6 million and 2.4 million, respectively-were the top three destinations for Indians, according to TOI's analysis of the data.

school that stands on rly land

to the plot and halted all work.

partment admitted it did not

own the land, the corporation

requested the Northern Rail-

way to tote up the licence fee

After the education de-

The unfinished building of the municipal school at Andha Mughal in

north-central Delhi. No construction has taken place since 2011

TOP ORIGIN COUNTRIES 2019 2015 % chg

Mexico China - Migrating From -

While the Gulf countries continue to have a high concentration of Indians, they've lost some of their drawing power, going by external affairs mini-

Another report — also released on Wednesday — by OECD, shows Indians moving up one position to No. 3 in 2017 with an inflow of 3.04 lakh, behind China and Romania.

for five years, so it could pay

the amount and restart const-

ruction. But there has been

▶2 yrs to realisation, P 3

no progress since then

▶10% rise, P 14

stry figures.

Cops reinstate murder charge in **Tabrez lynching**

harkhand police on Wednesday filed a supplementary chargesheet in the Tabrez Ansari lynching case, restoring the murder charge against all 13 accused, two days after the victim's widow threatened to kill herself if her husband didn't get justice. Tabrez had been attacked by a mob at a village on the intervening night of June 17-18. P11

Prez appoints 4 judges, SC to be at full strength

resident R N Kovind on Wednesday signed the warrants for appointment of Justices V Ramasubramanian, Krishna Murari, S Ravindra Bhat and Hrishikesh Roy as Supreme Court judges. The SC will attain its full strength of 34 judges when This is the second time in CJI

imposition of

Tome minister Amit 🗍 Shah on Wednesday clarified he was not for forceful imposition of Hindi across the country, but had only

IAF reopens in Arunachal

he Indian Air Force reopened the Vijaynagar ALG (advance landing ground) in Arunachal Pradesh for military aircraft and the Army completed an operational alert exercise in eastern Ladakh near the Line of Actual Control on Wednesday, while keeping an eye on China. The IAF also landed an AN-32 aircraft at the Vijaynagar ALG. P11

world boxing and wrestling

7inesh Phogat won a bronze in 53kg in the

Gogoi's tenure that SC will function at full strength. P13 **Never called for**

Hindi: Shah

▶Stalin 'postpones' anti-Hindi protest, P 11 suggested that it be learned

as a second language. He added that his speech at a Hindi Divas event had been politicised. P11

advance airstrip

Indians shine in

wrestling World Championship and qualified for Olympics. In the boxing World Championship, history was made as Amit Panghal and Manish Kaushik assured themselves of a bronze each in their categories. India had never won more than a medal in any edition of the World championships. P21

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Everyone has to accept SC's verdict on Ayodhya: Shah

Ranchi: Home minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said everyone will have to accept the Supreme Court's verdict in the Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute case, which is being heard on a daily basis by the apex court.

Shah's statement assumes significance as the SC on Wednesday said it wants to conclude the hearing by October 18 and the verdict is likely by November 17, the day CJI Ranjan Gogoi retires.

Responding to a question on the government's preparedness to build the Ram temple and tackle law and order situations, if any, Shah said, "I don't have to build the temple, the trust will do so depending on the verdict. Any matter reaches the court only when there is a dispute. When the verdict comes, some may like it, and some may not. But in the end, everyone has to accept the verdict."

Speaking at a conclave organised by a vernacular daily in Ranchi, Shah said, "The SC functions on its own and not at anyone's whims and fancies. The Ayodhya verdict would have come a long time back but



I don't have to build the temple. the trust will do so depending on the verdict. The SC functions on its own and not at anyone's whims and fancies **AMIT SHAH**

the Congress party and its leader Kapil Sibal had pleaded in the court to halt the hearing till the general elections were over. Now, regular hearings have resumed and the verdict is expected to come soon."

Reacting to a question on the government's focus on Ayodhya since the last three years in terms of development work there, Shah said it depends on how one sees it. "We are equally developing all religious places be it Baba Baidyanath temple, Somnath or Vindeshwari," he added.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) -CHARGING STATION INFRASTRUCTURE & TECHNOLOGY Venue-Hotel Le Cadre, E-23, Block E, East of Kailash Metro, Delhi 110065 Fees: 6,000/- +18% GST (Included Course Fees, Govt. Certificate, Soft Study Material, Lunch & Tea) urse Content: EV Charging Stations & Technologies, Types of Charging Station Dementation Mechanism, EV Stations Infrastructures & Business Opportunities. Tariff rate fo Mob. 9910948732, 9953920498



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (NO. SPMCIL/MM/EPSC/2019/3612)

SPMCIL, a Miniratna Category-I CPSE wholly owned Schedule 'A Company of Government of India, invites sealed Proposal for Empanelment of Practicing Company Secretary (PCS) / Firm of Company Secretaries for three years for carrying out Secretarial Audit of SPMCIL and providing other services like Annual Return Certification / issuance of Corporate Governance Certificate from Financial Year 2019-20 onwards. Sealed tenders may be submitted latest by 1.00 pm on 21.10.2019. For further details, please visit the website of the Company <u>www.spmcil.com</u>



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGICALS (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India) A - 32, Sector-62, Noida (U. P.) – 201 309 0120-2400022, 2400072,259360 Fax: 0120- 2403014 e-mail: info@nib.gov.in Website: www.nib.gov.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No. S.1-508/2019/NIB/Engg.(M) Sealed Tenders are invited in Two-Bid System for Operation and Maintenance contract for 2.6MWx03 Nos., DG sets & 500KWx01 No. DG set and their allied accessories, etc (Excluding the break down maintenance & routine inspection services of M/s Caterpillar, USA make DG sets only) at NIB, Noida.

Tender Sale Period: From 19.09.2019 to 09.10.2019 (Upto 4:00 PM) Tender Pre-bid meeting: On 27.09.2019 at 3.30 p.m. in NIB

Last Date & Time for Submission: On 10.10.2019 upto 3:00 PM The complete details of the Tender and related corrigendum (if any can be seen / downloaded at NIB's Website www.nib.gov.in and CPF Portal, Government of India. No separate notification will be issued in the press Director, NIB



2. कियोस्क बोर्ड, सांगानेर जोन, हवामह

3. नये लघु विज्ञापन बोर्ड 8'×4' (यूनिपोल)

पूर्व जोन

कार्यालय नगर निगम जयपुर

(पण्डित दीन दयाल उपाध्याय भवन लालकोठी, जयपुर फोन नं. नम्बर - 0141-5110694 ई-मेल :- dcuditme@gmail.com

क्रमांक :- एफ-6() उपा.राज.(प्रथम)/होर्डिंग/ननिज/2019/ ई-ऑक्शन (होर्डिंग) विज्ञप्ति सं. 17/19

नगर निगम जयपुर द्वारा सार्वजनिक स्थलों पर विज्ञापन के लिए विभिन्न साईटों का ई-ऑक्शन निम्नानुसार किया जाना है :-						
क्र. सं.	विज्ञापन का नाम	संख्या	ई-ऑक्शन दिनांक	समयावधि		
1.	 निर्मित सुलभ शौचालय पर विज्ञापन एवं संधारण (ग्रुप वाईज) (ग्रुप ए-ग्रुप बी) 	19	30.09.2019	प्रातः 11.00 बजे से 5.30 बजे तक		
	2. निर्मित ओरहैड साईनैज (गैन्ट्री)	12		(अंतिम 15 मिनट में		
	3. लघु विज्ञापन बोर्ड 8'×4' (यूनिपोल)	50		बोली लगने की स्थिति		
	 नये बैकलिट टॉवर साईट्स 	15		में) की जायेगी।		
	 मोतीडूंगरी, हवामहल पूर्व जोन, सांगानेर, मानसरोवर, विद्याधर नगर, सिविल लाईन 	66				

ई-ऑक्शन कार्यक्रम, शर्ते, अमानता राशि, भागीदारी राशि तथा ई-नीलामी बिजनेस रूल्स आदि की जानकारी हेतु नीलाम साईट वेबसाईट www.jaipur.mc.org एवं http://smartrajapp.urban.rajasthan.gov.in में (E-Auction) पर देखी जा सकती है तथा इसी साईट पर वित्तीय वर्ष 2019-20 के लिए इच्छुक फर्में/व्यक्ति निर्धारित पंजीयन शुल्क राशि 1,000/-(एक हजार रूपये) जुमा करवाकर, पंजीयन करवाकर ई-नीलामी में भाग ले सकते हैं। किसी भी प्रकार की तुकनीर्क समस्या/अथवा जानकारी हेतु श्री वैभव, प्रोग्रामर, दूरभाष नं. 8764880056, 8875403031 पर सम्पर्क कर सकते है।

50



NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender Ref. No. JMF-PE-MS Storage Tank-Molasses/2019-20/018 Dated:19.09.2019

Jharkhand State Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation Ltd (JMF), Ranchi, invites bids in 'Sealed Envelope' from reputed suppliers/fabricators for fabrication and supply of MS Molasses Storage Tank

(Capacity 400 Mt).							
Name of the Item	Quantity	E.M.D.	Date of Tender Opening				
MS Molasses Storage Tank (Capacity 400	01 No.	Rs. 50,000/-	17.10.2019				

Interested bidders can collect the tender document from our office during 11:00 hrs – 16:00 hrs from 20.09.2019 or alternatively can be downloaded from our website

Last date for submission of sealed Tender: 15.10.2019 All future announcement related to this tender shall be published on our website only. JMF reserves the right to reject any or all of the bids received at its discretion without

assigning any reason whatsoever. बूंद - बूंद नहीं बरतेंगे तो बूंद को तरसेंगे

Managing Director PR 217257 (Jharkhand Milk Federation) 19-20 (D)

In Ayodhya case, a question & railing

Judge: Why Ram Chabutra Is Close To Iron Railings In Central Dome?

SC allows Ayodhya mediation to resume

The Supreme Court on Wednesday permitted its mediation

negotiations to find a settlement to the vexed ownership dispute

Avodhya, A five-judge constitution bench headed by CJI Ranian

panel seeking direction on requests from parties for resumption

of the mediation process. However, it clarified that "hearing of

the appeals, which is at a very advanced stage, will continue

desire to settle the matter(s), including, by resort to mediation

by the earlier constituted mediation panel, they may do so and

clear that the terms and the process of settlement, including

mediation, if resorted to, will abide by our earlier order dated

March 8, 2019, with regard to confidentiality," the SC said. TNN

place the settlement before the court, if reached. We also make it

without any interruption". "If, in the meantime, the parties

Gogoi said the court had received a letter from the mediation

panel headed by ex-SC judge F M I Kalifulla to resume

over the 2.77 acre Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masiid land in

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked whether the close proximity of Ram Chabutra to the iron railings, which came up in 1858 to segregate worship areas for Hindus and Muslims in the disputed Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid structure, indicated Hindus' relibelief that the mosque's central dome was Ram Janmasthan?

Justice D Y Chandrachud, part of the constitution bench comprising Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justices S A Bobde, Ashok Bhushan and S Abdul Nazeer, asked senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan whether proximity of Ram Chabutra to the iron railings indicated that before its installation in 1858, Hindus went inside the inner courtyard of the mosque to worship?

Appearing for Sunni Waqf Board, senior advocate Dha-

▶Continued from P1

yith the SC clearing the

air, the judgment on

the most keenly con-

tested case between two dom-

inant communities — Hindus

and Muslims — over the place

of worship will be delivered in

less than two months. Experts

put the impending verdict on a

scale equal to the 1973 judg-

ment of a 13-judge constitu-

tion bench in the Keshavanan-

da Bharti case, in which it de-

lineated Constitution's basic

structure doctrine and made it

had withdrawn to itself the

title suits pending before

Faizabad district court in the

Ayodhya matter. The first

suit was filed by Gopal Singh

Visharad in 1950 who is now

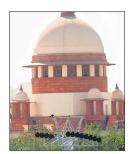
represented by his legal heir

Rajendra Singh, while the

second suit was filed by an-

In 1989, the Allahabad HC

inviolable.



the iron railings. Why did the Chabutra become a focal point of worship when it is so close to the railings, which became an exclusionary boundary within the mosque, asks Justice Chandrachud van reacted sharply and said, isting evidence. However, the

The Chabutra co-existed with

"It is conjecture on the judge's part that Hindus went inside the central dome to pray even though the evidence is categorical that the Hindus prayed at Ram Chabutra in the outer courtyard. There is no evidence to support the judge's conjecture. Where did you get any witness account that Hindus went inside the central dome to pray? It will amount to adding to the evidence on record.'

Justice Bhushan clarified, "We will decide the case on the basis of evidence on record and there is no question of adding anything to the ex-

question arose as there was close proximity between the railings and Ram Chabutra and the judge wanted to know whether it was suggestive of

any inference." Justice Chandrachud said, "The Chabutra co-existed with the iron railings. Why did the Chabutra become a focal point of worship when it is so close to the railings, which became an exclusionary boundary within the mosque."

Dhavan said, "It is mere conjecture. There is no contemporary evidence why Hindus went near the railings for worship. They could

have gone near the railings out of curiosity, as people do near the cage of a lion in a zoo. Or, they could have gone there to destroy the place. We must not forget that in 1855, there was a serious fight between Hindus and Muslims, forcing the British to step in and put a railing to divide worship areas. Hindus had a right to worship in the outer courtyard while Muslims had title over the mosque and offered namaz in the inner courtyard. Why did Chabutra came up near the railings, let us not indulge in conjecture without any evidence."

After an aggressive reply to Justice Chandrachud, Dha van cooled off and said, "I am sorry, I was a little aggressive. When one is a little tired, he becomes aggressive." The bench told Dhavan, on his feet for the last nine hearing days, that it could wind up the day's arguments if he was tired. But Dhavan refused to call it a day and continued with his

Judgment could be as significant as Keshavananda Bharti case verdict dict on September 30, 2010. three-judge HC bench of Justices S U Khan, Sudhir Agrawal and D V

Sharma, by a 2 to 1 majority, had divided the Ayodhya historians. land into three equal parts. It allotted the part under the central dome of the demolished mosque to Ram Lalla (the deity) while Nirmohi Akhara got title over Ram Chabutra, Sita Rasoi and Bhandara areas in the outer courtvard .The rest was allotted to Sunni Waqf Board. As the total disputed area is 1,480 square yards, the three parties got 493.3 square vards each. Though both Hindu and

Muslim sides had promptly filed appeals against the HC verdict in the SC seeking sole right over the entire disputed land, the appeals were taken up for day-to-day hearing only on August 6.

Archaeological data wasn't studied by experts, says SC

@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday reiterated that the study paper submitted by four historians, termed "eminent" by the Sunni Waqf Board to counter Hindu parties' ownership claim over the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masiid disputed site, "could at best be regarded as an opinion".

When senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan repeatedly invoked what he called the eminence of the historians to urge the court to give more weightage to to their opinion and not damn their May 13, 1991, study paper titled 'Babri Mosque or Rama's Birthplace? Historians Report to the Indian Nation', a bench of CJI Ranjan Gogoi and Justices S A Bobde, D Y Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and S Abdul Nazeer said. "These historians did not examine the archaeological data. It is not to damn them, but since the specific evidence through excavation by Archaeological Survey of India had not been taken into account by them, it at the highest will be an opinion of the

Dhavan said he would add the adjective "experts" before the historians. One of the four historians. Prof Suraj Bhan, deposed as an expert witness for Sunni Waqf Board before the Allahabad HC in three phases, from February 22, 2000, to August 10, 2000; from August 26, 2002, to September 12, 2002, and then from March 20, 2006, to March 28, 2006. Bhan did his postgraduate in Sanskrit from Delhi University in 1955 and joined the ASI as technical assistant in 1956-1957.

Bhan did a further MA in archaeology in 1960. He got his PhD degree in 1975 on 'Historic Archaeology of Saraswati and Drishdavati Val-



MATTER NOW IN COURT

levs'. Following are excerpts from his deposition before Allahabad HC:

"I am an MA in Sanskrit language. I cannot speak Sanskrit and since I have not used it for quite some time, I face difficulty in reading as also following it.

"Since construction of mosques after demolishing temples is not the subject of my research, so I did not make an endeavour to make a study of those places. Otherwise also. I am not a historian with regard to medieval period... l did not read Skanda Purana. I don't think it is necessary to read other Puranas also as their study is not my subject. But it is true that I am not a specialist in history."

"I am not a specialist in sculpture. Epigraphy, too, is not my field. My speciality was field archaeology, not ethnography. I am not a specialist in history of temple architecture."

Only (R S) Sharma and myself had gone to Ayodhya at the time of Ayodhya research. Out of four impartial historians, two of us had gone to Ayodhya. We were given only six weeks time for the entire study. Pressure was being repeatedly exerted; so we submitted our report without going through the record of the (archaeological) excavation work by BBLal.

"It is true that I am not a specialist in history. My testimony in this litigation has been only as an archaeologist.

In '17, 10% rise in Indians getting US citizenship

▶ Continued from P 1

N figures pegging international migrants worldwide at 272 million reflects a rise of 23% over 2010 data, where the migrant population was 221 million. UN's data set is based largely on collated census figures. UN defines international migrants as anyone who changes their country of usual residence, irrespective of their motive — be it for work or as a refugee.

"Although migration is global, most journeys are taking place within a limited set of countries, with the US, Germany, and Saudi Arabia making up the top three," said a UN press release. The US hosted the largest number of international migrants (close to 51 million), followed by Germany and Saudi Arabia, with nearly 13 million migrants each.

The press release quoted John Wilmoth, director, UN's department of economic and social affairs (DESA) saying: "The link between migration and development is very well established." "As a general observation, the contribution of migrants both in host countries and countries of origin, includes sending valuable remittances back to countries of origin, and a big social contribution through transmission of ideas," he said.

Another report, released on Wednesday in Paris, by the Organisation for Cooperation and Economic Development (OECD), shows that migration flows to OECD countries rose slightly by 2% in 2018, with around 5.3 million new 'permanent' migrants this does not include temporary labour migration or international students.

other Hindu devotee which

was later withdrawn. The

third suit was filed by Nir-

mohi Akhara in 1959, and

fourth one, by Sunni Waqf

Board, two years later. The

last one was by the deity

through next friend Devki

Nandan Agarwal in 1989

Country-wise data for 2017 shows that 'total' inflow of new migrants to OECD countries in 2017 was 6.8 million, a miniscule decline of 1% over the previous year's figure. The top three countries of origin of new immigrants were China, Romania and India. With 3.04 lakh new immigrants from India, the country occupied third place and accounted for 4.5% of total inflows (as opposed to 3.8% in the previous year). In 2016, owing to a heavy influx of migrants from Syria, India had occupied fourth position. China continued to retain its leadership position, accounting for 8.1% of total OECD inflows in 2017.

As regards the Indian diaspora, more than 50,000 acquired US citizenship (a 10% rise over the previous year). Also, 10,000 Indians acquired Canadian citizenship and 17,000 obtained British citizenship. These statistics showed a decline of 40% and 33% respectively.

Forfull report on www.toi.in

▶ Continued from P1

irst-time violators of the L ufacturing, import, export, transport, sale and advertisements of e-cigarettes will face a jail term of up to one year and a fine of Rs 1 lakh. For subsequent offences, jail term of up to three years or a fine of Rs 5 lakh, or

Storage of e-cigarettes shall also be punishable with jail term of up to six months

Answering questions whether the more widespread consumption of normal tobacco cigarettes needed more urgent action, Javadekar said several measures have been taken to curb their use in public spaces and the ban on e-cigarettes is intended to curb a new and growing addiction that leads users towards regu-

Sitharaman, who had headed a group of ministers on the issue, said the Cabinet decided to ban e-cigarettes and similar products as they pose a health risk to people, especially the youth.

Hopkins Centre for Prevention of Heart Disease says nicotine is highly addictive, spikes adrenaline and, over time, increases heart attack risk. Rather than helping to quit smoking, users end up smoking regular cigarettes. Consumption of e-cigarettes has been rising among high school students. Health experts said e-ciga-

rettes pose significant health risks similar to conventional cigarettes. "The decision to prohibit e-cigarettes will help protect our people, especially the youth, from the risk of addiction through e-cigarettes. They are being marketed as a harm-reduction product which is contrary to the truth," says Bhavna B Mukhopadhyay, chief executive, Voluntary Health Association.

However, e-cigarette promoting trade bodies, users and other stakeholders slammed the move to ban the "alternative" smoking device, alleging it was a "draconian" step taken in haste to protect the conventional cigarette industry.

Users and trade bodies promoting e-cigarette term ban 'draconian'

During the pendency of

suits in the high court, the

Babri Masjid was demol-

ished by kar sevaks on De-

ments from parties and exam-

ined evidence for nearly 100

days before delivering its ver-

The HC had heard argu-

cember 6, 1992.

→ ban on production, manboth, has been prescribed.

or fine up to Rs 50,000, or both.

lar tobacco products.

In a factsheet, the John

Full report on www.toi.in

'Anti-cigarette' vaping cos owned by Big Tobacco

What are the controversies about vaping?

■ The recent controversy started after six deaths were reported in the US in which vaping was held as the main culprit. Expert **LEARNING** opinion about the product WITH THE is divided as there is no study that documents longterm impact of vaping.

There are studies that have found high nicotine levels in some brands. On the other hand, some experts claim vaping is safer than normal cigarettes. There are reports of high prevalence of vaping in teenagers and many brands are accused of targeting a relatively younger population by social media marketing.

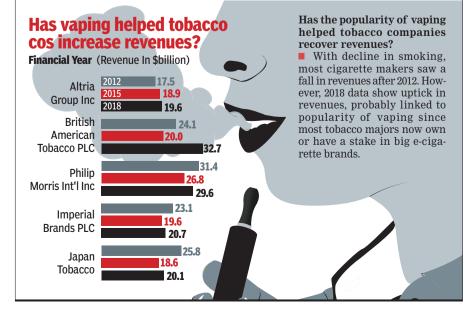
Since when are e-cigarettes available in the market?

■ E-cigarettes started gaining popularity in the late 2000s in the US. It was sold without undertaking a review of its health impact. Initially, the deadline to submit applications to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) was 2018, which was extended to 2022 and has recently been brought to 2020. In India, vaping surged in popularity in the past two years. Various news reports estimate that its global market is worth \$19.3 billion, which is three times the market's size five years ago. It is estimated that there were over 40 million adults using vapour products in 2018.

Who owns the leading vaping brands? According to a research paper published in BMJ — one of the world's oldest general medical journals — sales of vaping devices in the US have accelerated since 2017. The paper has divided the growth into four phases. It states that the first occurred at the beginning of 2012 when the growth was driven by a number of e-cigarette brands. The second phase started in 2013 and was primarily driven by Blu and Njoy brands. The third occurred in the third quarter of 2014 and was driven by Vuse brand. The last phase, which was the fastest, started in the second quarter of 2017 and was driven exclusively by Juul, Among popular brands, Blu is owned by Imperial Tobacco, Logic by Japan Tobacco, Vuse by British American Tobacco and Altria Group, the parent company for Philip Morris, owns a 35% stake in Juul. Vaping companies promote their products as means to get off smoking, but, ironically, the most popular brands are owned by Big Tobacco.

Has consumption of conventional cigarettes also gone up?

■ No. According to Euromonitor — and international market research company there has been a steady global decline in the prevalence of conventional cigarettes. Prevalence of smoking is the percentage of men and women aged 15 and above who currently smoke any tobacco product. From 22% in 2009 it has dipped to 19.7% in 2018.



Ghaziabad Development Authority (ISO 9001:2015 & ISO 14001 : 2015) Certified Organisation Vikas Path, Ghaziabad

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Expression of Interest is hereby invited in two bid system on behalf of Vice Chairperson of G.D.A. Ghaziabad consultants or the consortium of consultants for the Preparation of D.P.R. of Master Drain work and D.P.R. of Environmental impact Assessment Report, Environment Management Plan and Obtain Clearance From the Ministry of Environment and Forest for the proposed Master Drain at Bhopura Lon road from Teelamore to Bhopura T-Point.

Tender document can be downloaded from E-Tendering portal: http://etender.up.nic.in and Ghaziabad Development Authority website: www.gdaghaziabad.com. The cost of Bid document, E-Tende processing fee ₹ 2596/- and Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of ₹ 40,000/ s required to be deposited through RTGS in prescribed Bank Accounts in favour of "VC GDAE-Tendering" (As shown in tender document).

Document Download/Sale start date 19.09.2019 last date & time of Submission of Bid 03.10.2019 Upto 5:00 PM (IST). Date & Time of Technical Bid opening 05.10.2019 At 11:00 AM (IST).

At any time prior to the deadline for submission of the bid, The G.D.A.

may, modify the bid document by amendments, which shall be uploaded on the E-Procurement website: http://etender.up.nic.in through corrigendum. It shall be the sole responsibility of the prospective bidders to check the website: http://etender.up.nic.in from time to time for an amendment in the E-Tender document. The Vice Chairperson, G.D.A reserves the right to reject any or all offers without assigning any reason Chief Enginee

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