

The Indian EXPRESS

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM



DOWNLOAD APP

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

Indian Express
★★★★★ 4.6

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO
DOWNLOAD THE APP



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 AUDIO

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 station.

The Centre, in a statement, said: "The decision to prohibit e-cigarettes 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.

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 since 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 country."

"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 trade.

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 at Rs 239.60 apiece 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 company.

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 state-owned 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

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 CJI 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 reached".

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 contradict this, saying it was only in the accounts of some travellers.

"There is oral evidence," Justice Bhushan replied.

Justice Chandrachud said the Chabutra was "almost co-

terminus with the railings" and asked "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 parties 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 simultaneously 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-on-year, 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 2018-19 was Rs 11.37 lakh crore.

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.

Imran Khan

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.

Khan also ruled out talks with India unless New Delhi lifts "curfew" in Kashmir and revokes its decision on Article 370. 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 September 27.

Tension between India and Pakistan escalated after New Delhi revoked J&K's special status on August 5. Islamabad downgraded diplomatic ties with New Delhi and expelled the Indian High Commissioner.

Khan also said that Pakistan would make its utmost effort for the resumption of the stalled peace process in Afghanistan.

—PTI

Tabrez Ansari

evidence" like the opinion 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 accused of theft by a mob in Dhatkidhi 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 jail.

In the first chargesheet presented to court on July 23, police had not included murder charges against the accused, and invoked instead IPC Section 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder). Then, SP Sarikela Karthik S had justified

the move, saying the viscera report did not point to anything "conclusive" and that the murder was "not premeditated".

The police statement 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 statement said that since 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 arrest."

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, yeh samay ki zaroorat hai. Aur humne chunaavi ghosna patra mein, desh ki janta ko vada kiya tha ki keval Assam nahin, desh bhar mein hum NRC lekar aayenge, aur desh ke naagrikon ka register banega. Iske alawa... aur aage kanooni prakriya mein karyawahi 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 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 the people of country took a de-

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 process," he said.

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 lawyers 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 PM (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 inclined to the idea," state the minutes.

The meeting, chaired by then Home Minister Rajnath 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 the issue".

The meeting was also attended by then Law Minister DV Sadananda Gowda, MoS PMO Jitendra Singh, Legislative Assemblies 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

US FED CUTS BENCHMARK INTEREST RATE FOR THE SECOND TIME THIS YEAR >htbusiness p23

MAMATA MEETS PM, RAISES WB NAME CHANGE >htnation p12

INDIA VANQUISH SOUTH AFRICA BY 7 WKTS CAPTAIN KOHLI'S 72-RUN KNOCK GIVES INDIA 1-0 LEAD IN T20I SERIES >htsport p24



Ayodhya case: SC gives til Oct 18 for arguments

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

Ashok Bagriya
■ letters@hindustantimes.com

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 Nir-mohi Akhara and the representatives of Ram Lalla, the child deity.

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

ENTERING THE FINAL LAP

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 Nov 17

The apex court said the parties are free to find an amicable solution through mediation, if they want

FAILURE OF MEDIATION

- The top court is conducting daily 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 panel's report remains confidential

"Let us make a joint effort to conclude the same [hearings] by October 18."

Ranjan Gogoi, Chief Justice of India

IN THE SUPREME COURT SINCE 2010
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

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 media-

tion panel appointed by the top court earlier this year to settle the dispute.

The court said, "The hearing of 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 settle-

ment 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 three-member 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 title case.

CONTINUED ON P 8

CABINET CLEARS ORDINANCE TO IMPOSE BAN ON E-CIGARETTES

Rhythma Kaul
■ rhythma.kaul@htlive.com

NEW DELHI: 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 taken up smoking are becoming 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.

Apart from e-cigarettes, ENDS include heat-not-burn devices, which generate a flavoured nicotine.

CONTINUED ON P 8
78-DAY WAGES AS BONUS FOR RAILWAY STAFF >P15

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 scavenging.

>P11

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

reduce the fine is if the Delhi government notifies lower compoundable amounts," a senior traffic officer said. The Delhi government said its notification on the issue will take time. This would mean that if the notification does not arrive before November 4, then all odd-even fines will have to be paid in full at court.

>P2

are expected to join the strike in Noida but the protest is unlikely to have an impact in Gurugram. In some other parts of the coun-

try, including Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, and Tamil Nadu, trucks are likely to stay off

CONTINUED ON P 9

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 Ajit 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 P 8

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.

>P12

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.

>P3

LAKSHMI RETURNS



■ 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

RAJ K RAJ/HT PHOTO

Netanyahu fails to win majority in tight Israel vote

JERUSALEM: Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu failed to win a ruling majority in an election that produced a virtual tie between his right-wing bloc and a centre-left grouping led by former military chief Benny Gantz.

Local media reported that Netanyahu's right-wing Likud had 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

Govt plans differential rates for delayed GST

Rajeev Jayaswal
■ rajeev.jayaswal@htlive.com

NEW DELHI: The government may levy differential rates of interest on taxpayers for delayed payment of Goods and Services tax (GST) in an attempt to prod businesses to pay their taxes on time and to boost revenue collection, two officials said.

The interest levied could be 18% for the first three months and 24% thereafter. The government will charge the interest on the net

GST amount and not on the gross amount as has been the case so far, said the officials cited above, requesting anonymity. Taxpayers have so far been paying interest on the full amount without adjusting for the input tax credit. Under the existing law, late payment of tax attracts a flat rate of 18% interest.

The proposal to levy a differential rate of interest has been referred to the Law Committee of the GST Council before it is con-

CONTINUED ON P 8

Police reimpose murder charges in Tabrez lynching

JAMSHEDPUR: The Jharkhand 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-year-old Tabrez Ansari in Jharkhand'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 charge sheet submitted in the Seraikela court on July 23 and charged the 11 accused for culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

>P11

Next big pandemic can kill 80 million, warns WHO report

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 emergencies.

The World Health Organization 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 Wednesday.

>P13

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

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 Universal Limited for ₹58 crore. The company of Vadra, son-in-law 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 the licence.

>P11

OLD HABITS

Meet Capital's criminals who are too old to change their unscrupulous ways

Prawesh Lama
■ prawesh.lama@hindustantimes.com

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, he felt like a victim.

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

Habitual offenders			
Sarwan Singh, 83	Cases 18	Narain Dass, 63	Cases 8
First case: 1965 (Smuggling liquor)		First case: 1988 (Drug smuggling)	
Cases: Attempted murder, rioting, drug smuggling, robbery		Cases: Smuggling of drugs/narcotics	

to get a station master's job. He worked there for six years before leaving to pose as a judge in a court in Haryana's Jhajjar

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

CONTINUED ON P 8

ICICI Bank THE ONE SAVINGS ACCOUNT

For the ones who've arrived in life.

Give a missed call on 1800 121 3210

- Waiver on home loan and car loan processing fee³
- Brokerage waiver on stock trading up to ₹40 Lakh²
- Relationship manager
- Unlimited, free ATM withdrawal

Lifestyle offers¹:

amazon prime
Get Amazon Gift Card worth ₹999. Use Gift Card to join a year of Amazon Prime.

bigbasket
India's largest online supermarket
Monthly discount on grocery

zomato gold
Membership for 1 year

SRL
Diagnostics
Complimentary health check-up

ICICI Bank

Disclaimers: 1 From partners on digital transactions. 2 On account opening cheque of ₹25 Lakh. 3 Terms & conditions of ICICI Bank and third parties apply. ICICI Bank is not responsible for third party goods, products, services and offers. For more details, please visit www.icicibank.com.

E-cigarettes

“We don’t agree that ENDS is a harm reduction device. Secondly, the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) data shows there’s a

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

tions in the world. This decision by the government is strange—it's like saying we will remove the

Military

The NSS document will also

GST

Pratik Jain, partner and leader

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

Since 1976, Lal, a resident of Ghaziabad, has been arrested in 38 cases in Delhi alone. The number of cases against Lal across

Dr Nimesh Desai, director of the Institute of Human Behaviour 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 added. He said that often repeat offenders 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, Raj-rani told a cop on the evening of her arrest last month: "This is all that I know. This is my life."

DELHI STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LTD
Aapurti Bhawan, 7-9, Aram Bagh, Paharganj, New Delhi-55

e-Procurement Tender Notice

SHORT TERM Tender ID No. 2019_DSCSC_180191_1

Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited (DSCSC) invites e-Tenders (online tender) from bonafide sugar manufacturers, traders, wholesalers and importers for supply of S-30 Grade Sugar out of 2017-18 and 2018-19 season's production, for a quantity of approx. 4500 QTLs +/- 20% (750 QTL +/- 20% per month) to DSCSC Godowns at Gazipur, Sirasapur or any other Godown in the NCT of Delhi. The quantity likely to be transported in each godown may range from 250 QTLs to 500 QTLs per month for 6 months from the date of award for distribution under Public Distribution System (PDS) to eligible ration card holders in the NCT of Delhi. It can be seen/downloaded free of cost at/from the web site <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

Last date and time of submission of bid	25.09.2019 upto 1.00 PM
Date and time of opening of technical bid	25.09.2019 at 3.00 PM
Date and time of opening of financial bid	30.09.2019 at 3.00 PM

For registration query bidder may be contact at this address:-

HELP DESK (NIC)
E-TENDERING SYSTEM
6th FLOOR, C-WING, VIKAS BHAWAN-II
(NEAR METCALFE HOUSE), CIVIL LINES,
DELHI-110054.

TOLL FREE NO. 180030702232/01244200462
(Monday-Friday, 09.30 AM to 06.00 PM).

The CMD of the Corporation may reject or accept any/all tenders with or without assigning any reason.

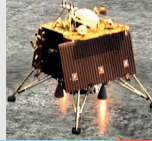
Sd/-
General Manager

DIP/Shabdarth/0688/19-20



PARTIES LED BY GANTZ, NETANYAHU DEADLOCKED IN ISRAEL ELECTIONS 18

LAST HOPE TO REVIVE VIKRAM LANDER ENDS ON FRI AS COLD MOON NIGHTS TO BEGIN 13



#KeepItLight
Ultra light, super flexible AIR eyeglasses and much more, only at **Lenskart**

Answer 2 simple questions correctly to win e-vouchers the same day
To participate, SMS your <CITY> <SPACE> A1 <SPACE> <Answer 1> <SPACE> A2 <SPACE> <Answer 2> to 8745966661



Presents **HAPPYTIMES**
Rs. 500 no minimum spend
Lenskart Vouchers for **2500 winners** everyday.
Play more, win more!
Participate 5 or more times in a week for a chance to win Cromo vouchers worth Rs.5000 every Sunday.

TODAY'S HAPPY TIMES

Q1. Who do Arsenal play in the Europa League today?

READ

Q2. Which Irish rock band is set to perform in India this December?

WIN

Convert points to 5X TIMESPOINTS for assured rewards

T&Cs Apply www.toihappytimes.com

SC sets Oct 18 deadline to conclude Ayodhya hearings

Judges To Get 4 Wks To Write Order By Nov 17

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
@timesgroup.com

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 would

'MEDIATION AT SAME TIME'

➤ 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

Saturdays, 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

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 required, 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

three more days, with Muslim parties giving concluding arguments for a day or two.

The bench also asked parties 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**

Cops reinstate murder charge in Tabrez lynching

Jharkhand 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. **P 11**

Prez appoints 4 judges, SC to be at full strength

President 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 they take oath on Monday. This is the second time in CJI Gogoi's tenure that SC will function at full strength. **P 13**

Never called for imposition of Hindi: Shah

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

► **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. **P 11**

IAF reopens advance airstrip in Arunachal

The 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. **P 11**

Indians shine in world boxing and wrestling

Vinesh Phogat won a bronze in 53kg in the 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. **P 21**

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

Pakistan 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. **P 15**

► **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

Lubna.Kably@timesgroup.com

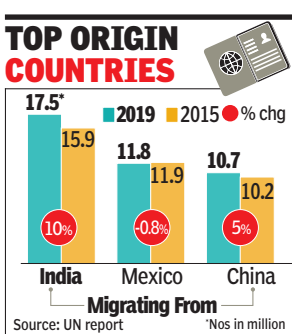
At 17.5 million, India's diaspora continues to be the largest in the world — constituting 6.4% of the total world migrant population of 272 million in mid-2019.

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.



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

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.

► **10% rise, 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 which opens up a huge global footprint for us... **P 12**



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

Snapping its two-day falling streak, 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. **P 19**

U'khand HC: No maternity leave for third child

Setting 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. **P 13**

#BeatHeartFailure

— A TOI INITIATIVE —

Heart Failure is not the end of the world!

Timely detection and treatment can help manage it.

Turn to **Page 9** to know more



MCD sank ₹38L in half-built school that stands on rly land

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 half-finished rooms, unplastered brick walls and cement pillars with iron rods jutting out. A flight of steps leads nowhere.

This was meant to be a school in north Delhi's Gulaabi Bagh, but astonishingly the Municipal Corporation of Delhi began erecting it without ascertaining the ownership of the site. A decade later, it stands as an ugly monument to administrative folly.

The then undivided MCD cleared the project in April 2009, but in October 2011, Northern Railway laid claim



The unfinished building of the municipal school at Andha Mughal in north-central Delhi. No construction has taken place since 2011

to the plot and halted all work.

After the education department admitted it did not own the land, the corporation requested the Northern Railway to tote up the licence fee

for five years, so it could pay the amount and restart construction. But there has been no progress since then.

► **2 yrs to realisation, P 3**

Guess the Specs and Win* a OnePlus 7T

- ___ Hz Refresh Rate
- ___ + ___ + ___ MP Camera
- ___ Qualcomm® Snapdragon™
- Upto ___ RAM

Tweet with #OnePlus7TSpecs and win a OnePlus 7T

OnePlus Launch Event
7 PM, Sept. 26



amazon specials

*T&C Apply. For details visit www.oneplus.com/guessthespecs. The above information and claims have been provided by OnePlus and displayed by Amazon on an 'as-is' basis. Amazon makes no representations as to the accuracy, correctness, reliability or validity of such claims and information and does not provide any guarantees or warranties as to the accuracy, correctness/reliability or validity of such claims and information.

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

ASRP.Mukesh@timesgroup.com

Ranchi: Home minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said everyone will have to accept the Supreme Court's verdict in the Ram 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.

In Ayodhya case, a question & railing

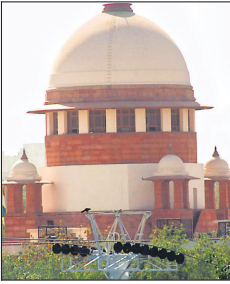
Judge: Why Ram Chabutra Is Close To Iron Railings In Central Dome?

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
@timesgroup.com

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' religious belief 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-



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, asks Justice Chandrachud

van reacted sharply and said, "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-

isting evidence. However, the 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, Dhavan 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 arguments.

Archaeological data wasn't studied by experts, says SC

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
@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 Masjid 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 their opinion and not damn their May 13, 1991, study paper titled 'Babri Mosque or Rama's Birth-place? 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 historians."

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

leys'. 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... I 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 B B Lal."

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

MSME TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (PPDC)
Ministry of MSME & Government of India
Organization, Foundry Nagas, Agra-282006
2 DAYS ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ON
**ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV)
-CHARGING STATION
INFRASTRUCTURE & TECHNOLOGY**
Venue: Hotel Le Cadre, E-23, Block E, East of Kailash Metro, Delhi 110065
Date: 21st & 22nd September, 2019 (2 Days) | Time: 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM
Fees: 6,000/- + 18% GST (Included Course Fees, Govt. Certificate, Soft Study Material, Lunch & Tea)
Course Content: EV Charging Stations & Technologies, Types of Charging Stations, Implementation Methodology, EV Stations Infrastructure & Business Opportunities, Tariff rate for Supply Electricity to EV PCS, Solar-Powered EV Charging stations Technology, Solar PV Charging, Connectivity Loads, ROI Calculation, Business Opportunities/Models for EV Charging stations, Rate Contract/Land Leasing, Govt. Scheme, More.
Mob. 9910248732, 9953920498
Certificate will be awarded | Training material | @gmail.com | www.ppdccagra.in

SECURITY PRINTING & MINTING CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED
(A Mini Ratna Category - I CPSE)
(Wholly Owned by Government of India)
Regd. Office: 16th Floor, Jawahar Vapour Bhawan, Janpath, New Delhi - 110001, CIN: U22213DL2006G0144763
**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
(NO. SPMCIL/MM/EPSC/2019/3612)**
SPMCIL, a Mini Ratna 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 www.spmcil.com
Manager (Material)

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGICALS
(Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
A - 32, Sector-62, Noida (U.P.) - 201 309
Tel: 0120-2400022, 2400072, 2593600 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 campus.
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 CPP Portal, Government of India. **No separate notification will be issued in the press.**
Director, NIB

कार्यालय नगर निगम जयपुर
(पण्डित दीन दयाल उपाध्याय भवन लालकोट, जयपुर)
फोन नं. नम्बर - 0141-5110694 ई-मेल - dcdutime@gmail.com
क्रमांक - एन-ए-6/03 उपा.राज. (प्रमम)/होडींग/नविन/2019/ रिक्तिक
ई-ऑक्शन (होडींग) विज्ञप्ति सं. 17/19
नगर निगम जयपुर द्वारा सार्वजनिक स्थलों पर विद्युत के लिए विभिन्न साइटों के ई-ऑक्शन निम्नानुसार किया जाना है :-

क्र. सं.	विद्युत का नाम	संख्या	ई-ऑक्शन तिथि	समाप्ति तिथि
1.	1. निम्नित सुरुष औद्योगिक पर विद्युत एवं संधान (पुरा चाबूत) (पुरा-पुरा को)	19	30.09.2019	रात: 11.00 बजे से 5.30 बजे तक (ओपिन 15 मिनट में बोली लगने को स्थिति में) को जयपुरी
2.	2. निम्नित ओपेरेटिव सहोपेन (रिन्टी)	12		
3.	3. नये विद्युत बोर्ड 8'x4' (घुंघोले)	50		
4.	4. नये कैबलट टावर सहोपेन	15		
1.	1. मोटोहुरी, हमावत पुरा जेन, सामोरे, मानसरोवर, विद्युत रागर, सिविल सहोपेन जेन ओपेन जेन जुंघोले	66		
2.	2. किरकोले बोर्ड, सामोरे जेन, हमावत पुरा जेन	2 जेन किरकोले		
3.	3. नये पुरा विद्युत बोर्ड 8'x4' (घुंघोले)	50		
4.	4. निम्नित बसस्टैंड (सहोपेन)	2		

ई-ऑक्शन कार्यक्रम, ज्ञान, अमानत राशि, भागीदारी राशि तथा ई-जेनोमी विजनेस क्लब ऑफ को जयपुरी हेतु नोलीमी साइट वेबसाइट www.jaypur.mc.org एवं <http://smartrajpp.urban.rajasthan.gov.in> में (E-Auction) पर रेडो जा सकते हैं तथा सीट साइट पर विवीय सन 2019-20 के लिए एड्युक फ्रेम/व्यक्ति निम्नलिखित पुरावण शुल्क राशि 1,00,00/- (एक हजार रुपये) जमा करवाकर, नोलीन करवाकर ई-जेनोमी में भाग ले सकते हैं। किसी भी प्रकार को तकनीकी समस्या/असहजता के लिये ई-मेल, फोन, दूरभाष नं. 8764880056, 8875403031 पर सम्पर्क कर सकते हैं।
राज. संसार / सं / 2607/19-2020 आयुक्त (राजस्व-प्रमम), नगर निगम जयपुर

THE JHARKHAND STATE CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS' FEDERATION LIMITED
FTC Campus, HEC, Sec-II, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004
Contact No. 7544003404/7360035219 website: www.jmf.coop
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 MT)	01 No.	Rs. 50,000/-	17.10.2019

Interested bidders can collect the tender document from our office during 11:00 hrs to 16:00 hrs from 20.09.2019 or alternatively can be downloaded from our website <http://www.jmf.coop>.
Last date for submission of sealed Tender: 15.10.2019 up to 17:00 hrs
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)

► Continued from P 1

With the SC clearing the air, the judgment on the most keenly contested case between two dominant 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 judgment of a 13-judge constitution bench in the Keshavananda Bharti case, in which it delineated Constitution's basic structure doctrine and made it inviolable.

In 1989, the Allahabad HC 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-

SC allows Ayodhya mediation to resume

The Supreme Court on Wednesday permitted its mediation panel headed by ex-SC judge F M I Kalifulla to resume negotiations to find a settlement to the vexed ownership dispute over the 2.77 acre Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land in Ayodhya. A five-judge constitution bench headed by CJI Ranjan Gogoi said the court had received a letter from the mediation 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 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 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 SC said.

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.

During the pendency of suits in the high court, the Babri Masjid was demolished by kar sevaks on December 6, 1992.

The HC had heard arguments from parties and examined evidence for nearly 100 days before delivering its ver-

In 17, 10% rise in Indians getting US citizenship

► Continued from P 1

UN 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.

Country-wise data for 2017 shows that 'total' inflow of new migrants to OECD countries in 2017 was 6.8 million, a minuscule 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.

For full report on www.toi.in

Ghaziabad Development Authority
(ISO 9001:2015 & ISO 14001:2015) Certified Organisation
Vikas Path, Ghaziabad
Letter No. : 108/4/Ezone-8/2019 Date: 16.09.2019
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 Loni road from Teelamora to Bhopura T-Point.**
Tender document can be downloaded from E-Tendering portal: <http://etender.up.nic.in> and Ghaziabad Development Authority website: www.gdghaziabad.com. The cost of Bid document, E-Tender processing fee ₹ 2596/- and Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of ₹ 40,000/- is required to be deposited through RTGS in prescribed Bank Accounts in favour of 'VC GDA E-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 any 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 Engineer
E-mail: helplinegda@gmail.com, @gdzgb, gdzgb
Helpline: 0120-3342433, Whatsapp: 9818988807, Website: www.gdghaziabad.com
A Beautiful City - Our Commitment

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

► Continued from P 1

First-time violators of the ban on production, manufacturing, 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 both, has been prescribed.

Storage of e-cigarettes shall also be punishable with jail term of up to six months or fine up to Rs 50,000, or both. 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 regular tobacco products.

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.

In a factsheet, the John 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-cigarettes 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.

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 opinion about the product is divided as there is no study that documents long-term 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?

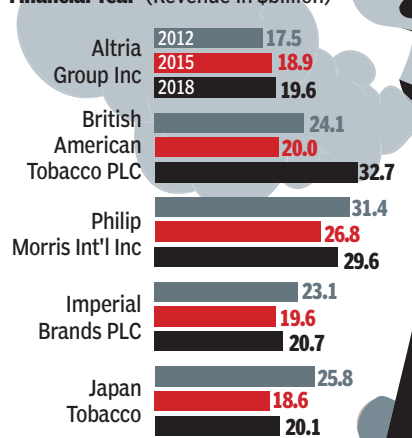
■ According to a research paper published in BMJ — one of the world's oldest general medical journals — sales of vaping devices in the US have accelerated since 2017. The paper has divided the growth into four phases. It states that the first occurred at the beginning of 2012 when the growth was driven 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 — an 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.

Has vaping helped tobacco cos increase revenues?

Financial Year (Revenue In \$billion)



Has the popularity of vaping helped tobacco companies recover revenues?

■ With decline in smoking, most cigarette makers saw a fall in revenues after 2012. However, 2018 data show uptick in revenues, probably linked to popularity of vaping since most tobacco majors now own or have a stake in big e-cigarette brands.