

Claim of devotee can't be adverse to deity, SC tells Nirmohi Akhara

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

THE SUPREME Court on Friday told Nirmohi Akhara, which has said the lawsuit of 'Ramllala' be rejected and the disputed land in Ayodhya be given to it as it has been the deity's sole devotee, that the claim of shebait (devotee) "can never be adverse to the deity".

Hearing arguments on the 11th day, the top court said if the Hindu body was contesting the suit of 'Ramllala Virajman', it was going against the deity's title.

On Thursday, the Akhara claimed it was the sole shebait of Ramllala at the disputed site, prompting the court to say that if it was so, the Akhara cannot have the title over the 2.77-acre disputed land. But the court's observation was resisted by Akhara counsel, Sushil Jain, who said the Hindu body has been in possession of the property in the capacity of shebait and hence its "right does not vanish".

On Friday, the five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi took exception to the Akhara counsel's statement.

"Claim of the shebait can never be adverse to the deity. If you are contesting the suit (of Ramllala) then you are going against the title of the deity. So, as a shebait, you are asking to dismiss the suit of the deity," said the bench. "Suppose the suit of Ramllala goes then you have no independent claim..."

Jain explained to the court that the plea of the deity (Ramllala)



was made in 1989 but the Akhara has been in possession of the place since 1934.

The bench said the Akhara has so far argued to contrary to the case built by it in the Allahabad High Court and asked Jain to refer to documents. The High Court, in its judgment of 2010, had partitioned the 2.77-acre disputed land equally among the three parties — the Sunni Waqf Board, Nirmohi Akhara and Ramllala.

Jain said the Akhara was not claiming the title right of the property, but claiming its possession and the right to manage as a devotee. The bench then asked: "You will have to show us the evidence to establish your 'shebait' rights. You show us... evidence."

Jain said, "I have oral evidence (of witnesses) which has not been denied by others," and read out statements to indicate it had been managing the disputed site.

The bench then pointed out from the records that they said the Akhara had been performing worship at the 'Ram Chabutra'. Jain said it meant the 'Ram Chabutra temple'. "It is not so... You have made a distinction between disputed temple and Ram Chabutra," the bench said. The bench would resume hearing on August 26.

SC to UP: Decide on Babri case judge in 2 weeks

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

THE SUPREME Court on Friday gave the Uttar Pradesh government two weeks' time to pass orders on the extension of tenure of CBI Special Judge Surendra Kumar Yadav, who is hearing the 1992 Babri Masjid demolition case in which prominent BJP leaders L K Advani and M M Joshi are among the accused.

A bench of Justices R F Nariman and Surya Kant told Senior Advocate Aishwarya Bhati, who appeared for the UP government, that the judge had again written to them with five requests, including that he be provided security.

The bench said his requests appeared to be reasonable and asked the state to take a call on them within the two weeks time.

On July 19, the apex court, while directing the extension of the tenure of the judge, had fixed a nine-month deadline for the completion of trial and pronouncement of judgment.

"Judgment in this case must be delivered maximum within a period of nine months from now," the bench had ordered then. This meant that the judgement in the case will have to be delivered before 19 April, 2020.

The judge, who is set to retire by the end of September this year, had written to the court earlier, saying that despite best efforts, he would need six more months to conclude the matter. Following this, the SC had asked the UP government to inform it about the procedure for extension of service of judges.

In response, the state told the court that there was no provision for this in service rules. But the court referred to a rule under which the service of government servants may be extended till the age of 62 if such extension is required in the greater interest of justice, and reasons to be recorded in writing.

The bench said it was invoking its inherent jurisdiction under Article 142 of the Constitution to allow extension of service to the judge only for trial of this case.

It also asked the state government to pass necessary orders in consultation with the High Court within four weeks extending the tenure of the Judge.

In April 2017, the apex court, while ordering day-to-day trial in the case, had asked the special judge to complete it in two years. The top court also ordered that the judge not be transferred till the trial concludes.

SC to examine constitutional validity of triple talaq law

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 23

THE SUPREME Court on Friday agreed to examine the constitutional validity of the recently-enacted law making instant triple talaq a punishable offence.

Hearing a clutch of petitions, a two-judge bench of the apex court, comprising Justices N V Ramana and Ajay Rastogi, said it "will examine" the legislation and issued notice to the Centre.

Four petitions have urged the court to declare the The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act 2019 as "unconstitutional".

Appearing for a petitioner, Senior Advocate Salman Khurshid questioned the logic of making triple talaq a criminal offence when the Supreme Court had held it unconstitutional.

Responding, the bench sought to know what was the remedy if a practice held null and void and declared an offence still goes on.

Two Muslim organisations, Jamiat Ulama-I-Hind and Samastha Kerala Jamiathul Ulema, are among those who approached the apex court.

The Jamiat-Ulama-I-Hind has termed the law "manifestly erroneous", "arbitrary" and the punishment prescribed by it "disproportionate and excessive".

The plea, filed by Advocate Ejaz Maqbool, said as the SC had already held instant triple talaq void and illegal, "no circumstance, whatsoever, existed... requiring the enactment of the Impugned Act".

ANDHRA PRADESH

Ex-speaker's son accused of stealing 30 laptops

GREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, AUGUST 23

THE ANDHRA Pradesh Skill Development Corporation has lodged a police complaint against Kodela Sivaram, the elder son of former Andhra Pradesh Assembly Speaker Kodela Siva Prasad Rao, for allegedly stealing 30 laptops and a printer from a Rural Skill Development Centre in Sattenapalli, in July 2018.

The complaint was lodged by Sattenapalli Rural Skill Development Officer Baji Babu on Friday — the same day that news broke that Kodela Siva Prasad has been being accused of "stealing" furniture meant for the Speaker's chamber.

"I was told by the Skill Development Corporation's MD Dr A Srikanth that laptops provided to the Sattenapalli centre were missing. The local MLA Ambati Rambabu had given a letter seeking an inquiry. I probed the matter from August 16 and found that 30 laptops issued by the previous TDP government to this centre have gone

The complaint was lodged by an officer on Friday — the same day that news broke that Kodela Siva Prasad was accused of stealing furniture meant for the Speaker's chamber

missing," Baji Babu told *The Indian Express*.

He said that the laptops allotted were lying unopened at the Nagarjuna Sagar Project (NSP) guesthouse since June 2017, and in July 2018, the 30 laptops, printer and solar CPU were diverted to SVR College.

"However, within 10-15 days, Kodela Sivaram called the college management and asked them to return the laptops to the NSP guesthouse, claiming that it was the order Kodela Siva Prasad Rao who was Speaker then. When the laptops were being returned to NSP guesthouse, Kodela Sivaram diverted the delivery to his two-wheeler showroom in Guntur city. There is no

trace of those 30 laptops and CPU, so we lodged a police complaint today," Baji Babu said.

Baji Babu's probe revealed that Kodela Sivaram chided Ajit Chowdhary, the then Guntur District Skill Development manager, for sending the unused laptops to SVR College at Guntur. "He asked him to bring back the laptops to the NSP guesthouse. When the laptops were being sent back, Kodela Sivaram intimidated Assistant Executive Engineer T Yeshamma to send the laptops to the address he gave her, which she did. She said that Sivaram had said that his father, the Assembly Speaker Kodela Siva Prasad, had given the order, so she complied," Baji Babu said.

A Skill Development Corporation official said, "We have no idea where those laptops are. It is possible that they went back to some government office or they are still lying with the Kodela family."

Sattenapalli Town Police Station Inspector Sarath Babu said that an FIR has been lodged against Kodela Sivaram, and an investigation has begun.

Fourth accused in Rakbar lynching case arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, AUGUST 23

THE RAJASTHAN police on Thursday arrested the fourth accused in the Rakbar Khan lynching case while the state government appointed a Special Public Prosecutor for the trial.

Alwar SP Parish Deshmukh said that Vijay Kumar, 25, was arrested from Jaipur. Meanwhile, advocate Ashok Kumar Sharma has been hired as a Special Public Prosecutor by the Ashok Gehlot-led state government.

Rakbar, 31, was transporting cows on foot on the intervening night of July 20 and 21, 2018, with Aslam Khan, when the duo was allegedly stopped by villagers in Lalwandi, which is under Ramgarh police station limits in Alwar district.

While Rakbar was beaten to death, Aslam managed to escape. They were headed for their village in Haryana.

Rakbar's death had led to an outcry following which, the top police administration officials of the state and the then Home Minister Gulab Chand Kataria, had visited the spot and ordered a judicial inquiry.

Akhilesh scraps UP units of SP

Lucknow: Three months after its Lok Sabha election debacle, the Samajwadi Party on Friday dissolved all its district and city units, frontal and youth organisations. SP national spokesperson, Rajendra Choudhary, said, "... apart from state president Naresh Uttam Patel, all office bearers at the district and city level have been relieved of their duties. Vidhan Sabha committees were also dissolved..." **ENS**

COURT NOTICE
HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH
FAO NO. 5422 of 2018 (0&M)
Next Date of Hearing 29.08.2019
IFFCO Tokio General Insurance Company Ltd. Petitioner
V/S
Smt. Binika & Others Respondent
Appeal u/s 173 of Motor Vehicles Act 1988.
Notice to:- Respondent no. 3, Ravinder Kumar S/o Shubham, R/o Village & Post Office Rampura, Tehsil & District Rewari, (Driver of offending TATA 407 No. HR 61 1792)
(In above titled appeal, the respondent(s) defendant(s) could not be served in ordinary process. It is ordered that the respondent(s)/defendant(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 29.8.2019 at 10:00 a.m. For details login to:
www.highcourtchd.gov.in
Superintendent for Registrar (Judicial)
Punjab and Haryana High Court Chandigarh

SEARCH FOR MISSING



TANNU

General Public is hereby informed that one girl **Namely:** Tannu, **D/o:** Umesh Shah, **R/o:** Ashok Awana Ka Makan Jhundpura, Sec-11, Noida, **UP, Age:** 13 Years, **Height:** 4'8", **Face:** Round, **Complexion:** Fair, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Blue Check Shirt & Blue Colour Koti (School Dress) has been missing since 08.08.2019 from the area of PS New Ashok Nagar, Delhi. In this regard **FIR No. 446/19 U/s 363 IPC dated 08.08.2019** has been lodged at **PS. New Ashok Nagar, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing girl please inform the undersigned.

E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in **SHO**
Fax: 011-24368639 **PS. New Ashok Nagar, Delhi**
DP/6967/ED/19 **Ph.: 011-22610839, 22713552**

NOTICE OF SALE

Offers are invited by **The Administrator of the Specified undertaking of the Unit Trust of India (SUUTI)**, for the sale of the properties through e-auction. The intending bidders are advised to visit the website www.suutiproperty.com for viewing scanned copies of the documents of the property and www.utiitsl.com or www.suutiproperty.com for the detailed Notice of sale and tender document and thereafter visit <https://www.eauction.auctiontiger.net> for completing the user registration and participating in the e-auction process.

For queries please Contact: Mr. Prasad Vengurlekar, Deputy Manager, UTIITSL at Tel. No. 022-26547610/12 (Monday to Friday – 9.30 am – 5.30 pm)

The sale of properties will be on "as is where is basis" and will not be sold below the reserve price as mentioned in the tender document. The online tender should be submitted latest by **16th September, 2019 till 5.00 P.M.**

Place: Mumbai
Date: 23/08/2019

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS
HIGH COURT OF DELHI: NEW DELHI
(website: www.delhihighcourt.nic.in)
DELHI JUDICIAL SERVICE EXAMINATION - 2019
CORRIGENDUM

In continuation of this Court's notice published in various newspapers on 31.07.2019 whereby 45 vacancies [43 existing vacancies and 02 anticipated vacancies] have been advertised for Delhi Judicial Service Examination-2019, it is hereby notified that the number of vacancies for Delhi Judicial Service Examination- 2019 shall be read as under:-

Category	No. of vacancies	Remarks
General	31	02 (backlog) 02 (fresh) 27 (anticipated)
SC	17	12 (backlog) 05 (anticipated)
ST	27	All backlog
TOTAL	75	

Note 1: Out of aforesaid 75 vacancies, the reservation for PwD candidates shall be as follows:

Category	Vacancies
PwD (Autism; Intellectual disability; specific learning disability and mental illness and Multiple disabilities mentioned under clauses (a) to (d) including deaf-blindness)	02 (backlog)**
PwD (Locomotor disability)	01 (backlog)
PwD (Blind/Low Vision)	02 (backlog) 01 (anticipated)
PwD (Hearing Impairment)	02 (backlog)
Total	08

** 01 vacancy is subject to the outcome of WP(C) No. 5948/2019 titled "Bhavaya Nain vs. High Court of Delhi"

Note 2: The categorywise bifurcation of anticipated vacancies may undergo a change as the same would depend upon the category of the officers of Delhi Judicial Service to be promoted and would be finalized only after the officers are actually promoted.

Note 3: The Last Date and Time for filling Online Application Form and/or making payment through Debit Card/Internet Banking is extended to 08.09.2019 (10:00 PM)

Sd/-
(DINESH KUMAR SHARMA)
REGISTRAR GENERAL
23.08.2019

No.A-110016/2014/NGMA
National Gallery of Modern Art
Government of India
Ministry of Culture
Jaipur House, New Delhi-110003

Applications are invited for filling up the following posts by deputation (including short term contract) basis in National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), a sub-ordinate office under Ministry of Culture and a premier gallery of India with rich and exquisite collection of contemporary paintings. The details are as under:

1. Curator (by deputation (including short term contract))
No. of Post-02
PB-3 Rs. 15,600-39,100/- plus Grade pay Rs.6600/- (pre revised)
Level-11 in Pay Matrix Rs.67,700- 2,08,700/- (Revised)
General Central Service Group 'A', Gazetted Non-Ministerial
Location of the post: - One each in National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai and Bengaluru.

2. Deputy Curator (by deputation (including short term contract))
No. of Post-02
PB-3 Rs. 15,600-39,100/- plus Grade pay Rs.5400/- (pre revised)
Level-10 in Pay Matrix Rs.56,100 - 1,77,500/- (Revised)
General Central Service Group 'A', Gazetted Non-Ministerial
Location of the post: - One each in National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai and Bengaluru.

3. Public Relation Officer (by deputation (including short term contract))
No. of Post-03
PB-2 RS. 9,300-34,800/- plus Grade pay Rs.4600/- (pre revised)
Level 7 in Pay Matrix Rs.44,900 - 1,42,400/- (Revised)
General Central Service Group 'B', Gazetted Non-Ministerial
Location of the post: - One each in National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru.

4. Upper Division Clerk (UDC) [by deputation (including short term contract)]
No. of Post-02
PB-1 Rs.5,200-20,200/- plus Grade pay Rs.2400/- (pre revised)
Level 4 in Pay Matrix Rs.25,500 - 81,100/- (Revised)
General Central Service Group 'C', Non-Gazetted Ministerial
Location of the post: - One each in National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai and Bengaluru.

5. Assistant Library and Information Officer (Composite method (deputation (including short term contract) plus promotion)
No. of Post-01
PB-2 Rs.9,300-34,800/- plus Grade pay Rs.4600/- (pre revised)
Level 7 in Pay Matrix Rs. 44,900 - 1,42,400/- (Revised)
General Central Service Group 'B', Gazetted Non-Ministerial
Location of the post: National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi.

6. Security Officer (Composite method (deputation (including short term contract) plus promotion)
No. of Post-01
PB-2 R5.9,300-34,800/- plus Grade pay Rs.4600/- (pre revised)
Level-7 in Pay Matrix Rs.44,900 - 1,42,400/- (Revised)
General Central Service Group 'B', Gazetted Non Ministerial
Location of the post: - National Gallery of Modern Art, Bengaluru.

Applications must reach within 60 (sixty) days from the date of publication of the advertisement in the Employment News. For details visit Ministry of Culture website <http://www.indiaculture.nic.in> and NGMAS website www.ngmaindia.gov.in

davp 09110/11/0005/1920

TEMPORARY CANCELLATION / DIVERSION / SHORT TERMINATION / SHORT ORIGATION / REGULATION OF TRAINS DUE TO NON-INTERLOCKING WORK

In order to further strengthen the existing infrastructure, Railways will undertake Pre Non-Interlocking & Non-Interlocking work in connection with doubling work between Hardatpur - Kachhwa Road Stations on Varanasi - Allahabad Section. To execute these works, traffic blocks will be taken from 24.08.2019 to 31.08.2019 and from 01.09.2019 to 06.09.2019. Consequently, the following trains will temporarily be affected as under :-

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS		
Train No. & Name	Date(s) of Cancellation (from originating stations)	
15117 Manduadih - Jabalpur Express	31.08.2019	
15118 Jabalpur - Manduadih Express	01.09.2019	

DIVERSION OF TRAINS		
Train No. & Name	Diverted via	Dates (from originating stn.)
18610 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus - Ranchi Express	Allahabad Chheoki - Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn.	31.08.2019
22131 Pune - Manduadih Gyan Ganga Superfast Express	Allahabad Chheoki - Varanasi	02.09.2019
16359 Ernakulam Jn - Patna Jn Express	Allahabad Chheoki - Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn.	31.08.2019
16360 Patna Jn - Ernakulam Jn Express	Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn. - Allahabad Chheoki	03.09.2019
22132 Manduadih - Pune Jn Gyan Ganga Superfast Express	Varanasi - Allahabad Chheoki	04.09.2019
19063 Udhna Jn - Danapur Express	Allahabad Chheoki - Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn.	31.08.2019 & 03.09.2019
19064 Danapur - Udhna Jn Express	Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn. - Allahabad Chheoki	01.09.2019 & 04.09.2019
18609 Ranchi - Lokmanya Tilak Terminus Express	Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn. - Allahabad Chheoki	28.08.2019 & 04.09.2019
12562 New Delhi - Darbhanga Jn Swatantrata Senani Superfast Exp.	Allahabad Jn - Janghai - Varanasi	30, 31.08.19 & 02.09.2019
11045 C Shahu Maharaj T Kolhapur-Dhanbad Jn Dikshabhoomi Express	Allahabad Chheoki - Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn.	29.08.2019
15120 Manduadih - Rameswaram Express	Varanasi - Allahabad Chheoki	01.09.2019
19421 Ahmedabad Jn - Patna Jn Express	Allahabad Chheoki - Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn.	01.09.2019
11046 Dhanbad Jn - C Shahu Maharaj T Kolhapur Dikshabhoomi Exp.	Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn. - Allahabad Chheoki	02.09.2019
22427 Ballia - Anand Vihar (T) Superfast Express	Aunrihar Jn - Jaunpur - Janghai - Allahabad Jn	01.09.2019
15119 Rameswaram - Manduadih Express	Allahabad Chheoki - Varanasi	28.08.2019
11061 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus - Darbhanga Jn Express	Allahabad Jn - Janghai - Varanasi	02.09.2019
12791 Secunderabad Jn - Danapur Express	Allahabad Chheoki - Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn.	28 to 31.08.19 & 01 to 05.09.2019
12792 Danapur - Secunderabad Jn Express	Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn. - Allahabad Chheoki	29 to 31.08.19 & 01 to 06.09.2019
14006 Anand Vihar (T) - Sitamarhi Lichchavi Express	Allahabad Jn - Janghai - Jaunpur - Aunrihar Jn	28.08.2019 to 05.09.2019
14005 Sitamarhi - Anand Vihar (T) Lichchavi Express	Aunrihar Jn - Jaunpur - Janghai - Allahabad Jn	29.08.2019 to 06.09.2019
22428 Anand Vihar (T) - Ballia Superfast Express	Allahabad Jn - Janghai - Jaunpur - Aunrihar Jn	31.08.2019
22436/22435 New Delhi - Varanasi - New Delhi Vande Bharat Express	Allahabad Jn - Janghai - Varanasi	24.08.19 to 06.09.2019

SHORT TERMINATION/SHORT ORIGATION OF TRAINS		
Train No. & Train Name	Train to short terminate at / originate from	Date from originating station
12333 Howrah Jn - Allahabad City Vibhuti Express	at Manduadih	28.08.19 to 05.09.19
12334 Allahabad City - Howrah Jn Vibhuti Express	from Manduadih	29.08.19 to 06.09.19

REGULATION OF TRAINS	
Train No. 11061 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus - Darbhanga Jn Express will be regulated at suitable point en-route from 01.09.2019 to 05.09.2019.	

Note:- For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

Security Helpline No. 182 and Passengers Complaint Helpline No. 138

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2738/2019

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

ED conducts raids at Jet founder premises

ACTION Agency conducts searches at Naresh Goyal's premises in Delhi, Mumbai in connection with alleged violations of FDI norms

HT Correspondents
■ letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI/MUMBAI: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday conducted searches at about a dozen premises of Jet Airways founder Naresh Goyal and his associates in New Delhi and Mumbai in connection with alleged violations of foreign direct investment (FDI) norms, officials said.

ED's searches followed Goyal's questioning on Thursday by the Serious Fraud Investigation Office in Mumbai in connection with allegations of financial irregularities, they said.

Goyal had stepped down as chairman of Jet Airways in March. The full-service carrier was forced to stop operations on April 17 due to acute liquidity crunch. Currently, the airline is undergoing the resolution process under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

ED is searching Goyal's premises to gather additional evidence under the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA). Proceedings under FEMA are civil in nature, officials said.

In a significant move, ED also searched the premises of Dubai-based non-resident Indian Has-mukh Deepchand Gardi's son-in-law in Usha Kiran building on Carmichael Road in Mumbai.



■ Naresh Goyal. REUTERS

Gardi, who had invested in the now-defunct Tail Winds Limited parent company of Jet Airways that Goyal started at Isle of Man, an island tax haven in situated in the Irish sea between Ireland and England, had featured in the Panama papers with companies in India, UAE and British Virgin Islands.

Jet Airways has liabilities close to ₹15,000 crore. In July, a ministry of corporate affairs (MCA) inspection report had found large-scale irregularities, including diversion of funds, at the airline.

The ED probe now focuses on alleged irregularities and inflated payments made to the Ireland-based firm which leased out aircraft to Jet Airways. The ambit of probe has increased from contraventions under FEMA to alleged violations under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

ED officials said of about ₹9,000 crore allotted to Jet Airways by various financial institutions,

nearly 25%-30% of funds are suspected to have been diverted. Searches by the agency were also aimed at gathering additional evidence in Etihad Airways' investment in Jet Privilege Private Limited (JPPL). The ED believes the company might have violated FDI norms when the UAE-based airline took a stake in JPPL in 2014.

COURT ALLOWS GOYAL TO WITHDRAW PLEA

On Friday, Delhi high court allowed Goyal to withdraw his plea challenging his lookout circular. On May 25, Goyal and his wife Anita were detained at Mumbai airport while he was travelling abroad, his plea had contended. Goyal informed Justice Navin Chawla that he was cooperating with investigations in an alleged fraud case.

Advocate Ajay Diggai, counsel for the Centre, opposed Goyal's claim of co-operating with investigations. However, the court did not comment on the merits of the case and allowed the application seeking withdrawal of the earlier petition. After noting submissions from both the sides, the court accepted the plea.

In his plea, Goyal had said that despite repeated requests he was not given a copy of the lookout circular. The plea alleged his name was not mentioned in any FIR, hence he was not an "accused".

Ramani records statement in Akbar defamation case

NEW DELHI: Senior journalist Priya Ramani on Friday described the events that formed the basis of her sexual harassment allegations against her former editor at Asian Age newspaper M.J. Akbar and told a Delhi court that her defense was "truth spoken in the public interest and for the public good".

Ramani, who recorded her statement before the court of Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Samar Vishal, said, "It is unfortunate that women who have experienced sexual harassment at the workplace must now defend themselves in criminal proceedings for speaking the truth."

Akbar, who resigned as minister of state for external affairs in October 2018, had called Ramani's allegations "malafide and defamatory". In October, Akbar filed a complaint against Ramani, who has been charged with criminal defamation under Sections 499 and 500 of IPC.

In his complaint, Akbar brings up Ramani's tweets and an article, in which these allegations were made. "It is wrong to suggest that the articles and tweets of Priya Ramani were meant to raise awareness of pervasiveness of the issue of sexual harassment at the workplace," Akbar told the court during his cross-examination last month.

"It is false that my tweets affected the reputation of the complainant (Akbar). I spoke the truth and there was no deliberate attempt to harm the complainant's reputation," Ramani said on Friday.

HTC

TWO YEARS OF PRIVACY JUDGMENT

Need to operationalise SC verdict



RAMANI JIT SINGH CHIMA

In August 2017, the Supreme Court delivered a judgment which went to the heart of the future of civil liberties in India and the larger global information society that the Internet and technology have brought in. It upheld that all residents of India have the fundamental right to privacy, rejecting arguments by government lawyers in favour of allowing discretion to the State to interfere in individual privacy. It laid down stricter standards against which government action would be tested, and it emphasised the proactive obligation of public officers to protect and expand privacy. But simply celebrating the Puttaswamy judgment is not enough. We must begin operationalising it.

Since 2017, it has been seen that the judgment was merely the first step in a much longer struggle to protect the fundamental right to privacy. The larger implications -- on further regulating government action -- began receiving resistance shortly after the ink in the judgment had dried. The Union government began expanding communications interception and surveillance powers, with the home ministry, in December 2018, operationalising and expanding the scope of overbroad legacy powers pro-

vided to them by poorly considered legislation passed earlier in Parliament. Law enforcement agencies have sought the undermining of everyday encryption used by millions of Indians on modern messaging applications; supporting calls for regulatory changes or judicial decisions that would force online services to re-engineer and make themselves more government tapping-friendly. The government's own expert committee on data protection stated that current government powers on accessing user data and intercepting communications are likely to be unconstitutional, as per the privacy judgment. We should be alarmed that not only have policymakers failed to take up the task of reforming government surveillance powers, they have been reported as having considered diluting the language on government data collection in the proposed data protection bill. Meanwhile, the Union government and various state-level agencies are deploying dangerously pervasive surveillance systems focused on facial recognition and other tracking technologies.

The government often contributes to privacy harms, but is also one of the main channels to protect privacy. Independent privacy regulators are the main bulwark to enforce the rights of individuals with respect to data collection and use by firms -- an area which requires significant action, given the rise of the surveillance capitalism paradigm. Two years after the right to pri-

IT HAS BEEN SEEN THAT RULING WAS JUST THE FIRST STEP IN A LONGER STRUGGLE TO PROTECT THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY

vacy judgment and nearly a decade after a privacy and data protection bill were first proposed, India is still outsourcing the regulation of the data practices of businesses to other governments. Today, the protection which most Indians receive online is arguably thanks to the data protection standards enforced by the European Union and its national data protection authorities, and other States with similar systems.

There is also institutional failure when it comes to taking enforcement measures against private sector data misuse. The government has shown interest in demanding answers on data practices from messaging firms from China. But, so far, no major Indian or global firm has faced significant action for data-breach revelations. As Netflix's documentary, The Great Hack, is now available for Indian users, what isn't available is the progress of the CBI in the Cambridge Analytica scandal, which involved over 500,000 Indian users' data.

The institutional regulatory and privacy enforcement gap seems to be growing between India and other major democracies. This is despite the fact that the Puttaswamy judgment has become a pillar of the country's political discourse and constitu-

tional values. During impassioned debates on controversial amendments to the Aadhaar Act during the recent Monsoon session, members of Parliament (MPs) quoted from the Puttaswamy judgment, emphasising that government moves which impact individual privacy have to be tested against its standards. Recently published research from Access Now revealed that the interest of elected lawmakers on privacy is fast-increasing. In the 16th Lok Sabha, MPs asked 290 questions on privacy, compared to 114 in the 15th Lok Sabha, a 154% increase over five years. Of these, 38 questions were on the government's plan to introduce privacy legislation. A new Private Members Bill on Privacy has been introduced in the Lok Sabha by Ravi Kumar of the DMK, and MPs across party lines have demanded updates on the government's commitment to introduce a privacy and data protection bill.

Citizens deserve more action by institutions to protect their privacy and liberty. Government actions are already being tested against these increased right to privacy standards before constitutional courts -- or will soon be litigated. But we must stop thinking that it is only the judges who are burdened with protecting and deepening the right to privacy, and we must ensure progress from the executive and legislative branches.

(The writer is Asia Pacific policy director at Access Now and chair of the Internet Freedom Foundation)

short stories

BABRI MASJID DEMOLITION: TRIAL JUDGE SEEKS POLICE PROTECTION

NEW DELHI: A Special Judge holding trial in the 1992 Babri Masjid demolition case, involving BJP veterans L K Advani, M M Joshi and Uma Bharti, sought police protection from the Supreme Court on Friday. SC asked the UP government to look into requests made by the Special Judge, Surendra Kumar Yadav, in his letter to the apex court considering the enormity of the work done by him. A bench of Justices R F Nariman and Surya Kant asked the state government to file an affidavit

within two weeks on the steps it considers appropriate. "A letter has been written on July 27, 2019 by special judge Surendra Kumar Yadav, who is at present hearing the matter on day-to-day basis in which five requests have been made, which we think are reasonable. Considering the enormity the work done by him, we direct UP government to look into the matter and file an affidavit clearly stating as what are the steps it considers appropriate," bench said.



Bombay HC dismisses petition against Maha CM Fadnavis

NAGPUR: The Nagpur bench of Bombay High Court on Thursday dismissed both applications filed by lawyer Satish Uke against Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis. In his first application, the petitioner had prayed for keeping Fadnavis away from MLA and CM's post till decision of his review application filed earlier. In second, he demanded directives to HC registry to register his review application filed in Election Petition. Earlier, Nagpur bench of Bombay HC rejected the election petition against Fadnavis by Uke in 2015.

HTC AND PTI

HT Correspondents

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

KOLKATA/MIDNAPORE: A stampede situation broke out in heavy rain on a narrow approach road to a temple in West Bengal's North 24-Parganas district hours past midnight on Friday, killing three persons and injuring over 20 others, officials familiar with the matter said.

The incident happened near Kachua Loknath temple at Kachua, 50km from Kolkata, around 3 am when a crowd had gathered to celebrate the birth anniversary of Baba Lokenath Brahmachari, an 18th century Bengali saint.

Chief minister Mamata Banerjee, who rushed to Kolkata's National Medical College and Hospital where some of the injured were admitted, said, "There was a large crowd at Kachua Loknath temple this year. It started raining heavily and people tried to take shelter at makeshift bamboo stalls on the approach road to the temple. The bamboo structures collapsed."

BJP state chief Dilip Ghosh criticised the state government for not setting up proper infrastructure to deal with the rush of pilgrims. "The state government should have had proper arrangements in place, keeping in mind the huge turnout.

Bihar legislator booked under UAPA surrenders

PATNA: Absconding Bihar legislator Anant Singh on Friday surrendered in Delhi's Saket court, three days after an arrest warrant was issued against him in connection with the recovery of a loaded AK 47 assault rifle besides two hand grenades from his ancestral house at Ladma, Patna on August 16, police said.

The gangster-turned politician had been absconding since Tuesday, the day when a court in Bihar's Barh town had rejected his anticipatory bail plea.

The same court also issued property attachment warrant against MLA's aide -- Lallu

Mukhia and Karmveer Yadav -- in connection with a murder conspiracy case lodged at the Pandarak police station. An FIR was lodged against him under the newly amended Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

Following this, Singh released a series of video clips in which he accused the police of framing him. The last clip was released on Thursday in which he said: "I will surrender in the court as I have faith in the judiciary."

Patna (Rural) SP Kantesh Kumar Mishra said, "A team will be sent [to Delhi] today to bring the MLA to Patna...."

HTC

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Global Notice Inviting E-Tender no: PHL/CO/GED/2018-19/1 (2nd call)

Name of the work: Design, Supply, Installation & operation/ maintenance of heliport lighting equipment system and NDB for Night landing facility at Heliports / Heliports at Minicoy, Kavaratti & Agati (Lakshadweep). **Estimated cost:** ₹ 512.92 lakhs. (INR).

Mode: Through e-tender under item rate single stage two bid system. **Last date for submission of techno-commercial bid – 25th Sep. 2019.** Eligible bidders may download the bid document on payment of tender cost of Rs 14750/- / US \$ 205 through RTGS / NEFT mode from 23/09/2019 & for complete details visit website: www.tenderwizord.com/PAWANHANS & www.pawanhans.co.in. Addendum / Corrigendum if any shall only be hosted on website.

HoD (Gen. Engg.)

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(An Institute of National Importance, established by an Act of Parliament)
Dumma Airport Road, Jabalpur (M.P.)-482005

Short Tender Notice
(Tender No: IIITDMJ/Tender/2019/8/59, dated 23.08.2019)
The Institute invites sealed bids from eligible firms/contractors for **Hiring of Bus Services** for the Institute. Last date for submission and opening of technical bid of tenders is **16.09.2019**. For further details please visit our website www.iiitdmj.ac.in. **Registrar**

htcity

TOUGH TO WORK WITH YOUNGER BROTHER: SHAHID

Check out today's **HT City**

COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC & INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH
NEW DELHI
Press Notice
NIT (Notice Inviting Tender)

1. **Online item rate electronic tender** are invited for **Structural repairs in Phase-I buildings (i.e. A, B, C & E Blocks) of CSIR Scientist Apartments, Maharani Bagh, New Delhi.** Estimated cost of the work is **Rs. 2,23,16,592/-** (Two crore twenty three lakhs sixteen thousand five hundred ninety two only) based on DSR-2018 and prevailing market rates. The Earnest Money is **Rs. 4,46,340/-** (Rs. Four lakh forty six thousand three hundred forty only) and tender fee is **Rs. 1500/-** (Nonrefundable). The time for completion of the work is **24 months.**

2. Tender shall be downloaded and submitted online only from Govt. e-portals <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app> from **27.08.2019 to 05.09.2019 upto 1500 Hrs.** Technical bid will be opened on **06.09.2019 at 1500 Hrs.**

NIT also may be seen at our website www.csirhrdg.res.in. Further for any query, please contact **Section Officer (Engg.) ESD, CSIR complex, Pusa, New Delhi. Tel:- 011-25848121.**

davp 36202/11/0015/1920 **CHIEF ENGINEER**

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE
For and behalf of the President of India, the Dy. Chief Engineer/ Bridge, Line/North Western Railway, Jaipur invites online open E-tendering system (Single packet) for the following works on prescribed electronic forms: **SN. 1. E-Tender No. : 1. Dy. CE/Bridge, line/19-20-01-R-2 & 2. Dy. CE/Bridge, line/19-20-02-R-2. 2. Name of work with its location :- Provision of Side path way for steel girders on important bridge no. 509, 676, up, 750 up, 792, 803 & 845 on MD-PNU section of Ajmer Division. & 2. Provision of Side path way for steel girders on major bridge no. 472, 490, 736 up, 786, 793, 804, 812, 821, 823, 829, 839, 843 & 848 in MD-PNU section of Ajmer Division. 3. Approx. Cost Work :- Rs. 2,23,67,983.33 & Rs. 1,30,43,672.30 4. Earnest Money to be deposited :- Rs. 2,61,800.00 & Rs. 2,12,200.00 5. Completion Period :- 08 (Eight) Months & 07 (Seven) Months. 6. Date & Time of submission of on line E-Tender :- On line e-tender for works tender in electronic form will be submitted up to 16.09.2019 & 19.09.2019 at 15:30 hrs respectively. 7. Website particulars and notice board location where complete detail of tender can be seen :- The complete information along with tender document shall be available in prescribed electronic form in Indian Railway E-tendering website www.ireps.gov.in up to 15.00 hrs.**

813-CT19
Contact help line no. 138 for general complaints

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS
HIGH COURT OF DELHI, NEW DELHI
(Website: www.delhihighcourt.nic.in)
DELHI JUDICIAL SERVICE EXAMINATION – 2019
CORRIGENDUM

In continuation of this Court's notice published in various newspapers on 31.07.2019 whereby 45 vacancies [43 existing vacancies and 02 anticipated vacancies] have been advertised for Delhi Judicial Service Examination-2019, it is hereby notified that the number of vacancies for Delhi Judicial Service Examination – 2019 shall be read as under:

Category	No. of vacancies	Remarks
General	31	02 (backlog) 02 (fresh) 27 (anticipated)
SC	17	12 (backlog) 05 (anticipated)
ST	27	All backlog
TOTAL	75	

Note 1: Out of aforesaid 75 vacancies, the reservation for PwD candidates shall be as follows:

Category	Vacancies
PwD (Autism, intellectual disability, specific learning disability and mental illness and Multiple disabilities mentioned under clauses (a) to (d) including deaf-blindness)	02 (backlog) * *
PwD (Locomotor disability)	01 (backlog)
PwD (Blind/Low Vision)	02 (backlog) 01 (anticipated)
PwD (Hearing Impairment)	02 (backlog)
Total	08

**** 01 vacancy is subject to the outcome of WPC) No. 5948/2019 titled "Bhavaya Nain vs. High Court of Delhi"**

Note 2: The categorywise bifurcation of anticipated vacancies may undergo a change as the same would depend upon the category of the officers of Delhi Judicial Service to be promoted and would be finalized only after the officers are actually promoted.

Note 3: The Last Date and Time for filling Online Application Form and/or making payment through Debit Card/Internet Banking is extended to 08.09.2019 (10.00 PM).

Sd/-
(DINESH KUMAR SHARMA)
REGISTRAR GENERAL
23.08.2019

hindustantimes

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Thank you Delhi-NCR for an overwhelming response. We are glad to announce that the final date of registration has been extended to 29th August.

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FIPB should've alerted RBI on INX's downstream investment: Subbarao

'Nod Was For ₹4.6Cr, But Co Got In ₹305Cr'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: In what could puncture the defence of former finance minister P Chidambaram, three top officials, in their statements recorded before the

PC gets support from former Pak minister

P Chidambaram has received support from unlikely quarters. Rehman Malik, Pakistan's ex-interior minister, said PC had been arrested only because he had raised his voice against the move to defang Article 370. "Note it. Mr. Chidanbaram is going to be ur next PM (sic)," he tweeted on Friday. **IANS**

Enforcement Directorate earlier, said foreign direct investment approval to INX Media was for Rs 4.62 crore only and not for the Rs 305 crore that was brought in. Any deviation should have been reported to the Reserve Bank of India for action, they said.

TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL

SANDEEP ADHWARYU



Then secretary of the department of economic affairs, D Subbarao, had said in his statement: "The FIPB unit should have confirmed from the company if indeed downstream investment had been made in INX News Pvt Ltd. If the fact of downstream had

been confirmed, it constituted a violation of FIPB guidelines, the FIPB unit should have reported the matter to FIPB for an appropriate decision."

Subbarao and D K Singh, then ex-officio chairman of Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB), said "appro-

val to INX Media was granted for bringing in FDI of Rs 4.62 crore only and the violation of excess FDI and downstream investment (Rs 305 crore) without FIPB approval should have been referred to RBI".

During investigation in the INX Media money launde-

ring case, the ED also recorded the statement of P K Bagga, then OSD (capital market and investment) in the finance ministry. He gave an identical statement and said any deviation should have been reported to the central bank.

"The fact that downstream investment had already been made was in the FIPB unit's knowledge through the I-T department and the replies of INX Media. However, the FIPB unit neither brought this violation to the notice of the board itself nor did the FIPB unit refer it to RBI. On the contrary, it asked INX Media to seek a separate FIPB approval for downstream investment. Consequently, INX News applied for permission of FIPB for downstream investment and approval was given by deliberately concealing the fact that downstream investment had already been made," ED said in an attachment order on INX Media filed before court earlier.

Chidambaram's senior counsel, opposing his CBI custody before a special court, had argued that FIPB approval was given by six government secretaries, and if CBI had found any violation, they could have arrested them.

Akhara wrestles with SC's posers on deity land claim

Dhananjay Mahapatra
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Nirmohi Akhara, which has been allotted one-third of the 2.77 acre disputed Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land in Ayodhya, faced a barrage of questions from the Supreme Court on Friday after it vigorously sought management rights over the entire disputed land that ran counter to deity Ram Lalla's claim.

Senior advocate Sushil Jain argued that the Akhara had been managing the Ram Janmasthan, carrying out worship rituals of the idols since more than a century and, hence, is entitled to management of the entire 2.77 acre land. "The Akhara has been the lone 'sevait'. It is not against the deity. But it says that the suit filed by Devki Nandan Agarwal, as the next friend of Ram Lalla Virajman, is not maintainable as he is not an idol worshipper nor a believer in Ram Lalla," he said.

A bench of Chief Justice

'Consider trial judge's plea for protection'

A CBI special judge presiding over the trial of BJP leaders L K Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi and others in Babri Masjid demolition case has sought the continuation of police protection till he delivers verdict in the case. District and sessions judge Surendra Kumar Yadav is due to retire on September 30 and his tenure is set to be extended till he delivers the verdict. He has written to the SC that police protection given to him would be taken away after his retirement date and urged the court to ensure that the protection continues till he decides the case. A bench of Justices R F Nariman and Surya Kant handed over his letter to UP's additional advocate general Aishwarya Bhati and asked her to look into it and file a response. **TNN**

Ranjan Gogoi and Justices S A Bobde, D Y Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and S Abdul Nazeer said, "A 'sevait' can never be better placed than the deity. When you are seeking dismissal of the deity's suit, you are denying the deity his right and entitlement. A 'sevait' cannot claim any right without the same being due to the deity. Can you take a stand contrary to the deity, which you are doing by seeking dismissal of the deity's suit? How can a 'sevait' seek dismissal of deity's suit?"

When Jain said he was

not seeking ownership over the disputed land but only management rights as an undisputed 'sevait' for more than a century, the bench asked: "If that was so, why did you not seek transposing yourself as the next friend of the deity and continue seeking the right of deity as well as yours as 'sevait'?"

The bench asked him to show evidence about his entitlement to 'sevait' rights. Jain said he would present them on Monday when the constitution bench resumes hearing for the 12th day.

'If shielded, the intelligent won't reveal secrets'

► Continued from P 1

On Friday, Chidambaram's counsel Kapil Sibal objected to the former FM's appeal against the Delhi HC verdict not being listed for hearing in the SC despite being filed on time, and said his client's fundamental right of access to justice had been frustrated. This, he said, resulted in the trial court remanding him to CBI custody. He then confined his arguments to the ED case, contending the HC judge had just done "copy paste work" and "blindly relied" on notes placed by investigating agencies after the arguments were concluded and the order was passed on that basis.

Solicitor general Tushar Mehta strongly objected to Sibal's allegations against the

judge and told the bench that the notes were placed before the HC on the basis of the probe report. Mehta argued that the agencies had collected substantial evidence, including email exchanges, against Chidambaram and his custodial interrogation by the ED was needed to track the money trail. He informed the bench that agencies had unearthed at least 10 properties and 17 bank accounts in foreign countries and also properties in the name of his granddaughter.

Emphasising the need for Chidambaram's custodial interrogation by the ED, Mehta said, "There are certain individuals with high mental faculty and they will not divulge anything if they are under the protection of anticipato-

JUST LIKE THAT AJIT NAIAN



Crime Time beats Prime Time TRPs

ry bail." He told the bench there was no need to pass any interim order as the ED could

CBI seeks help of 5 nations in PC probe

The CBI has sent letters rogatory to five countries asking for information about P Chidambaram's investments and firms linked to him in connection with its probe into the INX Media case. Sources on Friday said LR's have been sent to the UK, Switzerland, Bermuda, Singapore and Mauritius. "This is being done to seek information about his financial assets abroad," said the source. The companies being probed by the agency are located or have bases in these countries. **Rajshekhhar Jha | TNN**

not arrest him till Monday as he was in CBI custody. He also said the bench should go thro-

Aircel-Maxis: No arrest till Sept 3

Taking objection to a plea for adjournment sought by the prosecution in relation to the anticipatory bail pleas of P Chidambaram and his son, Karti, in the Aircel-Maxis case, a special CBI court in New Delhi on Friday dismissed the plea and said it had become "very embarrassing" for it to keep postponing the hearing "not once but several times". It extended the interim protection from arrest granted to Chidambaram and Karti in the Aircel-Maxis cases till September 3. **Aamir Khan | TNN**

ugh the probe reports before passing any order.

Full report on www.toi.in

'Communication gap between crew, ground staff'

► Continued from P 1

All of them are likely to face severe punishment, sources said. The action could include charging them with culpable homicide not amounting to murder, they said.

Jawan killed on LoC

An Army jawan from West Bengal — Naik Rajib Thapa — was killed in J&K's Rajouri district on Friday after Pakistani troops targeted forward posts and villages along the Line of Control. Thapa's death in Sunderbani sector is the third in less than a week in Pakistani firing. **TNN**

The probe found the "identification of friend or foe" system on the helicopter was switched off and there were "vital gaps" in communication and coordination between the ground staff and the copter crew. The chopper went down 10 minutes after taking off. Sources said it was asked to return because of the dogfight 100km from Srinagar. A missile was fired at it as the IAF ground staff thought it was an enemy chopper. **PTI**

'We want to strengthen Indian languages, but no single language will be forced on any state'

Days after unveiling a Rs 1,72,000 crore investment plan for higher edu, HRD minister Ramesh Pokhriyal spoke to TOI's Manash Pratim Gohain on a range of issues — from the forthcoming National Education Policy to launching one of the largest teacher training initiatives in the world

How many suggestions has government received on the draft National Education Policy?

■ The new draft education policy is the result of one of the world's biggest consultative processes undertaken over three years. 1.10 lakh gram samitis, all states, parents, students, NGOs and scientists were consulted. We again released it for more suggestions. So far close to 2 lakh suggestions have been received and majority of them wants this policy to be implemented at the earliest. The last education policy was promulgated in 1986 and 33 years later a new education policy is coming. We have constituted 20 working groups of experts who are deliberating on suggestions made.

Any specific suggestions you would like to share

which could be part of the final policy proposal?

■ A majority of people and even states suggested removal of the semester system in education. Also there are concerns on passing children wit-

TOI INTERVIEW

"A majority of people and states suggested removal of the semester system in education. Most of the states want to have term-end examinations, including board exams even in class IX

hout exams. Experts and public are of the view that by doing so we are leaving children in the lurch as we don't know

their learning levels. Majority of the states want to have term-end exams, including board exams even in class IX.

The language policy seems to be a problematic area?

■ Our former HRD minister Javadekar ji had the first meeting with state education ministers. Thereafter, I consulted MPs, especially from southern states. Majority have approved the policy. A couple of states sought clarifications on the language policy. We have asked for their suggestions. We are clear we want to strengthen Indian languages. And no single language will be enforced on any state. It can be Indian language versus foreign language, but it can never be Indian language versus another Indian language. The three-language formula is not new.



It has been there in 1964, 1968 as well as in 1986. We have not proposed anything new here.

When is the final draft likely to be ready?

■ We are working on suggestions and our effort has been to bring it out as soon as possible and implement it as well.

Lack of trained teachers is a major issue in school education.

■ This is true. Towards that end the government has launched the world's largest teacher training programme

"Our PM has his focus on education and even today if we compare to 2013-14, what was a Rs 66,000 crore budget, today is a Rs 95,000 crore budget. This is apart from the Rs 30,000 crore raised through Higher Education Financing Agency

— NISTHA, where 42 lakh elementary teachers in government schools will be trained.

Is the government planning fee capping for private schools and regulations for private coaching?

■ There are 90 lakh teachers in this country and around 12 lakh government schools. Our plan is to strengthen the government school system. Look at the rush for admissions in KVs. Same is the case with Navodaya Vidyalayas. The day we ensure quality in government schools, from

that day onwards people will stop running to private schools. Rest will follow after that.

The Education Quality Upgradation Inclusion Programme (EQUIP) proposed Rs 1,72,500 crore investment in higher education in the next five years. How serious is the government about this investment?

■ This five-year plan has been prepared following directions of our Prime Minister. Based on the five-year plan we also made five annual plans and a 100-day plan which is under way. We are in talks with the finance commission on plans. That apart, our PM has his focus on education and even today if we compare to 2013-14, what was a Rs 66,000 crore budget, today is a Rs 95,000 crore budget. This is apart from the Rs 30,000 crore raised through Higher Education Financing Agency. So the government this time has made Rs 1,25,000 crore provision in the budget and we will implement that in time-bound manner.

No scope for 'temporary' in India, says PM on 370 move

► Continued from P 1

Modi said the government had taken "major decisions", like bringing a legislation to ban and make the practice of instant triple talaq punishable, after winning a second term in office. "In 'new India', corruption, nepotism, dynasty, loof of people's money and terrorism have been reined in like never before," he said.

Referring to the defanging of Article 370 which does away with J&K's special status, Modi said, "There is no scope for temporary in India. You would have seen that a country of 1.25 billion people, the land of Mahatma Gandhi, Gautam Buddha, Ram, Krishna, took 70 years to remove what was temporary. To remove temporary, it took 70 years. I don't know whether I should laugh or cry... Reform, perform and transform and with permanent systems, the country is moving forward to achieve its goal."

"India is racing ahead not because of Modi... it is because of the stamp of approval that the people of India have given in the form of their votes," the PM said amid cheers of "Modi hai toh mumin hai". The PM's remarks on corruption came within two days of the high-profile arrest of senior Congress leader and former finance minister P Chidambaram by the CBI in a money laundering case and are also seen in the context of Modi's poll-time promise that while several influential accused had been brought within sight of jails in his first term, they would soon find themselves in prison.

Hailing the move of doing away with the practice of triple talaq, he asked how a "new India" could accept such injustice to Muslim women.

"The 100-day milestone is yet to arrive. Mind you, the first 50-75 days are generally taken to plan things and get greetings and congratulatory calls, but we did not get into that," the PM added.

Full report on www.toi.in

AI sends SOS to govt for 'life-saving funds'

Saurabh Sinha
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The first casualty of Air India's financial crisis is Lakshadweep, which was thrown off the country's civil aviation air map on Friday with the withdrawal of the Kochi-Agatti-Kochi flight.

This could very well be seen as an indication that AI is staring at an end game unless the government immediately does out "some life-saving funds" to the airline, which has sent an SOS for Rs 2,500 crore to meet its urgent working capital requirements. "If AI does not get this support, it cannot continue for too long," said a person abreast with the financial condition of the national carrier.

The airline is saddled with debt-cum-liabilities of almost Rs 60,000 crore. However, the immediate cause of



ON SHAKY GROUND

concern for it is oil marketing companies (OMCs) cutting off aviation turbine fuel (ATF) supply from Thursday at six airports — Kochi, Mohali, Pune, Ranchi, Patna and Visakhapatnam — citing Rs 5,000-crore dues (with interest) from AI Group.

An airline spokesman clarified that the OMCs' move so far has not affected parent AI's flight services, but its regional arm Alliance Air, which operates a fleet of turbo-prop ATRs, has taken the hit. **Full report on www.toi.in**

Indians got most UK skilled-work visas

► Continued from P 1

The numbers went down from 51,218 in 2010-2011 to 22,757 in 2011-2012, and further down to 15,388 in 2017-2018. Perhaps drawn by the weak pound, "immigration statistics, year ending June 2019", also show that more than half a million (5,03,599) Indian nationals received visitor visas to UK. Chinese and Indian nationals together accounted for just under half (49%) of all visitor visas granted, with number of Indian visitor visas given up by 48,907 (11%) on the previous year.

The statistics reveal that Indians got the fourth-highest total number of UK visas of all nationalities in 2018 — 1.45 million. Only Americans, Chinese and Australians got more. India retained its place as the top country being granted Tier 2 (skilled work) visas



NAMASTEY LONDON

with 56,322 granted in the past year, significantly more than any other country. The next highest was the US at 4,693.

The number of Tier 1 visas issued to Indians also rose between July 2018 and June 2019 to 306 compared to 216 the year before. In that period, apart from other categories of Tier 1 visas to Indians, 12 were granted Tier 1 (investor) visas — "golden visas" that can be bought for £2 million — and 72 Indians received Tier 1 (exceptional talent) visas. **Full report on www.toi.in**

Engineer had two postings in Patna

► Continued from P 1

According to the FIR, a copy of which is with TOI, Suresh was first appointed as junior engineer in state road construction department on February 20, 1988 in Patna. Next year, he was offered a job in the water resources department where he assumed charge in Patna on July 28, 1989. He was offered another job under the water resources department, the same year, and was posted at Bhim Nagar East Embankment in Supaul district.

"Suresh would have retired from the three posts — one after another — had the CFMS not been introduced for the payment of salaries to state government employees," an official of the road construction department said, requesting anonymity. **Full report on www.toi.in**

Oppn: Allow entry if situation normal

► Continued from P 1

Rahul had earlier responded to Malik's remarks that he should come and see things for himself. Later Malik "withdrew" the invitation, saying the Congress leader was imposing conditions that were unacceptable.

While Congress leaders Ghulam Nabi Azad and Anand Sharma will accompany Rahul, DMK will be represented by Tiruchi Siva, the Left by Sitaram Yechury and D Raja, Dinesh Trivedi from TMC and Manoj Jha from RJD. The J&K government put out a tersely worded tweet, advising political leaders to stay away. "At a time when the government is trying to protect the people of J&K from the threat of cross-border terrorism and

attacks by militants and separatists, and gradually trying to restore public order by controlling miscreants and mischief-mongers, attempts should not be made by senior political leaders to disturb the gradual restoration of normal life," DIPR said on Twitter.

The move comes a day after an opposition protest at Jantar Mantar, where leaders of 10 parties demanded the release from "illegal detention" of all Kashmiri politicians under house arrest since August 5. Opposition leaders, including those from Congress, have since maintained that if the situation in J&K is normal the detained leaders should be released and those attempting to visit should be allowed entry.

Full report on www.toi.in