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## CIVIL SERVICE

[TIMES OF INDIA, JUN 13, 2014](#)

### **Be in office by 9am, Venkaiah Naidu tells officials**

NEW DELHI: Urban development and housing minister Venkaiah Naidu has directed all officials and ministry staff to be in their seats by 9am. The direction came after the minister paid an unannounced visit to some of the offices in Nirman Bhawan and found them empty.

"He noticed that rooms of several officers and reporting staff were empty as they were still to reach office. He also took note of electrical and other wires dangling along corridors and unused and waste materials dumped in the open. He found the floors being cleaned as he went around for about half an hour. The minister was not happy with the upkeep of canteens," an official release said.

Though as per rule all government employees must report to work by 9am, this norm is largely violated.

Sources said that since the Prime Minister Narendra Modi set the standard by reaching office early, now almost every department has issued a circular for strict adherence of punctuality. "Earlier only stricter secretaries used to take this seriously. Now it has become a routine for joint secretary rank officers to check who are coming late," said a JS level officer.

### [Venkaiah Naidu conducts surprise check of his ministry](#)

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke about cooperative federalism, Naidu also said on Thursday that now Centre will reach out to states to address their issues.

"Earlier states would come to Delhi for their works, but now Delhi will go to the states," Naidu said. The minister added that he has told officials of both the ministries that they must be ready to visit more states something that he followed during his earlier tenure as rural development minister.

Ministry officials told TOI that the minister has directed them to carefully consider the representation of state governments and accommodate them. Earlier, the UD ministry was like a gate keeper while clearing projects or providing financial assistance to the state governments.

Already the preparation for the new urban renewal mission is focusing more on giving

more liberty to state governments to chose projects for which Centre can provide the finances.

While holding an introductory meeting on Thursday, Naidu asked the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to reach out to people to resolve their issues than people facing hassles at the DDA offices. "He has directed the authority officials to ensure that there should be maximum use of information technology so that people can lodge their complaints or register their problems easily and the DDA gets back to them. The effort should be made to see that people are not made to rounds of visits to offices for small issues," said an UD ministry official.

He added that the authority primarily dealing with creating house in the national capital needs major overhaul. On Thursday, DDA made a presentation mentioning the steps being taken to restructure and reorganize the authority.

[ECONOMIC TIMES, JUN 12, 2014](#)

**Will Narendra Modi be able to motivate India's vast bureaucracy?**

By IANS

NEW DELHI: [Prime Minister Narendra Modi](#) has sought to boost the morale and motivation of civil servants and has laid thrust on efficiency and delivery but will his message percolate down to the 18 million-strong [bureaucracy](#) known to work at its own pace?

Former secretaries said that persistent efforts would be required to improve motivation at various levels of government due to sheer size of the officialdom.

Modi's separate meetings with ministers and secretaries last week - the first time a prime minister has interacted with secretaries, the top bureaucrats in any ministry, in recent times - has set the broad template of action for the new government that assumed office about two weeks back.

Modi told the secretaries not to hesitate from taking decisions and conveyed that he would stand by them.

Modi's message to simplify rules, discard procedures that had become archaic and use technology to bring efficiency in administration has already resulted in the Cabinet Secretariat coming out with a note on steps to speed up decision making.

The Indian bureaucracy, once regarded as the "steel frame" that supported the British Empire in South Asia, is widely perceived as rusty. The Hong Kong-based Political and Economic Risk Consultancy rated it as one of the "worst" bureaucracies in Asia for bottleneaking key policies, pervasive red tapism, corruption, being uninnovative and insensitive, and having officers who lack expertise.

Former secretaries and senior officials IANS spoke to said that Modi's words will help tone up the administration.

S C. Tripathi, a former petroleum secretary, said that the efforts by the new government to improve administration were "very welcome.

"In modern administration, the prime minister is looked upon as chief executive. Since the implementation of policies is left to the civil servants, he has to be in touch with them," Tripathi told IANS.

He said that there existed "a gulf" in the decision making process and implementation during the previous United Progressive Alliance government.

Tripathi said the modern communication system enabled quicker flow and processing of information and decisions can be made fast.

"The modern system requires the prime minister to act as CEO. It is demand of time," he said.

Tripathi, who served as a secretary during the [NDA](#) government as well as the UPA-I government, said it would be a challenge for the Modi government to change the mindset of bureaucracy.

**HINDU, JUN 11, 2014**

**Retirement age hike: breather for cash-strapped AP govt.**

M.L.MELLY MAITREYI

**Government is likely to take ordinance route to implement the decision**

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu's one of the five promises after his swearing-in to enhance the retirement age of government employees from 58 years to 60

years is seen as a solution to wriggle out of the difficult financial situation for the State while keeping the employees happy by conceding their long pending demand.

The demand to increase retirement age to 60 years was in principle approved by the Pay Revision Commission and was raised by the employees associations, both Telangana and Seemandhra during the run up to the General elections.

With close to 30,000 government employees due for retirement in the current and next year, of them 18,000 from Seemandhra alone, the outflow from the government towards their terminal benefits would be a steep burden on the financially beleaguered State, say senior officials.

Sources say by getting a breather of two years from this expenditure, the State government hopes to stabilise its delicate financial position by giving priority to capital expenditure on infrastructure and other assets to kick-start the economy.

#### Positive fallout

Another positive fall out of this decision is Seemandhra employees who are reluctant to move out of Hyderabad may give their option to work in the residuary Andhra Pradesh in the final allocation of the State cadre employees between the two successor States of Telangana and AP under the State Reorganisation Act.

This can also induce Telangana employees on the verge of retirement to opt to work with Andhra Pradesh Government to get a bonus of another two years of service.

The move would also help the Andhra Pradesh Government cut down the need for massive recruitment. It is estimated that about 2.5 lakh posts of various cadres were vacant in the undivided State which would be distributed between the two States on the basis of population ratio of 58:42.

On the other hand, retirement age hike move could stave off more vacancies in the government for some time.

The proposal on increasing retirement age will be put for Cabinet clearance.

The government is likely to take an ordinance route to implement the decision, sources said.

**HINDU, JUN 11, 2014**

#### **P.K. Mishra is Additional Principal Secretary to PM**

Former Agriculture Secretary P.K. Mishra has been appointed Additional Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The appointment of Mr. Mishra, a 1972-batch retired IAS officer of Gujarat cadre, will be co-terminus with the term of the Prime Minister or till further orders, according to an official release issued by the Ministry of Personnel on Tuesday. Mr. Mishra, 65, served between 2001- 2004 as Principal Secretary to Mr. Modi when he was Gujarat Chief Minister.

He was Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture between December 1, 2006 and August 31, 2008.

He was appointed Chairman of the Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission after his retirement in 2008 for a five-year term. Mr. Mishra retired as the Chairman of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India in 2009.

**BUSINESS LINE, JUN 10, 2014**

### **Civil Services aspirants cheer move to relax age limit, number of exam attempts**

GARIMA SINGH

Gaurav Jain came to Delhi four years ago to fulfil his dream of becoming a civil servant. With the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) recently announcing an increase in the number of attempts from four to six as well as a relaxation in age, Jain, who belongs to Alwar district of Rajasthan, is a relieved man.

For, Jain, 30, is making his fourth attempt to clear the civil services exam. In the last three attempts, he made it to the interview stage but couldn't to the final list. Now, Jain is hopeful of getting through, if not this time, then in another two attempts. The UPSC's announcement has come as a huge relief for candidates, most of whom are from smaller towns that have little or no access to study material or coaching facilities. Some of these aspirants have been undergoing coaching in Delhi for some years now.

As per the new rule, civil service applicants from the general category are eligible to appear for the exam till the age of 32, against 30 years earlier. Other Backward Caste and Scheduled Caste/Tribe candidates will get an extension of three and five years, respectively, which makes them eligible to write the exam till the age of 35 and 37 years.

DP Singh, Counsellor at Rau Institute, a coaching centre for civil aspirants, said, "We welcome the decision taken by the UPSC. As many disparities are prevalent in our country, aspirants who come from rural areas start preparing late for the exam. This move will give them a chance to appear for the exam." Some coaching institutes are not enthused by the decision. "Coaching institutes are not going to get much out of it, as after one or two attempts, candidates prefer preparing for the exam on their own," said an institute head .

**TRIBUNE, JUN 11, 2014**

### **Govt: Don't transfer employees with differently able kids**

Government employees who have differently abled children to take care of will be exempted from routine transfers and they will not be asked to take voluntary retirement on refusing such postings, the Centre has said.

A government employee with a disabled child serves as the main caregiver and any displacement of such employee will have a bearing on the systemic rehabilitation of the child since the new environment or set up could prove to be a hindrance for rehabilitation process, it said.

"Therefore, a government servant who is also a caregiver of disabled child may be exempted from the routine exercise of transfer or rotational transfer subject to the administrative constraints," the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) said in an order.

The word 'disabled' includes blindness or low vision, hearing impairment, locomotor disability or cerebral palsy, leprosy, mental retardation, mental illness and multiple disabilities, it said.

"Upbringing and rehabilitation of disabled child require financial support. Making the government employee to choose voluntary retirement on the pretext of routine transfer or rotation transfer would have adverse impact on the rehabilitation process of the disabled child," the DoPT said in its directive issued to all central government ministries and departments for compliance.

The move comes in the wake of demand that a government employee who is a caregiver of the disabled child should not suffer due to displacement by means of routine transfer or rotational transfers. "This demand has been made on the ground that a government employee raises a kind of support system for his or her disabled child over a period of time in the locality where he or she resides which helps them in the rehabilitation," it said. —PTI

What the govt says

A government employee with a disabled child serves as the main caregiver and any displacement of such employee will have a bearing on the systemic rehabilitation of the child since the new environment or set up could prove to be a hindrance for rehabilitation process

The word 'disabled' includes blindness or low vision, hearing impairment, locomotor disability or cerebral palsy, leprosy, mental retardation, mental illness and multiple disabilities

[HINDUSTAN TIMES, JUN 9, 2014](#)

**PM promises to change selection process of babus**

**Saikat Datta**

Prime Minister [Narendra Modi](#) has promised to radically change the way senior bureaucrats are selected for key posts in the Union government after hearing a litany of complaints from secretaries in all government departments last week.

If Modi has his way, a transparent system to find the most qualified officers for specialised jobs could soon become the norm.

According to several senior officials present at the meeting, a common refrain from the secretaries was that the ministers had an inordinate influence in picking up senior officials for their ministries. All appointments of the joint secretary-rank and above at the Centre need the concurrence of the minister concerned on the file.

“This ensures adequate scope for ministers to pick people they are comfortable with, leaving us little scope to pick the most qualified or suitable officer,” a senior official present at the meeting with Modi told HT. Modi is the minister in charge of the ministry of personnel and public grievances that looks after all postings of senior officials.

“In the current system, an officer with expertise in finance may end up in a ministry that has nothing to do with the subject. It also opens up avenues for officers to lobby with ministers for a favourable posting. We as secretaries have little or no say in the matter,” the official said.

To avoid this, Modi has asked Shymal Sarkar, the secretary (Personnel), to look into this and come up with a more objective selection process. ‘If that happens, then it will correct a distortion that took place due to weakness of the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO),’ AN Tiwari, a former secretary (Personnel) told HT.

According to him “the ministers arrogated this power to select their favourites because the PMO was very weak. Even creating intermediaries like the central screening committee chaired by the cabinet secretary to select joint secretary level and above officers has not helped because the minister’s approval on file is required. In fact, this was the bane of the UPA government.”

In November last year, the Supreme Court also ruled in a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) that the bureaucracy has to be insulated from political interference. It had directed the Centre and the states to set up a civil services board to for managing the postings, promotions, transfers, inquiries and management of bureaucrats. “If this is true it’s a significant development since it will go a long way in insulating the bureaucracy from political interference,” Menaka Guruswamy, the advocate-on-record for that PIL told HT.

Modi charts 11-point list to make babus work better

### **Moushumi Das Gupta**

Cabinet secretary Ajit Seth on Friday sent out an 11-point “to-do” list to top-ranking civil servants that Prime Minister [Narendra Modi](#) believes will help usher in a new work culture in the government and make public dealings with it less painful.

To begin with, all secretaries — who head central departments — are required to identify and remove at least 10 archaic rules and procedures that are redundant. Then, “identify forms that are in vogue and shorten them, where possible, to one page only”.

To ensure quicker decisions, all departments have been told that a file must not go through more than four layers before a final call is made.

**Read: [Don't touch my feet, PM Narendra Modi tells MPs](#)**

Seth's note is a follow-up to Modi's meeting with secretaries earlier this week where he asked them to cut red-tape and work harder. Seth wants the secretaries to ensure their first-action plan to implement the 11-points reaches his table by Monday.

The list also asks the departments to work in collaboration rather than confrontation. In cases officials are unable to settle differences, Seth wants officers to bring the problem to the PMO or the Cabinet Secretary rather than sit on the files.

Seth has also encouraged departments to go online for “submission of information”.

**Read: [Modi gets going, babus asked to list what went wrong](#)**

Secretaries have been told to give status reports on their five-year goals and their department's performance. The report will be included in the presentations to Modi PM that kick-off from Monday.

Departments have been given a four-week deadline to weed out unnecessary files and move to the digital platform wherever necessary. The secretaries have been told to monitor public grievances and ensure timely redressal.

Government offices have also been given a week to remove unnecessary files and clutter and ensure a more hygienic environment.

## DAMS

HINDUSTAN TIMES, JUN 13, 2014

### **Gujarat allowed to raise height of Narmada dam**

[Gujarat](#) government was on Thursday given permission to raise the height of Sardar Sarovar dam by about 17 metres, a decision that drew sharp criticism from Narmada Bachao Andolan which says many densely populated areas in [Madhya Pradesh](#) were at risk of submergence.

A jubilant Gujarat chief minister Anandiben Patel announced the Narmada Control Authority has cleared, after an eight-year-long wait, raising the dam's height to 138 metres from the current 121 metres.

As Gujarat chief minister, Prime Minister [Narendra Modi](#) too had appealed for the clearance, which the local government believes will pave way for resolving its pressing water issues.

"Heartfelt gratitude from the people of Gujarat to Hon PM Narendra Modi. The decision pending has come so swiftly. Achchhe din aa Gaye hain!!," Patel wrote on twitter.

The foundation stone of the dam was laid by country's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru on April 5, 1961. The project, however, got embroiled in controversy over issues of displacement of thousands of people.

Narmada Bachao Andolan leader Medha Patkar, who has been leading opposition to the project since the mid eighties, said the "new government has not given us any hearing nor has it taken any time nor made any attempt to know the ground reality".

"Densely populated villages in Nimad area of Madhya Pradesh, with houses, farms, shops, temples, mosques and standing crops will face a watery grave if the dam's height is increased," she said in a statement.

According to NBA, about 250,000 people residing in the Sardar Sarovar Project submergence area in [Maharashtra](#), Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh will be directly displaced even without raising the dam's height.

Earlier this week, a delegation of tribals under the banner of NBA met a top Gujarat official, demanding they shall be relocated and rehabilitated properly before considering raising the height of the dam.

## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

HINDU, JUN 9, 2014

### **PM calls for a ‘tricolour revolution’**

SUHASINI HAIDAR

#### **Modi rolls out vision for agriculture, renewable energy**

India needs to harness its ‘demographic dividend’, preparing a generation of teachers to educate not just in India but also abroad if it is to move ahead, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, in a significant speech on his priorities in tackling the economy.

Mr. Modi, who spoke extempore in Hindi at the launch of a book by the Washington-based Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, titled *Getting India Back on Track*, was hosting the first such public function since he moved into the PM’s official residence at 7 Racecourse Road here.

Mr. Modi also fleshed out his campaign theme of what he calls a “tricolour revolution,” referring to a second green revolution focusing on growing protein-rich pulses, of a white revolution focusing on the care of cattle and livestock, a saffron ‘energy’ revolution looking at solar energy, and a blue revolution on clean water, and the welfare of fishermen. Blue is the colour of the Ashok Chakra.

In a lighthearted jibe at the pace at which the bureaucracy works, the Prime Minister said “files in government move so slow, I wonder what fuel they run on. Often the files move in reverse gear.” The only member of Mr. Modi’s Cabinet present was Finance and Defence Minister Arun Jaitley, but the audience comprised several senior officials, including the Foreign Secretary, the secretaries for Mines, Commerce & Industry, and Civil Aviation, as well as National Security Adviser Ajit Doval.

Jaitley’s caution

At the function to launch a compilation of essays edited by former US diplomat Ashley Tellis and economist Bibek Debroy on various aspects of reviving the economy, Mr. Jaitley warned that the government would require “credibility” to carry out the reforms advised. Striking a cautionary note ahead of the Budget to be presented in this Parliament session, Mr. Jaitley said it would be better if India didn’t adopt a course of “transient and temporary populism” and pay for it later in the government’s tenure.

Speaking to journalists after the function, Mr. Modi also listed foreign policy objectives of the government, emphasising that relations with India’s neighbours would always be his first priority.

Modi emphasises that relations with neighbours would always be his first priority

BUSINESS STANDARD, JUN 10, 2014

### **Prez unveils govt's 5-point agenda**

#### **Outlines economic growth, inflation control, good governance, better infra and agriculture revival as focus areas**

President [Pranab Mukherjee](#)'s address to a joint session of Parliament, his first since the [Narendra Modi](#)-led government took charge, on Monday unveiled the Centre's five-point agenda, largely economic. While boosting economic growth in the medium term and inflation control — especially food inflation, through supply-side reforms — were highlighted as the key concerns, improving governance, building core infrastructure and reviving the agricultural sector came across as other focus areas.

As supply-side measures to rein in food inflation, Mukherjee, reading out a speech written by the government, outlined steps like reforming the public distribution system, reducing hoarding and black marketing, boosting public and private investments in agricultural infrastructure, building irrigation infra and incentivising the food processing industry. He also spoke about addressing issues related to farm procurement, prices, crop insurance and post-harvest management and said the government intended to launch a nationwide farm irrigation scheme shortly.

To boost manufacturing, the government would set up investment and industrial regions, particularly along dedicated freight corridors, he said. These are likely to be on the lines of the Gujarat International finance Tec-city (GIFT) and the Dholera Special Investment Region in that state. An ambitious 10-year infrastructure development plan will be drafted and a quick, investment-friendly and predictable public-private partnership mechanism introduced. Within infrastructure, the focus will be on modernising and revamping the railways, the Diamond Quadrilateral project (high-speed trains), a network of freight corridors, port development and interlinking of rivers where feasible.

The government has also promised encouraging power generation through conventional and non-conventional sources (solar energy, for example), attracting private investment in the coal sector and developing nuclear power. Urbanisation, education, health, women's safety and defence modernisation are some other important areas.

The President's speech did not touch on the public finance issues flagged by economists as an area for concern and did not mention how the government was going to cut subsidies or raise or rationalise taxes. But it promised to take state governments on board by addressing their special and unique needs, rather than centralised planning.

Improving 'ease of doing business' by scrapping obsolete laws, creating single-window clearance systems at both central and states levels (hub-and-spoke model), simplification of tax regulation and introduction of the Goods and Services Tax ([GST](#)) were also promised.

There was a measured mention of foreign direct investment to be allowed in the sectors that help create jobs or assets and in defence (for greater indigenisation).

On the social-sector front, the President said in his speech that the government was committed to setting up one Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) and an Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in every state, besides massive open online courses and virtual classrooms. A National Education Policy aimed at meeting the challenges posed by the lack of quality, research and innovation in Indian educational institutions will be formulated. A new health policy and a National Health Assurance Mission (which will have yoga as its core), were also promised. Those belonging to the scheduled castes and other backward classes would be empowered to avail of emerging opportunities, the President said. "For the scheduled tribes, the government will launch a dedicated Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojana. Electrification of tribal hamlets and connecting them with all-weather roads will be a priority area."

Though the speech mentioned the national e-governance plan would be expanded, it was silent on 'Aadhaar'. It said a veterans commission (to address problems of retired soldiers) and a national maritime academy would be set up.

"A policy of zero tolerance to terrorism, extremism, riots and crime will be pursued," Mukherjee said. The President also said states would be assisted in modernising police infrastructure and equipment to tackle new forms of terrorism, including narco-terrorism and cyber threats. "A national plan will be chalked out in consultation with the state governments to effectively curb incidents of communal violence and the challenges posed by left-wing extremism."

## **SETTING THE STAGE**

**Highlights of the govt's projects and policies, as outlined by the President's speech**

**Land use:** A new national land use policy

**Water resources:** Considering all options, including inter-linking of rivers, to ensure optimal use of water resources

**Education:** Setting up an IIT and an IIM in every state; formulating a national education policy

**Jobs:** A labour-intensive manufacturing policy; employment exchanges to connect youth with opportunities

**Industrial hubs:** World-class investment & industrial regions along dedicated freight and industrial corridors

**Infra development:** A 10-year programme; low-cost airports to promote air connectivity to smaller towns; modernising existing ports and development of new world-class ones

**Railways:** Modernisation of railways; a project for high-speed trains; push for investment through innovative financing methods

**Price rise:** Containing food inflation through improved supplies

**Energy policy:** Coal-sector reforms; international civil nuclear pacts to be operationalised

**Agriculture:** Addressing issues related to pricing and procurement of produce, crop insurance and post-harvest management; freight corridors with specialised rail networks to carry perishable agri products

**IT boost:** Use of IT to drive govt processes and improve service delivery & programme implementation

**Quick clearances:** Environment & forest clearance systems to be made more predictable, transparent and time-bound

**Urbanisation:** Creating 100 cities with world-class amenities

**Taxes:** Simplification of tax regime to make it non-adversarial and conducive to investment; bringing GST after taking states on board

**Law & order:** Zero tolerance for terrorism, extremism, riots and crime; tackling issues of infiltration in the Northeast

TELEGRAPH, JUN 11, 2014

## **BURDEN OF EXPECTATIONS**

### **Rousing the sleeping elephant of the Indian economy**

Ashok Sanjay Guha

According to the common voter, the economic causes of the United Progressive Alliance's electoral debacle are two — inflation and unemployment, especially among the educated. In an earlier article, I had suggested that the main source of inflationary pressure was the UPA's subsidy regime: subsidies not only inflate deficits and demand, they also distort the incentives to work and produce and thereby reduce output. The roots of unemployment are more complex: they lie in our so-called demographic dividend, which has been transformed into a potential demographic disaster by the UPA's limited understanding of the world economy and of our place in it.

Over the last 50 years, the world has evolved towards a new international division of labour, driven by the wage differentials between the rich and the poor countries. The central feature of this has been the migration of all labour-intensive economic activities from the West and Japan to the low-wage economies of Asia and the specialization of the West in research-intensive high technology. This began with the rise of the Gang of Four, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore. But as the rapid expansion of labour-intensive manufacturing and exports in these pioneers raised wages there, the impulse was transmitted to Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia and eventually to China and Vietnam, while the pioneers graduated to more capital-intensive products but with a standardized technology — products like cars and steel. By the 1990s, the process had percolated down from the East Asian Pacific Rim to South Asia. Its corollary was the rapid growth of labour demand, industrial employment, wages and income in Asia and their stagnation in the West.

Meanwhile, the West sustained its rate of profit on capital in the face of domestic stagnation partly through its investments in low-wage economies abroad and partly through the returns to high-end technology and research at home. So, it happened that in the age of mankind's greatest scientific and technological achievements, while the laboratories of the West cracked the atom and explored the depths of space, while they unlocked the secrets of life and the mysteries of information transmission, their factories deserted them. Despite the dazzling successes of Western science — or perhaps because of them — Western industry (except for a few whose goods must be produced where they are consumed) has been in desperate flight to the technologically backward shores of Asia.

India was a partial beneficiary of this process. But unlike China, the world's other great reservoir of surplus labour, it never committed itself whole-heartedly to it. Rapid growth of labour-intensive manufacturing and export required an infrastructure of power and transport, which our decrepit public sector was incapable of providing, but which we were as yet reluctant to entrust to the private sector. It also required a flexible and mobile labour force and the unrestricted flow of capital away from failed experiments and into promising new investments. None of this was possible, given our antiquated labour laws,

and the political and judicial structures that sustained them. All this was no secret to the expert economists in the Congress government, but the pressures of organized labour, of the Left, which supported UPA I, and of the extra-constitutional authority at 10 Janpath and its advisers, ensured that nothing was done about it. In an earlier era, India had sacrificed its enormous potential in the textile industry to the myth of reservations for the small-scale sector, sentencing the textile mills — which everywhere else in the developing world have been the spearheads of industrialization — to premature debility. Over the last two decades, we have chosen to vacate our rightful place as potentially one of the world's greatest mass manufacturers not only for China or for the early pioneers of East Asian industrialization but also for interlopers like Vietnam, Myanmar and Bangladesh. In fact, since 2008, when the share of formal manufacturing in GDP peaked at 10.5 per cent, India has been de-industrializing rapidly. States like West Bengal have been de-industrializing for the last 30 years — and far more rapidly than the West.

Instead of making garments for the world, we have carved out for ourselves a niche market in low-end designer clothing and handicrafts, in boutique products and exotica rather than mass manufactures. Instead of building factories, we have focused on software and generic pharmaceuticals to exploit our twin advantages of a knowledge of basic English and some — if low-quality — university education. None of these options can generate mass employment on the scale that our booming population requires. Most of them exclude the unskilled.

The UPA compounded this basic error in strategy by a set of policies that seem in retrospect to be almost artfully designed to impede industrialization. These included environmental regulations and restrictions on the acquisition and use of land, all enforced through administrative controls that could be, and were, manipulated by bureaucrats and politicians as levers for extortion as the price for avoidance of interminable — and often terminal — delay. The restrictions culminated in the egregious Land Acquisition Act proudly piloted by Rahul Gandhi through the last session of the previous Parliament, but, for years before this *denouement*, and even in their earlier and milder *avatars*, they constituted an almost insuperable barrier to extensive industrialization. It was inevitable that this control regime would spawn astronomical corruption and that the exposure of these scandals would force complete administrative paralysis in the last years of UPA II.

While the government was busily enmeshing industrialization in a tangle of red tape reminiscent of the pre-reform era, a new generation of Indians was entering the job market. This consisted of the hundred million or more born during the Narasimha Rao regime, an aspirational generation that grew up amidst rapid urbanization and an expanding demand for (and supply — largely from private sources — of) basic education. It was not a generation that could be happily lured back into “disguised unemployment” in the villages by the handouts of the NREGA. It wanted real work at good wages — failing which it lurked on the shadowy periphery of urban and small-town India as a disenfranchised proletariat still living on dreams but all too ready, if these dreams are not fulfilled, to turn to a life of crime.

Here lay the roots of the UPA's failure. In its paternalistic determination to give the people what its chairperson (and her advisers) had decided they *ought* to have, it forgot what they really wanted. Narendra Modi tapped into their aspirations and promised to make their dreams come true. In so doing, he has assumed a terrifying responsibility, a burden of expectations that, one can only hope, will drive his government to discover new and innovative ways to rouse the sleeping elephant that is the Indian economy.

BUSINESS STANDARD, JUN 10, 2014

**States won't be ignored in India's growth story: FM**

**Seeks cooperation in early implementation of GST, tackling inflation**

Finance Minister [Arun Jaitley](#) on Monday reached out to states and sought their cooperation in implementing the Goods & Services Tax ([GST](#)) soon, tackling [inflation](#), addressing fiscal challenges, and implementing the food security law in a cost-effective and efficient manner.

“It is the policy of this government that ‘Team India’ shall not be limited to the government sitting in Delhi, but include states as equal partners in the growth of this great nation,” he told states. “Long inflationary trends have adversely impacted the food and nutritional security of the common man. We are committed to breaking this vicious cycle of high inflation and high interest rates,” he said at a pre-Budget meeting with chief ministers and finance ministers of states.

Jaitley said consensus had to be built on GST, as it had the potential to significantly boost India's growth, adding it was vital to round off corners towards implementation of GST.

Gujarat Finance Minister Saurabh Patel, a vehement critic of the United Progressive Alliance government's GST model, said states welcomed the new indirect tax regime. “As regards GST , most states have welcomed it today. The only thing states were looking for was [CST](#) (central sales tax) compensation and protection in revenues,” he said.

States also pointed to the need to curb inflation, especially that related to food. Most states stressed the need for rationalisation of taxes, infrastructure creation, interlinking and cleaning of rivers, highway and airport development, revision of royalty on minerals, and creation of jobs, especially in rural areas.

“States with low income, but surplus revenue should be allowed a higher level of [fiscal deficit](#), up to four per cent, by making changes in the [Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act](#),” said Bijendra Prasad Yadav, finance minister of Bihar.

States expressed concern over certain provisions of the new land acquisition law and its impact on infrastructure projects and investment. They also pointed to a few provisions in environmental laws and their adverse impact on completion of critical infrastructure projects.

“Union Territories suggested they be made part of Finance Commission award. States expressed concern on the likely impact of the [VII Central Pay Commission](#) (CPC) award on their finances. It was suggested the consultative process for implementation of the VII CPC award must also include states,” the finance ministry said in a statement.

The Union finance minister emphasised the need to address regional disparities through even growth across states. He asked them to address supply-side bottlenecks to manage inflation. “While we look forward to your support in tackling temporary fluctuation in prices, we will also like to evolve a mechanism that addresses the structural issues that create supply bottlenecks,” Jaitley said.

He stressed the need to take up the Essential Commodities Act and put in place strict measures and special courts to stop hoarding and black marketing. The need for a single agriculture market and real-time information dissemination on prices to farmers and consumers had to be addressed, he added.

Jaitley said reviewing the public distribution system model and restructuring the Food Corporation of India for greater efficiency in delivering food grains were on the government’s agenda.

The government, the finance minister said, was committed to evolve a model for national development, driven by states. He added for this, the Centre would extend necessary flexibility to states.

The meeting was attended by Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje, Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar, Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, Nagaland Chief Minister T R Zeliang, Manipur Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh, Delhi Lieutenant Governor Najeeb Jung, as well as the finance ministers of 18 states.

## EDUCATION

HINDU, JUN 13, 2014

**Nalanda university to start functioning from Septembet 1, this year**

[Mohua Chatterjee](#),

NEW DELHI: The revival plan for Nalanda, as a centre of learning, that germinated in 2007 is finally set to take off. The Nalanda University will start functioning from September 1, this year.

The university will open with two post-graduate schools to start with - School of Ecology and School of Historical Studies —with about 20 students in each of the schools and about 20 faculty members, who will all be part of the residential set up. Applications to be part of the faculty have come from across the world, even as many people are of Indian origin but are foreign nationals, said Nalanda University CEO Anjana Sharma. "Since we believe in interdisciplinary studies, there will be no department barriers in the schools," explained Sharma, adding that the first batch of faculty will be called the founding faculty.

The high-powered governing committee that is led by Nobel laureate economist Amartya Sen and includes reputed academics from across the world is scheduled to meet here on July 19 and 20, to draw up the final plans for the opening of the university. The names of the faculty members will also be finalized at the two-day meeting of the governing body.

Interestingly, the master plan of the architecture for the celebrated new university has been inspired from the ancient 5th century style but will be built as a modern structure, said Sharma. The architects for the new university were chosen from among 79 international entries, which was shortlisted down to eight applicants. Ace architect B V Doshi was finally selected to rebuild the new centre of learning at Rajgir. The campus will spread over 450 acres, about 10 km away from the ancient site of seat of learning.

While the ancient centre of learning at Nalanda had about 200 villages around it, the new university will also include five neighbouring villages in the master plan, to integrate centre of learning with the local life and livelihood, Sharma told TOI. "This campus will be a Net Zero green campus and for this we had two sets of jury to chose, the design and the ecological technicalities. Fortunately both the juries arrived at the same results without consulting each other when they chose the architects," she said. Agricultural activities in the neighbourhood will also be incorporated into the programmes of the university, much like Rabindranath Tagore experimented with his Sriniketan project adjoining Shantiniketan, his school of universal learning that also borrowed from the idea Nalanda.

The plans are not rush for numbers, but to go for quality as far as students and faculty is concerned. Now that the new University is about to take off, a temporary gated campus is

also being built for the students and the international resident faculty, with a security concerns also in mind. After the July meeting of the governing body, most of those working for the university will move to Rajgir and function from there.

[HINDU, JUN 13, 2014](#)

### **Anti-corruption studies to be part of curriculum**

ANITA JOSHUA

The University Grants Commission has asked all universities to consider inclusion of anti- corruption studies in the curriculum of subjects such as law, public administration and human rights to “combat corruption” in every form.

A circular to this effect was sent out by the UGC’s Financial Adviser, Upamanyu Basu, to all universities on May 29, three days after the new government took charge. The letter says the Union government is actively participating in the activities of the Austria-based International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) which offers a postgraduate programme in anti-corruption studies, besides several other training modules.

The UGC circular was issued on a recommendation from the Union Human Resource Development Ministry’s Department of Higher Education which examined the possibility of including anti-corruption studies as a subject in the curriculum and also conducting research in this area.

Set up as an international organisation in 2011, the IACA is a joint enterprise of the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime, the European Anti-Fraud Office, Austria and other stakeholders. India ratified and acceded to its founding treaty in mid-2013.

[ECONOMIC TIMES, JUN 12, 2014](#)

### **Human resource development minister Smriti Irani won’t encroach upon DU’s territory**

NEW DELHI: Human resource development minister Smriti Irani has made it clear that the government will not take steps that will amount to "transgressing" the autonomy of institutions like the Delhi University.

"Time and again I have reiterated this issue that the DU is an autonomous institution. Hence, for me to transgress into their territory would not be advisable," Irani said on Wednesday.

The minister's comment comes at a time when there has been intense speculation over whether the new BJP-led government at the Centre would scrap the DU's controversial

four-year undergraduate programme as the party had promised ahead of the assembly polls in Delhi in December last year.

Although the ministry cannot interfere in the workings of the university, which is an autonomous institution, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has the mandate as the higher education regulator to decide about the suitability of programmes and can issue directions to maintain standards in universities and colleges.

"I have taken a note of their plight and the challenges that the teachers and the students are facing," Irani said, referring to representations made to her by elected representatives of the Delhi University Students Union and Delhi University Teachers Association (DUTA).

ET had reported that the ministry was planning to refer all representations made on the issue to a standing committee of the UGC.

#### **DECCAN HERALD, JUN 10, 2014**

#### **IITs, IIMs to be set up in every state**

**The NDA government will set up Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) in every state.**

It will also formulate a national education policy to meet challenges posed by lack of quality research and innovation in educational institutions, President Pranab Mukherjee said, while unveiling the agenda of the new government in his address to the joint session of Parliament here on Monday.

"India is the world's oldest civilisation. Today, it is also a country with the largest population of youth. We must equip and nurture our youth with the right kind of education, skill-set and opportunity to reap this demographic dividend," Mukherjee said.

The President said the government was committed to making "all minorities" equal partners in India's progress. To achieve this, it will strengthen measures to impart "modern and technical" education among them. A National Madrasa Modernisation Programme will be rolled out for Muslim students.

"It is unfortunate that even after several decades of independence, sections of minority communities continue to suffer from poverty, as benefits of government schemes do not reach them. My government is committed to making all minorities equal partners in India's progress," Mukherjee said.

The President underlined that the government will strive for a transition from "youth

development to youth-led development”, announcing that it will set up Massive Open Online Courses and virtual classrooms for students. A national e-library will be established to empower school teachers and students.

“With the motto of ‘har haath ko hunar’, my government will strive to break the barriers between formal education and skill development, and put in place a mechanism to provide academic equivalence to vocational qualifications,” he said, adding that the government will launch a National Multi-skill Mission with the goal of “skilled India”.

The President also announced that world-class research centres would be built in various fields of science, including nanotechnology, material sciences, thorium technology, brain research and stem cells, underlining that his government recognises the central role of science and technology in raising the quality of life.

The government will also establish institutes of technology for rural development and a central university of Himalayan studies. “The government will encourage and incentivise private sector investments, both domestic and foreign, in science and technology and in high-end research aimed at nurturing innovation,” he added.

Mukherjee also said a national mission on “e-Bhasha” will be launched to develop digital vernacular content and disseminate the country’s classic literature in different languages, noting that Indian languages are repositories of our rich literature, history, culture, art and other achievements. “My government will also provide the required resources for the maintenance and restoration of national heritage sites,” he pointed out.

The President noted that India had a “vast untapped potential” for tourism, which could play a special role in our socio-economic progress, and announced that the government will initiate a mission mode project to create 50 tourist circuits to be built around “specific themes”.

**HINDU, JUN 9, 2014**

### **DU rejects CBSE request to review deduction of marks**

Delhi University has rejected CBSE’s request to review its decision to deduct 2.5 per cent from the aggregate marks of aspirants of the four-year undergraduate course who had opted for Informatics Practices as an elective subject in their Class XII exams.

A top Delhi University official said it would not be possible to revise guidelines in the middle of the admission process and any review in the matter may be considered next year.

“It will not be possible to review the admission guidelines as we are in the middle of the enrolment process for undergraduate courses,” the official said.

Taking strong exception to the DU guidelines for admission into undergraduate programme, the Central Board of Secondary Education last week had sought review of the decision and accord same advantage to those who had opted for Informatics Practices.

The CBSE had termed the university's decision as "unfair" and "discriminatory".

In its admission guidelines, DU has said students who had chosen Informatics Practices in Class XII tend to lose 2.5 per cent from the percentage aggregate marks for admission into FYUP.

In a letter to DU Vice-Chancellor Dinesh Singh, CBSE Chairman Vineet Joshi had asked the university to review the decision saying a large number of students will be at a disadvantage in the admission process as they became aware of the decision at a very "late stage".

Mr. Joshi had said CBSE treats all the courses of Computer stream such as Computer Science and Informatics Practices on a par with elective subjects. —PTI

## ELECTRICITY

HINDUSTAN TIMES, JUN 9, 2014

**Green energy to power over 50% homes in big cities**

**Chetan Chauhan**

The [Narendra](#) Modi-led government has started work on a plan to ensure half of all homes in major cities receive some power from solar or wind energy sources by 2019.

The plan includes fresh incentives to encourage companies and individuals to invest in renewable energy sources and setting up giant solar plants in states such as [Rajasthan](#) and Gujarat.

New plans for renewable energy are also in the pipeline for the Capital. Following a visit by a team to [Gujarat](#) — one of the top-performing states in green energy — Delhi government is looking at additional incentives to citizens for installing roof-top solar systems with grid connectivity.

The Centre plans a similar model for other cities, emulating Germany where half of the homes have roof-top solar power systems. India is the world's third-largest solar energy generating country but gets enough sunshine to top the list.

At the national level, ministry officials said, people will have an option to sell the excess power to the electricity grid for which a policy initiative will be revived. "Some income every month will be an additional incentive for switching to green energy," said an official at the ministry of new and renewable energy.

The decision to give a big push to renewable power sources was behind the Prime Minister's decision to bring the ministries of conventional and renewable power under Piyush Goyal. Sources told HT that Modi asked Goyal to go big on renewable energy.

This is keeping in line with the progress made in generating green energy by Gujarat during Modi's tenure as chief minister. Gujarat implemented the Jyotigram Yojana that provided 24/7 power to each household. The scheme depended on solar, wind, biomass and waste as energy sources to generate about 25,000 MW annually.

Goyal has promised to replicate this Yojana and was in the state to study Gandhinagar's success story. After meeting the PM, lieutenant governor of Delhi Najeeb Jung also sent a team to study the Gujarat model this week that resulted in fresh power proposals for the Capital.

Gujarat initiated work on building the world's biggest solar park of 4,000 MW spread over 20,000 hectares of salt land in Kutch. The state also installed solar panels over a water canal to ensure both power generation and saving water lost to evaporation. Previous governments have tried to popularise renewable energy with a subsidy scheme

for installing solar installations including roof-top power standalone generation systems. But the schemes didn't have desired impact as the required political push was absent.

TIMES OF INDIA, JUN 9, 2014

**Delhi lieutenant governor orders power save mode as temperature hits 62-year high**

NEW DELHI: On the hottest day of the season, when the temperature at Palam touched a 62-year-high of 47.8 degrees celsius, lieutenant governor Najeeb Jung announced a series of emergency steps to save power, including cutting off supply to malls after 10pm and switching off halogen streetlamps during peak night hours, 10pm-1am.

The measures, to be effective from Sunday night, were aimed at providing some relief to Delhiites hit by the double whammy of extreme hot weather and long power outages. As a result, malls, popular with Delhiites looking to beat the heat, will have to run on back-up power during the late night movie shows.

The capital was particularly unbearable on Sunday. Safdarjung, the city's main weather station, registered a maximum of 45.1 degrees celsius, five notches above normal and the highest June temperature in two years. Adding to the agony were 3 to 5 hour-long power cuts in parts of east and north Delhi due to technical snags and intermittent cuts in south and west Delhi.

The decision to cut off supply to malls was taken at an emergency review meeting on Sunday morning. Directions were also issued to the Delhi secretariat, all city government offices, universities and colleges — excluding emergency services such as hospitals — to switch off air conditioners between 3.30pm and 4.30pm every day as a power conservation measure. The meeting was attended by the Delhi chief secretary, principal secretary (power), senior officers of Delhi Transco and CEOs of all discoms.

The LG issued directions to enforce the emergency power conservation measures without delay and ensure speedy restoration of transmission lines and towers damaged during the storm on May 30.

Late in the evening on Sunday, the labour department issued orders under the Shops and Establishment Act, asking mall owners to shut down by 10pm. The usual closing time is 11pm. Officials clarified that malls with back-up power were free to run till 11pm, provided they could ensure safety of the staff.

On June 7, the city recorded the highest ever consumption of 109.206 million units. While the peak demand of 5,152 MW was met, the unrestricted peak demand stood at about 5,600 MW. This resulted in load shedding of around 400 MW during peak time in several parts of the city. "This was due to system overloading and constraints, mainly due

to damage caused to three main 220 KV transmission lines of Delhi Transco during the storm on May 30," said a statement from LG's office.

The LG urged the citizens of Delhi to bear with the situation. The statement appeals to the people to avoid agitations that hamper restoration work when faults occur. The LG also asked Delhiites to conserve power by running their ACs at 25 degrees celsius or above.

According to officials in the power department, peak load conditions occur in the city between 3pm to 5pm and then again from 10pm to 1am during night. "Continuous heat wave conditions being faced by Delhi have enhanced the electricity demand in the city and have resulted in straining of the already stressed transmission and distribution system," an official said.

As a result, certain pockets in east, west and central Delhi were more vulnerable to system load-shedding. These include Uttam Nagar, Dwarka, Ghazipur, Mayur Vihar, Geeta Colony, Daryaganj and walled city areas, among others.

The statement noted that the Delhi government was getting full cooperation from the Centre, which has assured the city administration overdue systemic issues involving Delhi will be addressed at the earliest.

## FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

FINANCIAL EXPRESS, JUN 9, 2014

### **RBI simplifies KYC norms for opening bank accounts**

A bank account can be opened with just one address proof, permanent or local, says an RBI decision that will help migrant workers and employees with transferable jobs, who currently face a cumbersome procedure to access banking services.

"Henceforth, customers may submit only one documentary proof of address (either current or permanent) while opening a bank account or undergoing periodic updation," the RBI said in a notification on Monday.

"In case the address mentioned as 'proof of address' undergoes a change, fresh proof of address may be submitted to the branch within a period of six months," it said.

RBI was receiving representations and references from various quarters, including migrant workers and transferred employees, about the problems faced by them in submitting a proof of address while opening a bank account, the notification said.

In cases the customer is not able to furnish a local proof of address, the bank may take a declaration of the local address on which all correspondence will be made by the bank with the customer, it said. "No proof is required to be submitted for such address for correspondence/local address. This address may be verified by bank through positive confirmation such as acknowledgment of receipt of letter, cheque books, ATM cards, telephonic conversation," the apex bank said.

If there is a change in address, customer may intimate the new address for correspondence to the bank within two weeks of such a change, it added. It further asked banks to revise their KYC policy and ensure strict adherence to the revised guidelines.

## HEALTH SERVICES

HINDU, JUN 15, 2014

### **Government hospitals to start issuing birth and death certificates**

**Lok Nayak Hospital is the first centre to start the process**

Lok Nayak Hospital has become the first medical centre in the city to start issuing birth/death certificates. The facility, launched on Saturday, is to be extended shortly to all major hospitals (that have more than 500 beds) in the city, including GTB Hospital, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital and Bhim Rao Ambedkar Hospital.

Giving details of the scheme, Delhi Chief Secretary S. K. Srivastava said: "Lok Nayak Hospital records about 1,500 births and deaths every month and has become the first hospital of the Delhi Government wherein the birth/death certificates will be given at the hospital itself."

"This facility will be extended to all government hospitals by the end of the year. A copy of the death certificate shall be given to the nearest relative of the deceased at the time of handing over the dead body," he noted.

At present births and deaths in Delhi are being registered by five civic agencies viz. North/South/East Delhi Municipal Corporation, NDMC and Delhi Cantonment Board as per the provisions of the Registration of Birth and Death Act 1969 and a copy of the birth and death certificate are issued by them. "Now the first free copy of birth/death certificate will be given by the hospital and additional copies of birth/death certificates, if required at a later stage will be got from respective local bodies after depositing the prescribed fees," said Mr. Srivastava.

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- This facility will be extended to all government hospitals by the end of the year*
  - At present births and deaths in Delhi are being registered by the five civic agencies*
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HINDU, JUN 11, 2014

### **Quality health care with public funds**

PRABHAT JHA

**Universal Health Insurance will free the current out-of-pocket spending on health and channel funds toward far more productive uses**

TOLL OF TOBACCO: Data show that 1 million Indians die every year because of smoking. Above is a file photo of school students participating in an awareness campaign against smoking in Chennai.

Indians around the world are proud that India's vibrant democracy has worked. Indians who voted for Prime Minister Narendra Modi as well as those who did not, aspire not only for better job opportunities, tolerance, fairness and a humble government, but also for better health-care services. Mr. Modi promised to bring about change. There are six

practical steps that he could implement as Prime Minister to rapidly ensure better health for all Indians.

#### Tax-payer financed services

First, the government has an opportunity to issue a clarion call for universal health insurance (UHI). The government could declare a deadline before which most private spending can be replaced by taxpayer-financed health services. Can India afford this? Yes. India already spends about 6 per cent of its GDP on health care. But 80 per cent of this is out-of-pocket and drives over 40 million Indians below the poverty line every year. In addition, the quality of health care also differs. Ask any urban Indian of his/her experience in a private hospital and you will be told how he/ she paid too much only to get poor treatment or overtreatment, of dubious quality and with little respect. UHI should not be about insurance for the well-off, but instead prevent large expenses for the poor.

One of the main challenges is to raise revenue: VAT and other tax reforms can raise about 3 per cent of GDP, at least half of which should be used for the first phase of providing UHI. The second challenge is to regulate downward any growth in private indemnity insurance. UHI will free the current out-of-pocket spending and channel funds toward far more productive uses. A single-payer system is an example of enhancing the reach of health care through a wide range of private providers. It is also a fine way to weed out unscrupulous practices in the health-care system. Gujarat's Chiranjeevi Yojana is one example of how private services can be delivered using public finance.

While strengthening the public health-care system, the government could concurrently adopt a few bold, high-impact interventions within three years to improve health care. In India, around 1.5 million children continue to die before their fifth birthday, mostly due to conditions that are avoidable. Thus, a second priority should be to include a rapid scale-up of the introduction of new vaccines against diarrhoea and pneumonia among children. These vaccines have made ear infections among children in the west less common. If they are used in India, perhaps the deaths of 2,00,000 children (between the ages of 1-59 months) can be avoided. While these new vaccines are much more expensive than they were in the past, they are certainly cost-effective. Novel delivery models, such as the one that the Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan pioneered in Delhi for polio, must be tested and scaled to deliver vaccines to every doorstep.

The most feasible priority will be to reduce smoking. Smoking kills about 1 million Indians every year. The number of cases of tuberculosis has risen because of smoking. While all kinds of smoking are harmful, prolonged cigarette smoking has already been shown to rob Indians of a full decade of life on an average. All cigarettes must be taxed on their tobacco content and not length. The Asian Development Bank has found that tripling the tax rate can save about 8 million lives. Contrary to common misconception, this will not drive cigarette smokers toward bidis as the two markets are different. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley knows that the value of 1 million lives is far, far greater

than the purported revenue made by the tobacco industry. More practically, tripling of the tax would yield another 0.3 per cent of GDP in revenue.

#### Preventing vascular deaths

A fourth priority should be to tackle adult vascular deaths — the leading cause of deaths in the country, killing over 1 million Indians between the ages of 30 and 69 per year. Data show that about two-thirds of people who die from such diseases suffered a heart attack or stroke earlier. In such patients, low-cost generic risk pills that combine aspirin with a statin drug in order to reduce cholesterol and lower blood pressure can reduce by two-thirds the chances of suffering another stroke or even dying. Low-cost treatments of acute heart attacks are also now possible. The vibrant Indian generic drug industry knows how to deliver high-quality drugs at low cost (and indeed was largely responsible for the major turnaround in HIV treatment in Africa). What is needed is a change in regulation that would allow any drug that has already shown to be effective to be packaged with other drugs, provided they have met the standards of manufacturing.

#### Controlling malaria

A fifth priority should be to control malaria. India has made substantial progress in reducing the number of cases of malaria and the number of deaths caused by the disease (although the official numbers of rural Indians dying from malaria remains underestimated). Specific measures need to be taken to prevent a big resurgence of malaria.

This would involve a change in the Indian malaria programme to a proper use of combination drugs. These treatments must be made widely available in rural areas, particularly in Odisha and the northeast. More pressingly, India can lead in fighting resistance to effective malaria drugs that are emerging from the Greater Mekong Region. This means that Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj, who was earlier a capable Health Minister, must substantially boost India's foreign aid to combat drug and insecticide-resistant malaria in Asia. India can contribute \$100 million to a regional malaria fund, and establish a public-private partnership to provide subsidies to reputable drug manufacturers (many of whom are in India). This is not only good science and good economics, but also good politics. Leading malaria control in Asia will enhance India's health profile in the region.

Finally, a major effort should be made to improve health reporting. The Census should be strengthened, expanded and paired with the economic census and other surveys. This new central information hub will help track and report on development and progress.

The most revered leaders around the world have been those who made health for all possible. Canadians rated Tommy Douglas, a provincial Premier as their most important citizen after he introduced UHI. England adopted the National Health Service, not when it was rich, but during the austere times following World War II. There are many

obstacles to this but they need to be overcome. We hope that Mr. Modi will choose these practical steps to secure a healthier future for all Indians.

(Prabhat Jha is Director for the Centre for Global Health Research, New Delhi and Toronto.)

One priority of the government should be to include a rapid scale-up of the introduction of new vaccines against diarrhoea and pneumonia among children

## HOUSING

ECONOMIC TIMES, JUN 12, 2014

**Houses for all by 2022 should be a movement: Narendra Modi**

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister [Narendra Modi](#) on Wednesday said providing [houses](#) for all by 2022 should be a "movement" and everyone should pitch in for this.

"Let it be a 10-12 year long programme... make it a movement. On 75 years of independence, we will remember all the great heroes of our country and give the houses to all," Modi said in the [Lok Sabha](#), while replying to the debate on the [motion of thanks](#) on the president's address.

"We will find the way, we need to have the dream. There will be difficulties, but we will overcome them," he said while speaking for the first time on the floor of the Lok Sabha.

President [Pranab Mukherjee](#) said Monday that by the time the nation completes 75 years of its independence in 2022, every family in India will have a pucca (brick and cemented) house with a water connection and toilet facilities.

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

STATESMAN, JUN 11, 2014

**China and 'Old Friend Modi'**

**Rajinder Pur**

Chinese Foreign Minister Mr Wang Yi during his visit to India expressed all the nice conciliatory sentiments designed to gladden the hearts of most Indians. He praised China's 'old friend Modi' and hoped for a new chapter in enhanced Indo-Chinese commercial ties. Conventional wisdom persuades most Indians to reciprocate with similar sentiments and embrace China more warmly. Unconventional wisdom dictates precisely the opposite. Observers of China should know that Beijing is arrogant and peremptory when things go well for it. Witness the bullying Chinese attitude towards its Southeast Asian neighbours at this very moment. Only when China feels threatened it starts singing a very different tune. Right now China is uncertain about how India might exercise its leverage. That is why the soft approach by Beijing. That is why Prime Minister Modi should resolutely continue on New Delhi's current path, but take care to keep smiling while he proceeds.

Two developments cause concern for Beijing. First, there is the closer cooperation emerging between America, India and Japan in the Pacific and Indian Ocean regions. Beijing would like to wean India away from that alliance. Secondly, the internal unrest in Tibet and Xingjiang has made Beijing vulnerable. Imagine then the consternation in Beijing after New Delhi invited the Prime Minister of the Provisional Government of Tibet, Mr Lobsang Sangay, to Mr Modi's swearing-in ceremony in Delhi and was made to sit with other foreign diplomats. It was former Indian diplomat Mr M K Bhadrakumar's sharp eye that first pointed out his presence. Mr Bhadrakumar rightly opined: "Modi took an unprecedented decision that trod on Chinese sensitivities, and it is difficult to believe that he blundered into it."

Speaking to media, Mr Wang on the eve of his visit to Delhi said: "China and India, both being victims of terrorism, share common interests and face similar challenges in counter-terrorism and enjoy broad prospects for cooperation in this area." Not quite, Mr Wang! Serious terrorist activity in Xingjiang emerged in recent years after Beijing aided and encouraged Islamic terrorism in Southeast Asia and South Asia. Beijing blundered by giving arms to Shi'ite activists in Iran from where it imported energy. That infuriated Sunni jihadists who retaliated against Chinese personnel in Pakistan. That in turn led the Musharraf regime to crack down on the Lal Mosque clerics shielding the anti-Chinese terrorists. The rest is history. The Pakistan Taliban increasingly turned against the Pakistan army and started to activate Uighur terrorism in Xingjiang. Therefore, it is facile for Mr Wang to glibly assert that India and China are on the same page insofar as countering terrorism is concerned. For starters, China should stop all military aid

intended against India to the Pakistan army which has been the chief patron of terrorist outfits inside Pakistan. To puncture Mr Wang's remarks about cooperation between China and India to counter terrorism, one has only to remind him that it was Beijing which exercised its UN veto to protect Hafiz Saeed from international sanctions recommended against him by the United Nations.

This is in fact the ideal time for New Delhi to insist upon Beijing to respect all the core interests of India. Beijing must stop giving arms and providing sanctuary to anti-India insurgents, Beijing must stop providing arms to Pakistan that can be used only against India, and Beijing must stop meddling in Indian efforts to create a South Asian Union. As for enhanced trade and investment by China, this writer takes the isolationist view that apart from suffering short term dislocation, India will only gain by stopping altogether imports from China, by stopping investment from China, and by diverting trade and investment ties to America and Europe. This will boost India's neglected manufacturing sector of industry and destabilize China which depends critically on its export earnings for keeping afloat its State-Owned Enterprises, employing 60 per cent of its urban population, through provision of bad loans extended by government-owned banks.

During his visit, Mr Wang told media that Beijing was giving stapled visa cards to Indians from Arunachal Pradesh and Kashmir as an "act of kindness" to allow them travel! He should have been reminded that Beijing gave a written undertaking in 2005 that in settling the boundary dispute neither India nor China would disturb settled populations. Despite that Beijing brazenly continues to lay claim to Arunachal Pradesh where the population is happily settled and heavily committed to India. So how will New Delhi respond to the hollow blandishments extended by Beijing? Will China's 'old friend Modi' choose conventional wisdom and reciprocate, or unconventional wisdom and keep smiling while standing firm? Bullet trains are not critical for India's future. But safeguarding its security, protecting its legitimate sphere of influence, and its independence to act are critical if India is playing its legitimate global role.

## JUDICIARY

STATESMAN, JUN 13, 2014

### **Rohatgi new Attorney-General**

The government today appointed senior advocate Mr Mukul Rohatgi as the new Attorney-General of India. Mr Rohatgi, who appeared for the Gujarat government in several 2002 post-Godhra riot-related cases, will serve as Attorney General of India for a period of three years, a statement said.

The Attorney-General is the country's first law officer and the only non-member of Parliament who can come to Parliament to give his opinion when it is sought.

The official also advises the government on legal issues surfacing from time to time in discharge of its legal and constitutional obligations. According to the Constitution, the Attorney General will be a person who is qualified to be appointed as an apex court judge.

Mr Rohatgi said his priority would be to streamline the working of the Central agency that files appeals in the Supreme Court on behalf of the Central government.

He had said he would endeavour to reduce the time taken in the filing of appeals by the government, which at times takes six to eight months, and even at that stage, the papers are often not complete.

He had also said he would try to curb the filing of frivolous appeals or appeals involving recovery of petty amounts by the government as well as work for improved coordination between the law ministry and other ministries which are connected with appeals before the court. As a lawyer, Mr Rohatgi has represented various state governments, corporate houses and individual litigants in the Supreme Court.

He has also been representing the Italian embassy in the apex court in a case relating to two Italian marines involved in the killing of two fishermen off the Kerala coast in 2012.

INDIAN EXPRESS, JUN 10, 2014

### **Just governance**

[Upendra Baxi](#)

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The ABM (anyone but Modi) brigade is continuing its crusade against the new prime minister, mainly for the killings of Gujarat 2002, for alleged authoritarianism in governance and the “polarisation” of electoral politics. The pro-Narendra Modi campaign is run on the plank of “development”, almost completely oblivious to the global debate around it. While the campaign points out that the new government won 31.6 per cent of

the votes, which translates into 282 parliamentary seats and gives the NDA coalition a comfortable majority in the Lok Sabha, the ABM brigade points out that this vote share does not amount to a national majority. The campaign promises “inclusive growth”; the brigade points to the “exclusion” of Muslim MPs in the ruling party. Both supporters and opponents ignore Italian philosopher Giorgio Agamben’s conclusion that inclusion can only be strategic “exclusive inclusion”.

This article is focused on the fact that the government inherits from the UPA 60 bills in the Rajya Sabha, 68 having lapsed in the Lok Sabha. Completing the legislative business of the last Parliament, much of which had received the BJP’s assent at the time, will define legislative governance now. Presently, how the government translates its manifesto promises into regulation will also become crucial.

In the Rajya Sabha, the BJP has just 42 of 245 seats. Elections in some states in 2015 may change the situation somewhat for the NDA, but it will have to find allies to deliver its legislative agenda. The device of joint sessions may not help with the routine business of Parliament. Only three joint sessions have been called: in 1961, 1978 and, most recently, in 2002, to pass an anti-terrorism legislation that was later repealed. Would the president summon these as a matter of course? Moreover, a joint session cannot be called on constitutional amendments, impeachments and emergencies.

Much depends on floor management. Much also depends on the style of the prime minister and his cabinet: he may, as his election speeches suggest, use his powers wisely and well, or he may be advised to use only his super-majority powers. Only time can tell. The issue lies beyond the magical “Modi moment” (as Pratap Bhanu Mehta puts it). That moment was about the acquisition of power. What now matters is its wise use.

The justices do not watch election results, or so constitutional theory tells us. Constitutional history tells a different story. Citizen-justices watch election results carefully, some even avidly. The point is, except for the rare party-political judicial aspirant, they hardly decide the future of adjudicatory policy in accordance with election results.

Yet, justices do not just decide the cases and controversies that come before them; they also decide on how they should decide. For example, the “tyranny of legislative majorities” has been seen by most appellate justices as a threat to fundamental rights. Justice M. Hidayatullah immortalised this view in 1967, when he wondered aloud, even as he sustained the 17th amendment, whether fundamental rights were a “plaything” of the legislative majority. Justice K. Subba Rao fought what he thought was “statism”.

Judicial decisions since the Kesavananda Bharati case have increasingly invalidated executive and legislative actions impairing fundamental rights as judicially interpreted. Now, even constitutional amendments have to be consistent with the basic structure and the essential features of the Constitution.

Among the proposed constitutional amendments are changes to the judicial review process and powers.

BJP leader Arun Jaitley had argued vigorously in the Rajya Sabha that a constitutional amendment would be a necessary safeguard for the judicial accountability bill. Lawyer Ram Jethmalani, however, insisted that any regulation of judicial conduct would compromise the integrity of the judicial review. Undoubtedly, when this measure is challenged before the Supreme Court, the critics in the judiciary and the bar will oppose the collegium. But no one welcomes executive appointments of justices and no Indian would like a Union law minister boasting that he had judges in his pockets.

How is the present law minister, himself a preeminent SC lawyer, to advise the prime minister? Should the bill be passed (though not as a constitutional amendment), daring the SC to invalidate it? Or should the bill be amended to include the five seniormost justices of the SC in the appointments commission, which would partially address the charge that it violates the basic structure of the Constitution? Where will this leave the high court collegiums? How will the judicial commission avoid the interpretation that constitutional consultation means concurrence of the judiciary? Perhaps, a non-adversarial mode would be best. The fresh advisory opinion of the entire SC should be sought on the best constitutional method for judicial appointments. The opinion should also address the vexed problem of the chief justice of India being appointed for an irritatingly short tenure, ranging from 15 days to a few weeks.

The SC should continue to invite strict constitutional scrutiny on laws and on executive action, old and new, for the indictment of fundamental rights violations. In the SC's curative petition against Section 377 of the IPC, the two-judge bench's decision to leave the question of LGBT rights to Parliament should be reversed. Apart from strong independent arguments supporting this change, a reversal is now further mandated by the three-judge bench decision recognising the constitutional rights of the third gender. It is also not too late to attend to the needs of the Bhopal catastrophe victims.

Judicial independence should be regarded as an aspect of good governance. The BJP should take into account the possibility that the SC may consider Article 370 an emanation of the basic principles of federalism and secularism. And despite the brave

party talk of a judicial “clean chit”, Modi needs to be seen as supporting the independence of the judiciary.

One of Modi’s predecessors had once asked me whether judges should govern. My response was that they should not if there was governance. Despite setbacks, the court’s vast and growing social action jurisdiction continues to be founded on the fact that the SC is (in Justice Goswami’s words) the “last resort of the oppressed and the bewildered”. Parliaments and executives may deliver change, but rarely do they dispense justice. That remains the crucial task of the courts. Judicial activism flourishes not because governments are weak but because they are lawless. The path of good governance lies not merely in making governance more effective but in rendering it more just.

## PARLIAMENT

ASIAN AGE, JUN 11, 2014

### **Modi scraps 4 Cabinet committees**

In a move to fast track decisions, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has decided to discontinue all four standing committees of the Cabinet, including one on the Unique Identification Authority of India. The other three committees are the Cabinet Committee on Prices, the Cabinet Committee on Management of Natural Calamities and the Cabinet Committee on World Trade Organisation.

The decision follows the Modi government's move to disband all Groups of Ministers and Empowered Groups of Ministers a few days earlier. In addition to this, an official statement also said that the Prime Minister will soon be reconstituting the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs, the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs and the Cabinet Committee on Security.

With regard to the Cabinet Committee on UIDAI-related issues, the statement said major decisions have already been taken and the remaining issues will be brought before the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, that will also handle the functions of the Cabinet Committee on Prices. The functions of the Cabinet Committee on Management of Natural Calamities will now be handled by the committee under the Cabinet Secretary whenever natural calamities occur.

The functions of the Cabinet Committee on World Trade Organisation Matters will also be handled by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs and, whenever necessary, by the full Cabinet. This is the Modi government's second major decision to do away with the UPA government's legacy. This is part of Mr Modi's endeavour to have minimum layers of decision-making.

## POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

HINDUSTAN TIMES, JUN 9, 2014

### **A government's job is to govern, not represent the views of all people**

I have a golden rule for my columns and interviews: I never speak or write on politics. There are many reasons for this. One among them is that I like to reflect upon topics before I write on them. Therefore, usually, by the time I arrive at an opinion on a political event, it is not topical anymore. But an issue has arisen in our political theatre that I have thought about in the past. Therefore, I decided to present my views on the subject.

This is regarding the point that some establishment intellectuals have been making these days: That since the NDA has garnered 38.5% of the vote (and the BJP 31%), its victory is somehow incomplete/illegitimate. We are told that 61.5% of Indians have rejected the NDA (and 69% have rejected the BJP) and, therefore, this is not a truly representative government. Is this criticism fair?

Let's step back a bit. What does a government exist for? Is it to primarily represent the country, ie be a mini-embodiment of the diverse cultures, peoples and viewpoints of the nation? Or does it exist in order to govern?

The Greek philosopher Plato clearly believed that the purpose of a government was to govern; it was not to represent all the people of a society. In fact, he held democracy in disdain. The most superior form of government, for him, was theocracy — divine rule — which he postulated was impossible in practical terms. Plato's preference was for aristocracy; a rule of philosopher-kings or as he called them, men-of-gold. These were supposed to be men who were systematically trained to be better than the people they led, so that they could guide the spiritual and material development of their country.

Ancient Indians also held that the primary task of a government was to govern and not represent its country's diverse viewpoints. But they also felt that monarchs could not be allowed to exercise absolute power; which is why raj gurus and rajya sabhas existed in ancient India, in order to exert some measure of control on rulers. However, even these controls were not instituted with the intention of coercing the monarchs to 'represent the views of the people'. They were put in place to ensure that the monarch followed raj dharma or royal duties.

There were 'democracies' in the ancient world, which did allow for the views of those other than the royalty to impinge on the government, eg the famous vajji sangha in India or the governments of ancient Athens. But even here, the so-called representation was not of the views of the common people, but of the elite. In ancient Athens, for example, slaves and women were not allowed to vote.

The high point of democracy has been the modern age. In democracies today, universal adult suffrage, where all adult citizens are allowed to vote, is, well, universal. But even

today, practically all voting systems have been designed such that primacy is given to governance over representation of the various points of view of all the peoples of the country. And since governance is given precedence, almost all election systems have been designed such that higher voting patterns lead to a disproportionately higher share in the legislature or elected executive of the country. Why? Because stability is a prerequisite for governance. If one tries to create a government where every single viewpoint of the country is to be represented, then one is planning for paralysis and chaos.

Therefore, in the United States, you have the electoral college concept for presidential elections, where a voting majority is exaggerated into a much bigger electoral college majority (the US president is technically elected by the electoral college and not directly by the people; the people only elect the electoral college). This has led, in four cases, to presidents being elected despite a minority in direct voting percentage. And some of those presidents were very good.

In proportional voting, a favourite now of the Indian establishment intellectuals, normally there is a cut-off below which a party gets no seats in the legislature. In Germany, for example, the cut-off used to be 5% (Germany also has a direct election system for some seats and a recent court ruling has made some more changes in proportional representation but I will ignore that for now in the interest of simplicity). Had we followed a proportional voting system in India with a cut-off, all regional parties and independents would have got no seats as they all have a national voting percentage of less than 5%. Only the BJP and the Congress would have got seats in the Lok Sabha. The results of our election, under proportional representation with a cut-off, would roughly have been the same for the BJP/NDA, if not better. However, the regional parties would have been wiped out and their seats would have gone to the Congress.

The sum and substance is that every election system (be it the US electoral college, proportional representation or our own first-past-the-post) has been deliberately designed to aid stability and governance while also bringing in some adequate measure of representation of the views of the people.

So to all those complaining that, in the latest Indian election, a minority lead in voting percentage has been disproportionately converted into a majority in parliamentary seats: Well, yes, that is the way the system has been designed. That is the way that all electoral systems across the world have been designed. Because the purpose of any election system is not to have a mini-embodiment of the views of every single person in the country. The purpose of an election is to elect a government.

Of course, my views should not be construed as either supportive of or opposing any political formation. They're meant to address the concerns of those who would seek to interpret the results in a certain narrow way. To them I say: Be mature, respect the people's mandate. That is the essence of democracy.

## PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

ECONOMIC TIMES, JUN 12, 2014

**E-files, the new Modi mantra to paperless governance**

**By Ranjana Narayan**

NEW DELHI: No more piles of dog-eared files and clipped paper stacks littering office desks. It is the time of e-files in the new government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The prime minister, who has sought to embrace technology in governance with messianic zeal, has directed officials - ranging from secretaries, joint secretaries and section officers - of different ministries to clear files electronically.

The system is not new. It was introduced around a year ago under the UPA government. But no one really bothered.

But with Modi giving strict instructions that no heaps of files should be found littering office desks, shelves, window sills and even top of airconditioners and that office spaces should not remain cluttered, all senior government functionaries have made a concerted move to go electronic.

"The new government is stressing on making files totally electronic, to end the paper version as far as possible," a senior official told IANS declining to be named.

The National Informatics Centre, which is under the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, has a "safe and secure server" on which the government communication machinery is run. "The [NIC](#) servers are well protected with firewalls to prevent hacking," the official added.

As part of the e-filing, offices are set to be equipped with superior electronic scanners that would enable officials to scan any document and upload instantly.

"We are getting good quality scanners, which are essential to scan documents, especially in legal cases," said another official.

"Earlier, orderlies (peons) would carry the files from one official's door to the other. Now

it will be done with the click of a button," said an official. The order to push ahead with electronic filing was given by the Department of Personnel and Training, which is under Prime Minister [Narendra Modi](#)

"This is part of the prime minister's order for cleanliness, quick disposal of files and speed," another official told IANS.

According to the official, the NIC server is powerful and traffic moves fast on it. Only in case the power goes off for more than half an hour would the computers become ineffective. The backup power would help computers to move for around half an hour, he said.

Files are also being pushed fast by the new government.

"Earlier, files would keep pending for weeks, sometimes months. Some ministers in the UPA government would sit on files endlessly. The new ministers are signing the files left over by the previous government within minutes. The speed is catching on, and officials are also not sitting on files any longer," said an official.

Citing an example, he said that former information and broadcasting minister [Manish Tewari](#), though known for his erudition, had a penchant for sitting on files. He did not clear files quickly. He would send notings on every file, sometimes seven-page long, and ask that the specific points he had raised to be referred to the law ministry or the finance ministry, said a knowledgeable source.

"We sometimes had to sit with a dictionary to decipher the difficult language he used in his notings," said one official, who said he was speaking only on the assurance that he was not identified. Tewari could not be reached for comment. In contrast, the new minister [Prakash Javadekar](#) has been clearing files in a jiffy.

Another factor that has enthused the secretaries and other senior officials is that the [Modi government](#) has "reposed a lot of trust and faith" in the officials.

"There is a general faith (of the government) in the bureaucracy, and we are told to take decisions. This has given us new confidence," said a senior official. Modi held a meeting with more than 70 secretaries last week during which he told them

to work without fear and said he would protect them against malicious prosecution against justified decisions.

STATESMAN, JUN 13, 2014

### **Minimum governance?**

The government had promised that when in office it would hit the ground running. It has hit the ground tottering. One has to pinch oneself to make sure that Mr Manmohan Singh is not continuing as Prime Minister. Wake up, Mr Modi! An impatient nation is waiting and watching

### **RAJINDER PURI**

Precisely eighteen days have passed, as this is being written, since Mr Narendra Modi's government was sworn into office. In less than three weeks of the new government we have seen considerable activity related to the government. All Ministers have been informing the media about what they intend to accomplish. Many among them have arranged motivational lectures by celebrities to enthuse the officials serving under them. New appointments are being made and new posts are being created. The Prime Minister issued Ten Commandments to his Ministers with such profound advice as the need to work hard. The Prime Minister is busy scrapping certain cabinet committees. The government's agenda outlined in the President's address to Parliament contained such an original claim as the resolve to "Eliminate Poverty". This was of course different from what Indira Gandhi said 45 years ago. She spoke in Hindi and said Garibi Hatao. In the midst of all this government activity, however, there is little efficient governance that is visible. Consider just a few of the new government's actions.

The government appointed a Principal Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) by disregarding law. When this was pointed out it passed an Ordinance to change the law to confirm the appointment. It has now appointed an Additional Principal Secretary in the PMO. Does one Principal Secretary not suffice? The government has announced that a new Foreign Policy Adviser, who will report directly to the Prime Minister, bypassing the Ministry of External Affairs, will shortly be appointed. Are the Foreign Minister, Foreign Secretary and National Security Adviser inadequate to do the job?

After almost three weeks there is no sign as yet of appointing a permanent Defence Minister. Presently Mr Arun Jaitley, who is the Finance Minister as well the Minister for Corporate Affairs, is holding temporary charge of the portfolio. The extra burden placed on Mr Jaitley cannot excuse the dreadful gaffe committed by the Defence Ministry. In a sworn affidavit presented to the Supreme Court in an ongoing case the government stated that General VK Singh who is currently serving as Minister in the government had as Army Chief by imposing a DV (Discipline and Vigilance) ban on the next Army Chief issued a show-cause notice that alleged lapses "issued in utter disregard to the legal

provisions governing the court of inquiry, principles of natural justice. The lapses were vague, based on presumptions and legally and factually not maintainable. Evidently, the entire exercise to issue show-cause notice was premeditated and as per records, the directions issued in this regard, including imposition of the DV (Discipline and Vigilance) ban and issue of show-cause notice were found to be illegal.”

Meanwhile, the Defence Minister has confirmed the appointment of the next Army Chief that was being opposed by General VK Singh when he was the Chief. General VK Singh has not relented despite the government’s confirmation of the next Army Chief. He has on Twitter described the next Chief by implication to be a criminal. What kind of governance is Mr Modi’s cabinet delivering to the nation? Mr Jaitley has ordered an inquiry from his officials as to how such a badly-worded affidavit was presented to the Supreme Court by the government. The affidavit could have simply stated that there was no available evidence to impose a ban on the next Army Chief instead of imputing motives and mala fide intent to General VK Singh.

Speaking in Parliament, Mr Jaitley advised opposition leaders to not criticize General VK Singh. Otherwise, he cautioned, the General would respond. Was this advice or unintended incitement? Time will tell how opposition leaders respond to Mr Jaitley’s advice and whether or not the demands for the General’s resignation will escalate. Through all these developments Mr Modi remained conspicuously silent.

The biggest quality attributed to Mr Modi was that he is strong and decisive. In 72 hours there were 17 rapes in which complicity of the police in Uttar Pradesh was proven. There are rapes abounding across the state on a daily basis. Political leaders are being shot dead by criminals in broad daylight. The media is crying hoarse that the central government should intervene. The Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr Ban Ki Moon, deplored the condition of women in India. Authorities in the US and other nations likewise have drawn attention to the horrible law and order conditions prevalent in India. BJP leaders are whining about the callous disregard displayed by the Mulayam Singh government. But why on earth does this strong and decisive government not perform its simple constitutional duty by advising the President to obtain the Governor’s report on the law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh and then invoke Article 356 of the Constitution to impose President’s Rule in the state and restore law and order? There are other examples that can be summoned to indicate absence of basic norms of good governance. This writer will refrain from doing so. Thanks to Mr Modi’s initiative some good steps have been taken by the government in the field of foreign policy. But insofar as domestic governance is concerned the government had promised that when in office it would hit the ground running. It has hit the ground tottering. One has to pinch oneself to make sure that Mr Manmohan Singh is not continuing as Prime Minister. Wake up, Mr Modi! An impatient nation is waiting and watching.

## PUBLIC SECTOR

BUSINESS LINE, JUN 10.

### **Soon, PSUs may have private sector experts at the top**

Private sector honchos may soon head PSUs, starting perhaps with Coal India and NHPC.

This will be breaking with the tradition of picking chairman and managing director of public sector undertakings from among bureaucrats or PSU officials.

If implemented successfully, the same process could be adopted for other PSUs as well. “The Power Secretary has been asked to move a note to the Department of Personnel and Training to hasten the process of hiring CMDs for NHPC and Coal India. The secretary has also been asked to tell the DoPT to look at the possibility of hiring someone from the private sector,” said a top official of the Power Ministry.

“The need for expanding the scope of potential candidates to the private sector was seen as it was getting difficult to find someone to take up the top post in Coal India,” the official added.

Asked if there will be any change in the qualification norms, the official said, “The modalities of the technical qualifications can be framed by the DoPT, but for posts like the chairman of Coal India, one doesn’t necessarily need to know about mining. What is required for such a position is management skills.”

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated June 10, 2014)

## RAILWAYS

TIMES OF INDIA, JUN 12, 2014

### **Curtain call'? Privacy to go along with aisle curtains in 3-tier AC coaches of trains**

CHENNAI: Rail passengers in AC 3-tier coaches will now have lesser privacy as aisle curtains are being taken off. The move follows the realization that curtains were getting entangled in ceiling fans. Window curtains will be retained.

A check revealed that the fans cannot be shifted because of space constraints caused by the technical design of the coaches. So, curtains are being removed when coaches arrive for periodic maintenance at various railway factories and maintenance workshops. The process has begun in Southern Railway.

Integral Coach Factory (ICF) started removing curtains from AC 3 tier coaches in April after a letter from the railway board.

Commissioner of railway safety (southern circle), in an accident investigation report issued instructions saying curtains should be avoided in air-conditioned coaches because they cause fire to spread quickly. The report was prepared after a fire on the Nanded-Bangalore Express killed 24 people in December 2013.

After officials of different railway zones complained that curtains were coming in the way of the ceiling fans, the issue was discussed and a suggestion was given at a meeting in Chennai.

Though curtains offer privacy for people inside a coupe, several passengers have found that they are an inconvenience to those travelling on the upper berth in an AC 3-tier coach.

Zonal rail users' consultative committee member M Kishore Kumar said, "Railways should use fire retardant material to make the curtains. It is not wise to remove them because curtains give privacy to passengers. The curtains should be incorporated well with the design of the coach. Now, passengers hold curtain rods to climb to upper berths."

Ergonomics defines the interior design of railway coaches the world over. But in India, it is vandalism by passengers that dictates the manner in which a fixture is designed and installed. Design of more than 10 components had to be changed based on the way people misused them when coaches returned for maintenance, said a railway engineer.

## RELIGION

STATESMAN. JUN 13, 2014

**Jawaharlal Nehru and Hindutva**

**Romit Bagchi**

We have just observed the 50th death anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. These days, it is a common practice on the part of those who boast of being the harbingers of change to debunk him for whatever he did and said. Yet, Nehru still stands as a colossus.

Now, as the saffron philosophy takes up centre-stage in the nation's political discourse, it is worth recalling how Nehru viewed Hindutva and cultural nationalism ~ two notions he took pains to keep apart.

Nehru's anguished frustration with the growing tide of aggressive Hindutva undermining secularism found expression in what he wrote to the chief ministers in May 1951. "Our frequent declarations that we are a secular state are appreciated abroad and raise our credit. But they are not wholly believed in and it is often thought that a few leading personalities represent this viewpoint and not the mass of the people or many important organisations," he wrote.

And this was the reality during that critical time when the country had just become free and the people at large were angry with the role of the Congress vis-à-vis the partition. Nehru wrote to Krishna Menon: "The partition business has excited Hindus tremendously and their wrath has turned against the Congress which is supposed to be guilty of agreeing to this partition."

Nehru was resentful, yet pathetically helpless, when the President of India, Rajendra Prasad decided to preside over the deity-installation ceremony at the reconstructed Somnath Temple in May 1951. Importantly, the initiative had been taken by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Nehru's home minister until his death in 1950. Nehru asked Prasad not to attend the purely religious function which, he apprehended, would reopen the scars of Partition in the national psyche to the detriment of peace, harmony and development. But Prasad remained unmoved. "...Somnath temple has a historic significance... some people may not like the idea of a temple which was destroyed more than once by the Muslim invaders of the time being rebuilt and revived. But I think you will agree that that is not a reasonable attitude to take," the Head of the State wrote to the head of the government.

At the installation ceremony, he said, "The Somnath temple signifies that the power of reconstruction is always greater than the power of destruction".

A senior minister in Nehru's Cabinet, K M Munshi, was even more aggressive when he

wrote to Nehru - "I can assure you that the collective sub-conscious of India is happier with the scheme of reconstruction of Somnatha sponsored by the government of India than with many other things that we have done and are doing." A sullen Nehru wrote to G B Pant - "Communalism has invaded the minds and hearts of those who were the pillars of the Congress in the past."

To stem the tide of the ascendant cultural nationalism, Nehru adopted the strategy of stressing tirelessly on secularism as the ideal of the State and positing territorial nationalism, inclusive and rational, as a counterpoise to cultural nationalism that seemed to have turned into an exclusive instrument to whip divisive, communal passions.

But a question arises here ~ was Nehru as much disdainful of the concept of cultural nationalism, unalloyed by the frenzy of divisiveness, as he is often projected to be?

True, he rarely expressed himself on what he thought of the inclusive variety of cultural nationalism after he had taken over the reins of the government, sensitive as he was of the potentially explosive nature of the matter. But he did express his feelings on a few occasions.

Let us see what he said while addressing the teachers and the students of the Aligarh Muslim University less than a year after India became free ~ in January 1948. Lauding India's remarkable capacity to add to itself by the magnificent inclusiveness of its spirit, he said, "I am proud of our inheritance and our ancestors who gave intellectual and cultural eminence to India. How do you feel about this past? Do you feel you are also sharers in it and inheritors of it and, therefore, proud of something that belongs to you as much as to me? Or do you feel alien to it and pass it by without understanding it or feeling the strange thrill that comes from the realisation that you are the trustees and inheritors of this treasure?"

We may again recall what Nehru said while addressing the Madurai session of the All India Congress Committee in October 1961 where he spelt out rather unambiguously what he thought of cultural nationalism as the fulcrum holding the cultural unity of the country. "India has, for ages past, been a country of pilgrimages. All over the country, you find these ancient places, from Badrinath, Kedarnath and Amarnath, high up in the snowy Himalayas down to Kanyakumari in the south. What has drawn the people from the south to the north and from the north to the south in these great pilgrimages? It is the feeling of one country and this feeling has bound us together. Our ancient books have said that the land of Bharat is the land stretching from the Himalayas in the north to the southern seas. This conception of Bharat as one great land, which the people considered a holy land, has come down the ages and has joined us together, even though we have had different political kingdoms and even though we may speak different languages and follow different faiths. This silken bond keeps us together in many ways."

Left-inclined intellectuals say that the namby-pamby kind of secularism that is being practised now with temple-hopping, almost invariably followed by mosque-hopping, remaining the mainstay in the political domain is an outcome of Nehru's wishy-washy view of the State as equal to all the religions. The Hindutva brigade, on the other hand, says that Nehru sought to obliterate Hinduism altogether by singing paeans for the composite culture of India, beginning with the 'Aryan invasion' and attaining consummation through the invasion of the British with the Islamic invasion remaining the most important part of her inclusive history.

The real Nehru seems to have been lost in the marshy bogs of the political/intellectual mumbo-jumbo ~ the crust blurring the kernel. He was for the State remaining secular in its core and also in the practice on the ground and the society, or the Nation remaining an epitome of Sarva Dharma Samabhava - equality of all religions. He wanted Indian Muslims to imbibe the cultural traditions of the time preceding the appearance of Islam in India while remaining true to the Islamic tenets and for the Hindus to remain true to the assimilative/inclusive/plastic essence of the country's cultural genius, shedding bigotry and embracing Islam and other religions as vibrant parts of the magnificent edifice ~ our peerless heritage.

The writer is chief sub-editor, The Statesman, Kolkata

## TOURISM

HINDU, JUN 9, 2014

### **Heritage tourism to be developed in ghats**

K.S. SUDHI

The sites are in Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra

A world natural heritage site tourism circuit connecting the 39 serial sites of Western Ghats, the World Heritage Sites (WHS), is in the offing.

The World Heritage Committee of Unesco had inscribed these sites, which are spread across Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra, as WHS in natural sites category in 2012.

Besides evolving a common eco-tourism circuit programme, clusters of eco-tourism sites will also be identified and promoted. Proposals for engaging local communities in the conservation and promotion of nature-based tourism too would be discussed at the session, said V.B. Mathur, director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.

#### Overarching system

The evolution of an “overarching management system” for these sites would be one issue that would be deliberated at the meeting, he said. During the inscription, the World Heritage Committee had suggested developing an overarching management system for these sites located in four States. All the selected sites are protected areas, including National Parks and Reserve Forests, he said.

A meeting of the managers of these sites and forest management experts will be held at Thekkady in August to chart out the action plan. Kerala will host the conference as 19 of the 39 selected sites are located in the State.

The deliberations for evolving a common management plan had to be postponed twice following the debates and controversies surrounding the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel report and the High Level Working Group on Western Ghats, said V.B. Mathur.

The sites can together and in clusters promote world heritage site tourism to suite the interests of the eco-tourism enthusiasts and the benefits from these activities would be passed on to the local communities and the sites, he said. The serial sites of the mountain ranges were selected for their outstanding universal value and for “representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems, and communities of plants and animals.”

They were also recognised as areas containing “the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.”

## URBAN DEVELOPMENT

HINDU, JUN 9, 2014

### The new urban agenda

The new BJP government, consistent with its election manifesto statements, has outlined an urban agenda to make cities “symbols of efficiency, speed and scale.” To achieve this, it plans to prioritise housing and public transport, build 100 new cities, use technology to improve urban services, and make development sustainable. The government has also ambitiously declared that everyone would own a house by 2020. Some of these proposals seek to take forward ideas introduced by the previous Congress-led government, while a few others significantly depart from the earlier ones. For instance, policies meant to make cities slum-free and infuse investment in infrastructure were in place even earlier. Certain schemes extended home loans, provided interest subsidies, and improved land tenure to the poor, but these did not substantially reduce the housing deficit. About 95 per cent of the 18.78 million-unit housing shortage still affects the lower income groups. The question is: will this government succeed where the previous one failed? The proposal to reduce interest rates on home loans, and rope in private companies to invest in housing as part of corporate social responsibility requirements, are good initiatives. However, these will not deliver unless the incentives are strictly tied to the actual creation and delivery of affordable housing.

The concept of building new towns to accommodate growing urbanisation has been in vogue since the 1950s, but this time the BJP government has reinvented it and made a new *avatar* of it. Instead of building new cities in distant places around a single industrial activity, the present proposal is to build them either as a satellite city or a twin city near existing metros in order to ease urban pressure. Would this simple extension of cities fare well when compared with alternatives such as the city-cluster approach followed by China, which also announced a new urbanisation plan recently in March? Building a new city on the periphery of an existing one is a plausible solution but without a regional approach, better distribution of the urban population and the efficient integration of the hinterland will not become possible. A standardised urban growth template also will not work for all situations. The plans have to go beyond a city-centred approach, and comprehensively include larger areas around them. It will help deftly integrate greenfield development with an existing city, enable the networking of small urban centres in the vicinity using rapid transit systems, use land optimally, and protect ecological assets. Urban governance is another major area of concern. The success of the government’s policies will depend on how well they bridge the distance between intention and implementation.

## WOMEN

HINDU, JUN 13, 2014

### **A history of wrongs against women**

MEHREEN ZAHRA-MALIK

Many around the world know Asma Jahangir to be Pakistan's gutsiest woman and one of the foremost human rights lawyers in the world. She has been beaten in public for championing the rights of battered wives and imprisoned for leading protests against laws that deny justice to rape victims. *The New Yorker* once called her Pakistan's answer to Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi.

But ask a large section of Pakistan's conservative public what they think of Ms. Jahangir and you'll get answers like "*woh auratoon ko kharaab karti hai*" which when roughly translated means she spoils women, or she encourages women to rebel.

Such an answer is not unusual in Pakistan. In a country where violence against women is not only deeply embedded in the public imagination through cultural and religious practices, but also institutionalised by laws made by dictatorial governments, those who choose to shepherd women's rights are vulnerable to public stigma and violence not just because they speak for women but, more fundamentally, because they speak out against the nexus between the mullahs and the governments that molycoddle them.

The moderate forces that want more rights for women are the same ones that pose a challenge to governments that take over power through coups, refuse to hold elections, and support retrogressive forces which believe that only they know what women can and cannot do.

From rural to urban 'epidemic'

Last month, what Pakistani women can and cannot do was revealed in a case that has stunned the world.

A 25-year-old woman, Farzana Iqbal, was bludgeoned to death by a group of assailants, which included her father and brother, for falling in love and marrying a man against her family's will. The United Nations condemned the "honour killing." Major international newspapers published photographs of the grisly aftermath of the attack on their front pages.

A little over a week later, an 18-year-old woman's father, uncle, brother and aunt shot her twice and threw her into a canal after putting her in a sack because she married for love. This was followed by many similar reports, not just in the country's so-called rural and tribal badlands but also in major cities like Lahore and Karachi.

With the world's attention firmly on Pakistan because of Farzana Iqbal, news of more such instances of violence prompted people to declare this to be an "epidemic," express

alarm that it had spilled over from rural Pakistan into cities and wonder how it all began in the first place.

The truth is that neither Farzana's death nor the circumstances around it are "breaking news." In fact, honour killings are so common in Pakistan that they usually rate only a paragraph or two on the metropolitan pages of local papers. In almost all cases, just as in Farzana's, the perpetrators are close family members who get away scot-free because under Islamic law, which is accepted by Pakistani courts, victims' families can decide the fate of convicted criminals.

The only difference between Farzana's murder and those of hundreds of others killed each year is that she was killed outside the High Court in Lahore, Pakistan's cultural capital.

"If she had been killed on a street corner in this village, would you even be here?" her husband asked me at his small town home last month.

It was a good question. How many incidents of women being mutilated and killed for wearing jeans, looking out of windows, singing or giving birth to girls have received worldwide condemnation? Of the 869 cases of honour killings reported in the media last year, how many have become more than a statistic?

Burden of misplaced ideas, laws

In this part of the world and in others, women have been killed by their relatives for centuries under misplaced ideas of "honour" as defined by cultural and religious tradition.

But since 1979, man-made laws known as the Hudood ordinances have placed an especially heavy burden on Pakistani women.

When he failed to keep his first promise of holding elections in Pakistan after a military coup in 1977, General Zia ul Haq made another promise to justify his rule: he would make the country the truly Islamic state Allah had especially ordered him to. The many steps to achieve this dream of Islamisation included introducing the Hudood Ordinance, which criminalised sex out of wedlock and required a woman to produce four credible male witnesses to prove that she had been raped or else face punishment for adultery.

According to the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) and Amnesty International in Asia and the Pacific, 88 per cent of female prisoners — both those awaiting trial and those convicted — are women who have not been able to prove, under the stipulations of the Hudood Ordinance, that they were raped. The law has seen visually handicapped women and girls jailed and babies being born in jail to women unable to win their freedom. Poring over decades-old files of official data provided by the Bureau of Police Research and Development, one finds cases of fornication, adultery and rape coming under the same heading — *Zina*, or unlawful intercourse between unmarried

individuals. Thousands of cases of rape go unreported because victims fear that they will be treated as adulterous criminals if they go to the police.

Though the laws have never been appealed, they were amended in 2006 — or rather, made more palatable by adding “rape” to the country’s penal code, doing away with the “four witnesses” requirement and making extramarital sex a bailable offence so that the accused wouldn’t have to endlessly suffer behind bars.

But the history of wrong, unforgivable decisions that have made the lives of women infinitely more precarious, does not end here.

In 1990, the Qiyas and Diyat ordinance was introduced by an unelected caretaker government to please a court headed by Justice Afzal Zullah, a religious man, so that it would deliver a positive verdict on the sacking of the Benazir Bhutto democratic government by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

The law made murder a matter of private compromise and authorised relatives of the victim to just forgive the murderer or to accept blood money in exchange for forgiveness — thereby taking away the authority to punish from the state and investing it in the hands of individuals. (Ironically, while Gen. Zia introduced a deluge of laws to invest Pakistan with the right amount of Islam between 1978 and 1979, he held the 1977 draft of the Qiyas and Diyat law in abeyance because he did not want Zulfikar Ali Bhutto — charged with the murder of a political opponent and later hanged for it — to get a reprieve by using Diyat or Qiyas. “I will enforce it only after I hang Bhutto,” Gen. Zia has been quoted as saying.)

#### A compromise over power

In essence, repressive laws against women and the refusal to repeal them come from governments, often military but also civilian, who seek to indulge society’s most regressive elements in order to preserve their hold over power or justify why they are in power in the first place. And while amendments to the Hudood law were put in place under Gen. Musharraf’s rule, it is telling that instead of opting to repeal the law in its entirety using its simple majority in Parliament, Gen. Musharraf’s ruling party settled for a compromise with the religious political parties of the day.

In the end, everyone went home happy except women: Gen. Musharraf could boast of pushing through amendments to a law no other government would touch and win applause from the West for his crusade against Pakistan’s Islamists. And the religious coalition could pat itself on the back for having preserved the law and feel no need henceforth to bring up difficult questions about Gen. Musharraf’s right to rule.

It is no coincidence then that Ms. Jahangir and so many others like her have had to fight just as fiercely against the forces of the right as they have Pakistan’s repressive governments whose powers are inextricably hinged to a military-mullah node. Indeed, for the lot of women to improve in Pakistan, it is this nexus that must be undone first.

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The moderate forces that want more rights for women are the same ones that pose a challenge to governments that take over power through coups, refuse to hold elections, and support retrogressive forces.

In Pakistan, where violence against women is not only deeply embedded in the imagination through cultural practices, but also institutionalised by laws, those who choose to shepherd women's rights are vulnerable to stigma and violence because they speak out against the nexus between mullahs and governments