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**BUSINESS STANDARD**

**DECCAN HERALD**

**ECONOMIC TIMES**

**FINANCIAL EXPRESS**

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## **BACKWARD CLASSES**

STATESMAN, MAY 27, 2015

### **6 more communities included in Backward Classes**

The West Bengal Cabinet on Tuesday decided to include six more communities in the Backward Classes category, increasing the number from 160 to 166.

"The state cabinet on Tuesday decided to include six more communities under the Backward Classes category," said state Backward Classes Welfare minister Upen Biswas said.

The six communities who would be included in the list were Kalwar, Atta (Muslim), Khansama (Hindu, Muslim and others), Sarala/Sarwala (Muslim), Bagani (Muslim) and Bhandari (Muslim), the minister said.

Announcing another decision of the cabinet, state school education minister Partha Chatterjee said thirteen model schools would come up at different places across the state, for which 350 teaching and non-teaching staff would be recruited.

HINDUSTAN TIMES, MAY 29, 2015

### **Gujjar agitation called off after Rajasthan govt agrees to give 5% quota in jobs outside 50% limit**

**Rashpal Singh**

The eight-day-long deadlock between Gujjars and the Rajasthan government came to an end on Thursday night after the government agreed to introduce a bill ensuring 5% quota for Gujjars and four other castes outside the legal limit of 50% overall reservation in government-run institutions.

The communities would be given reservation as 'Specially Backward Classes' under a separate bill.

The government also agreed to bring a separate bill for 14% reservation to economically backward classes beyond the 50% limit.

After a four-hour meeting with Gujjar leaders in Jaipur, parliamentary affairs minister Rajendra Singh announced that the state government would pass the bill in the cabinet and the state assembly and then send it for inclusion in the 9th Schedule.

If the bills are included in the 9th Schedule, the number of general category seats would come down to just 31%.

Gujjar Arakshan Sangharsh Samiti president Kirori Singh Bainsla thanked the government for accepting the communities demand and apologized to the public for the “inconvenience caused”. He said the rail tracks and roads would be cleared soon.

Demanding reservation in public sector jobs, the community took to the railway tracks on May 21 this year.

Hundreds of Gujjars blocked the commercially significant Delhi-Mumbai railway track at Peelu Ka Pura village in Bharatpur district, the Jaipur-Agra national highway and the state highway at Sawai Madhopur.

The Gujjars, who form 7% of total population in the state of Rajasthan, have been protesting since 2006 for a share in the quota pie along with four other castes — Banjara, Gadariya, Raika, and Gadia Luhar.

The characteristically violent annual protests have claimed the lives of 72 people till now.

## CIVIL SERVICE

HINDU, MAY 24, 2015

### **Civil services exam notified**

The UPSC on Saturday notified 1,129 vacancies for civil services in 24 categories with major changes in the exam format.

BUSINESS STANDARD, MAY 30, 2015

### **P K Sinha named Cabinet secretary**

**The 1977 batch Uttar Pradesh cadre IAS succeeds Ajit Seth, who had got three extensions as cabinet secretary**

Power Secretary Pradeep Kumar Sinha (pictured) has been named the next Cabinet secretary. The 1977 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from the Uttar Pradesh cadre will succeed Ajit Seth, who was given three extensions, the last by the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government in December last year, making his term one of four years.

Sinha will take charge as Cabinet secretary on June 13. Till then, he will be Officer on Special Duty in the Cabinet Secretariat. Sinha's tenure as Cabinet secretary is for two years or until further orders in this regard.

Finance Secretary Rajiv Mehrishi, a 1978 batch Rajasthan-cadre IAS officer, was also believed to be in consideration. Mehrishi replaced Arvind Mayaram as finance secretary a few months after the NDA government came to power. Earlier, Saurabh Chandra, a 1978 batch IAS officer from the UP cadre, who recently retired as petroleum secretary, was seen as a favourite for the post.

Speaking to Business Standard last year, a civil servant had said as chief minister of Gujarat, Narendra Modi didn't overlook seniority.

"If that's the case, Sinha might stand a better chance than Chandra," he had said. While Sinha is a year senior in the bureaucratic hierarchy, he's three months younger to Chandra by age.

Sinha studied economics at St Stephen's College here and subsequently, pursued an

MPhil degree in social sciences. Known as a performance-oriented officer, he has been power secretary since July 2013. Earlier, he was secretary in the shipping ministry. He has also held several other important positions in the central and Uttar Pradesh governments. A man of few words, he was short-listed for the post of chairman, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India.

Sinha's appointment comes ahead of the post of Cabinet secretary falling vacant on June 13. Some statutory organisations, such as the Central Vigilance Commission and the Central Information Commission have remained without a head for months.

ECONOMIC TIMES, MAY 29, 2015

### **Government says no to CBI on action against IAS officer Parimal Rai**

By Rahul Tripathi

The agency had first written to the home ministry and then to the DoPT for granting sanction in order to enable it to file a chargesheet against Rai.

NEW DELHI: In a major setback for the [Central Bureau of Investigation](#), the [Narendra Modi government](#) has refused to grant sanction of prosecution against UT cadre IAS officer [Parimal Rai](#), nearly two years after the agency named Rai in a case and sought sanction.

This is among the first cases under the Modi government where sanction has been declined in a case pertaining to a scam during the term of its predecessor UPA. A 1985 batch IAS officer, Rai was considered close to the former Delhi Chief Minister [Sheila Dikshit](#).

He was in the eye of the storm over the 2010 Commonwealth Games scandal, one of the scams listed by the BJP during its campaign in the run-up to 2014 general elections as it targeted the ruling [Congress](#) at the time. Rai was recently in news for being nominated by the [Arvind Kejriwal](#) AAP government to act as the chief secretary during the absence of KK Sharma, an offer that Rai declined.

The agency had first written to the home ministry and then to the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) for granting sanction in order to enable it to file a chargesheet against Rai.

However, two years later, DoPT is learnt to have declined sanction for want of "sufficient evidence". Rai was named by CBI for the Shivaji Stadium project and contracts awarded to build the NDMC Convention Centre. The agency claimed that the former chairman agreed to a legal advisor's wrong opinion on awarding of contract to a Chinese firm in 2008 July for the CWG despite it being ineligible.

Besides, the Chinese company delegated its duty to another [Kolkata](#) firm Simplex, which had already been rejected once. This was overlooked by Rai while giving the contract. The agency now plans to seek a fresh sanction against Rai with additional evidence.

Central Vigilance Commission officials, however, said that the case against Rai seemed to be political motivated and CBI has not been able to firm up evidence. The agency has alleged that Rai during his tenure as NDMC chairman gave favours to contractors resulting in wrongful loss to the exchequer

ECONOMIC TIMES, MAY 29, 2015

**Punjab and Haryana High Court stays Haryana's decision to reserve 20% seats for SC staff**

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has stayed the Haryana government's recent notification reserving 20 per cent seats for Scheduled Caste employees in departmental promotions.

CHANDIGARH: The [Punjab and Haryana High Court](#) has stayed the Haryana government's recent notification reserving 20 per cent seats for [Scheduled Caste employees](#) in departmental promotions.

On a petition filed by Dinesh Kumar Sharma and other assistants in the [Haryana Civil Secretariat](#), Justice Amit Rawal yesterday while issuing notice to the state for October 16, stayed its May 15 notification.

The petitioners, all general category candidates, submitted that they were appointed as clerks in May 1990 and March 1992, before being promoted to the post of assistants according to seniority.

But, their chance of further being promoted as deputy superintendents has been marginalised due to the recent notification, they said. \

The [BJP government](#) had announced the decision on May 15, providing the quota benefit to Class III and IV staff with effect from April 1, 2013. It was pointed out that the representation of Scheduled Caste employees in the cadre of assistants was more than 20 per cent.

Further benefit of 20 per cent reservation would cause immense injustice to the general category candidates, the petitioners submitted.

It was contended on behalf of the petitioners that the vexed issue of reservation in promotion with accelerated seniority had been attracting attention of high courts and the [Supreme Court](#) since 1962.

In the M Nagraj case and several other judgments, the apex court ruled that the provision, as contained in Article 16(4) of the Constitution, enabled the government to provide

reservation only at initial recruitment stage and not for subsequent promotions.

The counsel also argued that reservation in promotion was held to be in violation of Article 14 of the Constitution by the apex court on several occasions.

HINDU, MAY 29, 2015

### **CAT spells relief for Chaturvedi**

JATIN ANAND

Centre directed to reconsider his intra-service cadre change

Granting relief to whistleblower bureaucrat Sanjiv Chaturvedi and warning the Centre against the fleeting nature of systems wherein ‘honesty is punished and corruption rewarded’, the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) has directed the latter to reconsider proceedings pertaining to his protracted struggle for an intra-service cadre change expeditiously.

This comes at a time when the Delhi Government which had sought his service in February has locked horns with the Centre over the appointments of bureaucrats.

Delivered by a Principal Bench of the CAT consisting of its Chairman Justice Syed Rafat Alam and member Dr. B.K Sinha, the said order reproduced Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore’s poem ‘Where the Mind is Without Fear’ to take a serious note of instances of harassment meted out to the 2002-batch Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer.

“...the instances of harassment cited appear to be on the extreme side and deserve to be taken serious note of...we simply take note of the averments and like to reproduce the lines of Poet laureate, Rabindranath Tagore quoted in the matter of Indian Medical Association vs. Union of India and others (2011)...‘Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high/Where knowledge is free/Where the world has not broken into fragments...’” the Bench stated.

“We do hope and trust that a situation may never arise, where honesty is punished and corruption rewarded. Such a system cannot be expected to last for a long time...” the Bench stated further. The CAT rendered ‘infructuous’ an order of the Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC), headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for returning the proposal of changing Mr. Chaturvedi’s cadre from Haryana to Uttarakhand on January 28, 2015 and which asked for fresh consents from Haryana and Uttarakhand State Governments.

A complaint was filed by Mr. Chaturvedi before the tribunal challenging the ACC’s response and reiterating that he had to face extreme hardship and the vindictive attitude at the hands of bureaucrats and political executives of the State on account of his adherence

to rules and his desire to take action against irregularities and illegalities within his jurisdiction as a public servant.

In their reply, the Government submitted that they were prepared to reconsider Mr. Chaturvedi's case and sought time for disposal of his application, adding that they were prepared to consider the points raised by him afresh.

"We are of the opinion that the impugned order dated January 28, 2015 is rendered infructuous *ipso facto* as the matter is to be reconsidered by respondents as submitted by counsel for the respondents (that is, the Union of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests and Department of Personnel & Training)," the Bench said adding that Mr. Chaturvedi's predicament be 'preferably' addressed 'within two months'.

A complaint was filed by the whistleblower before the tribunal challenging the ACC order, which had sought fresh consent from Haryana and Uttarakhand Governments

DECCAN HERALD, MAY 27, 2015

#### **Gamlin responds to AAP charges in letter to LG**

Refuting allegations of her favouring power companies and tricking the government, Principal Secretary Shakuntala Gamlin has written to Delhi Lt Governor Najeeb Jung clarifying her stand over the charges levelled against her by the AAP government.

"The need regarding the issuance of a comfort letter for the purpose of facilitating a loan from the power finance corporation led consortium of institutions and banks to BRPS and BYPL, the two out of three discoms operating in Delhi, had arisen on account of Supreme Court order of February 19 this year, wherein an obligation had been placed on these discoms to repay their current dues to GNCTD and central power utilities.

"Non-payment of these dues... would have led to regulation by them, resulting in major loadshedding in the national capital," Gamlin says in her letter.

Refuting the allegation that she favoured power companies and had tricked the government into signing documents (comfort letter) which would give Rs 11,000 crore to power firms, Gamlin said, "The comfort letter that has been requested for is definitely not in the nature of 'some kind of guarantee' which would have made GNCTD' liable to repay the loan if the companies defaulted at any time in the future.

"In case of default of payment of dues towards loan extended by PFC to discoms, GNCTD will extend all support and help to PFC to recover its dues." In the three-page letter, Gamlin said that rather than lobbying for the companies, she had ensured that while AAP government was planning to provide power subsidy and had to make payment to the discoms, both BYPL and BRPL's subsidy amount was adjusted and was not paid to them.

In her letter she stated that "... she on her own accord inserted a provision whereby BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd and BSES Yamuna Power Ltd, the two discoms in question, would be required to adjust the subsidy amount due to them from GNCTD against dues owed by them to state power PSUs, and in turn GNCTD would pay these dues back to the state power PSUs".

The letter states that due to this clause inserted by her, Delhi government was not required to pay the discoms the subsidy cost, which was approximately Rs 1,000 crore, till the dues worth Rs 5,000 crore were paid by the discoms.

The letter further states that "in case the minister had been convinced of what he is saying now at this late juncture, when things are already out in the open, he ought to have taken recourse to writing the same note on 14.05-2015 itself, when the proposal for the comfort letter was placed before him. It is unfortunate that basic facts have been completely ignored and not taken cognisance of while preparing the said note".

Gamlin's appointment as acting Chief Secretary had sparked a turf war between the LG and Chief Minister's office.

TIMES OF INDIA, MAY 27, 2015

**State order on babus may spell salary woes**

[Deeptiman Tiwary](#)

NEW DELHI: As many as 18 bureaucrats posted by the Kejriwal government in the past couple of days stand to lose their salaries as the Centre is likely to call their postings void unless the same is routed through the office of lieutenant governor Najeeb Jung.

If that happens, it would only add another chapter to Kejriwal-Jung tussle and escalate the tension between the Centre and the Delhi government. Buoyed by a Delhi high court verdict going in favour of Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal vis-a-vis the recent notification issued by the home ministry, the state government on Monday ordered postings of nine bureaucrats, including two IAS officers. Sources in the Union government said nine more transfers and postings had been carried out after the home ministry's latest notification.

Since the notification had said powers to transfer officers belonging to central services (including IAS, IPS, DANIPS and DANICS) lay solely with the LG, all these postings violate the notification and may be declared null and void. Also, since they do not conform to the notification, none of them will get their salaries from the Centre.

"The issue has as yet not been taken up with the Delhi government officially as the Centre does not want to escalate the tension further. But none of these officers are going

to get their salaries as the postings are ultra vires of the notification. We are hoping that better sense will prevail and Kejriwal government will route these orders through LG office for them to remain valid," said a home ministry official.

Sources in the Delhi government said so far no communication regarding LG's rejection of the recent postings and transfers has been received. "The government is acting according to the law and directions laid out. As far as taking a view on the recent postings, we will reply when we get something from the LG's office on the matter," a senior AAP member said.

The list of nine officers who were posted on Monday through an order signed by principal secretary to CM Rajendra Kumar include senior IAS officer F O Hashmi (special secretary health), Sandeep Gulati (ad hoc DANICS) and Meena Tyagi (ad hoc DANICS).

INDIAN EXPRESS, MAY 27, 2015

**Chandigarh: UT to do away with age-old no-transfer policy**

**The new policy, will affect over 10,000 clerical and technical staff.**

**By: Vivek Gupta**

From the time Chandigarh came into existence, clerical and technical staff in the administration have retired from the department to which they were posted when they entered service. But the no-transfer policy is now set to end.

The Chandigarh Administration has framed a new inter-departmental transfer policy under which group A to D employees of the administration will be regularly reshuffled among various departments. The new policy, seen as a move to cut out vested interests and complacency from the system, will affect over 10,000 clerical and technical staff.

"The implementation will start soon as the personnel department is compiling [employee] data before making the transfers," UT Adviser to Administrator, Vijay Kumar Dev, said, while confirming the move. Until now, there have never been any inter-departmental

transfers. On recent field visits, Dev made no secret of his unhappiness over the performance of departmental staff in government offices.

He recently said that in some cases, personal staff of officials in Chandigarh had become more powerful than the officials themselves, preventing members of the public from meeting officials and sometimes even taking decisions on their own.

The new policy has come into effect, and according to the notification, the terms and conditions contained in the original appointment offer of UT employees stand modified to the extent of inter-department transfers.

The policy will affect all the ministerial staff right from junior clerk to under secretary-level officers besides the technical staff working in various departments of the UT administration. The Education department, Estate office, Engineering department and UT secretariat have the maximum numbers of ministerial and technical staff.

As per the new rule, secretary personnel will be the competent authority to order the inter-departmental transfers of Group A and B officers while special secretary, personnel, has been given the authority for the transfers of group C and D officials.

The employee will be transferred to another department on the same post/designation on which he/she is working in parent department and the pay and allowance of the transferee will remain the same as admissible. Further, the employee can be sent back to his parent department without assigning any notice or reason.

When contacted, Rakesh Kumar, Convener of co-ordination committee of Government and MC employees and workers, said that while the association has no objection to the transfer of clerical staff, inter-departmental transfer of technical staff doesn't seem

practically possible since the nature of their work varies from one department to another. “The administration is also requested to bring out clarity on the transfers before implementing the policy. Also time frame of such transfers should be specified,” he said.

### **Not all part of policy yet**

Clerical and technical staff of boards/corporations/societies such as the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh Housing Board, CITCO, Chandigarh Child and Women Development Corporation are yet not part of the inter-departmental policy.

“They may be included in such transfers later on,” UT Adviser, Vijay Dev, told Chandigarh Newslite.

HINDUSTAN TIMES, MAY 26, 2015

### **Kejriwal-Jung row: IAS association slams 'undignified treatment' meted out to members** **Aloke Tikku**

Standing up for its colleagues caught in the crossfire between Lt Governor Najeeb Jung and chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, the central IAS association on Tuesday condemned the “undignified treatment” meted out to civil servants during the ongoing power tussle in Delhi and the use of official machinery to defame officials.

"This undignified treatment meted to civil servants is highly demotivating and demoralising to the entire rank and file of the civil service and is clearly unacceptable," said Sanjay Bhoosreddy, secretary of the association that represents nearly 4,800 IAS officers, without directly naming the AAP government.

The association also threatened to move court if the central and state governments across the country did not set up the civil services board. It also demanded that governments in Delhi, Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand remove non-IAS officers appointed to posts meant for the IAS.

Bhoosreddy said he would write to the President, Prime Minister and chief ministers of the states and administrators of union territories to create a conducive atmosphere to enable civil servants function “in a free, impartial and dignified manner without becoming victims of political crossfire.

Invoking the first home minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Bhoosreddy said a good workman does not quarrel with his tools. This is what they seem to be doing. He said the association had received representations from its constituents in Delhi, Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh that the statutory rules regarding appointment of officers were being blatantly violated.

The association has resolved that if such practice is not stopped with immediate effect then it would be left with no option but to take legal recourse to approach the Government of India, which is the competent authority, and also the competent judicial forums, he said.

ASIAN AGE, MAY 26, 2015

### **Reshuffle of babus as CS joins work**

SANJAY KAW

In a major bureaucratic reshuffle, the AAP government on Monday gave additional charge of health to senior IAS officer and Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) CEO Amar Nath. Senior IAS officer and secretary (PWD) Arun Baroka has now been relieved of the additional charge of health secretary.

On a day when chief secretary K.K. Sharma rejoined work after his 10-day leave, newly-appointed secretary (services) Rajendra Kumar passed the order on transfers and postings of several bureaucrats.

Mr Sharma had proceeded on leave to visit his daughter in the United States after he was served a show-cause notice by chief minister Arvind Kejriwal to explain why he had not routed certain files through his office.

The CM had also transferred senior IAS officer Anindo Majumdar, who was secretary (services), for issuing the order giving additional charge of chief secretary to Ms Shakuntala D. Gamlin.

In his order, Mr Kumar posted senior IAS officer F.O. Hashmi, who was awaiting posting, as special secretary (health). The government also appointed Danics officer and additional secretary for public grievance management system K.D. Dogra as additional director (education).

Mr Dogra has been repatriated from the post of the NDMC director to take charge as the deputy commissioner of the East Delhi Municipal Committee.

Deputy commissioner (West) C.R. Garg has been appointed as the director of the Delhi Jal Board.

Senior DANICS officer B.S. Jalan has been repatriated from the post of DJB director to take charge as deputy commissioner (West). DANICS officer Ajay Kumar Bisht has been repatriated from the post of DDA (director) and appointed as additional secretary (power).

Ad hoc DANICS officer Sandeep Gulati has been given charge of DJB assistant director. And another Adhoc DANICS officer, Meena Tyagi, has been appointed as deputy secretary (power)

ECONOMIC TIMES, MAY 25, 2015

**Cabinet Secretary Ajit Seth's name to be deleted from all court cases**

By [Aman Sharma](#)

This comes after Cabinet Secretary Ajit Seth complained that his department's pleas regarding the same were being rejected by the government's law officers without citing any reasons.

NEW DELHI: The Narendra Modi Government has decided to get the name of the its top bureaucrat — [Cabinet Secretary](#) — deleted as a 'respondent' from all pending court cases before Supreme Court of India, various high courts and litigations before tribunals.

This comes after Cabinet Secretary [Ajit Seth](#) complained that his department's pleas regarding the same were being rejected by the government's law officers without citing any reasons.

The law ministry, on directions of law minister Sadananda Gowda, has now issued an order to all ministries on May 8 to take "immediate" steps to seek deletion of the name of Cabinet Secretary from the array of respondents and themselves defend the Union of India (UoI) in the cases.

## The Name Matters

Govt decides to spare cabinet secretary from court cases

Cabinet secretariat complains that Union of India fighting through cabinet secretary as respondent in large number of court cases



Cabinet secretariat proposals to ministries for deletion of cabinet secretary's name from cases gets no consistent response from government counsels

Law Ministry on May 8 orders all ministries to immediately seek deletion of cab secy's name from court cases and themselves defend the interest of UoI

Govt to cite Business Rules before courts that business is allocated/disposed of by minister-in-charge of department

All ministries told to keep Cabinet Secretariat informed of compliance status



The government will plead before the courts that Cabinet Secretary's name be deleted as a respondent because under 1961 Government of India (Allocation of Business Rules) and Government of India (Transaction of Business Rules) formulated by President under Article 77 (3) of Constitution, the business of a department is allotted to and disposed of by the Minister-In-Charge and the subject is not allocated to the Cabinet Secretary.

All ministries have also been told to update compliance status of the move on the Prime Minister-monitored E-SamikSha platform. The Cabinet Secretariat under Ajit Seth on February 24 had brought it to the notice of the law ministry that the former had been receiving "a large number of cases" from different courts/tribunals in which the UoI through Cabinet Secretary was enlisted either as a pro forma respondent or as a main respondent while the ministry/department concerned not being enlisted at all as one, the law ministry order says.

"Cabinet secretariat has been forwarding copies of the petitions along with the notice to the ministries concerned/departments with the request to defend the case on behalf of UoI and get the name of the Cabinet Secretary who is not directly concerned with the subject of the case, deleted from the list of respondents," the law ministry's order has now mentioned. It then narrates the complaint of the Cabinet Secretary in instances where the ministry referred the proposal, to delete the Cabinet Secretary's name, to the government counsel for his views.

The orders now says the ministry "will immediately" engage the services of law officers on receiving instructions from the Cabinet Secretariat on receipt of the notice of the case.

## CORRUPTION

STATESMAN, MAY 27, 2015

**Jayameva Jayate**

**Sam Rajappa**

Justice CR Kumaraswamy of the Karnataka High Court has paved the way for former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and general secretary of the ruling AIADMK, J Jayalalitha, to resume her chief ministership by setting aside her conviction by the Special Court in Bangalore under Section 13 (1) (e) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, and sentence of four years imprisonment and a fine of Rs 100 crore for amassing wealth disproportionate to her known sources of income. The first serving Chief Minister to go to jail for corruption in India, she was sworn in as Tamil Nadu Chief Minister for the fifth time with pomp and pageantry in Chennai on 23 May witnessed by senior leaders of the BJP among others.

The check period of Jayalalitha amassing wealth disproportionate to her known sources of income was 1 July 1991 to 30 April 1996 when she was Chief Minister for the first time drawing a token monthly salary of one rupee. Subramanian Swamy, then president of the Janata Party, after obtaining permission from Governor Mari Chenna Reddy, filed cases of corruption against Jayalalitha. The cases were pursued by the DMK government which succeeded the AIADMK in 1996. She was convicted in a series of cases like the colour TV case of Rs 10 crore kickbacks, Rs 4-crore Tansi land deal, flouting of building rules in the Kodaikanal Pleasant Stay Hotel case, and the Rs 6.5 crore coal import scam case.

On her return to power in 2001, she managed to get acquitted in all these cases by the Madras High Court. The Rs 66-crore disproportionate asset case was transferred by the Supreme Court to Karnataka in 2002. After many a twists and turns, the Special Court in Bangalore based on documentary evidence put her disproportionate assets as Rs 53.6 crore and convicted and sentenced her in September last to four years imprisonment and a fine of Rs 100 crore. The conviction disqualified her from continuing as Chief Minister and member of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly with immediate effect.

Relying on a pre-1988 PCA judgment of the Supreme Court that disproportionate assets up to 10 per cent could be condoned, Justice Kumaraswamy, through some arithmetic legerdemain, brought down Jayalalitha's unaccounted assets to Rs 2.82 crore, which is just 8.12 per cent of her wealth. In the Krishnanand Agnihotri case, the Supreme Court found the accused had amassed Rs 11,000 in excess of his known source of income and

allowed him to go scot free. Using the same yardstick, Justice Kumaraswamy declared Jayalalitha was not guilty of accumulating disproportionate assets, and acquitted her of all charges and discharged her bail bond on 11 May.

The learned judge committed a grievous error of simple arithmetic in adding nine Indian Bank loans of Rs 1,50,00,000, Rs 3,75,00,000, Rs 90,00,000, Rs 25,00,000, Rs 12,46,000, Rs 50,00,000, Rs 25,00,000, Rs 1,57,00,000, Rs 1,65,00,000, and Rs 17,85,274 as Rs 24,17,31,274 whereas the total should be Rs 10,67,31,274. Once the difference of Rs 13,50,00,000 is taken into account, Jayalalitha's disproportionate assets go up from 8.12 per cent to 75.76 per cent. Of the none loans enumerated, the first one of Rs 1.5 crore had been repaid in full during the check period and should not have been included as part of Jayalalitha's income as it is a case of duplication. The loan of Rs 1.57 crore listed was the amount applied for. The bank sanctioned Rs 1.33 crore only. There is a discrepancy of Rs 20 lakh. Taking all these errors into consideration and applying the same formula to arrive at the percentage of disproportionate assets, it comes to 106 per cent of her known sources of income and the reasoning for acquitting her falls flat.

Justice Dipak Misra, heading a three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court, while dismissing the Tamil Nadu government appointed public prosecutor in Jayalalitha's appeal in Justice Kumaraswamy's court, laid down certain guidelines for the single judge to follow while deciding the appeal and ordered the Registry of the Supreme Court on 27 April itself to send a copy of his judgment to the Registrar-General of the Karnataka High Court to place it before Justice Kumaraswamy. "Be it noted," said Justice Misra, "the appeal assails the judgment of conviction and order of sentence passed under the various provisions of the 1988 Act." Saying the case under the 1988 Act has its own significance, he quoted a paragraph from the *Niranjan Hemchandra Sashittal v State of Maharashtra* which held thus: "It can be stated without any fear of contradiction that corruption is not to be judged by degree, for corruption mothers disorder, destroys societal will to progress, accelerates undeserved ambitions, kills the conscience, jettisons the glory of institutions, paralyses the economic health of a country, corrodes the sense of civility and mars the marrows of governance. It is worth noting that immoral acquisition of wealth destroys the energy of the people believing in honesty and history records with agony how they have suffered. The only redeeming fact is that collective sensibility respects such suffering as it is in consonance with constitutional morality."

Justice Misra cautioned that "a judge must avoid all kind of weakness and vacillation." In *Subramanian Swamy v CBI*, the Constitution Bench, while declaring Section 6-A of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946, unconstitutional, observed, "Corruption is

an enemy of the nation and tracking down corrupt public servants and punishing such persons is a necessary mandate of the PC Act, 1988. It is difficult to justify the classification which has been made in Section 6-A because of the goal of law in the PC Act is to meet corruption cases with a very strong hand and all public servants are warned through such a legislative measure that corrupt public servants have to face very serious consequences.” Regarding the conduct of judges, the Supreme Court had said in High Court of Rajasthan v Ramesh Chand Paliwal (AIR 1998 SC 1079), “Judges have to live and behave like hermits who have no desire, having shed it through penance as their mission is to supply light and not heat.”

Apart from not meeting the outdated formula of 10 per cent admissible corruption, Justice Kumaraswamy’s order suffers several other infirmities, the most glaring is the absence of a legal public prosecutor which Karnataka alone was qualified to appoint. The entire appeal proceedings were conducted without making Karnataka a party though it was a necessary legal requirement. Counsel for the accused was allowed to make oral arguments for two months without the presence of an authorised prosecutor, thereby denying the principles of natural justice. Only after hearing was over, BV Acharya was appointed as public prosecutor and he was given just 24 hours to make a written submission within 50 pages. For this lapse alone Jayalalitha’s appeal should have been dismissed in limine, says Acharya. The Foreign Exchange Regulation Act prohibits public servants from receiving gifts from foreign countries. If allowed, ministers could accept bribes from foreign countries in the form of gifts. In the case of Jayalalitha, foreign remittance of Rs 77 lakh was admitted as income by Justice Kumaraswamy. This would encourage politicians to take bribes in kind to escape penalty under FERA. A CBI case against accepting Rs 77 lakh foreign remittance as gift is pending in the Supreme Court. The learned judge has also accepted Rs 1.5 crore Jayalalitha received as gifts on the occasion of her 44th birth day celebrations. According to conduct rules, ministers cannot receive gifts. If gifts and foreign money remittances are accepted as lawful income, it will only breed corruption. The 919-page judgment is replete with incongruities. Sooner than later the Karnataka government or one or the other aggrieved parties will approach the Supreme Court with special leave petition. If the apex court shows the same speed it has shown in the disposal of Jayalalitha’s appeal in the Karnataka High Court in disposing of the special petition also, one could see the political scene in Tamil Nadu undergoing a sea change.

## EDUCATION

HINDU, MAY 24, 2015

### **CBSE, State boards to bring in gender sensitivity modules**

KAVITA KISHORE

With the increasing emphasis on gender sensitivity and issues of violence against women, both the CBSE and the State board are taking steps to sensitise their students and staff.

The CBSE has issued a kit to schools, which includes a handbook, cards and a manual to help schools train their staff and students on skills and attitudes to promote gender sensitivity. “The kit is meant to improve the children’s understanding of gender. If we catch them at a young age, they will be able to cope with life better,” a CBSE official said, adding that the kit is in compliance with the Protection of Children from Sexual Offence Act 2012. The kit will be incorporated through the Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation scheme, with 23 modules on life skills that include growing up issues, managing emotions, and all forms of discrimination. There is also an educator’s manual on gender sensitive teaching in classes from Class I to Class XII.

Schools have also been instructed to set up a School Complaints Committee and also advertise the 1098 Childline prominently in schools. “We have also instructed schools to conduct an induction for all their staff,” he said. Schools will begin implementation in the next academic year.

The State Council for Education Research and Training has also developed a manual to train teachers for counselling. “It has instructions for teachers to identify children at risk. It also encourages teachers to encourage gender equality in the classroom,” an SCERT official said.

The CBSE has issued a kit to schools to help them train staff and students

DECCAN HERALD, MAY 29, 2015

### **Delhi University clears credit system**

Delhi University’s executive council on Thursday passed the proposal to implement Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) from this year’s academic session, even when the varsity departments are saying that they are not up for it.

The University Grants Commission’s recent attempt at academic reforms was passed with only five dissents out of 23 opinions.

“Even as the (EC) meeting was on, news came that the Political Science Department of the DU had rejected CBCS in the general body meeting of its teachers. It may be recalled that the History Department and majority of teachers in the Commerce Department had

also rejected CBCS,” the statement issued by the Delhi University Teachers’ Association said.

Earlier in the day, student and teacher groups joined the DUTA agitation against implementation of the CBCS.

As per the University Grants Commission, the new system proposes a common syllabus for all central universities, a common entrance test, faculty and student mobility, and credit transfers.

“No debate was allowed. The matter was decided not on its merit. The Vice-Chancellor and the team gave only one rationale that the Ministry of Human Resource Development wants it. The ministry should realise that having VCs on board will not ensure success of CBCS. They have to respond to the concerns raised by teachers and students, else it will meet the same fate as the four-year undergraduate programme (FYUP),” EC member Abha Dev Habib said.

The FYUP was rolled back after the NDA-government entered office and following Union Grant Commission’s pressure to do away with it. The controversial programme had sparked widespread agitation from student and teachers’ groups.

The Political Science Department observed that the UGC’s move to “impose” the new system will “deprive university’s administrative and academic autonomy”.

The resolution adopted in its general body meeting read: “The House fears that the very idea and structure of CBCS would lead to counter-accusation of employment and kill diversity and creativity of students and faculties under its purported attempt at standardisation of the curricular and academic structure.”

STATESMAN, MAY 29, 2015

### **Quality of Instruction**

**Rudrashis Datta**

Higher education in India tends to be evaluated every year in the context of the worldwide ranking of universities. Regretfully, the institutions perceived to be among the best in the country fare dismally in the ratings. Yet the annual concern dies down after a few weeks. Higher educational institutions fare well in terms of enrolment opportunities. Yet scant attention is accorded to quality, specifically academics and research.

While the earliest Indian universities date back to the mid-19th century, the first concrete step towards ensuring quality had to wait till the National Policy of Education, 1986, and

the Programme of Action, 1992, by which time most western universities and even some universities in Asia had quality infrastructure in place. The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), an autonomous body under the University Grants Commission (UGC), was established in 1994 to address the quality factor through assessments, appraisal reports and peer visits. Yet the overall issue goes beyond the usual assessment grades that NAAC uses to judge higher educational institutions. With incentives of receiving higher grades tapering off and with the statutory role of UGC under revision, NAAC grades are set to become ornamental labels. As often as not, such grades do little justice to the quality of education that each undergraduate receives. The quality of classroom instruction is never assessed before the grades are calibrated. Accreditation usually follows peer visits and much of the assessment is based on physical infrastructure and paperwork.

The latest figures of the Council suggest that out of 612 universities, only 172 have been accredited till date, leaving behind almost two-thirds of Indian universities out of the purview of any assessment exercise.

The quality of higher educational institutions can be only as good as the quality of students. There has been an appalling decline in the calibre of students entering colleges and universities. This undermines the performance of teachers who, in spite of their best efforts, are forced to scale down the standard of instruction so as to reach a wider section of the students. Intrinsicly linked to the quality of education is the merit of the teachers. The University Grants Commission has stipulated a minimum level of quality for teachers at entry-point. However, its efforts towards skill upgradation have been sabotaged by vested interests within the teaching fraternity. The tenure of teachers is permanent till superannuation, a large section of academics idle away their time once they attain the desired level of career growth and financial standing. The UGC's efforts to promote research have been hobbled by the proliferation of dubious 'pay and publish' journals and 'pay for registration and get a certificate' seminars that are sponsored by the UGC with taxpayers' money. Teachers are thus equipped with the required papers to ensure promotion. The quality of pedagogy gets subordinated to personal attainments. The concept is still a distant dream in India unlike institutions in the Western countries. No worthwhile effort has been made either by the supervisory bodies or regulatory entities to introduce the idea of higher education pedagogy in the quality-enhancement process.

Ironically, India's tryst with academic quality began with the path-breaking report of the UGC in 1949, then chaired by Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, and long before the West

was able to put a higher education policy in place. The document had prescribed the foundation over which higher education rests today. While we do pay lip-service to its recommendations, many of the innovative ideas of the report, such as examination and curricula reforms, have been excluded from the policy framework.

In parallel, several state governments are promoting private universities to offset the accommodation and infrastructure limitations of government institutions. While this may serve some purpose in the immediate future, the limited scope for employment can challenge the very existence of courses such universities offer at a premium. The fees are atrociously high. And quality control, both in terms of students and teachers, remains a problem that is yet to be addressed.

A supervisory system or inspection regime often leads to the proverbial cat-and-mouse game among the stakeholders. As such, much of our efforts are directed towards the means rather than the ends. With increasing enrolments a strain on resources, it is a matter of time before the critical issues of quality and standards have an impact on the absorption of pass-outs even in the non-technical service sector employment.

Indian institutions of higher learning still lack a system of programme evaluation, review paradigms, flexible assessment and accreditation criteria catering to the varying standards of colleges and universities. Nor for that matter is there a worthwhile feedback mechanism covering the university, the industry, and the market. The inevitable consequence is the lack of skill development and employment potential among those who pass out.

Our institutions of higher learning ought to deviate from a degree-providing regime to one that develops skills. While laws can be passed and statutes modified to this effect, the actual agents of change are those who interact in the classroom the teachers and the students. Society has always changed for the better through this special symbiosis between the teacher and the taught. The onus lies on the administrative and political class to realise and respect this symbiosis so that the task of ‘man-making’, as Swami Vivekananda described it, becomes easier for the teaching community. All stakeholders should realize that teachers from India have succeeded brilliantly in most western institutions of higher learning where they had the environment to flourish. Our history of higher education is replete with examples of quality in symbiotic classrooms, while laws and regulations, enforcement and policing, stop at the doors.

DECCAN HERALD, MAY 26, 2015  
**Cabinet approves trifurcation of BU**

The State Cabinet on Monday gave its approval for an amendment bill that provides for trifurcation of Bangalore University (BU) and fixing jurisdiction of the new universities.

The Karnataka State Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2015 provides for restructuring of the existing Bangalore University by establishing three universities BU (North), BU (Central) and BU (South).

Sources said the assembly constituencies in Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Chikkaballapura and Kolar districts have been taken as the unit for division.

Splitting Bangalore University was inevitable as it had 600 constituent colleges and 3.5 lakh students and the number was way too high for rendering efficient administration.

The sources said BU (South) with its headquarters at the present Jnana Bharathi campus will have colleges coming under the jurisdiction of the assembly constituencies of Vijayanagar, Padmanabhanagar, Bommanahalli, Anekal, Bangalore (south), Yeshwanthpur, Rajarajeshwarinagar, Dasarahalli, Mahalakshmi Layout, Govindarajinagar, Nelamangala, Magadi, Ramanagara, Kanakapura and Channapatna.

BU (Central) with its headquarters at Central college will have colleges coming under the jurisdiction of the assembly constituencies of Shantinagar, Byatarayanapura, Yelahanka, Malleswaram, Hebbal, Shivajinagar, Gandhinagar, Chikpet, Basavanagudi, BTM Layout, Jayanagar and Rajajinagar.

BU (North) with its headquarters at Post-Graduate Centre, Kolar will have colleges coming under the jurisdiction of the assembly constituencies of Kolar, Malur, KR Pura, Pulakeshinagar, Sarvajnanagar, CV Ramanagar, Mahadevapura, Gouribidanur, Bagepalli, Chikkaballapura, Shidlaghatta, Chintamani, Devanahalli, Hoskote and Doddaballapura.

The then governor H R Bhardwaj had rejected a bill drafted by the previous BJP government to bifurcate Bangalore University and set up a new varsity - DVG Jnanavahini University - with headquarters at Hoskote.

Bhardwaj had stated that the move would destroy Bangalore University's structure and divide its resources. However, the present government has been insisting on splitting Bangalore University. At least three reports had been placed before the government on splitting Bangalore University. A committee headed by K R Venugopal, principal, University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering, had recommended that the university be split into five varsities. A committee headed by former vice-chancellor Dr N Rudraiah had recommended that the university be trifurcated.

## FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

BUSINESS STANDARD, MAY 26, 2015

### **Govt banks to stay closed on 2nd and 4th Sat from July**

Pay revision details okayed for 2012-17, arrears to be paid from this month; total extra payout to staff will be Rs 8,300 crore a year

The Indian Banks' Association and United Forum of Bank Union's office bearers sign a bipartiate wage settlement agreement in Mumbai (pic: Kamlesh Pednekar)

Following a pact between public sector bank (PSB) employees and officers with the management, all branches in the country will remain closed on all second and fourth Saturdays from July.

T M Bhasin, chairman of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA), said the Reserve Bank of India had approved the proposal and a notification would be issued on the change, under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

It will take three to four weeks for the process to get complete. PSB branches will work fulltime on the first and third Saturday of each month, said Bhasin, also chairman and managing director of Indian Bank.

Bankers said with a robust system of alternate banking channels like ATMs, points of sale and internet banking, customer services would not suffer.

IBA has also signed a wage settlement pact with the United Forum of Bank Unions and a few others, for a 15 per cent increase in salary and allowances to about a million employees. The wage revision is with effect from November 1, 2012, and is valid for five years. PSBs are expected to begin to pay the arrears from this month, Bhasin said.

The banks and their employee and officer unions had signed a framework agreement on February 23 for a 15 per cent wage rise, with an understanding to finalise the details in 90 days. The scale pay of officers has been revised from Rs 14,500–52,000 to Rs 23,700–85,000. Officers will get a special allowance ranging from 7.75-11 per cent of basic pay, along with applicable dearness allowance.

The scale pay of workmen (non-subordinate) has been revised from Rs 7,200–19,300 to Rs 11,765–31,540. That of subordinate staff has been revised from Rs 5,850–11,350 to

Rs 9,560–18,545. The special allowance for workmen will be 7.75 per cent of basic pay, plus dearness allowance.

An important feature of the settlement is a medical insurance scheme being introduced for families of employees.

The 15 per cent wage revision would cost PSBs Rs 4,725 crore as incremental salary and allowances in a year. Banks have been making provision for the wage revision from November 2012. When expenses for the superannuation benefits like pension are combined, total extra expenditure will be Rs 8,300 crore a year, estimates IBA.

## HEALTH SERVICES

ASIAN AGE, MAY 25, 2015

### **Panel seeks higher salary for senior AIIMS professors**

In an effort to reward faculty members who served the country's premier health institute for over a decade, a committee, set up to re-frame All India Institute Of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) rules and regulations, has recommended that 40 per cent of its professors, who have already put in 10 years of service, may be upgraded to higher administrative grade scale.

According to recommendations of the Venkatachalam Committee, 40 per cent of the sanctioned strength of the professor cadre in the AIIMS, who have already put in 10 years of service in this rank, may be upgraded to higher administrative grade scale without compromising on work standards which should be laid down.

The committee, constituted on May 15, 2014 for re-framing rules and regulations under the AIIMS Act, 1956, has submitted its final report of recommendations to the Union health ministry.

“There is a need to enhance financial powers of AIIMS director, president and the governing body, such as powers to approve new constructions, approve maintenance of buildings and special repairs, write-off powers, etc.”

The committee's report also stressed that highest standards should be maintained in promotions, and work standards should be prescribed by the AIIMS.

## HOUSING

TRIBUNE, MAY 26, 2015

### **Punjab waives registration fee for sale of property to spouse, kin Varinder Singh**

The Punjab Government today waived the registration fee charged for the sale or transfer of property between spouses and blood relations in urban and rural areas with immediate effect.

The levy of registration fee often prompted people to hold properties on general power of attorney leading to family disputes.

In the rural areas, such beneficiaries earlier had to pay 2 per cent (1 per cent infrastructure cess and 1 per cent registration charges) of the collector rate as registration fee. In the urban areas, people had to cough up 5 per cent (4 per cent infrastructure cess and 1 per cent registration fee) for such transactions.

Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal is believed to be the brainchild behind the waiver, which has come at a time when people are upset at being made to pay a huge fee to the state government in the name of infrastructure cess or registration charges in case of intra-family transfer of properties.

People were also peeved at the levy of stamp duty on registration of power of attorneys, particularly in the urban areas of Punjab.

Apparently sensing their “displeasure”, the SAD-BJP government has brought down the stamp duty on the registration of power of attorney for sale of property or transfer of possession.

It has been slashed from the existing 2 per cent to 0.5 per cent and will be adjustable towards the payable stamp duty at the time of execution of sale deed with respect to the property in question.

On all other powers of attorney, a stamp duty of Rs 2,000 will be levied, said Punjab Revenue Minister Bikram Majithia.

The state government, he said, had also decided to rationalise collector rates throughout the state and a high-level committee comprising Financial Commissioner (Revenue) and Principal Secretary (Finance) had been constituted under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Sarvesh Kaushal.

He said the committee would submit its report to the council of ministers for a final decision.

The minister pointed out that a large number of allottees had availed of the “golden opportunity” of getting their immovable properties (plots/houses) allotted by the government or a public sector undertaking or local bodies registered through conveyance deeds at rates mentioned in their allotment letters.

The allottees were required to get conveyance deeds executed at the collector rate, which was linked to the present market rate of property. Majithia urged all such allottees to get conveyance deeds of their properties registered by the June 9 deadline.

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

HINDU, MAY 25, 2015

### **Pushing the envelope in foreign policy**

SRINATH RAGHAVAN

WEST AND EAST:“Mr. Modi has been exceptionally clear in articulating India’s interests and trying to leverage the relationship with the U.S. and China.” Picture shows the Prime Minister at the G20 Summit in Brisbane, Australia, in 2014. —PHOTO: PTI

Narendra Modi’s foreign policy has been continuous with that of his predecessors but he has also sought to push the boundaries of certain engagements much further

Foreign policy is all about securing permanent interests. As such, it may be best judged in the long run. Nevertheless, since foreign policy has been so prominent during the government’s first year in office, an interim assessment may be useful. What are the areas of continuity and change, the successes and blind spots?

Since the early 1990s, the overarching goal of our foreign policy has been a stable and conducive external environment for India’s internal economic transformation and a larger international profile. Towards these ends, successive governments have sought simultaneously to preserve India’s key security interests and to deepen its ties with the global economy. From this standpoint, Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s foreign policy has been continuous with that of his predecessors. Yet, Mr. Modi has also sought to push the boundaries of certain engagements much further. This is not just a question giving a fresh vim to foreign policy, although the vigour is palpable.

### **The U.S. and China**

Consider his approach to dealing with the two most important powers: the United States and China. For over two decades now, every Indian government has tried to impart more substance to relations with these countries. Even as New Delhi has moved steadily to forge strategic ties with Washington, it has sought to place its relations with Beijing on an even keel. However, Mr. Modi has been exceptionally clear in articulating India’s interests and trying to leverage the relationship with the U.S. and China. Thus, during U.S. President Barack Obama’s visit to India in January 2015, India issued a separate joint statement on security in the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean. And on Mr. Modi’s trip to China this month, a separate joint statement was issued on climate change in the light of the upcoming conference in Paris. In both cases, there may be a gap between rhetoric and reality. Still, Mr. Modi is clearly attempting to push the envelope and advance India’s interests without making binary choices in its engagement with these countries.

### **In South Asia**

Closer home, he has consistently outlined a vision of shared prosperity for South Asia and has credibly projected Indian leadership in the region. His visits to Nepal, in August 2014, and Sri Lanka, in March 2015, have gone a long way in helping reset relations with both these countries. Similarly, his decision to abandon the Bharatiya Janata Party's stance and ratify the Land Border Agreement with Bangladesh has given a shot in arm to the bilateral relationship. Yet, the real challenges lie ahead of him. The earthquake in Nepal will certainly delay — and may even complicate — the arduous task of drawing up an agreed constitution. India will not only have to prepare for longer-term assistance in reconstruction, but will also have to engage Nepalese parties more proactively to prevent the political process from drifting. In Sri Lanka, the present government has rolled back the worst features of the presidential system. It has also moved to return the land acquired by the security forces, including in the Tamil areas. But it remains to be seen if Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena is open to a political settlement with the Tamils. After all, his own base includes a slice of the Sinhala chauvinists. In any event, the Tamil question remains a potentially thorny issue in bilateral relations. Colombo's relationship with Beijing is another sensitive area. On campaign trail, Mr. Sirisena had spoken out against his predecessor, Mahinda Rajapaksa's tilt towards China. In office, he has struck a more equivocal note. This is hardly surprising given China's economic importance to Sri Lanka — ties that will deepen further with China's plans for a maritime silk route.

During his forthcoming trip to Dhaka, in the first week of June, Mr. Modi will undoubtedly seek to capitalise on the boundary agreement. Bangladesh also seems open to improve transportation and transit links with India. So far, New Delhi's inability to deliver on an agreement on Teesta river waters had led Dhaka to hold back on transit arrangements. It is unlikely that Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will execute a complete volte-face and fall in with India's requirements. Yet, growing international pressure on her government may make her more amenable to Indian interests. New Delhi has done well to stand by Ms. Hasina in the face of the ongoing onslaught by the Islamists. Yet India must also be mindful of the problem of being identified solely with the Awami League. A stable two-party democracy in Bangladesh is in India's long-term interests.

### **The Pakistan question**

As ever, the sharpest challenge for India's regional ambitions comes from Pakistan. Despite getting off to a good start with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Mr. Modi has been unable to craft a coherent and consistent approach to dealing with Pakistan. Like his predecessors, he has swung from engagement to disengagement — only to be forced to pick up the diplomatic pieces and return to the table. There is something curious about India's policy towards Pakistan, which consists of doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result. Mr. Modi has to break this mould. Diplomatic engagement should not be seen as a reward for Pakistan's good behaviour. The

symbolism of diplomacy should be reduced — even if substantive progress remains tough to achieve.

The current impasse with Pakistan also impinges on our ties with Afghanistan. Here, Mr. Modi faces a situation that has turned rather unfavourable from New Delhi's perspective. Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani's attempt to cosy up to Pakistan has led to an inevitable downgrading of ties with India. Whether or not this yields results, India has to ensure that its interests in Afghanistan are not placed on the chopping block. China's backing for reconciliation with the Taliban will further complicate India's position on Afghanistan. Unless New Delhi adopts a clear strategy, Mr. Modi may well find himself presiding over a retrenchment in Indian engagement with Afghanistan.

While the overall record in South Asia has been mixed, there has been a startling lack of focus on our extended neighbourhood to the west. Even as West Asia is roiled by a range of conflicts, the government has remained content with mounting rescue missions for Indians living in trouble spots. This policy will prove unsustainable if instability deepens and widens in West Asia: some seven million Indians live in the Gulf countries. India needs to position itself as a force for stability in the region, which in turn will require enormous diplomatic engagement. So far, the government has proved purblind on West Asia.

Part of the problem is the persisting flaws in the institutional set-up on foreign policy and security. Despite considerable centralisation in the Prime Minister's Office, the silos between various ministries seem intact. The lack of functional integration of expertise is evident in several areas. Think of the ill-considered decision to purchase 36 Rafale fighter jets. The Defence Minister is still unable to explain how the remaining 90 aircrafts will be procured — if at all. The inability to grasp the import of mega regional trade pacts being negotiated under American leadership is another case in point. The Ministry of Commerce has done little more than set up a company to invest in countries like Vietnam—hoping thereby to secure access to other markets if the Trans-Pacific Partnership goes through. There is still no indication of a strategic response to attempts by leading industrial economies to change the rules of world trade. The government's stance on Intellectual Property Rights is yet another example. Conflicting statements issued by the government have unnecessarily put India on the defensive.

Fine-tuning the institutional support for foreign and strategic policy is imperative to following through on the early successes as well as addressing various gaps. Recall that the first United Progressive Alliance government chalked up rather more impressive accomplishment after just over a year in office: the joint statement with the U.S. on the nuclear deal and the agreement on parameters for settling the boundary with China. The challenge is to sustain focus and momentum in the tougher years that lie ahead. There are persisting flaws in the institutional set-up on foreign policy and security, with silos between various ministries still intact

## INTERNET

ECONOMIC TIMES, MAY 25, 2015

### **AAP government to provide WiFi access in Delhi on limited data usage basis**

Aam Aadmi Party government has decided to provide free Wi-Fi internet on the basis of limited data usage, instead of setting a time limit.

NEW DELHI: The Aam Aadmi Party government has decided to provide free [Wi-Fi internet](#) on the basis of limited data usage, instead of setting a time limit. Among the prominent pre-poll promises made by [AAP](#), the plan will be implemented by February of next year.

According to a senior official, the government will release an expression of interest by a request for proposal in June with the work to be awarded by July. Around 150 companies from around the world have expressed interest, the official said.

Senior officials also said website browsing, social media sites (Facebook /Twitter), email and [Whatsapp](#) and other basic services will remain free while a user will have to pay for watching videos, video chat and downloading content. "We will work on ensuring a minimum speed of 512 KB p/s to each user to make it a better experience. We will be very strict on user experience and uninterrupted service," said the Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of IT, Adarsh Shastri.

## LABOUR

BUSINESS STANDARD, MAY 26, 2015

**Nationwide trade unions to go on strike Sept 2**

**PMO forms inter-ministerial panel to look into demands; Dattatreya says it's for states to take much of the action, Centre's already done its bit**

**Somesh Jha**

Central trade unions are likely to call a one-day nationwide strike on September 2, as a protest at the Union government's "unilateral" push on labour law changes and non-fulfilment of their demands.

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has constituted a five-member committee to address their 10-point charter of demands. It has finance minister Arun Jaitley, minister of state in the PMO, Jitendra Singh, petroleum minister Dharmendra Pradhan, power minister Piyush Goyal and labour minister Bandaru Dattatreya.

The formal announcement on a strike will be made on Tuesday, at a national convention of workers in this city. "All 11 central TUs met and decided we will announce a one-day national strike on September 2. However, if the government assures us they will not rush into the labour law reforms until there is unanimous agreement between us and the government, we will postpone the strike," said a central TU head, on condition of anonymity.

On the government committee, the person said, "The government has formed it only to discuss the 10-point charter of demands but they are silent on the labour law reforms."

The government denies that an unilateral decision is being taken on amendments to labour laws. "Our ministry does tripartite consultation before proceeding for any amendment. Tripartite meetings have been held for proposed legislation with regard to the small factories Bill, labour code on wages and industrial relations," stated Dattatreya.

The Union labour ministry on Monday released a status report on the TUs' 10-point charter. It said four or five had been fulfilled already. For the rest, it was up to the state governments.

“I have done my duty. If the unions are interested in solving the problem, it is up to them. The ball is in their court. We are working in the interest of workers. It is the responsibility of state governments to implement many of their demands. My job is to build consensus and dialogue,” said Dattatreya.

He said he'd met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday last week to apprise him of the situation and it was on the latter's advice that an inter-ministerial committee was formed.

The unions' demands include providing universal social security to workers, firm action against price rise, employment generation, strict enforcement of all labour laws, and stoppage of disinvestment in central or state public sector units.

The government's recently proposed bill on industrial relations has also been strongly opposed by the unions. Some of the proposals include easing the rule for retrenchment of workers and tightening of norms for forming trade unions.

## POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

INDIAN EXPRESS, MAY 25, 2015

### **Delhi vs Centre: Started with first CM, abolition of House**

Tensions between Delhi government and the Center aren't exclusive to AAP and BJP, they have been going on since Delhi's first ever Chief Minister came to power. CM Kejriwal has called a special assembly session Tuesday. (Express photo by Oinam Anand)

#### **Shyamlal Yadav**

The crisis in Delhi over the powers of the Chief Minister and Lieutenant Governor is not new. Six decades ago, the first Chief Minister, Chowdhury Brahm Perkash, had to resign in February 1955 after a bitter tussle for power with Chief Commissioner Anand Dattahaya Pandit. The following year, the Delhi assembly was abolished.

In an interview to the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML), Perkash, who was Chief Minister from March 17, 1952 to February 12, 1955, spoke of his fight with then Union Home Minister Govind Ballabh Pant and Chief Commissioner Pandit, and said it was one reason for the abolition of the Delhi assembly. At that time, Delhi was one of ten Part C states — with Ajmer, Bhopal, Bilaspur, Coorg, Himachal Pradesh, Kutch, Manipur, Tripura and Vindhya Pradesh.

Suresh Choudhary, the elder son of Brahm Perkash, whose book in Hindi 'Dilli Ke Pratham Mukhya Mantri — Chowdhury Brahm Perkash' was published recently by S Chand Publishing, gave [The Indian Express](#) access to the interview to NMML. The interview was recorded by Usha Prasad on behalf of NMML.

“A D Pandit became Chief Commissioner. He wanted to interfere in every matter and helped my enemies. He played the main role in my resignation as Chief Minister. I had the worst relations with him. Once he ordered demolition of 700 jhuggies though it had

been decided that these would not be demolished. He sent orders directly to the Chairman of Improvement Trust (the forerunner of the DDA). I immediately conveyed to the Secretary that I was going to stop the demolition and he should tell the Chief Commissioner to send the police to arrest the Chief Minister... That Chief Commissioner harassed me a lot and he kept doing so till the end. He did not like any elected representative,” Brahm Perkash said in the interview.

From Shakurpur in Delhi and once considered close to Jawaharlal Nehru, Brahm Perkash became Chief Minister when he was just 34. He wanted to form a Greater Delhi state comprising Delhi, parts of Western UP, Punjab and Rajasthan.

“But this was opposed by the UP leadership, particularly Govind Ballabh Pant (then Union Home Minister). Pant said that the land of Ram and Krishna cannot be divided. The Hindus of Punjab were afraid. We proposed Maha Dilli in 1955. That is how Delhi assembly was abolished and that slogan remains incomplete.”

“This (idea of Maha Dilli) was not liked by our leaders. Perhaps Panditji (Nehru) also did not like it. I opposed him in my public meetings. Politically, I had to pay a huge price for that. Perhaps that was also one reason that Delhi’s statehood was lost.”

“Everybody thinks Delhi is his fiefdom. I showed these officers their place. I neither insulted them, nor did I allow them to do things on their own.”

In the interview, he suggests that it was his tussle with the Chief Commissioner and the Home Minister that led to the recommendation of abolition of statehood for Delhi by the States Reorganisation Commission under Fazal Ali.“In the report of the States

Reorganisation Commission, it was said that the circumstances in Delhi were very strange.

The report said that two governments can exist in Delhi at any point of time. But this was wrong and had been inserted into the report by officials. It was said in the report that Delhi needs no statehood. The recommendations were accepted. The report also said that Delhi is a small place, the national capital, and there could be confrontation between the Centre and state governments," Brahm Perkash said.

Delhi's leaders continued to demand statehood after the assembly was abolished in 1956. In 1991, the Union government decided to grant Delhi its assembly again. Elections to the new assembly were held in November 1993. But Brahm Perkash was not around to witness the restoration of the assembly. He died in August 1993.

ECONOMIC TIMES, MAY 27, 015

### **AAP brings resolution against MHA notification; wants power to impeach L-G**

Moving the resolution, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia called the notification an "insult" to the "most popular mandate" of the people of Delhi.

NEW DELHI: The first day of the Delhi assembly's special session saw Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) legislators introducing resolutions targeting the Centre and Lieutenant Governor [Najeeb Jung](#) and expulsion of all three BJP legislators who protested against criticism of the L-G. The session was called for discussing the contentious [home ministry](#) notifications.

Deputy CM [Manish Sisodia](#) fired the first salvo early afternoon, when he termed the Union home ministry notifications 'unconstitutional'. Sisodia alleged that the Centre was 'encroaching' on the rights of the [Delhi assembly](#).

Moving a resolution against the ministry's notification, Sisodia opened the floor for discussions among legislators. Alka Lamba, [Adarsh Shastri](#) and Somnath Bharati were among the most vocal AAP MLAs to speak on the issue.

Shastri, the IT face of [AAP government](#), raised the temperature of an already heated debate when he "proposed to move a resolution" seeking amendments of the Constitution to make it possible to "impeach governors and lieutenant-governors by state assemblies."

Speaking to ET, Shastri later said: "I feel that since Sections 155 and 156 of the Constitution clearly allows for impeachment of the President by Parliament if he fails to do his constitutional duty, and Sarkaria Commission has also recommended that state legislatures should also have the power to impeach governor or L-G if he is not able to discharge his duties, I want to pass a resolution asking Parliament to amend the Constitution allowing state legislatures all over the country to impeach governors. This is a view in respect to federal structure enshrined in the Constitution."

Shastri clarified that the resolution had not been moved or brought to vote on the first day but "maybe brought tomorrow." Shastri and Lamba's statements added to the anti-BJP sentiment with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and lieutenant-governor Najeeb Jung dragged into the discussions. The three BJP MLAs who objected to this and criticised the Speaker were forced out by House marshals.

Subsequently, AAP MLA Somnath Bharati introduced a private member's resolution against the Centre's notification which was passed by the House.

DECCAN HERALD, MAY 26, 2015

### **L-G bound by ministers' advice, says Delhi HC**

The AAP government got a shot in the arm as the Delhi High Court on Monday termed "suspect" the Centre's notification barring the Delhi government's anti-corruption branch (ACB) from acting against its officers in criminal offences.

Holding that the Lieutenant Governor (L-G) of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) cannot act in his discretion, the High Court noted that the L-G is bound to act upon the aid and advice of the council of ministers who are directly elected by the citizens of Delhi and the Centre's "executive fiat" siding with him is "suspect". It observed that the mandate of the people "must" be respected by the L-G if there was no other "constitutional or legal fetter".

The findings were part of a judgment in which the high court held that the ACB has the jurisdiction to arrest policemen.

The AAP government and the L-G have been involved in a public spat over the latter's powers vis-a-vis an elected government.

The Centre, on May 21, issued a notification siding with the Lt Governor. The High Court dismissed the bail application of a head constable arrested by the ACB in a corruption case.

"After the judgment was reserved in the present application, the Ministry of Home

Affairs has issued a notification... on May 21, thereby further amending the notification dated November 8, 1993 and, inter alia, providing that 'ACB police station shall not take any cognisance of the offences against officers, employees and functionaries of the Central government'.

"In my view, since the Union lacks the executive authority to act in respect of matters dealt with in Entries 1 & 2 of List III of the Seventh Schedule, the further executive fiat issued by the Union government on May 21 is also suspect," Justice Vipin Sanghi said.

"The mandate of the people, with whom the sovereign power resides, must be respected by the Lieutenant Governor in respect of matters which fall within the domain of the legislative Assembly, provided there is no other constitutional or legal fetter.

"Therefore, in respect of matters dealt with by Entries 1 and 2 of the Concurrent List, the Lieutenant Governor cannot act in his discretion, and he is bound to act upon the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers," the judge said.

## POSTAL SERVICES

HINDU, MAY 29, 2015

**Maximising the post office**

ANUPAM MANUR

Instead of hamstringing public sector banks with social schemes, it is time to transfer many of these financial tasks to India Post

**WIDER ROLE:**“India Post can play a big role in the fulfilment of the government’s social objectives.” Picture shows a pensioner leaving a post office in Byalahalli village, Karnataka.—

Public sector bank employees are so overwhelmed by the sheer number of government-sponsored schemes they are saddled with, that they have begun to come up with parodies. One such spoof scheme is what they have named the Pradhan Mantri Sishu Palan Yojana, where customers with SB accounts can leave their children with the bank manager for babysitting services at a nominal cost.

This might be just a joke, but it does reflect the deep frustration among bankers at being mandated to carry out an enormous number of the government’s social objectives.

There has been a lot of commentary asking the government to reduce its involvement in Public Sector Banks (PSBs). The government has been asked to reduce holdings, step away from appointments of chairmen and board of directors, and to not interfere in bank schemes such as the farm loan waiver or mandatory priority sector lending, But nobody is talking about the government using PSBs to roll out its various populist schemes, which will affect their day-to-day operations in the short run, and its overall competitiveness in the long run.

A quick search will reveal that the number of government social schemes that use PSBs is uncomfortably high. The schemes cover a range of areas such as insurance (Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, etc), pension (Atal Pension Yojana), financial inclusion (Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana), and priority sector lending, which includes various schemes under agriculture, micro and small enterprises, education, housing, export credit and others.

### **Ambitious targets**

Each scheme usually comes with countrywide targets set by the concerned ministry, which are then distilled and divided into smaller numbers for each bank branch. For example, the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) has an ambitious target of opening 10 crore accounts, to be divided among the banks. One PSB was assigned a

target of 1 crore accounts and one of its branches in Bengaluru had a target of 1,000 accounts to be opened within a week. Such targets are rarely met, and even if they are, they rarely match the desired outcomes, due to complete misalignment of incentives. With a severe dilution of Know Your Customer norms, there is enough evidence about the actual success of the scheme — 75 per cent of the accounts are empty, multiple accounts have been opened by single persons, and there are huge costs that the banks bear (Rs. 200 per bank account).

But what is perhaps the biggest cost to banks is the opportunity cost they lose in implementing these schemes. Ambitious targets and time frames take up precious time that could have otherwise been used to carry out the original mandate of the banks — accept deposits and make loans. All normal bank activity comes to a standstill during such public drives, with employees being swamped by the targets. Even big business clients are asked to wait until the pressure eases. The PMJDY drive halted all normal banking activities for an entire week.

At a time when public sector banks are finding it hard to beat the competition posed by deep-pocketed foreign and private sector banks, they can ill afford to let their biggest customers take a back seat while they meet social goals.

### **Relevance of India Post**

However, since social security measures are important, how about using another government-run behemoth, India Posts, for this task? As it struggles to find relevance in the digital age, perhaps the answer lies in reusing its enormous reach for delivering social schemes. In the U.S., this idea is being examined, and the U.S. Postal Service presented a report this month outlining exactly how postal banking could promote financial inclusion while turning in a neat profit for the service.

Two criteria have to be considered: reach and capability. India Post has a network of over 1.5 lakh branches across India, a reach that far exceeds all the PSBs combined. Of the 1.5 lakh branches, about 1.4 are in rural areas, compared to the combined 23,000 rural branches of the public sector banks.

India Post already runs the Post Office Savings Bank account, which handles cash worth Rs 6 lakh crore per year across 28 crore accounts. The service has also been quite successfully handling cash payments in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act — nearly 5.6 crore MGNREGA accounts, and wages amounting to nearly Rs. 10,000 crore have been disbursed to beneficiaries through 97,709 post offices across the country. Of the three main building blocks of financial inclusion — cash storage, disbursing payments, and giving credit — India Post has already shown that it is quite capable of handling the first two.

In the longer run, for India Post to play a bigger role in the fulfilment of the government's social objectives, the following steps can be taken: First, one of the smaller and healthier PSBs could be merged with Indian Post so that the latter acquires a banking licence and a trained workforce. Second, incentives could be offered to the present workforce to sit for the banking exams. Third, banking exams could be made a requirement for a percentage of the new recruits; and, finally, the banking division of the post office could be brought under the RBI's regulatory purview.

With this, India Post can expand from financial inclusion to handling insurance and pension accounts, priority sector lending in rural areas, and many other financial functions as well.

Some post offices around the world have undergone this transformation quite successfully. The Royal Mail of the U.K., for example, does all the things a bank does and additionally even provides telephone and broadband service.

This move could free public sector banks from being yoked to social sector objectives and allow them to become competitive and function freely in the highly cut-throat banking sector. Simultaneously, it could harness the potential of the post office network in India.

(Anupam Manur is a policy analyst at Takshashila Institution.)

With 1.5 lakh rural branches, India Post's reach far exceeds that of public sector banks. It also runs Post Office Savings accounts. Both are advantages that can be easily and effectively harnessed

## POVERTY

HINDU, MAY 27, 2015

### **Rate of poverty reduction fastest under UPA'**

Chief Economic Adviser Arvind Subramanian said here on Tuesday that the rate of poverty reduction achieved from 2005-06 to 2011-12 was the fastest in the history of the country.

“In the last few years, our economy has not done as badly in reducing poverty as some people will have us believe ... It was due to the fast GDP growth,” Dr. Subramanian said of the five-year period during which the Manmohan Singh-led UPA government was in office.

At a press conference on the state of the economy to mark the first anniversary of the Modi government, he made out a strong case for an aggressive cut in interest rate by the Reserve Bank of India at its monetary policy review on June 2.

He cited the low rate of inflation and the under-control fiscal deficit, and said India must act to keep its currency competitive in view of the aggressive rate cut policy of China and other c

## PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

ECONOMIC TIMES, MAY 27, 2015

### **Score board on Modi government's first-year performance is of transient value**

The Modi govt's one major achievement is removal of state monopoly over coal. The rest are extension and repackaging UPA government's schemes.

Under Narendra Modi as Prime Minister for a year, India's polity has turned illiberal by several degrees and the economy has trundled along the path of recovery underway in the last year of the UPA, without any dramatic change except in one respect.

The Modi government's one major achievement has been removal of state monopoly over coal. The rest are extension/repackaging UPA government's schemes.

There is greater macroeconomic stability today than there was a year ago, thanks, in part, to the global collapse of commodity prices, including oil prices, but also, in part, to the government choosing to maintain fiscal discipline. The saving on oil subsidy meant that the government could afford to avoid the pain of curtailing inefficient, wasteful fertiliser subsidies.

There is more cohesion within the government, with the PM's assertive leadership. At the same time, there are elements in the Sangh Parivar, the larger political formation associated with the ruling party, who are outside the PM's control and pursue their majoritarian agenda that has the potential to create social schism and disrupt peace needed for prosperity.

Religious minorities feel alienated and insecure. India has greater visibility on the global stage, thanks to Modi's hyperactive external agenda. But India still punches below its weight in international affairs. There is far too much concentration of decision-making within the PMO.

There is a clampdown on non-government organisations and their funding agencies. Dissent is seen as obstruction rather than as an input to more broadbased consultation and, therefore, more effective decisionmaking and participatory execution.

A year ago, the BJP was calling for a Congress-free country. Today, the finance minister says the Congress is the chief obstacle to growth. This grudging acknowledgement has to progress to a culture of political engagement for the government to pass bills through the Upper House.

Where the government has signally failed is in getting stalled infrastructure investment going. The only way to get these going and relieve banks of bad loan burden is to get their developers out of these projects, write down the project cost to realistic levels and hand them over to new management.

The government has stepped up investment in the railways, but done little to touch the huge backlog of stalled projects. “371 projects with an investment Rs 18,47,266 crore are pending for resolution with the Project Monitoring Group of the government.

This has also led to a fall in new project investments in the country. State-owned banks which funded these projects predominantly are already saddled with Rs 2,43,043 crore of bad loans — which is 5.32 per cent of their advances,” says a report by ARCIL.

Banks have disguised large quantities of bad loans as restructured assets for the time being but bad loans could be nearly double this amount. Without these projects being released from failed developers and unserviceable debt, credit growth in the economy will remain stalled and investment will stay stunted.

Indian industry is quite demotivated. At the same time, industrialists are too scared to say they are disappointed with the government. A PM who can spin the sharp fall in external acquisitions by Indian industry as successful stemming of capital drain from India in his anniversary speech is a man the industry does not want to rub the wrong way.

The government is stubbornly pushing a land bill to undo the UPA’s land law the BJP had supported without demur. All that any central legislation needs to do is to mandate stakeholderhood by the farmer who loses his land to non-agricultural use. How that can be built into any scheme of land acquisition is for individual states to work out.

States like UP, Haryana and Punjab have worked out viable compensation mechanisms, without any need for a new land bill.

It is welcome that the government is pushing ahead with GST. Political engagement and accommodation remain the key to Opposition cooperation in the Rajya Sabha. Just as the BJP had no problem making an about turn on its attitude towards the Indo-US nuclear deal, after coming to power, and just as it has abandoned its initial extreme aggression towards Pakistan, it should now abandon confrontation with the Congress as its working principle in Parliament. The Congress, on its part, must understand that mere obstructionism will fetch it only ill will from the public.

The score board on the government’s first year performance is of transient value. Modi has four more years to do enough to earn another term as prime minister. The Congress must hold the government to account for errors of omission and commission but also prove, in the states it runs, that it stands for inclusive, efficient growth of a kind that a majoritarian agenda cannot.

## RAILWAYS

DECCAN HERALD, MAY 29, 2015

### **Rajdhani, Shatabdi trains to have paperless ticketing system**

Stepping up efforts to reduce usage of paper, Railways have decided to introduce paperless mobile ticketing system in premium trains like Rajdhani and Shatabdi services. Currently, the paperless ticketing system is operational in unreserved ticketing for commuters in Egmore and Tambaram suburban section in Chennai on a pilot basis.

"Our aim is to extend the paperless ticketing system in both reserved and unreserved segment in phases. While the system is at present operational in a suburban section in Chennai, we will cover all suburban services soon and then it will be extended to reserved segment also," Railway Board Member (Traffic) Ajay Shukla said here today.

He said passengers of the premier trains like Rajdhani and Shatabdi will be the first to have this paperless mobile ticketing facility.

This system is available through a mobile application developed by the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS), Railways' software wing.

The reason for choosing Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains first for paperless ticketing system is that all passengers of premier trains are likely to have mobile phones, he said.

Shukla said, however, before introducing the system in the reserved ticketing segment, refund rules will be rationalised so that passenger will not have any problem in getting their money back if a ticket is being cancelled.

Railways consume about 600 tonnes paper for printing tickets and reservation charts in a year. The national transporter expect to earn carbon credit, if printing of tickets is eliminated completely.

Railways is also planning to launch multi-lingual portals for reservation of tickets. "Currently, it is in English and Hindi and we want the portals to be in all regional languages," he said.

In order to accommodate more passengers, Shukla said the number of coaches of certain popular trains will be increased to 24.

## TRANSPORT

ECONOMIC TIMES, MAY 27, 2015

### **From June 1, public transport vehicles in Delhi must have GPS**

According to the official after June 1, no commercial or passenger vehicle will be allowed a fitness certificate if it doesn't have a GPS device.

NEW DELHI: The AAP government has approved [mandatory GPS](#) on all [public transport vehicles](#). This will be in effect from [June 1](#), said a senior official. The decision comes months after the transport department, which has been extending the deadline for mandatory GPS, announced that all passenger vehicles will need it in order to get their fitness certificates renewed.

The transport department had, in fact, made it mandatory for all [autorickshaws](#) last year to install GPS in order to get their annual fitness certificate. It had later expanded that ambit to cover [taxis](#) and gramin sewa. However, autorickshaw and taxi unions had been complaining about the high cost of the devices. Some have demanded subsidies.

The new order puts a deadline in place. A senior government official said, "The decision to make it mandatory for all public vehicles to have GPS was taken keeping in view the security and safety of commuters, especially women." The GPS devices, which will be available from DIMTS, can be procured at cost-effective rates, added the official. [DIMTS](#) will monitor all data from the GPS devices.

"After June 1, no commercial or passenger vehicle will be allowed a fitness certificate if it doesn't have a GPS device," the official said.

Earlier, the AAP government had said that GPS would not be made mandatory for all autos. However, since then, it has made GPS mandatory.

## URBAN DEVELOPMENT

FINANCIAL EXPRESS, MAY 27, 2015

### **Why Delhi must remain a UT**

**The demand for full statehood portends a policy and politics of unending chaos and anarchy**

By: [Abhijit Bhattacharyya](#)

Article 1(1) of the Constitution states that: “India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States” ... that “(2) the States and the territories thereof shall be as specified in the First Schedule” ... and that “(3) the territory of India shall comprise (a) the territories of the States; (b) the Union territories specified in the First Schedule; and...” In the original Constitution, the states which formed the Union of India were classified into three categories as parts A, B and C of the First Schedule. At the time of the Constitution (Seventh Amendment) Act 1956, which made the first major change, the number of these states was 10, 8, 9, respectively—that is a total of 27.

These 27 states of different categories aside, there was another group of Indian territories specified in part D of the First Schedule. The 1956 Act reduced the category of territory into two. Instead of three categories of states and the part D category, there were the ‘states’ and the Union territories (UTs); the UTs comprised not just Andaman & Nicobar Islands (previously under part D) but also some of the former part C states. Thus, as per the Act, there were a total of six UTs and 15 states.

That was in 1956. Now, 59 years have passed and the number of UTs has risen from six to seven (Chandigarh, Delhi, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Puducherry). But the number of states has almost doubled from 15 to 29. Now, some political entities want to make Delhi a ‘full-fledged state’.

According to Article 2, Parliament “may by law admit into the Union, or establish, new States ... as it thinks fit.”

Article 3 enhances the scope of Parliament's role and power pertaining to "form, increase, diminish and alter" the territory, area and the name of any state.

If Delhi, which has been one of the original UTs, is allowed to become another state, what could be the repercussions for "Bharat ... a Union of States"?

Delhi as a state, unlike the other 29, will be different purely for a demography-geography mismatch. If a state, far bigger than Delhi, but far from Delhi's federal government, clashes on ideology, politics or on issues such as tax sharing or election dates, it constitutes secondary news. But if the same event happens on the streets of Delhi, the national capital, it has repercussions for the whole of India.

Further, two sets of governments—the Union government and a state government if Delhi is created a full-fledged state—could also potentially create an unbridgeable polarisation. At the Union level, Parliament members represent the concerns of the culturally, linguistically and socio-economically diverse regions of India.

However, for Delhi, one must remember that, being the capital of India, the people of all 29 states have a right to be represented in the state government. But does it happen that way? If that were to happen for Delhi, then, to begin with, all the 22 languages of the 8th Schedule would have to be incorporated into the signage of Delhi, the Capital State of India, instead of four at the moment. Also, there has to be proper representation for the 'minorities' in Delhi—'minority' here does not mean religious minority only as Article 30 of the Constitution stipulates that "all minorities, whether based on religion or language, shall have the right ... of their choice," thereby putting linguistic minorities on a par with religious minorities. This is conveniently forgotten or deliberately ignored by the one who want Delhi to be a 'full-fledged state'. Thus, this stance forwards a policy and politics of unending chaos and anarchy.

Delhi also houses over 100 foreign missions—something that statehood-for-Delhi advocates seem to have not factored in in their arguments. While full statehood for Delhi

will become an administrative nightmare from this point of view, some foreign missions may play the situation to their advantage and to the detriment of the unity, integrity, safety and security of India.

While full statehood status for Delhi does imply a few advantages for Delhiwallahs, it also means much greater disadvantage for the states, and that militates against the principle underlying Article 1(1) of the Constitution—“India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States”—as the national capital becomes the sole preserve of only its residents. Moreover, Delhi is sure to turn into a city-state in which people of origins that can be traced to only five or six states dominate at the cost of the entire country. Hence, there should be “only one ruler in Delhi”—the Union government—to protect the fundamental principle of federalism. India cannot be compared with other democracies whose capitals enjoy a vast deal of autonomy as many of these nations would themselves be no bigger than Delhi itself, with relatively culturally and socio-economically homogeneous populations which may not even exceed that of, say, two Delhi colonies, such as Defence Colony and Lajpat Nagar. Delhi can be a full state only at the expense of national unity and interest.

The author is advocate, Supreme Court

## WATER SUPPLY

HINDU, MAY 25, 2015

### **India set to become water scarce by 2025: report**

Although India is set to become water scarce country by 2025 due to demand-supply mismatch, the water sector is expected to see investment of \$13 billion from overseas players in the next few years, a new study has said.

“With increasing household income and increasing contributions from the service and industrial sectors, the water demand in the domestic and industrial sectors increasing substantially,” says a study conducted by EA Water, a leading consulting firm in water sector.

Nearly 70 per cent of country’s irrigation and 80 per cent of domestic water use comes from groundwater, which is rapidly depleting.

However, overseas players from Canada, Israel, Germany, Italy, United States, China and Belgium see big investment opportunity worth \$13 billion in the domestic water sector. “The industry is expected to receive Rs. 18,000 crore in the next three years,” the report said.

The country provides huge opportunities across the spectrum in infrastructure development for water supply and wastewater management.

The industrial market is going to be the big opportunity till 2020, with growth in wastewater recycling and industrial water treatment, the report said.

Maharashtra is emerging as a hub for the water sector. Over 12 international companies have already set up design and engineering centres in Mumbai and Pune. — PTI

## WOMEN

ECONOMIC TIMES, MAY 25, 2015

### **Women safety: Delhi government to deploy marshals in city buses**

The government also has plans to install CCTV cameras in all DTC buses. So far, DTC has managed to install CCTV cameras in 200 buses in first phase.

NEW DELHI: In order to ensure security of [women](#) in public transport, [Delhi Government](#) has decided to deploy 2,500 marshals in buses plying in the city.

The government is currently providing training to personnel of [Home Guard](#) and Civil Defence as marshals to prevent and deter crime, especially against women passengers, in [Delhi Transport Corporation](#) (DTC) and orange-colour cluster buses.

"As per our plan, 2,500 personnel of civil defence and home guards are now being trained as marshals in first phase. They will patrol in buses in groups. Each group will have 3-4 marshals. They will soon start patrolling buses," [Transport Minister Gopal Rai](#) said.

According to the government, the marshals will be given walkie-talkies so that they can contact each other.

"The idea behind deploying these marshals in groups is that they can prevent and deal with crime completely in buses. If one marshal is deployed in buses, so he may not be able to prevent two or three persons involved in crime and in view of this, we have decided to deploy marshals in groups. They will also be given walkie-talkies by the government," he said.

The government also has plans to install CCTV cameras in all DTC buses. So far, DTC has managed to install CCTV cameras in 200 buses in first phase.

"The government will also install CCTV cameras in a phased manner. We are now working on this project," the minister said.

In its pre-poll manifesto, the [Aam Aadmi Party](#) promised to set up Women's [Security Force](#) made up of a 10,000-strong Home Guard.