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## BACKWARD CLASSES

HINDU, MAY 13, 2014

**Reservation cannot be allowed to exceed limit, observes High Court**

MOHAMED IMRANULLAH S.

**‘Otherwise, it will result in injustice to candidates under general category’**

Reservation in government employment cannot be allowed to exceed the percentage prescribed for various categories. Otherwise, it will result in injustice to candidates not falling within its purview, the Madras High Court Bench here has observed.

“It is an everlasting principle of law that reservation cannot be allowed to exceed the percentage prescribed for reservation, and it would result in injustice to candidates falling outside the reservation category,” the Bench observed.

Justices A. Selvam and V.S. Ravi made the observation, dismissing writ appeals filed by two aspirants for the post of District Educational Officer (DEO). The appellants were aggrieved at the implementation of the 200-point, and not 100-point, roster system while reservation was decided for the post.

Stating that they belonged to the Scheduled Caste and the Backward Class, the litigants claimed that they would have got selected for the post by the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (TNPSC) in 2009, had the government followed a 100-point roster system. But the Bench rejected their contention and held that the candidates could not question the roster system after having participated in the selection process, knowing that only the 200-point system would be implemented for the post as per a Government Order issued on September 15, 2007.

The judges also recorded the submission of Advocate-General A.L. Somayaji that the TNPSC had issued a notification on January 23, 2009, calling for applications to fill six vacancies for the post of DEO, and on that date, the 200-point roster system alone was in effect. The Bench refused to accept the appellants’ contention that their participation in the selection process could not act as a bar on questioning the methodology adopted by the government especially when it had infringed their fundamental rights.

Holding that it did not find infringement of any fundamental right of the appellants, the Bench said they had been given sufficient opportunity to take part in the written examination as well as the interview.

Bench dismisses appeals filed by two aspirants for the post of District Educational Officer

They were aggrieved at the implementation of the 200-point, and not 100-point, roster system

## CIVIL SERVICE

HINDUSTAN TIMES, MAY 12, 2014+

**Bureaucrats join rush for NSA, cabinet secy posts**

**Kumar Uttam**

The race to form the next government at the Centre might be in its last lap but the dash for India's top bureaucratic posts is just heating up.

More than half-a-dozen key positions — down the bureaucratic hierarchy beginning with the cabinet secretary — are set to fall vacant over the next couple of months, leaving the field open for babus to make their pitch.

Cabinet secretary Ajit Kumar Seth's extended term ends on 13 June. Telecom secretary MF Farooqi retires a few weeks later and urban development (UD) secretary Sudhir Krishna's stint is also expected to be completed by July-end. The powerful post of national security advisor (NSA) and important posts in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) — including a new principal secretary for the next PM — are also up for grabs.

The immediate challenge before the next government would be to find a new cabinet secretary. Heavy industry secretary Sutanu Behuria tops the list of eligible officers for the job in terms of seniority, though there are several others in the race. If the BJP is within striking distance of power in Delhi, the 1976 batch Himachal-Pradesh-cadre officer has the advantage of being familiar with Modi from the latter's days in the BJP and the RSS.

The list — from which the next PM will select one name — is expected to include the names of secretaries Alok Rawat (water resources), Naved Masood (corporate affairs), Sudhir Krishna (UD), Sangita Gairola (ex-servicemen) and could cover Vishwapati Trivedi (shipping) and Pradeep Kumar Sinha (power) as well. The rule book says the cabinet secretary has to be picked from a list of the senior-most officers but doesn't specify how long the list has to be.

The change in guard at the PMO would also mean a new NSA.

The names being tossed around in the corridors of powers include former foreign secretaries Kanwal Sibal and Shyam Saran, Indian ambassador to the United States S Jaishankar, former representative to the UN Hardeep Puri, and former chief of external spy agency Sanjeev Tripathi. Former Intelligence Bureau chief Ajit Doval's name is also doing the rounds.

The PMO itself could be heading for a complete overhaul if the BJP-led NDA comes to power.

The new government would have the task of filling several important posts in the PMO, including that of the principal secretary to the PM.

Among the probables for the job is former agriculture secretary PK Misra, a 1972-batch IAS officer, who served as principal secretary to [Gujarat](#) chief minister [Narendra Modi](#) from 2002 to

2004. After Mishra's retirement in 2008, he was appointed as head of the Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission.

Other officials tipped for big roles in the PMO include 1979-batch officer and Modi's chief principal secretary K Kailashnathan, popularly known as KK, and Gujarat government's resident commissioner in Delhi Bharat Lal, an Indian Forest Service official.

TIMES OF INDIA, MAY 8, 2014

**SC should have outlined some safeguards to protect upright bureaucrats from motivated probes**

[Srivatsa Krishna](#)

At a time when there is much debate about the paralysis in decision making in the Indian Administrative Service and other subordinate services, Supreme Court's judgment on striking down the single directive does not really bring much cheer and actually throws out the baby with the bathwater. This will make it extremely difficult for honest officers to remain decisive as well.

In a society where investigating agencies do not have a reputation for being scrupulously honest and independent and where publicity is the punishment because of inordinate delays in completing the judicial process, the need for some protection against motivated and frivolous inquiries remains.

The issue here is basically a clash of two principles: first, that investigating agencies must be able to investigate without fear or favour the corrupt in high office and, second, that honest officers placed in policymaking positions must be insulated from frivolous and motivated complaints that could scare them from doing their duty without fear or favour. Essentially it is a clash between attacking the corrupt and protecting the innocent, both of which are good in principle. That is why this is such a vexed issue.

One protection is that government's sanction is needed for prosecution of all public servants (Section 19 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988). This provision remains and is not affected by the latest judgment. However, even the mere launching of an inquiry by CBI has these days become a matter of much public comment in the media and so can be damaging to an officer who may actually be honest.

This was the rationale behind the so-called Single Directive (Section 6A of Delhi Special Police Establishment Act) which provided that the central government's sanction was needed to investigate an officer of joint secretary rank and above. However, this did not apply to state government officials.

The court has now struck down this provision requiring central government sanction for probing senior officials. The court has cited the principle of equality before law, referring to the fact that no such provision exists for investigations by state agencies of central officials or of investigations into state government officials.

The judgment's positive effect is that corrupt IAS, IPS, IRS officers etc cannot stall inquiries by CBI using their central government contacts with political and permanent executives. It also means that CBI can maintain the element of surprise, which is lost when the sanction process alerts the corrupt of an impending inquiry. This is most welcome and heartening.

However, ours is a society where the question 'who will guard the guardians?' is very important. Institutions of integrity like CBI and CAG are themselves not completely free from the taint of political interference and/or corruption, recent examples being the arrest of a senior CAG official for bribery and conviction of a CBI officer for corruption. There is a credible fear among honest officers that they may be the target of motivated inquiries by CBI.

It is also common that CBI does not fully appreciate the complexities of economic and financial decisions and often ends up barking up the wrong tree and suspecting wrongdoing where none exists. Recent cases involving officers of impeccable integrity like C B Bhave and K M Abraham of Sebi are examples. Less known officers might be presumed by the public to be corrupt if their names are published in the media as being targets of inquiry. Hence fears of honest officers cannot be lightly dismissed. The judgment's negative effect could be to add to the general tendency of senior officers to avoid taking difficult but necessary decisions.

One approach could be to provide that, while CBI has a right to start investigations without sanction, the officer being probed should also have the right to approach an independent agency like CVC and/or Lokpal and present his side of the story. They in turn should have the power to quash an investigation after hearing the officer if he chooses to challenge the inquiry. Another could be that, as in the case of rape victims, media should not publish the names of public servants at the preliminary inquiry stage.

How this can be done and enforced is not clear. But CBI should establish an internal mechanism where it should take confidential advice from senior administrators with subject matter knowledge before launching inquiries into complex transactions and not just rely on the police point of view. Lastly, the quality of forensics must dramatically improve through which investigating agencies can actually inquire into and prosecute based on money trails and not on file notings.

Usually, no corrupt official will declare on file that he is taking or not taking a particular decision, due to some external consideration. As such file notings remain largely bland and should not become the sole pointer for prosecution.

In sum, the single directive and sanction of prosecution are armours for the honest, decisive civil servant who takes tough decisions in public interest. They are a rare vanishing breed that needs to be preserved and protected, while the corrupt must be mercilessly identified and prosecuted. This, if any, is a sine qua non for good governance.

The writer is an IAS officer. Views are personal.

## DEFENCE, NATIONAL

BUSINESS STANDARD, MAY 13, 2014

Govt bent on appointing new Army chief

**Defence ministry has sent its recommendation to the Appointments Committee of Cabinet after receiving the go-ahead from the Election Commission**

Notwithstanding opposition from the Bharatiya Janata Party ([BJP](#)), the defence ministry on Monday went ahead with the process of appointing the next Army chief, recommending Vice Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Dalbir Singh Suhag for the top post.

The ministry sent its recommendation to the Appointments Committee of Cabinet ([ACC](#)) shortly after receiving the go-ahead from the Election Commission (EC), to which the matter had been referred in view of the [model code of conduct](#), sources said.

They said the recommendation had only the name of 59-year-old Lt-Gen Suhag, who is the seniormost among the Lt-Generals. It is now for the ACC, headed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, to take a call.

Army chief General [Bikram Singh](#) will retire on July 31 and according to the tradition, the government announces the name of services chiefs two months before the tenure of the incumbent comes to an end.

The appointment of the next Army chief had got mired in a controversy as BJP is strictly opposing it, questioning the “hurry” and insisting that the matter be left to the next government. Earlier in the day, the EC sent a communication to the defence ministry giving the go-ahead.

EC cited its March 27 order, which makes it clear, that appointments, promotions, tenders and procurements of defence forces are not covered under the model code of conduct in the ongoing elections as well as any other election in the future, sources said.

Because of the strong opposition by BJP to the appointment of the next Army chief, the government had last week referred the matter to the EC.

The appointment of incumbent chief General Singh was done three months prior to the retirement of his predecessor General V K Singh.

Significantly, during the last days of his tenure as Army Chief, V K Singh had put a “discipline and vigilance ban” on Lt-Gen Dalbir Suhag, then 3 Corps Commander, for the “failure of command and control”, as an intelligence unit under him had allegedly carried out a dacoity in

Jorhat in Assam, outside the jurisdiction of the Corps. The ban was lifted soon after Bikram Singh took over as Army Chief and appointed Suhag the Eastern Army Commander.

STATESMAN, MAY 15, 2014

**Govt announces Lt-Gen Suhag's appointment as next Army chief**

Brushing aside protests from the BJP and from former Army Chief General V K Singh (Retd), the government today announced the appointment of Lt Gen Dalbir Singh Suhag, a veteran infantry officer, as the next Army Chief to succeed incumbent Gen Bikram Singh after his retirement on 31 July.

“Government have decided to appoint Lt Gen Suhag, who is presently the Army vice chief as the next Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) after retirement of the present chief General Bikram Singh,” a Defence Ministry release said.

Lt Gen Suhag, 59, a third generation soldier and son of a retired Subedar, will be the 26th Army Chief. Yesterday the Appointments Committee of Cabinet cleared the recommendation of the Defence Ministry to appoint him as Army Chief. Lt Gen Suhag, a Gurkha officer who had participated in the 1987 Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) operation in Sri Lanka, is the Vice Chief of Army Staff and the seniormost among the Lieutenant Generals. He will have a tenure of 29 months as the chief of the 12-lakh strong force when he takes over from Gen Singh.

Suhag was made the Vice Chief of Army Staff in December last year. He had taken over as the Eastern Army Commander on 16 June 2012. He was at the centre of a controversy triggered by the ‘Discipline and Vigilance’ ban imposed on him by the then Army chief Gen V K Singh in connection with an intelligence operation in Assam earlier. The ban on Suhag, who was then 3 Corps Commander, was lifted soon after Gen Bikram Singh took over in May 2012. The BJP had been questioning the “hurry” in making the appointment and had insisted that the matter be left to the next government as there was still time left.

## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

BUSINESS LINE, MAY 8, 2014

### **Economy in need of 'ICU' treatment**

VIDYA MAHAMBARE

### **Industry needs the right Incentives, accompanied by Credibility and Urgency in policymaking**

India's current economic woes render it critically ill and in need of intensive care. Its economic growth almost halved in just two years — from nearly 9 per cent in 2010-11 to 4.5 per cent last year. In 2013-14, as both industrial and services growth weakened further, while agriculture saved the day by putting up a positive performance.

There has been much discussion and debate in the public domain on persisting troubles in the economy — from a revival of mining and manufacturing to re-igniting consumption. All these can be summed up as a kind of 'ICU' the economy needs for a turnaround — one where Incentives, Credibility and Urgency drive both policy and implementation. The government that comes to power after May 16 will have to focus on each of these.

#### Incentives

Currently, the incentive system — for producers and consumers alike — has weakened. Private businesses have little incentive to invest more, as their capital is yielding low returns, and households are not motivated to spend as they do not feel assured of higher incomes in the future. Also, the lower return on investments in financial assets has resulted in a greater proportion of household savings going into real-estate and gold.

What's more, with fewer jobs available and no signs of a pick-up in job creation, the young hardly have an incentive to invest in quality education and skills. All these point to the need to improve the incentives.

Take the cut in excise duties announced in the interim Budget. Will the lower prices of consumer durables and vehicles — resulting from the duty reduction — motivate consumers to buy more? It did work during the downturn in 2008 and 2009 — sales of automobiles, for example, jumped significantly then. The same incentive, however, cannot work today.

That is because something else also played a major role in demand revival back then — incomes of many households, both rural and urban, had shot up sharply during those years. Among other things, fiscal stimulus to the rural economy and implementation of the Sixth Pay Commission recommendations had led to organised sector salaries jumping 20 per cent. This sizable jump, perceived as an increase in permanent incomes, coupled with the lower prices of durables and vehicles, prompted consumers to buy more.

That critical incentive is missing this time around. Indeed, people who benefit the most will be those who had already decided to buy a vehicle; the government will lose out on the tax it would

have collected. How can one persuade households to spend more? This can happen only if incomes begin to rise, more jobs are created and economic certainty returns. To begin with, the government must improve incentives to produce in sectors where supply is already in deficit and /or sectors that are employment-intensive — mainly infrastructure areas such as roads and power.

### Credibility

Merely announcing incentives, however, will not generate the intended response. The policy measures must be Credible, inspiring in the stakeholders the confidence that they will be carried out. Returns on infrastructure projects are determined by overall project costs. To paint an ideal scenario, the tax regime should be stable, acquisition of land should be easy, wages should be in line with productivity levels, and there should be minimum deterrents to completing the project on time. Finally, interest rates should be predictable.

If the central bank announces a policy that requires it to take a tougher stance on inflation, it must act in a manner consistent with this. This will change people's expectations about future inflation as well as interest rates, and influence their decisions on consumption and investments.

### Urgency

So we need to improve credible incentives in the economy, and soon. That requires a sense of Urgency — of the kind we saw last year when rising imports, especially of gold, threatened the rupee's stability. These measures, however, may not provide lasting comfort unless the outlook for the real sector improves and attracts sustainable foreign capital. What will the new government do?

The writer is Principal Economist, Crisil

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated May 8, 2014)

## EDUCATION

HINDUSTAN TIMES, MAY 8, 2014

**DU: Admission rules simpler, more student**

**Delhi University has made its admission process simpler both for students as well as colleges this year.**

The university, under its new admission process, has stopped colleges from setting additional eligibility criteria for courses that they offer. This means that all colleges will now have to admit students if they meet the criteria set centrally.

Till last year, colleges had the option of introducing additional criteria such as minimum marks in English or mathematics for admission in some courses. The university now, though, has put an end to this in consultation with the colleges. Therefore, the criteria that colleges agree on have been included in the university's admission guidelines. For example, a student must have studied Economics in Class 12 to opt for Economics as her/his discipline of choice.

Similarly, students who want to pursue English in college will get an advantage of 2% if they have studied English as an elective in schools. However, a disadvantage of 2% will be imposed on those who study functional English in class 12.

Till last year, students were forced to run from one college to another to find out if they were eligible for a particular course, even if they met the cut-off.

"It will be easier for students as they will not be confused and will not have to run from pillar to post to secure their admissions," said JM Khurana, dean, Students' Welfare.

Relief for students with vocational subjects

In another big relief for students, the rule against allowing students with vocational subjects in Class 12 to apply for all courses has been modified.

"The students will be allowed to choose one language and three other courses as their best of four percentage. However, if a student chooses a vocational course, 10% of the maximum marks will be deducted from that student's marks," said Malay Neerav, media coordinator, Delhi University.

In CBSE, for example, the maximum marks for web designing is 100. Therefore, if a student uses web designing to calculate his/her best of four percentage, he/she will have to deduct 10 marks from the marks she had obtained to calculate her effective percentage. Like, if she has scored 95 out of 100, her effective score will be 85.

HINDUSTAN TIMES, MAY 10, 2014

**DU professor arrested for alleged Maoist links**

[Maharashtra](#) Police arrested a Delhi University (DU) professor on Friday for his alleged connections with Maoists after interrogating him more than four times in the past six months.

English professor GN Saibaba was arrested in Delhi while returning from the university on charges of being a member of the banned CPI (Maoist), providing logistics and helping in recruitment for the group, said Ravindra Kadam, inspector general of police, Nagpur range.

"We have enough evidence to prove he had connections with underground Maoists and that he acted as a link between the CPI (Maoist) and urban Maoist sympathisers," Kadam said.

Saibaba will be brought to Aheri in Gadchiroli district by Friday night or Saturday morning, Kadam added.

The Gadchiroli police had questioned Saibaba for at least four hours this January, confronting him with evidence found on his computer that was seized during a raid at his Delhi residence.

Kadam said the policy documents and strategy papers of CPI (Maoist) were recovered from Saibaba's computer. The professor's name came up after the arrest of two alleged Maoist sympathisers, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) student Hem Mishra and activist Prashant Rahi.

Mishra and Rahi were arrested by Maharashtra Police in Gadchiroli a few months ago. Both had reportedly claimed that Saibaba was their main contact. The Gadchiroli police then raided Saibaba's house.

Mishra, who was arrested with a microchip, said he was passing on instructions to Maoist leaders holed up in Abujhmad forests in the tribal regions of Gadchiroli and Chhattisgarh's Bastar.

TELEGRAPH, MAY 10, 2014

### **Govt, governor face-off over VCs**

**Ranchi, May 8:** Mild-mannered, *sher--shairee* loving Governor Syed Ahmed caused a furore by naming four vice chancellors and one pro-VC late last night, making chief minister Hemant Soren squirm and HRD minister Geetashree Oraon furious over selections based on a search committee's recommendations.

In possibly the most open rift between Raj Bhavan and the 10-month-old Hemant Soren government, the governor's seal on appointees led Geetashree to lash out about tribal stalwarts being ignored to make way for "outsiders".

Geetashree, who even threatened to move court, added the chief minister did not approve the appointee list too. Under Jharkhand State University Act, 2000, the governor and chancellor of universities appoints VCs in consultation with the chief minister.

Yesterday afternoon, Hemant, acting chief secretary Sajal Chakraborty, governor's principal secretary R.S. Poddar CM's principal secretary Sukhdev Singh and HRD secretary K. Vidyasagar, among others, met Governor Syed for some 90 minutes, offered alternative names.

They were former VC of Vinoba Bhave University R.N. Bhagat, anthropologist Karma Oraon and Ranchi University psychology professor Shahid Hasan, among others.

Raj Bhavan nixed these.

Instead, it chose ISM-Dhanbad environmental science professor Gurdeep Singh as the VC of Vinoba Bhave University, Hazaribagh; Ranchi University Academic Staff College director R.P.P. Singh as the VC of Chaibasa-headquartered Kolhan University and Patna's AN College-based economics professor K. Ahsan as the VC of Sido-Kanhu Murmu University, Dumka.

A.N. Ojha, pro-VC of Nilambar-Pitambar University in Daltonganj, is its new VC.

With Ojha's new position, the chair of Nilambar Pitambar pro-VC lies vacant. Raj Bhavan sources said Ojha joined as Nilambar-Pitambar varsity VC today while others would follow suit. BIT-Mesra registrar A.P. Krishna is the new VBU pro vice-chancellor.

Raj Bhavan issued a formal media communiqué on its names around 6.30pm today, hours after it was clear to all that the state was unhappy.

"I personally don't accept the list. It did not have the chief minister's consent, too," Geetashree told **The Telegraph**. "We may move court against Raj Bhavan's move. In a similar case, Bihar government got a favourable ruling against Raj Bhavan," said Geetashree.

She attacked the search committee constituted last year, saying the government was not consulted even then.

The panel comprised high court judge D.N. Patel, then chief secretary R.S. Sharma, former Ranchi University VC A.A. Khan and the governor's principal secretary Poddar. "Where are the tribals?" Geetashree asked, again.

TIMES OF INDIA, MAY 13, 2014

**All meeting cutoff to be admitted in Delhi University**

[Manash Pratim Gohain](#)

NEW DELHI: Delhi University has issued a notification stating that admissions will not be based on first-come-first-serve basis and all students meeting the cutoff mark who reach the college within the stipulated time must be enrolled.

Delhi University has also announced that no student will be allowed to take admission in two courses or colleges simultaneously. The DU administration has warned that if any student is found admitted in two courses or colleges simultaneously, his admission in all courses or colleges will be cancelled.

The university has also asked colleges to promptly return the documents to a student in case he cancels the admission to move to another college on declaration of subsequent cutoff lists or needs certificates for institutions outside DU.

Releasing detailed guidelines on admission policy for 2014-15, DU said that special admission assistance teams and monitoring committees are being set up to visit colleges during admissions

to assist students and monitor the process. Colleges have also been asked to constitute their own grievance committees consisting of at least three teachers. The grievance committee members should be available in the college throughout the admission process and their mobile phone numbers should be put on the college website and notice board.

Last year, aspirants in many colleges were turned away and police had to be called as the number of candidates coming for admission was far more than the intake capacity. This year, the university has reiterated that colleges shall admit all candidates who have met the cutoff criteria. After declaration of the cutoff list, a candidate will need to report to the college of choice for admission within the stipulated period. At this stage, the candidate would be required to fill the college admission form and university enrolment form, get documents verified, submit it to the college and pay the admission fees.

INDIAN EXPRESS, MAY 13, 2014

### **Kerala varsity V-C removed for giving false information in CV**

**Shaju Philip**

SUMMARY

**George said he would move the court against the Governor's decision to remove him.**

The Vice-Chancellor of Kottayam-based Mahatma Gandhi University was sacked from the office on charges of furnishing wrong information in his resume before the selection committee. Based on the government recommendation, Governor Sheila Dikshit, who is the Chancellor of the University, issued orders to this effect on Monday.

A V George, an environmental scientist, had claimed that he was the head of the Department of Environmental Science at Central University, Kasargode. Based on a complaint from activist T K Sajeev, the government had ordered an inquiry into the matter.

The probe by the Additional Chief Secretary (Higher Education) had found that George misrepresented his official designation at the University in his resume. It was then recommended that George should be removed from the post of the VC, which he was holding since January 2013.

Reacting to his removal, George claimed he was a victim of political conspiracy. "The conspiracy was within the Congress-led ruling front United Democratic Front. But, I don't want to throw muck on anyone at this stage. A former chief secretary misled the government by raising baseless allegations against me," said George.

George said he would move the court against the Governor's decision to remove him.

HINDUSTAN TIMES, MAY 13, 2014

**Indian-origin entrepreneur Karan Bilimoria is Birmingham varsity chancellor**

Prominent Indian-origin entrepreneur Karan Bilimoria has been appointed as the new chancellor of the UK's prestigious University of Birmingham.

Lord Bilimoria, the 52-year-old India-born founder of Cobra Beer, will take up his role at an installation ceremony in July, making him the seventh chancellor of the university.

"I am honoured and humbled to have been asked to be Chancellor of this internationally-renowned university with its vibrant, global community," Lord Bilimoria said.

"I am also delighted to have the opportunity to take on such a prominent role at the university where both my mother, my uncle and my maternal grandfather studied; the university that instilled the value of higher education in them, and in turn drove my own passion for learning and discovery," he added.

He succeeds Sir Dominic Cadbury, who stepped down last December after 11 years into the role.

Professor David Eastwood, vice-chancellor of the University of Birmingham, said: "We are absolutely delighted that Lord Bilimoria will be our new Chancellor. He is a highly respected global businessman and crossbench peer with a clear passion for higher education and the value it brings to society and to the economy.

"He not only encapsulates the university's commitment to internationalisation but his appointment underlines further the importance we place on forging strong, mutually beneficial partnerships between business and higher education." Lord Bilimoria, already a member of the University of Birmingham Business School Advisory Board, is chairman of the Cobra Beer Partnership Limited and of Molson Coors Cobra India, both joint ventures with the global brewing company, Molson Coors.

Hyderabad-born Lord Bilimoria is also the founding-chairman of the UK-India Business Council.

In 2004, he was appointed Commander of the British Empire (CBE) for services to business and entrepreneurship, and in 2006, he was appointed an independent crossbench peer in the House of Lords and was made Baron Bilimoria of Chelsea in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, making him the first- ever Zoroastrian Parsi to sit in the Lords.

In Parliament, Lord Bilimoria is active in a wide range of matters, including commerce, entrepreneurship, education, diplomacy, minorities' contributions, and academia.

## ELECTIONS

TIMES OF INDIA, MAY 13, 2014

**Highest ever voter turnout recorded in 2014 polls**

[Bharti Jain](#),

NEW DELHI: The 2014 Lok Sabha election, which finally drew to a close on Monday, has earned the distinction of recording the highest voter turnout ever at 66.4%. This surpasses the 64% polling witnessed in the 1984 polls, held in extraordinary circumstances following the assassination of then prime minister Indira Gandhi, and makes the 58.2% turnout of 2009 pale in comparison.

This general election cost the government Rs 3,426 crore, which is 131% more than the Rs 1,483 crore spent on the 2009 polls. Apart from inflation, which has soared over the last five years, the Election Commission on Monday attributed the surge in poll costs to its rising spend on new measures including the voter awareness initiative titled Systematic Voter Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP).

Interestingly, the first Lok Sabha polls in 1952 had cost just Rs 10.45 crore.

Having added a record 11.4 crore voters in the last five years, the EC on Monday proudly announced that even the voter turnout in absolute terms soared to 55.1 crore from 41.7 crore in the last parliamentary polls. This marks an increase of 32% in total votes cast compared to 2009.

The extraordinary voter enthusiasm in these polls was evident from the fact that 15 of the 35 states and Union Territories recorded their highest ever turnouts, while 32 witnessed higher turnouts than the last poll in 2009. The top performers in terms of turnouts were smaller states and UTs such as Nagaland (88.6%), Lakshadweep (86.8%), Tripura (84.3%), Dadra and Nagar Haveli (84.1%) and Puducherry (82.2%). Among the bigger states, West Bengal impressed with 81.8% turnout (likely to go up once final figures come in), Odisha (74.4%), Andhra Pradesh (74.2%), Kerala (74.0%) and Tamil Nadu (73.7%).

However, the politically crucial states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar were among the lowest-ranking states in terms of turnout, faring better than only Jammu & Kashmir. While UP recorded 58.6% overall turnout, Bihar saw 56.5% of its electorate turning up at polling stations. Militancy-hit Jammu & Kashmir recorded 50.1% polling, which though lower than the national average is a major improvement on the 39.7% turnout of 2009.

Interestingly, 16 of the 35 states and UTs reported higher female turnout than male voter participation. These included Bihar, Punjab, Goa, Odisha, Uttarakhand, Chandigarh, Tamil Nadu and Goa, among others.

For once, voter apathy no longer seemed to suppress turnouts in the cities. Ahmedabad (East) witnessed a 19% jump in polling percentage compared to 2009, while the corresponding rise was

18% in Jaipur, 17.5% in Lucknow, 14.9% in Kanpur and 14.8% in Surat. Mumbai South Central and Mumbai South, marked by low turnouts in 2009, recorded 14% and 12% surge in turnouts respectively, as did Delhi (13.3%), Bangalore constituencies (10%) and Gurgaon (11.3%).

EC on Monday attributed the surge in turnouts to its targeted approach in meeting gaps in voter registration, its strategy to promote informed and fearless voting, SVEEP committees at the state and district level, voter facilitation measures, central awareness observers and the nearly 25,000 campus ambassadors appointed by it to encourage the youth to participate in elections.

The high-profile constituency of Varanasi, which went to polls on Monday, saw 55.34% turnout as per figures put out by the EC at 6 pm. This was slightly higher than the 55.29% turnout seen across 18 constituencies of UP where polling was held. Azamgarh saw 57% polling.

West Bengal recorded a high turnout of 80% (expected to go up further) but saw clashes between workers of rival parties. Bomb blasts and violent scuffles were reported from across constituencies that voted on Monday. Deputy EC Vinod Zutshi said a scrutiny would be held on Tuesday by the returning officer concerned, at which the parties can lodge complaints and demand re-poll, and a decision would be taken thereafter.

Bihar, where six seats saw polls, recorded 58% polling, compared with 44.3% in 2009.

[HINDU, MAY 14, 2014](#)

**What is a vote worth?**

SUCHITRA VIJAYAN

**Vote buying and electoral malpractices are not just acts of corruption, but forms of oppression where leaders try to win elections by excluding people's social choices**

self-governance: Universal suffrage was the cornerstone of freedom for the Indian Constituent Assembly. Picture shows members of the Assembly signing the Constitution in 1950.— Photo: The Hindu Archives

The Election Commission (EC), over the course of the 2014 general election, has reported a massive infusion of cash and gifts to buy votes and influence results. In the run-up to the elections, the EC seized over two billion rupees in unaccounted money from across the country. In the world's largest democratic exercise, what is a vote worth? When the vote is for sale, does it matter if destruction is wrought in the name of popular democracy or authoritarianism? Beyond the circus of elections, what does the vote signify? And what is the real value of suffrage?

Struggle for suffrage

The 150 years long British constitutional exercise in India never introduced universal suffrage. Indians were denied the right to vote and had no say in the government for most of the British

rule. Indian constitutional development, until almost the end of the British rule, was decided exclusively by the British Parliament. At the height of British constitutional generosity, a handful of Indians were elected, based on restricted franchise. Our freedom is founded on the demand for this universal suffrage. The struggle for independence embodied an unprecedented claim to citizenship, self-determination and universal rights.

The vote that is being peddled for cash today is the result of many unmarked graves, unrecorded sacrifices and a bloody history. The First World War created the momentum for self-determination and a demand for political suffrage in India. Many Indian national leaders became vocal supporters of the efforts to recruit Indians into the military, seeing this as an opportunity to establish their right to equality as the “citizens” of the Empire. Only a few months into the war, the Indian National Congress resolved “to stand by the empire at all hazards and at all costs.” One of its most vocal advocates was, in fact, Mohandas K. Gandhi. Similarly, Bal Gangadhar Tilak supported enrolments of Indians in the Indian Defence Force and urged the people to respond to defend “motherland and empire.” Over a million Indians served overseas, fighting for the British Empire in France, Egypt, and Mesopotamia.

The belief was that Indians would have to be made equal to “European British subjects in India,” giving Indians the mandate to govern themselves. India’s expectation after the war for greater “self-governance” was instead met with Montagu-Chelmsford reforms that fell short of fulfilling the basic demands of self-governance. Latent disaffection became widespread in 1919. The Rowlatt Bills — the immediate target of Indian protests early in 1919 — were widely seen as a betrayal of promise of self-governance. Indian politicians fought a fierce campaign against Rowlatt. There was rioting in Ahmedabad, Delhi and several districts of the Punjab. At Amritsar, a protesting crowd was ordered to disperse by Brigadier-General Dyer. When they refused, he “fired and continued to fire until the crowd dispersed.” The Jallianwala Bagh massacre galvanised local resentments into a popular nationalist movement. A. J. P. Taylor called the massacre a “decisive moment when Indians were alienated from British rule.”

Almost ten years after the massacre, the Simon Commission report was published, recording the effects of constitutional reform implemented by the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms in 1919. It opined that the Indians were incapable of self-governance and stated that, “Indians could not find a constitutional consensus among themselves...” The report was unanimously rejected around the country by the Indian National Congress and the Muslim League. In protest, ministers of the Madras Presidency resigned. In Lahore, protests were led by Lala Lajpat Rai.

In response to the boycott, Lord Birkenhead, the Secretary of State for India, who chaired the Simon Commission, argued in the House of Lords that Indians could not produce and sustain a Constitution widely acceptable among the leaders of various Indian communities. Twenty-two years after Lord Birkenhead laid bare the challenge, the Indian Constituent Assembly drafted the Indian Constitution, with universal political franchise as the cornerstone of freedom.

Since independence, India has held 15 Lok Sabha elections and the 16th election is currently in progress. With the electoral population of 814.5 million, India’s democratic identity has become closely handcuffed to her elections. While elections as a process have been successful in India, the logical end of the process, i.e governance, remains unfulfilled. Instead, elections have

produced limited, deficient, and distorted forms of democracy along with instances of authoritarian rule, run through parallel fiefdom of thugs.

A succession of regional and national political figures contest elections, tolerate some pluralism of idea and dissent, while consistently violating the most basic democratic norms. This produces a strange combination of remarkably corrupt, competitive elections and harsh repression.

#### Forms of oppression

Vote buying and electoral malpractices are not just acts of corruption and illegality, but forms of oppression where political parties and leaders try to win elections by excluding people's social choices. These malpractices actively restrict wider participation and representation of interests, that create conditions to sustain governments with strong authoritarian tendencies. It is disenfranchisement that has reduced people to second class citizens of their own country.

Representation alone does not approximate to democracy. The idea of democratic self-governance is incompatible with electoral farce. Electoral corruption is a direct dispossession of the right to representation and governance. The value of a vote then is the cost of freedom and liberty to govern ourselves. In these precarious times, it is also the common man's last stand in the face of an intolerant democracy. What remains to be seen is whether the great achievement of self-governance can survive the urge for authoritarian impulse and systemic corruption. Is the ballot stronger than the bribe?

(Suchitra Vijayan is a political analyst.)

The vote that is being peddled for cash today is the result of many unmarked graves, sacrifices and a bloody history

## ENVIRONMENT

INDIAN EXPRESS, MAY 8, 2014

### **Delhi most polluted city in the world : WHO**

The concentration of particulate matter in air of Delhi is much more than permissible limits, says WHO.

Delhi is the most polluted city in the world, says a study released by World Health Organisation (WHO) on Wednesday.

The 2014 report of the Ambient Air Pollution (AAP) database contains results of outdoor air pollution monitoring from almost 1600 cities in 91 countries.

The national capital has the highest concentration of PM2.5 — particulate matters less than 2.5 microns—form of air pollution, which is considered most serious and can cause respiratory diseases and other health problems.

The situation is so bad in Delhi that its air has PM2.5 concentrations of 153 micrograms and PM10 concentrations of 286 micrograms—much more than the permissible limits, says the WHO.

In comparison, Beijing, which was once considered one of the most polluted cities, has PM2.5 concentration of 56 micrograms and PM10 concentration of 121 micro grammes.

Air quality is represented by annual mean concentration of fine particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5,— particles smaller than 10 or 2.5 microns).

The database covers the period from 2008 to 2013, with the majority of values for the years 2011 and 2012.

Reacting to the report, Anumita Roychowdhury of the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) said the new WHO data base only confirms the health concerns in India.

HINDU, MAY 13, 2014

### **Climate change: We have no solution**

It would be healthy — in the sense of promoting honesty — if every report warning of global warming and climate change (the two terms are interchangeable) came with the following disclaimer:

Despite our belief that global warming poses catastrophic threats to many of the world's 7 billion inhabitants, we acknowledge that we now lack the technologies to stop it. The purpose of our analysis and policy proposals is to create the political and economic conditions that foster the

needed technologies. But there is no assurance that this will happen, and much time and money may be invested in futile and wasteful efforts.

I am not optimistic. Our climate-change debates confuse more than they clarify. They follow a ritualistic script that is now playing out again.

First came a downbeat report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), an international group of scientists set up by the United Nations. It found that global temperatures have warmed for decades, that man-made emissions are the main cause (atmospheric concentrations are said to be the highest in 800,000 years) and that the effects include rising sea levels, melting ice packs and more heat waves.

Next arrived the U.S. National Climate Assessment, a study by 300 American experts that's more alarming than the IPCC report. It begins: "Climate change, once considered an issue for a distant future, has moved firmly into the present." Americans already suffer from global warming. Floods are more frequent; wildfires are harder to control; rainstorms are more violent.

Naturally, climate sceptics (aka, "deniers") denounced the reports. The evidence was exaggerated, cherry-picked or both, said Paul Knappenberger and Patrick Michaels of the Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank. Consider, they said, a contrasting study headed by a Harvard researcher. It found that heat-related deaths in 105 U.S. cities had declined since the late 1980s.

The rhetorical ping-pong — claim vs. counterclaim — suggests a struggle for public opinion. Not really. Right or wrong, the public already believes in global warming. A 2013 Pew poll found that 67 per cent of Americans see "solid evidence" that the earth is warming. Though that's down from 77 per cent in 2006, the margin is still large. Democrats are stronger believers than Republicans but mainly because tea party support is low.

It's useful for environmental groups to have global warming "deniers" (and, of course, behind them the sinister oil companies) as foils. The subliminal message is that once the views of these Neanderthals are swept away, we can adopt sensible policies to "do something" about global warming.

The reality is otherwise. The central truth for public policy is: *We have no solution.*

From 2010 to 2040, the U.S. Energy Information Administration projects global emissions will increase almost 50 per cent. About 80 per cent of global energy comes from fossil fuels (coal, oil, natural gas), which are also the major sources of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions. At present, we have no practical replacement for this energy. No sane government will sacrifice its economy today — by dramatically curtailing fossil fuel use — for the uncertain benefits of less global warming sometime in the foggy future. (The focus of the U.S. global warming report on the present seems aimed at bridging this gap.)

Worse, almost all the projected increases in global emissions come from poorer countries, half from China alone. By contrast, U.S. emissions (and those of most rich nations) are projected to stay stable over the three decades. Economic growth is slowing; energy efficiency is increasing;

and, in Japan and some European countries, populations are declining. Because poor countries understandably won't abandon their efforts to relieve poverty, any further U.S. emissions cuts would probably be offset by gains in China and elsewhere. This dims their political and environmental appeal.

### Policies on global warming

The only real hope of disarming these conflicts is new technology. As yet, no magical fix has emerged. Though increasing, solar and wind power still represent a tiny share of global energy. "Carbon capture and storage" — pumping CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from power plants underground — has been discussed for years. So far, it's not commercially viable.

Amid the rhetoric, there's enormous uncertainty about how much warming will occur, what changes (for good or ill) it will bring, and how easily (or not) we can adapt. My own oft-stated preference is for policies that might dampen global warming but would also address other problems. The most obvious idea is a carbon tax to help finance government and stimulate energy-saving technologies and new forms of non-carbon energy. If these technologies went global, the gap between rich and poor countries would narrow.

I do not claim this would be popular or that the desired technologies would materialise. But it's our best bet and would have the added virtue of being honest. — **2014. The Washington Post** .

The only real hope of disarming climate change-related conflicts is new technology. As yet, no magical fix has emerged

[HINDU, MAY 14, 2014](#)

### **L-G forms committee to look into pollution levels in Delhi**

A week after the World Health Organisation report dubbed Delhi as the most polluted city in the world, Lieutenant-Governor Najeeb Jung on Tuesday constituted a high-powered committee to look into pollution levels in the city.

As per the mandate, the committee will specifically look into pollution caused by the growing number of vehicles and the pollution levels in Yamuna due to the industrial and sewer waste being flown in the river. The committee has been asked to submit a report in a month.

"The Committee has been asked to examine all aspects of pollution; its cause and steps required to check pollution in the city. The committee is required to suggest both long term and short term measures with viable solutions to tackle the issue," a statement from the L-G office said.

The Committee will be chaired by the Chief Secretary and will have Special CP (Traffic), Delhi Police; Secretary (Environment); Commissioner (Transport) and Additional Secretary (DPCC) as its members. The committee, however, has been empowered to co-opt members, both from the Government and the private sector, including NGOs.

## FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

TIMES OF INDIA, MAY N8, 2014

### **RBI approves savings bank accounts for children above 10 years**

RBI's decision to allow banks to offer independent savings bank accounts to children aged over 10 years is a welcome move. Under the new norms, minors will be able to operate these accounts independently without the supervision of their parents or guardians. This is a significant departure from the current system where minors could only hold joint bank accounts with adults. The change reflects current social realities with teenagers having greater access to information and better understanding of technology than their parents did during their youth. Hence, operating a savings bank account, with appropriate safeguards, shouldn't be difficult for today's minors.

There are several reasons why independent banking services for children represent a healthy trend. First, giving children their own savings account helps teach them about financial responsibility from a very young age. In a country where financial literacy is still limited, this is a huge plus. Financially aware children transform into financially responsible adults, preparing them to handle complex products involving credit and debt later in their lives. In fact, operating a bank account would inculcate a sense of financial discipline among minors, helping them distinguish between needs and wants. These are lessons that no school textbook can impart. They can only be imbibed through practical experience.

The second reason in favour of bank accounts for children is that it boosts financial inclusion. Around 41% of the country's population is said to be unbanked. This means that a large number of people cannot avail of organised banking facilities and are forced to borrow from unlicensed, unreliable sources during emergencies. By getting children started with savings accounts, they can be inducted into the banking loop at an early age. Of course, children's bank accounts need added protection against misuse and theft. But thanks to technology such problems are not insurmountable.

### COUNTERVIEW

A bad idea fraught with risks

Pyaralal Raghavan

Exposing children to operate bank accounts on their own at a very young age is a bad idea. It is fraught with risk as they are very likely to become victims of fraud or identity theft. It is both unwise and irresponsible to leave young children to fend for themselves and protect their banking accounts as well as personal and confidential information in an era when unethical practices and cheating are rampant. These threats are enormous in the case of children who are more gullible and more likely to share account numbers, passwords and debit cards with their friends and acquaintances.

Moreover, there is the danger that children can be easy prey to sharp practices of some commercial banks, which have no qualms about squeezing the last drop from their customers. Today, we live in a financial environment where wealth advisory services offered by banks may divest otherwise well informed high net worth individuals of their large savings and investments. In such a scenario it would be extremely foolhardy to push gullible children to open bank accounts and leave them vulnerable to financial losses through unintended or careless moves.

Loss of identity or money through theft by friends and acquaintances or by sharp practices is not the only danger of providing independent bank accounts to minor children. Society is structured on the assumption that children are not mature enough to exercise the kind of independent judgment that adults can. Otherwise children would not require any adult supervision and could conduct their lives themselves. The same principle ought to be extended to their financial lives as well. Let them open bank accounts by all means and thereby pick up financial skills and thrift, but not in the complete absence of any adult supervision.

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

STATESMAN, MAY 15, 2014

### **Border with China-I**

K M Panikkar, who was India's ambassador to Beijing (1948-52), was perhaps the most influential person in the task of formulating Nehru's policy towards China. On occasion, Nehru attached more importance to his advice than to the views of the 'professionals' in the MEA, to the detriment of India's long-term interests

Recent revelations of the contents of the Henderson Brooks report, courtesy Neville Maxwell, have not come as a surprise to those familiar with his book, *India's China War*, published in 1970 and several other authentic publications that have come out since then. It is important to examine who had conceived of the course of action that has been described as the 'Forward Policy' and the context in which the policy was developed. It is necessary too to re-assess Nehru's China policy, with particular reference to the role of his advisers who influenced his foreign policy. This may throw some light on Nehru's style of functioning and also provide answers to the question whether the India-China war of 1962 could have been avoided.

Nehru was not only India's Prime Minister but also the foreign minister as well as the chief articulator of India's 'world view'. Michael Brecher in his *Nehru: A Political Biography* (1959) described him as the 'philosopher, the architect and the engineer' of India's foreign policy and referred to a few others ~ Maulana Azad, Dr Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan and of course, Krishna Menon, who had influenced his foreign policy. None of them, however, exerted much influence on Nehru's policy towards China, at any rate not in the initial years of its formulation. That he was in favour of developing friendly relations with China becomes evident from his broadcast to the nation on 7 September 1946, as the Vice President of the interim government. After India's independence in 1947, and the change of guard in China in October 1949, when the Communists took over, India not only recognised the new regime but also pleaded for China's entry to the UN as a permanent member of the Security Council. K M Panikkar, who was India's ambassador to Beijing (1948-52), was perhaps the most influential person in the task of formulating Nehru's policy towards China during these years. Apparently he enjoyed the trust of Zhou en Lai; when the Korean war broke out, it was through him (and New Delhi) that Zhou had relayed the warning to the West that any attempt by the US forces to cross the 38th Parallel would result in Chinese retaliation. On occasion, Nehru attached more importance to his advice than to the views of the 'professionals' in the MEA, to the detriment of India's long-term interests.

The first test of India's professed policy of friendship towards China came in October 1950 when the Chinese troops entered Tibet. It created anger and resentment in India and Panikkar was urged to 'lodge a strong protest'. This was rebuffed by the Chinese who accused India of being influenced by western imperialists. The Indian government accepted the reality of China's presence in Tibet and expected that this would pave the way for better understanding between India and China. Nehru told the Lok Sabha on 6 December 1950 that though the government

recognised Chinese suzerainty over Tibet, it was 'anxious that Tibet should maintain the autonomy it has had for at least the last forty years.' While delivering India's aide memoire to the Chinese foreign office, the Indian Ambassador substituted the word 'sovereignty' for 'suzerainty' and resisted subsequent attempts to rectify it, fearing that this might offend the Chinese.

Nehru's low-profile policy on Tibet had been criticised in India not only by the Opposition but also by some of his ministerial colleagues, particularly Sardar Patel. What options did India have at the time? In 1950 India did not have the military might to confront China on the Tibetan issue; as much was admitted by Nehru when he addressed the Lok Sabha on 30 September 1954. But was it really necessary to consecrate China's position through the India-China Agreement on the Tibet Region of China (1954) without gaining anything in return, except the enunciation of the five principles of peaceful co-existence (Panchsheel) in its Preamble? India surrendered the extra-territorial rights that it enjoyed in Tibet as a residuary legatee of the British Raj for the sake of establishing peaceful and friendly ties with a neighbour. India's extra-territorial rights were replaced by normal trade and consular arrangements. But would it not have been much better to utilise the opportunity to secure China's acceptance of the India-Tibet (China) boundary in the eastern sector (the McMahon Line)? Indeed, during 1952-54, professionals in the MEA ~ G S Bajpai, and his successor N R Pillai ~ suggested as much to Nehru; but he was influenced by the views of Panikkar who advised him not to raise the issue. In 1953, when preparations were being made for the India-China Agreement, Nehru decided not to raise the border issue for the present.

Did India miss an opportunity to settle the border issue in the eastern sector because of Nehru's naivete? Perhaps. It is important to note that China whether under the Communists or their predecessors had never recognised the legality of the McMahon Line; nor for that matter, many British officials working in India during the Raj. Nevertheless, the Chinese might be willing to accept the McMohan Line alignment ~ as suggested by Zhou en Lai later. The Chinese realistically did not have any strong claims to the area south of the McMahon Line, except Tawang, which had strong cultural ties with Tibet. Moreover, in the early 1950s, China got directly involved in the Korean war and India played an important role in bringing the conflict to an end.

Nehru's reluctance to raise the border issue with the Chinese during the negotiations on the India-China Agreement on Tibet is quite baffling as there was no mutually agreed border between India and China, delineated on the map and demarcated on the ground, either in the western sector (Ladakh) or in the eastern sector, when the British left India. There was some sort of a traditional boundary in the middle sector. Only the boundary between Sikkim and Tibet had been defined in the Anglo-Chinese convention of 1890 and the work of demarcation had been completed in 1906.

It would, therefore, have been better to have a negotiated settlement of the border issue with the Chinese since they also had legitimate concerns and had been making exaggerated claims on the border, both in the eastern and the western sectors, apparently to strengthen their bargaining

position. As realists, the Chinese would be quite prepared to make concessions for clinching a deal. This is clear from Zhou's offer to Nehru in 1960. India's position, on the other hand, was based on the assumption that unilateral assertions on the extent of India's border would be enough to give it legitimacy, without recognising that the other side might also have a point. After the entry of Chinese forces into Tibet, Nehru told Parliament: "Our maps show that the McMahon Line is our boundary and that is our boundary ~ map or no map and we stand by that boundary." He was referring to the India-China border in the eastern sector, stretching from the eastern extremity of Bhutan to the India-China-Burma (Myanmar) tri-junction which, as noted earlier, was never recognised by the Chinese.

India's claim in the western sector, after the departure of the British, was no different. It was based on the maximalist views of John Ardagh. The Foreign Department of the (British) Indian Government, on the other hand, proposed to the Chinese in 1899 a more moderate claim ~ the Macartney-McDonald Line ~ north of the Karakoram range and east of the Karakoram Pass, that remained the effective boundary between India and China in the western sector till the British left India. It left to China the Karakash valley and almost the whole of Aksaichin proper. Although the Chinese had not formally accepted the British proposal, they did not reject it either. The Chinese had themselves unilaterally declared in 1892 that the Karakoram range constituted the limits of Chinese territory, by putting a notice in the Karakoram Pass (and the reservations that they had about the British proposal related to the western Karakoram that is in PoK). The Chinese reticence was, therefore, taken by the British as a sign of their tacit acceptance, as was suggested by Lord Elgin in 1904. If the Macartney-MacDonald line is taken as the boundary between India and Tibet, as bequeathed by the British, the construction of the Tibet-Xinjiang road through the Aksaichin area was well within Chinese territory, as pointed out by Zhou-en-Lai in his letter to Nehru in January 1959.

(To be concluded)

## LIBRARIES

HINDU, MAY 15, 2014

### **How a library transformed a village**

IGNATIUS PEREIRA

**Navodayam, started more than 60 years ago, not only promotes reading and lifelong learning but also cultural initiatives**

The transformation of Neeravil, from a marginalised rural area in Thrikadavur grama panchayat on the outskirts of Kollam city, into a progressive enclave is largely the story of a successful rural library movement. The favourite pastime of the Neeravil population now is reading.

No wonder then that this enclave with a heavy concentration of coir workers boasts of eight A-grade libraries and more than a dozen other cultural organisations. One of the prime factors that contributed to this transformation began more than 60 years ago with the establishment of the Navodayam Library.

#### New dawn

Navodayam brought a new dawn to the literary progress of Neeravil by attracting the younger generation towards serious reading. Instead of remaining passive keepers of books; those behind the library, with an emphasis on service, chose to become facilitators of information and lifelong learning opportunities for all sections of the Neeravil population.

It all began on August 1, 1950, from a small rented shop as a fellowship of youngsters. They were thirsty for knowledge but had no access to it till they thought in terms of Navodayam. K.P. Karunakaran was the founder president and K. Sulaiman the founder secretary.

The present office-bearers of the library say that the institution serves as a true community centre. From a wider angle, people even see it as a convenient learning centre.

Over years the library has not only been promoting literacy but even education. The office-bearers say that they continually assess the overall effectiveness of the library to ensure that services and programmes remain relevant to their users.

#### Large membership

Navodayam today has its own two-storey building and a membership that is 800 strong. Apart from a huge collection of books, all newspapers published in the State are subscribed. It also boasts of a reference library which can be utilised by students pursuing any course and even those attempting the civil service examinations.

Recognising these services, the State government had honoured Navodayam by declaring it as the “Model Village Library” in 2008.

HINDU, MAY 15, 2014

### **Lok Satta hails cancellation of library land deal**

Lok Satta Party has welcomed the cancellation of MoU signed by Director of Public Libraries with Pratyusha Associates Shipping Private Limited for construction of a multi-storeyed complex at a site belonging to the Zilla Grandhalaya Samstha and asked the new government to take up the project with library cess collected by the GVMC.

LSP State secretary Bheesetty Babji, city president N. Venugopal and other activists told reporters on Wednesday that due to agitation spearheaded by them, the government had to cancel the deal. They sought collection of demurrage worth over Rs.1 crore from Pratyusha. Mr. Babji said LSP had brought pressure on the government to scrap the deal for a long time by launching a postcard and signature campaign and party founder Jayaprakash Naryayan brought the issue of the construction of a multi-storeyed complex with an investment of Rs.30 crore to the notice of the Governor and top officials in Hyderabad.

Stating that their constant campaign for cancellation of lease agreement for 'gifting away of one acre land at a prime area' near Jagadamba junction to a private firm had finally led to cancellation of the deal, he said the GVMC should be directed to part with library cess collected by it to construct a modern library at the site.

HINDU, MAY 13, 2014

### **Library land row ends, at last**

The one-acre land of Zilla Grandhalaya Samstha allotted to Prathyusha Associates Shipping Private Limited in public-private participation (PPP) has been cancelled bringing victory to a two-year-old struggle against the move.

The Director of Public Libraries issued an order on May 5 citing a government direction stating that the lease-cum-agreement entered with Prathyusha Associates Shipping Private Limited in February, 2010, was terminated with immediate effect in view of the deviations observed under Section V B (I) of the lease-cum-agreement as the proposal itself was not beneficial to ZGS and the government. Welcoming the move, MLC M.V.S. Sarma told reporters on Monday that a series of protests were conducted in a sustained manner under the auspices of Pura Grandhalaya Seva Samithi (PGSS) and even a people's ballot opposed the allotment. He alleged that former minister Ganta Srinivasa Rao stalled the cancellation of the allotment. Even when he met the former Chief Minister N. Kiran Kumar Reddy twice, he took a soft line against his Cabinet colleague.

Apparently the present order cancelling the lease came from the highest quarters, he said.

Mr. Sarma demanded that the site should be handed over to the government and in turn to the ZGS to take up construction of a building with clearance.

Library cess

The GVMC should pay the Rs.20-crore library cess it owed to the ZGS to enable it take up construction of the building. The MA&UD Department should also allocate funds.

He and former Vice-Chancellor of Andhra University K.V. Ramana congratulated PGSS president B.L. Narayana and retired library employees for continuing the movement boldly.

Mr. Ramana described NGOs taking up the public cause and succeeding as a great achievement. He said the building to be newly constructed should be modelled on Ravindra Bharathi auditorium with separate facilities for senior citizens and children.

Mr. Narayana said the ‘unethical’ allotment of the site was fought by representing several times to the government and obtaining all the information through RTI and pointing out the legal lacunae. He demanded that the new building be constructed as early as possible as the present one housing the library was congested and senior citizens and women were hardly able to visit it. The new building should have conference halls and ample parking.

Allotment made to Prathyusha Associates Shipping Private Limited has been cancelled

## MONEY

FINANCIAL EXPRESS, MAY 13, 2014

### **FM says India will make Swiss budge on black money data**

**SUMMARY**The Centre will continue to put pressure on Switzerland to ratify and meet its information-sharing obligations

The Centre will continue to put pressure on Switzerland to ratify and meet its information-sharing obligations under a multilateral convention on mutual administrative assistance in tax matters signed by major economies, finance minister P Chidambaram said on Monday.

On May 6, 46 countries, including India and Switzerland, adopted a declaration on automatic exchange of information on tax matters, which recognises that investments kept offshore by tax payers should not go untaxed, Chidambaram said in a statement.

The declaration refers to the Multilateral Convention, which is signed by more than 60 nations, including Switzerland, which reportedly is yet to ratify it. "I believe that the day is not far off when all major financial centres will be parties to an effective exchange of information on automatic basis," Chidambaram said.

India has been pressing Switzerland to share details about the secret bank accounts some Indians have in a Swiss bank, but the European nation has not been able to oblige due to its domestic legal provisions.

In a separate statement, the minister said that British Telecom giant Vodafone initiated arbitration against the Indian government on a tax dispute regarding its 2007 purchase of Hutchison Essar without waiting for the Income Tax appellate tribunal decision on another dispute that was seen as a hurdle to engaging in conciliation talks.

The minister clarified that the revenue department had on March 11 requested Vodafone to engage seriously in the proceedings before the Income Tax appellate tribunal. The Cabinet had on February 28 decided to keep the door open for conciliation with Vodafone in the bitterly contested Rs 20,000 crore tax dispute on its Hutchison Essar deal, leaving a transfer pricing dispute that obstructed conciliation talks, to be decided by the tax tribunal.

Chidambaram said the revenue department had assured that it would ensure the appeal would be heard early. Vodafone, however, informed the department on March 13 that it saw no merit in reviewing the matter of conciliation on receipt of the decision of the ITAT. Vodafone informed that the only body capable of resolving the issue would be an arbitration panel constituted

according to the India-Netherlands Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPA).

The government then decided to move the Cabinet for approval for withdrawing the conciliation offer. Meanwhile, without waiting for the outcome of the ITAT proceedings, Vodafone served a notice of arbitration dated April 17, the statement said.

## POLICE

STATESMAN, MAY 10, 2014

### **SC restrains officer from functioning in CBI**

The Supreme Court today asked IPS officer Archana Ramasundram not to function as CBI additional director as prima facie her appointment was in breach of the selection process under the law.

A Bench of Chief Justice R M Lodha and Justices A K Patnaik, K S Radhakrishnan and S S Nijjar said having considered the “provisions in the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act with regard to the appointment of the officers above the level of superintendent of police, we find the petitioner (senior journalist and anti-corruption activist Vineet Narain) has been able to make out a strong prima facie case.”

The court said it is an accepted position that Ms Ramasundram has not been recommended by the selection committee. “In the circumstances, we restrain the respondent (Ramasundram) from functioning as additional director until the next date of hearing,” the Bench said.

The court scheduled the next hearing on 14 July as Solicitor General Mohan Parasaran said he would produce the entire record on the appointment of Ms Ramasundram as additional director of the CBI to satisfy the court.

The court order restraining Ms Ramasundram from functioning as a CBI officer came after the court was told she has already joined her new posting on 8 May 2014.

At the outset of the hearing, senior counsel K K Venugopal told the court that Ms Ramasundram has been placed under suspension as she was not relieved by the Tamil Nadu government before taking up her new posting.

Ramasundram, a 1980 batch officer from Tamil Nadu cadre, had served in the CBI as Deputy Inspector-General and later as its first woman Joint Director and handled various cases pertaining to Economic Offences between 1999 and 2006.

Solicitor General Mohan Prasaran contended that the committee had forwarded just the name of one officer while it was supposed to give a panel of names out of which the government would have selected.

He told the court that he would place before it the files containing details of procedure by which she was appointment.

**ASIAN AGE, MAY 12, 2014**

**Delhi Police to accept debit cards soon**

The Delhi traffic police is soon going to upgrade its hand-held e-challan device to accept money through debit and credit cards.

A proposal to this effect has reportedly been approved and the department would shortly be able to accept on the spot challans through debit and credit cards. At present, one has to shell out cash to pay for these challans.

The e-challan scheme was rolled out in 2013 under which the hand-held device had replaced the challan book used by the traffic cops.

At present, the e-challans are issued on the spot with these new devices. The police has about 1,200 hand-held devices and about 12,000 challans are issued in the city every day. A senior officer said the department was waiting for the service providing company to make the devices adaptable.

## POSTAL SERVICES

ECONOMIC TIMES, M AY 9, 2014

### **FinMin nixes India Post's plan to set up a bank**

**Tells RBI this is not the time to consider such a foray, especially given the lack of funds to spare for such a venture**

**Vrishti Beniwal**

The Union [finance ministry](#) has poured cold water on [India Post's](#) application to [set up a bank](#). The postal department might be asked to re-apply when new guidelines for [bank licences](#) are issued by the Reserve Bank of India ([RBI](#)).

As suggested by the [Bimal Jalan](#)-headed screening committee, the issue came up for discussion at a recent meeting of the finance ministry and RBI, a ministry official said. The ministry said India Post was not ready for a banking foray.

India Post had said it needed Rs 1,800 crore to set up the bank. The postal department had sought an initial capital of Rs 623 crore from the finance ministry. It had thought of raising the rest from other sources.

#### **NO BANKING JOB FOR THE POSTMAN**

Finance ministry says India Post is not ready for a banking foray

India Post had said it needed Rs 1,800 crore to set up the bank

The postal department had sought an initial capital of Rs 623 crore from the finance ministry

The advantage with India Post for getting a banking licence is that it has a branch in every nook and corner of the country

India Post has deposits of Rs 4 lakh crore but doesn't have experience in handling advances

"When we don't have enough money to recapitalise existing public sector banks, how can we afford to give funds for a new government bank?" said the official.

RBI had granted licences to only two entities, IDFC and Bandhan Financial Services, of the 25 applicants which applied to set up a bank.

The high-level advisory committee (Jalan panel) set up by RBI to look into the bank licence applications had recommended the central bank consider India Post's application separately, in consultation with the government, and RBI had agreed to do so.

RBI had also said that instead of only opening the licensing window periodically, it would like to make it a regular process, also mooting the idea of differentiated licences.

Officials said RBI might issue new guidelines with some modifications for on-tap and differentiated licences. Then, India Post could stand a chance, particularly as a deposit-taking bank, provided it addressed the concerns of all stakeholders, they added.

The advantage with India Post is that it has a branch in every nook and corner of the country. So, it can help the government reach the objective of financial inclusion.

"India Post deserves the licence because they have the ability to attract customers, the first step towards financial inclusion. It is easier to lend but difficult to get deposits," said Abizer Diwanji, partner and national leader-financial services, EY.

While India Post has deposits of Rs 4 lakh crore, it doesn't have experience in handling advances. It has a huge workforce but lacks experience in the range of banking operations, particularly treasury and risk management. Thus, it will have to get talent from the market, while some from its existing staff of 474,000 might be redundant.

India has the largest postal network in the world, with 155,015 post offices (against 98,000 bank branches), of which 90 per cent are in rural areas. However, the department posted a loss of Rs 5,805 crore in 2011-12. Both Bandhan and IDFC, on the other hand, are profitable.

## SPACE

PIONEER, MAY 9, 2014

### **44 INDIANS SHORTLISTED FOR ONE-WAY TRIP TO MARS!**

Forty-four Indians, including 17 women, are among 705 aspirants shortlisted for an ambitious private mission to send four people on a planned one-way trip to Mars in 2024 to colonise the red planet.

The Netherlands-based non-profit organisation Mars One announced that 353 hopefuls from around the world have been eliminated from the selection programme to become the first human Mars colonists.

The number of people remaining in this “once in many lifetimes opportunity” is now just 705, including 44 Indians of whom 27 are men and 17 are women. The Indian aspirants come from cities such as New Delhi, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Kolkata, Pune and Thiruvananthapuram.

The applicants came from over 140 countries and more than 20,000 Indians had applied for the first round. The remaining candidates will be interviewed by the Mars One selection committee.

“We’re incredibly excited to start the next phase of Round 2, where we begin to better understand our candidates who aspire to take such a daring trip. They will have to show their knowledge, intelligence, adaptability and personality,” Mars One Chief Medical Officer Norbert Kraft, said.

In December 2013, Mars One announced the selection of 1,058 candidates, including 62 from India, from the original pool of over 200,000 applicants. Mars One asked them to complete two tasks by March 2014: to provide a medical statement of health from their physician and open their on-line Mars One applicant profile to the public.

The 418 men and 287 women who successfully completed both tasks will be invited for a personal interview. 313 candidates originally come from the Americas, 187 from Europe, 136 from Asia, 41 from Africa, and 28 from Oceania.

The group of candidates that will not continue to the interview round dropped out due to personal reasons and medical reasons. “The withdrawals due to personal reasons were mostly in the age group 40-50. Candidates who had to withdraw from their dream due to medical reasons were mostly in the age group of 20-35,” Mars One said.

“What really left an impression with us is the fact that the medical tests turned out to have a major impact on the candidate’s lives, as some of them found out that they needed to undergo an operation, were sick and needed medical attention, or even had a malignant form of cancer that otherwise would not have been detected in such an early stage,” Kraft said.

After the interview round, the group of candidates will be narrowed down to several international teams consisting of two women and two men. These teams of prospective Mars settlers will be prepared for the mission by participating full time in an extensive training programme.

Training to go to Mars will be their full time job. Whole teams and individuals might be selected out during training when they prove not to be suitable for the mission. Mars One will repeat the

selection process regularly to train additional teams to replace eliminated teams and crews of settlers that have successfully left Earth to live on Mars.

Ultimately, six teams of four people will be selected to train from 2015 to 2024, leading up to the final four who will make the historic one-way trip to Mars. PTI

## TRANSPORT

TIMES OF INDIA, MAY 8, 2014

### **TN fixes salary of govt drivers between 4,000, 6,000**

CHENNAI: The government has fixed the salaries of drivers of various state departments between 4,000 and 6,000. A few departments had earlier fixed the salary between 5,000 and 9,000.

Following petitions filed in the Madras high court and Supreme Court, the anomaly was corrected and a final order was issued by finance secretary K Shanmugam on Wednesday.

On November 18, 2013, the Madras high court had dismissed the pleas filed by government drivers, seeking higher salary. The order was issued based on this judgment, said the finance secretary.

## URBAN DEVELOPMENT

HINDUSTAN TIMES, MAY 10, 2014

**Gurgaon e-way to be renamed as 'Millennium City Expressway'**

**Sanjeev K Ahuja**

By the end of this month, the Delhi-Gurgaon expressway may not only get a new concessionaire to manage it for the next nine years, but also a new name — Millennium City Expressway.

The lenders of the project, led by IDFC, are going to form a consortium firm in the name of Millennium City Expressways Private Limited (MCEPL), replacing the earlier concessionaire Delhi Gurgaon Super Connectivity Limited (DGSCL).

The new concessionaire MCEPL, with experts drawn from India's top infrastructure development firms, would sign a revised agreement with the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), paving way for many stalled developmental works on this stretch.

One of the key work would be resurfacing the entire 27.7-km stretch between Rao Tula Ram Marg and Kherki Daula Toll plaza, which is mandatory every five years.

Opened for public use in January 2008, the expressway that has developed cracks at many places on its surface was to be resurfaced last year. The cost of the resurfacing is about `80 crore.

As the transition period of 90 days during which the lenders of the project had taken over the expressway from DGSCL on February 20 on the Delhi high court orders, ends on May 19, the lenders are required to float a special purpose vehicle (SPV) firm for managing the expressway for the next nine years till January 2023.

As per the consent order passed by the Delhi High Court on February 19, the lenders led by IDFC had appointed Feedback Brisa as operation, maintenance and tolling (OMT) operator for 90 days, the term for which expires on May 19.

Sanjay Grewal, the group head of IDFC told Hindustan Times on Friday that appointment of Feedback Brisa as OMT for the 90 days transition period was a temporary arrangement. “

As the transition period expires on May 19, all the constituent banks have decided to form a consortiums firm Millennium City Expressways Private Limited after May 19. All the banks will get respective internal approval by May 15 after which we would approach the NHAI for the formal approval for floating MCEPL as a new concessionaire for eight years and seven months concession period for managing the expressway. MCEPL would also sign a new concession agreement with NHAI,” Grewal added.

Grewal said Narayanan Subramaniam would be the acting chief executive officer (CEO) of MCEPL. Subramniam comes with a huge experience in the infrastructure companies such as Hindustan Construction Company (HCC), GMR, L&T and others.

“MCEPL will float tenders inviting bids from reputed firms for various works such as surfacing of the expressway, maintenance, tolling, upkeep etc. As regards, Feedback Brisa and newly introduced Gawar Constructions whose terms is ending as expressway operator and toll operator respectively, these companies would apply afresh for the next term and compete with other bidders,” Grewal said.

## WATER SUPPLY

HINDU, MAY 13, 2014

### **Political recipe for environmental disaster**

AVILASH RAUL

**The Polavaram multipurpose project has faced rough weather with non-compliance of environmental assessment and large-scale displacement**

LOOKING AHEAD: The Polavaram project shows that Odisha should revisit all inter-State river water sharing agreements, which will pave the way for settlement of water disputes and for comprehensive development of the water sector in the State. In the picture, tribals from Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Odisha stage a protest against the project. —PHOTO: G.N. RAO

The Union Cabinet's resolution last week — to clear the proposal for constituting the Polavaram Project Authority (PPA) — has attracted cautious criticism from the Odisha government. With the general election in full swing and Telangana set to come into being, it is obvious that political parties would leave no stone unturned to gain political mileage. It is not very important to read between the lines on the timing of the PPA. Instead, what is pertinent now is to understand how prepared the Odisha government is to tackle inter-State water disputes.

The Union government's compulsion to form the PPA is logical with the formation of Telangana. To resolve any inter-State water dispute, the government can resort to conflict resolution through the Interstate River Water Disputes Act, 1956, apart from regular dialogue and negotiation. The PPA is not a constitutional body unless approved by Parliament. Assessing the thorny road ahead after June 2, when Telangana will become the 29th State of India, the Union government pressed for keeping the project under the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) as a national project. This has proved to be one of the worst examples of coordination between the Union and State governments under UPA-2, as both Chhattisgarh and Odisha had objected to the project in the Supreme Court.

#### Purpose of the project

The purpose of the PPA is to overcome the project's hurdles and generate investment. But it is not the PPA, but the riparian States or the apex court that must approve the project. A transboundary environmental impact assessment should be mandatory, which India has been flouting so far. In 2009, following the request of the Andhra Pradesh government, the PPA became a central project following MoWR guidelines. The Andhra government submitted a revised budget of Rs.16,010.45 crore, which included the budget for protective embankments in Chhattisgarh and Odisha. However, in 2012, the Prime Minister's Office directed the Planning Commission to withhold any financial clearance until the Supreme Court's verdict on the Odisha government's case against the project. No verdict or stay order against the construction of the project or against declaring it to be a national project has been pronounced by the Court so far. Should the PPA then represent the Union government in pending cases related to the project in the apex court? This is a legal issue.

On May 5, the Odisha government, after 'reading' the Union Cabinet resolution, responded through the media that it will resort to the apex court on the rationality of the PPA. It should be

noted that the Supreme Court appointed an inspection panel in 2011 to find out if the construction of the project was being carried out according to the terms of the Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal (GWDT) Award, 1980. The panel concluded that the project had not violated the GWDT. In principle, while the viability of the project is clear, ministries have not given their clearances, and the Supreme Court's verdict is awaited.

#### Issues being contested

Interestingly, it's not the quantity of water-sharing between the riparian States that is the bone of contention but the height of the dam and submergence of areas in Odisha. The aspect that remains unanswered is this: Will the riparian States really oppose the project in the interest of the people of their State, or oppose it for the sake of opposing it? Does Odisha have any plans of mitigating problems of submergence of vast forest areas and parts of Malkangiri district? The State government must know the exact number of people who will be displaced and the forest areas that will be submerged in order to substantiate its argument, not only in courts but in the public domain.

The Indira Sagar (Polavaram) multipurpose project has faced rough weather with non-compliance of environmental assessment, proper surveys, lack of abidance with existing laws and large-scale displacement and submergence of forest and inhabitants. Without protective embankments, four villages and 648.05 hectares of land will be submerged in Odisha, and eight villages and 795.59 hectares of land will be submerged in Chhattisgarh (as per the Andhra Pradesh government's submission on February 2014).

Can the Odisha government refute or substantiate this? Odisha should revisit all inter-State agreements, drawn or not drawn, to plan for the future. This will certainly pave the way for settlement of water disputes and for comprehensive development of the water sector in the State.

Since 1946, the leaders of Odisha have successfully negotiated with neighbouring States on inter-State water disputes. The government must find a long-term approach within its Department of Water Resource to deal with such skirmishes in the near future.

(Avilash Raul is senior fellow at the Delhi-based Society for the Study of Peace and Conflict.)

It is not the quantity of water-sharing between the riparian States that is the bone of contention but the height of the dam and submergence of areas in Odisha