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CIVIL SERVICE

HINDU, SEP 26, 2014

Govt. officials must take 'cleanliness pledge' on Oct. 2

The Central government and public sector unit employees, for the first time ever, will have to compulsorily mark their attendance on Gandhi Jayanthi by undertaking a "Swachhata Shapath [cleanliness pledge]" on October 2, a national holiday.

As part of the week-long cleanliness and awareness drive beginning Thursday, Cabinet Secretary Ajit Seth has issued orders to all the Central Secretaries, seeking their participation in the campaign.

"The text of the pledge is being prepared. On October 2, all the officials in the government and public sector units would be required to take the pledge of cleanliness," said an official, adding that surprise checks may also be conducted to ensure effective implementation.

Swachhata Shapath will culminate weeklong awareness drive starting Thursday

DECCAN HERLAD, SEP 30, 2014

Avoid bureaucrats for CVC post

The Supreme Court's observations on the government's procedure for appointments to the Central Vigilance Commission have again exposed its faulty and unfair system of selection of persons for constitutional and other senior positions.

The posts of the Chief Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) and vigilance commissioners have to be filled up soon as the incumbents' terms are going to expire shortly. The almost secretive system of appointment initiated by the government has been challenged in the court.

The petition has pointed out that the process adopted by the government contravened the provisions of the Central Vigilance Act, 2003 and violated the common norms of fairness and transparency.

The government has now given an assurance that no final decision on appointments would be made till the matter is decided by the court. The court has asked the Centre to consider people from different fields before taking a decision.

The matter came into public focus with a letter written by the Secretary, Department of Personnel and Training, to 37 other secretaries of various departments to recommend names for the CVC positions.

It is surprising that such key posts are filled by an internal process of reference where there is no transparency. The shortlist made from the proposals mooted by secretaries

would most certainly contain the names of serving bureaucrats and would exclude eligible persons from other fields.

When the appointment of PJ Thomas as the CVC, made by the UPA government, was struck down by the Supreme Court, it had said the pool for selection should be widened to include persons other than the bureaucrats. But the government has ignored the directive.

The government told the court that applications could not be invited to the posts as many people preferred to be considered for the posts rather than applying for them. This is a lame excuse.

It has been the practice in the country to keep high constitutional and regulatory positions as the preserve of bureaucrats. This has happened with many other important positions. It is, in fact, better to avoid bureaucrats for such positions because many of them would have conflicts of interests.

The CVC's responsibilities include taking decisions on the conduct and actions of many senior officials with whom he may have worked or even on those in which he may himself have been involved.

It is also necessary that the selection process is transparent and above charges of favouritism and nepotism. The restrictive process of selection, sought to be undertaken by the government, does not evoke public trust and should be dropped.

HINDU, SEP 26, 2014

Delhi govt. cancels leave of staff on Gandhi Jayanti

The Delhi Government has cancelled leave of all government employees on Gandhi Jayanti. Delhi Chief Secretary D.M. Spolia on Thursday issued instructions to all the principal secretaries, secretaries and heads of departments of the Delhi government, local bodies, corporations and undertakings to administer the pledge of cleanliness to their staff members on October 2 – the day when Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be launching the Swachha Bharat campaign.

Mr. Spolia also directed top officials to make a calendar of cleanliness events to be undertaken from October 2 to October 31 in a tabulated form. The schedule has to be submitted to the Urban Development Secretary, who will further submit the calendar of events to the Union Minister of Urban Development

“Apart from this, the Chief Secretary also asked the officers to nominate nodal officers in their respective departments who will submit daily report of the campaign to them. The names of nodal officers and the officers responsible for carrying out the cleanliness drive should be specified,” an official said.

HINDUSTAN TIMES, SEP 25, 2014

Transfers at midnight: 40 big officials moved in jumbo reshuffle
Maresh Langa

In what is said to be the the biggest bureaucratic reshuffle since Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to power, the government on Wednesday issued orders transferring more than 40 senior bureaucrats.

The changes included mostly joint-secretary level positions as well as eight secretary-level appointments.

The secretary-level appointments included Aradhana Johri in the department of disinvestment, Satyanarayan Mohanty in the department of higher education, Surjit Kumar Chaudhary in the department of chemicals, Kapil Dev Tripathi in heavy industries, Kusumjit Sidhu in the department of justice, Rajiv Takru in the National Commission for Minorities, R Vijaykumar in the department Northeast Development and VK Subhuram in the department of pharmaceuticals.

Interestingly, Rajiv Takru, a Gujarat cadre IAS of 1979 batch and was very powerful during the UPA regime, has again been shunted out from department of North East to insignificant post as secretary, national minority commission.

After taking over as the PM, Modi had shunted out Takru from powerful revenue department to North East. Takru never got along with Modi in Gujarat also and is known for proximity to so e Congress leaders, who had got him posted first as secretary financial services and then moved to revenue in the ministry of finance.

For the first time, more than 40 joint secretaries across the ministries and departments have been appointed by the present government, which came to power in last May.

Ahmedabad Municipal commissioner Guruprasad Mohapatra, 1986 batch IAS of Gujarat cadre, has been appointed as joint secretary commerce while Hitendrakumar Makwana, a Tamil Nadu cadre Gujarati IAS has been appointed as joint secretary in the ministry of home.

HINDU, SEP 24, 2014

Campco to train farmers' children for civil service examinations in Mangalore
RAVIPRASAD KAMILA

The cooperative will identify certain educational institutions where the training will be given. It will also sponsor the cost of training.

Farmers, who are members of the Central Arecanut and Cocoa Marketing and Processing Cooperative Ltd, can now hope to have their children pass the civil service examinations.

The cooperative will soon launch a project under which the aspirants will be trained for the examinations.

Announcing this at the 40th annual general body meeting of the cooperative here on Tuesday, the president, Konkodi Padmanabha, said that 30 per cent of the member development funds will be reserved for the training.

The objective will be to help children of farmer members of the cooperative get into the Indian Administrative Service, Indian Police Service, Indian Foreign Service, Indian Revenue Service and other civil services for which examinations and interviews are conducted by the Union Public Service Commission.

Training will also be given to children for the examinations conducted by the Karnataka Public Service Commission.

Later Mr. Padmanabha told *The Hindu* that training and orientation will start from the pre-university level itself.

The cooperative will identify certain educational institutions where the training will be given. It will also sponsor the cost of training.

He said that there were many intelligent children of farmers who do not have proper guidance on how to enter civil services.

The number of civil servants from the State was less when compared to the representation from other states. The objective of the project was to ensure that as many children of farmers held the reign of the administration.

Mr. Padmanabha said that the privilege of entering into the civil services should not be the only domain of urbanites.

Earlier at the meeting Mr. Padmanabha said that the cooperative has plans to enter into the manufacturing and marketing of packaged drinking water from next year.

It was exploring if drinking water having some medicinal contents could be marketed.

The president said that more cooperative societies should enter into arecanut marketing.

There should be more cooperative arecanut buyers in the market to thwart attempts by some private traders to destabilise the market. Farmers too should sell their produce to cooperative societies who paid the “actual tax” to the government.

EDUCATION

HINDU, SEP 24, 2014

Bengal Vice-Chancellors put their weight behind JU counterpart

Expressing 'deep concern towards the present situation' at the Jadavpur University (JU), seven Vice-Chancellors of varsities funded by the West Bengal Government urged the JU students to end the impasse and resume classes.

This comes a day after the father of the student whose molestation triggered the protest made similar appeal to students to withdraw their agitation.

"We are deeply pained and appeal to the students to restore normalcy on the campus and resume classes. The students need not have gheraoed their Vice-Chancellor, the matter could have been sorted out through peaceful talks," R.L. Hangloo, Vice-Chancellor of Kalyani University in Nadia district told media persons at a press conference here on Tuesday.

Choosing not to comment on the police action on the students, the Vice-Chancellors justified JU V-C Prof. Abhijit Chakrabarti calling in police inside the campus, stating he was "helpless and forced to defend" himself from the agitating students.

"Gheraoing is an illegal act. Prof. Chakrabarti is a competent administrator and we choose to stand by him in his hour of crisis," Ranjan Chakrabarti, Vice-Chancellor of Vidyasagar University said.

However, the Vice-Chancellor of the city's Presidency University, Anuradha Lohia, who was not present at the press briefing, voiced a different opinion. "While it is unfortunate that the Vice-Chancellor was gheraoed, it is more unfortunate that students were beaten up by the police," Prof. Lohia said.

Meanwhile, Calcutta University Vice-Chancellor Suranjan Das who heads the probe committee to look into the allegation of molestation met the victim girl.

Despite the appeals, the students remained firm that they would not withdraw the agitation unless Prof Chakrabarti resigns.

Visva-Bharati University in Birbhum district issued a notice on Monday banning 'outsiders, including media persons, cameramen' from entering its core area, library and administrative buildings without prior permission of the University registrar.

Last month, a first-year student of the Visva-Bharati University was sexually assaulted by seniors triggering massive outrage.

INDIAN EXPRESS, SEP 30, 2014

UGC asks varsities to accept self-attested documents

In a move that could simplify procedures for students, the University Grants Commission has asked universities to accept self-certification of marksheets, birth certificates and other key documents, thus doing away with the requirement of submitting attested documents.

“It is requested that the process of abolition of affidavits and adoption of self-certification be complied with at the earliest and compliance report be sent to UGC within a week of the issue of the letter,” the commission said in its communication dated September 26 to vice-chancellors of all universities. The letter asks varsities to take “urgent necessary steps” to implement the order.

The move follows a communication sent by the HRD Ministry to the UGC informing the latter about the recommendations of the Second Administrative Reforms Commission for adoption of self-attestation for “simplifying procedures.” Under this, original documents are required to be produced only at the final stage of admission.

Related

According to the UGC, self-certification is citizen-friendly since obtaining either an attested copy or an affidavit has monetary implications and leads to wastage of time.

[HINDU, SEP 26, 2014](#)

DUTA members stage dharna demanding pension for teachers

Joint delegation of DUTA and DUCKU meets UGC Vice-Chairman

up in arms:DUTA members sitting on a dharna outside the UGC office in New Delhi on Thursday.—Photo: Sandeep Saxena

Members of the Delhi University Teachers’ Association sat on a dharna for several hours outside the University Grants Commission office on Thursday.

They were demanding that the panel intervene to ensure that Delhi University gives its retired teachers their due pension, makes teachers who have been working for several years on an ad-hoc basis permanent, and ensures that promotions are not made on the basis of the point system.

The DUTA has also demanded resignation of UGC Chairman Ved Prakash, stating that he no longer had the right to remain in the post as he was complicit in the implementation of the rolled-back four-year undergraduate programme at Delhi University.

The protesters were joined by a delegation of the Jawaharlal Nehru University Teachers’ Association.

A joint delegation of the DUTA and DUCKU (Delhi University and College Karamchari Union) met the Vice-Chairman of the UGC, Devraj.

“We told him of the manner in which the Vice-Chancellor pushed through retrospective application of API point system in promotions that would affect thousands of teachers

adversely. We also raised the issue of the university refusing to pay retired teachers their pension," said DUTA president Nandita Narain. The delegation is also said to have pointed out the tremendous hardship faced by almost 4,500 ad-hoc teachers and about 5,000 contract employees because regular appointments have not been made for more than four years.

TIMES OF INDIA, SEP 24, 2014

Ad hoc teachers outnumber regulars in DU

[Manash Pratim Gohain](#)

NEW DELHI: It seems it's the ad hoc teachers, not the permanent faculty who are running the show in most of the Delhi University colleges. Right from teaching, conducting exams and evaluating answer-scripts, the varsity is very much dependent on the services of 5,000 temporary staff. Sources say that delay in appointing permanent teachers has also compounded the problem.

Things have come to such a pass that in colleges such as SRCC, Daulat Ram, Dyal Singh (evening), Swami Shraddhanand, ARSD and Maharaja Agrasen, the number of ad hoc teachers is far more than that of the permanent ones. A close look at the situation reveals that most of these colleges have violated UGC regulations, which state that teachers should be appointed on contract basis only when it is absolutely necessary and their number should not exceed 10% of the total number of faculty positions in a college or university

Even in colleges where ad-hoc teachers have not outnumbered the permanent faculty members, the situation continues to be grim. For instance, Kirori Mal has 90 ad-hoc posts as against 120 permanent faculty, while SGTB Khalsa is running the show with 67 ad hoc teachers as against 83 permanent ones. Similarly in Dyal Singh (morning) there are as many as 116 ad-hocs as against 128 permanent teachers, while at Satyawati (evening) there are 52 ad-hocs and 53 permanent. And at Ram Lal Anand (evening) its 35 in each category.

Sources say though the university has ushered in reforms in various spheres, "no one really seems to have taken the issue of filling up of permanent vacancies seriously". "It is unfortunate that even teachers' groups have played politics over the issue. The university administration, UGC and the ministry of human resource development, too, have not shown much interest in it all these years," said J Khuntiya, chairman, Academics for Action and Development (Rathi).

Meanwhile, ad hoc teachers have formed a forum to fight for their rights.

One of its coordinators, Purna Malhotra, has been an ad hoc teacher for seven years before losing her job this summer. She left her permanent job at the Indian Council of

Agricultural Research in 2005 to be a teacher. Malhotra said: "Teachers with very strong academic credentials, with eight to 10 years of teaching experience in the university and good publications to their credit are compelled to lead a very uncertain and insecure professional life. Since permanent appointments have not taken place for a long time in many of the colleges, their future is in lurch. Moreover, they are overage for other jobs. Even UGC and other bodies do not sanction them research projects."

However, DU says delay was due to certain changes in appointment rules. "In 2010, point-based system was introduced by the University Grants Commission. Many universities, including Delhi University, wrote to the ministry of human resource development to reconsider the decision. Then a committee was constituted to look into the problem of the new regulations. The panel gave its recommendation and the new rules were notified in 2013. Therefore, between 2010 and 2013 there was a virtual freeze in appointment as DU was not in favour of the point-based system," said media coordinator, Malay Neerav.

TIMES OF INDIA, SEP 26, 2014

Bar Council derecognizes Delhi University's law course

[Abhinav Garg](#)

NEW DELHI: Law graduates who passed out this year from Delhi University (DU) are staring at an uncertain future.

In an unprecedented move, Bar Council of India (BCI), the apex regulatory body for law education and the legal profession in India, has decided to derecognize DU's law course taught at its three centres, namely Campus Law Centre, Law Centre-1 and Law Centre-2.

This means students admitted in these centres from 2011-12 onwards won't be eligible to be enrolled as advocates and can't practice.

On Monday, BCI announced its decision through a letter sent to the vice chancellor of DU and to all state bar councils, including that of Delhi.

"In absence of extension of approval of affiliation of these law centres, the students who were admitted in the sessions 2011-12 onward and passed out from the academic year 2013-14 are not eligible for enrollment as advocates. You are therefore advised to take appropriate action with regard to these law centres and inform BCI about steps taken in this regard immediately," the BCI letter to DU says.

Sources in BCI said the regulatory body was forced to act after DU failed to respond to its repeated reminders on extension of affiliation beyond the academic year 2010-11. A communication was sent to the three centres in July 2010 for the first time that DU must seek approval and throw open its centres for BCI's inspection.

"In spite of the said communication the law centres have not applied to the council for extension of approval of affiliation," BCI has added saying Legal Education Rules 2008 have not been followed by DU, inviting de-recognition.

As per the Rules, a law college/law school/institution that has not been inspected for a continuous period of 5 years shall have to apply afresh to the BCI and seek approval of affiliation on or before July 31, 2010. Those colleges which fail to apply lose the right to impart legal degree.

BCI decided to amend the rules to ensure periodic inspection of such centres on student intake, infrastructure, facilities and timings. Confirming they have received instructions from BCI, Bar Council of Delhi secretary Punit Mittal said, "Since DU failed to obtain extension of affiliation from academic year 2011-12 onwards therefore the BCI had passed a resolution directing all state BCs including Delhi that candidates from these law centres are not eligible for enrollment. The same applies to candidates joining the law courses 2011-12 onwards."

However, Professor Ashwani Kumar Bansal, dean, Faculty of Law in DU, said there is no reason for students to panic. "Today itself I have replied to BCI reminding them that they gave us time till December 31 this year to apply for approval. It is not a big issue. We came into existence in 1924 while BCI was born in 1960s. A few years ago they made certain rules and want us to abide by them. I would like to remind everyone that we lead legal education standards in the country. Around 80 of our alumni are judges in various high courts and four adorn the Supreme Court. Before declaring us invalid, look at our track record. We will resolve the issue amiably, students need not worry at all."

Union minister Arun Jaitley and former minister Kapil Sibal are a few noted alumni of DU's law courses.

TIMES OF INDIA, SEP 24, 2014

Rajasthan government moots 3 public exams till Class VIII

JAIPUR: The state government is planning to introduce three public examinations between Class 1 and VIII from next academic session by amending RTE rules. The government is contemplating changes at a time when the country is debating stress-free education for children.

Hinting at the development, SS Agarwal, principal secretary, education department, said, "This is in initial stages. Nothing is on official papers at present. Once a draft is prepared and presented in the assembly it will be discussed and suggestions will be taken from all the stakeholders before making any change."

However, experts term it as 'retrograde' move and violation of RTE-2009 which clearly states that students shall be mandatorily promoted till Class VIII.

Sources said that the move to introduce exams is a fallout of low levels of learnings-reading, writing and comprehension among students which is declining for the past three years. According to sources, the main reasons for declining quality of education is shortage of teachers and the fact that in most schools the syllabus is never covered on time.

"This is illogical on the part of government to introduce exams hoping that the move will improve the learning levels. In fact, it will add pressure on children which will lead to more drop outs. Ideally, the state should work on improving the quality of teaching rather altering RTE norms," said Rajiv Gupta, former head of department, sociology, Rajasthan University.

The government's another move to give 'learning levels' extra weightage and slashing infrastructural norms like toilets, playground, boundary wall, ramps, hand wash facility and electricity will benefit thousands of public and private schools at large which are struggling to fulfill the RTE norms (infrastructural).

The government is justifying its move by stating that of the total 85,685 schools, only 29,142 schools have electricity and 31,789 have playground. Besides, 14,644 schools don't have boundary wall. "Meeting all the infrastructural requirements would take years and require crores for constructing buildings," said a senior official.

Already, government had submitted its affidavit to HRD minister seeking more time for implementation of RTE. Experts sees these attempts a way out for the government to remove the delay in implementing RTE and provide a relief to private schools to get recognition/registration.

FOREIGN INVESTMENT

STATESMAN, SEP 26, 2014

PM launches make in india

Asks global ceos to invest in country, says swachh bharat mission from 2 oct

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today walked into the heart of the business world as he launched his brainchild “Make In India Campaign” with a promise to deliver ‘ease of business’ and giving a new meaning to FDI ~ First Develop India.

Mr Modi's speech to over 500 global CEOs kept them spellbound. They gave him a standing ovation at the overflowing venue ~ the stately Vigyan Bhavan. Many invitees stood in the aisles or close to exits to listen to Mr Modi who began his speech with an apology for the inconvenience caused to them.

The PM, who is aggressive on expanding India's footprint across the globe, sent a new message to both investors and domestic players as he expanded FDI as ‘First Develop India’. He asked the galaxy of global CEOs to invest in India and help develop it as a great manufacturing hub.

The Prime Minister sought to position India prominently on the global manufacturing map with his Make In India campaign, details of which he first announced at his maiden Independence Day address to the nation. The campaign intends to facilitate the inflow of new technology and capital, while creating millions of jobs.

The vaulting scheme puts in place the necessary logistics and systems to address in a timely manner the queries of potential investors. The campaign was unveiled along with a logo, a portal and brochures on 25 identified growth sectors before Who's Who of the corporate world from India and abroad.

Mr Modi said in the last 2-3 years, people talked of shifting industry outside the country. He said he did not want investors to shift from India, he wanted to usher in a regime that cut red tape and ushered in the red carpet for investors.

The PM said he was saddened in the past to see scores of Indians leaving the country to seek opportunities elsewhere. “We do not want any industrialist being forced to leave India,” he said.

“A trust was broken ~ that when a policy will be changed, when will the CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation) come. This is what I heard from all of you. The biggest issue is trust. Why don't we trust each other? I want to change that,” he said

India is an opportunity, the PM told foreign investors, as the Make In India campaign

focused more on “Effective Governance” than good governance which had to be in place already to achieve that. Manufacturing boost will create jobs, increase purchasing power, thereby creating larger market for manufacturers, he said, adding that the government will play the effective role of a facilitator. Later tonight, Mr Modi arrived in Frankfurt enroute to the USA on a five-day visit during which he will address the UN General Assembly, hold talks with President Barack Obama and meet US corporate honchos. Pakistan said there was “no planned meeting” between Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the UNGA in New York, while asserting that the onus for resumption of dialogue process was on India which suspended the talks. “We have not sought a meeting and we have not received any request,” Foreign Office spokeswoman Tasnim Aslam said at the weekly briefing in Islamabad.

Earlier in the day at the PM’s Make in India conference in Delhi, a galaxy of industrialists also spoke of the confidence that was inspiring industrialists and corporates to come forward and invest since Mr Modi assumed power as the PM. Those who lauded the PM’s bold initiatives included Reliance CMD Mukesh Ambani, Tata Group chairman Cyrus Mistry, Wipro chief Azim Premjee and Birla Group chairman Kumaramangalam Birla. ITC’s Yogi Deveshwar also spoke on the occasion. Ahead of the launch of the campaign, Commerce Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said a number of steps have already been taken by the Modi government to make it easier to do business in India along with the removal or relaxation of foreign equity caps in several areas.

“The processes of applying for licences has been made online, it is 24/7. The validity of such licences has also been extended to three years,” Ms Sitharaman said, adding several norms and procedures have also been changed to make it easier to do business in India,” she said.

A day after the Cabinet cleared a five-year-long Swachh Bharat Mission, the PM today said the mission will be launched on 2 October, Gandhiji’s birthday.

INDUSTRY

TELEGRAPH, SEP 30, 2014

INDUSTRIAL POLICY REPAIR

- Words are not enough, only action can dismantle the barriers

Writing on the wall - Ashok V. Desai

After having his fill of sushi, the prime minister is back home and in the saddle, and has renewed his campaign to revive industry. This is a departure from his predecessor's approach of *laissez faire*. Another change is that Narendra Modi has invited manufacturers from abroad to come and make things in India. That is a bit surprising. His party has always believed in Little India. Indian industrialists have been its supporters; they cannot be enthusiastic about competition from foreigners bringing the latest technology and building brand new factories in India. But Modi must have done his political homework; let me concentrate on how best he can achieve his aim.

According to UNCTAD, India produced about 2½ per cent of the world's manufacturing output in 2012. The countries above India but close to it, producing about 3 per cent of the world output, were Italy, France and Britain; the leaders were the US (21 per cent), China (18 per cent), Japan (11 per cent) and Korea (7 per cent). India's ambition should be to leave the Europeans behind and join the Big Four in the next decade. To do so, Indian industry would have to grow at about three times the world growth rate — at 10-12 per cent a year. It is achievable, considering the last decade's industrial growth rate of 8 per cent. But it would be inconsistent with India's current GDP growth rate of 4-5 per cent since most of the demand must come from the domestic market. Modi must also address the causes of the downturn and stimulate overall growth. In this column, however, I will confine myself to manufacturing.

A good deal of this growth will be in industries where India has competitive strength. It is revealed by exports. India is the world's largest exporter of cut gems and jewellery. Since India's market share is 55 per cent in terms of value, 80 per cent in terms of volume and 90 per cent in terms of carats, it is unlikely to rise much; exports cannot rise much faster than world demand. But if India is to overcome competition from Chinese and East Asian gem-cutters, it must rid gem exports from bureaucratic hurdles and corruption. In particular, it must remove the import duty of 10 per cent on gold and gems, plus various cesses. Self-righteous bureaucrats will say that it would encourage wasteful consumption; but Indian citizens do not consider it waste, and they are the masters.

The next most important industrial export, surprisingly, is vehicles; last year, India exported close to two million scooters and motorcycles, half a million cars, three lakh autorickshaws and 80,000 trucks and buses. The international market for vehicles is highly competitive; some of our biggest manufacturers are foreign companies. They would quickly switch production abroad if they did not find India competitive enough. The basic strategy must remain keeping trade in vehicles free of duties and stopping customs from harassing exporters and importers. But it must also involve keeping our car parts industry competitive. The government must talk frequently with the exporters to resolve their problems quickly.

Electrical equipment and components are India's third biggest industrial export item; but in the global market, India is a pygmy. The big guys in exports are China (16 per cent), Germany (12 per cent) the US (9 per cent) and Japan (7 per cent). Power equipment — rotors, transformers, capacitors, switchgear, cables, etc — is not difficult to produce; but Indian manufacturers cannot be competitive unless the government fixes and introduces competition into the power supply industry, which is largely a set of monopolies of state electricity boards. The UPA government tried two tactics to make the SEBs behave: it tried to use the power it generated itself to get some purchase on them, and it tried to induce private operators to set up mega power plants. Both tactics failed. The new government has to try out something else. It already has a bad idea, namely the Ultra Modern Super Critical Coal Based Thermal Power Technology, that Arun Jaitley floated in his budget. I criticized it in my column of July 11, and suggested that the government should, instead, look at the floating power plants that Wärtsilä has built for Jamaica and the Dominican Republic. It can move them from port to port, and sell power to only those states which reform their power sector and introduce competition in power generation. Gujarat has done so, so the Central government can sell it as much power as it wants from floating plants; Gujarat can then export the power to Sind and make some money as well as friends in Pakistan.

Last April, Narendra Modi said in an election rally in Jamshedpur, “The government in Delhi is such that it exports iron ore but imports steel. If you run your business like this, how will the country's steel industry survive?” I think he was mistaken. India imposed a 30 per cent export duty on iron ore in 2011; more recently it has imposed a 5 per cent duty on pellets. The Indian steel industry has survived despite iron ore exports; so have the Brazilian and Australian industries. It is not particularly uncompetitive. Steel imports and exports are roughly the same — about \$5-6 billion a year. In addition, we export steel products worth about as much.

The big problem is not foreign competition, but shortage of coal. Coking coal has been so short that no steel plants have been built in recent years; most of the industry's expansion has come from sponge iron, which can be made with any coal. Coal India is the dominant coal producer and supplier. It is finding it difficult to increase coal production because the remaining reserves are in ecologically sensitive tribal areas. Coal is available abroad, but bringing it in would require considerable port capacity. Instead of making quick and naïve judgments, the prime minister should consult more widely and get some deeper, objective studies done in this area.

The Patents Act of 1970 abolished product patents in pharmaceuticals; that led thousands of small firms to copy foreign patents, and created a low-cost pharmaceutical industry which also found a big market abroad. That boom ended when India signed the Uruguay Round agreement and reintroduced pharmaceutical product patents in 2005. The smaller producers are still following the strategy of making patent drugs, but to keep out of trouble, many are now producing drugs whose patents have expired. Drug exports will continue, but they cannot grow much faster.

The last export industry of importance is engineering. India has low costs of inputs in this industry, but has only a 0.8 per cent share in world exports; it shows its technological backwardness. This is where Modi's invitation to world manufacturers could make a difference. But before it can, the government would have to dismantle the niggling, detailed controls operated by the department of industrial policy and promotion on foreign investors. This is one department that survived and held out against all the reforms; aside from abolition of import licensing, it liberalized virtually nothing. The commerce and industry ministry is the one Modi should target and shake up; the gentle hand of Nirmla Sitharaman will not suffice. Modi has done well to announce to the world that Delhi has changed and foreigners are welcome. But words are not enough: action is necessary to dismantle the barriers that remain, which can only come from him.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

ASIAN AGE, SEP 29, 2014

PM Modi says 21st century ‘will be led’ by India, offers PIOs lifetime visas

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the 20,000-strong audience at a reception organised in his honour at Madison Square — PTI

3 dozen US Congressmen at Madison Square Garden

Addressing a rapturous crowd of Indian Americans here, Prime Minister Narendra Modi affirmed Sunday that India will move ahead at a rapid pace and “lead the 21st century world”. At a unique event at the iconic Madison Square Garden in the heart of Manhattan, at which some 20,000 cheering NRIs were present, Mr Modi said his big win in the Lok Sabha elections had come with a big responsibility for him, which he would fulfil.

Listing out India’s advantages, the Prime Minister said that its three strengths were democracy, demographic dividend, in which 65 per cent of its population was under 35 years, and the demand for India because it was a huge market.

Clearly with an eye on the younger generation, Mr Modi said: “We will not do anything which will let you down.”

“My government will be 100 per cent successful in fulfilling the aspirations of the people,” he said, as the crowd repeatedly chanted “Modi-Modi”.

Attired in a saffron Nehru jacket and yellow kurta, the PM held the packed indoor stadium spellbound, asserting that “our attempt is to make development a peoples’ movement”.

In his speech lasting over an hour, in Hindi, that began with “Bharat Mata Ki Jai”, while extending greetings for the Navratri festival, Mr Modi promised good governance, saying after a gap of 30 years India had got a government at the Centre with a clear majority.

He also had a jibe at poll predictions in the runup to the Lok Sabha polls, saying: “No political pundit or opinion makers could fathom such a verdict.”

Winning elections brought with it a big responsibility, he said. “Ever since I took up this task (as Prime Minister), I have not taken even a 15-minute vacation,” he said.

Reaching out to overseas Indians, he said the OCI and PIO schemes would be merged and all PIO card holders would now get lifetime visas for India. The government, he added, would also offer long-term tourist visas for US citizens, as well as visa on arrival for certain categories.

He also invited NRIs and PIOs to participate in the Clean Ganga Mission.

The PM said there was no need for any disillusionment. “India is going to march ahead at a very fast pace... The 21st century will be that of India. By 2020, only India will be in a position to provide a workforce to the world,” he said, citing examples of the growing global demand for nurses and teachers.

“My effort is to make development a mass movement. I am confident that we will succeed. There is cause for disappointment. This country is going to make rapid progress... There are many expectations from the new government. This government will be 100 per cent successful in fulfilling the aspirations of people,” he said amid loud cheers by the 20,000-strong crowd.

“My dream is to see every Indian family has a home by 2022,” he added.

In an unprecedented show of solidarity for the India-US relationship, over three dozen top US legislators were at the Madison Square Garden event on Sunday. This is the first time such a large number of US legislators attended an event organised by the Indian-American community and the rarest occasion when so many Congressmen participated in a diaspora event. The closest parallel is that of the Israeli-American community, which is the most influential diaspora group in the US.

Topping the list of senators were Robert Menendez, chairman of the powerful Senate Foreign Relations Committee; the other two being Senators Joe Donnelly from Indiana, and Cory Booker from New Jersey.

Indian-American South Carolina governor Nikki Haley also attended the event and was present on the dias along with Mr Modi and others.

Among other legislators who attended the mega-event were Congressmen Steny Hoyer, Democratic whip; Frank Pallone (founder of the House India Caucus); Eliot Engel (ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee); Nita Lowey (ranking member of the House Appropriations Committee); Jim McDermot (former chairman of the House India Caucus); Jerrold Nadler, Sanford Bishop and Carolyn Maloney.

HINDUSTAN TIMES, SEP 30, 2014

Indo-US relations: Not natural partners at all

[Kanwal Sibal](#)

If the media coverage in India of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s US visit and the adulation with which the Indian-American community greeted him in New York were any yardstick, it can already be labelled a resounding success. No other Indian prime minister has connected so well with the Indian Americans.

This signifies that the entrepreneurial, achievement-oriented, can-do Indian Americans, who want to derive pride from India’s success, see Modi as a saviour.

Just before his departure, Modi sent a powerful message about making India a manufacturing hub in his ‘Make in India’ address to Indian and foreign investors.

If he can succeed in galvanising Indian businessmen to help realise his “First Develop India” take on foreign direct investment (FDI), it would be a giant achievement, as it is their reluctance to invest in India that de-motivated foreign investors too.

At the UN General Assembly Modi’s handling of Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif’s offensive speech was masterly, as he responded to him with reticence and dignity.

He was on the mark on terrorism, implicitly criticising those whose actions have generated more widespread terror, whose combat against it in West Asia is not inclusive and who still use terrorism as a policy instrument.

He wisely rejected the politically shortsighted and morally shallow advice that he should have supported US-led military action against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS) from the UN podium to signal India’s willingness to assume its responsibilities internationally.

Those anticipating that US President Barack Obama will raise this subject with Modi and advocate that we must earn his goodwill and renewed attention by joining in the fight against ISIS should explain why the US has never targeted Pakistan for decades of terrorism directed by it against India.

Its reluctance to sanction Pakistan in the way it has sanctioned Iran, Syria and now even Russia is inexplicable politically and morally. This apart, the connection between regime-change policies in Iraq, Libya and Syria and the role of the Gulf states and the rise of ISIS has to be understood.

Much is being said about Modi and Obama’s personal chemistry to put relations back on track. Whether Obama, supposedly aloof and impersonal, can strike such a personal rapport with Modi is doubtful. In any case, correct relations based on a good understanding of mutual interests should be sufficient.

Some American commentators are putting the onus on India of repairing what is being described as a faltering partnership. Such a position makes little sense. Even with a stronger power, ties have to be forged on the basis of a balance of interests and mutual respect.

It is being argued that India’s declining economic growth and its trade and taxation policies are responsible for the deterioration of bilateral relations.

The argument that Modi’s approach — centred on soliciting huge international investments for high-profile domestic projects — offers poor prospects for any major US response is not convincing. If Modi promises improved policies, simplified procedures, quicker decision-making, the goods and services tax by April 2016 and the demographic and demand dividends that India offers are not enough to revive US interest in India, then what is?

The US' complaints about our nuclear liability law are becoming tiresome. Did the US sign the nuclear deal with India for business reasons or strategic ones? That US companies should look for business opportunities in India following the India-US nuclear deal is normal.

That India would be well-advised to limit the liability in time and financial scope is another matter. But for the US to hold up, as is believed, the nuclear deal with Japan and India's membership of international export control organisations unless India bends on the liability law is not in consonance with the strategic calculations underlying the India-US nuclear deal.

The US is now targeting India for our intellectual property rights (IPR) and preferential market-access policies, even though no US company has been targeted in the case of pharmaceutical patents.

Yet, at the instance of select US corporations, otherwise making good profits in India, the US Congress and the Obama administration are investigating India's trade, investment and IPR policies.

Some US Congressmen have asked the US International Trade Commission to pursue its investigations against India for another year, even while Modi is in the US.

This does not mean that we do not need to improve investor sentiment and respond to the genuine concerns of foreign investors, but bullying us in this way is another thing.

If just four years ago relations with India were for the US president defining for the 21st century, it makes little objective sense why India should be off his radar screen now, except if quick returns on the political stock exchange are more important for him than longer-term investment returns.

On the defence side, the government has already approved the purchase of US attack and heavy-lift helicopters. More should not be expected from the visit.

As it is, the US has become India's largest supplier of arms in the past five years, overtaking Russia.

Yet US lobbies are not satisfied. The US will remain the most difficult partner for technology transfers. Because it wants to work only with the private sector, this will make progress in setting up the desired level of local defence manufacturing in partnership with it less likely.

The US is a hard nut to crack. And even if it could be, its contents are none too sweet.

(Kanwal Sibal is a former foreign secretary, Government of India. The views expressed by the author are personal.)

LABOUR

BUSINESS LINE, SEP 26, 2014

'Minimum pension under EPS to be made permanent'

In order to remove uncertainty over the payment of minimum Rs 1,000 monthly pension under the [Employees' Pension Scheme 1995](#) (EPS-95) beyond March 31, the government will amend the scheme to make it a permanent feature.

“When we have planned that (Rs 1,000 minimum monthly) pension will be given, then it would not be for one year. That would be done,” Labour Minister [Narendra Singh Tomar](#) said when asked if there is a move to amend EPS-95 to make the entitlement perpetual.

The government order currently provides that the pension under the EPS-95 scheme will be implemented from September 1, 2014, to March 31, 2015.

In the current scenario, for paying a [minimum pension](#) of Rs 1,000 under EPS-95, either the government would re-notify the decision again and again for a specified period or bring an order to make it a permanent feature.

Tomar said: “We still have time to do that. The minimum pension will be an entitlement for a time-frame. You can ask about it if we don't do it within the set timeframe (till March 31).”

The minister said under the scheme, around 32 lakh pensioners who get less than Rs 1000 every month as pension would be immediately benefited. There are 49 lakh pensioners under the scheme at present.

LAW

HINDUSTAN TIMES, SEP 30, 2014

Govt likely to repeal 987 outdated laws

Chetan Chauhan

By his own admission, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is “happiest” showing the door to laws that are of no use.

Accordingly, his government has put in motion a plan to repeal as many as 987 obsolete laws.

The law ministry will bring a new bill in the winter session of Parliament to repeal 287 obsolete laws and junk about 700 Appropriation Acts that have lost relevance.

An Appropriation Act is passed by Parliament during budget session to allow the government to withdraw money from the exchequer for a financial year. The law has no utility after the next budget when a new Appropriation Act gets passed.

But, all Appropriation Acts, including those passed decades ago, are still a part of statute books.

“We plan to bring a bill to repeal 287 obsolete laws,” law minister Ravi Shankar Prasad told reporters on Monday. He added they were consulting the finance ministry on the law commission’s recommendation to repeal 700 Appropriation Acts.

The ministry is examining the British system of junking Appropriation Acts after some years.

Many of the laws listed for repealing are from the British era and have lost relevance.

The government has made its plan known a day after Modi told Indian-Americans at Madison Square Garden, “Earlier Indian governments spoke of having made this law and that law, but I have started ending laws which are of no use. So many laws... If I end one law a day, I will be the happiest.”

Here are some laws that govt wants out:

Forfeited Deposits Act, Act 25 of 1850

Category: Land Laws

This Act was enacted for the forfeiture to the Government of deposits made on incomplete sales of land made under Regulation VIII, 1819 of the Bengal Code (the Bengal Patni Taluks Regulation, 1819).

Since tenure-holders or patnidars were taking fraudulent advantage of this Regulation, this Act was introduced to counter the situation. The Regulation allowed forfeited deposits at land sales to be applied as purchase-money.

The Act instead provided that forfeited deposits were to be used towards the cost of sales, and the rest to be forfeited to Government. This Act is of no relevance after 1947.

Foreign Recruiting Act, Act 4 of 1874

Category: International Relations

This Act empowered the Government to issue an order that prevented the recruitment of Indians by a foreign State.

The Act confers a wide discretion on the Government to specify the conditions under which persons may be barred from being recruited by a foreign State. According to the Law Commission, in its 43rd Report on Offences against National Security (1971), such wide discretion might potentially violate the constitutional guarantee to freedom of occupation under Article 19.

The 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission Report of 2006 has also observed that this Act is outdated. This Act has been recommended for repeal by the PC Jain Commission in its Appendix A-1.

Elephants' Preservation Act, Act 6 of 1879

Category: Environmental Law

The Act makes it an offence to kill, injure or capture wild elephants except in cases of self-defence, or in accordance with a licence granted under the Act.

However, the Act imposes only an insignificant fine of Rs. 500 for its contravention, while a subsequent conviction attracts imprisonment for 6 months along with the fine.

The purpose of the Act is now subsumed by the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 which has similar provisions on the prohibition of killing wild animals and on 26 procedures for licensing.

Elephants are included within the ambit of the 1972 Act, which also has more stringent penalties. Therefore the 1879 Act is redundant.

BUSINESS LINE, SEP 25, 2014

Cut red tape

The Prime Minister should walk the talk on legal reform

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has rightly pointed to the need to clear the “jungle of archaic laws” to make governance smooth and transparent. Recently, the Law

Commission in its interim report called for the repeal of 72 laws and said it may identify another 260 laws over the next month that could be scrapped. These laws cover labour, land and taxation and, perhaps worst of all, matters of procedure. Administrative reforms can play a role in kickstarting growth changes and are not politically controversial unlike effecting big ticket changes in land acquisition and labour laws. For instance, a major deterrent to investment is India's inability to enforce contracts, thanks to a maze of laws and procedures and an ill-equipped judiciary. As the World Bank report 'Doing Business 2014' points out, it can take up to 1,400 days in India to obtain a legal remedy for non-enforcement, which is not just higher than the OECD countries' average of 529 days but also way above the South Asian average of 1,075 days. The cost can run up to 40 per cent of the claim.

To sort out this problem, we need, not just an integration of similar laws and the elimination of useless ones, but also a concerted effort at judicial reform. Researchers point out that of the backlog of about 32 million cases, 24 per cent have been pending for about five years and 9 per cent for more than a decade. The US has 108 judges for a million people, against 12 in the case of India. It remains to be seen whether the proposed judicial appointments committee helps fill vacancies in the high courts and lower courts in particular. Delays arising out of procedural formalities can be addressed by outsourcing some tasks to private firms; this could check corruption in the court administration.

While enforcing contracts is a nightmare, the delays and costs involved in starting a business, paying taxes and shutting down a business are no better. According to the World Bank report, India has brought down the number of days it takes to start a business from about 90 in 2004 to 27 now, but it is still behind the world norm of a week or less. Documentation for imports and exports can prove daunting for small units; they spend a great deal of their time and money at the offices of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade. An average Indian firm forks out 33 types of taxes, amounting to 63 per cent of its profit, while its OECD counterpart makes 12 such payments amounting to about 41 per cent of its profit. Litigation on service tax issues is on the rise, due to ambiguities in the law. It hardly helps if the Government remains vague on issues like retrospective taxation. Our insolvency norms are a mess; it can take five years for a firm to shut down, against the global norm of about six months. There's a lot of red tape to be shredded; the Prime Minister should walk the talk.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated September 25, 2014)

LIBRARIES

BUSINESS STANDARD, SEP 30, 2014

Nilanjana S Roy: Vive la Librarian!

Jamil Ahmad and the last frontiers

Keep your Arab Springs and popular uprisings: if you're going to "vive" any "les revolutions", please think of the unsung heroism of librarians. This particular group of adults has an undeserved reputation for mildness.

But rouse a librarian (or several), and you unleash hell, as Canada discovered some years ago when it tried to pass an anti-pornography bill that would also have chilled free speech. [Dany Lacombe](#) quotes a policy advisor to the department of justice in her book, *Blue Politics*: "And for the first time ever, the librarians of Canada rose up in anger. I had never seen anything like that; they are among the most conservative people ... They were greatly offended that the government would do anything that might tell them how to control their collection."

Ms Lacombe tells the story of how librarians eventually defeated Bill C-54 through a campaign of reasoned but fierce protest. Every year, when [Banned Books Week](#) rolls around, I think of the librarians in the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada who've spent decades defending the right to read. Librarians do not represent the media, the state or the slightly harder to define category of people lumped under the label of "activists". Instead, they represent the community at large, and they often speak for a neglected and misunderstood but essential right - the right to read.

In India over the last few decades, the debate over the right to read usually covers the areas where this right has run into trouble. The British fondness for banning books has yielded to some extent to the modern Indian fondness for burning them, and for placing legal hazards or threats of violence in the way of authors and publishers who might deal with contentious subjects, which at present covers almost everything except for books on knitting.

Banned Books Week, observed in so many parts of the world at this time of the year, has been only noted in India, not observed. In the absence of extensive public libraries where communities of readers gather, bookshops, publishers and literary festivals have not yet combined to make this an annual event where you might either celebrate reading, or go over the problems in the way of readers.

But during the rest of the year, there is - usually prompted by a lawsuit or by an attack on books or authors - a relatively loud buzz of discussion on banned and censored books, the rising problem of internal censorship among publishing houses. As for India's defamation and offence laws, there is growing awareness that they act like hyacinth weeds choking waterways, and choking research, academic inquiry and writers' freedoms in a hundred different ways.

The other part of Banned Books Week, though, is exploring the freedom to read - who has it, who doesn't and why these freedoms are absent from the cultural spaces that most Indians inhabit. One of the most interesting indexes of how much Indians across the country care for books comes from the work done by the [National Mission for Manuscripts](#) (NMM), which has been looking for manuscripts in homes, religious places, and community centres and offices since 2003. Its volunteers and staff travel from one region to another, taking anything from a few months to a year or so to cover an area; donations of manuscripts are entirely voluntary, and all that the mission asks is to see and record whatever manuscripts a householder or a community might have with them.

In place after place, from Basgo in Ladakh to Imphal in Manipur, the [NMM](#) volunteers have found the community stepping up to help preserve what they see as their collective memory. Some families, such as the Narlikars in Kolhapur, have been custodians and collectors of manuscripts for years; in other cases, local museums, temples (Buddhist and Hindu), or *madrastas* and mosques will hand over their manuscripts to be copied.

In the early years of the NMM, volunteers came across rural and urban families alike who had carefully preserved old books and manuscripts in tin trunks or in corners of their homes. The love of literature, oral or written, is encoded in the DNA of most Indians; it is only in this period that the country has lacked a proper reading culture.

The building blocks of that culture isn't just the missing infrastructure, the absence of good bookshops and libraries. These are important, and it is heartbreaking to see Delhi's public libraries. With their broken windows, roughly painted exteriors, the puddles of water on the floor, it is hard to conjure up a place less inviting to readers, especially younger ones.

But despite the depressing beige aura that hangs over libraries such as the ones in Shahdara or Seelampur, the staff does an amazing job of reaching out to local families, and many of the west and north Delhi libraries have become miniature creative hubs, notwithstanding the peeling paint.

When these kids grow up, what kind of world will they inhabit? Just as libraries and bookstores provide the physical infrastructure that creates readers, so do a certain set of ideas go along with the territory.

The American Library Association (ALA)'s "Freedom To Read" statement is not just about book bans and censorship. In essence, it declares that publishers, librarians and booksellers do not need to endorse every idea they make available; that one should not coerce the tastes of adults; that individuals or groups should not impose their own tastes and standards on the community at large. At the core of the "Freedom To Read" statement is a simple idea: publishers, librarians and, by extension, those involved with the intellectual life of any community have a duty to support the freedom to read in the broadest ways.

What every reader should have, the [ALA](#) suggests, is access to "the widest diversity of views and expressions", including unpopular or unorthodox ideas. It's a radical idea, but then it was dreamed up by those incendiary rebels, a bunch of librarians.

[TIMES OF INDIA, SEP 29, 2014](#)

Rampur library houses rare Persian Ramayan manuscript

RAMPUR: Most versions of Ramayan, the epic Hindu scripture on lord Ram's life, begin with 'Om', but how about one that begins with 'Bismilla-e-rahman-e-rahim' and is written in Persian in gold?

Rampur's Raza Library holds the 300-old manuscript of Ramayan written by famous scholar Sumair Chand in Persian in 1715 AD during the reign of Mughal emperor Farrukhsiyar. The Persian Ramayan was written in gold and precious stones were used for illustration of miniatures by Chand.

Islamic scholars of renowned institutions are studying the book kept in this library known for its 17,000 ancient manuscripts. The Raza Library has also published the Hindi translation of the centuries-old Persian language Ramayan in three volumes.

The Persian Ramayan starts with the Arabic Islamic verse 'Bismilla-e-rehman-e-rahim' (In the name of Allah, the most beneficent, the most merciful), like other Islamic religious books, including the holy Quran. In the 19th century, during the period of Nawab Yusuf Ali Khan of Rampur state, this 300-year-old Ramyan was brought to the Raza Library.

Professor, SM Azizuddin Husain, director of the library, told TOI: "During the revolt of 1857 against the British, the English Army captured and ransacked Delhi and Lucknow

libraries and looted the precious manuscripts. Rampur nawabs were great patrons of valuable manuscripts and they had purchased these manuscripts, include this Persian language Ramayan of Mughal era, for the scholars."

Scholars from countries like Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, as well as central Asian countries, like Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, come to the library to study the Persian language Ramayan. Rohillkhand university scholar Syead Naved Qaiser said, "This Ramayan possesses the cultural values of our society, expressed by the writer of this manuscript in illustrations. He has tried to define the feelings, attitudes and manners which depict the culture of this subcontinent in this Persian Ramayan."

A scholar from Lucknow University, Mohammad Irshad Nadwi, added, "Islam has never said teachings of other religions cannot be studied. In the contemporary world, comparative studies of different religions is a burning issue. People are searching for facts of genuine religion and Islam has encouraged and invited the whole world to study all the religious books for the welfare of mankind."

The translation of the Hindu religious books during the Mughal era has a rich history. Professor SA Azizuddin Husain, a noted historian of India, says, "Mughal emperor Akbar decided to translate all the 'Indic religious' books and for this, he had established the department of translation called 'Darut Tarjuma' at Fatehpur Sikri. Mahabharat and Ramayan were translated into Persian language." He added that Sher Jallaluddin of Thanesar, presently the area of Kurukshetra, also translated Mahabharat into Persian and Sheikh Saadullah of Panipat did a poetic translation of Ramayan and this tradition was followed by Sumair Chand during the 18th century.

[HINDU, SEP 29, 2014](#)

Muslim Library celebrates its centenary

T.S.RANGANNA

President of the Muslim Library Ayub Ahmed Khan has said that he will accept government help if it released funds on its own.— Photo: K. Murali Kumar

The Muslim Library, started by a few intellectuals belonging to the community under a trust in the city, celebrated its centenary here on Sunday. The library was lauded by many Urdu poets and freedom fighters, including poet Muhammad Iqbal who wrote *Sare Jahan se Accha* .

The library, which also catered to the needs of English and Kannada readers in Shivajinagar for many decades with books on various subjects chose not to seek financial help from either the government or any non-governmental organisation.

Inaugurating the centenary celebrations, Minister for Information and Public Relations, Infrastructure and Haj R. Roshan Baig lauded its secular character, and advised that it

continue to be open to people belonging to all communities. Books on Vedas, Upanishads and Vachanas should also be kept in the library so that readers would benefit, he said.

Referring to the request of Tayyab Ali Kharadi, a lecturer in Doddaballapur, to give special grants to the library for its expansion, the Minister said that he could do it provided a representation was submitted to him. However, president of the library Ayub Ahmed Khan intervened to say that they would not make any applications for financial help.

Mr. Khan said he would accept government help if it released funds on its own. Opposing Mr. Baig's suggestion that the library building should be shifted to a spacious building away from the narrow and busy road, Mr. Khan said that it had acquired a place in the minds of the local people. Another branch could be opened elsewhere if needed

Jawad Rahim, retired judge, who felicitated those who served the library over the years and also some Islamic scholars, said that Urdu was not just spoken by the Muslim community but others too. He said that he realised this when he attended a judges' conference in north India.

The library with 461 members has 25,000 books. It was registered under the Sub-India Registration Act, 1860. Its services were recognised by the Karnataka Urdu Academy with the Suvarna Karnataka award.

Poet Munir Ahmed Jami welcomed the gathering.

BUSINESS STANDARD, SEP 26, 2014

Mihir S Sharma: Unbanning books

India is not an autocracy. It can't adopt the methods of free-speech activism developed for authoritarian states

This is Banned Books Week. It's a week-long celebration of books and those who write them, and, in particular, of viewpoints that are challenged or banned, and individuals who are attacked or persecuted for holding them. And it's a reasonable point at which we should pause and examine exactly where we stand in terms of the freedom to write, read and publish books, as a society.

[Banned Books Week](#) began in the [United States](#) in the early 1980s. The United States, then, had just elected Ronald Reagan, and it looked like the forces of social progressivism were on the run. I don't know whether they had started talking of the "culture wars" yet, but hostilities had definitely begun. The driving force behind Banned Books Week was a bunch of disgruntled librarians (I urge you to pause for a moment to picture a bunch of disgruntled librarians in your mind, you won't regret it). They were tired of having to deal

with demands to remove various books from library shelves because they offended local community sentiments, or were deemed insufficiently "family-friendly".

It is important to note that the "banning" here was not, thus, a consequence of the use of arbitrary state power. It was because of other forms of power over local libraries - forms of suasion that were usable even in a country as resolutely committed legally to free speech as the United States.

This should cause us to think about exactly how it is that speech is controlled in India, and how books can be banned, without being officially banned. There are shades of grey to this: even *The Satanic Verses* is not banned; its import is controlled, that is all. Nor are Wendy Doniger's books banned; the author and the publisher merely declined to enter into a lengthy court battle, with possible criminal penalties, against a fanatic with strong political backing and nothing to lose. Especially since the law is on the fanatic's side.

The law that protects fanatics is, of course, the element of Macaulay's penal code that allows the imperial government to control its subjects' access to information to ensure that the little beasts don't riot and interrupt the District Magistrate's siesta. You will notice I speak about the *Raj* in the present tense; this is because, as far as freedom of speech is concerned, we still live in the *Raj*. In fact, in terms of speaking frankly about social ills, the *Raj* offered freedom to writers and leaders unheard of today. Just read Ambedkar on Hinduism - or on Islam, for that matter - to understand that.

The other laws that restrict speech are criminal defamation laws. These hit everyone pretty hard, and the public interest most of all. It is difficult to talk about certain companies without getting an automatic notice in the mail; and some politicians, particularly in the United Progressive Alliance, were known to threaten journalists with criminal defamation at the drop of a hat. Books have been withdrawn by publishers, thanks to these laws, too.

There are several ways to look at this. One is to complain that authors and publishers should fight the good fight, and stand up for our right to access information. Unfortunately, for some reason many authors are not willing to risk jail for our rights. Nor are publishing companies willing to spend all their profits on legal fees in battles to protect their right to publish books that don't make a lot of money. This no doubt offends us. But unless we wish to legislate altruism - which is a bad idea, I hasten to add - we need to take the responsibility to defend our access to information ourselves.

One possible front for this battle might be to try and ensure that those people who feel

threatened by such laws have some kind of recourse: a network that will explain the legal consequences, and maybe funnel a bit of legal expertise their way. At the very least, an author or a publisher who wishes to fight should be given a bit of backing, no? This is my preferred response, as it is for several other people who are trying to institutionalise it - if you also agree, do write in to freedomtrustindia@gmail.com with ideas as to how to make it happen.

India is not an autocracy. It cannot adopt the methods of free-speech activism that were developed for authoritarian states. It is a country with a particular combination of problems: a set of powerful, regressive social norms and leaders; and colonial laws that empower them. But it also has a broadly liberal Constitution. Those who want to make sure that all books written stay on the shelves, and that all books that can be written are written, should use that tension to their advantage.

HINDU, SEP 25, 2014

City library body puts on-demand scheme on hold

ASIF YAR KHAN

HCGS blames fund crunch; poor take the hit

WHAT IT MEANS

MOST MEMBERS OF HYDERABAD CITY GRANDHALAYA SAMSTHA WHO AWAILED THE SCHEME HAILED FROM POOR BACKGROUNDS

With the scheme on hold, they will be forced to purchase the books they require from the market

READERS DEMAND BOOK SCHEME

- 1 Members can submit names of the titles that are unavailable
- 2 Branch librarian then forwards the request to the HCGS office
- 3 It would be processed and book made available for the members
- 4 Members should deposit the cost of book, which would be refunded once the book is returned
- 5 The scheme was made available at all 80 libraries of the HCGS

WHAT'S HAPPENED NOW?

• Shortage of funds has forced the HCGS to put the scheme on hold

MEMBERSHIP FEE

HCGS	Rs.100 for branch library	Rs.150 for City Central Library, Chilkadpally
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The GHMC has stopped transferring the library cess to HCGS for last two years. No new books were purchased in the current financial year. We will resume the Readers Demand Book only after adequate funds are available

NIRAJA
HCGS IN-CHARGE SECRETARY

Book lovers across the city are annoyed with the Hyderabad City Grandhalaya Samstha (HCGS). The reason: the 'Readers Demand Book' scheme has been on hold for the last few months, forcing them to buy the books from the market.

The HCGS introduced the scheme a few years ago at the 80-odd branch libraries across the city after people complained of shortage of books on certain subjects. About 10 per cent of the budget meant for purchase for new books was earmarked for the scheme.

The libraries kept a separate register where members or visitors could write down details of the title that was unavailable, such as the name of the author, publisher and so on.

This request would be forwarded by the branch librarian to the HCGS head office.

The book would then be acquired and made available. Members could then take it home and return it within the stipulated time.

Ever since the concept was introduced, several hundred of books of various subjects were sought by members and visitors, and made available.

A librarian pointed out that most of those availing the facility happened to be those from poor and lower middle-class background, who could not afford to buy personal copies for themselves. However, for the last four months, such requests made by the public are being turned down due to a shortage of funds.

“The GHMC has stopped transferring the library cess to the HCGS for last couple of years. No new books were purchased in the current financial year due to fund crunch. We will resume the Readers Demand Book only after adequate funds are available,” says HCGS In-charge Secretary Niraja.

ORGANIZATIONS

ECONOMIC TIMES, SEP 25, 2014

Senior secretary-level officers to fill over half of empty posts in organisations

[Yogima Sharma](#)

Centre is considering structural changes in the PEO to make its evaluations more effective for effective implementation of recommendations.

NEW DELHI: The [Centre](#) is considering structural changes in the [Programme Evaluation Organisation](#) or PEO to make its evaluations more effective so its recommendations are readily adopted by ministries and social sector schemes are implemented more effectively.

A senior official in the Planning Commission, which houses the PEO, told ET the government is considering appointing a senior [secretary-level](#) officer, who may be answerable to the Prime Minister's Office, as head of the organisation. Besides, the official said, the Narendra Modi government is focusing on recruiting dedicated staff, filling up all the vacant posts in the PEO and even hiring local interns to evaluate the Centre's flagship schemes in their areas.

"Key changes that may come in the PEO may include hiring of technical experts in the vacant positions so that we can improve on the process of evaluation," the official said. Total sanctioned staff for the PEO is close to 175, of which nearly half the posts are vacant. The organisation is currently headed by a joint secretary-level advisor in the Planning Commission.

The rationale for hiring local interns is that they are likely to be familiar with local people and their language. "Hence it will be easy for them to evaluate flagship schemes in their areas. Being young, they will be in a better position to collect data, analyse, make recommendations that could even suggest midterm corrections and prepare a report, all under guidance of the PEO director in each state," the official said.

The [Planning Commission](#) has moved the proposal to restructure the PEO following the decision of the committee of secretaries to retain the PEO rather the Independent Evaluation Office, after almost 20 central ministries reposed faith in the older organisation.

POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

BUSINESS STANDARD, SEP 29, 2014

Jayalalithaa convicted in corruption case, gets 4 yrs in jail, Rs 100 crore fine

Convicted in a disproportionate-asset case, loses CM post; violent protests break out across Tamil Nadu

In a ruling that could have a far-reaching impact on the politics of Tamil Nadu, a trial court on Saturday sentenced Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa and three other co-accused to four years in jail in an 18-year-old Rs 66.65-crore disproportionate-asset case. Additionally, a hefty penalty of Rs 100 crore was imposed on Jayalalithaa.

The Supreme Court had ruled last year that if a law maker is found guilty of corruption and gets a sentence of more than two years, he or she immediately loses membership of a legislative body. So, conviction and sentencing imply that Jayalalithaa ceases to be a member of the [Tamil Nadu](#) legislative Assembly with immediate effect and will not be able to contest elections for the next 10 years (she will not be able to contest polls for six years after completing her jail term).

The other three sentenced on Saturday are Jayalalithaa's close aides Sasikala Natarajan, Ilavarasi and foster son Sudhakaran. They will have to pay Rs 10 crore each as fine. If any of the convicted persons fails to pay the fine, he or she will have to serve an additional year in jail. Earlier in the day, Jayalalithaa and the others arrived in Bangalore, where a special court was to pronounce its verdict, in a special flight and were taken for medical examination.

The judgment was pronounced at a makeshift court set up at Gandhi Bhavan near the Parappana Agrahara Jain in southeast Bangalore

LETTER OF THE LAW

Past instances of chief ministers being convicted or jailed in criminal cases

Chief Minister	Party	State	Chargecase
A R Antulay (1982)	Congress	Maharashtra	Extortion
J Jayalithaa (2001)	AIADMK	Tamil Nadu	Conviction in the Tansi land scam case
Parkash Singh Badal (2003)	SAD	Punjab	Alleged involvement in a corruption case
Shibu Soren (2006)	JMM	Jharkhand	Alleged involvement in murder of Shashi Nath Jha, his personal secretary
Madhu Koda (2009)	BJP	Jharkhand	Involvement in a mining scam
B S Yeddyurappa (2011)	BJP	Karnataka	Involvement in allegedly illegal land deals
Om Prakash Chautala (2013)	INLD	Haryana	Irregularities in recruitment of 3,000 teachers
Lalu Prasad (2013)	RJD	Bihar	Involvement in the ₹950-crore fodder scam
Jagannath Mishra (2013)	Congress	Bihar	Involvement in the ₹950-crore fodder scam

In brackets: Year in which the conviction/imprisonment took place
AIADMK: All-India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, **SAD:** Shiromani Akali Dal, **JMM:** Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, **BJP:** Bharatiya Janata Party, **INLD:** Indian National Lok Dal, **RJD:** Rashtriya Janata Dal

John Michael D’Cunha, the special court judge, read out the 1,300-page judgment, convicting Jayalalithaa under Section 13 (1) (E) of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. She was proved to have misused her office and amassed crores of rupees that were disproportionate with her known sources of income.

Soon after the sentence was pronounced, Jayalalithaa and others were taken into judicial custody and sent to a state-run hospital for medical check-up. Special public prosecutor G Bhavani Singh said: “All the four convicted persons, including Jayalalithaa, will be lodged in the central jail here.”

ALSO READ: [Aditi Phadnis: Jayalalithaa - On a verdict and a prayer](#)

Singh also clarified that a bail application could not be moved in a lower court as the sentence was of more than three years of jail term. Jayalalitha could, however, appeal in either the Karnataka or Tamil Nadu high court for relief from the jail sentence. “The fine will be recovered through sale of property, including jewellery and land seized during the trial,” he added.

According to lawyers, Jayalalithaa is unlikely to get bail anytime soon — at least for a year. Filing an appeal in the high court will take some time.

Disturbances and street protests broke out in Bangalore, as well as several towns and cities of Tamil Nadu, after the court's decision. The police took nearly 500 persons into custody from outside the [Bangalore](#) court and extended the prohibitory orders to up to five km from the special court premises till Saturday midnight.

QUICK RECALL

A timeline of the case

1996

Jun 14: Subramanian Swamy files a complaint against J Jayalalithaa

Jun 18: The then DMK government registers FIR against Jayalalithaa for having assets disproportionate with her known source of income

1997

Jun 4: Chargesheet filed in the Rs 66.65-crore disproportionate-asset case

Oct 21: Court frames charges against Jayalalithaa, Sasikala, Sudhakaran, and Ilavarasi

2003

Feb 28: DMK leader K Anbazhagan asks Supreme Court to transfer trial out of Chennai

Nov 18: Apex Court orders transfer of trial to a special court in Bangalore, observes 'fair trial was not going' in Chennai

2010

Jan 22: Supreme Court clears way for trial of DA case; trial begins

2011

May 16: AIADMK returns to power, Jayalalithaa becomes CM again

Oct 20 & 21 and Nov 22 & 23: Jayalalithaa appears in special court

2012

Oct 29: John Michael Cunha appointed as special judge

2014

Aug 28: Trial concludes; special court says verdict will be pronounced on Sep 20

Sep 15: Jayalalithaa seeks change of location over security concerns

Sep 16: Special Court allows Jayalalithaa's plea, orders for shifting of venue near Bangalore Central prison; postpones verdict to September 27

Sep 27: Jayalalithaa convicted in the case; gets four years in jail

ALSO READ: [Jayalalithaa convicted: a profile](#)

Tamil Nadu Governor K Rosaiah had to immediately call a meeting of the administration to discuss ways to maintain law and order in the state. Since Jayalalithaa's party, the All-India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) has a comfortable majority in the Tamil Nadu Assembly, a replacement chief minister will have to be appointed

immediately. Several names were in circulation but no confirmation on the next CM had come till the time of going to press.

As many as 60 members of the state Assembly and 18 AIADMK members of Parliament came to Bangalore from Chennai to show solidarity with the chief minister. Besides 20,000 other people were learnt to have arrived in the city from across Tamil Nadu.

The disproportionate-asset case dates back to 1996, when Dravida Munnettra Kazhagam (DMK) General-Secretary K Anbazhagan filed a complaint, claiming Jayalalithaa had amassed Rs 66.65 crore of wealth that was disproportionate with her known sources of income. In a raid carried out in 1997 in connection with this case, 800 kg silver, 28 kg gold, 750 pairs of shoes, 10,500 saris, 91 watches and other items were seized from Jayalalithaa's Chennai residence.

Later, on a petition filed by Anbazhagan, who expressed his doubt over conduct of a fair trial in Chennai with Jayalalithaa as Tamil Nadu chief minister, the Supreme Court transferred the case to a Bangalore special court in 2003.

Jayalalithaa, who has waged several legal battles and seen several ups and downs in her political career, had to earlier quit as chief minister immediately after taking oath in 2001. This was after the Supreme Court declared her appointment null and void because she had been sentenced to two years of rigorous imprisonment in a corruption case.

At that time, O Paneerselvam, a junior minister in her Cabinet, was appointed the chief minister of Tamil Nadu. By 2002, she was cleared of all charges and again sworn in as CM.

RAILWAYS

TIMES OF INDIA, SEP 24, 2014

Litter railway station and pay fine of Rs 500

Jayanta Gupta,

KOLKATA: Those who spit on or litter railway premises may now have to pay a fine of Rs 500.

Eastern Railway general manager R K Gupta on Tuesday announced a cleanliness drive during the Puja in keeping with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Swachh Bharat Mission. Officers have already been nominated to take charge of various stations within the limits of Eastern Railway and ensure cleanliness.

"This is a comprehensive scheme in which stations and other railway premises, including offices, will be cleaned up. The tracks between stations will also be cleaned. The cleanliness drive will be completed by October 2. Our on-board housekeeping staff have been asked to ensure cleanliness inside trains. Penal action will be initiated if someone is caught spitting or littering the railway premises. CCTV cameras will also be used to keep a watch on people littering the premises. A drive has also been launched against unauthorized hawkers who not only occupy space meant for movement of passengers but also strew garbage in the surroundings," Gupta said.

Eastern Railway plans to run 222 special trains during the Puja. These will run between September 26 and November 18.

RIVERS

HINDUSTAN TIMES, SEP 30, 2014

Govt begins work on controversial river-link project

Zia Haq

The Modi government has started work on the first project to artificially connect two rivers, to be followed by two more, as it moves swiftly on a controversial programme first mooted during the Atal Behari Vajpayee-era, which the previous UPA regime had sidestepped.

Groundwork in the Ken-Betwa project, involving Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, has begun after a nod from both states, while a detailed project report to link the Damanganga and Pinjal rivers to provide drinking water for Mumbai has been submitted to the Maharashtra and Gujarat governments.

The Ken-Betwa project involves building a dam on river Ken, a major river of the Bundelkhand region, with a 221-km canal to transfer "surplus" water to the Betwa basin. Its cited benefits include irrigation facilities in over 6 lakh hectares of farmland, water supply for over 13 lakh people in Bundelkhand and generation of 78 MW of power.

The Madhya Pradesh government has approved mandatory alternative land to compensate habitat loss in swathes of the Panna Tiger Reserve. Designs for a third link to connect Par, Tai and Narmada rivers for irrigation benefits in drought-prone Saurashtra and Kutch are likely to be finished by March 2015.

"We will not take up any project if states don't agree and we won't touch rivers with international borders," water resources minister Uma Bharti said. The government has identified 30 such links, which will take 10 years, if states agree.

The previous government had talked of first undertaking a "comprehensive review" before any decision. A legal hurdle got cleared in 2012 when the Supreme Court, disposing of two petitions, asked the government to go ahead.

The benefits of linking rivers are mitigating floods in some areas and drought in others. It is based on a principle that some river basins are "surplus" in nature, while others are "deficit". Critics argue the concept to manage water flow, just like in an electricity grid, could be potentially disastrous, since rivers aren't a man-made resource and the flow in such artificially networked rivers isn't two-way, i.e. the direction cannot be reversed.

SPACE

INDIAN EXPRESS, SEP 24, 2014

**India scripts history, becomes the first country to send Mars Orbiter in first attempt
Scientists described the Mars Orbiter Mission, affectionately nicknamed MOM, as
flawless. (Source: ISRO)**

Written by [Johnson T A](#)

The Indian Space Research Organisation's Mars Orbiter Spacecraft successfully entered the orbit of [Mars](#) on Wednesday morning after a liquid motor engine fired effectively for a little over 24 minutes to impart a little over the required velocity of 1098 metres per second at 1099 metres per sec.

The \$ 71 million [mission](#), one of the cheapest undertaken by any space faring nation, puts [ISRO](#) among an elite league of three other space agencies to undertake a successful voyage to the Red Planet. The successful entry of the MOS into the orbit of Mars (further data is still awaited on the exact orbit achieved) makes India the first country to make it to Mars on its first attempt.

The [Mars Orbiter Spacecraft](#) was intended to be placed in an elliptical orbit spanning 423 km X 80,000 km around Mars. The US space agency NASA which has 16 successful Mars mission to its credit placed its Maven spacecraft in 150 km X 6250 km orbit around Mars exactly two days ago.

The successful mission of the Mars Orbiter Spacecraft with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in attendance was greeted by cheers by scientists at ISRO's mission operations centre 2 and was followed by the distribution of sweets.

"If our national cricket team wins a tournament the whole country celebrates. What our scientists have done is far greater," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said following the success.

The Indian prime minister who appreciated the low cost nature of the project – costing less than the \$ 100 million Hollywood movie Gravity – called on the scientists to continue to push their boundaries. He said ISRO had carried out the MOS mission within three years of a feasibility study.

The Mars Orbit Insertion maneuver on Wednesday went to plan for ISRO with the Mars Orbiter Spacecraft triggering pre-loaded commands on the dot as prescribed by the pre-determined schedule. There were loud cheers in mission control when the liquid engine started firing at 7.17 AM and information was received in this regard at the earth stations at 7.30 AM.

The biggest cheers in mission control however emerged at 8.10 AM when first information came in from the spacecraft to indicate that the orbit insertion had gone to

plan with the engine imparting the required thrust of 1098 metres/second during its 24 minute burst.

With Mars eclipsing the MOS for a period of nearly 20 minutes from 7.34 AM the major portion of the maneuver on Wednesday occurred with communication being shut down with MOS and with no solar power supply to the spacecraft. The orbiter functioned on its internal battery power till 8 AM before resuming communications and power supply at the end of the eclipse.

The maneuver on Wednesday involved reducing the velocity of the MOS and putting it in synch with the velocity of Mars. "When we reach Mars our spacecraft will have a velocity of 22.57 km/sec where as Mars velocity is 25.71 so our space craft is slow. But when it is coming under the influence of Mars gravity it gains a velocity of 5.7 km/sec but we don't want that much velocity to put our spacecraft in the desired orbit. What we require is 4.6 km/sec. So from 5.7 km/second the velocity has to be reduced to 4.6 km/sec so the velocity increment imparted is 1.1 km/sec," the mission director at mission control Dr V Kesava Raju said.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

DECCAN HERALD, SEP 24, 2014

Modi to cleanse nation, governance of filth

Says redundant laws hamper administration

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday gave a clarion call for cleaning the country and its administration. Modi announced that he will lead the Clean India initiative on October 2 by taking up the broom himself.

At a felicitation function organised by the State BJP soon after his arrival at the HAL airport in Bangalore, Modi said the present administrative system was in a mess and he has instructed all ministries to take up a “cleanliness drive”.

The drive would be launched on September 25, the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, the ideologue of erstwhile Jan Sangh and go on till October 10.

“We have been in government for a very short time. As we move into a new house, the first thing we do is cleaning. First, the public did the cleaning. Now, we are doing it,” he said.

Modi said his government has decided to repeal redundant laws to give the nation a direction and speed to administration. “There is a jungle of laws out there.

Earlier governments took pride in making laws, but they have become a hurdle in decision-making and governance. We have five to 10 laws on one subject. A special committee has been constituted to look into the issue,” he said.

Later in his speech, Modi spoke about another type of cleaning: To rid the neighbourhoods of the garbage. He said a Clean India campaign will be launched on October 2, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, and he himself will use the broom on that day.

“Cleaning will be the biggest service one can render to mother India. Like the way we clean our houses for welcoming guests, we have to clean the country to welcome the guest of prosperity into the country,” he stated.

He urged people to dedicate 100 hours a year (two hours a week) to spread the message of keeping India clean. “I beg people to give me 100 hours a year.

If 125 crore Indians decide to clean the country, no force in the world can dirty our place,” he said. His message comes in the backdrop of Bangalore’s back-to-back garbage crises in the last two years.

BUSINESS LINE, SEP 26, 2014

Rs. 62,000 crore to be spent on Clean India Mission

Will cover 1.04 crore households; provide 2.5 lakh seats of community toilets

Swish and flick The Centre will contribute ₹14, 623 crore

The Government has announced a five-year Clean India Mission for urban areas, which will be implemented for 4,041 towns at a cost of over Rs.62,000 crore.

The Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said that the mission will be launched on October 2. “This will include elimination of open defecation, conversion of insanitary toilets to pour flush toilets, eradication of manual scavenging, municipal solid waste management, bringing about a behavioural change in people regarding healthy sanitation practices, generating awareness among citizens about sanitation and its linkages with public health beside others,” he told reporters after the Cabinet meeting.

The Centre will contribute Rs. 14, 623 crore. It will cover 1.04 crore households, provide 2.5 lakh seats of community toilets, 2.6 lakh seats of public toilets and solid waste management facility for all towns.

Location wise

Community toilets will be proposed in residential areas, where it is difficult to construct individual household toilets, public toilets will be constructed in designated locations such as tourist places, markets, bus stations, near railway stations and places of public recreation, wherever required.

The scheme will be part of a joint Swachh Bharat Mission to be implemented for rural areas by the Drinking Water and Sanitation Ministry while Urban Development Ministry will implement this in urban areas. It has also been decided to merge Swachh Bharat Mission for rural areas with Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan.

(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated September 26, 2014)

ECONOMIC TIMES, SEP 25, 2014

Cabinet sets 5-year target for Swachh Bharat Mission in all urban areas

The Swachh Bharat Mission for urban areas is proposed to be implemented over five years starting from October 2 and the total expected cost of the programme is Rs 62,000 crore.

NEW DELHI: The [Cabinet](#) on Wednesday set the target of five years starting from October 2 to implement complete sanitation programme - [Swachh Bharat Mission](#) - in all [urban areas](#) across the country. The programme includes elimination of open defecation, conversion of insanitary toilets to pour flush toilets, eradication of manual scavenging,

municipal solid waste management and bringing about a behavioural change in people.

A week before the nationwide launch of complete cleanliness and sanitation drive, Cabinet cleared the plan for Swachh Bharat Mission that will cover all rural and urban areas.

While the [urban development ministry](#) will be the nodal agency responsible for monitoring and supervision of the mission in across all the 4,041 statutory towns, the drinking water and sanitation ministry will have the same responsibility for rural areas. The mission has been divided into two sub categories - gramin (rural) and urban.

The Swachh Bharat Mission for urban areas is proposed to be implemented over five years starting from October 2 and the total expected cost of the programme is Rs 62,000 crore. While Centre will provide Rs 14,623 crore assistance, the rest will come from states, private players and other sources.

Budgetary provisions for the two sub-missions will be provided separately in the demand for grant of the drinking water and sanitation (for gramin) and urban development ministry (for urban).

It would cover 1.04 crore households, provide 2.5 lakh seats of community toilets, 2.6 lakh seats of public toilets and solid waste management facility for all towns. Community toilets will be proposed in residential areas, where it is difficult to construct individual household toilets, public toilets will be constructed in designated locations such as tourist places, markets, bus stations, near railway stations and places of public recreation wherever required.

For rural household, the Cabinet decided to increase the unit cost of individual household latrine from Rs 10,000 to Rs 12,000 so as to provide for water availability, including for storing, hand-washing and cleaning of toilets. Central share for such latrines will be Rs 9,000 while state share will be Rs 3,000. For North Eastern states, Jammu & Kashmir and special category states, the Central share will be 10,800 and the state share Rs 1,200. Additional contributions from other sources will be permitted.

Considering the bigger role of education and communication to bring behavioural change, 8% of the total project cost will be directed for this purpose.