

GST BILL PASSED IN Rajya Sabha

Close to exactly 60 years after Indian states were reorganised with distinct boundaries along linguistic lines, a new tax reform proposal passed by Parliament will effectively blur those states' fiscal borders, creating for the first time a national common market for goods and services.

After multiple failed efforts, political parties in the Rajya Sabha finally put aside their differences to arrive at a compromise formula to pass the Goods and Services Tax Constitutional Amendment Bill, which aims to do away with multiple rates of taxation at each state's level and to replace those with a uniform rate nationwide.

The bill was passed minutes after 9 p.m., after a scheduled five hours of debate ran well over six, with all 197 members present voting in favour of the reform.

Some of the amendments to the main bill, also introduced by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, however, had a few dissenters.

The AIADMK had walked out earlier.

Earlier in the day, former finance minister P Chidambaram called for debate on the bill, cautioning against omitting a tax rate which could lead to the judiciary striking down such a legislation. He also described the latest draft as having been clumsily drafted, and again called for a Constitutional cap on the tax rate at 18%.

The GST has been hailed as a landmark piece of tax reform by economists, market analysts and corporate houses alike, all of whom hope that the legislation will do away with the often convoluted maze of tax measures imposed by

each state on the same goods or services, leading to differential pricing depending on which part of the country one lives in.

The tax measure has been held up for years now, after having made its first appearance in Chidambaram's Budget speech in 2006. It was first introduced in the Lok Sabha by the Congress-led government in 2011 but was held up by the then in Opposition BJP's recalcitrance. When the party came to power in 2014 with an overwhelming majority in the lower House, it reintroduced the GST proposal in December 2014, only to run into a strong-willed Congress in the Upper House, where it still controlled a majority along with its allies. Additionally, the Bill needed the consent of multiple states that aren't ruled by the BJP among fears that it would dilute states' fiscal powers and would erode the federalist principle of the republic.

Over the course of this year, most states and opposition parties have come around, especially following a conference of state finance ministers and an inter-state council that helped iron out key differences such as revenue sharing, a revenue-neutral rate, compensation for revenue loss, and the removal of a one per cent additional levy.

The government on Tuesday circulated among Rajya Sabha members a list of nine amendments to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Constitution Amendment Bill,

which includes yielding to the Congress demand of scrapping the one per cent levy on inter-state supply of goods.

The passage of the bill was held up for years by political infighting, and its advancement marks a victory for Prime Minister Narendra Modi as he eyes an economic boost for Asia's third-largest economy.

Investors have billed the GST as a "silver bullet" for India's economy that would supplant multiple federal and state levies - a chaotic structure that inflates costs for businesses.

"GST bill passed by upper house is a game changing, path breaking and the most important reform since independence. Look forward to an exciting time ahead. The country is on the way towards double digit growth. Very bullish on scrip called India. A historic, transformational and a game changing move. The whole world would like to participate in the Indian growth story. Feeling bullish.

Industry reaction

Economic boost: "GST holds the potential to boost economic activity substantially, improve the government's revenue, and help achieve better transmission of prices. It would enable more seamless and efficient crediting of taxes paid on capital goods, which would then become 12-14% cheaper, increasing demand for them, raising investment, and hence, economic growth," said Motilal Oswal, CMD,

Motilal Os-

wal Financial Services Ltd.

The real black money law: Sachin Menon, Partner and Head, Indirect tax at KPMG in India, said: "The GST will hit at the root of black economy, as avenues for generating black money will be reduced to alcohol and real estate. With every transaction need to be mandatorily reported in the GST network, which tracks all reported transaction from source till consumption, it will be difficult to generate black money in a chain of transactions. That sense, GST is the real black money law."

Organised sector to gain: Mihir Vora, Director & Chief Investment Officer, Max Life Insurance said: "The passage of the Bill further enhances confidence in India's commitment to economic reforms. While implementation will take a few quarters, the writing is now on the wall - the organized sector will gain at the cost of the informal sector."

He said Max Life was not looking to change its investment strategy much. "We have exposure to logistics, cement, auto etc. companies which may benefit from implementation of the GST," he added.

Heartburn over: Amit Kumar Sarkar, Partner, Grant Thornton India LLP, said: "The GST Constitution Amendment Bill finally sees the light of day after many years of speculation and heartburn. While there are still many steps to introduce GST in India, we remain optimistic that the toughest hurdle is now crossed over. The question around GST is no longer "if" it's coming but now "when" is it coming."



34% of state mantris face criminal cases

NEW DELHI: As many as 34 per cent of ministers in states have declared criminal cases pending against themselves, while 76 per cent are crorepatris with average assets of Rs 8.59 crore, finds a new study.

Declarations of a total of 609 ministers out of 620 have been analysed from 29 state assemblies and two Union Territories by Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

Among the ministers with highest assets include Ponguru Narayana of Telugu Desam Party with total assets of Rs 496 crore, followed by DK Shivakumar of Congress (Rs 251 crore).

Out of the 609 state ministers whose declarations were analysed, 210 (34 per cent) ministers have criminal cases against their names. 24 (31 per cent) out of 78 ministers in the Centre, have declared criminal cases against themselves.

113 ministers from state assemblies have declared serious criminal cases, including cases related to murder, attempt to

murder, kidnapping, and crimes against women.

Out of the 78 ministers in the Centre whose declarations were analysed, 14 have declared serious criminal cases against themselves, the study said.

The states with highest percentage of ministers with serious criminal cases include nine ministers from Jharkhand, four from Delhi, nine from Telangana, 18 from Maharashtra, 11 from Bihar and two from Uttarakhand.

The average assets per minister from state assemblies is Rs 8.59 crore. Compared to this, the average assets of the Union council of ministers is Rs 12.94 crore.

Also, the average assets of ministers with declared criminal cases is Rs 9.52 crore, while the average assets of ministers with no criminal cases is Rs 8.10 crore.

The state with the highest average assets per minister is Andhra Pradesh (20 ministers) with average assets of Rs 45.49



crore, followed by Karnataka (31 ministers) with average assets of Rs 36.96 crore and Arunachal Pradesh (7 ministers) with average assets of Rs 32.62 crore.

The state with the lowest average assets of ministers is Tripura (12 ministers) with average assets of Rs 31.67 lakh. All state council of ministers analysed from Arunachal Pradesh, Punjab and Puducherry are crorepatris. They are followed by 97 per cent ministers of Karnataka and 92 per cent from Rajasthan, Goa, Meghalaya and Chhattisgarh who have also declared assets valued at Rs 1 crore and above.

Murder accused who escaped 37 years ago to face trial

New Delhi: After hoodwinking the legal system for over 37 years, a murder convict is facing the proverbial long arm of law, after a charge sheet was filed against him by CBI for allegedly securing his release from a jail in Uttar Pradesh under "dubious" circumstances in 1979.

The bizarre case is of Krishna Dev Tiwari who was sentenced to life imprisonment by Allahabad High Court but was released from Basti prison in 1979 under mysterious circumstances.

Tiwari had claimed that he had served his term till 1996 but CBI, which probed the case on the orders of Supreme Court in 2015, found that he did not serve his full term and his version was found to be contradictory.

The CBI sources said in the charge sheet filed by the agency in Lucknow on July 29 his release from Basti Jail has been found "dubious".

Based on the report from CBI, Supreme Court has now directed Tiwari and his brothers, Nand Kishore and Rama Nand, to surrender before the competent court by Monday to face trial in the case.

Tiwari along with his two



brothers was convicted by a trial court under charges of murder and sentenced to undergo life imprisonment which was challenged by the accused before the Allahabad High Court.

The High Court upheld the conviction of Krishna Dev while his brothers were acquitted from murder charges but were sentenced for six months under different sections of IPC on October 16, 1978.

Upon confirmation of sentence, Krishna Dev was moved from Basti prison to Varanasi Central Prison. He was moved back to Basti prison on December 4, 1978 and was released from there on January 1, 1979.

Attack Me, Shoot Me, Not Dalits': PM Modi's Message In Hyderabad

Prime Minister Narendra Modi sent out a hard-hitting message, calling for the protection of Dalits and punishment for fake cow protectors -- issues over which his party, the BJP, has been facing opposition fire.

During his first visit to Telangana, he asked people to stop politics over Dalits, asking people to protect Dalits and other exploited sections. "If you have a problem, if you feel like attacking someone, attack me, not my Dalit brothers. If you want to shoot anyone, shoot me, not my Dalit brothers," he declared.

"What is the reason we torture our Dalit brothers? What right do you have? The section which has suffered for centuries, will you force them to suffer more?" he further said. The Prime Minister was speaking in

Hyderabad, the home of Dalit scholar Rohith Vemula, who committed suicide on January 17, triggering an agitation at the University which spread to other campuses in the country.

Earlier, at Medak, he made some scathing comments about "fake cow protectors" saying they were "dividing the nation and should be isolated and punished".

"Be wary of 'nakli' (fake) gau rakshaks, they have nothing to do with cow. Govts should crack down on them," PM Modi said at a function to lay water pipes in Medak's Gajwel. BJP legislator Raja Singh - who had controversially commented that Dalits flogged in Una would have had to "face such consequences" if they indulged in cow slaughter - was kept out of the scene.

Vijay Rupani sworn in; Gujarat Cabinet bears Shah's stamp

The newly elected leader of Gujarat BJP, Vijay Rupani, was sworn in as the 16th Chief Minister of Gujarat. The ceremony at the Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar was attended by BJP top brass including party president Amit Shah, Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and patriarch LK Advani. Nitin Patel was sworn in as Deputy Chief Minister.

Besides Rupani and Patel, seven Cabinet Ministers and 16 Ministers of State (MoS) were administered the oath

of office and secrecy by Governor OP Kohli.

In a major decision, Rupani dropped one of the most powerful Ministers Saurabh Patel, who handled Finance, Energy and Petrochemicals, Tourism and Planning portfolios in the previous administration, led by Anandiben Patel. Patel has been a member of the State Cabinet since January 2003 when then Chief Minister Narendra Modi appointed him junior minister for Energy and Ports. Subsequently, he

emerged as a key figure, liaising with industries and corporates for the biennial Vibrant Gujarat summits.

An apparently upset Patel, who is married to late Dhirubhai Ambani's niece, met BJP in-charge Dinesh Sharma over his removal. Another minister in the previous administration, Vasuben Trivedi, distant cousin of outgoing CM Anandiben Patel, was also missing from the new Cabinet which bears the distinct imprint of party president Amit Shah.

Sushma asks Envoy to help Mumbai engineer attacked in Pak jail

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj has directed the Indian High Commissioner in Pakistan to seek consular access to an Indian prisoner who was attacked at least thrice by inmates in a Peshawar jail.

Hamid Nehal Ansari, a Mumbai resident arrested in 2012 for illegally entering Pakistan from Afghanistan reportedly to meet a girl he had befriended online, suffered injuries after he was attacked by inmates in the Peshawar Central Prison.

"I am very much disturbed to read about repeated attacks on Hamid Ansari who is detained in Peshawar jail since 2012. It is inhuman," Swaraj tweeted.

"I have asked our High Commissioner in Pakistan to seek Consular access to Hamid Ansari in



hospital/jail and report," she said in a tweet.

The 31-year-old was sentenced to three years imprisonment by a military court for possessing a fake Pakistani identity card.


Ansari's lawyer lawyer Qazi Mohammad Anwar told Peshawar High Court Bench that his client was attacked at least thrice by jail

inmates in recent months.

Anwar also told the court that Ansari had been kept in a death cell with a hardened criminal awaiting execution for a murder.

Ansari was attacked and injured three times over the last couple of months and shifted to the hospital for treatment, the counsel said. He said even the head warden would subject him to brutality and slap him on a daily basis without any reason.

Ansari had gone missing after he was taken into custody by intelligence agencies and local police in Kohat in 2012 and finally in reply to a habeas corpus petition filed by his mother, Fauzia Ansari, the high court was informed on January 13 that he was in custody of the Pakistan Army and was being tried by a military court.



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Aadhar-seeding of pension beneficiaries picks up pace in Delhi

New Delhi: In a bid to plug leakages, Delhi government has linked the accounts of over 2.5 lakh pensioners to Aadhaar and has set a stiff target of September to cover all the beneficiaries, numbering around 6 lakh.

While the accounts of 1 lakh beneficiaries were seeded with their Aadhaar numbers last month, 1.5 lakh were brought aboard the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) platform in the first quarter of the year.

The government has now set a target of another 65,000 accounts to be linked by the end of next month, Ashwani Kumar, Secretary, Social Welfare Department, said.



"It is going to eliminate ghost beneficiaries from the system, end duplicacy and leakages through a host of other means. Benefits will be stopped to those yet to have an Aadhaar number of their own," Kumar said.

However, Kumar added the threat of action was more of a warning to speed up the process. Any such suspension of benefits would happen after

due consideration as many families depend on pensions for their sustenance, he said.

The process has also hit certain roadblocks, the official said. A large number of people are yet to join the Aadhaar platform, Kumar said, listing it as one of the "issues".

"In a few cases, people have complained that they have suddenly stopped receiving benefits but later it turned out that some of the banks had linked another account of the person with Aadhaar instead of the regular one he has been using," he said.

The government had scrapped the quarterly disbursement of pensions last

month and payments are instead being made on a monthly basis, providing relief to the beneficiaries made up of widows, elderly and the disabled.

Over six lakh people currently receive such pensions from the Delhi government. These include 3.88 lakh old people, 1.6 lakh widows and 63,000 persons with physical disabilities. The Delhi government disburses Rs 1500 to each beneficiary under all the three categories. However, it makes a distinction between old people with those between 60 and 70 years of age entitled to a monthly pension of Rs 1,000 and those above 70 getting Rs 1,500.

Set up own panel to regulate ads on SC order: AAP govt to HC

New Delhi: The AAP government has told the Delhi High Court that it had set up its own panel to regulate advertisements as per a recent Supreme Court order.

The submission came in response to the contention made on behalf of Congress leader Ajay Maken that Delhi government was setting up its own panel in violation of the apex court directions.

The Delhi government told a bench of Chief Justice G Rohini and Justice Sangita Dhingra Sehgal that it had received a letter from the Centre in May which said all states have to set up their own panel to implement the apex court guidelines on



government advertisements.

The Delhi government contended that setting up its own panel was permitted as per apex court's order of April 28. Maken's lawyers, on the other hand, said they were not aware of any such order and added that only the Centre had the power to set up the expert panel.

Allow diesel buses till CNG infra comes: Karnal schools to NGT

NEW DELHI: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has admitted a miscellaneous application (MA) filed by an association of 77 schools in Karnal has prayed that more than 10 years old diesel school buses be allowed to ply until adequate number of CNG filling stations are set up in the city that falls in the NCR. The MA said about one lakh students are enrolled in these schools.

They were recently informed by the regional transport office that all diesel vehicles older than 10 years are to be de-registered immediately. The application claimed that the association was willing to convert the vehicles to CNG but as of now there is no infrastructure for that in and around Karnal.

These 77 private schools have about 900 diesel buses, about 175 out of them

don't make the cut under norms set by the NGT.

It adds that the nearest CNG filling station from Karnal is 100km away in Sonapat. The association has appealed that they may be permitted to ply their old buses till central and state government make appropriate arrangements for installation of CNG kits and adequate CNG filling stations.

State Govt to replace principals of schools with poor results

New Delhi: The Delhi government is getting ready to "turn around" the most difficult, low-performing schools it runs. To be effected through "administrative changes", this is separate from Project Chunnauti.

The Govt has decided to identify 20-25 schools with the worst track records and strike right at the top. "Their principals will be removed and placed

elsewhere, in administrative jobs. They'll be replaced by principals with the best records. Very often, all it takes is a good leader," said a source within the government. This "experiment", hopes the government, will turn these schools into the best they have within a year. But the new principals will not be on their own. Within a month, the government will apparently

place 5,000 new teachers in the most "challenging" schools in the city. "There is a shortage of teachers in schools in outer Delhi. Not only will this bring some relief, it will also place new blood in the most difficult schools," the source said.

Apparently, these are permanent appointments based on the 2012 recruitment exams. These schools will be monitored

closely and given "every resource they need."

"Usually, the best principals are not sent to difficult schools but to the ones already doing well. This will be an experiment," he said. The Rajkiya Pratibha Vikas Vidyalayas, for instance, draw the best talent; once the 54 model schools were so-graded, the government hastened to fill all their posts as well.

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Delhi Govt takes over two branches of private school

NEW DELHI: In a first of its kind move, the Delhi government on Wednesday took over the management of two branches of a private school for violating education department norms.

The government took prior approval from the Lt Governor's Office.

"Rohini and Pitampura branches of Maxfort School have been taken over by the government. A team led by the SDM of the area along with the officials of the Education department reached both the branches of the school in the morning and completed the process," a government official said.

The official said that the action was initiated against the School following complaints like violation of rules in admission to candidates from economically weaker sections (EWS), false records and misappropriation of funds,



among others.

The school had violated norms of the Delhi School Education (DSE) Act 1973 and Right to Education Act (RTE) 2009.

"After receiving the complaints, the Education Directorate had served show cause notice to the school in April but the school administration failed to give us satisfactory reply. With an approval from the Lt Governor Najeeb

Jung, the government took over the school on Wednesday," the official said.

Chadha Educational Society and S Jagat Singh Chadha Charitable Trust run the school which has three branches in the national capital.

In the notice served to the two branches of Maxfort School, the education department had asked why it should not take over the management for violation of norms governing admission of EWS children, keeping false records and misappropriating funds.

The Delhi government had constituted two committees to look into the complaints against the school. One was formed under the department of education and the other under the District Magistrate (DM) of north-west Delhi.

IIT Amethi campus shifted to Allahabad

AMETHI: After a run of 11 years, curtains came down on IIT Amethi campus when its 148 students were shifted to the Allahabad campus.

This is the third major project to be shut down since the Modi government came to power at the Centre after the proposed Mega Food Park and Hindustan Paper Mill met similar fate in the constituency of Congress Vice-President Rahul Gandhi.

Amethi is considered as bastion of Congress and has been represented by the Gandhi family.

The students of Rajiv Gandhi IIT have been shifted to the Allahabad campus and the Amethi campus will be transferred to the Ambedkar University, Lucknow, as per government decision, Director IIT-Allahabad G C Nandi said.

A decision to this effect was

taken in May when the then Union HRD Minister Smriti Irani had announced shutting down of Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Amethi and opening of satellite institute of Babaseeb Bhimrao Ambedkar University (BBAU), Lucknow, on that campus.

Though the students will be able to continue their studies in Allahabad, 75 employees of the IIIT are on warpath as they allege that no arrangement has been made for them.

They have also threatened to launch an agitation from August 12 if no arrangement is made for their absorption.

Rahul had raised the cancellation of Shaktiman Mega Food Park in Jagdishpur in Amethi in Lok Sabha and the party had said that scrapping the project was part of "political vendetta" by the Modi government.

Draft Indian National University Bill goes online for public views

NEW DELHI: The Draft Indian National University Bill, 2015, which proposes to establish a world class fully autonomous institution of national importance for training and research in military studies, has gone online on MyGov.in portal and Defence Ministry website for six weeks for public consultations. The idea of a National Defence University was first conceived in 1967. It was later recommended by Kargil Review Committee and Group of Ministers in 2000.

Land for setting up of the Defence University was acquired at Manesar in Gurgaon district in September, 2012 and part infrastructure development has commenced on the acquired land in December, 2015. Indian National Defence University (INDU) is



likely to be a reality soon with Draft Indian National University Bill, 2015 going online on MyGov.in portal and MoD website for six weeks for public consultations, a statement by the Defence Ministry said. The Bill proposes to establish a world class fully autonomous institution of National Importance under Ministry of Defence.

Parliament approves admission to medical, dental courses under NEET

NEW DELHI: From next year, admission to medical and dental courses across the country will be done through a single common entrance test, with Parliament approving two significant bills providing for putting NEET in place.

The government said the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) is designed to curb corruption by bringing in transparency, checking multiplicity of exams and to stop exploitation of students in counselling.

Under the new system, exams to private colleges will also be conducted under NEET, Health minister J P Nadda said, responding to contention by some members that it will benefit private institutions.

The Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 2016 and The Dentists (Amendment) Bill, 2016, approved by the Lok Sabha earlier,

were passed by the Rajya Sabha through voice vote.

Most of the parties supported the government move to have NEET except AIADMK, which opposed it and staged a walkout, arguing that it will affect the rural students who do not study CBSE syllabus.

Replying to a debate on these bills, Nadda said, "National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) is intended to check multiplicity of exams...to bring transparency to curb corruption and to stop the exploitation of students during counselling."

Earlier, students would have to travel long distances to appear for several medical entrance examinations but the new legislation will bring this to an end, he said.

Responding to apprehensions expressed by some members, par-

ticularly from Tamil Nadu, where reservation is upto 85 per cent, he clarified, "We are not going to touch the state quota...We will give the name, ranking, domicile and percentile...Now it is for the state governments to decide and give extra marks...and give admissions to reserved categories."

Nadda said that the exam will be held on the basis of NCERT syllabus and the under-graduate exam will be taken up by CBSE and post-graduation by the national board of examination.

"In the syllabus, we bring parity. Concerns of the state governments will be addressed. We will do standardisation of syllabus so that rural students can also be taken care of," he said. "Tests will also be conducted in regional languages," Nadda said, responding to apprehensions over the issue.

Need funding to study in the UK?

Applications invited for Chevening scholarships

Applications are invited for the Chevening Scholarship and Fellowship programmes for 2017-18. These fully-funded programmes are offered by the UK government. They offer a unique opportunity for future leaders, influencers, and decision-makers from all over the world to develop professionally and academically, network extensively and experience UK culture.

Chevening is the UK government's international awards scheme aimed at developing global leaders since 1983. Funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and partner organisations, Chevening offers two types of awards – Chevening

Scholarships and Chevening Fellowships – the recipients of which are personally selected by British embassies and high commissions throughout the world through a rigorous selection process.

The Chevening India programme is the largest in the world offering up to 65 fully paid scholarships and 65 fully paid fellowships every year. One-year master's scholarships are given to outstanding Indian graduates with a minimum of two years' work experience to study any subject of their choice at any recognised UK University. HSBC sponsors three scholars from India annually to study in fields related to environment

and sustainability.

Speaking about Chevening India programme, British High Commissioner to India, Sir Dominic Asquith KCMG, said: "UK in India hosts the largest Chevening country programme in the world, with a £2.6 million (Rs 26 lakh) budget to fund about 130 fully funded scholarships for future Indian leaders. Once you are chosen as a Chevening Scholar, you get into a special relationship with the UK. There are over 46,000 Chevening alumni in the world and over 2,300 in India."

Chevening Scholarships are awarded to outstanding emerging leaders to pursue a one-year master's at any UK University.

It offers financial support along with the opportunity to become part of the highly regarded and influential Chevening global network. Applicants from India can choose any course of study, but applicants from the field of energy security, climate change, urban development, defence, security, foreign policy, trade and investment, economic reforms as well as research and innovation are given preference.

Application dates: August 8, 2016 to November 8, 2016

Programme dates: September 2017 – August 2017

The Chevening fellowships are customised courses aimed at mid-to-senior level professionals who are looking to expand

their knowledge and expertise in their specific field of work. The programmes are tailored, short courses which usually run for 8-12 weeks at a designated UK university. Applications for the following fellowships are open now:

The Chevening Cyber Security Fellowship is aimed at mid-career Indian professionals with demonstrable leadership potential in the field of cyber security or cyber policy in India. This programme is running since 2014. Six fellows are sent every year to the UK for a 12 week fully funded residential programme delivered at Cranfield University at the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom.

National Workshop on Photo Journalism successfully held in Marwah Studio



The National Workshop on Photo Journalism was successfully by ICMEI (International Chamber Of Media & Entertainment Industry, NAI (Newspaper Association Of India) and IJC (International Journalism Centre) held in Marwah Studio, Film City, Noida. In the first session Senior Photographer Sh. Rajendera Wadhwa, Sh.Rajesh Badal-Senior Journalist from Raja Sabha TV, Sh. R.K.Singh-Senior Journalist, Senior Journalist Sh.C.N.Kanan, Sh. Arun Anand, Sh. Vijay Kapoor, Sh.Sushil Bharti-Station Director Radio Noida, Sh.Vipin Gaur-Young Journalist & General Secretary of NAI (Newspaper Association Of India) shared their experiences, technique & useful tips about photography. More than hundred Photographers & Photo-Journalists from 12 states, school & college students attended the said workshop. The talk of Sh.Rajesh Badal & Sh.R.K. Singh particularly on technologically changes were very effective. They both compared the merits & demerits of digitations in the field of Photography. The second session started with the lighting of lamp & garlanding the Lord Ganpati. In the second session, Media Guru Sh. Sandeep Marwah-President ICMEI & IJC welcomed Well known Senior Photographer Sh.O.P.Sharma as the Chief Guest & Famous Fashion photographer Sh. Shyam. Thereafter, Sh. Marwah ji highlighted the significance of Photo Journalism & achievements of Marwah studio in the field of Media. Sh. O.P. Sharma also memorized Oscar Barnic (Germany) and his great contribution in Photography. Oscar Barnic invented the Camera & that's why he is called the father Photography claimed O.P.Sharma in his speech. Sharma ji even disclosed one more important thing about photography that World Photography

Day has been celebrated on 19th August since 1991. Mr. Vipin Gaur-General Secretary NAI also spoke the contribution of the association towards media & media person welfare. Mr.Gaur also claimed that NAI initiated celebrating 10 March as Tribute to Journalist Day since 2011 & two NAI member journalists even donated their body in Jaipur in 2012 are few examples of contribution of NAI in media fraternity. The National Achievement Award ceremony started with the Life Time Achievement award presented to Sh.O.P.Sharma by Media Guru Sh.Sandeep Marwah. Even Sh.Shyam & Sh.Rajendra Wadhwa were also felicitated with the prestigious National Achievement Award around one hundred Photo-Journalists & photographers from 12 states, Delhi & NCR felicitated during this grand Award Ceremony. The whole event was well anchored by Sh. Sushil Bharti ji.



Birthday Party Theme-Bollywood

Hosted by entrepreneur Ashish Dhondhiyal to celebrate his birthday celebrations with Delhi's glam set at the Sylvan Chef farms in the capital was a party that Delhiites would remember for long. With Bollywood being the theme of the night, guests enjoyed shaking their leg at the grooving music by DJ Ana Sachdeva with exotic cocktails and scrumptious snacks. Among those spotted partying till the wee hours of the morning included designers Neelam Saxena, Amit Talwar, Shilpa Raina Wahal, Anuj Lalwani, film actor Akriti Bharti, stylist Sylvie, Shaine Soni, choreographers Liza Varma, Ketan Bhatia, entrepreneurs Ankit Nagpal, Viresh Verma, Krishan Tewari with wife Sapna, hotelier Sandeep Sehrawat, Deepa Suri amongst many others.



Editorial

One nation + one tax = \$137 billion For GST

About 42 per cent of the Rs 22 lakh crore (\$328 billion) revenue of the central government and 35 states and union territories will now be subsumed under the goods and services tax (GST), passed by parliament's upper house on August 3, 2016 and being touted by some as one of independent India's "boldest reforms". Around Rs 9.20 lakh crore (\$137 billion) of Central and state revenue from 15 taxes -- from Central Excise to levies on gambling -- in 2014-15 (\$1 = Rs 67) will be brought under the GST, scheduled to be levied from April 1, 2017, although the government might be hard-pressed to make this deadline. Industries and commercial enterprises currently pay various taxes at various stages of a product or service, such as manufacture, transport, wholesale, logistics and retail. The administration of these taxes is often tangled in paperwork, results in slow inter-state movement of products and increases costs for consumers. Most of these taxes will be subsumed by the GST, barring a few, such as those on vehicles, roads, property and electricity. The law enabling the GST must now go back to the Lok Sabha, which must clear the new amendments brought in by the government to get political consensus, after which it must be ratified by half of all state legislatures. Simultaneously, the information technology backbone that the GST will require is getting ready, with software testing set for October 2016, the Economic Times reported on August 3, 2016.

Hard to implement, but basic design is ready

It isn't yet clear what the GST taxation rate will be, but 17 per cent to 18 per cent is likely. Implementing the GST will not be easy because many taxes and their administration must be disentangled and brought online into a single, nationwide system. However, the basic architecture of such a system has been created. As that nationwide system is constructed and brought online, tax administrators will also have to be retrained. "For effective implementation of GST, tax administration staff -- both at the Central and state levels -- would require to be trained properly in terms of concept, legislation and procedure," Karthik S and Satish Dedhia, tax experts at the PriceWaterhouseCoopers consultancy, wrote in Forbes India in February 2016. "The tax administration staff would also need to change their mindset, approach and attitude towards the tax payers. And for this, they would have to 'learn, unlearn, and relearn' the GST not only in letter but in spirit too." A GST Council will control the new tax regime across the Centre and the states; it will fix tax rates, exemptions and other issues. The Centre's representatives will control a third of the vote in the council. Two Central representatives (Finance Minister and Minister of State for Finance) account for 33.3 per cent of the vote, while 29 finance ministers account for the remaining 66.7 per cent, according to the 122nd Constitutional Amendment Bill that will give effect to the GST regime. Balancing act ahead, but calculations for UP, Maharashtra show it can work. The key challenge for the central government is to ensure both the Centre and the states benefit from the GST -- in other words, get as much as or more money than they currently do. The Centre is likely to compensate states for lost revenue on 'goods' by increasing their share of taxes on services, according to an analysis by the Institution of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). Indian states cannot afford to lose revenue because they are already in debt, as IndiaSpend reported. Maharashtra, India's most industrialised state, and Uttar Pradesh (UP), the most populous, expect to get at least Rs 60,000 crore and Rs 65,000 crore per year, as IndiaSpend's calculations revealed in December 2015. We found that these figures, based on data from the Reserve Bank of India's Study of State Finances, are almost equal to the revenue Maharashtra and UP currently receive through a host of taxes, which the GST will replace. We chose Maharashtra for the analysis because it is the state with highest revenue from its own taxes, as a share of total revenue, at 66 per cent; and UP because it has the highest total revenue but no more than 36 per cent from its own taxes.



7 hit-and-run accidents every hour; how witnesses can help

More than 20,000 people lost their lives in hit-and-run cases nationwide in 2015, according to government data, and the reluctance of witnesses to be involved because of legal entanglements illustrates the need for clear laws to support "good samaritans", as the state describes them.

Hit-and-run cases accounted for 11.4 per cent of total accidents in 2015, an increase from 10.9 per cent in 2014, according to road transport ministry data.

While 57 accidents were reported and 17 lives lost per hour in 2015, more than 54 per cent killed were between 15 and 35 years old, in the prime of youth.

Protecting Samaritans

On January 21, 2016, the government issued standard operating procedures to prevent unjust examination of eyewitnesses to road accidents, India's transport minister said, replying to a question by G. Hari, a Lok Sabha member Tamil Nadu, on February 25, 2016.

The standard procedures call for non-coercive, non-discriminatory, and time-bound inquiry into an accident -- and the examinee cannot be compelled to disclose personal information.

The guidelines also state that the samaritan does not have to pay for treatment unless he/she is related to the injured person.

National highways see more accidents

The central government intends to convert 52,000 km of state highways into national highways. The upgrade -- without instituting adequate safety measures on and along the national highways -- would be undesirable because

the accidents and deaths in 2015 on national highways exceeded those on the state highways in 2014, by 4.5 and six percentage points.

Two-wheelers were involved in more fatal accidents (26 per cent) than other vehicles; those riding two-wheelers accounted for 25.2 per cent of all deaths on the road.

Uttar Pradesh (as on June 23, 2016) became the latest state to make wearing of helmets for pilgrims mandatory.

Controlled areas (manned by policemen or with machines installed for regulating traffic movement) witness fewer accidents (32 per cent of the total) as compared to uncontrolled environments.

More than 20 per cent of accidents were caused by drivers either on learner's licence or without licence, suggesting the need for remedial classes for those who cause accidents while on such licences.

As many as 52 per cent of 387 drivers tested to discern a causal link between visual defects and accidents failed in at least one of the vision parameters tested, according to a study by Ashish Varma, Assistant Professor, Transportation Engineering, Indian Institute of Science.

The study also found that 60 per cent of commercial bus drivers failed the minimum vision requirements for driving.

As many as 74 per cent of respondents expressed unwillingness to assist victims of road accidents, according to a study, Impediments to Bystander Care in India, conducted by SaveLIFE Foundation, an advocacy working for road safety and TNS India,

a global marketing research company, in July 2013.

As many as 88 per cent of the unwilling bystanders cited legal hassles, involving repeated police questioning and multiple court appearances, for their hesitation.

Nearly 90 per cent of the study participants wanted the enactment of a law to protect bystanders from harassment in case of administration of help to the victims.

The SaveLife-TNS study also points to another study by the Indian Journal of Surgery published in 2006 where it was found that 80 per cent of road accident victims do not receive any medical care within the first or golden hour after the accident.

The absence of any protective framework is in stark contrast to legislations prevalent throughout the world.

The 201st Law Commission report mentions that doctors say 50 per cent of accident victims could be saved if timely intervention is ensured.

Global pledges and comparisons

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) formulated by the United Nations on September 25, 2015 aim to halve the global deaths and injuries from road accidents by 2030.

For India (a middle-income economy), the target is less than seven fatalities per 100,000 population from a baseline of 20.1 in 2010.

India became a signatory to the Brasilia declaration on November 19, 2015, committing to halve road accident deaths by 2020.

Prohibition Bihar: Cheers for toddy

It is sad to see a promising politician stumble and be in danger of falling flat on his face. Till the Janata Dal United's setback in Bihar in the last parliamentary polls, its foremost leader, Nitish Kumar, was riding high. He had won two successive assembly elections in 2005 and 2010 and was seen as someone who could be prime minister one day.

However, the blow which his party suffered at the hands of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its allies in 2014 when the saffron combine won 31 of the 40 seats in Bihar clearly threw Nitish Kumar off balance. It is evident from some of his recent acts that he hasn't yet recovered his poise, although he demonstrated his continuing influence in the state by decisively defeating the BJP in the 2015 assembly elections.

After his victory, it might have been expected that Nitish Kumar will settle down to give good governance to Bihar, which has been his hallmark for the last 10 years. Unfortunately, these hopes have been belied. Instead of focussing on development, Nitish Kumar has become bogged down with his latest obsession of prohibition.

This fetish is a new one for him. Throughout his career as a partner of the BJP and later as the chief minister from 2005 to 2014, he never mentioned the subject. It is unlikely that he thought long and hard on the matter during this period, weighing all the pros and cons, including the rise of Al Capone and the Mafia in America in the 1920s as a result of the ban on liquor consumption.

Instead, like most Indian politicians, he is obviously guided by short-term considerations, generally related to cultivating support bases. In this case, Nitish Kumar's objective is to win over the votes of women who hold up half the sky, according to Mao Zedong. In the main, he is targeting the poor, lower middle class and rural women, leaving out those in the higher strata of society who frequent the "cocktail circuit".

Nitish Kumar's claim is that prohibition will reduce, if not eliminate, instances of women being beaten up by inebriated husbands who also spend the family's meagre income on buying alcoholic drinks. Following his diktat, the chief minister's supporters say that the villagers have never been happier.

So far, so uplifting. However, Nitish Kumar has gone where no advocate of abstinence has gone before -- to borrow a line from the "Star Trek" science fiction serial -- to formulate an unprecedented law which will incarcerate not only the tippler but all adult members of his family.

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Reliance Jio fuels price war, Airtel, Vodafone cut data prices

NEW DELHI: Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio Infocomm has fuelled a price war in the telecom industry. Much to the delight of millions of customers, incumbent players such as Airtel, Vodafone and Idea Cellular have started slashing data prices and adding value to existing internet and voice packs. The move comes after Jio started cornering customers by offering free unlimited voice and data packages. Jio has managed to get 1.5 million users after it started initial tests through Reliance employees from December 27 last year. Customers can buy Jio's Lyf handset at Rs 3,000 to avail 4G service free-of-cost. And, if you have any of the compatible Samsung handsets that the company has listed, you can get the Reliance Jio 4G service for free after generating a code. The company refers to these offers as "invitation".

While the Reliance offers are new and not widely known, it has started creating ripples in the competitive telecom industry. Ambani's freebies - that company officials say will continue till Jio "commercially" starts operations - are forcing incumbents to add value to their offerings to contain the excitement



around the new entrant.

Airtel lowered the threshold for plans where it also offers free voice, though this remains restricted to the postpaid segment. The entry to the 'Infinity' plan is now available from Rs 1,199, which packs in unlimited voice calling (local, STD, and national roaming) along with 100 free SMSs per day, 1GB 3G/4G data and free subscription to Wynk Music and Wynk Movies. Earlier, this was available from Rs 2,000. 'Infinity' customers, however, comprise 1 per cent of Airtel's overall customer base. Vodafone recently added additional 67 per cent data on its prepaid packs to give more internet value at the same price. The company announced a lucrative offer - Vodafone Delights - that promises free 10-minute talk-time to all customers whose conversations get interrupted for any reason (company officials said this will include call drops). It is part of a "month-long bonanza" and thus limited

in its validity (unless the company decides to extend it). And, it is applicable only for Vodafone-to-Vodafone connections. To avail the talk-time benefit, customers need to SMS 'BETTER' to 199 and talk time of 10 minutes will be credited immediately (within 30 minutes) to their numbers. "Each conversation on our network is important and must carry on uninterrupted. At times, however, conversations do get interrupted. To continue such conversations, we are offering 10-minute talk-time benefit - no questions asked," said Sandeep Kataria, director of (consumer) at Vodafone India.

Idea Cellular had also added benefits to its smaller prepaid data packs (below 1 GB) as it increased value for customers. To counter Reliance Jio, the three telecom companies have been expanding 4G operations and introducing various offers.

Telecom industry analysts said margins of the telecom players will get thinner as competition rises. "It has already become difficult, and no one is sure of how things pan out as Reliance Jio gets aggressive," a senior official with a leading telecom company said, requesting anonymity.

Tobacco farmers seek participation in Global Tobacco control summit



The Federation of All India Farmer Association (FAIFA) on Thursday urged the government to have representation of tobacco farmers in the upcoming WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), whose failure will lead to further deterioration of their economic condition.

The FAIFA said that to fulfill the target of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to double farmers' incomes by 2020, there was a need to prevent every kind of discrimination with farmers. "Rather than addressing the plight of tobacco farmers, India is hosting the 7th Session of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) in November 2016. This conference will add further misery to the poor Indian tobacco farmer. "We appeal to the government of India that Indian farmers must be part of the official delegation of CoP7, else it would put livelihood of millions at risk without any public health benefit," said FAIFA President B.V. Javare Gowda at an interactive session with parliamentarians to discuss the op-

portunities and challenges for India to realise the target of doubling farmer incomes by 2022 at an ASSOCHAM event here.

Stating that tobacco farmers currently were subjected to the worst-ever discrimination by way of harsh policies and attacks on their livelihoods without providing either a scientific justification or alternative to safeguard their interests, the federation appealed to MPs to withdraw the 85 per cent pictorial warning, which had affected the sale of tobacco grown by them.

India will host a crucial global summit November 7-12 to eliminate the illicit trade of tobacco products in which delegates from 180 countries will take part. According to FAIFA, subsidies are being provided to tobacco farmers in countries like Malawi, Zimbabwe, Tanzania among others while it is a source of livelihood for 4.6 crore Indians.

According to Tobacco Institute of India, tobacco is an extremely important commercial crop for India as it contributes more than Rs 30,000 crore in tax revenue annually besides earning about Rs 6,000 crore in foreign exchange.

RBI to study why Indians spend large money to buy gold

Mumbai: Reserve Bank of India has set up a committee to study Indian household financing pattern and why they spend large sum of money on gold.

The panel will look at various facets of household finance in India and to benchmark India's position vis-à-vis both the peer and advanced countries, it said in a statement.

The panel headed by Tarun Ramadorai, Professor of Financial Economics, University of Oxford will have representation from financial sector regulators, Sebi, Irdai, PFRDA apart from RBI.

It will consider "wheth-

er, how, and why the financial allocations of Indian households deviate from desirable financial allocation and behaviour (eg, the large household allocation to gold)".

The committee has also been asked to benchmark the current depth of household financial markets in India vis-a-vis those in other major world markets and to identify areas of priority for growth and change.

To characterize and evaluate households' demands in formal financial markets (for assets such as pensions as well as liabilities such as home loans) over the coming decade, is another key



term of reference given to it.

RBI further said that the panel will evaluate the "design of new systems and the redesign of existing systems" of incentives and regulations to encourage and enable better participation by households in formal financial markets.

The terms of reference also include assessing the

role of new financial technologies and products (robo-advising, automatically refinancing mortgages) in the cost-effective provision of high-quality and suitable financial products to Indian households while containing risks.

The committee is expected to submit its report by end July 2017. The demand for formal financial market investment product like pension as well as liability product like home loan from the Indian household was discussed during the meeting of the Sub Committee of Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC-SC) held in April.

GST Bill's passage credit positive for India rating: Moody's

New Delhi: The passage of GST Bill in the Rajya Sabha is "credit positive" for India's sovereign rating as the rollout of Goods and Services Tax regime will have a favourable impact on growth and tax revenues, Moody's Investors Service said.

"The short-term sovereign credit implications of the GST bill will be limited, given that effective implementation will take some time, and as the GST rates are likely to be chosen as revenue neutral," Moody's said.

It added: "The GST will support economic activity and government revenues over the medium term by removing a key hurdle to the smooth movement of goods and services, and reducing corporates' and the Government's tax administration costs, thereby improving compliance and raising tax receipts."

In a report titled, 'Upper House Pas-

sage Paves Way for GST Bill Implementation, a Credit Positive', Moody's said the new tax regime will be broadly positive for Indian non-financial corporates, although the overall impact will vary across sectors.

GST will lead to much simpler administrative framework, reducing tax governing costs for corporates, and over time, improving the overall cost competitiveness of corporate India.

It will also likely translate into swifter mobility of goods between states by removing the barriers present under the existing regime, it said.

"The overall impact is likely to vary across sectors, with some of the highest tax payers under the current regime, such as automobiles, standing to gain the most," Moody's said.

Rajya Sabha on August 3 passed a con-



stitutional amendment to allow implementation of the long-delayed GST. The Bill will now go to Lok Sabha next week.

The Bill will then have to be ratified by 50 per cent of the state legislative assemblies, and the actual GST bill will need to be enacted into law by the Lok Sabha and by State Governments.

Moody's said the new GST structure follows a dual taxation model with powers granted to the central and state governments to tax both goods and services under a common structure.

It will replace the existing system of multiple taxes, imposed at different stages of the value chain, with a single unified tax.

Last December, a committee headed by the Chief Economic Adviser recommended a revenue neutral range of 15-15.5 per cent with a preference for the lower end of that range.

"While the goal is to strive towards one single GST rate in the medium term, the committee recommended a three-rate structure in the interim. The lower rates may be at around 12 per cent while standard rates are recommended to be in the range of 17-18 per cent," it said.

SEJAL CHADHA DESIGNER (SPARSH) HOSTED HER BIRTHDAY BASH



NEW DELHI: Designer Sejal Chadha (Sparsh) hosted her birthday bash with Bollywood style at F BAR Cannought palace. To make the birthday special Pradeep Solanki did all the arrangements. Tasty food and wonderful music made every one groove on the dance floor, humour kept the night going into the wee hours of the late night. The party was enjoyed in a full zeal. People spotted at the event were Karan Devgan (producer of upcoming movie fever), Parvin Dabas (Actor) , Gourav (abboat), Babli singh (shemaroo), Sunita (F BAR owner), Mansi Midha (Mansimidha makeover) , Vinit Midha, Tushar Nanda , Sam Williams , Dj ANA Sachdeva, Juhi krishnani, Amit Gupta (Gem mines) , Tina Manchanda, Sandip Arora and many more made Sejal Chadha birthday bash joyfull.

Sejal Chadha recognition for herself and her Brand with her unique concepts and community service. she started her career with brother Tushar Nanda and they showcased their exclusive design in market time to time. Sparsh design stand apart in the crowded fashion design market. Sparsh believes in peculiar craftsmanship so sticks to basics of art of making clothes. Every creation, Every design, Every colour, Every style unique.



Doon girl Sammanika Sharing the screen with Akshay kumar in Movie Rustom

SS DOGRA

It's a proud moment for all the Uttarakhand that Dehradun beauty Sammanika Singh will appear in the upcoming movie Rustom with mega boollywood star Akshay Kumar. It's an interesting story about Sammanika who started her journey in a film production company in the production department & assisted as an assistant director in a few corporate films and documenatries. Meanwhile, she got an offer to a role in a telefilm for pogo channel which she willingly accepted and that's how she made her debut in acting career.

This good beginning brought her many more opportunities in Bollywood and after that she acted in episodes like Adaalat, CID, Yeh hain ashiqui, Encounter, Heroes, Emotional Attyachar to name a few. She even acted in a film called The Shaukeens which released in November last year. She also worked in more than 50 episodes of Jodha Akbar as Zilbahaar.

She is a nature lover. Swimming, Yoga, Dancing, Reading, interacting with people are her hobbies. She believes that where there is a will there is a

way & hardwork is the key to success.

Doon girl Sammanika Singh, is all ready to make Uttarakhand proud of her

once again. She will be soon seen in Akshay kumar's Rustom, releasing on the 12 th of August 2016. Rustom is an Indian thriller film based in the 50's written by Vipul K Rawal and directed by Tinu Suresh Desai. It is based on real life incident of a Naval officer KM Navati.

Sammanika plays the character of a pretty looking secretary to Vikram, called Rosy. She carries a very retro look and has an essential role in the film. She recollects being finalised for the role on her birthday and feels excited about it.

She says, "Sharing the screen space with Akshay kumar was an honour and to be appreciated for my work by Akshay Sir himself was once in a lifetime experience."

This Dehradun girl is a simple happy for lucky girl. Belongs to a freedom fighters family, has a high set of values. She has done her MBA. She is not just an actor but also an entrepreneur. She thanks her family for all their support in fulfilling her dreams.

