

SC allows woman to abort 26-week foetus due to abnormalities

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday permitted a woman, who is in her 26th week of pregnancy, to abort her foetus that is suffering from severe cardiac ailments. A bench of justice Dipak Misra and M. Khanwilkar said the procedure of termination of pregnancy should be carried out “forthwith” at the SSKM Hospital in Kolkata.

The direction came after the bench perused the report of the medical board and the SSKM Hospital, which advised the termination of pregnancy on the grounds that the mother would suffer “severe mental injury” if the pregnancy is continued and the child, if born alive, has to undergo multiple surgeries for severe cardiac ailments.

“Keeping in view the report of the medical board, we are inclined to allow the prayer and direct medical termination of pregnancy of petitioner no. 1 (woman),” the bench said.

The woman and her husband had approached the apex court seeking permission to abort her foetus on grounds of abnormalities which could be even fatal to her. They have also challenged the constitutional validity of section 3(2)(b) of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act which prohibits abortion of a foetus after 20 weeks of pregnancy.

The apex court had earlier took on record the report of a seven-member medical board set up by the West Bengal government on its direction and asked the woman to examine the report on her health and apprise it of her stand.

The court, on 23 June, had ordered setting up of the medical board of seven doctors of the SSKM Hospital to ascertain certain aspects relating to the health of the woman and her 24-week foetus and submit a report.

The couple, in the plea, had attached a report suggesting that the foetus suffered from serious abnormalities, including cardiac issues. This report had said if the birth was allowed, the baby may not survive even the first surgery and, moreover, the foetus could be fatal to the mother as well.

The court had on 21 June sought responses from the Centre and West Bengal government on the plea. The petition has said that the woman had suffered immense mental and physical anguish after coming to know of the abnormalities on the 21st week of her pregnancy.

“This petition challenges the constitutional validity of section 3(2)(b) of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 (MTP) restricted to the ceiling of 20 weeks stipulated therein. “This challenge is to the effect that the 20 week stipulation for a woman to avail of abortion services under section 3(2)(b) may have been reasonable when the section was enacted in 1971 but has ceased to be reasonable today where technology has advanced and it is perfectly safe for a woman to abort even up to the 26th week and thereafter,” it said.

The plea has said the determination of foetal abnormality in many cases can only be done after the 20th week and, by keeping the ceiling artificially low, women who obtain report of serious foetal abnormalities after the 20th week have to suffer excruciating pain and agony because of the deliveries they are forced to go through.

“The ceiling of 20 weeks is therefore arbitrary, harsh, discriminatory and violative of Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution of India,” it has said. The petition has claimed that during the examination of the foetus on May 25, the abnormalities were detected including, a combination of four impairments in the heart.

“It was during a foetal echocardiography conducted on the petitioner on 25 May, that it was first suspected that the foetus suffered from Tetralogy of Fallot, a combination of four impairments in the heart. Further, a subsequent foetal echocardiography done on May 30, confirmed the same.

“However, petitioner had crossed the 20 weeks mark and medical termination of pregnancy under the MTP Act restricts medical termination of pregnancy beyond 20 weeks,” her plea had said, adding that the denial of her right to an abortion had caused her “extreme anguish” and “forced her to continue her pregnancy while being aware that the foetus may not survive”.

END

Downloaded from crackIAS.com

© **Zuccess App** by crackIAS.com

crackIAS.com

AFSPA may be partially lifted in Assam, parts of Arunachal Pradesh

THE ARMED Forces (Special Powers) Act may soon be partially withdrawn from parts of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, with the Home Ministry asking the two BJP-ruled states to review the situation in areas under AFSPA and prepare recommendations for the Centre to examine in consultation with the Army, said officials. While the entire state of Assam has been under AFSPA for the last 27 years, three districts of Arunachal bordering Assam and 16 other police station limits in the state are currently under the Act.

Speaking to The Indian Express, a senior Home Ministry official said, "We want people in these states to lead a normal life, considering that the situation in both states have improved. A major insurgent group of the Northeast, United Liberation Front of Assam, is in peace talks with the government while smaller groups have been neutralised. A relook is required to see if the Act can be partially lifted in some areas."

Officials said the notification extending AFSPA in Assam and Arunachal is issued every six months after a review. "Recently, we reduced this duration to three months and will see if it can be withdrawn completely from certain areas. For the time being, the proposal is only for the two states but we are also looking at a similar solution in Manipur," said the official.

Earlier, the BJP had been against the withdrawal of AFSPA, saying that it could help extremists.

In May, the Home Ministry extended AFSPA for three more months in Assam. In the same month, the ministry issued a fresh notification to continue AFSPA in Arunachal for three months, until August 8. The notification stated that the three border districts of Arunachal were being used by militants of the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) to escape to Myanmar and that 25 incidents of violence were reported here from September 2016 to February 2017.

The Act is also in force in Nagaland, Manipur (except the Imphal municipal area), parts of Meghalaya bordering Assam, and J&K.

The controversial Act, which has given rise to several allegations of rights violations, empowers the Army and central forces deployed in "disturbed areas" to "shoot to kill" and arrest any suspect without a warrant. It was imposed in Punjab during the militancy before being withdrawn in 1997, and in Tripura from 1997 to 2015.

"The Army is of the view that if state governments require its presence, it will have to be given powers under AFSPA. Once the Army is withdrawn, the states will be required to deploy their own forces. These local forces can be supplemented with central paramilitary, which will work under the Indian Penal Code instead of AFSPA," said another senior official.

The official said that the Army has already been removed from operational roles in some areas of these two states and replaced by the paramilitary.

One of the primary reasons cited by the Centre for imposing AFSPA in Arunachal's Tirap, Changlang and Longding, all bordering Assam, and 16 police station limits was alleged extortion and killing of security forces by the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak-Muivah) and NSCN-K in these areas.

While the NSCN-IM signed a framework agreement with the government, the NSCN-K's capabilities have been depleted after the death of its leader S S Khaplang, said officials.

END

Downloaded from crackIAS.com

© **Zuccess App** by crackIAS.com

crackIAS.com

Selection of ECs must be transparent, SC tells Centre - Today's Paper

Though so far the election commissioners (ECs) appointed have been “outstanding people, very fair and politically neutral,” there is still a legitimate expectation that they should be selected through the “most transparent and just process” formalised in a law enacted by Parliament, the Supreme Court advised the Centre on Wednesday.

The Bench of Chief Justice of India J.S. Khehar and D.Y. Chandrachud pointed out that there is a “gap” caused by the lack of a parliamentary law which transparently spells out the process of appointment of an election commissioner. “Who should be shortlisted? Who shortlists these names? What is the eligibility? There is nothing to show the procedure followed in selecting them,” Chief Justice Khehar observed. He said that even the selection procedure of the CBI Director is formalised by a written law, but not that of Election Commissioners.

The court was hearing a PIL petition filed by Anoop Baranwal, represented by advocate Prashant Bhushan, contending that successive governments failed in the constitutional obligation to set up a “fair, just and transparent process” for selection of ECs.

“Though it is very complimentary that outstanding people have been appointed so far, there is still a legitimate expectation in the Constitution that a law should be made on the selection process,” the Chief Justice observed.

Transparent manner

“The Election Commissioners supervise and hold elections in our democracy...such is the significance of their office. Their selection has to be made in the most transparent manner,” he said.

The court asked the government whether it should intervene in the issue to achieve the constitutional objective under Article 324 (2).

Solicitor General Ranjit Kumar submitted that the filtering of names of suitable persons for appointment as Election Commissioners is done under the aegis of the Prime Minister and his Cabinet, who in turn advise the President.

“None other than the Prime Minister is involved in the selection of the election commissioners. Besides it is for Parliament to decide whether there should be a law or not,” Mr. Kumar said.

ENDDownloaded from **crackIAS.com**© **Zuccess App** by crackIAS.com

“JIGYASA” - Student-Scientist connect programme launched**“JIGYASA” - Student-Scientist connect programme launched****Signing of MoU between CSIR & KVS****Student-Scientist connect programme “JIGYASA”.****1151 Kendriya Vidyalayas connect with 38 CSIR Laboratories targeting one lakh students and nearly 1000 teachers annually**

Jigyasa, a student- scientist connect programme was officially launched in the national capital today. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), has joined hands with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) to implement this programme. The focus is on connecting school students and scientists so as to extend student’s classroom learning with that of a very well planned research laboratory based learning.

Memorandum of Understanding signing ceremony was held in the presence of Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, Environment, Forests and Climate Change and Shri Prakash Javadekar, Minister of Human Resource Development.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister for Science & Technology, Dr Harshvardhan said, that the Jigyasa programme was inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of a new India and “Scientific Social Responsibility (SSR)” of scientific community and institutions. It is a historic day when two ministries are collaborating on the Youth who are the future of the nation. The day also coincides with the birthday of Shri Shyama Prasad Mukherjee who is an inspirational figure and a role model for all Indians.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister of Human Resource Development Shri Prakash Javadekar said that “to inculcate scientific temper among the students we have to make them aware about the impact of science on the society. Science has played a very important role in changing our lives”. Thanking Dr Harshvardhan and CSIR, Shri Javadekar further said that access to these premier institutions is only the beginning. CSIR will also talent hunt among the visiting students for furthering the cause of scientific development. The Minister also informed that he will personally review the status periodically.

CSIR has been contributing for several decades for socio-economic development in the country. It has been through development and deployment of knowledge base focused at Technology and Innovation. CSIR has also been playing a key role in human resource development, in particular training of the young researchers through Ph. D. programmes in diverse fields.

The “JIGYASA” would inculcate the culture of inquisitiveness on one hand and scientific temper on the other, amongst the school students and their teachers. The Programme is expected to connect 1151 Kendriya Vidyalayas with 38 National Laboratories of CSIR targeting 100,000 students and nearly 1000 teachers annually.

The program will also enable the students and teachers to practically live the theoretical concepts taught in science by visiting CSIR laboratories and by participating in mini-science projects. The model of engagement includes:

- Student Residential Programmes;
- Scientists as Teachers and Teachers as Scientists;

- Lab specific activities / Onsite Experiments;
- Visits of Scientists to Schools/Outreach Programmes;
- Science and Maths Clubs;
- Popular Lecture Series/ demonstration programme at Schools;
- Student Apprenticeship Programmes;
- Science Exhibitions;
- Projects of National Children's Science Congress;
- Teacher Workshops; and
- Tinkering Laboratories.

“JIGYASA” is one of the major initiative taken up by CSIR at national level, during its Platinum Jubilee Celebration Year. CSIR is widening and deepening its Scientific Social Responsibility further with the programme.

RDS/AK/RV

END

Downloaded from crackIAS.com

© **Zuccess App** by crackIAS.com

SC seeks EC's reply on conducting Gujarat assembly polls through VVPAT machine

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked a reluctant Election Commission to try using electronic voting machines (EVMs) with paper trails in the Gujarat assembly elections, due in December.

The top court has asked the poll body to respond within 4 weeks.

"...It appears, you do not want to use EVMs with VVPAT system in Gujarat elections. Just do it, if you can," a bench of Chief Justice JS Kehar and Justice YV Chandrachud said as the EC expressed its reservations on a December roll-out.

Amid a debate over suspected vulnerability of EVMs to tampering, several political parties, including the Congress, have demanded mandatory use of printed paper slips – called the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) – in all elections. The EC maintains that the EVMs cannot be manipulated.

The SC order came on a petition seeking the top court's intervention for implementing a 2013 judgment where it said that 'paper trail' is an indispensable requirement of free and fair elections.

Though the poll panel has been experimenting with VVPAT, the EC opposed its use for the Gujarat elections, saying the machines have to be tested to see if there was a mismatch between the EVM and paper trail output.

The central government, in its affidavit to the court, has said that in the past EC has used EVMs with VVPAT in 143 assembly and 8 parliamentary constituencies and there was no report of mismatch between EVM-VVPAT output.

If the Supreme Court suggestion is accepted, Gujarat will be the first state to go to polls fully under the new system.

"About 71,000 EVMs with VVPAT will be needed for Gujarat polls and the commission already has over 105,00 machines with it. The court should direct the commission to use the machines in the forthcoming elections," said Kapil Sibal, who is representing the petitioners.

Under the VVPAT system, once a voter presses a button of his choice in the EVM a printed slip containing the name of the candidate and the poll symbol is generated and given to the voter.

The printed receipts are dropped in a ballot box. The process allows the votes registered in the EVM to be tallied with the printed receipts collected.

The central government said it has disbursed Rs 2616 crore to the poll panel to purchase VVPAT units.

The funds will enable the commission to hold the next general elections in 2019 with the EVM-VVPAT system.

In its 2013 order, the court had said: "The confidence of the voters in the EVMs can be achieved only with the introduction of the paper trail. EVMs with VVPAT system ensure the accuracy of the voting system."

Earlier this year, the Aam Aadmi Party used a dummy EVM to purportedly show how the machine could be manipulated.

The poll panel later challenged political parties to a “hackathon” prove their allegations but most of the parties skipped exercise in protest against the pre-conditions set by the EC.

END

Downloaded from crackIAS.com

© **Zuccess App** by crackIAS.com

crackIAS.com
crackIAS.com

G-20 leaders propose Hamburg Action Plan at summit conclusion

Follow us on

----- Advertisement -----

Hamburg [Germany], Jul 8 (ANI): The two-day G-20 summit that took place in Germany's Hamburg city ended with the leaders proposing the Hamburg Action Plan to address major global challenges, including climate change, harnessing digitalisation, and to contribute to prosperity and well-being.

"Mastering the challenges of our age and shaping an interconnected world is the common goal of the G-20 as our premier forum for international economic cooperation. We can achieve more together than by acting alone," an official statement read.

The leaders pledged to progress towards their joint objective in the G20, which is strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth.

"We are resolved to tackle common challenges to the global community, including terrorism, displacement, poverty, hunger and health threats, job creation, climate change, energy security, and inequality including gender inequality, as a basis for sustainable development and stability," the statement read.

In order to improving sustainable livelihoods, the G-20 leaders collectively committed to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions through, among others, increased innovation on sustainable and clean energies and energy efficiency, and work towards low greenhouse-gas emission energy systems.

"In facilitating well-balanced and economically viable long-term strategies in order to transform and enhance our economies and energy systems consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, G-20 members will collaborate closely," the statement read.

Taking note of its withdrawal from the Paris Peace Climate Accord, the United States of America announced that it would immediately cease the implementation of its current nationally-determined contribution and affirm its strong commitment to an approach that lowers emissions while supporting economic growth and improving energy security needs.

"The United States of America will endeavour to work closely with other countries to help them access and use fossil fuels more cleanly and efficiently and help deploy renewable and other clean energy sources, given the importance of energy access and security in their nationally-determined contributions," it said.

The Leaders of the other G-20 members also agreed that the Paris Agreement is irreversible reiterated the importance of fulfilling the UNFCCC commitment by developed countries in providing means of implementation including financial resources to assist developing countries with respect to both mitigation and adaptation actions in line with Paris outcomes.

The leaders also stressed on the importance of harnessing the benefits of globalisation, reaffirm the importance of transparency for predictable and mutually beneficial trade relations, harness digitalisation to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Besides this, the G-20 leaders also underlined to boost employment by improving sustainable global supply chains, which have been recognised as an important source of job creation and

balanced economic growth.

The leaders also resolved to make a resilient global financial system in agreed international standards, to support sustainable growth.

"We remain committed to the finalisation and timely, full and consistent implementation of the agreed G-20 financial sector reform agenda. We will work to finalise the Basel III framework without further significantly increasing overall capital requirements across the banking sector, while promoting a level playing field," the statement said.

The G-20 leaders also called for safeguarding against health crises and strengthening health systems.

"The G-20 has a crucial role in advancing preparedness and responsiveness against global health challenges. With reference to the results of the G-20 health emergency simulation exercise, we emphasise the value of our ongoing, trust-building, cross-sectoral cooperation. We recall universal health coverage is a goal adopted in the 2030 Agenda and recognise that strong health systems are important to effectively address health crises," the statement said.

The leaders called on the United Nations to keep global health high on the political agenda and strive for cooperative action to strengthen health systems worldwide, including through developing the health workforce.

"We recognise that implementation of and compliance with the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005) is critical for efficient prevention, preparedness and response efforts. We strive to fully eradicate polio. We also acknowledge that mass movement of people can pose significant health challenges and encourage countries and International Organisations to strengthen cooperation on the topic," the statement added.

Under this, the leaders also stressed on combatting Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR), which is a growing threat to public health and economic growth.

"To tackle the spread of AMR in humans, animals and the environment, we aim to have implementation of our National Action Plans, based on a One-Health approach, well under way by the end of 2018. We will promote the prudent use of antibiotics¹ in all sectors and strive to restrict their use in veterinary medicine to therapeutic uses alone," the leaders noted.

The leader in the G-20 Summit also remained committed to fighting corruption, including through practical international cooperation and technical assistance, and will continue to fully implement the G-20 Anti-Corruption Action Plan 2017-18.

"We endorse four sets of High Level Principles aimed at fostering integrity in the public and private sector," it said. (ANI)

This story has not been edited. It has been published as provided by ANI

For [WORLD News](#) Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Google+](#) and for news updates download our [News App](#).

- - - - - Advertisement - - - - -

- - - - - Advertisement - - - - -

Get daily news updates in your Inbox.

© Copyright 2008-16, ABP News
All rights reserved.

END

Downloaded from crackIAS.com

© **Zuccess App** by crackIAS.com

crackIAS.com
crackIAS.com

5 States, a UT sign pact with Centre on e-Marketplace

Common goods procurement by govt. is about Rs. 5 lakh crore annually, said Ms. Sitharaman.

In a spirit of cooperative federalism, 5 States and a Union Territory (UT) on Tuesday formally adopted the Centre's initiative called the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) that aims to ensure that public procurement of goods and services in India worth more than Rs. 5 lakh crore annually is carried out through the online platform for transparency and to eliminate corruption.

The States and the UT that signed an MoU with the Centre include Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Telangana, Puducherry and Arunachal Pradesh.

Four more, including Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu and Haryana, will ink such an MoU soon. They would have done so on Tuesday but for some technical issues, and more states/UTs are likely to adopt the GeM later, Commerce Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said.

This follows a call made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to all the Chief Ministers in April to ensure that priority is accorded to transparency in public procurement of goods and services. Addressing the chief secretaries of states/UTs on Monday, Mr. Modi had talked about how the GeM can enhance transparency, efficiency and speed in public procurement.

'Cooperative federalism'

Speaking at the 'National Consultative Workshop on GeM', Ms. Sitharaman said, "These states in the spirit of cooperative federalism have adopted GeM, similar to what all the states, as 'Team India,' did in the case of the Goods and Services Tax regime. By joining the GeM initiative, the states have supported transparency in public procurement."

Pointing out that procurement of common use goods and services required by various Government (Central and state government) departments/organizations/public sector units is estimated to be over Rs. 5 lakh crore annually, she said all efforts were being made to strengthen the GeM initiative to ensure that the tax payers' money is spent in a transparent manner.

END

Downloaded from crackIAS.com

© **Zuccess App** by crackIAS.com

When too much is too little - OPINION

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi brought up the issue of food wastage on his 'Mann Ki Baat' programme about two months ago, he endorsed a valid point when he asked people not to waste food. Though he raised an extremely critical issue of national importance, he could also have used the occasion to propose some government-led mechanism to handle it.

He was right to an extent when he linked food wastage to people's behaviour. However, there are wastages which happen in any case due to food's perishability and the absence of an effective distribution mechanism and legal framework. Looking at the scale of problems, it is wise to frame a comprehensive strategy by combining the efforts of the government and private sectors and civil society. The government can create a time-bound task force under Niti Aayog, with experts from different sectors, to frame a national policy to tackle this gigantic issue, which can recommend the legal framework to support initiatives to reduce food loss and waste. As a nation, we need to give priority to tackling this issue so that we can handle the social, economic and environmental ill-effects of wastage of food.

One third of food wasted

According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), "One third of food produced for human consumption is lost or wasted globally, which amounts to about 1.3 billion tons per year." It also states: "Food is lost or wasted throughout the supply chain, from initial agricultural production to final household consumption." The losses, it says, represent "a waste of resources used in production such as land, water, energy and inputs, increasing the green gas emissions in vain".

Food wastage has multiple socio-economic and environmental impacts. In a country like India, not only is food scarce for many poor families, it is a luxury for many others. Though hunger cannot be tackled directly by preventing food wastage, a substantial amount of food that is wasted in our country can feed many hungry people. India ranked 97th among 118 countries in the Global Hunger Index for 2016. About 20 crore people go to bed hungry and 7,000 people die of hunger every day; wastage of food is not less than a social delinquency. According to one estimate, 21 million tonnes of wheat are wasted in India every year. A recent study by the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta, revealed that only 10% of food is covered by cold storage facilities in India. This, coupled with poor supply-chain management, results in significant wastage, both at pre- and post-harvest stages, of cereals, pulses, fruits and vegetables.

The wastage of food entails loss of considerable amount of resources in the form of inputs used during production. For example, 25% of fresh water and nearly 300 million barrels of oil used to produce food are ultimately wasted.

The increasing wastage also results in land degradation by about 45%, mainly due to deforestation, unsustainable agricultural practices, and excessive groundwater extraction. Wastage results in national economic loss. To put a monetary value to the loss in terms of wastage, India loses Rs. 58,000 crore every year, to quote *The CSR Journal*.

The energy spent over wasted food results in 3.3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide production every year. Decay also leads to harmful emission of other gases in the atmosphere; for instance, decaying of rice produces methane. Food waste emissions have a major impact on climate change and result in greater carbon footprint.

Laws to encourage donation

Many countries have legislation providing for global best practices, such as the 1996 Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Act in the U.S., which was intended to encourage donation of food and grocery products that meet quality and labelling standards by protecting the donor and the recipient agency against liability, except in the case of gross negligence and/or intentional misconduct. France has taken a lead by becoming the first country in the world to ban supermarkets from destroying unsold food, forcing them instead to donate it to charities or food banks or send it to the farmers to be used as fertilisers in crop production.

In India, there are many civil society, private sector and community initiatives aimed at distributing food among the poor. The government is also committed to securing availability of food grains for two-thirds of the 1.3 billion population, under the National Food Security Act, 2013. While securing food for all or feeding them through such initiatives is important, addressing wastage of food in all forms is equally critical to complete the cycle of food sufficiency and food sustainability. There are initiatives such as India Food Banking Network (IFBN), which is promoting the concept of collaborative consumption with support from the private sector and civil society organisations. Such initiatives, creating networks and channels of distribution between those who have surplus food and those who are in need of them, are necessary.

The government needs to do more and should play a larger facilitating role. The Prime Minister's call to the nation needs to be followed up with further interventions. There is an urgent need to understand the complexity of the problem and then to devise a national-level strategy to combat it so that surplus of food can be turned into an advantage instead of resulting in wastage. Hunger and food wastage are two sides of the coin. The cycle of hunger cannot be broken without channelising the wasted food to help the needy. Without stopping wastage of food, we cannot do justice to millions of hungry people, our economy and the planet.

Sanjay Kumar is the India Country Director of Harvard South Asia Institute. Views are personal

END

Downloaded from crackIAS.com

© **Zuccess App** by crackIAS.com

70th Independence Day: Government plans 'I stand by my country' campaign

NEW DELHI: The government hopes to trigger a citizen movement around the theme 'I stand by my country' as part of a twin celebration to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Quit India movement and the [70th Independence Day](#).

It plans a multimedia campaign that will focus on inspiring the young generation and instilling in them a sense of pride and responsibility, according to a brief the ministry of information and broadcasting has prepared for the campaign.

ET reviewed a copy of the brief. "It is a great opportunity to not only celebrate, but also reiterate our patriotic feelings, reinvigorate our resolve to make India an economic superpower, and revitalise our minds to make India the world's intellectual capital," it said. The government feels that with half of the country's population below the age of 25, such a campaign will help youngsters inherit the patriotic legacy and relate to major events that took place seven decades ago.

The Narendra Modi government will also focus on itself, saying that under it a new and resilient India is on the rise. "There is a new and upbeat dynamism, an innate desire in the people to see the nation rise to new heights of success" the I&B ministry brief said. "And today, the people are seeing it happen under the new government."

The celebrations will stress that in the next five years — in an era of determination, will and struggle — a 'New India' will be built which is "rid of corruption and black money" and fulfils the aspirations of its teeming millions, it said.

The campaign will also drive home the point that the country has already proved its worth in every field, be it science and [technology](#), [sports](#), [spirituality](#), [art](#), [space exploration](#), [economy](#) and defence and "today, India stands tall with pride on threshold of becoming a global power". The aim of the campaign, hence is to portray an India which is "bold and decisive, can secure its future, is on the path of reforms, and that cares", the brief said.

Separate taglines will be formed for the [Quit India anniversary](#) and the 70th Independence Day along with logos as well as concepts for both radio and TV to create a "befitting aura" around the two events.

ET had reported on July 12 that the government plans a social media campaign of motivating people to click their selfies with the [tricolour](#) and post them on social media websites, plus holding week-long celebrations on the Rajpath lawns from August 12-18.

Twitter polls and quizzes on [MyGov platform](#) are also planned to educate people about unsung heroes of India's Independence, ET had reported.

NEW DELHI: The government hopes to trigger a citizen movement around the theme 'I stand by my country' as part of a twin celebration to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Quit India movement and the [70th Independence Day](#).

It plans a multimedia campaign that will focus on inspiring the young generation and instilling in them a sense of pride and responsibility, according to a brief the ministry of information and broadcasting has prepared for the campaign.

ET reviewed a copy of the brief. "It is a great opportunity to not only celebrate, but also reiterate our patriotic feelings, reinvigorate our resolve to make India an economic superpower, and revitalise our minds to make India the world's intellectual capital," it said. The government feels

that with half of the country's population below the age of 25, such a campaign will help youngsters inherit the patriotic legacy and relate to major events that took place seven decades ago.

The Narendra Modi government will also focus on itself, saying that under it a new and resilient India is on the rise. "There is a new and upbeat dynamism, an innate desire in the people to see the nation rise to new heights of success" the I&B ministry brief said. "And today, the people are seeing it happen under the new government."

The celebrations will stress that in the next five years — in an era of determination, will and struggle — a 'New India' will be built which is "rid of corruption and black money" and fulfils the aspirations of its teeming millions, it said.

The campaign will also drive home the point that the country has already proved its worth in every field, be it science and [technology](#), [sports](#), [spirituality](#), [art](#), [space exploration](#), [economy](#) and defence and "today, India stands tall with pride on threshold of becoming a global power". The aim of the campaign, hence is to portray an India which is "bold and decisive, can secure its future, is on the path of reforms, and that cares", the brief said.

Separate taglines will be formed for the [Quit India anniversary](#) and the 70th Independence Day along with logos as well as concepts for both radio and TV to create a "befitting aura" around the two events.

ET had reported on July 12 that the government plans a social media campaign of motivating people to click their selfies with the [tricolour](#) and post them on social media websites, plus holding week-long celebrations on the Rajpath lawns from August 12-18.

Twitter polls and quizzes on [MyGov platform](#) are also planned to educate people about unsung heroes of India's Independence, ET had reported.

END

Downloaded from [crackIAS.com](#)

© **Zuccess App** by crackIAS.com

SC ready to revisit Lodha reforms

Over a year after backing the mantra of reforms framed by the high-profile Justice R.M. Lodha Committee to usher in transparency in the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and the cricket administration, the Supreme Court on Monday said it was ready to revisit, if not modify, some key recommendations as they “may not be a good idea in this country”.

One State, one vote

Primary among the recommendations of the Justice Lodha panel which may come under scrutiny is the “one State, one vote policy. Another is the capping of the number of members of the senior selection committee at three, all of them to be former Test players. The BCCI last year stuck to its conventional five members.

“One State, one vote may not be a good idea in this country. I am quite favourable to the submissions of Railways, Maharashtra, Baroda and the Mumbai Cricket Association in this regard ... Again, we don't want to get into selection and all that. But appointing somebody who has played just two or three Tests over a more qualified person ... We want to debate...,” Justice Dipak Misra, who heads the Bench, orally observed.

The Bench said it would hear the BCCI, the State cricket associations and member bodies on issues such as “memberships, number of votes” in an effort to make the running of “cricket, the gentleman's game” come as close to perfect as possible.

Meanwhile, the Bench exhorted the BCCI and its members to meet on July 26, as scheduled, and implement the Lodha reforms as regards all issues other than the ones flagged for further debate in court.

The court recorded that it would take stock of the minutes of the July 26 meeting in a hearing on August 18 and see how much of the Lodha reforms have been agreed to by the BCCI members. The Bench would then post the case for September 5, on which date, the stage would be open for further discussion on possible modifications in the Lodha recommendations.

END

Downloaded from crackIAS.com

© **Zuccess App** by crackIAS.com

Will go ahead with electoral bonds if parties don't give suggestions: Arun Jaitley

New Delhi: Finance minister Arun Jaitley on Monday said the government will go ahead with operationalizing electoral bonds for a more transparent system of political funding if parties do not give any suggestions on the scheme announced in budget 2017-18.

Speaking at an event marking Income Tax Day celebrations, the finance minister said the system of opaque cash donations could not continue and added that the government had over the past three years been making efforts to bring more transparency to governance, reduce physical interface between officials and taxpayers and make tax administration more efficient.

Jaitley observed that people were reluctant to give suggestions on the proposed electoral bonds scheme.

"If suggestions don't come and consensus eludes us, then the government of the day can't run away from its responsibility. It will have to announce its decision which will then become the law of the land," he said. The government has proposed a cap on anonymous cash donations to political parties at Rs2,000. Under the scheme, donors can purchase electoral bonds from designated banks which parties can redeem for funds.

As part of the government's efforts to collect information on taxpayers to combat tax evasion, it has introduced compulsory linking of Aadhaar with Permanent Account Number (PAN).

The move, Jaitley pointed out, was being opposed in the name of defending privacy.

Revenue secretary Hasmukh Adhia, who was also present on the occasion, said that with linking of Aadhaar, the 12-digit identification number issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), with PAN would bring to an end the era of bogus PAN cards.

Jaitley said a tradition of tax non-compliance had resulted in sub-optimal revenue collection, thus reducing the state's ability to spend on welfare measures and defence.

"Now, non-compliance is being defended with right to privacy," he said.

He added that the legislative measures taken over the last few years were meant to provide an incentive to the honest taxpayer.

END

Downloaded from **crackIAS.com**

© **Zuccess App** by crackIAS.com