

TWEET-O-METER



**Ahmed Patel**  
**@ahmedpatel**  
While our farmers are struggling through the on-going agri distress, govt's decision to hike MSP of imp crops by just Rs 50 is akin to mocking

**Lalu Prasad Yadav**  
**@laluprasadrjd**  
Advani Ji proved that our concerns regarding anti-democratic elements & activities being sponsored & promoted by union govt are correct.



**digvijaya singh**  
**@digvijaya\_28**  
He has already taken care of Sushma ji and Vasundhara ji. This is the Gujarat Modi Development Model! My way or the Highway!

**Arvind Kejriwal**  
**@ArvindKejriwal**  
Advani ji is correct in saying that emergency can't be ruled out. Is Delhi their first experiment?



**Shahnawaz Hussain**  
**@ShahnawazBJP**  
Its high time tht Jungle Raj is removed from Bihar & the hardworking Biharis get a govt tht brings good governance to the state. #BJP4Bihar

**Prashant Bhushan**  
**@pbhushan1**  
Apart from being a crass and crude abuse of funds the Kejriwal ad on TV is sexist and projects women as servants of their husbands. Shocking



**Abhishek Singhvi**  
**@DRAMSinghvi**  
One Modi brought happiness to bjp; anr bringing grief. Wl first one Hv same long term impact as second one?

**FOR CLOSE MONITORING OF NGOs** MHA creates a new category, 'civil rights advocacy', to ascertain whether NGOs are using foreign funds for specific purposes or not

# Tighter Norms for NGOs to Track Foreign Funds

Aman.Sharma@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Non-governmental organisations will soon have to start furnishing details of foreign funds received and utilised by them for 'civil rights advocacy', a new category created by the home ministry to ascertain whether NGOs are using funds specifically for issues such as human rights, democratic rights, natural resources and religious discrimination.

In addition to this, every NGO in the country will have to put out details on its website within a week of getting foreign contribution of any value while banks will have to report all such receipts to the government within 48 hours of the transfer from abroad.

These requirements are part of the proposals under an exercise initiated by the Prime Minister's Office to tighten monitoring of NGOs.

A fortnight after ET first reported on June 4 the planned move on PMO's instructions to amend the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Rules (FCRR), 2011, the home ministry has put in public domain the proposed changes to these rules following the Intelligence Bureau's inputs to it to "improve oversight and increase transparency" in the working of the NGO sector in India.

As per existing norms, NGOs are required to inform the government through their annual returns under 55 heads of 'purposes' for which foreign aid has been received and utilised by them. There was a 56th 'purpose', 'of activities other' than the 55 purposes. The home ministry has created a new category of such

## Change in Rules

**ACCORDING TO THE NEW RULES,** banks will have to report all foreign funding to the govt within 48 hours of the transfer from abroad

**MHA HAS CREATED ANOTHER category, 'Research', under which NGOs will have to specify spending of foreign funds on research, seminars, conferences, publications and lectures**

**GOVT MAY ACT** against an NGO if any false information or concealment comes to light

**NGOS WILL HAVE** to submit details of social media account on Facebook or Twitter

**CHANGE IN FCCR RULES PROPOSED:** online filing for registration or renewal of licence



### UNDER PMO'S DIRECTIVE

These requirements are part of the proposals under an exercise initiated by PMO to tighten monitoring of NGOs

'purposes', Civil Rights Advocacy, increasing the total number of purposes to 84.

Under the new category, NGOs will have to specify whether they received any funds and utilised them for purposes such as "hu-

### FUND DETAILS ON WEBSITE

NGOs will have to put out details on its website within a week of getting foreign contribution of any value

man rights, caste/religious discrimination, tribal/indigenous people's rights, democratic rights, public accountability, issues regarding natural resources, climate change, cyber security, internet freedom,

criminal justice system, communication strategy etc".

The ministry has created yet another category, 'Research', under which NGOs will have to specify spending of foreign funds on research, seminars, conferences, publications and lectures. "The effort is to ascertain specifically for what a NGO is getting foreign funds and what is it being spent on rather than leaving it uncertain," a senior home ministry official said.

The government has a provision to act against an NGO if any false information or concealment of material facts comes to light. The ministry had earlier suspended Greenpeace India's foreign funding saying the NGO derailed the Mahan coal project and would indulge next in "protest-creation" to target eight other plants, potentially impacting 40,000 mw of power generation.

That also reflects in another proposed change in FCCR rules in the form which has to be filled up online for registration or renewal of licence for NGOs. The government has introduced a new declaration that NGOs must make that the foreign aid received by them will not be used for any activities "detrimental to national interest, likely to affect public interest, or likely to prejudicially affect the security, scientific, strategic or economic interest of the state", leaving it to the discretion of the state to determine a violation.

NGOs will have to also submit details of any social media account on Facebook or Twitter that it is operating, an apparent effort to keep tabs on social media campaigns.

## INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY

# Yoga Sessions After Iftar in Muslim Nations



**Dipjan Roy Chaudhury**  
**@timesgroup.com**

**New Delhi:** With the month of Ramadan beginning on Thursday across continents, Muslim-majority nations have the flexibility of organising yoga sessions on International Yoga Day on June 21 after breaking their fast and Iftar.

Several Muslim majority nations across the Gulf, Central Asia, North Africa and Southeast Asia that will witness mega events on the International Yoga Day organised by local Indian embassies have the option to participate after their Iftar (breaking their fast) as the day falls during the Ramadan period, senior government sources told ET.

Ten of the 57 Organisation of Islamic Conference countries did not co-sponsor the UN resolution last

year to declare June 21 as the International Yoga Day. The list includes Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

However, some sessions are being organised even in these countries, including Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, sources said, adding, yoga sessions will be organised indoors by Indian missions in these countries.

Palestine is not a UN member state and therefore could not co-sponsor the resolution.

But the world's biggest Muslim nation Indonesia, North African states of Morocco and Tunisia, Nigeria, Jordan and Central Asian countries have witnessed enthusiasm leading up to June 21, diplomatic sources pointed out.



**Muslim nations across the Gulf, Central Asia, N-Africa & SE Asia have showed enthusiasm leading to June 21**

These countries are oblivious to the controversy within India, whether asanas are Islamic or not, sources claimed.

Several sessions will be organised across Indonesia, the world's biggest archipelago. Malaysia, though, will witness fewer sessions. Similarly, another Southeast Asian state with Muslim population — Brunei — may not have many sessions.

Even embattled Afghanistan will also see yoga sessions with gurus participating from here. However, in Herat and Kandahar, sessions by the Indian consulates will be held indoors due to security concerns.

Indian missions in several Muslim-majority nations have already held mega events this month and there's a great deal of enthusiasm, sources claimed. As many as 10,000 people participated in a yoga session in Dubai recently.

# In a First, Japan May Allow India to Reprocess Spent Nuclear Fuel

**Dipjan Roy Chaudhury**  
**@timesgroup.com**

**New Delhi:** In a significant development that could have positive bearing on proposed Indo-Japan civil nuclear deal, Tokyo is likely to change its policy to allow reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel from Japanese-made reactors.

In what could be a major shift in Japan's nuclear non-proliferation strategy, Tokyo for the first time has approved reprocessing of nuclear fuel by a country using Japanese-made reactors, official sources said from Tokyo.

Since the 2011 Fukushima tragedy, Japan had concluded civil pacts with six countries including Jordan, Russia, Turkey and Vietnam, but has not approved reprocessing of spent fuel generated by Japanese-made nuclear reactors.

Indo-Japan civil nuclear deal has remained elusive despite several rounds of negotiations since 2010 and Naren-

## Push for Civil Nuke Deal

**SINCE FUKUSHIMA** tragedy in 2011, Japan had concluded civil pacts with six nation but has not approved reprocessing of spent fuel

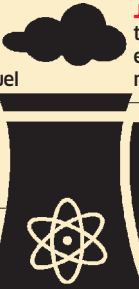
**JAPAN SUGGESTS** India to submit an annual report detailing the amount of plutonium generated through reprocessing

**CANADA AND INDIA** has agreed for a tracking method of nuclear fuel

**JAPAN SEEKS GUARANTEE** that India won't divert extracted plutonium for military use

**JAPAN WANTS** guarantee on no civil nuclear tests

**TOKYO WANTS** a termination clause in the pact for automatic end of bilateral nuclear coop if India conducts test



dra Modi's maiden trip to Japan as PM last year and his personal chemistry with his counterpart Shinzo Abe.

Bilateral negotiations, re-launched post Fukushima last September, got momentum after Modi became the PM with Japan as one of his foreign policy priorities. Japan has been consistent on its po-

sition on India's non-NPT status and tougher safeguards on reprocessing of spent fuel supplied to Indian reactors. Indian position has also been clear as it considers NPT as discriminatory, official sources said, adding India has signed nuclear deals with NPT signatories like USA, Canada and Australia.

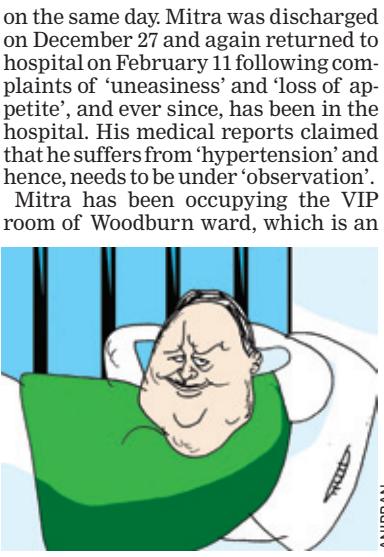
# Mitra Enjoying Jail as VIP in AC Hospital

Madhuparna.Das@timesgroup.com

**Kolkata:** West Bengal cabinet takes up for discussion the new Chit Fund Bill on Friday, when West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's go-to man and West Bengal transport minister Madan Mitra would complete six months in judicial custody for his involvement in the alleged Saradha scam.

Of the six months, Mitra has spent just one month in jail, and for the rest, he has been wrapped in luxury, being treated like a VIP. The state transport and spots minister — a portfolio he still holds — has spent most of his time in the comfort of the Woodburn ward of the state-run SSKM Hospital.

According to the logs of the state correctional services, the minister was remanded to judicial custody on December 19, 2014. He complained of chest pain and was admitted to the hospital



AC room with all kind of facilities. He gets home cooked food and the freedom to use communication devices; his room — described as the party office of Madan Mitra — is mostly filled with party men. Insiders even claim that he controlled the civic polls in his constituency from the hospital. And even though, there are two guards posted outside his room, they do not have any control over visitors and his party men.

The CBI, that's probing the Saradha scam, had sought a report from Alipore central correctional home on the minister's stay in jail, which will be submitted to the Alipore court, said people familiar with the matter.

The Opposition raised the issue in the state assembly, asking minister of state for correctional services HA Safwi to come clean on Mitra's stay in jail. Safwi, however, said it is not possible to 'drag' the minister to jail if he isn't 'discharged' from the hospital.

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# CBI Registers PE Against Himachal CM

To probe Virbhadra's unexplained income of ₹6.1 cr as minister of steel in UPA govt



### Our Political Bureau

**New Delhi:** The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a preliminary enquiry (PE) against Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh and his family members for allegedly amassing wealth disproportionately to his known sources of income.

The preliminary enquiry will probe Singh's unexplained income of ₹6.1 crore when he was serving as minister of steel in the UPA government between 2009 and 2011.

Officials said the PE is against Singh, his wife Pratibha, son Vikramaditya, daughter Aparajita and an LIC agent, Anand Chauhan.

They said it is alleged that Singh, while serving as minister, has invested ₹6.1 crore in life insurance policies in his and his family members' names through Chauhan.

A PE is the first step to examine veracity of a complaint or source information received by the agency; and if prima facie allegations are found true, further probe is carried out by converting it into an FIR, also known as regular case.

During verification, the agency also found that the income shown by Singh as agriculture income was inflated and the apple orchard in the name of 'Srikhand orchard' cannot produce such income. It is also alleged that in the revised Income Tax return from 2009-11,

### VIRBHADRA TWEETS

Me & my family are targeted out of political

vendetta by NDA govt and it's part of witch-hunting being manipulated by Dhumal

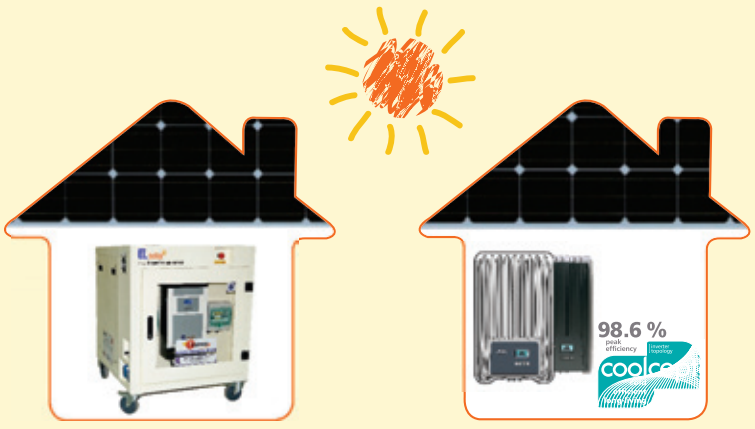
Singh inflated his income to prove that he had earned the money from his orchard.

The money is alleged to have been later used to buy insurance policies through Chauhan, who allegedly earned a 2% commission.

The PE, the officials said, is the offshoot of their probe into a diary found during the raid conducted at New Delhi in 2010 on Ispat Industries.

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