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A girl with a Bicycle

Dr Nunglekpam Premi Devi

She walks along holding her bicycle's handle frame; She walks and she talks along, as she walks down the street; She walks and walks along, as she converse to her friend; She smiles and she laughs deeply; she cares and she looks out; She loves air and she likes being with 'Her'; as she walks She walks and she walks down, not knowing she'll miss; She talks and she smiles with the breeze, fluttering around: She holds and she holds tight; the bicycle in between them; She walks clumsily as she talks; her eyes upon friend: Down the street, down the narrow lane giggling; She tweets and she adjust, as she walks down the street.

She loves being frame, with her parted pair plaits; She loves adoring ribbon, red, green and white; Her skirt too material; hard and bound and round shape; She dislikes not wearing: she wish for a better material: She adjusts and she adjusts; holding bubbles, hollow indeed; Her hands so engaging, one on the bicycle handle caressing; Her right one with guarding those fluttering skirt; Here goes up and down, front and back; Ripping apart within those wind's glide; Swiping up and down; one and two, she laughs harder; As she walks down the narrow lane to the school: She walks and she talks girly; adjusting her floating hair; Down the lane and up the mould; pushing her bicycle far beyond.

She tangle and she miss: she never realized: She hops and she falls repeatedly; she's being missing; Her friend stays home; she bade a good bye, 'see you'; She feels and she's all alone; as she drop 'her' home walking; Down far the narrow lane; on her way to home from school; She pulls and pull up, her bicycle on the mould top: She hops lazily; she ride and she sails again as she paddle; Down the mould her bicycle runs speedily; Down it goes and goes; no paddling and no paddling; Down far riding swift smoothly, sitting on her saddle; She holds tight as she ride, not even a wind can't stop; She knew it easily, she reach home flying directing; Isn't that worth walking; A girl with a bicycle.

4 BJP men held for thrashing iournalist in Chhattisgarh

Four BJP functionaries, including the Raipur district unit chief, were arrested for allegedly thrashing a local journalist at the party office here,

police said on Sunday. BJP's Raipur district president Rajeev Agrawal and three local office-bearers Vijay Vvas. Utkarsh Trivedi and Deena Dongre — were arrested late Saturday night based on the First Information Report (FIR) lodged by journalist Suman Pandey, a local police official told Agency.

The four, who were booked under Indian Penal Code Sections 342 (wrongful confinement), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 504 (criminal intimidation) and 34 (common intention), were later released on a bail bond from the police station, he said.
Peeved over the incident, local

iournalists sat on an indefinite protest in front of the Raipur Press Club in Motibagh area here on Sunday, demanding expulsion of the accused from the BJP.

Pandey, who works with a local website, in his complaint alleged that he was thrashed on Saturday when he was recording a video of a scuffle among BJP leaders during the party's district-level meeting to review their defeat in the recent Chhattisgarh Assembly polls.
The journalist sustained minor head

injuries in the incident, he said.

After Pandey was beaten, local journalists had staged a sit-in protest front of the BJP office here till the wee hours of Sunday, demanding expulsion of the accused party State BJP president Dharamlal Kaushik and former minister Brijmohan Agrawal arrived at the party office to meet the protesting journalists around 2.30 am.

"They refused to take any immediate action against the accused BJP leaders and said they will first demand an explanation from them following which action will be taken," Raipu Press Club vice president Prafull Thakur said.

"We are now sitting on an indefinite protest in front of the press club till our demand to expel the accused leaders is fulfilled," Thakur added. State BJP spokesperson Sacchidanand Upasane, who was also present at the party meeting, on Saturday said his party men had apologised to Pandey.
"The closed door district-level

meeting was held to review the defeat in the recent Assembly elections. Media persons were asked to leave the meeting room after taking initial footage. Party leaders and workers were also asked to keep their mobile

phones switched off," he said. On finding a man recording the video of meeting, he was told to stop it and asked to delete the footage. After he introduced himself as a journalist, party leaders said he should delete the video, Upasane said. "A minor scuffle broke out between

the journalist and party leaders over the issue, following which I asked the journalist to sit there for a while and later told him to go outside," Upasane

said.
Later, the party leaders apologised to journalists protesting at the venue, he said, adding that BJP's state president would look into the

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New CBI Director Has No Experience of Handling Corruption Cases: Mallikarjun Kharge

New Delhi, Feb. 3

Leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha and senior Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday dissented against the appointment of Rishi Kumar Shukla as the new Central Bureau of Investigation chief. He alleged that the 1983-batch Indian Police Service officer and former chief of Madhya Pradesh police had no experience in handling anti-corruption cases.

In a letter addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said Shukla's appointment was violation of the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, under which the CBI director was

appointed. Shukla was appointed by a prime minister-led selection committee. comprising Kharge and Chief justice of India Ranjan Gogoi.

Over the last few months, India's premier investigative agency has been in the middle of one

controversy after another. First, the infighting between former CBI chief Alok Verma and his deputy Rakesh Asthana took a political turn when both the officers were summarily dismissed from their roles. Then, the government appointed an interim director, M. Nageswara Rao, whose decisions to transfer around 13 CBI officers in-charge of various corruption probes against Asthana drew much criticism.

Even as the CBI's autonomy was under scrutiny, the Supreme Court reprimanded the Union government last week for not appointing a fulltime CBI director. The post was lying vacant since January 10, after Verma's unceremonious dismissal. With Kharge's dissent, the debate around whether the Union government is influencing the CBI's independent functioning may snowball into yet another political

controversy.

In his dissent note, Kharge quoted the Supreme Court's Vineet Narain

judgement which said, "The Committee shall appoint an IPS officer on the basis of seniority, integrity, and experience in the field

of anti-corruption."
He said that even the DSPE Act mandates that the CBI director should have experience in handling

snound have experience in mainting anti-corruption cases. Since Shukla has no such experience, Kharge said, his appointment was a violation of both the DSPE Act and the Supreme Court judgement, and the government only took Shukla's seniority into account while selecting him.

He added that the selection

committee could only appoint an officer who has "100 months or more experience in investigation and corruption".

'Seniority cannot be the only criterion in an appointment to such a critical post and experience in anti-corruption cases and prior experience of having served in the organisation should also be considered seriously," he wrote in

He proposed that three senior IPS officers – S. Javed Ahmad, Rajiv Rai Bhatnagar and Sandeep Lakhtakia meet the requirements to become

the CBI director. He further said, "It is important to restore the image and integrity of the CBI as a premier institution that is fighting against corruption. Hence, prior experience of having served in the institution should be given primacy after having shortlisted candidates based on

their seniority and their ACR." Responding to Kharge's objections, Union minister Jitendra Singh hit out at the Congress, claiming that the leader of opposition tried to include officers of his choice in the shortlist by manipulating the selection criteria.

Singh also said that the chief justice of India fully endorsed Shukla's appointment. (Courtesy The Wire)

Highlights Of Interim Budget 2019-20

The key highlights of the Interim Budget 2019-20 presented by the Union Minister for Finance, Corporate Affairs, Railways & Coal, Shri PiyushGoyal in Parliament today are as follows: New Announcements

Farmers
12 crore small and marginal farmers to be provided with assured yearly income of Rs. 6000 per annum under PM-KISAN Outlay of Rs. 75,000 crore for FY 2019-20 with additional Rs. 20,000 crore in RE 2018-19 Outlay for RashtriyaGokul mission increased to Rs 750 crore RashtriyaKamdhenuAyog to be setup for sustainable genetic up-gradation of the Cow resources New separate Department of Fisheries for welfare of 1.5 crore

2% interest subvention to Farmers for Animal husbandry and Fisheries activities; additional 3% in case of timely

repayment.
Interest subvention of 2% during disaster will now be provided for the entire period reschedulement of loan

Pradhan MantriShram Yogi Maandhan scheme to ensure fixed monthly pension to 10 crore unorganized sector workers

Rs 3000 per month after 60 years of age with an affordable contribution of only Rs 100/55 per

Health

22nd AIIMS to be setup in

MGNREGA

Rs. 60, 000 crore allocation for MGNREGA in BE 2019-20

Direct Tax proposals
Income uptoRs. 5 lakh exempted
from Income Tax More than Rs. 23.000 crore tax relief to 3 crore middle class taxpayers Standard Deduction to be raised to Rs. 50,000 from Rs. 40,000 TDS threshold to be raised from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 40,000 on interest earned on bank/post office deposits · Existing rates of income tax to continue

Tax exempted on notional rent on a second self-occupied house Housing and real estate sector to get boost-TDS threshold for deduction of tax on rent to be increased from Rs. 1,80,000 to Rs. 2,40,000 Benefit of rollover of capital gains increased from investment in one residential house to two residential houses for capital gains up to Rs. 2 crore. o Tax benefits for affordable housing extended till 31st March, 2020 under Section 80-IBA of Income Tax Act Tax exemption period on notional rent, on unsold inventories, extended from one year to two years

Fiscal Programme

Fiscal deficit pegged at 3.4% of GDP for 2019-20 Target of 3% of fiscal deficit to be achieved by

Fiscal deficit brought down to 3.4% in 2018-19 RE from almost 6% seven years ago Total expenditure increased by over to Rs.27,84,200 crore in 2019

Capital Expenditure for 2019-20 BE estimated at Rs. 3,36,292 crore Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) allocation increased to Rs 3,27,679 crore in BE 2019-20

National Education Mission allocation increased by about 20% to Rs. 38,572 crore in BE 2019-20

Allocation for Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) increased by over 18% to Rs 27,584 crore in BE 2019-20

Substantial increase in allocation for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes -Allocation for SCs increased by

35.6% - from Rs. 56,619 crore in BE 2018-19 to Rs. 76,801 crore in BE for 2019-20 Allocation for the STs increased by 28% - from 39,135 crore in BE 2018-19 to Rs. 50,086 crore in 2019-20 BE

Government confident of achieving the disinvestment target of 80,000 crore Focus now on debt consolidation along with fiscal deficit consolidation programme

Poor and Backward Classes

'First right on the resources country is that of the poor": FM 25% additional seats in educational institutions to meet the 10% reservation for the poor Targeted expenditure to bridge urban-rural divide & to improve quality of life in villages

All willing households to be provided electricity connections by March 2019

North East
Allocation to be increased by 21% to Rs. 58,166 crore in 2019-20 BE over 2018-19 BE

Arunachal Pradesh came on the air map recently Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram

came on India's rail map for the first time Container cargo movement through improved navigation capacity of the Brahmaputra

Vulnerable sections

A new committee under NITI Ayog to identify all the remaining De-notified nomadic and semi-Nomadic tribes.

New Welfare development Board under Ministry of social justice and empowerment for development and welfare of Denotified nomadic and semi nomadic tribes

Defence

Defence budget to cross Rs 3.00.000 crore for the first time

Railways
Capital support of Rs.64,587 crore proposed in 2019-20 (BE) from the budget Overall capital expenditure programme to be of Rs. 1,58,658 crore Operating Ratio expected to improve from 98 4% in 2017-18to 96 2% in 2018-19 (RE) andto 95% in 2019- 20 (BE)

Entertainment Industry
Indian filmmakers to get access to Single window clearance as well for ease of shooting films Regulatory provisions to rely more on self-declaration To introduce anti-camcording provisions in the Cinematograph Act to control piracy

MSME and Traders

2% interest subvention on an incremental loan of Rs 1 crore for GST registered SMEsAtleast 3% of the 25% sourcing for the Government undertakings will be from women owned SMEs

Renewed Focus on Internal trade ; DIPP renamed to Department for Promotion of Industries and Internal trade

Digital Villages
The Government to make 1 lakh villages into Digital Villages over next five years
Other Announcement(s)

National

Artificial Intelligence portal to support National Program on Artificial Intelligence Achievements during 2014-19

State of the Economy

India universally recognized as a bright spot of the global economy during last five years "Country witnessed its best phase of macroeconomic stability during 2014-19", says FM India is now the 6th largest economy in the world from being the 11th largest in 2013-14 Annual average GDP growth during 2014-19 higher than any government since 1991 Government has broken inflation's back from backbreaking

inflation during 2009-14: FM Average inflation down to 4.6%, lower than during any other Government Inflation in December 2018 down to 2.19% only Fiscal deficit down to 3.4% in 2018-19 RE deficit down to 3.4% in 2018-19 RE from the high of almost 6% seven years ago CAD likely to be only 2.5% of GDP this year against a high of 5.6% six years ago India attracted massive amount of FDI, worth \$239 billion, during the last

5 years "India is solidly back on track and marching towards growth and prosperity", says FM India

becomes the fastest growing major economy in the world Double-digit inflation contained and fiscal balance restored Liberalization of FDI policy, allowing most FDI to come through the automatic route

Farmers
Assured MSP of minimum 50% to all 22 crops Interest subvention doubled in last

5 years Soil Health card, Neem coated Urea game changer in farm sector Labor Employment opportunities expanded; EPFO membership increased by 2 crore Minimum income for every category of workers increased by 42% in last 5 years

Poor and Backward Classes

10% reservation for the poor in educational institutions and government jobs Free electricity connection to every household under SaubhagyaYojana World's largest healthcare programme, Ayushman Bharat, for nearly 50 crore peopleAspirational Districts Programme for development in 115 most backward districtsRs. 1,70,000 crore spent during 2018-19 for cheaper food grains to poor and middle class143 crore LED bulbs provided in mission mode with the cooperation of private sector Poor & middle class are saving Rs. 50, 000 crore p.a. in electricity bills due to LED bulbs 10 lakh patients benefited from free

reatment under Ayushman Bharat Jan AushadhiKendras providing medicines at affordable prices to poor and middle class 14 out of 21 AIIIMS operating presently have been announced since 2014 Government tripled rural roads' construction under the PMGSY

15 80 lakh habitations out of 17 84 lakh connected with pucca roads Rs. 19,000 crore for PMGSY in BE 2019-20 against Rs. 15,500 crore in RE 2018-191.53 crore houses built under PM Awas Yojana during the 2014-18 Women development to

women led development
6 crore free LPG gas connections provided under UjjwalaYojna ; All

8 crore by next year 70% of MUDRA Loan availed by Women Maternity leave extended to 26 weeks Financial support for pregnant women under Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana

Over one crore youth trained under MantriKaushalVikashYojana

Self-employment boost through MUDRA, STAND-UP and START-UP India MSME and Traders

Up-to Rs 1 crore loans can be availed in less than an hour availed in less than an nour 25%-28% is the average savings due to GeM (Government e-Market place) To be contd.....