



SAFALTA CLASSTM

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

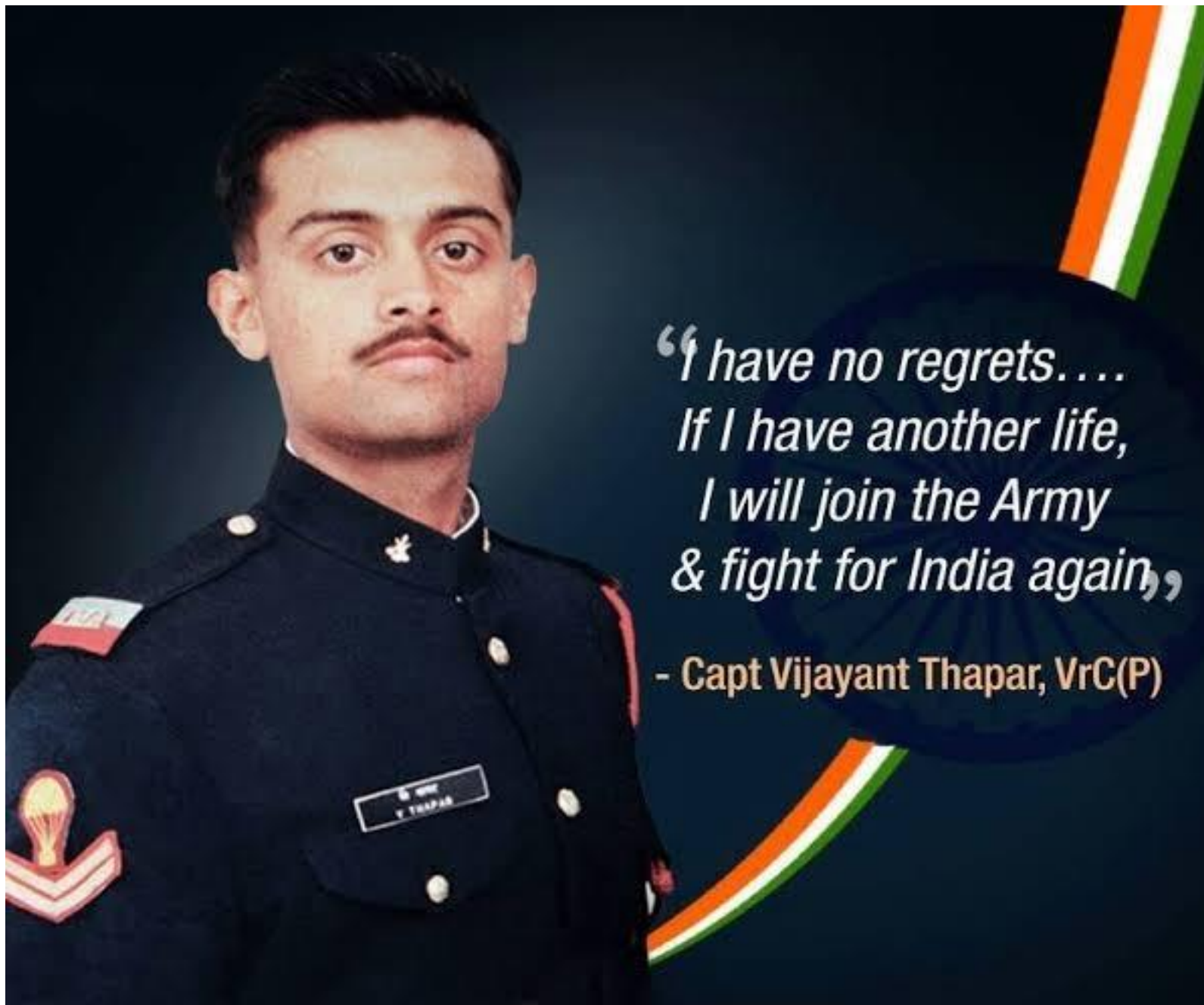
NEWS OF 2nd & 3rd JULY

Date - 3rd July 2020

Time - 8:30 am to 9:15 am

By Sujeet sir





*“I have no regrets....
If I have another life,
I will join the Army
& fight for India again.”*

- Capt Vijayant Thapar, VrC(P)

Question No: 1

Recently, which gas was leaked from Sainor Life Sciences Pvt Ltd in Visakhapatnam?

- A. Benzene
- B. Hydrogen Sulphite
- C. HCl
- D. Nitrogen

Ans. B

Question No: 2

Identify the correct statement/s about Hydrogen Sulphate –

- A. It's a color less gas
- B. It's smell like rotten egg
- C. It's very poisonous
- D. All of them

Ans. D

Question No: 3

India and have signed concession agreement on the 600 MW Kholongchu hydroelectric project (KHEL).

- A. Bhutan
- B. China
- C. Nepal
- D. Bangladesh

Ans. A

Question No: 4

BIMSTEC headquarters are situated in –

- A. Zeneva**
- B. Peris**
- C. Kathmandu**
- D. Dhaka**

Ans. D

Question No: 5

Operation Twist is related to –

- A. Cyber security
- B. Financial reforms
- C. Educational reforms
- D. Defence reforms

Ans. B

MoD approves 33 new fighter jets in deals worth ₹38,900 cr.

Modi and Putin hold telephonic conversation

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

Amid the tension on the border with China, the Defence Acquisition Council, chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, on Thursday approved deals worth ₹38,900 crore.

These include procurement of 21 MiG-29 fighter jets for the Indian Air Force (IAF), upgrade of 59 MiG-29s and acquisition of 12 Su-30 MKI aircraft. The approvals come a week after Mr. Singh's visit to Moscow for the Victory Day Parade.

Also on Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called up Russian President Vladimir Putin to congratulate him on winning a vote

Aiming for the skies | Deals worth **₹38,900 crore** were cleared by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) on Thursday. An overview of select deals:

1 At an approximate cost of **₹7,418 crore**, twenty one MiG-29 fighter jets will be bought and 59 existing jets will be upgraded

2 At an approximate cost of **₹10,730 crore**, HAL will build twelve Suhoi-30 MKI

aircrafts to replace the ones which crashed over the years

3 Deals include 'Pinaka', an indigenously developed all weather, indirect fire, free flight artillery rocket system. It can

be used to neutralise a variety of targets such as exposed enemy troops, armoured and soft skin vehicles, communication centres, air terminal complexes, fuel and ammunition dumps

4 Deals also include a Long Range Land Attack Missile System of over 1000 km-range and ASTRA, a Beyond Visual Range class of Air-to-Air Missile for fighter aircraft designed and developed by the DRDO



The MiG-29 fighter jet. • FILE PHOTO

on changes to the Constitution.

The other deals include Pinaka ammunition, armoured vehicle BMP armament upgrades and Software

Defined Radio for the Army, Long Range Land Attack Missile Systems of over 1,000 km range and Astra Beyond Visual Range air-to-air missiles for the Navy and the

IAF, all of which will be procured domestically and worth an estimated ₹31,130 crore.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

India's first plasma bank launched in Capital

NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Thursday inaugurated India's first plasma bank at ILBS Hospital in Vasant Kunj. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal appealed to those who have recovered from COVID-19 to come forward and donate plasma to help others recover.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

With referendum win, Vladimir Putin tightens grip on power

Almost 78% of voters support constitutional amendments which allow the Russian President to potentially extend his rule till 2036

STEVE JOHNS

With Russian voters overwhelmingly backing a set of constitutional amendments in a referendum, Vladimir Putin can potentially stay in power for more than six-year terms after his term expires in 2024. After a week-long vote came to an end on Wednesday, preliminary results released by the Election Commission showed that almost 78% of voters endorsed the amendments, while 21% voted against them. Some 68% voters had turned up to cast their ballots.

In the vote, Russians were asked if they agreed or disagreed with the changes to the Constitution. The changes included a reorganisation of the government, introducing a higher minimum pension and wages, a ban on gay marriage, restricting top officials from holding dual citizenship, enshrining "faith in God" as a core value and en-



AP Wirephoto Vladimir Putin in Moscow.

shrinking the privacy of the Constitution over international treaties and rulings. The most controversial change, however, was underplayed by the Kremlin during the campaign – resetting President Putin's term limits.

The centre of power

The Russian Constitution has more than two consecutive presidential terms. Mr Putin, who became President for the first time in

2000, swapped the presidency with his confident Dmitry Medvedev after his first two terms. He remained the centre of power during this time as Prime Minister. Mr Medvedev served one term and stepped aside for Mr Putin to assume the presidency again. He is now into the second term of his second stint as President, which will expire in 2024. The new Constitution doesn't change the two-term

limit in theory, but in practice, it resets the clock on Mr Putin's terms so that in the first election under the new Constitution, to be held in 2024, Mr Putin can start afresh.

Mr Putin has said he hasn't decided on running again. But if he chooses to, given the longevity of his reign over Russia's political

NEWS ANALYSIS

landscape, he could remain in office for two more terms until 2036 when he will be 83 years old. The amendments have also reinforced the powers of the State Council, an advisory body until now, which Mr Putin heads. Overall, the changes allow him to tighten his grip over Russia.

In pursuit of legitimacy

The proposed changes had already been approved by Parliament and the Supreme Court. But the Kremlin chose

to put it on vote for legitimacy and popular approval. The vote was originally planned for April but was delayed due to the coronavirus outbreak. Since April, the virus has spread fast in Russia. The country has recorded 6,681,220 COVID-19 infections so far, the third worst hit after the US and Brazil. It has also seen over 3,400 virus-related deaths. But despite the outbreak, the Kremlin decided to go ahead with the vote this month may be because Mr Putin wanted to get it done before the economic situation turns worse.

Now that the amendments got popular mandate, the ball is in Mr Putin's court. If he stays in power for two more terms, he will be the longest serving Russian leader since Peter the Great. The Tsar, who built the Russian Empire, was in power for 41 years until his death in 1725. While the constitutional amendments for Mr Putin's

continued rule are now removed, the road ahead for him may not be smooth. It has never been smooth for Mr Putin. He inherited a Russia that was in an economic free fall and strategic retreat in 2000 after the treacherous Boris Yeltsin left years. Much of the support Mr Putin enjoys now derives from his efforts to rebuild the state and the economy and restore some of the country's lost global clout. After 20 years in power, Mr Putin again faces daunting challenges.

Challenges ahead

According to the IMF, the economy hasn't expanded in dollar terms for a decade. The Fund estimates the GDP to shrink by 5.8% this year. With the pandemic affecting local businesses and the oil price fall causing into exports revenue, the Kremlin finds it difficult to fix the economy in the near term. In foreign pol-

icy, will his his 100 400 600 800 1000 1200 1400 1600 1800 2000 2200 2400 2600 2800 3000 3200 3400 3600 3800 4000 4200 4400 4600 4800 5000 5200 5400 5600 5800 6000 6200 6400 6600 6800 7000 7200 7400 7600 7800 8000 8200 8400 8600 8800 9000 9200 9400 9600 9800 10000

RUSSIA:

- It is the largest country in the world by area.
- Eleven time zones, and bordering 16 sovereign nations.
- Russia's capital and largest city is Moscow.
- **Currency: Rouble**
- Federal Assembly(Federation Council & State Duma)

Over 350 elephants found dead in Botswana

Mystery shrouds deaths as experts rule out anthrax, deny possibility of poaching as tusks are intact

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
 GARDIENS

Hundreds of elephants have died mysteriously in Botswana's famed Okavango Delta, the head of the wildlife department said on Thursday, ruling out poaching as the tusks were found intact.

The landlocked southern African country has the world's largest elephant population, estimated to be around 130,000.

"We have had a report of 356 dead elephants in the area north of the Okavango Delta and we have confirmed 275 so far," Cyril Taolo, the acting director of the department of Wildlife and National Parks, told AFP in a text message.



Tragic deaths: A combination photo shows dead elephants in Okavango Delta, Botswana. — AFP/REUTERS

He said the cause of the deaths was yet to be established with anthrax having been ruled out.

— AFP/REUTERS

poaching since (the) animals were found with tusks," he said.

Samples have been collected and sent to South Africa,

Zimbabwe and Canada for testing.

Similar deaths

Similar deaths were first reported in May when authorities found 12 carcasses in just a week in two villages in the northwest of the country.

The latest discoveries were flagged by a wildlife conservation charity, Elephants Without Borders (EWB), whose confidential report referring to the 356 dead elephants, was leaked to the media on Wednesday.

EWB suspects the elephants have been dying in the area for about three months.

According to the report dated June 18, 2010, "70% of

elephant carcasses were considered recent, having died about a month ago, and 30 percent of the carcasses appeared fresh, ranging from one day to two weeks old".

"There was good evidence to show elephants of all ages and sex appear to be dying," said the report penned by EWB director Mike Chase.

Several live elephants appeared to have been weak, lethargic and emaciated, with some showing signs of disorientation, difficulty in walking or limping, EWB said. "One elephant was observed walking in circles, unable to change direction although being encouraged by other herd members," said the report.



Core industry output contracts for third month

- According to data released by the Commerce Ministry, the output of eight core sector industries shrank 23% in May 2020, the third straight month of contraction.
- Of the eight core sectors, the fertilizer industry was the only one that saw actual growth in output in May 2020, rising 7.5% in comparison to May 2019.

Recovery Path

Modest pickup likely in June

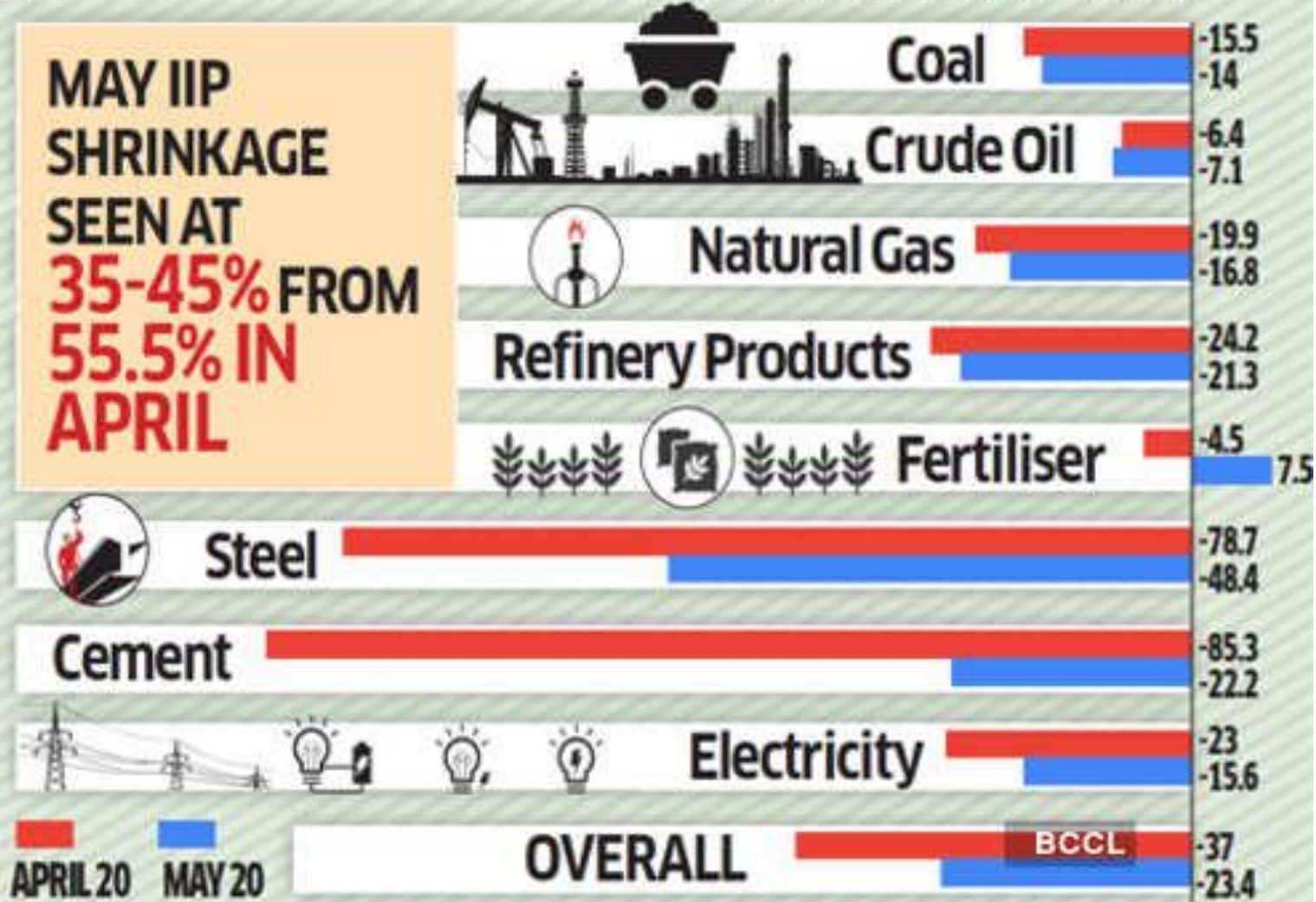
Easing restrictions to push activity



Core sector has **40.27%** weight in IIP

MAY IIP SHRINKAGE SEEN AT 35-45% FROM 55.5% IN APRIL

CORE SECTOR GROWTH (%)



INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION (IIP)

financialexpress.com

- In the case of Index of Industrial Production India, IIP data is compiled and published by CSO every month.
- CSO or Central Statistical Organisation operates under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

- Merger of NSSO with CSO to form NSO
- The National Sample Survey Office used to work under the **Ministry of Statistics** of the Indian government until May 2019. On 23rd May 2019, the NSSO merged with the **Central Statistics Office (CSO)** to form the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**.
- The Government stated that the NSO will be headed by the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI)**.

46 million girls went missing in India

हाल ही में 'यूनाइटेड नेशन्स पॉपुलेशन फंड' (The United Nations Population Fund- UNFPA) द्वारा विश्व स्तर पर महिलाओं की घटती संख्या के संदर्भ में 'स्टेट ऑफ वर्ल्ड पॉपुलेशन , 2020 (State of the World Population 2020) रिपोर्ट जारी की गई है।

- रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, हर वर्ष विश्व में 142 मिलियन (14.2 करोड़) लड़कियों की मृत्यु हो रही है।
- रिपोर्ट से प्राप्त आँकड़ों के अनुसार, महिलाओं की मृत्यु की संख्या पिछले 50 वर्षों में दोगुनी से अधिक हो गई है वर्ष 1970 में यह संख्या 61 मिलियन (6.10 करोड़) थी जो वर्ष 2020 में बढ़कर 14.26 करोड़ पर पहुँच गई है।
- भारत में लिंग चयन के कारण 46 मिलियन (4.6 करोड़) लड़कियों की हर वर्ष मृत्यु हो रही है।

United Nations Population Fund

- इसे वर्ष 1967 में ट्रस्ट फंड के रूप में स्थापित किया गया था, इसका परिचालन वर्ष 1969 में शुरू हुआ।
- वर्ष 1987 में इसे आधिकारिक तौर पर **संयुक्त राष्ट्र जनसंख्या कोष** नाम दिया गया।
- यह संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा का एक सहायक अंग है।

Centre designates 9 individuals as terrorists

- The Union Home Ministry designated nine more individuals as “terrorists” under the amended Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA).
- The nine persons declared terrorists are linked to separatist Khalistani groups that seek to establish a separate country for the Sikhs.

Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA):

- UAPA, enacted in 1967, was amended in 2004, 2008 and 2013.
- The 2004 amendment was to ban organisations for terrorist activities, under which 34 outfits, including the Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Jaish-e-Mohammad, were banned.

- The UAPA, as amended in August 2019, gives the Home Ministry the power to designate individuals as terrorists.
- Earlier, in September 2019, the four individuals to be first designated as terrorists were Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar, Lashkar-e-Taiba's Hafiz Saeed, his deputy Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi, and underworld don Dawood Ibrahim, who planned and executed the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts.