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**CRISIS IN RAJASTHAN RULING PARTY**

## Gehlot seeks floor test, targets Governor: Not calling Assembly session, pressure from above

Warns of gherao as his MLAs protest at Raj Bhavan; Governor raises six queries — from freedom of MLAs to why session if you have majority

**HAMZA KHAN & MANOJ CG**

JAIPUR, NEW DELHI, JULY 24

KEEN to keep his flock intact and snuff out at the earliest a party rebellion led by former Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot mounted an offensive Friday against Governor Kalraj Mishra, claiming that he was not calling a session of the state Assembly because of “pressure from above”.

Gehlot did not say who or what he meant by “pressure from above”, but he has been accusing the BJP of plotting with Pilot to topple his government. The Pilot camp has 19 MLAs and Gehlot claims he still has a majority in the 200-member House. The CM took his party MLAs in four buses to the Raj Bhavan where they sat on a protest on the lawns and demanded that an Assembly session be called Monday. Governor Mishra stepped out to meet them. Earlier, Gehlot warned that

**BUSINESS AS USUAL**

By UNNY



“it won’t be our responsibility if the entire population of the state gherao the Raj Bhavan”.

This prompted BJP leader Gulab Chand Kataria to urge the Centre not to leave law and order in the hands of Rajasthan Police and deploy CRPF at the Raj Bhavan “so that sanctity of this Constitutional post is upheld”.

The MLAs left the Raj Bhavan following an assurance from the

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra with Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and Congress MLAs at Raj Bhavan in Jaipur on Friday. **P11**

## HC relief for Pilot camp, Congress cites Supreme Court ruling to raise questions

**HAMZA KHAN & MANOJ CG**

JAIPUR, NEW DELHI, JULY 24

IN FURTHER relief to the rebel Congress camp of former Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot, the Rajasthan High Court directed Friday that status

quo as of July 14 be maintained on notices sent by Assembly Speaker CP Joshi to the 19 MLAs led by Pilot.

The direction effectively means that rebel MLAs will not be required to submit their reply to the Speaker and no action can be taken against them till the hearing resumes in the Supreme

Court on July 27.

“It means that the respondents need not file their reply before the Speaker, and possibly, the Speaker can’t proceed further. So, the position on (July) 14th is maintained till any order is passed by the Supreme Court,” said lawyer Prateek Kasiwal,

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

Wife of former ADG, SOG is a director in firm raided by I-T

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

JAIPUR, JULY 24

SARIKA ANIL PALIWAL, wife of Anil Paliwal, Additional Director General of Police (Personnel) is a Director in Mayank Sharma Enterprises Private Ltd, one of the companies where search and survey operations were undertaken by the Income Tax department on July 14.

Anil Paliwal was ADG (ATS & SOG) for almost a year till July 3, before he was shifted as ADG (Personnel). It was during his tenure as ADG (ATS & SOG) that Congress Chief Whip Mahesh Joshi had submitted a complaint to the Special Operations Group of the Rajasthan Police in June, alleging attempts of horse trading of MLAs to destabilise the Ashok Gehlot government.

ADG Paliwal couldn’t be reached for his response despite repeated calls and text messages to his mobile phone as well as the number of his residence

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## India: Agreement with China on early, complete disengagement

Diplomats set stage for more military talks, Pangong & Gogra likely focus

**SHUBHAJIT ROY**

NEW DELHI, JULY 24

WITH CHINESE reluctance to step back further from Pangong Tso and Patrolling Point 17A at Gogra stalling the disengagement of troops along the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh, Indian and Chinese diplomats held talks Friday, and New Delhi said both sides agreed on “early and complete disengagement”.

In Beijing, the Chinese Foreign Ministry, commenting on the virtual meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination on India-China Border Affairs, said both sides “affirmed the positive progress made in disengaging the frontline border troops of the two countries” and would maintain dialogue “through military and diplomatic channels” to “promote further de-escalation”.

The WMCC meeting sets the stage for another round of Corps Commander talks — they have met four times since June 6 — to resume the disengagement process, stalled due to Chinese reluctance to vacate areas in

Pangong Tso and PP 17A, two of four friction points on the Ladakh frontier. At PP 14 (Galwan Valley) and PP 15 (Hot Springs), disengagement has already taken place.

In Pangong Tso, Chinese troops had come up to Finger 4 on the north bank of the lake, 8 km west of Finger 8 which India says marks the LAC. As part of the disengagement process, the Chinese vacated the Finger 4 base area and headed towards Finger 5. But they still occupy positions on the ridgeline at Finger 4.

The underlining of “early and complete disengagement” at the WMCC meeting is significant given that the Indian Army has been preparing for the long haul, looking to keep its troops deployed in Ladakh through the winter months. India has been seeking restoration of status quo ante — of troops on both sides returning to locations before the military standoff began in May.

Following the meeting of the WMCC, the Ministry of External Affairs, in a statement, said: “The two sides reviewed the situation in the India-China border areas

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## Woman accuses ABVP president of harassment over parking slot in Chennai

**ABVP leader Subbiah Shanmugam****ARUN JANARDHANAN & LIZ MATHEW**

CHENNAI, NEW DELHI, JULY 24

A 62-YEAR-OLD widow living alone in her apartment in Chennai city suburbs has filed a police complaint against ABVP national president Dr Subbiah Shanmugam, accusing him of harassment, including urinating and throwing used surgical masks at her doorstep.

The incident reportedly followed a disagreement over parking slots at the housing society. The woman, who does not want to be identified, demanded payment for his use of a parking slot owned by her. In her complaint, filed at the Adambakkam Police Station on July 11, the woman has attached CCTV footage and photos that purportedly show the ABVP leader urinating at her doorstep.

The issue came to light when the woman’s nephew, Balaji Vijayaraghavan, a stand-up comic and the founder of a platform that facilitates Carnatic music events, posted about the alleged incident and said the police were not helping his aunt.

Sources in the police admitted that no FIR has been registered on

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## Use pandemic lessons well: Centre gives 6-pt mantra to surge states

**KAUNAIN SHERIFF M**

NEW DELHI, JULY 24

RIGOROUS IMPLEMENTATION of pandemic lessons, systematic containment, and proper planning and procurement to plug the gaps in health infrastructure are key, the Centre has told nine states that are currently facing a surge in novel coronavirus infections.

At a high-level review meeting that went on for three hours over a video link on Friday, the Centre emphasised six main issues to the governments of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Telangana, Odisha, West Bengal, Assam, Karnataka, Jharkhand, and Uttar Pradesh, top sources told *The Indian Express*.

The meeting, chaired by Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba, was attended by the chief secretaries of these states, senior officials of the Union Health Ministry, and experts from the national

**EXPLAINED**

### Implementation holds the key

INDIA’S DAILY case count surged close to 50,000 on Thursday. Several of the states that are seeing a spike are also those with a poor testing record and inadequate health infrastructure. It is critical for these states to employ important lessons to quickly get a grip on their situation.

task force against Covid-19.

■ The cabinet secretary is learnt to have said that six

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2****GOVT & POLITICS****SONIA FINALLY PUTS RAO ON CONGRESS PEDESTAL, PRAISES BOLD LEADERSHIP****PAGE 9****THE EDITORIAL PAGE****THE DIGITAL SWAY**  
BY R S SHARMA  
**PAGE 12**

## 10 suspended, probe into role of UP police as abduction ends in death

**MANISH SAHU**

LUCKNOW, JULY 24

JUST OVER a fortnight after the Vikas Dubey shootout and encounter, the Kanpur police finds itself in the dock over an abduction, with the person who was kidnapped dead and the family accusing police of facilitating a ransom exchange.

**Sanjit Yadav**

On Friday, ASP (Kanpur South) Aparna Gupta, Deputy SP Manoj Kumar Gupta, plus eight other personnel of Barra Police Station, were suspended. Last week, SHO Ranjit Rai had been suspended as the family alleged inaction on the matter despite Sanjit Yadav (27) having gone missing nearly a month ago, and despite having paid Rs 30 lakh as ransom.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2****Birds have been tagged with satellite transmitters**

lite transmitters.

This is the first study in the country that seeks to trace and observe the migratory routes of the pied cuckoo. Equally importantly, it will help gather data and information on climate change, scientists involved in the study say.

Dehradun-based WII, under the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, is India’s apex institute for the study of wildlife science. IIRS, also in Dehradun, is a constituent unit of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

The arrival of the pied cuckoos (*Clamator jacobinus*, also called pied crested cuckoo and Jacobin Cuckoo) in the Himalayan foothills has traditionally been seen as heralding the onset of the monsoon. Last week, researchers tagged two of the birds with transmitter chips made by Microwave Telemetry, an American company specialising in wildlife satellite tracking technology.

“These birds have high site fidelity, that is, they come back to the same location year after year.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## Urjit: Govt diluted IBC, its steps hurt RBI’s move on bad loans

**GEORGE MATHEW**

MUMBAI, JULY 24

FORMER RESERVE Bank of India Governor Urjit Patel has heavily criticised the government for diluting the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) and the powers of the central bank, saying this undermined efforts made since 2014 to clean up the bad loan mess.

In his new book *Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver*, Patel has

**Former RBI Governor Urjit Patel**

said that the Supreme Court’s April 2019 verdict had not found the RBI’s February 2018 one-day default regulation on the insolvency process “problematic” — however, the subsequent (June

7, 2019) circular issued by the central bank had diluted this aspect, making the insolvency regime “vulnerable and brittle”.

It had also delayed the process, helping many defaulters escape the bankruptcy court. The February 2018 circular, issued when Patel was Governor, had forced banks to classify borrowers as defaulters immediately, and had brought several large defaulters to the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

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## EXPRESS AUDIO

## What the 2020 Tokyo Olympics would have meant for India

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# FROM PAGE ONE

## Floor test

Governor. Congress communications in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala said, "The Governor told all of us, with an open heart, that he will follow the Constitution without any pressure. He has noted some comments and sent an order to the CM. As soon as the Cabinet addresses those comments, then, as per Article 174 of the Constitution of India, the Governor is duty-bound."

"The Governor gave us this assurance that he is bound under Article 174 to follow the Cabinet's recommendation, we believe him as an elder and head of family. The Cabinet, led by the CM, will sit again and if there are any doubts, then they will be addressed," Surjewala said.

A Cabinet meeting was called after 10 pm. After the MLAs left the Raj Bhavan, the Governor's office said, "no one is above *samvaidhanik maryada* (Constitutional propriety)" and that "there shouldn't be any pressure politics".

The Governor has essentially raised six points:

- The Cabinet note does not mention the date from which the session has to be called, and does not indicate Cabinet approval for it.
- No reason has been pro-

vided for calling the session on short notice and no agenda proposed. As per procedure, a 21-day notice is necessary to call a session.

- The state government has been asked by the Governor to ensure the freedom of all MLAs, including freedom to move around.

- The Governor's office said disqualification of some MLAs are pending in the High Court and Supreme Court. "This should be considered by the government; additionally, the Governor has asked that details be provided on how an Assembly session can be conducted, considering the spread of coronavirus.

- The Raj Bhavan has given "clear directions" that every action will be done as per Constitutional propriety and provisions of set rules.

- The Governor has asked the government if it has majority, why call an Assembly session just to prove majority.

Earlier, speaking to reporters outside Fairmont hotel where his MLAs are lodged, Gehlot said "after a Cabinet decision (Thursday), we wrote to Governor Kalraj Mishra, saying an Assembly session be called... We were hopeful he would issue orders, call an Assembly session... We waited all night, but haven't heard from him," he said, adding it is "beyond

our understanding".

"A simple process is employed, and the Governor has to issue orders. There is no reason to stop it. We believe that due to pressure from above, he is helpless and not giving directions to call an Assembly (session)," he said.

"We want to go to the floor (of the House)... there was a demand, including by Opposition parties, and there was discussion in the judiciary as well on why you don't call the Assembly (session) and hold a floor test. And now when we are ready to call an Assembly (session)... Everyone is distressed and sad because Rajasthan doesn't have a tradition of toppling a government through *to d phod* (sabotage)," the CM said. "We want to start an Assembly session from Monday. *Wahan doodh ka doodh paani ka paani ho jayega* (Things will be clear there)," he said.

In New Delhi, the Congress hit out at Governor Mishra for not accepting the Gehlot Cabinet's recommendation to convene an Assembly session.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said: "The country is governed by the rule of law and Constitution. Governments are formed and run by majority mandate. The BJP's conspiracy to topple the Rajasthan government is clear. It is an

insult of the eight crore people of Rajasthan. The Governor should convene a session of the Assembly, so that the truth comes out before the country."

Referring to the five-judge Constitution Bench judgment in the Nabam Rebia (Arunachal Pradesh) case, Congress leader Kapil Sibal said the Governor is bound by the advice of the Cabinet, and he has no option but to convene the Assembly if the Cabinet has made such a recommendation to him.

## Relief for Pilot

who is representing Speaker Joshi.

The Speaker had earlier moved the Supreme Court against the High Court order, which had asked him to give the rebel MLAs time till July 24 to reply to the notices.

The interim order was passed by a division bench comprising Chief Justice Indrajit Mahanty and Justice Prakash Gupta. The bench also accepted the request by the 19 rebel MLAs to make the Centre a party to the case.

In New Delhi, Congress leader Kapil Sibal, who is a senior advocate, questioned the Rajasthan High Court's order saying it has "no jurisdiction to pass such an order."

He told reporters: "A very sad situation that has arisen... is that

Constitution Bench judgments are not being followed by High Courts. We know for a fact that there is a five-judge decision of the Supreme Court of India which says that if a disqualification petition is filed, the Speaker will decide that disqualification petition and his decision can be challenged in a court of law but prior to his decision, proceedings by the Speaker are proceedings within the House under Article 212 of the Constitution... and those proceedings cannot be interfered with."

"That is the decision in the *Kihoto Hollohan* case as far back as 1992. And in this particular case, in Rajasthan, there is a *status quo* order passed this morning saying that those proceedings will not go on in the teeth of *Kihoto Hollohan*," he said.

## Urjit Patel

Patel quit in December 2018 following a clash with the government.

"Lawyers who had agreed to represent the RBI in the Supreme Court (SC) dropped out at the eleventh hour, literally the night before the hearing," Patel has written. "Striking down the February 2018 circular has made the insolvency regime vulnerable, possibly brittle."

On his rift with the government, Patel has written that its disposition towards the IBC "perceptibly changed" in mid-2018 – instead of buttressing and future-proofing the gains that had been made, an atmosphere of going easy on the pedal ensued.

"Until then, for the most part, the finance minister and I were on the same page, with frequent conversations on enhancing the landmark legislation's operational efficiency," says the book. "There were requests for rolling back the February circular. A canard was spread that MSMEs would especially suffer, when, in fact, the previous dispensations for this class of borrowers had been explicitly protected in the new regulations."

The regulator's *de facto* powers have been diluted on several subjects related to preserving financial stability, Patel has said. "Circulars were reversed and the PCA framework essentially ditched as these came in the way of stimulating the economy through higher credit growth."

According to Patel, the government uses "ownership of banks as a means for day-to-day macro-economic management rather than primarily for efficient intermediation between savers and borrowers". Even after three decades of banking sector reforms, including the entry of private banks, "state-sponsored credit creation" retains a majority share, he has said.

The book does not mention the demonetisation of Rs 500 and Rs 1000 notes that happened soon after he took over as RBI Governor in September 2016. Patel was chosen to lead the central bank after his predecessor, Rajan, was denied a second term.

## ABVP president

the woman's complaint. "We have issued a receipt of the complaint," said an officer.

Shanmugam, a professor and Head of the Department of Surgical Oncology at Kilpauk Medical College and Government Royapettah Hospital, said the complaint was false and the CCTV footage doctored. Alleging "ulterior motives" behind the charges, he told *The Indian Express* to contact the ABVP leadership for any further comments.

In a statement, ABVP national general secretary Nidhi Tripathi admitted there was an issue over parking slots between the woman and Shanmugam's family. "The two families have discussed this... and (the housing society has) already concluded that the harassment allegations were caused due to a misunderstanding and are untrue."

The ABVP threatened legal ac-

tion on the "libelous" claims of the woman's family.

In her complaint, the woman has said that Shanmugam had approached her for permission to use one of her two parking slots. When she demanded a "nominal" rent, she said, he got angry and first broke a signboard at the slot. She said he then kept calling her, including asking her whether she needed chicken despite knowing that she was a vegetarian. She said he had gone on to soil the entrance to her house, including with used surgical masks, garbage and muck.

Vijayaraghavan said he was shocked when his aunt told him about the incident. "If Shanmugam had admitted his mistake and apologised, we would have accepted it. We decided to file the complaint as he was reluctant to take any corrective steps. We had serious concerns about my aunt's safety as well."

ABVP media in-charge Rahul Choudhary said the CCTV footage was doctored, and accused ABVP rivals of trying to do "character assassination" of Shanmugam. "Despite several attempts by the Congress, the local media did not pay the woman's complaints any attention. So they fabricated a video. We have the original clip and will hand it over to the police," Choudhary told *The Indian Express*.

## UP abduction

The state government ordered the suspensions on Friday, after five arrests were made in the case, and the accused reportedly confessed to killing Yadav soon after the abduction. The police said the five, including two who used to work with Yadav, had denied receiving any ransom. "Investigation into the family's claim that they paid ransom is still on," Inspector General, Kanpur Range, Mohit Agarwal told reporters.

A pathologist who worked as a lab technician at a hospital, Yadav had gone missing on June 22. The same evening, his father Chaman Singh lodged a missing complaint with the Barra Police Station, and police changed it to a case of kidnapping on June 26.

On July 13, the family claimed to have paid Rs 30 lakh, as demanded by the abductors, "on the direction of the police", and said while officers had assured they would arrest the men, Yadav had not been released. Two days later, they denied paying the money, only to go back to their original stand, saying the police had forced them to say otherwise.

Agarwal said at the time that the police had tried to trace the kidnappers after they made the ransom call, but the operation had failed, following which the SHO, Barra, was suspended. The IG had also said that the investigation had shown no ransom was paid.

On Friday, the police said the abductors had told them they kidnapped Yadav hoping to extort money from his family and had hired a house in Kanpur to keep him. One of them, Kuldeep Goswami, who knew Yadav from before, allegedly met up with him and as they had drinks together, gave him something to make him unconscious, the police said.

The abductors reportedly told the police that on June 26, Yadav tried to flee, and that the next morning they killed him and threw his body into the Pandu River in Kanpur. They allegedly made the ransom call on June 29.

Police have engaged divers to try and find Yadav's body.

## Pied cuckoo

We believe that the pied cuckoos that come to the Himalayan foothills are from Africa, but this has never been ascertained through collected data. Also, we still don't know which part of Africa they come from," Dr Suresh Kumar, a scientist with WII's department of Endangered Species Management who is involved in the study, told *The Indian Express*.

"There is a community of pied

cuckoos in southern India as well, but those are resident birds and not migratory," Dr Kumar said. The pied cuckoo is one of the few species that come to India in the summer, he said. "Most other migratory species come in winter from colder places like Mongolia, Siberia, northeastern China, Kazakhstan, etc."

Gathering information about the migratory route of the pied cuckoo can be invaluable for research on "climatic variations" taking place in the world, Dr Kumar said – especially since the species has such a close association with the monsoon. "Farmers have traditionally relied on the arrival of the pied cuckoo as a signal to sow seeds, as they know that the monsoon will be upon them soon. This signal is never wrong, because the pied cuckoo arrives in India riding the monsoon wind," he said.

Researchers around the world have been documenting how various bird species are adapting to climate change and variations, and studying the pied cuckoo "will give us information on the monsoon, changes in the monsoon and monsoon winds, erratic rainfall, seasonal fluctuations, water vapour pressure, etc.," Dr Kumar said. "What happens to these birds, for instance, if the monsoon is poor or erratic?"

Dr Gautam Talukdar of WII, another scientist involved in the pied cuckoo migration study, said: "The extent of the effect of ecologies changing can be seen in the movement of species from a region that has become less favourable due to climatic variations, to a more favourable region. We want to look at this range shift."

## India- China

and the ongoing disengagement process... They agreed that early and complete disengagement of the troops along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and de-escalation from India-China border areas in accordance with bilateral agreement and protocols and full restoration of peace and tranquillity was essential for smooth overall development of bilateral relations."

"The two sides noted that this was in accordance with the agreement reached between the two Special Representatives (SRs) during their telephonic conversation on 5 July 2020. They agreed in this regard that it was necessary for both sides to sincerely implement the understandings reached between Senior Commanders in their meetings till date," it said.

"The two sides agreed that another meeting of the Senior Commanders may be held soon so as to work out further steps to ensure expeditiously complete disengagement and de-escalation and restoration of peace and tranquillity in the border areas," it said.

The two sides, the MEA said, also agreed to maintain their ongoing engagements both at the diplomatic and military level, including through the meetings of WMCC.

"Now it is not an issue of lack of understanding of basic concepts. The issue now is of effective implementation or the lack thereof," the cabinet secretary told the states, sources said. Chief Secretaries must "proactively address the issue of implementation glitches" that may result in very rapid deterioration, the Centre is learnt to have communicated to the states.

- These nine states, which have implemented "sporadic lockdowns or localised lockdowns", must also implement "systematic containment and effective surveillance", followed by

"strengthening the hospital infrastructure and clinical management", the Centre said. "We are not judging those decisions but a two-three day lockdown alone is not the solution," the states were told, according to the sources.

- The surge in cases will lead to fatigue among healthcare workers, the Centre is learnt to have told the states – and stressed that they "must have in place a well thought-out policy of rotating the workforce and utilising people who are available". The Centre has also asked the states to call in alternative resources – retired doctors, final year MBBS students, and nursing graduates – to tackle high caseloads, the sources said.

- Given the gaps in health infrastructure that some states have historically had, the Centre asked them to implement "rigorous planning" with regard to consumables such as oxygen cylinders, testing kits, and medicines. "Delay in procurement decisions can have grave consequences from the point of view of management of the pandemic. Chief secretaries must ensure that as far as essential medical supplies are concerned there is no delay in procurement decisions," the Centre is learnt to have told the states.

- While lessons from states like Kerala, Goa, and Delhi show the "situation can be turned around", the experience in Karnataka has shown that the "situation can rapidly slide downwards", sources said. "Therefore, what is needed is a steadfast and resolute approach by all state governments," the Centre told the states, the sources said.

- The states were also told that they "must have a regular mechanism of ensuring prompt and effective communication with the public," the sources said.

## Director

mentioned on the Department of Personnel, Rajasthan. Following information about smuggling of illegal explosive substances, SOG had taken into surveillance on June 13 two phone numbers, according to an FIR filed on July 10. It arrested two persons – Bharat Malani and Ashok Singh – in relation to this FIR. But Paliwal was not posted in SOG then.

Two other FIRs were registered a week later on July 17 following complaints filed by Mahesh Joshi based on audio tapes which the Congress claimed were conversations between Sanjay Bardia, a businessman and BJP leader, and rebel Congress MLA Bhanwarlal Sharma and Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

According to Ministry of Corporate Affairs data, Sarika Paliwal is a Director in Mayank Sharma Enterprises Private Limited along with Mayank Shivshankar Sharma. She was appointed a Director in the company on March 24, 2001. Her name figures as a Director in the company's balance sheet for the financial year 2017-2018 as well.

Sarika Paliwal was also a Director in Triton Hotels and Resorts Private Ltd for a little over a year from March 16, 2007, till July 1, 2008, a company promoted by Ratan Kant Sharma. The father's name of both Ratan Kant Sharma and Sarika Paliwal is Shiv Shankar Sharma, as seen in separate MCA documents.

Triton Hotels and Resorts also owns the Fairmont luxury hotel, in which Congress MLAs backing CM Ashok Gehlot were housed during the current political crisis.

Ratan Kant Sharma is known to be a close associate of Vaibhav Gehlot, son of Ashok Gehlot, having picked up a 50 per cent stake in March 2011 in Sunlight Car Rentals Private Ltd, a company floated by Vaibhav. He remained a shareholder till March 31, 2016.

FULL REPORTSON

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# Education and examinations in the times of Covid: what is at stake?

  
by *The Indian EXPRESS*

with

## Professor V Ramgopal Rao

Director, IIT-Delhi

The Covid-19 pandemic has wrecked academic calendars and thrown teaching processes in schools and colleges completely off-track. Over 37 million students across India stare at the prospect of a truncated education this year. The gap in the development of knowledge may take years to be bridged, especially for students from poorer economic backgrounds. For students of higher and technical education, job prospects and professional futures are at stake.

To be part of a discussion around this topic, join us at a session of E-xplained with Professor V Ramgopal Rao, Director, IIT-Delhi

in conversation with

## Ritika Chopra

Senior Assistant Editor, The Indian Express



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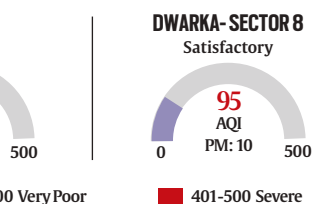
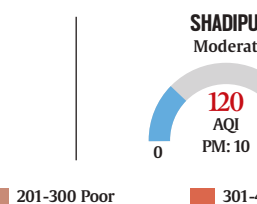
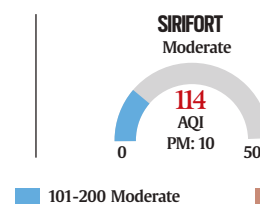
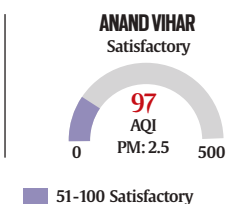
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— JOURNALISM OF COURAGE —



# 3 THE CITY



0-50 Good



51-100 Satisfactory

101-200 Moderate

201-300 Poor

301-400 Very Poor

401-500 Severe

## COVAXIN HUMAN TRIALS BEGIN AT AIIMS

# 30-year-old is first to get dose of Covid trial drug

**ASTHA SAXENA**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 24

THE ALL India Institute of Medical Sciences administered the first dose of Bharat Biotech's Covaxin to a 30-year-old man on Friday, days after it received approval from the ethics committee to start human trials. He will be monitored for two weeks and then given the second dose. The country's top medical institute is among 12 sites selected by the ICMR to conduct Phase I and II randomised, double-blind and placebo-controlled clinical trials of Covaxin.

"The first dose of 0.5 ml of the intramuscular vaccine was administered to him on Friday. He was kept under observation for two hours. A diary has been handed over to him for continuous monitoring of the conditions. We will also coordinate with him daily for at least a week to understand if he is facing any medical issues," Dr Sanjay Rai, principal investigator of the Covid-19 vaccine trial at AIIMS, told *The Indian Express*.


Covaxin, being developed by Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech in collaboration with ICMR and National Institute of Virology (NIV), recently got the nod for human clinical trials from the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI).

AIIMS director Dr Randeep Guleria had recently said that once the vaccine is developed, the priority will be high risk groups — the elderly, those with comorbidities,



Swab samples being collected for testing. *Gajendra Yadav*

## CORONAVIRUS IN THE CAPITAL

	TOTAL CASES		Total	Vacant
	1,28,389	HOSPITAL BEDS	15,431	12,304
		VENTILATORS	1,182	742
	Daily cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
July 23	1,041	1,415	26	18,226
July 24	1,025	1,866	32	19,138
Total	13,681*	1,10,931	3,777	9,08,735

\*Total active cases

facturing," he said. He had said that the duration for which a vaccine may remain effective will depend on how the virus mutates: "Influenza requires multiple vaccinations because the virus keeps mutating. We have not seen such mutations with Covid-19."

In Phase I, the vaccine would be tested on 375 volunteers, including 100 at AIIMS. The second phase would include around 750

base management systems. She said, "After he was laid off, he decided to cause financial losses to the company and settle scores with his employer. We found that he had hacked into the systems of four hospitals, some of which were Covid hospitals. He deleted 18,000 patient records, tampered with billing information of more than 3 lakh patients and created false entries of 22,000 patients."

The minister also took a meeting with the state nodal officers and heads of the hospitals to discuss the steps to reduce the mortality rate. At present, Delhi's fatality rate is 2.94% while the national average is 2.37%.

## Sacked, man tampers with hospital bills

**EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 24

A 29-YEAR-OLD software engineer who lost his job during the Covid pandemic allegedly hacked into the database of his employer's company and destroyed lakhs of bills and patient entries of hospitals in a bid to seek revenge, said police on Friday.

Police said the accused, Vikesh Sharma, worked as a senior software engineer for Easy Solution Pvt Ltd in Delhi. The company provides data management services and other web services to several hospitals and schools in the city.

DCP (Northwest) Vijayanta Arya said Sharma had access to the company's website and data-

base management systems. She said, "After he was laid off, he decided to cause financial losses to the company and settle scores with his employer. We found that he had hacked into the systems of four hospitals, some of which were Covid hospitals. He deleted 18,000 patient records, tampered with billing information of more than 3 lakh patients and created false entries of 22,000 patients."

The company CEO filed a complaint after they began losing important data of Covid and non-Covid hospitals. Arya said a case was registered under the IT Act at Adarsh Nagar. Police have seized Sharma's laptop and suspect he may have hacked into the databases of at least six hospitals. Further probe is on, police said.

## Counsel drama in February riots cases irks HC

**PRITAM PAL SINGH**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 24

THE DELHI High Court on Friday expressed irritation over the appearance of a new counsel for the Delhi Police in a petition seeking cancellation of bail given to Faisal Farooq, owner of Rajdhani Public School, in connection with a Northeast Delhi riots case.

"Why are you unnecessarily wasting time? Why don't you sit together? Both the governments (Centre and Delhi government). This issue needs to be resolved," said Justice Suresh Kumar Kait.

The court's observation came after it was informed through Centre's Standing Counsel Amit Mahajan that Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) Amit Prasad has been appointed by the President of India to represent Delhi Police in the matter.

Highlighting that it does not want the prosecution to suffer, Mahajan apprised the court that things will be sorted out in 10 days or so.

Delhi government's Standing Counsel (Criminal) Rahul Mehra said, "I fail to understand how many people will appear in this matter."

The Delhi Police's appeal against the trial court's June 20 order granting bail to Farooq was filed through Mahajan and advocate Rajat Nair. Farooq is currently in jail, as he was arrested in another case related to the riots.

When the Delhi Police's appeal came up for hearing on June 22 before Justice Kait, Mehra op-

posed it saying the Centre has no power to file this petition. Since then, the law officers have been involved in a verbal spat before the HC on the question of who would represent the Delhi Police in the hearing of the petition against Farooq.

Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Aman Lekhi had contended that he has a letter from the Delhi L-G authorising him to appear in the matter, and placed the communication before the court. Mehra had opposed the ASG's contention, saying that the July 1 letter was issued illegally as the L-G took the decision without the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers.

On Friday, a fresh application was filed by SPP Prasad submitting that the President of India has appointed 11 SPPs, including him, in relation to 752 cases pertaining to riots in Northeast Delhi and he would be representing the State.

Suhel's bail application was previously cancelled by a court on July 2 on the basis of a "wrong report" filed before the judge.

"The applicant (Suhel) was the sole accused charged in the matter. He is not seen in any CCTV footage or viral video. The investigating agency has recorded statements of various persons regarding the damage caused to their vehicles and properties, but no person has named or identified the applicant," the court said in its order.

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 24

A DELHI court has granted bail to a man accused of getting into a scuffle with a policeman and rioting in Bhajanpura during the Northeast Delhi riots, observing that "identification by the investigating officer (IO) has little significance in the matter".

It was also brought to the court's attention that accused

## SHO now faces heat for journalist murder, probe finds action lacking

**AMIL BHATNAGAR**  
GHAZIABAD, JULY 24

THREE DAYS after the murder of Ghaziabad journalist Vikram Joshi, the Station House Officer of the local police station was Friday suspended for alleged inaction.

On July 16, Joshi had filed a complaint at Vijay Nagar police station alleging that his relative had been molested. On Monday, he was shot in the head in front of his two minor daughters and succumbed to injuries on Wednesday morning at Ghaziabad's Yashoda Hospital. Police have so far arrested nine people for his murder, and claim



Vikram Joshi

the accused are the same men against whom Joshi had filed the molestation complaint.

His family alleged that police sat on the complaint, which allowed the accused to attack Joshi.

An FIR on the complaint was filed only a day after he was attacked.

"It was found that during the period between July 16 and 20, the SHO did not carry out his duties properly. The policeman did not undertake the requisite investigation and take steps to prevent further crime from taking place. In light of the above facts, he was suspended. A sub-inspector had been suspended earlier," said SSP Ghaziabad Kalandidhi Naithani.

SHO Rajiv Kumar was suspended after the enquiry set up under Circle Officer first submitted its findings.

*The Indian Express* had Thursday reported that alleged inaction by the SHO was under lens.

Joshi's family had alleged that two hours before he was shot, he made a call to sub-inspector Raghvendra — who has now been suspended — saying he was under threat from the accused mentioned in the July 16 complaint. "The accused had come to my house a day after we approached police with the complaint. On Monday, they were spotted again. Vikram called the police and said they were up to something, but he dismissed it, saying he was unwell. Could he not have sent someone else?" Joshi's sister had said.

To ensure swift probe, Ghaziabad Police has transferred the case from Vijay Nagar to Kotwali police station.



## TATA STEEL LIMITED

Registered Office: Bombay House, 24, Homi Mody Street, Fort, Mumbai - 400 001, India  
Tel.: +91 22 6665 8282  
E-mail: cosec@tatasteel.com Website: www.tatasteel.com  
CIN: L27100MH1907PLC000260

### PUBLIC NOTICE – 113<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This is to inform that in view of the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, the 113<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting ('AGM'/Meeting') of the Members of Tata Steel Limited ('the Company') will be convened through two-way Video Conference ('VC')/Other Audio-Visual Means ('OAVM'), in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and the rules made thereunder, read with General Circulars No. 14/2020 dated April 8, 2020, No. 17/2020 dated April 13, 2020, No. 20/2020 dated May 5, 2020 issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ('MCA') (collectively referred to as 'MCA Circulars') and Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD/1/CIR/P/2020/79 dated May 12, 2020 issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India ('SEBI Circular').

The 113<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting ('AGM') of the Members of Tata Steel Limited will be held on Thursday, August 20, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. (IST) through VC/OAVM facility provided by National Securities and Depositories Limited ('NSDL') to transact the businesses as set out in the Notice convening the AGM.

The e-copy of the Notice of the AGM along with the Integrated Report & Annual Accounts for the Financial Year 2019-20 ('the Integrated Report') of the Company will be available on the website of the Company at [www.tatasteel.com](http://www.tatasteel.com) and on the website of NSDL at [www.evoting.nsdl.com](http://www.evoting.nsdl.com). Additionally, the Notice of AGM will also be available and may be accessed from the relevant section of the websites of the stock exchanges i.e. BSE Limited ('BSE') and National Stock Exchange of India Limited ('NSE') at [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com) respectively.

Members can attend and participate in the AGM **ONLY** through the VC/OAVM facility, the details of which will be provided by the Company in the Notice of the AGM. Accordingly, please note that no provision has been made to attend and participate in the 113<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Company in person, to ensure compliance with the directives issued by the government authorities with respect to COVID-19 pandemic. Members attending the meeting through VC/OAVM shall be counted for the purpose of reckoning the quorum under Section 103 of the Companies Act, 2013.

The Notice of the AGM along with the Integrated Report will be sent electronically to those Members whose e-mail addresses are registered with the Company / Registrars & Transfer Agent ('Registrar/RTA') / Depository Participants ('DPs'). As per the SEBI Circular, no physical copies of the 113<sup>th</sup> AGM Notice and Integrated Report will be sent to any Shareholder. Members who have not yet registered their e-mail addresses are requested to follow the process mentioned below, before 5:00 p.m. (IST) on Thursday, August 13, 2020, for registering their e-mail addresses to receive the Notice of AGM and Integrated Report electronically and to receive login ID and password for e-voting:

### I. For Members who hold shares in Electronic form:

- Visit the link: <https://green.tsrdarashaw.com/green/events/login/ti>
- Enter the DP ID & Client ID, PAN details and captcha code
- System will verify the Client ID and PAN details
- On successful verification, system will allow you to enter your e-mail address and mobile number
- Enter your e-mail address and mobile number
- The system will then confirm the e-mail address for the limited purpose of service of this AGM Notice & Integrated Report

### II. For Members who hold shares in Physical form:

- Visit the link: <https://green.tsrdarashaw.com/green/events/login/ti>
- Enter the physical Folio Number, PAN details and captcha code
- In the event the PAN details are not available on record, Member to enter one of the share certificate's number
- System will verify the Folio Number and PAN details or the share certificate number
- On successful verification, system will allow you to enter your e-mail address and mobile number
- Enter your e-mail address and mobile number
- If PAN details are not available, the system will prompt the Member to upload a self-attested copy of the PAN card
- The system will then confirm the e-mail address for the purpose of service of this AGM Notice & Integrated Report

For permanent registration of the e-mail address, Members holding shares in demat form, are requested to update the same with their DPs and in case the Members are holding shares in physical form, are requested to update the same with the RTA by writing to them at [csg-unit@tsrdarashaw.com](mailto:csg-unit@tsrdarashaw.com).

The Company is pleased to provide remote e-voting facility ('remote e-voting') of NSDL to all its Members to cast their votes on all resolutions set out in the Notice of the AGM. Additionally, the Company shall also provide the facility of voting through remote e-voting system during the Meeting. Detailed procedure for remote e-voting before the AGM / during the AGM will be provided in the Notice of the AGM.

**Members who have not updated their bank account details for receiving the dividend directly in their bank accounts through Electronic Clearing Service or any other means may follow the below instructions to do so:**

<b>Physical Holding</b>	Send hard copies of the following details/documents to the Company's RTA, viz. TSR Darashaw Consultants Private Limited ('TSR'), (formerly TSR Darashaw Limited) at 6-10, Haji Moosa Patrawala Industrial Estate (Near Famous Studio), 20, Dr. E. Moses Road, Mahalaxmi, Mumbai 400 011, latest by Friday, July 31, 2020. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a signed request letter mentioning your name, folio number(s), complete address and following details relating to Bank Account in which the dividend is to be received:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Name and Branch of Bank and Bank Account type;</li> <li>Bank Account Number &amp; Type allotted by your Bank after implementation of Core Banking Solutions;</li> <li>11 digit IFSC Code;</li> </ol> </li> <li>Cancelled cheque in original bearing the name of the Member or first holder, in case shares are held jointly;</li> <li>self-attested copy of the PAN Card; and</li> <li>self-attested copy of any document (such as Aadhaar Card, Driving Licence, Election Identity Card, Passport) in support of the address of the Member as registered with the Company</li> </ol>
<b>Demat Holding</b>	Members holding shares in demat form are requested to update their Electronic Bank Mandate with their respective DPs.

The Members who are unable to receive the dividend directly in their bank account through Electronic Clearing Service or any other means, due to non-registration of the Electronic Bank Mandate, the Company shall dispatch the dividend warrant/Bankers' cheque/demand draft to such Members, upon normalization of postal services and other activities.

Pursuant to the Finance Act, 2020, dividend income is taxable in the hands of the Members w.e.f. April 1, 2020 and the Company is required to deduct tax at source ('TDS') from dividend paid to the Members at prescribed rates in the Income Tax Act, 1961 ('the IT Act'). In general, to enable compliance with TDS requirements, Members are requested to complete and / or update their Residential Status, PAN, Category as per the IT Act with their DPs or in case shares are held in physical form with the Company / RTA by sending documents through e-mail on or before July 31, 2020. The detailed process of the same is available on the website of the Company at <https://www.tatasteel.com/media/12252/nsebsse.pdf>.

**Tata Steel Limited**  
Sd/-  
**Parvatheesam Kanchinadham**  
Company Secretary &  
Chief Legal Officer (Corporate & Compliance)  
(ACS: A15921)

**TATA STEEL**

New Delhi



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# UP-RERA

## THREE YEARS OF TRANSPARENCY

**A few years back, when the real estate industry began to receive flak from consumers because of bogus and defaulting projects, it became clear that the glory days of the industry were over. The government passed the RERA Act in 2016 in each state to regulate the sector. It also acts as an adjudicating body for speedy dispute resolution. In the past three years, UP-RERA has initiated several measures to restore the confidence of buyers and bring order and discipline among promoters**

## Committed to the cause of revival of real estate sector

### What are some of the landmark achievements of UP RERA in the past 3 years?

In the past three years, we've achieved two broad objectives of RERA. First, we've been able to infuse confidence among buyers. Nowadays, buyers are very confident that whatever amount they're investing in any housing or commercial project that money will not be wasted because RERA is there to address their concern, if any. They're assured that the money will be productively utilised by the promoter. So, the confidence of buyers has been restored which was earlier missing when RERA was not constituted.

Second, the promoters and developers have also become disciplined, as they've started to maintain an ESCROW Account. So, 70% of the total amount invested by buyers is currently going to the ESCROW Account. And from this particular ESCROW Account, developers and promoters are spending for the development of projects. This means that promoters and developers are now sticking to the financial discipline as mandated by RERA. So, these are the two broad objectives that the authority has achieved.

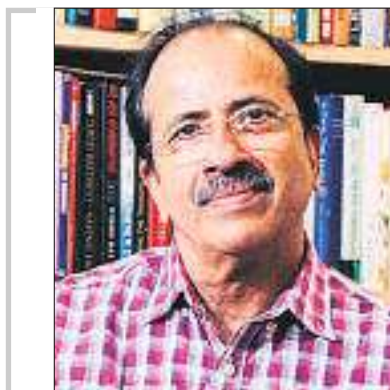
Third, in Uttar Pradesh (UP), merely 26,170 complaints have been filed so far before UP RERA, out of which 19,240 complaints have already been disposed of. Moreover, a large number of buyers have got possession of their

units or they've got their entire money back along with the interest due on the amount. Not all buyers, but certainly many distressed buyers have benefited from this rule. Fourth, we've registered 2,827 projects during the past three years, out of which 2,043 are 'on-going' projects, meaning these were the projects started before the promulgation of RERA. The remaining 784 projects are new and are registered under RERA. Furthermore, buyers have also become aware as they look for RERA-registered projects before investing. So, these are some of the landmark achievements of RERA in the past few years.

### How has COVID-19 affected your organisation's work?

UP RERA has two offices in the state, one at Lucknow and the other at Greater Noida. Both our offices were closed from March 20 onwards due to COVID-19. From May end onwards, we started virtual hearings through video conferencing. Currently, we're hearing about 100 cases on a daily basis through four different benches. For buyers, we're trying to resolve their cases expeditiously. Second, we're also convening meetings with the promoters and also organising authority's meetings through video conferencing. So, we've adapted ourselves very well to the new work culture in times of this pandemic.

### What help are you extending to promoters during this time?



*In an insightful take on the journey of UP-RERA, Balvinder Kumar, Member, UP Real Estate Regulatory Authority (UP-RERA), says, "We're keeping a keen eye on the developments arising out of the pandemic and have, consequently, started virtual hearings of all the pending cases through video conferencing, extended the deadline for completion of real estate projects by six months in the face of the outbreak, and assured our full support to buyers and promoters come what may in this situation."*

To help promoters, UP RERA has decided to extend the deadline for completion of real estate projects by six months in the face of the coronavirus outbreak. Also, the fee for the extension has been exempted. We have given this 6-month timeframe, believing that most of the promoters will be in a position to resume their projects just as they were doing in

*In an insightful take on the journey of UP-RERA, Balvinder Kumar, Member, UP Real Estate Regulatory Authority (UP-RERA), says, "We're keeping a keen eye on the developments arising out of the pandemic and have, consequently, started virtual hearings of all the pending cases through video conferencing, extended the deadline for completion of real estate projects by six months in the face of the outbreak, and assured our full support to buyers and promoters come what may in this situation."*

pre-COVID-19 time. Currently, we're also not issuing refund orders for developers or promoters who are seriously attempting to complete their projects. We're also asking buyers to wait for these projects to complete. We're trying to mitigate buyers' concerns through best possible means and measures.

### How do you differentiate a good

### promoter from a bad one?

There are a large number of promoters who are doing a great work, evinced from the negligible number of complaints against them. So, this is how we know that a particular promoter must be good in his dealings as he has either no complaints or minimal complaints against him. Similarly, there are a large number of promoters that have numerous complaints against them, especially the large builders. So, this is a way to identify both types of promoters.

### How do you safeguard the interests of buyers in case the promoter has run away with their investments?

There are two types of promoters in this category. First, there are some of these projects which are RERA registered so they come under our purview, for which we're doing whatever there is to be done to safeguard the interests of buyers. We're passing orders and issuing recovery orders against such promoters. Second, there are also projects which are not registered under RERA, so they are not under our purview. In such a scenario, we examine such cases and try to ascertain whether these projects can be brought under the purview of RERA or not, meaning whether these projects are RERA registrable or not. To ascertain whether the project is registrable or not, we've to see whether the project was under the 'ongoing' category when the RERA

Act came into force.

'Ongoing' category means the land was in the name of the promoter and there was a validity of map sanction. So, if we find this is the case, we ask the promoter to register the project with RERA. However, we've found that many projects are not registrable with RERA. So, in such cases, buyers are approaching both state and national level consumer courts to seek a remedy for this situation. Under RERA, we entertain only those cases in which the projects are registered with us.

### What measures does RERA take when a promoter registers his project late, in order to inordinately delay his project beyond the agreement signed with the buyer?

In that case, we take the cognisance of builder-buyer agreement (BBA). Whenever the BBA was signed with the buyer and whatever date or duration for completion of that project is written in that BBA is what we go by. We strictly go by the timeline mentioned in the BBA, and not the timeline which he had given at the time of registration of his project under RERA. Second, whenever there's a delay in delivery beyond the timeline mentioned in the BBA, there we are awarding MCLR plus 1% as delay penalty. It comes about 8.5 to 9% of interest. So, the delay penalties are being awarded on the basis of dates which the promoter has committed under the BBA.

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Project's RERA Reg. No.: UPRERAPRJ3989

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# UP-RERA

## THREE YEARS OF TRANSPARENCY



**“ THE UP-RERA HAS** been doing an exceptional work in the last three years in ushering transparency and boosting homebuyers’ confidence in the real estate sector. More importantly, it has played an enabling role in the industry becoming more organised, accountable and disciplined with strict project delivery timelines, better enforcement, reducing litigations and through other safeguards that have cumulatively helped in empowering homebuyers. In fact, I must congratulate UP-RERA for having disposed of maximum number of consumer complaints during the last three years.

RERA has been a revolutionary policy change for the industry and with few updations in the rules after considering the ground situations, it will contribute to faster completion of projects, which will stimulate the economy and create more jobs.

**Rohtas Goel,**  
*Chairman & Managing Director, Omaxe Ltd*

**“ SINCE RERA’S** formation, things have become more transparent and healthy for both buyers and the developers. As a mandatory process now, the money taken for the project is being utilised for its development purpose only. RERA has been very beneficial for those builders who were doing fair practice in the industry. It has also played an important role in eliminating the wrongdoers of the industry while building a promising and a trustworthy relationship between a builder and its buyers. I think buyers have this confidence now that someone is there to listen to their plea and they don’t have to take the legal route straight away for the issues. On the other hand builders have also become more agile and transparent to their work. So, as a regulatory body, RERA has proven to be beneficial to the real estate industry. We also like to thank the Noida Authority and all its members who are involved in making the process smooth and easy for us. There is no doubt that RERA has given a needed boost to the real estate industry and we hope the industry keeps on flourishing with such support.

**Ajay Kumar,***CMD, ACE Group*



**“ RERA HAS** provided a well-needed refresh to the real estate sector and has succeeded in providing both customers and developers much-needed facilities to promote transparency and accountability in the sector. UP-RERA, under the able guidance of Rajive Kumar ji and Balvinder Kumar ji, has succeeded to solve over 15,000 complaints in just a short span of three years. The push and motivation that it has provided to developers to complete their projects on time and provide quality work have increased the benchmark of quality and provided an immense economic boost to the sector.

The Customer Reconciliation Platform provided by RERA gives customers a much-needed forum to talk about their problems and for developers to address it. UP-RERA has been successful due to the commendable implementation of the RERA Act done by the Uttar Pradesh government.

At SKA, we have always supported and commended all decisions of the UP-RERA and have always tried our best to abide by it. We have zero RERA complaints against any of our projects till date. I take pride in being a part of such an innovative and forward-looking sector and will always be a supporter of the RERA Act.

**Sanjay Sharma,**  
*Director, SKA Group*



**Rajiv Gupta, MD, Waveinfratech**

## RERA: A win-win situation for all

**What are your views on the performance of RERA in the past three years?**

Rera has done a commendable job in streamlining the real estate sector as a whole. It has instilled confidence in the investors, lenders and consumers. Since the RERA Act became effective, it changed the total scenario of real estate in India. On completion of the first year, several states failed to understand what is RERA Act actually saying and got confused regarding the ‘ongoing project’, and kept it outside the ambit of RERA. In the second year of RERA, the Supreme Court, as well as the regulatory authorities, started compelling the states for setting up the RERA official website. This year, among the states, left being the forerunner in the implementation of RERA India, geared up for it. Very useful changes has come in the way of advertising a product, clear definition of carpet area, restriction of advance money from the buyer, setting up of escrow account etc. RERA has disposed almost 50,000 complaints in past three years which is remarkable.

**What is that one thing that you would want RERA to correct for the benefit of developers?**

All developer-related complaints/issues should only go to RERA. Currently there are multiple channels available for buyers to go to, which can be avoided.



**What will be your expectations from RERA in the coming two-three years?**

As a one stop solution for all the real estate matters, be it the government au-

thorities, developers, customers, contractors, property agents & it should create a win-win situation for everyone.

**How do you see the industry evolve in the coming few years?**


The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has given its approval for the Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) platform, which will allow all kind of investors to invest in the Indian real estate market. It would create an opportunity worth Rs 1.25 trillion (US\$ 19.65 billion) in the Indian market in the coming years. Responding to an increasingly well-informed consumer base and bearing in mind the aspect of globalisation, Indian real estate developers have shifted gears and accepted fresh challenges. The most marked change has been the shift from family owned businesses to that of professionally managed ones.



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**WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK THE UP RERA FOR ITS CO-OPERATION AND PROMPTNESS.**





# Shastri Park flyover ready by Aug: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 24

DESPITE SETBACKS, the Shastri Park flyover will be ready by August, said Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal as he assessed the progress of the flyover's construction on Friday evening. Public Works Development (PWD) Minister Satyendar Jain and other officials also accompanied him.

The six-lane Shastri Park junction flyover will be 700-metres long. Each carriageway will be around 10.5 metres wide.

The flyover will have two loops — one for commuters going from Khajuri Chowk to Kashmere Gate and the other for those travelling towards Shahdara from Gandhi Nagar.

The flyover is set to reduce travel time from Kashmere Gate Inter-State Bus Terminal to



Shahdara to 5-7 minutes.

Addressing the media, Kejriwal said: "Construction of Shastri Park and Seelampur flyovers is nearly complete. The straight portion will be inaugurated in August and the loops

will take around one-and-a-half months more to be completed."

"The sanctioned cost of the projects was Rs 303 crore, but will hopefully be completed within Rs 250 crore. The project would have been complete by



Inspecting the six-lane Shastri Park flyover on Friday, the CM said the project was stalled by the pandemic. *Amit Mehra*

now, had it not been for Covid."

The flyover being built at Seelampur is parallel to an already existing one-way flyover. The new one-way, two-lane flyover will be 1,200 metres long. APWD official said 90% of the

work on the flyovers is done:

"The project was nearing completion before the lockdown, and it did not push us back by many months. Tenders were given till August and the work should be done by then."

# Sisodia writes to Shah on officer transfer: Why not consult us?

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 24

A DAY after the Ministry of Home Affairs issued an order to transfer Delhi's Director of Education to Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Deputy Chief Minister and Education Minister Manish Sisodia wrote to Home Minister Amit Shah questioning the intent of the transfer and asking that it be reconsidered.

On Friday evening, the MHA had issued an order for the immediate transfer of seven IAS officers from Delhi, which included Director of Education Binay Bhushan.

Bhushan has been education director for around a year, but has been a part of the education department for a long time.

Sisodia pointed to the CBSE Class XII board results which



Deputy CM  
Manish  
Sisodia

were declared last week in which 98% of Delhi government students had passed, and wrote that the transfer order had been issued — without consulting the state government — just as the education department had been discussing how to help the remaining 2% students pass and understanding what went wrong in their case.

"I am not understanding why you have done this. Were you not happy that Delhi government schools produced good results? Didn't you think that the team of

officials who made this possible should be congratulated and their work should be presented before the whole country as a model so that government schools across the country can regain their lost dignity? Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal believes that without education, we cannot make the country strong and developed... Don't you think that you should take such a Chief Minister alongside you to discuss reforming the layout of education in the country rather than sending his education director away from Delhi without consulting him?" he wrote.

Sisodia went on to request that Bhushan's transfer order be reconsidered and that he be allowed to retain his position as education director till March 2021 — the end of the current academic year.

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# UP-RERA THREE YEARS OF TRANSPARENCY



## UP-RERA: A boon to home buyers

ONE OF the greatest things that happened in the real estate sector is the formation of a Regulatory Authority having judicial powers listening to the grievances of home-buyers and providing redressal. The formation of RERA happened as a result of persistent complaints about "fly by night" operators in the real estate sector, who have been taking the gullible home buyers for a ride by deceiving them and usurping their hard earned money.

While looking back, the track record of UP-RERA under the able leadership of Shri Rajive Kumar, IAS, Chairman, and Shri Abrar Ahmed, IAS, Secretary, during the last three years since its formation, in monitoring the real estate projects in Uttar Pradesh, is commendable. On one hand the home buyers get their grievances redressed, the developers are also get rid of unnecessary disputes and agitations from various quarters. As the statutory authority having judicial powers in place, the confidence of home buyers is also high as there is a feeling of being secured while doing transactions in real estate properties.

Supertech Group, as a Developer having large number of projects in the state, places on record the great satisfaction and the cooperation from the side of UP-RERA.

**R K Arora,**  
Chairman, Supertech Group

ADVERTORIAL

## THE REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY IS BASICALLY FIDUCIARY IN NATURE. ITS SUCCESS AND FAILURE IS DIRECTLY LINKED TO THE TRUST AND COMFORT THAT BUYERS HAVE IN THE INDUSTRY.

Unfortunately, some fly by night operators entered the real estate arena and the entire industry earned a bad for the misdeeds of a handful of companies. In the wake of it, birth of an sectoral regulator was inevitable and it was just a matter of time.

The wait was over three years ago and over these years - RERA - the regulator - has played a pivotal role in restoring that trust to a large extent, and have managed successful in resurrection of the sector. A clear indication of it is the higher FDI as well as Private Equity investment that the sector has attracted over the last three years.

Most of our projects are located in the state of Uttar Pradesh and we consider ourselves extremely fortunate to work under the guidance and monitoring of authorities like UP RERA. They have earned a name for themselves and rightly so, for being one of the most proactive regulators in the country addressing grievances of both buyers and builders on utmost priority. While close to 49,000 cases have been resolved across the country over the last three years, a whopping 19,000 cases have been successfully resolved by UP RERA alone. All the stakeholders including ourselves are well and truly grateful to UP RERA for its speedy disposition.

But a lot still needs to be done. As the objective of the regulator is to protect both the interest of buyers and developers alike, the regulator needs to find a balance between buyers and developers interest.

It ought to ensure that the buyers get possession of their homes as per the promised timeline, and are duly compensated for any delay in project completion. But equally important is that it must address some of the challenges faced by the industry. For instance, the government authorities are a stakeholder in development of a project, hence they also should be brought under the purview of Rera. This will surely increase efficiency of the whole ecosystem.

Notwithstanding the fact that the sector has managed to regain some trust, yet, getting finances from financial institutions including bank and NBFCs is nothing short of a



**Manoj Gaur, MD, Gaurs Group; Chairman, Affordable Housing Committee, CREDAI (National) & Chairman, PHDCCI - UP Chapter**

battle. In the larger interest of the industry, which is one of the most vital claw in the entire ecosystem, RERA must play an active role in addressing the issue.

Similarly, kickstarting stalled projects also assumes importance as this will greatly boost the confidence of buyers in the sector, which is extremely crucial, both the economy as a whole and employment generation.



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# 7 THE CITY

## Gurgaon relies on fish to tackle mosquitoes

SAKSHI DAYAL  
GURGAON, JULY 24

IN AN effort to tackle vector-borne diseases during monsoon, the district health department has released Gambusia fish, which feed on larvae of mosquitoes, into 72 water bodies in Gurgaon. The district has a total of 153 ponds and *johads*, of which 117 are permanent and 36 are areas where water fills up only during monsoon.

"During the monsoon, there is a risk of mosquitoes breeding in stagnant water bodies and of diseases related to them, such as malaria and dengue, spreading. To protect against this, we have recently introduced Gambusia fish in ponds in several villages, including Wazirabad, Ghata, Ullahwas, and Palra," said Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Virender Yadav.

Officials said Gambusia fish can eat the larvae of at least 100 to 300 mosquitoes each day and can easily live in shallow ponds.

Apart from this, officials from the health department said that other measures have also been taken in anticipation of vector-borne diseases, including arranging for "adequate amounts" of Tamiflu, which is used in treatment of swine flu, and larvicide, which is an insecticide meant to kill mosquito larvae before they become full grown adults. Chemicals for fogging as well as black oil that can be sprayed on water bodies to prevent larvae growth have also been procured.

"Breeding checkers... will be deployed for the next three months. Around 35 breeding checkers have been sanctioned by the state," said the CMO.

According to the health department data, 22 cases of dengue and 15 cases of malaria were reported in Gurgaon last year.

### BRIEFLY

#### Minor raped by 2 men

**Noida:** A 13-year-old minor was allegedly gang raped in Greater Noida Thursday. Police said they have received a complaint from the victim's father against two persons, including one who allegedly had an old rivalry with the family. The accused are yet to be arrested, police said. **ENS**

#### 53 foreigners allowed to go

**New Delhi:** A Delhi court Friday allowed 53 foreign nationals from Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan and South Africa, who attended the Tablighi Jamaat gathering in Nizamuddin Markaz, to walk free on payment of varying fines, after they accepted mild charges under a plea bargain process.

#### DDA launches new portal

**New Delhi:** DDA has launched a new interactive microsite, 'Public Engagement Portal for MPD-2041', to share information on the preparation of Master Plan Delhi-2041 as well as a number of visioning and perception surveys for citizens' feedback.

#### Jat leader arrested

**Gurgaon:** A 73-year-old Jat leader, Hawa Singh Sangwan, was arrested by Gurgaon Police for allegedly using abusive words against a particular community, criticising freedom fighter Rao Tularam, and making "wrong comments" against the Yadav regiment in a Facebook post, which has since been taken down. **ENS**

### AAP MLAs THREATEN PROTEST IN 3 DAYS

## Govt-MCD spar over unpaid hospital staff, waterlogging

ABHINAV RAJPUT  
NEW DELHI, JULY 24

FROM WATERLOGGING in the capital to non-payment of salaries to hospital staff, the BJP-led municipal corporations and the Aam Aadmi Party engaged in a bitter faceoff on a host of issues Friday.

Mayors of the three MCDs — North, South and East — blamed the AAP government for waterlogging and demanded that the funds allegedly owed to civic bodies be released soon. AAP leaders hit back at a press conference, accusing the civic bodies of rampant corruption and not paying healthcare workers.

At a joint press conference, North Delhi Mayor Jai Prakash, South Delhi Mayor Anamika and East Delhi Mayor Nirmal Jain also alleged that the Delhi government was "not cooperating" with the corporations in fighting Covid or addressing key civic issues.

"Delhi is suffering from Covid and the city government woke up only after the Union Home Minister swung into action. And



Praveen Khanna

**North MCD Mayor Jai Prakash said AAP govt isn't cooperating; AAP's Raghav Chadha said they will hit the streets if the dues owed to health workers are not cleared in three days**

now people are facing waterlogging. We are saying, let's work together, but the AAP government doesn't wish to," Prakash said.

"There are five agencies associated with waterlogging issues — PWD (Public Works Department), DJB (Delhi Jal Board), DSIDC (Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation), Flood Department, and MCDs. Four of the agencies are under the Delhi government; we only take care of drains which are up to 4-feet deep. The government should have prepared well for the mon-



soon. We see what happens at Minto Bridge every year," he said. A 56-year-old man driving a mini-truck had drowned Sunday after he was stuck under the waterlogged Minto Bridge.

"We are unable to pay salaries to our healthcare workers as our source of income has dried up during the pandemic. We urge the Delhi government to release funds worth Rs 1,108 crore due to the North MCD, and similarly to the other two corporations," Prakash said.

At a press conference, AAP MLA and DJB vice-chairman

Raghav Chadha said that healthcare workers in MCD-run hospitals had not been given salary for the past three months.

He alleged that this was "because of the corruption plaguing the corporations": "Delhi's municipal corporations are one of the biggest corruption machineries of India. The whole of BJP is part of this corruption and they benefit from it. AAP demands that BJP should not violate the rights of doctors, and should immediately pay salaries to doctors who are working tirelessly."

The MCD's claim that payment of wages have been irregular due to non-implementation of the 5th Delhi Finance Commission recommendations by the Delhi government was also rejected by AAP. AAP MLA Atishi alleged: "MCDs get money from taxes, property taxes, advertisements, etc, but BJP leaders put it in their pockets. They do the same with the money given to the MCDs by the Delhi government."

Chadha said AAP will hit the streets if dues owed to health workers are not cleared in the next three days.

## PWD to keep eye on Minto Bridge 24x7



At Minto Bridge over the weekend. Prem Nath Pandey

ASHNA BUTANI  
NEW DELHI, JULY 24

DAYS AFTER a 56-year-old man drowned under Minto Bridge, due to heavy waterlogging, the Public Works Department has announced 24x7 monitoring of the area and regular pumping of water to ensure there is no repeat of the incident.

In a circular issued Friday, PWD said an executive engineer will monitor the area 24x7. It has also decided to barricade roads leading to the bridge if water level

risers above 45 cm. If any individual or vehicle attempts to enter despite the barricading, PWD officials will file an FIR with the Delhi Police. Officials said traffic on roads leading to the bridge will be diverted by Delhi Traffic Police.

"Our first priority is to ensure there is no waterlogging. For that, there is a permanent pumphouse and a number of pumps deployed at the spot. But if, for any reason, the area does get waterlogged, we want to shut traffic so that there is no loss of life or damage to property," said a senior PWD official.

## Scooter skids on caved-in road, man dies of head injuries

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 24

A 29-YEAR-OLD man died of severe head injuries after his scooter skidded on a road in Vasant Kunj, a portion of which had caved in following heavy rain last weekend.

Police said the incident took place at Rajokri village road on July 20.

The victim, Kapil Dev, was riding his scooter when it skid due to the gap in the road. He fell off the two-wheeler and sustained injuries to his head.

Police said they received information about the accident around 9 pm on Monday.

Dev was found lying on the road near his scooter, with blood gushing from his head.

He rushed to Safdarjung Hospital but was declared dead on arrival by doctors. Sachin Kumar, who called the PCR van, said, "I was driving back home when I saw a man lying on the road. I thought he slipped because there was a lot of water on

the road, but then I saw that a small part of the road had caved in. I rushed to help the man; he was lying unconscious. I called police and the ambulance immediately."

Since police couldn't find an eyewitness to the incident, a case was registered at Vasant Kunj South police station against unknown persons under IPC sections 279 (rash driving) and 304 A (culpable homicide).

In the FIR registered on July 21, police said, "The ASI tried to look for an eyewitness at the hospital and the spot but couldn't find one. On the basis of the probe, the man died in an accident." Following investigation, police found that the man didn't hit any other vehicle and fell due to the gap in the road. Further investigation is underway.

Police said Dev worked at a shop in Udyog Vihar and was on his way home when the incident took place. He is survived by his wife and their two children, who live in an apartment in Rajokri.

## Soon, one portal to register property

SOURAV ROY BARMAN  
NEW DELHI, JULY 24

A MAJOR initiative is in the works to simplify the process of property registration in Delhi, under which a web portal is being created where digitised copies of every document needed to carry out a transaction will be available at the touch of a button.

Considering the multiplicity of agencies in Delhi, the same task currently requires a person to browse through multiple portals or make trips to government offices, before registering the property at one of the many sub-

registrar offices in the city.

The initiative taken by the Urban Development department, under its 'ease of doing business project', comes months after the Centre made a renewed push ahead of the assembly polls to hand over ownership rights to owners of properties in the city's over 1,700 unauthorised colonies.

The department recently floated a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the proposed integrated portal. An official of the department explained that in order to register a property, a person may need access to details including chain of ownership, loan taken using the property as mortgage,

arrear of dues of property tax, water tax, status of litigation in courts: "Getting the requisite papers is a cumbersome process now. One needs to run around offices of the MCDs, revenue department, land and development office, or log onto their portals..."

This is where the proposed web portal promises to be useful. It will also have options for people to view and download land records, including certified digitally signed maps in possession of land record agencies of Delhi, and all other property related historical and current information required for its registration.

Similar plans floated in the

past, including by the Sheila Dikshit government, did not see much progress. The conferring of ownership rights to residents of unauthorised colonies has also remained a politically contested issue over the years, gaining steam ahead of every state election.

The latest RFP rekindles that promise. The objectives of the project, it says, is to put together a system where a citizen can view, request, apply or engage with various government authorities related to property registration in Delhi, and also obtain certified copy of documents online by making requisite payments.



The OBE exam was postponed twice. Archive

### SLATED FOR AUGUST 10

## Exams delayed, DU students say placement hit, can't join work

SUKRITA BARUAH  
NEW DELHI, JULY 24

THE REPEATED postponement of Delhi University's online Open Book Examination (OBE) and the uncertainty around it has created problems for students offered placements, with many unable to join their jobs and having to negotiate with recruiters.

A B.Com (Honours) 3rd year student of Shri Ram College of Commerce was supposed to join a major consultancy firm in June. "When the lockdown started

and the OBE was first scheduled, we told our recruiters that we would join after the exams and they agreed to push back our date of joining. Now once again, the exams have been postponed for another month..." said the student.

The OBEs for final-year students were scheduled to start on July 1, and were subsequently postponed to July 10. Now, they have been postponed to August 10. Normally, DU students are done with final exams in May.

For many students, however, the postponement has meant



### SAFE & SOUND

**Personnel of the President's Bodyguards during a marching drill at Rashtrapati Bhawan on Friday. Praveen Khanna**

## Over 150 police personnel to be motivated to work harder

MAHENDER SINGH  
MANRAL  
NEW DELHI, JULY 24

A TOTAL of 162 policemen have been identified from 15 districts for not adequately contributing to work. This comes after Delhi Police Commissioner S N Shrivastava asked all DCPs to identify personnel who need to be motivated and counselled.

In a recent crime review meeting held via video conferencing, Shrivastava also asked all DCPs to ensure that adequate deployment be made after co-ordinating with PCR units to cover not just vulnerable areas and stretches, but also spots where there is high visibility to raise the sense of security among the public.

"He also told all DCPs that it is the responsibility of every senior officer to identify policemen who are not contributing satisfacto-

**162 policemen have been identified from 15 districts for not contributing to work sufficiently**

rily in work. Such policemen should be motivated, counselled and brought back to field duties. Policemen posted in their home district for many years should be transferred to other districts," a senior police officer said.

Delhi Police Spokesperson Mandeep Singh Randhawa said the initiative was started by the police chief as they want to utilise the expertise of all policemen and don't want anyone left behind.

According to Delhi Police data until July 11, the maximum number of personnel have been identified in Outer district (31), followed by West (25) and South

(21). North East and Central are the only districts where no personnel were identified.

Said DCP (West district) Deepak Purohit: "We have identified personnel who have problems with alcoholism or psychological or medical issues. We are providing them counselling, while those with medical issues will be deployed in office."

In some districts, senior officers are also approaching family members of the personnel to address their issues. DCP (South West) Devender Arya said: "We are also assigning tasks to them as per their potential and have received a positive response so far."

The police chief also asked all DCPs that the issue of missing children be tackled with utmost seriousness. "DCPs have been told to monitor each and every case personally. The functioning of the anti-human trafficking unit needs to be infused with vigour," an officer said.

## Ammonia level up in Yamuna, treatment hit

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 24

HIGH LEVELS of ammonia were detected in Yamuna at the Wazirabad barrage, from where water is supplied to the city, prompting the Delhi Jal Board to reduce water treatment capacity by 25% at three plants Friday.

The situation was brought under control by afternoon and the plants were expected to resume normal operations by evening, said a senior DJB official.

"The problem occurred after heavy rainfall caused officials in Haryana to open the gates of drains that had stagnant water

with high concentration of pollutants..." the official said. The Haryana irrigation and flood control officials could not be reached for a comment Friday.

The DJB official added that effluents from industrial units upstream of the Wazirabad barrage would have also caused the spike in pollutant levels. The situation was brought under control by diluting the water through fresh supply from Munak canal.

Meanwhile, the stretch of the Yamuna around the Okhla barrage in the city was seen covered with a layer of froth on Friday.

ADPCC official said this was a natural phenomenon that occurs this time every year.



The stretch of the Yamuna around the Okhla barrage in the city was seen covered with a layer of froth on Friday. PTI

## 53-year-old policeman dies of Covid

SOMYA LAKHANI  
NEW DELHI, JULY 24

A 53-YEAR-OLD Delhi Police head constable, deployed at East Delhi's Madhu Vihar police station, died of Covid-19 on Friday evening. After testing positive for the virus on July 13, HC Satya Narayan was admitted to a Covid care centre in Akshardham and then shifted to Lok Nayak Hospital.

DCP (East) Jasmeet Singh said, "Satya Narayan underwent plasma therapy on Thursday. Sadly, he didn't survive, and passed away Friday."

Singh said the head constable suffered from various comorbidities, including diabetes and also had a heart stent.

A police officer said Narayan was on leave since June 26 due to high blood pressure and heart-related issues.

Narayan is survived by his wife and their two sons, who live in Bhajanpura. His last rites were conducted under Covid protocol on Friday. So far, 14 Delhi Police personnel have died of Covid-19.

As per Delhi Police data, over 2,500 personnel contracted the virus, of which over 2,200 have resumed their duties.



## 8 GOVT &amp; POLITICS

DELHI **CONFIDENTIAL**

## POST PUZZLE

NEWLY ELECTED Rajya Sabha MPs were nominated to standing committees Thursday. But the nomination of former deputy chairman Hariwansh to a panel generated curiosity. The post of deputy chairman became vacant when his Rajya Sabha term ended. Now he has been re-elected as a member. The deputy chairman is not a member of any standing committee. So will Hariwansh not be made deputy chairman again? Rajya Sabha sources say chairman M Venkaiah Naidu has begun looking into the procedures for election to the post. They say Hariwansh can be re-elected as deputy chairman, but that it is a political call the ruling NDA will make. Hariwansh will resign as member of the panel when he is re-elected deputy chairman, they add.

## BALANCING ACT

THE GROWING discontent among party cadre over lateral entries in the BJP and Shivraj Singh Chouhan government appeared to be a key issue in the discussions between the RSS leadership and BJP leaders in Madhya Pradesh this week. Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat, who was in Bhopal this week, met old associates and top ministers. He was in the city for a meeting of the RSS top leadership. While many of the senior ministers inducted into the Chouhan government recently are having a rendezvous with Bhagwat, he is unlikely to give time for those who have migrated from the Congress.

## NEW POSITIONS

IN A bureaucratic rejig, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet on Friday approved the appointment of Ram Mohan Mishra as Secretary of Ministry of Women and Child Development. A 1987-batch Assam-Meghalaya cadre IAS officer, Mishra will replace Ajay Tirkey, who has been appointed Secretary of Department of Land Resources. Bihar cadre IAS officer Rajesh Bhushan, presently OSD in the Department of Health and Family Welfare, will take over as Health Secretary. Secretary Mines Sushil Kumar has been transferred to the National Commission for Scheduled Castes as Secretary. The post of Secretary, Ministry of Mines has been assigned to Coal Secretary Anil Jain.

## Rajnath, Israel minister talk about enhancing defence ties

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 24

DEFENCE MINISTER Rajnath Singh spoke to his Israeli counterpart on Friday about enhancing defence engagement between both countries.

The government said in a statement that during Singh's telephonic conversation with Israel's Defence Minister Benjamin Gantz, both "expressed satisfaction at the progress of strategic cooperation between the two countries and discussed possibilities of further strengthening the defence engagements".

The two ministers also expressed "satisfaction at the ongoing collaboration in research and development in fighting pandemic COVID-19 which will not



Rajnath Singh

only benefit the two countries but also aid the larger humanitarian cause", the statement read.

Singh also invited "greater participation of Israeli defence companies under new liberalised foreign direct investment (FDI) regime in defence manufacturing" and the two "exchanged views on regional developments".

## Amarinder rejects Chief Parliamentary Secretary's resignation

KANCHAN VASDEV  
CHANDIGARH, JULY 24

PUNJAB CHIEF Minister Amarinder Singh has refused to accept the resignation of his Chief Parliamentary Secretary (CPS) Suresh Kumar, days after he had put in his papers.

In a communication to Kumar, Chief Secretary Vini Mahajan Friday wrote that the CM has rejected his resignation letters dated July 15, 2020, September, 2019 and August, 2017. The letter also advises him to resume work with immediate effect.

Amarinder had incidentally denied that he had received any resignation by Kumar although the latter had refused to perform official duties. He had returned his official vehicles and relieved his personal staff. Amarinder had held a meeting with him Wednesday. Later, Mahajan visited him.

Kumar resigned for the third time, on July 15, when the case, challenging his appointment as CPS to CM had come up for hear-



Amarinder Singh

ing in the HC. He had made a note in the resignation that nobody from the government had appeared in court and the case was adjourned to September 14. Friday's communication to him by the CS, also says the government is, in the meantime, writing to Advocate General to work towards getting the case decided fast.

Kumar, a retired IAS officer, was handpicked by the CM and appointed CPS to CM when the Congress took over reins of the state. In January 2018, his appointment was set aside by a single bench of HC. The government challenged the ruling before a bigger bench.

MANOJ CG  
NEW DELHI, JULY 24

THE RAJASTHAN High Court's verdict that the petition filed by Sachin Pilot and 18 rebel Congress MLAs against the disqualification notices was maintainable and that status quo should be maintained until Monday has come as a major relief to Pilot.

The Congress admitted the order was a setback and said the battle will now shift to the Supreme Court. It also asked Pilot to spell out his demands.

But sources close to Pilot said the main contention of the rebel MLAs was that the Speaker's notice was "biased" and that he was "acting in haste."

"The court has stayed that notice... so it is a relief but the battle is not over," the source said. The Pilot camp reiterated that there was no anti-party activity from their side which called for their disqualification.

"We respect the verdict of the High Court. And our contention has been that we were elected on a Congress ticket, we have worked hard for the party and we have said nothing against the leadership of the party. The grievances were against the Chief Minister and his way of working... we were well within our rights to raise those issues," a leader close to Pilot said.

Moreover, the extra time, leaders in the Pilot camp said, gives rebels more elbow room as they reach out to others within the party.



Sachin Pilot



CM Ashok Gehlot walks out of Raj Bhavan with his supporters in Jaipur Friday. Rohit Jain Paras

## BJP MLA moves HC for disqualification of 6 BSP legislators who shifted to Cong

DEEP MUKHERJEE  
JAIPUR, JULY 24

BJP MLA Madan Dilawar has filed a petition in the Rajasthan High Court, challenging the merger of six Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) legislators into the Congress last year, which took the party's strength to 107 in the 200-member Assembly.

In the petition, the hearing of which is scheduled to take place on Monday, one of the prayers is the disqualification of these MLAs from membership of the Assembly with effect from September 2019.

"In March this year, I had submitted a written appeal to the Speaker of the Rajasthan

Assembly, saying that the merger of BSP MLAs in the Congress is unconstitutional. But even after four months have passed, he didn't hear my petition. As a result, I had to move the High Court because I had no choice left. (I am) requesting the court to declare this merger wrong and ineffective," said Dilawar, MLA from Ramganjmandi in Kota district.

In September last year, six BSP MLAs—Deepchand, Sandeep Kumar, Joginder Singh Awana, Wajib Ali, Rajendra Singh Gudha and Lakhansingh—met Speaker CP Joshi and submitted an application for their merger into the Congress. Thereafter, they became a part of the Congress.

Among the grounds cited in Dilawar's petition is that the BSP

is still a national party and has not merged with the Congress at the Centre or the state level and that the MLAs had "voluntarily given up the membership" of BSP by joining Congress. He has also raised the Speaker's "inaction" in the matter.

It has also been cited that while the Speaker didn't issue notices to the former BSP MLAs in connection with the petition filed by Dilawar in March, he issued notices to other MLAs on July 14 this year on a disqualification petition filed by Congress chief whip Mahesh Joshi.

Speaker Joshi has issued notices to former deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot and 18 MLAs loyal to him, following which they moved court.



Outside the Raj Bhavan in Jaipur on Friday. Rohit Jain Paras

party. The Pilot camp's rebellion against CM Ashok Gehlot and skipping two Legislative Party meetings have been cited as grounds to initiate disqualification proceedings in the notices.

The dissenting MLAs have challenged constitutional validity of Section 2(1) of the anti-defection laws, which allow the Speaker to disqualify an MLA for so-called anti-party activities.

This challenge is the first of 13 questions framed by the High Court that will be heard in detail: "Whether the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Kihoto Hollohan Vs. Zachillhu & Ors has tested the constitutionality of Paragraph 2(1)(a) of the Tenth Schedule... only with the touchstone of 'crossing over' or 'defection' and the Court was never called upon to answer, much less the question of intra-party dissent?"

In its last question of law, HC

has said that it will also examine if the top court's decision in Kihoto Hollohan case "can be understood as to bar the high court from examining" the constitutionality of anti-defection laws.

While there have been many instances of cases under the Tenth Schedule reaching the courts on powers of the Speaker vis-à-vis rights of legislators, a constitutional challenge has not been made since 1992. If the court finds that any law interferes with fundamental rights or the basic structure of the Constitution, it can be struck down as null and void.

Senior advocates Harish Salve and Mukul Rohatgi, who appeared on behalf of the rebel MLAs, argued that although the SC had upheld constitutional validity of Tenth Schedule, the court did not examine the laws on grounds of free speech.

**FULL REPORT ON**  
**www.indianexpress.com**

MANOJ CG  
NEW DELHI, JULY 24

WHEN SACHIN Pilot revolted against Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot in Rajasthan, parallels were drawn between his rebellion and the one waged by Jyotiraditya Scindia against Kamal Nath in Madhya Pradesh four months ago.

A fortnight of resort politics later, the fight is now over convening of the Assembly session for a trial of strength. Gehlot wants a session, but Governor Kalraj Mishra is yet to give his nod. In Madhya Pradesh, the case was just the opposite.

When Scindia revolted and shifted MLAs supporting him to a resort in Karnataka, the BJP—then in opposition in Madhya Pradesh—demanded an Assembly session to put Kamal Nath through a trust vote. The then Governor—the late Lalji Tandon—directed the CM multiple times to seek a vote of confidence, but Kamal Nath found various reasons, including Covid-19, to keep putting it off.

The underlying reason for this difference, of course, is simple: while the Congress had plunged into a minority in Madhya Pradesh after the Scindia-led rebellion, it still claims to have a majority, however wafer-thin, in Rajasthan.

In both cases, one of the parties moved the Supreme Court. When the BJP moved the top court over Madhya Pradesh, its

Fourteenth Finance Commission. Online audit, with the option of physical verification, officials said, assumes greater relevance given the pandemic and the lockdown.

For one, in the offline system, timely availability of records was a major issue. "However, in the new process, the auditors will be able to see online all documents related to work approval and payments," said an official closely involved with the implementation of the audit.

"They can even ask for additional documents such as photo-

## BJP slams Gehlot's statement on gherao of Governor's house

DEEP MUKHERJEE  
JAIPUR, JULY 24

THE RAJASTHAN BJP on Friday slammed Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot over the sit-in protest by Congress and Independent MLAs supporting his government inside the Governor's house and also on the CM's statement that it won't be his responsibility if people 'gherao' the Raj Bhavan.

On Friday morning, Gehlot's stable of supporting legislators staged a sit-in protest at the residence of Governor Kalraj Mishra, demanding that he convene an Assembly session immediately.

"A drama of sit-in is going on inside the Raj Bhavan. Can he (Gehlot) force the Governor? Under the Constitution, under the leadership of a leader of a political party, its MLAs, can they force the Honourable Governor, who is the highest Constitutional body of any state?" Rajasthan BJP president Satish Poonia told reporters in Jaipur on Friday.

Poonia also criticised Gehlot for saying the public could gherao the Raj Bhavan. "After such language, the Home Minister and the Chief Minister himself, who has the responsibility of managing law and order in the state, is proved to be a criminal by violating several provisions of the IPC and disaster management rules," said Poonia.

The Leader of Opposition Gulab Chand Kataria said that by

demonstrating inside the Governor's house, all "limits of morality" have been crossed.

"I had said the very first day that whether the government is in minority or majority, it can be decided only on the floor of the House (State Assembly). If this would have been clear back then, things would have reached a decisive level now. But at that time, they took judicial avenues because they didn't have a majority. They wanted time to bring people to the hotel. And now, when because of the court they aren't seeing any way out, they have crossed all limits of morality," said Kataria.

Condemning the slogans raised by the legislators inside the Governor's residence, "The way, based on your numbers, you went inside the Raj Bhavan and staged a dharna, I feel that there couldn't be any worse deed than this that a Chief Minister can do," added Kataria.

Speaking on Gehlot's statement about gherao, Kataria appealed to the Central government to deploy the CRPF to "protect the sanctity of the Constitutional post" and not to depend on the Rajasthan police. He called for the ouster of the protesting MLAs from the Governor's House.

"There is a constitutional way. The Cabinet has conveyed its message but now the decision has to be taken by him (Governor). But this idea of enabling the decision by sitting on his chest is extremely condemnable," said Kataria.

## Madhya Pradesh to Rajasthan crises: Such a long journey

plea was taken up and a floor test ordered within three days. In Rajasthan, the Supreme Court has allowed the rebel MLAs time to reply to the Speaker's disqualification notices.

**MADHYA PRADESH:**  
**March 14-March 20**

The first direction to call an Assembly session was made by Governor Tandon to Kamal Nath on March 14. In a letter sent to the CM, the Governor said he had come to know that 22 Congress MLAs (out of the party's 114 in a House of 230) had sent their resignations to the Speaker and he believed the state government had lost the confidence of the House.

Invoking Articles 174 and 175(2) of the Constitution, Tandon said that the Budget Session of the Assembly would begin on March 16 with his address, after which "the only work to be done is voting on trust vote".

While the House met on March 16, after Tandon's address, the then Speaker (from the Congress) adjourned the session till March 26 in view of the coronavirus threat.

On March 17, the Governor wrote to the CM again to face a floor test. Kamal Nath met Tandon the same day but ruled this out, claiming his government enjoyed a majority.

Hours later, the BJP's Shivraj Singh Chouhan and nine other

MLAs moved the Supreme Court seeking direction for a trust vote in MP. Two days later, the top court ordered that a floor test be conducted by show of hands, on March 20.

That day, before the floor test, Kamal Nath resigned.

**RAJASTHAN:**  
**July 12 to ...**

On July 12, then deputy CM Sachin Pilot made his rift with Gehlot public, moving with 18 MLAs to a resort in Manesar, Haryana. In a series of quick developments, Gehlot moved against his deputy, the Speaker sent the 19 MLAs disqualification notices, Pilot and his followers moved the high court and got time to reply, and the Supreme Court refused the Speaker's plea to stay the high court order.

Claiming the support of 102 MLAs in a House of 200, Gehlot is now demanding that an Assembly session be called, expressing confidence that he will win a floor test. But neither has the BJP sought a no-confidence vote, nor has Governor Mishra agreed so far.

If in Madhya Pradesh, the Congress government used the coronavirus threat to end the Assembly session, the Rajasthan Governor is reportedly stalling the Gehlot Cabinet's recommendation for an Assembly session citing the same.

## First time, Panchayat funds to be audited online

HARIKISHAN SHARMA  
NEW DELHI, JULY 24

IN THE first such exercise, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has decided to conduct an online audit of 20 per cent of the estimated 2.5 lakh gram panchayats (GPs) across the country for the current financial year.

The exercise, to be conducted through AuditOnline, an application developed by the Ministry, is a bid to ensure accountability in the utilisation of funds at the ground level.

The audit will be scaled up to cover all Panchayats across the country in the next financial year 2020-21, the Ministry said in a communication to states sent Thursday.

About 50,000 panchayats can be taken up for online audit during the current year. Their books of accounts for 2019-20 will be audited with a focus on how they used Finance Commission (FC) grants.

The Fifteenth Finance Commission recommended an allocation of Rs 60,750 crore for rural local bodies during 2020-21, almost the same as last year under the

**EXPLAINED**  
**E** Using tech to cut red tape

ONLINE AUDIT, officials said, will ease access to records, can be monitored at district, state and Centre level. Uploading photos of work done and geo-tagging projects will also allow for physical inspection.

graphs as a proof of work done," he said.

As some works are geo-tagged, auditors can do a sample check by visiting the site. Moreover, an online audit can be monitored at all level: district-state-Centre.

"In the lockdown, an offline audit wouldn't have been very effective. This process, however, helps us push through significant processes," said the official.

Still, there are hurdles. For one, more than 15 per cent of Panchayats in several states have not closed their books of accounts

for the year 2019-20. Completing and closing the accounts is a prerequisite for the online audit.

In fact, while 100 per cent of Panchayats in Maharashtra and Haryana have closed their 2019-20 accounts, no Panchayat has done this in Arunachal Pradesh and Bihar. States like Punjab and Himachal Pradesh are also low performers.

AuditOnline is an open-source application developed as part of Panchayat Enterprise Suite (PES) under e-panchayat Mission Mode Project (MMP) initiated by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.



ALLEGATIONS OVER HIRING AGENCY FOR PUBLICITY

# Cong sees ‘evidence of BJP link’ as Maharashtra poll panel chief denies charges

SANDEEP ASHAR  
MUMBAI, JULY 24

MAHARASHTRA CHIEF Electoral Officer (CEO) Baldev Singh on Friday denied allegations of appointing an agency associated with the BJP for publicity work before the Assembly election last year, even as the Congress asked the Election Commission (EC) to probe the charge.

Singh told the EC on Friday that his office neither has any “direct or indirect connection” with Devang Dave, national convener of IT and social media of BJP’s youth wing, nor has Dave’s agency been awarded any work by the CEO or the Directorate General of Information and Public Relations (DGIPR).

RTI activist Saket Gokhale had alleged on Twitter on Thursday that the Maharashtra CEO “hired the BJP IT Cell for handling their social media” before the election. Gokhale had said that the government-empanelled agency Signpost India employed by the CEO shared its registered address with another agency that was owned by Dave.

Regarding Signpost India, the CEO informed the EC that the agency was “appointed by DGIPR following due process” only for voter awareness and sensitisation. Singh said that his office approached DGIPR for finding an agency since a 2017 resolution by the Maharashtra government had tasked DGIPR to engage all advertising agencies on behalf of the government and its departments.

Asked why the CEO followed a state government resolution meant for its departments, an EC officer clarified, “Since the job at hand is only of publicity, it’s standard practice for a state CEO to approach the state’s information and public relations department since they already have empanelled agencies for this purpose. It’s faster this way.”

On Friday, the Congress took off from where Gokhale left, and alleged that Dave’s agency was working for the Maharashtra CEO. Senior party leader and former Maharashtra Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan said that the “voter databases and demo-

## Activist Saket Gokhale gets security cover after his mother ‘threatened’

*Mumbai:* The Maharashtra Government has decided to provide security to activist Saket Gokhale after he complained that RSS workers had gathered outside his house and threatened his mother.

Gokhale on Thursday had questioned the appointment of an agency associated with the BJP for the election commission’s publicity work before last year’s Assembly polls in Maharashtra last year.

On Friday evening, Gokhale tweeted that RSS workers were chanting ‘Jai

Shri Ram’ outside his residence and that “they just threatened my mother”.

He also tagged state Home Minister Anil Deshmukh, who responded, stating that he would be provided protection and the Thane (rural) police had been informed.

“The mob seems to have been irked by Saket’s revelations that the Maharashtra Election Commission had hired a company linked to the BJP’s IT Cell for its social media promotion last year,” said a person close to Gokhale. **ENS**

graphics was made available to the BJP through the social media agency”.

Singh denied the charge and reiterated that neither his office nor DGIPR had hired Dave’s Social Central Media Solutions, and even Signpost India’s job was limited to voter outreach and that there was no exchange of voter data.

Chavan said Dave’s social media firm had shown the Maharashtra CEO as a “client” on its website, [www.socialcentral.in](http://www.socialcentral.in). The agency also services the BJP’s social media campaign in the state.

“This is clear evidence to establish that the CEO Maharashtra’s social media account was being run by a BJP sponsored firm owned by BJP’s office-bearer Devang Dave. Dave also operates social media pages like Fearless Indian, I support Narendra Modi, which are propaganda pages on behalf of the BJP. The website also claims that Dave is a member of the IT board of Maharashtra government. It is not clear when and how the government of Maharashtra appointed Devang on the post,” said Chavan, who wrote to the EC demanding an inquiry. The EC has sought further comments from the CEO on Chavan’s letter.

On records, the DGIPR, which functions under the state’s General Administration Department (GAD), had

awarded the CEO’s social media publicity contract to Signpost India in 2018 after a tendering process in which advertising agencies empanelled with the state government were permitted to participate. In 2018, the GAD was headed by the then Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis.

On records, Dave and his Social Central are not directly linked to Signpost India. None of the four directors of the advertising agency has any role in Social Central. However, Dave appeared to concede a link on Friday.

“We do not earn out bread and butter by doing any kind of ‘dalali’ but by hard work. The work assigned by the EC to Signpost India was after following due process. There is no illegality. Is it forbidden for political activists to make an honest living?” he asked, denying Chavan’s allegations. “The ECI and the industry also appreciated the work done. Am I not allowed professional engagements just because I support an ideology that some people do not agree with?” he said.

“I come from a lower middle class background and whatever position I’m in today is because of my hard work and merit, without any political or financial backing. My advice to such people: don’t waste our time,” Dave said.

“Most probably, it will be extended to all lockdown days. But the state government will make an announcement. As of now, these two dates have been confirmed. No flights to operate on July 25 and 29.”

On July 19, the government had extended a ban on flights from six Covid-19 hotspot cities — Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Chennai, Nagpur and Ahmedabad — to Kolkata was extended till the end of the month.

Meanwhile, the Railways announced that the Patna-Howrah, Bhubaneswar-Howrah and Barbil-Howrah special trains would be cancelled on July 25. The railways will issue another notification about train schedules ahead of the July 29 lockdown.

— WITH PTI INPUTS

# Sonia finally puts Narasimha on Cong pedestal, praises his bold leadership

MANOJ C G  
NEW DELHI, JULY 24

CALLING P V NARASIMHA Rao “a dedicated Congressman” who “served the party devotedly in various capacities”, Congress chief Sonia Gandhi Friday said the party takes pride in the “many accomplishments and contributions” of the former Prime Minister.

She said Rao became Prime Minister at a time of “grave economic crisis” and the country was able to overcome the many challenges successfully through his “bold leadership”.

Her statement is significant given the strained relations she had with Rao during and after his tenure as Prime Minister, and till his death in 2004. The Congress released written speeches of Gandhi, her son and former Congress president Rahul Gandhi and former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh which were read out during a virtual function, organised by the Telangana Congress, to launch year-long celebrations to mark Rao’s birth centenary.

Singh called Rao “the father of Economic Reforms in India.”

In the past, Gandhi rarely spoke about Rao’s contribution. She made a rare mention in her presidential speech at the Congress plenary session in 2010. “Rajiv Gandhi was with us for a brief while but in that eventful time, he set out our country firmly on the path to entering the 21st century from a



Sonia Gandhi, P V Narasimha Rao. *Express archive*

position of strength. PV Narasimha Rao gave fresh impetus to the process of economic reforms,” she had then said.

In 2018, the Congress remembered Rao at the AICC plenary session with the political resolution paying tribute to him for ushering in economic reforms.

And Friday, Gandhi remembered him as a “most scholarly and erudite personality”.

“After a long career in state and national politics, he became the Prime Minister of India at a time of grave economic crisis. Through his bold leadership, our country was able to overcome many challenges successfully,” she said.

The Union Budget of July 24, 1991, she said, paved the way for economic transformation of India.

“Rao’s tenure was also marked by a number of political, social and foreign policy achievements that have endured. Above all, he was a dedicated Congressman who served the party devotedly in various capacities... Rao was a respected national and international figure. The Congress party takes pride



Sonia Gandhi said the Congress takes pride in Narasimha Rao’s ‘many accomplishments and contributions’. *Express*

in his many accomplishments and contributions,” she said.

In his speech, Rahul applauded the Telangana Congress for the initiative. Incidentally, Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has already made a series of announcements to commemorate Rao’s birth centenary. He has also demanded a Bharat Ratna for Rao.

Rahul said Rao’s contribution continues to shape modern India. “From joining the Congress party in his teenage years to becoming the PM of the largest democracy, his remarkable political journey reflected his grit and determination,” he said. Rahul said it was on this day in 1991 that India embarked on a bold new path of economic transformation.

“Rao and Dr Manmohan Singh played a pivotal role in ushering in the era of liberalisation,” he said.

In his inaugural speech, Singh called Rao “a great son of the soil” and talked about the Budget which he had presented on July 24, 1991. “It was a Budget that changed India in many ways. It ushered in economic reforms and liberalisation. It was a hard choice and a bold decision, and it was possible because Prime Minister Narasimha Rao gave me the freedom to roll out

things, after he fully understood what was ailing India’s economy at that time,” Singh said. He said “real tough decisions” on the economic front had to be urgently taken in 1991 as the country was faced with a foreign exchange crisis.

“But then politically it was a big question if one could take hard decisions to meet the challenging situation. It was a precariously placed minority government, which was dependent on



Surat BJP workers hold up a 1000-metre party flag to welcome newly-appointed state party president CR Paatil. *Hanif Malek*

## Gujarat BJP chief cancels car rally in Surat

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
SURAT, JULY 24

NEWLY APPOINTED Gujarat BJP chief C R Paatil cancelled a car rally scheduled in Surat on Friday after he saw pictures of a huge crowd gathering.

The Surat city BJP unit had made elaborate preparations to welcome Paatil. A truck was decked up with flowers and posters of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP national president J P Nadda, Gujarat Chief Minister Vijaybhai Rupani,

his deputy Nitin Patel and other BJP leaders were put vehicles with slogans welcoming Paatil.

The Surat BJP unit had organised a vehicle rally to welcome Paatil at Valak Patia, where workers stood holding a 1000-metre party flag stretched along the road, as the local BJP unit was informed that Paatil would be landing at the Vadodara airport and then come to Surat by road. Paatil, however landed at the Surat airport, 30 km from the Valak Patia.

On Friday afternoon, after landing in Surat city, when Paatil found out about the crowd waiting for him at Valak Patia, he re-

portedly called up Surat city BJP president Nitin Bhajiyawala and other BJP leaders and told them to cancel the rally.

Paatil told *The Indian Express*, “When I saw those pictures, I was apprehensive. Though the supporters and members were maintaining social distancing, but I didn’t want to take a chance amid the pandemic. So, I decided to cancel the rally. With so many people together at a place, chances of violation of social distancing norms would have been more.

“It is natural that people are enthusiastic because I am arriving here for the first time after

being appointed as the state unit president. Our party leaders, workers and many of my friends would want to meet me, but given the situation now, it will be better if we avoid any kind of personal meeting, be it in my office or at my home.” I am planning to tour all the wards in Surat city where I will meet party workers and leaders personally. I have told Navsari BJP unit to cancel Navsari rally as well scheduled on Saturday.”

Surat city BJP president Nitin Bhajiyawala said, “It was Paatil’s decision to cancel the rally, keeping in mind the pandemic.”

## No flights at Kolkata airport on July 25, 29 due to lockdown: AAI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, JULY 24

THE AIRPORTS Authority of India (AAI) on Friday suspended all flights at Kolkata airport on Saturday and next Wednesday because of the total statewide lockdown that will be in place on those days.

“In view of comprehensive lockdown announced in West Bengal, flight operations at Kolkata airport will remain suspended on July 25 and 29. The temporary restriction on request of the state government is to restrict movement during lockdown to contain the spread of Covid-19,” tweeted the AAI.

The West Bengal government had decided to impose total lockdown across the state earlier this week to check the

rapid increase in Covid-19 cases in the past few weeks. This week, the comprehensive lockdown, as part of the new strategy, was imposed for the first time on Thursday.

Though both Kolkata and Bagdogra airports remained operational on Thursday, the lack of transport services inconvenienced many passengers.

Following this, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee asked senior government officials to request the Centre to suspend rail and air operations to make lockdown successful. Chief Secretary Rajiva Sinha then wrote to the Centre with the request.

Asked if the rule would be extended to all days of the bi-weekly lockdown, an official of the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport in Kolkata said it was a possibility, adding,

## Learning other languages can foster unity: Venkaiah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 24

VICE-PRESIDENT M Venkaiah Naidu on Friday encouraged people to “master” their mother tongue and said that learning a language “amounts to assimilation of culture and values” and can also widen a person’s opportunities. He asked people to “learn more languages to foster unity of mankind”.

Delivering an online address for the World Telugu Cultural Fest being organised at San Francisco, Naidu, according to a government statement, “highlighted the virtues of learning and mastering one’s mother tongue even as he urged the people to learn other languages to the extent possible for a wider understanding of cultural diversities and value systems”. He also said “learning other languages also fosters wider bonding of hu-



M Venkaiah Naidu

mankind besides enhancing opportunities of various kind”.

Calling language “more than a mere instrument of expression” Naidu said that “language is manifestation of culture and a system of values over a long period of time and it epitomises the personality types typical to respective cultures”. Each language, the Vice-President said, “is an outcome of an evolutionary process drawing from other languages during the long period of interaction with others”.

A common language fosters unity and community development, he said, and urged people to learn as many languages as possible for a broader understanding of the diverse cultures.

## RAM NATH KOVIND COMPLETES THREE YEARS AS PRESIDENT

# First citizen fights the Covid battle alongside people

LIZ MATHEW  
NEW DELHI, JULY 24

AS PRESIDENT Ram Nath Kovind completed three years in office on Friday, like most Indians, life has been anything but usual for the first citizen over the last four months.

The Rashtrapati Bhavan, generally visited by thousands of people, including dignitaries and political leaders, was closed days ahead of the nationwide lockdown starting March 25. In fact, seeing the number of visitors at the Mughal Gardens, the President himself suggested that the Rashtrapati Bhavan be closed and the Change of Guard Ceremony be discontinued for the public as a precautionary measure against the spread of Covid-19.

Kovind had fewer visitors

Getting into action in the nation’s battle against the virus, Kovind held a video-conference along with Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu towards the end of March. In it, he urged all Governors and Lieutenant Governors to extend their support to their respective state governments “in whichever way the governments want them to”, a source in the Rashtrapati Bhavan said.

He also urged them to hold regular stock-taking meetings with the respective state governments.

A similar video conference was done in April first week – in that, Kovind said he and the Vice President would “always be available for consultation” for the state Governors and L-Gs on issues related to the pandemic.

Kovind had fewer visitors



President Kovind contributed one month’s salary to the PM-CARES fund in March and decided to forgo 30% salary for a year. *Courtesy: Rashtrapati Bhavan*

since March. Among them was Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who visited him once; other ministers, including Home Minister Amit Shah, had had several meetings with him during the lockdown period.

In order to make more resources available for Covid-19 relief measures, Kovind contributed one month’s salary to the PM-CARES fund in March and decided to forgo 30-per cent salary for a year.

He has also instructed the staff to cut down expenses at the Rashtrapati Bhavan and asked them staff to make optimal usage of the resources.

“He has decided that no capital works will be taken up in this financial year; repair and maintenance work will be minimised to only ensure proper upkeep of assets,” a source said. That aside,

outside support for stability. Yet Narasimha Rao was able to carry everyone along, convincing them with his conviction. Enjoying his confidence, I went about my job to carry forward his vision... Looking back, Rao can truly be called the father of Economic Reforms in India,” he said.

“Economic Reforms and Liberalisation were indeed his biggest contribution but his contributions to the country in different fields cannot be underestimated. On the Foreign Affairs front, he made efforts to improve the relationship with our neighbours including China. India signed the South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement along with the SAARC countries. Then the ‘Look East Policy’ was also his brainchild to link India with East and South-East Asian countries,” Singh said.

Singh pointed out that Rao, “endowed with a cool temperament and deep political prowess”, was open to debates and discussion and always tried to take the Opposition into confidence.

“He had deputed Atal Bihari Vajpayee as the leader of the Indian delegation to the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva to discuss Pakistan-sponsored resolution to censure India on its record of human rights in Jammu & Kashmir, which was successfully thwarted. He had also nominated Subramaniam Swamy as Chairman of the Commission on Labour Standards and International Trade, with a Cabinet-rank,” Singh recalled.

## Babri case: Advani deposes in court via video link, denies role in incident

ENS & PTI  
LUCKNOW, JULY 24

FORMER DEPUTY prime minister and BJP leader Lal Krishna Advani on Friday deposed before a special CBI court via video conference in the 1992 Babri demolition case and denied his role in the incident.

Advani’s lawyer KK Mishra said the 92-year-old leader was falsely implicated due to a political conspiracy and termed the evidence against him false.

Advani denied his involvement in the alleged conspiracy along with ‘kar sevaks’ to demolish the mosque in Ayodhya on December 6, 1992. In the court of special Judge SK Yadav, the BJP leader pleaded that he is innocent and is unnecessarily dragged in the case owing to political reasons. He said he would furnish his defense at an appropriate stage of the proceedings.

The special judge put forth 1,050 questions to Advani and he answered them very cautiously, denying every allegation of conspiracy and arguing there was no occasion to make him stand on trial.

Advani, whose statement was recorded in the presence of his advocate Mahipal Ahluwalia, is the third accused in the case who deposed through video conference after BJP veteran Murlidhar Manohar Joshi and Ram Chandra Khatri, who is lodged in a Sonapat jail in Haryana.

he gave instructions to reduce use of office consumables, cut down use of paper, bring down domestic tours and programmes and advocated use of technology to reach out to the people, among other measures, the source said.

Kovind has also decided to defer the purchase of Presidential limousine and to use from the available pool, if needed, for any ceremonial occasion.

Fewer guests at banquets, including the At Home function, less use of flowers and other decorative items, and shrinking the menu for official functions are other suggestions he has made, the source said. “It is estimated that these steps will save at least 20 per cent of the Rashtrapati Bhavan’s budget this year,” the source said.



# 10 THE OUTBREAK

STATE TESTING 10,000 A DAY

## Bihar dists with high caseload face stiff test as kits run low

Most districts being given 1,000 antigen testing kits for use over multiple days

**SANTOSH SINGH**  
PATNA, JULY 24

WITH A limited number of Covid-19 tests being done — a result primarily of inadequate availability of antigen testing kits — at least a dozen districts of Bihar are witnessing long queues of people waiting to be tested even as the state goes through a surge in cases.

On an average, each of the state's 38 districts, except Patna, is given 1,000 antigen testing kits to be used over multiple days, a Health Department official said.

According to Health officials and patients who have undergone tests, waiting time in Bhagalpur, West Champaran, Siwan, Saran, Muzaffarpur, East Champaran, Begusarai, Gaya, Nalanda, Nawada and Rohtas districts is three to four days at present due to lack of antigen kits. While Patna was in the same boat till not long ago, the district has got 25 additional testing centres since the last five days.

All 12 districts have reported between 1,000 and 2,000 cases. As the state government has procured only 2.8 lakh antigen kits, it should be exhausted soon if the number of tests are increased to 20,000 tests per day as suggested by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

State Health Minister Mangal Pandey said, "We are now testing over 10,000 samples per day and would increase it further."

A district magistrate (name withheld on request) said the 50,000 antigen test kits have to be divided among the state's 38 districts, with a sizeable chunk set aside for state capital Patna given its population concentration and heavy concentration of patients.

Besides antigen, RT-PCR tests are also being done.

Bhagalpur district, for instance, received 2,000 antigen kits four days ago and there is no word yet when the fresh sets of kits would be sent. Around 300 samples are being tested each day in Bhagalpur. Bihar has tested over 11 lakh samples in the last 10 days — in all, 4,29,664 samples have been tested so far.

As of Friday, the state has reported 33,511 confirmed Covid cases, but the numbers may be

deceptive, say experts, given the likelihood of under-testing.

Dr Ajay Kumar, senior vice-president of the Indian Medical Association's Bihar chapter, told *The Indian Express*: "Even the CM has accepted that we should test at least 20,000 cases per day but we are still stuck at 10,000 a day. With antigen kits readily available, the state should aim at testing 50,000 samples daily to screen out maximum Covid-19 suspects.... Our focus has to shift to mass treatment now."

He said the Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna, should also be converted into a dedicated Covid hospital now. In contrast to RT-PCR, antigen tests — a test on swabbed nasal samples that detects antigens, or foreign substances that induce an immune response in the body, found on or within the coronavirus — is performed outside the conventional laboratory setting, and is used to quickly obtain a diagnostic result.

Explaining why antigen test kits play a key role in the battle to combat the virus, Dr Arun Shah, a leading consultant in Bihar and former president of Indian Academy of Paediatrics, said: "Antigen test gives quick result compared to the longer time with RT-PCR test. For initial test, it is almost accurate and in subsequent tests, RT PCR is preferable to ascertain (whether a patient is Covid-negative)."

Antigen test kits are also cost-effective, officials said. A source in the state secretariat said, "An antigen kit costs around Rs 500 compared to Rs 3,000 for an RT-PCR test kit."

Districts like Banka, which have so far reported around 500 Covid-19 cases, are, however, relatively problem-free. Banka district magistrate Suharsha Bhagat said, "We have not faced any constraints so far."

Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi said: "Our government has increased the number of reserve beds in hospitals and are creating beds at other places.... We have spent Rs 8,538 crore on Covid-19 measures."

**FULL REPORT ON**  
**www.indianexpress.com**

## Lockdown at Bhagalpur's crossings: Shops stay open, masks few, police checks fewer

**ASA DISTRICT UNLOCKS**  
AN EXPRESS SERIES

**DIPANKAR GHOSE**  
BHAGALPUR, JULY 24

MANY MORE people wear masks now, but there are many who don't, right in front of police. The police seem to stop vehicles, mostly two-wheelers, on whimsy. Big cars are mostly let off. The police are wary, talking of the coronavirus, and how to slap fines safely. Most commuters carry a prescription in their pocket, which doubles up as a pass for movement.

Bhagalpur, the focus of a series by *The Indian Express* to understand Covid-19 and its impact, is witnessing a steep Covid curve. Till date it has recorded 2,023 Covid cases, up from 245 on June 8, and 19 deaths, second only to Patna in the state. Bihar is in lockdown for two weeks, from July 16 to 31, but Bhagalpur has been under lockdown from July 9. On July 18, *The Indian Express* spent time at four main intersections of Bhagalpur to look at the effects of the lockdown and its enforcement.

**Tilka Manjhi Chowk: 11.40 am**

Ten police personnel, including two traffic policemen, are standing on one side of the chowk, next to a police jeep, all wearing masks. The stream of traffic is steady, but not as heavy as usual. Cycle rickshaw-pullers and e-rickshaws abound. They are exempt from the lockdown. Some policemen stand in the middle of the road, looking to stop vehicles. Half an hour passes, no car is pulled aside, except for a Maruti Omni school van. Motorcycles are stopped often, but mostly on a whim. Many motorcyclists whip out doctors' prescriptions.

K K Sharma, the inspector in charge, argues with one: "This is a prescription from January last year. You are trying to fool us. Fine him." He waves the motorcyclist over to Mahendra Kumar Mishra, who is handing out challans, and fines him for not wearing a mask. Mishra has a black bag, inside which is a pair of gloves.

All shops except essential services are meant to be shut. But tea shops and paan stalls are open, in full view of the policemen. The ratio of people wearing masks has increased, but many wear it around their necks, pulling it up when they see the police.

Across the road from the po-



**Bhagalpur has been under lockdown from July 9. But at its four main intersections, traffic was steady, many shops remained open, and police seemed more mindful of the risks they faced rather than enforcing lockdown rules.**

*Dipankar Ghose*

lice van is a row of cobblers. Three of them are not wearing masks, as are four rickshaw pullers next to them. One police constable says, "We have been asked not to be harsh on the poor."

**Kachari Chowk: 12.15 pm**

There are eight policemen, but the nervousness is palpable. Behind them is the district magistrate's office, where there have been several positive cases including the district magistrate, the ADM who took his place, and other senior officials. The parking lot is empty, barring two motorcycles. A policeman is collecting fines. He has two booklets, one saying Covid Niyanttran Raseed (Covid Control Receipt) issued by the Health Department, and the other for challans under the Motor Vehicles Act. The former, ironically for a lockdown, says



at the bottom "Mask pahaniye, kaam pe chaliye".

Only one Rs 50 fine has been issued since morning. The police are more preoccupied with where they are standing, and the risks involved. They seem relieved as a Bihar Fire Services truck arrives and hoses the place with sanitiser. A little later, Traffic SP R K Jha arrives on a round in his Gypsy. He tells his personnel, "Don't take fines directly like this. Ask them to deposit it in the bag. Lockdown won't protect us, we have to protect ourselves."

The chowk is known for its row of fruit and coconut water stalls. Under the lockdown rules, they are allowed to function from 6 am to 10 am, and from 4

## 160 inmates of UP jail test Covid positive

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
LUCKNOW, JULY 24

A DAY after over 120 prisoners tested positive for coronavirus in Jhansi district jail, a testing campaign in Ballia district jail has found at least 160 inmates have the infection as of Friday.

The state recorded its highest single-day jump of 2,712 new cases in the past 24 hours, taking the total number of positive cases to 60,771 till date. Covid-related deaths also saw the highest single-day jump of 50, taking the toll to 1,348 in the state.

Ballia jail authorities said 132 prisoners were found Covid positive after at least 532 samples were taken. The remaining 150 were also being tested and the results were expected soon, they said, adding all 160 are being kept in isolation in jail premises.

"Initially, when we tested a few inmates, we found [Covid] positivity in 16 of them.... On Thursday, our team tested 532 inmates, of whom 132 were found positive. If we include all the inmates found positive earlier, the number if around 160. On Friday, too, we are continuing the testing process and are sampling the remaining 150 inmates and their test report will come soon," said Ballia Joint Magistrate Vipin Kumar Jain.

**Ghantaghar Chowk: 12.35 pm**

One of the city's landmarks, the chowk has a temple, in front of which five policemen and one policewoman are sitting on chairs. There is traffic in front of them — cars, bikes, pedestrians without masks, but no checking takes place.

The chowk is known for its row of fruit and coconut water stalls. Under the lockdown rules, they are allowed to function from 6 am to 10 am, and from 4

## Fewer deaths in districts prompt Karnataka to adopt tele-ICU system in Bengaluru

**JOHNSON T A**  
BENGALURU, JULY 24

AFTER CHECKING on the condition of Covid-19 patients in an ICU at KIMS Hospital in Dharwad district, pulmonologist Dr Raghavendra, who is sitting in Columbia Asia Hospital in Bengaluru, tells doctors in Dharwad about a new study on Covid-19 treatment published in the International Journal of Infectious Diseases.

The interaction is happening as part of the tele-ICU facility started by the state health department in April for effective treatment of critical Covid-19 patients in hospitals in the districts. This system has played a key role in reducing deaths in these hospitals and in keeping doctors in the districts abreast with latest developments in Covid-19 treatment.

Initially started in 28 district hospitals, the tele-ICU facility has now expanded to 68 hospitals with medical experts from top private hospitals in Bengaluru checking on ICU patients daily and discussing treatment for every critical patient. With the system playing a key role in keeping case fatality rates in some districts as low as 0.54 per cent, the health department has now moved to use it in Bengaluru.

"If we look at the statistics across districts, we have provided

pm to 7 pm. So at this time in the afternoon, tarpaulin sheets are drawn over them. But that doesn't stop customers from stopping and buying produce.

The owner of a stall, unfortunately placed next to a seated policeman, complains that a seller on the far end is doing brisk business. The policeman snaps, "*Toh main kya karu?*" Then he reluctantly goes and asks him to stop his sales. As he returns to the chair, the sales resume.

There are 19 fruit sellers on the roadside where the policemen sit. Six of them have masks.

**Variety Chowk: 1.15 pm**

Variety Chowk is in the middle of a usually busy marketplace, with tiny lanes. Shop shutters are all down, barring at medicine stores. One shopkeeper sitting in front of his electronic appliances store says, "I know Covid is dangerous, but how much of this can we survive?"

There are six rickshaw pullers, three without masks, all without customers, two asleep. In front of the shuttered stores, there are a few mango sellers. More sell an assortment of fruit. One woman, without a mask, sells makhana.

Three people have strung up masks to sell. Ankit Kumar is one. He has been doing this for two months. Earlier, he sold paan. "In this lockdown, even masks are not selling. Earlier I would sell 50 a day. Now only 15. This place used to be packed every day, but not any more," he says.

Less than two hundred metres away, under Lohia bridge, there is a crowd of people brushing past each other, buying items off the street. There are vegetable sellers, stalls selling wooden baskets, and slippers. One seller says, "If they remove us, we will go. But till then, we will have to earn our daily bread."

tele-ICU facilities from our hospital to 15 districts and the death rate is 1.33 per cent. In Bengaluru, the death rate was as high as five per cent at one point. By providing tele-ICU and effective bed coordination, the death rate can be reduced," said Dr Pradeep Rangappa, an intensive care specialist at Columbia Asia Hospital, who heads a team of doctors involved in daily tele-rounds of ICUs.

"We are able to provide standardised treatment for patients across hospitals and districts. And we also keep doctors in the districts abreast with the latest developments in the treatment of Covid-19 around the world," Dr Rangappa said.

Treatment protocols have been drawn up with doctors from the state-run Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Chest Disease and are constantly updated with the latest research findings, he said. The 30 districts in the state have been divided into smaller units and responsibility has been distributed across three private hospitals — Manipal Hospital, Columbia Asia and Narayana Health.

"Columbia Asia and Manipal Hospital have been on board since the Critical Care Support programme began three months ago and NH has come on board now and will work with Bengaluru hospitals," said Dr Vasanth Kumar, assistant director with the state

## Maharashtra doesn't have the power to cancel final-year exams, UGC tells HC

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
MUMBAI, JULY 24

THE UNIVERSITY Grants Commission (UGC) on Friday told the Bombay High Court that the Maharashtra government did not have power to cancel final year university exams and that the power is vested with the regulator. It further said that the state government's decision to cancel final year exams would directly affect the standards of higher education in India.

The UGC filed an affidavit through its Education Officer Nikhil Kumar, in response to a PIL filed by a retired professor and Pune resident Dhananjay Raghunath Kulkarni, through advocate Uday Warunjikar, which stated that the UGC was the regulating authority in such matters, and the state was not empowered to decide the mode of assessment for final-year students, and hence the June 19 government resolution (GR) should be set aside and quashed.

On July 6, the UGC issued revised guidelines and decided not to recommend cancellation of the final semester (or final year) examination for graduating batches and has advised institutions to conduct these exams by the end of September. The regulator said these exams can be conducted in online, offline, or blended mode.

## HRD panel to study ways to increase student numbers in India

*New Delhi:* The HRD Ministry has set up a committee to form guidelines and suggest measures to ensure that more students study in India, and there is a smooth transition for students returning from abroad due to the Covid-19 pandemic, HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal said on Friday.

The committee, headed by the chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC), is also meant to recommend a mechanism to increase intake in well-performing universities.

Officials said mechanisms will be explored for starting multi-disciplinary and innovative programmes, twinning and joint degree programs, cross-country designing of centres, facilitating online lectures by faculty abroad, linkage between academia and industry, facilitate joint degree ventures and lateral entry to Indian higher education institutions. The committee will present its report within 15 days. **PTI**

## Guwahati jail, a Covid hotspot, now on slow path to recovery

**ABHISHEK SAHA**  
GUWAHATI, JULY 24

THE CENTRAL Jail in Guwahati, with over 1,000 inmates, has turned into a Covid-19 hotspot with at least 435 inmates testing positive so far. The authorities have now set up a Covid care centre within the premises and are considering the release of more inmates to decongest the prison.

A senior government official told *The Indian Express* that 10 out of 31 jails in Assam have been affected by the outbreak and about 535 inmates have tested positive. The official said the Guwahati jail, which has political prisoners and former insurgent leaders among its inmates, is the worst-hit.

In an order on a suo motu PIL Thursday, the Gauhati High Court ordered that "the best of measures available with the State of Assam be employed to give qualitative treatment to the jail inmates across the State so that no further damage is caused".

IG, Prisons, Dasarath Das said Friday that the authorities have recommended to the High-Powered Committee — formed on Supreme Court's direction to states to decongest prisons — that 376 more prisoners from eight prisons, including 111 from Central Jail, be released.

A jail official said the first Covid-19 case in the Guwahati jail was reported in the first week of June when one person in a group of



**The Guwahati prison was first made a containment zone from June 5 to June 17. Express**

seven new inmates tested positive. The other six tested negative.

From June 5 to June 17, the jail was a containment zone. From June 24, fresh prisoners were brought in and one inmate who came on June 27 tested positive on July 1. After that, the jail witnessed a spike in cases. Four staff members also tested positive.

Jail superintendent Ranjit Baishya said symptomatic patients have been admitted to Guwahati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) and other Covid facilities, while the asymptomatic — over a 100 — are being treated at the care centre in the jail. Around 182 inmates who have been cured are back in jail, he said.

Among those who tested positive are activist and leader of Krishak

Mukti Sangram Samiti (KMSS) Alhil Gogoi and his associates Bittu Sonowal and Dhairiya Konwar, JNU student and anti-CAA activist Sharjeel Imam and former Bodo insurgent leader Ranjan Daimary.

KMSS general secretary Konwar, now recovered and out on bail, said, "The jail is congested. Two-three people sleep under one mosquito net. Social distancing is impossible. The government should have planned better to tackle the spread in jails." When new inmates started coming in, Konwar and others had protested. "One of our demands was that since there was no rapid testing facility to test newcomers, authorities should make a temporary jail and keep them there," Konwar said.

The Superintendent said they

are carrying out rapid-testing of all inmates coming in now.

At Nagaon Central Jail, doctor-in-charge Dr Purnananda Bora had tested positive and has now recovered. He said that till Wednesday, 53 inmates have tested positive. Senior officials told *The Indian Express* that the situation is currently under control. Biswajit Pegu, DC of Kamrup (Metro) district, under which Guwahati falls, said every inmate and staff member has been tested and hence, a large number of inmates reported positive. "A large number of those who tested positive are asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic. Almost half of those who tested positive are cured. The standing instruction is whosoever is coming in needs to be rapid-tested — if negative, he/she will be in observation for 48 hours till RT-PCR results come," he said.

"At GMCH, 25 beds have been reserved for jail inmates and an ambulance is at the jail to shift any symptomatic patient," he added. On July 18, CM Sarbananda Sonowal directed the constitution of a three-member panel in each district to monitor and advise on Covid-19 spread in jails. The Assam Human Rights Commission took cognizance of a complaint by Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, Debabrata Saikia, regarding the spread in Guwahati jail and asked the Chief Secretary and IG Prisons to submit a report by August 5.



# SC to resume hearing 2009 contempt case against Prashant Bhushan from Aug 4

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 24

THE SUPREME Court will begin hearing arguments in a 2009 contempt case against advocate Prashant Bhushan and former editor-in-chief of *Tehelka* magazine Tarun Tejpal on August 4. The case relates to Bhushan's statements against some former Chief Justices of India and then Chief Justice S H Kapadia in an interview to the magazine in 2009.

A bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra fixed the date after the counsel appearing for them sought more time to study their briefs. The bench, also comprising Justices B R Gai and Krishna Murari, which heard the matter through videoconferencing, did not agree to Bhushan's father and senior advocate Shanti Bhushan's request to take up the case only after physical hearings resume in the court. "All sorts of matters (are) being argued through videoconferencing. Even Constitution Bench is hearing cases," Justice Mishra remarked.

Bhushan senior said: "I find it very hard to address the court through video procedure. I may request to adjourn till court reopens so that I can assist properly. (The) case has been pending since 2009. It can wait for a few more weeks... what is the urgency?"

Shanti Bhushan also submitted that he had filed an impleadment application but the court made it clear that it was not going to implead him.

"You are too senior to be impleaded in the case," Justice Mishra said.

## TWO KILLED IN LAST FEW WEEKS

# Haryana man 'killed' five of his children over the last four years, arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, JULY 24

THE POLICE have arrested a 38-year-old man in Didwara village of Jind district in Haryana for allegedly killing all five of his children over the past four years — two of them in the last few weeks.

Police sources said the accused, Jummadin, first confessed to the village's panchayat on Thursday, after which he was handed over to the authorities. A migrant labourer, Jummadin also told the police that his wife is pregnant with the couple's sixth child.

The killings came to light after two of the accused's daughters, a seven-year-old and a 11-year-old, went missing under mysterious circumstances on July 15. Jummadin had lodged a missing report on July 16, in which he alleged that he and his wife Reena were sleeping when an unidentified man abducted his daughters. When questioned further, he did not provide satisfactory replies, said police sources.

Subsequently, on July 20, a group of local residents were play-

ing near the Hansi Butana canal when they spotted the body of a child. After the police were informed, Jummadin was called to the spot and he identified the body as that of his younger daughter. A search operation was launched and a few hours later, the older daughter's body was also found in the canal, said police sources. Postmortem examination of both bodies were conducted and drowning was pronounced as the cause of death, they added.

The police said Jummadin's brother-in-law, Ahsan, who lives in the neighbouring Barot village also raised suspicions over his version of events.

"Ahsan's sister, Reena, is married to Jummadin. Ahsan also mentioned that despite repeated questioning, Jummadin could not provide any credible reply as to how both girls went missing. Thus, the village panchayat was involved and the villagers told us that Jummadin confessed to having killed all five of his children under the influence of a Kaithal-based occultist. However, he has not told the police anything about this occultist," Jind's Assistant

# Varavara Rao's family writes to NHRC, says no health updates being given

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, JULY 24

FAMILY MEMBERS of poet Varavara Rao, who is behind bars as an accused in the Elgar Parishad case, have written to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Friday, stating they have been denied any information about his condition or treatment at the private hospital to which he was shifted after the commission's orders last week.

Rao, 80, had tested positive for Covid-19 last week after he was shifted from Mumbai's Talaja jail to state-run JJ Hospital. The NHRC had recommended that he be shifted to a super-specialty hospital for further treatment, following which he was shifted to Nanavati Hospital. "Completely disregarding the NHRC directive, the family was not informed by either hospital



Varavara Rao is being treated for Covid-19 in Mumbai.

or jail authorities, about a head injury discovered on him upon arrival at the Nanavati Hospital. Consequently, we receive no official updates from the hospital or the prison authorities and our consent is not taken for any of the critical treatment that may be required to administer him," the letter states.

It further states that denial of regular health updates to the family of someone in judicial custody is "unconstitutional and a cruel and inhuman act". The family has further asked that the NHRC intervene and direct the hospital and prison administration to provide updates on Rao's health every six hours.



## SEEKING SHELTER

People affected by flood take shelter on the East West corridor in Gopalganj on Friday. Movement of heavy vehicles on the corridor, linking Delhi to Guwahati, has been stopped from Gopalganj onwards amidst apprehension of a breach due to water pressure on NH-28. About 8 lakh people from 46 blocks of 10 districts have been affected by flooding of the Gandak, Kosi and other rivers. More than 40,000 have been evacuated so far. Govind Kumar

# Karnataka: African-origin Siddhi community gets its first legislator

DARSHANDEVAIAH B P  
BENGALURU, JULY 24

ONE OF five MLCs recently nominated by Karnataka's BJP government, Shantharam Budna Siddi has become the country's first legislative representative hailing from the Siddi community, a small group of people believed to have roots in Southeast Africa.

Shantharam, 55, from Uttara Kannada district, is also also the first from the community to have a degree. "My top priority as MLC will remain the upliftment of the community along with the other tribes for which I have been fighting for the past two decades," the



Shantharam Budna Siddi

MLC told *The Indian Express*.

A member of RSS from his college days, Shantharam has been an activist for a NGO called Vanavasi Kalyanashram and also participated in Appiko Chaluvali—the southern counterpart of the Chipko movement.

Shantharam says he was inspired to carry on his studies by his middle school teachers. "I went on to complete a BA in Economics at the Arts and Science

College in Karwar," he says.

The Siddis, believed to be descended from the Bantu people of Africa, are spread along the coast of Karnataka, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Andhra Pradesh. According to experts, they were brought to India in the early seventh century by the Portuguese to work for them.

The community is included in the list of the Scheduled Tribes in Karnataka. About 50,000 Siddi people live in the country today. Their mother tongue is called Siddi Basha and many are fluent in Kannada.

Shantharam said he also wished to fight for land rights for the community.

**CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN YOGA AND NATUROPATHY**  
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**Walk-in-Interview (Online)**  
One post of Yoga & Naturopathy Research Expert (Domain Expert) is to be filled up purely on contract basis on consolidated remuneration of Rs. 75,000/- p.m. Interested candidates may appear for **walk-in-interview through online mode on 28.07.2020** at 10.00 A.M. in the Director's office, Janakpuri, New Delhi. For details of Eligibility, Qualification & Job requirement etc. please visit Council's website **www.ccryn.gov.in**. Interested candidate may send duly filled application form on Council's email at **ccryn.go@gmail.com** on or before **26<sup>th</sup> July, 2020** also.  
**Any addendum/ corrigendum shall be posted only on the Council's website.**  
davy 17205/11/0005/2021  
**Director, CCRYN**

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Application shall be filled-up in **online mode only** by visiting the University official **website, www.bangaloreuniversity.ac.in** or **www.ulc.bangalore.com**. Application submitted online should be downloaded and submitted along with necessary documents to the **Principal, University Law College, Jnana Bharathi Campus, Bangalore University, Bengaluru-560056** on or before **10-08-2020**. The application fee of **Rs.850/-** (GM & Others) and **Rs.550/-** (for SC/ST/Cat-I) shall be paid online only. Candidates can apply for seats both under regular and payment quota. For more details visit University website or **contact: 080-22961172/1174.**  
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5.	Consultant (Sports)	01	Rs.50,000/-	IYSF
6.	Consultant (Yoga)	02	Rs.50,000/-	YCB
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**DIRECTOR**

## NO LARGE GATHERINGS, SAYS ADVISORY

# Invite Covid warriors, survivors for I-Day event, MHA tells states

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY  
NEW DELHI, JULY 24

THIS INDEPENDENCE Day, while celebrations are likely to be muted, states have been advised by the Centre to invite those people who have recovered from Covid-19 as their guests, along with health and sanitation workers, even as local authorities have been asked to have "Atmanirbhar Bharat" as the theme in their functions.

The government has also advised against large gatherings, and has asked states and local bodies to use technology to reach out to people. As reported by *The Indian Express* on Friday, not more than 250 people are expected to attend Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address at the Red Fort.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), in its advisory sent to all states, said, "Every year, Independence Day is celebrated with grandeur, gaiety, fervour and enthusiasm. This year also, Independence Day will be celebrated in a manner befitting the occasion. However, in view of spread of Covid-19 pandemic, while organising various pro-

grammes or activities for Independence Day celebrations, it is imperative to follow certain preventive measures such as maintaining social distancing, wearing of masks, proper sanitisation, avoiding large congregations, protecting vulnerable persons, etc.; and follow all guidelines related to Covid-19 issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare."

The advisory added that "all programmes should be organised in a way that large congregation of people is avoided and technology is used in a best possible manner for celebration befitting the occasion. The events organised could be web-cast in order to reach out to people at large, who are not able to participate."

The MHA said that the function at Red Fort and the 'At Home' function at the Rashtrapati Bhavan would take place with the necessary guard of honour. The 'At Home' function at the Rashtrapati Bhavan is also likely to have health workers, medical professionals and other "Corona warriors" among the invitees.

"At Home of Governors and Lieutenant Governors have been

left at their discretion..." it said, suggesting that "Corona warriors" be invited by the Raj Bhavans in recognition of their efforts.

The advisory said that for states, "it would also be appropriate that Covid-19 warriors like doctors, health workers, sanitation workers, etc., are invited in the ceremony as a recognition of their noble service in fight against Covid-19 Pandemic. Some persons cured from Covid-19 infection may also be invited."

The Centre said it would be appropriate for functions at the state and local level to have Atmanirbhar Bharat as the theme. Among other activities suggested are planting of trees; inter school/inter-college debates on digital platforms; online quiz contests/patriotic essay writing and poetry competitions; launching of any important scheme, singing patriotic songs/delivering patriotic talks by selected boys/girls on social media; illumination of Government Buildings/State Bhavans, etc; thematic webinars; online campaign by N55 and NYKS centred around patriotic themes; or any other activity that states deem fit for the occasion.

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00402	New Delhi	14:30	Guwahati	02:30	Tue, Thu	Up to 31.12.2020
00463	Howrah	17:30	Amritsar	08:45	Mon, Sat	Up to 31.12.2020
00464	Amritsar	18:00	Howrah	08:30	Wed, Fri	Up to 31.12.2020
00465	Guwahati	01:30	Amritsar	19:45	Wednesday	Up to 31.12.2020
00466	Amritsar	07:50	Guwahati	02:30	Friday	Up to 31.12.2020
00467	Howrah	17:30	Amritsar	06:30	Thursday	Up to 31.12.2020
00468	Amritsar	20:40	Howrah	08:30	Monday	Up to 31.12.2020
00621	KSR Bengaluru	17:00	Hazrat Nizamuddin	14:00	Wed, Fri	Up to 25.12.2020
00622	Hazrat Nizamuddin	21:00	KSR Bengaluru	18:30	Fri, Sun	Up to 27.12.2020
00761	Renigunta	05:45	Hazrat Nizamuddin	15:20	Daily	Up to 31.12.2020
00762	Hazrat Nizamuddin	10:15	Renigunta	20:45	Daily	Up to 31.12.2020
00763	Hyderabad Deccan	19:00	Amritsar	09:10	Friday	Up to 25.12.2020
00764	Amritsar	05:00	Hyderabad Deccan	18:20	Monday	Up to 28.12.2020
00901	Bandra Terminus	20:00	Jammu Tawi	08:00	Tue, Thu, Fri, Sun	Up to 30.07.2020
00902	Jammu Tawi	18:30	Bandra Terminus	06:30	Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat	Up to 01.08.2020

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THE INDIAN EXPRESS, SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2020

## THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS MUCH MORE PREVALENT  
THAN PEOPLE REALISE.  
— CHIRLANE MCCRAY

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

## A BIG FIGHT

Even as India-China tensions on LAC continue, Delhi must also calibrate response to new edge of US-China dynamic

BEIJING HAS RETALIATED swiftly against Washington's decision earlier this week to close down the Chinese consulate in Houston by ordering the closure of the US consulate in Chengdu in southwestern China. Beijing called it a "legitimate and necessary response to the unreasonable measures by the United States". China had also rejected the Trump Administration's charge that its Houston consulate was engaged in espionage and theft of industrial secrets. This is the first time since the US and China normalised relations in 1979 that the two sides are downgrading diplomatic ties. The closure of consulates in Houston and Chengdu marks a significant escalation of tensions between the world's two most important powers and is bound to affect all major actors in the international system, including India.

Although the US-China trade war had begun two years ago, with both sides imposing punitive tariffs on imports from each other, Washington and Beijing had continuing negotiations on resolving the dispute. The two sides had announced a phase one of the trade deal earlier this year. But recent months have seen the rapid expansion of the scope and intensity of the conflict. The Trump Administration charged China with spreading the COVID-19 virus that has infected more than four million Americans and killed nearly 1,50,000. Beijing retaliated by alleging that the Trump Administration was blaming China for its own failures in dealing with the pandemic. It also floated the theory that the US Army might have been the original source of the deadly virus. Earlier this week, the Trump Administration accused Chinese hackers of trying to steal US research on anti-COVID vaccines. In recent weeks, the US stepped up its global campaign against China's telecom giant Huawei and pressed its allies and partners to reject its technology in rolling out the 5G mobile networks.

Beyond the bilateral issues of diplomatic representation, trade, technology and the coronavirus, the conflict between the two great powers has inevitably begun to envelop other countries, especially those in Asia. Last week, the US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, rejected Beijing's territorial claims in the disputed waters of the South China Sea as unlawful. As he sharpened the US tone on Chinese expansionism across Asia, Pompeo put Washington squarely on the Indian side in the unfolding military conflict between Delhi and Beijing in eastern Ladakh. In his address to the US India Business Council earlier this week, Pompeo underlined the importance of Delhi and Washington working together in countering the China challenge. For some in India, the Trump Administration's muscular approach to Beijing generates deep concerns about being drawn into the escalating US-China conflict. Many others, however, welcome Washington's uninhibited support against Beijing in the conflict that China has imposed on India. Official Delhi has been more than careful in its responses to the new US-China dynamic. The NDA government understands the gravity of the conflict on India's China frontier and the import of the current inflection point in US-China relations. Getting the India-US relationship right is more critical now than ever before.

## LOCKED IN

Women's needs, like those of all vulnerable groups, must be placed at heart of emergency response to Covid crisis

A STUDY BY researchers at the University of California, Los Angeles, brings confirmation that the coronavirus lockdowns are making Indian women more vulnerable to violence at home — a fear that activists and academics have voiced from the start. Mapping the complaints of domestic violence received by the National Commission for Women (NCW) in April-May against designated red, green and orange zones, the study found that complaints of domestic violence rose 131 per cent in red zones, where there were stricter curbs on mobility, relative to green zones. The study also found that cases of harassment, sexual assault, and rape decreased during the period, perhaps correlating to less exposure to "public spaces, public transport, and workplaces". It also highlighted a spike in Google searches for "domestic violence helplines".

Early into the pandemic, the United Nations had warned of a "shadow pandemic" of intimate partner violence as women across the world are locked in with their abusers, unable to seek help. In India, too, activists have flagged a dip in calls to helplines as a sign of women's inability to reach out for assistance. The UCLA research warns against reading the dip in reported sexual violence as a sign that women are safer at home. It underlines that the patriarchal violence faced by Indian women, in their homes and outside, is deep-rooted and capable of taking on different forms. The pandemic is not just a public health challenge. It also threatens to disrupt the systems and institutions that provide a fragile immunity against toxic social inequalities. For Indian women, the snapping of access to mobility, income, and circles of solidarity outside the family can have terrifying consequences.

The UCLA research ought to serve as an urgent SOS for governments and policymakers. Unfortunately, the Union minister for Women and Child Development has debunked the fears of a spike in domestic violence during the lockdown as "scaremongering". Instead of denial, local governments, police and ground-level health workers must prioritise the safety of women, innovate on ways to communicate with them, and set up shelters where they can be removed out of harm's way. Women's needs, like those of all vulnerable groups, must be placed at the heart of the emergency response to the COVID-19 crisis. They cannot wait till the end of the pandemic for help to reach them.

## DREAMS LAID LOW

If not for the pandemic, this would have been the first weekend of the Tokyo Games

JAPAN'S OBSESSION with punctuality had meant they didn't leave anything for the last minute while planning for the 2020 Tokyo Games. In 1964, the last time they hosted the Games, it was about rebuilding the country's pride that had taken a beating after World War II. This time they had plans to remind the world that a series of natural disasters, a long economic slump and China's overwhelming presence next door hadn't laid them low. But the COVID-19 outbreak changed it all. Among the coronavirus's less-talked about impact has been its role in dashing the aspirations of a proud nation, thousands of dreamy-eyed Olympians and millions of yearning sporting fans.

If not for the pandemic, this would have been the first weekend of the Tokyo Games. It would have been the time when the world would sit together to first soak in the grandeur of the opening ceremony and then watch even those sports they would otherwise not care about. Synchronised swimmers, artistic gymnasts, burly weight-lifters, sturdy decathletes or nifty boxers would get global attention that would make their long hours of toil in training arenas worth it.

So should the world come together and ensure that the Tokyo Games are saved? Considering Japan's efficiency, the task of rescheduling the Olympics is not an insurmountable hurdle. But with the pandemic still not in control, can Japan ensure the safety of 11,000 athletes? With the COVID vaccine not expected to be ready for mass distribution by next summer, it will be difficult for Japan to guarantee the safety of the Olympians. The decision-makers are walking a tight-rope. While a cancellation is heart-breaking for the athletes, a sporting event, however grand, can't be worth staging if it is a risk to human life.



RS SHARMA

"BUILD PLATFORMS, NOT products" has been the mantra for the last two decades. Amazon started by selling books but became a profitable behemoth by creating the e-commerce platform called Amazon Marketplace. The most valuable companies today are platforms for search, social interaction, advertising, insurance, travel, real estate, etc.

Fundamentally, these platforms are technology layers that leverage the internet to bring together producers, resellers and consumers, reducing transaction costs by cutting out intermediaries. There may be multiple platforms in the game to start with, but due to network effects and the non-portability/lock-in, only a few come to dominate each space, concentrating market power in those hands. Eventually, the participants face exploitation. Uber has been accused of exploitation by its driver members; Amazon by sellers; Google, Facebook and Apple by app developers. These neo-intermediaries so position themselves that the service providers cannot reach their customers, except through them.

That is not all. Big platforms have tried to create walled gardens in which to trap the customers, while fencing off the rest of the internet. Such a move in India was thwarted by laying down unambiguous net neutrality rules. In app stores and e-commerce marketplaces, platforms host their own brands and "preferred" partners, which then compete with the advantage of a home ground and friendly umpires. They may weaponise users, like Facebook did when it prompted its users to send emails to TRAI in favour of Free Basics.

Finally, the platforms amass data about users, without the latter being aware of its extent or purpose. This helps them create insights with which to influence user behaviour, which is not limited to guiding the buying decisions. Such influence has been exerted for subverting voter behaviour, as was revealed in the Cambridge Analytica case, or to shape public discourse.

The promise of the internet was disintermediation, but the process has hit a speed breaker with major platforms taking on the role of mediation. All of them have faced penalties for anti-competitive behaviour by regulatory bodies or invited censure for undesirable activities at formal hearings by elected representatives. Their observed behaviour is a natural outcome of pursuit of greater profit

## The digital sway

We need to create open protocols, networks. India can lead the way in breaking stranglehold of platforms

and dominance. Levying penalties or breaking up large corporations is like dealing with symptoms only. It is not the cure.

Is there a solution to this conundrum? The answer is in the basic principles that created the internet.

In the beginning, people didn't "get" internet. They would ask: Who operates it? Who owns it? What's the service that it provides? What is its business model? Some of us, even today, conflate Google search or Facebook or Amazon with the internet itself. In reality, the internet is an open, inter-operable, scalable, and inclusive infrastructure built through a set of protocols that allow dissimilar computers to speak to each other over incompatible networks owned by entities that may even be competitors.

India has shown, in a few domains, how to create frugal solutions on top of internet with the same approach. For instance, Unified Payment Interface (UPI) is a set of protocols that standardises the language of money transfer. It is an interface (a simple and structured protocol for instructions) and a clearing house that relays well-formed requests to concerned parties for execution.

Once the language is there, a user may choose any app to link their bank account to a UPI ID and make a pay or collect request involving any other bank account. In early 2016, we launched UPI and a reference application BHIM and, with it, a revolution got underway. UPI handled 1.3 billion transactions in June 2020, overtaking the aggregate number of transactions of all legacy "platforms" that also manage money transfers. It leverages Aadhaar and the mobile phones to allow people to make small payments — immediately and for free. UPI became the big daddy because it treated all players, big or small, equally. This allowed third-party innovators to drive adoption by creating solutions that addressed the need of the people.

Application Programming Interfaces (or API) are protocols that define the meaning of data exchanged between two computers. The API definitions are provided by the platform operators. Now, consider what happens if a set of APIs is adopted as a universal standard.

Universally accepted API definitions could allow a cabbie to be discovered by any cab aggregator app the rider may choose. Indeed, booking a cab could become a seamless extension of facilities offered by hotels

or offices. In healthcare, it could facilitate finding a doctor, booking an ambulance, taking out insurance, filing a claim, sharing a medical report or purchasing medicines from a pharmacy — all with a phone and without knowledge about how to engage with specific service providers.

Open protocols create ecosystems that are non-rivalrous and non-excludable by design, unlike platforms where participation is at the discretion of the platform provider. By letting the smallest of application developers or start-ups offer low-cost, locally relevant solutions, we can address the needs of the diverse business community and achieve much greater penetration for e-commerce than the 10 per cent of today.

Open systems have the potential to transform education, food delivery, or professional services delivered at home, by enabling entrepreneurs to compete on their quality and reputation alone. Portability from one application to another, privacy and data empowerment will be some of the issues taken care of.

How to start and scale up open systems as alternatives to platforms? Would the big players bite the bullet? Can such systems achieve critical mass? Well, banks were once averse to joining the UPI but are happy now. Google has even recommended adoption of a similar system by the Federal Reserve in the US.

We need to create open protocols and open networks. Further, with open consensus (using distributed ledgers or blockchain) we could even eliminate the need for centrally managed clearing houses. Thus, extending the approach of UPI, eSign, and other solutions, India can demonstrate how to break the stranglehold of platforms, whether homegrown or operated by overseas players. Millions of flowers can bloom again. I am told that there are groups working on such designs and concepts. We should bring them together and take the lead as a nation.

We know how dependent we are on some of the foreign platforms, despite the claim of being a software powerhouse of the world. This situation is the very antithesis of an Atmanirbhar Bharat and a threat to the country's digital sovereignty. We can change that.

The writer is Chairman, TRAI. Views are personal



KHALED AHMED

PAKISTAN'S MOST WELL-KNOWN dacoit, Uzair Jan Baloch, is once again in the news, having confessed to murdering 198 people during his career as the "boss" of the Lyari Gang in Karachi. He was arrested from the UAE on December 28, 2015, and everyone thought he would be summarily gotten rid of. But he is still around, presenting himself before the courts trying him for murder and billions in extractions (*bhatta*) shared with the politicians in power. Uzair is also alleged to have provided Iranian intelligence agencies information about the Pakistan Army, and orchestrated hundreds of targeted killings and politically-motivated murders.

Uzair is hopefully the last of the Baloch dacoits of Lyari, Karachi's largest district. If he gets his comeuppance, it will be the end of a classic Sindhi interface with the Baloch legend that linked Karachi to Balochistan on both sides of the Iran-Pakistan border. Most of the "wadero" (feudal) aristocracy of Sindh traces its ancestry to Baloch warriors. Uzair Baloch, scion of a family hailing from Iranian Balochistan, was caught travelling on a fake Iranian passport to the UAE and has to face trial for killing and dismembering his rival Arshad Pappu in the style of the Taliban killers in the north.

After his arrest, Lyari reacted by closing shops, as if in anticipation of inter-gang

## THE KARACHI UNDERWORLD

Confessions of a dreaded don are a reminder of crime-politics nexus in Pakistan

shootouts. A reluctant Pakistan People's Party, that couldn't counter the charges of maintaining a nexus with Uzair's gang, suffered the mourning in Pakistan's most dangerous town in silence. As if in expiation, the PPP government in Sindh had issued warrants for his overseas arrest through the Interpol. The 55 cases against him included 16 murders. Uzair was on the run after falling out with the PPP. His first cousin, the famous Rehman Dakait, was earlier killed in a police encounter — once the personal bodyguard of the PPP leader Benazir Bhutto, Rehman had become her party's biggest enemy.

Who owns Lyari? The Kutchis (Gujaratis) and the Baloch laid claim to it but the dacoits had de facto ownership, riding atop an increasingly corrupt administration and political parties. Abdullah Haroon rose from being a hawker to becoming the "sugar king" of Pakistan. His sons, Yousaf and Mehmud, became chief minister of Sindh and mayor of Karachi, respectively. According to a historian of Karachi, Gul Hassan Kalnati, a large number of Kutchis had come to Karachi during the development process of the Karachi Port between 1901 and 1905.

The Sindhi elite today itself traces its origin to the warlike tribes of Balochistan. Lyari also gave rise to Baloch sub-nationalism pre-

dating similar movements in other parts of the country. Asif Ali Zardari, the husband of assassinated ex-Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, is a Baloch. A special relationship developed between Lyari and the PPP over the years, which later weakened in the face of the ascendance of the Urdu-speaking MQM. In 1987, the wedding reception of Bhutto and Zardari took place in Lyari, which by then had become the most notorious lair of dacoits in the country. The following year, Bhutto was elected to the National Assembly with a big Lyari vote. Two years later, her husband followed suit from a Lyari seat.

Karachi has been allowed to descend into the Hades of lawlessness because the two parties that rule it — the PPP and MQM — have sought street-power at the cost of the writ of the state. Uzair rebelled rather than submit to the PPP's need to clean up its act. According to rumours, he refused to make way for the entry into politics of a childhood friend of Zardari through a Lyari election. He was protected by the ruling party till 2012; but after his refusal to stand down in favour of his "replacement" don, Owais Muzaffar "Tappi", they say, all bets were off.

The writer is consulting editor, Newsweek Pakistan



## JULY 25, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

STICK FOR TRADERS  
FINANCE MINISTER R VENKATARAMAN threatened to "use the stick" to compel traders to bring down prices of consumer items. Replying to the debate on the Appropriation Bill in the Lok Sabha, Venkataraman regretted that the excise concessions announced by him in the Budget had not been passed on to consumers by traders. This had belied his hopes. In its carrot and stick policy, the government had already tried the carrot approach. "If the market does not behave, the stick will have to be used," he warned. Venkataraman said he was considering asking retail shops to display stock and price lists. If this did not bring down

prices, then the government would have to think of other regulating measures. Venkataraman did some plain speaking and hoped traders understood that the government would not take things lying down. "If by their behaviour they invite regulatory measures, they have only themselves to thank," he said.

KARNATAKA VIOLENCE  
THE ORGY OF violence triggered by the farmers' agitation in Dharwad district remained unabated for the fourth day with reports of looting and mob fury pouring in from several towns in north Karnataka. The police opened fire at two places — Koppal

and Mulgund — to quell mob fury. One person died in the firing and two were injured. All the six towns including Hubli-Dharwad, which are under dusk-to-dawn curfew remained relatively calm, but trouble erupted in several other towns in Dharwad district and Koppal in Raichur district.

UTTAM KUMAR DEAD  
UTTAM KUMAR, PERHAPS the greatest matinee idol of the Bengali screen, died of a heart attack tonight. He was 54. He was admitted to a nursing home early in the morning on July 24 and died at 9:35 pm. The body was later taken to his house in South Calcutta.



## 13 THE IDEAS PAGE

## Case for presidential system

It has never been clearer. The disrepute into which the political process has fallen in India, and the cynicism about the motives of politicians, can be traced to the workings of the parliamentary system



SHASHI THAROOR

THE DISGRACEFUL POLITICAL shenanigans the nation has witnessed, most recently in Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, and the horse-trading of MLAs to switch allegiances for power and pelf, are not merely an occasion for breast-beating about morality in politics or the opportunism of the cash-rich ruling party. We never seem to look beyond the headlines to the basic problem: The system that makes this shameful conduct possible. The parliamentary system we borrowed from the British has not worked in Indian conditions. It is time to demand a change.

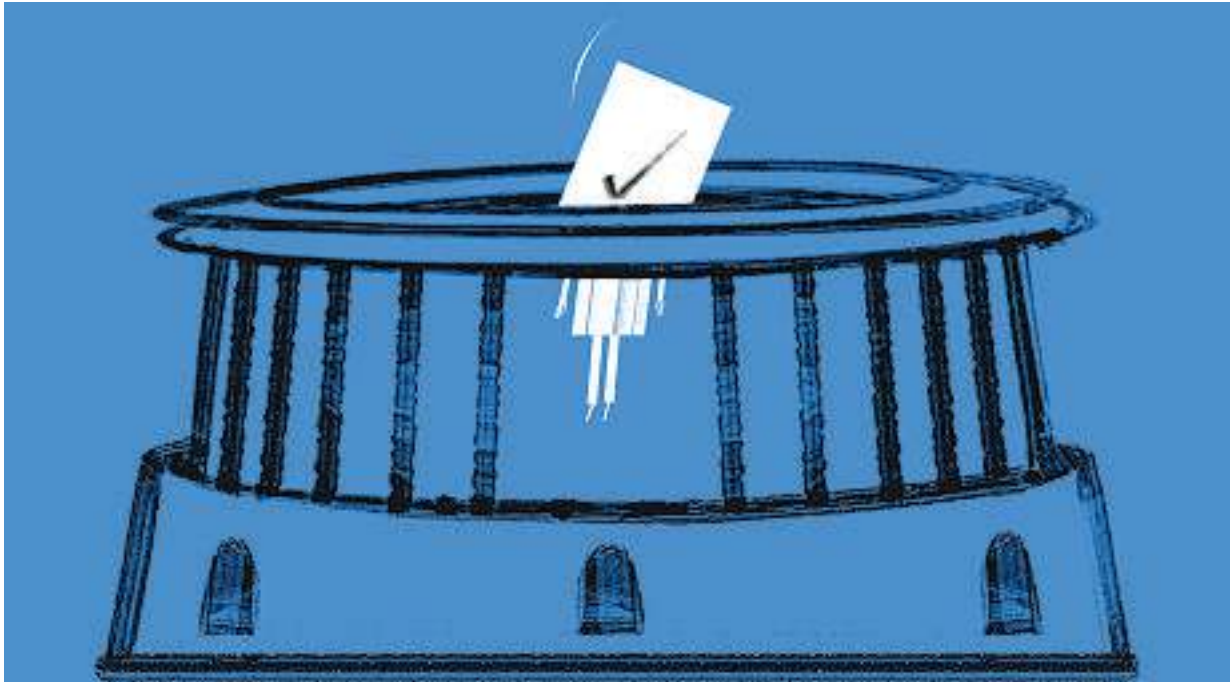
The facts are clear: Our parliamentary system has created a unique breed of legislator, largely unqualified to legislate, who has sought election only in order to wield executive power. It has produced governments dependent on a fickle legislative majority, who are therefore obliged to focus more on politics than on policy or performance. It has distorted the voting preferences of an electorate that knows which individuals it wants to vote for but not necessarily which parties. It has spawned parties that are shifting alliances of selfish individual interests, not vehicles of coherent sets of ideas. It has forced governments to concentrate less on governing than on staying in office, and obliged them to cater to the lowest common denominator of their coalitions. The parliamentary system has failed us.

Pluralist democracy is India's greatest strength, but its current manner of operation is the source of our major weaknesses. To suggest this is political sacrilege in India. Barely any of the many politicians I have discussed this with are even willing to contemplate a change. The main reason for this is that they know how to work the present system and do not wish to alter the ways they are used to.

Yet the parliamentary system devised in Britain — a small island nation with electorates of less than a lakh voters per constituency — is based on traditions which simply do not exist in India. These involve clearly defined political parties, each with a coherent set of policies and preferences that distinguish it from the next, whereas in India a party is all-too-often a label of convenience which a politician adopts and discards as frequently as a Bollywood film star changes costume. Hopping from one to the next — which would send shock waves through the political system in other parliamentary democracies — is commonplace, even banal, in our country.

In the absence of a real party system, the voter chooses not between parties but between individuals, usually on the basis of their caste, their public image or other personal qualities. But since the individual is elected in order to be part of a majority that will form the government, party affiliations matter. So voters are told that if they want a Narendra Modi as prime minister, or a Mamata Banerjee or Jagan Reddy as their chief minister, they must vote for someone else as MP or MLA in order to indirectly accomplish that result. It is a perversity only the British could have devised — to vote for a legislature not to legislate but in order to form the executive.

The fact that the principal reason for entering Parliament is to attain governmental office creates four specific problems. First, it limits executive posts to those who are electable rather than to those who are able. The prime minister cannot appoint a cabinet of his choice; he has to cater to the wishes of



C R Sasikumar

the political leaders of several parties. (Yes, he can bring some members in through the Rajya Sabha, but our upper house too has been largely the preserve of full-time politicians, so the talent pool has not been significantly widened.)

Second, it puts a premium on defections and horse-trading. The anti-defection Act of 1985 has failed to cure the problem, since the bargaining has shifted to getting enough MLAs to resign to topple a government, while promising them offices when they win the subsequent by-elections.

Third, legislation suffers. Most laws are drafted by the executive — in practice by the bureaucracy — and parliamentary input into their formulation and passage is minimal, with very many bills being passed after barely a few minutes of debate. The ruling party inevitably issues a whip to its members in order to ensure unimpeded passage of a bill, and since defiance of a whip itself attracts disqualification, MPs blindly vote as their party directs. The parliamentary system does not permit the existence of a legislature distinct from the executive, applying its collective mind freely to the nation's laws. Accountability of the government to the people, through their elected representatives, is weakened.

Fourth, for those parties who do not get into government and who realise that the outcome of most votes is a foregone conclusion, Parliament or Assembly serves not as a solemn deliberative body, but as a theatre for the demonstration of their power to disrupt. The well of the house — supposed to be sacrosanct — becomes a stage for the members of the opposition to crowd and jostle, waving placards and chanting slogans until the Speaker, after several futile attempts to restore order, adjourns in despair. In India's Parliament, many opposition members feel that the best way to show the strength of their feelings is to disrupt law-making rather than debate the law.

Apologists for the present system say in its defence that it has served to keep the country together and given every Indian a stake in the nation's political destiny. But that is what democracy has done, not the parliamentary system. What our present system has not done as well as other democratic systems might, is to ensure effective performance. India's many challenges require political arrangements that permit decisive action, whereas ours increasingly promotes drift and indecision. We must have a system of democracy whose leaders can focus on governance rather than on staying in power.

The disrepute into which the political process has fallen in India, and the widespread cynicism about the motives of our politicians, can be traced directly to the workings of the parliamentary system. Holding the executive hostage to the agendas of a motley bunch of legislators is not

ing but a recipe for governmental instability. And instability is precisely what India, with its critical economic and social challenges, cannot afford.

The case for a presidential system has, in my view, never been clearer. A directly elected chief executive in New Delhi and in each state, instead of being vulnerable to the shifting sands of coalition support politics, would have stability of tenure free from legislative whim, be able to appoint a cabinet of talents, and above all, be able to devote his or her energies to governance, and not just to government. The Indian voter will be able to vote directly for the individual he or she wants to be ruled by, and the president will truly be able to claim to speak for a majority of Indians rather than a majority of MPs. At the end of a fixed period of time, the public would be able to judge the individual on performance in improving the lives of Indians, rather than on political skill at keeping a government in office.

The same logic would apply to the directly elected heads of our towns and cities — as I have proposed in a Private Member's Bill in the Lok Sabha — and village panchayats, who today are little more than glorified committee chairmen, with little power and minimal resources. To give effect to meaningful local self-government, we need directly elected local officials, each with real authority and financial resources to deliver results in their own areas.

The only serious objection advanced by liberal democrats is that the presidential system carries with it the risk of dictatorship. They conjure up the image of an imperious president, immune to parliamentary defeat and impervious to public opinion, ruling the country by fiat. In particular they argue that it will pave the way for a Modi dictatorship in India. But a President Modi could scarcely be more autocratic than the prime minister we have seen in office — one who has, thanks to the parliamentary system, a rubber-stamp majority in the Lok Sabha rather than the independent legislature a presidential system would ensure. In addition, the powers of a President Modi would be amply balanced by those of the directly elected chief executives in the states, who would be immune to dismissal by their party leader, or to toppling by defecting MLAs.

Democracy is an end in itself, and we are right to be proud of it. But few Indians are proud of the kind of politics our democracy has inflicted upon us. With the needs and challenges of one-sixth of humanity before our leaders, we must have a democracy that delivers progress to our people. Changing to a presidential system is the best way of ensuring a democracy that works.

*The writer is a Lok Sabha MP from the Congress*

## New crisis, old exclusion

Women are bearing a disproportionate burden of the pandemic, its consequences. This needs to be acknowledged and addressed



NEERA SAGGI

SOCIETY, GRAPPLING WITH the COVID-19 virus, the associated health crisis, and issues of economic revival, has missed out on the signals that reflect the impact of the pandemic on women. Today, the discourse has moved towards facilitating economic recovery and regrettably, there is no evidence that it includes women and their concerns. The state of anonymity and curtailed contact with the outside seems to have increased the apathy in society, and perhaps encouraged the indifference and marginalisation of women from the collective consciousness.

The travails of women have increased manifold. Both within their homes and outside, women struggle with gender violence, health issues and face economic exclusion. This troika is likely to become more noticeable, taking women a few steps back from the critical and minimum level of social and economic development they had witnessed in the last few years.

The present pandemic, with back-breaking work, has left them with almost no time to dream, and little hope of getting back soon to their jobs, hampering their ability to strive, confined as they are within oppressive homes. Regrettably, little public conversation has revolved around these concerns and the few discussions have been unable to project any viable alternatives.

Much of the conversation has been around gender violence reported from within the confines of respectable domesticity, perceived as a haven of safety. A society already ashamed of its sexual predators in public places is now witnessing a situation where homes are also an unsafe place for women. Even during the lockdown, there is concern around abduction, wrongful confinement, molestation and harassment, and that many cases do not surface, more so in the existing circumstances. A community-based cross-sectional study among women in parts of Tamil Nadu (Indian Journal of Community Medicine, 2019) is indicative of three major factors that encourage domestic violence — alcohol consumption by husband, the controlling behaviour of family members, and frustration as a consequence of limited resources.

The lockdown has curtailed employment opportunities and confined male members to their homes, a combination that is frustrating for men and potentially dangerous for women.

There are insufficient reports of community support or social interventions even while women are bereft of dignity and safety. In this time, the "sakhi" in rural communities, who helped a woman handle this abuse, and encouraged her to obtain community and official support, is involved in other tasks. Non-government organisations are also under lockdown.

Other practices reinforce unequal gen-

der equations at home. With the pandemic, there is a reduction in earnings, and family members are constantly at home, with children being educated online. This has increased the number of hours of unpaid work and enhanced the burden on women.

Equally evident are concerns around the health of women, especially of those who rely on community services and the official health machinery. It was inevitable that the available health resources, already inadequate and stretched, are deployed for the pandemic. Women have unique and multiple health needs, and over the years, grass roots health workers such as anganwadi and ASHA workers have provided reproductive and maternal services. These functionaries are presently overwhelmed. Consequently, women have little access to family planning services, to institutional support for deliveries, natal and neonatal support or adequate and regular access to hygiene and sanitary items. Increase in unwanted pregnancies, maternal mortality and neonatal mortality are expected to emerge as major concern areas.

The pandemic has aggravated the trend of declining female participation in the labour force. This period has witnessed a disproportionate economic exclusion of women, both in rural and urban economies. With reverse migration, demand for work has increased in rural areas. The shift of employment from women to men is inevitable in a society that places a premium on men. Moreover, for women in the lower-income strata in rural areas, opportunities in non-farm employment are few, and those in traditional sectors like agriculture and handicrafts have dwindled. In sectors like construction, jobs have become increasingly masculinised. In urban conglomerations, women are largely engaged as informal workers and have little reserves. Today, a majority of the jobs in cities are unavailable or inaccessible.

With unpaid work increasing, and livelihood opportunities decreasing, many women are likely to find it difficult to sustain or rebuild their livelihoods, considering that there is no clear visibility of work being restored soon. The current economic discourse contains little that identifies viable measures to retain the share of women in such sectors. A few sporadic solutions like ensuring payment to women for household work are echoes of earlier conversations, not easily or readily implementable.

A society impacted emotionally and physically by the deadly virus and struggling to come to terms with it, a society in a state of inertia and ennui, is hardly inclined to address specific concerns of one of its sections, however large or important. Past experience has demonstrated that it is futile to expect our collective consciousness to arrive at any consensus to address the needs of this constituency or formulate a viable strategy. Women would need to find their own resources and mechanisms.

This is not the first time they have been left to fend for themselves and it is not the last time that they would be forced to identify their mode of survival whether in "ghare" or "baire" — within or outside her home.

*The writer is a retired civil servant*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## TASKS IN NAGALAND

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Peace and its discourse', (IE, July 24). The unauthorised monetary claims by Naga rebel groups on ordinary individuals and private establishments to finance their violent political needs to stop urgently. Governor RN Ravi has a special responsibility in this respect. But as an interlocutor to the Naga peace talks, finding a political solution to the Naga issue should take precedence over his other responsibilities. A grand scheme for political accommodation will subsume major rebel movements and their splinter groups into the political mainstream.

**Sudip Kumar Dey, Kolkata**

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Seize the deal' (IE, July 24). Conflict between China and India has made it necessary for Washington to improve its economic ties with Delhi. Opening US markets to Indian-made goods even with no reciprocal move by India makes geopolitical sense. Having the US as a stable source of demand for manufactured products would help India to build up its manufacturing sector. It is not likely to increase the trade deficit or put US workers out of a job, instead, it would result in some companies shifting labour-intensive manufacturing out of China into India, as is

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now happening with Vietnam.

**Sanjay Chopra, Mohali**

## EXTEND PDS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Holes in the safety net' (IE, July 23). Apart from the migrant workers, many lower middle class people are also under economic stress. They do not have access to PDS shops and other government schemes. It's high time that the government looks at all the sections of society and focuses on measures to maintain equity among them.

**Ayushi Singh, Agra**



PRABHAT JHA

RECENTLY, RSS CHIEF Mohan Bhagwat said that "the whole world is struggling with the pandemic, yet life is going on. Volunteers (swayamsevak) may think that the daily gatherings of shakhas are closed and that regular programmes are not being carried out. This is not so. Shakhas are being organised and RSS works are going on. Just their appearance has changed". Even during the coronavirus, the RSS has remained dynamic.

People wonder how the RSS is constantly engaged in its work. Perhaps they do not know that all the volunteers of the organisation work for the nation.

During the current crisis precipitated by the pandemic, volunteers are reciting rashtra vandana and organising shakhas in their respective offices or within their families. The service that the RSS volunteers have rendered in every state and district of the

country during the lockdown, without publicity, is commendable.

When the lockdown was implemented across the country, daily-wage earners and other workers found themselves in a life-or-death scenario. Swayamsevak immediately provided them with basic ration and food. When it became clear that the aforementioned vulnerable people would face financial difficulties for a considerable period due to the lack of earning opportunities, swayamsevak made the necessary arrangements and provided them with ration kits and essential items for more than a month. This work was done in every district of the country with the help of local administration and non-government organisations.

Organisations affiliated to the RSS have been providing food and lodging, often by collecting food items from the larger society

and making them available to those that need it. However, the organisation keeps itself away from publicity. Seminars, discussions and debates with RSS thinkers, have been organised through audio-video conferencing across the country. The ancillary organisations of the Sangh have started work in their respective fields.

The RSS is more about the real world than its virtual counterpart. In the initial days of the lockdown, more than two lakh volunteers participated in the country-wide relief exercise, providing aid and materials to more than one crore families. This service continued for nearly 40 days. More than 50 lakh face covers were distributed.

Swayamsevak started to work in containment areas in several cities in the country, especially in Delhi, Mumbai and Pune, to support healthcare workers. In this en-

deavour, they exposed themselves to many risks. The major risk was of contracting the COVID-19 infection. Yet, this did not deter swayamsevak and they came out in service of humanity wearing PPE kits. The RSS even ran helplines for different purposes.

Through Seva Bharati, the RSS has taken the responsibility of taking care of the service settlements (Seva Bastiyan). Apart from Seva Bharati, other RSS wings such as Gram Bharati, Ekal Vidyalaya and the Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram are playing a major role in creating public awareness about the pandemic across India. Swayamsevak will not stop their work until the current crisis passes. This is their commitment to the nation, society and humanity.

*The writer is BJP National Vice President and a former MP*



New Delhi





## Two posing as health workers kidnap UP businessman's son

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
LUCKNOW, JULY 24

THE EIGHT-year-old son of a businessman was allegedly kidnapped from outside their residence in Uttar Pradesh's Gonda district on Friday by two persons who posed as health department employees, police said.

The kidnappers came to the house on the pretext of distributing sanitisers and masks, police said citing the family members' statement.

They took the boy outside the house on the pretext of collecting additional masks and sanitisers for the family. The family started looking for him but to no avail. Later in the day, they claimed to have received a ransom call but did not disclose the

### AMID AFRICAN SWINE FEVER OUTBREAK

## 'Recipe for disaster', says Assam on Centre's nod to transport pigs to N-E

TORA AGARWALA  
GUWAHATI, JULY 24

ASSAM HAS opposed the Centre's recent decision to transport pigs from North India to the Northeast after the porcine industry in the state suffered major losses due to the Covid-19 lockdown, followed closely by an outbreak of the African Swine Fever (ASF) that has killed more than 17,000 pigs.

On Wednesday, an order by the Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries had said that the government had decided to "allow movement of pigs from states of Haryana and Punjab to the north-eastern states."

Assam Agriculture and Animal Husbandry minister Atul Bora Thursday wrote to Union Minister of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Giriraj Singh, requesting him to withdraw the order, describing the decision as "poorly conceived".

"Presently in Assam, we have taken steps to extensively educate the farmers on the focus for containment of African Swine Fever and have taken harsh measures to prevent sale of pork, transportation of pigs to ensure that there is no further spread of the disease," he wrote.

Bora said the recent order

## MP woman says husband died in hospital premises for lack of money; Guna admin denies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
BHOPAL, JULY 24

The administration of Madhya Pradesh's Guna district has begun a probe into a woman's allegation that her husband died in the premises of the district hospital on Thursday for lack of treatment because she could not arrange the money needed for admission. However, the administration has rebutted the woman's claim about the demand for money.

Aarti Rajak, a resident of

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The date of submission & opening of e-tender no. EAV-09/2020-21 and EAV-05/2020-21 is hereby extended up to 10.08.2020 (15.00 PM) & 11.08.2020 (15.00 PM) respectively. Further details can be seen at website [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in).  
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## AICTE derecognises three PG programmes by MDI-Gurgaon

Management institute is placed 11th nationally in HRD rankings this year

RITIKA CHOPRA  
NEW DELHI, JULY 24

THE GOVERNMENT has derecognised three postgraduate programmes offered by MDI-Gurgaon, which was ranked among the country's top 20 management institutes this year.

On June 30, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) withdrew approval for the postgraduate programme in energy management, postgraduate programme in public policy management and the postgraduate diploma in management (Executive Management Programme), bringing down the institute's maximum intake to 500 seats for the academic year 2020-21. Last year, it had approved 770 seats across eight programmes for MDI-Gurgaon.

The programmes have been

derecognised for violating AICTE norms on course duration, states the AICTE order, a copy of which is with The Indian Express.

The development is significant as it comes around the same time the HRD Ministry told the IIMs that their one-year Master's degree programme for working professionals violates UGC norms on course duration. UGC mandates that all Master's degree programmes should be for two years.

MDI-Gurgaon, the AICTE order states, was offering the postgraduate programmes in public policy management and energy management as executive management programmes for 15 months when the approval has always been for 24 months. Similarly, the duration of the on-campus classes for the executive management programme is 12 months, whereas the AICTE-mandated minimum duration is

15 or 18 months, the order says.

While the public policy management programme is meant for civil servants and public officials from central and state governments, the energy management programme aims to "prepare visionary leaders for the energy sector", says the institute's website. The executive management programme is for working professionals and entrepreneurs.

The Council has also pulled up the institute's management for not having fire safety certificates for 34 out of 36 buildings on campus and proper building plan approvals.

The order states that MDI-Gurgaon has been allowed to continue its remaining programmes with a "strict warning" to comply with all deficiencies pointed out by the expert committee of the Council within six months. As for restoring approval

for the derecognised programmes, AICTE has said it would be granted only after verification of all compliances.

MDI-Gurgaon director Pawan Kumar Singh did not wish to comment on the matter. A senior AICTE officer told The Indian Express that ES Rao, chairman of the institute's Board of Governors, has given an undertaking that all deficiencies will be corrected by the year-end. Rao is the CEO of IFCI Limited.

The institute has already started the executive management programme in April, and 20 students have been enrolled. It's not clear what will happen to these students in the wake of AICTE withdrawing approval for this programme.

MDI-Gurgaon was ranked eleventh nationally this year in the HRD Ministry's National Institute Ranking Framework.

## Campaign by villagers saves 400-year-old banyan tree, highway plan to be changed

SADAF MODAK  
MUMBAI, JULY 24

THE RESOLVE of a village has saved a 400-year-old banyan tree which was to be chopped for a state highway road project in Sangli district. Residents of Bhose village rallied around the tree—literally and figuratively—over the past week, garnering attention on social media and bringing it to the notice of authorities to save it from being brought down.

On July 16, state Tourism and Environment Minister Aaditya Thackeray wrote to Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari requesting that the tree, whose canopy spreads over 400 sq m, be saved by making changes to the highway passing through the village. The letter said the 400-year-old tree had been a part of the history of the area and is home to many species of birds and animals. Thackeray tweeted Wednesday that Gadkari had responded positively to the request and that the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) had begun working on realigning of the Ratnagiri-Nagpur highway.

On Friday, a senior official of the NHAI said that while the main trunk of the tree, which was coming in the way of a service road, will be kept intact, some branches



The canopy of the tree, in Maharashtra's Sangli district, is spread over 400 sq metres. Express

will be trimmed. "A relook at the plan was done to save the tree. The main carriageway will require trimming some branches but changes will be made to the service road by making it discontinuous for about 20-25 metres to keep the trunk intact," the official said.

Residents of Bhose said they learnt earlier this month that the service road, part of the highway, would pass through the spot where the tree and its branches are spread out, requiring it to be chopped entirely. "Due to the lockdown, we could not assemble in

numbers to protest. But we decided to make all the efforts we could to save it. Initially, around 20 of us gathered as a form of Chipko movement while keeping social distancing in mind. Then, we took to social media to talk about the tree," said Bhose resident Dinesh Kadam.

The residents individually and through a group called Sahyadri Sanghatana took to uploading photographs of the tree on Facebook. They also shot videos to show how wide its branches spread. Other videos featured the monkeys living on its branches,

with residents speaking of other species which will lose their homes if the tree were to be cut.

Another group that the residents created awareness through is the *warkaris* who travel to Pandharpur from various parts of the state every year. "The tree with its vast expanse has been giving them shelter to rest for many years. We stopped vehicles of the pilgrims passing through the village and told them about our efforts. Some of them then posted photographs of their previous journeys where they took shelter under the tree," Kadam said.

## Air Force Commanders' meet ends, IAF chief outlines Vision 2030

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 24

THE AIR Force Commanders' Conference, the biannual meet of the Air Force leadership, concluded on Friday. During the meeting, the situation along eastern Ladakh was discussed in detail, along with how to prepare the Indian Air Force (IAF) for the next decade.

During the three-day conference, IAF commanders and Principal Staff Officers were ad-



Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria

ressed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, and Army Chief General M M Naravane on matters of jointness and integrated war fighting, the IAF said in a statement.

Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal R K S Bhadauria re-

viewed the status and issues related to all the Air Commands and the branches of the Air Headquarters.

During the conference, a "series of discussions and reviews on operational preparedness and strategies for countering security threats envisaged across the entire spectrum" were taken up, and the IAF leadership "discussed the current situation and thereafter carried out a thorough review of the IAF's transformation roadmap for the next decade", the statement said.

## Timeless dancer who took on hard work of disseminating Uday Shankar's style

SUANSHU KHURANA  
NEW DELHI, JULY 24

'KALPANA', DANCE pioneer Uday Shankar's 1948 magnum opus which was a critique of socio-political issues of the time and an exploration of how they can be overcome with the arts, is remembered for complex and captivating dance pieces. Be it the Bharatanatyam-inspired piece with Uday and Amala Shankar as Shiva and Parvati, or Kartikeya, a distinguished Kathakali-based number, or the folk and classical opening, Uday was accompanied by his wife and dancer Amala in all of these. While Uday was the towering figure in these performances, one cannot miss Amala, who complemented him with gusto. Her precision in movement and grace paired with a supreme sense of rhythm remains timeless.

Amala, a brilliant dancer who took on the hard work of disseminating Uday's legacy—a blend of

seven classical dance styles and folk dance forms—to a new generation, died in her sleep on Friday. She was 101.

She was also the matriarch of the Shankar family—she was the sister-in-law of sitar legend Pandit Ravi Shankar, mother of actor and dancer Mamata Shankar and sitar player Ananda Shankar, and mother-in-law of dancer Tanushree Shankar.

In the Shiva-Parvati sequence, Uday depicted the cosmic cycle of creation and destruction with vigorous, brisk movements, while Amala, who played Shiva's feminine counterpart, responded with 'lasya', the eroticism showcased through delicate movements of the neck and eyes. But in a dance ballet so overshadowed by Uday, Amala found her own, especially in 'Jamuna ke teere', where she performed solo. Dressed in a simple cotton sari, she reflected melody and mood in movements that were supple yet sharp. It was a lesson in minimalism in dance.



AMALA SHANKAR  
1919-2020

Born Amala Nandy in 1919 in a culturally inclined family in Jessore (now in Bangladesh), Amala did not know anything about dance until she visited Paris in 1930 with her father—a gold shop owner—and was invited to represent India at the International Colonial Exhibition

### HYDERABAD RAPE, MURDER

## SC gives 6-month extension to panel probing encounter

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 24

THE SUPREME Court on Friday extended by six more months the time granted to the commission constituted to inquire into the encounter of four men accused of raping and killing a veterinary surgeon in Hyderabad on December 6.

The apex court had set up a three-member commission, headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice VS Sirpurkar on December 12, following a petition which contended that the encounter was a fake one. The SC had originally given the Commission—also comprising former Bombay High Court judge Justice Rekha S Baldota and ex-CBI director D R Karthikeyan—six months from the date on which it started the inquiry to submit its report.

However, the work of the

commission could not proceed due to the Covid-19 situation and it approached the top court, seeking more time to complete its investigation and submit a report.

On Friday, the application came up before a bench headed by Chief Justice of India S A Bobde, which allowed the six months' extension.

A lawyer who is also a petitioner in the matter told the apex court that such incidents of custodial deaths were also happening in states like Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh and sought orders to curb this.

The CJ asked him, "How can any court in the world grant relief like this and say there should be no crime?"

"As a lawyer you have a greater responsibility. Tell us, how can we ensure that there will be no deaths in custody? Somebody may die of natural causes..." the CJ added.

## Gujarat HC to hear three pleas over school fees on Jul 29

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
AHMEDABAD, JULY 24

THE GUJARAT High Court on Friday clubbed three public interest litigations filed by parents of students from private schools, pertaining to the Gujarat Government Resolution (GR) on school fees, which will now be heard on July 29.

Meanwhile, self-financed schools' associations have also moved the high court challenging the state government's resolution that barred them from charging tuition fees as long as the schools are closed.

Owing to absence of a translated copy of the state's government resolution of July 16 and other documents such as the central ministry's guidelines, the court decided to post it for further hearing, said advocate Brijesh Trivedi, amicus curiae in the case.

The high court, in an order of June 19, had requested the state to ensure that the private schools do not cancel the admissions of those students, who are not able to deposit the fees by 30.06.2020 and had further requested that the

state government may work out some modalities with all the private schools across the state.

Speaking on the petition filed in the high court on Thursday, Gujarat Self-financed School Management Association president Bharat Gajipara said, "Our contention is against the GR directing us not to charge any fee till schools are closed. We want the government to withdraw this. The state has no locus standi."

According to the July 16 government resolution passed by the education department, private schools in the state cannot charge fee for tuition or co-curricular activities as long as the schools are closed and cannot hike fee for academic session of 2020-2021.

According to an affidavit filed on July 22 by Vijaysinh Mandora, Joint Secretary at education department of Gujarat before the high court, it was emphasised that "in terms of the order dated 19.06.2020 as well as, Government Resolution dated 16.07.2020, the self-financed schools would not cancel the admissions of those students who are unable to deposit the fees by 30.06.2020."

the acquisition and employment of niche technologies and development of indigenous platforms and weapons". He also stated that "since human resource was the most valuable asset of the IAF, recruitment, training and motivation strategies should keep pace with the changing times", the statement mentioned.

Bhadauria laid down the Vision 2030 for the IAF, with milestones for transformation of IAF in the coming decade, the statement said.

the other senior students there—Zohra Sehgal, her sister Uzra Butt, a teenage Guru Dutt, among others. Uday and Amala married in 1942.

The centre in Almora had to be shut in the same year due to lack of funds. Uday then produced Kalpana. The fantasy film and dance drama told the story of a young artiste who wants to set up a cultural academy in the Himalayas. It was part biographical and part critique of the flaws in society, and how the arts and a creative education system in a good environment can help. The film was lost for many years, and was screened at Cannes in 2012 after Martin Scorsese restored it after a mention from Ravi Shankar. A 93-year-old Amala walked the red carpet to watch the film.

After years of dancing together and a long association, Amala and Uday separated a few years before Uday's death in 1977. Amala kept teaching his style of dance, nurturing it, experimenting with it and keeping it alive.



## TOP OF THE WORLD



The Duke and Duchess of Sussex

## USA

## Harry, Meghan sue paparazzi to protect son's right to privacy

BRITAIN'S PRINCE Harry and his wife, Meghan, filed a lawsuit in California on Thursday against unnamed paparazzi photographers for allegedly taking "illegal" photographs of their son, Archie. The lawsuit, filed in Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, cited "serial intrusions" of privacy of the couple's 14-month-old child, and came as a measure to protect him from the "manufactured feeding frenzy". "The Duke and Duchess of Sussex are filing this lawsuit to protect their young son's right to privacy in their home without intrusion by photographers," their attorney said.

## IMDB SCANDAL

## Goldman Sachs, Malaysia agree to \$3.9-billion settlement

GOLDMAN SACHS has agreed to a \$3.9 billion settlement with Malaysia to put behind it one of the biggest scandals in the bank's history that changed the course of politics in the country. The deal stems from charges that Malaysian prosecutors filed in 2018 against several Goldman units for their role in helping to raise hundreds of millions of dollars for a sovereign wealth fund that officials were later found to be using as a personal piggy bank. The scandal led to the ouster of Malaysia's former prime minister, Najib Razak.

## NEW ZEALAND

## Journalist held for 6 years gains refugee status

A JOURNALIST who fled Iran and then exposed Australia's degrading treatment of asylum-seekers while being held against his will for six years has been granted refugee status in New Zealand. Immigration New Zealand on Friday confirmed that Behrouz Boochani had been given the status, which allows him to legally stay in the country and gives him a path to citizenship. Boochani, 37, said it was huge step forward to have certainty about his own future, but lamented Australia's policy that kept him detained for years.

## China orders US to shut Chengdu consulate in retaliation for Houston

Consulate's personnel conducting activities not in line with identities: Beijing

YEW LUN TIAN & TONY MUNROE  
BEIJING, JULY 24

CHINA ORDERED the United States to close its consulate in the city of Chengdu on Friday, responding to a US demand this week that China close its Houston consulate, as relations between the world's two largest economies deteriorate.

The order to close the consulate in Chengdu, in south-western China's Sichuan province, was seen as roughly reciprocal in terms of scale and impact, continuing China's recent practice of like-for-like responses to US actions.

China had warned it would retaliate after it was unexpectedly given 72 hours — until Friday — to vacate its Houston consulate, and had urged the United States to reconsider.

"The US move seriously breached international law, the basic norms of international relations, and the terms of the China-US Consular Convention. It gravely harmed China-US relations," China's foreign ministry



A FedEx employee removes boxes from the Chinese Consulate in Houston on Thursday after the US ordered China to close it down by Friday. AP

said in a statement.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China informed the US Embassy in China of its decision to withdraw its consent for the establishment and operation of the US Consulate General in Chengdu," it said.

Foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said some Chengdu consulate personnel were "conducting activities not in line with their identities" and had interfered in China's affairs and

harmed China's security interests.

The consulate was given 72 hours to close.

Relations between Washington and Beijing have deteriorated sharply this year.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a speech on Thursday the United States and its allies must use "more creative and assertive ways" to press the Chinese Communist Party to change its ways. **REUTERS**

## EXPLAINED

## Why Chengdu is important

THE LOCATION of Chengdu makes it one of the most important consulates for the US in China. It is the western-most American consulate in mainland China, and it allows the US to collect information regarding Tibet and Xinjiang. The two regions have featured heavily in recent US-China tit-for-tat sanctions that have raised tensions. Chengdu was also seen by the US as providing opportunities for the export of cars and machinery. Washington also sees Chengdu as a hub for China's commercial expansion across Central Asia.

## Tycoon critical of Xi sacked from party, faces prosecution

CHINA'S RULING Communist Party expelled an outspoken property tycoon who denounced the country's leader, Xi Jinping, paving the way for his criminal prosecution and escalating its efforts to quash dissent among the elite.



Ren Zhiqiang

The party announced the expulsion of the tycoon, Ren Zhiqiang, late Thursday, and said that it had seized his assets for "serious violations of discipline and law" that included the possession of golf club memberships.

Ren, a veteran party member and former chairman of Huayuan Properties, a real estate development company, was detained in March after criticising Xi's response to the coronavirus outbreak. **NYT**

## Taliban say ready for talks with Afghan govt after Eid holiday

KATHY GANNON  
ISLAMABAD, JULY 24

THE TALIBAN say they are ready for talks with Afghanistan's political leadership after the Muslim holiday of Eid ul Adha at the end of July, offering to hand over the last of the government prisoners in a week's time, providing the government frees the last of its Taliban prisoners.

The offer made by Taliban's political spokesman Suhail Shaheen in a tweet late Thursday follows one of the most significant shakeups in the Taliban in years. The group appointed the son of the movement's fearsome founder to head its military wing and powerful leadership council members to its negotiation team.

In Kabul on Friday, the High Council for National Reconciliation, which was created in May to manage peace efforts with the Taliban, said it was still working through the Taliban's prisoner list.

Javed Faisal, spokesman for the Afghan national security adviser's office, previously said nearly 600 Taliban prisoners whose release is being sought have been convicted of serious crimes. The government is reluctant to set them free, he said.

It seemed unlikely the government would free the remaining Taliban prisoners before the Muslim holiday.

The release of 5,000 Taliban prisoners held by the government and 1,000 government personnel and security officials in Taliban

## LEADERSHIP SHAKE-UP AHEAD OF NEGOTIATIONS

■ 30-year-old Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob, the son of the Taliban's founder, was placed in charge of their military wing as the group conducted its most significant shake-up in years ahead of talks with the Afghan govt.

■ Other changes included the addition of four members of the Taliban's leadership council to the negotiating team.

■ The shuffle is meant to tighten Taliban leader Mullah Hibatullah Akhunzada's control over its military and political arms, officials said.

custody is laid out in a US deal with the Taliban aimed at ending Afghanistan's relentless wars.

According to the deal, the prisoner exchange is to take place ahead of talks between Kabul and the Taliban, seen as perhaps the most critical part of the deal.

Shaheen's tweet was the first offer at a timeline for the negotiations, however he demanded the prisoner release be completed first and refused any substitutes to the list of prisoners submitted by the Taliban. **AP**

## Iran slams US after jet fly-by scares passengers on airliner

REUTERS  
JULY 24

IRAN ON Friday dismissed a US explanation that a US jet was conducting a visual inspection when it "harassed" an Iranian civilian airliner, saying the plane was forced to rapidly change altitude to avoid collision, injuring and panicking passengers.

State TV video footage of the inside of the airliner shows a passenger lying immobile on the floor and another with a wounded nose and forehead, presenting his bloodied face mask to the camera.

Several passengers, some seen screaming and shouting, were injured in the incident over Syria on Thursday, according to Iranian media, but the US military said its F-15 was at a safe distance.

"The explanations provided so far are unjustified and unconvincing," Laya Joneydi, vice president for legal affairs, was quoted as saying by Iranian media.

"The harassment of a passenger plane on the territory of a third country is a clear violation of aviation security and freedom of civilian aircraft."

The Iranian plane, belonging to Mahan Air, was heading from Tehran to Beirut when the pilot staged the safety manoeuvre.

## Several passengers were injured in the incident over Syria as an Iranian civilian airliner was allegedly forced to rapidly change altitude to avoid collision with a US fighter jet

Iran's Foreign Ministry said the encounter would be investigated.

Video footage shows oxygen masks fallen from the overhead roof panels. One jet can be seen through a seat window flying some distance away in a clear blue sky.

"I saw a black plane approaching us, and then we lost our balance," one injured passenger told state TV. "It was a jet. Almost so near our plane."

One of the passengers was lying on the floor by the toilets and another passenger put a cushion under his head as cabin crew tended to others.

The US military's Central Command, which oversees American troops in the region, said an F-15 aircraft was conducting a visual inspection of the Iranian plane when it passed near the Tanf garrison in Syria, home to US forces.



Turkey President Recep Tayyip Erdogan takes part in Friday prayers in the Hagia Sophia. AP

## Thousands pray at Hagia Sophia for 1st time since it was declared mosque

MERT OZKAN & ALIKUCUKGOCMEN  
ISTANBUL, JULY 24

TURKEY'S PRESIDENT Recep Tayyip Erdogan joined thousands of worshippers at Hagia Sophia on Friday for the first prayers there since he declared the monument, revered by Christians and Muslims for almost 1,500 years, a mosque once again.

Erdogan and his top ministers, wearing white facemasks as a precaution against COVID-19,

kneelt on blue carpets at the start of a ceremony which marks the return of Muslim worship to the ancient structure.

An imam began the formal prayer service at 1.45 pm, after Erdogan read out a Koranic recitation and the call to prayer rang out from the mosque's minarets.

Earlier, crowds formed at checkpoints around the historic heart of Istanbul where massed police maintained security. Once through the checks, worshippers sat apart on prayer mats in secured areas outside the building

in Sultanahmet Square. "We are ending our 86 years of longing today," said one man, Sait Colak, referring to the nearly nine decades since Hagia Sophia was declared a museum and ceased to be a place of worship. "Thanks to our president and the court decision, today we are going to have our Friday prayers in Hagia Sophia."

A Turkish court announced this month it had annulled Hagia Sophia's status as a museum. Erdogan immediately decreed the building had been converted once again to a mosque. **REUTERS**

## RESPONDING TO A SLUR DIRECTED AT HER BY A REPUBLICAN CONGRESSMAN

## AOC unleashes a viral condemnation of sexism in Congress

LUKE BROADWATER & CATIE EDMONDSON  
WASHINGTON, JULY 24

EVER SINCE Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez came to Congress as the youngest woman elected to the House, she has upended traditions, harnessing the power of social media and challenging leaders, includ-



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

ing President Trump, who are 50 years her senior.

On Thursday, she had her most norm-shattering moment yet when she took to the House floor to read into the Congressional Record a sexist vulgarity that Representative Ted Yoho, a Florida Republican, had used to refer to her.

"In front of reporters, Representative Yoho called me,

and I quote: 'A\*\*\*\*g b\*\*\*h,'" she said, punching each syllable in the vulgarity. "These are the words Representative Yoho levied against a congresswoman."

Then Ocasio-Cortez, who excels at using her detractors to amplify her own message, invited a group of Democratic women in the House to come forward to express solidarity with her. One by one, they

shared their own stories of harassment and mistreatment by men, including in Congress.

"It happens every day in this country," Ocasio-Cortez said. "It happened here on the steps of our nation's Capitol."

"It happens when individuals who hold the highest office in this land admit to hurting women and using this language against all of us," she added. **NYT**

## US PRESIDENT TRIED TO DEMONSTRATE HIS MENTAL FITNESS BY RECITING 5 WORDS OVER AND OVER IN AN INTERVIEW

## Person. Woman. Man. Camera. TV: Trump's detour into politics of dementia

JONATHAN LEMIRE, SETH BORENSTEIN & WILL WEISSERT  
WASHINGTON, JULY 24

IT DOESN'T quite have the ring of "Morning in America" and "I Like Ike."

But the phrase "Person. Woman. Man. Camera. TV." is getting an unlikely moment in the spotlight as US President Donald Trump has taken a detour into the politics of dementia three months before the election.

Trump, 74, attempted to

demonstrate his mental fitness by reciting five words — in order, importantly — over and over in a television interview. The Republican President said that collection of nouns, or ones like them, was part of a cognitive test he had aced while declaring that his likeliest opponent, 77-year-old Joe Biden, could not do the same.

In a battle of septuagenarians, the Trump campaign has long tried to paint Biden as having lost some of his mental sharpness. But the gambit has yet to prove successful in denting the former vice president's standing in the

race. That leaves Trump trying to escalate the attacks while defending his own ability to handle the mental rigors of the job.

"The first questions are very easy," Trump told Fox News. "The last questions are much more difficult. Like a memory question. It's, like, you'll go: Person. Woman. Man. Camera. TV. So they say, 'Could you repeat that?' So I said, 'Yeah. It's: Person. Woman. Man. Camera. TV.'"

He then recalled that, at the end of the test, the doctor asked him to recite it again.

"And you go: 'Person. Woman.



Man. Camera. TV.' If you get it in order, you get extra points," Trump said. "They said nobody gets it in order. It's actually not that easy, but for me, it was easy."



Trump boasted that he dazzled the doctors because he has "a good memory, because I'm cognitively there" and delivered an unsubtle accusation about Biden.

"Now, Joe should take that test because something's going on," Trump said. "And, I say this with respect. I mean — going to probably happen to all of us, right? You know? It's going to happen."

The subject of smarts — especially his own — has long fascinated the President.

Trump has been known to declare that he is "a very stable genius" and that "I have the best words" while noting that he attended the prestigious Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. And a month ago, he began telling aides that a cog-

nitive test he took as part of his physical in 2018 could be something he could use against Biden.

The President has been known to recite five words to aides in the West Wing or on Air Force One — he'd tweak the list to make it appropriate for the setting — while claiming that Biden could not do the same.

But some of Trump's descriptions about the test and what it means don't quite fit with what experts describe about the most common of cognitive tests given to older people. There is no bonus, and it's meant to be easy, said Dr

James Galvin, a University of Miami professor of neurology who runs a dementia centre.

Galvin said what Trump described sounds an awful lot like the Montreal Cognitive Assessment, often called MoCa. It takes about 10 minutes, and the top score is 30, said Galvin, who has administered thousands of the tests. The last questions are not the hardest for most people, and they are usually naming the day of the week, date, month, year and where the person being tested is, Galvin said. **AP**





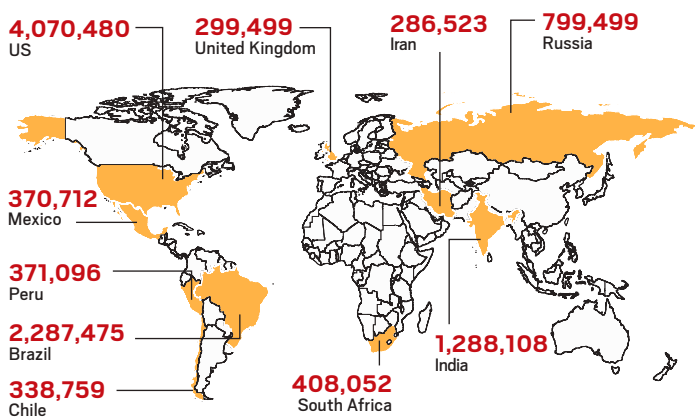
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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to [explained@indianexpress.com](mailto:explained@indianexpress.com)

## CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

## THE WORLD



TOTAL CONFIRMED: 15,588,913

DEATH COUNT: 634,954

Source: Johns Hopkins University, updated at 11 pm on July 24. JHU's India tally and Health Ministry's tally (below) may not match if these are accounted at different times.

## In cells, extracts from seaweed outdo remdesivir against virus

IN A study in mammalian cells, an extract from edible seaweeds was found to outperform remdesivir, in effectiveness against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19. Heparin, a common blood thinner, and a heparin variant stripped of its anticoagulant properties, performed on par with remdesivir in inhibiting the virus.



PAPER CLIP

NEW RESEARCH

The research, published online in *Cell Discovery*, was done by researchers at the Center for Biotechnology and Interdisciplinary Studies at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, US.

The spike protein on SARS-CoV-2 latches onto the ACE-2 receptor on the surface of human cells. But in the study, the virus could be persuaded to lock onto a decoy molecule that offers a similar fit, the researchers said. The neutralised virus would be trapped and eventually degrade naturally. Previous research has shown this decoy technique works in trapping other

viruses, including dengue.

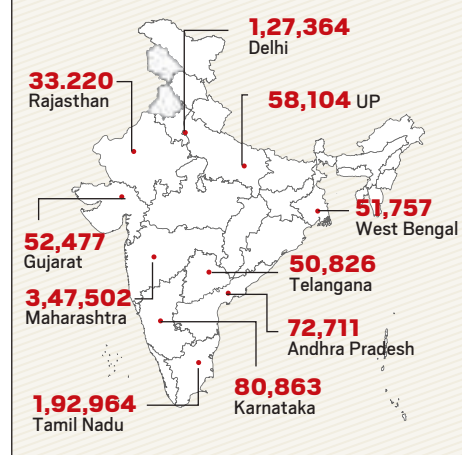
The new research tested antiviral activity in three variants of heparin (heparin, trisulfated heparin, and a non-anticoagulant low molecular weight heparin) and two extracts (RPI-27 and RPI-28) from seaweed. With each compound, the researchers performed a dose response study on mammalian cells. They compared a value called EC50 (a lower value signals a more potent compound).

RPI-27 yielded an EC50 value of about 83 nanomolar, while a similar previous test of remdesivir on the same mammalian cells yielded an EC50 of 770 nanomolar (RPI-27 was therefore more potent). Heparin yielded an EC50 of 2.1 micromolar, or about one-third as active as remdesivir, and a non-anticoagulant analogue of heparin yielded an EC50 of 5.0 micromolar, about one-fifth as active as remdesivir.

Source: Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

## INDIA COUNT: 12,87,945 (30,601 DEATHS)

## TOP 10 STATES



## REST OF INDIA

Andaman and Nicobar Islands	240
Arunachal Pradesh	991
Assam	28,791
Bihar	31,980
Chandigarh	800
Chhattisgarh	6,254
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	770
Goa	4,350
Haryana	28,975
Himachal Pradesh	18,34
Jammu and Kashmir	16,429
Jharkhand	6,975
Kerala	16,110
Ladakh	1,210
Madhya Pradesh	25,474
Manipur	2,115
Meghalaya	534
Mizoram	332
Nagaland	1,174
Odisha	21,099
Puducherry	2,420
Punjab	11,739
Sikkim	460
Tripura	3,656
Uttarakhand	5,445

Union Health Ministry update as of 11 pm, July 24. Some states may have reported higher numbers. Only states/UTs with at least one case listed above.

8,17,209 PATIENTS DISCHARGED IN 35 STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES

Have a question on the COVID-19 outbreak and what you should/should not do? Write to [explained@indianexpress.com](mailto:explained@indianexpress.com)

## SIMPLY PUT QUESTION &amp; ANSWER

## What exactly is herd immunity

Delhi serosurvey results are being interpreted to imply that 46 lakh may have already been infected; CM Kejriwal suggests that herd immunity could be approaching. But scientists find such ideas misplaced

AMITABH SINHA

PUNE, JULY 24

A RECENT serological survey in Delhi found the presence of coronavirus-specific antibodies in about 23% of the samples tested. The results of that survey are being interpreted to suggest that about 46 lakh people in Delhi could so far have been infected with the novel coronavirus, and that "herd immunity" could be approaching. Even Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal made the suggestion on Friday.

Scientists, however, caution against drawing such broad conclusions. The serological surveys were carried out to answer a very specific question. Any talk of "herd immunity" at this stage is not only premature but also misplaced.

## What was the serological survey about?

The serological survey was meant to detect whether the person being tested had developed antibodies against the coronavirus. The antibodies are proteins produced by the immune system to fight external organisms like viruses that try to enter the body. These are produced only after the infection has happened, and are specific to the attacking virus or bacterium. The presence of antibodies, therefore, is an indication that an infection by that particular virus or bacterium has already occurred. Subsequent attempts to infect the body can be thwarted by these antibodies.

Vaccines work in a similar manner. They inject harmless doses of a virus or a bacterium inside the human body to trigger the production of antibodies by the immune system. These antibodies can then fight off an actual attack by those viruses or bacteria.

In the context of current pandemic, the serological survey was carried out to assess how widespread Covid-19 could have become. Since it is not possible to test everyone, it is not clear how many people in the population are infected, especially since most of the patients do not show any symptoms of the disease. Detecting antibodies in random sets of people is an indirect way of estimating the extent of disease spread in a community.

## What were the results?

The survey found coronavirus-specific antibodies in about 23% of the roughly 21,000



A blood sample is collected during the serosurvey in Delhi. Abhinav Saha/File photo

people who were tested. This means that these many people had, at some point or the other, had been infected. Since random people were tested, it indicated that the spread of the disease was much wider than what diagnostic tests suggest. In Delhi, about 14% of those who have been tested for the virus have turned out positive.

Information about the extent of spread is very important for authorities to make decisions and plan containment measures.

Scientists say this serological survey, and similar ones in other parts of the country, are quite useful for this limited purpose. But they warn against any interpretation further than this. Suggestions that all those with antibodies are now protected against the disease, and that "herd immunity" stage was nearby, are particularly problematic, they insist.

## Do antibodies ensure Immunity?

The mere presence of antibodies does not mean that the person is protected against the disease. These are two different things, scientists say. What is also important is the amount of antibodies present, and whether it also includes what are known as "neutralising antibodies". These are the ones that actually fight the disease. Serological surveys are not designed to assess either the quantity of antibodies or detect the presence of neutralising antibodies.

"The serological tests ask a very basic question that has a Yes/No answer: Are there antibodies present? That's it. Now, this is useful to know whether the person had been infected with the disease or not. The presence of antibodies tells us that. Protection against the disease, however, is a very different question. The serological tests do not provide us enough information on that," said Satyajit Rath, a pathologist and immunologist now associated with Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) in Pune.

While there is no documented evidence of re-infection in the current pandemic, Shahid Jameel, a virologist, said there were studies that indicated the "neutralising antibodies" could lose their effect after four months. "It is very well possible that a person has antibodies against Covid-19 disease but no protection. These two are not the same thing, and therefore we need to be cautious when we interpret scientific findings in this manner," Jameel said.

L S Shashidhara, a biologist, also at IISER Pune, said the coronavirus was still evolving and could undergo several mutations, and therefore it was too early to talk about permanent protection, and certainly not from the results from an antibody test.

## What, then is herd immunity?

The suggestion that herd immunity could

be achieved in the near future was even more problematic, the scientists said.

Herd immunity is a stage of an epidemic in which some members of a population group remain protected from infection because a majority of those around them have already developed immunity, either through vaccination or because they have been infected earlier. So, everyone in the population group does not need to get infected before the epidemic is over. Once a certain proportion of population gets infected, and thus builds immunity against the disease, the epidemic begins to slow down and eventually stop.

## What should that proportion be?

The problem is no one clearly knows what percentage of the population needs to be infected before herd immunity kicks in. It is different for different diseases, and different population groups. In general, herd immunity is unlikely to happen before at least half the population is infected.

In the case of measles, for example, herd immunity is reached only when 85% to 90% of the population attains immunity. In some other diseases, the threshold could be lower. For Covid-19, different studies have suggested that between 55-70% of the population would need to be infected before herd immunity would develop.

"Herd immunity is mentioned in very loose terms these days. And it is also badly misunderstood," Jameel said. "This concept can be applied in very specific situations only. For example, herd immunity would apply only in closed population groups, those that are cut off from neighbouring societies. Thus, talk of herd immunity in Delhi is pointless if there is a free movement of people in and out of the city. Also, there is no uniform infection level in the population over which herd immunity would come in. Even in a city like Delhi, different localities and neighbourhoods would reach herd immunity at different levels of infection, if they isolate themselves from others."

Besides, it is extremely difficult to determine the level of disease spread necessary for herd immunity when the epidemic is still raging. "Every parameter in this calculation is dynamic and evolving right now. Only after the epidemic is over, can we reliably estimate at what point did herd immunity take over," Jameel said.

## Why Rosalind Franklin is relevant as ever

KABIR FIRAQUE

NEW DELHI, JULY 24

SINCE HER death at age 37 in 1958, the British scientist Rosalind Franklin has been remembered mostly as the "wronged heroine of DNA". And as a victim of male prejudice, deprived of the Nobel Prize that went instead to three men who had relied on her work to construct the double-helix structure of DNA.

In recent years, though, science historians and commentators have stressed all the other achievements she needs to be remembered for. Especially in 2020, when her birth centenary coincides with the Covid-19 pandemic. Franklin was one of the leading virologists of her time — and more.

Saturday is her 100th birth anniversary.

## DNA breakthrough

In 1952, Raymond Gosling, a graduate student at King's College London, took a historic X-ray photograph under Franklin's supervision. Photo 51, as it is called, demonstrates the now-familiar, double-helix structure of DNA.

Four years after Franklin died of ovarian cancer,

the 1962 Nobel Prize for Medicine went to James Watson, Francis Crick and Maurice Wilkins for their work on the structure of DNA. The Nobel is not awarded posthumously.

Wilkins was Franklin's colleague at King's College. He had shown Photo 51 to Watson, then at Cambridge, without Franklin's knowledge. Her precise measurements, too, had reached Watson and Crick through "irregular routes", Franklin's biographer Brenda Maddox, now deceased, wrote in an article for *Nature* in 2003.

Watson and Crick used the knowledge gained from Photo 51, Franklin's unpublished notes, and their own intuition to construct the double-helix structure of DNA. Wilkins improved on their model over the years, leading to the three sharing the Nobel.

## Her other achievements

"During her short life, very few people outside science had heard of Rosalind Franklin. But since her death, she has become a legend.



Rosalind Franklin

She is particularly famous for her work on the double helix structure of DNA, but she has also become a potent symbol of male prejudice," science historian Patricia Fara of Clare College, University of Cambridge, told *The Indian Express* by email.

"Surely she deserves to be remembered differently?" Fara referred to the inscription on her grave: 'Scientist: her work on viruses was of lasting benefit to mankind...'

"The world is currently gripped in a pandemic, and her pioneering research in virology provided a crucial early step in the search for cures, vaccinations and tests. When she died, Franklin was a world leader in the field," Fara said. "During the Second World War, she carried out research into coal and graphite that proved important for gas-masks, the PPE of that time."

From 1953 until her death, she worked with John Desmond Bernal at Birkbeck College, heading a team that analysed the structure of the tobacco mosaic virus. After mapping that

virus, she went on to investigate polio.

"It is because of Franklin, her collaborators and successors, that today's researchers are able to use tools such as DNA sequencing and X-ray crystallography to investigate viruses such as SARS-CoV-2," *Nature* wrote in an editorial this week.

## Professional career scientist

Franklin did not know that three men would win the Nobel for constructing a DNA model relying on her evidence. "Still more fortunately, she had no way of foreseeing that she would be publicly denigrated in Watson's bestselling book, *The Double Helix* (1968)," Fara said.

Watson was dismissive of Franklin in his book. For example: "Clearly Rosy had to go or be put in her place... Unfortunately Maurice could not see any decent way to give Rosy the boot."

Fara described Franklin as a professional career scientist, whose aim was to increase knowledge, not score points off rivals. "Rosalind Franklin repeatedly fought to establish equality with men, but her top priority was academic success."

## How safe is it to swim: Behind India's reluctance to reopen pools

SHIVANI NAIK

MUMBAI, JULY 24

WHILE SWIMMING in itself is seen as the safest sport with its virus-killing chlorine cover, getting into the pool and back is fraught with risks. Given the inability to enforce strict social distancing on land, authorities in India have been reluctant to open pools for amateur swimmers, whose numbers will need to be severely restricted.

## Is it safe to swim in the pool?

Swimming on its own might be safe given you will be immersed in chlorine. However, given how crowded public pools get and the absence of discipline during preferred batch timings, it will be near impossible to enforce social distancing and hand hygiene at all times. The virus doesn't respect borders, said Dr Chandrakant Pandav, former head of community disease at AI-IMS. There is no evidence that the virus spreads in water, but given transmission happens through the nose and water, and enforcing 100% protocol can't be guaranteed, we shouldn't be taking a risk.

## Can chlorine secure the pool?

The World Health Organization says, Swimming in a well-maintained, properly chlorinated pool is safe. USA Swimming, the governing body in America, has mandated 2.0 ppm chlorine in pools. That level of chlorine will kill the virus, but hiking it even to the permissible 3 ppm can cause irritation on the skin and in the eyes, and harm the stomach lining if water is consumed.

Dr Pandav said chlorine isn't a one-stop solution. You have to ask: how well is the chlorination done? Well-chlorinated means ensuring the powder/gaseous chlorine is working efficiently in the water and the concentration percentage is maintained at all times, because it deteriorates. The disinfecting effect wears off, and can you guarantee 2% is maintained at all times?

## What other measures are recommended?

US guidelines limit the capacity to 27 in a short-distance (25-yard) pool and 60 in an Olympic-sized 50 m pool for recreational swimmers. Each lane — usually 6 in the shorter and 10 in the longer pools — need to be 8 feet wide.



Chlorine can disinfect the water, but the worry is about the number of swimmers. Kamleshwar Singh/File photo

When the UK opens its pools, it is looking at restricting swimming to the clockwise direction and merging two lanes into one. It has advised constant supervision to exclude those feeling ill, handwashing, and avoiding change rooms. Australian guidelines specify only one swimmer per lane; the Indian recommendations include temperature checks.

## What are the problems in resuming

## swimming in India?

Although the Sports Authority of India (SAI) has asked for recommendations to prepare SOPs, state government authorities have the final word on pools in their jurisdiction. Elite swimmers expect pools to open no sooner than the fourth Unlock phase (Unlock 2.0 that extends until July 31 mandates that pools stay closed).

As uncertainty persists, coaches, cleaners and lifeguards are struggling with salaries and leases on the line. The catch: Safety demands limiting the number of recreational swimmers, and that limited number will not offset maintenance expenses. Elite swimmers have demanded they be prioritised.

## What is the situation elsewhere?

Before cases started climbing again last week, Australia and Singapore had looked on track to reopen their pools and increase the numbers gradually. However, Australia waited until there were zero new cases — and the ratio of Australian to Indians in a recreational pool is 1:3. Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam, popular training bases in Asia, have taken tentative steps. While recreational swimming looks highly unlikely, we need

elite swimmers to start training, said Bengaluru-based coach Nihar Amin. We've spent our entire lives protecting swimmers' health minutely. We know the value of following rules, he said, urging for resumption for elite swimmers in 50 m x 25 m pools, with a maximum 10 swimmers who can maintain 8 feet distance. Most international meets have been moved by a year, though the American season may kick off by November.

## What are the risk areas?

Even 10-15 at a time in different lanes are seen as a risk, as are taking a break along the walls, and using the blocks and change rooms. We don't just swim and go home. We'll drink water, there'll be some place where we keep our bags, and it's tough to maintain 10 ft distance that I personally think might be safe at all times, said international swimmer Srihari Nataraj.

Go solo. Don't play polo, Dr Pandav said, urging for one swimmer per dedicated pool for elite Olympic-bound swimmers chasing A qualification standards.

## Why is India reluctant to resume?


Neither SAI nor the Sports Ministry has

offered clarity. Some elite swimmers say they are ginger about resuming training without failsafe guarantees and would rather train abroad, where regulations are drawn up by experienced planners. SAI has an agreement with Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra and could explore that option for elite swimmers. However, no one is willing to risk reopening for recreational swimmers who might throng public pools.

Dr Ashok Ahuja, former department head (Sports Medicine) at SAI, said reopening is a bad idea. I don't think pools are safe. It's a new virus and the entire nature of its spread through water with body secretions like saliva and sweat despite chlorine disinfection is not proven. From sports medicine point of view, we should not let pools open... Let's wait till December for recreational swimmers.

For the competitive lot, Dr Ahuja recommends only one swimmer at a time, at staggered times. Water will need to be recirculated and disinfected regularly. And swimmers will need to be tested often, all of which is very expensive even if we have a small bunch.





**PENSION FUND REGULATORY AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
**B-14/A, CHHATRAPATI SHIVAJI BHAWAN, QUTAB INSTITUTIONAL AREA,**  
**KATWARIA SARAI, NEW DELHI - 110016.**

**APPOINTMENT OF TWO TRUSTEES ON THE BOARD OF NPS TRUST**  
The Authority is desirous of appointing two Trustees on the Board of NPS Trust who can contribute their expertise to the Trust for a period of three years from the date of appointment with provision of extension for another term of two years only. The maximum age limit, beyond which a Trustee shall not function, is seventy years. The Trustees are eligible to receive sitting fees and such other expenses towards travelling, lodging and boarding etc. as are determined by the Authority from time to time. The detailed notice for appointment, PFRDA (NPS Trust) Regulations, 2015 and guidelines for appointment of Trustees are available on PFRDA's website [www.pfrda.org.in](http://www.pfrda.org.in)  
The response to this effect may be submitted by 31st July, 2020.

Sd/-  
**GENERAL MANAGER**  
(Regulation Dept. — NPS Trust)

davp 15102/11/0004/2021



**THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**  
(An Autonomous Body under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare)

**ADMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT (2020-21)**

**POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN MANAGEMENT (PGDM-EXECUTIVE)**

Through Distance Learning mode in following disciplines:  
● Hospital Management 300 Seats  
● Health & Family Welfare Management 100 Seats  
● Health Promotion 150 Seats

The courses are open for Medical Graduates including MBBS/AYUSH(BDS) must be registered with respective medical council with experience of 5 years after graduation.

For Complete details, including Hindi version of this advertisement and Application Form, please contact:  
Distance Learning Cell, NIHFW, Baba Gangnath Marg.

Last date of submitting applications 31st July 2020 (Extendable to 15th August with Late Fee of Rs 500/-)  
davp 17153/11/0004/2021

**Director, NIHFW**

**"IMPORTANT"**

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**CENTRAL HINDI DIRECTORATE**  
**Ministry of Human Resource Development**  
**ADMISSION NOTICE: 2020-21**  
**Invites Registration for Hindi Correspondence Courses**  
**LEARN HINDI THROUGH CORRESPONDENCE**  
**Offline Registration**  
**2. Fee Fee can be remitted by IPO or Bank Draft only.**

Course	Fee in Indian Currency	Foreign Currency	Payable to
Certificate / Diploma	Rs. 50/-	\$ 50 or equivalent	Director, Central Hindi Directorate
Advance Diploma	Rs. 200/-	\$ 200 or equivalent	Director, Central Hindi Directorate

**Application Process:** Please log on to the website [www.chd.mhrd.gov.in](https://www.chd.mhrd.gov.in) for the detailed prospectus.  
For queries or more information, please e-mail [ccchdadmission@gmail.com](mailto:ccchdadmission@gmail.com) or call us at 011-26105211 Ext. 227  
davp 21252/11/0004/2021



**श्री विश्वकर्मा कौशल विश्वविद्यालय**  
(भारत में पहला राजकीय कौशल विश्वविद्यालय, हरियाणा सरकार द्वारा स्थापित)  
**शैक्षणिक वर्ष 2020-21 के लिए प्रवेश प्रारम्भ**

**सीखो और कमाओ, अपनी पहचान बनाओ**

डिप्लोमा

बैचलर ऑफ वोकेशन

पी जी डिप्लोमा

कौशल पाठ्यक्रम

डिप्लोमा ऑफ वोकेशन

बी.बी.ए

मास्टर ऑफ वोकेशन

**महत्त्वपूर्ण सूचना**  
विद्यार्थी किसी भी अटल रोजा केंद्र से बिना किसी अतिरिक्त शुल्क प्रवेश के आवेदन कर सकते हैं।

**ऑनलाइन आवेदन करें: [www.svsu.ac.in](http://www.svsu.ac.in)**  
डिप्लोमा | डिप्लोमा ऑफ वोकेशन | बैचलर ऑफ वोकेशन | बी.बी.ए.  
आवेदन की प्रारम्भ तिथि : जुलाई 01, 2020  
आवेदन की अंतिम तिथि : अगस्त 02, 2020

पी जी डिप्लोमा | मास्टर ऑफ वोकेशन  
आवेदन की प्रारम्भ तिथि : जुलाई 10, 2020  
आवेदन की अंतिम तिथि : अगस्त 10, 2020


Email: [admissions@svsu.ac.in](mailto:admissions@svsu.ac.in)  
दूरभाष: 0124-2746800 | 18001800147

**कौशल भारत : कुशल भारत**

श्री विश्वकर्मा कौशल विश्वविद्यालय  
प्लॉट नंबर-147, सेक्टर-44, गुरुग्राम, हरियाणा

अधिक जानकारी के लिए देखें  
[www.svsu.ac.in](http://www.svsu.ac.in)

Awardees of 2021  
ASSOCIATION OF Best Institutions Award  
India Education Award  
School Award



F. No. 54/03/2020-Media  
**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**  
**Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities**  
**5th floor, Antyodaya Bhawan CGO Complex, New Delhi-110003**  
**Toll -Free Help line numbers for Persons with Disabilities**

- For understanding and identifying symptoms of autistic disorder among children, parents may dial All India Institute of Medical Sciences 24x7 toll free help line number 1800-11-7776.
- Call the toll free help line number 1800-572-6422 of National Institute of Empowerment of persons with Intellectual Disability for information regarding (I) Mental Health related issues, (II) Special Education, (III) Occupational therapy (IV) Vocational Counseling (V) Speech Therapy and Physiotherapy of persons with intellectual disabilities from 9:00 am to 5:30 pm from Monday to Friday.
- For information relating to aids and assistive devices and services thereof, call ALIMCO Toll Free Helpline 1800-180-5129 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm from Monday to Saturday.
- For information regarding and guidance on loan scheme, Skill Training, Divyangjan Swavalamban Yojna, Vishesh Microfinance Yojana (VMY) call NHFDC toll free help line number 1800-11-4515 from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm from Monday to Friday.

davp 38117/11/0008/2021



**State Bank of India, Stressed Asset Recovery Branch,**  
3rd Floor, Matrix Mall, Sector - 4, Jawahar Nagar, Jaipur  
(Rajasthan) -302004, E-mail : [sbi.18184@sbi.co.in](mailto:sbi.18184@sbi.co.in), Branch Code-18184,  
Tel.: 0141-2657811, 2657921, 2657926, 2657989


**Appendix-IV-A [See proviso to rule 8(6)]**

**Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Property (Under SARFAESI Act Read with Proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules)**  
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to **M/s Icon Cables Ltd.** Through its Directors: - (1) Sh. Narendra Kumar Rathi S/o Sh. Inder Mal Rathi (2) Sh. Dinesh Kumar Rathi S/o Sh. Inder Mal Rathi (3) Sh. Nipun Rathi S/o Sh. Narendra Kumar Rathi (4) Sh. Narendra Kumar Rathi S/o Sh. Inder Mal Rathi (Legal Representative of late Smt. Kamla Rathi) (5) Sh. Nipun Rathi S/o Sh. Narendra Kumar Rathi (Legal Representative of late Smt. Kamla Rathi) (6) Smt. Nidhi Jhanwar W/o Sh. Amit Jhanwar (Legal Representative of late Smt. Kamla Rathi) and personal guarantee of (1) Sh. Narendra Kumar Rathi S/o Sh. Inder Mal Rathi (2) Sh. Dinesh Kumar Rathi S/o Sh. Inder Mal Rathi (3) Sh. Nipun Rathi S/o Sh. Narendra Kumar Rathi (4) Dr. Surendra Rathi S/o Sh. Inder Mal Rathi (5) Sh. Narendra Kumar Rathi S/o Sh. Inder Mal Rathi (Legal Representative of late Smt. Kamla Rathi) (6) Sh. Nipun Rathi S/o Sh. Narendra Kumar Rathi (Legal Representative of late Smt. Kamla Rathi) (7) Smt. Nidhi Jhanwar W/o Sh. Amit Jhanwar (Legal Representative of late Smt. Kamla Rathi) that the below described Immovable property mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of State Bank of India, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "**As is Where is", "As is What is" and "Whatever there is"** basis on **02.09.2020** for recovery of **Rs. 7,02,92,007.00 as on 30.06.2020** and Further interest, cost, charges & other expenses etc., due to the secured creditor **M/s Icon Cables Ltd.** Through its Directors: - (1) Sh. Narendra Kumar Rathi S/o Sh. Inder Mal Rathi (2) Sh. Dinesh Kumar Rathi S/o Sh. Inder Mal Rathi (3) Sh. Nipun Rathi S/o Sh. Narendra Kumar Rathi (4) Sh. Narendra Kumar Rathi S/o Sh. Inder Mal Rathi (Legal Representative of late Smt. Kamla Rathi) (5) Sh. Nipun Rathi S/o Sh. Narendra Kumar Rathi (Legal Representative of late Smt. Kamla Rathi) (6) Smt. Nidhi Jhanwar W/o Sh. Amit Jhanwar (Legal Representative of late Smt. Kamla Rathi) and personal guarantee of (1) Sh. Narendra Kumar Rathi S/o Sh. Inder Mal Rathi (2) Sh. Dinesh Kumar Rathi S/o Sh. Inder Mal Rathi (3) Sh. Nipun Rathi S/o Sh. Narendra Kumar Rathi (4) Dr. Surendra Rathi S/o Sh. Inder Mal Rathi (5) Sh. Narendra Kumar Rathi S/o Sh. Inder Mal Rathi (Legal Representative of late Smt. Kamla Rathi) (6) Sh. Nipun Rathi S/o Sh. Narendra Kumar Rathi (Legal Representative of late Smt. Kamla Rathi) (7) Smt. Nidhi Jhanwar W/o Sh. Amit Jhanwar (Legal Representative of late Smt. Kamla Rathi) The Reserve Price and Earnest Money are following and the earnest money amount to be deposited with the Bank on or before **01.09.2020**.

Commercial building situated at 1111, 11th Floor, JMD Megapolis, Sector-48, Sohna Road Gurgaon-122001 (Haryana). Standing in the name of Smt. Kamla Rathi W/o Sh. Narendra Kumar Rathi & Sh. Nipun Rathi S/o Sh. Narendra Kumar. Total Measuring: 1391 sq. ft.  
**Reserve Price : Rs. 75.46 Lac EMD AMOUNT Rs: 7,54,600.00**

Encumbrance if any- Not Known.  
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in **State Bank of India, the Secured Creditor's website <https://sbi.co.in/web/sbi-in-the-news/auction-notifs/sarfaesi-and-others> and <https://sbi.auctiontiger.net>**  
Date: 24.07.2020, Place: Jaipur (Raj.)

**Authorised Officer**



**Government of India Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)**  
**INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR THE NATIONAL AWARD FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, 2020**

Applications for the National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, 2020 are invited from eligible candidates or establishments or institutions fulfilling the prescribed criteria under the Guidelines for the National Awards for the following category of National Awards:

- Best Employee/Self-employed with disabilities;
- Best Employer and Placement Officer or Agency;
- Best Individual and Institution working for the cause of persons with disabilities;
- Role Model;
- Best Applied Research/Innovation or Product Development aimed at improving the life of persons with disabilities;
- Outstanding Work in the Creation of Barrier-free Environment for the persons with disabilities;
- Best District in providing rehabilitation service;
- Best State Channelizing Agency of the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation;
- Outstanding Creative Adult persons with disabilities;
- Best Creative Child with disabilities;
- Best Braille Press;
- Best Accessible Website;
- Best State in:
  - Promoting Empowerment of persons with disabilities and
  - Implementation of Accessible India Campaign;
- Best Sports persons with disability.

2.(a) For the purpose of National Awards, the broad categories covering all the 21 types of disabilities specified under "The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 are as under:

- Locomotor Disability -- (Locomotor Disability, Muscular Disability Dwarfism Acid Attack Victims, Leprosy Cured, Cerebral Palsy)
- Visual Disability - (Blindness, Low Vision)
- Hearing Disability - (Deaf, Hard of Hearing)
- Speech and Language Disability - (Speech and Language Disability)
- Developmental Disorder - (Autism Spectrum Disorder, Specific Learning Disability)

- Intellectual Disability - (Earlier Known As Mental Retardation)
- Mental Behavior - (Mental Illness)
- Disability caused due to blood disorder - (Hemophilia, Thalassemia Sick Cell Disease)
- Chronic Neurological Conditions - (Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's Disease)
- Multiple Disabilities - (Multiple Disabilities involving any two or more of the above 8 broad categories)

(b) Applications should be sent in the prescribed format in Hindi or English only. The application format is available in advertisement hosted on the website of the Department. Criteria laid down for each of the above categories of awards, and the Guidelines of National Awards are also available on the website of the Department. ([www.disabilityaffairs.gov.in](http://www.disabilityaffairs.gov.in)). Application forms for all the categories (category No. I to XIV) of National Award are given in **Annexure II**.

(c) Applications received after the last date and/or without recommendation by the prescribed authority/persons, or incomplete or unsigned will not be entertained.

3. The applications of organizations/institutions and those employed in the Central/State Government/Union Territory Administrations/Public Sector Undertakings should be sent in the prescribed proforma (either in Hindi or in English only) through the Ministry/Department/State Government/ Union Territory Administration/Public Sector Undertaking concerned duly approved by the competent authority in such Govt./Administration/Undertaking.

4. Applications of those not covered under above mentioned categories (including self-employed or employed in the private sector organizations/ unorganized sector), should be sent with recommendation of any one of the following:

- Department of the concerned State Government/Union Territory Administration dealing with disability matters.
- Collector / District Magistrate of the concerned District.
- A National Institute under the administrative control of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)
- A past recipient of National Award (only in individual capacity) for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

5. Application not routed or recommended in the manner provided in Paras 3 & 4 above, will not be considered. No correspondence in this connection will be entertained.

6. Applications in the prescribed format should be accompanied by the following:

- Two passport sized photographs (in the case of individuals).
- Bio-data along with summary of achievements and documents in support thereof; and
- Draft citation (not exceeding one page)

7. Applications in the prescribed formal duly recommended and complete in all respect should be sent in the following manner:

- Soft copy of the application with all the supporting documents should be sent through e-mail on the e-mail address: [nationalawards2020@gmail.com](mailto:nationalawards2020@gmail.com) by **09th September, 2020**.

**Or**

- Hard copy of the application (original) with all the supporting documents should be sent to Shri Sitaram Yadav, Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Room No.1, B-I Wing, 5th Floor, **Pat. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhavan, C.G.O Complex New Delhi- 110 003**, so as to reach him **latest by 09th September, 2020**.

davp 38117/11/0009/2021



Classifieds

PERSONAL

I Ajit Nirwan alias Ajit Pal Singh S/o Late Sh.Ganpat Lal R/o House No.118/3, Tulsi Ram Bhawan, Shivaji Marg, Karam Pura, Delhi-110015 have changed my name to Ajit Nirwan for all future purposes. 0040542705-3

I G.K.Jayaganesh S/o G.R.Krishnamurthy R/o 2/4 Reddy Kuppam st., 16, Priya Flats, Madras 600033. have changed my name to G.K. Jaiganesh 0040542711-1

I Jatin Kumar Gahlot S/o-Ashok kumar R/o.55, Munshi-Ram Colony, Dr.Mukharagee-Nagar, Delhi-110009.have changed my name to Jatin Kumar Gehlot. 0040542777-6

I Kiran W/o Sh.Dinesh Kumar Arya R/o F-1/123, Sector-11, Rohini,Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Kiran Arya for all purposes. 0040542705-1

I,Vikash Babu/Vikash Kumar, S/o Sh.Awadh Bihari Upadhyay, R/o-Q.No-3, Old-Compound, Mandi-House, New-Delhi-110001,have changed my name to Vikas Kumar,Permanently 0040542777-4

I,Umag HasiJa,S/o Ashok Kumar HasiJa R/o-C-526, Street.No.11, Majlis-Park,Delhi-110033,have changed my name,from Mukund to Umang hasija, for all, future purposes. Mukund and Umang HasiJa one and same Person. 0040542777-10

I,Ranbir Singh Nanda R/o-12/22A,Ground Floor,Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-18,Have Changed the Name of,My Minor Daughter,from Mehar Nanda to Mehar Kaur Nanda,for all,Purposes. 0040542796-4

I,Swaraj RoshA, W/o Gurpreet Singh Channi, R/o TNB-012, Trinity Towers, DLF Phase-5, Gurgaon have changed my name from Swaraj RoshA to Swaraj Channi for all future purpose. 0040542728-1

I,Shahnawaz,S/o-Mohd Saifuddin Molla R/o-L-4/B, Batla-House,Jamia-Nagar, ND-25.inform that't name of my mother,has-been mention,in my passport,as Suraiya instead,of Suraiya Begum. 0040542796-9

I, SadiA Sultana,D/o-Mohd Saifuddin Molla R/o-L-4/B, Batla-House,Jamia-Nagar, ND-25.inform that't name of my mother,has-been mention,in my passport,as Suraiya instead,of Suraiya Begum. 0040542796-7

I,SATENDER KUMAR/SATINDER KUMAR SHARMA S/O JAI NARAIN R/O A-30/31,MAJLISPARK,ADARSH NAGAR,DELHI-110033.CHANGEDMY NAMETO SATENDER KUMAR SHARMA. 0040542800-3

I,S.Vaidesh S/o B.Shankar R/o Flat.No.498, GH-14, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-87, Have Changed My Name to Vaidesh Shankar. 0040542730-1

I,Ram Mehar Sharma,S/o Late Sohan Lal Sharma, presently R/o-8/137,85 Mohram-Nagar Delhi-Cantt Dehmetri Airport Near-Metro Station,New Delhi-110037,and R/o,H.NO.045,939, Ganga Toll-Road Poothkhurd, North Delhi-110039, have changed my name to Brahma Rahma Angeraa(DOB-15/04/1973)For all,future purposes. 0040542777-8

I,RAMESH CHANDER, S/O SHAMBU DYAL, R/O-F-275/7, AALI-VIHAR, NEAR SARITA-VIHAR, DELHI-110076, changed my name to RAMESH CHANDRA, permanently. 0040542796-6

I,RAM nath sahu,s/o sh.prabhu sahu r/o-plot.no.37,block-g-3,sai-enclave,Gali no.10, Mohan-garden,new-Delhi-110059,I have changed my name as ram nath sahuin place of my previous name ram nath,for all purposes. 0040542777-9

I, R. K. Ashok S/o Ram Prasad R/o-902, Ground-Floor, Sector-1, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad,have changed my name to Rakesh Kumar Ashok. 0040542800-2

I, Piyush S/O Pawan Kumar born on 09/01/1999 residing at 190,Ram Nagar Extn.,Krishna Nagar,Delhi-110051, have changed my name to Piyush Sethia vide affidavit dated 23/07/2020 at Delhi. 0050166875-1

I, Mohd Shahryar,S/o-Mohd Saifuddin Molla R/o-L-4/B, Batla-House,Jamia-Nagar, ND-25.inform that't name of my mother,has-been mention,in my passport,as Suraiya instead,of Suraiya Begum. 0040542796-8

I, Lovepreet Kaur,W/o Beant Singh Gill R/o-G-95,Block-G, Nand-Ram Park, Dwarka,Delhi-110059,have changed my name to Lovepreet Kaur Gill. 0040542777-1

I DIDAR SINGH S/O LATE SH. Mohinder Singh R/o Flat no.432, 3rd Floor Four Story Tagore Garden, New Delhi-110027. I have changed my Name DEEDAR SINGH to DIDAR SINGH, for all Future Purpose, both are the same and one person. 0040542597-1

I,Km Ravin W/o Rakesh Kumar Ashok R/o 902, Ground Floor, Sector-1, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad,have changed my name to Rajni. 0040542800-1

I, Kirti D/o Nariender Singh Mann R/o.H.No-87, Sector-14, Urban Estate, Karnal,Haryana-132001 have changed my name to Kirti Mann,Permanently, 0040542777-3

I, KAPIL DEV S/O-SATYA PRAKASH R/O-KHASRA. NO.584 NEHRU-ENCLAVE NEAR-MINI STADIUM-ALIPUR DELHI-36.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME KAPIL DEV ARYA. 0040542777-5

I, Harswaroop Singh S/o-Jagdish Singh R/o-503 SU, Air-Force-Station-Arjangarh,have change my name/Harwaroop Singh Vide-Affidavit-date-18/07/2020. 0040542796-10

I, DEVINDER KUMAR CHADHA S/O RAM PARKASH R/O H.NO.104-110, D-15,SECTOR-3, ROHINI, DELHI-110085.CHANGED MY NAME TO DAVENDER KUMAR. 0040542796-1

I, BHAGWAT SINGH S/O PADAM SINGH R/o-232, HANS-NAGAR COLONY-PANDWALAN KALAN-NAJAFGARH DELHI-110043.HAVE changed my name to BHAGWAT SINGH RAWAT 0040542796-3

I, Aleyamma Puthuparampil Ulahannan W/o-Mathew Joseph R/O-Flat-No.128-B, Pocket-C-2, Mayur-Vihar, Phase-3, Delhi-110096, have changed my name to Anu Mathew, Permanently. 0040542777-2

I, ANU CHADHA S/O DAVENDER KUMAR R/O. H.NO.104-110,D-15,SECTOR-3, ROHINI, DELHI-110085. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ANNU. 0040542796-2

I, PRADEEP KUMAR GUPTA, S/O RAGHUBIR PRASAD GUPTA, R/O-D-143A, GROUND-FLOOR EAST-OF-KAILASH NEWDELHI-110065,have Changed my name to PRADEEP GUPTA. 0040542796-5

I,Supreet Bhatia S/O, Mahender Pal Singh Bhatia R/O 58c C2D Block Janakpuri, New Delhi have changed my name to Supreet Singh Bhatia for all purposes. 0040542714-1

I,Seema Rani D/O, Chiranjil Lal R/O E 1203 Bptp Resort Sector 75 Faridabad Haryana- 121004 have changed my name to Sima Premkumar Gupta for all purposes. 0040542634-1

I Ruchika Grover D/o Lt.Sh.Prem Grover W/o Sh.Arun Dureja R/o 11/10, 1st Floor, Ashok Nagar, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018 have changed my name after marriage to Nidhi Dureja for all purposes. 0040542705-4

I,Ritu Pal W/O, Mr. Kapil Kumar R/O D- 406, Alaknanda Apartment, Rampuri, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh - 201011. I have changed my name from Ritu Kumari Pal to Ritu Pal for all purposes 0040542708-1

I Mohal Lal S/o Ram Prasad R/O-JB-1/94 Welcome Seelampur Delhi-110053,have changed my name to Mohan Lal. 0040542777-7

I Parteek Shokeen alias Prateek Shokeen S/o Sh.Dharambir Singh R/o House No.688, B-Block, Saraswati Vihar, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 have changed my name to Parteek Shokeen for all purposes. 0040542705-2

**LOST & FOUND**

Lost Sale-Deed No.1271, Book.No.31/14 Page-58-63 Registered.on.26/11/1959 executed in favour of Karam Chand in respect of Plot bearing.No.E-1, 166-2/3 Sq.Yds.in the area of village-Khureji Khas,Chander-Nagar,Delhi-51,founder may inform Tarun Tyagi,S/o Yashvir Singh Tyagi,H.No.E-1, Gali.No.3,East Chander-Nagar,Delhi-51. 0040542777-11

I, Vikram Yadav Son of Shri Tej Singh Yadav, declare an oath that my Qualifying certificate of having passed the 10 th in CBSE Delhi in the year 1989 Mark Sheet has been actually lost/ destroyed and that it is my true statement. My Roll No. Was 053533, Residential Address :847, Sector 15, Part-2, Gurgaon, Haryana 0040542707-1

I, ARCHANA Gautam,D/o-Dal chand kardam,R/o-87-c pocket-D-1,D.D.A Janta-flats,kondli mayur-vihar,phase-3,Delhi-96 have lost my original-certificate class-10th(2000) RollNo-630420 class-12th (2002) RollNo-6605855,CBSE-Delhi 0040542800-4

I, Lovepreet Kaur,W/o Beant Singh Gill R/o-G-95,Block-G, Nand-Ram Park, Dwarka,Delhi-110059,have changed my name to Lovepreet Kaur Gill. 0040542777-1

I DIDAR SINGH S/O LATE SH. Mohinder Singh R/o Flat no.432, 3rd Floor Four Story Tagore Garden, New Delhi-110027. I have changed my Name DEEDAR SINGH to DIDAR SINGH, for all Future Purpose, both are the same and one person. 0040542597-1

I Arpit Dwivedi H. No. 40 main shyam park sahibabad ghaziabad 201005, I have lost my class 10th marksheet year 2016 roll no. 5397148 CBSE Board. 0040542609-1

It is notified for the information that my original examination certificate of Main, Secondary examination of year 2010 and Roll no 6169505 issued by CBSE has been actually destroyed. Name of the candidate : Shabnam Kapur. Full address / Tel : 5 Jaipur Estate, Nizamuddin East, New Delhi 110013/ 9717227292. 0040542848-1

It is notified for the information that my original examination certificate of Main, Senior Secondary examination of year 2012 and Roll no 9160632 issued by CBSE has been actually destroyed. Name of the candidate : Shabnam Kapur. Full address / Tel : 5 Jaipur Estate, Nizamuddin East New Delhi 110013/ 9717227292. 0040542852-1

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client Anil Kumar @ Anil Kumar Aroa S/o Sh. Mani Dhar Aroa @ M.D. Aroa, R/o 134/30, Second Floor, Rani Bagh, Saranwati Vihar, Delhi-34, is informed to the General Public that original Sale Deed dated 05.01.1994 registered under document No. 551, Book No. I, Volume 2625 Pages No. 389 to 392 at Regd. GPA No. 1034 dated 08.03.1973 document No. 1350 Book no. IV, Volume No. 226, Pages 139 to 142 of property No. W2-1342/3, area measuring 58 sq. yds, part of plot No. 7 of old Khana No. 612321 & 321 situated in the area of Village Saranwati, Main, Mandi, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, presently known as Rani Bagh, Shakti Nagar, Delhi, were lost and the said Rani Bagh my client lodged a report LR No. 425413/2020 dated 23.07.2020 through online. Sd/- AJIT KUMAR (Advocate) En. No. D-15312000 Ch. No. 188-A, Western Wing Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-110054 (M). 8850874236, 9013455883

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of Public in general that my clients Sh. Malkhan Singh S/o Late Sh. Kalu Ram, Singh Smt. Santosh W/o Sh. Malkhan Singh, R/o D-524/2 Sultan Puri, Delhi-86, do hereby serve all relations with their daughters namely Kumari Vnadena and Prabitha absolutely and completely, with immediate effect and both are also disowned by my clients and shall have no right in all moveable and immovable property owned by my clients. My clients shall not be responsible in any manner whatsoever for the acts of their above mentioned daughters. Any person dealing with them shall do so on his own risk and responsibility. Sd/- JALPAI SHOKEN (ADVOCATE) 1422, Lawyers's Chambers, Rohini Court Complex, Delhi - 110085

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that my client Sh. Rajender Kumar S/o Sh. Ghidhan Lal R/o 414, Kashmiri bagh, kishan ganj, delhi-7 have severed all their relationships with their son Rajul Kumar from all their moveable and immovable properties whatsoever and wheresoever situated and also severed all their relations, social and economical with him for his misbehavior and adamant attitude. Any body dealing with him shall be at his/her/hir own risks and my shall not be responsible for same. Sd/- BASANT KUMAR GUPTA (Advocate) Ch. No. 747, western wing Tis hazari Court, Delhi 54

PUBLIC NOTICE

MY CLIENT SMT. SANTOSH VERMA W/O LATE SH. RAUBER VERMA R/O H. No. 891, BADA HALWA HATTA, SONPAT HANA 131001, SEVERE ALL RELATIONS AND DEBAR THEIR SON DEEWANSHU VERMA AND HIS WIFE KOMAL VERMA FROM THEIR ENTIRE MOVABLE / IMMOVABLE PROPERTY DUE TO THEIR HOSTILE BEHAVIOUR. MY CLIENTS SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ACTS / DEEDS. Sd/- AJIT KUMAR (Advocate) CH. NO. 513, ROHINI COURT, DELHI MOB. 9891649849

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known that my client SH. RAM CHANDER SHARMA S/O LATE SH. SOHAN LAL SHARMA R/O H.NO. 045, 939, Ganga Toll Road Poothkhurd, Delhi-110039, has disowned and severed all their relations with their wife LAXMI and their son MOHIL and LAXMI and debarred them from his moveable and immovable properties/ assets and their personal life. Anybody dealing with him in civil and criminal matter shall be doing at his/her/their own risk, cost and responsibility. Sd/- KAMAL SINGH Advocate Regn. No. D-748/14 Chamber No. 512, First Floor, Distt. Court, Rohini, Delhi-85

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Sh. Sanjay Kumar and his wife Ms. Kamlesh, alongwith other family members, R/o 18, Ardh Vidya, Panchkuirya Road, New Delhi-110001, have debarred their son Mr. Kunal and his wife Ms. Natasha from all his moveable or immovable propities due to his misconduct, threatening and quarrelsome attitude of them towards My clients, therefore, they severed their all relations from them i.e. Mr. Kunal and his wife Ms. Natasha. If they make any deal or any relations/acdted with any person, my clients will not be responsible for the same in future and my client will have no relation with them in any manner in future. Sd/- RAJ KUMAR (Advocate) Ch. No. 774, Saket Courts, New Delhi-17

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Aditya Birla Finance Ltd., Barakhamba Road, New Delhi is in the process of advancing a loan to Mrs. Hemlata Dhooper, against mortgage of Flat No. 158-C, Second floor, Block-JG-III, Category-Janta, Bodella, Vikasपुरi, Delhi. She has represented that she is the sole & absolute owner of the said property by way of inheritance, having inherited the said Property from her mother Mrs. Snehlata Dhooper, after her death, who was owner on the basis of Conveyance Deed dated 27.01.2010 (Doc. No. 1157). If anybody, person, body corporate has any right, lien or claim on the said flat whatsoever then he/she/it may contact the undersigned with documentary proof of claim within 15 days of publication of this notice, otherwise it shall be deemed that either there are no claims or the same have been waived off and my client shall proceed to advance the loan by mortgaging the said property. Vishal Chopra, Advocate Narang & Associates D-28, Jangra Extension, New Delhi-110014.

"IMPORTANT"

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NORTHERN RAILWAY					
E-TENDER NOTICE					
N.Rly Central Hospital, New Delhi for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders through <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> for the following items. For detail information please log on to website <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>					
Sr. No.	Tender No.	Item Description	Quantity	Value (Rs.)	Tender Opening Date
1.	82201162B	Tablet Sitagliptin 100 mg	130000 Nos	4482400/-	28.07.20
2.	82201193	Tablet Sitagliptin 50 mg + Metformin 500 mg	235000 Nos	4131300/-	28.07.20
3.	82201454A	Tablet Sitagliptin 50 mg + Metformin 1000 mg	257000 Nos	4543760/-	28.07.20
4.	82201160D	Tablet Linagliptin 5 mg	127500 Nos	4572150/-	28.07.20
					1640/20
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE					

Sr. No.	Name of Deptt./Board/ Corp./Auth.	Name of Work/ Notice/Tender	Opening Date Closing Date (Time)	Amount/EMD (Approx.) in Rupees	Website of the Department/ Board/ Corp/Auth	Nodal Officer/Contact Details/E-mail
1.	CIVIL HOSPITAL PALWAL,	OPEN BIDDING FOR CANTEN TENDER IN CIVIL HOSPITAL, PALWAL	29.07.2020 TIME 11.00 AM (TENDER PERIOD 01.08.2020 TO 31.07.2021)	5000/-	--	SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER smoghpw15@gmail.com
SD/- SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER CIVIL HOSPITAL, PALWAL						
81920/HRY						

Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department								
"OFFICE ORDER"								
(Corrigendum)								
The e-Procurement notice tender vide this office Tender Notice No.PW-SRDD-CB-CTR-2020-21-3973 dated 03-07-2020 which is scheduled to be opened on 31-07-2020 is being amended due to technical reason.								
Key Dates:-								
Before amendments					After amendment may be read as under			
Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Cost of Tender	Job No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Cost of Tender
Construction of Parking at Sanket Mochan Temple Block-A (SH- C/o building portion, providing water supply and sanitary installation, C/o septic tank and site development etc) (Under Smart City Shimla)	Rs. 2,14,08,389/-	Rs. 246,600/-	Rs. 5,000/-	1	Construction of Parking at Sanket Mochan Temple Block-A (SH- C/o building portion, providing water supply and sanitary installation, C/o septic tank and site development etc) (Under Smart City Shimla)	Rs. 1,72,83,088/-	Rs. 2,10,350/-	Rs. 5,000/-
					Executive Engineer Shimla Rural Division, HPPWD Dhani.			
1788/HP					HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK			

NORTHERN RAILWAY								
INVITATION OF TENDERS THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM								
No.18-S/10-21/Track/Tender						Dated : 24.07.2020		
Chief Admin. Officer/Const. Northern Railway, Kashmere Gate, Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites tenders through e-procurement system to be opened at 14.30 hours on the dates as shown against each for the supply of the following items :-								
S. N.	Tender No.	Description of material in Brief	Qty.	Approx. Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Delivery Period	Date of Opening	
1	Track01	Manufacture and supply of :-		15453870.00	309080.00	(9) Nine Months	17.08.2020	
	CAOC2021	(i) Plate Screws conforming to RDSO Drawing No.T-3912 & IRS specification T-16- 1981 with latest alteration as amended upto date.	339858 Nos					
		(ii) Rail screws conforming to RDSO Drp.T-4153 & IRS specification T- 16-1981 with latest alteration as amended upto date.	45750 Nos					
								1628/20
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE								

Himachal Pradesh Jal Shakti Vibhag e-Tendering					
The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Vibhag Division Nalagarh invites tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following work (s) through e-tendering process:-					
S/ No.	Description of work	Estimated cost	Earnest Money	Cost of tender forms	Stipulated Time period
1	Construction of 8 Nos. (7Nos.) <b>Tube wells PHASE 1</b> in Tehsil Nalagarh of Solan District HP (Sub Head Providing and laying Rising main of various dia with MS flanges Providing and laying HDPE pipe in distribution system supply and erection of pumping machinery and construction of MDT out lets construction of pump house cum attendant quarter construction of boundary wall around the pump house electrification of pump house for Tubewell 1 Nangal Dhakka 2 Nangal 3 Rampur Harizan Basti 4 Kulari 5 Dhana I and II )	2,35,26,130/-	2,67,800/-	2500/-	Two year
1 Last date of filing / uploading the tender through e-tendering: - <b>05-08-2020 upto 11:00 AM.</b> The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be obtained from the website <a href="http://www.hpphp.org">www.hpphp.org</a> .					
1837/HP		HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK		Executive Engineer, IPH Divn. Nalagarh, Distt. Solan (HP)	



# NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

E-Tender Notice No. SIG-WS-CONT-AGC-87

Date. 23.07.2020

E-Tendering Tender Notice


DY. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/North Central Railway/Agra for and on behalf of the President of India invites "Open Tender through on line (E-Tendering)" for the following work:-

E-Tender No.	Description of work	Approx Cost	Earnest Money
SIG-WS-CONT-AGC-87	Design, Manufacture, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Solid State (Electronic) Interlocking System Conforming to RDSO Specification No. RDSO/SPN/192/2005 with latest amendment including all Indoor & Outdoor signalling & Telecom works at Mansingh Ka Pura station of Bhandu-Udimore section of Agra division of North Central Railway.	₹ 30859113.54 Three Crores Eight Lacs Fifty Nine Thousands One Hundred Thirteen and paisa Fifty Four Only.	₹ 304300.00 Three Lacs Four Thousand Three Hundred Only


Cost of tender form : ₹ 5350.00 (Five thousand Three hundred fifty only)

Date of closing Tender: 01.09.2020

Date of completion period from issue of acceptance letter: 12 months. • Tender online can be submitted up to 15:30 hrs on 01.09.2020. • For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railway website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) 809/20(D)

 North central railways

[www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in)

 @ CPNCR

F. No. AN/V/5018/OTI & Panchvati  
Controller General of Defence Accounts  
Ulan Batar Road, Palam, Delhi Cantt - 110010  
Dated: 22.07.2020  
Notice for Inviting Open Tender

On behalf of the Controller General of Defence Accounts, Delhi Cantt, open tenders are invited from well experienced and licensed reputed parties/ firms/ companies/ agencies, for Miscellaneous services i.e. internal and external conservancy, Catering services and pest & rodent control services etc. in the office premises of the DPDO & OTI office Building at Sector-44, Gurugram (Haryana) & Panchvati Guest House, Palam, Delhi Cantt. Total area of office building of DPDO & OTI office Building at Sector-44, Gurugram (Haryana) & Panchvati Guest House, Palam, Delhi Cantt-10 are approx. 25,137 sq. ft. and approx. 8,610 sq.ft. respectively.

Tender documents shall be accompanied by a Demand Draft/Banker's Cheque for Rs.1,000/- (Rupees One Thousand only) drawn on any Nationalized Bank in favour of the CGDA, Ulan Batar Road, Palam, Delhi Cantt, towards cost of the tender form. Tender is invited in two parts, i.e. (1) Technical bid and (2) Financial bid. The tender form for technical bid in the pro-forma prescribed in enclosure-IV and the tender form for the financial bid in the pro-forma prescribed in enclosure-V, complete in all respects, sealed separately, and kept in a sealed cover together, superscribed with (i) Tender Notice No. (ii) subject : Quotation for Miscellaneous Services at the DPDO & OTI office Building at Sector-44, Gurugram (Haryana) & Panchvati Guest House, Palam, Delhi Cantt. an (iii) due date and should be submitted to the AN-V Section, O/o the CGDA, Ulan Batar Road, Palam, Delhi Cantt-110010 or may be dropped in Tender Box provided for this purpose at Reception of CGDA office, Ulan Batar Road, Palam, Delhi Cantt-110010.

The Tender documents alongwith instructions, scope of work and terms & conditions can be downloaded from the web site [www.cgda.nic.in](http://www.cgda.nic.in) or can be collected from Sh. Mahesh Kumar, SAO(AN), O/o the CGDA, Ulan Batar Road, Palam, Delhi Cantt - 110010.

1. Date & Time for submission of quotations up to **21.08.2020 till 2.00 P.M.**
2. Date & Time of Opening of Quotations (Technical Bid) **21.08.2020 at 3.00 P.M.**

**Place of Opening of Tender Bids** - Aditya Conference Hall, Ground floor, CGDA office, Ulan Batar Road, Palam, Delhi Cantt-10.

**Incomplete tender/tender received beyond date/time notified above shall be out rightly rejected.**

Sd/-  
(Dr. Amit Gupta)  
Sr. Dy. CGDA (Admin)  
Phone No. 011-20893005  
davp 105011/11/0003/2021

Office of the Superintending Engineer Research Circle Irrigation Research Institute, Roorkee		
Corrigendum No.2 To 04/SE (R)/ NHP/ e-Tender/ 2020-21 Dated 07.07.2020		
e-Tender Notice no. 04/SE (R)/ NHP/ e-Tender/ 2020-21 Dated 07.07.2020 was floated for the "Drilling & Installation of 66 nos. Groundwater Monitoring Wells and Construction of 66 nos. Protection Works for DWLR Telemetry System to Monitor Groundwater Level and Quality under National Hydrology Project (NHP)" in Uttarakhand State". Due to some unavoidable circumstances, the <b>Bid Submission Start Date</b> in respect of aforesaid e-Tender dated 07.07.2020 is being extended from 26.07.2020, 3:30 PM to <b>06.08.2020, 3:30 PM</b> .		
Date: 24.07.2020		Sd/- (Shankar Kumar Saha) Superintending Engineer
पत्रांक: 1799/श्रीम./एन.एच.पी. दिनांक: 24.07.2020		

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (PPP) P.W.D., RAJASTHAN, JAIPUR		
No. 215	<b><u>NIT No. 05/2020-21</u></b>	Date: 29.06.2020
<p>On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Rajasthan, Public Works Department, Rajasthan (India) invites RFP/Financial Bids for Consultancy Services for NGO/Agency to assist PIUs in Resettlement Plan Implementation for ADB RSHIP Tranche-2 in the state of Rajasthan in specified format. The RFP/Financial bid document can be viewed or/ and downloaded from website: <a href="http://ppp.rajasthan.gov.in">http://ppp.rajasthan.gov.in</a>, <a href="http://www.pwd.rajasthan.gov.in">http://www.pwd.rajasthan.gov.in</a> and <a href="http://sproc.rajasthan.gov.in">http://sproc.rajasthan.gov.in</a> from 01.07.2020. Any further amendments to the RFP/Financial Bid document shall only be made available on above websites as such prospective Bidders are expected to visit the above websites for the same.</p> <p>The Bid due date for receiving proposals is 30.07.2020 upto 11:30 Hrs. The applications will be opened on 30.07.2020 at 15:00 Hrs. Other relevant details are available in the RFP document.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Sd/- (V.K. Singh) Additional Chief Engineer (PPP) PPP Division, Public Works Department Nirman Bhawan, Jacob road Civil Lines Jaipur-302006 Email: <a href="mailto:aceppp.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in">aceppp.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in</a></p>		
UBN No. P.WD2021SSOB02723		Tel: +91-41-2223547
DIPR/C/5677/2020		






**U.P. RAJKIYA NIRMAN NIGAM LTD.**  
(An ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company)  
Visheshwariya Bhawan, Gontingar, Lucknow

**NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**  
The Additional Project Manager, Electrical Unit, Dehradun invites for and on behalf of Managing Director U.P. Rajkiya Nirman Nigam Ltd. online percentage rate bids in two bid system for following work:  
**NIT No.: 2172/GM(EZ-3)/E-TENDER/RNN/2020 Dated 23.07.2020, Name of work : FIRE ALARM & FIRE FIGHTING Works at Bhagirathi Tourist Banglow (Aknanda Parishar), Haridwar (Uttarakhand), Estimated Bid Value: Rs. 94.78 Lakh, Earnest Money: Rs. 1.90 Lakh, Period of Completion: 04 Months, Last time and date of submission of bid: 1:00 PM on Dt.13/08/2020**  
The bid forms and other details can be obtained / downloaded from the website: <https://etender.up.nic.in>. The NIT is also available on <http://www.upnn.co.in>.

**APM, Electrical Unit, Dehradoun**





**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ**  
ELECTRIC LOCO SHED, KANPUR

**E-Tender Notice No. :- Sr. DEERS/EL/SCNBI/2020-21/ET-04 Date: 21.07.2020**  
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/RS.N.C.R./y/Kanpur, for and on behalf of the President of India, invite the following open E-Tender for the following work up to Tender Opening Date & Time. The details of the tenders are as under:-

Tender No. & Name of work	Advised Value(₹)	Estimated Money Deposit(₹)
<b>ELS-CNB-2020-21-ET-04.</b> Annual Maintenance Contract & break down maintenance including removing of released turntable for CNC Vertical Turret lathe Machine Model No. BVI-16, at Electric Loco Shed N.C. Railway, Kanpur.	33,03,750.00 (Rupees Thirty Three Laks Three Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty And Ninety Paise only (Including GST, transportation and all other charges/dues).)	86100.00 (Rs. Eighty Six Thousand One Hundred Only)

Completion period of Work: 02 Years. Tender Document Cost: ₹ 3,000.00 (Rs. Three Thousand only). Tender Opening Date & Time: 24.08.2020 & 15:30 hrs. Note: 1. The complete information along with tender document of above e-Tenders will be available on Website [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in) up to due date & time of tender opening. 2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2008. 3. Offer rates quoted in the form of e-tender schedule & duly signed digitally shall be final. No other documents related to offer rates shall be entertained. Tenderers are advised not to attach any document related to offer rates (except undertaking(s) asked). These documents shall be treated as NULL and void and shall not be considered for evaluation of offer. 4. Documents being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. 5. This tender notice has also been uploaded on [www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in). 6. In case of any difficulty/helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached.







**UJVN Limited**  
H.O. : UJVN, Main Market, Bhat, GMS Road, Dehradun-248008  
Tel/Fax: 2735-2192/2735-2193 & Fax: 0135-2735307  
GIN No. U40701UP2001890202695 | [www.ujvn.co.in](http://www.ujvn.co.in)

**Letter No.: 463 "e" Procurement Notice Dated 24.07.2020**  
Office of the Executive Engineer, (M&G) Mohamadpur Power House, Gurukul Narsan, Haridwar invites sealed tenders from experienced firms for following work/supplies for Mohamadpur Power House:-  
**NIT No. 04/EE(M&G)/MPH/2020-21**  
1- Name of work - Supply of one No. TGB Shalati Mohamadpur Power House.  
2- Estimated Cost - Rs.11,15,000.00  
3- Date of availability of Tender document on website - 24.07.2020 (16:00 Hrs)  
4- Last Date for Receipt of bid on the website - 17-08-2020 upto (16:00 Hrs)  
For all details, bidders are advised to see e-procurement portal - [uktenders.gov.in](http://uktenders.gov.in)  
Executive Engineer (M&G), Mohamadpur Power House  
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"



**All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raebareli**  
(An Autonomous Institute under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India)  
Munshiganj, Raebareli - 229405, Uttar Pradesh, India  
[www.aiimsrbl.edu.in](http://www.aiimsrbl.edu.in)


**No. AIIMS/RBL/ADMIN/Non-Faculty/DEP/2019-20/ Dated: 24.07.2020**  
**APPOINTMENTS ON DEPUTATION**  
Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the following Group 'A' and 'B' posts in All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raebareli on deputation basis (i) Financial Advisor (Level-13); (ii) Executive Engineer (Civil) (Level-11); (iii) Executive Engineer (Electrical) (Level-11), (iv) Assistant Controller of Examination (Level-11); (v) Administrative Officer (Level-10), (vi) Nursing Superintendent (Level-11) (vii) Assistant Administrative Officer (Level-7)  
For detailed advertisement, application form and other terms & conditions, applicants may visit AIIMS, Raebareli website [www.aiimsrbl.edu.in](http://www.aiimsrbl.edu.in). Last date of submission of application form is 18.09.2020. All further communication/updates regarding this advertisement shall be published only in our Institute website. Applicants are advised to regularly visit AIIMS, Raebareli website for update/clarifications.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



**UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LTD.**  
Corporate Identity No. U404109UP2001SGC025867/2358  
Victoria Cross Vijeta Gagar Singh Ujra Bhawan, Kanwal Road, Dehradun  
Tel. No. 0135-2763872-76 Fax No. 0135-2760289, Website: [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in)

**CORRIGENDUM TO E-TENDER NOTICE**  
This office e-tender specification No. CCP-II/9/2020-2021, invited previously, for supply of 33KV Vacuum Circuit Breaker is hereby extended due to unavoidable reasons. The e-tender can be purchased and submitted upto 17:00hrs. of 06.08.2020. Part-I of the e-tender shall be opened on 07.08.2020 at 15:30hrs.  
For further details, please visit our website [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in).  
Superintending Engineer  
Corporate (C&P-II)  
पत्रांक 347/EE(CM)/UPCLA-2 Date: 23/07/2020  
"SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF NATION Use LED Bulb, Save Electricity (Toll Free No. 1912)"  
"Pay Electricity bill online 24x7 from [www.upcl.org](http://www.upcl.org) (For information on Electricity Theft, Informer may report to Toll Free No. 1800 180 4185/ Fax No. 0135-2760911)"




**Punjab State Power Corporation Limited**

**Regd. Office.: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001**  
**CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033813; Website: [www.pspcl.in](http://www.pspcl.in)**  
**E-Tender Enquiry No. 278/P-3/EMP-V 11633 dated. 17.07.2020 & ID: 2020\_POWER\_59095.1**  
**Scope of Work:** Supply and Application of Insulation and Allied Material on Boiler & Its Auxiliaries, Turbine Piping And Equipments at GGSSTP 4x210mw Units.  
**Time period:** One Year  
**EMD:** Rs. 80,000/-  
Date & time upto which tender shall be received 28.08.2020 & 11.00 AM.  
Date & time of opening of Tender 02.09.2020 & 11.30 AM  
**Tender specification can only be downloaded from PSPCL website <http://epsproc.punjab.gov.in> & no hard copy of the same will be issued by this office.**  
**Note:**  
1) In case any difficulty regarding uploading of the tender the prospective bidders are requested to get clarification from this office and or procurement system Government of Punjab. Contact No.-91(172)-2970263/284. It is also requested to get their digital signature well in time so as to submit tenders through e-tendering only.  
2) It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on website [epsproc.punjab.gov.in](http://epsproc.punjab.gov.in)  
RTP-31/2020  
54273/Pb  
**Sd/- Dy. CE/Monitoring, GGSSTP, Rupnagar**



**NORTHERN RAILWAY**

**Tender Notice**  
**Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement System)**  
NIT No. : 116/SAMC/TSS/CMS Equipments/M-1/2020. Name of work and its Location: "CAMEC for Integrated Terminal Support System Equipments (Hardware) for Computerized Crew Management System operation Under Delhi division at Jakhai, Jind, Rohatka, Shakurbasti, Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Delhi Main and Meerut City Stations on various Diesel Lobbies for the period of Two years from the Date of Execution" from OEM (M/s acer only) or Authorised Dealer of M/s "acer" only. **Approx Cost of work:** Rs. 14.53,200/- (Fourteen lakh Fifty Three Thousand Two Hundred only) plus GST as Applicable. **Earnest Money:** Rs. 29,100/- **Completion period of work:** Two years i.e. 24 months from the date of execution of work. **Cost of tender document on cash/ by post:** Rs. 2360/- with GST @ 18%. **Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender:** Upto 15.00 hrs. on 17.08.2020 Opening of Tender at 15.00 hrs. Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen: Above Tender available on IREPS site i.e. [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in) No.: 116/SAMC/TSS/CMS Equipments/M-1/2020 Dated: 23.07.2020 1621/2020  
**Serving Customers With A Smile**



**NORTHERN RAILWAY**

**TENDER NOTICE**  
**Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)**

N.I.T. No.	S.N.	03-2020-21-W-C/NRCH
1 Name of work with its location	1	Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract with operation and Maintenance for Medical gases and vacuum pipeline System (MGVPS) with spares at NRCH for a period of Three Years (2020-2023).
2 Approx. Cost of work	1	Rs. 37,09,869/-
3 Earnest Money	1	(It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note :- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no. 2015/CE-I/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016)
4 Completion period of Work	1	Rs.74,200/-
5 Cost of tender	1	(It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note :- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no. 2015/CE-I/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016)
6 Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender	1	Rs.3540/- Upto 10.30 hrs. on 18.08.2020 Opening of tender at 15.00 hrs. On 18.08.2020.
7 Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.	1	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. <a href="http://www.irops.gov.in">www.irops.gov.in</a>

No :- NIT-03-20-21-NRCH Dated: 24.07.2020 1627/2020  
**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

Anpara Thermal Power Project, Anpara. E-Tender Notice. 1. E-Tender No: 399/PD-I/ATPS/2020-21, Office: Superintending Engineer, MMC-I, ATPS, Anpara. Supply: Supply of integrated LDB. Earnest Money: Rs.7,000.00 (Rs. Seven Thousand Only) (Refundable), Tender Cost: Rs. 500.00+ 18% GST, (Non Refundable) Earnest money deposit & tender cost to be deposited through NEFT/RTGS of D.Y.C.A.O., CFA&BO, ATPS, Anpara. Last date of submission of e-bid (Technical & Financial) at <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 17.08.2020, date of opening e-bid Part-I: 19.08.2020, For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. 2. E-Tender No: 16/AHD/BTPS/2020-21, Office: Superintending Engineer, O&MC-I, BTPS, Anpara. Work: Overhauling of ash slurry pumps, GSW pumps, sump pumps & other associated equipments of unit no. 4 of 2x500MW, BTPS, Anpara. Earnest Money: Rs.15,000.00 (Rs. Fifteen Thousand Only) (Refundable), Tender Cost: Rs. 500.00+ 18% GST, (Non Refundable) Earnest money deposit & tender cost to be deposited through NEFT/RTGS of D.Y.C.A.O., CFA&BO, BTPS, Anpara. E-bid submission end date: 21.08.2020, date of opening e-bid Part-I: 24.08.2020, Part-II: Shall be intimated later. Period: 1 Year. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. 3. E-Tender No: 254/PD-III/ATPS/2020-21, Office: Superintending Engineer, MMC-I, ATPS, Anpara. Supply: Supply of H.T. fasteners (Make: LPS, TVS and unbrako (DFL) only) of 3x210 MW ATPS, Anpara. Earnest Money: Rs.22,000.00 (Rs. Twenty Two Thousand Only) (Refundable), Tender Cost: Rs. 500.00+ 18% GST, (Non Refundable) Earnest money deposit & tender cost to be deposited through NEFT/RTGS of D.Y.C.A.O., CFA&BO, ATPS, Anpara. E-bid submission end date: 07.08.2020, date of opening e-bid Part-I: 07.08.2020, For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. 4. E-Tender No: 04/FF&SD-I/ATPS/2020-21, Office: Superintending Engineer, [HQ], ATPS, Anpara. Work: Painting and nomenclature of fire fighting system pipeline, equipment and tanks of 3x210MW, ATPS, Anpara. Earnest Money: Rs.15,000.00 (Rs. Fifteen Thousand Only) (Refundable), Tender Cost: Rs. 500.00+ 18% GST, (Non Refundable) Earnest money deposit & tender cost to be deposited through NEFT/RTGS of D.Y.C.A.O., CFA&BO, ATPS, Anpara. E-bid submission end date: 07.08.2020, date of opening e-bid Part-I: 10.08.2020, Part-II: Shall be intimated later. Period: One Year. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. 5. Short Term E-Tender No: 02/CMD-2/ATPS/2020-21, Office: Superintending Engineer, CMC-I, ATPS, Anpara. Work: Annual maintenance contract for drinking water distribution network in temporary colony, CISF colony, Rehabilitation area, office shed & power house area of Anpara Thermal power project, Anpara, Sonbhadra. Earnest Money: Rs.20,000.00 (Rs. Twenty Thousand Only) (Refundable), Tender Cost: Rs. 500.00+ 18% GST, (Non Refundable) Earnest money deposit & tender cost to be deposited through NEFT/RTGS of D.Y.C.A.O., CFA&BO, ATPS, Anpara. E-bid submission end date: 10.08.2020, date of opening e-bid Part-I: 13.08.2020, Part-II: Shall be intimated later. Period: One Year. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. 6. E-Tender No: 04/MMC-I/SD/BTPS/2020-21, Office: Superintending Engineer, MMC-I, ATPS, Anpara. Work: Execution of the computer related work such as Hindi & English typing preparation of statement in respect of salaries, arrears etc of employees/officers & payment of contractors for forwarding in to bank D.D. Preparation of reports/formats and various statement along with urgent information to be sent to lucknow from time to time as per requirement of the office and all other computer related works assigned by the officers of CFA&BO, ATPS, & BTPS from time to time with experience and professionally qualified computer operator on departmental computer/laptop and printer etc. Earnest Money: Rs.5,200.00 (Rs. Five Thousand Two Hundred Only) (Refundable), Tender Cost: Rs. 1000.00+ 18% GST, (Non Refundable) Earnest money deposit & tender cost to be deposited through NEFT/RTGS of D.Y.C.A.O., CFA&BO, BTPS, Anpara. E-bid submission end date: 18.08.2020, date of opening e-bid Part-I: 19.08.2020, Part-II: Shall be intimated later. Period: 1 year. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. 7. E-Tender No: 03/MMC-I/SD/BTPS/2020-21, Office: Superintending Engineer, MMC-I, ATPS, Anpara. Work: Accounts related works, GST and TDS on computer along with providing computer, printer, UPS and their consumable for offices of CFA & BO, 3x210MW, ATPS, Anpara & 2x500MW, BTPS, Anpara. Earnest Money: Rs.10,000.00 (Rs. Ten Thousand Only) (Refundable), Tender Cost: Rs. 1000.00+ 18% GST, (Non Refundable) Earnest money deposit & tender cost to be deposited through NEFT/RTGS of D.Y.C.A.O., CFA&BO, BTPS, Anpara. E-bid submission end date: 18.08.2020, date of opening e-bid Part-I: 19.08.2020, Part-II: Shall be intimated later. Period: 1 year. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. 8. E-Tender No: 46/C&MD-I/IBTPS/2020-21, Office: Superintending Engineer, O&MC-III, 2X500MW, BTPS, Anpara. Work: Upkeeping of control room, control equipment room, DAS room, PPTS, Boiler and turbine side field equipments including CPP, mix bed WTP, regeneration room of CPP of unit 4&5, BTPS, Anpara. Earnest Money: Rs.14,000.00 (Rs. Fourteen Thousand Only) (Refundable), Tender Cost: Rs. 500.00+ 18% GST, (Non Refundable) Earnest money deposit & tender cost to be deposited through NEFT/RTGS of D.Y.C.A.O., CFA&BO, BTPS, Anpara. Last date of submission of e-bid (Technical & Financial) at <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 11.08.2020, date of opening e-bid Part-I: 18.08.2020, Part-II: Shall be intimated later. Period: 1 Year. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. 9. E-Tender No: 06/PD-I/BTPS/2020-21, Office: Superintending Engineer, MMC-II, ATPS, Anpara. Supply: Supply of bleaching powder. Earnest Money: Rs.10,000.00 (Rs. Ten Thousand Only) (Refundable), Tender Cost: Rs. 1000.00+ 18% GST, (Non Refundable) Earnest money deposit & tender cost to be deposited through NEFT/RTGS of D.Y.C.A.O., CFA&BO, BTPS, Anpara. Last date of submission of e-bid (Technical & Financial) at <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 17.08.2020, Last date for submission of required tender documents: 19.08.2020, date of opening e-bid Part-I: 19.08.2020, Part-II: Shall be intimated later. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. 10. E-Tender No: 401/PD-I/ATPS/2020-21, Office: Superintending Engineer, MMC-I, ATPS, Anpara. Supply: Supply of control and power cable. Earnest Money: Rs.9,000.00 (Rs. Nine Thousand Only) (Refundable), Tender Cost: Rs. 500.00+ 18% GST, (Non Refundable) Earnest money deposit & tender cost to be deposited through NEFT/RTGS of D.Y.C.A.O., CFA&BO, ATPS, Anpara. Last date of submission of e-bid (Technical & Financial) at <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 17.08.2020, date of opening e-bid Part-I: 19.08.2020, For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. 11. E-Tender No: 398/PD-I/ATPS/2020-21, Office: Superintending Engineer, MMC-I, ATPS, Anpara. Supply: Supply of miscellaneous consumables. Earnest Money: Rs.11,000.00 (Rs. Eleven Thousand Only) (Refundable), Tender Cost: Rs. 500.00+ 18% GST, (Non Refundable) Earnest money deposit & tender cost to be deposited through NEFT/RTGS of D.Y.C.A.O., CFA&BO, ATPS, Anpara. Last date of submission of e-bid (Technical & Financial) at <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 17.08.2020, date of opening e-bid Part-I: 19.08.2020, For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. 12. E-Tender No: 400/PD-I/ATPS/2020-21, Office: Superintending Engineer, MMC-I, ATPS, Anpara. Supply: Supply of Welding carrier, fuses & switches etc. Earnest Money: Rs.11,000.00 (Rs. Eleven Thousand Only) (Refundable), Tender Cost: Rs. 500.00+ 18% GST, (Non Refundable) Earnest money deposit & tender cost to be deposited through NEFT/RTGS of D.Y.C.A.O., CFA&BO, ATPS, Anpara. Last date of submission of e-bid (Technical & Financial) at <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 17.08.2020, date of opening e-bid Part-I: 19.08.2020, For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. 13. E-Tender No: 03/C&MD-I/IBTPS/13-2020-21, Office: Superintending Engineer, O&MC-III, 2X500MW, BTPS, Anpara. Work: Maintenance support services work on control panel equipments and modules of various C&I systems (APC, BMS, BSO, MFT) installed for boiler side system, ash handling control system and ash water pump house control system of 2x500MW, Anpara, BTPS. Earnest Money: Rs.15,000.00 (Rs. Fifteen Thousand Only) (Refundable), Tender Cost: Rs. 1000.00+ 18% GST, (Non Refundable) Earnest money deposit & tender cost to be deposited through NEFT/RTGS of D.Y.C.A.O., CFA&BO, BTPS, Anpara. E-bid submission end date: 31.08.2020, date of opening e-bid Part-I: 31.08.2020, Part-II: Shall be intimated later. Period: 1 Year. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. 14. E-Tender No: 03/CMD-II/ATPS/2020-21, Office: Superintending Engineer, CMC-I, ATPS, Anpara. Work: Annual maintenance of lawn and horticulture of administrative building, simulator building, BTPS service house building, permanent filtration plant, canteen, BTPS AC/DG house etc. under CMD-II, ATPS, Anpara. Earnest Money: Rs.22,000.00 (Rs. Twenty Two Thousand Only) (Refundable), Tender Cost: Rs. 500.00+ 18% GST, (Non Refundable) Earnest money deposit & tender cost to be deposited through NEFT/RTGS of D.Y.C.A.O., CFA&BO, ATPS, Anpara. E-bid submission end date: 18.08.2020, date of opening e-bid Part-I: 20.08.2020, Part-II: Shall be intimated later. Period: 1 Year. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. 15. E-Tender No: 404/PD-I/ATPS/2020-21, Office: Superintending Engineer, MMC-I, ATPS, Anpara. Supply: Supply of lighting materials.. Earnest Money: Rs.10,000.00 (Rs. Ten Thousand Only) (Refundable), Tender Cost:

Rs. 500.00+ 18% GST, (Non Refundable) Earnest money deposit & tender cost to be deposited through NEFT/RTGS of D.Y.C.A.O., CFA&BO, ATPS, Anpara. Last date for submission of e-bid (Technical & Financial) at <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 26.08.2020, date of opening e-bid Part-I: 26.08.2020, For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. 16. E-Tender No: 405/PD-I/ATPS/2020-21, Office: Superintending Engineer, MMC-I, ATPS, Anpara. Supply: Supply of Miscellaneous Electrical items.. Earnest Money: Rs.11,000.00 (Rs. Eleven Thousand Only) (Refundable), Tender Cost: Rs. 500.00+ 18% GST, (Non Refundable) Earnest money deposit & tender cost to be deposited through NEFT/RTGS of D.Y.C.A.O., CFA&BO, BTPS, Anpara. Last date of submission of e-bid (Technical & Financial) at <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 26.08.2020, date of opening e-bid Part-I: 26.08.2020, For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. 17. E-Tender No: 403/PD-I/ATPS/2020-21, Office: Superintending Engineer, MMC-I, ATPS, Anpara. Supply: Supply of main switches and Din rail. Earnest Money: Rs.9,000.00 (Rs. Nine Thousand Only) (Refundable), Tender Cost: Rs. 500.00+ 18% GST, (Non Refundable) Earnest money deposit & tender cost to be deposited through NEFT/RTGS of D.Y.C.A.O., CFA&BO, ATPS, Anpara. Last date for submission of e-bid (Technical & Financial) at <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 26.08.2020, date of opening e-bid Part-I: 26.08.2020, For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. 18. E-Tender No: 402/PD-I/ATPS/2020-21, Office: Superintending Engineer, MMC-I, ATPS, Anpara. Supply: Supply of Industrial main switches. Earnest Money: Rs.10,000.00 (Rs. Ten Thousand Only) (Refundable), Tender Cost: Rs. 500.00+ 18% GST, (Non Refundable) Earnest money deposit & tender cost to be deposited through NEFT/RTGS of D.Y.C.A.O., CFA&BO, ATPS, Anpara. Last date for submission of e-bid (Technical & Financial) at <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 26.08.2020, date of opening e-bid Part-I: 26.08.2020, For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. 19. E-Tender No: 131/CF-480/PD-I/DTPS/2020-21, Office: Superintending Engineer, MMC-III, DTPS, Anpara. Supply: Procurement of grease omega 73. Earnest Money: Rs.1,000.00 (Rs. One Thousand Only) (Refundable), Tender Cost: Rs. 200.00+ 18% GST, (Non Refundable) Earnest money deposit & tender cost to be deposited through NEFT/RTGS of D.Y.C.A.O., CFA&BO, DTPS, Anpara. Last date for submission of e-bid (Technical & Financial) at <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 26.08.2020, date of opening e-bid Part-I: 26.08.2020, For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. 20. E-Tender No: 132/CF-586/PD-I/DTPS/2020-21, Office: Superintending Engineer, MMC-III, DTPS, Anpara. Supply: Procurement of welding electrode. Earnest Money: Rs.3,000.00 (Rs. Three Thousand Only) (Refundable), Tender Cost: Rs. 500.00+ 18% GST, (Non Refundable) Earnest money deposit & tender cost to be deposited through NEFT/RTGS of D.Y.C.A.O., CFA&BO, ATPS, Anpara. Last date for submission of e-bid (Technical & Financial) at <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 26.08.2020, date of opening e-bid Part-I: 13.08.2020, For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. 21. E-Tender No: 13/BMD-I/IBTPS/2020-21, Office: Superintending Engineer, O&MC-II, 2X500MW, BTPS, Anpara. Work: Work of cleaning and sweeping of mill area of unit no. 4&5 of 2x500MW, BTPS, Anpara. Earnest Money: Rs.18,000.00 (Rs. Eighteen Thousand Only) (Refundable), Tender Cost: Rs. 500.00+ 18% GST, (Non Refundable) Earnest money deposit & tender cost to be deposited through NEFT/RTGS of D.Y.C.A.O., CFA&BO, BTPS, Anpara. E-bid submission end date: 20.08.2020, Hard copy of requisite documents: 22.08.2020, date of opening e-bid Part-I: 22.08.2020, Part-II: Shall be intimated later. Period: 1 Year. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. 22. E-Tender No: 14/BMD-I/IBTPS/2020-21, Office: Superintending Engineer, O&MC-II, 2X500MW, BTPS, Anpara. Work: Overhauling work of removal of old eroded worm out bypass air pipe and expansion bellow of hot air duct and fabrication, erection, installation of new bypass air pipe & expansion bellow of hot air duct of the ball mill, 2x500MW, BTPS, Anpara. Earnest Money: Rs.10,000.00 (Rs. Ten Thousand Only) (Refundable), Tender Cost: Rs. 500.00+ 18% GST, (Non Refundable) Earnest money deposit & tender cost to be deposited through NEFT/RTGS of D.Y.C.A.O., CFA&BO, BTPS, Anpara. E-bid submission end date: 20.08.2020, Hard copy of requisite documents: 22.08.2020, date of opening e-bid Part-I: 22.08.2020, Part-II: Shall be intimated later. Period: 1 Year. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. 23. E-Tender No: 15/BMD-I/IBTPS/2020-21, Office: Superintending Engineer, O&MC-II, 2X500MW, BTPS, Anpara. Work: Fabrication/Erection/Replacement/Repairing of various spares of ball mills of 2x500MW, BTPS, Anpara. Earnest Money: Rs.10,000.00 (Rs. Ten Thousand Only) (Refundable), Tender Cost: Rs. 500.00+ 18% GST, (Non Refundable) Earnest money deposit & tender cost to be deposited through NEFT/RTGS of D.Y.C.A.O., CFA&BO, ATPS, Anpara. E-bid submission end date: 20.08.2020, date of opening e-bid Part-I: 22.08.2020, Hard copy of requisite documents: 22.08.2020, date of opening e-bid Part-I: 22.08.2020, Part-II: Shall be intimated later. Period: 1 Year. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. 24. E-Tender No: 16/BMD-I/IBTPS/2020-21, Office: Superintending Engineer, O&MC-II, 2X500MW, BTPS, Anpara. Work: Reclamation of old an used PF outlet and purge air pipe connection box of ball mill of unit No. 4&5 of 2x500MW, BTPS, Anpara & cutting & removal of old & damaged gland housing and installation of new/repair gland housing of hot air box of milling system of 2x500MW, BTPS, Anpara. Earnest Money: Rs.8,000.00 (Rs. Eight Thousand Only) (Refundable), Tender Cost: Rs. 500.00+ 18% GST, (Non Refundable) Earnest money deposit & tender cost to be deposited through NEFT/RTGS of D.Y.C.A.O., CFA&BO, BTPS, Anpara. E-bid submission end date: 20.08.2020, Hard copy of requisite documents: 22.08.2020, date of opening e-bid Part-I: 22.08.2020, Part-II: Shall be intimated later. Period: 1 Year. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. 25. E-Tender No: 17/BMD-I/IBTPS/2020-21, Office: Superintending Engineer, O&MC-II, 2X500MW, BTPS, Anpara. Work: Fabrication & installation of lining of SS plate inside the mixing box down corner pipe of ball mills of 2x500MW, BTPS, Anpara. Earnest Money: Rs.4,000.00 (Rs. Four Thousand Only) (Refundable), Tender Cost: Rs. 500.00+ 18% GST, (Non Refundable) Earnest money deposit & tender cost to be deposited through NEFT/RTGS of D.Y.C.A.O., CFA&BO, BTPS, Anpara. E-bid submission end date: 20.08.2020, Hard copy of requisite documents: 22.08.2020, date of opening e-bid Part-I: 22.08.2020, Part-II: Shall be intimated later. Period: 1 Year. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. 26. E-Tender No: 251/PD-II/ATPS/2020-21, Office: Superintending Engineer, MMC-I, ATPS, Anpara. Supply: Corrugated asbestos cement sheet & corrugated GS sheet of ATPS, Anpara. Earnest Money: Rs.9,000.00 (Rs. Nine Thousand Only) (Refundable), Tender Cost: Rs. 500.00+ 18% GST, (Non Refundable) Earnest money deposit & tender cost to be deposited through NEFT/RTGS of D.Y.C.A.O., CFA&BO, ATPS, Anpara. Extended Last date for submission of e-bid (Technical & Financial) at <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 10.08.2020, Extended date of opening e-bid Part-I: 12.08.2020, For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. 27. E-Tender No: 01/CHD-I/DTPS/2020-21, Office: Superintending Engineer, O&MC-V, 2X500MW, DTPS, Anpara. Work: Work of repairing and reconditioning of worn-out gear box housing of premium make, model B3-560 for CHP, 2X500 MW, DTPS, Anpara. Earnest Money: Rs.10,000.00 (Rs. Ten Thousand Only) (Refundable), Tender Cost: Rs. 500.00+ 18% GST, (Non Refundable) Earnest money deposit & tender cost to be deposited through NEFT/RTGS of D.Y.C.A.O., CFA&BO, DTPS, Anpara. Last date for submission of e-bid (Technical & Financial) at <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 05.08.2020, date of opening e-bid Part-I: 08.08.2020, For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. 28. E-Tender No: 77/CF-771/PD-III/PS/2020-21, Office: Superintending Engineer, MMC-III, DTPS, Anpara. Supply: Supply of floor Grill for 2x500MW, DTPS, Anpara. Earnest Money: Rs.14,000.00 (Rs. Fourteen Thousand Only) (Refundable), Tender Cost: Rs. 1500.00+ 18% GST, (Non Refundable) Earnest money deposit & tender cost to be deposited through NEFT/RTGS of D.Y.C.A.O., CFA&BO, BTPS, Anpara. E-bid submission end date: 20.08.2020, Hard copy of requisite documents: 20.08.2020, date of opening e-bid Part-I: 2



CROSSWORD 4179

ACROSS

1 She tends to work after dark (5,5)

6 Timber contract (4)

10 Yet it could be tart (5)

11 Parts of feminine attire (9)

12 What's more it's a sincere conversion (8)

13 Companies supply wood and paper for publication (5)

15 It's clear I've been set back by depression (7)

17 Building Ann leaves in defiance perhaps (7)

19 Opens one's eyes (7)

21 One who dances with uncertain steps? (7)

22 Some say a hooligan is a beastly person (5)

24 A rapidly replaced stone worker (8)

27 Plucky action taken by some of the players (9)

28 Positional defence (5)

29 Such stories are eminently untrue (4)

30 Rule uniformly applied (7,3)

Down

1 Get home in fine style (4)

2 Time and place (9)

3 A paid informer in the private sector? (5)

4 A vulgar person puts a new construction on art (7)

5 Wrongly presume it's the highest (7)

7 Appear to act? (5)

8 Becomes discouraged when short lease is arranged (5,5)

9 The writing on the wall (8)

14 People may go to see something cheekily displayed by ladies (6,4)

16 In distribution of income the company is profitable (8)

18 Just not taking sides (9)

20 Fruit and nut, alas, all mixed up together (7)

21 Does it supply a plant with plenty of water? (3,4)

23 Girl left under a cloud (5)

25 Doctor joins a mother in play (5)

26 We four are coming up to have a look (4)

Solutions Crossword 4178: Across: 1 Retorts, 5 Excel, 8 Enamoured, 9 Pica, 10 Sect, 12 Neon sign, 14 Caused, 15 Beyond, 17 Overtime, 18 Enid, 21 Shi, 22 Landscape, 24 Dusty, 25 Stochastic, Down: 1 Reefs, 2 Tea, 3 Rood, 4 Surfer, 5 Endanger, 6 Capricorn, 7 Learned, 11 Crude oils, 13 Mentally, 14 Crossed, 16 Amends, 19 Dwell, 20 Oslo, 23 Arc.

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given clue.

No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a \_\_\_ of the \_\_\_. - John Donne (5, 9)

PTEEE

AINNNT

DIIOI

OUYCCP

SOLUTION: PTEEE: TEPEET, DIIOI: IDIOT, TANNKIN, OCCUPY  
Answer: No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent. - John Donne

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis

CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson

MARVIN by Tom Armstrong

SUDOKU 4180

Difficulty Level 3s  
Instructions  
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level  
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4179

DAY TODAY BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

You could soon be ready to make your move - at last. Your stars are adopting a position which is frankly more favourable than for some weeks, and the best thing you can do is to be young-at-heart, spontaneous and ready to take off at a moment's notice.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

Some sort of financial crisis is looming, so fancy footwork will be necessary if you want to avoid bad feeling and save yourself some of your hard-earned cash. If you're in the housing market, or otherwise contemplating large domestic purchases, follow a hunch.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

The Sun and the Moon have both recently come to your aid, and you should be set up for a very positive future. Today's stars put the accent on domestic affairs, so family relationships should come first, and people you live with will be hogging the limelight.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Short journeys beckon, so you may accept any invitations that take you away from home. Mind you, they're as likely to be for business as for pleasure. If you are waiting for someone to get in touch, wait no longer. Take the initiative, make the first move and never doubt yourself.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

You may feel the need to be a little more secretive than usual, yet without being deceptive or manipulative. Your romantic stars are at a height, and even the slightest change will find you feeling much more sensitive than usual. Still, it's good to be in touch with your emotions.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

This is certain to be a time of emotional ups and downs, with an emphasis on the ups. However, only determined action will shift a log-jam to do with work, or resolve deep-rooted irritations at home. First of all, though, you need to work out what partners really want.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Dream on. Your imagination should be at its peak, which means that there could be extra worries, but that you should also emphasise all the positive angles in your life at the moment. Concentrate on the ethical issues, and raise moral standards all round.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Watch out for emotional squalls, and be aware of the extent to which you may be responsible for any ructions. This doesn't mean that you've done anything wrong, but there may be things which you have left undone, which in their turn have left someone else high and dry.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

Your imagination may lead you to a merry old dance, and feelings like resentment, jealousy, anger and the desire for revenge are lurking. However, first you should make a fair and reasonable assessment of the situation. Let the facts speak for themselves.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Seldom have your stars looked more passionate - at least not for a month or so! Such feelings will of course have intense repercussions for your romantic affairs, but will also influence other areas of your life. Adopt a bold and colourful approach.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

You are much stronger than you think, and even apparently disastrous developments will turn out in your favour. You must pay special attention to partners who are swept by feelings they can't understand - and don't tangle with authority, either!

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

You are likely to get very concerned about ethical issues, but you're also liable to jump to conclusions and misunderstand what is really going on. Say your piece, but be a good listener. If partners know that you're giving them due attention, they'll respond in kind.

THE H.P. STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS' FEDERATION LIMITED TOTU, SHIMLA-171011

Tender Notice

No: 433P/PS/215-X028 Date: 24.07.2020

E-tender is hereby invited for the purchase of Raw Material: 1. De-Oiled Rice Bran-1000 MT, 2. Rice Polish-180 MT, 3. De-oiled Mustard oil cake-180 MT, 4. Mustard Oil Cake-180 MT, 5. Melasses-150 MT, 6. De-oiled Ground Nut Cake- 50 MT, 7. De-oiled Soya Cake-130 MT, 8. Calcium Powder-30 MT and 9. Salt-30 MT for manufacturing of Cattle Feed on FDR basis at Bhaur Plant, Distt. Hamirpur. The Bid document is available online on 27.07.2020 Upto 12:10 PM and bid should be submitted in online mode on website [bptenders.gov.in](https://bptenders.gov.in) Bidder would be required to register in the above web-site [bptenders.gov.in](https://bptenders.gov.in) which is free of cost. For submission on bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized certifying authorities (CA).

Aspiring bidders should visit in <https://bptenders.gov.in> & <https://bptenders.gov.in> for complete details. Bidders should also check the website from time to time to note the Corrigendum, if any.

Sd/-  
Managing Director

UTTAR PRADESH RAJKIYA NIRMAN NIGAM LTD.

(ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company)

Visheshwarajya Bhawan, Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow

Notice Inviting e-TENDER

The Additional Project Manager, Electrical Unit, Dehradun invites for and on behalf of Managing Director U.P. Rajkiya Nirman Nigam Ltd., online Percentage Rate bids in two bid system for the following work:

NIT NO: 2173/GM (EZ-3)/E-TENDER/RNN/2020, Dated 23-07-2020, Name of work: HVAC Works at Bhagirathi Tourist Banglow (Alaknanda Parishar), Haridwar (Uttarakhand). Estimated Bid Value: Rs. 230.82 Lakh. Earnest Money: Rs. 0.46 Lakh, Period of Completion: 04 months including rainy season, Last time and date of submission of bid: 01:00 PM on Dt. 14/08/2020.

The bid forms and other details can be obtained / downloaded from the website: <https://tender.up.nic.in>. The NIT is also available on <http://www.upnn.org.in>.

Additional Project Manager, Electrical Unit, Dehradun

SCICL

SIDCUL CONCOR INFRA COMPANY LIMITED

(A Joint venture of SIDCUL & CONCOR)

Container Corporation of India Ltd., North Central Region, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, NSIC New MDBP Building, Okhla Industrial Estate, New Delhi-110020

Ph. 011-41222900 & 011-41222901

E-Tender Notice

SCICL invites open e-tender in two bid system for contract for hiring of three commercial vehicles on monthly basis for the office use at SCICL, MMLP, Pantnagar, Distt.- Uddham Singh Nagar (Uttarakhand). Last date of submission of tender is up to 17:00 hrs. on 14-08-2020 on the website [www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL](http://www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL). For detailed information and any corrigendum please log on to [www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL](http://www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL). Chief General Manager/NCR

Haryana State Pollution Control Board

Regional Office, Gurugram (N)

Vikas Sadan, Opposite- New Court, Gurugram

Tel: 0124-2332775, 2220523

Website: [www.hspcb.gov.in](http://www.hspcb.gov.in), E-mail: [hspcbrogrn@gmail.com](mailto:hspcbrogrn@gmail.com)

HSPCB

हरियाणा राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड को नदी यमुना निगरानी समिति के कार्यालय के लिए 500-600 वर्ग फुट कार्पेट जगह (ढका हुआ) की आवश्यकता है। जगह पूर्णतया तैयार होनी चाहिए जिसमें फर्श पर टाइल्स, टायलेट व किचन और वाहन की पार्किंग के लिए जगह हो, सभी आवश्यक सुविधाएं कामकाजी परिस्थितियों में होनी चाहिए, 24 घंटे पेयजल आपूर्ति और बिजली कनेक्शन की आवश्यकता है। आवेदन को 15 दिनों के भीतर क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, हरियाणा राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड, गुरुग्राम क्षेत्र (उत्तर) के प्रथम तल, विकास सदन गुरुग्राम में भेजा जाना चाहिए। बोर्ड आवेदन को स्वीकार या अस्वीकार करने का अधिकार रखता है।

क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय  
हरियाणा राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड  
गुरुग्राम (उत्तर)

81923/HRY

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement System

Principal Chief materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

S.No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
1	18201054	WHITE SECURITY BOND PAPER 130 GSM	60000 Kgs	14.08.2020
2	07201586	KEY FOR BRAKE SHOE	45548 Nos.	19.08.2020
3	09202609	PRE LAMINATED SHADED COMPREG	2191 Nos.	24.08.2020
4	09202529	PACKING DRAWING NO. WD-91074-S/I,	6060 Nos.	31.08.2020
5	09202495	SPRING LOADED SIDE BEARER ASSEMBLY	251 Nos.	31.08.2020
6	09202141	ROTARY BOTTOM OPERATED ARTICULATED LOCK	14999 Nos.	31.08.2020
7	09202463	BRAKE BEAM FOR CAST STEEL BOGIE OF BLC WAGON	1237 Nos.	01.09.2020

Note: 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained.

Tender Notice No. : 11/2020-2021 Dated 24.07.2020 1629/20

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON

GANESH

General public is hereby informed that this person namely Ganesh S/o Meer Singh R/o H.No. 97C, Gali No. 2, Jwala Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-32 Age : 45 years, Height : 5'5", Face : Long, Complexion : Sallow, wearing jamuni colour shirt, khaki colour pant, white colour gamcha and black colour shoes in feet, has been missing since 03.07.2020 while going in the morning for DTC duty. In this regard a DD No. 66-A dated 07.07.2020 P.S. Vivek Vihar, Delhi has been lodged.

Any person having information or clue about this missing person may kindly inform to the following:-  
E-mail: [cic@cbl.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbl.gov.in)  
Website: <http://cbl.nic.in>  
Fax: 24368639,  
Tel.: 24368638/24368641

SHO - P.S. Vivek Vihar,  
New Delhi,  
Tel. No. 011-22146040,

DP/136SHD/20

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

Name of work with its location	Development of Green Patches Landscaping and other Horticulture in the section of SSE/W/HNZM under DEN-W/I for a period of 3 years..
Approx. Cost of work	Rs.5871144/-
Earnest Money	(It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note: FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 2015/CE-4/CT/5/1 dated : 31.08.2016) Rs.117400/-
Cost of tender	(It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note: FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 2015/CE-4/CT/5/1 dated : 31.08.2016) Rs.5900/-
Date and time for Submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 15.00 hrs on 21.08.2020 Opening of tender at 15.00 hrs. On 21.08.2020
Website particulars notice board location complete details of the tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>

128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT-10-2020-21/Works Dated : 24.07.2020 1631/2020

Serving Customers With A Smile

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF PERSON ACCUSED

See Section 82 Cr. PC

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely Shehzad S/o Asgar, R/o Gali No. 20, Near Noor Masjid, New Mustafabad, Delhi and also H.No. 221, Gali No. 20, New Mustafabad, Delhi, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the Offence FIR No. 271/19 u/s 379/411 IPC at PS. Karawal Nagar, Delhi, and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Shehzad cannot be found and whereas it has been to shown to my satisfaction that the said Shehzad has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation u/s 82 CrPC is hereby made that the said Shehzad accused of FIR No. 271/19 u/s 379/411 IPC is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 27.08.2020.

By Order  
Sh. Pawan Singh Rajawat  
Chief Metropolitan Magistrate  
Karkardooma Court, Shahdara, Delhi

DP/190/NE/2020- (Court Matter)

ई-टेंडर सूचना

सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि निम्न वर्ष 2020-2021 (मास अगस्त 2020 से मास मार्च 2021 तक) कुल सात मास के लिए लघु संचिवालय, सैक्टर-12, फरीदाबाद में साईकिल स्टैंड व कैटैन व फोटोस्टैंड बुथों के लिए ओपन ई-टेंडर निविदाएं निम्न शर्तों के तहत आमंत्रित की जाती हैं:-

1. इस कार्यालय द्वारा वित्त वर्ष 2020-21 (मास अगस्त 2020 से मार्च 2021 तक) के लिए लघु संचिवालय, सैक्टर 12 फरीदाबाद परिसर के चारों तरफ वाहनों की उचित व्यवस्था तथा सूखा के लिए साईकिल स्टैंड को रिजर्व कीमत मु. 15,07,335/- रु. (पंद्रह लाख सत्त हजार तीन सौ पैंतीस रु.) तथा लघु संचिवालय, सैक्टर-12, फरीदाबाद में कैटैन को रिजर्व कीमत मु. 10,13,335/- रु. (दस लाख तेरह हजार तीन सौ पैंतीस रु.) व लघु संचिवालय, सैक्टर 12 फरीदाबाद परिसर में स्थापित बुथों को उनके संख्या, श्रेणी व रिजर्व कीमत को तालिका 01 में दर्शाया गया है। कोई भी इच्छुक व्यक्ति अपना ई-टेंडर भरना चाहता है तो अधिक निम्न प्रॉजैज से ऊपर निविदा भर सकता है। तथा इसके साथ साईकिल स्टैंड व कैटैन के लिए मु. 2,00,000/- 2,00,000/- (दो-दो लाख रु.) व फोटोस्टैंड बुथों के लिए मु. 30,000/- रु. (तीस हजार रु.) बतौर जमानत बजटिये बैंक ड्राफ्ट नगराधीन, फरीदाबाद के नाम जमा करवाने होंगे।

तालिका-01

बुथ सं.	श्रेणी	रिजर्व कीमत	बुथ सं.	श्रेणी	रिजर्व कीमत
1	विकलांग	132733	6	विकलांग	96066
2	विकलांग	118066	7	विधवा	91666
3	विधवा	90923	8	विकलांग	94233
4	विकलांग	111466	9	विधवा	88733
5	विधवा	99366			

2. साईकिल स्टैंड, कैटैन व बुथों निविदाओं को ई-टेंडर निविदा खोलने जाने के लिए दिनांक 04.08.2020 को दोपहर बाद 12:30 बजे उपरान्त अगोहलाचरी कार्यालय द्वारा कार्यवाही की जाएगी। संबंधित फर्मों से यह अपेक्षा की जाती है कि डाले गए साईकिल स्टैंड, कैटैन व बुथों के टेंडर निविदा के साथ अपना प्रमाण पत्र/पैन कार्ड व ड्राफ्ट प्रस्तुत करेंगे व किसी भी सहयोगी फर्म/टेंडर के रिस्क कोई राशि बकाया नहीं होनी चाहिए व किसी के खिलाफ अभियोग/निवेदन किसी थाना/न्यायालय में लंबित नहीं हो। संबंधित फर्म द्वारा साईकिल स्टैंड व कैटैन व बुथों के लिए डाली गई निविदा में अंकित मूल्य रिजर्व कीमत से ऊपर होने चाहिए। निम्न फर्म को निविदा स्वीकृति होगी उस फर्म को दो माह की अग्रिम राशि तथा मास अगस्त, 2020 का किराया होगा पर ही जमा करवाना होगा अन्यथा उक्त राशि जमा न करवाने की सूत में जमानत को राशि जल करके सरकारी खाते में जमा करवा दी जाएगी तथा द्वितीय टेंडर की अधिक निविदा को देखते हुए उसे ठेका प्रदान कर दिया जाएगा। द्वितीय निविदा फर्म की जमानत राशि तब तक वापिस नहीं की जाएगी जब तक प्रथम टेंडर निविदा को दो माह की अग्रिम राशि तथा मास अगस्त का किराया जमा होने के उपरान्त ठेका प्रदान कर दिया जाएगा। प्रत्येक मामले में अग्रिम निर्णय उपप्राप्त महोदय का मान्य होगा। अधिक टेंडर राशि देने वाले को सभी स्टाफवेज सख्त अधिकारी को देने होंगे। उनकी स्वीकृति के बिना टेंडर को अपना कार्य आरंभ करने का अधिकार नहीं होगा। उपरोक्त स्वीकृत निविदा पर राशि जी.एस.टी./अन्य कोई प्रभार (सम्प-सम्प पर सरकार द्वारा निर्धारित) अलग से देय होगा। जो संबंधित सफल फर्म द्वारा अपने स्तर पर संबंधित कार्यालय/विभाग में जमा करवाकर उसकी जातान प्रति अथवा स्वीड प्रति माह देय राशि के साथ संचालन में जमा करवाती होगी।

उपरोक्त ई-टेंडर दिनांक 28.07.2020 से 03.08.2020 (दोपहर 2 बजे तक) ([www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in)) पर उपलब्ध रहेगा।

हस्ता/-  
कृते: उपप्राप्त, फरीदाबाद।

81919/HRY

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM				
SIR. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH
1	HPGCL PANIPAT	NIT NO.568/MP-7002/HYCD/JET/18 (TENDER ID NO. 2020_HBC_131512_1)	Closing date 25.08.2020 at 13:00 Hrs. Sub: ARC for condenser Tube Charing by Hydrojet Method for Unit-7 & 8, at PTFS, Panipat.	<a href="http://www.hpgcl.org.in">www.hpgcl.org.in</a>
		(NIT NO.121/PT/POH-331/52) TENDER ID NO. 2020_HBC_131477_1)	Last date 05.08.2020 at 13:00 Hrs	<a href="http://www.hpgcl.org.in">www.hpgcl.org.in</a>
		SUB:- SUPPLY OF PRESSURE GAUGES FOR 250 MM UNIT-7&8		
3	HPGCL PANIPAT	(NIT NO. PTP-POH-111857) TENDER ID NO. 2020_HBC_127893_1)	Last date 13.08.2020 at 13:00 Hrs	<a href="http://www.hpgcl.org.in">www.hpgcl.org.in</a>
		SUB:- SUPPLY OF BEARING CAPS,GEARFOR EXCHANGES OF DM PLANT OF PTFS, PANIPAT		
4	HPGCL PANIPAT	(NIT NO. PTP-POH-111851) TENDER ID NO. 2020_HBC_127892_1)	Last date 13.08.2020 at 13:00 Hrs	<a href="http://www.hpgcl.org.in">www.hpgcl.org.in</a>
		SUB:- SUPPLY OF CHLORINE SAFETY TOWER HOOD FOR PTFS, PANIPAT		
5	HPGCL PANIPAT	(NIT NO. PTP-POH-100023) TENDER ID NO. 2020_HBC_132256_1)	End date 13.08.2020 at 13:00 Hrs	<a href="http://www.hpgcl.org.in">www.hpgcl.org.in</a>
		SUB:- SUPPLY OF SPARES OF CW, CDP & BFP PUMP OF 250 MM UNIT-7, PTFS, PANIPAT		
6	HYPNL, FARIDABAD	NIT NO. 07/15/PTFS/2020-21 DATED 07.07.2020	The date of tender submission extended upto 13:00 Hrs on dated 29.07.2020 and opening date upto 15:00 Hrs on dated 30.07.2020	<a href="https://www.hypn.org.in">https://www.hypn.org.in</a>
7	HYPNL	NIT NO.09/CWID-2/VOL-XI/HYPN/2020-21 DATED:-10/06/2020 (ONLINE TENDER ID NO. 2020_HBC_131328_1)	Last date of online bid submission is extended upto 05/08/2020 (13:00 Hrs) Due date for opening of E-tender (Technical Bid):- 05/08/2020 at 11:00 Hrs.	<a href="https://www.hypn.org.in">https://www.hypn.org.in</a>
8	HYPNL	NIT NO.09/CWID-2/VOL-XI/HYPN/2020-21 DATED:-11/06/2020 (ONLINE TENDER ID NO. 2020_HBC_131435_1)	Last date of online bid submission is extended upto 05/08/2020 (13:00 Hrs) Due date for opening of E-tender (Technical Bid):- 06/08/2020 at 11:00 Hrs.	<a href="https://www.hypn.org.in">https://www.hypn.org.in</a>
9	CHRYN, HISAR	NIT NO. 02/CTO/MPA/2019-20 (ID: 2020_HBC_125791_1)	Extending closing date upto 05.08.2020	<a href="http://www.chryn.org.in">www.chryn.org.in</a>
10	CHRYN, HISAR	NIT NO. TER-44/CSOCGR-APDRP/2020 DATED 30.06.2020	Date extended upto 27.07.2020(13:00 Hrs) Opening Date 28.07.2020 (15:00 Hrs)	<a href="http://www.chryn.org.in">www.chryn.org.in</a>
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## FINANCIAL STABILITY REPORT: NEARLY 50% OF LOAN OUTSTANDING UNDER MORATORIUM

## NPAs set to rise sharply on COVID impact, financial system remains sound, says RBI

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
MUMBAI, JULY 24

WHILE THE financial system “remains sound”, gross non-performing asset (NPA) ratio of all commercial banks is likely to increase from 8.5 per cent in March 2020 to 12.5 per cent by March 2021 under the baseline scenario in the wake of the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said.

“If the macroeconomic environment worsens further, the NPA ratio may escalate to 14.7 per cent under the very severely stressed scenario,” the Financial Stability Report of the RBI said on Friday.

According to the RBI, nearly 50 per cent of the customers, accounting for around half of outstanding bank loans, opted to avail the benefit of the relief measures



RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das.

—loan moratorium—to tackle the lockdown impact. The moratorium will end on August 31.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said “the financial system in India remains sound”. Nonetheless, in the current environment, the need for financial intermediaries to proactively augment capital and improve their resilience has acquired top priority. “In the evolving milieu, while risk manage-

ment has to be prudent, extreme risk aversion would have adverse outcomes for all,” Das said.

Among the bank groups, GNPA ratio of public sector banks may increase from 11.3 per cent in March 2020 to 15.2 per cent by March 2021 under the baseline scenario.

“Bank-level stress test results show that of 23 banks, 16 with a share of 64.5 per cent in banks’ total assets might fail to maintain the required CRAR under the scenario of 3 SD shock to the GNPA ratio,” the RBI’s FSR said. In such an extreme shock scenario, the CRAR of all the 18 PSBs is likely to go down to 9 per cent, it said.

“Given the fact that impact of moratorium is still uncertain and evolving, the exact nature of how the same will play out on the quality of banking assets is difficult to ascertain accurately,” the RBI said on the coming quarters.

Sectorally, the quality of bank loans to services sector worsened in March 2020. The GNPA ratio of the retail loan sector also edged up. Among major sub-sectors within industry, NPA ratios in respect of construction and gems and jewellery sectors swelled up in March 2020. On the other hand, the infrastructure (with a share of 36.2 per cent in bank credit to the industrial sector), basic metals (11.3 per cent) and electricity (17.5 per cent) sectors have shown a perceptible decline in NPA ratios. This has implications for aggregate asset quality of the banking sector, the RBI said. “The pandemic has the potential to amplify financial vulnerabilities, including corporate and household debt burdens in the case of severe economic contraction,” it said.

The RBI said central government finances are likely to suffer

some deterioration in 2020-21, with fiscal revenues badly hit by COVID-19-related disruptions even as expenditures come under strain on account of the fiscal stimulus. For State finances, the additional burden of lower federal transfers may accentuate downside risks to the outlook, it said.

Bank credit, which had considerably weakened during the first half of 2019-20, slid down further in the subsequent period with the moderation becoming broad-based across bank groups.

The capital to risk-weighted assets ratio of commercial banks edged down to 14.8 per cent in March 2020 from 15 per cent in September 2019, while their GNPA ratio declined to 8.5 per cent from 9.3 per cent and the provision coverage ratio (PCR) improved to 65.4 per cent from 61.6 per cent over this period.

## I-T Dept to share taxpayer info with 10 central intelligence, probe agencies

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
NEW DELHI, JULY 24

THE INCOME Tax Department will sign an MoU with counter-terrorism platform National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) to facilitate automatic exchange of information linked to bank accounts, PAN, tax returns and any other “mutually agreed” information with 10 agencies — Central Bureau of Investigation, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Enforcement Directorate, Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs, Cabinet Secretariat, Intelligence Bureau (IB), Directorate General of GST Intelligence, Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), and National Investigation Agency (NIA).

In a separate order, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) also notified four agencies — Cabinet Secretariat, IB, NCB and NIA — for disclosure of any information regarding tax assesses under Section 138(1) of the Income-tax Act. At present, the Income Tax Department already shares information on tax assesses with over 50 notified agencies, including Registrar of Companies, Director of FIU, officers of the rank of Joint Director and above dealing with Foreign Exchange Management Act and Prevention of Money Laundering Act in the Enforcement Directorate, and Securities and Exchange Board of India.

The furnishing and receiving of information to and from these

## ‘Endeavour has been to simplify Direct Tax laws’

**New Delhi:** In a message on the 160th Income Tax Day, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Friday said the government’s endeavour has been to further simplify Direct Tax laws and it has brought in a major reform by giving taxpayers the option to choose a new simpler tax regime. **PTI**

central agencies with NATGRID will include PAN details, Tax Deduction Account Number (TAN) details, bank account details, return summary, TDS summary (as per MoU) and any other mutually agreed information. “While furnishing the information, the specified income-tax authority shall form an opinion that sharing of such information is necessary for the purposes of enabling these agencies/bodies to perform its functions under their respective laws,” the CBDT order said.

The other notification of four agencies will permit the tax department to share any information of a taxpayer on automatic basis. “Inclusion of enforcement agencies might help track those who could be having illicit income or income from terror-related activities but may be generally skipping the radar of agencies,” Nave-

en Wadhwa, DGM, Taxmann said.

Other officials such as Class I Officers, Reserve Bank of India (regional office, Ahmedabad); Karnataka State Vigilance Commission (Bangalore); officers of or above the rank of superintendent of police in the Department of Vigilance, Government of Bihar; Director/JGP, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Government of Maharashtra; Uttar Pradesh Vigilance Commissioner; Director, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Gujarat; Joint Secretary (Marketing), Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas; Inspector General of Police, Economic Offences Wing, Kerala; officers of the rank of secretary in various states/union territories responsible for implementation of the National Food Security Act, 2013 have also been among the list of agencies notified earlier under this section of the I-T Act.

Earlier, the I-T Act provided for sharing of information on income tax assesses with other notified agencies, but then it meant that information could only be passed to a person who was an assessee with the Department and that too when the assessment relating to information to be furnished had been completed. This anomaly, which restricted automatic exchange of information for assesses that might be showing income below exemption limit, was corrected in 1990, when the Department amended the law to allow exchange of “any information received or obtained by an income-tax authority”.

## Govt focussed on ‘majoritarian objectives rather than repairing impaired economy’, says Rajan

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
NEW DELHI, JULY 24

THE GOVERNMENT should provide fiscal relief that helps to repair and protect the productive capacity of the economy from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, former Reserve Bank of India Governor Raghuram Rajan said Saturday.

Speaking at a webinar organised by the Princeton University’s Bendheim Centre for Finance, he said India entered the pandemic health crisis with a declining growth, poor fiscal situation and legacy NPAs in Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s first term, even as the government in the second term focussed on “BJP’s majoritarian objectives rather than repair-

ing an impaired economy.”

He argued that providing resources for relief and repair is going to be very important and what India has done so far in terms of fiscal support is not adequate when compared with many other economies. It is going to be a slow process of recovery as emerging markets like India have not been able to provide relief the way industrial countries have.

“India didn’t fix the house and entered the crisis with a fiscal deficit of 9 per cent or so of GDP and slowing growth. Further with pandemic-related revenue shortfalls and the decline in GDP, this could rise to 13-15% of GDP even without additional spending. Also, the government is focussed on credit rating for fear of downgrades,” he said.

## AMID COVID, BORDER STANDOFF

## ‘Chinese smartphone brands’ market share slips’

*Chinese smartphone brands saw their market share in India fall to 72 per cent in June quarter from 81 per cent in the preceding three months, Counterpoint Research said*

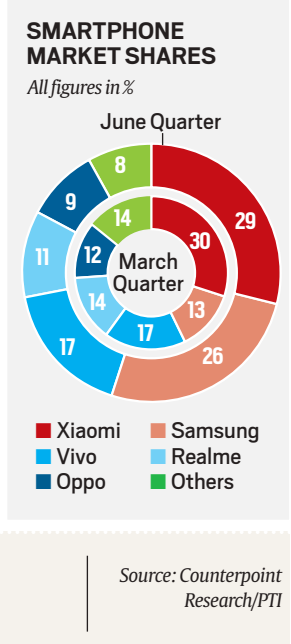
**18 million:** India’s smartphone shipments in June quarter, falling 51 per cent year-on-year due to the nationwide lockdown

**37.7 million:** Smartphones shipped in the June 2019 quarter

**68%:** Fall in sales of feature phone market in June quarter

**>31 million:** Smartphones shipped in the March 2020 quarter

**FEATURE PHONE MARKET SHARES IN JUNE QUARTER:**  
Ite: 24%  
Lava: 23%  
Samsung: 22%  
Nokia: 9%  
Karbonn: 5%



**Why this is important:** The fall was mainly due to the mixture of stuttering supply for some major Chinese brands caused by the pandemic and growing anti-China sentiment

## Coffee Day probe reveals ₹3,535 crore fund diversion, gives clean chit to I-T Dept

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, JULY 24

AN INVESTIGATION into the circumstances that led to the alleged suicide of VG Siddhartha, the owner of the Coffee Day group, has revealed that Rs 3,535 crore siphoned off from the company by the entrepreneur’s personal firms.

The probe gave a clean chit to the tax department that was being alleged to have harassed Siddhartha.

The investigation, led by the former deputy inspector general of CBI, Ashok Kumar Malhotra, stated that Siddhartha’s “Mysore Amalgamated Coffee Estates Limited (MACEL) owes a sum of Rs 3,535 crore to the subsidiaries of Coffee Day Enterprise Ltd”.

Siddhartha was confirmed dead on July 31, 2019 after his body was found in the Netravati

river in Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka, a day after he went missing.

Of this, “a sum of Rs 842 crore was due to these subsidiaries by MACEL as on March 31, 2019, as per the consolidated audited financial statements. Therefore, a sum of Rs 2,693 crore is the incremental outstanding that needs to be addressed,” it said.

“Steps are being taken by subsidiaries of CDEL for recovery of dues from MACEL,” the company said in a regulatory filing that disclosed the findings of the investigation. The company board authorised its chairman to appoint an ex-judge of the Supreme Court or High Court to “suggest and oversee actions for recovery of the dues from MACEL”, it said, adding personal assets/shares of Siddhartha were hypothecated/pledged for business loans of the company and its subsidiaries.

## Govt makes ‘country of origin’ tag compulsory, action against truants

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
NEW DELHI, JULY 24

CONSUMERS WILL be able to get clarity on the country of origin of the products they are buying on e-commerce marketplaces, as well as guarantees of their authenticity, with the government notifying new consumer protection e-commerce rules.

Any seller offering goods or services via a marketplace e-commerce entity has to provide the platform with details of the country of origin of the product, stated the Consumer Protection (E-commerce) Rules, 2020. The sellers will also have to provide the name and details of the importer as well as guarantees related to the authenticity or genuineness of the imported product, according to it.

Such details are to be displayed on the e-commerce platform, and

violations will be dealt with by penal provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

The new rules also state that e-commerce firms will have to display the total price of the goods and services they are selling along with a break-up of other charges. They are required to mention details like the ‘expiry date’ of the goods and details about the return, refund, exchange, warranty and guarantee, and any other information that may be required to make informed decisions.

“No inventory e-commerce entity shall refuse to take back goods, or withdraw or discontinue services purchased...if such goods or services are defective, deficient, spurious, or if the goods or services are not of the characteristics or features as advertised,” stated the rules. The norms, notified Thursday, will be applicable to all e-commerce retailers.

## Special international flights start: Who can fly on them?

PRANAV MUKUL  
NEW DELHI, JULY 24

AS FLIGHTS from India to the US, France and Germany — under the temporary reciprocal arrangement — begin, passengers, including Indian citizens have been scrambling to get a seat on these outbound flights. However, even as airlines — both Indian and foreign — have been accorded the permissions to fly passengers of any citizenship on either of the flight legs, the passengers will be subjected to the restrictions imposed by the respective government of the destination country.

**Who all can fly on these special flights?**

As per the Ministry of Civil Aviation, flights to the US can carry Indian nationals who are

permitted to travel abroad as per the home ministry guidelines and those who hold valid US visas, in addition to US citizens, legal permanent residents, and foreign nationals holding valid US visas.

Similarly, for France and Germany, stranded European Union nationals/residents, foreign nationals destined for EU and transiting through France or Germany can travel.

**What is the catch?**

The Civil Aviation Ministry in its framework for “transport bubbles” has mentioned: “Before making reservations, passengers must confirm that they would be allowed entry into the destination country”. Here, passengers might face certain roadblocks in their travel plans with jurisdictions like the EU not having allowed inbound travel from India.

**When are normal foreign flights expected to resume?**

Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has repeatedly said resumption will be gradual in nature and will proceed in accordance with how the virus behaves. New Zealand, which had fully gotten rid of the virus, started seeing a recurrence once international flights were allowed forcing the country to close its borders again.

**Are airlines gearing up for resumption of foreign travel?**

While Air India has been operating flights across the world under the Vande Bharat Mission, private airlines, too, are now moving in direction of starting long-haul flights. Experts point out that this is mainly on account of a potential fall in demand for one-stop flights with passengers now preferring to fly non-stop to curtail travel times.

Full report on [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## After US FAA order, DGCA directs SpiceJet, Vistara, AI Express to inspect Boeing 737 planes

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
NEW DELHI, JULY 24

FOLLOWING AN airworthiness directive by the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) asking operators to conduct an immediate inspection of the world’s most common narrow-bodied airliner Boeing 737, domestic aviation regulator, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), directed carriers SpiceJet, Vistara and Air India Express to inspect these planes in their fleet.

The US FAA ordered the inspection on account of these airlines being at the risk of losing power in both engines after being put in storage as a result of flight bans instituted across the world.

While a SpiceJet spokesperson said the directive applies to only a small part of its fleet of 82 Boeing 737s, Vistara said it has completed the inspection on all six of its Boeing 737 planes. Air India Express could not be reached for a comment. “The majority of our planes have completed ten cycles already and are not affected by this AD (airworthiness directive),” the SpiceJet spokesperson said.

In India, most aircraft were grounded for nearly two months because of the nationwide shutdown imposed to contain the Covid19 pandemic. Domestic passenger flight operations resumed on May 25, even as airlines operated some of their passenger planes for cargo flights during the lockdown.

## June crude oil processing picks up on easing of travel restrictions

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
NEW DELHI, JULY 24

TOTAL CRUDE oil processed by domestic refiners in June was 17.54 million metric tonnes (MMT), rising 7.3 per cent from May and up 18.9 per cent from April, indicating an increase in demand for petroleum products after the easing of travel restrictions due to COVID-19, according to data released by the government.

Crude oil processing in June, however, was still down 13.6 per cent compared to the year-ago period. The main reason for this was lower demand due to lockdown, a government release said. Total crude oil processing in India for the June quarter was down 22.3 per cent at 48.6 MMT, as against 62.8 MMT in the year-ago period, and 20.2 per cent below the processing target for the quarter.

## BRIEFLY

## Green shoots visible: NITIVC

**New Delhi:** Economy will start recovering completely by the fourth quarter of this fiscal and could grow by 6 per cent in the next financial year as green shoots are visible in many sectors, NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar said Friday.

## NFRA bans another auditor

**New Delhi:** The National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) slapped a five-year ban and fine of Rs 5 lakh on auditor Rukshad Daruvala for alleged irregularities in the audit of IL&FS Financial Services Ltd (IFIN).

## Sun Pharma arm resolves US cases

**New Delhi:** Sun Pharma Friday said its US arm Taro Pharma has resolved all cases involving multi-year investigations by the US Department of Justice. It has agreed to pay \$213.3 million (approx Rs 1,599 crore) to resolve all claims.

## ‘iPhone 11 being made in India’

**New Delhi:** Apple has started manufacturing iPhone 11 at Foxconn’s facility in Tamil Nadu, official sources said. “2020 - iPhone 11, 2019 - iPhone 7 & XR, 2018 - iPhone 6S, 2017 - iPhone SE,” Telecom and IT minister Ravi Shankar Prasad tweeted.

## RIL 2nd most valued energy co

**New Delhi:** Reliance Industries (RIL) has overtaken ExxonMobil to become the world’s second most valuable energy company, data from stock market showed. **PTI**



## Anand crashes to third straight defeat

Viswanathan Anand struggled for the third consecutive round, losing to Russia's Vladimir Kramnik to languish at the bottom of the points table in the USD 150,000 Legends of Chess online tournament. Anand went down 0.5-2.5 to Kramnik late on Thursday. He next meets Anish Giri of the Netherlands.

PTI

## Boxers who violated quarantine norms let off, training to resume



Vikas Krishan had to leave National Institute of Sport because of the rule violation.

Indian boxers will resume formal camp training from Monday following the end of their isolation period this weekend even as the Sports Authority of India (SAI) pardoned the pugilists who stirred up a storm by "unintentionally" breaking the COVID-19 quarantine protocol. The boxers and coaches have been in isolation at the National Institute of Sports (NIS) Patiala campus after testing negative for COVID-19 following a third round of testing. The third coronavirus test was necessitated after the Olympic-bound duo of Vikas Krishan and

Satish Kumar violated quarantine protocol a few weeks back. They were asked to leave the camp after complaint was lodged against them by fellow athletes at NIS. SAI's enquiry committee concluded that the indiscretion was not intentional. "During the enquiry, the boxers admitted that they have breached the quarantine protocol," read a SAI statement. "Enquiry has found that it was not an intentional breach, but lack of awareness on the part of the boxers about the quarantine rules that they were required to follow," it added.

PTI

## New Premier League season to begin on September 12

The 2020-21 EPL season will begin on Sept. 12 and the final round of matches will be held on May 23, the league announced on Friday. The new season, originally scheduled to begin on Aug. 8, has been delayed this year after the Premier League suspended the 2019-20 season for three months due to the pandemic. The current season will end on Sunday, giving teams about seven weeks to prepare for the next campaign. However, teams still competing in the Champions League and Europa League will have less time to prepare should they advance, with the finals of the two competitions to be held on Aug. 23 and Aug. 21.

REUTERS

## F1 cancels 4 more races this season, adds 3 to the calendar

Formula One races in Brazil, Canada, Mexico and the United States have all been cancelled for this year amid the coronavirus pandemic, with three others added to the calendar. F1 said in a statement Friday that the Eifel Grand Prix will host a race at the iconic Nurburgring in Germany on Oct. 11, followed by the Portuguese GP in Portimao two weeks later and the Emilia-Romagna GP in Italy on Nov. 1. The U.S. GP was initially scheduled for late October, with Brazil and Mexico then hosting races in November. Canada was already postponed from its mid-June date.

AP

## Pope answers England's prayers

22-year-old steers the hosts out of trouble with an unbeaten 91 after Windies make early inroads on Day 1

**SANDIP G**  
JULY 24

A BRILLIANT unbeaten 91 by Ollie Pope dug England out of danger on the first day of a compelling Test, unfolding at Old Trafford. As things stand, England were 258/4, still far from taking absolute control of the match, but it was crucial that the hosts didn't fall behind. Pope's knock went a long way, as the scales gradually tilted in England's favour.

The 22-year-old showed qualities that attested his potential to become one of his country's finest. He is self-assured without being brash. He looks compact, yet forceful at the crease. Those lyrical drives have the stamp of Ian Bell. Pope claims it's not a conscious imitation. Rather, his favourites are Adam Gilchrist and Alec Stewart; like the latter he twiddles his bat too. He conforms to time-honoured methods: side-on set-up, light on his feet and blessed with good hands. He batted supremely well, welding discipline to technique and temperament, which he showed to get through several tricky periods in the day. He enjoyed slices of luck; edges eluded the fielders, catches fell short of the fielders, marginal lbws were turned down... But he didn't let the close call clutter him.

Neither did those close calls make him over-conscious nor did those inhibit him. He played with a freedom that none of his senior batting colleges could match.

Right from his debut against India two years ago at Lord's, he had looked the part and settled right down into the hardest form of the game. He had then seen out a testy spell from Mohammed Shami before tearing into Kuldeep Yadav. Friday's knock furnished yet another proof of his blossoming potential.

His positivity rubbed off on Jos Buttler, whose spot is under scrutiny. He began flakily, before striking two sixes off Rahkeem Cornwall in an over and composed his first half-century in 16 innings. Together, they



Ollie Pope's knock went a long way in assuring England did not fall behind on Day 1 of the third Test against the West Indies at Old Trafford on Friday. Reuters

**His positivity rubbed off on Jos Buttler, whose spot is under scrutiny. Buttler began flakily, before striking two sixes off Rahkeem Cornwall in an over and composed his first half-century in 16 innings. Together, they breathed life into a sluggish first day...**

breathed life into a sluggish first day and made West Indies look rabble in the end. And importantly, took them from 122/4 to 258/4.

Until then, ascendancy kept swinging hands several times. After Dom Sibley's first-over departure – a bizarre series this has been for him, picking up ducks as well as a

50 and 120 – Joe Root and Rory Burns seemed to be steering England to safety with cautious batting.

But just before lunch, the England skipper ran himself out, calling for a non-existent single. On another day, you would expect West Indies fielders to err, but on Friday they were sharp and industrious. So Roston Chase's throw from backward point, after a smooth pick-up, trimmed the bail. It was just around the time Root seemed to have acquitted well with his least favourite batting spot, No. 3, after an unusually cagey beginning. Root was out for 17 from 59 balls, leaving England teetering at 47 for two on a surface bereft of demons and bowling devoid of inspiration.

It was out of necessity that Root strode in at No. 3. With Ben Stokes, hindered by a quad injury, unlikely to bowl till the back-end of the match, England had to sacrifice Zak

Crawley for the fifth bowler. Moreover, the rich vein of Stokes's form and the promise Pope has exuded, offered enough encouragement for England to drop a batsman.

Stokes seemed to have configured the language of making big hundreds in Test cricket. Gone are the days when he set off an aggressive note. These days, he's sedate and watchful, unless the situation demands a carnage as it was in the second innings in the second Test. But with England on repair mode, Stokes was restrained.

Then Roach came from nowhere like an unannounced storm. After pegging Sibley plumb in front off the last ball of his first over, he had been largely benign. He often struggled for line and the length was a fraction too short, thus wasting the new ball that was extracting sideways moment. But in the post-lunch session, he bowled with purpose and precision, and finally rewarded with the wicket of Stokes.

The execution was as thrilling as the build-up. He pushed Stokes back with consecutive bouncers—the first hit him on the head, the second was swivelled for four. Then, later in the over, he produced a glorious nip-backer from around the wicket that burst through his defence. Stokes was a bit surprised, as most of his previous deliveries had seamed away from him.

Re-energised, West Indies put on the squeeze and frustrated Burns. The England opener had so far batted inscrutably well, defending well and punishing the loose deliveries. Holder wasted no time to introduce Roston Chase, who is turning out to be his bête noire, having consumed Burns thrice. He added a fourth (off just 40 balls) when Burns attempted a late cut that flew off the outer edge but stuck into the palm of Cornwall at first slip. The latter showed superb reflexes to cling on to the offering. But thereafter, the match slipped away from West Indies' grasp.

**BRIEF SCORES:** England 258/4 in 85.4 overs (O Pope 91\*, R Burns 57, J Buttler 56\*; K Roach 2/56, R Chase 1/24) vs West Indies



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