



The lockdown to contain the coronavirus outbreak has disrupted supply chains. One crucial chain is delivery of information and insight — news and analysis that is fair and accurate and reliably reported from across a nation in quarantine.

A voice you can trust amid the clanging of alarm bells.

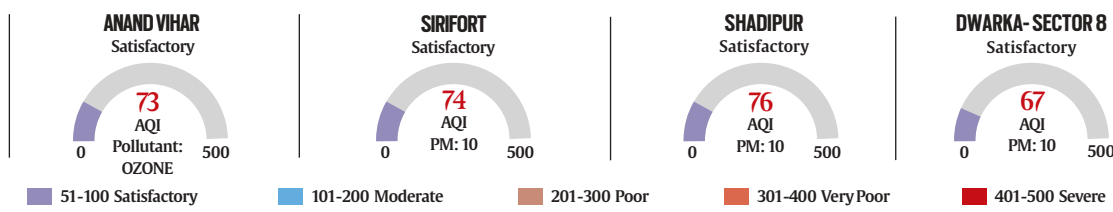
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1,142 CASES, 29 DEATHS ON SATURDAY

Capital's positivity rate had crossed 30%, but at 5% now, says Jain

ASTHA SAXENA & PRITAM PAL SINGH
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

ON SATURDAY, Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain said that while the national positivity rate has gone up in the last 10 days, the positivity rate in the capital has come down. "There was a time when the positivity rate in Delhi was 30% or more but now it has come down to 5%," he said.

Delhi reported 1,142 new cases and 29 deaths due to Covid on Saturday, taking the total number of cases and fatalities to 1,29,531 and 3,806 respectively. At present, the city has 12,657 active cases, while the number of people who have recovered from the illness has reached

CORONAVIRUS IN THE CAPITAL

	TOTAL CASES	HOSPITAL BEDS	Total	Vacant
	1,29,531		15,301	12,444
	Daily cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
July 24	1,025	1,866	32	19,138
July 25	1,142	2,137	29	20,509
Total	12,567*	1,13,068	3,806	9,29,244

1,13,068. The recovery rate in the capital is 87.3%.

In a status report filed before the Delhi High Court, the state health department said that between June 18 and July 24, the city conducted 4,04,141 rapid antigen tests, out of which 24,501 (6%) people tested posi-

tive. A follow-up RT-PCR was conducted on 2,818 patients, in which 404 (14.35%) tested positive.

Recently, while addressing concerns about the accuracy of the rapid antigen test, Health Ministry officials had also confirmed that almost 15% of the

people who had undergone rapid antigen tests and were found to be symptomatic even after testing negative, had turned out to be positive in a follow-up RT-PCR test.

The RT-PCR test is considered to be the gold standard for testing while the rapid antigen test provides results within 30 minutes. If a person tests positive in a rapid antigen test, then a second test is required. But if a person tests negative, then an RT-PCR test is performed to check the presence of the virus.

On the capital's Covid-19 situation, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal tweeted: "Delhi has reached 8th position in terms of number of active cases. Situation was bad till a few days back. We were at 2nd position. However, there is no room for

complacency. Take precautions and stay safe."

As per the state health bulletin on Saturday the city conducted 5,690 RT-PCR/CB NAAT/TrueNat tests and 14,819 rapid antigen tests in the last 24 hours. At present, Delhi is testing 48,907 per million population and the total number of tests have touched 9,29,244.

Of the total 15,301 beds earmarked for Covid-19 patients, 12,444 beds are lying vacant. A total of 7,339 patients are availing treatment under home isolation and over 1,000 patients are admitted to the Covid health-care centres.

Speaking to the reporters on Saturday, Jain also said that only 20% of the beds in the city hospitals are occupied at the moment.

'His dream was to ensure best education for our kids'

Family of civil defence volunteer who died of Covid gets Rs 1 cr from Delhi govt; son wants to follow in his footsteps

ASHNA BUTANI
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

AFTER ARUN Kumar Singh, a 48-year-old civil defence volunteer, died of Covid on July 13, his family was worried about crippling debt because of hospital bills, and the future of his two children — a son in Class IX and a daughter who just cleared Class XII.

On Saturday evening, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal visited the family to pay homage to Singh, and also handed over two cheques — one to his wife and another to his father. The total amount was Rs 1 crore.

"He did and saw many things in life, but his only unaccomplished dream was to educate his children. The day our daughter's board results came out, he passed away... we could not even inform him that she passed with flying colours," his wife Indu said.

For the last few months, Singh had been toiling for hours everyday, handing over packets of food along serpentine queues. On April 20, he worked through the day, but stayed on through the evening and single-handedly managed food at short notice for over 1,000 labourers stranded at Sector 25, Dwarka, the project site of a construction company.

His daughter Anjali (18) said, "He wanted me to go into civil services. And I want to make that dream a reality. My plan is to study B.Sc Agriculture from Delhi University and then prepare for civil services."

Indu said that from the compensation received, she wants to ensure her children are well educated, just like their father hoped. Their son wants to follow in his father's footsteps and work



Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal with the family of Arun Kumar Singh on Saturday. PTI



The Indian Express report dated July 15

in civil defence.

Outside Singh's residence in Rajapuri, Kejriwal said, "Civil defence volunteers work day in and day out to help others. Arun was one of them. Sadly, he contracted coronavirus while doing his job. I have spoken to the family and assured them that we will help them in any way possible. I told them not to compromise on the education of his children."

After the CM left, the family recalled how Arun put others first. His eldest brother, Sudarshan Singh (60), said, "He helped anyone he could... For months, he fed thousands."

For Burari, hospital for Covid will serve a much larger purpose

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

BRINGING MUCH-NEEDED relief to the Northwest district, a Delhi government hospital at Burari was inaugurated by CM Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday.

Of the proposed 700 bed capacity of the hospital, 450 are already in place and have been reserved for Covid patients at present. The hospital was commissioned by the Congress government as a 200-bed facility. In 2015, when AAP came to power for the second time, the capacity was increased to over 700 beds.

The work was expected to be complete in August last year but it was delayed. Delhi government officials said 125 beds at the hospital will have oxygen supply and this number will increase over the next few days.

For several years, residents of nearby areas have had only one government hospital to cater to a fast-growing population.

Kejriwal, who inaugurated the hospital through video conferencing, said, "The opening of this hospital will add 450 more beds to the health infrastructure



450 beds at the hospital are reserved for Covid patients at present. Amit Mehra

of Delhi. The two crore people of Delhi, along with the central and the state governments, have attained victory over coronavirus, but it would not be correct to say that the fight is over."

He credited the improvement to healthcare workers and people of the city. "I want to congratulate all the doctors, nurses, paramedic staff, officials, and whoever has worked hard to achieve this goal."

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain said, "Due to the pandemic and some pending environment clearances, some work on the hospital was put on hold. For now, we are starting it as a Covid hospital and services will be expanded later on."

Patchy video calls last communication between cop and kin

SOMYA LAKHANI
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

ON THURSDAY, 53-year-old Delhi Police head constable Satya Narayan had a short video call with his wife and their two sons, from his bed at Lok Nayak hospital, in which he nodded his head a few times, and barely managed to say yes when asked if he was okay. That was the last call they shared; Narayan died of Covid-19 at 6.30 am Friday.

He had joined Delhi Police in 1993, and was posted at East Delhi's Madhu Vihar police station for the last six months. The last conversation with his father keeps playing in 22-year-old Priyanshu's head, as he manages a bevy of calls, messages and some visitors. "The phone network in the ward is poor. Though we spoke to him via video call on his phone at least three times during his stay at Lok Nayak, it was always tough to get in touch. We were worried if he was getting proper treatment... There were many unanswered questions. We relied on a ward boy who would take our calls and update us," said Priyanshu, who finished his B.Sc

from DU recently. "There must be a way for families to properly stay in touch with their loved ones in hospital... Patients need their families at a time like this to derive will-power," he said.

Narayan suffered from diabetes, hypertension and had a stunt in his heart. On June 26, he took leave as he had diarrhoea. "He had a lot of weakness. On July 13, he left home to go to Madhu Vihar police station so he could apply for a longer leave. He was sent to a hospital where his rapid antigen test was done and it came positive," said Priyanshu. His colleague, head constable Rehman, said Narayan was taken to a Covid care centre first and then moved to Lok Nayak Hospital. "On Thursday, he was also given plasma therapy," said DCP (East) Jasmeet Singh.

Since the outbreak, Priyanshu said his family had been worried sick about Narayan going on duty, and precautions were being followed at home: "I kept reading about frontline workers falling sick, but my father was on duty... Employers must take care of their employees' safety, especially vulnerable ones like my father."

CRPF man shoots senior, then turns gun on himself

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

A CENTRAL Reserve Police Force (CRPF) sub-inspector allegedly shot dead his senior officer before killing himself in New Delhi's Lodhi Estate area on Friday night. Police said the incident took place at 61, Lodhi Estate, which is allotted to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

Police said that following an argument with inspector Dashrath Singh (56), sub-inspector Karnail Singh (55) killed him with his service weapon, an AK-47, before shooting himself.

SI Karnail hailed from Udhampur in Jammu and Kashmir, while inspector Dashrath was from Rohtak in Haryana. They were deployed at

Lodhi Estate for the last three months and shared a room.

DCP (New Delhi) Eish Singhal said, "There were no eyewitnesses... It was difficult to ascertain the gunshot wounds because there was blood all over the victim's body. Entry and exit wounds of the deceased will be ascertained once the post-mortem report is out."

A CRPF official said the inspector was found dead in his room, with his food laid out. The SI was found lying near the guard room, near the bungalow's main gate.

M Dhinkaran, DIG, CRPF, said, "The incident is an aberration which seems to have been committed at the spur of the moment. An enquiry has been ordered..."

Delhi Police said it will investigate the matter.

SML ISUZU LIMITED

CIN : L50101PB1983PLC005516

Regd Office & Works: Village Ason, Dist. Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar (Nawanshahr) Punjab -144 533. Phone : 01881-270255; Fax : 01881-270223

Corporate Office: SCO 204-205, Sector 34-A, Chandigarh-160 135

Phone: 0172-2647700-10; Fax: 0172-2615111

Email: investors@smlisuzu.com, Website: www.smlisuzu.com

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

TRANSFER OF UNCLAIMED DIVIDEND (FY 2012-13) AND SHARES TO INVESTOR EDUCATION AND PROTECTION FUND (IEPF)

Shareholders are hereby informed that Pursuant to the provisions of Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Rules, 2016, as amended, that unclaimed dividend for the financial year ended 31st March, 2013 and corresponding Shares on which dividend was unclaimed for seven consecutive years will be due for transfer to the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) on 27th October, 2020.

The Company has uploaded full details of the concerned Shareholders and number of Shares due for transfer to IEPF on its website (www.smlisuzu.com) at the web link <https://www.smlisuzu.com/StaticFiles/SHAREHOLDERS%20LIST-WEBSITE%202012-13.pdf>. Individual letters in this regard have also been sent to the concerned shareholders at the address registered available with the Company.

In this connection, Please note the following:

- In case you hold shares in Physical form:** Duplicate share certificate(s) will be issued and transferred to IEPF. The original share certificate(s) which stand registered in your name(s) and held by you, will stand automatically cancelled.
- In case you hold shares in electronic form:** Your demat account will be debited for the shares liable for transfer to the IEPF.

The concerned shareholders are requested to claim the unclaimed dividend by 27th October, 2020 from the Company failing which the Company will proceed to transfer the unclaimed dividend and the liable shares to the IEPF Authority, in accordance with the aforesaid provisions of law. Please note that the concerned shareholder can claim the shares and dividend from IEPF Authority by making an application online on www.iepf.gov.in and sending the physical copy of the requisite documents enumerated in the Form IEPF-5, to the Nodal Officer of the Company. Please also note that no claim shall lie against the Company in respect of unclaimed dividend amount and shares transferred to IEPF pursuant to said Rules.

For any information/query on this matter, concerned shareholders may contact the Company or its Registrar and Share Transfer Agent at following address:

SML ISUZU Limited
Corporate Office:
SCO 204-205, Sector 34-A,
Chandigarh-160022
Tel: 0172-2647700-10
E-mail address:
investors@smlisuzu.com

MCS Share Transfer Agent Limited
Unit: SML ISUZU Limited
Sri Venkatesh Bhawan, F-65, 1st Floor,
Okhla Industrial Area, Phase - I,
New Delhi - 110020
Tel: 011-41405149
E-mail address:
helpdesk@delhi@mcsregistrars.com

Dated: 25.07.2020
Place: Chandigarh

For SML ISUZU LIMITED
PARVESH MADAN
Company Secretary
ACS-31268

ना कहे, ना सहे, सिर्फ इलाज करे बिना आप्रेशन

बवासीर का इलाज

P-6

A Formula Researched by S.P. Singh Chawla
B.Sc. (Bio), M.Sc. (Chem.), EDP.

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MEMBER

Applications are invited from general public for booking of Residential Apartments in the Affordable Group Housing Project proposed to be developed as per terms and conditions of the policy prescribed by the Town & Country Planning Department, Government of Haryana vide notification no. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 & amendment thereof (details available at the Department website, ie. tchpharyana.gov.in).

PROJECT DETAILS

1. Coloniser/Developer	Signature Infrabuild Private Limited																																																								
2. Project Approval	Licence No. 73 of 2019 dated 04.07.2019, Building Plan Approved on 30.09.2019 Memo No. ZP-1339/AD(RA)/2019/24562 Haryana RERA Registered No: 69 of 2019 Dated 14.11.2019																																																								
3. Location	Sector 95, Gurugram, Haryana																																																								
4. Provisions Project Area	433 no. of apartments available out of total 738 number of units in the housing scheme spread over 5.1125 acres. As per Policy, 5% of total apartments are available for management quota and 95% of total apartments are for public. Community Facilities: One Community Hall of 2000 sq.ft. and One Anganwadi-cum-creche of 2000 sq.ft.																																																								
5. Apartment Details, Allotment Rates & Payment Terms																																																									
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(ii) Balance 75% of the amount in six equated 6 monthly installment spanning over a period of three years. No interest shall fall due before the due date of payment. Any default in payment will bear penal interest as provided in Rule 15 of the Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Rules, 2017.																																																									
6. Parking	Two-wheeler parking with each apartment																																																								
7. Broad Specifications of the Apartment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flooring: Rooms Vitrified Tiles, Kitchen Vitrified / Ceramic Tiles, Toilet Anti-Skid Ceramic Tiles, Balcony Anti-Skid / Matt Finish Ceramic Tiles, Windows: M.S. Sections as per IS Codes / Aluminium Powder Coated / UPVC Doors Frame: Red Merandi / Mild Steel/ Aluminium Powder Coated / UPVC Wall Tile: Ceramic Tiles till 4 Feet / 7 feet high & Oil Bound Distemper Above. Kitchen Counter Top Green Marble / Granite Wall: Oil Bond Distemper Sanitary fitting: ISI marked CP Fittings, W/C & Washbasin Electric Fitting: ISI Marked. Structure: RCC Frames Structure designed for SEISMIC forces as per latest IS code and NBC Recommendations. 																																																								
8. Applications Timelines	<p>(i) Applications can be procured & submitted at: Signature Infrabuild Pvt. Ltd., Corp. Office - Ground Floor, Tower A, Signature Tower, South City-1, Gurugram, Haryana-122001, 0124-4908200 by paying an application form fee of Rs 1,000/- starting from date 19.07.2020. For more information, call 7053-121-121 (ii) Last Date of submission of Applications is 18.08.2020.</p> <p>(iii) The list of Distribution and Collection centers is available on www.signatureglobal.in</p> <p>(iv) Application Forms & Facility of applying Online is also available at www.signatureglobal.in.</p>																																																								

Eligibility: 1. The applicant should not be debarred from entering into legally binding contract under any prevailing law.
2. Any person can apply, however, the PMAY beneficiaries, which include their spouse or dependent children, identified by the Urban Local Bodies Department, Haryana under "Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna-Housing for All" programme shall be granted preference in allotment. First priority shall be given to the identified beneficiaries of the said followed by other PMAY beneficiaries of the State of Haryana. Thereafter, for the remaining flats, persons which include their spouse or dependent children who do not own any flat/plot in any HUDA developed colony/sector or any licensed colony in any of the Urban areas in Haryana, UT of Chandigarh and NCT of Delhi shall be given next preference in allotment of flats.

3. An applicant can make only one application. Any successful applicant under this policy shall not be eligible for allotment of any other flat under this policy in any other colony. In case, he/she is successful in more than one colony, he/she will have choice of retaining only one flat.

Allotment Criteria: 1. The allotment of apartments shall be done through draw of lots in the presence of a committee consisting of Deputy Commissioner or his representative (at least of the cadre of Haryana Civil Services), Senior Town Planner (Circle office), DTP of the concerned district and the representative of coloniser concerned.

2. After fixation of date for draw of lots, an advertisement shall be issued by the Developer informing the applicants about the details regarding date/time and venue of the draw of lots in the same newspapers in which the original advertisement was issued.

3. For detailed criteria and time-frame to be adopted for scrutiny and allotment, the applicants may also refer to the details in the Affordable Group Housing Policy 2013 vide no. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 & amendment thereof (available at the Department website, i.e., tchpharyana.gov.in).

SIGNATURE GLOBAL aspire
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HARYANA HOUSING DEVELOPMENT BOARD

SIGNATURE INFRABUILD PRIVATE LIMITED | CIN : U70100DL2013PTC247676
Regd. Office: Unit No. 1310 At 13th Floor, Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan, 28 Barakhamba Road, New Delhi - 110001
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7053-121-121

THE SUNDAY EXPRESS, JULY 26, 2020

4 THE CITY

VEHICLE TRACED, NO ARREST MADE SO FAR

SUV hits 16-year-old, driver gets out, sees victim and flees the spot

JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

DRAGGING HIS cousin's scooter along the side of the road, a 16-year-old boy was mowed down by a speeding Audi SUV, with the driver getting out of the car, but then fleeing in the vehicle despite seeing the teen on the verge of death. He is yet to be traced. The incident took place in Rohini's Sector 23 around 11 pm Wednesday.

According to police, the scooter toppled and crashed into the road divider, with the victim,

Ajar Mehra, suffering severe head injuries.

In his complaint to the police, Mehra's cousin Harshit (22), a software engineer, said the man driving the vehicle "stopped his car for a moment and stepped out, and then went back inside and sped away from the spot".

Mehra was rushed to a nearby hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival.

"We went out to roam around and were on our way back when the scooter broke down. I told him to drag the scooter to our society's main gate. I was walking near the road



Police said the vehicle was seized Saturday night

divider, while he was holding the scooter's handle. I looked back and saw the Audi. The driver was speeding and driving rashly. I got scared and jumped on the divider to save myself, but the car hit the scooter and my cousin sustained severe injuries," said Harshit in his complaint. Mehra lived with Harshit's family in Begumpur. His father died a few years ago and his mother lives with her sister's family.

A district crime team was sent to the spot, and they found the Audi's logo and the number plate on the ground. Police said it fell off the car during the acci-

dent. A case has been registered under IPC sections 279 (rash driving) and 304 A (death by negligence) against the accused, who is yet to be identified.

Police said the car, an Audi Q5, was registered under the name of a Telangana-based construction company. DCP (Rohini) PK Mishra said, "During investigation, it came to light that the car was sold to someone else. We are scanning CCTV cameras near the spot."

Police said the vehicle was seized late Saturday night, though the driver is yet to be arrested.



Beautification work in progress at Chandni Chowk on Friday. Praveen Khanna

What Chandni Chowk will look like by November

At least 175 red sandstone planters, row of bollards, will be placed to mimic Mughal architectural aesthetic; both sides of the stretch will be lined with 250 Mousari trees

SOMYA LAKHANI
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

A 1.3-KM stretch between the Red Fort and the Fatehpuri Masjid is being turned into a car-free zone, and beautified keeping the Mughal-era architectural style in mind. The mesh of overhead wires has gone underground, fire hydrants are being set up, red sandstone seats being placed, and toilets being built. At least 175 red sandstone planters, along with a row of bollards, will be placed to mimic the Mughal architectural aesthetic, and both sides of the stretch will be lined with 250 Mousari trees.

LED street lighting is also a part of the plan. The Delhi Jal Board has done rehabilitation work of the ancient sewer line that runs underground. The stretch will be accessible to the differently-abled as well. Non-motorised vehicles such as rickshaws will ply on the stretch, and by November, it will be open to the public, said Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday as he inspected the project site, along with Urban Development Minister Satyendar Jain. As of now, beautification of a 400-metre stretch of the 1.3-km is complete, but work by DJB and BSES is being finished.

For how long has the redevelopment project been in the works?

Sixteen years, to be precise. The idea of the ambitious revamp of Chandni Chowk first came up in 2004. In 2008, the then Chief Minister of Delhi, Sheila Dikshit, set up the Shahjahanabad Redevelopment Corporation (SRDC) but the plan did not take off till 2018 — when Delhi's Deputy CM Manish Sisodia launched the project. It

was a tough project as there are many stakeholders — traders, trader unions, residents, heads of religious structures on the stretch, and the Delhi Urban Arts Commission.

In 2017, veteran architect Pradeep Sachdeva, who specialises in streets, joined the project as chief architect. In August 2019, a 12-metre stretch of the entire 1.3 km was readied as a sample in front of the Central Baptist Church. At the time, Sachdeva told *The Indian Express*, "What do the Mall Road in Shimla, MG Road in Gangtok or the area near the Golden Temple in Amritsar have in common? They are car-free zones. I think this is the most important aspect of the redevelopment of Chandni Chowk."

While explaining the blueprint, Sachdeva had said that there will be a 5.4-metre-wide footpath, next to it a 5.5-metre-wide carriageway for cycle rickshaws, followed by a 3.5-metre-wide central verge with planters and bollards. Next to this will be the second 5.5-metre-wide carriageway and then a 5.4-metre-wide footpath. He had said the lane meant for rickshaws can also be used for emergency vehicles such as ambulances and fire tenders. Sachdeva — who is credited for building Dilli Haat and the Garden of Five Senses — passed away May-end at the age of 63.

The project was supposed to be open to the public by March 2020 but it was delayed due to the lockdown in the wake of Covid-19.

What are the challenges that the project has faced since 2018?

When the idea that the stretch will be a car-free zone was floated, the main concern of

traders was loading and off-loading of goods. This issue was solved and it was decided that the stretch will be a non-motorised zone from 9 am to 9 pm only. Post 9 pm, loading and off-loading of goods in motorised vehicles is allowed.

Another issue that was raised by traders was that if vehicles aren't allowed, the footfall might suffer, and parking might be an issue. This too was resolved and the North MCD is building a multi-level parking facility at Chandni Chowk's Gandhi Maidan to accommodate over 2,300 cars. It will have eight floors and three underground levels.

In 2019, another problem emerged when DUAC objected to the placement of the 19 transformers on the central verge as it would ruin the view. Meetings with BSES, SRDC, DUAC and Sachdeva were held to resolve the matter.

What is the story of Chandni Chowk?

Chandni Chowk or 'Moonlit Square' was built in the 17th Century by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan's daughter Jahanara Begum. In front of the Bibi Ka Serai in Shahjahanabad was a water tank, surrounded by buildings, and on moonlit nights, the buildings would get illuminated as the moonlight reflected on them from the tank — and so the name Chandni Chowk emerged.

It's interesting to note that till before 1857, it was always mentioned as a "square," including in Mirza Sangin Beg's Sair-ul-Manazil, written in the 1820s, and in Asar-us-Sanadid written by scholar reformist Syed Ahmed Khan in 1847. After the Revolt of 1857, Chandni Chowk finds mention in a map as a "street."

FIR against JNU student after complaint of post critical of Army

New Delhi: Delhi Police has registered an FIR against a student of Jawaharlal Nehru University for allegedly posting an offensive comment against the Army.

Police said a social worker, Tajinder Yadav, had filed an FIR at Kapashera police station on July 8 claiming the JNU student had tweeted that the Indian Army operation against terrorists in Kashmir was "wrong and against the country".

"He also linked this to the RSS and termed the outfit anti-national. This is an insult to the Indian Army and the RSS," the complainant alleged.

An FIR has been registered against the student under IPC section 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace) and section 153 (persons who indulge in wanton vilification or attacks upon the religion, race, place of birth,

residence, language). DCP (Southwest) Devender Arya said, "Further investigations are on."

The student is currently pursuing his PhD from the Centre for Social Medicine and Community Health. He is also the national president of the Campus Front of India (CFI), the student wing of the Popular Front of India.

In a statement, the CFI said the FIR was a "ploy to stifle dissent". **ENS**

BRIEFLY

ACP killed in hit-and-run

New Delhi: A senior Delhi Traffic Police personnel, ACP Sanket Kaushik, who was on duty near Rajokri Flyover in Southwest Delhi, died after a vehicle rammed into him around 7.45 pm on Saturday. ACP Kaushik (58) was manning traffic at the Rajokri flyover, confirmed DCP (Southwest) Devender Arya. He was in the service lane when the incident took place. So far, it appears to be a case of hit-and-run, police said, adding that nobody has been arrested so far. Kaushik was rushed to the All India Institute Of Medical Sciences, where he was declared dead on arrival.

Man held for impersonating Army officer

New Delhi: A 23-year-old man was arrested for allegedly posing as an Indian Army officer to evade arrest, police said Saturday. Suraj Tiwari, who was caught in a case of violence and wrongful restraint, allegedly showed a fake ID and said that he was a Major in the Army and was posted at Delhi Cantt. "The ID card didn't look genuine. It looked like it was made on some cheap paper. The IO questioned Tiwari and he confessed that the ID was fake," said an officer.

Child dies after father flings her during quarrel

Noida: A 28-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly flinging his two-year-old daughter during a quarrel with his wife, resulting in her death. Police said the incident occurred at JJ Colony in Noida's Sector 22 on Friday. The accused has been sent to judicial custody and an FIR has been registered under Section 302 (murder) at Sector 24 Police Station. **ENS**



A LONG SHIFT

Health workers collect samples in a mobile testing van near GB Pant hospital. Praveen Khanna

Woman abandoned by family finds an unlikely new home

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

THE STORY of an elderly woman, clutching on to a packet of biscuit and a cloth bag, as she waited to catch a 'shramik special' to Delhi from Mumbai's Bandra railway station, had moved many in early June.

Abandoned by her son, Leelavati Devi, 70, was among thousands stranded across India as cities and towns were brought to a halt to contain the pandemic.

Almost two months on, she has found a home in Delhi's North Avenue, just metres from the Rashtrapati Bhavan, after being taken in by an unlikely benefactor — AAP's Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh.

"She will be with us from now on. This will be her permanent home," Singh, flanked by his wife Anita Devi, told *The Indian Express* last month.

After returning, Devi had tested positive for Covid and spent two weeks at the Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality hospital, Singh said. A Delhi family initially took her in, but could not keep her for unspecified reasons, following which Singh decided to adopt her.

"The entire episode shows the erosion in moral values and human values in our society. And that worries me," Singh said.

Devi said she moved to



Sanjay Singh, his wife Anita Devi, and Leelavati Devi

Mumbai before the lockdown to look after her eldest son, an auto driver, who was unwell. "He stays with his wife and children. Over time, his health improved. When I was no longer needed, I was thrown out," she said.

Her two other sons live in Delhi. "My travails started after my husband passed away. My children think I am mentally unwell. No one wants to keep me."

She said only her elder daughter has met her so far: "She told me I look unwell, I told her not to worry."

At his official residence in North Avenue, Singh stays with his wife, two children and his parents. "Leelavati mostly spends time chatting with the family. Her elder daughter did reach out a few times; no one else has. How can we send her back to people who ill-treated her? She is a part of the family now," said Ajit Tyagi, a close aide of the AAP leader.

will be allowed to retain their rooms with a modest room rent charge of Rs 100 per day starting from August 7."

"Resident junior members are also notified that, if and when the government gives permission to reopen the residence facilities, all belongings and luggage will be moved a week prior to the date of residence reopening to facilitate necessary cleaning and renovations. On such an occasion, the college will not be responsible for loss or damages," it said.

The lockdown due to Covid-

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

DEPUTY CHIEF Minister Manish Sisodia interacted with parents and teachers of two Delhi government schools on Saturday for feedback on what he termed the "semi-online" mode of education currently in place.

He said, "Other losses caused by the lockdown will be compensated, but the loss of education is irreparable, which is why classes with the support of technology are the need of the hour."

Sisodia also said, "Soon there will be a vaccine to cure corona, but there cannot be a vaccine for the loss of education."

He asked parents to give their feedback on the ongoing technology-supported teaching-learning activities and also sought suggestions to improve online education. He also suggested that PTMs be held online as well. The interaction was held at Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya Prashant Vihar and GBSSS/GCSSS Pitampura.

Teachers of SKV Prashant Vihar said 96 per cent students of the school were enrolled in online classes and attempts were being made to contact the remaining children.

As per Delhi government's new education model, "Children up to class 10 are given worksheets every week through



Sisodia at the interaction

WhatsApp and children whose parents do not have smartphones are invited to the school to collect printout of the weekly worksheets." For class 12 students live online classes are conducted by teachers in 12 subjects.

"There was a time when access to education was based on religion and caste and later on financial status. It created a divide in the society," said Sisodia.

"We bridged that by rebuilding our government schools with world-class facilities. But now, a new divide should not be created among those who have access to digital devices and those who do not. That is why we have adopted a semi-online approach," he added.

"We did not think that we too would provide education through social media. But today, under compulsion, we launched this experiment, which has significantly reduced educational loss," he said.



St. Stephen's will levy the new charges from August 7. Archive

19 began soon after the onset of mid-semester break, and as a result, many students who had gone back home for vacation remained stuck there, with their belongings still in college.

The college has been charging around Rs 1,400 per month as room rent, which students paid till March, when the lockdown was declared. With students being asked to pay Rs 100 per day, they will end up paying between Rs 3,000 and Rs 3,100.

On June 23, the Dean's office had issued a notice saying "all

resident students are required to vacate their rooms and remove their belongings from college residence within five days beginning from June 29".

However, students said of the roughly 300 residents, less than 20 could vacate their rooms last month. "I am in Kolkata. Had I come to clear my belongings that time, I would have had to first be quarantined in Delhi and then again when I got back home. Also, it would require me to book flight tickets at exorbitant prices on such short notice.

Most students don't even have local guardians to collect belongings in just an hour. The Rs 100 per day fee is not at all modest. We are usually charged Rs 1,400 per month as room rent. This would amount to more than double," he said.

When contacted, Associate Dean (Residence) Chinkhanlun Guite said he did not want to comment. Dean (Residence) Monodeep Daniel asked for queries to be addressed to principal John Varghese. The principal did not respond to calls and texts.

STUDENTS' UNION OPPOSES MOVE

St Stephen's to charge Rs 100 per day from hostelers yet to vacate rooms

ARANYA SHANKAR
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

ST STEPHEN'S College issued a notice on Saturday saying it will charge Rs 100 per day from students who have their belongings in hostel rooms and are "unable to vacate" them. The charges will be levied from August 7. Residence charges, including room rent, were last paid by students in March this year.

The Students' Union Society (SUS) has written to the princi-

pal asking for the decision to be revoked, arguing that most students had returned to their hometowns and would have to risk their health by travelling during the Covid-19 pandemic, and not being able to do so would add financial strain on their families.

The notice signed by Associate Dean (Residence) Chinkhanlun Guite on Monday said, "Considering the ongoing pandemic, and the many requests submitted by the resident junior members, students who are unable to vacate their rooms

will be allowed to retain their rooms with a modest room rent charge of Rs 100 per day starting from August 7."

"Resident junior members are also notified that, if and when the government gives permission to reopen the residence facilities, all belongings and luggage will be moved a week prior to the date of residence reopening to facilitate necessary cleaning and renovations. On such an occasion, the college will not be responsible for loss or damages," it said.

The lockdown due to Covid-



Kargil Diwas is celebrated every year on July 26 to mark India's victory against Pakistan's misadventure in 1998-99 and commemorate the gallant Indian soldiers who laid down their lives in the line of duty

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MEMORIES**

On July 26 in 1999, "the Kargil War between India and Pakistan came to an end after the Indian soldiers recaptured the mountain heights successfully, which had been taken over by the Pakistani intruders. It is believed that Pakistan had started planning the attack a year in advance. More so, Nawaz Sharif

The celebrations on 'Kargil Diwas' include a pipe band and brass band display which is followed by a beating retreat ceremony. The army holds a memorial service at the Kargil War Memorial which is followed by lighting of lamps and a wreath-laying ceremony. The day is celebrated with great enthusiasm and zeal by military personnel in the Drass-Kargil sector and at Amar Jawan Jyoti, India Gate, in the National Capital.



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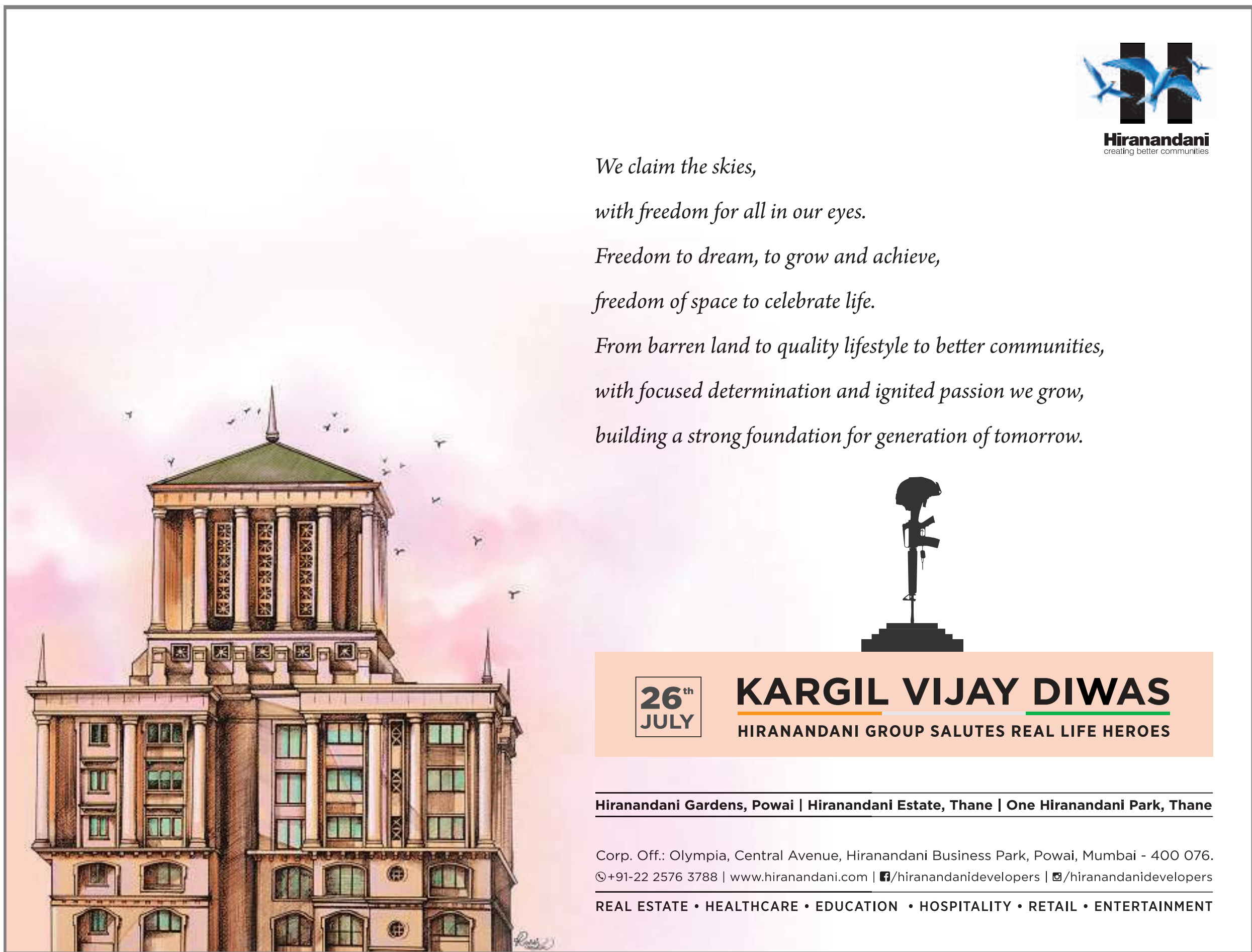
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6 GOVT & POLITICS

UP: Kanpur SSP among 15 IPS officers transferred

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, JULY 25

THE UP government on Saturday transferred 15 IPS officers, including Kanpur SSP Dinesh Kumar P.

The reshuffle comes at a time when Opposition parties have derided the state government for “deteriorating” law and order.

Dinesh Kumar P has been made the Jhansi SSP and replaced by Aligarh Range DIG Preetinder Singh. Amethi SP Khyati Garg has been made the Lucknow DCP, and will be replaced in Amethi by Dinesh Singh, who was the Lucknow DCP. Chitrakoot DIG Deepak Kumar has been made DIG of Ayodhya, replacing Ashish Tiwari, who is now the Jhansi SP (Railways).

Satya Narayan, who was on a waiting list after returning from deputation, has been made Inspector General (IG) of Chitrakoot Dham while Ashutosh Kumar, who was IG of Basti, is now the new IG of PAC headquarters in Lucknow. Deepak Ratan, IG of traffic, has been made IG of Aligarh range while SP Economic Offences Wing, Satendra Kumar is now the new SP of Lakhimpur Kheri.

Commandant, State Disaster Response Fund (Lucknow), Yashveer Singh has replaced Jalaun SP Satish Kumar. Jhansi SSP D Pradeep Kumar has been asked to join as SP of EOW (Varanasi) while Lakhimpur Kheri SP Poonam will take charge as the new Commandant of 15 Battalion PAC, Agra.

RISE IN DEMAND FOR UNSKILLED WORK DURING PANDEMIC

12 dists go past whole year's NREGA work generation budget in 4 months

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

AT LEAST 12 districts have exceeded their annual job creation targets by generating substantially higher numbers of person-days work between April 1 and July 21, going over their projected figure for the entire financial year. This shows a rise in demand for unskilled work under MGNREGA in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

From coastal areas to hinterlands, and from agricultural regions to industrial belt, these districts are spread across four states. Barring Mirzapur, in Uttar Pradesh, none of these districts is included in the official government list of 116 districts that received most returning migrant workers during the lockdown, and where the government had launched the Prime Minister Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan on June 20.

An analysis of MGNREGA data of 693 districts shows at least 12 districts have generated significantly higher person-days until July 21 in the ongoing financial year than their projected figure for the entire fiscal. These districts are: Vizianagaram (Andhra Pradesh); Bhavnagar, Dahod and Gir Somnath (Gujarat); Wanaparthy, Karimnagar, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri, Warangal (Urban) and Medchal (Telangana); and

Mirzapur, Bulandshahr and Hathras (Uttar Pradesh)

Bhavnagar, for instance, has generated 18.15 lakh person-days, 86 per cent more than 9.76 lakh days planned for the entire financial year in the district's labour budget. Similarly, other districts also exceeded the planned person-days figure by a significant margin in less than four months of the 2020-21 financial year: Medchal (56.49%), Bulandshahr (56.18%), Dahod (16.32%), Karimnagar (10.20%) and Gir Somnath (10.04%) [see chart for details].

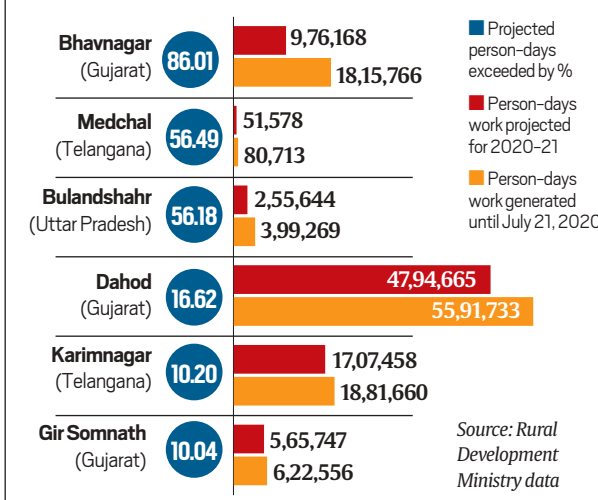
Among the other six districts, Wanaparthy in Telangana had projected 24,11,780 person-days for the whole of 2020-21 and generated 26,14,470 by July 21, shooting past the target by 8.40%; Mirzapur in UP (projection 36,74,608; generation 38,34,536; overshoot by 4.35%); Yadadri Bhuvanagiri (Telangana; projection 20,57,647; generation 21,42,991; overshoot by 4.15%); Warangal-Urban (Telangana; projection 8,89,067; generation 9,25,244; overshoot by 4.07%); Vizianagaram (Andhra Pradesh; projection 2,11,33,854; generation 2,19,81,966; overshoot by 4.01%); and Hathras in UP (projection 9,50,000 person-days; generation 9,65,921; and overshoot by 1.68%).

Hathras district magistrate Praveen Kumar Laxkar told *The Sunday Express* over the phone: “Our district has a population of 19.5 lakh and we used to have an



A man works under MGNREGA scheme in Kolkata. PTI

TOP 6 DISTRICTS THAT OVERSHOT PROJECTION



annual labour budget of about 8 lakh person-days. In normal times, that was sufficient, as a lot of people from the district used to go to work in Delhi and Noida.”

But this year, he said, most of those people have returned home following the coronavirus outbreak. “So we have seen a high demand for work under NREGA,”

Laxkar said.

“To meet the high demand we have focused on NREGA convergence with other schemes. We are effectively monitoring implementation of the scheme to ensure that at least one or two (types of) work remains open across 474 village panchayats of the district,” he said.

Overall, 693 districts have generated 145.10 crore person-days until July 21 during the current financial year, against their projected person-day figure of 280.71 crore by the end of March 2021.

The demand for unskilled work under MGNREGA during the current financial year has reached a new high. Until July 21, over 68 lakh new job cards have been added under the rural job guarantee scheme during the current financial year, which is more than the 63.85 lakh new job cards added in the entire previous fiscal.

So far, over 5.13 crore households and more than 7.25 crore individuals have availed MGNREGA, the data show. Over 3 lakh households have completed their 100 days of work till date in the current financial year.

It is expected that the number of districts exceeding their annual labour budget target may be doubled by the end of this month.

However, MGNREGA is a demand-driven program and the government has to provide a budget if there is demand for the work.

In search of MLA, Rajasthan SOG seeks CCTV footage, guest list from hotel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAIPUR, JULY 25

IN THEIR search for MLA Bhanwarlal Sharma, who has been accused of attempting to topple the Congress government in the state, the Special Operations Group of Rajasthan Police has sought CCTV footage and the guest list from a Manesar hotel to trace the legislator.

The SOG has registered an FIR against Bhanwarlal Sharma, Gajendra Singh and one Sanjay Jain on the basis of a complaint lodged by Congress Chief Whip Mahesh Joshi, who had submitted audio clips as evidence of them allegedly plotting to bring down the Ashok Gehlot government in the state.

“We sent the requisition a couple of days ago to the hotel but there has been no response so far. We have asked for CCTV footage and details of guests list,” a senior official of SOG said here on Saturday.

Days ago, the Special Operations Group (SOG) was sent to the hotel in BJP-ruled Haryana's Manesar to seek the dissident MLA's version in connection with an FIR lodged over the audio clips.

The team was stopped outside the hotel for about an hour by Haryana policemen. The Rajasthan police were let in later, but told at the reception that the



Bhanwarlal Sharma has been accused of trying to topple the Congress govt

MLA was not staying there, and they returned, the unit's Additional Director General Ashok Rathore had said.

The Congress had cited two audio clips on social media and demanded the arrest of Union minister Gajendra Shekhawat, alleging that he was heard during a conversation about a plot to bring down the Congress government in the state.

In an FIR lodged with the Rajasthan Police, the party had also alleged that Bhanwarlal Sharma was heard in the audio clip. The complaint by Congress chief whip Mahesh Joshi mentioned “Gajendra Singh” but stopped short of identifying him as the Union minister.

Shekhawat and Bhanwarlal Sharma have rejected the allegations. Sanjay Jain, the third man mentioned in the audio clips, has been arrested.

BTP chief starts campaign to support ‘Pathalgadi workers’

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
VADODARA, JULY 25

BHARATIYA TRIBAL Party (BTP) supremo and Gujarat MLA from Jhagadia Assembly Constituency in Bharuch district, Chhotu Vasava, has started a campaign to support the three alleged ‘Pathalgadi movement’ workers from Jharkhand arrested by the Anti-Terrorist Squad. The ATS had arrested Samu Oreya and Birsu Oreya from Khunti district of Jharkhand, from Vyara in Tapi district and Babita Kachhap of Ranchi in Jharkhand from Mahisagar district on Friday.

They were booked under Indian Penal Code Sections 124A (sedition), 153A (promoting enmity between groups), 120B (criminal conspiracy) and 121A (conspiracy to commit offence).

Late Saturday night, Vasava, on his official Twitter handle, started a campaign to support Kachhap.

Earlier on Saturday, Vasava put out a series of tweets with the hashtag “Naxali ki paribhasha batao” (Tell us the definition of naxalites), stating, “Those who have raised a finger at a daughter of a tribal and called her a naxalite, must also tell us what is the definition of Naxalites.”

When contacted, Vasava explained that the campaign was against “all those governments that have” violated the Constitution for destroying tribal communities in the name of Naxalism. But none of the governments have defined



Chhotu Vasava

what Naxalism is. Let the Congress and BJP leaders not take this discussion on a different tangent. We want a definition of the term,” he said, adding that the governments were using the law against those who were fighting for the rights of the tribal communities and seeking the implementation of the Schedule V of the Constitution along with the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act.

Vasava, who, along with his son, abstained from voting in the Gujarat Rajya Sabha polls in June, seeking an undertaking from the BJP and the Congress about the implementation of the two provisions, has also announced a ‘Pathalgadi movement’ in the state earlier in June. The announcement had come after the Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Ltd (SSNNL) began fencing lands of the tribal villages, which it had acquired in 1961 for the construction of the Narmada Dam. The fencing had resulted in much tension and violent clashes with the police providing protection to SSNNL officials.



HOUSE MEETS UNDER TREE

Puducherry CM V Narayanasamy with Speaker Sivakozhundu and other leaders on the Assembly premises on Saturday. The House held its Budget session under a neem tree as the main hall was shut for sanitisation following opposition AINRC MLAs S J Jayabal testing positive for the virus and being hospitalised. The House was adjourned sine die after approving budgetary allocations to the tune of Rs 9,000 crore without discussion. PTI

Kashmiri saffron gets GI tag

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 25

THE FAMED saffron grown in Kashmir Valley has received the Centre's Geographical Indication tag, a Jammu and Kashmir official said Saturday.

The certification essentially denotes that a product comes from a specific area and possesses certain distinguishing qualities due to the geographical origin.

GI certification will help put

an end to adulteration of Kashmiri saffron and the authenticated product will fetch better prices, said Navin K Choudhary, Principal Secretary of the Agriculture Production Department.

He said the saffron produced in the Valley is the only one in the world to be grown at an altitude of 1,600 metres. This gives it defining characteristics — a longer and thicker stigma, a natural deep-red colour, strong aroma, and bitter flavor — that differenti-

ate it from other varieties.

Lieutenant-Governor G C Murmu said this was the “first major step” to put Kashmir saffron on the world map. “With GI tag, Kashmir saffron will acquire more prominence in the export market and it would help farmers get the best remunerative price.” This measure, and as well as the expected completion and inauguration of a Spice Park in Pampore next month, will be a game changer for Kashmir saffron, he added.



Jairam Ramesh, Prakash Javadekar

Strongly object to EIA draft: Jairam to Javadekar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

FORMER ENVIRONMENT minister Jairam Ramesh on Saturday wrote to Union Minister Environment, Forests and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar, “strongly objecting” to the proposed Environment Impact Assessment Draft 2020.

The Ministry has called for suggestions and objections by August 10, after which the draft is to be notified. The EIA is a study carried out before the implementation of a proposed project or development to assess its impact on the environment.

Ramesh said that as the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment, Forests and Climate Change, “it is my duty to place on record my strongest objections” and that the draft reflects “a mindset that sees environmental regulation as unnecessary regulatory burden and not as an essential obligation” for the “health and welfare of our people and for ensuring development that is sustainable”.

The changes have been made on grounds of national security. A senior official from the Bridges department said on condition of anonymity, “The new rules will affect Chinese participation in the project. Soon, as we receive the Finance Ministry's

MUMBAI

Link road project likely to be hit by new rules to keep Chinese out

LAXMAN SINGH
MUMBAI, JULY 25

THE AMBITIOUS multi-crore Goregaon-Mulund Link Road (GMLR) is likely to be the first big ticket infrastructure project that will be affected by the new rules brought in by the Centre to keep Chinese firms out.

Civic officials said that following the recent restriction imposed by the Finance Ministry on procurement of goods and services from bidders of countries that share a land border with India, the BMC will make changes in the global Request for Qualification (RFQ) of GMLR project, which currently allows any firm to participate in tenders.

According to civic officials associated with the project, on Thursday, the Finance Ministry made amendments to General Financial Rules (GFR), 2017, under which bidders from border countries will be eligible only if they are registered with the Registration Committee constituted by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade. Also, political and security clearance from the External Affairs and Home ministries will be mandatory. The changes have been made on grounds of national security.

A senior official from the Bridges department said on condition of anonymity, “The new rules will affect Chinese participation in the project. Soon, as we receive the Finance Ministry's

rules, we will change the tender clause accordingly and a revised RFQ will be put on the website.”

In 2019, when the BMC had invited global Expression of Interest (EOI) for ‘Design and Construction of Twin Tunnel including approaches and box tunnels for GMLR project’, 30 firms had participated, including a couple of companies from China. Apart from that, companies from Japan and Korea had attended meetings, expressing their willingness to execute the project.

“Last year, two Chinese firms had shown their interest in the project and their representatives had attended a few meetings. Since the project involves construction of tunnels, the market for tunnel boring machines, a key requirement for the project, is dominated by Chinese firms,” said another senior official from the BMC.

The BMC has planned the 13.65-km GMLR to ease traffic on Mumbai's east-west connectors. The estimated cost of the project, which includes 4.7-km twin tunnels and an elevated road, is Rs 4,770 crore and the deadline for the work is five years from the day the contract is awarded.

Officials acknowledge that the project may now be delayed.

“We will have to find out other options for TBMs... But for now everything is on hold as Covid-19 has affected international travel and industries. Also, staff is busy with Covid-19 duties,” said Sanjay Darade, Deputy Municipal Commissioner (Infrastructure).

Can use hybrid systems to supplement open court hearings in future: Justice Chandrachud

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, JULY 25

INAUGURATING THE country's first e-Governance Centre at the district court in Nashik through a video-conference on Saturday, Justice D Y Chandrachud, senior judge of the Supreme Court and chairman of its e-Committee, said that the setting up of virtual courts during the lockdown ensured access to justice with as many as 18 lakh pleas filed across India between March and July.

In his inaugural address, also attended virtually by Bombay High Court Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and other members of the judiciary, Justice Chandrachud

said, “Over 18 lakh cases were filed across India during Covid-19 period. As a result of virtual courts, which were put into place all over the country, we have avoided a shutdown. We have prevented access to justice being locked down during the period of the crisis. Our courts are open and able to function and we have been enabled to prevent an outbreak of infection in the court system and beyond.”

Various services have been provided to litigants and lawyers under the e-courts project.

However, Justice Chandrachud said virtual courts set up under exceptional circumstances are not here to stay and physical courts would gradually



‘Over 18 lakh pleas filed during lockdown’

start functioning again once normalcy returns.

“The joy, confidence and power of the open court hearings can never be replaced. But technology has given us some

insight on how in the future, we can combine hybrid systems using technology, where open court hearings can be supplemented. These are intended to be special measures set up under very very exceptional circumstances and gradually we will go back to physical court hearings guided by public health experts,” he said, adding that e-Seva Kendras or e-Governance Centres will be set up in all districts, covering lawyers at taluka and other subordinate courts.

The SC judge said that during the lockdown between March 24 and July 24, a total of 18,03,327 cases were registered across India, of which 7,90,112 were disposed of. He said 61,986

of the total 2,22,431 cases filed in district courts across Maharashtra have been disposed of despite the shadow of the pandemic.

“Virtual court system has put all lawyers on an even platform, especially junior lawyers who get recognised by judges,” he said.

Referring to representations made by lawyers of the High Court seeking a hybrid system in the court's functioning, Chief Justice Datta said that most of the High Courts had to suspend physical functioning due to the outbreak after resuming the same. “Drawing from their experiences, any knee-jerk reaction should be avoided,” he said.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

A SEVEN-JUDGE Committee of the Supreme Court has decided to wait for two more weeks before taking a final call on resumption of physical hearings in the court, which has been hearing cases through videoconferencing since the lockdown.

The Committee, headed by Justice N V Ramana, who is also the second most senior judge of the court, conveyed the same to representatives of the Bar at a meeting on Friday evening.

The Committee, also comprising Justices Arun Mishra, R F Nariman, U U Lalit, A M Khanwilkar, D Y Chandrachud

and I N Rao, held discussions over videoconferencing with Dushyant Dave, Senior Advocate and President of the Supreme Court Bar Association, Shivaji Jadhav, Advocate and President of the SC Advocates on Record Association, and Manan Kumar Mishra, Advocate and Chairman of the Bar Council of India.

The Secretary General read out the minutes of the meeting, where it was decided against resuming physical hearings for the time being in view of the advice from medical experts, sources said.

The Bar representatives apprised the Committee on the difficulties faced by lawyers and urged that physical functioning should resume as soon as

possible.

The Committee said they are “fully conscious and deeply concerned” about the difficulties faced by lawyers and anxious to gradually restore normalcy in the physical functioning. But a “decision will have to be guided by a holistic assessment of the situation on the basis of medical advice” and considering the safety of all stakeholders, the Committee said.

Saying that it will reconvene after two weeks, the Committee asked the Bar representatives to discuss with the Secretary General and other Registrars about the type of cases that can be listed for hearing if it decides to reopen the court at least partially.

A Saga of Supreme Sacrifice

Kargil Diwas is a memorable day in the Indian military history and commemorates the sacrifices of our courageous soldiers and martyrs with great fervour and recognition across the country



The Kargil war killed more than 500 Indian and nearly 400 Pakistani soldiers

EVERY year on July 26, India celebrates 'Kargil Diwas' to commemorate its brave soldiers and martyrs who laid down their lives in the quest for victory against Pakistan during the famous Operation Vijay in 1999. This date has a remarkable place in the Indian military history, and this is precisely why the event is observed across the country with great fervour and vigour.

Going back in time, it is worth remembering how the tensions between the two arch-rivals started to escalate and finally led to the 'Kargil War'. After both the rival countries successfully created and tested nuclear weapons in 1998, it led to an increasingly belligerent atmosphere in both India and Pakistan. To resolve the ongoing stalemate, both the two countries signed the Lahore agreement of 1999, promising to provide a peaceful and bilateral solution to the Kashmir conflict.

However, during the winter of 1998 under Operation Badr, Pakistani troops, in the guise of militants, began infiltrating towards the Indian side of the Line of Control (LoC), hoping to cut off Indian troops in Siachen and force them to retreat. On May 3, 1999, Pakistani intruders in Kargil were spotted by local shepherds. However, by that time, the Pakistani troops had managed to capture a region between 130 to

This saga of supreme sacrifice on part of our Armed Forces will forever remain etched in our memories.

200 square kilometres.

As per reports, "The aim of the Pakistani incursion was to sever the link between Kashmir and Ladakh and cause Indian forces to withdraw from the Siachen Glacier, thus forcing India to negotiate a settlement of the broader Kashmir dispute. Pakistan also believed that any tension in the region would internationalize the Kashmir issue, helping it to secure a speedy resolution."

As soon Indian Armed forces realised the scale of the attack and found more intrusions elsewhere on the LOC, the Government of India responded with Operation Vijay. The famous Operation Vijay saw the mobilisation of about 2,00,000 Indian troops to recapture all the previously lost



Kargil War Memorial

posts and force the Pakistani troops to make a run for it.

Subsequently, Operation Safed Sagar was launched by Indian Air Force on May 26 to help Indian Army. With Army and IAF already in operation, the Indian Navy strategically mounted pressure on Pakistan through Operation Talwar, which in-

cluded aggressive patrolling off the Pakistani coasts.

"The Kargil was a unique instance of two nuclear-capable powers facing each other off in a conventional warfare. Not anticipating such a fierce retaliation from India, Pakistan moved to America to seek help in de-escalate the border tensions.



The army holds a memorial service at the Kargil War Memorial which is followed by lighting of lamps and wreath-laying ceremony.

The then US President Bill Clinton, however, refused to intervene until Pakistan withdrew its forces from the Indian side of the LOC."

On this day in 1999, "the Kargil War between India and Pakistan had come to an end after the Indian soldiers had recaptured the mountain heights successfully, which were taken over by the Pakistani intruders. It is believed that Pakistan had started planning the attack a year in advance. More so, Nawaz Sharif had claimed that he had no knowledge of the attack till he got a call from Atal Bihari Vajpayee."

As per reports, "More than 520 Indian soldiers sacrificed their lives during one of

the toughest wars fought against Pakistan at Kargil, Drass and Batalik sectors of Jammu and Kashmir state." After the war, July 26 was declared as 'Kargil Diwas' in memory of our brave and fearless soldiers. Another remarkable achievement is that our Indian Armed Forces fought the war and tried to ensure that it did not escalate into a nuclear conflict. This feat has been acclaimed the world over and goes on to show the grit and endurance of our Armed Forces.

This saga of supreme sacrifice on part of our Armed Forces will forever remain etched in our memories. On this day, several programmes are planned by the Central Government and various state governments to pay homage and respect to the brave servicemen of the armed forces who laid down their lives in the line of duty. The family members of martyrs are felicitated during this memorable day.

The celebrations on 'Kargil Diwas' include pipe band and brass band display which is followed by a beating retreat ceremony. The army holds a memorial service at the Kargil War Memorial which is followed by lighting of lamps and wreath-laying ceremony. The day is celebrated with great enthusiasm and zeal by military personnel at Drass-Kargil sector and the national capital New Delhi at Amar Jawan Jyoti, India Gate.

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4 MONTHS AFTER TAKING CHARGE IN MP

Chouhan tests Covid positive, hospitalised

MILIND GHATWAI
BHOPAL, JULY 25

FOUR MONTHS after he took charge as Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh following the collapse of the Congress government just before the nationwide lockdown was imposed, Shivraj Singh Chouhan was admitted to a dedicated Covid hospital in Bhopal Saturday after testing positive.

Chouhan, who is 61 and a diabetic, later tweeted that he had undergone all tests and was healthy. He also posted that he had been reviewing the Covid situation in the state every evening since March 25 and would try to continue via video-conferencing. Officials said the Chief Minister's family members will be tested.

Three days ago, Minister Arvind Bhadoriya, who had attended a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chouhan, had tested positive. The previous day, Bhadoriya had travelled with the Chief Minister to Lucknow to attend the funeral of late Governor Lalji Tandon.

Chouhan's announcement came after a new 10-day lockdown was imposed in Bhopal from 8 am Friday to contain the outbreak. And while wishing him a speedy recovery, Opposition Congress leaders accused him and the BJP government of not taking the pandemic seriously earlier.



Shivraj Singh Chouhan

"I was saddened to know that you have contracted the coronavirus infection. I pray to god for your early recovery. The only regret is that when we were serious about COVID 19, you called it 'drama', ridiculed it as 'daron' and dubbed it a weapon to protect the government," said a tweet posted in Hindi by the office of former CM Kamal Nath.

Nath was referring to the period of political uncertainty in the run-up to the fall of his government on March 20. On March 16, the then Assembly speaker N P Prajapati had adjourned the House by 10 days citing the pandemic. The BJP, then in the Opposition, had criticised the move as an attempt to avoid the floor test ordered by the Governor.

On March 20, the state reported its first Covid case. On the same day, Nath submitted his resignation after the Supreme Court ordered a floor test.

"Had you not made fun of it, taken due precautions, followed

all guidelines you would have probably not got the infection," the tweet by Nath's office said.

Former CM and Rajya Sabha member Digvijaya Singh also wished Chouhan a speedy recovery in a tweet in Hindi. In the tweet, he also wrote: "You should have maintained social distancing but you didn't. The police had registered an FIR against me (for violating Covid guidelines) but how could they have done that against you. You take care of yourself."

Earlier, before leaving his official residence for the hospital, Chouhan had tweeted: "Corona patients should not insist on getting quarantined at home or not going to hospital. We should follow doctors' advice."

He had also assigned the work of reviewing the Covid situation to Home Minister Narottam Mishra, Urban Development Minister Bhupendra Singh, Health Minister Prabhuram Chaudhary and Medical Education Minister Vishwas Sarang.

Chouhan also said that he gave his samples for testing after developing symptoms, and asked people who had come in contact with him to get tested and those close to him to go in quarantine. Other ministers who attended the Cabinet meeting last week, and BJP leaders like state president V D Sharma, have given their samples for testing. Sharma has tested negative.



The Ultadanga flyover in Kolkata on Saturday. Partha Paul

Bengal's bi-weekly lockdown: Streets deserted, flights suspended

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, JULY 25

STREETS WORE a deserted look, commercial establishments were shut, and public and private vehicles remained off the roads as the West Bengal government imposed a strict bi-weekly lockdown across the state on Saturday amid a surge in Covid-19 cases.

In Kolkata, police were seen manning all major crossings, checking lanes and bylanes for any unnecessary movement. The few who dared to step out without a valid reason were forced to return

after a baton charge or chase by the men in uniform. Police personnel were seen carrying out awareness drives with loudspeakers in congested areas such as Kolkata, Howrah, Hooghly, North and South 24 Parganas.

Kolkata police said that till noon, 204 people were arrested for violation of lockdown, 182 booked for not wearing a mask and 20 faced action for spitting in public.

There was no activity at the Kolkata and Bagdogra airports as the Airports Authority of India suspended all flights for the lockdown after a request from the state government.

They will be suspended again when the lockdown is imposed next week on Wednesday.

"We arrived from Bangalore last night. We have a connecting flight to Assam tomorrow morning. Today nothing is flying in or out. We have to spend the night here," said Masuk Ahmed (21), a resident of Assam who was among a dozen people who were stranded near the NSC Bose airport in Kolkata. "We have ordered food and will have to find some place to sleep at night."

Public and private offices were closed and several trains at Howrah and Sealdah stations were also cancelled.

IIT-Kharagpur develops portable, low-cost device for coronavirus testing

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, JULY 25

RESEARCHERS AT IIT-Kharagpur Saturday announced a portable diagnostic device that can detect Covid-19 in about 60 minutes for a cost of less than Rs 400 per test.

In a statement, the researchers said each portable unit can be used for a large number of tests, and the only thing that needs to be replaced is a disposable paper strip used for chemical analysis and visualisation of the results of each test. They further said the device had accuracy and sensitivity comparable to standard RT-PCR tests. The results from this new technology have been strictly validated by following all established laboratory controls against the benchmarked results obtained from RT-PCR machine, using syn-

thetic viral RNA, stated the release.

The test is non-invasive and works on extracted RNA from a patient's saliva sample. It has a cost of less than Rs 400/per test after taking all the components of expenses and a business model into account, said Professor Suman Chakraborty from the Mechanical Engineering Department, IIT Kharagpur, and Dr Arindam Mondal from the School of Bio Science, IIT Kharagpur.

The new device has been designed to be usable at locations with extremely poor resources, the statement said. It further said the device can be operated by people with minimal training. The equipment will cost about Rs 2,000 if a pilot facility is used. Use of a large-scale commercial facility will further reduce the price with increase in the production scale, the statement said. WITH INPUTS FROM ENS, KOLKATA

Kit import licence of 3 firms cancelled, 15 suspended; order based on ban by USFDA

KARISHMA MEHROTRA
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

CITING A ban by the US government, Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), under the country's apex drugs regulator DCGI, has canceled kit import licences of three firms and suspended those of 15 others.

While most licences were for Chinese rapid antibody test kits that never entered the country, at least two others have been sold in the Indian market.

One is an ELISA antibody test kit (different from rapid antibody test kit) owned by Mumbai-based Transasia, which said they have sold 3 lakh kits since June to different hospitals. Deals for 5 lakh more are currently in the pipeline, the company said.

In addition, 1 lakh supply of

a suspended rapid antibody test kit made by South Korean SD Biosensor was sold to Andhra Pradesh in April, a company representative told The Sunday Express.

On July 17, CDSCO sent these 18 companies a showcause notice stating that "as per notification by the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) the...product has been removed with direction that it should not be distributed". It gave the firms time until July 20 to respond.

On July 21, CDSCO said their responses to the showcause was not "satisfactory".

The cancelled licences were of MDAAC International, Cadila Healthcare, and N.W. OVERSEAS. The suspended licences were held by Aracion Technology, DiaSys Diagnostic, Jettalabs, Saffron Naturelle Products, Cosmic Scientific Technologies, Infobios India, Vishram Distributors, SD Biosensor, Transasia, Accurex, Biohouse Solutions, V S Yarns, Raymed Trading Group, Sogar, and

Trivitron.

Barring Transasia and SD Biosensor, all these firms were approved to import a set of seven Chinese antibody test kits that were banned by US FDA in June. The Sunday Express spoke to seven of these Indian companies, all of whom said they had not imported these kits since rapid antibody test kits fell out of government strategy around May.

Transasia owns California-based Calbiotech, which manufactures the kit called ErbaLiSA. As one of the first ELISA antibody test kits to be approved in the country, it remains on the most recent Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) validation list of July 22.

Calbiotech's response to CDSCO on July 20, seen by The Sunday Express, included an ICMR-National Institute of Virology validation approval on June 3, among others.

Calbiotech and Transasia stated that the USFDA decision should not stop export of the kit

to India, that the US FDA's removal was not due to performance issues but a policy change, that the company's application is awaiting a reply from the US agency, and it never claimed USFDA approval in their validation process in India.

Suresh Vazirani, Transasia's MD, said he plans to file a legal complaint in Delhi High Court. He said USFDA has not reached out to the company about their removal.

Dr Arvind Lal, chairman and MD of Lal PathLabs, said this test kit failed their internal validation three weeks ago. Thyrocare chairman and MD Arokiaswamy Velumani said they had used 20,000 of these ELISA test kits nationwide up until 10 days ago.

ICMR's senior scientist Nivedita Gupta answered queries on July 18 by stating that "pertinent action will be taken by CDSCO/DCGI".

CDSCO, which sits under DCGI, did not respond to repeated attempts at comment.

'We need to test more, that's why Maharashtra has high numbers'

ALMOST FIVE months after the Covid-19 pandemic began, Maharashtra has recorded over 3 lakh cases. Over a lakh are active infections. As focus shifts from Mumbai to Mumbai Metropolitan Region and Pune, Health Secretary Dr PRADEEP VYAS says the state has become wiser and is better equipped to control fatality. Excerpts from an interview with TABASSUM BARNAGARWALA.



THE EXPRESS
INTERVIEW

WITH
PRADEEP VYAS
HEALTH SECRETARY,
MAHARASHTRA

Maharashtra continues to have the most cases in India. Although it does not have the largest population, it continues to drive the country's curve. Why is that?

We need not be concerned by rise in positive cases. If cases are detected in time, fatality can be as low as 1-2%. To pick people early, we need to test more and that's why we have high numbers. Maharashtra is testing 13,848 people per million population, Uttar Pradesh is only testing 7,113 per million, Bihar is testing 3,423 per million. These states have less cases because they are testing less. There were no cases in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh at the beginning. It was pointed out that they were not testing enough. Now you see that case growth is at the rate of 5-7% in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh is high.

The WHO notified the first Covid-19 case on December 31, 2019. So we did have two months in hand to prepare before the first case.

To prepare we need some knowledge. WHO declared it a pandemic in mid-January. We began screening from January 18, every day 16,000-18,000 people were screened. It was an unknown enemy. What could we have prepared for in those two months?

Kerala and Telangana have admitted to local transmission. In Maharashtra,

Need to balance health, economic activity: Uddhav

Mumbai: In an interview to Shiv Sena mouthpiece Saamana, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Saturday indicated that he was not ready to lift the prevailing lockdown the state in one go and said curbing Covid-19 cases while allowing economic activities to resume was a tightrope walk.

"I will never say that the lockdown will be lifted completely. But I have started reopening the activities one by one gradually and my attempt is to ensure that once the activities resume, it shouldn't be shut again. We need

to worry about [people's] health and the economy, and need to maintain a balance between the two. It is like walking a tightrope," Thackeray said.

The chief minister further said that many people were opposing the lockdown as it was affecting the economy. "I want to tell these people that I am ready to lift the lockdown, but will they take responsibility if the people die due to it? I am aware of the economic concerns... I am not [the US President Donald] Trump. I cannot see people dying in front of my eyes..." ENS

UP records biggest jump in cases, Lucknow CMO replaced

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, JULY 25

ON A day that the state witnessed the highest single-day jump in coronavirus cases with 2,984 cases, the government on Saturday removed Lucknow chief medical officer (CMO) Nareish Agarwal. The capital city on Saturday recorded a total of 429 fresh cases with it being the worst hit by Covid-19 with a total of 3,337 active cases – the highest in the state.

The districts behind Lucknow in terms of active cases is Kanpur Nagar with 1,662 active cases followed by Varanasi with 1,188 active cases Jhansi with 953 cases.

Dr Agarwal has been replaced by Dr Rajendra Prasad Singh, who was posted as Chief Medical Superintendent of Bhaurao Devas Civil Hospital, Mahanagar. Agarwal, meanwhile, has been posted as senior consultant at Lok Bandhu Raj Narayan Hospital in Lucknow. Lucknow has witnessed a steep rise in COVID-19 cases in the past two weeks.

The state has till now had a total of 63,742 cases of coronavirus with 39,903 people being discharged after treatment. The state has witnessed 39 deaths in the last 24 hours on Saturday. Among the districts with highest fresh deaths were Kanpur Nagar and Varanasi with five people succumbing to the virus, followed by Gorakhpur with four deaths.

NORTHERN RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM				
In reference to E-Tender Notice published on 25.07.2020 regarding supply of following items to N.Rly Central Hospital, New Delhi. The tender closing date has been extended as per the details given below :-				
Sr. No.	Tender No.	Item Description	Existing Tender Closing Date	Corrigendum
1.	82201162B	Tab. Sitagliptin 100 mg	28.07.2020	07.08.2020
2.	82201160D	Tab. Linagliptin 5 mg	28.07.2020	07.08.2020
3.	82201193	Tab. Sitagliptin 50 mg + Metformin 500 mg	28.07.2020	07.08.2020
4.	82201454A	Tab. Sitagliptin 50 mg + Metformin 1000 mg	28.07.2020	07.08.2020
				1644/20
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Dated: 03-07-2020 **Director, NIFT-Srinagar**

NORTHERN RAILWAY				
TENDER NOTICE				
The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/Coaching, Northern Railway, Delhi division, New Delhi invites e-tender for the following work:-				
1.	Name of work with its location	Commercial Advertisement Rights through Vinyl Wrapping on exterior space of coaches (below the window) of Shatabdi / Gatimaan / Rajdhani / Durgam Express trains over Delhi Division for a period of five (5) years.		
2.	Details of Shatabdi/Rajdhani/Durgam/Gatimaan Trains (Separate Bids are to be submitted for each Group)	E-tender Notice Number	Group of Trains	
		Publicity/VinylWrap 25-2020 to Publicity/VinylWrap 27-2020	Group A, Group C, Group D of Shatabdi Express trains	
		Publicity/VinylWrap30-2020	Group H of Gatimaan Express	
		Publicity/VinylWrap28-2020, Publicity/VinylWrap29-2020, Publicity/VinylWrap31-2020	Group F, Group G & Group I of Rajdhani Express trains	
		Publicity/VinylWrap32-2020 to Publicity/VinylWrap 34-2020	Group J to Group L of Durgam Express trains	
3.	Date of Tender Opening	14.08.2020 up to 1500 hrs.		
4.	Approximate cost of work	As per NIT on ireps.gov.in		
5.	Cost of Tender document including 18% GST	As per NIT on ireps.gov.in		
6.	Earnest Money Deposit	www.ireps.gov.in		
7.	Website particulars where complete details of tender document can be seen	https://ireps.gov.in/		
No.: 7PUP/Vinyl Wrapping/Rajdhani-Shatabdi/2010 Dated: 21.07.2020 1635/2020				
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1	Name of work with its location	Commercial Advertisement Rights through Unipoles at the sites/locations in circulating area of Railway stations (Station Advertising Zones) over Delhi Division for a period of five years.		
2	Details of railway stations/Zones (Separate Bids are to be submitted for each Zone)	E-tender Notice Number	Stations	
		PublicityStation66-2020	Tughlaqabad, Okhla, Faridabad, Faridabad New Town, Ballabhgarh, Palwal	
		PublicityStation67-2020	Deoband, Muzaffarnagar, Meerut Cantt., Meerut City, Modinagar, Muradnagar	
		PublicityStation68-2020	Delhi Shahdara, Chander Nagar, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Baraut, Baghpat Road, Shamli	
3	Date of Tender Opening		14.08.2020 up to 1500 hrs	
4	Approximate cost of work		As per NIT on ireps.gov.in	
5	Cost of Tender document including 18% GST		As per NIT on ireps.gov.in	
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Saluting the KARGIL WAR HEROES from Uttarakhand

Uttarakhand can never forget the Kargil War. 75 brave warriors of the small state had shattered Pakistan's



In the Kargil war in 1999, 75 brave soldiers of Uttarakhand were killed. Out them, 37 soldiers received awards for their bravery. In the 11 wars so far, more than one and a half thousand brave soldiers from Uttarakhand have sacrificed their lives for their homeland. Defence experts say that not only to fight in war, but also to prepare war strategy and win the battle, Uttarakhand's jambaias have no answer.



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*Placement statistics refer to the number of students who have opted for and are eligible for placements. **AIU captured for School of Computer Science Students in 2019-20. *Defence personnel ward who has studied outside Uttarakhand is also eligible.



पिप्लोमेट्रिक प्रोफेशनल ट्रेनिंग एंड टेक्नोलॉजी (सिपेट)
 सिपेट: सेक्टर ४३, डिस्ट्रिक्ट ऑफ प्लास्टिक्स इन्जीनियरिंग एण्ड टेक्नोलॉजी (सिपेट)
 (रसायन एवं पेट्रोलसाधन विभाग, रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
 हरिद्वार रोड, पोस्ट-मानिकगढाना, डेहली-248140



एडमिनीस्ट्रेशन ऑफ प्लास्टिक्स इन्जीनियरिंग एण्ड टेक्नोलॉजी (सिपेट)

एडमिनीस्ट्रेशन ऑफ प्लास्टिक्स इन्जीनियरिंग एण्ड टेक्नोलॉजी (सिपेट)

लेटरल एन्ट्री एडमिशन-2020

(एडमिनीस्ट्रेशन ऑफ प्लास्टिक्स इन्जीनियरिंग एण्ड टेक्नोलॉजी (सिपेट) में सीधे द्वितीय वर्ष में प्रवेश के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित किया जाता है।)

क्र.सं.	पाठ्यक्रम का नाम	कोर्स की अवधि	प्रवेश पात्रता	प्रवेश माध्यम
1	डिप्लोमा इन प्लास्टिक्स मोड्युल टेक्नोलॉजी (डी.पी.एम.टी.)	2 साल का पूर्वाकाशिक डिप्लोमा	कुल दाखल 12वीं कक्षा विज्ञान उर्जाग गणित व जीव विज्ञान का कुल दाखल 10वीं कक्षा + 2 साल की आई टी आई, ज्वेलर मशीन/ग्रुफ्टरमेन मैकनिकल/फिटिंग प्लास्टिक/पोलिमर/केमिकल टेक्नोलॉजी ट्रेड के साथ	सीमित सीट पहले आओ पहले पाओ के आधार पर
2	डिप्लोमा इन प्लास्टिक्स टेक्नोलॉजी (डी.पी.टी.)	2 साल का पूर्वाकाशिक डिप्लोमा	कुल दाखल 12वीं कक्षा विज्ञान उर्जाग गणित व जीव विज्ञान का कुल दाखल 10वीं कक्षा + 2 साल की आई टी आई, ज्वेलर मशीन/ग्रुफ्टरमेन मैकनिकल/फिटिंग प्लास्टिक/पोलिमर/केमिकल टेक्नोलॉजी ट्रेड के साथ	सीमित सीट पहले आओ पहले पाओ के आधार पर

जनरल/ओबीसी/ईडब्ल्यूएस के लिए आवेदन फर का मूल्य 750 रु.
 एस.सी., एस.टी. अभ्यर्थी के लिए 30 रु.

काउंसिलिंग व प्रवेश प्रक्रिया पूरी करने का समय : 31 जुलाई 2020

जानकारी, पंजीकरण व प्रवेश के लिए सर्वे करे: सिपेट (सीएसटीएन), देहली-248140
 ई-मेल: sipetdelhradur@gmail.com, training.sipetdelhradur@gmail.com
 तेलन नुं: 0135-29950673, 7457001352, 7457001353, 7457001354, 7457001356, 952355440, गैसलु: www.sipet.gov.in

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Ganesh Gaurava son of Shri Ram Sarekh Singh Resident of J-423, Basement, New Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi-110060 have changed my name from Ganesh Gaurava to Ganesh Gaurav Singh for all intents & Purposes. 0040542882-1

BE IT KNOWN TO ALL CONCERNED that I,Kuldeep Maurya S/o Sh.Sh. Prasad,R/o:H.No.15,Zamrudpu r,New Delhi have changed my religion on 17.02.2020 from Hindu to Muslim and I have also changed my name from Kuldeep Maurya to Mohd.Sameer Sheikh for all purposes and intends in all respect i.e. formal or informal. 0040542923-9

I Chandre Kant Vaish s/o Krishan Kant Vaish change there name to Ravi Kumar Vaish for future Correspondence. 0130016130-1

Inder Dev Tiwari s/o SH. Jagdish Tiwari R/O House no.E-682, DDA Flat, Pocket-3, Bindapur, New Delhi-110059. Have changed the name of My minor son Yash Dev Tiwari, DOB is 28.07.2007 to Aditya Varddhan Tiwari, DOB is 28.07.2007 for all purposes. 0040542899-1

I, Arun Kumar S/o,Nivas Ram R/o-735A,T-Huts,C-5/35, Kirtinagar,N.Delhi-15,that Tarun Kumar and Arun Kumar both are one and same person.LIC Policy-No.331275756. 0040542923-7

I, Lucky Kakkar W/o Sh. Rajesh Kakkar R/O 151, 3rd Floor, Engineers Enclave, Pitampura Delhi-34, have changed my name from Lucky to Lucky Kakkar for all future purposes. 0040542902-1

I, Mahir Bhalla S/o Sh. Devender Bhalla R/o- B-220, Jawahar Park, Deoli Road Khanpur, Delhi-110062, have changed my name to MAHIR SINGH BHALLA,for all purposes. 0040542860-1

I, Meenu Varghese W/o/ Abraham R/O-5/13, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi-110027 have changed my name to Sminu Varghese permanently. 0040542923-5

I, AAKANSH PARJAPATI S/O PHOOL CHAND R/O M-721, JJ COLONY, SHAKURPUR, DELHI-110034. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO AAKANSH. 0040542923-1

I, Murgeshon S/o Mutthu Swamy R/O-E-195, JJ.Colony, Budh Nagar, Inderpuri, New Delhi-110012 have changed my name to Murgeshan permanently. 0040542923-6

I, NITIN ANAND S/O SURENDER ANAND R/O J-3/89,SECOND-FLOOR LEFT SIDE RAJOURI GARDEN, DELHI-110027. CHANGED MY NAME TO NITIN KUMAR ANAND. 0040542923-2

I, Rajesh Kakkar S/o Sh. Parhlad ChandR/O 151, 3rd Floor, Engineers Enclave, Pitampura Delhi-34, have changed my name fromRajesh to Rajesh Kakkar for all future purposes. 0040542901-1

I, Yogesh Solanki s/o Bilas Rai Solanki r/o A-100, Shakti Apartment, Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have changed my minor son's name Zidane Ali Solanki / Zidane Solanki, aged 7 years and he shall hereafter be known as KABIR SOLANKI. 0040542862-1

I, SANGITA RAJARAM GHANDAE,alias SANGITA PRKASH PATKAR W/O- JITENDRA SHANKARRAO JADHAV,R/o,L-167,TYPE-2 GOVT-QUARTERS ARAM-BAGH CHITRA-GUPTA-ROAD,PAHARGANJ,DELHI-110055,have changed my name to SANGITA JITENDRA JADHAV. 0040542923-3

LOST & FOUND

I, Nawal Gupta S/o Late. Sh. J.D.Gupta R/O IA-38B, Ashok Vihar, Phase-I, Delhi-110052 have lost documents of property D-2/182 Sec-11, Rohini, Delhi. (Demand Letter, Bank Challan, Map, Will Property, NOC for Electric & Water Connection, Site Possession Slip). Finders please inform me at my above residence address. 0040542863-1

I, Vaibhav Kumar, S/o Sh. Arvind Kumar, R/O HN 343 St No-5 Durgapuri Extn. Delhi-93. Have Lost my Original Marksheet & Certificates of Class 10th Roll No-3548 Year 2015-16 issued by CBSE. Finder May Cont: 9968755047. 0040542861-1

Lost all Original Propertie documents for Property- No.2A/6, 3rd Floor, Ramesh-Nagar, New Delhi-110015 favouring Amarjit Kaur W/o late.Dilbag Singh.FIR Lodge Vided LR.No.423542/2020 Dated:18/07/2020. Founder inform at above address or Ph.No-8802605660. 0040542900-1

I, Ankrit Pandey S/o Arun Pandey have lost my First Year Btech Marksheet Roll no. 1419200020, Dr. APJAbdul Kalam University. If Found Contact: 8800624117 0060075417-1

PUBLIC NOTICE

"MY CLIENT SHRI BANSI LAL SON OF LATE SHRI BIHARI RESIDENT OF C-163, CAMP No. 2, NANGLOI, DELHI-110041, DOES HEREBY DISOWN AND DISINHERIT HIS DAUGHTER SHRIMATI RANI WIFE OF SHRI RATTAN LAL AND ALL HER LEGAL HEIRS FROM ALL HIS PROPERTIES MOVABLE OR IMMOVABLE MY CLIENT SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE OR LIABLE FOR ANY ACTS, DEEDS OR THINGS DONE BY THE SAID RANI."

Sd/-
DEVRAJ SINGH
Advocate
Enrolment No. D-101/1978
Chamber No. 121, Western Wing
Tis Hazari Court Delhi-54

0040542923-4

I, Rohit Deran S/o Rajesh Kumar R/o:- A-708, J.J.Colony, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-59, Have Changed My Name to Rohit. 0040542894-1

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients Smt. Mahanari Gupta W/o Late Devender Gupta R/O C-49, Gali No. 2, West Chander Nagar, Delhi-51 published debar Notice in the Hindu News Paper on 6 April 2011. Now my clients have normal relation with his younger son Vikas Gupta & his wife Geeta Gupta @ Geeta Sharma. Now they have legally right in my clients moveable immovable property. Now there is not any dispute between them and my clients.

Sd/-
Raghvendra Shukla
Advocate
Ch.No. B-139, B, GS Block,
Tis Hazari Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to certify/inform that my client **Sh. Ram Nivas**, R/o H.No. Rr-13 B, J Block, Old Roohan Park, Nagpur, South West Delhi-110043 has **debarred** and **disowned** his son **Sh. Amit Kumar** and **Smt. Priyanka@Sonia** (W/o Sh. Amit Kumar) from immediate effect from all his movable and immovable properties due to their mis-conducts, disrespectful behavior and being out of control. Furthermore my client has severed all his relations with **Sh. Amit Kumar** and **Smt. Priyanka @ Sonia** and my client would not be concerned with them in any manner. If anyone deals with them in any manner he/she shall be at his/her own risks and consequences. My client shall not be liable or responsible for the same in any manner.

Sd/-
ARJUN SHARMA
Advocate
Ch. No. 837, Lawyers' Chambers Block,
Dwarka District Court, New Delhi-75
Mob.: 9711011153

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client Sh. Gopal Mittal S/o Ganpat Roy R/O B-6/369, Sec-17, Rohini, Delhi-110089 do hereby Disown/Debar his son Lalit Mittal from all his movable & immovable properties & severe his relations from him as he is no more in his control. If anybody dealing with him shall be doing at his/her own risk & responsibility. My client shall not be responsible for pros & cons arise therefrom.
Gaurav Dhameja (Advocate)
RU-5, Pitampura, Delhi-34

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to public at large that my client Smt. Sushila Devi W/o Late Sh. Ashok Kumar R/O 15A/155, Jain Colony, Part-I, Near Friday Market Chowk, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110034 has severed all her relations from her son Sh. Praveen Kumar his wife Smt. Sonia Ran, their daughter Kumar Sanskriti, their legal heirs & their associates, disowned & debarred all of them from all her moveable & immovable properties with immediate effect because of harassment, torture, cruelty & atrocities committed by them against my client. Any person dealing with them, shall be doing so at their own risk, cost & consequences. My client shall not be responsible in any manner for the same.

Advocate A. K. Verma
319, DC, Janakpuri

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client Akhilesh Chitlangia S/o Sh. Jaydeep Chitlangia, C/o, 1135, 2nd Floor VHS Timber Market, Kirti Nagar, New Delhi have mortgaged Entire 2nd Floor, Property bearing No. N-142 Panchsheel Park New Delhi with State Bank of India. The owner has lost the Original Registered General Power of Attorney dt. 29.08.1991, executed by Sh. S. Kapoor, Furt of Sh. D.N. Kapoor in favour of Sh. B.K. Uppal son of Sh. Late Mukh Raj Uppal having registration No. 967 for which FIR is lodged with Police Station. By way of this public notice it is informed to general public to return if anyone has found this document, and /or be informed that any person having claim any charge, interest, lien or claim on the basis of the said General Power of Attorney he/she may notify to the undersigned with the documentary proof/ Court judgment within 15 days from the date of publication failing which the title / sale deeds executed in favour of M/s. Calcutta Technicians & Adversers Pvt.Ltd., Shall be deemed to be clear, and marketable without any defect encumbrance and free to use as equitable mortgage.

Waheeda Begum (Advocate)
Ch. No. 561, Lawyers Block, Saket Court Complex, New Delhi,

LOST & FOUND
Lost Original Will Deed Dated 15/01/1993, Reg. No. 1421, Book No. 3, Vol. No. 615 Page No. 18 executed by Raghuvir Singh Tyagi favouring Smt. Santosh Tyagi W/o Javir Singh Tyagi of property No. E-1 Area 83-33, Yds. out of Rect. No. 10 Killa No. 17 & 18 Gali No. 3 Chander Nagar Illaga Shahdara Delhi, founder may inform Malti Tyagi C/o Javvir Singh Tyagi H.No. E-1, Gali No. 3 East Chander Nagar, Delhi-51

LOST AND FOUND

General Public is informed that 13 original Fixed Deposits Receipts issued by M/s SF Industries Limited having its office at PB-15, Tanuku Road, Tadepallikudem, West Godavari District, 534102 Andhra Pradesh for a cumulative value of Rs 1,00,00,000/- (Rs One Crore) approx. in the name of Smt Ambika Goenka W/o Tapesk Goenka, Ms Apurva Goenka D/o Tapesk Goenka, Bharat Kumar Goenka (HUF) through its Karta, Smt Bimla Goenka W/o Sh Bharat Kumar Goenka, Sh Kushagra Goenka S/o Sh Tapesk Goenka, Sh Tapesk Goenka S/o Sh Bharat Kumar Goenka and in the name of Tapesk Kumar Goenka (HUF) through Tapesk Kumar Goenka Karta all residents of B-304, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110065 has been misplaced/lost and the same are not traceable despite best efforts.

Police Complaint in this regard has already been lodged with Crime Branch Office, Delhi Police. Any person mis-using the original FDR(s) shall be liable to face criminal prosecution as per law. Further any person finding the same shall inform at tapesk.goenka@gmail.com and the person shall be suitably rewarded.

I, Ankrit Pandey S/o Arun Pandey have lost my First Year Btech Marksheet Roll no. 1419200020, Dr. APJAbdul Kalam University. If Found Contact: 8800624117 0060075417-1

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed that my client Sh. Prem Chand S/o Late Sh. Palu Singh R/O RZ-564, Gali No. 22, Sach Nagar, Part-II, Palam Colony, New Delhi-110045 has neither sold nor any person authorized to sell his House No. RZ-564, Gali No. 22, Sach Nagar, Part-II, Palam Colony, New Delhi-110045 to any person. If any person deals for the sale of above mentioned property, shall be deemed as illegal and he/she doing so at his own risk and costs and my client shall not be responsible for any act or deed.

Sd/-
Satish Kumar Tomar,
(Advocate)
Chamber No. 511, Western Wing,
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to the public at large that my clients **Sh. Ram Nivas**, R/o H.No. 38B7, Ranged Nagar, South Patel Nagar, Delhi-110008 declares that they have debarred and debarred their son Deepak, his wife Smt. Kavita and their daughter Rishi all residents of Room No. 2138, Gali No. 1, Transit Camp Arund Pathab, Delhi-110005 from all their moveable and immovable assets and real estate and all relations with them with immediate effect due to their daily belittles behavior towards both of us and if anyone deals with them in future, shall be at his own risk and cost and my clients shall not be responsible for the same in any manner whatsoever.

Sd/-
Shiv Ram Sharma
Advocate
E.No. D-306/40915
Chamber No. 531,
1Ind Floor Western Wing
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-110054
Mob.: 9711922711

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Karanvir Singh S/o Late Sh. C.P. Singh R/o E-301 Ansal Elegance Gurgaon Phase-II, Gurgaon has severed all his relations from his son Nishit Chaudhary his wife Preeti and their infant male baby due to their hostile and disrepute behavior. My client also disowned/debarred them from inheriting his all movable/ immovable properties with immediate effect. My client shall not be responsible for their any act in future.

Sd/-
(BRIJESH KUMAR KASHYAP)
Advocate
Ch. No. T-13, Tenth Lane,
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICETo be known to all that I **Abhishek Sharma S/o Shri. B.K. Sharma** resident of **E-3/129, Paradise Apartment, Sector-18, Rohini, Delhi-110089, Purchaser of Flat No. E-3/129, Paradise Apartment, Sector-18, Rohini, Delhi-110089.** The original DDA documents those are **Demand Letter, Allotment Letter, Possession Letter and Site Possession Slip of the above Flat have been lost/ misplaced.** A FIR to this effect has been lodged in the police station vide **LR No. 430925/2020 dated 21.07.2020.** Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents may write / contact with the above named person at the above address/mobile **9811646125** abhishek.b.sharma@gmail.com within 15 days of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property can personally inform/ write to **Deputy Director (H), D Block 3rd Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA New Delhi.**

0050166695-1

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of the President of India, D.Y. Chief Engineer (Construction)-I, North Western Railway, Dausa invite online open E-tendering system (Two Packet System) for the following work prescribed electronic forms:- (1) **E-Tender No.:** NWR/SC/ROB/Civil/514300907RR (2)**Name of work with its location :** Construction of Road over Bridges including approach in lieu of Level Crossing No. 142, connecting Rajgarh Town to SH-25 and construction of Road Over Bridges & LHS (Railway portion) in lieu of Level Crossing No. 61 on Rewari -Shajahanpur Road between Rewari -Jaipur Section. (3)**Approximate cost of work:** ₹41,37,78,540.32/- (4) **Earnest Money to be deposited:** ₹22,18,900.00/- (5) **Tender closing date & time:** 14/08/2020 at 15.00 Hrs. (6) **Website particular where complete detail of tender can be seen:** IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in (7) **Office e-mail address:** dyceonwrd@gmail.com 676-DK/20

Contact helpline no. 102 for railway security complaints

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

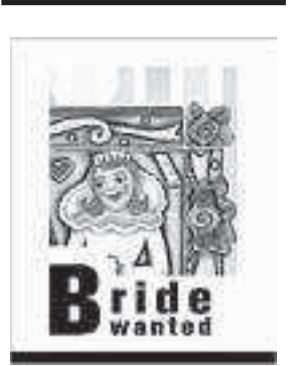
e-Tender Tender No. e-Tender/2020/23, dated 20.07.2020. e-Tender is invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), S.E. Railway, Kharagpur-721301 for and on behalf of the President of India for the following works before 15.00 hrs. on the date mentioned against item and to be opened at 15.30 hrs. **Tender No.:** **E-KGP-South-16-2020.** **Description of Work :** Supplying 50mm gauge hard stone machine crushed ballast and loading the same into Railway's wagons/hoppers at Pakur/Bakudih Depot for Kharagpur Division (1,74,661 cum). **Tender Value :** ₹ 19,07,28,065.39. **Earnest Money :** ₹ 11,03,700/-. **Completion Period of the Work :** 21 Months. **Date of Opening :** 26.08.2020. **Bidding Start Date :** From 12.08.2020 and upto 15.00 hrs. on 26.08.2020. Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full detail/description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these works will be accepted. **N.B.:** Prospective bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov. In** to participate in all tenders. (PR-171)

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Kishan Lal S/o Late Jhagru R/o 4/1834, Gali No. 2, Rama Block, Bholanath Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-32, has severed his relations and debarred his son Rohit & daughter-in-law Laxmi from all his moveable-immovable properties due to their misbehavior/misconduct. My client and his family members shall not be responsible for their any act(s)/deed(s)/transaction(s).

Sunit Kumar (Advocate)
Ch.No. G-501, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi-32

MATRIMONIAL



CASTE NO BAR

Suitable Match for handsome Kashyap Rajput Unmarried Boy
B.Tech MBA 1984 s's working
DNH, Senior Executive Slac
CBL971188595

0050166696-1

KAYASTHA

Shrivastava Boy, 34/5'5". BE(IT) MS(Engg), Working Pune.15 LPA. Contact 9823354886 or vps.gwl@gmail.com

0050166749-1

RAMGARHIA

Ramgarhia Sikh Boy, 5'-10" / April 1988, Germany/ Spain International Master Degree/ National, International Business Ltd. Company owner requires **IAS, IPS, IRS, PCS,** International Master Degree holder Girl, No Dowry, No Caste bondage. prabhjotsinghbharr@gmail.com



JAT

Required well educated Jat Sikh Canadian PR boy for Jat Sikh Canadian PR boy
27/54.5".B.tech in Computer Science, Master Degree in Information Network and Computer Security from Canada. Contact:-98151-66250

0050166695-1

Suitable match for beautiful girl
B.A, B.ED. 5'-2" may 83 caste no bar contact 9841866640, 9876194273

0020408826-1

S.E.RAILWAY – CORRIGENDUM

Corrigendum to Tender Notice No. e-Tender/2020/22, dated 16.07.2020 published earlier by Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), S.E. Railway, Kharagpur. In connection with the tender, **Tender Nos. (1) E-KGP-South-12-2020, (2) E-KGP-South-14-2020, (3) E-KGP-South-15-2020, (4) E-KGP-HQ-11-2020, (5) E-KGP-HQ-12-2020 & (6) E-KGP-East-16-2020,** which are to be opened on 20.08.2020, no tender cost will be required for the following works as per S.E.Railway GCC-2020, Para-3. All other terms & conditions in the original Tender Notice will remain unchanged. Interested Tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full detail/description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these works will be accepted. **N.B.** Prospective Bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all tenders. (PR-172C)

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

e-Tender Tender No. e-Tender/2020/23, dated 20.07.2020. e-Tender is invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), S.E. Railway, Kharagpur-721301 for and on behalf of the President of India for the following works before 15.00 hrs. on the date mentioned against item and to be opened at 15.30 hrs. **Tender No.:** **E-KGP-South-16-2020.** **Description of Work :** Supplying 50mm gauge hard stone machine crushed ballast and loading the same into Railway's wagons/hoppers at Pakur/Bakudih Depot for Kharagpur Division (1,74,661 cum). **Tender Value :** ₹ 19,07,28,065.39. **Earnest Money :** ₹ 11,03,700/-. **Completion Period of the Work :** 21 Months. **Date of Opening :** 26.08.2020. **Bidding Start Date :** From 12.08.2020 and upto 15.00 hrs. on 26.08.2020. Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full detail/description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these works will be accepted. **N.B.:** Prospective bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov. In** to participate in all tenders. (PR-171)

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

26th July 2010

SHRI KISHORE KUNAL, ASSISTANT COMMANDANT 05.06.1983 - 26.07.2010

SI/GD PRATAP SINGH 31.12.1968 - 26.07.2010

CONSTABLE (GD) AMIT KUMAR TIWARI 01.01.1985 - 26.07.2010

Sashastra Seema Bal fondly remembers and cherishes the valiant contribution of the brave hearts, Shri Kishore Kunal, Assistant Commandant, SI/GD Pratap Singh, CT/GD Amit Kumar Tiwari and CT/DVR Gyalju Sherpa of 15th Bn SSB, Bongaigaon who made the supreme sacrifice of their lives for the Nation in the line of duty. They attained martyrdom on 26th July 2010, when insurgents ambushed their vehicle while returning from the Kibhighat Forest Beat House, Bongaigaon(Assam) after meeting with Forest Officials and NGO. Their courage and valor would continue to inspire us all.

We remain indebted to the supreme sacrifice of these brave soldiers.

SASHASTRA SEEMA BAL

CISF on 26th July

INSF/FIRE M. M. DINAKAR FSTI HYDERABAD 26-07-2002

CT/GD R. K. MANDAL ONGC AGARTALA 26-07-2002

CT/GD BRESH KUMAR ONGC AGARTALA 26-07-2002

The CISF proudly remembers the supreme sacrifice of these brave-hearts. On this day, they laid down their lives at the altar of duty. Their courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiration for the force. The Force.

MARTYR OF 202 Bn, COBRA

CT/GD, Ashish Kr. Tiwari, 'Shourya Chakra' of 202, COBRA made the supreme sacrifice during an anti-maoist operation in forest area of Vill- Kamya, West Midnapur, West Bengal on 26th July 2010. The CISF proudly remembers the braveheart who laid down his life at the altar of duty while fighting with maoists. His courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiration for the Force.

IG & All Ranks of COBRA

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

The Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division No. II, Irrigation & Flood Control Department, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, I&FC Wing, Vikas Bhawan-II, Civil Lines, Delhi-110054. Invites on behalf of the president of India, online tender from approved specialized agencies or eligible contractors of I&FC, M.E.S., Railways, CPWD & Deptt. of Central/State Govt. (whose registration details have been verified by the I&FC Deptt.) dealing with similar nature of work for the following works:

N.O.W:- R/M of H/M Draglines TWL 101ME (Heavy Earth Moving Machines for the year 2020-21.

Sub Work- Operation and Preventive Maintenance of 2 Nos HM Draglines TWL 101 ME (Heavy Earth Moving Machines) for a period of 12 months from the date of commencement of work/Job.

(H.O.A:- MH 2711 (NON PLAN)

Estimated Cost: Rs. 37.91,568/- Earnest Money: Rs. 75,831/- Period of completion : (365) Days, Last date & time of submission of tender: upto 3:00 p.m on 28/07/2020. (Tender I.D 2020_IFC_192829_1)

Note 1) The Tender forms and other details can be obtained from the website <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

DIP/SHABDARTA/0176/20-21

INDIAN RAILWAYS

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR)
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRALAYA)
(RAILWAY BOARD)

No. 2020RS11743TC New Delhi, dated: 23.07.2020

E-TENDER NO. 2020RS11743TC

Executive Director, Railway Stores (Steel), Ministry of Railways (Railway Board), Government of India, invites e-Tender for procurement of 72,000 Nos. Constant Contact Side Bearers (CCSB) for Indian Railways to RDSO specification No. WD-62-MISC-17 & CONTR-01-MISC-07 with latest revision for BOXN & BOBRN type wagons.

2.0 The interested suppliers are advised to visit the website <http://ireps.gov.in> for details of the tender and submission of their e-bids.

3.0 No manual offers will be accepted against e-tender.

4.0 Tender will be closed at 15:00 hours on 27.08.2020.

Director, Railway Stores (Wagon), Ministry of Railways, Railway Board, New Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India

1618/2020

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NOTICE INVITING BIDS

For Procurement of Packages for Mill Expansion Plan at TNPL Unit-II

S. No.	Description	Bid Issue Date
1.	Erection of Plant & Machinery in Chemical Recovery Area	03.08.2020
2.	Supply of Steam Pipes & Fittings (IBR)	28.07.2020
3.	DNCG & CNGC Collection System in Recovery Island	06.08.2020
4.	Fabrication and Erection of Steel Chimney	
5.	Application of Thermal Insulation	
6.	Supply of Instrumentation Cables	27.07.2020

Mail - S.No. : 1, 2 & 3 - pmdd3@tnpl.co.in, S.No. : 4 & 5 - pmdd4@tnpl.co.in & S.No. 6 - pmdd6@tnpl.co.in

Detailed terms & condition, tender fee, EMD etc., may be viewed in websites : www.tnpl.com / www.tenders.tn.gov.in

DIPR/2793/Tender/2020 **TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper**

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Mahalakshmpuram Division, 12th Main, 11th Cross, West of Chord Road, Bangalore.

No.: EE/MLP/TEND/E-PROC/03/2020-21 Date

Kidnapped boy rescued after shootout, five arrested: UP Police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, JULY 25

A DAY after an eight-year-old boy was kidnapped for a Rs 4 crore ransom by two youths posing as health workers in Gonda district, the local police and Special Task Force on Saturday rescued him and arrested five people, including a woman, following an exchange of fire.

Prashant Kumar, Additional Director General (Law and Order), said they received information that the kidnappers were taking the boy to a different location in a car from Para village in Gonda. A police team, which was sent to the spot, came under fire. In retaliatory fire, two men, identified as Umesh Yadav and Deepu Kashyap, sustained bullet injuries on their legs and are undergoing treatment at a hospital, said Kumar. The other arrested persons have been identified as Suraj Pandey, his wife Chabbi Pandey and younger brother Raja Pandey. All the accused are aged between 19 and 23 and residents of Gonda. Raja Pandey runs a makeshift shop, police said.

"We have rescued the boy and he is in good health," Kumar said.

Circle Officer, Colonel Ganj, Kripa Shanker Kannaujia said they have not found any previous criminal case against the accused.

Police have recovered a car, allegedly used in the crime, and three pistols from the accused.

"Combining operations are underway in the area. The accused are being interrogated and action will be taken against those involved in the conspiracy," said Kannaujia.

ABVP president booked in harassment case, outfit says complaint withdrawn

Complainant says hasn't technically withdrawn it

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, JULY 25

THE CHENNAI police on Saturday booked ABVP national president Dr Subbiah Shanmugam in a case of allegedly harassing a woman. However, the student outfit, late at night, issued a statement saying the complainant, Balaji Vijayaraghavan, the woman's nephew, has withdrawn the complaint.

"Misunderstandings between two families now stand cleared and all issues between the two parties have now resolved," the ABVP stated.

Vijayaraghavan said the complaint has not been withdrawn technically, even if there were talks to this effect on Saturday. "An FIR has been filed and legal procedures have to follow," he said. "We want police to look at

VACANCY OF DOCTORS IN RURAL, REMOTE AREAS

Social justice can't serve interests of only the rich, Patna HC tells state govt

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, JULY 25

OBSERVING THAT for justice, to be social, it "cannot be limited only to subserve interest of the affluent, the rich and the empowered", the Patna High Court has taken serious exception to vacancy of 5,674 posts of doctors in rural, remote and difficult-to-access areas in Bihar.

The court ordered the state Chief Secretary to "ensure that vacancies in rural/remote/difficult areas are filled up to the maximum extent possible, either by transfer or expediting the process of recruitment", once the pandemic situation normalises.

The court's observations came on the Bihar government's inability

to fill pending vacancy of 8,768 doctors, out of 11,645 sanctioned posts. Of these, 5,647 vacancies are in rural or remote areas.

The direction of the division bench of Chief Justice Sanjay Karol and Justice Sanjay Kumar came while hearing a Letter of Patent Appeal on May 28. A copy of the order, given in a virtual hearing, has now been released.

On Friday, while hearing a PIL that sought directions to the state on tackling the pandemic, the division bench directed the Health Department to submit a report on how it has been fighting Covid-19.

The bench said: "It is brought to our notice that most patients are either being referred or are coming by their own at Patna. Is it for the reason that there is no facility at the district/sub-divisional

level, or is it that none is informing/appraising of availability of such facility?"

The court asked the department to file details before the next date of hearing on August 7.

On the court's May 28 order, a senior Health Department official said, "Sanctioned posts of doctors include about 1,000 specialists. But no appointment has been made so far..."

The court noted that the Health Department opted not to grant "incentive of weightage in marks to be added in computing the merit" on the basis of National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test to doctors posted in remote areas.

Observing that 5,674 out of total 8,768 vacancies "fall only in difficult/remote/rural areas", the bench stated: "Can a welfare state

adopt such a stand, more so in the absence of any plea or material to indicate absence of doctors or higher percentage of vacancy in urban areas... If only such benefits are accorded, would doctors voluntary opt to serve the poor... living in the remotest corner of the state?" The court said social justice is a dynamic device to "mitigate sufferings of the poor, weak, Dalits, tribals and deprived sections of the society..."

It said, "Right to good health is now a facet of right to life under Article 21, and when we talk of justice which is social, it would include opportunities of availing facilities and infrastructure in the health sector."

It said, "Social security, just and humane conditions of work, and leisure to workman are part of his

meaningful right to life and to achieve self-expression of his personality and enjoy the life with dignity..."

While discussing the state government's stand on posting of doctors in rural areas, the court observed: "Shockingly, we find the State to have breached its dharma of acting in public interest for the benefit of teaming millions living in rural areas, but also not maintaining its neutrality, in accomplishment of constitutional goals and determination of rights inter se [among] private parties. The stand taken is both immoral and illegal. In fact, we find the department to have adopted a partisan approach, ensuring that the most marginalised and deprived ones are not benefitted of medical ... facilities in rural parts."



Rhinos outside the office of the Pobitora forest range officer. Express

Assam: Amid prolonged floods, rhinos of Pobitora seek shelter in houses

TORA AGARWALA
GUWAHATI, JULY 25

THE RHINO is about thirty feet from the bathroom, settled in a spot by the pond in Nripen Nath's backyard. As it chews on his gourd vine, grunting occasionally, the 47-year-old and his two daughters watch silently, intrigued. "I am not scared," says Nath, who works as a tour guide. "I love animals."

The same cannot be said for his aged parents, who, too, have been sharing this "Assam-type" cottage on the fringes of Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary with the endangered animal for over a week now as it takes refuge from the floods.

"Chase it away, there are children in the house," Nath recalls his father saying, when the rhino ambled in last Friday. But the animal has shown no signs of budging, except to forage for grass in the backyard, and on one occasion, destroy his bamboo shed.

In Rajamayong village, it is not only Nath's home that is witness to such a curious sight. Sleeping in the courtyard of 70-year-old Radhika Devi's house are a female

rhino and her calf, forcing the occupants to stay indoors from sundown every day. "We can't even use the bathroom [located outside the house] at night," says a disgruntled Devi over the phone.

Rhinos straying out of Pobitora—located on the floodplains of the Brahmaputra in Morigaon district, and surrounded by at least 27 villages—is not new, especially during the annual floods when food becomes scant inside the sanctuary.

However, this year's unusually prolonged deluge—which has taken 97 lives and affected nearly 40 lakh people—has resulted in a serious shortage of food forcing the animals to move out of the sanctuary for such long stretches for the first time. "It is a very serious problem," says MK Yadava, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam. "For the first time, we have had to provide them with grass and fodder from outside."

As of Saturday, ninety per cent of the tiny wildlife sanctuary, which has the highest density of rhino population in the world, remains submerged.

In July alone, multiple waves of floods have submerged it, giving the animals little time to adjust. "In twenty days, there have been three waves," says Dr Bibhab Talukdar, rhino expert and secretary general of wildlife NGO Aaranyak. "Usually floods happen in cycles from June until mid September, waters recede for about two-three weeks before another wave hits the sanctuary. But this time, while one wave has barely receded, another wave hits."

On Friday, two rhinos visited the sanctuary's range office in search of food. Since then, Mukul Tamuly, Range Officer, Pobitora, has left the gates of his office open so the rhinos can come feed themselves as they please. "We have also cut stacks of grass and left it out in the open for them," he says.

Currently, five rhinos are taking refuge in three homes in Rajamayong village. "We are patrolling, creating awareness among people so they don't chase it away. We will compensate any damage to their homes," says Tamuly.

FULL STORY ON
www.indianexpress.com

PUNJAB GIRL FORCED TO FLEE HOME

After booking minor for sacrilege, police set to move Juvenile Board, cancel FIR

KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR
AMRITSAR, JULY 25

A 10-YEAR-OLD Dalit girl who had to flee her home after being booked for sacrilege by the Sangrur police late last month may finally get to return, with the police planning to move the Juvenile Justice Board to quash the case.

Sangrur SSP Sandeep Kumar Garg said police are investigating the matter. A police officer said, "We will move the Juvenile Justice Board for the cancellation of FIR in a day or two. Our investigation has found that the incident happened by mistake."

It was on June 28 that the police booked the girl from a poor family for allegedly tearing off the pages of the Guru Granth Sahib at a village gurdwara. She was booked under Section 295(a) following a complaint by members of the gurdwara managing committee who claimed they had seen the deed on the CCTV footage from the shrine. Following the case, the girl, her parents and 7-year-old brother were kept in police custody for five days before the girl was given bail by the court. Ever since, she has been staying with a relative.

Sacrilege is an incendiary issue in the state. An incident of sacrilege at Burj Jawahar Singh Wala village in Bargari, and the subsequent firing on protesters at Behl Kalan in 2015 continues to cast a shadow on its politics.

On Saturday, the village sarpanch said: "Villagers have given it in writing to the Sangrur police that they have no objection to the girl's acquittal if the police have found her innocent in their probe."

Arshbir Singh Johal, legal-cum-probation officer, Department of Women and Child

Anjuman-e-Islamia leader booked on sedition charges

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 25

A LOCAL leader of the Anjuman-e-Islamia in Jammu and Kashmir was Saturday charged with sedition and other offences after delivering a speech in which he called for people to continue offering prayers at mosques, dismissing any threat from the coronavirus.

Parvaiz Ahmed Sheikh, president of the Bhaderwah unit of the organisation, has been booked under provisions of section 124 A (sedition), section 153 A (promoting enmity

Development, said the FIR itself was illegal. "No FIR can be registered against a juvenile under any section with a prison term of less than seven years."

Inconclusive video

It was on June 26 that a gurdwara priest found torn pages of the holy book and informed the managing committee president. "The CCTV cameras showed the girl tearing the pages. We asked her and she confessed to the crime though she did not give any reasons. Then we informed some Sikh organisations and police," claimed the committee chief.

The sarpanch said they tried to resolve the matter locally but as the news spread, the issue spiralled out of control. "It was a sensitive matter and police was also under pressure to take action but everyone here believes that the girl tore the pages by mistake. Her grandfather is a baptised Sikh. She may not have even known the meaning of sacrilege," the Sarpanch added.

The CCTV footage *The Indian Express* does not show the girl tearing pages. It simply shows her picking up a calendar, and then removing the *rumala* (cloth) from the Guru Granth Sahib. What she does after this is not clear from the footage.

The girl's mother said: "We pleaded with them not to take any action, but nobody listened to us. I along with my husband, daughter and son, who is seven, were taken to police station, where we were kept for five days before being produced in court. My daughter was granted bail. Then police told us not to return to the village."

The parents are now wary of bringing her back. "Nobody has said a word to us since we came back, but, sometimes, it hurts the way people look at us now," said the mother.

76 mishaps in 10 yrs, coal ash a danger flying under radar in India, finds study

ESHAROY
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

THERE HAVE been 76 major coal ash pond accidents across the country in the last 10 years, according to a study carried out by the Health Energy Initiative India and the Community Environmental Monitoring.

Besides deaths and loss of property, the accidents also resulted in extensive pollution of nearby water resources, air and soil, the study notes.

The study, titled "Coal Ash in India - A compendium of Disasters, Environmental and Health Risks", reports that Jharsuguda in Odisha has had six major coal fly-ash accidents from various power plants since 2010. Among other places in Odisha, it states Sambalpur has had four such accidents, Talcher three, Rourkela, Angul, Dhenkanal and Khaliapali have had one accident each.

Korba coal and power plant belt in Chhattisgarh has had nine major accidents in these years, and Raigarh in the state three.

Other states where such accidents have taken place are

Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu and Punjab.

Coal ash is fine grained particulate matter—a remnant after pulverised coal is burnt, along with carbon dioxide and other gases. Coal ash includes fly-ash, bottom-ash and scrubber sludge, which are mixed with water and sent to retaining ponds close to power plants.

While the study details major accidents, it says there are many "routine" minor accidents take place continually in these coal and power plant belts.

According to Shweta Narayan, coordinator of Healthy Energy Initiative India: "While mining and coal burning have received their fair share of attention, dangers of coal ash, and the impacts of its disposal, are still under the radar. Public outrage associated with coal ash pollution remains limited to big disasters. The slow poisoning of communities living around ash containment ponds goes unnoticed."

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR
Brief Advertisement Notice No. 1 of 2020 dated July 25, 2020
Online Applications are invited from eligible candidates for below mentioned tenure based posts in various Campuses/Departments/Units of the University:-
S. Post ID Post Campus/Department/Institute Centre No. of posts
1. PGD-LEW-6 Controller of Examinations Main Campus 1
2. JG-AC-1 Director North Campus 1
3. PGD-SQU-1 Director South Campus 1
4. PGD-CHA-1 Director Convocation Complex 1
5. PGD-OL-1 Director Directorate of Internal Quality Assurance (DIQA) 1
Last date for submission of Online and Hard copy of Application Forms is: 24th August and 31st August, 2020 respectively
Detailed Advertisement Notice is available on the University website: www.kashmiruniversity.net
No. Fd/Adm-Adm/Rec/KU/20 Dated: July 25, 2020 Sd/- (Dr. Nisar Ahmad Mir) Registrar

NETAJI SUBHAS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY (NSUT)
(Formerly Netaji Subhas Institute of Technology (NSIT))
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Netaji Subhas University of Technology (NSUT), New Delhi has been established as State University by the Government of NCT of Delhi and is regarded as one of the premier Technical Universities of India. NSUT was upgraded from "Netaji Subhas Institute of Technology" (NSIT) in 2018, tracing back 37 years of glorious history of nurturing some of the finest minds in the country.
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For detailed information about Eligibility Criteria, Reservation, Admission Procedure, Counselling Schedule, Application Process etc. Visit University website.
Online Application Process:
• Candidates will have to register online at www.nsut.ac.in or https://lmsnsit.org/lmsnsit/learn_techregistration.php as per the instructions given on the website
• All candidates are required to pay a non-refundable registration fee of Rs. 1000/- ONLINE using Credit Card/Debit Card/Net-Banking
Important Dates:
1 Start Date for on-line registration. July 27, 2020 (Monday)
2 Last Date for submission of Application form. Aug. 14, 2020 (Friday)
DIP/Shabdarth/0174/20-21 Chairman Admission Committee

EXPRESS Careers
CHOWGULE EDUCATION SOCIETY
invites applications for the post of **PRINCIPAL**
for Parvatibai Chowgule College of Arts and Science, Autonomous, Margao, Goa
A. Minimum qualifications and experience:
i) Ph.D. degree
ii) Professor/Associate Professor with a total service/ experience of at least fifteen years of teaching/research in Universities, Colleges and other institutions of higher education.
iii) A minimum of 10 research publications in peer reviewed journal as approved by Goa University from time to time or UGC-listed journals out of which at least two should be in Scopus/ Web of Science Journal.
iv) A minimum of 110 Research Score
Requirements:
i) Minimum of 15 years of Residence in Goa.
ii) Knowledge of Konkani. Additionally, knowledge of Marathi shall be desirable.
B. Scale of Pay: As prescribed by the UGC, Goa University and Directorate of Higher Education, Govt. of Goa from time to time.
C. Tenure: The term of appointment of Principal shall be for five years, extendable for another term of five years on the basis of performance assessment by a Committee appointed by the University, constituted as per these Statutes.
D. (i) A relaxation of 5% may be provided at the Graduate and Masters level for the Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes/ Differently-abled (physically and visually differently-abled)/ Other Backward Classes (OBC) (Non-creamy layer) categories for the purpose of eligibility and for assessing good academic records during direct recruitment to teaching positions.
(ii) The eligibility marks of 55% marks (or an equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed) and the relaxation of 5% to the categories mentioned above are permissible, based on only the qualifying marks without including any grace mark procedures.
(iii) A relaxation of 5% shall be provided, from 55% to 50% of the marks to the Ph.D. Degree holders, who have obtained their Master's Degree prior to 19 September, 1991.
(iv) A relevant grade, which is regarded as equivalent of 55% wherever the grading system is followed by a recognized university, shall also be considered eligible.
E. Applications should contain following information: full name, address, age with date of birth, educational qualifications with marks and percentage, teaching experience etc. Applications, along with certified photocopies of relevant documents should reach **within 20 days** from the date of publication of advertisement to the **Vice President, Chowgule Education Society, Chowgule House, Mormugao Harbour, Goa 403803**. Applicants should bring Original Certificates and relevant documents at the time of interview. Interviews may be held through video conferencing also.
Date : 24.07.2020 **VICE PRESIDENT**

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CENTRAL GOODS & SERVICES TAX, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA BLOCK 'C' & 'D', NEW C.G.O., COMPLEX, NH IV, FARIDABAD (HR)
"PENSION ADALAT"
Central GST Commissionerate Faridabad, Government of India will hold "Pension Adalat" on 30.07.2020 (Thursday) at 12.00 P.M for redressal of grievances of pensioners of erstwhile Central Excise & Service Tax Commissionerate, Faridabad - I & II (Now Central GST Commissionerate, Faridabad) if any.
Venue : Conference Hall, Block - 'C' New CGO Complex, NH-IV, NIT Faridabad
-SD/- COMMISSIONER
(Central Goods & Services Tax, Faridabad)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
COMBINED ANM ENTRANCE EXAMINATION 2020-22
RURAL HEALTH TRAINING CENTRE, NAJAFGARH, NEW DELHI-110043 AND
LADY READING HEALTH SCHOOL, BARA HINDU RAO, DELHI-110 006
Online application are invited for **Diploma in ANM Training Course 2020-2022** for female candidates, who are bonafide resident of Delhi. The application must be submitted from 26th July 2020 to 05th September 2020 (up to 12.00 Midnight) through website www.rhtcnajafgarh.in
The detailed information is available on the website.
davp 17103/11/0001/2021

12 ECONOMY

MOVE TO ENSURE FINANCIAL STABILITY OF ISLAND NATION, BADLY HIT BY COVID

RBI signs \$400 mn currency swap with Sri Lanka

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JULY 25

THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) has signed an agreement for extending a \$400-million currency swap facility to Sri Lanka to boost the foreign reserves and ensure financial stability of the country, which is badly hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Indian High Commission in Colombo said the currency swap arrangement will remain available till November 2022. Sri Lanka in April said it was set to enter into an agreement with the RBI for a currency swap worth \$400 million under the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) framework. Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa had made an additional request to India for

AVAILABLE TILL NOVEMBER 2022

■ **The Indian High Commission in Colombo said the currency swap arrangement will remain available till November 2022.**
■ **Sri Lanka in April said it was set to enter into an agreement with the RBI for a currency swap worth \$400 million under the South Asian Association for**

Regional Cooperation (SAARC) framework. Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa had made an additional request to India for a special \$1.1 billion currency swap facility in May.
■ **The RBI also offers similar swap lines to central banks in the SAARC region within a total corpus of \$2 billion.**

a special \$1.1-billion currency swap facility in May.

"Reserve Bank of India signs document for \$400 million currency swap facility to Sri Lanka till Nov 2022," the Indian Mission tweeted. "After debt repayment rescheduling discussions yester-

day, this development is another example of India's strong commitment to work with #lka in post #COVID19SL economic recovery," it said. While Sri Lanka's forex reserves were at \$6.7 billion in June 2020, India's forex reserves were at a record high of \$

517.63 billion as of July 17.

In the swap arrangement, a country provides dollars to a foreign central bank, which, at the same time, provides the equivalent funds in its currency to the former, based on the market exchange rate at the time of the transaction. The parties agree to swap back these quantities of their two currencies at a specified date in the future, which could be the next day or even two years later, using the same exchange rate as in the first transaction. In Sri Lanka's case, it's more than two years.

The RBI also offers similar swap lines to central banks in the SAARC region within a total corpus of \$2 billion. Under the framework for 2019-22, the RBI will continue to offer a swap arrangement within the overall corpus of \$2 billion. Other countries can

withdraw funds in the US dollar, the euro, or the Indian rupee. This facility originally came into operation on November 15, 2012, to provide a backstop line of funding for short-term foreign exchange liquidity requirements or balance of payment crises until longer term arrangements were made. India already has a \$75 billion bilateral currency swap line with Japan, which has the second highest dollar reserves after China.

These swap operations carry no exchange rate or other market risks, as transaction terms are set in advance. The absence of an exchange rate risk is the major benefit of such a facility. This facility provides the country, which is getting the dollars, with the flexibility to use these reserves at any time in order to maintain an appropriate level of balance of payments or short-term liquidity.

ICICI Bank profit rises 36% on stake sales in subsidiaries

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JULY 25

AIDED BY profits from stake sales in subsidiaries, private lender ICICI Bank on Saturday reported a 36 per cent increase in standalone net profit at Rs 2,599 crore for the quarter ended June 30, 2020 as against a net profit of Rs 1,908 crore in the year-ago period.

Total income during the quarter rose to Rs 26,066 crore from Rs 21,405.50 crore a year earlier, the bank said. The bank sold equity shares representing 3.96 per cent in ICICI Lombard General Insurance and 1.50 per cent in ICICI Prudential Life Insurance for a total consideration of Rs 3,092.93 crore.

According to the bank, the

TOTAL INCOME

₹26,066 cr

■ **Total income during the quarter rose to Rs 26,066 crore from Rs 21,405.50 crore a year earlier, the bank said.**

impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the bank is highly uncertain and will depend on the ongoing spread of COVID-19, the effectiveness of current and future steps taken by governments and central banks to mitigate the economic impact, steps taken by the bank and the time it takes for economic activities to return to pre-pandemic levels.

"The bank's capital and liquidity position is strong and

would continue to be the focus area for the bank during this period. During the June quarter, the bank has made an additional COVID-19-related provision amounting to Rs 5,550 crore. As of June 30, 2020, the bank held COVID-19-related provision of Rs 8,275 crore," it said.

The bank's gross non-performing assets were at Rs 40,386 crore, or 5.46 per cent of advances, as of June 2020, as against Rs 45,763 crore, or 6.49 per cent, a year ago.

"The year-on-year growth in domestic advances was 10 per cent as of June 2020. The growth in the retail loan portfolio was 11 per cent year-on-year as of June 2020, including non-fund outstanding, retail was 54.4 per cent of the total portfolio," it said.

BRIEFLY

Stressed HFCs, NBFCs seek ₹14K cr support

New Delhi: Financing requests of close to Rs 14,000 crore have been received under the Rs 30,000-crore special liquidity scheme for stressed NBFCs and HFCs whose financial health deteriorated further due to the COVID-19 crisis, the Finance Ministry said. The scheme was launched on July 1.

Mindspace Business Parks REIT

New Delhi: Mindspace Business Parks REIT, owned by K Raheja group and Blackstone, has raised Rs 2,644 crore from anchor and strategic investors ahead of its public issue that will hit the capital market on Monday. Mindspace has proposed to raise up to Rs 4,500 crore from the public issue. **PTI**

'Japan, Britain to protect encryption'

Tokyo: Japan and Britain have agreed not to force their companies to disclose algorithms or set up local data servers, as part of talks aimed at a bilateral trade deal, the *Nikkei* said Saturday. **REUTERS**

Shibulal family sells 85 lakh Infy shares

Bengaluru: Family members of Infosys co-founder SD Shibulal have sold 85 lakh shares of the company worth Rs 777 crore, according to regulatory documents. A separate statement issued by Shibulal's family office said the proceeds will be utilised for philanthropic and investment activities. Shibulal's son Shreyas sold 40 lakh shares, "representing 0.09 per cent of Infosys Ltd by way of sale on the platform of the stock exchange on July 22, 23 and 24, 2020," as per exchange filing. **PTI**

New public procurement restrictions: How they target China & what are the exceptions?

AANCHAL MAGAZINE & SUNNY VERMA
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

AFTER A series of measures to prevent influx of Chinese products and investments into India, the government has now amended the General Financial Rules, 2017 to impose curbs on public procurement from bidders of countries which share a land border with India. This latest move by the government, on grounds of defence and national security, is expected to affect mainly Chinese entities as countries to which lines of credit or development assistance has been extended are exempted from the fresh restrictions.

What is the new order?

Any bidder from countries which share land borders with India will be eligible only if it is registered with the Registration Committee constituted by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and will be required to take mandatory political and security clearance from the Ministries of External and Home Affairs, respectively. The central government has also directed state governments to implement this order for all public procurement.

Apart from attached min-

istries and departments and subordinate bodies, this new order will be applicable to all autonomous bodies, public sector banks and financial institutions, central public sector enterprises, public private partnerships receiving financial support from the government or public sector undertakings, union territories and National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi and the linked agencies.

What are the exceptions to the order?

Relaxation will be provided for procurement of medical supplies for containment of COVID-19 global pandemic till December 31. Also, the order for prior registration will not apply for countries to which the Government of India extends lines of credit or provides development assistance, even if it shares a land border with India.

India shares its border with China, Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Myanmar. As per official data, out of these land-border sharing countries, the government has extended lines of credit to Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, exempting them from this new order. India has extended lines of credit totalling \$30.59 billion with 64 countries

—including 41 from Africa.

This order will also not apply to cases where orders have been placed or contract has been concluded or letter of acceptance has been issued, but new tenders will be covered under this order. Also, if the first stage of evaluation of qualifications has not been completed in the already invited tenders, bidders not registered under the new order will be treated as not qualified.

What are the previous anti-China measures?

The government has been taking a series in recent months to restrict the inflow of Chinese investments and products in the country.

On June 23, the government made it mandatory for sellers on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal to clarify the country of origin of their goods when registering new products. The GeM portal now allows buyers to reserve a bid for Class I local suppliers, or suppliers of those goods with more than 50 per cent local content. For bids below Rs 200 crore, only Class I and Class II (those with more than 20 per cent local content) are eligible.

The government had also announced an interim ban on 59

apps with Chinese links including TikTok, ShareIt, UC Browser, CamScanner and WeChat citing "emergent threats" to the country's sovereignty and national security.

Following the clashes between Indian and Chinese troops in Galwan Valley on June 15, the government had also pushed for "Atmanirbhar Bharat", which prompted several government departments to launch an offensive against imports from China. At \$70.32 billion in 2018-19 and \$62.38 billion between April 2019 and February 2020, China accounts for the highest proportion of goods imported into India (around 14 per cent in 2019-2020 so far).

Earlier in April, the government had amended the FDI rules mandating prior approval for investment by entities in countries that share land borders with India. The move came days after China's central bank, the People's Bank of China (PBoC), raised its shareholding in Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) to over one per cent.

The government stated that prior approval was compulsory for foreign investments from all the countries sharing borders with India to prevent "opportunistic takeovers" of domestic firms following the COVID-19 pandemic.

EXPLAINED

COVID-19 IMPACT

'Consumers cautious about spending amid pandemic'

Consumers are cautious about spending amid the pandemic, with 78 per cent of respondents claiming to reduce discretionary spending, as per a KPMG survey



The 20-30 age band is more optimistic on discretionary spending, while spending habits reduced considerably among both male (76 per cent) and female (82 per cent) consumers

51%

OF RESPONDENTS FEEL THAT THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 WILL BE SHORT-LIVED AND NORMALCY IS NOT FAR

Consumers in tier-II and tier-III cities were almost two-times more optimistic on spending habits than those in tier-I

22% consumers in tier-II and 30 per cent consumers in tier-III feel that their spending will either increase or remain the same as prior to COVID-19

49% respondents, in the next three months, intend to spend

78%

OF RESPONDENTS CLAIM TO REDUCE ON DISCRETIONARY SPENDING. TIER-II, -III CITIES ARE MORE POSITIVE

up to Rs 5,000, across categories which makes this the most popular basket value

Consumers in tier-III cities were 1.4 times more inclined towards spending on apparel than those in tier-I cities for spending more than Rs 5,000

SHIFT TO ONLINE:

■ **Preference for e-channels saw 1.6 times growth**

Source: KPMG/PTI

CERC plans to ease norms for renewable energy projects to get ISTS connectivity

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

THE CENTRAL Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) has eased the requirements for renewable energy projects to get connectivity to the Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS), according to new draft procedures released on this matter.

According to the new Detailed Procedure for "Grant of Connectivity to Projects Based on Renewable Sources to Inter-State Transmission System", an entity issued the Letter of Award by, or in a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with, a Renewable Energy Implementing Agency or distribution licensee consequent to tariff based competitive bidding will be eligible for Stage-II connectivity.

The bank guarantee (Conn BG) for Stage-II connectivity has been reduced to Rs 50 lakh (Conn BG-1) and Rs 3 crore (Conn BG-2) for connectivity quantum of 132 kV to 330 kV. The bank guarantee amount for quantum up to 300 kV earlier was Rs 5 crore. For 400 kV, Conn BG-1 will be Rs 50 lakh and Conn BG-2 Rs 6 crore.

Depending on whether the entity satisfies certain criteria, the grantee for Stage-II connectivity will be required to complete the dedicated transmission lines and pooling substations on or before the scheduled date of commercial operation of the generation project or six months after the scheduled date of commercial operation. The connectivity shall be revoked and Conn-BG1 and Conn-BG2 encashed in the event that the grantee is unable to adhere to the timelines.

On the specific request of the connectivity grantee, and for the purpose of optimal utilisation of transmission infrastructure, the Central Transmission Utility (CTU) may, after consultation with the connectivity grantee(s) concerned, carry out rearrangement or shifting of the connectivity across different bay(s) of the same substation, according to the draft amendments.

A Stage-I connectivity grantee or applicants seeking Stage-I and Stage-II connectivity simultaneously may also be able to share a transmission line with another Stage-II connectivity grantee, provided there is a duly signed agreement between the two to do so.

CERC has invited comments, suggestions and objections from stakeholders on the provisions proposed to be amended on or before August 16, 2020.

Patient groups allege lack of enforcement on COVID rate caps at Delhi hospitals, write to CM

PRABHARAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

LACK OF transparency in the Delhi government's enforcement of its rate caps on COVID-19 treatment has left patients running from pillar to post to get their grievances related to overcharging addressed.

Relatives of at least five COVID-19 patients treated in private hospitals in the national capital after the Delhi Health and Family Welfare Department notified maximum treatment package rates for Covid related treatments claimed, during a virtual press briefing on Saturday, that they had been overcharged. In addition to this, the relatives detailed difficulties with getting their complaints

addressed by the government, with some even stating they resorted to relying on members of political parties to help them raise their issues with the government or the hospital. While all five patients have lodged complaints with the hospitals and government authorities, only two of the five have been resolved "after a lot of effort", said Malini Aisola of patient activist group All India Drug Action Network, who has aided several patients in addressing concerns related to overcharging during this time.

Around 20 civil society groups on Saturday wrote to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal seeking not only action on such patient complaints, but also the establishment of a mechanism to address

patient complaints and proactive steps to audit private facilities.

"The government must institute a formal grievance redressal mechanism for timely redressal of formal complaints against private hospitals," stated the groups in their letter. It has also sought a live database that is publicly available and provides details of complaints filed, including date, name of the hospital and details of action taken.

One of the reasons that patients have had to struggle with overcharging is because there is currently no mechanism in place for grievance redressal to which they can direct complaints about being overcharged, said Aisola.

"Even civil society bodies like ours have had to do a lot of guess work in finding out who these pa-

tients can submit their complaints to. Please tell me why the patients are having to deal directly with the hospitals without any governmental intervention? In every single case, the family is running around," she said. Emailed queries to Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain and Principal Health Secretary Vikram Dev Dutt on Saturday evening about these issues remained unanswered by press time.

"Because patients are often unsuccessful at dealing with powerful hospitals or have constraints in pursuing complaints when the patient is admitted or critically ill, the government must proactively enforce such as through audits, issuing of warning letters and penalising hospitals for transgressions," said Aisola.

Door-to-door diesel delivery push: Startups to submit applications to state-run OMCs

KARUNJIT SINGH
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

DOOR-TO-DOOR DELIVERY of diesel is set to expand significantly, with leading state-owned oil marketing companies (OMCs) Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) seeking applications from startups to provide this service. The three OMCs have called for expressions of interest (EoIs) from startups recognised by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) to apply for agreements for door-to-door delivery of diesel using mobile petrol pumps.

Industry sources told *The*

NUMBER OF PETROL PUMPS SET TO RISE

■ **OMCs expect that agreements with startups will push the number of mobile petrol pumps in India to grow by four-five times to 1,000-1,500 pumps within a year from the estimated 200-300 pumps at present.**

Sunday Express that the government "nudged" the state-owned OMCs to restrict the eligibility to startups to boost entrepreneurship in the country. OMCs expect that agreements with startups will push the number of mobile

petrol pumps in India to grow by four-five times to 1,000-1,500 pumps within a year from the estimated 200-300 pumps at present. IOC started door-to-door delivery of diesel in Pune in 2018. The three OMCs had planned to expand the size of their mobile diesel delivery fleet to 500 mobile petrol pumps across the country by FY20-end.

"There is an estimated latent demand of around 300-400 TKL (thousand kilolitre) per month for door to door delivery of diesel or around 5 per cent of the total demand," said an official at a major OMC. Door-to-door diesel delivery will benefit users of stationary equipment like generator sets, mobile towers, users of earth moving equipment and heavy machinery.

'Boeing to delay 777X as demand drops for big jets'

REUTERS
SEATTLE/PARIS, JULY 25

BOEING CO is preparing to delay its all-new 777X jet by several months or up to a year, three people familiar with the matter said, as the COVID-19 crisis exacerbates a drop in demand for the industry's largest jetliners.

Boeing hopes to bring the jet to market as passenger travel rebounds after a downturn caused by the pandemic. It would also hope for a detente in a trade war between Washington and Beijing, which has sidelined crucial Chinese aircraft buyers. Delay could also cause problems in Boeing's supply chain.

13 SUNDAY STORY

‘Bigger temple, 3 domes, double the sandstone’

LEENAMISRA

SOMETIME IN 1990, Chandrakant Sompura first visited Ayodhya with then chief of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), Ashok Singhal. Sompura, who was 47 and belongs to a family of temple architects, recalls how the disputed site resembled a “military camp”. “I had to go inside without any measuring instruments, and take the dimension of the sanctum sanctorum counting my footsteps,” he says.

That was the first time “a temple at the birthplace of Lord Ram” — by then a symbol at the centre of a movement that would go on to redefine Indian politics — took shape in his head, Sompura says. “That place certainly had some vibration...,” he says, now 77 and the patriarch of the family-run Ahmedabad-based firm ‘CB Sompura, Temple Architects’, which is helping the Ram temple project.

After decades of tumult, including the destruction of the Babri Masjid and protracted court battles, in November last year, the Supreme Court ruled that the entire disputed land be handed over to a trust to be constituted for the construction of a Ram temple. The trial in the demolition case continues to be heard in a special CBI court.

With the temple project set to be inaugurated with a *bhoomi puja* on August 5, with an expected 200 people in attendance, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Sompuras admit to a sense of “relief” — that “things are finally moving”.



At the Sompuras’ office in a commercial part of Ahmedabad, a couple of men work on a 3D design on their computer. It is the design of the new, “bigger” Ram Mandir.

The new design was finalised at a meeting of the Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, the body formed to facilitate construction of the Ram temple, on July 18.

A huge bust of Prabhashankar Sompura, Sompura’s grandfather who is credited with building the Somnath temple at Prabhas Patan, greets visitors at the reception.

Sitting in his cabin, Sompura’s son Ashish, 49, who handles the site plan of the temple project and was at the July 18 meeting of the Trust, says that when the family began working on the temple soon after his father’s visit to the site in 1990, as a temple project commissioned by the VHP, it was much smaller in ambition and scale.

Admitting that the project picked pace after the Babri demolition, he says, “Height *tab aaya jab dhancha gira* (the peak came after the mosque fell on December 6, 1992). The publicity... (the movement got)... that’s when we realised it’s a big deal.”

Between 1992 and 1996, work went on in full swing at the workshop in Ayodhya run by the VHP-affiliated Ram Janmabhoomi Nyas. But then the VHP ran out of funds and got bogged down with the cases, says Ashish, and, as a result, work slowed down.

Trained in architecture at the B C Patel School of Architecture in Anand, it was Ashish who moved the Sompura drawing board outside of their home in Naranpura area of Ahmedabad for the first time.

“When we were growing up, the Ram temple was just another of the various projects my father had designed, not such a big deal,” says Ashish. “Clients would drop in late because they knew he would be there. Ashok Singhalji once remarked, ‘Sompuraji, how many temples must you have built from this 10x12 feet room!’,” he says, adding that the senior Sompura still does the design and takes the final call.

Sompura senior claims to have picked his architecture skills from his ancestors “who were taught the art of temple building by the divine Vishwakarma”. His sons and grandchildren though have relied on more formal training. Ashutosh, 28, son of Sompura’s elder son Nikhil, is a civil engineer and now in the family business.

Sompura remembers the late prime minister PV Narasimha Rao once calling him to ask if a Ram temple could be built without destroying the mosque, which was the stand of the Congress government of the time.

Says Sompura, “We made a model, with the three domes of the mosque intact, and the temple on the side. Devotees could offer prayers at the *janmasthan* on the dis-



A computerised 3D view of the Ram temple

AYODHYA 2.0.2.0

The Ram temple has been on Chandrakant Sompura’s drawing board for close to 30 years. As the plan begins to take shape, with a bhoomi puja planned for Aug 5, *The Sunday Express* meets the Ahmedabad-based architect and visits Ayodhya, a town dressing up for the big day



With designs for “200 temples” between them, it’s all in the family for the Ahmedabad-based Sompuras, led by patriarch Chandrakant (centre). Javed Raja

EXPLAINED E.

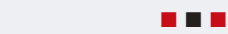
The long road

THE BHOOMI Pujan at Ayodhya marks the laying of the first brick amidst an altered political reality in India. Coming as it does after a protracted legal battle that ended in the Supreme Court handing over the disputed land to the Hindu side, will this mark the end of one of the most turbulent chapters in Indian politics? Or does it lay open new insecurities?

puted site and then come to the temple, like in Mathura. But the VHP argued that a birth place is just a 6’x3’ space. If the temple is not built at the actual site, it doesn’t matter to us whether it is built on the banks of the Sarayu or in Ahmedabad.”

That their project will take shape where the Babri once stood, that its demolition set off communal violence and led to loss of lives across the country, that earlier BJP governments were forced to shelve it citing coalition *dharma* — the Sompuras try not to bother with all that much.

“The violence in which so many lives were lost, should not have happened,” he says when asked about it. “But it is also a fact that foreigners invaded us, destroyed our homes (ancient temples) and tried to spread their religion. That was also wrong. Look at how many times Somnath was destroyed...”



The senior Sompura then sits down to talk about the new version of the temple — “so grand that I have forgotten the old design” — one that will be built in the Nagar *shaili* (style), with a temple tower over the sanctum sanctorum. Sompura says Ashish has been invited to Ayodhya on August 5 to make a presentation on the temple plan.

In the new design, three domes have been added — one in front, and two at the sides; the number of columns have gone up from about 160 to 366; and the width of the stairway has been expanded from 6 feet to 16 feet. The height of the temple has been increased from 141 to 161 feet.

The sanctum sanctorum will be octagonal in keeping with the design by the *shastras* for temples dedicated to Lord Vishnu. Four other shrines dedicated to Sita, Lakshman, Ganesh and Hanuman, and other deities, will be part of the complex.

While the original design would have used up to 3 lakh cubic feet of sandstone, that will now have to be doubled, says Ashish.

While the Sompuras estimate the construction to be completed in three-and-a-half years, they fear the pandemic will push the deadline back by another six-eight months. The VHP had outsourced the building of the temple to three contractors, who have now been replaced by Larsen & Toubro.

Ashish says that when he last visited the site on July 18, L&T had already evened out the land.

While the temple is undoubtedly the most high-profile of the 200-odd temples that the Sompuras have built, they say that for them, emotionally, the Somnath temple is as special. “Our family is connected with both these temples. For us as a family, that is the biggest source of happiness and pride,” says Ashish.



The site in Dhannipur near Ayodhya for a mosque has seen little movement. More than Aug 5, the village’s eyes are fixed on rising Covid cases. Avaneesh Mishra

In town, waiting for tourists as much as temple

AVANEESH MISHRA

ABU LAL Tailors is a small hole-in-the-wall shop with two noisy sewing machines and a shiny cloth strong from clotheslines. Yet, in a low-business season amidst the coronavirus pandemic, Bhagwat Prasad Pahadi, 55, and his younger brother Shankar Lal, 50, are among the busiest in Ayodhya. They are, after all, the Lord’s tailors — and now, they have a deadline.

With the August 5 *bhoomi puja* date for the construction of the Ram temple approaching, they have to ensure Ram Lalla and other deities at the makeshift temple have their attire ready.

In Ayodhya, a town catapulted to the centre of India’s politics with the Ram Janmabhoomi movement, the demolition of the Babri Masjid and the long, legal battle in courts, life has largely revolved around the makeshift temple site, a string of other small temples, and the shops selling devotional cassettes and puja paraphernalia. The Covid pandemic brought this economy to a halt, with the tourists, who used to number 60-70,000 a day, now reduced to about a hundred. The August 5 date has now briefly lifted spirits.

“For decades, we have been waiting for this day. It’s finally here,” says Bhagwat.

He says the deities’ attire is ritually changed every day, with colours assigned for specific days of the week. With August 5 a Wednesday, the deities are to be

TEMPLE TIMELINE

NOV 9, 2019: SC delivers verdict in Ram temple case

FEB 5, 2020: Union Cabinet clears formation of temple Trust

FEB 5: Govt allots five acres of land for construction of a mosque in Ayodhya’s Dhannipur

FEB 24: Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board accepts land allotted by government

MARCH 25: Ram Lalla idol shifted to a temporary location in the presence of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath

JULY 22: Trust says *bhoomi puja* on Aug 5, expected to be attended by PM Modi

clothed in green. A set of clothes for all the deities, including the cloth on which the idol is placed and the curtain behind, costs between Rs 2,500 and Rs 5,100, says Bhagwat. This year, they have been paid by one Rama Dal Trust, a private religious organisation that is among several joining in the celebrations.

Despite the enthusiasm among small-time organisations, the Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust itself is tight-lipped, only letting out that a total of 200 people, including 150 invitees, will be allowed for the ceremony, with the “*muhurat*” lasting 32 seconds starting 12.15 pm.

“Prime Minister Modi will be given *chandan* and *prasad* and if he wishes to

worship at the temple, we will help him do so with flowers to be offered to Ram Lalla,” says chief priest Satyendra Das.

With the makeshift temple site being levelled, the Ram Lalla idol has moved to a spot around 300 metres away. The idol itself now sits in a cabin of wood and glass — an upgrade from the tent it was in for decades.

“We have been told there will be 200 people. We will have to ensure that social distancing norms are followed,” says a senior official in the district administration.

Around a kilometre away, at the *karyashala* (workshop) of the VHP-affiliated Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Nyas, where workers have been chiselling away since the 1990s, the moss-covered bricks and sandstone pillars are being moved around, possibly for the first time in years.

While a team of restoration experts from the Delhi-based KLA Construction Technologies has been working at the site for 40 days, another team has arrived from Surat.

Says Sanjay Jadia, Project Manager of KLA, “We have to use different chemicals depending on the extent of damage — it may take a few hours or even six-seven days.”

Kameshwar Chaupal, a member of the Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust says it was recently decided that the temple would be grander and bigger than originally planned — from the earlier planned constructed area of 27,000 sqft to 52,442 sqft.

Walking on the empty road leading to Hanuman Garhi temple, Abhishek Pandey, 16, a tourist guide, says the pandemic has been “terrible” for Ayodhya’s economy.

As on July 24, the district had recorded 743 Covid cases, with 524 recoveries and nine casualties. The district recently established an Integrated Covid Command and Control Centre.

Wearing a green mask that hangs loosely around his chin, Pandey says, “*Ya toh corona se marenge ya bhookh se* (One of the two will get me — corona or hunger). Before the pandemic I used to find around 10-15 tourist groups and earn Rs 3,000 to Rs 4,500 a day. Now I can’t even earn Rs 100,” says Pandey.

On either side of this road, there are shops with no customers. Here, with the August 5 date approaching, there is another deep unease: that the plan for a bigger temple will push them out.

“We hear authorities will widen roads. If that happens, our shops will have to go. My shop is all I have,” says Vijay Dubey, who sells religious texts.

An official in the district administration said there are no such orders yet.

But Mahant Rajkumar Das, who heads the Ram Ballabha Kunj, a religious institution, believes widening of roads will be inevitable. “The streets in Ayodhya are so narrow that even with 20,000 visitors, there is no space to walk. What will happen when devotees arrive in lakhs?” he wonders.

Says Chaupal of the temple Trust, “We expect 3.5 crore devotees every year at the temple. We are not going to compromise on the grandeur of the temple,” he says.

Among the Muslims of Ayodhya, however, there is no such grandstanding.

When asked about the August 5 event, Iqbal Ansari, one of the main litigants in the Ayodhya case, says, “What do I say? Not just me, no Muslim in India has anything left to say. The temple is coming up... good.”

Around 30 km short of Ayodhya town is Dhannipur village. The five acres that the state government handed over to the Sunni Central Waqf Board to build a mosque in lieu of the disputed site lie here.

There is nothing on the land to signify that status. The state agriculture department continues to grow wheat and rice and in the middle of the fields is a shrine to a Sufi saint.

The village is now mostly identified as a containment zone — after one case. A district official said nearby Lakhauri village has 13 cases and is a growing hotspot.

In Dhannipur, where Muslims make up 60% per cent of the population, locals say they last heard of the proposed mosque in February when officials of the revenue department came to measure the land.

In February and then earlier this month, the Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board had confirmed that it had accepted the 5 acres allocated to it and would set up a trust to build a mosque. When contacted, Board members said there has been no significant development since then.

The August 5 *bhoomi puja* date triggers few responses in Dhannipur; even reactions to the proposed mosque are tepid.

Among the few who have an opinion is Shaban Khan, a 34-year-old electrical engineer who says he worked briefly in the US. “There are enough mosques in the village. If it is just about alternative land, why not build a diploma college or a hospital?”

Across
THE AISLE



PCHIDAMBARAM
Website: pchidambaram.in
Twitter: @Pchidambaram_IN

Mr Pilot is not cut from the same cloth as the BJP is, or so we believed. He should have channelled all his energies to help the people fight the pandemic as well as get the state's economy back on its feet. He had before him the example of the unflappable Mohan Lal Sukhadia. Mr Pilot should have prepared to run the marathon — and he could have been chief minister for as long as Mohanlal Sukhadia was

IF YOU search the Internet for information on *The Spider's Web*, you will find what is described as 'Six surprising facts about spiderwebs'. Read on, and you will find that

1. Spiders have a design sense,
2. Spiderwebs don't intercept prey; they attract them,
3. Spiderwebs are shiny for a reason,
4. Spiders are sneaky,
5. Spiders think big, and
6. Spiders often replace their web every day.

If you are thinking like me, you will say "how appropriate!". They seem appropriate to the gravely uncertain situation on the India-China border. They seem appropriate to the losing battle we are waging against the coronavirus. They seem appropriate to the despair among ordinary people facing a rapidly sinking economy and joblessness. And they seem appropriate to the luxury tussle in Rajasthan that the two principal political parties are locked in.

RAJASTHAN

Mr Sachin Pilot is a young man with big ambitions. Nothing wrong with that, except the timing of his strike has WRONG written all over. The nation, including Rajasthan, is facing a triple challenge of the kind it has never faced before. The BJP, both party and government, have thrown in the towel as far as the economy and the pandemic are concerned. Against the Chinese threat, the

The spider's web

government is floundering and not revealing the true situation on the border. The government's spokespersons have an unenviable task explaining the contradictions. I would be surprised if Mr Lav Agarwal (the Union Health Secretary) understands what Mr Anurag Srivastava (the MEA spokesperson) says or if either of them has noticed the green shoots the Finance Minister sees every week.

Mr Pilot is not cut from the same cloth as the BJP is, or so we believed. He should have channelled all his energies to help the people fight the pandemic as well as get the state's economy back on its feet. He had before him the example of the unflappable Mohan Lal Sukhadia (he became the Rajasthan Chief Minister at the age of 38, and remained the CM for 17 years). Mr Pilot should have prepared to run the marathon — and he could have been chief minister for as long as Sukhadia was. Uncharacteristically, he didn't have a design sense and he tried to intercept his prey. As a result, he is in mid-sea not knowing toward which shore he should row his boat.

THE ECONOMY

Look at the economy or what is left of the wreck. We are in for a deeper and more prolonged recession than was estimated earlier. The first quarter is gone, yet there is no sign of a fiscal stimulus or any effort to boost consumer demand for goods and services. The only ones who think that monetary measures will be sufficient to

revive economic growth are Ms Nirmala Sitharaman, Mr KV Subramanian, Mr Rajiv Kumar and the Prime Minister's speech writer. There is still one finger left on a hand, and there is nobody who *wants* to be counted with the quartet. Every feeble measure will amount to nothing if our rulers do not have a sense of design about re-constructing the economy that has practically collapsed.

CORONAVIRUS

The virus shares many — not all — of the characteristics of the spider. It has sneaked into every country and, in a country as large as India, into every state and every district. It has adapted to the vastly different conditions of every country — demographics, climate, people's habits, health infrastructure, income levels, preparedness and the government's administrative capacity. When the Indian people were assured that the battle against the virus would be *won in 21 days* by no less a person than the Prime Minister — who compared it to the 18-day Mahabharata war — little did they know that it was a false promise based on neither medical science nor medieval beliefs. We have now learned that there is no weapon against the virus until a vaccine is discovered, proved and distributed. The people have given up on the governments, Central and state. Those who can afford to do so, have isolated themselves; those who cannot, have shed fear. Life will return to a new 'normal' that will include a certain case fa-

tality ratio. The joker in the pack is the totally useless 'lock-unlock' epileptic fits of governments. No matter how often governments change their web, they can make no difference whatsoever.

CHINA

China is the archetypal spider. It shares all the characteristics of a spider. Above all, it thinks big and attracts its prey. Eighteen meetings with China's leader in six years, including a State visit and three Summits, can flatter any ascetic. Mr Narendra Modi is no ascetic, he has a big ego (all prime ministers have) and bigger designs for his party. Mr Xi Jinping took an accurate measure of Mr Modi, flattered him with a High-Level Economic and Trade Dialogue, offered to encourage mutual investments, and promised him a world-sized stage in 2020 declared as the 'Year of India-China Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges'. Then in January 2020, he gave the go-ahead to the PLA to invade India. For China, India is just another fire that Mr Xi started along with other fires like Hong Kong, Taiwan, South China Sea, Belt-and-Road initiative and an incipient Quad with Pakistan, Turkey and Iran. If the fire sings some, so be it, China will powerfully rise. Ask yourself, which world leader except the unpredictable Mr Donald Trump has condemned the Chinese aggression against India? If China is the spider, India is the prey that was attracted to the spider's web. Spiders never rest.

Fifth
COLUMN

TAVLEEN SINGH
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Hard truths about the economy

AN IMPORTANT anniversary went unnoticed last week. I would have missed it myself if I had not spotted on Twitter a black and white photograph of Dr Manmohan Singh making that Budget speech in 1991 that began the end of the Licence Raj. And, saved India from becoming an economic basket case. Above the picture were these words from his speech. "After four decades of planning for industrialisation, we have now reached a stage of development where we should welcome, rather than fear, foreign investment."

It was a seminal moment in India's economic history. Especially, for people like me who believe that India would have been a rich country if we had not adopted an economic model that gave officialdom draconian powers to crush private enterprise. I remember well what a dismal place India was in the Seventies when I became a journalist. Everything was in short supply and the goods we produced were so shoddy that nobody wanted them. The whole country had a shabby, decaying quality about it, as if it had emerged from long years of war. Almost everyone was poor or almost poor. But, we were isolated from the big changes and events of the world, so we did not know that in the east, small countries that had once been behind us had streaked ahead. Or that China had dumped Marxist economics for free markets and foreign investment.

By the time wise old P V Narasimha Rao realised that it was time for India to start catching up, we had been left far behind by most Southeast Asian countries. But, that one Budget brought such dramatic economic change that by the end of the Nineties, India, where the only jobs available once were those bestowed by the government, was creating millions of jobs in the private sector. Today, more than 45% of our population is middle class. We would today be progressing faster still if Narendra Modi had lived up to his promise of taking India in a new economic direction. It is our tragedy that he got scared into returning to the Nehruvian socialist path by Rahul Gandhi's foolish taunt about 'suit-boot ki sarkar'.

Since the pandemic, Modi seems to have rediscovered that he needs to make an economic course correction. So last week he urged foreign investors to come and invest in India. 'There has never been a better time to invest in India,' he said. He then boasted of how many reforms his government had made to make it easier to do business. He sounded as if he meant what he said and this worried me because it made me realise that he has not noticed that since he became Prime Minister an inspector raj has been unleashed that would drive away the most intrepid investors. The government's own Invest India arm has identified 767 pre-operation licences that an investor is obliged to get from 35 ministries before starting a business.

The Prime Minister has chosen to work in a cocoon since he first took the job six years ago. So, those people have been kept at a distance who could tell him how often and how recklessly his officials make regulations that make it harder and not easier to do business. Those who would be able to tell him how many fine Indian companies face bankruptcy, only because his government refuses to honour its contracts, are kept even further away. Since the pandemic, the walls of Modi's cocoon have been fortified so he works in a chamber that totally insulates him from reality.

The biggest political problem Modi is likely to face in the near future is the economy, so it is time that he started listening to those who can really tell him how difficult it remains to do business in India. It is not just big investors who are hounded at every step by inspectors and regulators, even modest investors find it hard to grow their businesses in today's India. So, it is no surprise that the economy has not seen the boom that everyone thought would happen, just like that one that we saw in the Nineties. All that has been achieved in the past six years is that the socialist welfare State has worked more efficiently and with less corruption. This is why Modi won a second term.

The Chinese virus and international disenchantment with China offer Modi a second chance to change course, and make the administrative changes that are necessary if India is to move from poverty to prosperity. He could begin by asking his office to find out which inspectors and regulations can be thrown forthwith into the nearest garbage bin. And, once this is done, he should step out of his cocoon and start listening to those who are already doing business in India and try and understand what it is that prevents them from doing it more easily.

What we need today more than ever is another moment like the one that came in this week 30 years ago when one Budget changed Indian economic and political history. On a personal note may I reiterate that I became a Modi '*bhakt*' mostly because I believed he knew that for India to move from the limited goal of poverty alleviation, to a grander goal of real prosperity, we would have to change our economic direction. He has a second chance to fulfil this promise.

It's time India paid reparations to its Dalits



Dalitality
SURAJ YENGDE
Twitter: @Surajyengde

INDIA AS a nation owes a huge debt to Dalits — upon whose backs its civilisational columns have been raised. Dalit talent, skill and stamina make India one of the most desirable places for outsiders, including the British. Various art forms, literature, music, poetry originate from the Dalit, Adivasi and Shudra worlds. In their inventive genius and performative zeal, the Dalits have hymned and hummed to the rhythms of their tragedies, preserved their culture amidst the torture of untouchability.

They have cried and prayed, protested and fought back. In all of this, they have paved the path for new forms of sensorial experiences.

Almost all the 'classical' Indian art forms have Dalit origins. There are examples of Dalit art being stolen and Brahminised. And to stop the Dalits from reclaiming the same, they were barred from practising and participating in many of the arts.

This eliminated any competitive edge that Dalit talent might have posed. That is why, even today, many classical art events are bereft of Dalit participation.

Even in other innovations, the Dalits have helped science flourish and rationalism take precedence. In their spiritual practices and prayers, the belief in the Almighty is rooted in the essence of enlightenment.

How then do we reconcile our past mistakes of murdering the Dalit existence so as to remedy the situation for future work?

One possible way is to think about reparations, "making amends for the wrongs one has done, by paying money to or otherwise helping those who have been wronged". It is one of the means to correct the past and on-going injustices. Reparations can be categorised in three broad types:

Moral reparation: Acknowledgement of past mistakes and seeking forgiveness to establish a healing process for the wounded souls and traumatised minds.

Spiritual reparation: Giving leadership and respect to communities whose attempts at spirituality were declared a crime.

Conditional reparation: This is a reparation in the form of money and material

reimbursements. It flows from the social and economic factors that stole the land, labor and value of an entire community.

Reparations are an international demand of colonised countries. The Lancet Commission on Reparations was set up at Harvard's Medical School to examine the "moral, legal, economic, historical, and political evidence for various global claims to reparations and redistributive justice". Alongside the African Americans, Roma, Caribbean Slavery, victims of India's caste system were also given a hearing. The Indian case was presented by the economists Sukhdeo Thorat and Amit Thorat.

Reparation facilitates an occasion for the country to come together to reflect on the enormous weight of unpaid labour by the Dalits, who put their sweat and blood to raise the nation's economy, from farm to industries. The soul of the country continues to be torn. To stitch it back we need redistributive justice and reparations to piece it together. Redistributive justice in the form of land redistribution and taking into account the toil of Dalit women's wombs.

In the fiestas of protests and justice movements, the Dalits have not yet come around demanding reparations. It is a chance to show a mirror to the society that continues to see anti-Dalit violence and hatred due to its own intrinsic insecurities.

These insecurities have been built over generations. Reparations are an opportunity for us to come together as a nation and help rebuild the broken promise that independence held out.

Each institution in this country is implicit in this crime of Dalit violence. This has easily transfused into the structures that hold this country together.

Representation through reservation is just one way to render justice to the oppressed castes whose labour and dignity were reduced to nothing by the ruling castes of India.

As a nation, we need to be able to grieve collectively to overcome. This country can mourn for the victims of the Nazi genocide, even the victims of the India-Pakistan Partition, but it becomes hard as stone at the mere mention of atrocities against Dalits.

To change this blatant apathy, we need to start anew. The constitutional promises through reservations and land reforms were one of the few ways for us to get together. But these remain hotly contested. Reparation is one of the most viable ways to secure justice for all.

Suraj Yengde, author of Caste Matters, curates the fortnightly 'Dalitality' column

History
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POLITICAL RANCOUR can spring forth many ways, at times to signal the start of a power tussle, at other times, its culmination with a parting of ways. And it's on display in Rajasthan.

Always careful with words, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, veteran of many battles in Jaipur and Delhi, finally turned to name-calling. He dug deep to find a word for party rival Sachin Pilot: *Nikamma*, the useless.

That was his way of saying it was over between them.

But that choice of word would have made two former prime ministers sit up. Because *nikamma* was the word rivals had picked, 11 years apart, to target H D Deve Gowda and Manmohan Singh during attempts to unseat them from power.

Deve Gowda couldn't save his government in 1997 while Singh managed to rustle up numbers in 2008.

Hurt, both Deve Gowda and Singh gave it back — the first to Sitaram Kesri who, as president of the Congress supporting the United Front government, pulled the plug, and the second to then leader of opposition, LK Advani of the BJP, following Left withdrawal of support to the UPA-I government.

The remarks of the two prime ministers are part of Lok Sabha records on the motion of confidence each moved in the House. Saved for posterity, the debates offer a glimpse of an India when coalition was the norm and governments relied on external support.

In 1997, at the 11th hour of 11th April, the 11th Prime Minister of India moved a motion of confidence in the 11th Lok Sabha. The fate of his 11-month government was sealed 11 days ago when he found out that Kesri had moved to bring him down. Deve Gowda decided to go down fighting.

Other than him, 25 members participated in the debate, among them Rajesh Pilot, the MP from Dausa and father of Sachin Pilot. Gehlot was then the Congress MP from Jodhpur.

Replying to the debate, Deve Gowda singled out Kesri for calling him a *nikamma*. "Today, I would like to tell the nation, through this House, what the language used by the Hon. president of the Congress (I) who is aspiring to become the Leader was... I am unable to understand the meaning of the Hindi word, '*nikamma*'. He said: You are foolish, coward and powerless. Just come into the open and let us see who is powerful."

There's a familiar ring to *nikamma*



Gowda (extreme left), Kesri (extreme right) at Rashtrapati Bhavan in 1996. Archive

"He has quoted in Hindi... This man is not only incompetent, but he is also communal."

"...Sir, a foolish and an incompetent prime minister, at least, tried to do something for the nation... There is no need of any certificate from the present president of the Congress (I)... As long as Shri Narasimha Rao was president, there was no problem. On the day Shri Sitaram Kesri became president of the Congress party, I called him for lunch... But on the fourth day, when one of my chief ministers, Dr Farooq Abdullah... went to see Shri Sitaram Kesri, he was told not to join the United Front government because he was going to withdraw support."

"The charge levelled against me was that I had neglected Shri Sitaram Kesri after he became president. It is not based on truth, but based on something else. There is a headline which correctly says, 'India's old man in a hurry: Now or Never.' This was not written by any of the Indian papers. It had appeared in the London *Times*."

Deve Gowda's old-man-in-a-hurry remark had the Congress protesting and P J Kurien, MP from Mavelikara, sought the Speaker's ruling. His objection was overruled.

The prime minister too refused to back down. "It is not a question of attacking an individual... I have got the highest regard for you, Kurienji. But what is this *nikamma* or *akamma*?" he said.

After he completed his reply, the mo-

tion of confidence was put to vote. Ayes-158, Noes-92. Motion negatived. Deve Gowda and his government fell.

Eleven years later, it was the turn of Manmohan Singh to move a motion of confidence in the Lok Sabha after the Left, protesting against the Indo-US nuclear deal, withdrew support.

The debate began on July 21, 2008, and continued the next day. The Prime Minister's reply was marred by interruptions and the Speaker told him: "You may lay your speech on the Table of the House."

Singh did that. He did not just record his objection to the word *nikamma*, but also took a swipe at Advani — very similar to Gowda's old-man-in-a-hurry remark about Kesri.

This is what Singh placed on record: "The leader of opposition, Shri LK Advani, has chosen to use all manner of abusive objectives to describe my performance. He has described me as the weakest prime minister, a *nikamma* PM, and of having devalued the office of PM."

"To fulfil his ambitions, he has made at least three attempts to topple our government. But on each occasion, his astrologers have misled him. This pattern, I am sure, will be repeated today. At his ripe old age, I do not expect Shri Advani to change his thinking. But for his sake and India's sake, I urge him at least to change his astrologers so that he gets more accurate predictions of things to come."

Out of
MY MIND

MEGHNAD DESAI



THE CONSTITUTION is one document on which there is perhaps the largest measure of agreement across political parties, regions, and people. Not everyone knows the details and lawyers have fun and make money arguing over subtle points. But the national flag and national anthem apart, nothing else commands all-India respect.

Yet, which Constitution? Is it the Constitution handed over by the Constituent Assembly in November 1949 or the present much amended one? Do people know that India is the only country

Jaipur crisis: Need for citizen campaign

with free democratic elections where every candidate has to declare his/her adherence to socialism? Is this consistent with freedom of speech and expression? Intoxicated by his large majority in the 1984 election, Rajiv Gandhi passed the Tenth Schedule and blithely took away freedom of all legislators for ever. No government since has dared to challenge or change this monstrous denial of freedom. The founders of the Constitution had never intended to make India a Socialist Republic. It was Indira Gandhi during the Emergency who declared India to be a Socialist country. Obviously, no one seriously believes in the Declaration they need to make to be able to contest elections.

Many people still complain that the charge of treason is laid against political dissidents too lightly. It suits Opposition parties to blame the government. But the BJP has been in a ruling capacity, off and on, only since 1996. The treason charge has been on books ever since 1951. As I have remarked before, it was Jawaharlal Nehru who drafted and piloted the First Amendment in May 1951, 15 months into the life of the young Republic, and modified or negated every fundamental right created in the Constitution. These rights were not available to a colonised people. An independent Republic alone could grant these rights. But the rulers of new India could not risk the people enjoying such

rights. So qualifications were legislated by the beloved Leader of New India which put citizens back in the same legal position vis-à-vis the State as they had under British rule. So the Indian Penal Code, Thomas Babington Macaulay's gift to India, remains the guard dog of the fetters put on New India by Jawaharlal Nehru.

The current dispute in Rajasthan is a legacy partly of Schedule 10, which wanted to discourage defections. Obviously just because you are an elected legislator, you cannot be free to choose which party you should join or quit. So we have the charade of Speakers sending notices to legislators imprisoned in five-star hotels, far away from their base etc. As it is, these legislators

do not enjoy freedom of speech unless they parrot the party line. Why bother to speak?

Political parties are too happy with the fetters of the amended Constitution to try to change it. There is no reason why citizens should not take up the task of debating Constitutional reform. A non-party political citizens' movement could unearth the sorry history of the spoilage of the original 1949 Constitution and start a campaign for the removal of the bad elements introduced. It is the right and duty of citizens to reclaim their original freedoms as it is more than unlikely that governments of any political party which benefit from their power over citizens will renounce their privilege. If citizens don't, no one else will.

15 THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



Rev Elisabeth Oberg Hansen with a student in Stockholm. AP

SWEDEN

Female priests outnumber males in Church of Sweden

THE CHURCH of Sweden has more female than male priests for the first time, according to numbers released this month, a sign of huge strides for gender equality since women were first allowed to be ordained in 1960. The Lutheran institution, which was the official Swedish state church until 2000, now counts 1,533 women serving as priests and 1,527 men. Its archbishop and several bishops are also women. "It's a mirror of the society, in a way," the Rev Elisabeth Oberg Hansen said after giving a sermon in a small church in Stockholm.

US court rejects bail plea of 26/11 accused Rana

LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON, JULY 25

A US court has rejected the \$1.5-million bail application of Pakistani-origin Canadian businessman Tahawwur Rana, who has been declared a fugitive by India for his involvement in the 2008 Mumbai terror attack case, describing him a flight risk.

Rana, 59, a childhood friend of David Coleman Headley, was re-arrested on June 10 in Los Angeles on an extradition request by India for his involvement in the 2008 Mumbai terror attack. He has been a declared fugitive in India.

US District Court Judge in Los Angeles, Jacqueline Chooljian, in her 24-page order dated July 21, denied bail to Rana arguing that he was a flight risk.

Describing Rana as a flight risk, the US government opposed his release on bail, arguing that if he were to flee to Canada, he may escape the possibility of a death sentence in India.

"Given the stakes, an allowance of bail in any amount would not guarantee Rana's presence in court. Granting bail would invite the possibility of embarrassing the United States in the conduct of its foreign affairs, straining its relationship with India," Assistant US Attorney John J Lulejian had told the court. **PTI**

40 COUNTRIES REPORT RECORD SINGLE-DAY INCREASES

Record numbers of Covid-19 cases in every global region

Treat decisions about where to go, who to meet as life-and-death calls: WHO

JANE WARDELL
JULY 25

ALMOST 40 countries have reported record single-day increases in coronavirus infections over the past week, around double the number that did so the previous week, according to a Reuters tally showing a pick-up in the pandemic in every region of the world.

The rate of cases has been increasing not only in countries like the United States, Brazil and India, which have dominated global headlines with large outbreaks, but in Australia, Japan, Hong Kong, Bolivia, Sudan, Ethiopia, Bulgaria, Belgium, Uzbekistan and Israel, among others.

Many countries, especially those where officials eased earlier social distancing lockdowns, are experiencing a second peak more than a month after recording their first.

"We will not be going back to the 'old normal'. The pandemic has already changed the way we live our lives," World Health Organisation (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said this week. "We're asking everyone to treat the decisions about where they



Thousands of Filipinos were crammed into a baseball stadium in Manila on Saturday despite Covid-19 fears after people wanting to return to their home provinces overwhelmed a government transportation programme. Reuters

go, what they do and who they meet with as life-and-death decisions – because they are."

The Reuters data, compiled from official reports, shows a steady rise in the number of countries reporting record daily increases in the virus that causes Covid-19 over the past month. At least seven countries recorded such increases three weeks ago, rising to at least 13 countries two weeks ago to at least 20 last week and to 37 countries this week.

The true numbers of both cases and deaths are almost certainly underreported, particularly in countries with poorer

health care systems, health experts and officials say. For this report, the Reuters data was restricted to countries that provide regular daily numbers.

A surge in cases usually precedes a rise in deaths by a couple of weeks.

Meanwhile, Britain's government will require all travellers from Spain arriving after midnight on Saturday to spend two weeks in quarantine, the *Sunday Times* newspaper reported. This would deal a heavy blow to Spain, which is trying to recoup its tourism after the Covid-enforced lockdown.

Bolsonaro says tested negative for coronavirus



Brazil President Jair Bolsonaro

Sao Paulo: Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro said on Saturday that he has tested negative for the novel coronavirus after weeks quarantined in his residence due to an infection.

In a photo posted to social media, Bolsonaro appeared with a box of hydroxychloroquine, an anti-malarial drug he credited for his recovery despite a lack of scientific evidence about its effectiveness. In an accompanying text, he said his RT-PCR test for Sars-Cov 2 was negative.

He did not say when he took the test nor did he provide any further details.

Bolsonaro reported testing positive three times this month, including an initial diagnosis on July 7 for Covid-19, the illness caused by the new coronavirus. **REUTERS**

ICE: New foreign students can't enter US if courses online

COLLIN BINKLEY
JULY 25

A WEEK after revoking sweeping new restrictions on international students, federal immigration officials on Friday announced that new foreign students will be barred from entering the United States if they plan to take their classes entirely online this fall.

In a memo to college officials, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement said new students who were not already enrolled as of March 9 will "likely not be able to obtain" visas if they intend to take courses entirely online. The announcement primarily affects new students hoping to enroll at universities that will provide classes entirely online.

International students who are already in the US or are returning from abroad and already have visas will still be allowed to take classes entirely online, according to the update, even if they begin instruction in-person but their schools move online.

The new order was released Friday as a clarification to earlier guidance from March 9 that suspended existing limits around online education for international students. The March guidance was meant to provide flexibility as schools closed campuses amid the pandemic, but universities had said it was unclear whether it extended to new students. **AP**

All new DACA applications put in 'pending' bucket: Lawyer

ASTRID GALVAN
PHOENIX, JULY 25

THE US government said Friday that it's putting new DACA applications in a "pending" bucket while officials decide whether to again try to end the program for young immigrants, keeping enrollment stalled even though the Supreme Court ruled last month that it was improperly ended.

The latest came during a telephonic federal court hearing in Maryland by US District Judge Paul W Grimm, who last week ruled that the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals programme must be restored to its original form, before President Donald Trump tried to end it in Sept 2017.

Immigrant advocates who sued the government over its attempt to end DACA say new rulings in the case, including the one by the Supreme Court, mean the government must resume accepting and considering first-time applications. US Citizenship and Immigration Services had only been accepting renewals for DACA recipients who were already enrolled by Sept. 5, 2017. **AP**

Indian woman files case against US for delay in work permits

LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON, JULY 25

AN INDIAN woman has filed a lawsuit against the US Citizenship and Immigration Services over a delay in issuing work permits, accusing the authorities of sitting on a backlog of at least 75,000 unprinted Employment Authorisation Documents.

Ranjitha Subramanya, who is on an H-4 dependent visa with her husband Vinod Sinha on an H-1B work visa, in a lawsuit filed before a federal court in Ohio said that while her application to extend her H-4 status and Employment Authorisation Document (EAD) was approved on April 7, she did not receive the work authorisation card.

As a result, she was forced to stop working for her employer after her initial EAD expired on June 7, 2020.

An H-4 visa is a visa issued by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to the immediate family members of the H-1B visa holders. Spouses on an H-4 visa can apply for an EAD. **PTI**

Malaysia arrests Bangladeshi man after he criticises govt on Al Jazeera

REUTERS
KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 25

MALAYSIA ARRESTED a Bangladeshi national who criticised the government over its treatment of migrant workers in a news report by broadcaster Al Jazeera, the government said Saturday.

The July 3 report on Malaysia's treatment of undocumented foreign workers during the Covid-19 pandemic sparked a backlash in the Southeast Asia nation, with several officials describing the report as being inaccurate.

Al Jazeera journalists were called in for questioning by police. An arrest warrant was issued for Md Rayhan Kabir, the Bangladeshi worker quoted in the news report as saying the government discriminated against undocumented foreign workers by arresting and jailing them during the pandemic.

Rayhan was arrested on Friday and will be expelled from the country, Immigration Director General Khairul Dzamee Daud said in a statement on Saturday. He did not say why Rayhan was arrested or whether he was suspected of committing a crime.

ASIA

Vietnam bans wildlife imports, markets

VIETNAM ANNOUNCED Friday that it was banning wildlife imports and would close wildlife markets in response to renewed concerns about the threat from diseases that can jump from animals to humans, such as the virus that causes Covid-19. An order signed by Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc bans all imports of wildlife dead or alive and includes eggs and larvae. It also merits tougher penalties for crimes involving the trade in wildlife.

USA

Cohen leaves prison for home confinement

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump's former personal lawyer Michael Cohen left prison on Friday to finish his criminal sentence at home, an attorney for Cohen said, a day after a judge found he was sent back behind bars two weeks ago as retaliation for plans to publish a book about Trump. Cohen was picked up at a prison in Otisville, New York, about 110 km northwest of New York City, about 1 pm by his son and his brother, the attorney, Jeffrey K Levine, said. Cohen was expected to be fitted for an ankle monitor and then be driven to his Manhattan apartment.



Federal officials and a locksmith work to open a door at the vacated Consulate General of China building in Houston. AP

US agents enter China consulate in Houston

SEEMA HAKHU KACHRU & KJM VARMA
HOUSTON, BEIJING, JULY 25

US FEDERAL agents and law enforcement officers entered the Chinese consulate compound in Houston, along with locksmiths, after the mission was shut down, amidst spiralling tensions between Washington and Beijing.

The Trump Administration ramped up its confrontation with China this week, ordering Beijing's consulate in Houston to close over concerns about economic espionage.

The consulate closed on Friday evening as the deadline set by the Trump administration to shut down the mission expired. After the Chinese diplomatic staff vacated the building, a number of black SUVs, two white vans and a locksmith's van entered the compound, CNN reported.

In Beijing, the Chinese foreign expressed strong dissatisfaction and opposition to the US law enforcement officers' "forced entry" into the consulate and lodged a diplomatic protest.

"China will make a proper and

EXPLAINED Question of legality

CHINA HAS denounced the US action of entering its consulate building in Houston on Friday as illegal. By international law, a country has sovereignty over the land on which its consulate stands. But the US would argue that the building in Houston was no longer the Chinese consulate when agents entered it after Washington ordered Beijing to shut it down. However, Chinese experts have been quoted as saying that since the consulate compound still belonged to the Chinese government, it was in fact illegal for American agents to break into it.

necessary response in this regard," the ministry said in a statement. The consulate in Houston is the building of the diplomatic consulate and is also China's national property, it said. **PTI**



POLES RALLY TO KEEP PACT AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Demonstrators, dressed as the Handmaids from the dystopian novel *The Handmaid's Tale*, at an anti-domestic violence protest in Warsaw, Poland. Thousands of people protested Friday against plans by the conservative government to withdraw from Europe's Istanbul Convention against domestic violence and violence against women and children. The government and other critics contend the convention goes against Poland's Constitution and Roman Catholic family traditions. **AP**

Feds push into Portland streets, fire teargas

MIKE BAKER, THOMAS FULLER & SERGIO OLMOS
PORTLAND, JULY 25

AFTER FLOODING the streets around the federal courthouse in Portland with tear gas during Friday's early morning hours, dozens of federal officers in camouflage and tactical gear stood in formation around the front of the building.

Then, as one protester blared a soundtrack of *The Imperial March*, the officers started advancing.

Oregon lost its bid on Friday for a restraining order against four federal agencies

Through the acrid haze, they continued to fire flash grenades and well-inducing marble-size balls filled with chemicals. They moved down Main Street and continued up the hill, where one of the agents announced over a loudspeaker: "This is an unlawful assembly."

By the time the security forces halted their advance, the federal courthouse they had been sent to protect was out of sight — two blocks behind them.

The aggressive incursion of federal officers into Portland has been stretching the legal limits of federal law enforcement, as agents with batons and riot gear range deep into the streets of a city whose leadership has made it clear they are not welcome.

"I think it's absolutely improper," Oregon's attorney general, Ellen Rosenblum, said in an

interview on Friday. "It's absolutely beyond their authority."

The state lost its bid on Friday for a restraining order against four federal agencies on the grounds that the state attorney general lacked standing, but several other challenges are still ongoing.

Federal officers who arrived this month to help control protests over racial injustice and police violence have made over 40 arrests for federal crimes, including assaults on federal officers and failing to comply with law enforcement commands. **NYT**

STEADY DECLINE OF INDEPENDENT NEWS OUTLETS IS PART OF THE SLIDE TOWARDS AUTOCRATIC RULE IN HUNGARY

Scores of journalists quit in Hungary as Orban tightens grip on media

BENJAMIN NOVAK & MARC SANTORA
BUDAPEST, JULY 25

HUNGARY'S MOST widely read news site was thrown into disarray this week after the organization's editor-in-chief was fired and scores of journalists quit in protest as the government moved closer to near-complete control over the country's media landscape.

A decade into Prime Minister Viktor Orban's quest to transform Hungary into an "illiberal" nation, where he controls nearly all levers of the state and uses them to maintain his grip on power, the

takeover of Index.hu's advertising unit by an Orban ally was part of a broader effort to limit dissenting voices and silence critics.

The potential loss of the news site as a check on the government was a particularly painful blow to the small but determined coterie of independent journalists left working in the country.

The site was one of many independent media outlets in central Europe that have come under sustained financial and political pressure from governments bent on controlling public discourse.

More than half the staff at Index, some 70 employees, announced their resignations



Szabolcs Dull, was fired as the editor in chief of Index, Hungary's main independent website. Reuters

Friday after the firing of the editor, Szabolcs Dull.

"We have emphasised for

years that we have two requirements for Index to continue operating independently: that there be

no outside interference in Index's content or in the composition or structure of Index's staff," the group said in a statement. "The firing of Szabolcs Dull violated the latter of these requirements. His dismissal was a clear interference in the composition of the staff."

The steady decline of independent news outlets is part of the slide toward autocratic rule in Hungary and, to a lesser extent, in Poland.

Earlier this month, Poland's President, Andrzej Duda, narrowly won reelection after a campaign in which the media was a frequent target. Duda accused Germany of trying to influence the

result through media outlets owned by German companies.

After the election, Jaroslaw Kaczynski, the leader of the ruling party, vowed to press ahead with plans to limit media ownership by foreign companies.

The Polish government has often followed the path set by Orban, who has transformed the media landscape in Hungary despite EU pressure to change course.

Hungary's Constitutional Court has been stacked and lower courts overhauled, public media and most of the country's private media have come under the control of the PM's allies.

In late 2018, hundreds of me-

dia outlets controlled by the PM's allies were given to another foundation controlled by Orban's confidants. Regulators were barred from scrutinising the transactions on grounds that the ownership changes were of "strategic national interest".

But Index had largely weathered many political storms over the past decade. It has reported critically of Orban's government, featuring stories of Russian meddling in Hungary, alleged graft involving individuals close to Orban's inner circle, and by chronicling other government policies widely condemned as assaults on democratic institutions. **NYT**



THE WAY WE LIVE

Small is Beautiful

The big, fat Indian wedding is shrinking. At least, till the pandemic is around



SPOTLIGHT

The New Trees of Delhi

Pradip Krishen on what the central vista makeover can mean for the national capital's green spaces

Mirror, Mirror, On the Wall

In this pandemic-ridden world, we live hermetic lives now. So, is dressing up and going out a thing of the past ?

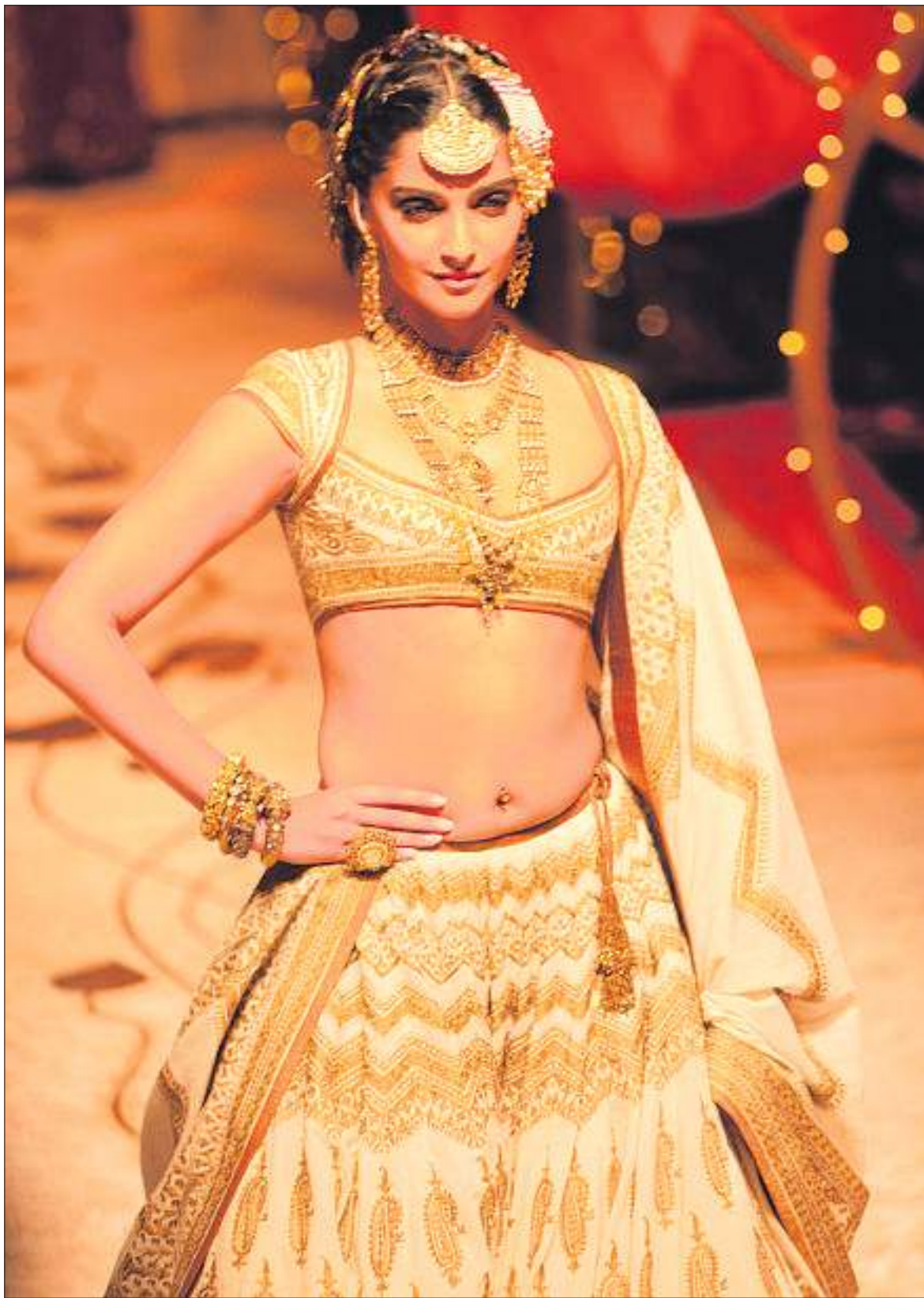
Leher Kala

THESE DAYS, it is with alarm that I view myself in a full-length mirror before stepping out for some tedious chore. Ray-Bans to cover my eyes, a cap to cover wisps of grey hair and the ubiquitous mask stretching uncomfortably behind my ears, it feels like I have disappeared and somebody unrecognisable is staring back at me. My androgynous outfit gives nothing away either. Loose, casual clothes, the kind that six months ago I would have considered unfit for death by suicide. 2020 is the write-off year where we must imagine we are fugitives in disguise who need to perpetually duck from a devious assassin. Among the random thoughts floating in my head, I suddenly feel gratitude that fate placed me in India. I could have been born on some remote mountainside in Afghanistan, where dissociation from one's appearance is mandated by law. I think about how so much of the world functions permanently swathed in drab religious garb, let us presume, willingly. This is what a face veil must feel like, only more claustrophobic, because unlike a mask it covers the entire head leaving only slits for eyes. My face gets hotter and hotter in Delhi's searing humidity and my breath fogs up my shades. The discomfort frustrates me.

■ ■ ■

It seems almost incredible that it was only six months ago that I was scrolling down Instagram admiring a range of flawlessly-contoured selfies. Overnight, those vacation images on exotic beaches or people posing at glamorous art soirées have magically vanished. FOMO is no longer a thing when everyone's missing out. If I think about what I really miss during COVID-19, it's the trivial bits of *khabar* that would come my way about friends, family and situations. Especially, because now all conversations veer right back to the coronavirus. Nobody can talk of anything else. Besides, no parties mean no gossip. No more who-wore-what. I could kill to discuss a dress right now. Alas, at this moment, the fear is so heightened, posting a party picture could provoke a malicious backlash. How pathetic life has become can be seen in what passes for scandal these days. There was a time when conversations conducted in hushed whispers revolved around who was sleeping with whom. In the post-COVID world, the new adultery is who is socialising with whom, and how much. Or, who is dumb enough to conceal a meeting with someone who tested positive. Calling out people with a cavalier attitude to COVID is the latest in armchair activism. It's no wonder that upscale housing societies in Gurgaon shame members found violating home quarantine rules and they are roundly applauded for it. Everyone's suspiciously sizing up how everyone else is living, perhaps to reassure themselves that the Fear Of Going Out (FOGO) is justified, and, so, they are still, in some sense, winning.

While this novel time is indeed triggering, it is also a time for introspection. Mainly, to think about how history's biggest disasters could have such banal origins. Of all the pandemic-induced upheavals, from careers imploding to terrifying confinement, there's been no time to analyse the impact of the



VANITY FARE

(Above) Actor Sonam Kapoor in a Rohit Bal design at a fashion week in Delhi; a model wearing a creation by Rahul Mishra

bizarre visual spectacle confronting us on the rare occasion we leave our homes. It's surreal seeing bodies behind a steering wheel or a grocery line but not being able to gauge their expressions. As Oscar Wilde noted, the true mystery of the world is the visible, not the invisible. We're deprived of using a primal instinct honed over millennium to make snap

judgments about people, based on a smile or a frown. In the absence of facial features, personal aesthetics — fashion and jewellery for instance, have ceased to matter. Consider the irony that COVID-19 has been the great equaliser between the good-looking and the not-so good looking, and between the shabby and trendy. However liberal one's notions of

beauty and sophistication, COVID, in one fell swoop, has relegated everyone equally unappealing, masked. The cumulative effect of this abrupt dismantling of style will have profound implications — on beauty norms, how we consume and what a future cool could look like.

Last week, a meme titled "Week 20 of

lockdown" was floating around WhatsApp. It showed an adorably large and furrowed Saint Bernard, its drooping doggy ears sweeping the floor. The caption read, "When the Botox begins to wear off." Point being, it's so dangerous to step out that we're better off sliding back to our old, wrinkled, real selves. It's never been attractive, admitting to want to enhance one's looks, and, in the midst of a pandemic, it's downright unacceptable. The narcissism of our times has been a subject of so many critical think-pieces, that everyone is anxiously projecting a perfect version of themselves. Since country after country went into shutdown mode, what is essential and what isn't has been debated endlessly. One rightly supposes if a kidney transplant can be postponed so can cosmetic surgery. However, to state the obvious, what's necessary is always subjective. To some, the number of likes and retweets is meaningless. To others, it means everything. When we appraise our lives, it would be dishonest not to recognise that we all strive to meet our own standards of desirability. The joy of looking good — and thereby feeling good — through new clothes, new lips or new shoes, cannot be underestimated. Showing off our best selves is a central need, a vital cog that allows us to pass on our DNA to the next generation. As a friend put it, as if coming out of COVID broke and jobless isn't bad enough, most people will also gain weight and have lower levels of confidence than before.

The records of previous generations tell us old habits die hard, especially ones we never wanted to give up in the first place. Women bought lipstick and stockings in the Great Depression as well. "This time next year all of this will be a hazy memory," predicts Rashi Bhimani, a trousseau consultant based in Gurugram. It certainly appears so when one considers the BBC images of humungous crowds outside London pubs on day one of reopening. Bhimani helps brides connect with fashion designers and choose the right assortment of outfits for the family. Three of the weddings she was working on were cancelled between March and May. One of the brides decided to go ahead with the wedding, scaled down to 30 people. But instead of her heavy bridal lehnga, she opted to wear a Banarasi sari, more appropriate for an intimate celebration. This is a legitimate fear, that if people stop spending for an extended period of time, they may stop finding value in flaunting wealth on original creations, forever. I can't count how many times I've heard lately my friends constantly marvelling at the startling discovery of how little they actually need. Besides, in the last five years, there have been a growing number of prominent climate-change activists and vegans on the scene, who have made conspicuous consumption look decidedly uncool.

■ ■ ■

It does seem hard to believe that the pandemic is the end of the road for grandiose wedding extravaganzas, valued at over Rs 100,000 crores, considering India's most influential trendsetters have quite recently flown down Beyoncé and the Cirque du Soleil to entertain their guests. Fashion designer Rahul Mishra, 40, who showed at Paris Haute Couture Week's online show recently, remains quietly optimistic of a slow but steady recovery, though the pandemic has robbed his clients of the in-store shopping experience. It was an essential part of the ritual, holding family meetings with the designer, discussing embroideries and colour themes, to arrive at the dream wedding wardrobe. Mishra was quick to adapt to WhatsApp and Instagram marketing, where he posts trendy short videos describing India's intricate weaves and how they fit his design vision. He launched an e-commerce platform in June and he foresees it being way more important than his flagship store five years from now. "When I compare my accounts of July 2019 and July 2020, they don't look very different," says Mishra. "In my opinion, clients will become more discerning and will invest more in understanding craftsmanship and the story behind a brand."

Indeed, even a brief re-evaluation of consumerist values will create havoc in every industry, not just for the lakhs employed in fashion and celebration businesses. Some corrections were long overdue. It's also true that memories are short. While more people are questioning if everything we did to self-optimize mattered, it's only because the last few months have been so discombobulating. A decade from now, when academics have analysed all the

changes COVID wrought upon us, perhaps, one will be that fine lines and white hair are acceptable imperfections. It must be noted that despite the pall of gloom, it's not like people are okay with staying home, hairy and unkempt. Amazon and other online stores have noted the rise in demand of do-it-yourself home beauty kits. While sales of lipsticks have crashed, nail-polish brands are doing very well. Eye makeup tutorials on YouTube are notching up lakhs of hits. There's something to be said for the well-known contradiction that Saudi Arabia has always been famous for — however modestly covered the women may be, they are the largest consumers of makeup in the world. No doubt there is a pause in normal life while people consider what they want to render obsolete, and bring back. I see a lot of spiritual metaphors around that this catastrophe is meant to force us into new beginnings. More pertinently, it is a reminder that we thrive on the shared experience, and community is precisely what this capricious virus tears apart.

Leher Kala is director, Hutkay Films, and a columnist with *The Indian Express*

So Long, Farewell

Things that COVID-19 has forced us to give up on

Vatsala Mamgain

SO WE stand together — all of humanity, plus the aliens who convene and attend webinars — in the dark belly of 2020, wondering how to get out of this toilet bowl of a year. It reminds me of a similar time in history, when it seemed like all hope was lost, and Mahatma Gandhi famously said, "This sucks. I want my Mummy." The father of the nation was, as always, bang on the money. There is no situation, including a global pandemic, where the addition of Mummy isn't likely to make things better. Or, if not better, then same; except with cake. Which is the very definition of better. But there are a few things that are the mo-

lecular opposite of Mummy, that won't make the times any better. Here's the not-Mummy list of objects, the vestigial organs of our pre-COVID, pre-lockdown existence, that are absolutely useless to us in lockdown:

- **Watches:** It's ironic because the one thing that this lockdown has gifted us is vast tracts of time. Time earlier spent on commuting and competitive consumption is now spent meaningfully — squinting 27.3 hours every day at screens and the remaining 27.3 hours attempting to redistribute domestic dirt. As a wise man called Anonymous once said, there's no time like the present; but if the present doesn't feel like a gift, the last thing you need is a watch.
- **Bras:** The single biggest winner of the



PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

GOING, GOING, GONE

(From left) Watches, lunchboxes and belts

lockdown (ok, double biggest winners) have been women's breasts, taking advantage of self-isolation to throw off the undervired yoke of oppression. The few times in lockdown that have necessitated wearing one have been greeted by most women with the puppy-like enthusiasm that condemned prisoners reserve for jailers escorting them to the noose. It's done, it's dusted, the postmortem will make it official,

but the swab tests will prove beyond a doubt that COVID killed the bra.

● **Laptop bags:** Lockdown has revealed the true purpose of laptop bags, which is to lie around, trapping all the dust bunnies that in-expert *jhadoos* cannot. At this point, all laptop bags have been seized and hauled off to a planet called Somewhere Out Of the Way. Things never ever find their way out of there,

so it's definitely tata, goodbye.

- **Belts:** It's a scientific fact that calories consumed wearing comfy track pants are four times more likely to attach themselves lovingly to your body. After months of this joyous union, it's no wonder that most of us have been thanking our stars that whatever COVID-related belt tightening we may have to do, at least it won't be with the actual, physical belt.
- **Lunchboxes:** I have never ever met a lunchbox I didn't like, so, for me, this is a huge blow. Lockdown has meant that the lifecycle of food has simply skipped the lunchbox stage. It is now transferred straight from the pan to the mouth, without a stop at the lunchbox station. What a sad loss for the panting, drooling, anticipation industry.
- **Heels/sandals/ dress shoes:** Like pedigreed pets six months after adoption, they have been completely abandoned. Given that for most of us, our exercise routine has consisted of sitting slack-jawed in front of a screen, allowing the fat cells in our thighs to mate and have huge litters, we have had no need for shoes. At best, we have walked to the fridge to

get a snack, which, strenuous as it is after a whole day of thigh breeding, requires just one pair of flip-flops. Essential workers and those who needed to walk home will, of course, have needed relief for their soles, but overall, in 2020, the more well-heeled you are, the less well-heeled you have needed to be.

● **Suitcases:** The most utterly, completely, supremely useless objects of 2020 have all been put away, packed to bursting with metro passes, ties, sunglasses, razors, makeup, dinner jackets, trousers, contact lenses, perfumes and swimsuits. Stuffed somewhere between these are remnants of what life felt like pre-COVID — memories of dark bars and dinner parties, swimming pools, airport lounges, school sports days, affectionate hugs and dreams of haircuts, massages and holidays.

Whether or not I claim anything else from the detritus of this year, those are the things that I can't wait to retrieve. You?

Vatsala Mamgain is a glutton, cook, runner, tree lover, shopper, reader and talker



PHOTO: CREATIFILMS BY SAHIL ARORA

EYE SPY
EVERY FORTNIGHT, WE PICK, YOU WATCH

All Our Yesterdays and Todays



INSIDE HER WORLD
A still from *Run Kalyani*

Geetha J's debut feature is a delightful meditation on tedium and solitude

Shubhra Gupta

The Wedding Must Go On

The pandemic and social distancing are shrinking the big, fat Indian wedding — at least till the virus is around

Surbhi Gupta

DELHI-BASED digital marketer Chaitali Puri and her Chandigarh-based fiancé Nitin Arora had started planning their engagement and wedding in December last year. They wanted a "big fat Punjabi wedding", says Puri, a two-day event on May 1 and 2, which would include *phas* at sunset followed by a party that would last the whole night. The couple got engaged on March 16, but a week later, everything looked uncertain, as the country

locked down on March 22 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. A wedding takes months, sometimes even years, to plan. Each detail is agonised over, from coordinating outfits with the decor, to creating *sangeet* playlists, researching destination venues, and sampling lavish menus. Most emergencies are factored into the plans, but how could anyone plan for an unprecedented global calamity? Puri and Arora are among the many couples whose nuptial plans were foiled by the lockdown. While some decided to postpone their weddings, others decided to forego grand events, opting, instead, for intimate functions at home, as soon as the government allowed weddings with up to 50 guests, beginning May 4.

"This isn't the time for the big fat Indian wedding at all; intimate weddings and home ceremonies are the way forward," says Aanchal Tuli, who runs The Millennium Bridesmaid, a wedding-planning company in Gurugram. She had two weddings to or-

ganise in April and two in June. One family was particular about the *muhurat*, so they went ahead with a ceremony including 10 people, at home. Others have postponed their plans indefinitely. "Two of my couples are abroad, so there is no way they can come to India any time soon," she says.

Puri and Arora finally did get married in an intimate ceremony at home, after the latter's father suggested on May 1 that they could still go ahead as planned the next day. "What followed were 12 hours of complete madness," Puri says. The permissions for the wedding and travel from Chandigarh to Delhi were managed by 5 pm on May 1 and a *pan-dit* to officiate the ceremony was finalised by 7 pm. The wedding feast was cooked at home, and the celebrants all wore masks, maintaining proper distance from each other. Sanitiser bottles were placed all over the house, says Puri, who wore her mother's sari, along with her grandmother's vintage gold choker, instead of the elaborate *lehnga* which she hadn't been able to collect from the designer.

Shafiqullah Dar, a 30-year-old teacher in central Kashmir's Budgam district, too, had planned to have a grand wedding on May 31, with over 300 people in attendance. "My sister got married last year and 600 people had graced the occasion, and we had served a full-fledged *wazwan*," he says. In Kashmir, weddings are synonymous with *wazwan*, a feast comprising 15 to 35 dishes. So important is the *wazwan* that wedding dates are fixed for when the *waza*, the cook, is available. Guests sit in groups of four around a *traami* — a round copper platter that is heaped with rice and loaded with dishes such as seekh kebabs



PHOTO: DIPAK STUDIOS

SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL

(Top) Sanitisers, masks and a wedding in Delhi; and a preparations for a religious ceremony at a Sikh wedding in Delhi

and methi korma. There was none of this for Dar's wedding. The guest list was trimmed down to 20, and comprised only immediate family. "We savoured a home-cooked meal served on individual plates and the menu was also limited," he says. "Everyone was so amused to see a *baraat*, they were calling me a *COVID dulha*," he says.

A lot of weddings in Kashmir happen in June and go on till October. We had some bookings before Ramzan and some after, but now due to the pandemic, most are getting cancelled and we are being asked to return the advance," says Javed Ahmed Bhatt, who runs Hamdard Tent House in Anantnag district. "We've lived through unrest and curfews in 2008, 2010 and 2016, but weddings used to take place, even if fewer in number. But during the pandemic, there have been almost no weddings," says Bhatt. The few that do happen feature what is being called the "pandemic *wazwan*", with fewer dishes cooked and served by *wazas* in PPE suits and, like at Dar's wedding, eaten by guests on individual mini *traamis*.

One of the biggest challenges is preparing the guest list, says Namrata Raigarhia, owner-founder of Two Fat Ladies, a Mumbai-based wedding planning company. Besides

organising two to three different events for different groups of 50 people each, they've instituted a strict RSVP system.

According to Tuli, people no longer want to spend huge sums on weddings, and neither do they want large, elaborately decorated venues, where the paucity of guests will only make the contrast with weddings in pre-COVID times appear starker. Food menus have changed because guest lists have shrunk and buffets are being avoided because of hygiene concerns.

The intimate art of bridal make-up is one of the peculiar challenges of weddings right now. Delhi-based make-up artist Leena Bhushan ensures that she's alone in the room with the bride and one assistant when working. "We're sanitising our products before and after the make-up, washing our hands constantly and doing temperature checks of the brides, apart from wearing masks, face shields and PPE suits. I'm covered from head to toe," she says, "But it is taking us four hours instead of two with one bride, so our work has only increased," she says.

Weddings planners are now required to source masks and sanitisers as well. Good quality masks are bought and made to match the theme of the occasion. "Every table will have a sanitiser and entry and exit will have the standing sanitising unit," says Tuli. Wedding planning teams have also shrunk in size. "We used to work with full-time employees and freelancers, but now we'll only work with employees whose backgrounds we're sure of," she says.

Still, weddings, like other celebrations, are about families and communities coming together and social distancing remains a challenge. "It's such a social event, you end up hugging people, touching the feet of elders, or dancing with friends," Raigarhia says. Her recommendation is that her clients postpone their plans, if they can. "Those who want to do it now should opt for home ceremonies, with a bigger celebration later."

Planners say people do not want to spend huge sums on weddings, nor do they want large, elaborately decorated venues

Homeland Insecurity

Can we ever be seen for who we are, and not what we are?

SLICE OF LIFE



Suvir Saran

Suvir Saran is a chef, author, educator and world traveller

ALL HUMANS, including refugees who have been dispossessed of their birthplace, are of a certain ethnicity. We might choose to be nomads, or migrants or live in a land far away from our homeland, but our ethnicity never changes. We are born to it, and die being of it.

At 20, I found myself in Manhattan, the financial, cultural and urban epicentre of the United States. Often called "The City" by those who have visited, lived in, or done business there. With its high energy, endless opportunities, and rare ability to help people realise their dreams, it is incomparably cosmopolitan and uniquely ecumenical.

My arrival in New York City made me aware of my ethnicity for the first time. As a college-goer in India, I was routinely confronted with the question, "What are you?" When I answered "I am a human child", I provoked disgust at my naïveté. And, then, impatience at my unwillingness to accept such questions and their expected answers as commonplace. My questioners, mostly Maharashtrians, were quick to consider me Punjabi or Kashmiri. Some even assumed I was "mixed breed". Many had no qualms about calling me *chikna*, code for someone

fair, smooth and soft, or even feminine, pretty, or gay. It further needled my questioners when I refused to give my last name. Those familiar with popular American music would accuse me of fashioning myself after Madonna. Truth be told, I was a student of Hindustani classical vocal music. Not even remotely a fan of Madonna. I was also not a fan of being boxed into stereotypes and "isms".

I saw life through a prism of my own making. Monochromatic life bored me. I preferred a colourful way of thinking, living and being. Mumbai was, to my late teen sensibilities, the Manhattan of India. Yet it was New York City where I wanted to study, come of age, and chart the course of my life's journey. Visiting it in my mid-teens, I saw firsthand the potential of the peerlessly brilliant city. I left it hungry for more. Leaving behind bits and bobs of me waiting to reunite with my soul. Yearning for a sense of home and belonging.

Manhattan was everything I wanted it to be and then some. The people of Manhattan and its boroughs were a unique and interesting lot of humanity. A pool and creed of people for whom all that mattered was their love of a richly diverse city, the plurality driving



SUVIR SARAN

I am shocked to find the food I grew up eating, the regional attire, and the decorative arts now being considered 'ethnic'

them to greater heights and keeping them restless in the pursuit of whatever it was that made them tick.

Manhattan had visitors like me coming to it from all around the world. The tourists from lands afar had sensibilities similar to my own. With these foreigners, I had a concordance. Discordance — accompanied by a visceral ugliness — came mostly from small-town Americans. These were the people who asked about my ethnicity and my religious beliefs. They wanted to place me into a stereotypical, formulaic category. In times of communal tensions like 9/11, they were the ones who spat on me, called me racial epithets, and even struck me. Thankfully, these were rare occasions, about a dozen moments in 27 years.

As I make my home in Delhi at 47, I find myself in a city very different from what I left at 18. Delhi is a city of incredible beauty and shocking challenges that come with a booming urban sprawl and industrial growth. I see the hustle and bustle that was New York in 1993, but nowhere near as comfortable with urbanisation as NYC of 2020. I see the glitz and glamour, and I see heart-wrenching poverty. I see cacophonous traffic, and sections of the country still coming of age, struggles similar to the rural outpost where I set up a farm in New York State. Towns and peoples ignored by fellow citizens and country, left behind in the 19th century.


I am shocked to find the food I grew up eating, the regional attire, the architectural

sensibilities, the decorative arts — those things from the past that connect me to my birthplace — now considered "ethnic". Commodities brought into the motherland from nations far, far away are accorded accolades and price points that deify their being. Celebrated for their Northern European provenance, these things are called "food", "design", "art", and "dress". While what I left behind and returned craving to become one with again is now labeled as "ethnic" — "ethnic clothing", "ethnic food", "ethnic art", "ethnic dress".

Colonisers long gone, colonies as we knew them done with, the norms of the past ought to be fading away and replaced with happily acceptable and accepted old ways and traditions. When we willingly succumb to Stockholm Syndrome and brand our own social and cultural identity as "ethnic", we are playing right into the hands of the oppressors. In this moment, one we own and influence, we are furthering the stereotypes and deepening the divides that damage our human collective. When hate is perpetuated and perpetrated, it ends up hating the hater in the end.

I am hoping to see a day when I am simply Suvir. A human being. A day when my food, clothing, art, style and language are simply nouns, with no belittling adjective. A time when they are not reduced to some "ethnic" version of the "norm", but have a place of pride in their own homeland. The beginning of homeland security.

DOWN IN JUNGLELAND



Ranjit Lal

Ranjit Lal is an author, environmentalist and bird watcher

Taking Flight

The fascinating flying and landing techniques evolved by birds

THINK OF this: vultures, amongst the heaviest of birds — some weighing in at 15 kg — are also the highest flying of all birds, reaching heights of 11,000 m, and expending scarcely a calorie in energy while up there. Yes, it takes a lot of mighty wing-beating to get off the ground, but once they're in the "zone", they can fly hundreds of kilometers with nary a wing-beat. Hummingbirds, the lightest of birds, averaging around 4 g, burn up fuel so fast that they have to be constantly refuelling on the wing, by taking in their own body weight in high-octane nectar. Otherwise, they might just drop dead. At night, they go into a stupor, with heart and respiratory rates dropping drastically. As aircraft engineers know, the lighter the aircraft, the easier it is to get off the ground and save fuel.

So what's with these vultures and hummingbirds? All birds are really designed to be as light as possible — they have hollow bones — and have a respiratory system that ensures a constant supply of oxygen to their muscles, regardless of inhalation or exhalation of air. They're also streamlined, with smooth outlines and aerofoil-shaped wings over which air passes as smoothly as possible, generating the maximum lift and keeping that enemy of flight — drag — at bay. For this, a few design tweaks are necessary. Vultures and pelicans must have broad wings in order to support their weight; the larger the surface area of the wing, the more lift it can generate. The problem happens at the wingtip. Due to the pressure differences at the top and bottom surface of the wing, eddies or mini tornadoes of air roll off the edge of the wing from the bottom to the top, creating turbulence and drag. So the birds (like others) have solved this problem by having splayed wingtips — with the feathers at the end — called the primary feathers — deeply slotted and upturned, so that the air can pass through them without getting too agitated and causing drag. To facilitate slow flight — say, while landing — many birds have a tuft of feathers called the "alula" or bastard wing, which pops up in front of their wings to smoothen the turbulent airflow as the airspeed decreases (you can clearly see this in blue-rock doves). Vultures also attain their economical fuel consumption figures by hitching rides on thermals, columns of warm air rising from the ground. Many nest on precarious cliff faces, so no laborious take-off is necessary.

The wings of birds like albatrosses and other sea-



UP IN THE AIR

Canada Geese flying in formation

birds are very long and narrow which reduces the turbulence at the wingtips because of the low surface area. Albatrosses use another trick: they tack back and forth low over the waves over vast distances, taking advantage of the difference in wind-speed prevailing close to the waves and higher up (It's slower near the surface of the waves due to friction).

The hummingbird has solved its problem by being light and by flying more like an insect. Normally, a bird's wing generates lift only on the down-stroke; the up-stroke is more a reloading move. But with insects (and the hummingbird) lift is created by both strokes. Even so, the hummingbird's wings may blur at 20 beats per second, while its heart thrums at 1,000 beats per minute to get enough oxygen around, and it must hover to suck in enough fuel from maybe 1,000 to 2,000 blooms per day.

It has recently been discovered that even the peregrine falcon has a special tuft of feathers which pops up when it's screaming down at 389 kmph to dampen turbulence that could send it out of control. Valves in the nostrils also ensure a steady supply of air — and not a gale blowing through them at that speed — and the eyes are protected by a nictitating membrane which slides over before impact with the prey. Owls are equipped with special sound-dampening feathers so they can approach prey soundlessly: I once observed a group of four barn owls demonstrate this in an aviary — it was truly eerie.

Ground-dwelling partridges, pheasants and junglefowl burn the carbohydrate glycogen in explosive bursts when panicked, which doesn't need a supply of oxygen, but in which waste products build up quickly, tiring the bird. Long-distance endurance fliers like ducks and geese burn fat, which need a constant supply of oxygen to be provided by the blood — hence their meat is "dark".

Flying techniques have also evolved to enable birds to escape predators, perhaps the most celebrated being the "murmuration" of starlings, wherein massive flocks give a breathtaking display of synchronised flying that completely bamboozles any predator. Tightly bunched, they twist and swirl like eddies of smoke, each bird keeping an eye on its seven closest neighbours, ensuring it maintains "safe distance". On the lookout for the slightest change in direction, it and the others will follow suit immediately. Long-distance fliers, like ducks and geese fly in the famous V-formation, wherein the wake left by one bird's wingtips are used by the bird following to assist lift, with a 10 per cent energy saving. To think we stuff these magnificent creatures in cages.

Pradip Krishen on what the Central Vista makeover could mean for the national capital's green spaces

Shiny Varghese

PRADIP KRISHEN'S books *Trees of Delhi* (Penguin Books, 2006) and *Jungle Trees of Central India* (Penguin Books, 2013) have not just tuned our eyes to look at flowers, leaves and branches more closely, but also revealed the "man-made" choices that create our wilderness. As the Central Vista Redevelopment leads to a plan to replant Lutyens' Delhi, the naturalist reminds us about the missteps that colonial rulers made in 1912, and why our natural biodiversity is so underutilised. Excerpts from an interview:

What's your opinion about the latest horticulture plan for the Central Vista Redevelopment?

All we have to go by is the article that appeared in *The Indian Express* on July 19 ("*In Central Vista revamp, firm to focus on trees that restore Lutyens era look*"). It's very worrying for several reasons. The firm HCP Design, which is executing the design for the Central Vista 'revamp', says it wants to stick to the original 'palette' of trees that Edwin Lutyens planted, and also said it was going to replant one species that has a lifespan of about a 100 years. Except that, first of all, they don't seem to know what the 'original palette' is — they mention *jamun*, banyan and *peepal* and an astonishing entity they call a 'forest ficus'. Now, first of all, banyans and *peepals* are decidedly not part of any original palette of trees on the Central Vista. Next, they don't seem to know what the third kind of ficus is — this in itself is alarming. Furthermore, they completely ignore several other trees like the *chir* (cheed) pine, *maulshri* and *bistendu*, which are a distinctive part of the landscape around Vijay Chowk.

What are they doing wrong?

I remember talking to an old *jamun*-seller near India Gate. It was he who first alerted me to the fact that the *jamuns* around Central Vista were *rai jamuns* that ripen in *bhaadon* (August-September), distinct from the smaller *jamoa* that ripen in *aashaadh* (June-July). The difference corresponds to a species difference between *Syzygium nervosum* and *Syzygium cumini*. They're distinct trees, not just in the time of ripening of their fruit, but also in their form. The big, spreading, shady trees that grow along the Central Vista are a special kind of *jamun*, not just any old *jamun*. Do they know this and will they bother to find out? Don't you think that if you're planting up a grand, ceremonial avenue, you need to know exactly what you're doing?

You've said before that New Delhi's trees are a British legacy. Could you elaborate?

The area chosen to be imperial Delhi — which came to be known as 'Lutyens' Delhi' — was a *tabula rasa*, pretty much a blank slate. Starting with the Imperial Capital Committee's Report in 1912, British planners



PRADIP KRISHEN

and arboriculturists chose which trees should flank each avenue in the new capital. Lutyens himself and William Mustoe, who was superintendent, Government Gardens, in New Delhi, are said to have decided which tree should be planted where, all this over breakfast every morning in a Lutyens' bungalow on (I think) Suneehri Bagh road.

What was unique about their plan?

They wanted to choose particular trees that they thought would be exactly the right size and shape to 'frame' monuments or other features that could be seen at the ends of these roads. In that first report of 1912, they identified eight species for this purpose. That's a really tiny number for what was upwards of 40 roads and streets. Slowly, this number swelled to 12 or 13 but what's most interesting is why they chose the particular species that they did. Several trees, which were favourite avenue trees of the Mughals, trees like *shisham*, banyan and mango, for example, found no place in their scheme. I've tried to piece together the biases and criteria that might have influenced decisions about which trees to plant. It's a complicated story, but to simplify, these trees had to meet the following criteria: (a) they had to be evergreen (b) they should not be 'common' and (c) they had to be the 'right' size for the avenues where they were to be planted.

Lutyens was not familiar with Indian trees. He would have relied hugely on Mustoe's experience of being in Punjab for many years before he was called in to Delhi. But, for me, the most curious criterion is evergreen-ness. Trees that are well adapted to Delhi's natural ecology are not evergreen. An environment that has only two months of rain concentrated in one big pulse cannot support evergreen trees. For a tree to survive in a monsoon climate, it has to shut down and become dormant in the long dry season in order to survive. So, in effect, choosing evergreen trees for Delhi is not such a smart idea.

So, what has worked and what hasn't in



EXPRESS ARCHIVE

TREE FOR JOY

An old *rai jamun* in Delhi; (above) Pradip Krishen

the many avenues of Central Vista?

This was their biggest mistake — opting for evergreen species, trees like *arjun* and *jamun* and so on. Quite apart from the ecological misunderstanding that underlies this thinking, why would you effectively 'cut out' one of the most beautiful events that happen in deciduous forests — the flush of new leaves in spring? I don't deny that many of our avenues in New Delhi look very beautiful. But at some point, I think we're going to have to do an environmental audit of their performance. Are they excessively thirsty? How much water do they consume? Can we afford to go on watering them at that rate? These questions are going to become more and more urgent as time goes on.

Which trees have 'worked' in my opinion?

A Melody from the Pits of Hell

Why an Italian pianist has been archiving music composed by prisoners in World War II concentration camps

Suanshu Khurana

IN 1941, Polish violinist Józef Kropinski was sent to Auschwitz, located in southern Poland (then occupied by Nazi forces). Kropinski's crime: he was involved in publishing an underground newspaper. Once inside the concentration camp, he realised that if he were to survive the medical experiments and the back-breaking labour, he had to hold on to music.

Kropinski, then 26, joined the camp orchestra. He managed to write 10 compositions in Auschwitz, according to his son, even as his comrades died every day. In early 1945, he was sent to Buchenwald, another concentration camp in east-central Germany. He would hide at night, in a room piled with human cadavers, and write music by the light of a single candle. Kropinski stayed at Buchenwald till the end of the war, and died in Breslau in 1970. He didn't live long enough to see any of his music performed.

Can a person with nothing left in the world, find a redemptive spark or joy of any kind? "Yes," says 55-year-old Italian pianist Francesco Lotoro in a Skype conversation. Since 1988, Lotoro has been on a journey to find the forgotten music of concentration camps. "It is the very notion of resistance, not allowing yourself to be completely beaten



GIUSEPPE MARCHISIELLA

BEING HUMAN

Francesco Lotoro

war), Roma, the disabled, homosexual or political dissidents. There were also the political and war prisoners in America, Japan and India, incarcerated by various regimes. Soon, it became the only mission of my life," says Lotoro, whose current collection of musical scores is about 8,000 and includes melodies written in concentration camps and in military captivity between 1933 and 1953.

Over these decades, Lotoro has met many survivors and their families. A lot of the interviews began with phone calls. These were

tough conversations as they didn't want to be reminded of that traumatic time, "but the music needed to be freed". "The lives could not be restored or fully healed. But this is what I need to do," says Lotoro.

On one such visit to Prague, in 1990, Lotoro discovered a five-act opera, an optimistic and joyous composition titled *Three Hairs of the Wise Old Man*, created by Czech composer Rudolf Karel, who was associated with anti-Nazi resistance and later captured by the Gestapo in 1943. He was held at Terezin concentration camp, in Czech Republic, where prisoners were kept before they were sent for extermination. The score was written on various pieces of toilet paper with charcoal provided by a warden in the hospital section, who also helped smuggle out the music and kept them hidden with his daughter's homework. Karel died in 1945. But his music made it out. "I recorded it with an orchestra for posterity," says Lotoro.

In the long list of musicians he met, there was famed Israeli pianist Alexander Tamir, originally a Lithuanian Jew who composed *Shitler Shitler* (Quiet, quiet), a song in Yiddish, for a music competition in the Vilna ghetto operated by Nazis in Lithuania. The song written by Tamir's father spoke of the despair of his people but was sung as a lullaby so that the Nazis didn't understand what it meant. Tamir survived the Vilna ghetto and lived in Jerusalem until August 2019.

Lotoro was born a Christian but converted to Judaism in 2004 along with his wife. The collection of catalogues, symphonies and recordings are going to be housed in a "citadel" for which the Italian government recently provided him with the site of an old brandy distillery in Barletta. The space will include a museum, a library, a theatre and a cafe, and will be constructed over the next four years. "In all the brutality, there was music, the seven notes that allowed them to express the human in them, a yearning to be free, sometimes just to get past the day. My life's work is just a small effort in giving their music the voice they deserve," says Lotoro.

Broad smile on English faces

A quickfire 62 off 45 and 2 for 17 gives hosts the momentum; WI 137 for 6

SANDIP G
JULY 25

THE JOY is back on Stuart Broad's face. Snubbed for the first Test a fortnight ago, he was grumpy and publicly expressed his displeasure. But since returning to the team, he has enjoyed a terrific run of form. If his six wickets were crucial in setting up a series-levelling win, his all-round produce on the second day of the decider has put England on course of reclaiming the Wisden Trophy.

First, he turned the game around with his bat, his exciting cameo (62 off 45 balls) jet-setting England to a stiff total of 369 after striding into the middle much earlier than expected following the loss of four wickets for 18 runs in 22 balls. Later with the ball, he helped England tighten the grip over the match, seeing off the stubborn Kraigg Brathwaite and the reliable Roston Chase. Subsequently, West Indies stumbled to 137/6 when bad light stopped play.

Broad is no longer the batsman he once promised to be – his lone hundred has now attained a standoffish cult status. Even his propensity to produce the odd cameo has diminished, and his batting barely sneaks into pub-tables, forget coffeehouses. But he illustrated that while his technique may never again stand up to the scrutiny of a proper Test innings, his eye remains as excellent as ever.

He batted with such nonchalance that he seemed to be mocking at conclusions that he is a walking wicket to short-pitched deliveries. Rather, he has devised a method to nullify his weakness. It's not foolproof or pretty, but it was ridiculously effective and frustrated the West Indies pacers. As soon as the bowler is about to release the ball, Broad would start opening up his stance, clear his front leg and manufacture room to swing his shoulders. Depending on where the ball was pitched, he would cream them over mid-wicket, club them past square leg, blast them down the ground or slash them over point. Several times he swiped the air, but he also lashed them to the fences.

Roach, whose morning spell was as incisive as it was hostile, was smacked over mid-wicket, an unalloyed attacking stroke beyond the decorum of mainstream batsmen. He then filleted through the least expensive of



Stuart Broad boosted England's total before striking with the ball. Reuters

West Indies' bowlers, Jason Holder. In the space of 14 balls, the captain was bludgeoned for seven fours, the last of which brought up his fifty from 33 balls, third joint-fastest half-century for an Englishman. He added 12 more runs before miscueing a low full-toss, but by the time had already yielded 76 runs with his stout partner Dom Bess and taken the match away from the visitors.

It was Broad's first Test fifty since the Boxing Day Test of December 2017 and his highest score in 125 innings dating back to a score of 65 against Australia at Trent Bridge in 2013. It wouldn't have been timelier, when England had crumbled from 246 for four to 280 for eight in the face of a heavy second new-ball onslaught from Shannon Gabriel and Roach. Forget 350, even 300 seemed a sweat. But then intervened Broad, and he hardly seemed to break a sweat.

An hour later, he intervened again, picking out Brathwaite, West Indies's best hope of putting on a reasonable total on board. But the hope lasted only four balls into his first

over, when he made one nibble off the seam and brushed his outside edge to the first slip. Brathwaite was waiting for the nip-backer, but Broad dialled his old friend, the away-swing. Later in the day, at the backend of a belligerent second spell, he summoned the nip-backer to pin Roston Chase in front.

With Chase's predilection to thrust the front leg and bring the bat around it, he was always going to be fodder for Broad. Between these strikes, James Anderson bagged a brace, an inch-perfect out-swinging followed by a razor-sharp in-swinging while Jofra Archer bounced out John Campbell with a ripping lifter. Chris Woakes later chimed in with Jermaine Blackwood's wicket to leave the visitors tottering and Broad wheeling away in joy.

BRIEF SCORES: England 369 in 111.5 ovs (Rory Burns 57, Jos Buttler 67, Ollie Pope 91, Stuart Broad 62; Kemar Roach 4/72) vs West Indies 137 for 6 in 47.1 ovs (John Campbell 32; Broad 2/17, James Anderson 2/17)

Europe's final countdown

Liverpool's first-ever Premier League trophy, won at a canter, ended any hopes of the last day of the league becoming a frantic climb for the top spot. But such is the financial pull that came this weekend, three teams go through the gauntlet, with two coming out of it ensuring a spot among Europe's elite and a roundabout of £50 million. Even that may not be enough if the Europa League throws a few surprises.

WITH 37 games completed, Liverpool and Manchester City stand first and second respectively on the table and have guaranteed a Champions League spot for themselves next season. And then comes a three-way race between Manchester United, Chelsea and Leicester City that has careened into the final day of the season with the Foxes hosting the Red Devils at King Power Stadium.

£50 MN WINDFALL

Manchester Utd currently stand third on the table with 63 points and have a +28 goal differential. A frantic pace kept by Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's young team after Christmas and a vital signing in Bruno Fernandes – coupled with a disastrous return to football by Leicester in the post-Covid 19 session of Premier League football, has seen United stay within touching distance of reaching the Champions League.

A win or a draw tomorrow not only guarantees United's coffers go up £50 million in prize money and broadcast revenue but also ensures that their Adidas sponsorship deal doesn't get affected. Signed on a 10-year deal for £75 million a year, there is a clause in the Adidas contract that states that if United fail to qualify for the Champions League, then they incur a £22.5 million deduction – a costly proposition even for a club like United.

LEICESTER SLIP

Manchester United face a Leicester side that was chal-



Solskjaer's United need a win or a draw against Leicester to guarantee a Champions League spot. File

WHAT THESE THREE TEAMS NEED TO DO:

CHelsea: Need a win or a draw against Wolves or need Man Utd to beat Leicester

lose their match against Wolves.

MANCHESTER UNITED: Need to win or draw against Leicester. Or need Chelsea to

beat Man Utd or need to draw and then hope that Chelsea lose against Wolves.

lenging for the title at Christmas and are now arguably the worst placed among the three clubs in the mix for Champions League qualification.

One point behind United on 62 and on the same goal difference as the 20-time champions, Leicester have their work cut out.

A disastrous run of form has seen them win only two of their eight Premier League games on return and their best hope on Sunday seems to be not them, but the tired legs of

their opposition.

Leicester go up against a United team that has been run to the ground and a defeat to Chelsea in the FA Cup combined with a narrow 1-1 draw to West Ham United on Wednesday for United only improves the chances that the Foxes have at home.

BLUES SURGE

Chelsea's first full season under Frank Lampard has seen them on the cusp of a Champions League spot and an

opportunity to finish with an FA Cup. They are also in the mix with the Champions League but face a Bayern Munich team that has had a longer period to rest after completing their Bundesliga triumph promptly after the restart in Germany.

The Blues face a Wolves team that are on their own journey to get to the Europa League. Chelsea need a solitary point from this fixture or require United to beat Leicester.

SURPRISE ENTRANTS

The talk is revolving around Manchester United, Leicester and Chelsea fighting it out for a UCL spot but they might very well be in danger of missing out if the Wolves rise to the challenge.

Still a part of the Europa League, a win in the second-tier continental competition would guarantee them a Champions League spot. Chelsea are in a similar position as they are in contention to win the Champions League and thus guarantee a spot in the competition next year.

If Chelsea and Wolves both win the Champions League and Europa League respectively, and neither finish in the top four, then both of them would be a part of next season's UCL and the team that finished fourth in the league would have to contend with a Europa League spot instead.

SHASHANK NAIR

ON THE TUBE : Chelsea vs Wolves 8:30 PM IST; Leicester City vs Manchester United 8:30 PM IST (on Star Sports Network and Hotstar).

BRIDGE

Don't be afraid to give up a trick early. Sometimes it is the only way to make your contract. You are South, declarer in INT.

NORTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
♠ 1087	1♣			
♥ 932	Pass	1♦	Pass	INT
♦ AKQ76	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♣ 73				
SOUTH				
♠ A43				
♥ A87				
♦ 32				
♣ A6542				

West leads the CK. How do you plan to take seven tricks?
The West Hand: S-K 9 2 H-10 6 5 4 D-8 4 C-K Q J 10
The East Hand: S-Q J 6 5 H-K Q J D-J 10 9 5 C-J 10

You have six winners, so you need to find one more. From the opening lead it seems that clubs are not splitting 3-3 so the diamond suit is the only possible source of extra tricks. Note that there are no entries to dummy outside diamonds. That is a problem. You can play the DAKQ, and if the diamonds split 3-3 you will make five diamond tricks and eight tricks in all. However if they do not split evenly you will only make three diamond tricks and six in all. The chance of a 3-3 split is only 36%. Can you do better? How will you proceed?

The first thing to decide is whether to duck the first trick. It is normal to duck the first trick or two in notrump because West has probably led from a long suit, and in that case ducking will exhaust East in that suit. However, on this hand you should not duck, because they may switch to another suit in which you have even fewer cards. Clubs are relatively non-threatening – the most West can have is five, and in that case East has already run out of clubs. So take the CA and then play on diamonds. The correct way is to play the D2 from hand and the D6 from dummy. The opponents will win the trick but you will still have an entry to the remaining diamonds in dummy. This way if the diamonds are split 3-3 or 4-2 you will make four diamond tricks and your contract. The chance that the diamonds are split 3-3 is 36%, so if you are greedy and try to make five diamond tricks, you will be disappointed most of the time. The chance that the diamonds are split 4-2 is 48%, so the chance of a 3-3 or 4-2 split is 36% + 48% = 84%. Here, East still has a club, so he will win the first diamond and cash West's three club tricks, but you will make your contract. If the diamonds were split 5-1 or 6-0 there was nothing you could have done about it anyway.

You are South, declarer in 4S.

NORTH	SOUTH
♠ 843	♠ AKQJ92
♥ J98	♥ Q10
♦ 743	♦ J
♣ J843	♣ AQ102

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2♦	4♣		
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Needing just one good card from partner, South did well to overcall 4S – North was never going to accept a game try. West leads the DQ, followed by the DQ. North has provided two useful cards – how do you plan to take advantage of them?

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 quip.

As far as I'm concerned, '___' is a word that was invented to make everyone sound like a _____.
Calvin Trillin (4, __, 6)

GPEOR	BELUHM
<div></div>	<div></div>
BNI.LTU	OOWWBW
<div></div>	<div></div>

SOLUTION: GROPE, BLUNT, HUMBLE, BOWMAN
Answer: As far as I'm concerned, 'blunter' is a word that was invented to make everyone sound like a butler. - Calvin Trillin

SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2279

QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- Ancestors (12)
- Seize and keep (7)
- A portable rocket-launcher (7)
- One who is sobbing? (5)
- Practical, viable or workable (8)
- Science of metals (10)
- German count (4)
- Resound (4)
- Equable disposition (4-6)
- Driving to anger (8)
- Church singers (5)
- Pancake like bread of India (7)
- Dope (7)
- Retracted what one had said (3,4,5)

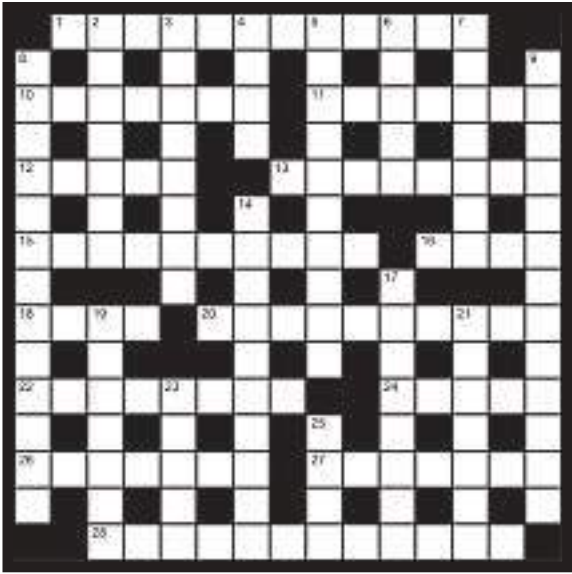
DOWN

- Publish again, in a way – "rent rip" anagram? (7)
- Musical sign of suspense (4,4)
- Musical conclusion (4)
- Sinking (10)
- Seeps (5)
- Drool, drivel (7)
- Perimeter (13)
- Duped or fooled; gipped (5,3,1,4)
- Furnishing of relief (10)
- Romeo's friend, kinsman (8)
- North Indian state (7)
- Move forward (7)
- Hostile look (5)
- Kind of news (4)

CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

- Giggling drunkenly? (7,6)
- Translator gains profit by hard graft (7)
- Build-up of talk over the water in France (7)
- Cat noises in the forest (5)
- Mr. Porter employs showy flowers (8)
- In which a host uses love revitalized (4,6)
- Couple sounding trim (4)
- Informers supplies the course for an old vessel (4)
- Guiding labourer; say, before imposing a curfew at college (10)
- The word on the street. Bill, is you're not on time to make the list (8)
- Bit of oatmeal loaf baked in Scotland (5)
- Arrives on horseback with a purse I'd mislaid (5,2)
- To be blunt, half one's wealth is



- under one's belt (7)
28. Last thing an American can bet with? (6,6)

DOWN

- They're inclined to give emphasis to the printed word (7)
- What trouble among ex-drinkers after greeting a poetry man (8)
- There's a fearful lot of it, by the sound of it (4)
- Eventual aim is to keep old woman in the Pacific islands (10)
- Quench in a small pool of water (5)
- Strangely when there's more than one they become high (4-3)
- That could be the condition of the environment – quite bare. (5,2,6)
- First correct your clangers, otherwise just a quick look (7,6)
- Finish – a sentence maybe (3,1,4,2)
- One of those that never meet (8)
- Cockney boozier has problem with a name (3-1-3)

Solutions to 2278

QUICK CLUES Across: 1 Forehead, 5 Stepup, 9 Leaflets, 10 Oracle, 11 Obituary, 12 Marine, 14 Malevolent, 18 Enactments, 22 Epinal, 23 Pedantic, 24 Equity, 25 Redesign, 26 Dining, 27 Strategy. **Down:** 1 Falcon, 2 Roadie, 3 Hellum, 4 Alternates, 5 Tarragon, 7 Packages, 8 Presents, 13 Settlement, 15 Reverend, 16 Tactum, 17 Straiten, 19 Zareba, 20 Stride, 21 Scanty. **CRYPTIC CLUES Across:** 1 Lamppost, 5 Clover, 9 Muttered, 10 Scared, 11 Nineties, 12 Unripe, 14 No-man's land, 18 At the ready, 22 Dearie, 23 River-man, 24 Mahout, 25 Rent-free, 26 Nether, 27 Assessed. **Down:** 1 Lemons, 2 Meeting, 3 Pretty, 4 Stewdrons, 6 Luch Ness, 7 Vertical, 8 Redheads, 13 Hard-liners, 15 Landsman, 16 Straw-hat, 17 Pedicure, 19 Beagle, 20 Smarts, 21 Intend.

If it's your Birthday

Sunday July 26

A personal commitment which is offered now can be relied upon, even if it comes from someone you have known for a short time. It's all about trusting the future.

Monday July 27

Family and friends may not want to hear what you have to say. Your dilemma is whether to speak the truth now or later? The priority is to do what you can to help loved ones.

Tuesday July 28

Passions could run high, which is just how you like it. You'll soon be looking far afield for your thrills. The year holds out the prospect of two new developments. One finds you searching for adventure, the other for personal fulfillment.

Wednesday July 29

You're pulled by a sense of free-flowing romantic possibilities on one hand, and a sense of duty on the other. You'll combine imagination with self-discipline for a win.

Thursday July 30

It's a perfect day for lovers to whisper sweet nothings in each other's ears and you might hear some unexpectedly welcome words in reply. And that has to be good news.

Friday July 31

Saturnine alignments are advising you to be sensible in every way. According to all current indications, you will be pursuing a practical path in the coming year, with excellent results.

Saturday August 1

Passions could run high, which is just how you like it. Mind you, you'll soon be looking far afield for your thrills. The coming year holds out the prospect of two new developments. One finds you searching for adventure.

SUDOKU 4181

Difficulty Level 4s

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 4180



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KARGIL VIJAY DIWAS

**Shirish Deshmukh**
President, DEMA

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