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## J&K ONE YEAR AFTER AUGUST 5

AN EXPRESS SERIES



### 'AS LONG AS J&K REMAINS UT, I WILL NOT CONTEST ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS'

For first time since J&amp;K was split, Omar Abdullah breaks his silence

THE IDEAS PAGE  
PAGE 11

## EXPERT EXPLAINS

RUKMINI BANERJI

From The Indian Express panel of specialists, exclusive insight

## GETTING KIDS BACK TO SCHOOL

How is the prolonged closure of schools affecting children? What are they losing out on, and how can it be made up? What should schools do when they are able to finally open?

EXPLAINED  
PAGE 9

## Ex-CBI chief says Maulana Azad, Leftists 'whitewashed Islamic rule'



M Nageswara Rao

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY  
NEW DELHI, JULY 26

RAISING QUESTIONS of propriety and service rules, former interim CBI director and serving IPS officer, M Nageswara Rao, claimed on Twitter Saturday that Indian history had been "distorted" with the "whitewashing" of "bloody Islamic invasions/rule" and named previous Education Ministers who "were in charge of Indian mind space" for 20 "out of 30 years" (1947-77).

After naming "Maulana Abul Kalam Azad — 11 years (1947-58)"; "Humayun Kabir, M C Chagla & Fakrudin Ali Ahmed — 4 years (1963-67)"; and, "Nurul Hassan — 5 years (1972-77)", Rao posted: "Remaining 10 years other Leftists like VKRV Rao."

These lines were part of a series of four slides that Rao posted along with a tweet that started with the line, "Story of Project Abrahamisation of Hindu

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Gehlot sends another note for session on July 31; Cong attacks Gov

HAMZA KHAN & MANOJ CG  
JAIPUR, NEW DELHI, JULY 26

THE ASHOK Gehlot government has sent a fresh recommendation to Governor Kalraj Mishra asking for a session of the Rajasthan Assembly on July 31. The Governor had returned an earlier recommendation by the government, asking for clarifications on six specific points.

The fresh recommendation was sent late on Saturday night, after the cabinet met for a second time earlier in the evening. "All queries have been answered in the latest recommendation, through which we have sought an Assembly session from July 31," a Congress leader said.

Until late on Sunday night, Raj Bhavan had not responded to the fresh recommendation. In a video released in the evening as part of the Congress's 'Speak Up For Democracy' campaign, Chief Minister Gehlot said he hoped the Governor would act soon.

"Until now, we have not received a reply," Gehlot said. "The Governor is a long-time politician, sociable and *vyavahar-kushal* (well mannered), so I hope that he gives us the order soon, and we will call the Assembly." The government would like the House to discuss the Covid-19 crisis, the "ruined economy" due to the lockdown, and have some political discussions as well, the chief minister said.

In New Delhi, the Congress accused the Governor of acting in a partisan and "motivated" manner. The queries that Mishra had raised "reflected a sorry state

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Minister of State for Defence Shripad Yesso Naik, Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, Army Chief General M M Naravane, Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh and Air Chief Marshal R K S Bhaduria paid tribute at the National War Memorial, on the occasion of Kargil Vijay Diwas, in New Delhi on Sunday. **P 11**

## MANN KI BAAT

# PM on Kargil Diwas: To the wicked, needless enmity comes naturally

**'Our conduct, speech must always seek to boost morale, honour of our soldiers'**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 26

NEEDLESS ENMITY with everyone comes naturally to the wicked, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in his *Mann ki Baat* radio address on Sunday, as the nation observed Kargil Vijay Diwas, the anniversary of the Indian Army's victory over Pakistan 21 years ago.

The Prime Minister's message came as Indian soldiers re-

main locked in conflict with the PLA in Ladakh, with the disengagement process stalled by the Chinese reluctance to step back from several places in the high-altitude border area.

Back in 1999, Modi said, Pakistan had embarked upon its Kargil misadventure, "nursing delusions of encroaching upon Indian soil" at a time when India was making efforts to foster good relations with that country.

"As it is said, *'Bairu akaran sab kahu son, jo kar hit anhit tahu son'*

**'Hazards of Corona are far from being over'**

— which means, to the wicked, enmity with one and all for no reason comes naturally. People with such a disposition keep thinking of harming even their well-wishers..." the Prime Minister said.

India, he said, had extended a hand of friendship to Pakistan at that time, but had instead been stabbed in the back. "But after that, when our gallant

Army displayed deeds of valour, when India demonstrated her might, the whole world watched... It was the victory of high morale and bravery of our armed forces in the truest sense of the term."

However, "these days, battles are fought not just on borders; they are fought within the country too, on many fronts simultaneously," the Prime Minister said. "And every countryman has to decide his or her role in that."

There are occasions when "without paying heed to the essence, we encourage certain things on social media that are

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Khattar: Weekend lockdowns do not work, no such plans in Haryana

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, JULY 26

A WEEKEND lockdown serves no purpose in the fight against the novel coronavirus, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said on Sunday. His government was making continuous efforts to rebuild confidence in the people, and there were no plans to impose any more lockdowns, the Chief Minister said.

The Covid-19 situation in Haryana was under control, case numbers were better than many other states, and near normalcy had returned across the state, Khattar said at an online Idea Exchange with *The Indian Express*.

"A lockdown will not serve any purpose unless it is imposed for a 14-day period. Imposing a lockdown over the weekend or for two days merely gives the impression that something is being done," the Chief Minister said.

"Unless we isolate an infected person for a continuous 14-day period, they will continue to infect others. If we want to work only on perceptions, then yes, of course a weekend



CM Manohar Lal Khattar at the Idea Exchange, Sunday

lockdown can be imposed. But if we actually want to achieve results, then a weekend lockdown serves no purpose," he said.

Several states have imposed short-duration or localised lockdowns as the country as a whole went into a phased 'Unlock' from June 8. In BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh, a range of restrictions come into effect every weekend.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

146  
DAYS SINCE  
PANDEMIC  
BEGANCASES:  
**13,85,521**RECOVERED: **8,85,576**  
DEATHS: **32,063**TESTS: **1,62,91,331** DOUBLING RATE: **19.70\*\***

KEY STATES TO WATCH	TOTAL CASES	SURGE IN 24 HOURS	7-DAY AVG GROWTH*	DOUBLING RATE**
■ Maharashtra	3,66,368	9,251	2.85%	25.26
■ Tamil Nadu	2,06,737	6,988	3.21%	22.43
■ Delhi	1,29,531	1,142	0.91%	79.22
■ Karnataka	90,942	5,072	6.21%	11.60
■ Andhra	88,671	7,813	10.31%	6.98

\* Compounded Daily Growth Rate over last 7 days \*\* Calculated over 7-day growth

CASE FATALITY RATIO	POSITIVITY RATE	DAILY IN, DAILY OUT
7 DAYS EARLIER: <b>2.49</b>	7 DAYS EARLIER: <b>7.81</b>	DETECTED TODAY <b>48,661</b>
NOW: <b>2.31</b>	NOW: <b>8.50</b>	RECOVERED TODAY: <b>36,145</b>

Deaths as a ratio of positive cases (in %); indicator of progress in averting deaths

Positives against number tested (in %); indicator of the spread of disease

Becoming sick vs recovering; more recoveries for 14 days may signal the peak

Data as on July 25, released by Union Ministry of Health, ICMR and states. Often daily numbers include data from previous days. As such, trends based on daily numbers are indicative, not definitive

## Two months into MSME credit scheme, 43% of Rs 3 lakh cr sanctioned

SUNNY VERMA  
NEW DELHI, JULY 26

BANKS HAVE sanctioned 43.5 per cent of the targeted Rs 3 lakh crore under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) for stressed Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) as on July 23, with sanctions and disbursements rising sharply over the last few weeks, official data show.

Two months after the launch of the scheme, cumulative loan

sanctions have risen to Rs 1.30 lakh crore from Rs 1.10 lakh crore on July 1, with both private and state-owned banks stepping up credit deployment, according to most recent data.

Disbursements as a proportion of the total amount was 27.35 per cent at Rs 82,065 crore as on July 23, up from 17.41 per cent or Rs 52,255 crore as on July 1.

Under the ECLGS scheme, banks are offering up to Rs 3 lakh crore of government-guaranteed

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## EXPLAINED Sharp rise in sanctions, disbursements

SANCTIONS AND disbursements under collateral-free MSME loans scheme have picked up pace with private banks joining state-owned lenders in expanding credit deployment. Along with other measures aimed at timely clearance of dues, the scheme seems to be helping in improving the liquidity position of MSMEs, enabling them to survive the economic downturn.

Nidan Singh Sachdeva, who was released last week after being abducted from a gurdwara in Afghanistan, was among those who arrived in New Delhi on Sunday. **A 11**

## Four months after Kabul attack, Afghan Sikhs in Delhi: 'Feels like home'

AMIL BHATNAGAR  
NEW DELHI, JULY 26

"THIS FEELS like home," said Gurjeet Singh after he reached Delhi on Sunday from Kabul. The 30-year-old was among the 11 persons who were granted short-term visas after repeated appeals following an Islamic State-backed attack at the Guru Har Rai Sahib gurdwara in Kabul's Shor Bazar on March 25.

Singh had arrived with his eight-year-old daughter who was injured during the attack in which 25 people were killed. "I lost two cousins. For the past three months, my daughter has

been undergoing treatment after shrapnel hit her eye. I hope I can get her treated here," he said.

The others who were granted visas include Nidan Singh Sachdeva, 55, who was released last week after being abducted from another gurdwara in Paktia province, and a 15-year old girl who is the daughter of a victim of the Kabul attack and was recently "rescued" from an alleged attempt at forced conversion and marriage.

In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs said those who were granted visas include members of the "Sikh and Hindu minority community of

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## BUSINESS AS USUAL



## THE EDITORIAL PAGE

### GONE TO THE DOGS

BY COOMI KAPOOR

PAGE 10

## 'Left on a truck to see family, but now I am returning to save them'



ASA DISTRICT UNLOCKS

AN EXPRESS SERIES

DIPANKAR GHOSE  
PATNA, JULY 26

THEY STAND close to each other, bags slung over shoulders, noses pressed against the glass. They watch flights land and take off, passengers in PPEs being ferried in buses. "Bhai," an airport staffer breaks in. He has been tasked

with maintaining social distance at the Patna airport. And his voice is gentle: "Are you going for work? Is the situation bad at home?" Then, to make them smile, he confides: "I haven't been inside an aircraft, either."

Beginning May, a huge influx of returning migrants, unable to sustain themselves in lockdown cities, walking kilometres, starving in trains, reached the succour of home in Bihar. But then, with no work, and the lockdown affecting the rural economy as well with falling agricultural prices, they are leaving

again. The cities are slowly reopening, and the companies, in real estate for instance, are desperate for their workers to return.

Manish Kumar is from Bihar in Bhagalpur, a district that has been the focus of a series by *The Indian Express* to understand how the fight against Covid, and the unlockdown, plays out in a small town.

Kumar says he spent four days in May on a train from Delhi. Now, he will spend two hours on a plane back, the ticket paid for by a real estate company. "I don't

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## WORLD

**PROTESTS WIDEN ACROSS U.S.: CLASHES IN SEATTLE AND PORTLAND****STAFF LEAVE U.S. CONSULATE IN CHENGDU**

PAGE 12

## PAGE 1 ANCHOR

KAMAAL SAIYED  
SURAT, JULY 26

FROM PUTTING up makeshift cardboard partitions at emery wheels where diamonds are polished to using UV light as disinfectant for paper sachets that pass through multiple hands, the diamond hub of Surat is finding new solutions in a desperate bid to revive business in a labour-intensive industry amid stringent Covid curbs.

According to industry estimates, over 1,700 workers in the diamond business have tested positive, with the hubs of

Katargam and Varachha turning hotspots.

The outbreak has prompted the Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC) to register cases and penalise around 100 factories for not maintaining social distancing norms. Among the curbs, the SMC has directed companies to deploy only 50 per cent of their workforce at a time.

But owners say this has led to multiple choke points in factories — at the emery wheel, for example, says Bhupat Virani, who owns the B Virani Diamond Estate in Varachha.

The SMC has allowed only one worker at each wheel, with

masks and sanitisers. "Working on the wheels is an intricate job and each usually has four diamond polishers. One of them works on the table (the top) of the diamond, the second on the crown, the third on the girdle and the fourth on the pavilion (the bottom)," says Virani.

All of these are parts that need to be polished to add value, he says.

"We were ready to abide by the SOPs but maintaining social distancing was a problem. It becomes hard for a single polisher to work alone... It takes more time and labour cost, and production goes down. So keeping

Workers at the emery wheel inside a diamond factory in Surat. **Hanif Malek**

in mind the risk factor for workers, who are like our family members, we have fixed cardboard from cartons as partitions on each wheel to enable at least two polishers to work," he says.

Today, Virani's factory has over 150 emery wheels engaging 600 workers in two batches of 300 each on alternate days, who cut rough diamonds bought from the bigger players into smaller stones of lower carat value, and polish them.

"We are surviving somehow in this tough situation," says Virani, adding that his unit employed 1,000 polishers before the virus struck.

Data collated from Gujarat's Covid bulletin showed 11,672 cases and 359 deaths in Surat till Sunday. However, *The Indian Express* had reported on July 21 about an unexplained mismatch between the death toll provided by the district and the state. Till July 24, the gap was 186 with the district reporting 521 deaths and the state's official dashboard logging only 335.

In Varachha, meanwhile, diamond factories in Hirabaug and Sneha Mudra Estate have also started using cardboard partitions to optimise the number of polishers at the wheels.

Similarly, paper sachets con-

taining polished stones that pass through several hands before reaching the market have come under the scanner for making handlers vulnerable to infection. The way out: ultraviolet light as disinfectant, although there are safety concerns over direct skin exposure.

Ravi Ghelani, a trader in Varachha, is among those who has started using UV lights to disinfect the sachets. "Since the sachets are made of paper, the regular use of sanitiser can damage them. Many traders have purchased the UV lights," says Ghelani.

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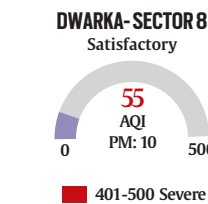
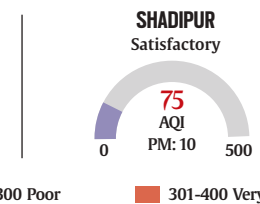
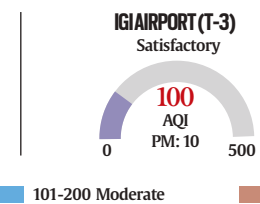
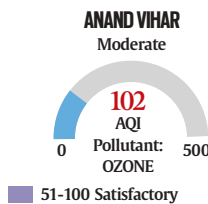


New Delhi





0-50 Good



2 men barge into house, kill 23-yr-old in Faridabad

EXPRESSNEWSERVICE GURGAON, JULY 26

A 23-YEAR-OLD woman was murdered allegedly by two men who barged into the room where she was sleeping with her family, including her three nieces and nephews, and allegedly slit her throat in front of them in Faridabad on Saturday night, police said. According to the FIR, the incident took place between 2.30 am and 3 am in Daulat Colony, Ballabhgarh. The victim, Bharti, was one of five siblings.

"When Bharti was sleeping in her room...some men carrying sharp weapons came into the room...and killed her," alleged her father Omprakash. "When her aunt... made a noise, they picked up one of the children and threatened that they would kill her too," he alleged. Omprakash said Bharti's cousin claimed that two men had allegedly threatened to kill his daughter on Saturday.

"The accused have been identified through certain key evidence and CCTV footage, and raids are being conducted to nab them," said Sube Singh, PRO of Faridabad Police.

FOCUS ON JUVENILE CRIME

1,300 minors caught for crimes in 6 months

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL  
NEW DELHI, JULY 26

AS MANY as 325 juveniles have been apprehended for heinous crimes, and 1,014 for non-heinous ones, in the last six months, the Delhi Police's half-yearly statistics show.

This data was prepared after Police Commissioner S N Shrivastava asked DCPs to analyse crime records of juveniles to ascertain the magnitude of the problem, and to assess how many have turned 18 and whether they are still committing crimes.

Senior police officers believe that many criminals have been arrested in the last three to four years who continue to run their operation from inside jails. To spread fear and maintain their dominance, police said, they rope in juveniles, many of whom want to gain attention or make a quick buck.

Data shows that 959 FIRs have been registered against juveniles until July 11 this year,

On the directions of the police chief, 37 minors have been counselled to join vocational courses, while 219 have joined Yuva — a skill development initiative by Delhi Police

and 230 daily diaries have been filed against them.

"With 50 juveniles, the Northeast district has seen most apprehensions for heinous crime, while 32 have been apprehended from Northwest and 29 from South. In non-heinous crimes, 116 have been apprehended from Outer Delhi, 89 from Dwarka, and 86 from Outer-North. In FIRs of incidents involving juveniles, too, Outer Delhi leads with 115, followed by 92 in Central district and 78 each in Outer North as well as in Dwarka," a senior police officer said.

In a recent crime review meeting via video conferencing,

Shrivastava also emphasised that detailed analysis of each juvenile with a criminal record be conducted by DCPs to assess how many are still involved in crimes, and how many have turned 18 but haven't mended their ways. "He asked all DCPs to take corrective action to reform them, and progress in this matter will be monitored regularly. All DCPs have been also directed to take strict legal action against criminals who recruit youth in their groups," the officer said.

Several incidents of minors involved in snatching, robbery and theft have been reported of late — the most recent incident took place on July 8 in West Delhi's Raghunagar, where a 25-year-old man was stabbed more than 28 times by three juveniles, after an argument over them performing bike stunts.

Following the directions of the police chief, 37 juveniles have been counselled to join vocational courses, while 219 have joined Yuva activities — a skill development initiative by Delhi Police.

‘Inscrutable indolence’: Court raps police over footage recovery delay

ANAND MOHAN J  
NEW DELHI, JULY 26

OBSERVING THAT police were in a "state of inscrutable indolence", a Delhi court requested the force to ensure fair investigation in a Northeast Delhi riots case. It was brought to the court's notice that police were yet to seize or preserve relevant video footage from cameras installed at Jafraabad and Maujpur Metro stations and from photographers.

Stressing on the importance of the video footage as a piece of evidence in the case, Additional Sessions Judge Dharmender Rana requested the DCP concerned to personally monitor the probe and ensure that the "sterling image of Delhi Police remains blemish-free, and the flow of the course of justice remains unswayed".

The order was passed by ASJ



Court was informed that police are yet to seize footage from cameras at Jafraabad and Maujpur Metro stations. Archive

Rana while extending the judicial custody of Pinjra Tod activists Devangana Kalita and Natasha Narwal, and former Congress municipal councillor Ishrat Jahan till August 14. They are being investigated by the Delhi Police Special Cell in a UAPA case pertaining to the Delhi riots.

"They say a picture is worth a thousand words and a video is worth a thousand pictures. Police seem to be in a state of inscrutable indolence in collection of relevant video footage. The indolence is a cause of concern as evidence in criminal matters is invariably ephemeral in nature..." the court

said in its order.

It noted that during the course of arguments on the plea by Kalita for a court-monitored probe, the investigating officer had informed the court that police were in the process of collecting relevant video footage, including from Metro stations and photographers engaged by police.

"Regrettably, ACP Hriday Bushan and inspector Anil Kumar have failed to point out the seizure of the relevant video footage," the court recorded. It added that police failed to show if any request/notice was served upon Metro officials for preservation of video footage, so as to save important footage.

"This is not the task of this court to direct police as to how and what evidence is required to be collected. However, this court is duty bound to ensure a fair investigation," it said.

Portal to connect employers, job seekers

EXPRESSNEWSERVICE NEW DELHI, JULY 26

THE DELHI government is set to revive a portal to connect employers with job seekers as part of a series of measures to help the city's economy recover from the impact of Covid-19 and the restrictions enforced to curb its spread. Senior officials said that a 12-member committee headed by Dialogue and



Portal will be up in days: Rai

Development Commission of Delhi (DDC) vice-chairman

Jasmine Shah is finalising the measures that are likely to be announced by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. Labour minister Gopal Rai told PTI, "In the next few days, the government will launch a job portal."

"The focus will be on getting all kinds of business activities to resume including opening of establishments in malls and hotels, among others," said the official.

While Delhi was among the first major cities in the country

to unlock, the continued suspension of Metro services has been bothering the state government.

"The decision on resumption of Metro services lies with the Centre... So long as it remains unavailable, the city just cannot unlock completely," said the official in the Chief Minister's Office.

In 2017, the government had launched a portal, which it said would act as a common platform for both employers and job seekers. The portal now lies defunct.

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**GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI**  
**OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR**  
**LOK NAYAK HOSPITAL : NEW DELHI-110002**  
**ESTABLISHMENT-III**

**No F. 40/E-III/LNH/1338-43** **ORDER** **Dated: 07/07/2020**

Whereas, **Sh. Ravindra Godra (Roll. No 02021317), Staff Nurse/Nursing Officer** had joined this Department on 23.11.2015 (F/N) and after that he was unauthorized absent from his duty w.e.f 28.11.2015. Memorandums has been issued to the official to join duty immediately vide no. F.40/E-III/LNH/3365-67 dated 17.9.2019 and F.40/E-III/LNH/1085-87 dated 12.5.2020 respectively.

And whereas, Sh. Ravindra Godra (Roll. No 02021317) was initially appointed on 23.11.2015 and was on probation period from 23.11.2015 to 22.11.2017. However, he did not complete his probation period.

And whereas, Memos dated 17.9.2019 & 12.5.2020 for unauthorized absentee w.e.f 28.11.2015 after five days working, he has neither joined his duty nor gave any correspondence/ information to the department.

And whereas, on account of the above said facts & circumstances, it is apparent that Sh. Ravindra Godra had remained unauthorized absent from duty during the period of his probation when Central Civil Services (Temporary Services) Rule 1965 had been in force.

Now, therefore taking into account all the facts and circumstances of the case I, Dr. Suresh Kumar, Medical Director, Lok Nayak Hospital after having consciously gone through all the records and reaches the conclusion that temporary service of Sh. Ravindra Godra (Roll. No 02021317), Staff Nurse/ Nursing Officer to be terminated.

In pursuance of sub-rule (1) of rule 5 of the Central Civil Services (Temporary Services) Rule 1965, I, **Dr. Suresh Kumar, Medical Director, LNH** hereby give notice to Sh. Ravindra Godra (Roll. No 02021317) that his services shall stand terminated with effect from the date of expiry of a period of one month from the date on which this notice is served on or, as the case may be tendered to him.

Sd/-  
**(Dr. Suresh Kumar)**  
**Medical Director, L.N. Hospital**

*DIP/Shabdarth/0165/20-21*



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# 4 THE CITY

**In Cong rejig, those active in relief work to find spot in new team**

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 26

WITH THE coronavirus pandemic showing signs of improvement in the national capital, Delhi Congress leaders have started focusing on the pending restructuring of the unit.

Consultations with senior leaders have begun and party workers who actively participated in relief work during the pandemic will be included in the new team, said Delhi Congress president Anil Kumar.

"We have been doing extensive relief work in Delhi to help people during the pandemic for the last five months. This was enough time to find out which party leaders were active and committed to execution of party programmes and campaigns," he said.

Senior Delhi Congress leaders said Kumar has started consulting them and those in the AICC for restructuring the unit.

"The party will start restructuring the PCC that is almost non-existent for 6-7 years. It will be followed by re-organisation at block and district levels," said a senior Delhi Congress leader.

Kumar was appointed Delhi Congress president in March. His predecessor Subash Chopra quit in February after the party failed to win even one seat in the 2020 Delhi Assembly elections.

**MARKED DIFFERENCE BETWEEN JUNE AND JULY**

## Fewer Covid-19 patients dying soon after admission

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 26

OF THOSE who died after contracting Covid-19 between June 1 and June 12, 67% arrived in hospitals in a critical condition and died within four days of admission. And, according to data shared by the Delhi government, 34% died within 24 hours of admission.

A month on, between July 1 and 12, the percentage of people dying within four days of admission dipped to 37%, and of those dying within 24 hours to 15%.


Earlier this month, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had sought a report on Covid-19 deaths in the city. While the first report focussed patients prescribed home isolation, the health department was then told to analyse other parameters as well.

A detailed analysis of deaths by the Health department shows a 44% decline in deaths in the national capital between early June and early July. While 1,089 people died between June 1 and 12, this number dropped to 605 between July 1 and 12.

The Delhi government also said that deaths in Delhi government Covid hospitals saw a 58% reduction between early June and July — from 361 deaths to 154 deaths. "In comparison, deaths in private Covid hospitals saw a 25% reduction from June to July, and deaths in Central gov-



Swab samples being taken for Covid testing at the Swami Parmanand Pratikrit Chikitsa Kendra. *Abhinav Saha*

CORONAVIRUS IN THE CAPITAL					
	TOTAL CASES		Total	Vacant	
	1,30,606		15,301	12,481	
	HOSPITAL BEDS	2,137	1,188	760	
	VENTILATORS				
	Daily cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests	
	July 25	1,142	29	20,509	
	July 26	1,075	21	17,533	
	Total	11,904*	1,14,875	3,827	9,46,777

*\*Total active cases*

ernment Covid hospitals saw a 55% reduction," a statement issued by the government said.

The highest death rate (calculated as the number of deaths versus the total number of admissions) was seen at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital. The fatality rate stood at 81% in the first 12 days of June but dipped to 58%

in the first 12 days of July, the Delhi government said.

Smriti Tiwari, the hospital's spokesperson, said: "The hospital has been the nodal centre ever since the pandemic started in India. Earlier, all patients were brought to the hospital in a very critical condition. Many of them died within minutes of reaching.

At the time, many hospitals were refusing treatment and sent patients to RML hospital."

At Safdarjung Hospital, the report says, the percentage death rate dropped from 40% in June to 31% in July. At Lok Nayak Hospital, Delhi's biggest Covid-only facility with 2,000 beds, the percentage death rate dropped from 28% in early June to 16% in early July. Only Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital saw a marginal increase — from 6% in early June and 7% in early July.

Kejriwal has now directed Health department officials to focus on government hospitals with the highest death rates or those having highest proportion of deaths of people placed in wards instead of ICUs, and recommend specific measures that need to be adopted.

Delhi government officials said widespread testing, from an average of 5,500 tests per day to an average of 21,000 tests per day in early July; distribution of over 59,000 oximeters to those under home isolation to check their oxygen saturation rate regularly; improved response time of ambulances and an enhanced fleet that went from 134 at the beginning of lockdown to 602 in early July; along with a focus on ICU beds in the city were the main reasons behind the improvement.

On Sunday, the city saw 1,075 new cases and 21 deaths. The total caseload is now at 1,30,606 and the death toll stands at 3,827.

## Doctor for whom fraternity came together dies of Covid

**ARANYA SHANKAR**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 26

A 27-YEAR-OLD doctor for whose treatment the capital's medical fraternity had joined hands to collect funds died of Covid at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital on Saturday night. Dr Joginder Chaudhary (27), a junior resident at Baba Saheb Ambedkar (BSA) Hospital, fought a month-long battle with the virus, having tested positive on June 27.

"He was in a critical condition when he was brought to our hospital. He was immediately taken to the ICU and was continuously monitored by a team of doctors. There were no co-morbidities but his condition turned critical. It was a case of surgical emphysema, and he went into shock last night," said Dr D S Rana, chairman of Sir Ganga Ram's board.

Chaudhary had joined the casualty department of BSA in November last year. Son of a farmer, he hailed from Singrauli in Madhya Pradesh's Neemuch district.

Rameswar Sangwa, a family friend, said Joginder's father Rajinder Chaudhary (51) couldn't be with his son in his final



Dr Joginder Chaudhary was a junior resident doctor at BSA Hospital

moments as he had to rush back to his village two days ago. "His mother is also admitted to a hospital; she had been very stressed about her son's health. She still doesn't know he's no more," Sangwa said.

He said Joginder was initially under home quarantine, but was hospitalised after he developed breathing issues. "On seeing his chest X-Ray, doctors at BSA referred him to Lok Nayak Hospital. Over there, we were told he's in a precarious condition," said Sangwa.

## Man who killed Traffic ACP in hit-and-run absconding

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 26

THE MAN accused of running over a 58-year-old Assistant Commissioner of Police, who was managing traffic near Rajokri flyover on Saturday night, is still absconding.

The policeman, ACP Sanket Kaushik, was posted with the Delhi Traffic Police. Police said he was hit by a mini-truck, with the driver stopping for a moment and looking back before fleeing. The injured ACP was rushed to AIIMS Trauma Centre but was declared dead on arrival.

DCP (Southwest) Devender Arya confirmed the incident: "We haven't caught the accused driver yet. Multiple teams of Delhi Police are working on this case."

According to the FIR, registered on a complaint by Kaushik's driver, assistant sub-inspector Munni Lal, the incident took place around 8 pm on Saturday.

Police said Kaushik was accompanied by his operator and driver. Kaushik got out of the vehicle after he saw the traffic snarl near the flyover and went to clear it. Following him, his



ACP Sanket Kaushik

operator and driver also stepped out of the vehicle.

In the FIR, Lal said: "We parked the car near Umrao hotel and ACP sir walked towards the service lane. He was walking on the right side of the road, near the Gurgaon border. A mini-truck was speeding and driving rashly. ACP sir was mowed down and dragged till a movable divider. The driver crashed into the divider. I shouted at the driver and told him to stop. He stopped for a moment and looked back, but he was wearing a mask. From the service

lane, he sped onto the highway and fled towards Delhi. There was a lot of mud on the license plate of the truck and I couldn't note down the number."

According to police, the operator and driver were busy clearing traffic when the truck hit the ACP.

A case has been registered at Vasant Kunj police station under IPC sections 279 (rash driving) and 304A (death by negligence).

On Sunday, a post-mortem was conducted and the ACP's body was returned to his family, who carried out the last rites. Delhi Police Commissioner S N Shrivastava paid tribute to Kaushik at the Traffic HQ in Tadaipur on Sunday afternoon.

ACP Kaushik is survived by his wife, two daughters and a son. He joined Delhi Police as a sub-inspector in 1989 and was posted in Southwest district. Police said he was promoted to the rank of inspector in 2006. During this time, he worked in the Central district, Security and Traffic units of Delhi Police.

In 2017, he was promoted to the ACP rank, and two years later, he was transferred to the Traffic department.

### BRIEFLY

#### AAP slams SDMC's bid to hike taxes

*New Delhi:* The AAP Sunday opposed a proposal to hike taxes on electricity, professional services and commercial property by the BJP-ruled South civic body, which may come up for consideration at the civic body's House meeting on Monday. AAP Delhi convenor Gopal Rai demanded a rollback of the proposal, calling it a "betrayal". "The BJP has used all the extra money given by the AAP government to MCDs for their corruption. Now they have decided to increase taxes," Rai alleged.

#### Panel on sexual harassment law to be formed

*New Delhi:* The Delhi government decided to form a five-member panel to monitor the law against sexual harassment of women at workplace to ensure effective implementation. The decision was taken in a review meeting chaired by Women and Child Development Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam, who said the panel may include some government officers, members of the NGO's and civil society members.

#### Man held for duping women

*New Delhi:* A 34-year-old man was arrested from Palam Vihar Extension for allegedly duping several women, especially widows and divorcees, whom he met on matrimonial sites on the pretext of marriage, police said.

#### 16-yr-old falls to death

*New Delhi:* A 16-year-old boy died after he allegedly fell off the roof of his house while flying a kite in Shahdara's Seemapuri Friday. **ENS**

### WORK IN PROGRESS

Repair work in progress on Sunday at Bhairon Marg. *Abhinav Saha*

## Need change in Centre strategy on containment zones, says Jain

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 26

WITH THE number of containment zones crossing 700 in the city, the Delhi government has pitched for a change in the Centre's containment zone strategy, arguing that the one-size-fits-all approach should be replaced by policies that take local factors into account.

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain Sunday told reporters that the Centre should also explore the possibility of not keeping an area sealed for over

15 days. There are containment zones in Delhi which have not been unsealed over the last three months. As per the Centre's guidelines, a containment zone can be unlocked 28 days from the date of the last discharge.

"I feel the Centre needs to review its containment zone policy. The sero survey showed that 24% people may have already contracted the virus in Delhi; it's already been a month since that survey. In the next survey, the share will probably go up to 35-40%. So the policy perhaps needs a review. It is difficult to implement a uniform policy across the country.

There has to be separate sets of policies for various regions. Think about it, 25% of the population got infected and also recovered. It is a good thing in a way. So I think policies should be framed keeping different considerations in mind... We believe containment zones should not be contained for eternity, instead they should be sealed for maximum 15 days," Jain said.

There are 714 containment zones, housing a population of over 4 lakh, in Delhi now. The maximum number of sealed zones are in the Southeast district (124), followed closely by Southwest (120), West (105) and North (83).

## ESIC's plasma bank hits roadblock

**SAKSHI DAYAL**  
GURGAON, JULY 26

THE FARIDABAD District Administration's plans to set up a plasma bank at the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) Medical College and Hospital in the district — the first in Haryana — has hit a wall as officials from the hospital struggle to motivate recovered patients to come forward for screening and plasma donation.

According to officials, a total of 72 people have donated plasma units in the district so far. However, the demand far



A recovered patient donating plasma at ESIC hospital

exceeds the supply, and the donated plasma units get used up within days, said officials at the hospital, adding that an aver-

age of five plasma units get issued on a daily basis.

"The quantity of plasma units is still a problem, but not to the same degree as it was a few weeks ago because many of our own staff and students, who have recovered from coronavirus, have donated plasma units, and are willing to donate again as well. In that sense, we have an optimum supply, but not so much excess as to call it a proper bank yet," said Dr Nimisha Sharma, nodal officer for the plasma bank.

She said that currently, the hospital has "around 15 to 20 units" in reserve.

"Formally, the plasma bank

has not been inaugurated because we are waiting to do it at a slightly bigger level so that there is more awareness among people about it... The bank will provide plasma to anyone who needs it, regardless of whether they are located in Faridabad or any other district," said Deputy Commissioner Yashpal Yadav.

ESIC hospital, in coordination with the Red Cross Society, organised the first of its donor screening camps at the Mini Secretariat on Friday. Officials said plans are being made to organise a similar camp to screen police personnel who have recovered as well.

### COVID FALLOUT

## At Sadar Bazaar, Rakhi fails to bring festive cheer this year

**ANANYA TIWARI**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 26

HIT BY the lockdown and a lingering fear of Covid among customers, wholesalers at Sadar Bazaar are witnessing an unusually low demand for rakhis just over a week before the festival on August 3. Several traders are either relying on leftover stock from last year or have sourced substantially lower number of goods this season.

The demand remained low

even on Saturday, when traders say most of their customers arrive at Sadar Bazaar mostly via trains from across NCR, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and other neighbouring states.

The wholesale rakhi traders source their products from Mumbai, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, and even Rajasthan. Most of their customers are local Delhi traders and those hailing from the National Capital Region, and beyond in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

Fear of the virus, lockdown and the lack of the regular train



Wholesaler Rahul Dabla said he did not buy anything this year and was selling last year's stock of rakhis. *Express*

network — used by the traders to tour Mumbai, Kolkata and Ahmedabad for goods and also the means for traders to arrive at Delhi to buy goods — were cited as the main reasons for the drop in sales by most traders.

Ritesh Sharma (34), a wholesaler at Sadar Bazaar, said, "There is a lockdown in UP on weekends, otherwise traders from Ghaziabad, Meerut, Baghpat, Faridabad and Lucknow, all come directly to this market by trains. Usually weekends are remarkably busy. We also tour

cities for rakhis by train, sometimes even flights. People value their lives also and are fearful due to the virus."

Another wholesaler Deepak Jaisal (37) reiterated, "We usually order Rs 1-1.5 lakh worth of rakhis, but did not this year as local trains were shut. Around 80 per cent of the trade is gone."

Rahul Dabla, a wholesaler at Sadar Bazaar, said, "I go to these cities on tour for 10-15 days in February-March to buy rakhis worth Rs 10-15 lakh, sometimes even worth Rs 20-25 lakh. With

local trains not running now, there is no demand... We haven't bought anything this year, we are selling last year's stock."

The Indian Railways is currently running only 230 "special trains" on important routes as against 13,000 regular trains before the pandemic. *The Indian Express* had earlier reported that even in these trains, as of July 22, full occupancy was reported only in 20 per cent of the trains.

Another wholesaler, Montu Khosla (60), said, "We are seeing only 40 per cent of our business."



## Catch Your Dream....With Us

**S**NEH International School has carved out a niche for itself in East Delhi for its academic excellence. Within a very short span of time, having just completed 15 years, the school has made a mark in the field of education. My sincere appreciation to the Director Mrs Kamlesh Jacob, Principal Mrs Alka Mathur, Vice-principal Ms Komal, staff and students, whose hard work, sincerity and dedication has brought the school to new heights. I am also thankful to the parents, whose continuous support and help has made this mission a great success.

Our unceasing and sincere efforts encourage the students to develop communication skills and to groom their personality which enables them to stand out with their heads held high in the



**SUBHASH DHINGRA**  
Chairman,  
SNEH International School

world outside and face with courage and confidence the challenges that confront them in their areas of learning.

It's my humble request to all the parents to gift their children with their "time" as that by far will be the best present. I again emphasise on the importance of their presence rather than their presents. I also wish to sensitize the parents to not burden the children with their own patronizing ambitions and longings. My advice to the teachers to focus on each and every child, monitor and mentor them, appreciate their achievement and encourage them to overcome their shortcomings and to create appropriate, meaningful and participative learning situations.

I wish all the students the very best for achieving 100% result in class X and XII CBSE results.



**OUR MISSION:** "Building on the triad of Student-Teacher-Parent relationship, SIS will support, challenges and opportunities, and instill the necessary knowledge, to enable students to reach their highest potential in school, career and citizenship"



**SITUATED** in the heart of East Delhi on Vikas Marg, across the river Yamuna, **SNEH International School** has once again struck it big with its spectacular CBSE Board results. Attaining ascendancy in Board result, **the school has secured 100 percent result for the Tenth Consecutive year in Class XII and for the Twelfth consecutive year in Class X, since its inception.**

Standing amidst tall pine trees, the School's greenery forms the lungs and beauty of the area. The school is fully air conditioned and well equipped with IT enabled classrooms, ATAL tinkering Lab, State-of-the art Computer, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics and Language laboratories and two multipurpose auditoriums which provide an elegant, functional and versatile space for assemblies, concerts, lectures and gatherings of all kinds.

Adopting the holistic approach to education, the school not only focuses on academic excellence but also helps its students find their full potential. The school provides a positive milieu by offering an array of activities like Robotics, Codecademy, Astronomy, Archery, Taekwondo, Skating, Fine Arts, Clay Modelling, Indian Classical Music & Dances, Theatre & Instrumental Music to name a few, thus proudly creating indomitable SNEH achievers. With the remarkable academic track record of the students and their exemplary performance in co-curricular events, SNEH International School has indeed carved out a niche for itself in the world of education.

### PARENT SPEAK

#### MEENAKSHI AGGARWAL

**I HAVE** been associated with SNEH International School as my son, Chirag Aggarwal has been studying here since KG. I found this journey with the school very pleasant, interesting & successful.

The school has helped him by bringing out his hidden talents & giving wings to his imagination. The emphasis given to the cocurricular activities is commendable.

The involvement and concern of non-faculty mentors & the management has helped him in various ways. Teachers of the School have played an important part in helping students to acquire knowledge, competence, and virtue.

I thank the School for the important role it has played in shaping my child into a respectable young adult that he is soon to become. I admire and applaud the positive influence and moral guidance imparted to our children.



#### DEEPAK MATHUR

**TEACHERS** emerge as experts who shape the future of the child. Thus the role of selection of school which can provide the child freedom to enjoy his innocence and nurture his skills with utmost care and love (Sneh) is important.

Sneh International School with its excellent teachers and staff has been just able to do the same for my child who has come a long way from taking the baby steps to taking giant steps on a path which makes us proud filled parents. The extra-curricular activities, infrastructure and exposure to the outside world and events blending it beautifully with academics have enhanced the overall personality of my daughter. Thanks to the SNEH Family.



**ROUNAK GUPTA**  
**CLASS X**  
**96.5%**

**MY** joy knew no bounds when I saw my result. I would like to share the credit of my success with my teachers, parents and of course my Principal Ma'am who was a constant pillar in this journey. Daily assignments given by the teachers proved to be very beneficial. They were always ready to clear our doubts irrespective of our queries asked at odd hours. I have opted science and aspire to become an engineer.



**HIMANSHU AGGARWAL**  
**CLASS X**  
**94.2%**

**IT'S** been a long journey from writing alphabets to writing paragraphs and articles and I cherish every moment of the journey. I would also take the opportunity to thank my school management and our school's ATL team. The Atal Lab proved to be a blessing in disguise for me. It helped me enhance my scientific temperament and gave food to my thoughts.

### MS ALKA MATHUR Principal, SNEH International School



**I AM** delighted that our students have done exceptionally well in Class X and XII Board Exams. The 100% result exemplifies the school's culture of excellence; it is a testimony of our students' talent and efforts. The board results once again demonstrate our consistent and splendid track record, and strengthen our position of being amongst the top performing schools in East Delhi.

Besides students, it is the unwavering commitment of our Teachers and Parents who could identify their problems and bring solutions without criticizing them. Together they could create an atmosphere both at home and in school which was conducive to learning, were able to reduce stress but at the same time could bring out the best in a child, our teachers could give individual attention to our students because of the right student-teacher ratio in a classroom. Our average result is between 80% to 90% both in Class X and XII. Students do remember this age-old quote "ATTITUDE, not your APTITUDE determines your ALTITUDE". Turn your dreams into reality with determination, enthusiasm and faith in yourself.

### MRS KAMLESH JACOB Director, SNEH International School



**WHEN** it was time for the 10th and 12th Board results to be announced every year, we all would be waiting for each student's marks in different subjects to appear on the screen and rush to see finally who had topped in the different streams and what their percentage was. This was a wonderful time of camaraderie, teachers were congratulated personally and sweets were shared. It did not happen this year, the new way of life dictated by the Covid-19 is to do everything 'online'. So we all sat in our homes waiting to be told what the results were. Such it is every year with 100% results in both 10th & 12th. Students have done very well and brought laurels to their Alma Mater. As I looked at the marks our students got in different subjects, I wished this had been a 'normal year and that we could have celebrated our childrens' achievements together and not have to do this 'virtually'.

I want to congratulate each and every one of our students and wish them all the best for the future. They will need the life-skills I hope we have successfully imparted to them in their time at SNEH International as well as the presence of mind and ability to deal with the 'new normal'. I hope things will be better soon but the world may never be the same again, but I do hope our students continue to be successful in today's world.

### CLASS X TOPPER



**HANSAWANI SAINI**  
**CLASS X**  
**98%**

**THIS** success is not all mine. I would like to thank Respected Principal Ma'am whose kind and encouraging words have always guided me. The credit also goes to my

family who gave me unconditional support; my teachers who have helped me tirelessly; and my friends who have been with me throughout the year.

I have always believed in revising the important topics. Taking notes of them as I go through the chapter act as brief pointers. I aspire to become a scientist/researcher and my choice of taking Science in class XI is certainly a step towards it. My favorite subject is chemistry and I would like to pursue something in it. Year 2020 is a big challenge because of Covid-19, but I am thankful to my school management for making learning easily available during this period of crises. Our teachers are working tirelessly in the best way possible.



**PRABHJOT SINGH**  
**CLASS X**  
**97%**

**SCORING** 100 in mathematics and 98 in science was not easy. To achieve this, I followed NCERT books strictly. I would like to acknowledge every teacher who has helped me achieve what I thought was possible only in my dreams. The guidance and support given by them is ineffable.



**ANSHUL ARORA**  
**CLASS X**  
**95.2%**

**I FEEL** ecstatic of my accomplishments by being the subject topper of my school in Social Science and Hindi securing 99 and 98 marks respectively. Success has come to me through proper guidance and support of Principal ma'am, teachers and parents. My teachers provided me not only with academic knowledge but with emotional support too.



**SHRAY GUPTA**  
**CLASS X**  
**96.7%**

**"TEACHERS** at SNEH are like the magnets who have given right direction to my compass". With the guidance of my Hindi and IT teacher, I was able to score 98 and 100 respectively in their subjects. My heartfelt gratitude to the School Principal who guided and reposed faith in me by giving numerous opportunities to prove my mettle & nurturing my potential.



**DISHITA GADHIA**  
**CLASS X**  
**94.5%**

**MY** journey in SNEH has been a wholesome experience. It is like a second home to me. My school has played a major role in my grooming. I remember this one time when our Chairman Sir encouraged me to take part in an ATL workshop and since then I have developed my interest in the same. I also actively take part in Science Exhibitions, Olympiads, Inter-House Competitions etc.

### Roll of Honour Class X

Garima Kansal 95.8%  
Dipshita Malik 95.2%  
Pernna Mehta 94.8%  
Muskaan Singhal 94.3%  
Naman Jain 94.2%

Khagesh Sharma 94%  
Manan Chugh 93.3%  
Krish Arora 93%  
Suhani Aggarwal 92.8%  
Janvi Goel 92.5%

Navya Jain 92.5%  
Pranjali Mathur 92.3%  
Ananya Gupta 92.3%  
Komakshi Manocha 92.3%

Diya Jaiswal 92.3%  
Ansh Arora 92.2%  
Vidisha Sharma 92.2%  
Inesha Gupta 91.8%  
Harshit Sharda 91.7%

Yashraj Arora 91.7%  
Govind Goyal 91.5%  
Vansh Khurana 91.3%  
Guraasis Singh 90.5%  
Muskan Trivedi 90.3%

Avneet Kaur Dhingra 90%  
Punya Jain 90%  
Pranay Grover 90%  
Lavanya Sharma 90%

## ADVERTORIAL CLASS XII TOPPERS



**SHREYA GUPTA**  
**Class XII**  
**97.6%**

**I AM** absolutely thrilled with my Class XII CBSE board results and would like to acknowledge every teacher who helped me achieve this feat. Without their hard work it would have been impossible. A special thanks to all those teachers who went an extra mile to help me. My heartfelt gratitude to Principal Ma'am for her constant support and encouragement. Thanks to my Economics teacher for having faith in me so that I could secure full 100 marks. Further I thank my Vice Principal & Maths teacher Ms. Komal for helping me achieve my academic goals. My parents were my biggest support as they ensured that I always had enough time and resources to study and prepare for the exams.

I prepared a suitable time table and worked according to it and followed it strictly. I kept practicing sample papers, and assessed my achievement chart by constantly taking revision tests.

My journey at SNEH International School has been amazing. Our teachers are wonderful mentors and indeed work harder than us. Regarding my future career plans, I have planned to either go for BMS (Bachelor of Management Studies) or opt for BCom Honors on merit basis in a good college in the University of Delhi, owing to my great interest in finance and management studies.



**MAHI GUSAIN**  
**CLASS XII**  
**93.4%**

### A Trip Down Memory Lane...

**I ALWAYS** saw myself as an average student but thanks to the school and my teachers for their immense support and guidance that helped me realize my real potential. They honed me, shared with me their knowledge, and opened my eyes to the many realities of life. The reinforcement classes after school hours boosted my confidence.

In near future I aspire to get a degree in History Honours from Delhi University and I also wish to discover & learn new things and gain more experience in other aspects of life.



**AYUSH BUDHIRAJA**  
**CLASS XII**  
**93.2%**

### My Aspirations

**CLEARING** my board exams with flying colours is only the first step to the long journey ahead. It is a successful ending to a new beginning. I want to thank the school, my teachers, family & friends for providing me the support and guidance to choose my dreams with full confidence and perseverance. My journey at SNEH has been the one which I would cherish for my life time. I aspire to be a software engineer by clearing my IIT JEE mains with 100% percentile.



**CHIRAG AGGARWAL**  
**CLASS XII**  
**92.8%**

### Reminiscences

**BEING** at SNEH (my 2nd home) was just like being in a warm cocoon. I would like to thank the school, all my teachers, especially my Biology teacher for explaining each and every concept clearly, my family and friends for helping me excel in academics & more importantly making me a better human being. Thank you for your guidance and willingness to help and give me the confidence to realise my dream of becoming a doctor. Proud to be a Snehite!!!



**ISHITA NIJHAWAN**  
**CLASS XII**  
**90.4%**

### Best Almamater

**SNEH** has been more than just a temple of knowledge for me, it has been like a family which has helped me grow into what I am today. I have learnt more than what is there in textbooks. I am so grateful for the opportunities and the platform that I have been given throughout my school life to become a better person in all aspects and showcase my talent. Moreover, the calibre of the teachers is incomparable. Their guidance and motivation has enabled me to move a step forward in achieving my goal of setting up my own business and becoming a successful entrepreneur.

### Roll of Honour Class XII

K.K. Krutikashri	95.8%
Manmeet Singh	94.6%
Rachit Aggarwal	94.6%
Yukta Goel	94%
Vishal Das	93.2%
Aareba Awan	93%
Shaksham Sharma	92.8%
Swastik Sharma	92.6%
Priyanshi Aggarwal	91.8%
Himanshu Maheshwari	91.2%
Himanshu Parakh	91%
Prachi Ganeriwala	90.2%
Ansh Dhalla	90%



# 6 GOVT & POLITICS



## TEA INVITE

SET TO vacate the government bungalow in Lodhi Estate, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra has invited the next occupant of the house to tea. Congress sources said she has written to Anil Baluni and his family, inviting them over before she moves out. A Rajya Sabha MP and head of the BJP's media department, Baluni has been allocated the 35 Lodhi Estate bungalow where Priyanka had been living for over two decades. Sources in the BJP said Baluni had received the letter.

## LETTER EXCHANGE

IN A letter to Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar on Saturday, former Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh strongly objected to the draft Environmental Impact Assessment, saying that the draft has provisions to "routinely legitimise illegalities" and that it seems to have "a mindset that sees environmental regulation as an unnecessary regulatory burden". Javadekar Sunday responded with a letter, stating that Ramesh's "suggestions are unfounded and based on misinterpretation". Javadekar also observed that Ramesh sent his letter while simultaneously releasing it to the media.

## NEW HANDBOOK

A GROUP of doctors in Homoeopathic medical colleges under the Ayush Ministry have come out with a handbook on Homoeopathic management of Covid-19. The book, prepared by a team headed by Amar Bodhi, Associate Professor in Dr B R Sur Homoeopathic Medical College and Research Centre in Delhi, has the working model for managing an epidemic, guidelines for selection of potency and dose of medicine, and details of 15 Covid patients treated and cured by Homoeopathic medicine, including their symptoms, procedures and method of treatment. The doctors have submitted a project before the Central government seeking permission for clinical tests of the medicines even for critical patients.

## BSP whip to 6 party MLAs who joined Congress: Vote against Gehlot govt

DEEP MUKHERJEE  
JAIPUR, JULY 26

THE BSP Sunday issued a whip to six party MLAs who joined the Congress last year, directing them to vote against the Ashok Gehlot government in any no-confidence motion or other proceedings held during the Assembly session in Rajasthan.

In a press note issued from Delhi and signed by BSP national general secretary Satish Chandra Misra, the party said that if the MLAs violate the party whip, they will face disqualification under para 2 (1) (b) of the Xth Schedule.

The note said all six BSP MLAs have been informed that since BSP is a recognised National Party, there cannot be any merger under para (4) of the Xth Schedule at the state level unless there is a merger of the entire BSP.

The statement cited two Supreme Court judgments to say a merger cannot be claimed in the present case under any "illegal or unconstitutional order of the Speaker".

The party said it will intervene in a BJP leader's plea in the high court, seeking the MLAs' disqualification, or will file a separate writ petition.

The petition has been filed by BJP MLA Madan Dilawar, challenging the merger of the BSP legislators with the Congress last year. Dilawar's plea is to be heard on Monday.

MLAs Deepchand, Sandeep Kumar, Joginder Singh Awana, Wajib Ali, Rajendra Singh Gudha and Lakhani Singh met Speaker C P Joshi in September and submitted an application for merger into the Congress. Thereafter, they were inducted.

At present, without the 19 rebel MLAs including Sachin Pilot, the Congress has 88 MLAs — including the six from BSP and the Speaker. The party is backed by 10 Independents, one RLD MLA and two BJP legislators.

One of the two CPM MLAs has pledged support to the government, but the party is yet to take a stand. If the Congress secures the support of both CPM MLAs, it will have the backing of 103 MLAs.

# If enemy state attacks, will give befitting reply like in Kargil: Rajnath

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 26

PAYING HOMAGE to the soldiers who laid down their lives during the 1999 Kargil War, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said that India is a peace-loving nation "but is ready to take any measures to defend its unity and sovereignty during a crisis".

Releasing a video message on Twitter on Kargil Vijay Diwas, the anniversary of India's victory over Pakistan in the Kargil War, Singh said, "Whatever we do for national security, we do it in self-defence, and not to attack... (However) if any enemy state has attacked us, then we have proven that like Kargil, we will give a befitting reply."

Singh's statement comes even as India is involved in a major military standoff with China in eastern Ladakh.

The Defence Minister said, "Kargil was not just a symbol of



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, Army Chief General MM Naravane, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Karambir Singh and Air Marshal RKS Bhadauria at the War Memorial in Delhi. PTI

the nation's self-respect, but it was and will remain a symbol of a big step towards the justice." Quoting then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Singh said that the action of the armed forces "proved that India will not

bend in front of any external pressure, and also that we are a responsible nation."

A soldier does not belong to any religion, class or caste, Singh said, but has the sole duty of service towards the nation. "I feel

proud, that because of this commitment of our armed forces our country lives a secure and proud life," he said.

Comparing the duties of each citizen to that of a soldier, Singh said, "If the soldiers are working to protecting the country on the borders, then it is our responsibility to maintain the unity, integrity and fraternity of the nation."

Saluting the soldiers who had died during the war, Singh said he bowed to their families, "who despite losing their loved ones, remained steadfast in their support of the national resolve to drive out the enemies from our territory".

The minister also said that he was grateful to those who "despite becoming disabled in battle, continue to serve the country in their own ways and have set examples worthy of emulation by the nation".

Later writing in the visitor's book at the War Memorial in New Delhi, Singh said, "I pay my

obeisance and salutation to the brave soldiers of the Indian Armed Forces who sacrificed their lives to protect the motherland from the enemy.

"The country will always remember the courage, valour, restraint and determination of our fallen heroes and will march ahead taking inspiration from their supreme sacrifice."

At the War Memorial, Singh was accompanied by Minister of State for Defence Shripad Naik, Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, and the Army, Navy and Air Force chiefs.

Meanwhile, BJP president J P Nadda tweeted on the occasion, saying, "We exist because you are there. The country will never forget your valour, bravery and sacrifice."

Also paying his tribute on the day, senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi tweeted: "On the Kargil Vijay Diwas I pay tribute to the brave who sacrifice everything to defend the country."

## Mid-day meals discontinued: Patna HC seeks report from Bihar Chief Secy

SANTOSH SINGH  
PATNA, JULY 26

THE PATNA High Court has asked the Bihar Chief Secretary to file by August 13 a detailed report on the status of the distribution of grains after the mid-day meal scheme was discontinued due to schools being shut as per lockdown protocols. The order came on July 24 after Bihar Advocate General Lalit Kishore had earlier requested an adjournment.

The High Court on July 7 had taken suo motu cognizance of a report in *The Indian Express*, which had highlighted that children in Bhagalpur district had taken to rag picking after the discontinuance of the mid-day meal scheme as schools were closed due to the lockdown.

A division bench of Chief Justice Sanjay Karol and Justice S Kumar, on the basis of the July 6 news report titled "School shut, no mid-day meal, children in Bihar village back to work selling scrap", said, "The news article highlights an issue of public importance and relevance. Adequate nutrition is essential for school children's health and well being. Children are kept away from schools and Anganwadi centres to restrict the spread of Covid-19."

The court directed the government to submit a detailed reply within two weeks.

On July 14, the court asked the state government to submit a detailed compliance report regarding the distribution of grains among children. After a director-level official submitted the compliance report, the court said, "Considering the importance of the issue, we are of the view and direct that let a comprehensive affidavit be filed by the Chief Secretary, Government of Bihar."

## TEHELKA STING

# Jaya Jaitly among three convicted of corruption, arguments on sentence to begin

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 26

A DELHI court has convicted former Samata Party president Jaya Jaitly and two others in a corruption case filed in 2001 in the wake of a sting operation by *Teelka.com*.

Special Judge Virender Bhat held Jaitly along with former Samata Party leader Gopal Pachherwal and Major General (retd) S P Murugai guilty of corruption and criminal conspiracy.

They were chargesheeted after *Teelka.com* aired the sting operation, which showed the accused purportedly accepting bribes from reporters of the portal — who posed as representatives of a fictitious company — for supply orders for hand-held thermal imagers from the Ministry of Defence.

According to the CBI, Jaitly entered a criminal conspiracy with Murugai, Pachherwal and Surender Kumar Surekha — who eventually turned approver — in 2000-01 and obtained Rs 2 lakh as illegal gratification for herself from Mathew Samuel, a representative from *Teelka.com* who posed as representative of a fictitious firm "to get the supply of Hand Held Thermal Cameras (HHTC) from the Ministry of Defence for the fictitious firm".

The three accused, along with Surekha, were a party to the criminal conspiracy, the court held.

Jaitly, Pachherwal and Murugai were convicted of conspiracy under Section 120-B of the IPC with Section 9 (Taking gratification, for exercise of personal in-

## PM praises Covid contribution of J&K sarpanches, civic body chief

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 26

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi Sunday lauded the contribution of two women sarpanches and a municipal committee chief in tackling Covid in their respective areas in Jammu and Kashmir.

In his *Mann Ki Baat* programme, the PM mentioned the Sarpanch of Jammu's Trewa Gram Panchayat, Balbir Kour, who set up a 30-bed quarantine centre on the panchayat premises. The PM also mentioned Zatoona Begum, Sarpanch of Chontliwar Panchayat in Ganderbal. "She distributed free masks and ration in the entire area and provided seeds and apple saplings to help the local farmers," the PM said.

The PM also talked about the control measures taken by the Municipal Committee president of Anantnag, Mohammad Iqbal. Iqbal, he said, required a sprayer for sanitisation of his area. "And when he came to know that it can be procured from another city for Rs 6 lakh, he made his own machine for just Rs 50,000."



## BIRTH ON RESCUE BOAT

A 25-year-old woman, rescued from Gobari village of East Champaran district, gave birth to a girl on board an NDRF rescue boat plying on the swollen Burhi Gandak river in flood-affected Bihar on Sunday. Nearly 15 lakh people have been affected by floods in 11 districts of Bihar, and at least 10 have lost their lives, the disaster management department said. ANI

## 'LONG LEGAL PROCESS... WILL BE TRAUMATIC FOR COMPLAINANT'

# Harassment complaint against ABVP chief to be withdrawn

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
CHENNAI, JULY 26

A HARASSMENT case against ABVP national president Dr Subbiah Shanmugam may not be probed further as the victim's family has decided to withdraw the complaint. Chennai Police had filed a case 14 days after the complaint was lodged.

As per the complaint, the accused had urinated, and dumped garbage, muck and used surgical masks at the doorstep of a 62-year-old widow living alone at her apartment in a Chennai city suburb for demanding a minimal rent to use her parking slot.

While the ABVP's national leadership had claimed that the



Dr Subbiah Shanmugam

complaint had been withdrawn on Saturday night, a compromise letter purportedly by the apartment association had not been signed by Balaji Vijayaraghavan, the complainant and nephew of the 62-year-old.

Talking to *The Indian Express*, Vijayaraghavan said he has decided to withdraw the complaint. "An FIR has been filed. Let that take its due course. However, our entire family is under stress. If we take it forward, it is really going to be a long

process and traumatic for the complainant. She has made it clear that she cannot undergo such troubles. I also had a conversation with the accused and he told me that he wants to build a healthy relationship with my aunt and her family as a corrective step. So I made up my mind to step back, and get this issue resolved. I will formally submit my letter to the police tomorrow to withdraw the complaint," he said.

Dr Shanmugam was booked under IPC Sections 271 (Whoever knowingly disobeys any rule made and promulgated by the government) and 427 (mischievous causing damage to the amount of fifty rupee) and under the Tamil Nadu Women Harassment (Prevention) Act.

# Pandemic claims colonial vestige: Rlys to end dak messenger system

IRAM SIDDIQUE  
MUMBAI, JULY 26

THE COVID-19 pandemic has dealt a fatal blow to the age-old Indian Railways tradition of personal and dak messengers.

In the latest move to trim expenditure, the Railway Board has urged officials to stop the use of these messengers, a practice dating back to the colonial era, and instead use video conferencing for any communication.

With train operations suspended, the Railways saw its revenue slide by nearly 58 per cent in May. The allowances of the hand-picked personal and dak messengers, apart from their salaries, were a major burden on establishment cost, an official said.

In a letter on July 26, the Railway Board stated, "As a measure to reduce cost and im-

prove savings on Establishment related expenditure, Board has desired that all discussion among official of Railways, PUs and railway board should be invariably held over Video Conferencing, accordingly booking of personal messenger/Dak messenger should be stopped immediately."

Dak messenger and personal messenger are picked from office peons to play what was considered a crucial role up until recently — ferrying "secret" and "confidential" messages within the Railways, between departments and up and down the hierarchy.

Officials said with the advent of technology, the system was little more than a colonial era vestige, and was being rampantly misused, with messengers being used by officials to run personal errands.

Over the last decade, the Railways has been trying to cur-

tail the use of messengers, gradually moving to setting up e-offices to review files.

A dak messenger is entitled to a daily travelling allowance of Rs 500, while a personal messenger gets about Rs 800 per day. As they go up and down the country, they are compensated for any other transportation that they may have to hire other than trains in 3-Tier AC coaches, often on Rajdhani trains.

With roughly over 5,000 dak messengers and nearly as many personal messengers, the Railway is estimated to be spending about Rs 10 crore on their allowances annually.

The system is said to be as old as the 160-year-old organisation — the word 'dak' finding its earliest mention in the Manual of Office Procedures, and grew in relevance with the formulation of a Railway Board in 1905. The Board

had to communicate with different railway bodies, which were then working independently.

Despite a postal service and the Railways' own internal postal network called the Free Service, officials continued to rely heavily on dak messengers. "During wars or a war-like situation, important movement of manpower, arms and ammunition (by the Railways) was communicated through these channels of trusted messengers," said a retired official.

The method remained intact even as the era of faxes and emails dawned. "There was little acceptance to the use of fax and emails and a letter with a signature in ink remained heavily relied on," said an official.

The dire financial condition of the Railways has proved to be the final nail in the coffin for the system.

# Centre plans to table first draft of fifth science policy by October

ESHAROY  
NEW DELHI, JULY 26

THE MINISTRY of Science and Technology is set to come out with the first draft of India's fifth Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) this month.

The policy, in which the government for the first time has decided to take a "bottom-up" approach in order to address the everyday concerns of Indians, comes after the ministry has undertaken one of its biggest ever exercises, in consultation with scientific agencies, institutes, civil society organisations, industry, students and teachers, and involving as many as 15,000 stakeholders.

The STIP will also be one of the fastest to be both formulated as well as implemented, with the

process to develop it beginning earlier this year, and the policy set to be tabled by October. With the Covid-19 pandemic highlighting the urgency for a push toward scientific solutions of crises, the government is keen to begin the implementation of the new policy by next year.

To this end, the ministry has set up a secretariat with in-house experts under the Department of Science and Technology (DST) in order to reach this target.

"The STIP itself should be dynamic and therefore reviewed every year to keep pace with the changes in technology, since technology itself is developing so rapidly. It should not be static, like it has been so far, where the policy is visited once every decade. Our thrust areas are how to achieve sustainable development, intelligent machines and AI, to be future ready with areas like quantum

technology and to have focused streams of national priorities and societal needs like health, water, energy etc," DST Secretary Professor Ashutosh Sharma said.

"Problem-solving is usually multi-dimensional and inter-institutional — no one scientist can solve a single problem, which has many dimensions to it. That is why our focus is to make the policy more inclusive. For instance, receiving inputs from farmers, who will have specific problems, and maybe even solutions to those problems," he said.

As per the Global Competitive Index, India was ranked 56th in 2003 against China at 44. However, India slipped to 71st place in 2014, while China improved to the 28th rank. Meanwhile, the Global Innovation Index (GII) ranked India at 76th place in 2014, while China was at the 29th position.

It is this gap that the new STIP is trying to close, while being able to meet the need of scientific solutions for national problems and crises.

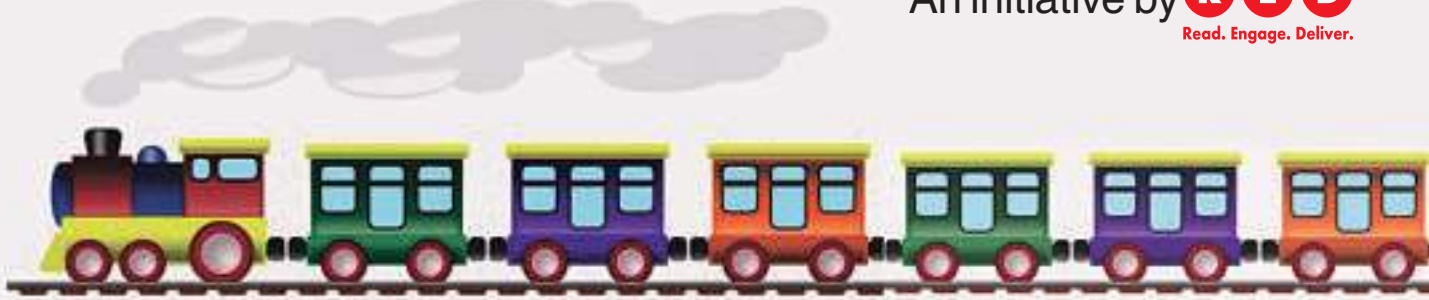
"One of the problems with the 2003 and 2013 STIPs is that neither was really properly implemented. And this is because the policies were made by one government but during the implementation process, another government had come to power. Our idea is that the policy should be formulated and implemented within the tenure of the same government so that the policy is actually implemented," said Professor Akhilesh Gupta, head of the STIP 2020 Secretariat at DST.

There have been four science policies in the country so far. The first was developed by Homi Jehangir Bhabha and was tabled in Parliament by then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.



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# TOY STORY



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## The potential of Indian toy industry

*The global size of the toy industry is estimated to be USD 90 billion in which contribution of Indian toy industry is only USD 0.5 billion. Indian toy industry caters to only 25% of the total estimated domestic demand of USD 2 billion and rest of the demand is met from imports that too primarily from China. The global toy market is dominated by China meeting more than 50% of the total demand. India's share is not even 0.1% in the export market of toys. With 'Vocal for Local' push gaining momentum, the government has the opportunity to take purposeful initiatives as per the demands of the domestic toy manufacturers in a bid to rejig the entire toy industry.*

**A**S PER 2011 census, in India, total population under the age of 6 years is 158.8 million which constitute more than 13% of total population and population in the age group of 20-44 years is 373.77 million which is the likely buyer of toys for the children, owing to which, the Indian toy industry has witnessed a rapid growth in the past few years. During 2011- 2018, the Indian toy industry was valued at US\$ 1.5 Billion in 2018, registering a CAGR of 15.9% in the said period.

The Indian toy industry can be segregated into organised and unorganised markets. The organised market is worth Rs 4,500 crore out of which approximately fifty-fifty ratio of imported and domestic toys while rest of the demand is met by unorganised market. The flourishing unorganised market controls the lion's share of the industry, of which 90% are imported from China. The domestic toy industry is primarily limited to the unorganised market comprising around 4,000 SMEs.

Knowing the Indian mindset with clarity, China knows that Indian purchase decisions are heavily influenced by the price factor of a product. The Chinese manufacturers thus leverage this ideology coupled with their capability developed over the years to produce products at much lower prices by automation of processes, supply cheaper products which do not comply with quality or safety norms/standards of India. Some reports also suggested that the health of kids might be at risk from 'Made in China' toys that have flooded the local markets, as a recent study found the presence of "hazardous heavy metals and other lethal materials used in their manufacturing." The study, conducted by the Quality Council of India (QCI), found that "the majority of China-made toys have failed India's safety standards and are harmful to kids' health."

Further, the study revealed that "nearly 67 per cent of all Chinese toys failed the safety standard tests as contained in the DGFT notification and the IS standards by Bureau of Indian

### Centy Toys

**T**OYS, A child's first companion in the natural process of cognitive development, character of his imaginative stories and sometimes a collectible for lifetime. They are the first source of their social connect with the society and culture, they evolve around. As a toy maker, it is really important to understand, design and develop toys which are in sync with the socio-cultural need of a society or country. Established in 1990, Centy Toys is a home-grown toy company that has always thrived on making Indian automobile miniature models, enticing Indian kids and model collectors. They have an exclusive range of Pull back toy cars, trucks, bikes, aeroplanes and battery-operated toy trains. Designed and developed in India, these toys are produced with utmost focus on product detailing, quality and child safety. Today these made in India toys are exported to countries like Australia, US and middle east. So, if you have made up your mind for buying only Indian toys then give it a try and buy Centy toys from any popular online store or reputed retail chain stores.



Standards (BIS)." The study also claimed that "a whopping 67 per cent of toys imported from China failed to satisfy India's quality standards." The government took these developments very seriously and initiated several reforms to strengthen the sector and protect the local manufacturers.

In February 2020, the import duty on toys was increased from 20 to 60 per cent leading to price hikes and making the imported toys costlier. The new import duty may be 60%, but critics point out that with APTA — the 43% discount enjoyed between members of the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (India, China, Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Sri Lanka) — the actual tax levied on a huge segment of imported toys will be lesser. But an industry expert disagrees, saying "We've always had the APTA benefit. But where we paid around 11% tax earlier [after the discount], now it will be 34.2%. So, if you calculate, it is still more than a 200% hike, which will increase inflation." Moreover, if imported toys do not conform with the BIS stan-

### THE ORGANISED TOY MARKET IN INDIA IS WORTH RS 4,500 CRORE

dards, they're to be destroyed leading to huge losses for importers.

Talking about infrastructural support pertaining to setting up a domestic toy manufacturing unit, it is clear that India lags far behind China when it comes to encouraging toy manufacturers in the country. Indian toy industry is standing today where Chinese toys industry was in early 90s and by leveraging its strength of cheap labour it captured the global market. Today, labour is no more cheaper in China and it has upgraded its production from labour intensive to technology intensive and has heavily invested on automation of processes. It is also moving away from lower contribution to higher contribution segments. Due to which many toy manufac-

turers in China are closing their shops. If right steps are taken at this point of time, Indian toy industry can reach within a short span of time where China has reached during the last 25-30 years.

Indicating towards the lack of facilities and support, the same report stated "Merely 12 per cent of MSME Toys Manufacturers have their own full-fledged in-house design studio and team of trained designers for product conceptualisation, prototype development and R&D on design with proper setup of software, say those connected with the trade." If this was the situation in and around 2017, think how many domestic toy manufacturers must be out of business by now?

The Indian toy industry has all the capabilities as far as skill and cost of labour matters. However, due to being heavily dependent for moulds, mechanical & electronic components, parts and automation tools on China, not many units are in a position to grow as the cost of imports become very heavy in view of the size of their units. The cost of raw

material is almost identical irrespective of place/country of production. To support the toy manufacturers, the government should hold discussions with the industry to understand what are the bottlenecks faced by it to grow in size and scale up its operations to produce quality products at competitive prices.

To promote exports of India-made toys, the government should provide more export incentives i.e., higher rate of duty draw back. Working sheds could be provided by the Indian government to the industry in proper industrial areas on rent at concessional rates. For the smooth functioning of the manufacturing units, the government needs to provide adequate connectivity and uninterrupted power supply.

The government along with the Toys Industry Associations need to create greater awareness among their members in availing benefits under Ministry of MSME Promotional & Developmental schemes for MSMEs like CLCSS, Design clinic scheme, cluster development scheme, ISO certification scheme, Participation in fairs/exhibitions etc. In cluster development scheme, there is an efficient supply chain mechanism for raw materials, parts and better cost economics for suppliers as well as toy manufacturers. Even the unorganised toy manufacturing enterprises should also shift to these clusters.

Further, finance is a major hurdle for MSME toy manufacturers to grow, expand, modernise as it is quite expensive at the rate of 11-12% pa in India vis-à-vis about 3-4% pa in China. The current requirement is to extend loans to Indian toy manufacturers on softer terms like China. In order to encourage the units to conform to the BIS Standards, as issued

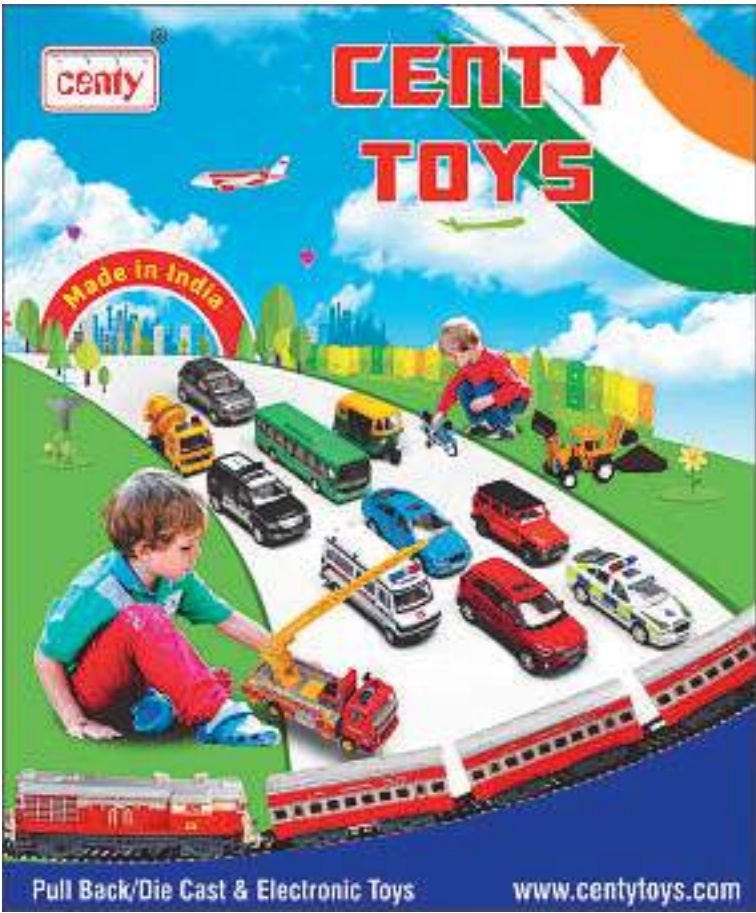
### Khanna Toys: a pioneer

**K**HANNA TOYS Corporation and Universal sales are pioneers in the Indian Toy Industry. The company was started by Late Shri R.S.Khanna and presently continued by Mr. Rajesh Khanna (son) and Mr. Samit Khanna (grandson).

Ever since its establishment, the company has persisted in the tenets of 'quality for existence, technology for progress, innovation for development, management for efficiency'. It's scientific management and first grade services have built up a high reputation for the company among other enterprises in the same sector

Through its goal to continually develop new and unique products, Universal sales has expanded its line. Today Universal sales is known as a leader in the toys and activities category and a manufacturer of high quality, entertaining products that stimulates children's imaginations. We work hard to identify trends within the market and develop fun, age specific products designed to specifically complement each individual brand

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### From Hoverboards in 2016, to a stunning All Electric Cruiser Bike in 2020



**U**board's journey may have started with imports from China, but has evolved into an indigenous manufacturing facility for more than 25 variants of powered mobility vehicles, providing thrill and excitement to all its users.

Rising to the call, "Vocal for Local", Uboard India Limited set up its new manufacturing unit in Delhi NCR. Having acquired Indian quality certifications from the Bureau of Indian Standards and UL approval for the international market, the dream to become a global brand is well within reach. With innovative ride on and thrill products of high quality Uboard never fails to excite the consumer mind and spirit. They strive at constant innovations in the electric mobility industry aiming to accommodate the growing consumer demand and expectations, while preventing ecological damage.

Having a retail presence in over 175 retail outlets and online presence on all major online portals Uboard is cruising along its journey providing thrill mobility options to thousands of customers

Talking about their future roadmap, CEO Asis Singh stated that – we are proud to slowly and steadily migrate our production completely to India. Confident of a presence in the Global Market. Consumers all over have become aware of the need and begun to embrace sustainable transportation options.

"With a go ahead from ICAT for our new e bike **UBOARD DISCOVERY**, we are all set to cause major positive disruption in the two wheeler EV market," **Asis Singh, CEO at Uboard India Limited.**



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Classifieds

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0040542936-1  
I, TARVINDER SINGH CHADHA ADD-A-2, JANGPURA-B, NEAR- RAJDOOT HOTEL, NEW DELHI-110014, changed my Minor son's name NAVJOT SINGH CHADHA to NAVJOT SINGH.  
0040542936-3  
I, NIPIN RAI S/o NARESH RAI R/o House No.-141, Singhalpur-Village, Shamalr-Bagh, Delhi-110088, have changed my name, from Nripen Ray, S/o Narendra Ray to NIPIN RAI, S/o NARESH RAI, for all, future purposes, & my Actual, Date-of-Birth-12.02.1977.  
0040542936-2

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General Public is hereby informed that my Client Sh. Rajender Kumar Pandey S/o Late Sh. Naresh Chand R/o A-402, A-Block, Weavers Colony, Ashok Vihar, Phase-4, North West Delhi, Delhi-110052 have disowned his son namely Loveneet Kumar Pandey from his moveable and immovable properties and severed his relation with him due to disobedient and quarrelsome nature. My client and other family members shall not be responsible for his any kind of act in future.  
A.K. Mishra (Advocate)  
E.No. D-488A/2006

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Notice is hereby given to general public that original Sale Deed dated 11.11.1989, Addressed Letter dated 28.04.1994, Possession Letter and other related documents executed by M/s Anand Properties & Industries (P) Ltd. in favour of Mrs. Shanti Chander- Hasmir Limited in respect of Plot adjoining 858 St. Marks Road, Sector Number 105, Block G, Palam Vihar, District Gurgaon (Gurgaon), Haryana have been lost/stolen. In this regard, an LR No. 4/1067/2020 has been registered with Sd/- Crime Branch, New Delhi on 12/07/2020. If any person finds & has the original documents to produce to Sd/- Officer, 1105, New Delhi District 27, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110 001. The Person possessing 858 St. Marks Road, Sector Number 105, Block G, Palam Vihar, District Gurgaon (Gurgaon), Haryana is owned and possessed by M/s BHARTIA INVESTMENTS PRIVATE LIMITED. No claim has been taken on the said property and as on date the property is free from any charge, mortgage, pledge or lien of any type.  
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\*This is applicable to all Open (Domestic/Global) Tenders issued through e-procurement portal of CIL.

**Chhattisgarh Tourism Board**  
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T: 0771-4224600, 4224611, F: 0771-4066425  
Email: [md.cgtourism@gmail.com](mailto:md.cgtourism@gmail.com) Website: <http://www.chhattisgarhtourism.cg.gov.in>  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
Proposal in the prescribed format is invited from eligible applicants for following two Tenders  
**Tender 1. NIT No 1318/III/OPERATIONS/CTB/2020, Raipur, Dated: 21. 07.2020**  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** for Management Contract for Chhattisgarh Tourism Properties  
Pre-Bid Queries Submission – 12.00 hrs on 13/08/2020  
Last Date & Time for bid submission – 15.00 hrs on 09/09/2020.  
**Tender 2. NIT No 1319/III/OPERATIONS/CTB/2020, Raipur, Dated: 21. 07.2020**  
**Request for proposal** for selection of agency for Operations & Maintenance of proposed properties of Chhattisgarh Tourism Board  
Pre-Bid Queries Submission – 12.00 hrs on 14/08/2020  
Last Date & Time for bid submission – 15.00 hrs on 07/09/2020.  
The details of applications and terms and conditions are available on the website <http://cggovtourism.dns.net>, <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> Any amendment / modification in the tender document, will only be uploaded on the website and shall not be published in any newspaper.  
Sd/- Managing Director  
Chhattisgarh Tourism Board, Raipur  
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E-Mail : [landscapeweb2@mailmmrda.maharashtra.gov.in](mailto:landscapeweb2@mailmmrda.maharashtra.gov.in)  
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**e-RFP NOTICE**  
1) Name of Work : Request for Proposal for Appointment of an Agency for Erection & Maintenance of Bus Queue Shelters, Street Furniture, Environment Friendly Toilets, Gentries & MUPIs and display of Advertisement on them & Landscaping, Beautification and Maintenance of Area around Bus Queue Shelters, Beautification below Flyovers, Side walls from Dahisar Check Naka to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Statue along Western Express Highway for a period of 15 years on Design Built Maintain Operate & Transfer (DBMOT) basis.  
2) Cost of Blank Tender Form : Rs. 5,000/- (Per Each)  
3) Earnest Money Deposit : Rs. 2,00,000/-  
4) Bid documents download : From 27/07/2020 (10.00 hrs.) To 26/08/2020 (17.00 hrs.)  
5) Last date of online submission : 26/08/2020 (17.00 hrs.)  
6) Contract Period : 15 Years  
Note : The e-RFP can be downloaded from e-Tendering portal <https://etendermmrda.maharashtra.gov.in>  
Any additional information, Corrigendum & help for uploading & downloading the e-RFP, may be availed by contacting MMRDA's e-tendering service desk at the following id : [etendersupport@mailmmrda.maharashtra.gov.in](mailto:etendersupport@mailmmrda.maharashtra.gov.in) or call us on 022-26597445.  
Date : 27/07/2020 Sd/-  
Place: Mumbai Metropolitan Commissioner,  
No.:MMRDA/L&E/Landscaping/2/2020 MMRDA

Brandishing pistol, 3 prisoners including ex-cop break out of Maharashtra jail

**SAGAR RAJPUT**  
MUMBAI, JULY 26  
THREE PRISONERS, including a policeman dismissed from service, escaped from Jalgaon prison in Maharashtra around early on Saturday after threatening a guard with a pistol, police said.  
The Jilhapeth police station, under whose jurisdiction the prison falls, has registered a case against Suresh Magare, Gaurav Patil and Sagar Patil. A fourth man, an accomplice waiting outside the jail with a bike, has been identified as Jagdish Patil, police said.  
Police said Magare, a constable at Jalgaon district, was dismissed after being arrested in December from Baroda for allegedly stealing a bike and later robbing a goldsmith in Pune. Gaurav and Sagar, lodged in Jalgaon jail since November 2019, were arrested in two cases of dacoity and attempt to murder. Magare is from Patur village while Gaurav and Sagar are from Amalner in Jalgaon.  
According to the police, Gaurav and Sagar had left their barracks early on Saturday for the jail office, which they were assigned to clean. "Magare joined the two men. Together, they ran towards the gate. They threatened the guard with a pistol, snatched the keys from his pocket, opened the gate and escaped on the bike," inspector Babu Roham said.  
The jail staff have told police that inmates were earlier caught trying to procure things from the rear side of the jail. "Relatives or friends throw things from outside. These three inmates may have procured the pistol similarly," said Roham.

**WESTERN RAILWAY - AHMEDABAD DIVISION**  
**HIRING OF FOUR AIR-CONDITIONED AMBULANCES**  
Tender No. DRMM/MD/ADI/AMB (2020-21). (1) Name of work: Hiring of Four Air-conditioned Ambulances make FORCE Traveller or similar, for Divisional Railway hospital Sabarmati, Sub Divisional Railway hospital Gandhinagar & Health Unit-Ahmedabad for the period of three years. (2) Estimated Cost of work: ₹ 1,46,59,200/- (Rupees One Crore Forty Six Lakh Fifty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Only) (3) EMD: 2,23,300/- (Rupees Two Lakhs Twenty Three Thousand Three Hundred Only) (4) Completion Period: 36 (Thirty-six) months. (5) Date & Time of Submission and Opening of Tender: Submission upto 15.00 hrs 21-08-2020 Opening same day at 15.30 hrs. (6) Website: [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) AD1072  
Follow us on [twitter.com/WesternRly](https://twitter.com/WesternRly)

VOLUNTEERS FILL FAMILY VOID IN BENGALURU COVID DEATHS  
‘We do it for free, only thing we ask people is to pray for us’

**JOHNSON T A**  
BENGALURU, JULY 26

ONE OF the times in the past few months when volunteers from Mercy Angels, a group facilitating Covid-19 funerals in Bengaluru, broke down was at the cremation of a 17-day-old. The parents of the newborn were in quarantine after testing positive for coronavirus and their relatives were back home in north India.  
"The baby was handed over in a bag. Nobody was with that child so we were the family and we performed the last rites. A lot of us cried," says Dr Taha Mateen, founder trustee of HBS Hospital which started the Mercy Angels programme in March.  
With Bengaluru witnessing a Covid-19 surge, social service initiatives like Mercy Angels are at the forefront of ensuring dignified funerals for the victims.  
On Friday, Mercy Angels member Tanveer Ahmed waited in a PPE kit beside a freshly dug grave at the Christian cemetery in Kalpalli for the arrival of a 65-year-old man's body. Five others, including a priest, waited with Ahmed in PPE kits.  
When the body arrived in an ambulance arranged by Mercy Angels, Ahmed and his associate Naveed Iqbal, who recently recovered from Covid-19, lowered it into the grave with help from others.  
The man died at St Philomenas Hospital and although local authorities insisted on a cremation, the family wanted a burial. "The family reached out to us. I told them that if they can get permission for a grave to be dug at Kalpally, we can facilitate the burial," says Ahmed.  
"We are really thankful to Mercy Angels volunteers," says Pavan Kumar, a relative of the 65-year-old.  
There has been resistance to burial of Covid-19 victims at Christian burial grounds due to stigma. Also, authorities have



The volunteers of Mercy Angels come from diverse backgrounds—there are doctors, social workers, IT professionals, students and businessmen. Express

mandated 12-feet graves instead of conventional graves four to five feet in depth.  
A few days ago, Ahmed and his team were not allowed to enter a burial ground with the body of an 86-year-old man due to resistance from local residents. Ahmed says many Christians have opted for cremations.  
"What is happening is that if you dig too deep, many are wary that some graves will collapse. In many Christian burial grounds, you cannot bring in a JCB. The graves are close and it has to be manually done," says Ahmed.  
"A youngster from the Lingayat community died recently. Lingayats generally bury, but he was cremated," he says.  
"When there is a Covid-19 death, we inform the family of the service of Mercy Angels and other groups and provide them contact numbers," said Dr Asima Bhanu, nodal officer at the Covid-19 facility in Victoria Hospital.  
The Khudus Sab Muslim burial ground, one of the biggest burial grounds in the city, has seen burials of 140 Covid-19 victims in July so far.  
"There are around eight to nine Covid-19 burials daily, apart from five or six regular ones," says Wasim Zubair, a volunteer with Helping Hands, a group facilitating Muslim burials.  
While volunteers from Mercy Angels bring bodies to the Khudus Saheb burial ground, they are then taken to the site of the burial by the Helping Hands volunteers—22 of them are stationed at the grounds through the day.  
One of the volunteers is 70-year-old Abdul Majeed.  
"We do it for free. The only thing we ask people to do is to pray for us," said Zubair. "By the mercy of God, none of us has tested positive. We take all precautions." "What we are doing is about humanity," says Sarfaraz, another volunteer.  
At the crematoriums where the last rites for Covid-19 victims are being carried out, volunteers often have to wait for long, says Ahmed.  
"We have to book an online slot. On July 23, a woman died and two volunteers took the body from Sakra Hospital. They went to a nearby crematorium, but were told that the machine was damaged. They had to bring the body to Hebbal and had to wait for 90 minutes," he says.  
"There is unimaginable pressure. The Mercy Angels alone are not able to meet the demand. We need more volunteers. This is just the beginning," says Dr Mateen.  
"The coronavirus does not distinguish on the basis of religion. If we distinguish, it becomes inhuman. We go by the wishes of the family and perform the last rites," he adds.  
The volunteers of Mercy Angels and Helping Hands are from a diverse range of professions—there are doctors, social workers, IT professionals, students and businessmen.  
"Every single time, we take someone's loved one (for last rites), a part of us dies," says Mohammed Azmath, an IT professional and state-level weightlifter, who is a volunteer with Mercy Angels.  
The group has now also started facilitating funerals for non-Covid deaths when family members stay far off. Recently, Sudeep Saha, 37, from West Bengal—who was estranged from his family and lived alone in Bengaluru—died and his family reached out to Mercy Angels. "It is an opportunity to serve. We have to do it," says Ahmed.

40 questioned so far over Sushant suicide

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
MUMBAI, JULY 26

MUMBAI POLICE have recorded statements of 40 people so far in connection with the alleged suicide of actor Sushant Singh Rajput. Police have issued summons to several actors in this connection, including Kangana Ranaut. On Sunday, Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh said Bandra police summoned filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt and the manager of filmmaker Karan Johar to record their statements in this connection. Deshmukh said if needed, Johar too will be called in.  
Police have earlier recorded statements of top executives of Yash Raj Films, including Aditya Chopra. Sushant had signed a three-film contract with Yash Raj Films (YRF), but parted ways with YRF in 2015 and did not complete the third film in the contract. Police have also recorded the statements of Sushant's domestic help and his friends. Journalists writing on films, too, have been questioned.

**AMONG THOSE QUESTIONED**  
**JUNE 14:** Sushant Singh Rajput found dead  
**JUNE 20:** Statements of 14 individuals, including his family members, recorded  
**JUNE 27:** Two former employees of Yash Raj Films questioned about the actor's contract with the production company  
**JULY 8:** Sanjay Leela Bhansali's statement recorded  
**JULY 9:** Director Shekhar Kapur e-mails his statement to the police  
**JULY 18:** YRF chairman Aditya Chopra's statement recorded  
**JULY 22:** Film critic Rajeev Masand called in for questioning

80,000 cases in July, Andhra orders Remdesivir doses

**SREENIVAS JANYALA**  
HYDERABAD, JULY 26

WITH THE number of critical Covid-19 patients and deaths from the infection in Andhra Pradesh rising sharply, along with a jump of over 80,000 in the overall number of cases this month, the state government has ordered 90,000 doses of anti-viral drug Remdesivir.  
According to official data, 1041 deaths have been reported in the state so far – 707 of them from July 13 to 25. The case count in the state has gone up from 14,515 on June 30 to 96,298 as of July 26.  
Hetero Pharma will deliver the first consignment of 15,000 doses this week while the remaining will be delivered over the next three weeks, according to officials. Officials said Sunday that the

state is now carrying out 50,000 tests per day. The focus of the testing is on high risk groups – the elderly, those with co-morbidities, industrial workers, and people working or living in confined spaces.  
The number of deaths in the state crossed the 1,000 mark Sunday.  
"Looking at the number of Covid-19 cases, at least 7-8 per cent will need critical care. The 90,000 doses we have ordered would be sufficient even if the number of positive cases touches 2 lakh. People in critical care need 5-7 doses – a cost of Rs 35,000 per course," Health Minister A K Krishna Srinivas told *The Indian Express*.  
On the rising number of cases, Srinivas said, "people need not worry about the high rate of positive patients as it reaches a peak and is bound to slide."

HC asks Goa to decide on leave extension for doc within a week

**Panaji:** The High Court of Bombay at Goa has asked the state to take up discussions and decide within a week on relieving Dr Edwin Gomes—who was on Covid-19 duty with a team of four for over 90 days—of his duty and to extend his leave.  
Dr Gomes hit the headlines earlier this month

when he returned home after spending over 90 days working at the state's lone Covid medical facility in Margao. He had been relieved for three weeks and videos of his welcome by family and friends had gone viral on social media.  
Soon after he returned home, Dr Gomes had tested

positive for Covid-19 and had been shifted to a Covid care facility. He tested negative last week.  
In her petition to the court, Dr Gomes's wife Ubaldina Noronha claimed he was not being relieved of his duties by the administration and that authorities were pressuring him.  
The bench of Justices MS Jawalkar and MS Sonak said the matter needs the attention of the state, considering "the yeoman's services rendered by Dr Gomes during this difficult period and the valuable experience he has gained", which the bench felt, will be "most valuable to the state administration". **ENS**

US to West Asia, Kerala govt's digital classes find learners across continents

**SHAJU PHILIP**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JULY 26  
"FIRST BELL", the digital classroom started by the Kerala government to impart education to 41 lakh students in the state after schools shut due to the lockdown, has gained a global audience, officials said.  
K Anwar Sadat, the CEO of Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE)—the state's nodal agency for ICT education in schools—said: "Even as TV remains the main medium for students, the web streaming platform of KITE VICTERS has had a response

from several countries. As much as 442 TB data has been reported from 141 countries. Of the total viewership of the classes through web-streaming, 10 per cent is steadily from the US, Europe and West Asia. That shows we have a global audience. We assume expatriates from Kerala would be making their wards watch the classes."  
The CEO added: "Apart from the tremendous response the web streaming of classes get every day, there is regular viewership in YouTube channel, which is also from outside Kerala. The average daily viewership of classes in YouTube alone is 54 lakh, which translates into 5 lakh hours a day."

Sadat said that since several places in Kerala have been declared Covid-19 hotspots, arrangements were made for preparation of classes with the support of 2,000-odd high-tech schools from different districts.  
The state began digital classes on June 1, the beginning of the academic year. As many as 2.42 lakh students did not have access to TV or the Internet at their homes, leading to a spontaneous mass movement to ensure digital learning facility for the under-privileged.  
The KITE VICTERS, under the education department, has already aired 1,000 classes through the First Bell programme.

**METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION (CHENNAI) LIMITED**  
PALLAVAN HOUSE, ANNA SALAI, CHENNAI - 600 002.  
**TENDER NOTICE**  
Sealed and superscribed tenders are invited separately from the System Integrators under two cover system subject to the conditions prescribed in the tender documents for "Design, Supply, Implement, Commission, Operate & Manage the Safe City Solution" as a part of Nirthaya Safe City Project for Metropolitan Transport Corporation.  

TENDER SCHEDULE		Tender document	EMD	Prebid meeting	
Issue Date	Closing Date & Time	Opening Date & Time	Cost Including GST in Rs.	In Rs.	date and time
27.07.2020	14.09.2020 upto 15.00 Hrs	14.09.2020 at 15.30 Hrs	17,700/-	70,00,000/-	14.08.2020 at 11.00 hrs

The Tender document can be obtained in person on all working days between 10.30 Hours and 16.30 Hours and also be downloaded from the tender website [www.tenders.in.gov.in](http://www.tenders.in.gov.in). Such downloaded tender document shall be accompanied by tender document cost Rs.17,700/- (inclusive of GST) by Demand Draft drawn in favour of "the Managing Director, Metropolitan Transport Corporation (Chennai) Ltd", payable at "Chennai" any modification (if any) in tender terms and tender invitation period will be uploaded in the website and the tenders are requested to go through the above website.  
DIPR/2796/TENDER/2020 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

**NATIONAL HIGHWAYS & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.**  
(Ministry of Road, Transport & Highways, Government of India)  
PMU-Leh: Yartse House near Changspa Farm, Changspa, Leh - 194101  
Telephone No. - 9466944994  
**NOTICE INVITING BID**  
Name of work: Providing ONE (01) Generator set of 25 kVA at Leh, TWO (02) Generator sets of 10 kVA at Kargil & Padum, UT of Ladakh and ONE (01) Generator set of 10 kVA at Keylong, Himachal Pradesh.  
1. Sealed quotations in the form of Financial Bid is invited for "Generator set ONE (01) No. of 25 kVA & THREE (03) Nos. 10 kVA" including transportation upto the office locations, unloading, installation and commissioning.  

Name of work	Cost of Documents	EMD/Bid Security
Providing ONE (01) Generator set of 25 kVA at Leh, TWO (02) Generator sets of 10 kVA at Kargil & Padum, UT of Ladakh and ONE (01) Generator set of 10 kVA at Keylong, Himachal Pradesh.	Rs. 500/-	Rs. 50,000/-

  
2. Interested Companies/manufacturers & Authorized dealers may submit bid documents complete in all respect along with Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand and only) in the form of Demand Draft pledged in favor of National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL), payable at Leh, UT of Ladakh and other requisite documents on or before 03.08.2020 by 1200 (Hours) to the General Manager (Projects), PMU Office: Yartse House near Changspa Farm, Changspa, Leh - 194101. No tender shall be entertained after this deadline under any circumstances whatsoever.  
3. The bid document can be downloaded from the website [www.nhidcl.com](http://www.nhidcl.com) from 27.07.2020 up to 03.08.2020 and the document fee of Rs 500/- will be accepted in the form of DD in favour of National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL), payable at Leh, UT of Ladakh (Non-Refundable). The documents can be obtained from the PMU Office by submitting DD of Rs 500/- in favour of National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited, payable at Leh, UT of Ladakh (Non-Refundable) within 1200 Hrs to 1600 Hrs on all working days.  
Sd/-  
General Manager (P), PMU-Leh

**NMDC Limited**  
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)  
"Vasari" Bhawan, 10-3-111/A, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad-500082  
CIN:L13100TG1958GOI001674.  
E-Tender Notice (Open Tender Enquiry for Domestic Bidding)  
CONTRACTS DEPARTMENT-ENGINEERING & PROJECTS DIVISION  
Tender Enquiry No: HD /Contracts/Reef Top Solar/Kirandul/2019-214 Dated 27-07-2020  
MSTC Ref No:NMDC/HD/24/20-21/ET/329  
NMDC invites bids in e-tender mode on MSTC website (NMDC's e-tender service provider) <http://www.mstcecommerce.com> for the work of "Design, Manufacture, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 4 sets of 25 kWp Grid Interactive Reef Top Solar Power Plant, one each for Kallash Nagar Barrack, Camp Office-Dep. 11C, Time Office-Dep. 11B & Service Centre-Dep.14, at Balladilla Iron Ore Mine (BIOM), Kirandul Complex on Lump Sum Turnkey (LSTK) basis and Comprehensive AMC (CAMC) for 5 Years."  
For viewing/downloading the schedule of a bidding and the detailed NIT along with pre-qualification requirements and tender document, prospective bidders may visit MSTC web site link: <http://www.mstcecommerce.com> or [aprc@nmclmcl](mailto:aprc@nmclmcl) and register on-line as 'New Vendor'. For further help, the 'Vendor Guide' given therein may be referred. Link to MSTC e-tender platform is also available through NMDC website [www.nmdc.co.in](http://www.nmdc.co.in). The tender documents can also be accessed from NMDC website: [www.nmdc.co.in](http://www.nmdc.co.in) and CPP Portal <http://eprocure.gov.in>  
Any corrigendum to the tender will be uploaded only in above mentioned websites. Prospective bidders should visit these websites from time to time to take note of corrigendum, if any.  
For further clarification, GM (Contracts), NMDC Ltd., Hyderabad can be contacted on fax : 040-23534746, Tel : 040-23532800, email: [contracts@nmdc.co.in](mailto:contracts@nmdc.co.in) General Manager (Contracts)

**MUMBAI METROPOLITAN REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
(A Government of Maharashtra Undertaking)  
Lands & Estate Cell (Advertisement Cell),  
Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai – 400 051.  
Tel. 022-26594128/26592115, Fax : 91-022-26591264  
E-Mail : [landscapeweb2@mailmmrda.maharashtra.gov.in](mailto:landscapeweb2@mailmmrda.maharashtra.gov.in)  
Website:- <https://mmrda.maharashtra.gov.in>  
**e-RFP NOTICE**  
1) Name of Work : Request for Proposal for Appointment of an Agency for Erection & Maintenance of Bus Queue Shelters, Street Furniture, Environment Friendly Toilets, Gentries & MUPIs and display of Advertisement on them & Landscaping, Beautification and Maintenance of Area around Bus Queue Shelters, Beautification below Flyovers along approx. 23.55 KM stretch of Eastern Express Highway in lieu of advertisement rights for a period of 15 years on Design Built Maintain Operate & Transfer (DBMOT) basis.  
2) Cost of Blank Tender Form : Rs. 5,000/- (Per Each)  
3) Earnest Money Deposit : Rs. 2,00,000/-  
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5) Last date of online submission : 26/08/2020 (17.00 hrs.)  
6) Contract Period : 15 Years  
Note : The e-RFP can be downloaded from e-Tendering portal <https://etendermmrda.maharashtra.gov.in>  
Any additional information, Corrigendum & help for uploading & downloading the e-RFP, may be availed by contacting MMRDA's e-tendering service desk at the following id : [etendersupport@mailmmrda.maharashtra.gov.in](mailto:etendersupport@mailmmrda.maharashtra.gov.in) or call us on 022-26597445.  
Date : 27/07/2020 Sd/-  
Place: Mumbai Metropolitan Commissioner,  
No.:MMRDA/L&E/Landscaping/3/2020 MMRDA

**CONTAINER CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.**  
2nd floor, NSIC MDBP Building, Okhla Industrial Estate, New Delhi-110020  
**Tender No. CON/EP/NCR/DER/ZC/2020**  
CONCOR invites online open e-tender in Single bid system for "Maintenance of Civil Works of Administrative Building, workshop, warehouse, Housing Colony, pavement works, road and all other miscellaneous civil & structural works at ICD/Dadri". Last date of sale is 17.08.2020 up to 17:00 hrs. For more details visit [www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL&www.concorindia.com](http://www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL&www.concorindia.com)  
Chief General Manager/NCR  
**ANIMAL HUSBANDRY DEPARTMENT**  
571, Anna Salai, Nandanam P.O. Chennai - 600 035  
**TENDER NOTICE**  
Sealed tenders are invited under "Two Cover System" for insuring Milch Cows, Goats / Sheep from insurance Companies.  

Milch Cows	12,000 nos.
Goats / Sheep	6,00,000 nos.

  
Individual tender document with full details can be downloaded in free of cost from [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in) up to 26.08.2020, 5.00 p.m. Last date for submission of tenders: 27.08.2020 at 11.00 a.m. Corrigendum / Addendum to this publication if any would appear only on the above website.  
DIPR/2783/TENDER/2020  
Director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services





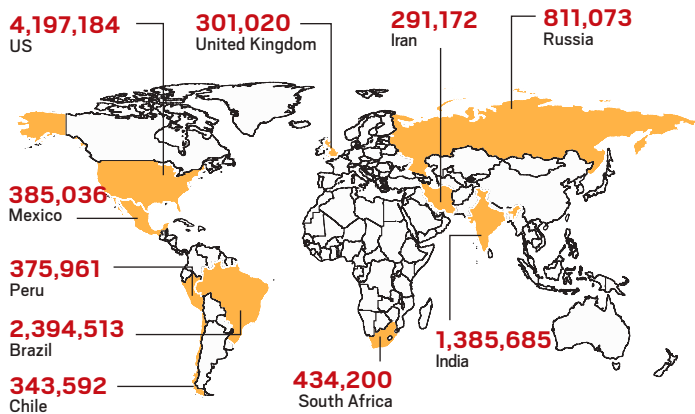
@ieExplained

#ExpressExplained

If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to [explained@indianexpress.com](mailto:explained@indianexpress.com)

## CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

## THE WORLD



TOTAL CONFIRMED: 16,100,905

DEATH COUNT: 645,482

Source: Johns Hopkins University, updated at 11 pm on July 26. JHU's India tally and Health Ministry's tally (below) may not match if these are accounted at different times.

## How coronavirus tricks immune system with camouflage

LIKE AN intruder deactivating an alarm before entering a building, the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 has been found to have the same advantage entering cells. A study in *Nature Communications* describes how the coronavirus achieves this.



PAPER CLIP

NEW RESEARCH

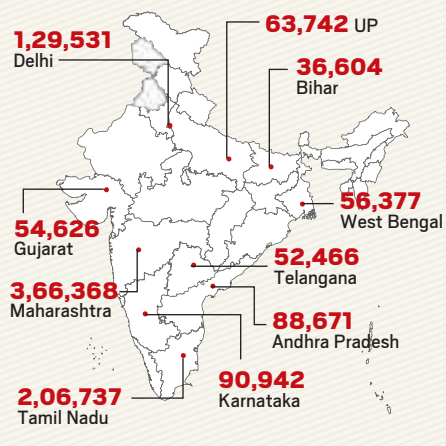
The virus produces an enzyme called nsp16, which it then uses to modify its messenger RNA cap. In lay terms, messenger RNA can be described as a deliverer of genetic code to

Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio said in a statement.

Source: UT Health San Antonio

INDIA COUNT: 13,85,522 (32,063 DEATHS)

## TOP 10 STATES



## REST OF INDIA

Andaman and Nicobar Islands	290
Arunachal Pradesh	1126
Assam	31086
Chandigarh	852
Chhattisgarh	7087
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	860
Goa	4686
Haryana	30538
Himachal Pradesh	2049
Jammu and Kashmir	17305
Jharkhand	7836
Kerala	18098
Ladakh	1276
Madhya Pradesh	26926
Manipur	2176
Meghalaya	646
Mizoram	361
Nagaland	1289
Odisha	24013
Puducherry	2654
Punjab	12684
Rajasthan	35298
Sikkim	499
Tripura	3862
Uttarakhand	5961

Union Health Ministry update as of 11 pm, July 26. Some states may have reported higher numbers. Only states/UTs with at least one case listed above.

8,85,577 PATIENTS DISCHARGED IN 35 STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES

Have a question on the COVID-19 outbreak and what you should/should not do? Write to [explained@indianexpress.com](mailto:explained@indianexpress.com)

## EXPLAINED EDUCATION

# How Covid has hit learning

What has the prolonged absence from school meant for children? A look at how learning loss happens, how it's different this time, and what is the way forward when schools do reopen

## EXPERT EXPLAINS

RUKMINI BANERJI

From The Indian Express panel of specialists, exclusive insight



**What will this prolonged absence from school mean for children in a country like India?**

The Covid-19 crisis is unprecedented. Time will tell what the implications of prolonged school closure will be. However, once schools open, based on past trends, it will be critical to track school enrolment, daily attendance and basic learning.

From the first Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) in 2005 to ASER 2018, data provide estimates of children's basic learning levels for almost all rural districts of India. These data show that while overall school enrolment levels have been well above 95% nationally for more than a decade, the proportion of girls (age group 15 to 16) still out of school has declined slowly 22.6% to 13.5% between 2006 and 2018. These hard-won gains of enrolment and school completion must not get eroded due to the combination of schools being closed and economic hardships in the family related to Covid-19.

As far as attendance is concerned, in pre-Covid times, there was wide variation across the country, ranging from less than 60% of enrolled children present in school on any random day in states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand to well over 85% attendance in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. As schools reopen, bringing every child back to school on a regular basis will be a big challenge, especially in states where normal attendance patterns are relatively low and variable.

It is well known that basic learning levels of primary school children in India are worryingly low. Using a large-scale nationally representative sample of rural children, ASER 2018 shows that in Std V after more than four years of schooling, only half of all children can read a Std II level text fluently. Close to 18% still cannot decode simple words, 13% can read words but not sentences and 19% can read a simple set of four sentences (at Std I level) but as yet cannot fluently read a story or a chapter from a Std II textbook. Even before Covid hit us earlier this year, this wide diversity of learning levels has been a chronic problem of our classrooms for years. The majority of children, especially in government schools, are several years behind grade level. When schools reopen it is likely that this variation of learning levels in each grade will have widened further; the lower end of the distribution will have become thicker.

**There is a lot of talk these days of "learning loss". What does this mean, and why does it happen?**

In education literature, "learning loss" usually refers to loss in children's learning during the long summer vacations in western countries, especially in the US.

There is not much research on "learning loss" in India. One possible recent source of data is available from Uttar Pradesh. In the 2018-19 school year, the UP government in partnership with Pratham conducted a foundational learning improvement intervention called Graded Learning Programme (GLP). As part of this, children were assessed in January, in late April and then again in August 2019.



Books for the new session lie unclaimed at a municipal school in East Delhi. Amit Mehra

This data from 2019 in Uttar Pradesh suggests that the "summer loss" in reading ability is less than 10 percentage points for children who have completed Std III or Std IV and are already reading at Std II level. The level at which reading is being measured may be important in this context. Children who are already able to read a simple story fluently (Std II level text) may be less likely to slip back as compared to children whose reading skills are not yet as developed.

**In terms of learning, how much do children gain year on year? How different will it be this year?**

In the last ten years, in government primary schools in India, how much do children gain in reading ability between one school year and the next? As an example, we can use ASER data for basic reading in Uttar Pradesh for the past decade to answer the question. The year-on-year learning gain analysis using ASER data for the period 2012 to 2018 shows two broad trends. First, the gains for this reading level are lower in early grades as compared to the year-on-year gains in reading in higher grades. For example, for children moving from Std II to Std III to Std IV, at least in the period up to 2016, we can see learning gains between 5 and 10 percentage points. Whereas for children moving from Std VI to Std VII to Std VIII, the proportion of children reading fluently (at least at Std II level) increases by 10 to 15 percentage points in a year. Secondly, in more recent years, particularly between 2016 and 2018, year-on-year gains have been higher for all grades as compared to similar grades in previous years.

## TODAY'S EXPERT

**RUKMINI BANERJI** is the CEO of Pratham Education Foundation, an NGO working to provide quality education to youth and children of India. With Pratham since 1996, she has led the effort behind the internationally acknowledged Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) from 2005 to 2015. Her perspective is based on a combination of extensive field experience and research practice.

**What are the long-term implications of this accumulated learning loss?**

An recently released study by Jishnu Das *et al* about Pakistan shows that even four years after the earthquake of 2005, children in the area were far behind expected levels of learning. Interestingly, the authors attribute only a small percentage of the learning deficit to school closures. Most of the difference is due to what happened when children returned to school.

**Is "catch-up" ever possible?**

Let me go back to the recent example from Uttar Pradesh. In 2019, the UP government's focused learning improvement effort (Graded Learning Programme) was implemented for roughly 3 months towards the end of the 2018-19 school year. Instructional time at school level ranged from a minimum of 45 days to 70 days of at least 2-3 hours per day devoted to building foundational learning skills of reading and arithmetic. Based on key elements of Pratham's "Teaching-at-the-Right-Level" approach, children in Std III, IV and V were grouped for instruction by their

level of reading and arithmetic rather than by their grade.

Data from the programme show gains in reading of 14 percentage points in Std III and 15.9 percentage points for Std IV. This occurred in a three-month period when a focused intervention for acquiring foundational skills was implemented in a determined manner by the state government. This means that an outcome typically seen after a year's worth of "business as usual" schooling is possible to achieve in three months. If the same high-priority push had started at the beginning of the school year and been continued for a longer period, a more substantial rise may have been visible.

**What evidence can guide the way forward for governments?**

This promising possibility of "learning gain" must be considered as plans are made for the way forward beyond the Covid-19 crisis. What can we anticipate when schools reopen?

The data from UP suggests that once schools open, we must definitely not go back to "business as usual". Children must be "met at their own level" when schools open. A simple, oral one-on-one assessment of basic capabilities like arithmetic and reading should be done by each teacher with each child. This will not only help reconnect teachers with individual children, but also give the teacher a sense of the current spread of learning levels in her group. A strong concerted effort on foundational skills — basic reading and arithmetic is needed as soon as schools open and attendance stabilises. For at least a few hours during each school day, this campaign should be continued from the time of school reopening till the next summer vacations.

Helping children who have fallen behind to "catch up" is the single most important act for effectively addressing concerns about equity. The announcement of the National Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Mission provides the right moment for the country to take building foundations seriously once schools reopen.

# Afghanistan's Sikhs & Hindus: how many remain, why they want to leave

DIVYA GOYAL

LUDHIANA, JULY 26

SINCE A terror attack by an IS gunman killed 25 Sikhs at Gurdwara Har Rai Sahib in Kabul on March 25, the small Sikh and Hindu communities in Afghanistan have made multiple appeals to the Indian government for "immediate evacuation". A look at these communities' history in Afghanistan:

**When did Hinduism reach Afghanistan?**

According to historian Inderjeet Singh, author of *Afghan Hindus and Sikhs: A History of A Thousand Years*, Hindu rulers once reigned over Eastern Afghanistan including Kabul. "Islam entered Afghanistan in the 7th century. The Zunbil dynasty is believed to be the earliest Hindus who ruled over Kandahar to Ghazni of Afghanistan, from 600 to 780 AD. Later the Hindu Shahi dynasty ruled. They were replaced only by the end of the 10th century by Ghaznavids, who maintained Hindu forces," Singh said. "It was only in 1504 that Mughal Emperor Babur captured Kabul... Babur used to refer to Kabul as 'Hindustan's own market' and the province of Kabul remained with Hindustan until 1738."

**When did Sikhism reach Afghanistan?**

Sikhism founder Guru Nanak visited Afghanistan in the early 16th century and laid the foundations. As per the history of his travels recorded in the earliest *janamsakhis*, it was during his fourth *udaasi* (travels) during 1519-21, with his companion Bhai Mardana, that Guru Nanak reached Afghanistan and visited present-day Kabul, Kandahar, Jalalabad, Sultanpur. All these places now have gurdwaras. The seventh Sikh Guru Har Rai too played a pivotal role in sending Sikh missionaries to Kabul.

"Several documents record the thriving trade of Hindus and Sikhs in Afghan society but today 99 per cent of them have left the country. Afghanistan now refuses to acknowledge them as their natives but they have made contribution to their motherland despite a turbulent journey. Can an Afghan be a Hindu or a Sikh? History says, YES," Singh writes in his book.

**When did they leave, and why?**

Singh said there were at least 3 lakh Sikhs and Hindus in Afghanistan until the 1970s. In 1988, a man with an AK-47 stormed a gurdwara in Jalalabad and gunned down 13 Sikhs and four Afghan soldiers. In 1989, Gurdwara Guru Teg Bahadur Singh in



A gurdwara at Karte Parwan in Kabul. Pritpal Singh

Jalalabad was hit by rockets fired by the Mujahideen and 17 Sikhs were killed.

An exodus started in 1992 when the Mujahideen took over. "The Soviet intervention, which started in 1979, lasted for a decade and Afghanistan became a battleground for

the Cold War. The US and its allies started providing weapons to Mujahideen to fight a proxy war against the Soviet occupation. The Soviets withdrew in 1989... The Mujahideen captured Kabul in 1992 and deposed President Najibullah... A large number of

Afghan Sikhs and Hindus started the exodus and left the country," Inderjeet Singh writes.

Under the Mujahideen, there were widespread kidnappings, extortion, property grabbing incidents, religious persecution, which became the trigger point for exodus. After the Taliban took over, persecution continued.

**Where did those who moved out settle?**

"The Afghan government (in the months before the Mujahideen took over entire Kabul) issued speedy passports under a scheme called Aab Gang pilgrimage passport. The Indian Embassy set up an on-the-go visa department... Some 50,000 people left Afghanistan under this scheme and came to India," said Inderjeet Singh.

From India, many moved to other countries. "The majority of Afghan Hindus are now settled in Germany and Sikhs in the UK. Others live in Austria, Belgium, Holland, France, Canada and the US," said Pritpal Singh, an Afghan Sikh settled in London and director of the documentary *Mission Afghanistan*.

**How many Afghan Sikhs are in India?**

Khajinder Singh, head of the Afghan Hindu Sikh Welfare Society in Delhi, said, "Approximately, there are 18,000 Afghan Sikhs living in India, of whom 50-60% have

got citizenship and the rest are living as refugees or on long-term visas. Most are living in Delhi followed by Punjab and Haryana."

**How many are left in Afghanistan?**

Not more than 700. Chhabal Singh, member, managing committee, Gurdwara Dashmesh Pita Sri Guru Gobind Singh ji Singh Sabha Karte Parwan, Kabul, said, "There are around 650 Sikhs (90-100 families) and nearly 50 Hindus left here... No one wants to live here now after the gurdwara attack in Kabul on March 25."

"The attack was the final nail in the coffin... Gurdwaras are also homes for Sikhs in Afghanistan as most of them don't have their own houses. Also, Sikhs in Afghanistan took heart from the Citizenship Amendment Act in India, knowing that getting Indian citizenship would be easier," said Khajinder Singh.

**Will the CAA help them?**

The CAA, 2019, which reduces the period of mandatory stay in India from 11 years to five years for minorities from three countries including Afghanistan, will help those Afghan Sikhs and Hindus who moved to India before the cutoff date of December 31, 2014. The rules for CAA, however, are yet to be framed by the Home Ministry.



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THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, JULY 27, 2020

# THE EDITORIAL PAGE

## WORDLY WISE

AN ARMY OF PRINCIPLES CAN PENETRATE WHERE  
AN ARMY OF SOLDIERS CANNOT.

— THOMAS PAINE

## The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

## HOUSE VS COURT

The court's 13 questions could prise open spaces in a political party — and also risk judicial over-reach

THE POLITICAL, LEGAL and constitutional issues raised by the unfolding Rajasthan drama will require careful disentangling. But a few things are already clear: There is evident bad faith on all sides, a shadow over the credibility of every player. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot tried to stamp out the rebellion within by bizarre acts of heavyhandedness like the sedition notice served by his government to his own deputy, which became the trigger for the current unravelling. The Sachin Pilot camp of dissenting MLAs has taken recourse to an unedifying cloak-and-dagger resort politics. Governor Kalraj Mishra, by sitting on the chief minister's demand for a floor test — the most transparent way of settling doubts about the government's continuing viability — is inviting accusations of partisanship. The Courts — both the high court, which has stayed disqualification proceedings against the 19 MLAs by the assembly Speaker and framed 13 questions that recast the matter as one that involves larger questions of freedom of expression and basic structure of the Constitution, and the Supreme Court which has so far played along — have scarred their own record when it comes to protecting and seen to be protecting dissent.

And yet, the 13 questions framed by the Rajasthan High Court strike a chord. This is so because of a political culture defined by an anti-defection law which, in its zeal to prevent "aaya ram, gaya ram" politics or horse trading, has shrunk the open spaces within parties, excessively empowering the party high command at the cost of the freedoms of legislators. In the backdrop is also the trend of brute electoral majorities, which makes dissent within the political behemoth as important as, if not more vital than, the opposition without. In this context, the high court's prodding could open up space for a wider deliberation on some vital issues — on what "defection" means, and where the line is to be drawn between "crossing over" and intra-party dissent. Can the "expression of dissatisfaction or disillusionment and the strongly worded opinion against the party leadership", be seen as conduct falling under the ambit of Para 2(1)(a) of the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, which deals with an MP or MLA who "has voluntarily given up his membership of such political party"? After all, the 19 rebel MLAs insist that they remain with the Congress, despite their grievances with Gehlot's leadership. The high court's questions also problematise the party whip and its applicability.

In 1992, a five-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court in *Kihoto Hollohan* upheld the constitutional validity of the Tenth Schedule and cast a specific prohibition on courts intervening in disqualification matters ahead of the Speaker's ruling. As the matter comes up again before the Supreme Court today, therefore, there is existing jurisprudence and law, and uncharted territory ahead. The process that has begun with the Rajasthan HC's 13 questions could lead to less opacity and greater openness in the building blocks of parliamentary democracy. But treading into the inner lives of parties could also be fraught with risks — it is a slippery slope from reform to imperilling autonomy.

## PROTECT THE PEACE

A letter from Governor evokes a sharp response from Naga rebels. Care must be taken to keep conversation going

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS in Nagaland suggest that a tenuous peace is increasingly coming under strain. A government directive earlier this month that all its officials must declare if any relative was working for underground organisations has evoked a strong reaction from the NSCN (I-M). The state government has since clarified that the directive was issued on the order of the governor, R N Ravi. The NSCN (I-M), the most powerful rebel group in the state and a signatory to the 2015 framework agreement, suspects that the government wants to reduce the Naga political cause to a law and order problem.

The framework agreement that promised a resolution of the Naga issue was hailed as "historic" by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, but the differences that persisted between the Centre and the rebels could not be resolved in the past five years. An indication of the stress in the peace talks was a June 16 letter from Governor Ravi to Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, in which he spoke about rampant "extortions and violence" and "armed gangs" running "parallel governments" in the state. While the state government said the assessment was not "factual", the NSCN (I-M) described the government directive as "despicable", "insulting" and "demeaning" and "incompatible with the spirit of Indo-Naga peace process". The situation has turned worse after an anti-extortion squad of Nagaland Police shot an alleged member of NSCN (Khaplang) on June 23 in Kohima.

At the root of the present trouble is the perception regarding the status of rebel groups such as the NSCN (I-M) in Naga society. The rebels portray themselves as freedom fighters and believe that, as political workers, they have the right to "tax" people. Governor Ravi, who has worked tirelessly as the Centre's interlocutor to bring peace to the state, has sought to diminish this claim and privilege the authority of the elected government over the rebels. This has the potential to delegitimise the claims of rebels, including the NSCN (I-M), in representing the Nagas in talks with the Centre. The 2015 framework agreement, which built on the 1997 ceasefire between the Centre and the NSCN (I-M), has given rise to hope that the country's longest surviving insurgency can be settled peacefully to the satisfaction of all the stakeholders. Peace has a large constituency in Nagaland, of course. However, this constituency may have also invested in the NSCN (I-M) to represent what they believe is the "unique history, culture and position of the Nagas and their sentiments and aspirations".

## FREEZE FRAME

## E P UNNY



COOMI KAPOOR

BEING LOCKED IN during a pandemic has made me more conscious of the hazards of my environment, most notably the menacing stray dogs. A month back, I was mauled by a rabid dog in a park. The canine also bit a three-year-old child, two pet dogs and three security guards. On my neighbourhood WhatsApp group, there are several horror stories of elderly persons and children being bitten by stray dogs, apparently unusually frisky because their usual biscuit feeders were absent during the lockdown.

But in the eyes of the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI), the victims are really the dogs. An AWBI circular actually comments that a person getting in the way of a dog "can be perceived as an example of provocation". A dog which bites human beings repeatedly cannot necessarily be termed a nuisance and a vet is liable to be sued if he puts the biting dog to sleep at his master's request. The consequence of such a perverse law is that some time back, the owner of a rabid Great Dane simply threw his dog over the Sunder Nagar nursery wall, where it bit and infected many other canines and humans. Citing AWBI rules, stray dog feeders frequently threaten residents who object to dog bowls at their doorsteps with an FIR charging "criminal intimidation". Small wonder that most Resident Welfare Associations are reluctant to tangle with the vocal and aggressive dog minders in their neighbourhood.

Maneka Gandhi, the formidable animal rights activist, has almost single-handedly framed and still oversees the country's bizarre policy for dogs for some two decades. Officialdom and her political superiors have discreetly distanced themselves, despite the impracticality and unscientific nature of programmes with a cavalier disregard for health issues and human suffering.

When she was first appointed MoS Environment in 1989, Gandhi persuaded then Prime Minister V P Singh to hand to her the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) and detach it from its real home, the Animal Husbandry and Dairying portfolio. This peculiar practice continued and she retained the control of the board as minister of Environment, Social Justice and Empowerment, Culture, and Statistics and

A bizarre and unscientific policy is behind the menace of stray dogs all over India

The AWBI, despite all its lofty claims, has not compiled data on the dog population and vaccinations in the last two decades. Two internal reviews by the Environment Ministry have acknowledged the failure of the Animal Birth Control (ABC) (dogs) rules, and pointed out misappropriation of funds by some animal welfare organisations patronised by the AWBI. Experts estimate that barely 10 per cent of India's dogs have been sterilised and immunised out of a possible 60 million.

Programme Implementation. After Gandhi was left out of the cabinet in Modi 2.0, the AWBI has finally been returned to its rightful home, Animal Husbandry, which is under Giriraj Singh, who is more concerned about cows and Hindutva.

Gandhi's iron grip over her fiefdom is still evident. Even the fiery Giriraj Singh confesses his ministry has really no effective powers. His private secretary wonders why I should be apprehensive about retaliation from the ferocious dog lobby — after all, even he had an FIR filed against him by these vigilantes. My visit was in the aftermath of a recent near-unanimous proposal from the residents of East Nizamuddin to their welfare association to ensure that the number of feeding spots for stray dogs be cut down from a staggering 33 — in a community of some 270 houses — to a reasonable 10. (Ironically, the dogs are largely fed by paid employees of a woman who lives in a farmhouse miles away from the colony and seldom visits. Like many dog feeders, who shoulder none of the responsibility which goes along with feeding an animal, she perhaps assumes she has earned her place in heaven by her presumed charity.)

The proposal to cut down the feeding spots evoked an angry and threatening phone call from Maneka Gandhi's sister, Ambika Shukla, who even complained that the elderly in our colony were demonstrating aggressive behaviour by walking around with sticks. (The obvious reason, self-protection, eluded her.) My repeated efforts over the last two years to get an idea from those who have appointed themselves the guardians of the colony's stray dogs of the actual population and the number who were sterilised and vaccinated proved futile. Gandhi's formidable army of dog feeders, fashioning themselves in her mould, are accountable to no one.

I recount my neighbourhood's tale because it is a microcosm of what is happening in the country today. The AWBI, despite all its lofty claims, has not compiled data on the dog population and vaccinations in the last two decades. Two internal reviews by the environment ministry have acknowledged the failure of the Animal Birth Control (ABC) (dogs) rules, and pointed out misappropriation of funds by some animal welfare organisations patronised by the AWBI. Experts estimate that barely 10 per cent of India's dogs have been sterilised and immunised out of a possible 60 million.

tion of funds by some animal welfare organisations patronised by the AWBI. Experts estimate that barely 10 per cent of India's dogs have been sterilised and immunised out of a possible 60 million. Since the ABC rules were actually passed by the Ministry of Culture, it is a moot point whether the ministry had the authority in the first place to pass laws on a subject which it lacked domain knowledge. The ABC offers no scientific method for a systematic vaccination drive and stabilising the country's canine population. ABC rules contravene all Indian state municipal Acts, which mandate removal of straying animals from streets and public places, both for the protection of people and animals.

Unsurprisingly, India has by far the highest number of rabies cases in the world (around 33 per cent), followed by Congo. In contrast, our neighbouring countries have performed fairly well by adopting scientific principles. Our "humanistic" ABC rules miss the rabies component entirely and do not even mention re-immunisation. According to a conservative WHO estimate, there are 20,000 annual rabies deaths in India. But unlike COVID-19 mortalities, there is little concern over these recurring deaths, mostly of children. According to government records, there were six million dog bites in 2017.

The AWBI alone cannot be blamed. Judicial overreach and judicial procrastination are also at fault. In 2010, Justice V K Jain of the Delhi High Court overturned the combined wisdom of the country's civic laws and disregarded the recommendation of the apostle of ahimsa, Mahatma Gandhi, whose well-considered opinion on the advisability of the elimination of stray dogs is a matter of record. Justice Jain's order on feeding stray dogs and forbidding the municipality to pick them up opened a Pandora's box. In 2012, the Karnataka High Court decreed that the authorities did, in fact, have a right to remove stray dogs or practice euthanasia in cases where human lives needed protection. But after eight years, the Supreme Court is in no hurry to pass an order, which could greatly benefit our unprotected street children.

The writer is consulting editor, The Indian Express

## THE PROPAGANDA FRONT

Pakistan's information war campaign against India needs attention



TILAK DEVASHER

THERE HAS BEEN a sharp increase in Pakistan's vicious information war campaign against India. An analysis would reveal three triggers: The Balakot attack of February 2019, the return of the BJP government in the May 2019 elections and the August 2019 revision of Article 370.

Balakot demolished Pakistan's longstanding assumption that the nuclear equivalence guaranteed that India would not retaliate against terrorist attacks. The return of the BJP government signalled that India would continue to follow a muscular policy for the next five years. The Article 370 decision demolished the centrepiece of Pakistan's nationalism — "Kashmir banega Pakistan" — and raised apprehensions about India's plans for Pakistan Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (POJK).

These developments have forced it to shift the emphasis of its anti-India strategy from fomenting terrorism supported by an information war component to an information war supported by terrorism.

Pakistan has two main instruments working in tandem for the furtherance of this policy — the ISI and the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR). The ISPR is a one-stop-shop for the info war against India. It has, over the years, recruited thousands of youth, trained them in the mechanics of social media and used them to project anti-India themes.

The core Pakistani objective is to demolish "Brand India" by attacking its key components — an inclusive and secular society, dem-

ocratic polity, decisive government, a developing economic powerhouse and strong foreign policy. This has been done by trying to polarise society and disrupt social cohesion. The expectation is that such a strategy would have a cascading effect, adversely impacting India's secular and democratic credentials, scare foreign investment and lead to questions about its international image.

The key platforms for this strategy are Twitter, WhatsApp, YouTube and Facebook. A large number of fake social media accounts, especially on Twitter, have been created. Even though Twitter is not the most popular platform in terms of numbers in either India or Pakistan, it is perhaps the most effective form of instant communication. Pakistan has developed malicious narratives embellished with fake audio and video clips. The use of handles with phoney Middle Eastern identities is the latest addition to its bag of tricks.

Internal developments and dissent in India have been manipulated, packaged and used to develop a narrative damaging India's social fabric. Key themes include India disenfranchising Muslims, and the "fascist Indian government's" Hindutva supremacist ideology.

On J&K, the key themes are: Kashmir is a "disputed territory" awaiting solution under the UN resolutions; India needs to talk to Pakistan to resolve the issue and since India refuses to talk, there must be international intervention; Kashmiris want "azaadi"; Kashmiris are waging a jihad against India;

the Indian Army is violating the human rights of Kashmiris. Recently, they are propagating that India is preparing a false flag operation and genocide of Muslims in Kashmir.

What is noteworthy is that the same anti-India narrative is repeated ad nauseam from every medium and platform — whether it is politicians like Imran Khan or Shah Mehmood Qureshi, the ISPR, or print, electronic and social media.

One indicator of Pakistan's strategy is available in the Pakistan Army's *Green Book 2020*. An article by Lt. General Raza Muhammad Khan (Retd.) states: "With the proliferation of the internet, nowadays nothing can escape exaggeration, distortion and fabrication to manipulate perceptions on crucial issues of peace and security." Another article by one Farzana Shah states: "A single video clip or picture can change the perception of India, which it has built so painstakingly over the years."

For India, there has to be a relentless vigil and battle against this campaign just as there has been against terrorism fomented by Pakistan. Even though the Indian polity is strong, such persistent venomous attacks can temporarily damage our social fabric. We must not allow ourselves, wittingly or unwittingly, to fall prey to such machinations to polarise society, even temporarily.

Devasher is Member, National Security Advisory Board and author of three books on Pakistan. Views are personal



## JULY 27, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

ASSAM DETENTE THE ASSAM GOVERNMENT released 15 of the 114 detents held under preventive custody as a first step to implement the accord for the resumption of negotiations on the foreigners' issue. K Ramamurthy, senior advisor to the Governor, told reporters at Dispur that an important announcement would be made on July 25. He said the blockade on jute, plywood and bamboo had not yet been lifted by the sponsors of the movement. The agreement envisages unilateral but simultaneous actions by the government and the agitators in implementing the accord. The agitators had agreed to end their struggle, barring the blockade on oil.

SIXTH PLAN DRAFT THE DRAFT SIXTH plan document will be ready by the end of December this year and will be placed before the National Development Council for consideration and approval early in 1981. The Planning Commission is currently engaged in preparing a draft "plan framework", which will be discussed by the NDC towards the end of next month. The purpose of this consultation will be to elicit the views of the NDC members on the broad outlines of the plan and the major policies and directions necessary for its effective implementation before the details of the programmes and policies are worked out. The Commission

has constituted 26 working groups and three task forces to work out details of the plan. It is also planning to solicit the views of experts to build a national consensus on the objectives and modalities of the new plan.

### INDIA BEATS USSR

INDIA BEAT THE Soviet Union 4-2 in their crucial last league match in the Olympic Hockey Tournament in Moscow today. India now meets Spain on July 29 to decide the first and second positions. India led 2-0 at half time. For India, the goal scorers were: Surinder Sodhi (2), Davinder Singh and M K Kaushik.



# THE IDEAS PAGE

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“The US must be told that while Pakistan values its relationship with America, Islamabad cannot isolate itself regionally by alienating neighbours with whom Washington does not get on.”  
—DAWN

## An Indian first

Dadabhai Naoroji strove to be inclusive. Today's majoritarian nationalism represents a betrayal of the principles he bequeathed to India



DINYAR PATEL

DADABHAI NAOROJI WAS an Indian first. He was the first modern Indian economic thinker, the first Indian elected to the British Parliament, and the first leader to establish swaraj as the goal of the Congress. But Naoroji was an Indian first in another important way. Throughout his career, he stressed on an Indian national identity which overrode religious, caste, class or ethnic differences. “Whether I am a Hindu, a Muhammadan, a Parsi, a Christian, or of any other creed, I am above all an Indian,” he told the Congress in 1893.

Over a century after his death, India is in critical need of remembering Naoroji's brand of nationalism. In all his political activities, the Grand Old Man of India, as he was known, strove to be inclusive. Today's stark majoritarianism, under the banner of a very different form of nationalism, represents a striking betrayal of the principles that Naoroji bequeathed to India.

As a Parsi, a member of a small but highly influential community, Naoroji was especially attuned to minority concerns. It helped that he grew up in Bombay, where, in the 19th century, all political ventures had to be cross-communal in order to succeed. He listened to Maharashtrian assessments of colonial exploitation, compiled economic data with a Konkani Muslim, and ran a newspaper with a Kapor Bania. His first political venture drew in people from all across India. This cosmopolitanism played a defining role in launching Indian nationalism, which would have been impossible without deep personal networks across communal divides.

After the Congress was established in 1885, he laboured to make it reflective of India's diversity. Naoroji expended great effort to reach out to Muslims, particularly after the educationalist Sayyid Ahmad Khan repudiated the organisation in 1887, and after a wave of communal violence wracked northern India and Bombay in 1893. He mentored Joseph Baptista, an East Indian Christian who later became an associate of Bal Gangadhar Tilak. And he overcame an anti-Congress reaction instigated by his fellow Parsis.

After he was elected to the British Parliament in 1892, Naoroji declared himself to be an Indian representative, someone who would fight on behalf of all of his countrymen and countrywomen. This was immediately challenged by several British Conservative MPs. How could a Parsi represent a country with a Hindu majority and a sizeable Muslim minority? How could anyone represent India when, these Britons claimed, India was not a nation but a collection of squabbling communities?

In December 1893, Naoroji returned to India in order to preside over the annual Congress session in Lahore. His journey from Bombay to Lahore was an affirmation that someone from a minority community could

represent all of India. In Bombay, Naoroji was welcomed by around 5,00,000 people — half of the city at the time — and honoured by Hindu priests and the city's Muslim qazi. He was received by millhands in Ahmedabad. Hindus and Muslims in Delhi placed Naoroji at the head of a roaring procession down Chandni Chowk. In Amritsar, Sikh granthis led a special service for the Indian MP at the Golden Temple.

In Lahore, Naoroji was paraded past temples, mosques, and gurdwaras. To mark the Congress session and welcome its president, Muslim poets recited Urdu couplets and Hindu women sang bhajans. And it was here in Lahore that Naoroji declared to Congress delegates that they were Indians first — that they were “above all” Indians in spite of their differing backgrounds.

The Indian press issued a fairly unanimous verdict: These demonstrations revealed the power of inclusive politics. A Bengali paper declared, “this time the Hindu, the Musalman, the Sikh, the Bengali, the Hindustani, the Mahratti, the Parsi, the Panjabi and the Madrasi have spoken with one voice.” Newspapers also offered a stark repudiation to the charge that a minority member could not represent the country. “The fact can no longer be denied by the most prejudiced Anglo-Indian... [who] will find it difficult in future to forget that Mr. Dadabhai is the real representative of the whole of India.” Those words were written in the columns of the *Mahratta*, Bal Gangadhar Tilak's paper. Some cartoons from the early 1900s depicted the Grand Old Man, a Zoroastrian, as a Hindu sadhu meditating under the banner of swaraj.

The Indian nationalism of Naoroji's generation was far more popular and pervasive than is commonly believed. But it did have notable limitations. Naoroji was blind to the issue of untouchability, a glaring omission given his close study of Indian poverty. He endorsed swadeshi but hesitated about tactics he saw as unconstitutional, such as mass boycotts and strikes. Many early nationalists, however, were open-minded, progressive, and welcomed criticism. It is likely that if Naoroji had lived for one or two more decades, he would have seen the limitations of his earlier views and embraced some of the ideas propagated by Gandhi's generation.

What would Dadabhai Naoroji make of India today? He would be troubled by the chauvinism and anti-intellectualism that animates the current leadership. These run counter to the traditions of Indian nationalism. With the horror of 19th century famine victims in mind, he would be furiously campaigning for relief of migrant workers caught amidst lockdown restrictions. He would, unfortunately, see a parallel between contempt for the poor in his day and ours.

Above all, he would be saddened by the atmosphere of overt majoritarianism, as well as the cynical deployment of communalism even in the face of a calamity like the COVID-19 epidemic. Such observations and reactions might cause Dadabhai Naoroji, India's first nationalist, to be branded as an “anti-national.” And that is a tragic irony which we must be left to ponder over.

*Patel is Assistant Professor of History at the University of South Carolina and the author of Naoroji: Pioneer of Indian Nationalism*

# While J&K remains a Union Territory, I will not contest Assembly elections...

Having been a member of the most empowered Assembly in the land and that, too, as leader of that Assembly for six years, I simply cannot and will not be a member of a House that has been disempowered the way ours has:

Vice president of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference breaks his silence



OMAR ABDULLAH

IT'S ALMOST A year since the tectonic changes of August 5, 2019, were forced on the people of Jammu and Kashmir without so much as a by your leave. It's still impossible to come to terms with what I saw being rolled out on my television set that morning. Hours earlier, at the stroke of midnight, I had been placed under house arrest, and would be shifted to a government guest house by the end of the day. The nominated representative of the Union government usurped powers, that should have been vested with the legislature and a popularly elected government, to rewrite J&K's constitutional relationship with the rest of India. The Parliament of India spent less than a day each in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha to change more than 70 years of history, to undo the sovereign commitments made to the people of J&K and to dismember the state.

After the re-election of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, rumours started to float about the intentions of the BJP to use its absolute majority in the Lok Sabha to implement its poll promise of abrogating Article 370 and Article 35A of the Constitution. Fears reached a fever pitch when plane loads of central para-military forces were flown in to Srinagar and dispatched all over the state.

The people were treated to categorical denials by the occupant of the highest office in the state, the Governor, that J&K's special status faced no threat. He debunked the rumours, explained away the additional forces suggesting they were required for Assembly elections later in the year. So what does one conclude from this? That the occupant of such a high office deliberately lied to the people or that he wasn't kept informed? I know what I believe but you can draw your own conclusions. Some of us, senior office-bearers of the J&K National Conference, had a meeting with the PM just days before the August 5 developments. It's not a meeting I will forget in a hurry. One day I may write about it but propriety precludes me from saying more than that we left the meeting with a completely different impression about what was going to unfold in the next 72 hours.

In one fell swoop, everything we had feared came to pass.

J&K's special status, an important, perhaps even indispensable, part of the state's accession to the Union, was revoked. With it, went the framework that determined who a bonafide resident of J&K was. Truth be told, the BJP pushing this wasn't a complete surprise — it was part of its poll agenda for decades. What came as a shock was the humiliation heaped on the state by downgrading it and splitting it into two Union Territories. Over the last seven decades, Union Territories have been upgraded to

states but this was the first time a state was downgraded to a Union Territory.

To this day, I fail to understand the need for this move, except to punish and humiliate the people of the state. If the reason for carving out a separate Union Territory for Ladakh was the public demand among the Buddhist population of the area, then the demand for a separate state for the people of Jammu is a much older demand. If the demand was conceded on religious grounds, then it ignored the fact that Leh and Kargil districts, which together make up the Union Territory of Ladakh, are Muslim majority and the people of Kargil are vehemently opposed to the idea of being separated from J&K.

Many reasons were given to justify the complete dilution of Article 370 when it was being rammed through Parliament, none stands the test of basic scrutiny. It was alleged that Article 370 has fuelled separatism and allowed militant violence to thrive in Kashmir, an end was supposed to herald the end of terrorism. If that be the case, then why is it that almost a year later the same Union government is forced to tell the Supreme Court that violence in J&K is increasing? Article 370 has kept the people of J&K in poverty was another claim. Even a cursory glance at poverty figures would show that J&K has some of the lowest levels of poverty in the country. Article 370 was alleged to have denied J&K investment. Prior to the outbreak of militancy in the state, J&K was amongst the most progressive states with a growing industrial base and impressive investment in manufacturing. Tourism was a sector that was coming in to its own as far as investments were concerned. What has stopped J&K from attracting investment is the security environment and that's why a year after the momentous changes there has been no investment worth the mention.

It was also claimed that J&K has remained backward because of Article 370. In fact, a comparison with a “developed” state like Gujarat would show that we compare far more favourably in a number of human development indices. Finally, it was suggested that Article 370 was always meant to be a temporary provision. What they forget to add to this sentence is that it was temporary because of the little matter of the United Nations Security Council resolution 1947 of 1948, but that's an entirely different op-ed in itself.

Even the Supreme Court, as recently as 2018, has held that Article 370 “had acquired a permanent status by virtue of its years of existence making its abrogation impossible”. Anyway you wish to look at it, other than the political justification of an election promise being fulfilled, there is no constitutional, legal, economic or security justification for what was done to J&K on August 5, 2019. This is what forms the basis of the National Conference's case in the Supreme Court.

The special constitutional status enjoyed by J&K was not a favour done to the state. It formed the basis of the state's accession to India. At a time when states were asked to choose between acceding to India or to Pakistan, religion was the overwhelming determinant. For Muslim-majority J&K

**J&K**  
**ONE YEAR AFTER**  
**AUGUST 5**

AN EXPRESS SERIES

Some of us, senior office-bearers of the J&K National Conference, had a meeting with the PM just days before the August 5 developments. It's not a meeting I will forget in a hurry. One day I may write about it but propriety precludes me from saying more than that we left the meeting with a completely different impression about what was going to unfold in the next 72 hours.

The National Conference has lost thousands of workers and office-bearers to militant violence because of our choice to remain a mainstream political party while opposing the separatist politics that grew in the late 1980s. Given the orchestrated campaign against mainstream political parties in most of the national media, particularly at the hands of the ruling dispensation, it's easy to find oneself asking whether the sacrifices were worth it.

to accede and then fight alongside Indian forces to push back Pakistani invaders in 1947 was without parallel. It allowed India to proudly stamp its secular credentials for all to see. All that J&K asked for was to have certain safeguards built in the Constitution to protect this unique status. There was no time stamp on these safeguards.

It was understood that so long as J&K remained a part of India, the special status enjoyed by it would remain. This is what makes it all the more distressing to see what was done last year. J&K has kept its side of the promise by remaining a part of the Union, the last 30 years of militancy notwithstanding. It has participated in the democratic processes and tried to share in the nation's development, but the promise made with it was not kept. This is one of those moments when it's important to ask whether it is better to be popular or to be right. Removing J&K's special status may have been the popular thing to do but going back on a nation's sovereign commitments is never going to be the right thing to do.

We, in the J&K National Conference, do not agree with what has been done to J&K nor do we accept what has been done. We shall oppose this, our opposition will continue in the highest court in the land in the form of the legal challenge filed in the Supreme Court last year. We have always believed in democracy and peaceful opposition. Sadly these very democratic rights were trampled on a year ago. Dozens of mainstream politicians were placed in “preventive arrest” and many more under illegal house arrest. In fact, a number of these leaders are still under illegal detention a year later. The National Conference has lost thousands of workers and office-bearers to militant violence because of our choice to remain a mainstream political party while opposing the separatist politics that grew in the late 1980s. Given the orchestrated campaign against mainstream political parties in most of the national media, particularly at the hands of the ruling dispensation, it's easy to find oneself asking whether the sacrifices were worth it.

As for me, I am very clear that while J&K remains a Union Territory I will not be contesting any Assembly elections. Having been a member of the most empowered Assembly in the land and that, too, as the leader of that Assembly for six years, I simply cannot and will not be a member of a House that has been disempowered the way ours has.

With almost all of my senior colleagues still detained in their homes, the NC is yet to meet to decide its next political course of action and I will work diligently to strengthen the party, carry forward its agenda and continue to represent the aspirations of the people while we fight against the injustices heaped on J&K in the last one year.

*Omar Abdullah, former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Union Minister in the Vajpayee Government and vice president of JKNC, was detained by the J&K administration on August 4-5, 2019, and, subsequently, under the Public Safety Act. He was released, after 232 days, on March 24.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### BENGAL'S WOES

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Bengal pitch’ (IE, July 23). West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is guilty of the same crimes she accuses the BJP of. Freedom of speech has been a casualty under her government. The state's healthcare system has totally collapsed, the law and order situation is extremely poor and her party workers are guilty of rampant corruption.

SS Paul, Nadia

### WRONG DEBATE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Eclipsing Sushant’ (IE, July 23). The unfortunate death of Sushant Singh Rajput has resulted in a mud-slinging exercise on Twitter. Rather than focus on mental health problems and corrective measures to set right the power play in the film industry, the debate has degenerated into name-calling over nepotism, favouritism and politics in the industry.

R D Singh, Ambala

### HIGH ON MARKS

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘A race to the bottom’ (IE, July 23). Without undermining the hard work that a highly ranked student puts in his or her studies, the marking system followed by the Central Board of Secondary Education. The topper, for example, scores 100 per cent marks in Class XII in the Humanities, which gives an im-

## IDEAS ONLINE

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DHURU JADHAV AND  
ADITYA WAKHLU

● **ECONOMICS OF DATA:**  
PARMINDER JEET SINGH

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pression that he or she is perfect in all the parameters used to evaluate an answer. This could foster a dangerous complacency amongst students. They are not likely to always get high grades. The purpose of the education system should always be to draw the best out of students as well as leave room for improvement.

Anushyuta Basu, Delhi

### RIGHT TO DISAGREE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, Two tweets (IE, 23 July). It is dangerous for democracy when criticism of the Supreme Court is seen as a contempt of court. This is based on the assumption that the courts can never be wrong.

Robert D Abreo, Vasai





## MEANWHILE

## BOOK CLAIMS RIFT BETWEEN ROYALS

Prince William infuriated Prince Harry when he told his younger brother he should move slowly in his relationship with Meghan Markle, fearing that he was being “blindsided by lust,” *Finding Freedom*, a new book on the Windsors, says. Harry was angered by what he perceived as William’s snobby tone in the about the actress when they were dating, the book claims.

## TOP OF THE WORLD



Rishi Sunak

## BRITAIN

## UK considers ethnic minority figures on coins

London: UK Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak is reportedly considering a proposal for influential ethnic minority figures to be featured on a set of UK coins to celebrate Britain’s diversity. According to *The Sunday Telegraph*, plans have been submitted to the Royal Mint to work out some proposals as the Indian-origin finance minister reflects upon a campaign to put influential black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) figures from history on a set of coins titled “Service to the Nation”. The candidates in the running include Noor Inayat Khan, who was the first Indian-origin World War II spy for Britain, and Khudadad Khan, the first soldier of the British Indian Army to become a recipient of the Victoria Cross.

## MALAYSIA

## 24 Rohingya feared drowned off resort island

MALAYSIAN AUTHORITIES launched a search on Sunday for 24 Rohingya refugees who went missing while trying to swim to shore from a boat off the resort island of Langkawi. Muslim-majority Malaysia has long been a favoured destination for Rohingya Muslims seeking a better life after escaping a 2017 military crackdown in Myanmar and, more recently, refugee camps in Bangladesh. Malaysia’s coastguard said 25 people had tried to swim to shore late on Saturday when their boat was near the west coast of the island but only one reached land.

## FRANCE

## Church volunteer admits to arson in cathedral

FRENCH AUTHORITIES detained and charged a repentant church volunteer Sunday after he told investigators that he was responsible for an arson attack that badly damaged a 15th-century Gothic cathedral. The man was earlier questioned and then released after the July 18 blaze that destroyed the organ, shattered stained-glass windows, and blackened the insides of the Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul of the western French city of Nantes. His motive remained unclear.

## ONE MAN KILLED, SEVERAL INJURED

## Protests widen across US: Clashes in Seattle &amp; Portland, shooting in Austin

Deployment of Feds triggers resurgence of nationwide protests that had waned in recent weeks

MIKE BAKER & NICHOLAS BOGEL-BURROUGHS  
SEATTLE, JULY 26

WEEKS OF violent clashes between federal agents and protesters in Portland, Oregon, galvanised thousands of people to march through the streets of American cities Saturday, injecting new life into protests that had largely waned in recent weeks.

One of the most intense protests was in Seattle, where a day of demonstrations focused on police violence left a trail of broken windows and people flushing pepper spray from their eyes. At least 45 protesters had been arrested, and both protesters and police officers suffered injuries.

Carrying signs such as “Feds Go Home”, some among the crowd of about 5,000 protesters stopped at the site of a future youth detention centre and lit buildings there on fire. Some smashed windows of nearby businesses, ignited a fire in a coffee shop and blew an 8-inch hole through the wall of the Seattle Police Department’s East Precinct building, the police said. “At this point, we declared the event to be a riot, and several orders to disperse were given,” Seattle police chief Carmen Best said.

The police responded by firing flash grenades, showering protesters with pepper spray and abruptly rushing into crowds, knocking people to the ground.

In Austin, Texas, the police said one man was shot and killed just before 10 pm, during a protest in the city’s downtown. In a live video from the scene, protesters



Law enforcement officers face off with protesters in Seattle (above), Washington, and Portland (left), Oregon, as protests against racism and police brutality spread across major US cities on Saturday. AP, Reuters

are seen marching through an intersection when a car blares its horn. Seconds later, five shots ring out, followed shortly after by several more loud bangs.

The man who was killed may have approached a vehicle with a rifle before he was shot and killed, Officer Katrina Ratcliff said. Ratcliff said the person who shot and killed the man had fired

from inside the vehicle. That person was detained and is cooperating with officers, she said.

The federal courthouse in Portland has been the scene of nightly, chaotic demonstrations for weeks, which continued again into Sunday morning, as thousands participated in marches around the city, the 59th consecutive day of protests there.

Earlier, a group of nurses in scrubs had joined an organised group of mothers in helmets and fathers in hard hats, all assembled against the fence of a federal courthouse where federal agents — a deployment that has been a key focus of the recent demonstrations — have been assembled.

Shortly after 1 am, the Portland police said the protest

## EXPLAINED

## Protests go national again

THE CUSTODIAL death of George Floyd in Minneapolis in May triggered massive global protests and a national movement in the US against racial injustice and police brutality. It resulted in sustained, widely-supported demonstrations across the US and, along with the pandemic, contributed to rising disapproval of President Trump in an election year. However, the protests had waned in recent weeks, except in certain pockets such as Portland. Then, Trump sent in federal agents to Portland against the wishes of local authorities. The Feds were involved in some violent clashes with protesters, and that has now resulted in a resurgence of nation-wide protests in the US.

had become a riot and ordered the crowd to leave. Federal agents fired teargas and left the courthouse to drive protesters from the streets, continuing to stretch the boundaries of their authority.

Protesters in several cities said videos of federal agents firing teargas and shoving protesters in Portland had brought them to the streets Saturday. **NYT**

## Staff leave American consulate in Chengdu as deadline nears



A removal van stands inside the US consulate as security personnel guards the front gate in Chengdu, Sichuan province, China, on Sunday. Reuters

MARTIN QUIN POLLARD  
CHENGDU, JULY 26

STAFF OF the US consulate in Chengdu made final efforts to clear the premises on Sunday as security remained tight outside, ahead of a Monday closure ordered by Beijing as China-US relations continue to worsen.

A mini tourist atmosphere prevailed outside the facility on a tree-lined street on a hot Sunday, as onlookers shared sidewalk space with dozens of uniformed and plainclothes police opposite the entrance.

Consulate closures in Houston and Chengdu have escalated a sharp deterioration in ties between the world’s two biggest economies, which were

already their worst in decades amid disputes over trade and technology, the Covid-19 pandemic, China’s territorial claims in the South China Sea and its clampdown on Hong Kong.

Police asked people to move on when crowds formed outside the consulate, as onlookers took photos and videos of what they expected would be the last time to see the compound in US hands. The street was closed to traffic, except for consular or police vehicles let through by police.

China on Friday ordered the closure of the Chengdu consulate in the southwestern province of Sichuan. That means an evacuation deadline of 10 am on Monday, according to the editor of a state-run tabloid. **REUTERS**



## HURRICANE HANNA BATTERS TEXAS COAST

A flooded street in Corpus Christi, Texas, Saturday. Hurricane Hanna battered the south Texas coast with blistering winds and crashing waves into the early hours of Sunday, leaving a large area already badly hit by Covid-19 bracing for torrential downpours and potential flash floods. A disaster declaration was issued for 32 counties in Texas. **AP**

## ‘Who Wants to Be a Millionaire’ host Regis Philbin dies

DAVID BAUDER  
NEW YORK, JULY 26

REGIS PHILBIN, the genial host who shared his life with television viewers over morning coffee for decades and helped himself and some fans strike it rich with the game show “Who Wants to Be a Millionaire”, has died at 88.

Philbin died of natural causes Friday night, just over a month before his 89th birthday, according



He was 88 years old

to a statement from his family provided by spokesman Lewis Kay. Celebrities routinely stopped

by Philbin’s eponymous syndicated morning show, but its heart was in the first 15 minutes, when he and co-host Kathie Lee Gifford — on “Live! with Regis and Kathie Lee” from 1985-2000 — or Kelly Ripa — on “Live! with Regis and Kelly” from 2001 until his 2011 retirement — bantered about the events of the day. Viewers laughed at Philbin’s mock indignation over not getting the best seat at a restaurant the night before, or being henpecked by his partner.

## Migration to Australia set to reduce by over 2 lakh due to Covid-19

Indians likely among worst affected

NATASHA CHAKU  
MELBOURNE, JULY 26

AUSTRALIA’S MIGRATION intake will drop significantly to 31,000 in 2020-21 from 232,000 in 2018-19 due to the effects of the coronavirus pandemic, according to a government report. The drop is likely to impact thousands from India, which is one of the largest sources of migration to Australia.

While the effects of the pandemic on the Australian economy are still evolving, migration, which is a key driver of the economy, has been hit following travel bans and border closures imposed to stop the spread of Covid-19.

The Australian Economic and Fiscal Update report, released on Thursday by the treasury department, said that the Net Overseas Migration (NOM) is significantly affected by the international travel restrictions and constraints on the ability of applicants to meet visa application requirements.

“The NOM is assumed to fall from 232,000 in 2018-19 to be 154,000 in 2019-20 and 31,000 in 2020-21,” it said.

The Indian community in Australia is comprised of nearly seven lakh people, and India is one of the top sources of skilled immigrants to Australia. Approximately 90,000 students are studying in Australian universities.

**Govt report says while international borders are expected to reopen in January, a two-week quarantine period will remain in place for arrivals to Australia**

The report further said that the international borders were expected to reopen in January next year, but a two-week quarantine period would remain in place for arrivals to Australia.

“Future migration levels remain highly uncertain, due to the path of the pandemic and the nature and duration of measures taken to contain its spread at home and abroad.

“The government implemented international border bans in March 2020. This prevented all arrivals on visitor and temporary migration visas and prevented Australian citizens and permanent residents from departing Australia,” the document said.

According to the treasurer, Josh Frydenberg, no decision was taken yet on when Australia’s travel ban will be lifted.

In Australia, Covid-19 has infected over 13,900 people and killed 155 others. **PTI**

## North Korea declares emergency over first suspected Covid case

REUTERS  
SEOUL, JULY 26

NORTH KOREAN leader Kim Jong Un declared an emergency and a lockdown in a border town after a person suspected of being infected with the novel coronavirus returned from South Korea after illegally crossing the border, state media said on Sunday.

If confirmed, it would be the first case officially acknowledged by North Korean authorities.

Kim convened an emergency politburo meeting in response to what he called a “critical situation in which the vicious virus could be said to have entered the country”, state-run KCNA reported.

A person who defected to South Korea three years ago returned across the fortified border to the town of Kaesong this month with symptoms of Covid-19, KCNA reported.

“An emergency event happened in Kaesong City where a runaway who went to the south three years ago, a person who is suspected to have been infected



Kim Jong Un held an emergency meeting of the ruling party last week

with the vicious virus returned on July 19 after illegally crossing the demarcation line,” KCNA said.

KCNA did not say if the person had been tested, but said an “uncertain result was made from several medical check-ups of the secretion of that person’s upper respiratory organ and blood”, prompting officials to quarantine the person and investigate anyone he may have been in contact with.

One analyst said the announcement was important, not only because North Korea was for the first time reporting a suspected coronavirus case but also because it suggested it was appealing for help.

## Kabul writes to UN over ‘violation’ of territory by Pak

YOSHITASHINGH  
UNITED NATIONS, JULY 26

AFGHANISTAN HAS written to the UN Security Council over continued “violations” of its territory by Pakistani military forces and said it will ask the 15-nation UN body to take necessary measures and actions to end them if the situation is not de-escalated bilaterally.

Afghanistan’s Permanent Representative to the UN Adela Raz wrote to the President of the Security Council, Germany, to report on the most recent violations of the Afghan territory by Pakistan’s military forces and said the “incursion” represents a reiteration of violations as Kabul had previously expressed its concerns to the Security Council in February and August 2019.

Raz said in the letter that on July 15, Pakistan military forces began “unprovoked artillery attacks” against Afghan border posts and civilian residential areas in the Sarakano and Asad Abad districts of Kunar Province.

Kabul was “currently working to de-escalate the situation bilaterally”, he added. **PTI**

## SHE BUILT AN ILLUSTRIOUS FILM CAREER, PUNCTUATED BY A SUCCESSFUL FIGHT TO LOOSEN STUDIOS’ GRIP ON ACTORS

## Olivia de Havilland, a star of ‘Gone With the Wind’, dies at 104

ROBERT BERKVIST  
JULY 26

OLIVIA DE Havilland, an actress who gained movie immortality in *Gone With the Wind*, then built an illustrious film career, punctuated by a successful fight to loosen the studios’ grip on contract actors, died on Sunday at her home in Paris. She was 104 and one of the last surviving stars of Hollywood’s fabled Golden Age.

Her death was confirmed by her publicist Lisa Goldberg. De Havilland was both a clas-

sic Hollywood beauty and an honored screen actress whose very name and bearing suggested membership in a kind of aristocracy of moviedom. Though she was typecast early in her career as the demure ingénue, she went on to earn meatier roles that led to five Academy Award nominations, two of which brought her the Oscar, for *To Each His Own* (1946) and *The Heiress* (1949).

Those roles came to her in no small part because of the resolve she showed when she stood up to the studios and won a battle that helped push Hollywood into

the modern era.

She had shown similar grit a decade earlier, in her breakthrough role, when she held her own against her formidable co-stars — Clark Gable, Vivien Leigh and Leslie Howard — in *Gone With the Wind*.

As Melanie Hamilton Wilkes, the beau and then wife of Howard’s Ashley Wilkes, she brought intelligence and grace to her portrait of a woman whose shy, forgiving, almost too kindly nature stood in sharp contrast to the often venomous jealousy of her high-spirited sister-



Olivia de Havilland in a promotional photo for *Gone With the Wind* (1939). Reuters

in-law, Scarlett O’Hara (Leigh). De Havilland’s performance led to an Oscar nomination as best

supporting actress, though the award went to another member of the cast, Hattie McDaniel, who played Mammy.

De Havilland was under contract to Warner Bros. when the film’s original director, George Cukor, working for MGM, invited her to audition for the role of Melanie. (He was later replaced by Victor Fleming.) After getting the part, she had to plead with her studio boss, Jack Warner, to lend her to the MGM production, which was being overseen by David Selznick.

Warner had signed De Havilland to a seven-year contract

in 1935 on the strength of her performance that year as Hermia, the defiant daughter who resists an arranged marriage, in Max Reinhardt’s film adaptation of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*.

After her success in *Gone With the Wind*, de Havilland returned to Warner with the expectation of more challenging roles. For the most part, they did not materialise.

She began to refuse roles she considered inferior. Warner retaliated by suspending her several times, for a total of six months, and, after her contract

expired, insisting that because of the suspensions she was still the studio’s property for six more months. De Havilland sued. The case dragged on for a year and a half but the California Supreme Court ruled in her favour in 1945. What became known as the de Havilland decision established that a studio could not arbitrarily extend the duration of an actor’s contract.

In the 1950s, she startled Hollywood when she abandoned it to live in Paris with a new husband, though she kept her American citizenship. **NYT**



# 13 ECONOMY

‘PRIVATE TRANSFERS EXPECTED TO SLOW TO \$55-60 BILLION IN FY21’

## ‘Remittances to India likely to decline 25%; fall in oil prices to hit flow from Gulf region’

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
MUMBAI, JULY 26

REMITTANCES TO India are estimated to decline sharply by about 25 per cent in FY2021 amid the economic crisis induced by the COVID-19 pandemic and shut-down, according to a global banking group. “Based on an analysis, we expect private transfers to slow to \$55-60 billion in FY21 on a year-on-year basis,” Swiss banking group UBS said.

India is the largest recipient of remittances (in value terms) in the world and received nearly \$76 billion of flows (2.7 per cent of GDP) in FY20. These flows help boost household income, support private consumption and add stability to current account balance (CAB), UBS said in a report.

Many Indians working in the Gulf region had recently lost jobs and more layoffs are in the offing

### Puri sells HDFC Bank stake worth around ₹840 cr

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
MUMBAI, JULY 26

HDFC BANK managing director and CEO Aditya Puri has sold over 74 lakh shares of the bank estimated to be worth around Rs 840 crore at the current market price.

The stake sale, executed between July 21 and 23, brought down Puri’s holding in the bank to just 0.01 per cent from the earlier 0.14 per cent. His term is set to end in October when he attains the age of 70.

He sold 74.20 lakh of the 77.96 lakh shares in the bank and Puri’s remaining holding of the bank is now 3.76 lakh shares, valued at over Rs 42 crore as of the last close.

According to a bank spokesperson, the shares were allotted to Puri over a period of time at different price points and “not at par”. “Therefore, the net amount realised by Puri is not Rs 840 crore. The acquisition cost of shares and the tax payable on the transaction has to be accounted for as well,” he said.

### ‘INDIA LARGEST RECIPIENT OF REMITTANCES’

■ A UBS report said India is the largest recipient of remittances (in value terms) in the world and received nearly \$76 billion of flows (2.7% of GDP) in FY20

■ India’s CAD, excluding remittances, would have been a high \$101 billion (3.5% of GDP) as against \$25 billion (0.9% of GDP) with transfers in FY20, it added

as lockdown and the decline in global trade are set to hit the global economic growth. Kerala — which is one of the largest recipients of remittances in India — is expected to witness a decline in remittances. The projected fall, which would be the sharpest decline in recent history, is largely due to a fall in the wages and employment of migrant workers, who tend to be more vulnerable to loss of employment and wages during an economic crisis in a host country.

India’s current account deficit (CAD), excluding remittances,

would have been a high \$101 billion (3.5 per cent of GDP) as against \$25 billion (0.9 per cent of GDP) with transfers in FY20, the report said. “Going forward, the recent sharp fall in global crude oil prices will affect Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) growth (62 per cent share in remittance inflows).”

According to the UBS analysis, every 10 per cent decrease in oil prices reduces remittances to India by 7 per cent in the long run. Similarly, weak economic outlook of the United States would adversely affect employment and/or

incomes of migrant workers and hence remittance flows to India.

India’s forex reserves have risen to the fifth largest in the world (\$516 billion), and seem in reasonable shape, based on a reserve adequacy metric to withstand volatility due to global risk aversion. Forex reserves cover 86 per cent of external debt as of FY20, up from 68 per cent in FY14 but below 138 per cent as of FY08 (the year before the credit crisis). Import cover for reserves is 15 months, much better than 7 months in FY13 & 14.4 months in FY08.

As per a recent World Bank report, remittances to low and middle-income countries (LMICs) are projected to decline by 19.7 per cent to \$445 billion, representing a loss of a crucial financing lifeline for many vulnerable households.

Studies show that remittances alleviate poverty in LMICs, improve nutritional outcomes, are associated with higher spending

on education, and reduce child labour in disadvantaged households. A fall in remittances affect families’ ability to spend on these areas as more of their finances will be directed to solve food shortages and immediate livelihoods needs.

“For the first time since FY04, we estimate the economy to register a small surplus in the CAB of 0.4 per cent of GDP in FY21. The surplus should be led by weak domestic demand and lower oil prices leading to a collapse in imports rather than a strong export recovery. We don’t expect the surplus CAB trend to be sustained for long,” the report said.

Rising crude prices, gradual recovery in domestic demand and only a modest recovery in exports could reverse the trend. “We estimate CAB to swing to a deficit of 0.3 per cent of GDP in FY22, though still lower than the sustainable range on below trend GDP growth,” it added

## GAIL officials opposing unbundling of marketing, transmission businesses say no response from govt

KARUNJIT SINGH  
NEW DELHI, JULY 26

### The GAIL Officers Association had, in 2018, written to the PM and the Petroleum Ministry opposing the move

which the government hopes to address with the proposal is to assure natural gas consumers of equal access to GAIL’s 12,200-km gas pipeline network which accounts for around 70 per cent of the gas pipeline network in India.

Representatives of GOA said that there was underutilisation of GAIL’s pipeline network and that they had received information, based on an RTI plea, from the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) that there had been no complaints alleging misuse of market power by GAIL made to the regulator. Capacity utilisation for GAIL’s transmission business stood at around 52 per cent in FY19.

“Such a move may be suitable when India becomes a more ma-

ture gas market,” said a representative of GOA, noting that the gas marketing and transmission businesses were able to add stability to GAIL’s overall financial health in scenarios where the profitability of the gas marketing business may be hit by fluctuations in international natural gas prices.

Another GAIL officer noted that profits from the gas marketing business had helped the company invest in further building gas infrastructure, and that there was concern about viability of these businesses as separate entities.

“The businesses supplement and complement each. Whatever we earn from production plants, it goes into infrastructure projects,” said a GOA representative, who did not wish to be quoted.

An industry analyst, who asked to remain anonymous, said unbundling of the two businesses may impact GAIL’s plans to expand its pipeline network. The analyst did, however, note that there was a concern, especially among smaller buyers of natural gas, that they can only use GAIL’s pipelines

if they purchase gas from it as they are not able to negotiate transmission agreements with GAIL for shorter durations and relatively small volumes. In FY19, the transmission of natural gas marketed by GAIL accounted for around 86 MMSCMD (million metric standard cubic metres per day) or 80 per cent of the total transmission of 107 MMSCMD total gas transported by the state-run company.

In January, then GAIL chairman Ashutosh Kamatak had said it was in the process of executing 5,500-km of natural gas pipelines to boost the share of gas in India’s energy consumption basket to 15 per cent by 2030 from the current 6.2 per cent. Former GAIL chairman BC Tripathi has also said that the Centre should wait for the natural gas market to mature before unbundling GAIL’s gas marketing and transmission businesses.

A GOA representative said unbundling would lead to lower efficiency. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas did not respond to emailed requests for comment from *The Indian Express*.

## Oxford vaccine: CDSCO may take up SII request for human trials this week

PRABHARAGHAVAN  
NEW DELHI, JULY 26

INDIA’S APEX drug regulator is likely to take up Serum Institute of India’s (SII) request to start human trials for AstraZeneca and the University of Oxford’s COVID-19 vaccine candidate in India in the first half of the week. *The Indian Express* has learnt.

On Saturday, the Pune-headquartered firm approached the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) with its ap-

plication to conduct late stage clinical trials for the vaccine candidate, said a senior government official in the know. The Subject Expert Committee (SEC) for COVID-19 related proposals may meet on the matter Tuesday or Wednesday, the official added. If the SEC approves the application, SII will be able to conduct trials on thousands of Indian participants in August to test the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine candidate.

When contacted, the institute’s CEO Adar Poonawalla declined to comment on the devel-

opment. SII has a tie up with Swedish-British pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca to manufacture at least a billion doses of this vaccine for low- and middle-income countries.

Last Monday, encouraging preliminary data from early stage trials of the vaccine candidate, developed by University of Oxford in collaboration with AstraZeneca, was published in the *Lancet* medical journal. Poonawalla said at that time that SII would approach CDSCO for approval to conduct clinical trials the following week.

He had also told *The Indian Express* earlier that the firm intended to conduct these phase III trials on around 5,000 participants in hotspot cities like Mumbai and Pune, as it would give the firm a better idea of the effectiveness of the vaccine candidate.

“With the government fast tracking everything, we are hoping to get approvals soon, post which we will begin phase III human trials in India around August.

For the phase III trials, we plan to have 4,000-5,000 people in India. “Based on the success of the

trials, we are hoping to have the vaccine by the end of this year. However, it will start reaching out to masses properly by the first quarter of the next year,” Poonawalla said. SII intends to manufacture around 60-70 million doses a month of the vaccine, which it is calling Covishield, and plans to manufacture around 300-400 million doses by the year’s end.

Based on Serum’s agreement with AstraZeneca, the firm will be distributing 50 per cent of the vaccine to India, while the remaining will be given to GAVI countries.

## Resilient India Inc weathers tumultuous June quarter

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
NEW DELHI, JULY 26

IN A quarter when business was impacted by a nationwide lockdown, a shortage of workers and a broken supply chain, India Inc nonetheless displayed resilience. From here on, restoring the supply chain, will, however, be easier than reviving demand.

The star performers in the three months to June, among the early birds, were the software firms but makers of food products and consumer goods also executed efficiently to cash in on demand, much of which surfaced in June as consumers made pent-up purchases. With migrant labour making its way back to work at

### MARKET WATCH

### FPIs PULL OUT ₹86 CR IN JUL SO FAR

*New Delhi:* Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) investors invested Rs 2,336 crore in equities but pulled out Rs 2,422 crore from the debt segment, leading to net outflows of Rs 86 crore from Indian markets between July 1-24, according to depositories data. **PTI**

## Non-personal data governance: Why draft framework by govt panel has no penal provisions

AASHISHARYAN  
NEW DELHI, JULY 26

A GOVERNMENT committee on non-personal data, headed by Infosys co-founder Kris Gopalakrishnan, last Thursday said that all non-personal raw data must be shared between companies for a healthy innovation ecosystem to develop. In a webinar, the committee explained various aspects of non-personal data, such as the various kinds of data which can be shared between companies and why the draft suggestion does not make a mention of the exact penal provisions. The nine-member panel had, while releasing the draft report, kept time till August 13 for the public to send suggestions.

EXPLAINED

should promote cross-border data flows and increase data-sharing opportunities”, Venkatesh Krishnamoorthy, country manager for BSA, a Microsoft-established trade group of commercial software makers, said.

In cases of dispute between two entities on whether a non-personal data set should be shared or not, the non-personal data authority will be the adjudicating authority. Depending on the source of the data and whether it is anonymised in a way that no individual can be re-identified from the data set, the three categories have been defined.

### What are public, community, & private non-personal data sets?

All data collected by government and its agencies such as census, data collected by municipal corporations on the total tax receipts in a particular period or any information collected during execution of all publicly funded works has been kept under the umbrella of public non-personal data.

Any data identifiers about a set of people who have either the same geographic location, religion, job, or other common social interests will form the community non-personal data. For example, metadata collected by ride-hailing apps, telecom companies, electricity distribution companies among others have been put under the community non-personal data category by the committee.

Private non-personal data can be defined as that which is produced by individuals, which can be derived from application of proprietary software or knowledge.

### How sensitive can non-personal data be?

Unlike personal data, which contains explicit information about a person’s name, age, gender, sexual orientation, biometrics and other genetic details, non-personal data is more likely to be in an anonymised form.

However, in certain categories such as data related to national security or strategic interests such as locations of government laboratories or research facilities, even if provided in anonymised form it can be dangerous. Similarly, even if the data is about the health of a community or a group of communities, though it may be in anonymised form, it can still be dangerous, the panel opined. “Possibilities of such harm are obviously much higher if the original personal data is of a sensitive nature. Therefore, the non-personal data arising from such sensitive personal data may be considered as sensitive non-personal data,” it said.

### Are there penal provisions for misuse of non-personal data?

Unlike the Personal Data Protection Bill draft, the current framework on non-personal data is just a suggestive draft on the things that could be included if

India decided to adopt the final laws on the same, Gopalakrishnan, the chairperson of the committee said during the webinar.

The current draft on non-personal data governance framework, therefore, has no penal provisions mentioned so far. Though it does say that there should be a “minimum threshold of anonymity” based on “acceptable standards”, the standards have not been defined in the draft suggestions.

“We believe that the non-personal data should be freely available for innovation. Though security of all data will be the obligation of the non-personal data authority, other standards and rules on security will come into place with practice, and will evolve over time,” Parminder Jeet Singh, a member of the committee said.

### What are the global standards on non-personal data?

In May 2019, the European Union (EU) came out with a regulation framework for the free flow of non-personal data in the EU, in which it suggested that member states of the Union would cooperate with each other when it came to data sharing.

Such data, the EU had then ruled, would be shared by member states without any hindrances, and that they must inform the “commission any draft act which introduces a new data localisation requirement or makes changes to an existing data localisation requirement”. The regulation, however, had not defined what non-personal data constituted of, and had simply said all data which is not personal would be under the non-personal data category.

In many other countries across the world, there are no nationwide data protection laws, whether for personal or non-personal data.

### What areas does India’s non-personal data draft miss?

Though the non-personal data draft is a pioneer in identifying the power, role, and usage of anonymised data, there are certain aspects such as community non-personal data, where the draft could have been clearer, experts said. “Non-personal data often constitutes protected trade secrets and often raises significant privacy concerns. The paper proposes the nebulous concept of community data while failing to adequately provide for community rights,” Udbhav Tiwari, public policy advisor at Mozilla, said.

Others also believe that the final draft of the non-personal data governance framework must clearly define the roles for all participants, such as data principal, data custodian, and data trustees. “Regulation must be clear and concise to provide certainty to its market participants, and must demarcate roles and responsibilities of participants in the regulatory framework. The report is unclear on these counts, and requires public consultation and more deliberation,” said Kazim Rizvi, founder of policy think-tank The Dialogue.

### BRIEFLY

#### Amendments to Ind-AS

*New Delhi:* The Centre has amended certain Indian Accounting Standards (Ind-AS), including the standard relating to lease. Ind-AS 103, 116 and some other standards have been changed by Corporate Affairs Ministry.

#### Diesel price nears ₹82/litre

*New Delhi:* Diesel price Delhi Sunday inched towards the Rs 82 per litre mark following the second consecutive day of price hike, as the fuel’s price was increased by 15 paise per litre. **PTI**

#### ‘Alibaba, Jack Ma summoned’

*New Delhi:* An Indian court has summoned Alibaba and its founder Jack Ma in a case in which a former employee in India says he was wrongfully fired after objecting to what he saw as censorship and fake news on company apps, documents seen by *Reuters* showed. **REUTERS**

## 403 infra projects show cost overruns of ₹4.05 lakh crore

As many as 403 infrastructure projects have been hit by cost overruns of over ₹4.05 lakh crore owing to delays and other reasons, according to the MoSPI’s report for March 2020

**₹20,66,771.94 CRORE:** Total original cost of implementation of the 1701 projects

**₹24,71,947.66 CRORE:** Anticipated cost of implementation of all projects

**₹4,05,175.72 CRORE:** Overall cost overruns, i.e. 19.66 per cent of original cost

### REASONS FOR TIME OVERRUNS, AS REPORTED BY IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES:

- Delays in land acquisition, forest clearance and supply of equipment
- Fund constraints
- Geological surprises
- Geo-mining conditions
- Slow progress in civil works
- Shortage of labour



Source: MoSPI/PTI

## ‘1,474 untraceable risky exporters may face stern action’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, JULY 26

THE REVENUE department is planning stern action against 1,474 ‘risky exporters’ who were untraceable but claimed GST refunds worth Rs 2,029 crore, sources said. Integrated GST (IGST) refund is suspended in all such cases where there is adverse report post-verification about the exporter or his suppliers, they said.

### IGST refund is suspended in all such cases where there is adverse report post-verification about the exporter or his suppliers, as per sources

So far, IGST refunds of more than Rs 1.37 lakh crore have been disbursed and only about Rs 2,026 crore is pending, which is being processed as per law, sources said. A grievance redressal mechanism with a 24x7 mobile helpline

is available to genuine exporters to resolve refund related issues, they said, adding Customs officials have been sensitised to expedite refunds to genuine exporters in these difficult COVID-19 days.

The CBIC verifies each ex-

porter in a two-stage verification with hardly 3-4 documents as per requirement, sources added.

Data analytics by CBIC’s Directorate General of Risk Management (DGARM) which is followed by field-level verification by CGST officers have found 1,474 ‘risky’ exporters including 7 Star Exporters who tried to claim IGST refund of Rs 2,029 crore were untraceable at their declared place of business and therefore their refund has been rejected.

## Review of Customs exemptions, laws: CBIC invites suggestions from stakeholders

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, JULY 26

KICKSTARTING THE process to review existing exemptions and laws of Customs, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes (CBIC) has invited suggestions from stakeholders on aligning the rules with the needs of changing times and ease of doing business.

The CBIC has invited comments on the same by August 21. A comprehensive review would be undertaken by September.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the FY21 Budget had announced that a review of existing Customs exemption notifications would be undertaken to identify those notifications which may have outlived their utility or have become outdated.

“In this context, suggestions are invited in respect of review of existing Customs exemption notifications in prescribed format below. The suggestions may include: The need for review of a particular notification, Amendment in wording of the notification for bringing clarity, Consolidation of similar entries and Extent of use of the notification,” the CBIC said.



# Strange bedfellows

Idiosyncratic opening pair of Burns & Sibley put England in a commanding position

**SANDIPG**  
JULY 26

AT THE end of the third day, the outcome of the match is still unknown but it would require an epic rescue act from the West Indies to retain the Wisden Trophy. The script ran perfectly for England—they winkled out West Indies for 197 runs and seized a lead of 172 runs, to which they added another 226 runs and set the tourists a target of 399.

The cornerstone was their openers—Rory Burns and Dom Sibley, putting together their first 100-run association in their 10th outing, the first by England's openers in the post-Alastair Cook era. That they average 43 should make the England management happy and relieved that they have finally unearthed a reliable pair of openers, though sterner tests could await them.

England's travails at the top have been duly documented. Though the flashpoint is often pinpointed to the retirement of Cook, the rot had set in much earlier. Since Nick Compton and Cook parted ways in 2012—they averaged 57.93—the search for his other half has been as endless as it was futile. England's highest-run-getter had associated with eight partners.

Apart from the fleeting promise Haseeb Hameed showed, they averaged 67.6, none of his new-ball accomplices stuck on or managed an average of more than 37 runs.

Even Burns, who has featured in only 18 Tests, had opened with two others on more than five instances, Keaton Jennings and Joe Denly, averaging 29.33 and 21.66 respectively. Finally, he seems to have found an ideal partner in Sibley. They are an idiosyncratic pair, but their monumental powers of concentration could lay the foundation for more daring stroke-makers like Joe Root, Ben Stokes and Ollie Pope to blossom.

The possibility of heavy spells of downpour didn't prompt a change of methods. They approached the target-setting process as they generally do, seeing off the new ball and accumulating the runs. At no point did they try to manufacture runs, which did raise some eyebrows, what with the rain lurking around. But the form their pace quartet are enjoying at the moment coupled with the instability of West Indies batsmen, they would believe they have enough time to bundle the visitors and claim the series, even if rain intervenes.



Dom Sibley (right) and Rory Burns fashioned their first 100-run stand in the 10th innings.

Playing into their hands, West Indies bowled as though they had surrendered all hopes. Kumar Roach seemed disillusioned, Shannon Gabriel dispirited. Together, they wasted the new ball, a flurry of wickets was the only way West Indies would have bounced back into the match. They seemed content in stifling the runs, against a pair of openers who were disinclined to force the scoring rate.

They just waited for things to happen, just as England did in the morning, until Stuart Broad interfered, which has become theme music of the series. And again he hardly hummed a false note.

Considering his can't-do-no-wrong form, it was bizarre why he was left out of bowling in the first hour, a period wherein Jason Holder and Shane Dowrich stuck in and cleared off the runs to avoid follow on. Old schoolmates, they negotiated Chris Woakes and Jofra Archer stoutly and ate into the deficit, adding 68 runs. However, the reintroduction of the old firm, James Anderson and Broad changed the mood of the morning.

It took Broad only three balls into his third spell to inflict the first blow—Jason Holder, the West Indies skipper leg-before the wicket,

missing an attempted whip of the leg-side. Almost identically, he winkled out of Rahkeem Cornwall two later. The planning was not elaborate but offered a peep into Broad's cleverness. With deliveries outside the off-stump, he encouraged batsmen to move across, he didn't bother trading a couple of boundaries in the bargain, before he would slip in a straighter, fuller delivery. The wicket of Kumar Roach sealed his 18th five-wicket haul before he added Shane Dowrich to make it 6/31, his best since January 2016.

Yet again, West Indies would rue losing wickets in a cluster—four wickets while adding 19 runs. Then Broad likes to get his wickets in a rush, especially with a Duke ball in his hand and cloud cover over his head. It's Broad ability to conjure something from nothing, in an idle moment, when the game is drifting away from them that makes his special. And he has made all the difference to this English side and they are within the sight of laying on hands on the Wisden Trophy before it becomes the property of Lord's Museum.

**BRIEF SCORES:** England 369 and 226/2 declared (Rory Burns 90, Joe Root 68 not out, Dom Sibley 56) vs West Indies 197 and 10/2 (Stuart Broad 2/8). WI need 389 runs to win.

## Going ahead with England tour to help resumption of cricket: PCB

Pakistan Cricket Board came under intense pressure on whether to send its team for the England series or not after 10 players tested positive for COVID-19 but eventually went ahead with the tour to ensure resumption of the game amid the pandemic, a top official said.

PTI

## United 3rd, Chelsea 4th

Two matches, which had a bearing on each other, decided Champions League qualification

THINK OF the greatest Premier League final matchday and Martin Tyler screaming Sergio Aguero's name in 2011-12 comes to mind. The Argentine scored and won the Premier League for Manchester City with probably the last kick of the season.

There was no such once-in-a-lifetime thriller as the longest Premier League season concluded on Sunday. The end of Liverpool's 30-year title wait had slightly diminished the excitement even as Manchester United beat Leicester City to qualify for next season's UEFA Champions League and Chelsea joined them in the continent's elite club competition. However, the absence of supporters in the stands did take something away from the spectacle of the final day of the Premier League.

### BLUES DRAW FIRST BLOOD CHELSEA 1-0 WOLVES LEICESTER 0-0 UNITED

Nerves were the theme of the first half for Chelsea. The Blues' defence looked the part, but just when the half at Stamford Bridge was coming to an end, came Mason Mount. One of the finds of the season for Frank Lampard, Mount came up with a pearler of a freekick right on the edge of the Wolves box one minute into injury time to edge Chelsea ahead.

Meanwhile, Paul Pogba was pulling the strings of a Manchester United midfield, supplying two lovely lobs to Bruno Fernandes and Marcus Rashford. Fernandes would find the net but the goal would be chalked off for offside, while Rashford sold his defender a dummy but failed to put United in front. 1-0 ahead at Stamford Bridge and 0-0 at King Power Stadium.

### GIROUD HUNTS WOLVES DOWN

**CHELSEA 2-0 WOLVES  
LEICESTER 0-0 UNITED**

Wolves, having resigned themselves to going in at the break a goal down, forgot to play till the whistle. It was Mount again, this time turning provider and delivering a through ball to Olivier Giroud. The Frenchman took a touch that seemed to have taken him away from goal but some-



Manchester United's Jesse Lingard (right) celebrates with team-mates after scoring the decisive second goal against Leicester City on Sunday. Reuters

how managed to slam the ball home despite the Wolves defence having the chance to clear it. Four minutes of magic and Chelsea's pockets were looking heavier by £50 million.

On the other side, Manchester United were enjoying their best spell of the game but couldn't find the net. As things stood, Chelsea and United were going through but it was the Blues who had some semblance of a guarantee with a 2-0 lead as things at Leicester remained 0-0.

### FERNANDES SAVES UNITED YET AGAIN

**CHELSEA 2-0 WOLVES  
LEICESTER 0-1 UNITED**

A hallmark of Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's Manchester United is the high line of press at the top. And it yielded dividends yet again with Leicester losing the ball in their own half. With Anthony Martial through on goal, it seemed like the Frenchman would finish the move. The Leicester centre-backs, calm throughout the evening, lunged for the ball, missed and took down Martial. The only decision for VAR to make was whether it was Johnny Evans or Wes Morgan who got a chunk of Martial's leg.

Bruno Fernandes, who had looked fatigued throughout the game, stepped up to take the £50 million penalty—Champions League spot is worth that amount—and scored.

Meanwhile, Chelsea were cruising with a two-goal advantage and even the introduction of Wolves winger Adama Traore did nothing to change the status quo at Stamford Bridge.

### LINGARD WRAPS UCL SPOT UP

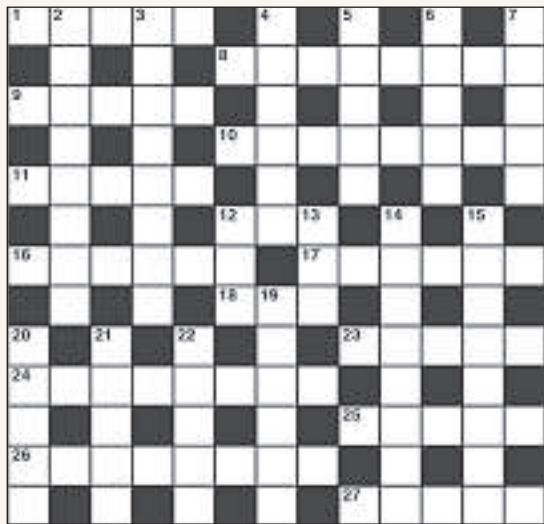
**CHELSEA 2-0 WOLVES  
LEICESTER 0-2 UNITED**

A day that should have showcased the anxiety of different sets of supporters across 90 minutes was mirrored in the Red Devils' last minutes on the pitch. Holding onto dear life with a one-goal advantage, United put everything on the line. Victor Lindelof, Pogba, Brandon Williams—you name a Manchester United player and he had a yellow card—either for time wasting or for a tackle that potentially prevented a goal.

Leicester had their fair share of chances to get back into the game. But it was all over when their goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel failed to clear the ball. United substitute Jesse Lingard allowed the red side of Manchester a sigh of relief as they made it to the Champions League after securing the third spot in the Premier League table with 66 points. On the other side, Chelsea had a calmer 45 minutes and finished their season with a 2-0 win and the same points tally as United. But an inferior goal differential saw them take fourth spot, rather than the third.

**SHASHANK NAIR**

## CROSSWORD 4180



### ACROSS

- Throw over an open drain (5)
- Players' entrance at the football ground? (4,4)
- Writing having points to express (5)
- Such people want knowledge—then may not want it (8)
- First to get the gun ready (5)
- A swimmer returning for shelter (3)
- Occasion when spirits are called for (6)
- What bleach will do when it is brought in (6)
- A church expert (3)
- Possibly beat a retreat (5)
- Stops on board (6,2)
- Cleric who may have a prior appointment (5)
- Deceitful pair confronted (3-5)
- Wrest apart and scatter (5)

### Down

- Introduced the new resident (8)
- Fairy tale prince gets marching order (8)
- One Nigel's created (6)
- Wicked impulse that makes men do havoc (5)
- Where some find rest at length? (5)
- Sound harsh but also sounding wonderful (5)
- The French go over a meadow (3)
- A female you hear (3)
- Two adjacent pieces in a gradual sequence (3,2,3)
- Found its target upsetting the women (4,4)
- One who docks a sailing ship (6)
- British novelist coming from the US (5)
- Love to be involved in bamboo craft (5)
- Exclude use of foreign lawyers (5)

**Solutions Crossword 4179:** Across: 1 Night nurse, 6 Deal, 10 Sweet, 11 Separates, 12 Increase, 13 Firms, 15 Evident, 17 Edifice, 19 Unhooks, 21 Tripper, 22 Yahoo, 24 Lapidary, 27 Pizzicato, 28 Alibi, 29 Tall, 30 Martial law. Down: 1 Nest, 2 Greenwich, 3 Tutor, 4 Upstart, 5 Supreme, 7 Enter, 8 Losses heart, 9 Graffiti, 14 Beauty spot, 16 Economic, 18 Impartial, 20 Sultana, 21 Tap root, 23 Hazel, 25 Drama, 26 View.

## 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.

When walking through the 'valley of shadows', remember, a shadow is \_\_\_ by a \_\_\_. - Austin O'Malley (4,5)

ENAI5



AIRUCL



ITUTT



NRUYGH



Answers: When walking through the 'valley of shadows', remember, a shadow is cast by a shadow. - Austin O'Malley

## OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



## CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



## MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



## SUDOKU 4182

### Difficulty Level 5s

#### 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 4181



## DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

### ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Today it's Uranus, that most distant and surprising of celestial bodies, which gives you the chance to skip the normal preliminaries in putting your ambitions into effect. Cash questions will preoccupy you later on, perhaps with unexpected results.

### TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

It's fair to say that your planetary patterns are favourable, all the more so if your inclination is generally inspired, visionary even. The closer you come to practical responsibilities, the greater the need for additional care and caution.

### GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Partners can't read your mind, so tell them what you think. If your aims are professional, and if you're planning a spot of personal promotion you could do worse than set your sights on the next few days. You may just receive a windfall, even if only on a modest scale.

### CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

The Moon is normally such a sympathetic planet, but today it leaves you in no doubt that it is other people who require your loving care and sympathy. Reach out and offer the hand of support to those in need. They will pay you back in their own way, when they can.

### LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

There's no escape from busy planetary pictures and hence no way to avoid your responsibilities. The best course may be to get as much achieved as you possibly can, in order to give yourself more scope for relaxation tomorrow and the day after. Have a break. Put your feet up.

### VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

You may see creative self-expression as a voluntary activity, but the planets don't agree. Today, in so many little ways, you may be compelled to be an individual and be true to your own utterly unique talents. Employers please note. And family members please take care.

### LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

There seems little doubt that home and family affairs will dominate your thoughts and feelings today. Even if you are determined to give the highest priority to work, it will be deep and fundamental issues which demand your attention, including your domestic relationships.

### SCORPIO (Nov 23 - Nov 23)

Some celestial indications suggest that you may be called away from home, possibly on account of work or a similar responsibility. In any event, the main goal is to communicate clearly and make yourself properly understood. Someone else may owe you an apology, but don't hold your breath.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

Business affairs will occupy your attention. Your financial stars are looking considerably less complex than this time last year, and today you may cut across a whole series of irrelevant hangovers like the proverbial hot knife through butter.

### CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

The ball is in your court. Tackle private affairs and deal with professional activities only if you feel a deep personal motivation. Romantic encounters and sentimental journeys are desirable, if only because the results may be much more delightful than expected.

### AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Any feelings of uncertainty or confusion should be short-lived, and by late tomorrow you could be back in the driving seat. In the meantime, remember that you're now into a fantastically productive long-term cycle. The world will judge you by your deeds rather than your words.

### PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Sometimes you just have to pay more attention to your own needs. After a long period of social responsibility, you may begin to streamline your personal commitments. If you're typical of your sign, your inclination is to withdraw from a particular public arena.