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INDIAN
EXPRESS
GROUP



DU prof is third arrest by NIA in Elgar case



Hany Babu accused of links with those named earlier

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY, ARANYA SHANKAR & SADAF MODAK
NEW DELHI, MUMBAI, JULY 28

IN THE 12th arrest in the Elgar Parishad case of December 2017, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday took into custody Delhi University associate professor Hany Babu MT. Babu, who is with the university's Department of English, was put under arrest after three days of questioning in Mumbai. In a statement, the NIA said "accused Hany Babu Musaliyarveetil Tharayil was propagating Naxal activities and Maoist ideology and was a co-conspirator with other arrested accused (in the Elgar Parishad case)".

The 54-year-old associate professor had been delivered summons on July 14 for appearance before the investigating officer in Mumbai, the next day. He arrived on July 24 for questioning. Babu's wife Jenny Rowena, who teaches at Delhi University's Miranda House, called his arrest a "a joke and farce". "Some officer called me around 5 pm and said Hany Babu was being arrested. I asked if I could talk to him, but they refused. This arrest is ridiculous," she said.

NIA officials claim to have proof of Babu's links with other accused in the case such as Rona Wilson. In September 2019, Babu's home in NCR had been searched by the Pune police, which first registered a case in the matter. It had booked Babu under charges of sedition and taken away two laptops, a mobile phone and pen drives along with two books.

The Pune police claimed to have recovered a letter from Wilson, arrested from Delhi in June 2018, in which a suspected

COUNTDOWN TO AUGUST 5

EC frowns on J&K L-G talk of election timing, says poll decisions its 'remit'

Comments by other authorities interfere with our mandate: EC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

THE ELECTION Commission (EC) on Tuesday took exception to Lieutenant Governor (L-G) GC Murmu's recent comments in the media on the timing of polls in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).

The Commission issued a strongly worded statement asserting that all decisions on the conduct and timing of elections are its "sole remit".

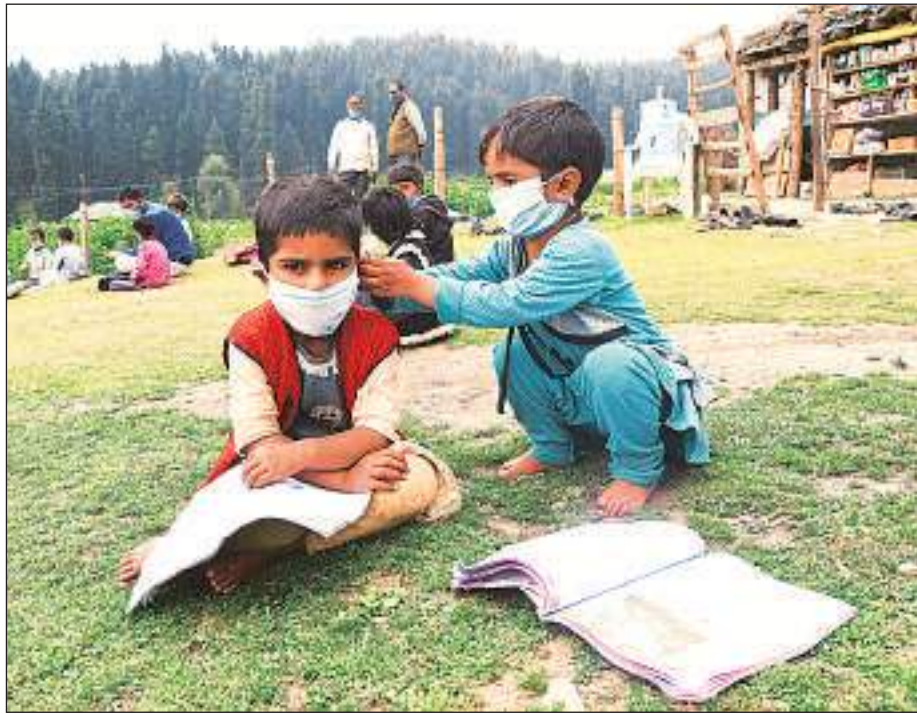
The poll panel was reacting to a series of media interviews given by Murmu over the last week. In an interview to *The Tribune*, the L-G said elections to the J&K

Assembly would be held after the conclusion of the delimitation exercise.

Responding to a question on reviving political activity in J&K, Murmu told the *Hindustan Times*, "The EC is the competent authority to take a call on delimitation. Except Covid, I don't see any problem in holding elections".

To a similar question, he told *The Indian Express* that the Covid-19 outbreak marred the efforts to conduct panchayat elections in J&K. On the Assembly election, he said, "Second part is that the delimitation committee is already appointed, now delimitation will start. The Assembly elections should also come simultaneously or after that. So, this parallel work is going on. I think this

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Children of the Bakarwal community attend school at Doodpathri in Budgam. The government is holding open-air classes for children of nomadic tribes.. ANI

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



EXPRESS NETWORK

NC LEADER AGASYED RUHULLAH QUILTS SPOKESPERSON
PAGE 6

Centre to SC: Need to verify L-G statement on no objection to 4G

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

THE CENTRE on Tuesday sought time from the Supreme Court to verify Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor G C Murmu's statement favouring restoration of 4G internet services in the Union Territory.

The Indian Express reported on July 26 that the J&K administration has told the Union Ministry of Home Affairs that it does not have any objection to restoring 4G internet services.

"We have been making (a) representation for this... I feel that 4G will not be a problem. I am not afraid (of) how people will use this. Pakistan will do its propaganda, whether it is 2G or 4G. It will always be there... But I don't see an issue," Murmu told *The Indian Express* last week.

Raising the matter before a bench headed by Justice N V Ramana on Tuesday, Senior Advocate Huzefa Ahmadi, appearing for NGO Foundation for Media Professionals, said: "The Lieutenant Governor has made

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

J&K ONE YEAR AFTER AUGUST 5

AN EXPRESS SERIES

Iltija Mufti: My mother not free as she will speak for the people

NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN
MUMBAI, JULY 28

MEHBOOBA MUFTI'S continued detention was intended to "break her" and to force her to accept the "disempowerment" of Jammu & Kashmir that had taken place on August 5, 2019, the daughter of the former Chief Minister, Iltija Mufti, told *The Indian Express* in an interview from Srinagar.

"It is kind of understood that if she wants to get out, her freedom is contingent on her not talking about Article 370. Now it's become a game of who blinks first. But the bad news for them

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



'GAME OF WHO BLINKS FIRST... IT WON'T BE MY MOTHER'

ILTILJA MUFTI
DAUGHTER OF MEHBOOBA MUFTI



daCunha/AB/702

Gehlot govt sticks to demand for July 31 House session, still no mention of trust vote

HAMZA KHAN
JAIPUR, JULY 28

THE IMPASSE between the Ashok Gehlot government and Governor Kalraj Mishra continued on Tuesday as the state cabinet sent another recommendation to Raj Bhavan — the third in six days — sticking to its demand for calling an Assembly session on July 31.

This comes a day after Mishra sought a revised proposal addressing three points: a 21-day notice for calling a session, live broadcast of the proceedings in case of a trust vote, and adequate social distancing measures in the House.

He had, however, said that "if the government wants to seek a trust vote, then this can be a reasonable basis for calling a session on short notice". But, he said, while the Gehlot government's comments, as reported in the media, make it clear that it wants a trust vote, it hasn't mentioned this in its proposal.

The state government, in its fresh recommendation, has re-

EXPRESS NETWORK

GEHLOT BROTHER TOLD TO APPEAR BEFORE ED TODAY
PAGE 5

fused to mention whether it is seeking a trust vote. Sources told *The Indian Express* that the government has said that the agenda of the House is decided by the Business Advisory Committee (BAC).

"Regarding how a trust vote is to be held, whether it is to be recorded etc. all that is to be decided by the Speaker too," said a source.

The Speaker is the ex-officio chairman of the BAC, which includes members from the ruling party and Opposition.

Section 22 under Chapter 6 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of Rajasthan Assembly says: "On days allotted for the transaction of government business, such business shall have precedence and the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



One of the five Rafale jets, headed to India from France on Monday, being refuelled mid-air. Tweeted by IAF, via PTI

Ahead of military talks, China claims troops have disengaged at most sites

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

FOUR DAYS after New Delhi announced that India and China had agreed on "early and complete disengagement" along the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh, Beijing Tuesday said border troops of both countries "have disengaged in most localities" following close communication via military and

diplomatic channels.

There was no official confirmation or response from either the Indian government or the Indian Army to the Chinese Foreign Ministry's statement ahead of the fifth round of talks, likely later this week, between Corps Commanders of the two armies.

The Chinese reluctance to step back from Pangong Tso has stalled the disengagement

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

148 DAYS SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN
CASES: 14,83,156
RECOVERED: 9,52,743
DEATHS: 33,425
TESTS: 1,73,34,885
DOUBLING RATE: 19.81**



KEY STATES TO WATCH	TOTAL CASES	SURGE IN 24 HOURS	7-DAY AVG GROWTH*	DOUBLING RATE**
■ Maharashtra	3,83,723	7,924	2.69%	26.78
■ Delhi	1,31,219	613	0.84%	85.61
■ Tamil Nadu	2,20,716	6,993	3.31%	21.73
■ Karnataka	1,01,465	5,324	6.01%	11.97
■ Andhra Pradesh	1,02,349	6,051	9.64%	7.47

* 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: 2.43	7 DAYS EARLIER: 8.03	DETECTED TODAY 47,704
NOW: 2.25	NOW: 8.56	RECOVERED TODAY: 35,176
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 27, 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

Higher share in slums exposed to virus than in societies: Mumbai sero survey

TABASSUM BARNAGARWALA
MUMBAI, JULY 28

A SERO-SURVEY conducted in Mumbai showed that more than half the people, or 57 per cent, tested in slums had been exposed to and developed antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 virus as compared to only 16 per cent of those tested in residential societies. The survey, conducted by



Testing at Shivaji Nagar in Mumbai. Ganesh Shirsekar

the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation in three wards of Mumbai, was done on 6,936 people — 61 per cent of them slum-dwellers and the remaining 39 per cent in residential societies.

The survey also found that more women than men had developed antibodies. Among people in slums, 59.3 per cent of the 2,297 women tested, and 53.2 per cent of the 1,937 men tested

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Delhi riots murder accused was a 2008 murder convict out on bail: chargesheet

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

LOCAL BUSINESSMAN Naresh Tyagi, one of the 16 accused in the murder of 48-year-old social worker Parvez during the Delhi riots, was convicted six years ago for murder and got a life sentence, court records reveal.

On February 25 this year, when Tyagi, according to the chargesheet filed by the Delhi Police, joined a rioting mob in Bhajanpura, he was on bail granted by the Allahabad High Court.

Parvez succumbed to a gunshot injury in the right chest; Tyagi has been booked for murder and rioting.

The Delhi Police chargesheet

mentions his earlier conviction and the bail granted by the Allahabad High Court. That bail itself had been a subject of controversy.

That case relates to the killing of a resident in Baghpat on December 17, 2008. Court records said the victim was shot while he was going to purchase

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Sushant's father files FIR against actor's friend for abetting suicide

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, JULY 28

ACTOR SUSHANT Singh Rajput's father has filed an FIR in Patna against actor Rhea Chakraborty and five others, including three of her family members, for abetting of suicide, police said on Tuesday.



Rhea's kin also named

Inspector General of Police, Patna Central, Sanjay Singh confirmed that the FIR was filed on Saturday.

"My son was at the peak of his acting career till May 2019. During that period, Rhea and her relatives developed an acquaintance with my son, under a deliberate conspiracy, so that Rhea could establish herself in the film industry and

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THE EDITORIAL PAGE

PRESIDENT XI'S LONG GAME

BY VIJAY GOKHALE
PAGE 10

THE WORLD



W.H.O. SAYS COVID 'ONE BIG WAVE', NOT SEASONAL
PAGE 15

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

THEY ARE calling. From West Bengal, UP, Bihar, Karnataka, even Kerala, and of course Delhi. Almost every call carries a tone of desperation — and this refrain: "I will handle whatever work you want me to, please hire me."

Within two days of the Delhi government launching a new job portal — jobs.delhi.gov.in — to revive the local economy from its Covid slump, it's a virtual stampede for slots, say several employers.

By Tuesday evening, the por-

tal had logged 1.89 lakh job-seekers for 1 lakh openings posted by 4,294 employers across 32 categories.

The platform connects job-seekers and employers, who have to register their contact details, through phone or WhatsApp.

And Abhishek Wadhwa, who wants workers to restart his jeans manufacturing unit in east Delhi's Gandhi Nagar, says "the phone just does not stop buzzing".

"I got calls and enquiries even from West Bengal. In our sector, men engaged in stitching are mostly from UP and Bihar. During the lockdown, out of



Among job-seekers, most postings on the portal have been made under "back office/data entry". File

about 35 workers, only seven stayed," says Wadhwa who put up a notice for 10-15 openings at Wadhwa Garments.

"We have 50 openings for labourers. But ever since we put up a notice on the portal, we have been inundated with calls...from as far as Karnataka and Kerala. There were 10 calls from Kerala. The workers we select will be paid between Rs 12,000 and Rs 18,000 per month and put up in hutments at the site," says Babloo Mishra, who is handling labour recruitment for Hari Construction, which is engaged in work on a flyover in south-west Delhi's Dwarka.

Officials say that while the capital's economy is unlocking, businesses are struggling to get back on their feet in the absence of workers. According to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who launched the portal Monday, the aim is to bridge the divide between job-seekers and job-givers.

Officials also point to a sector-wise break-up of openings, which shows that most are for data entry, construction work, food joints, drivers and garments manufacturing — many of them sectors dominated by migrant workers who left Delhi during

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED Plugging the gaps

THE PORTAL aims to plug two key gaps in the local economy on a single platform. It helps traders and small businesses reopen by reconnecting them to the workforce, and generates employment for returning migrant workers and local residents who lost their jobs in the Covid lockdown.



0-50 Good

ANAND VIHAR

Satisfactory

63

AQI

Pollutant: OZONE

51-100 Satisfactory

SIRIFORT

Satisfactory

74

AQI

PM: 10

101-200 Moderate

SHADIPUR

Satisfactory

80

AQI

PM: 10

201-300 Poor

DWARKA-SECTOR 8

Satisfactory

64

AQI

PM: 10

301-400 Very Poor

401-500 Severe

‘THERE ARE ALLEGATIONS THAT PROBE IS BIASED’

Cabinet rejects Delhi Police panel of six lawyers to argue riot cases in courts

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

IN A cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the Delhi government Tuesday rejected the panel of lawyers that the Delhi Police had chosen to argue the Northeast Delhi riots cases in the High Court and Supreme Court, saying it would imperil a free and fair trial.

“There have been allegations that the investigations of Delhi Police in these cases are biased and not impartial. The judiciary has also made adverse remarks against Delhi Police investigations on several occasions. Therefore, in order to ensure that

all facts are presented before the Hon’ble judges, it is extremely critical that the government advocates are independent of the Police,” the Cabinet observed.

The Delhi Police had sent a proposal to the Delhi government to appoint six senior lawyers, including Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta and Additional Solicitor General Aman Lekhi as Special Public Prosecutors in the HC and SC in 85 cases related to riots and anti-CAA protests.

The Cabinet decision, meanwhile, sets the stage for Lt Governor Anil Baijal to invoke Article 239AA(4), a constitutional provision that authorises him to refer any matter over which there are “differences of opinion”



Following the riots at Shiv Vihar. Archive

with the elected government to the President of India. The L-G had earlier suggested to the government to approve the panel chosen by the police.

In a statement, the Delhi gov-

ernment also targeted the L-G for his “repeated interferences” in the matter. The L-G had previously invoked Article 239AA(4) after a similar dispute arose over the appointment of public prosecutors to argue the riots cases in the lower courts.

“Under the Constitution, the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi has special powers to intervene and overturn any decision of the elected government of Delhi. But the Supreme Court has said that the Lieutenant Governor can exercise this right only in the rarest of rare cases. Otherwise, it is against the spirit of democracy. Appointment of a panel of lawyers does not fall into any rare category and it is a normal procedure. For

this reason, the Delhi government is fully empowered to appoint lawyers,” the statement said.

The Cabinet directed the Delhi Home Department to form a panel of “best possible lawyers” in the country to represent these cases in the HC and SC. The L-G has already rejected the government’s proposal that a team under its standing counsel (criminal) Rahul Mehra be engaged to argue the cases.

The government statement also said that the Cabinet took note of questions raised by several courts against “bias” in Delhi Police’s action on riot cases. It observed that investigation and prosecution should be independent of each other, describ-

ing it as a “fundamental principle of the criminal justice system in India and around the world”.

“During the meeting, the Cabinet noted that Justice Suresh Kumar of the Delhi HC had earlier observed that the Delhi Police is taking the entire judicial system on a ride in the Delhi riot cases. The Cabinet has also noted that various session courts and media have questioned the role of the Delhi Police during the riot and its investigation. The Delhi Cabinet has observed that in such a situation, the panel of lawyers of the Delhi Police would not be able to ensure justice in these cases,” the government statement said.

The L-G House did not react to the development.

City’s smog tower project delayed as IIT-B backs out

SHIVAM PATEL
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

THE TIMELINE for setting up two smog towers in Delhi will have to be revised as IIT-Bombay, which was heading the pilot project, has “backed out”, *The Indian Express* has learnt. Sources at the institute and senior Delhi government officials confirmed to *The Indian Express* that the project, aimed at combating air pollution in the capital, “did not take off”.

Sources at the Environment Ministry, meanwhile, said IIT-Bombay has not completely backed out but sought a “reduced role” from what had been originally planned.

A senior Delhi government official said, “IIT-Bombay is rethinking its role. There is only one such tower in the world — in Xi’an, China, which the University of Minnesota helped design. But the effectiveness of the tower’s technology is unproven as data is unavailable. IIT-B had submitted a proposal for the project and had been leading it”.

The official also said, “... The project will study the impact such towers would have on air quality. However, the timeline for its completion will be affected now, in addition to the delay already caused by Covid.”

The project, which has a budget of over Rs 36 crore, is funded by the Centre and Delhi government. It was initiated last November following a Supreme Court directive on the need to install such towers in the city.

Under the project — a collaboration between IITs Bombay and Delhi, and University of Minnesota — two towers were to be come up at Anand Vihar and Connaught Place by April 2020, as per a deadline set by the SC. The Anand Vihar tower was to be installed by the Centre, the CP one by Delhi government.

Last week, a Supreme Court bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra expressed “shock” that authorities had still not complied with its January 13 order.

HOW SMOG TOWERS WORK



Project looks to tackle Delhi’s air pollution

Smog towers are structures designed to work as large-scale air purifiers. They are usually fitted with multiple layers of air filters, which clean the air of pollutants as it passes through them. In the capital, two towers, 20 metres high, were planned to be set up. Each tower was expected to reduce 50% of the particulate matter load in an area of 1 km in the direction of the wind, as well as 200 metres each along its sides and against the direction of the wind.

The bench said: “It was directed that smog towers be installed in 3 months... unfortunately, neither the agreement has been entered into nor requisite drawings obtained... there is absolutely no respect shown to the order passed by this court.”

It added, “We direct MoEF (Ministry of Environment) and government of Delhi to collect the drawings, in case the drawings have not been collected so far, and enter into an agreement positively within 7 days and place compliance before this court on the next date of hearing, July 29.”

Prashant Gargava, member secretary of the Central Pollution Control Board, which had been engaging with IIT-Bombay on the agreement for the project, did not deny or confirm messages from *The Indian Express* on the withdrawal of IIT-Bombay and reasons behind it.

BRIEFLY

HC seeks govt stand on Covid fines by police

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Tuesday sought to know the Delhi government’s stand on a plea challenging a provision which empowers police officers of sub-inspector rank or above to impose fines on anyone who is found violating Covid-19 regulations. The plea by a lawyer contended that imposing a fine amounts to handing down a punishment, which can only be awarded by a judge not a police officer.

DU examiner robbed of cash, jewellery

New Delhi: A 40-year-old Delhi University assistant examiner, Sunil Sharma, was allegedly robbed at gunpoint of cash and jewellery worth lakhs at his home in Northeast Delhi by two unidentified armed men. DCP (Northeast) Ved Prakash Surya said CCTV footage from around the area is being scanned and the matter is being investigated.

60-year-old found dead

New Delhi: A 60-year-old woman was found dead on Tuesday in the bathroom of her house in Noida Sector 15, police said. “She had three children, who are working abroad. After she did not respond to phone calls, her son called his friend, who then called the police,” said Sankalp Sharma, DCP Noida. Police said the case is being treated as a murder as the circumstances were mysterious.

Head constable kills himself

New Delhi: A 34-year-old Delhi Police head constable, Sanjay, allegedly shot himself dead with his service pistol in South Delhi’s Lado Sarai area on Tuesday. Police said the deceased was posted at Saket police station. No suicide note was recovered, police said. “He hailed from Rajasthan’s Alwar district. Preliminary enquiry revealed he was in depression due to the illness of his brother,” said DCP (South) Atul Kumar Thakur.

17-year-old ‘killed’ by friend

New Delhi: A 17-year-old boy was killed allegedly by his friend, in a shanty at Northwest Delhi’s Jahangirpuri. Police said the incident took place after an argument broke out between them over paying for a party. **ENS**



SWEET DREAMS

Ice cream vendors inch back to business at Rajpath near India Gate, though with a lull in customer footfall, Tuesday. Tashi Tobgyal

Covid patient says molested by doctor at Noida hospital

SOMYA LAKHANI
NOIDA, JULY 28

AN FIR has been registered against a 35-year-old doctor of Noida’s Jaypee Hospital for allegedly molesting a 20-year-old patient who was admitted there for Covid-19 treatment.

The doctor, a critical care specialist, was also admitted to the hospital in Sector 128 for Covid-19 and had been given the same room as the woman on a sharing basis.

“We received a complaint on Monday and have registered a case under IPC section 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty). We are investigating negligence by the hospital for putting a man and a woman in the same room,” SHO Expressway Noida said.

Police said the man is under home quarantine at the moment. “As soon as his test comes negative and all post-Covid protocols are done, we will arrest him,” said the SHO.

A spokesperson of Jaypee Hospital told *The Indian Express*

The doctor, a critical care specialist, was also admitted to the hospital for Covid-19. Police said he will be arrested as soon as he recovers from the virus

that the doctor has been a visiting consultant for around seven months: “Police are looking into the matter. The hospital has terminated his services.”

The spokesperson said that “in private hospitals, there is no concept of different wards for men and women”.

Hospital authorities said both the woman and the doctor are still positive but don’t require further hospitalisation.

The woman’s sister said the incident took place on Monday when the 20-year-old was being discharged: “For a few days, my sister was alone in the room, and then the other patient, who introduced himself as a doctor, was put in the same room. On Monday, both were being dis-

charged when he started telling her about ‘post-Covid’ symptoms such as blood clotting.”

She said that the accused allegedly “offered to check her sister for clots and asked her to lie down”. “He then touched her inappropriately... My sister immediately called me up to tell me what had happened... she was shaken. I called our relative, who is a doctor on Covid duty in Mumbai, who said there are no such symptoms. He had no business touching her like this,” she said.

The doctor on duty was informed and a complaint was written to the police. Later, the woman alleged, the doctor sent her photos of his minor daughter on WhatsApp, with a message that he would commit suicide. He also allegedly sent her a photo of a ceiling fan with a similar message.

The woman’s brother said that as soon as they found out that a man was sharing the room with his sister, there was apprehension. “Even at government hospitals, the wards for men and women are different. This format only makes sense if patients have attendants with them” he said.

Gambhir drops by to assess Ghazipur landfill

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

VISITING THE Ghazipur landfill site Tuesday, East Delhi MP Gautam Gambhir said its height has been reduced by 40 feet, and in the days ahead, four new trommel machines will be engaged to reduce it further.

“There are eight trommel machines working there. Four more machines will arrive in August, after which the process of processing the waste will be even faster,” he said.



Gautam Gambhir at the landfill site, Tuesday. Express

Over 140 lakh tonnes of waste collected since 1984 lies in the landfill, causing hazardous living conditions for those nearby.

Gambhir said that more than 2,500 metric tonnes of waste would be processed when the machines are brought and engaged to service.

“However, to fix this problem permanently, the focus will be on waste segregation, for which a fresh push would be given by the East civic body soon,” he said.

AAP MLA Kuldeep Kumar said that while the corporation

has claimed to reduce the height, in reality the garbage has been thrown on the other side. “Around 2,600 tonnes of waste comes every day and only 600 tonnes is being removed. Then how has the height decreased?” he said.

A senior official of the East corporation said the civic body is now in the first stage of clearing the landfill site and the height has to be reduced because it is dangerous and can lead to cave-in or collapse of some portion, which has caused accidents in the past.

IHCL ORIENTAL HOTELS LIMITED

CIN : L55101TN1970PLC005897

Regd. Office : ‘Taj Coromandel’ No.37, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Chennai 600034.
Phone No. : 044 - 66172828. Fax No. : 044 - 28278138. Website : www.orientalhotels.co.in

UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30, 2020

Particulars	Standalone				Consolidated			
	Quarter ended 30.06.2020 (Unaudited)	Quarter ended 31.03.2020 (Audited)	Quarter ended 30.06.2019 (Unaudited)	Year ended 31.03.2020 (Audited)	Quarter ended 30.06.2020 (Unaudited)	Quarter ended 31.03.2020 (Audited)	Quarter ended 30.06.2019 (Unaudited)	Year ended 31.03.2020 (Audited)
Total Income from operations	755	7220	6844	30134	755	7232	6889	29883
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (before Exceptional items)	(3298)	(72)	(697)	(281)	(3300)	(69)	(665)	(562)
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional items)	(3298)	(72)	(775)	(359)	(3300)	(69)	(743)	(640)
@ Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional items)	(2340)	(18)	(573)	(379)	(3129)	115	(755)	(826)
Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising profit/loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)	(2233)	(599)	(625)	(1101)	(2636)	1058	(738)	966
Paid-up Equity Share Capital (Face value per share - ₹1 each)	1786	1786	1786	1786	1786	1786	1786	1786
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)				29638				51292
Earnings Per Share (in ₹) (Face value of ₹1 each) :								
Basic & Diluted (* not annualised)	*(1.31)	*(0.01)	*(0.32)	(0.21)	*(1.75)	*0.06	*(0.42)	(0.46)

@ In case of Consolidated Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional items) and share of profit / (loss) of associates and jointly controlled entity.

Note :

- The results were reviewed by the Audit Committee of the Board and subsequently approved by the Board of Directors at its meetings held on July 28, 2020. The results have been reviewed by the Statutory Auditor of the Company.
- The financial results have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement principles of Indian Accounting Standards (“Ind AS”) prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the relevant rules issued thereunder and the other accounting principles generally accepted in India. Financial results for all the periods presented have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement principles of Ind AS.
- The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarter ended June, 30 2020 Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/Twelve Months Financial Results are available on the websites of Stock Exchanges at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com and also on the Company’s website at www.orientalhotels.co.in.

For ORIENTAL HOTELS LIMITED

Pramod Ranjan
Managing Director
(DIN : 00887569)Place : Chennai
Date : July 28, 2020

4 THE CITY

MANY SAW FEW PATIENTS, NO ADMISSIONS

Delhi govt set to delink hotels from hospitals

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

HOTELS THAT had been attached to hospitals to increase bed capacity for Covid patients might be delinked, after they saw only a handful of patients for close to a month now. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will hold a meeting with senior officials to discuss the possibility on Wednesday.


In the first week of this month, the Southwest district administration had passed orders to delink three hotels from hospitals after they got only three-four patients. The hotels had set aside around 600 beds for patients. The order was later revoked and similar requests made by other hotels and district administrations were rejected. Sources said now that the situation in Delhi seems to be under control, the hotels could be delinked.

On Tuesday, the city recorded 1,056 fresh cases, taking the tally to 1,32,275. The death toll climbed to 3,881 with 28 more fatalities reported in the last 24 hours.

Delhi, officials said, was also looking to restart economic activity in all sectors based on broad guidelines from the Centre. At present, hotels are not allowed to open, except select ones accommodating people travelling from other countries and assigned mandatory quarantine.

After panic spread through the city during the first two-three weeks in June and some people died after being denied treatment at hospitals, hotels were linked to hospitals while

CORONAVIRUS IN THE CAPITAL



TOTAL CASES		Total	Vacant
1,32,275	HOSPITAL BEDS	16,038	12,996
	VENTILATORS	1,206	799

	Daily cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
July 27	613	1,497	26	11,506
July 28	1,056	1,135	28	18,544
Total	10,887*	1,17,507	3,881	9,76,827

**Total active cases*



Covid testing in progress at a construction site in Central Delhi. Prem Nath Pandey

Covid hospital, Lok Nayak, did not report a single death for 24 hours till Tuesday evening.

Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality hospital did not report a single death on four consecutive days, between July 24 and July 27. Similarly, the Centre-run RML hospital did not report any deaths on July 27.

"Over the last three-four months, this is the first time that not a single Covid death has been reported from the hospital. This is a clear indication that the curve has begun to flatten in Delhi. Even on Monday, we had 45 admissions as compared to days when hundreds were getting admitted," Dr Suresh Kumar, medical director of Lok Nayak hospital, told *The Indian Express*.

"The fatality rate has gone down significantly in Delhi; two-three deaths on an average are being reported now. Bed occupancy rate has also come down to almost 50%," said Dr DK Sharma, the AIIMS medical superintendent.

60 inmates positive across 3 jails

New Delhi: At least 60 inmates across Tihar, Rohini and Mandoli jails have tested positive for Covid-19 since May 12. "Of this, 55 have recovered and two died. An inmate was released and is under home quarantine, and there are two active cases," said Delhi Prisons DG Sandeep Goel.

He said that 161 staffers across the three prisons too have tested positive since mid-May, of which 122 have already recovered. **ENS**

BJP MLA sparks row with comments on Eid sacrifice

Lucknow: The BJP MLA from Loni in Ghaziabad has sparked a controversy, saying his supporters would not allow the sacrifice of animals in his constituency during Bakrid, and added that if someone has to make a sacrifice, they should instead sacrifice their children.

Nand Kishor Gurjar claimed animal sacrifice was being stopped to "check the spread of coronavirus in the area".

"We will ensure that there is no spread of coronavirus in Loni, and if animal sacrifice is per-

formed then those people will be responsible and we will not allow that to happen," he said.

"In sanatana dharma, there was a provision earlier of *bali*, but it has been replaced by breaking of a coconut. It is my request to those following Islam not to sacrifice animals... *Agar jyada koi kehta hai ki kurbani deni hai toh apne bache ki de* (If someone says, they have to make a sacrifice, then they can sacrifice their child)," he said.

His comments were condemned by his own party as well as by the Samajwadi Party. **ENS**

Pay delayed, North MCD teachers struggle to meet needs: 'Borrowing money to stay afloat'

SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

CHILDREN'S SCHOOL fees unpaid, EMIs on hold, borrowing money from relatives — irregular and delayed salaries through-out the coronavirus outbreak has meant that North MCD school teachers have been struggling to make ends meet.

Till the beginning of July, 3,600 teachers had not been paid since February. They were paid their March salary in early July — four months late. As many as 5,400 teachers who had been on Covid duty were paid their March salaries in June, and received their April salaries earlier this month.

In June, the Delhi High Court had come down heavily on the North MCD for non-payment of

salaries. In court, this issue took the form of the corporation and Delhi government locked in a dispute over the release of funds.

Rakesh Bansal (50) has taught at MCD schools for the last 20 years. The lone earner for his family, he had not been put on Covid duty because polio at a young age has made him dependent on crutches for mobility. Last paid his salary for the month of March, which he received on July 4, he finds himself unable to meet the needs of his two daughters — aged six and two.

"My younger daughter has had three vaccines, including DTP, pending for the last four months. The frustration in my family has just been building. I've been getting by through money borrowed from relatives, and because I've reached a point of just



HC had pulled up North MCD over the issue. Archive

trying to get food on the table, I can't afford the vaccines along with all this. I also have not been able to pay fees for my older daughter's school for the last four months and I have EMIs for a property loan on hold as well,"

he said.

Satya Prakash Chabdi (54), who has taught at MCD schools for 24 years, said: "It's very embarrassing for me to have to borrow money at this stage of my life but I have no choice. I had even gone to the bank to get a personal loan but the reputation of the North MCD has become such that they are not willing to give us loans. As of now, I have rent to pay as well as college fees for two daughters."

Ramnivas Solanki, head of the MCD teachers' association, said "there needs to be a permanent solution to this payment problem".

"There should be a separate salary head for North MCD teachers so that funds cannot be used in any other way. Or maybe the three corporations should be integrated or primary education

should be handed over to the Delhi government. Some action needs to be taken for a permanent solution," he said.

On the salary delay, North MCD deputy commissioner Ira Singhal said: "There is a general shortage of funds. We are trying to augment our resources; nobody is sitting on anybody's salary or using those funds for other purposes. When the funds are released by the Delhi government, salaries will be paid."

The Delhi government had earlier claimed in High Court that they have released the sanctioned sum of over Rs 49 crore each for April, May and June towards grant-in-aid for disbursing salaries to the teachers of the corporation, under the scheme of primary education for the year 2020-21. North MCD had, however, disputed the claim.

BJP-ruled MCD, party at odds on increasing tax

ABHINAV RAJPUT
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

THE DELHI BJP state president and the BJP-ruled South MCD's leaders are not on the same page on the issue of increasing taxes, it is learnt. The cash-strapped South Corporation introduced a professional tax, hiked property tax on rented commercial properties, and also hiked transfer duty of properties on Monday. These measures should yield an additional revenue of Rs 400 crore annually for the corporation.

Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta had on Sunday tweeted, "I have talked to the mayor of the South MCD and requested to roll back the proposal to increase taxes brought by the corporation. Mayor is ready. Also request Arvind Kejriwal to pay civic bodies as per recommendations of Fourth Finance Commission."

But on Monday, the corporation went ahead and passed a proposal on the taxes. When contacted, Gupta said, "Taxes have not been increased, professional tax is a proposal, it has not been finalised." He also said there were plans to levy tax on electricity, which has been shelved.

South civic body mayor Anamika Mithilesh, however, said, "We work on the guidance of the state president... We do not want South MCD to go the way of other MCDs, where staff are not paid for months and hikes are nominal."

Leader of the house, South MCD, Narender Chawla, said, "The decision was taken after bringing the party into confidence. Adeshji is himself a former mayor and understands the pain of the corporation and public."

A senior leader in the civic body said there was pressure from BJP higher-ups not to go ahead with the proposal. However, the leader said, the South corporation's finances have reached a point where if the proposal was not cleared, it would have led to a situation where salary of staff would have been delayed for months.

"Somewhere, you have to stop populism. Every year, there is some election. Taxes have not been increased for a decade while the value of properties has increased over a hundred times in



The tax is also applicable to professionals working in South Delhi firms. Archive

AAP TO HOLD PROTEST TODAY

New Delhi: Senior AAP leader Durgesh Pathak Tuesday said the party will hold a protest against the tax hike by the BJP-ruled SDMC in front of the BJP headquarters on Wednesday. "The problem is not increasing tax but that it has been done at a time when people's income is down due to Covid. The Corporation should first fix its internal leakages which leads to revenue losses," he said. **ENS**

many cases," said the leader.

"There were plans to increase electricity tax as well; as the state leadership is already protesting over the issue, a decision was taken not to increase it," he said.

A preamble on increasing electricity tax was placed in the house meeting on Monday, but not approved.

Self-employed professionals such as doctors, lawyers and architects, those employed by private firms in South Delhi, and those with office spaces that fall under South MCD, will now have to pay professional tax.

As per the proposal, those earning less than Rs 50,000 a month will not be charged anything; those earning Rs 50,001-Rs 75,000 will be charged Rs 100 per month; those earning Rs 75,001-Rs 1 lakh per month will have to pay Rs 150; and those earning above Rs 1 lakh will be charged Rs 200 a month.

Khan has donated twice at ILBS, once at Max, twice at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital and once at Shree Aggarsain International Hospital in Rohini.

He said all those who recover from the virus should donate: "It does not cause any weakness, and it will not cost anything to donate."

His mother, who is 65, is not eligible to donate. His sister, meanwhile, has donated twice.

DRAWING BOARD

Drawings by young patients at CWG Village Covid care centre, Tuesday. Praveen Khanna



Wider footpaths, more trees as CM calls for roads revamp

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

FOOTPATHS THAT are 10 feet wide and have dedicated spaces for trees, planned spaces for vehicles and rickshaws, and rain-water harvesting systems built into the drainage system alongside roads — if all goes to plan, this is what 500 kilometres of arterial roads in Delhi will look like in the coming years.

The city has been looking at redesigning roads to make them more pedestrian-friendly as well as removing bottlenecks that hamper the movement of traffic for the past several years.

On Tuesday, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal met Public Works Department officials and asked them to prepare a list of roads, all 100 feet wide, to be "redesigned as per international standards and along the lines of the newly redesigned Chandni Chowk main road".

While the Chandni Chowk redevelopment made a 1.3 kilometre stretch vehicle free, the elements used to make it more pedestrian friendly, such as places to sit, wide walkways and shrubs and trees, will be incorporated in the road design.

Last year, the government announced a similar project for nine road stretches. This was later cut down to seven and the first two stretches to be under-

THE PLAN

- Parking for rickshaws
- Specific parking space
- Green belt
- Open spaces for public
- Dedicated cycle and pedestrian lanes
- Parks visible from the roads will not be covered by walls



taken were AIIMS and Ashram. Work was supposed to be complete by the end of this year but the CM Tuesday said that the deadline has been extended till August 2021 because of Covid.

PWD has to provide a list of the different stretches in three weeks. Officials said that the project will be undertaken in a Build-Operate-Transfer model, where the firm that builds or re-designs the road will be asked to maintain it for 15 years. At present, roads are handed over to PWD and municipal corpora-

tions after they are built, for maintenance.

Experts say that poor road design is responsible for traffic jams and many accidents on Delhi's roads.

Under the new project, the priority will be removing bottlenecks for a smooth flow of traffic and an organised lane system, official said.

"There will be measured and planned spaces for vehicles, non-motorised vehicles, footpaths, and side-lanes. The footpaths will be widely mapped to an average of 10 feet for the convenience of pedestrians. These footpaths will be redesigned and reconstructed as per a standard height for the convenience of differently abled," the Delhi government said in an official statement.

Officials also said that all surfaces will be either paved or trees and shrubs will be planted on them to reduce dust. According to the only source apportionment study commissioned by the government, to IIT Kanpur, road dust is among the primary sources of pollution in the city, especially during winters.

"Not even an inch of the surface of any road or roadside will be left uncovered in order to ensure that there is no dust on the roads. Adequate grasses and shrubs will be planted on all surfaces to ensure dust control," the statement said.

'IF THERE'S A WAY TO HELP, WHY NOT?'

Man donates plasma 6 times, ready for round 7

ASHNA BUTANI
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

EVER SINCE he recovered from Covid-19 in April, Tabrez Khan (37) has donated plasma six times and is ready to donate again. "Each time I donate, I get an update from the hospital or the family that the patient has recovered and that they are grateful... Till now, I've donated plasma six times, helping 12 people."

It has been over 14 days since Khan's last donation. He is now awaiting a call from Lok Nayak

Hospital, where a plasma bank — the second in the capital — was set up earlier this month, to donate again.

A resident of Jahangirpuri, Khan recovered a few months ago. "My sister, mother and I tested positive. My sister had travelled from Saudi Arabia, and we think she contracted it there or while travelling," he said.

Khan began displaying symptoms such as high fever, cold and cough on March 12 and his test report came positive. He was taken to the hospital on March 20. After recovering, Khan saw a



Tabrez Khan recovered from Covid a few months ago

government advertisement on plasma donation. He donated

plasma for the first time at the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) on April 21, when they were conducting plasma trials. After that, he began getting requests from people for plasma.

"Someone calls and says he needs it for his father. Someone else says they need it for their sister. They call me looking for a plasma donor, with blood group B+... If there is a way for me to help them, then why not?" he said.

In most cases, Khan knew the name of the person he was donating plasma to — the last pa-

5 GOVT & POLITICS

RAJASTHAN POWER PLAY

BJP MLA moves HC against Speaker's decision on BSP legislators joining Congress

DEEP MUKHERJEE
JAIPUR, JULY 28

A DAY after the Rajasthan High Court dismissed a petition by BJP MLA Madan Dilawar, seeking the disqualification of six BSP legislators who joined the Congress last year, the BJP MLA Tuesday filed two fresh writ petitions challenging the Assembly Speaker's decision in the matter.

"In the first writ petition, we have challenged the communication sent to us by the Assembly Speaker yesterday, informing us that Dilawar's petition has been rejected. This communication didn't mention any date as to when our petition was rejected by the Speaker and we were not provided a copy of the original order. We were also not given any chance of a hearing. We filed a writ petition challenging this communication," Dilawar's counsel Ashish Sharma said.

Sharma said after the first writ petition was filed, Dilawar was given a copy of the Speaker's decision rejecting his petition filed in March. "The order of the Speaker rejecting our petition is dated July 22. In the order, it has been said that the petition was rejected because the documents we furnished in support of our petition under Schedule X were not signed. This is a flimsy ground and reflects bias. It was important for us to challenge this too, as it was the principal order. Thereafter we filed our second writ petition..." Sharma said, adding the matter has been listed for hearing on Wednesday.

The petition had also questioned the Rajasthan Assembly Speaker's "inaction" over a plea submitted by Dilawar in March, requesting the Speaker to disqualify the six legislators.

'Pot calling kettle black': Maya raps Gehlot for merging MLAs in Cong

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, JULY 28

RAJASTHAN CHIEF Minister Ashok Gehlot's allegation about his MLAs being poached by the BJP is akin to the pot calling the kettle black because he "unconstitutionally" merged six BSP MLAs in the Congress last year, said BSP chief Mayawati on Tuesday.

"The Congress is saying that their MLAs are being stolen, which is unlawful, and is against the public mandate. But their claim is laughable since they themselves did the same when they took away our BSP MLAs... The Congress is crying foul now when its stolen assets are being stolen. It is akin to the proverb *ulta chor kotwal ko daante* (the pot calling the kettle black)," Mayawati said in a statement.

"Even before the Rajya Sabha elections, the BSP raised this (merger) issue in written with the Chief Election Commissioner and the returning officer of the Vidhan Sabha Chairperson. But the



BSP chief Mayawati

Election Commissioner rejected (the application), saying the issue is beyond his jurisdiction. The BSP then had no option but to go to the court. Our party could have gone to the court earlier, but we were waiting for the right time to teach a lesson to them (Congress)... If we do not get justice from the High Court, we will go to the Supreme Court," the former UP chief minister said.

The BSP had earlier asked the six MLAs to vote against the Congress government during a trust vote or any other proceedings in the Legislative Assembly.

"It is known that after the Assembly elections in Rajasthan,

the BSP provided the unconditional support of all its six MLAs to the Congress so that the communal forces were kept away from power. Sadly, after being elected chief minister, Ashok Gehlot did the unconstitutional and illegal work of adding the six BSP MLAs into the Congress. This was not the first time he did that... As this was completely against the Constitution, the BSP issued a whip to its six MLAs on July 26, directing them to vote against the Congress in the assembly otherwise their membership (from BSP) will be cancelled," she said.

She rejected the speculation that her decision was influenced by the BJP and said her party did not care who formed the government in Rajasthan.

The BSP chief said Gehlot would be responsible if his government stayed in power or not.

The Congress and BSP had fought the 2018 state and 2019 Lok Sabha elections together. In September last year, all the six BSP MLAs joined the Congress.

After raids, ED summons Gehlot brother for questioning today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

DAYS AFTER conducting searches at premises associated with him, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's brother Agrasen Gehlot in connection with its probe into alleged diversion of fertiliser between 2007 and 2009.

Agrasen has been asked to appear before investigating officer of the case at the ED headquarters in Delhi on Wednesday. "He has been summoned

and will be questioned on the findings of the Customs Department, which had first investigated the matter and levied a penalty," an ED official said. "We are probing the case with the angle of money laundering. He will be interrogated about movement of money in the entire affair."

The development comes amid a political crisis in Rajasthan, where former deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot, along with 18 other Congress, has fallen out with the Gehlot government.

On July 22, the ED had con-

ducted raids at 13 places, including in Rajasthan, West Bengal, Gujarat and Delhi, in connection with the case. The premises included those associated with Agrasen Gehlot and his company - Anupam Krishi.

The scam concerns Murate of Potash (MoP), which is imported by Indian Potash Limited (IPL) and distributed to farmers, through companies, at subsidised rates. IPL is concerned with import-handling, promotion and marketing of Potash in the entire country, and is provided at subsidised rates to farmers.

Correct wrongdoings: China to India on WeChat ban

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

A MONTH after India banned the Chinese messaging app WeChat, Beijing on Tuesday said that it has lodged a diplomatic protest and asked New Delhi to "correct its wrongdoings".

Sources told *The Indian Express* that the protest has been lodged by the Chinese embassy in New Delhi to the Ministry of External Affairs.

WeChat, the multipurpose messaging and social media platform developed by the Shenzhen-headquartered Internet services giant Tencent Holdings, is extremely popular among Chinese nationals living, working, and studying in India.

It is also used by Indian nationals in China, and by many Indian businesses that have dealings with Chinese clients.

WeChat was among the 59 mobile applications with Chinese links that India banned on June

29, a fortnight after 20 Indian soldiers were killed in a clash with the Chinese army in Ladakh. TikTok, Helo, UC Browser, ShareIt, Shein, Club Factory, and CamScanner were among the other apps that were banned.

Some clones or lighter versions of some of these apps were, however, still functional in India. On Monday, the government banned another 47 apps with links to China. WeChat stopped its services in India on Saturday.

Chinese embassy spokesperson Ji Rong said on Tuesday: "We have noted the relevant reports. On June 29, the Indian government banned 59 mobile apps with Chinese background including WeChat, which severely damaged the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese companies. The Chinese side has lodged solemn representation to the Indian side and asked the Indian side to correct its wrongdoings."

"I want to reiterate that the Chinese government consistently asks Chinese enterprises

to abide by international rules and local laws and regulations when conducting external cooperation. The Indian government has the responsibility to protect the legitimate rights and interests of international investors in India, including Chinese businesses, in accordance with market principles," Ji said.

"Practical cooperation between China and India is mutually beneficial," the spokesperson said. "Deliberate interference in such cooperation will not serve the interests of the Indian side. China will also take necessary measures to safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese companies."

On Saturday, WeChat users started to receive a notification that said, "Pursuant to Indian law we are unable to offer you WeChat at this time. We value each of our users, and data security and privacy are of utmost importance to us. We are engaging with relevant authorities and hope to be able to resume service in the future."

Police cordon off Ambala air base to prevent photography of Rafale jets

MAN AMAN SINGH CHHINA
CHANDIGARH, JULY 28

A DAY before the arrival of five Rafale fighter jets from France, police on Tuesday threw a security blanket around the Ambala Air Force Station on the request of the IAF to prevent photos and videos of the jets' arrival.

The five jets had taken off from Merignac Air Base in France on Monday en route to Ambala — a distance of around 7,000 km. The aircraft landed at Al Dhafra Air Base near Abu Dhabi the same day, and are to continue their journey to Ambala on Wednesday.

Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal R K S Bhadauria will be present in Ambala on Wednesday to receive the five aircraft.

Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij said the IAF had asked for a 3-km cordon and to ensure that no photographs were taken of the jets from the rooftop of the houses adjoining the air base.

A Ministry of Defence PRO said no media interaction has been planned. A message informed the journalists that "photography of military equipment in general and inside a military airfield in particular is punishable as per law". A formal induction ceremony of the Rafale jets is set for August.



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INCREDIBLE SUCCESS OF JAYPIANS IN CLASS XII & X CBSE (2019-2020)



Jaypee Public School, Noida, established in 2011, is a CBSE Affiliated Senior Secondary School, which has produced three class XII results by now. Young achievers of class X and XII have proved their mettle by securing excellent result, with 100 percent as pass percentage, for the third consecutive year. We, at JPS have annexed the zenith of glory with continued excellence, hard work and strong

value based education. Through experiential learning, blended learning and project based learning, focusing on 21st century skills, with special emphasis on HOTS (Higher Order Thinking Skills), IQ (Intelligence Quotient), EQ (Emotional Quotient) and CQ (Curiosity Quotient) of students, we aim to develop them holistically and become life long learners. Our teaching pedagogy is learning outcome based and we focus on skills and competencies, bringing new learning opportunities for children. Atal Tinkering Lab, by Niti Aayog provides right kind of platform to our students to think and innovate. Ideal student-teacher ratio, arts, sports and ICT integrated curriculum and due investment in capacity building programmes for our faculty to keep them updated on futuristic trends helps them to be effective teachers.

The dedication of faculty, hard work of students, strong partnership with parents and continuous support of school management have led our students to their exemplary performance in class X and XII boards. In class X, our highest score is 98.2%; school average is 83.8% and 40% have achieved more than 90% marks. Also, in class XII, our students have made us proud with highest score of 98.4%; school average of 86.4% and 43% of students have scored more than 90% marks. My compliments to students scoring 100% marks in Hindi and Social Science in class X and painting and psychology in class XII. I heartily congratulate my dear students and faculty members for their success.

Anjali Malik
Principal

OUR TOPPERS CLASS XII (2019-2020)



MEHA SINHA
HUMANITIES
98.4%

All my teachers played a vital role in my success. They were my guide, mentor and role models during the crucial stages of my life. They also encouraged me to explore new heights and helped me during my low times. Although there were many challenges, but my strong will power helped me to keep my attention focused. Meditation helped me to improve my concentration level. Actually, I never followed a set time schedule but studied in a way which suited me the best. Consistency was a crucial factor which helped me sail through. I judiciously followed the instructions of my teachers and revised all my syllabi on regular basis. All thanks to the school administration for setting up a warm and calm learning environment which has been quite encouraging. I want to pursue my career as a civil servant as I am passionate about the field and want to serve the citizens of my country.



TANYA CHAUHAN
HUMANITIES
97.4%

My teachers were the linchpin for my success. Their support, motivation and advice helped me achieve all my goals successfully. It is very easy to lose focus, but my timetable kept me motivated. Consistent self-analysis, school assessments and other exams were the true driving force. The pin pricks of my success mantra were dividing syllabus in small parts, flexible study time with breaks and consistent and effective studies. The school administration is equally to be applauded for creating an environment, where we could build confidence thus helping me achieve the best in all aspects. As a career, I would like to pursue Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and qualify Civil Services, which is my dream project.



NIKITA VERMA
COMMERCE
96.20%

Teachers were the indelible driving force in this journey of my success. With an association of eight long years, my first mentor was my beloved Principal ma'am who has always been a true source of inspiration, motivation and guidance to me. All my teachers helped me to simplify the complex concepts and made abstract concepts understandable and initiated me to work hard and keep a steady focus on the academic front. It is very easy for a student to lose focus especially considering the current state of affairs, but a conducive environment, unconditional love and support of teachers and family, blocking distracting websites, apps on my phone and computer along with optimistic thinking kept me motivated all year long. I want to choose entrepreneurship as my career after getting my bachelor's in commerce adding a professional notch with MBA.

CLASS-XII SUBJECT WISE TOPPERS

1. **ENGLISH (99)** NIKITA VERMA, DRISHTI BAJAJ
2. **ACCOUNTANCY (90)** NIKITA VERMA
3. **BIOLOGY (95)** DIKSHA ANAND
4. **BUSINESS STUDIES (98)** NIKITA VERMA
5. **CHEMISTRY (89)** MOHAMMAD AHMED, SATYAM PRASAD
6. **COMPUTER SCIENCE (92)** ARPIT KATIYAR
7. **ECONOMICS (98)** MEHA SINHA
8. **HINDI ELECTIVE (97)** TANYA CHAUHAN
9. **HISTORY (97)** MEHA SINHA
10. **MATHEMATICS (80)** NITIN CHAUHAN, NIKITA VERMA
11. **PAINTING (100)** NIDHI PATHAK
12. **PHYSICAL EDU. (95)** NITIN CHAUHAN
13. **POLITICAL SCIENCE (99)** MEHA SINHA
14. **PSYCHOLOGY (100)** MEHA SINHA
15. **SOCIOLOGY (98)** MIZBA KHAN
16. **PHYSICS (87)** DIKSHA ANAND
17. **FASHION STUDIES (84)** NIDHI PATHAK

OUR TOPPERS CLASS X (2019-2020)



RAHUL YADAV
98.2%

It is truly said that "A good teacher is like a candle who consumes itself to light the way for others", in the same way all my teachers have been the guiding light in my journey to success. Books such as "The Secret" proved to be a turning point in my perception towards academics. What I did was that I took a paper out one day and wrote that "I can and I will get 99.99% in my class 10 board exams" and placed in front of my studying area and used to look at it everyday.

It truly helped me stay focused towards my goal. Other success pointers for me were organized time schedules and writing diary on regular basis to list reachable targets that really helped to chisel myself to the path of achievement.

I heartily acknowledge the mentorship of our school Principal, who arranged for special classes which helped me put my best foot forward.



SNEHA KUTHAR
97.6%

There were many eureka moments I spend with my teachers that proved to be a landmark during the voyage of my success. My teachers proved to be a true catalyst to me throughout the session.

I have been an average student and an easy going one with no rigid time schedules. But yes, I was quite optimistic and gradually started pacing up with quality time toward my studies. This turned the tables for me and here I am.

I was gifted with this opportunity to bring laurel to my school that provided me with all the resources and support as and when needed. I truly owe my heartfelt gratitude to my Principal ma'am, school administration and teachers.



SUHANI SHARMA
97.2%

I have a great association with my teachers since my inception to the school. They tuned the course of my success by inculcating values such as dedication, hard work and tenacity. Their initiation only helped me to reach to this height. I am grateful to my parents as well, whose indelible support helped me throughout to build confidence in me and kept me motivated whenever I felt low.

I never followed any specific regime but was always focused towards my studies. My consistent continuous approach helped me sail through to this paramount. Regular physical exercise kept me agile.

The school administration has always proven to be a stepping stone in success graph of my achievements by providing a perfect ambience and adequate amenities.

CLASS-X SUBJECT WISE TOPPERS

1. **ENGLISH (99)** SNEHA KUTHAR
2. **HINDI COURSE A (100)** SHUBHI SHARMA
3. **MATHEMATICS STANDARD (98)** HARSHIT, VIHAN SARASWAT
4. **MATHEMATICS BASIC (95)** SNEHA KUTHAR
5. **SCIENCE (97)** RAHUL YADAV
6. **SOCIAL SCIENCE (100)** VIHAN SARASWAT
7. **MUSIC VOCAL (73)** DEVESH VERMA
8. **PAINTING (85)** DEVESH VERMA
9. **COMPUTER APPLICATION (94)** DEVESH VERMA
10. **SANSKRIT (90)** SATYAM SAXENA
11. **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (99)** RAHUL YADAV, SUHANI SHARMA, PARTH GUPTA

**ADMISSION OPEN (SESSION 2020-2021)
CLASSES PRE NURSERY – XI**



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



PRESSURE POLITICS

AFTER INTERNAL fissures in ruling Congress led to uncertainty in Rajasthan, any move from 'unhappy' leaders in other states seems to be creating nervousness in political circles. The absence of Karnataka Deputy CM Laxman Savadi from the first anniversary celebrations of the BS Yediyurappa government on Monday has, thus, left many in the party a little worried. While Savadi was expected to deliver a speech at the celebratory event, he was in Delhi, apparently to meet a senior central BJP leader. Yediyurappa is said to still enjoy the trust of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, but rebels in the state unit do not miss any opportunity to get their voices heard by the national leadership.

NO COINCIDENCE, PLEASE

THE SUPREME Court gave the Centre 10 days to look into the affidavits and clarify its stand in the case seeking restoration of 4G Internet in Kashmir. When the court said it would hear the case next on August 5, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta requested the bench to defer it to August 7. Mehta's request was made to avoid the crucial hearing on August 5, which marks a year since J&K's special status under Article 370 was revoked and curbs on movement and Internet were imposed. The court agreed.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

RAVINDRA PRATAP Singh, a 2007-batch Odisha cadre IAS officer, will be new private secretary to NITI Aayog vice-chairman Rajiv Kumar — the third officer in the post in Kumar's tenure of less than three years. Earlier this year, Jharkhand cadre IAS officer Manjunath Bhajantri's tenure as PS in the same office was curtailed within a few months of his joining. His predecessor in the post — IRS officer Nidhi Sharma — had also left before the end of her tenure. Kumar had joined NITI on September 1, 2017.

CPM questions Cong stand as IUML leader hails Turkey move

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
JULY 28

THE CONTROVERSIAL reconversion of Istanbul's Hagia Sophia into a mosque has sparked a political row in faraway Kerala, with the ruling CPI(M) questioning the Congress's stand on the issue after a senior leader of its ally, Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), hailed Turkey's decision.

In an article in party daily *Chandrika*, senior IUML leader Panakkad Sadiq Ali Shihab Thangal said that the US has protested the decision but it is noteworthy that Russia, where 25 per cent of Orthodox Christians live, has not interfered. "Many European countries, which have opposed Turkey's decision on Hagia Sophia, have not allowed Muslims the right to offer namaz... when all contemporary Christian religious and political leaders disagree with the conversion... they do not make any stake over its ownership realising that historically there is no ground for such a demand," he wrote.

Sadiq Ali, part of the IUML's high power committee, is also a prominent member of the Malappuram-based Panakkad family, which has a considerable stake in north Kerala politics. "Turkey president Tayyip Erdogan, who is raising his voice in the international community for the systematically oppressed

Muslims across the world, has been attacked under the guise of pseudo secularism," he wrote.

In a Facebook post on Tuesday, CPI(M) politburo member and party state secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan asked how the IUML can now oppose the BJP government's move to construct a Ram temple where a mosque once stood. "Jamaat-e-Islami is an organisation which supports the Turkey government. With the IUML leader hailing the conversion of Sophia Hagia into a mosque, the link between IUML and Jamaat-e-Islami has come to the fore. Congress has decided to make an alliance with Jamaat-e-Islami and Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI), the political wing of Popular Front of India. What is the stand of Congress towards IUML approach of acknowledging the act of Turkey ruler?"

The pro-Congress Catholic Church in Kerala has also opposed the IUML leader's remarks.

In a statement, Kerala Catholic Bishops Council spokesperson Fr Varghese Vallikkatt said, "Before glorifying the encroachment of Hagia Sophia Church, IUML leader Sadiq Ali should have learned history. To justify Erdogan would be a liability of political Islamists in Kerala... that should not be at the cost of endangering the future of Indian secular democracy and peaceful co-existence of religions. There is danger in unilaterally interpreting the history."

Manipur activist booked for sedition over FB post

ABHISHEK SAHA
GUWAHATI, JULY 28

A SEDITION case has been filed against Manipuri political activist Erendro Leichombam over allegedly inflammatory Facebook posts, police said on Tuesday.

Jogeshchandra Haobijam, SP of Imphal East, told *The Indian Express*, "A case has been registered under Sections 153, 124(A) and 505 of the IPC. Investigation is going on."

He confirmed that the case was filed over allegedly inflammatory Facebook posts, but did not specify any particular post.

Leichombam, who holds a postgraduate degree from Harvard University and is the convener of a regional party in Manipur called Peoples'

Resurgence and Justice Alliance (PRJA), wrote on Facebook on Tuesday, "I have been charged with sedition by the Government for exercising my Freedom of Speech... You can't gag all your critics. Some of us still love our homeland. You can imprison my body, but how will you imprison my mind?"

Leichombam is not in Manipur now, but he said that a police team visited his house in Imphal on July 26 to arrest him. He told *The Indian Express* over phone, "The BJP government in Manipur wants to silence every critic and arrests every critic. This is a misuse of executive power."

The case against Leichombam adds to a list of cases that were recently filed against those who allegedly critiqued the state government.

'Game of who blinks first, but bad news for them is it's not going to be my mother'



THE EXPRESS
INTERVIEW

WITH
ILITJA MUFTI
DAUGHTER OF J&K EX-CM
AND PDP CHIEF
MEHBOOBA MUFTI

ILITJA MUFTI, 32, daughter of former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, says she is no politician, but her mother's detention since August 5, which she has challenged in the Supreme Court — there has been no hearing after the first one on February 26 — has forced her to speak up against all that has unfolded in Kashmir over the last year. Ilitja lives in the same home-turned-sub-jail where the PDP leader, charged under Public Safety Act, has been held in house arrest since April, after seven months at a government facility on the outskirts of Srinagar.

Almost a year since the Centre's move to bifurcate the erstwhile state into two Union Territories, **ILITJA MUFTI** speaks with **NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN** about the present and the future of politics in the Valley.

Did you anticipate the changes that were going to come, and that the political leadership, including your mother, former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, would be detained, and for so long?

We thought (Article) 35A was going. But this was a very sinister, psychological agenda (of the Centre) — we will take (Articles) 370, 35A, but we will also take their statehood, so that when they finally come to the table to negotiate, it will be like a favour that we are even agreeing to restore statehood.

On August 5 (after the decisions were announced in Parliament), a group of policemen came with this sketchy warrant. It said we anticipate there's going

to be breach of peace and law and order if we don't arrest you. My mum took a small suitcase with three pairs of clothes and some essentials and I thought they would take her away for a day, then two, three, four days — every day I thought she's going to come home today... My mother has inner strength, but the whole point of putting her in isolation like that was very sinister: it was very cruel, it was to break her.

How does your mother see what's going on? Do you talk to her about all this?

She came home only in April. It was very hard. But she is very strong, and whatever plans she has in mind — her views — she's not going to reveal to me. She has been saying this is to disempower us, to push the Hindutva agenda in the only Muslim-majority [erstwhile] state. We are being punished because we are Kashmiris, and we are Muslim. But from what I know of my mother, I know she will want to work with everybody and uphold the Gupkar declaration, which was the last document that was forged collectively (by all J&K parties on August 3, 2019 at Farooq Abdullah's home on Gupkar Road in Srinagar).

Why haven't they released her yet?

In October, she was told to sign a bond. If you read it, you will feel like you are in a dictatorship. Literally, (it would have meant) that (she) can't speak about anything that happened. It is kind of understood that if she wants to get out, her freedom is contingent on her not talking about Article 370.

Now it's become a game of who blinks first. But the bad news for them is that it's not going to be my mother, it's going to be them because she's going to stick to her guns.

So what do they want her to do after she is released?

It's not just Kashmir; in India today, you have to agree with what the BJP is saying. They essentially want to politically incapacitate everyone. If you give credibility to what they are doing, you will



"They [Centre] obviously obliterated that ground, they lumped us with the Hurriyat. But nothing lasts forever. You think this regime is going to last forever? When you see the course of history, it is never linear."

"In my personal view, these are going to be elections for municipality. I can tell you that my mother is not thinking about the elections right now. That's the last thing on her mind."

get all the space to function in Kashmir. But not if that person is a Mehbooba Mufti, who is going to oppose them tooth and nail. My mother is... the tallest woman leader this state has ever produced. But no other chief minister has uttered a word about her incarceration except perhaps Mamata Banerjee because they will be branded anti-national.

The sense that I got when I visited Kashmir last August is that people were happy that politicians had been jailed. They were saying, 'these leaders had promised us everything, delivered nothing and now even Article 370 is gone'.

When people lump us with the National Conference, that's very wrong. They (NC) were in power for many terms. My grandfather and my mother were in office collectively for not more than

five or six years. (During) my grandfather's term from 2002 to 2005, Kashmir was a more peaceful place. (The cross-LoC) Uri-Muzaffarabad trade route was opened. Insurgency, infiltration went down, the whole focus was on providing a healing touch.

When the media says people are happy that politicians are in jail, they don't tell the other half of the story. What is the other half? It is that Kashmiris do not believe in this country anymore. Mainstream parties worked as a buffer here (for the Centre). The main culprit is the Gol. Even the Congress wasn't very different — 370 was hollowed out by the Congress. They (people) resent all political parties here, but they resent Gol even more.

But there is anger against PDP for tying up with BJP, and that resentment has been there from 2016...

Ex-minister quits as NC spokesperson amid debate in party over J&K statehood

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, JULY 28

SENIOR NATIONAL Conference (NC) leader Aga Syed Ruhullah on Tuesday resigned as the party's chief spokesperson.

While Ruhullah, a former minister in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, remained silent over his resignation, it is apparently a fallout of the party leadership's silence over the Centre's decision to abrogate J&K's special status in August 2019.

"I have sent across my resignation from the post of Chief Spokesperson of @JKNC. From here on none of my statements should be considered as such," Ruhullah tweeted on Tuesday.

The resignation came two months after he had dropped the NC chief spokesperson tag from his Twitter bio, ostensibly to show his displeasure about an opinion article written by his colleague Tanvir Sadiq, which was seen by many as the party's official line.

Immediately after he tweeted



Aga Syed Ruhullah; Omar Abdullah



his resignation, Ruhullah, detained at home since August 5 last year, switched off his phones and went intocommunicado.

The resignation comes a day after NC president Farooq Abdullah and party vice-president Omar Abdullah broke their silence on the issue of abrogation of J&K's special status and bifurcating the state into two Union Territories.

Ruhullah's resignation on Tuesday has highlighted differences within the party.

When contacted on Tuesday, Omar refused to comment.

On Monday, Omar, in an opinion piece for *The Indian Express*,

wrote that he will not contest the Assembly elections as long as J&K remains a UT.

In a subsequent interview — his first in a year — Omar said it would be a "challenge" for the NC to find a political plank. "I can't speak for the party but I will not support a slogan that is mere lip-service or hoodwinking. I think we need to be honest with people, even if it means that in the short term we will be less attractive to people than we would like to be," he had said when asked whether NC would change its autonomy slogan after abrogation of special status.

In the Valley, Omar's statements are seen as NC's reconciliation to the abrogation of special status and limiting the party's fight for restoration of statehood. In May, Ruhullah was the first NC leader to speak out since August 2019 when he asked what is stopping NC and its leaders from expressing the party's "principled stand" on abrogation of special status and downgrading of the state into two UTs.

In an interview with *The Indian Express*, Ruhullah had said it is true that the Centre's response could be "ugly and brutal" if the party breaks its silence over the twin issues, but asked his NC colleagues to be "ready for that".

A three-time MLA, Ruhullah is from the influential Aga clan, a strong Shia clergy that holds sway on Shia population in central Kashmir. He was brought into politics by Farooq Abdullah after the assassination of his father, Aga Syed Mehdi, in an IED blast by militants in 2000. A strong voice in the party, he was seen as close to former CM Omar Abdullah.

BJP GOVT IN MANIPUR LOOKS TO CONSOLIDATE POSITION

Cong councillors set to join BJP, MLAs may follow soon

ESHA ROY
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

A CHURNING is in the offing in the Manipur Congress, with a majority of Congress councillors in the Imphal Municipal Corporation expected to join the BJP in the next few days. A significant number of Congress MLAs are also likely to join the BJP in August.

This comes just a month after Manipur witnessed a political crisis, with three BJP MLAs resigning from the Assembly to join the Congress, and the NPP — BJP's main ally — threatening to pull out of the government.

The developments in the Congress come on the heels of two party MLAs — R K Imo and Okram Henry — being sent showcase notices by the

Congress for having voted in favour of the BJP in the Rajya Sabha election in July. While the Congress seemed to have more numbers, a last-minute manoeuvre by the BJP ensured that its candidate Leisemba Sanajaoba, Manipur's former royal, won the Rajya Sabha seat.

Son of former Congress chief minister of Manipur R K Jaichandra Singh, Imo is also incumbent Chief Minister N Biren Singh's son-in-law and a Congress MLA from Sagolband constituency. Henry is former Congress CM and CLP leader Okram Ibobi Singh's nephew and an MLA from Wangkhei constituency in Imphal.

"The chasm between Imo and Ibobi was widening over the years, with Ibobi perceiving him as a threat. Several assurances from the central Congress leader-



MLA R K Imo has been sent showcase notice by the Congress

ship and AICC to accommodate Imo in New Delhi have come to naught. Now Imo is in a sensitive position of being in the Congress while being a BJP CM's son-in-law," said a Congress source.

Sources said that Ibobi also had a falling out with his nephew Henry "on personal grounds". "Henry had left his first wife to re-

marry. He has been ostracised by his entire family including Singh," said a Congress source.

The cross-voting is believed to be just the tip of a strategy the BJP has been working towards to secure stability for its government. Biren Singh has had a tumultuous tenure since the state got its first BJP government in 2017, with a faction of the BJP led by Th Biswajit Singh, a CM aspirant, set in opposition to the CM. An attempt to remove Biren Singh in 2019 came to naught with the BJP central leadership stepping in and throwing their weight behind the incumbent CM.

The Congress councillors joining the BJP this week is believed to be another step in securing the BJP's position. There are 27 councillors in Manipur, of which the Congress has nine, and most of them are expected to join the BJP.

These decisions were taken by my grandfather, and my mother. I am not a politician. I was not part of those decisions. But, in hindsight, you can see it backfired. It was like oil and water. When you do something, the intention matters. Did they do it for the sake of power? No. My grandfather took this decision keeping in mind people's welfare, as BJP had this huge sweeping mandate (at the Centre)...

J&K is such a complicated state. PDP, NC, all regional parties are already lumped as anti-Hindu, Muslim parties. So if BJP gets the Jammu mandate, do you brazenly kick that mandate? My grandfather's thinking was that we have to respect the mandate in Jammu as well.

Do you think there's any scope for mainstream regional political parties like PDP and NC now?

They obviously obliterated that ground, they lumped us with the Hurriyat. But nothing lasts forever. You think this regime is going to last forever? When you see the course of history, it is never linear. How do you know there won't be a revolution here? It is not a lab experiment where BJP feel they can control everything. They haven't been able to do that. Clearly the narrative has slipped out of their hands.

This place is an open-air prison. I have never seen so many security forces here before this. They are saying since the 1990s that militancy is finished. If militancy is finished, why was a BJP president (of Bandipora in Kashmir) shot dead? Why are people talking to militancy? These young disillusioned guys don't know where to go. There are no political representatives. All babus working here are non-Kashmiris, so they don't care.

What have they done in the last one year? You are literally pushing people. You have brought in new domicile rules (to bring in outsiders). They are not even giving us back our 3G (internet). Nothing works on 2G here. Kids haven't had an academic year here... Tourists are allowed but locals can't go out. Are we animals

in a circus that outsiders will come and see us in our cages?

Do you think PDP will contest the Assembly elections when they take place?

This is something only my mother can answer. It's for them to decide. But in my personal view, these are going to be elections for municipality. I can tell you that my mother is not thinking about the elections right now. That's the last thing on her mind.

How do you see the split in PDP. A new party has come up with some people who were PDP members.

I really see it through the prism of my mother not agreeing to what they are asking for. You know how easy it is — they summon people to Delhi, that's what they have been doing to all our party members. My mother's been jailed for the last one year, her party has been splintered into pieces. But a political party, grass-roots leaders, are not a tech start-up that you can create in an incubator.

But wasn't PDP also like a start-up?

Not at all. The PDP doesn't have a dodgy origin; its growth was organic and spontaneous. It wasn't created in the midst of an oppressive atmosphere or foisted on people when the entire political leadership was detained to make sweeping illegal, unconstitutional changes. Its policies of dialogue with Pakistan, self-rule, etc, were radical even then when viewed through the perspective of national parties. There was no overt or covert support from Gol.

How do you and your mother spend time?

She's started reading a lot more than she used to. I also read a lot. I started meditating, and I also try to keep calm. It's very hard, but this experience has taught us a lot.

It's just the two of you in the house?

No, it's me, her, my sister and my grandma.

Land law: Clearance not required, J&K home dept returns pending cases

NAVEED IQBAL
SRINAGAR, JULY 28

WITH THE Central land law being extended to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the armed forces no longer requiring clearance of the UT's Home Department for acquisition and requisition of land, the department on Tuesday returned cases of acquisition of land that were pending with it over the last few years.

Of the 16 cases, 14 are in Jammu region while one is in Leh and one in Bandipore area of Kashmir.

This comes four days after the J&K administration withdrew a 1971 circular that required a no objection certificate (NOC) from its home department for acquisition or requisition of land "in favour of the Army, BSF, CRPF and other similar organisations". Such acquisition will now be covered under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land

Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013.

The pending cases include acquisition of 7,307 kanals (approximately 913 acres) of land for "construction of ammunition dump" in Jammu region.

The order from the Home Department notes that, with the earlier circular withdrawn, "I am directed to return the cases... referred to the Home Department from time to time which are pending on account of deficient documents and other procedural formalities, with the request to proceed further in the matter..."

There are also acquisition requests pertaining to border fencing in areas of Jammu by the BSF. There are also requests for acquisition of land in Leh and Jammu to augment existing facilities.

The letter, with the details of these pending cases, has been sent to GOC Northern Command; GOC, XV Corps; GOC XVI Corps; Director General of the BSF, J&K Police, Special Director General of the CRPF and Inspector General BSF in Jammu.

Cong moves no-confidence motion

Imphal: The Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee on Tuesday moved a no-confidence motion against the BJP-led government. This comes three days after Governor Najma Heptulla summoned the Assembly session on August 10. Congress MLA K Meghachandra said the decision followed the state's failure to heed the Congress's demand to hand over the drug seizure case allegedly involving former BJP leader Lukhosei Zou to the CBI.

ENS

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INSPIRED BY the strong desire to contribute to the society in fighting against Corona pandemic, Team Pelican has already developed India's first fully automatic machine for manufacturing N-95 masks and enters market with a brand name Pelican PN-95 Face Mask. This special purpose machine has been conceptualized, designed and built within an incredibly short time of just THREE WEEKS...! – and Pelican is now taking this further by more lines that would help India by producing Pelican PN-95 masks on a large scale. Pelican Rotoflex is industry leader in flexible printing technology based in Rajkot which is considered to be the engineering hub of India. Pelican Rotoflex has come a long way in a short time and have become a well-known & trusted name and one of the largest machinery manufacturers in flexible packaging across the world. This quality and customer centric company enjoys high reputation among domestic and international clients and partners. When COVID 19 struck India, one of the biggest requirements what we came across was ever growing demand

of quality masks. Mask is one of the critical personal protective equipment, when used correctly, protects the users against aerosol/droplet borne/air-borne infections and other airborne particles. Pelican PN-95 mask is made of multiple fabric layers for filtration and gives a proper shape and facial fit. A mask is required to go through various processes and a complex machine is required to produce such masks in huge quantities. To cope-up with this ever-growing need of masks, pelican decided to manufacture Mask Making Machine in-house and decided to leverage their rich and extensive experience into manufacturing and engineering. The team consisting of 150 people including senior design and automation engineers, technicians, CNC experts and other support staff, having excellent knowledge of machinery, production and advanced engineering as they are veterans in the manufacturing flexible packaging machinery, were involved in this herculean effort. The team went through numerous tutorial videos online, con-



Amit Dhabalia, One of the founders-Mask Project

sulted subject matter experts and started working on the design and functioning of the machine on war footing basis. This fully automatic machine involves multiple complex processes with automatic ear loop welding. More than 1000 indigenous parts are involved in the making of the machine, it is completely made in India explains Amit Dhabalia, one of the founders in the mask project. The end result looks exceptionally satisfactory as this compact machine offers great efficiency and output. However, there were challenges as we used to work on 7 to 8 designs simultaneously as we didn't know which will work and which won't. It was a great learning exercise. Dhabalia candidly appreciates the phenomenal team efforts and admits that without dedicated team this task would not have been completed in such short period of time. We needed a single vision as a team to achieve this difficult looking task. Our team worked round the clock to make this happen and it was successfully completed in as less as 21 days. Pelican has been working on produc-

ing more such machines and are equipped enough to furnish the future requirements of supplying quality masks. Amit Dhabalia envisions the country, where we don't need to be dependent on foreign imports, he firmly believes that our country has all the necessary resources, skill set, huge market, favorable business conditions and manpower to produce almost anything in house. He also believes that it is time to be self-reliant and hopes to make this happen in time to come and emphasizes on making better quality products at more affordable rates. What we need is clear vision and belief to grow as a nation. Once we decide; we can achieve anything. Pelican has always been one of the leaders, when it comes to printing technology and this time again it has come up with such a useful product (Pelican PN-95 Mask), which is extremely necessary during COVID 19 era and will be helpful to mankind in a big way in fighting this pandemic and saving lives. The company will continue serving the nation in every possible way concludes Amit Dhabalia.

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ANDHRA PRADESH

Delay in test results, people’s reluctance to stay in behind surge: Officials

REENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, JULY 28

THE HUGE volume of samples, the time taken for results to come and the reluctance of suspected cases to quarantine themselves are contributing to spread of Covid-19 in Andhra Pradesh, according to state health officials.

According to the officials, the test results are taking at least four days to come and people whose samples have been collected are not staying in quarantine till the results come in. “Our testing numbers are high. Large-scale spread is happening because test results take at least four days to come and people refuse to stay at home till the results are out,” Dr A Srikanth, the state’s nodal officer for Covid-19, told *The Indian Express*.

“While the results are awaited, those infected are unknowingly spreading it to others. Only after the result comes positive, they go into quarantine at home or at Covid centres. This is the reason infection is spreading so quickly,” he said.

“Trade and business is going on in full swing across the state, especially in East Godavari, Chittoor, Guntur, Anantapur and Kurmool, and people are moving across districts without taking basic precautions. A large number of people are arriving in the state on trains and going to their native villages. Many of them are infected and they are spreading it unknowingly in the villages,” Dr Srikanth said.

Andhra Pradesh conducted 62,979 tests on July 27. The state has reported 1,10,297 cases so far.

The districts of East Godavari (16,063 cases), Kurmool (13,380 cases), Guntur (11,692 cases) and Anantapur (10,987) have emerged as hotspots in the state.

Rath Yatra: Gujarat draws HC ire over ‘passive, yielding’ approach

Amid Covid, govt’s main focus should be protecting health of people, says court

SOHINI GHOSH
AHMEDABAD, JULY 28

THE GUJARAT High Court has said it was disappointed with the “passive and yielding approach” of the state government over taking a timely decision on barring the Rath Yatra in Ahmedabad and elsewhere in Gujarat last month in view of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In a detailed judgment dated July 7 — the HC made it public on Tuesday — the division bench of Chief Justice Vikram Nath and Justice JB Pardiwala said, “As a secular body heading the fight against Covid-19 in the state, the government’s main focus should be protecting the health and well-being of the people at all cost, even if it means hurting religious sentiments of some religious leaders.”

The court observed: “With infection rates going up and our resources gradually depleting, it is mandatory to focus on health rather than religion... Instead of taking a firm stance and boldly refusing to allow the Rath Yatra citing public health reasons, the government chose to follow a policy of appeasement and coaxing to convince the religious leaders, temple authorities and organisers connected with Shri Jagannath Rath Yatra to avoid holding the Rath Yatra processions.

“During a pandemic, we do not have time for blandishment. We need action — strong, pragmatic and robust action.”

The court noted that for a government to function effectively during a pandemic, it is “paramount to have a clear list of priorities” to make quick and effective decisions. The government, it said, “cannot, and should not, follow a policy of appeasing cultural and religious heads,” since that is



Rath yatra chariots were brought inside the Lord Jagannath Temple in Ahmedabad on June 23. File

not the time to “sit, negotiate and persuade”.

The bench observed that the government’s nonchalance on the issue of religious gatherings may in turn lead the public to be “increasingly relaxed and easy-going...”

In a rare midnight hearing, hours before the Rath Yatra on June 23, the High Court had upheld its stay on the procession in Ahmedabad despite the state government moving an application, seeking the procession to be permitted in a limited capacity in the city.

The court had sought explanations from additional chief secretary (home) Sangeeta Singh, state DGP Shivanand Jha and Ahmedabad Police Commissioner Ashish Bhatia on why an application of the Jagannath Temple trustees seeking permission for holding the procession was not decided upon in more than a month preceding the procession day. The court had expressed “astonishment” at the inaction by the senior bureaucrats.

Subsequently, the three officers had filed affidavits on July 3,

with Sangeeta Singh submitting that she was “informally given to understand” by DGP Jha that “before expressly declining the permission” to the temple trust, the commissioners of police, heads of police range, etc, were “coordinating with the temple authorities, organisers, religious leaders...to arrive at a consensus regarding cancellation or symbolic celebration in view of the COVID-19 pandemic”.

Reacting to the submissions, the division bench noted in its judgment that “what was disappointing was the passive and yielding approach of the state government.”

The bench held that the litigation should not have reached the court in the first place, and that public health should take precedence over religious expression, which is how the state government “as a secular body” must act. It underlined that “if the government decides to act feeble and indecisive, this would send a wrong message of government priorities being ambiguous and unclear.... In

such critical times, there is no need to consult or discuss anything relating to religious practices with religious leaders, etc, at the cost of public health. We emphasise upon the need to prioritise protection of public health over religious expression...”

On permission for religious processions, the court held, “The decision as to whether the Rath Yatra, or any other religious procession, should be permitted or not is a matter which predominantly falls within the domain of the executive wing (State). The administrative authorities, while considering such a request, must keep in mind relevant statutory provisions and administrative circulars issued by the State... the assessment of the situation should be based on existing / prevailing facts and circumstances.”

The bench also remarked that the HC’s decision to stay the procession had resulted in averting a “major catastrophe” that could have “completely derailed the state government’s fight” against the pandemic.

Elaborating on this, the order stated, “The emotional, social and economic cost of the loss of lives following a major public gathering would have been devastating. The support and understanding shown by the masses was commendable. Despite having their religious sentiments hurt, most people correctly understood the public health concerns behind the cancellation of the age-old Rath Yatra.”

The court’s common judgment came in light of two PILs filed in June, in effect seeking a stay on the Rath Yatra on June 23 — one was filed by Hitesh Chavda, a journalist, represented by advocate Aum Kotwal; and another by Ramesh Marand, represented by advocate Nandish Thacker.

Bengal extends restrictions till Aug 31, biweekly curbs to continue

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, JULY 28

THE WEST Bengal government on Tuesday extended the restrictions in the state till August 31. The total lockdown across the state twice a week will also continue.

Announcing the decision, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee told reporters, “The biweekly total lockdown across the state will also remain in place till the end of next month.”

The state government also released dates of the biweekly lockdown, but revised them twice.

Initially, the Chief Minister announced 10 dates for the biweekly shutdown in August. According to sources in the government, the administration initially decided to implement restrictions only on weekends. However, it then decided to accommodate festivals and events such as Eid, Raksha Bandhan and Independence Day.

“We tried to impose lockdown on weekends to avoid disturbing the working days. But, we had to accommodate some festivals and other important days. Independence day and Raksha Bandhan cannot be on days of lockdown. So we had to change the dates,” Banerjee told reporters.

Later, at a press meet, the Chief Minister announced a change in



A health worker collects swab samples for Covid-19 testing, at a police station in Kolkata on Tuesday. Partha Paul

dates as two of the dates announced earlier coincided with Ganesh Chaturthi and Muharram. The number of days when the state would be under lockdown was reduced to nine — August 2, 5, 8, 9, 16, 17, 23, 24 and 31.

Late on Tuesday night, the Home Department said lockdown would not be imposed on August 2 and 9. “After announcing the statewide complete lockdown dates...the government has been receiving requests and appeals from different quarters not to observe statewide lockdown on certain dates coinciding with festivals

and important community occasions,” it tweeted. The department added, “Respecting the sentiments of the people we are withdrawing complete lockdown announcement for August 2 and August 9.”

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister said schools and colleges would remain closed till the end of August. However, if the situation improves, schools can reopen from September 5, and function on alternate days, she said.

The Chief Minister also said that the state had ramped up testing. “Over 16,000 tests are happening daily,” she said.

Pune hospital nurses withdraw boycott

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, JULY 28

AS MANY as 200 nurses of Jehangir Hospital, who had boycotted work since Sunday to demand better pay, resumed their duty on Wednesday, said hospital authorities. “We have assured salary increments during the next appraisal cycle,” Vinod Sawantwadkar, CEO of Jehangir Hospital, told *The Indian Express*.

“We have restored our services... during the two days, we were unable to take in more admissions. However, the hospital has nearly 145 Covid positive patients and they are recovering well,” said Sawantwadkar, adding, “We have been listening to them, talking to them and understanding their concerns as a team.”

The nurses had boycotted work to protest long working hours and low salaries. Matthew John, joint secretary of the United

Nurses Association, which had supported the boycott, said that a day-long meeting was held, where authorities and nurses discussed various issues.

Hospital authorities have informed them that due to the Covid-19 crisis, raising nurses’ salaries will take some time, said John. The authorities have also agreed to give PPE kits, reduce daily working hours from 12 to six, and grant a rest period for nurses.

BJP wants Roy speech out of Calicut varsity textbook

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JULY 28



Arundhati Roy

THE BJP in Kerala has petitioned Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, seeking withdrawal of Booker Prize winner Arundhati Roy’s ‘Come September’ speech of 2002 from Calicut University’s textbook for the BA English course.

In a letter to the Governor, who is the Chancellor of the university, state BJP president K Surendran said the essay questioned the sovereignty and integrity of the country. “Dissent is brewing among academics and the general public against the inclusion of this speech, which is anti-national. Roy has stated that India has unleashed terror on the non-violent struggle for the independence of Kashmir. She was introduced by textbook editors Murugan Babu and Abida Farooqi as the same voice who spoke against the hanging of Afzal Guru. The hanging was termed as a dark chapter in the history of the country,” he wrote.

Surendran said that Roy in her speech alleged that Hindus are fascists. “The text of the speech should be removed from the syllabus.”

The speech is included in the textbook ‘Appreciating Prose’, meant for the third semester of BA English Language and Literature. The syllabus was implemented last year and the text is slated to be taught in the ongoing third semester.

Dr Abida Farooqi, chairperson for the university board of studies, said the speech was recommended by a 10-member committee last year and attested by the Academic Council before being included in the syllabus. “The speech had appeared in periodicals. So far, none has raised any allegation against it. In the textbook committee also, nobody objected to its inclusion,” she said.

Calicut University Registrar Dr C J Joshi said no decision has been taken, and the Academic Council would take a decision after going through the issue. “We cannot say whether colleges have unofficially decided not to teach that speech,” he added.

Delhi, Kolkata people will add 9 yrs to life if air pollution checked: report

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

INDIANS ON average lose 5.2 years of their life due to increased air pollution, and Delhi and Kolkata stand to gain the most if air pollution, particularly concentration of PM 2.5, meets WHO standards, according to the annual Air Quality Life Index (AQLI) brought out by the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC).

While Delhiites stand to gain 9.4 years if PM 2.5 concentration drops to 10 micrograms per cubic metre — the WHO standard — Kolkata residents would gain almost nine years, the report stated.

If the country meets its own standard of 40 micrograms per cubic metre of PM 2.5 concentration, the overall gain will be 2.3 years, it said.

The report found Lucknow has the highest level of pollution in the country, at 11 times more particulate concentration than is deemed acceptable by WHO. “Residents of Lucknow stand to lose 10.3 years of life expectancy if pollution persists,” it stated.

“India’s 1.4 billion people live in areas where annual average particulate pollution level exceeds the WHO guideline,” the report noted. “Eighty-four percent (people) live in areas where it exceeds India’s own air quality standard...”

The report also said that 248 million people in north India are on track to lose more than eight years of life expectancy if the pollution levels persist.

Four countries accounting for nearly a quarter of the world’s population — Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan — are also among the most polluted, it reported.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
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1	HARYANA TOURISM CORPORATION LIMITED	RE-INVITE 160 TONS CORNSTH OF STAFF QUARTERS & BAKERY AT DUN BHEWARI, PATAUDI	28.07.2020 17.08.2020	92.80 Lakhs.	haryanatourism.gov.in https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9216400440 haryanatourism@gmail.com
2	H.S.A.M.B.O.A.R.D.,JIND.	RE-CONST. OF BOUNDARY WALL (PART-A)AND GIR OF INTERNAL ROAD (PART-B) IN NGH AT ALEWA + 1 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 18.08.2020	244.06 LACS	http://etenders.hry.gov.in	01681-252003 etenders.gov.in
3	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE PATAUDI	SELECTION OF CONTRACTOR FOR REMEDIATION AND RECLAMATION OF EXISTING DUMP SITE NEAR HOTEL DUNGH JIND AT MC PATAUDI	24.07.2020 14.08.2020	EMD 2.04 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in/nogap/app	0121-2672869
4	THE AMBALA DISTT. COOP. MILK PRODUCERS UNIOH LTD	SOLAR PV PANEL, SOLAR CHARGE CONTROLLER, SOLAR TUBULAR INDUSTRIAL BATTERIES, + 3 OTHER WORKS	29.07.2020 17.08.2020	2 LACS	www.etenders.org.in	9720675323 milplant@vsnl.com
5	HEAVY ENGINEERING	SPECIAL REPAIR OF 3 NOS. LINK ROAD (ROAD ID-1212, 1218, 1221) IN KATAULI CONSTITUENCY + 2 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 18.08.2020	EMD 9.75 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9466457133 sengupta@heembi@gmail.com
6	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL REWARI	CONSTRUCTION OF AEROBIC COMPOST PITS IN VARIOUS PARKS AND PLACES IN AREA OF MC REWARI	OPENING CLOSING DATE 04.08.2020	19.14 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in/nogap/app	9720629011 socynic20@gmail.com
7	HARYANA TOURISM CORPORATION LIMITED	WORK FOR PROVIDING AND LAYING LANDSCAPING AND HORTICULTURE WORK AT ASHOKA EDICTS PARK, TOPRA KALAN, , RAJGARH, DISTRICT RAMANUJAGARH	29.07.2020 18.08.2020	10.05 LACS	haryanatourism.gov.in	9216400440 haryanatourism@gmail.com
8	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE PATAUDI	CONST OF BOUNDARY WALL ON MC LAND (NEAR HOTEL DUNGH JIND AND NEAR RANDEWASS HANDRI) IN PATAUDI + 1 OTHER WORK	23.07.2020 09.08.2020	322.71/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in/nogap/app	0121-2672869

81975/HRY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
Sr. No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP. / AUTH	NODAL OFFICER / CONTACT DETAILS / EMAIL
1	PWD B&R AMBALA	ACCESSIBLE INDIA CAMPAIGN IN NIND SECTT AT AMBALA CITY IN AMBALA DISTRICT + 2 OTHER WORKS	27.07.2020 10.08.2020	48.38 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0171-2677224 Pwd-empd1-ambala@hry.nic.in
2	PWD B&R FATEHABAD	RE-CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD CUT MADE BY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPTT. FOR LAYING OF WATER AND SEWER LINE ON DHURVA X-ING TO BHUNA BAZAR ROAD (ROAD ID 5379)	24.07.2020 10.08.2020	38.05 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	90531-14455 01667-220220 pwd-empd-fatehabad@hry.nic.in
3	PWD B&R NARNAUL	PROVIDING ROAD FURNITURE ON KANINA KATELI ROAD KM. 68.07 TO 94.67 (HCR-124) IN MOHINDERGARH DISTRICT. + 2 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 13.08.2020	16.72 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01262-351267 pwd-empd-narnaul@hry.nic.in
4	PWD B&R FATEHABAD	SPECIAL REPAIR OF NIZAMPUR NARNAUL, HEHINDERGARH, DADAR, BHEWARI, HANSI-BARUWA, TOHNAK-HUNAK UP TO STATE BORDER (KM- 148B) IN KM 204.840 TO KM 205.540, KM 213.700 TO KM 220.200 & KM 225.970 TO KM 226.370 IN FATEHABAD DISTT.	27.07.2020 10.08.2020	57.58 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	90531-14455 01667-220220 pwd-empd-fatehabad@hry.nic.in
5	PWD B&R SONPAT.	ANNUAL REPAIR FOR 2 NOS 1882 SFT AND 4 NOS 800 SFT AREA HOUSES REVENUE STAFF QUARTER AND OTHER RESIDENTIAL HOUSES IN NIND SECT. AT SONPAT IN SONPAT DISTT. FOR THE YEAR 2020-21. + 5 OTHER WORKS	24.07.2020 13.08.2020	97.05 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01120-2200575 pwd-empd2-sonapat@hry.nic.in
6	PWD B&R SONPAT.	EARTH FILLING IN THE CAMPUS OF DR. B.R AMBEKAR NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY AT RAT IN SONPAT DISTT. + 3 OTHER WORKS	27.07.2020 17.08.2020	127.52 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01120-2200575 pwd-empd3-sonapat@hry.nic.in
7	PWD B&R KARNAI	PROVIDING PWP AND ALLIED WORK IN DIC AT ASSANDH DISTT. KARNAI + 17 OTHER WORKS	27.07.2020 06.08.2020	3.49 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0304-2205496 pwd-empd-karnai@hry.nic.in
8	PWD B&R ROHTAK	CONSTRUCTION OF (1) MAIN ENTRANCE GATE TO THE UHS CAMPUS (NEAR MEDICAL NGR) AND (2) ENTRANCE GATE AND PARKING IN VICE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE, FT. BD SHARMA IN UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, ROHTAK. + 2 OTHER WORKS	27.07.2020 17.08.2020	809.79 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01262-262871 pwd-empd-rohtak@hry.nic.in
9	CIVIL SURGEON, BHAWANI	E-TENDER FOR MEDICINES, CONSUMABLES AND DENTAL ITEMS + 2 OTHER WORKS	26.07.2020 13.08.2020	1.90 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01664-242110
10	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT AMBALA	AUGMENTATION WATER SUPPLY SCHEME FOR PROVIDING FUNCTIONAL HOUSEHOLD TAP CONNECTION AND LAYING OF DE PIPELINE IN BALANCE STREETS UNDER JAL JEVAN MISSION 2 NOS. TOWELS IN VILL. AMIN, DISTT. KURUKSHETRA AND PROVIDING 2 NOS. TWIN IN PLACE OF FAILED T/WELL IN VILL. DEEG & BARKA, DISTT. KURUKSHETRA END ANT. RS. 62300/- + 2 OTHER WORKS	27.07.2020 10.08.2020	65.91 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0171-2631400 ecmambala@phedharyana.gov.in
11	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT PANIPAT	LAYING OF DE PIPE LINES IN BALANCE STREETS AND PROVIDING FUNCTIONAL HOUSEHOLD TAP CONNECTION IN VILLAGE CHANDOVA YUSUFPUR AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERE TO. + 12 OTHER WORKS	22.07.2020 06.08.2020	54.55 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0180-2634587 ecpanipat@phedharyana.gov.in
12	IRRIGATION AND WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, SIRSA	CONSTRUCTION OF 40 NOS. BORE WELLS FOR RECHARGING AQUIFERS OF OVER EXPLOITED BLOCK SIRSA.	CLOSING DATE 13.08.2020	140 LACS	www.etenders.hry.nic.in	Yamdhiana@yahoo.com
13	PANCHAYATI RAJ PANIPAT	CONST. OF COMMUNITY CENTRE AT VILLAGE GARGH BHALOUR, BLOCK PANIPAT. + 1 OTHER WORKS	24.07.2020 06.08.2020	35.05 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	8907992690
14	PANCHAYATI RAJ PIPRI	CONSTRUCTION OF FLOIRI FROM HYO BHULA RAM HARIDAN TO HYO RAHUL BALMIKI	20.07.2020 16.08.2020	5.50 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	govindkumar2404@rediffmail.com
15	PANCHAYATI RAJ SIRSA	VILLAGE KNOWLEDGE CENTER AT VILLAGE JANDHAWA BISHNOICAN AND 10 NOS. OTHER WORKS	29.07.2020 07.08.2020	3.14 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01696-247479
16	ADDITIONAL DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CIVIL CHIEF PROJECT OFFICER KURUKSHETRA	REPAIR/REPLACEMENT OF MODULE (BATTERY CELL) PCU ELECTRONIC CIRCUIT OF 5.00KW OFF GRID SPV POWER PLANT.	30.07.2020 11.08.2020	6.44 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416266352
17	HARYANA ROADWAYS, NUH	CLEANING SANITATION AND HOUSE KEEPING SERVICES ACTIVITIES SERVICES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES	28.07.2020 17.08.2020	7 LACS	www.etenders.hry.nic.in	etenders@gmail.com 01212-274711
18	HARYANA ROADWAYS, NUH	PROVIDING/SUPPLYING OF SKILLED/SEMI SKILLED HANPOWER ON OUTSOURCING SERVICE FOR TECHNICIAN SERVICE	28.07.2020 17.08.2020	60 LACS	www.etenders.hry.nic.in	etenders@gmail.com 01212-274711
19	FOREST DEPARTMENT HISAR	CANPA NPV PLANTATION + 2 OTHER WORKS	25.07.2020 30.07.2020	17.99 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in TENDER NO 2020_HRY_137393_1 + 2 OTHER	01662-262100 etenders@etenders.com

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New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar (U.P.)
Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

S.No.	JOB NO	NAME OF WORK	AMOUNT RS.
1	08/GM(R)/SM(NTC)/2020-21	P/L Thermoplastic paint on zebra strips, stop line, parking line on atta peer to sector-54 T-point and Aghapur road Sector-12, 22 X-ing to Sector-100 T-Point, Noida.	6223588.80

Which can be uploaded by date 12.08.2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 13.08.2020 at 11.00 AM

Dy. General Manager
Noida Traffic Cell

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
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1	INDIA, GURUGRAM	REPAIR OF 100MM DIA MASTER SEWER LINE BY HIGH POWER SUMP PUMP IN INDIA, GURUGRAM (AZADI TO BIL, AC 45 TO 31 LACS) (RD RE-DO)	17.07.2020 17.08.2020	3.08 LACS	https://www.mha.gov.in	an4442@gmail.com
2	INDIA, GURUGRAM	CONSTRUCTION OF 1.50 SFT DI 800mm TRENCH AND BROUGHT MAIN PUMPING STATION AND SUMP FOR 1.50 SFT DI 800mm TRENCH IN INDIA, GURUGRAM (AZADI TO BIL, AC 45 TO 31 LACS) (RD RE-DO)	17.07.2020 17.08.2020	13.08 LACS	https://www.mha.gov.in	0121-274421 an4442@gmail.com
3	INDIA, GURUGRAM	CONSTRUCTION OF 1.50 SFT DI 800mm TRENCH AND BROUGHT MAIN PUMPING STATION AND SUMP FOR 1.50 SFT DI 800mm TRENCH IN INDIA, GURUGRAM (AZADI TO BIL, AC 45 TO 31 LACS) (RD RE-DO)	17.07.2020 17.08.2020	13.08 LACS	https://www.mha.gov.in	0121-274421 an4442@gmail.com

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EXPRESS NETWORK

VIKAS DUBEY ENCOUNTER

SC rejects pleas for former DGP's removal from probe commission

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

THE SUPREME Court Tuesday rejected petitions seeking removal of former UP DGP K L Gupta from the three-member commission set up to inquire into the killing of gangster Vikas Dubey in a police encounter on grounds of bias.

"He is not taking sides in the controversy. He has also said the inquiry is going on and they will be punished... You are only looking at one part of it," said CJI S A Bobde, heading a three-judge bench comprising Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian.

Advocates Ghanishyam Upadhyay and Anoop Awasthi, who referred to Gupta's remarks to the media purportedly supporting the police version of the encounter, were told by the CJI that the former DGP had taken a "balanced view".

"Why are you worried? There is an SC judge, a High Court judge also, on the panel. The inquiry commission will not be vitiated because of one officer," the CJI said. Initially, the bench seemed concerned by Gupta's reported remarks. The CJI told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who appeared for the UP government, that "one of your members, this DGP, has taken a public stand that's not appropriate...you need to file a reply".

Mehta then took the bench through the entire statement of Gupta. "He says there will be an inquiry. This was before the Commission of inquiry was created... He only said let inquiry happen, a petition is there and the court will decide," Mehta said.

The CJI then told Upadhyay that "we were with you initially" but the "officer has said if after in-

quiry he is found guilty, he will be punished".

The Indian Express on July 23 reported that the ex-DGP, in a debate on India Today TV, said it was not right to doubt the police over the encounter. Asked about his remarks, Gupta had told *The Indian Express*, "Once we are made a part of the inquiry, we should not speak much on the process... We will be objective and fair to the inquiry."

When Upadhyay referred to Gupta's remarks to say that he is biased, the bench asked "why are you casting aspersions on him".

When Upadhyay argued that Gupta had preconceived notions of the incident and that there is no reason why other officials cannot be appointed, the bench asked "what's your interest in having another officer appointed".

Awasthi referred to Gupta's remarks to news agency PTI, saying that he had said that the police version must be accepted at face value. But Mehta said "the statement should be read further".

"In a trial also you first take the chargesheet and you accept it. Accepting doesn't mean you believe it... A right-minded person who reads the whole statement will not believe this man is biased," the CJI said.

The UP government had first set up a one-member commission under former Allahabad HC judge Justice (retired) Shashi Kant Agarwal to probe Dubey's killing. However, the Supreme Court asked it to expand the panel by including a former SC judge and ex-police officer. On July 22, the court approved the new commission headed by former SC judge Justice (retired) B S Chauhan, Gupta and Justice (retired) Agarwal.

UP Police recover body of accountant who was abducted

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, JULY 28

IN ANOTHER case of abduction and murder in Uttar Pradesh, police in Kanpur Dehat on Tuesday recovered the decomposed body of a 27-year-old accountant who had gone missing on July 16.

Police have arrested a truck owner, 35-year-old Subodh Saxena, who has confessed to killing Brijesh Kumar for ransom. The decomposed body of Brijesh was recovered from a dry well outside his village, Chaura.

According to police, Brijesh and Subodh were friends and knew each other for a long time. While Brijesh worked as an accountant at a truck-weighting shop, Subodh was a truck owner.

"Debt-ridden Subodh planned the kidnapping of Brijesh to extort money from his family. On the night of July 16, Subodh reached Brijesh's shop in a car. After Brijesh wrapped up his work, Subodh asked him to sit in his car where he offered

him cold drinks laced with drugs. Subodh then killed Brijesh by strangulating him. He later dumped his body in a dry well. When Brijesh's family called on his cellphone, Subodh picked up the call and demand Rs 20 lakh for his release," Kanpur Dehat SP Anurag Vats said, adding that Subodh has confessed his crime.

Later in the day, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed Kanpur Dehat police to consider invoking National Security Act (NSA) against the accused and put the case on a fast track. He also told the police to find if there was any lapse on their part and announced Rs 5 lakh as compensation to the victim's family.

This is the sixth such case of kidnapping in the state in this month.

With a series of cases of kidnapping and murder taking place in the state, DGP HC Awasthy on Tuesday directed district police chiefs to expedite investigation of kidnapping cases and ensure safe recovery of victims.

70% OF WORLD'S TIGERS IN INDIA, SAYS JAVADEKAR

Tiger population rising at 6% per annum from 2006-18: report

ESHA ROY
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

UNION MINISTER for Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar, on Tuesday released the detailed Status of Tigers Report 2018. According to the report, released on the eve of Global Tiger Day, tigers were observed to be increasing at a rate of 6 per cent per annum in India from 2006 to 2018.

"There were nine tiger reserves when Project Tiger started in 1973. Now, India has 50 tiger reserves. Seventy per cent of the world's tigers are in India and the conservation effort has been a huge success... We are ready to help the other 13 countries with tiger ranges in con-

serving, capacity building and training in tiger conservation. The ministry will also start a water and fodder scheme within the reserves so that less animals stray out of these reserves and this minimises animal-human conflict," Javadekar said.

DG Forests Sanjay Kumar, meanwhile, said since the tiger was an "umbrella species", its conservation enables the conservation of their entire ecosystems. "Many studies have shown that these reserves harbour new species, which are found practically every year. Tiger reserves have also improved the water regimes in regions where they are located, improving groundwater tables and other water bodies, thus contributing favourably to the climate," said Kumar.

But while tiger populations

NGT panel red-flags violations at OIL's Baghjan project

JAY MAZOOMDAAR & SHIVAM PATEL
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

POINTING OUT that OIL "does not have, till date, the required consent to establish and/or consent to operate to either carry out drilling and testing of hydrocarbons in Well Baghjan-5," a panel of experts set up by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has flagged a series of violations in the company's Baghjan project in Assam's Tinsukia where a gas well erupted on May 27.

In a preliminary report, the panel has recommended "scrutiny of all existing projects of OIL in Assam" in view of "serious and grave infraction against the statutory environmental safeguards".

The report blamed "deficiency in understanding" and "proper planning of critical operations" for the blowout. "There was a clear mismatch between planning and its execution at site and deviations from the standard operating procedure. There were serious deficiencies, of proper levels of supervision of critical operation at the well site, both from the contractor as well as from OIL," it said.

Among several instances it referred to, the report said "the



OIL workers at the site of the blowout on July 22. Courtesy: OIL

well gave more than one hour to take some corrective measures but precious time was lost in decision making as no senior officers were at site, only telephonic discussions were going on".

The report further said that OIL did not have the mandatory prior environmental clearance for the project. It noted that while OIL started operations in Baghjan Well No 5 in November 2006, the clearance was not sought until November 2007 -- it was granted only in 2011.

The committee also noted that the company was yet to conduct a biodiversity impact assessment study as mandated by a Supreme

Court order that allowed it to seek clearance for exploring hydrocarbons under Dibru Saikhowa National Park in 2017.

Set up under former Gauhati High Court judge B P Katakey on July 2, the Committee of Experts submitted its preliminary report to the NGT on July 24.

According to the report, the panel found "conclusive evidence" of "violations and non-compliance by OIL of key environmental safeguards and safety oversight that appears to render the environmental protections" guaranteed under various laws "ineffective".

The well continues to remain

AYODHYA EVENT

Dos and don'ts for TV include no 'controversial' parties

MAULSHREE SETH
LUCKNOW, JULY 28

THE Ayodhya district administration has directed that news channels seeking to cover the bhoomi puja of the Ram temple next week must give an undertaking not to invite any "vivadiit pakshakar (controversial party)" for any debate. The undertaking also requires them to ensure no comment is made on any religion, community or sect, or any specific individual.

As per the format devised by the district administration, the undertaking says heads of electronic media houses would be held accountable in case of any law and order situation arising because of a channel. "*Kanoon vyavastha ko banaye rakha jayega tatha agar kisi prakar se koi garbari hogi to iski jimmedari meri vyaktigat roop se hogi* (Law and order would be maintained and if there is anything untoward then it would be my personal responsibility)," says the undertaking, to be signed by heads of media houses.

The format, sent to news channels, requires permissions to be taken under nine heads, including that a private indoor



Preparations in Ayodhya ahead of the August 5 event. PTI

space has been identified for a programme and no public place selected for the purpose.

On parties to be called for debates on shows, the undertaking seeks a guarantee that "iss karikaram mein kisi vivadiit pakshakar ko nahi bulaya jayega (no controversial litigant would be invited for this programme)". No comment can be made on any "dharma, sampradaya, pant (religion, community or sect)", or a "vyakti vishesh (any specific individual)".

The channels have been told to ensure social distancing is maintained, there is no crowd or

audience at their recording apart from panelists, and masks are worn by those attending.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Deputy Director, Information, Murlidhar Singh said, "Media would have no problem covering the event, all the arrangements are being made. There would be a separate media centre, and live telecast. In order to maintain law and order and considering Covid, news channels would have to take prior permission and ensure there is no public gathering, there are no controversial statements and that proper protocol is maintained."

J&K: Poster tells women to not post dance videos

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 28

THE JAMMU and Kashmir Police on Tuesday seized two posters in Kishtwar town, one of which said women would be shot in the feet if they did not stop posting dance videos on social media and the other asking residents to stay away from security forces.

Both posters bear the name of Hizbul Mujahideen.

Written in English, one of the posters was pasted on the main door of a house, reading: "Those girls who are uploading their dancing videos on social media are warned either stop doing these evil deeds or be ready for legshot".

The other poster, written in Urdu and pasted on the wind-

screen of a car, asked people to stay away from security forces and police personnel.

Kishtwar SSP Harmeet Singh said they have registered a case in the matter.

The posters appeared nearly two months after the J&K Police and security forces, in a major setback to Hizbul Mujahideen, killed one militant in Doda and arrested another from Kishtwar.

on fire since the explosion on June 9 after the blowout, which has displaced more than 9,000 people from their homes into 10 relief camps. The report said the fallout has "severely affected" the area in a radius of 6 km from the well, close to the Dibru-Saikhowa National Park and Maguri-Motapung wetland.

"The impact assessment report of the WII (Wildlife Institute of India) states that high levels of carcinogenic Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons pollutants, which have been found in the ecosystem surrounding the site of incident, will eventually percolate into the ground and even contaminate the groundwater," the report warned.

The committee has recommended interim compensation to the affected families: Rs 25 lakh for houses that were completely destroyed, Rs 10 lakh for those severely damaged, and Rs 2.5 lakh for those moderately damaged.

Meanwhile, in an update on the blowout posted on its official Twitter account Tuesday, OIL listed various measures that were "in progress" under "Environment Impact Assessment" and "preparation for capping the well". It also said that a "survey for assessment of damage for compensation... is in progress", and that 2,258 families had been surveyed till July 27.

Ahmedabad cops summon activist against CAA for 'criminal acts'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, JULY 28

THE AHMEDABAD Police issued a showcase notice to an anti-Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) activist Kaleem Siddiqui, asking why he should not be extenuated from the city and three adjoining districts for the next two years for his alleged involvement in criminal activities.

Kaleem Siddiqui, 39, was one of the organisers of the two-month Shaheen Bagh-like anti-CAA agitation in Ahmedabad. The protest which started on January 14 was called off on March 14 due to the pandemic. Siddiqui received a showcase notice from the office of ACP A division of Ahmedabad City police, in which he has been summoned on July 30 around 12 pm to explain himself as to why he should not be extenuated from Ahmedabad city, Ahmedabad rural, Mehsana, Kheda and Gandhinagar for two years.

The notice further mentions ten anonymous complaints against Siddiqui where the complainants have claimed Siddiqui allegedly assaulted them.

Identifying himself as a freelance journalist and activist, Siddiqui claims that the anonymous complaints against him are bogus in nature. "I will take the matter to Gujarat High Court because even the notice of summoning me for banishment has no basis," he told *The Indian Express*.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, MA Patel, ACP A division said, "There are two FIRs against him and we are checking if they were made on technical basis or his involvement was there. The decision to extern him will be taken after that."

ELGAAR PARISHAD CASE

HC directs Mumbai hospital to produce Varavara's medical reports in 3 days

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, JULY 28

THE BOMBAY High Court on Tuesday directed the Nanavati Super-Specialty Hospital to submit a health report of Telugu poet and activist Varavara Rao, an accused in the Elgaar Parishad case, within three days from the time the hospital received communication on the court's order.

A division bench of Justices R D Dhanuka and V G Bisht also directed the hospital to elaborate on the line of treatment given to Rao, who had tested positive for the novel coronavirus on July 16.

"Nanavati Hospital is directed to submit a report as per nature of the treatment given to the petitioner and his health status in three days from the date of communication of this order," the bench said. The court said it will examine the report and then consider a plea filed by Rao's family seeking a copy of such report.

On Tuesday, the high court also permitted Rao's family members to visit Rao in the hospital. "In view of the statement made by Additional Solicitor General Anil Singh, family members of the petitioner are permitted to visit Rao, who is admitted at Nanavati Hospital, subject to hospital protocol and in accordance with government norms in respect of the Covid-19 patient."

HC rejects bail plea of ex-DU prof Saibaba

Nagpur: Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court on Tuesday denied temporary bail to former Delhi University professor G N Saibaba, who is serving a life sentence in Nagpur Central Prison.

A bench comprising Justice Atul Chandurkar and Justice Amit Borkar rejected his bail plea, which had been sought on two grounds -- his co-morbid health problems and the need to see his ailing mother, who is on her deathbed, in Hyderabad.

"We are not inclined to grant bail," stated the bench after hearing arguments from both sides.

Saibaba, who is wheelchair bound, was convicted under the UAPA for "links with Maoists and indulging in activities amounting to waging a war against the country. **ENS**

Thakurs 'prevent' cremation of Dalit woman in Agra village, probe ordered

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, JULY 28

THE AGRA police on Tuesday began a probe after a Dalit family was allegedly not allowed to cremate body of a woman at a cremation site meant for upper castes and was forced to perform the last rites at another place.

The incident occurred at Kakarpura village under the Achhnera police station limits on July 20.

Pooja, belonging to the Nat community, died due to complications caused after her second delivery one-and-a-half years ago, said her family, adding that her body was taken to the cremation ground in the village.

Pooja's father-in-law Brijpal (60) on Tuesday alleged, "She died on July 19 due to some complications. The land where we are supposed to perform the last rites has been encroached upon by people from the Thakur community and sold off. On July 20, we took the body to the cremation ground where people from the Thakur community interrupted the proceedings. They

said we can't perform the last rites here as it is for the Thakur community. We pleaded with them to allow us to undertake the last rites, but they did not listen. Left with no choice, we took the body to a different cremation ground for the Nat community in another village."

Asked why they did not lodge a police complaint, Brijpal said, "We did not want a dispute. We are very poor and can't take on the people as they are affluent."

Agra Additional SP (West) Ravi Kumar said a probe has been ordered into the matter. "We took suo moto cognizance of the issue after seeing reports in media and had sent a police team to inquire into the matter. No written complaint was received from the family of Pooja, but we are getting the matter probed by Circle Officer (Achhnera) BS Veer Kumar and action will be taken accordingly," Kumar said.

BSP chief Mayawati tweeted about the incident: "This is a shameful and condemnable incident. To stop such incidents from happening again, the state government should order a high-level probe and take strict action..."

ASTHANA CORRUPTION PROBE

SC declines to stop Bassi transfer order

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

THE SUPREME Court on Tuesday declined to interfere with the order transferring CBI DSP A K Bassi to Port Blair. Bassi is the investigating officer in the case of corruption against former CBI special director Rakesh Asthana.

A bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde, however, sought to know why he had not joined duty in Port Blair.

The bench, also comprising Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian, said it did not want to interfere at this stage and asked Bassi to approach the appropriate forum for relief.

Senior Advocate Rajeev Dhavan, appearing for Bassi, then sought permission to withdraw the plea. Allowing this, the court added in the order that "all contentions are left open".

Dhavan pointed out that the

SC had earlier allowed him to make a representation against the transfer, which he did, and the transfer order was withdrawn by the then director on January 9, 2019. However, this was reversed on January 11 by a new director who restored the transfer, he added. "Do I follow the SC order or this new order?" Dhavan asked, adding that the January 11 order "is in the teeth of the SC judgement".

The CJI, however, told him "if you say that this order is incorrect, you still have to follow it".

Dhavan replied that the court had granted permission to file representation. The bench pointed out that the previous order of the court had not given any protection to Bassi.

Dhavan said Bassi would move the Central Administrative Tribunal and sought protection from the chargesheet until then. The bench however declined the relief.

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THE INDIAN EXPRESS, WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2020

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE

THE POWER TO TAX IS THE POWER TO DESTROY.

— JOHN MARSHALL

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

RAJBHAVAN DHARMA

Rajasthan Governor's role in current crisis reinforces impression that office takes cue from Centre, not Constitution

THE POLITICAL TURMOIL in Rajasthan has, once again, shone unflattering light on the office of the governor. On Monday, Governor Kalraj Mishra stalled the Ashok Gehlot government's recommendation for an assembly session. A few days ago, he vetoed the state government's proposal for a floor test. The governor has said that "the Raj Bhavan has no intention of not calling an assembly session" and asked the state government to submit a fresh proposal. But his repeated queries and the delay in convening the assembly — citing the COVID situation, among other reasons — invite questions about his commitment to play by the book in a scenario in which neither of the leading players seems to be playing with a straight bat. By all accounts, the chief minister himself has vacillated in the last few days on the question of the floor test. Articles 163 and 174 of the Constitution deal with the governor's role in convening an assembly session. The latter gives Raj Bhavan the power to summon, "the House or each house of Legislature to meet at such time and place as he thinks fit". However, the Supreme Court has removed any confusion that might arise over the governor's discretion in the matter. In 2016, in *Nabam Rebia and Bamang Felix vs Deputy Speaker*, the Court referred to discussions in the Constituent Assembly and noted that the framers of the Constitution, "decided not to vest discretion with the Governor, in the matter of summoning and dissolving the House, or Houses of the State Legislature." Observing that the governor was a nominee of the president, the SC said that "such a nominee cannot have overriding powers over the representatives of the people who constitute the House or Houses of the State Legislature and/or even the executive government functioning under the Council of Ministers with the Chief Minister as its head".

Accusations of political partisanship, or failure to abide by the letter and spirit of the Constitution, have for long dogged the governor's office. But it was in the 1980s and 1990s, when it became common for individuals still in active politics to be ensconced in Raj Bhavans, that charges of blatant politicisation of the gubernatorial office became more frequent. In 1994, the SC's landmark Bommai judgment sought to curb the misuse of Article 356 to unseat state governments led by parties opposed to the ruling party at the Centre, and laid down clear limits of the governor's authority. However, the trend of governors exceeding their brief in the formation and bringing down of governments has persisted. The governor's role has been questioned at least six times after the Narendra Modi government assumed office — the Supreme Court has been called to intervene on three occasions. These interventions have meant that however politically murky Rajasthan's crisis might be, its legal and constitutional aspects are lucid. Against this backdrop, the Rajasthan Governor's procrastination in convening the assembly session only confirms the widely held impression that the high office may be taking its cues from the Centre, not the Constitution.

RUNNING DRY

GST Council must decide on how to protect states' GST revenues, reduce uncertainty

THE ISSUE OF compensating states for the shortfall in their goods and services tax (GST) collections has been contentious. Several states have argued that the Centre has been delaying the compensation owed to them due to lower collections through the compensation cess route. To address this issue, on Monday, the Central government announced that it had released Rs 13,806 crore to states for the compensation owed to them for March 2020, also noting that the entire amount upto 2019-20 had been released. According to the data, as against cess collections of Rs 95,444 crore, the total compensation paid to states stands at a staggering Rs 1.65 lakh crore in 2019-20, underlining the extent of slippage in state GST collections in 2019-20. The situation is likely to worsen this year. With economic activity likely to remain well below pre-COVID levels, state GST collections will fall well short of expectations. Collections through the compensation cess will not be enough to offset the shortfall in states' revenues as measured against their protected revenue growth. As income from GST accounts for a significant share of state revenue, this needs attending to.

The GST Council, in which the Centre effectively has a veto, is expected to meet shortly to deliberate on this issue. While the rationale for assuring states a fixed growth rate of 14 per cent for their GST collections can be debated — linking it to nominal GDP growth may have been a better alternative — not abiding by its promise is certainly not in line with the spirit of cooperative federalism espoused by the Centre. It will set a bad precedent. The challenge, therefore, facing the GST council is two-fold: First, how to compensate states for the greater than expected shortfall this year, and second, whether or not the compensation cess should be extended beyond the five-year period that was originally agreed upon.

Several options have been debated. First, market borrowing has been discussed as a possible way out of this quagmire. However, its legality will need to be examined. Hiking tax rates, or the compensation cess, may not be appropriate at the current juncture. With states also likely to witness a significant shortfall in tax devolution this year, as compared to the budget estimates, further shortfalls in their revenue, despite the additional borrowing space, will severely restrict their spending. Given that states are at the forefront of fighting the COVID pandemic, the council must ensure adequate flow of resources to them, and reduce the uncertainty in state finances.

IPL IN THE DESERT

Amid the pandemic, a long lost romance could be recreated, a new chapter could begin

IT SEEMS EVEN the pandemic cannot prevent another edition of the Indian Premier League from rolling forth. With the Emirates Cricket Board confirming the Indian counterpart's intent and interest in shifting the premier domestic tournament to the UAE, it would be only a matter of clearing the ministerial and bureaucratic formalities before the world's best cricketers descend in the country for the 13th edition of the league, tentatively scheduled from mid-September to early November. Though there could be logistical hurdles, the league won't be trimmed or crunched, it will run the full course. The authorities might allow spectators as well. The UAE could be an oasis for cricket enthusiasts, like it has been for Pakistan cricket since the Lahore shootings in 2009.

Cricket in the Gulf would surely whip up nostalgia and romance for cricket watchers of a certain vintage, those who have grown up watching the game in the '80s and '90s, when the annual summer fixtures in Sharjah had the fervour of a World Cup. Some of the most remarkable (and heartbreaking) moments were etched in Sharjah. The Sachin Tendulkar knocks, Miandad six, Javed hat-trick or those Friday finals — memories that define personalities, rivalries, teenage and early adulthood.

But the times have changed and it may well be that the romance of Sharjah cricket would never be recreated. Yet the reacquaintance of Indian cricket with the UAE could be significant on several grounds. First, it would assure fans that this year's IPL would not be suspended, saving the board, franchises and players several millions. Second, the UAE could always be a buffer venue in the future in times of crisis. Third, it could pave the way for India-Pakistan encounters if the political weather clears between the two countries.



VIJAY GOKHALE

OVER THE LAST six months, in the shadow of COVID-19, President Xi Jinping has become China's Supreme Leader.

The July 15 issue of the Chinese Communist Party journal, *Qiushi* (Seeking Truth), has declared in an editorial that it is the highest duty of all Chinese to "safeguard the core position of General Secretary Xi Jinping". It then, astonishingly, goes on to make crystal clear that "to safeguard the core position of General Secretary Xi Jinping means only Xi Jinping and no other individual." In short, there is no other leader and no power-centre other than Xi.

It took many years for Mao Zedong to dominate a party that he had literally built and led to victory. Even then, at the height of his power, he was still compelled to share authority at times with others like Liu Shaoqi and Zhou Enlai, and PLA Marshals Zhu De and Ye Jianying.

President Xi Jinping, by contrast, appears to have managed this in a mere six years after 2013, and within just the past six months, he seems to have risen to the position of Supreme Leader of China. His red pedigree as well as his family's experiences of power and deprivation may have given him his sense of entitlement and desire for power, but it is not the whole explanation.

It is worth recalling that he was chosen as general secretary in November 2012, because the party feared that Bo Xilai, another Red Child of the Revolution, displayed dangerous traits of megalomania and Maoism. Xi had given no hint of such traits. Bo Xilai was handsome, flamboyant and media-friendly; Xi was modest in both dress and demeanour and, in a word, underwhelming. Such comparison is important to comprehend how he rose without being viewed as a "threat". Those who encountered him before 2012 tended to judge him only by his appearance or outward demeanour. Perhaps for this reason, people misjudge him still.

A rare interview that he gave in August 2000 to a Chinese journal revealed three qualities: Persistence, patience and a strong belief in himself. He admitted that politics was a risky business and he was playing the long game. In his words, "once you have gone into politics, it is like crossing a river. No matter how many obstacles you meet, there is only one way, and that is forward." He was not to be deterred by obstacles: "If you have a position on something, the thing is to stick

World is dealing with a leader driven by sense of his own genius, who believes he will shape a Chinese Century

The pandemic was a 'black swan', but Xi sensed opportunity. In his own words, in an interview, 'If you want to become a general you must be able to win a battle... Even if you have the ability to win battles, you don't have battles every day, in particular not in times of peace. Only if there are battles, there are opportunities. One can say that only if a chance should arise and you make use of it right away, you will succeed.' Xi saw his chance and acted swiftly. After declaring victory over COVID-19 in early April, Xi has deftly moved to remove the last vestiges of opposition. Earlier this month, the Secretary General of the Political and Legal Affairs Commission called for 'scrape(ing) the bone to remove the poison'.

with it and continue one's work. Then, in the final analysis, it will give results." What came across through the interview was his steely resolve.

In the last seven years, President Xi has systematically neutralised his political opponents through arrests and trials; that includes Sun Zhengcai, who was the heir presumptive. The anti-corruption campaign has created a wave of "terror". President Xi has kept his promise to take down "tigers and flies", by removing hundreds of officials who belonged to the factions of his two predecessors. In March 2018, the two-term limit for the Chinese President was removed from the Constitution to allow President Xi to continue beyond March 2023.

President Xi has tightened his grip over the state's security apparatus. The People's Armed Police (PAP) has been brought under his direct authority. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) has similarly been purged. Some of its highest-ranking serving military leaders like Generals Zhang Yang and Fang Fenghui have fallen in 2017. President Xi has assumed the position of the Commander-in-Chief of the PLA in 2016, a title even Mao had not assumed despite his considerable experience of higher military command. Xi has ensured, at least on paper, that the PLA and PAP will not be an independent player in a palace coup, as was the case during the fall of the Gang of Four in 1976.

To secure constitutional legitimacy, in 2017 and 2018, "Xi Jinping Thought" was written into the party and state constitutions respectively. No leader after Mao had attempted this; in Deng's case it was posthumous. The party speaks of a "New Era" that has begun with Xi. Deng's political arrangements are considered outdated and, therefore, not suitable. Collective responsibility has ended. Even the Premier of the State Council is a pale shadow of his predecessors.

The pandemic was a "black swan", but Xi sensed opportunity. In his own words, in the interview quoted above, "If you want to become a general you must be able to win a battle... Even if you have the ability to win battles, you don't have battles every day, in particular not in times of peace. Only if there are battles, there are opportunities. One can say that only if a chance should arise and you make use of it right away, you will succeed." Xi saw his chance and acted swiftly.

After declaring victory over COVID-19 in

early April, Xi has deftly moved to remove the last vestiges of opposition. Earlier this month, the Secretary General of the Political and Legal Affairs Commission called for "scrape(ing) the bone to remove the poison". The security forces are being asked to show personal loyalty to President Xi. New regulations on Building the Communist Party of China's Military have also been formulated. The Military Reserves are now under his control. In short, all the armed instruments of the state are at his service.

According to one media report, party members are forbidden from certain actions, including inter alia, expressing opinions or making statements that deviate from Xi as the "core", discussing political rumours and forming cliques. Earlier, in May, Xi Jinping spoke at a special Democratic Life meeting of the Politburo, virtually counselling China's highest leadership that there will be no second chances. A revised set of Guidelines for Political Life for the New Era will replace the rules of behaviour for party cadres put into place by Deng Xiaoping in 1982. The old order no longer holds, the new era requires new rules.

It is reported that the Ministry of Education issued new guidelines for Ideological and Political Development of the Higher Education Curriculum to include Xi Jinping's ideas on "China Dream" and "Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era", as mandatory university courses. On July 21, the Chinese Foreign Ministry established a Xi Jinping Research Centre for Diplomatic Thought. Similar Centres exist in the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, the Central Party School and leading universities. Studying Xi's words and thought is now a national priority in every field.

The world is, therefore, likely dealing with a Chinese leader unlike any since Mao, driven by a sense of his own genius, and believing that he will be the shaper of the 21st century as the Chinese Century. In July 2021 the party will mark its 100th anniversary. Xi Jinping intends to be the Leader of the "Second Hundred" just as Mao Zedong is regarded as the Leader of the "First Hundred". This means the world will be dealing with President Xi Jinping for some time. It is, therefore, important to get a proper measure of the person.

The writer was India's Ambassador to China

COURT AND A FINE LINE

Rajasthan High Court must take into account SC verdict, Speaker's powers



VIKRAMAJIT SEN

THE SPEAKER OF the Rajasthan State Assembly has requested the Supreme Court to permit the withdrawal of the Special Leave Petition filed by him, and his request was granted without ado. The challenge to the interim orders of the Rajasthan High Court directing that status quo be maintained with regard to the impugned notices dated July 14, 2020, issued to the Sachin Pilot splinter group of the Indian National Congress is at this pass. The writ petition in which this status quo order came to be passed is yet to be finally decided, and will be listed for hearing on mentioning by the counsel for the parties. The public would have expected the chief justice to fix an actual and early date of hearing.

The Kihoto Hollohan decision of the Supreme Court delivered in 1992 will indubitably constitute the fulcrum of arguments. The Constitution Bench which heard it was split 3:2. The plurality upheld the constitutionality of the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution. However, the minority struck it down on the premise that it violated the basic structure of the Constitution and should have been circulated to all the state legislatures and should have received the assent of their majority.

In the course of the very brief hearing before the Supreme Court, the Bench had com-

mented that the correctness of *Kihoto Hollohan* needs to be considered. If this exercise had been undertaken and the majority opinion overturned, it would have required a seven-judge Bench to be constituted in respect of the constitutionality of the Tenth Schedule, which challenge has not been voiced from any quarter. The cherished tenet of independence of the executive, the legislature and the judiciary has presently received repose.

The High Court is not empowered to unsettle *Kihoto Hollohan* and must apply its ratio. This is that the Chairman/Speaker is the final arbiter of whether any member(s) of Parliament or a legislature has become subject to disqualification. The very fine distinction or issue inter alia culled out by the Rajasthan High Court to exercise its extraordinary constitutional jurisdiction under Article 226 is whether *Kihoto Hollohan* had tested the vires of Para 2 (1)(a) of the Tenth Schedule in the context of "intra-party dissent". This Para postulates disqualification of a member of a House belonging to any party "if he has voluntarily given up his membership of such political party". This is against the backdrop of the opinion in paragraph 21 of the judgment of the Supreme Court in *Kihoto Hollohan* that "paragraph 2 of the Tenth Schedule of the

Constitution is valid. Its provisions do not suffer from the vice of subverting democratic rights of elected members of Parliament and the legislatures of the States. It does not violate their freedom of speech, freedom of vote and conscience as contended".

Equally remarkable is the rejection by the Rajasthan High Court on the grounds of lack of jurisdiction of the prayer for "upholding the status of the petitioners as members of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly on account of them continuing to be members of the Indian National Congress" and "declaring that the alleged actions of the petitioners as members of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly do not fall within the purview of disqualification envisaged under para 2 of the Tenth Schedule". Nevertheless, the status quo came to be ordered.

The high courts and the Supreme Court routinely refuse to interfere in matters where the concerned authority has merely issued a show cause notice or granted an opportunity of being heard. This is an inviolable tenet of natural justice. The Rajasthan High Court will have to decide whether the Speaker has done anything else.

The writer is a former Judge of the Supreme Court of India

JULY 29, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

ASSAM ACCORD FOR THE SECOND day, the latest situation in Assam was reviewed at a high-level meeting in the context of the accord which Manipur Chief Minister Dorendra Singh last week claimed to have reached with the AASU and AACSP on ending the 10-month-long agitation on the foreign nationals' issue. The meeting was presided over by Home Minister Zail Singh, and attended, among others, Krishnaswamy Rao Saheb, Secretary to the PM. According to official sources, Dorendra Singh who had been negotiating with the agitation leaders as an "emissary" of the Prime Minister had an hour-long meeting with Rao

Saheb when he reported on the "accord" and his talks with the agitation leaders.

CRPF IN KASHMIR

THE CENTRE IS rushing additional units of the CRPF to Kashmir to help the local authorities maintain law and order in the troubled areas of the state. According to Home Ministry sources, the reinforcement was being sent in response to an SOS from the Chief Minister Sheikh Abdullah. The CM talked with the Union Home Minister on the telephone and discussed the latest situation in Srinagar. The Sheikh assured ail Singh that the situation was under control. But, he urged the Centre to

send additional units of the CRPF as a precautionary measure.

BIHAR FLOODS

THE WIDENING OF the breach in the retired embankment off Piprasi-Pipraghat in Champaran district widened alarmingly from a mere 50 feet 3,200 feet and the waters of swollen Gandak have so far swept across over a dozen villages and flooded the Maddhunai and Basi canals. The situation created by this breach causing concern because, despite measures purporting to have been taken by local engineers the breach has widened alarmingly in the last three days.



THE IDEAS PAGE

After the rural recovery

As the virus spreads geographically, the number of districts reporting a large number of COVID-19 cases and deaths is growing. This poses new policy challenges



NEELKANTH MISHRA

WITH THE LOCKDOWNS lifting from May onwards, most companies have reported a robust rebound in rural sales. Not only tractors, but rural sales of cement and soap are also doing better than urban sales, and are nearly back to pre-crisis levels. This has occurred even as activity indicators like rail freight, GST e-way bill generation, power demand and mobility trackers have pointed to a stagnation since the middle of June. Even from unacceptably low levels, several indicators show a dip in July.

If trends in sales booked by companies diverge from those shown by indicators, one must trust the former, as they reflect actual transactions. Further, most of the concurrent indicators being tracked have an urban bias, and likely do not capture rural trends accurately. Mobility indicators, for example, track movements of smartphones, which still have low rural penetration.

What explains the rural recovery? Understanding this is important to understand its sustainability.

The shift of the population may have helped. Reverse migration has meant a nearly 5 per cent lower urban population (nearly 10 per cent in larger cities), hurting demand and activity in essential goods and services, and boosting them in rural areas by about 3 per cent. However, the drop in remittances this entails counters some of this impact.

Other commonly cited reasons are a strong rabi harvest and rural-focused government spending. But as we will see, the net impact is too small in magnitude to explain the revival.

Let us start with the rabi harvest. While agriculture is by definition rural, rural is no longer just about agriculture — a point we have been making for many years ('Rethinking the rural', IE, May 23, 2013). Agriculture is in our estimate now only 29 per cent of rural GDP, even though it employs 58 per cent of the rural workforce. Further, rabi crops account for only around a sixth of total agricultural output, and not all of it is marketable surplus as a large number of farmers only harvest enough to feed themselves. The rise in procurement of wheat and cotton helps rural cash flows but is small in the context of the nearly Rs 95 lakh crore of rural GDP.

On the other hand, weak demand in perishables could be draining up to Rs 10,000 crore a month from farmers' cash flows. Milk is more than a fifth of all agricultural output by value and has seen weak demand due to roadside tea stalls, hotels and restaurants being shut. Subdued celebrations in the upcoming festive season could further pressure demand for milk-based sweets and ghee. Similarly, disruptions in distribution have hurt farmer incomes from fruits and vegetables (with a few exceptions like potatoes), meat and fish.

Now, let us consider the impact of government spending. The Centre has ramped up expenditure targeted at the poor, like free grains, direct cash transfers to women's bank accounts, higher MGNREGA spending, and has also front-loaded PM-Kisan payments. Together with the higher crop procurement, these add up to an additional Rs 35,000 crore a month, so far. Annualised, this would be about 4.5 per cent of rural GDP — indeed a substantial sum. However, offsetting these cash inflows is a sharp drop in agricultural credit



C R Sasikumar

growth, weak domestic remittances (if we assume 25 million returned migrants, who on average sent Rs 6,000 every month, the drop is Rs 15,000 crore), and lower income from agricultural perishables. The net impact comes to just Rs 7,500 crore a month — 0.9 per cent of rural GDP.

Thus, government spending has served to negate the stress from some of the known factors in agriculture and due to migration. But we have not yet accounted for the impact of activity restrictions in non-agricultural activities, which are 71 per cent of rural GDP. The scale of the income loss here would not be in decimal points of GDP but in multiples of 5 per cent. The rapid growth in MGNREGA person-days indicates a paucity of other jobs in the rural economy as it is, after all, a demand-driven scheme intended to prevent deprivation. At wages of Rs 200 per day, someone working all 30 days in a month would earn Rs 6,000 — enough only for sustenance.

States that have seen returning inter-state migrant workers have seen faster growth in person-days and states like Maharashtra, Punjab and Tamil Nadu have seen a drop, supporting this hypothesis, and serving the intended purpose behind the increase in MGNREGA budgets this year.

Thus, a bigger driver of the rapid rural revival post the lockdowns is the faster normalisation of non-agricultural activities in rural areas. Given that outside the worst 50 districts, which are all urban centres, reported cases per million population were less than 100 till June, compared to nearly 10,000 in the worst-affected metros, activities are likely to have rebounded faster in the former. Not only was the administrative imposition of lockdowns and containment zones less widespread, even the

Growth is the only way out of this vicious cycle, as it would provide more taxes and improve debt sustainability. As private investment and consumption settle at far lower levels than earlier anticipated, the government's role in the economy over the next two years or so would need to be much larger than it has been in the last three decades. While the financing and sustainability aspects of this issue have been discussed, it may also need a new institutional architecture to manage this temporary but significantly larger role.

people were less afraid to move around. Anecdotal, market movement in smaller towns and rural areas had normalised rapidly.

However, this is changing now. As the virus spreads geographically, the number of districts reporting a large number of COVID-19 cases and deaths is growing. This means more administrative restrictions, as well as people becoming cautious as they become aware of infections and deaths around them.

This poses new policy challenges. Though cities like Mumbai are showing some signs of the curve flattening (given the lack of reliability of case and death numbers, we track the number of occupied oxygen-beds, which has been unchanged for two weeks), the level of activity curtailed to achieve this is unacceptably high. Local trains, schools, restaurants and malls are shut, and offices are permitted only a third of their workforce.

Given the low tax compliance, government spending in India as a share of GDP is low by global standards. Further, a large part of that expenditure is under committed heads of interest, salary, pension and subsidies. Growth is the only way out of this vicious cycle, as it would provide more taxes and improve debt sustainability. As private investment and consumption settle at far lower levels than earlier anticipated, the government's role in the economy over the next two years or so would need to be much larger than it has been in the last three decades. While the financing and sustainability aspects of this issue have been discussed, it may also need a new institutional architecture to manage this temporary but significantly larger role.

The writer is co-head of APAC Strategy and India Strategist for Credit Suisse

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Without testing and tracing, it is only a matter of time before pocket lockdowns turn national and push the country further into uncertainty. Only this time, it could kill more people and completely kill public confidence in the government."

— KATHMANDU POST

A little less certainty, a little more empathy

If anything, the debate over cancel culture has shown us that it's imperative to introspect on who we are when we are not performing to an audience



PAROMITA CHAKRABARTI

DAYS AFTER NEW York-based *Harper's* magazine published a letter, that had among its signatories academics, intellectuals and writers such as Noam Chomsky, Margaret Atwood, Martin Amis, John Banville and J K Rowling, warning against the rising tide of intolerance in civil discourse, in Mumbai, comedienne Agrima Joshua was being panned for an act she'd done in April 2019. In the segment, a clip of which had found its way onto the internet, Joshua is speaking on the upcoming statue of Shivaji in Maharashtra, the home of the 17th century Maratha leader. Before long, condemnation and threats of bodily harm were pouring in both online and off it, with a YouTuber delivering rape threats in an explosive-laden Instagram post.

How are the two connected, though? In the letter, the signatories write, "While we have come to expect this on the radical right, censoriousness is also spreading more widely in our culture: an intolerance of opposing views, a vogue for public shaming and ostracism, and the tendency to dissolve complex policy issues in a blinding moral certainty... it is now all too common to hear calls for swift and severe retribution in response to perceived transgressions of speech and thought." It further states, "The restriction of debate, whether by a repressive government or an intolerant society, invariably hurts those who lack power and makes everyone less capable of democratic participation. The way to defeat bad ideas is by exposure, argument, and persuasion, not by trying to silence or wish them away." Loosely speaking, the letter was calling for cancel culture — the same that Joshua was facing — to be cancelled.

As many critics noted, despite its intentions, the letter was not without its flaws. Rowling was already under fire for her controversial views on LGBTQ rights and the position of privilege enjoyed by the signatories was not lost on anyone. If we look around, cancel culture has always existed. It's been there in elite institutes, in the privileged coteries of old boys' associations, in the corridors of power, where old money spoke to its own, and, in professions meant to foster diversity. Cancel culture has fundamentally worked in favour of the privileged because getting their voices to drown out those who did not conform has never been an issue. From Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein to a former Indian union minister accused of sexual misconduct, if the #MeToo movement that began in 2017 showed anything it was this: That it takes decades for those at the receiving end of a power imbalance to make them-

selves heard, and, oftentimes, that may not be enough.

What the call-out culture achieved, at least initially, was to push back at this imbalance of power by creating a sense of community among those who share a long history of marginalisation and for whom traditional modes of redressal have often proven to be ineffective. And so, in a decade that has seen a remarkable number of people's movements, cancel culture has been both a solace and a sharp scimitar. It has fostered a sense of solidarity, an alignment of forces to counter injustice, but it has not been an impulse privy to the marginalised alone. In bandying together and protecting their interests, the powerful have long determined who gets to make the rules of the game and there is no equality in that.

The problem with the age of wokeism is that it does not allow us room for mistakes. Compartmentalised into us-versus-them binaries, it makes a virtue out of moral certitude. A couple of years ago, during an interview at a literary festival, the feminist historian Mary Beard spoke of the necessity to accommodate nuance in conversations. "The fact that we don't easily agree doesn't mean that we have to be at war with each other. These are things that are very hard, and rightly hard, to agree upon. What people are allowed to say is one of the big issues that every political culture has always faced. We are not new in facing this. We need to examine it, talk about it outside some kind of echo chamber," she said.

If anything, the debate over cancel culture has shown us that it's imperative to introspect on who we are when we are not performing to an audience. In disquieting times, speaking up is a virtue and so is taking sides. But, sometimes, pausing to come up for air is an equally brave choice. How much of our outrage is tokenism? How far are we prepared to shrug off our privileges to understand that which affronts us? Is it possible that we are articulating our well-meaning support in ways that can come across as condescension? Can one feel equally strongly about every injustice in the world? Is it possible to admit to being wrong and begin again? In this constant masculinisation of our social discourse, uncertainty teaches us to listen and to unlearn. There is empathy in vulnerability because otherwise, in trying to find ourselves mirrored in every second person, we inevitably fail to do so even in the best of our allies. In the end, we fall back upon well-rehearsed rhetoric of umbrage and one-upmanship.

And, it is here, in the certainties that it seeks, that cancel culture falters. When we judge without knowing, we deny ourselves empathy. The world has never been ideal, now, even less so. Unless we learn to soften the angularity of our rage with grace, temper our insecurities with courtesy, the conversation will always end up as a monologue — full of sound and fury, achieving little.

paromita.chakrabarti@expressindia.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

COUNTERING CHINA

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'India and democracy's ten' (IE, July 28). The rise of China as a superpower will not be a smooth one due to its expansionist and radical approach towards other nations. While the US is willing to make an "alliance" to counter the CCP, India must consider its pros and cons effectively to take the fullest advantage of the current Cold War like situation between the Washington DC and the Beijing. Though India will not be joining any alliance as clarified by the external affairs minister, it may consider the US proposal of an alliance as a "coalition of democracies" to counter the CCP and its ideological rise.

Daksh Solanki, Delhi

No, GOVERNOR

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'On a dark path' (IE, July 28). Rajasthan's political crisis highlights two exigent issues. One, the vile priorities of political parties in capturing power in the face of a deadly and unprecedented medical emergency. A similar game was witnessed in Madhya Pradesh with the toppling of the Kamal Nath government. Such tactics tend to undermine the Constitution. Second, the role of governor has been doubted given the dubious machinations deployed by him/her to bring the ruling party in the Union to power in the states. These incidences tend to erode the principle of federalism which

constitutes one of the "basic structure of the Constitution".

Sagar Ganesh Borade, Thane

ELDERLY MATTER

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Woman abandoned by family finds an unlikely new home' (IE, July 26). The government must devise sustainable strategies to deal with issue of abandoned elderly people. This issue is pertinent in the times of the pandemic. The kindness of AAP MP Sanjay Singh should be praised but such personal gestures will not solve this longstanding problem. The need of the hour is immediate intervention by the government for providing basic necessities to such people.

Chandramaulika, Bhubaneswar



KABIR FIRAQUE

The beautiful people

Olivia de Havilland was one of the last of the greats of Hollywood's golden age

OF ALL THAT happened in her eventful life, Olivia de Havilland is best remembered for her role as Melanie Hamilton Wilkes in *Gone With The Wind* (1939). This is unfair for two reasons. Memorable as she is in GWTW, it is by no means her finest role. Her countless fans will point to the two roles that won her Academy Awards, the two others (besides the supporting role in GWTW) that won her nominations, and more. The second reason is that her legacy goes beyond her roles. Film historians, even law historians and labour activists, will point to the De Havilland Law.

De Havilland, who died this week at age 104, fought the system — and won. In 1943, when Hollywood's powerful studios controlled the fate of actors, Warner Brothers refused to let her go at the end of their seven-year contract. The studio tagged extra time to the contract to compensate for periods when she had not been working. She sued in a California court, leading to the landmark 1944 ruling — informally known as the De Havilland Law — that the years in the contract mean calendar years. It loosened for-

ever the studios' grip on actors.

From her life, that is the biggest takeaway. From her death, the big takeaway is sobering: The Golden Age of Hollywood is slipping away. Yes, we will always have the films. But the stars are mostly gone — with due respect to the few who remain, de Havilland was our strongest surviving link to the Golden Age. The era has truly ended.

We are at that stage of history when this was inevitable. Actors who were old enough to play the lead when talking pictures arrived (not de Havilland, who was 11 when the first sound film released in 1927) would have been at least 110 today if it were possible to live that long (Greta Garbo, for example, would have turned 115 this year). Those old enough to have played the lead towards the end of the Golden Age (mid-1960s or thereabouts) will now be at least in their 70s, and more likely in their 80s or 90s. Or gone already.

Ingrid Bergman and Bette Davis, de Havilland's closest friend in the industry, left in the 1980s. Barbara Stanwyck and Audrey Hepburn died in the 1990s, Gregory Peck and

Katharine Hepburn in the 2000s, and Elizabeth Taylor and Lauren Bacall in the following decade. Then Kirk Douglas and now de Havilland have left in the very beginning of the 2020s — both of them past 100.

How many are still with us? An online search throws up long lists that bring a false sense of relief. Most of the names, it turns out, are of actors who played smaller roles, or who were child actors during the Golden Age. Indeed, every link is vital in a vanishing chain, including Mickey Kuhn, now 87, who played Melanie's young son in GWTW 81 years ago. But it's the stars we want to count.

I found about a dozen names more familiar than others. Two of the bigger ones are Angela Lansbury and Jane Powell, both in their 90s now. Five others will be familiar to fans of Alfred Hitchcock — six if you count his daughter Patricia, now 92, who appeared in three of his films. Vera Miles, 90, is Marion Crane's sister from *Psycho* (1960) and Henry Fonda's disturbed wife from *The Wrong Man* (1956). Shirley MacLaine, 86, made her debut in Hitchcock's *The Trouble With Harry*

(1955). Tippi Hedren of *The Birds* (1962) and *Marnie* (1964) is now 90. Kim Novak of *Vertigo* (1958) is 87.

The most important among them is Eva Marie Saint, who turned 96 on July 4, three days after de Havilland turned 104. Saint was in Hitchcock's *North by Northwest* (1959) with Cary Grant (died 1986), and in Elia Kazan's *On the Waterfront* (1954) with Marlon Brando (died 2004). We saw Saint at the Oscars in 2018, as a presenter. Cherish these moments, for a day will come, inevitably, when we will have only their films.

De Havilland never did a Hitchcock film. Her sister Joan Fontaine (died 2013 at age 96) did two, winning an Academy nomination for *Rebecca* (1940) and bagging the award for *Suspicion* (1942). They remain the only siblings to have each won one or more Academy Awards. Joan got there first, beating Olivia in the 1942 race, but this is not the time to reflect on their famed sibling rivalry. For today, we only have their films.

kabir.firaque@expressindia.com



New Delhi



SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Naaj** D/o Md. Shakeel R/o H.No. T-810, Kabir Basti Malka Ganj, Subzi Mandi, Delhi. **Age-16** Years, Height 4'7" Face Long, **Complexion-Sallow, Built Normal, Wearing:** Pink Colour Suit, Blue Colour Jeans & Golden Colour Chappal in her feet has been Kidnaped from her home since 06.07.2020. In this regard a vide FIR No. 200/2020 u/s 363 IPC dated 06.07.2020 at **PS Subzi Mandi, Delhi**

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far, If any one having any information about this girl please inform undersigned.

Web-site <http://cbi.nic.in> SHO
E-mail : cbi@cbi.gov.in
Ph.-011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Subzi Mandi, Delhi
Fax.-011-24368639 Ph. 011-23823161, 32827354
DP/369/N/2020 Mob.: 8750870126

The Nakodar Co-operative Sugar Mills Ltd., Nakodar (Jalandhar)
www.nakodarsugar.com camnko@gmail.com

Tender Notice
The Nakodar Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd. (Nakodar) is inviting bids in proposal from interested parties for purchase of Six Deck (Sugar Grader) with distribution feeder having 15 ton/hour capacity, 20 ton/hour capacity, 25 ton/hour capacity, & 30 Ton/hour capacity on behalf of all working Coop. Sugar Mills in Punjab State. Last date for submission of tender is dated 08-08-2020 up to 5.00 P.M.
Technical bid will be opened on date 07-08-2020 at 11.00 A.M. and financial bid of qualified bidders will be opened date 07-08-2020 at 1.00 P.M. Negotiation will be held on same day at 2.30 P.M.
To participate in the e-tender process, the bidder shall have to get themselves registered with website <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in> and user ID, password and digital signature are mandatory to participate in the E-tendering process. Regarding any clarification/difficulty of e-tendering process flow, parties can contact us on telephone Nos. 81465-90632 (Nakodar), 82800-59484 (Budhwal), 89684-99779 (Nawanshahr) 0172-2970284, 91-6284894511. Detail of tender and other terms & conditions are available on website <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>. Any corrigendum/addendum/correction will be published on the above said website
General Manager

Central Institute of Plastics Engineering & Technology
CIPET : CSTS Guwahati
Contact no. +91 8811099022 / 9957193628

NOTICE INVITING QUOTATION (NIQ)
Tender No.: CIPET/GHY/ADMIN/TENDER-01/CBCT/2020-21 Date: 29.07.2020
Central Institute of Plastics Engineering & Technology, CIPET: CSTS Guwahati invites sealed Quotation in from reputed Manufacturers / Dealers / Vendors for **supply of Carbon Black Content Tester** at P.O. Changsari, Dist. Kamrup, Assam - 781101.
Interested bidders may visit the website www.cipet.gov.in for detailed terms and conditions & specifications. Bidders are requested to submit their quotation with necessary terms and conditions. Last Date of Submission of quotation is **13.08.2020 till 5:30 PM**. Bidders are requested to visit the CIPET website on regular basis for any corrigendum / modification.
Sd/-
Manager (Project) & Head

GOVT. COLLEGE FARRUKH NAGAR, GURUGRAM
Advt. No. 01 **Dated: 27.07.2020**
Advertisement
Sealed Quotations are invited from the authorized vendors for manpower supply under Haryana Govt. Policy-I rules in the name of the undersigned latest by August 03, 2020. The quotations should bear superscription "Quotation for Manpower Supply." The quotation will be open on the same day i.e. 03.08.2020 at 2.30 P.M.
Sd/- Principal
Govt. College Farrukh Nagar Gurugram

EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)
NOTICE
"All the tenders issued by CIL and its subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works & Services are available on i) Website of Coal India Limited: www.coalindia.in, ii) Website of ECL: www.easterncoal.nic.in, iii) CIL e-Procurement Portal: <https://coalindiatenders.nic.in>, iv) Central Public Procurement Portal: <https://eprocure.gov.in>. In addition, procurement is also done through GeM Portal: <https://gem.gov.in>."
(By Order), ECL
VISIT US AT www.easterncoal.nic.in

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE
Dy. CSTE/P/TW, DIVISIONAL RAILWAY MANAGER OFFICE, 2nd FLOOR, ROOM No. 203, State Entry Road, New Delhi - 110055 for & on behalf of 'President of India' invites online OPEN E-tender in single packet system from the experienced & established contractors having sufficient experience in similar work and satisfying minimum eligibility criteria on the prescribed form for the under noted work :
1 Name of work "Trenching, laying, jointing of 6 quad cable along with provision of LC gate communication, emergency sockets etc and trenching, laying, slipclamping, termination of OFC in connection with DFCC alignment on Ambala-Yamuna Nagar Jagadhri (UMB-YJUD) section of Ambala Division."
2 Approximate cost of the work Rs. 67,00,987.98 (Sixty Seven Lakh Nine Hundred Eighty Seven and paisa Ninety Eight only).
3 Cost of tender form Nil
4 Address from where tender document can be downloaded Indian Railways website www.irops.gov.in from 29.07.2020 from 11.30 hrs.
5 Earnest money Rs. 1,34,000.00 (One Lakh Thirty Four Thousand only).
6 Completion period 5 (five) months.
7 Date and time of submission of tender and opening of tender Tender to be submitted online on Indian Railways website www.irops.gov.in from 08.08.2020 up to 11.30 hrs of 20.08.2020.
Date of tender Opening: 20.08.2020 at 11.30 hrs.
8 Detailed Tender Notice Available at Indian Railways website www.irops.gov.in.
NO. 172-SIG/PSW/NRT-181-R3 DATE 28.07.2020
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY (Open E-Tender Notice)
The Sr Divisional Commercial Manager/Coaching, Northern Railway, Delhi Division, New Delhi invites online e-tender through website <https://irops.gov.in>, for the parking contracts for the period of 3 (Three) years, to be closed on **18.08.2020 at 15:00 hrs** at the following stations/locations (Ready Sites):

S N	Name of work with its Location/Railway Station	Advertise value/ Reserve Price of one year (in Rs)	Cost of Tender document & 18% GST (in Rs)	Earnest Money Deposit (in Rs)	Website particulars where complete details of tender document can be seen
1	Parking contract of Car-Bus-Truck-Tempo at Rohtak Railway station (ROK) "A" Category, with measuring an area of 504 sq mtrs	4,94,727	2,360	29,700	https://irops.gov.in/tender-no: Parking43-2020
2	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter-Car-Bus-Truck-Tempo at Kurukshetra Railway Station (KKDE), "B" Category, with measuring an area of 800 sq mtrs	11,02,080	3,540	66,200	https://irops.gov.in/tender-no: Parking44-2020
3	Parking contract of Car-Bus-Truck-Tempo at Panipat Railway Station (PNP) 1st entry, "A" Category, with measuring an area of 515.2 sq mtrs	8,06,185	3,540	48,400	https://irops.gov.in/tender-no: Parking45-2020
4	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter-Car at Badli Railway Station (BHD) opposite to the existing parking, "D" Category, with measuring an area of 1376.4 sq mtrs	12,73,996	3,540	76,500	https://irops.gov.in/tender-no: Parking46-2020
5	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter at Panipat Railway Station (PNP), 2 nd entry "A" Category, with measuring an area of 390 sq mtrs	11,68,380	3,540	70,200	https://irops.gov.in/tender-no: Parking47-2020
6	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter at Kurukshetra Railway Station (KKDE), 1 st Entry "B" Category, with measuring an area of 648 sq mtrs	11,23,000	3,540	67,400	https://irops.gov.in/tender-no: Parking48-2020
7	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter at Kurukshetra Railway Station (KKDE), 2 nd Entry "B" Category, with measuring an area of 353 sq mtrs	4,29,960	2,360	25,800	https://irops.gov.in/tender-no: Parking49-2020
8	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter-Car at New Delhi Railway Station (NDLS) Pahar Ganj Side, "A-1" Category, with measuring an area of 3429.19 sq mtrs	1,75,24,544	11,800	10,51,500	https://irops.gov.in/tender-no: Parking50-2020
9	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter at Shahabad Markanda Railway Station (SHDM), "D" Category, with measuring an area of 375 sq mtrs	4,84,560	2,360	29,100	https://irops.gov.in/tender-no: Parking51-2020
10	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter-Car at Meerut City Railway Station (MTC), "A" Category, with measuring an area of 2054.80 sq mtrs	34,94,620	5,900	2,09,700	https://irops.gov.in/tender-no: Parking52-2020
11	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter at Panipat Railway Station (PNP), 1st Entry "A" Category, with measuring an area of 804.70 sq mtrs	17,43,759.66	5,900	1,04,700	https://irops.gov.in/tender-no: Parking53-2020
12	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter at Gaziabad Railway Station (GZB), City Side "A" Category, with measuring an area of 2551.59 sq mtrs	48,28,929.33	5,900	2,89,800	https://irops.gov.in/tender-no: Parking54-2020
13	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter-Car at Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway station (HNZM), "A-1" Category, with measuring an area of 4061.87 sq mtrs	1,26,23,844	11,800	7,57,500	https://irops.gov.in/tender-no: Parking55-2020
14	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter-Car at Delhi Cantt Railway Station (DEC), "A" Category, with measuring an area of 709 sq mtrs	31,94,664	5,900	1,91,700	https://irops.gov.in/tender-no: Parking56-2020
15	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter at Jind Railway Station (JHI), "B" Category, with measuring an area of 393.39 sq mtrs	5,34,374	2,360	32,100	https://irops.gov.in/tender-no: Parking57-2020
16	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter at Subzi Mandi Railway Station (SZM), "B" Category, with measuring an area of 1625.37 sq mtrs	14,95,268	3,540	89,800	https://irops.gov.in/tender-no: Parking58-2020
17	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter-Car at Nangloi Railway Station (NNO), "B" Category, with measuring an area of 610 sq mtrs	16,25,012	3,540	97,600	https://irops.gov.in/tender-no: Parking59-2020
18	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter-Car-Bus-Truck-Tempo at Adarsh Nagar Railway Station (AND/PRS), Shalimar Bagh Side "A" Category, with measuring an area of 398.86 sq mtrs	3,79,316	2,360	22,800	https://irops.gov.in/tender-no: Parking60-2020
19	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter at Palam Railway Station (PM), "D" Category, with measuring an area of 414.70 sq mtrs	8,25,348	3,540	49,600	https://irops.gov.in/tender-no: Parking61-2020
20	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter-Car-Bus-Truck-Tempo at Delhi Sadar Bazar Railway Station (DSB), "D" Category, with measuring an area of 1828 sq mtrs	69,54,572	11,800	4,17,300	https://irops.gov.in/tender-no: Parking62-2020
21	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter at Delhi Sarai Rohilla Railway Station (DEE), "A" Category, with measuring an area of 105.52 sq mtrs	6,37,200	2,360	38,300	https://irops.gov.in/tender-no: Parking63-2020

Note : Bidders may kindly note that Experience Clause no. 3 of Chapter 3 (Eligibility Criteria), has been deleted from tender conditions of 3 Parking site at Rohtak Railway Station (ROK), Kurukshetra Railway Station (KKDE) & Panipat Railway Station (PNP), "A & B" Category Stations i.e. item No. 1 to 3.
* Applicable GST and TCS has to be paid by licensee extra, over and above the Advertise value/Modified RP license fee.
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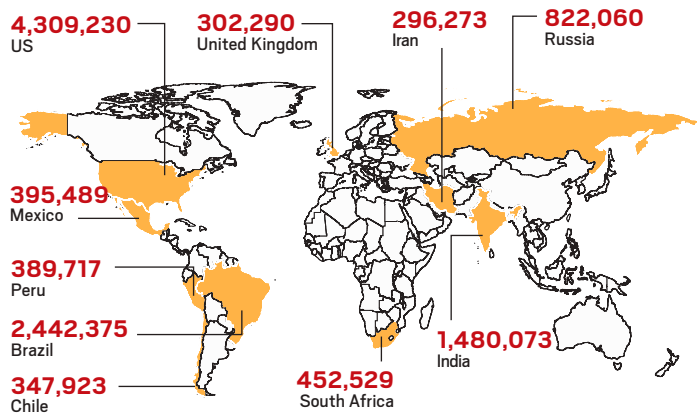


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THE WORLD



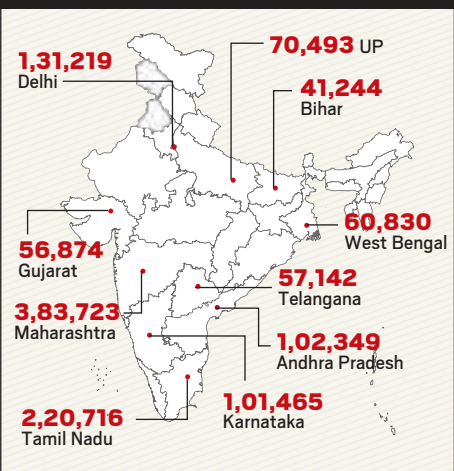
TOTAL CONFIRMED: **16,540,137**

DEATH COUNT: **655,300**

Source: Johns Hopkins University, updated at 11 pm on July 28. JHU's India tally and Health Ministry's tally (below) may not match if these are accounted at different times.

INDIA COUNT: **14,83,156** (33,425 DEATHS)

TOP 10 STATES



REST OF INDIA

Andaman and Nicobar Islands	338
Arunachal Pradesh	1239
Assam	33576
Chandigarh	910
Chhattisgarh	7745
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	946
Goa	5119
Haryana	32127
Himachal Pradesh	2270
Jammu and Kashmir	18390
Jharkhand	8683
Kerala	19727
Ladakh	1306
Madhya Pradesh	28589
Manipur	2286
Meghalaya	738
Mizoram	384
Nagaland	1385
Odisha	26892
Puducherry	2872
Punjab	13769
Rajasthan	36878
Sikkim	555
Tripura	4049
Uttarakhand	6328

Union Health Ministry update as of 11 pm, July 28. Some states may have reported higher numbers. Only states/UTs with at least one case listed above.

9,52,743 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



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SIMPLY PUT

In market high, some fears

The primary reason why markets around the world are rallying is the mega stimulus packages announced by global central banks. A crash in the US could have a cascading impact on India

ANIL SASI

NEW DELHI, JULY 28

MARKETS AROUND the world have surged since end-March, seemingly oblivious to the pandemic. The NASDAQ Composite has hit new lifetime highs, Dow and DAX have registered over 50% gains since March, and Brazil's Bovespa Index hit a more than four-month high this month. The Sensex has gained over 40% since hitting a low of 25,981 on March 23 – and continues to rise even as daily case numbers have gone from around 9,000 in the first week of June to 40,000-45,000 now.

Signs of a bubble?

Financial asset bubbles typically build up when the surge in financial market indices fail to reflect the underlying valuations of the asset class for an extended period. The primary reason why markets are rallying is the mega stimulus packages announced by global central banks. The US rally started at the same time when the decks were cleared for the most expensive bailout in US history. Three weeks later, the Federal Reserve announced it would inject another \$2.3 trillion through unprecedented emergency initiatives targeted at small and midsize businesses, and state and municipal governments.

With the Fed starting to buy up government debt and undertaking to purchase private assets – including the corporate debt of companies such as AT&T, Tesla, Apple and Coca-Cola – while also lending directly to a range of market participants, share and bond prices have soared. Most companies tried to get over the slide in revenues by attempting to raise fresh capital, both by selling shares and issuing new bonds. Globally, nearly \$5.5 trillion is estimated to have been raised so far this year. This has triggered a windfall on Wall Street, and a cascading rally across other bourses.

What's the problem?

The stimulus may have juiced the market recovery since April, but analysts say the S&P 500 – an index that measures the stock performance of 500 large companies, and is one of the best representations of US stock markets – has underlying weaknesses: unrealistic valuation multiples and overleveraged corporate balance sheets.

Another major distortion triggered by the Fed's intervention is that stocks and bonds are now moving in tandem, which does not typically happen. The Fed will deliver an update on interest rate policy and the economy on Wednesday.

There is a growing view that the rally could



DAX readings at the stock exchange in Frankfurt. Reuters

crash once it runs out of the fuel of fiscal and monetary policy support. There are signs of distress already: trading volumes in American bourses have dipped, and there are indications that big businesses, already saturated, will not need so much new money. Another significant signal is coming up – the boosted employment provision under the CARES Act will expire on July 31. While Congress is discussing the second stimulus, reports suggest it's unlikely to come through by July 31.

The US Fed and Treasury have together backstopped over 10% of America's entire stock of business debt during this period, but all this could change once the government stimulus tapers off. The largest American banks have stashed away over \$50 billion to prepare for the fallout. "We are in a completely unpredictable environment... The pandemic has a grip on the economy, and it doesn't seem likely to loosen until vaccines are widely available," Citigroup CEO Michael Corbat said earlier this month.

Kevin Smith, founder of the hedge fund Crescat Capital, has predicted that the Dow and S&P 500 are on the verge of a Great Depression-level crash. Smith has repeatedly said that the stock market trend now is similar to the 1930 "relief rally" in the wake of the 'Black Monday' crash. During that crash, stocks fell 45% in mid-1929 – but a near 50%

rally followed from late 1929 until March 1930. After that, stocks fell more than 80%, and the unprecedented bear market ultimately wiped nearly 90% off the Dow.

Situation in Indian markets

A US crash could have a cascading impact, and India could be caught in the maelstrom on account of both the slide in the US and intrinsic issues relating to the fundamentals of Indian markets. Both BSE and NSE have rebounded about 43% since crashing to a four-year low in March as huge flows of cheap capital provided by central banks have turned heavily-discounted stocks attractive. At present, though, the Sensex earnings multiplier of over 24, and Price/Book multiple of nearly 3 are uncomfortably high – and a widespread sell-off is a distinct possibility, analysts say.

(Earnings multiplier pegs a company's current stock price in terms of the earnings per share, and provides an idea of whether it is overly expensive. P/B is the ratio of a firm's market capitalisation to its tangible asset value; ratios of under 1 are typically considered to be solid investments.)

Given that companies won't see a sharp increase in their earnings, the vulnerabilities in the Sensex valuations appear all too obvious. Early bird results for the June 2020 quarter point to a slightly better-than-expected

showing by India Inc, helped largely by a good showing by IT companies, financial services, and PSUs. The combined gross profit of the 90-odd companies that have declared results was down nearly 10% year on year, while net profit and topline were down about 3.5% in the April-June quarter. However, these numbers are likely to worsen as more companies announce results.

Also, in India, much of the government's relief package has been liquidity driven, focused on pushing banks to extend credit on the back of government guarantees to small businesses, non-banking financial companies, microfinance institutions, and housing finance companies. Over the last three months, RBI has cut its key policy rate by 115 basis points, and announced a liquidity injection of around Rs 8 lakh crore in the financial markets since its first announcement on March 27. Market analysts say that with so much liquidity worldwide and very few places for it to go, much of the money is finding its way into stock markets.

Another concern is non-performing assets for banks, which may begin to show up after the moratorium period ends on August 31. An MSME distress funding scheme is open until October 31. Once end-by dates are reached, a shock could follow.

Foreign portfolio investment (FPI) inflows have jumped after the record net outflows of nearly Rs 62,000 crore in March 2020. In May and June, FPIs have invested a net Rs 36,400 crore in Indian equities. There has also been a sharp jump in the market share of non-institutional (retail) investors in the cash segment – the highest since August 2009.

In the medium term, the fundamental risks to the global economy look like increasing, with the pandemic nowhere near ending. FY21 is a washout in terms of earnings, and this distress will start getting reflected in market valuations soon. There are also red flags in fresh NPAs for banks, which will begin to show up after the moratorium period ends on August 31. In its July Financial Stability Report, the RBI noted that the gross NPA ratio of all scheduled commercial banks may increase from 8.5% in March 2020 to 12.5% by March 2021 under the baseline scenario. If the macroeconomic environment worsens, the ratio may increase to 14.7% in the very severely stressed scenario, it added.

Experts feel that a lag in economic revival, demand in the economy, and reinstatement of income levels may lead to stress in all segments – corporates, MSME and retail – in the December 2020 quarter. If a sell-off were to start in the US, many stock markets, including in India, could be pushed into the doldrums.

Why Gehlot — or Pilot or BJP — is not asking for a floor test in Rajasthan...

MANOJ CG

NEW DELHI, JULY 28

ON TUESDAY, the Ashok Gehlot Cabinet sent yet another recommendation – the third such communication in a week – to Governor Kalraj Mishra asking for a session of the Rajasthan Assembly on July 31. None of the three proposals, however, mentions whether the government wants to hold a vote of confidence in the Assembly, although that is being seen as the unstated reason behind convening a session amid a political crisis.

Ever since the crisis began in the second week of July, Gehlot had been claiming that his government has the majority in the 200-member House. What then is stopping the government from mentioning a confidence vote or a floor test as the agenda for the Assembly session? What is the Congress's game-plan? Over a fortnight into the crisis, what is the state of play in Rajasthan?

Gehlot and Congress

The Congress and its Gehlot camp argue that the government and the Assembly will decide the agenda for the session, and the Governor cannot raise queries or interfere on such matters as it is not in his jurisdiction. In other words, he has no discretionary powers regarding summoning of the session. They say the Governor's queries are a tactic to delay convening of a session. If the Governor turns down the recommendation once again, the Congress's political response would be to seek his removal.

Unofficially, the Congress's position is that stating the reason for convening a session could lead to the Governor raising more queries or laying down conditions that the party and the government would rather avoid. "If we state the reason, the Governor could say move a motion for a floor test, give 10 days or 15 days' notice and all. Why should we give it?"



In his requests for a House session, CM hasn't mentioned trust vote. PTI

There is no obligation to give it," a senior leader said.

Congress leaders say the Chief Minister need not show his majority in the conventional way of moving a motion for expressing confidence in the Council of Ministers. "He can do it in any manner for a show of support to the government. A whip can also be issued," a senior leader said.

The Congress cites the 2016 Supreme Court judgment in *Nabam Rebia and Bamang Felix vs Deputy Speaker* (Arunachal Pradesh Assembly case) to argue that when the Chief Minister and his Council of Ministers enjoy the confidence of the majority of the House, the power vested with the Governor under Article 174 to summon, prorogue and dissolve the House must be exercised in consonance with the aid and advice of the Cabinet.

Sachin Pilot camp

Sachin Pilot and the 18 rebel Congress MLAs, who are fighting a disqualification battle in the Rajasthan High Court, have been silent on the question of convening a session. Since they have not been expelled by the Congress, abstaining from the session or voting against the Gehlot govern-

ment would violate the party's whip and attract disqualification.

But the Pilot camp claims Ashok Gehlot does not have a majority and describes the demand for a session as political posturing, saying that is why the government has not mentioned a vote of confidence as the agenda. The Sachin camp claims the government has not given the Governor the list of MLAs supporting it. While the Congress has claimed that it had given the list when Gehlot met the Governor last week, the Pilot camp asks why the list has not been made public.

The Pilot camp believes that the two CPM MLAs have not committed their support to the government and there is uncertainty over which way the three BTP MLAs will move. This camp is also banking on a disqualification petition it has filed in the High Court against 6 BSP MLAs who had joined the Congress, arguing that a national party cannot be merged with another national party.

BJP

Interestingly, the Opposition BJP is not demanding a floor test. Normally, such a demand would have come from the Opposition. A BJP delegation met Governor Mishra earlier this week but did not demand a floor test. In fact, its leaders have argued that while it is within the right of the Cabinet to send a proposal to the Governor for calling an Assembly session, it cannot pressure him into getting it done immediately.

The BJP seems in the mood to prolong the impasse, hoping that some MLAs in the Gehlot camp could switch sides. It is not jumping into the game openly and is waiting for the right time to make a move. For the time being, all indications are that it is acting from behind the scenes. The Congress alleges that the Governor's recalcitrance, the appearance of lawyers like Harish Salve and Mukul Rohatgi for the Pilot camp and the stay of rebel MLAs in a BJP-ruled state all leave fingerprints of a BJP role.

... And how BSP is banking on SC rulings to hold back former MLAs

APURVA VISHWANATH

NEW DELHI, JULY 28

THE BSP is gearing up for a legal battle of its own in the Rajasthan political drama around Congress Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's claim to power. The BSP is trying to win back its six MLAs who later joined the Congress, or at least to keep them from supporting Gehlot. Does the anti-defection law apply here?

What explains the BSP stand?

The BSP won six seats in Rajasthan but all its MLAs – Rajendrasingh Gudha, Lakhman Singh, Deep Chand, Joginder Singh Awana, Sandeep Kumar and Wajib Ali – joined the Congress in September last year.

Politically, the BSP has taken a stand not to support the Gehlot government. If the six MLAs were to be disqualified, the effective strength of the House reduces and so does Gehlot's majority.

However, the Speaker has rejected the disqualification plea.

What does the "merger" of BSP with Congress mean?

The Tenth Schedule of the Constitution prohibits defection to protect the stability of governments but does not prohibit mergers. Paragraph 4(2) of the Tenth Schedule, dealing with mergers, says that only when two-thirds of the members agree to "merge" the party would they be exempt from disqualification.

The "merger" referred to in Paragraph 4(2) is seen as legal fiction, where members are deemed to have merged for the purposes of being exempt from disqualification, rather than a merger in the true sense.

How does the central BSP leadership view the merger in Rajasthan?

The BSP is arguing that a state unit of a national party cannot be merged without the party being merged at the national level.

However, the Tenth Schedule identifies this dichotomy between state units and national units. As per Paragraph 4(2), "merger" of a party means merger of a legislative party of that House. In this case, it would be the Rajasthan Legislative unit of the BSP and not the BSP at the national level.

Paragraph 1 of the Tenth Schedule which



CONGRESS BREAK-UP

88 (including 6 ex-BSP)

GEHLOT CAMP

19 PILOT CAMP

defines terms specified in the context of the anti-defection law states this clearly.

"Legislature Party" for the purposes of Paragraph 4 (which deals with mergers) "means the group consisting of all the members of that House for the time being belonging to that political party in accordance with the said provisions."

Additionally, the whip issued by BSP national general secretary Satish Mishra to the six MLAs would have no impact because such a direction has to necessarily be issued for voting on the floor of the House. Every legislative party identifies the party's whip at the beginning of the Assembly's term and conveys this to the Speaker. A national leader's direction cannot be considered a whip in the context of the anti-defection law.

On what grounds is BSP's case based?

The BSP's contention is that the merger is illegal and unconstitutional because for a national party, such merger has to take place at the national level. Supporting this argument, Satish Mishra has cited two decisions of the Supreme Court: a three-judge 2006 bench ruling in *Jagjit Singh v State of Haryana*, and a five-judge bench 2007 ruling in *Rajendra Singh Rana And Ors vs Swami Prasad Maurya*. The first decision relates to four legisla-

tors from single-member parties in the Haryana Assembly, who said their parties had split and later joined the Congress. The court upheld the Speaker's decisions disqualifying them.

The second decision, involving the BSP itself and the Samajwadi Party, also deals with "split". In the 2002 Uttar Pradesh elections, 37 MLAs – one-third of the BSP strength – "split" from the party after its government fell, to support SP. The SC ruled that the split cannot be recognised primarily because not all these MLAs split at once.

The key aspect is that these cases deal with splits where when one-third of the members of a legislative party splits; they could not attract disqualification as per Paragraph 3 of the Tenth Schedule.

In 2003, through the 91st Constitutional Amendment, Paragraph 3 was deleted from the Tenth Schedule. The amendment was made as the one-third split rule was grossly misused by parties to engineer divisions and indulge in horse-trading. One-third was regarded as an easy target to achieve and the law now exempts defection only when it is at two-thirds (in a merger).

Are there any such precedents?

In July 2019, 10 of the 15 Congress MLAs in Goa joined the BJP taking the ruling party's tally to 27 in the 40 member House. Since they formed two-thirds of the strength of the legislative party unit, they are exempt from disqualification. However, the Speaker's decision not to disqualify them is under challenge before the Supreme Court.

In June last year, Vice President Venkaiah Naidu issued orders to "merge" the TDP won 15 seats in the Telangana elections, 12 of its MLAs joined the ruling TRS. The Speaker recognised the defection as a merger since more than two-thirds had moved.

TOP OF THE WORLD



Yair Netanyahu

ISRAEL

Netanyahu son apologises after tweet faces flak from Indians

ISRAELI PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's eldest son Yair has apologised to Hindus after he faced flak from some Indians who found one of his tweets to be "quite offensive". On Sunday, the 29-year-old Yair, who is very active on social media and often defends his father's policies, posted a picture of the Hindu goddess Durga, with the face of Liat Ben Ari, the prosecutor in his father's corruption cases, superimposed over the goddess's face. "I've tweeted a meme from a satirical page, criticising political figures in Israel. I didn't realise the meme also portrayed an image connected to the majestic Hindu faith. As soon as I realised it from comments of our Indian friends, I have removed the tweet. I apologise," Yair said. **PTI**

IRAN

Jailed British academic moved to remote prison

A BRITISH-AUSTRALIAN academic serving a 10-year sentence in Iran for espionage has been moved to a remote prison south of Tehran that is said to be riddled with coronavirus cases, according to human rights activists, raising concerns about her already deteriorating health. Kylie Moore-Gilbert, a Cambridge-educated professor in Islamic studies at the University of Melbourne, was detained in 2018 at the Tehran airport as she tried to leave the country after a conference. **NYT**

EGYPT

Egyptian women get 2 yrs in jail for TikTok videos

AN EGYPTIAN court sentenced several young women to two years in prison Monday for posting "indecent" dance videos on TikTok in a fraught case that critics describe as a further crackdown on self-expression in the conservative society. The women were also fined 300,000 Egyptian pounds (nearly \$19,000) each for "violating the values and principles of the Egyptian family," inciting debauchery and promoting human trafficking, according to a statement from the public prosecutor. **AP**

Former Malaysian PM Najib Razak at the courthouse in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Tuesday. **AP**

Malaysia ex-PM Najib given 12-year jail term in graft case

ROZANNA LATIFF

KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 28

MALAYSIA'S FORMER leader, Najib Razak, was found guilty of corruption and sentenced to 12 years in jail on Tuesday in the first trial over a multi-billion-dollar scandal at state fund 1MDB that stretched to the Gulf states and Hollywood.

In a case widely seen as a test of the nation's resolve to stamp out corruption and which could have big political implications, high court judge Mohamad Nazlan Mohamad Ghazali sentenced Najib to 12 years and a fine of 210 million ringgit (\$49 million) on a charge of abuse of power.

Najib, 67, also received 10 years in jail on each of three charges of criminal breach of trust and three

Malaysia's massive 1MDB scandal

STATE-OWNED investment fund 1 Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) was set up in 2009, when Najib Razak was PM. In 2015, suspicions were raised when 1MDB missed its payments to banks. Malaysian and US authorities say that \$4.5 billion had been

EXPLAINED

diverted from the fund into private pockets. Money from the fund was traced to the purchase of a mega-yacht and works of art by Picasso and Van Gogh, as well as in the production of the Hollywood hit *Wolf of Wall Street*. It is alleged that Najib himself pocketed \$1 billion.

charges of money laundering for illegally receiving nearly \$10 million from SRC International, a former unit of the state fund.

The judge allowed a request by Najib's lawyers to delay the jail sentence and the financial penalty. Najib had pleaded not

guilty, and had said he would appeal the verdict if convicted.

Prosecutors say more than \$1 billion of 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) funds made its way into Najib's personal accounts, over which he faces a total of 42 criminal charges. **REUTERS**

New Zealand suspends extradition treaty with HK over security law

PRAVEEN MENON

WELLINGTON, JULY 28

NEW ZEALAND has suspended its extradition treaty with Hong Kong and made a number of other changes following China's decision to pass a national security law for the territory, Foreign Affairs Minister Winston Peters said on Tuesday.

"New Zealand can no longer trust that Hong Kong's criminal justice system is sufficiently independent from China," Peters said in a statement. "If China in future shows adherence to the 'one country, two systems' framework then we could reconsider this decision."

Beijing imposed new legislation on the former British colony earlier this month despite the protests of Hong Kong residents



Winston Peters, New Zealand Foreign Minister

and Western nations, setting the financial hub on a more authoritarian track.

Australia, Canada and Britain all suspended extradition treaties with Hong Kong earlier this month. US President Donald Trump has ended preferential economic treatment for Hong Kong. **REUTERS**

Taliban announce three-day truce for Eid, starting Friday

ABDUL QADIR SEDIQI

KABUL, JULY 28

AFGHANISTAN'S ISLAMIST Taliban militants announced on Tuesday that they will observe a three-day ceasefire for the Muslim religious holiday of Eid al-Adha, starting Friday, offering some respite from weeks of violence.

Disagreements over a prisoner exchange and the violence have delayed peace talks between an

Afghan government-mandated committee and the Taliban, as envisaged in an agreement signed between the US and the militant group in Doha in February.

"In order for our people to spend the three days of Eid in confidence and happiness, all fighters are instructed not to carry out any operations," Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid tweeted. However, he said if the Taliban came under attack, they would retaliate. **REUTERS**

Amazon, Apple, FB, Google CEOs to appear before US Congress together

CECILIA KANG, JACK NICAS & DAVID MCCABE

WASHINGTON, JULY 28

AFTER LAWMAKERS collected hundreds of hours of interviews and obtained more than 1.3 million documents about Amazon, Apple, Facebook and Google, their chief executives will testify before Congress on Wednesday to defend their powerful businesses from the hammer of government.

The captains of the New Gilded Age — Jeff Bezos of Amazon, Tim Cook of Apple, Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook and Sundar Pichai of Google — will appear together before Congress for the first time to justify their business practices. Members of the House Judiciary's antitrust subcommittee have investigated the internet giants for more than a year on ac-

Sundar Pichai of Google, Jeff Bezos of Amazon, Tim Cook of Apple and Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook. **Reuters**

cusations that they stifled rivals and harmed consumers.

The hearing is the government's most aggressive show against tech power since the pursuit to break up Microsoft two decades ago. It is set to be a bizarre spectacle, with four men who run companies worth a total of around \$4.85 trillion — and who include two of the world's richest individuals — primed to argue that their businesses are not really that powerful after all.

And it will be a first in another way: Zuckerberg, Pichai, Bezos and Cook will all be testifying via videoconference, rather than rising side-by-side for a swearing-in at a witness table in Washington. Perhaps appropriately, their reckoning will be broadcast online.

The hearing, which caps a 13-month investigation by the House subcommittee, will be closely watched for clues that could advance other antitrust cases against the companies. **NYT**



US Attorney General William Barr at the hearing

House Judiciary Committee at a much-anticipated election year hearing that the violence taking place in Portland,

Oregon, and other cities is disconnected from Floyd's killing, which he called a "horrible" event that prompted a necessary national reckoning on the relationship between the Black community and law enforcement.

Barr has defended as necessary the broad use of law enforcement power to deal with the situation, but the department's internal watchdog has opened investigations into use of force and other tactics by federal agents in those cities. **AP**

million. Wasting and stunting can permanently damage children physically and mentally, transforming individual tragedies into a generational catastrophe.

"The food security effects of the Covid crisis are going to reflect many years from now," said Dr. Francesco Branca, the World Health Organization head of nutrition. "There is going to be a societal effect."

In Burkina Faso, for example, one in five young children is chronically malnourished. Food prices have spiked, and 12 million of the country's 20 million residents don't get enough to eat.

From Latin America to South Asia to sub-Saharan Africa, more

families than ever are staring down a future without enough food. The analysis published Monday found about 128,000 more young children will die over the first 12 months of the virus.

Many new patients in South America are the children of migrants who are making long journeys back to Venezuela from Peru, Ecuador or Colombia, where their families became unable to buy food during the pandemic. Others are children of migrants who are still abroad and have not been able to send back money.

The rise in child deaths worldwide would reverse global progress for the first time in decades. **AP**

It is going to be one big wave: WHO says Covid not seasonal

Spain, Vietnam impose more restrictions as infections rise

REUTERS & AP

GENEVA, JULY 28

THE WORLD Health Organisation on Tuesday warned against complacency about new coronavirus transmission in the northern hemisphere summer, saying that this virus did not behave like influenza that tended to follow seasonal trends.

"People are still thinking about seasons. What we all need to get our heads around is this is a new virus and...this one is behaving differently," WHO spokesperson Margaret Harris told a virtual briefing in Geneva, urging vigilance in applying measures to slow transmission that is spreading via mass gatherings. She also warned against thinking in terms of virus waves, saying: "It's going to be one big wave. It's going to go up and down a bit. The best thing is to flatten it and turn it into just something lapping at your feet."

Meanwhile, Madrid has made the wearing of face masks mandatory in all public areas, and has limited the number of people who can gather in one place to 10. Nightlife venues must close their doors at 1 am and customers will have to give their identification details to get in.

Vietnam has locked down its third-largest city for two weeks after 15 cases of Covid-19 were found in a hospital. Public transport into and out of the central city of Da Nang was cancelled.

A restaurant was converted into a clinic for suspected Covid-19 patients in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. With the country's health care system struggling with the pandemic, makeshift facilities and volunteers have tried to fill the gap. **AP**

Trump again pushes HCQ as Covid treatment, amplifies Fauci criticism

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, JULY 28

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump's attempt to project a more serious tone about the coronavirus lasted for about a week.

On Tuesday, he resumed spreading misinformation about how to fight the virus and amplifying criticism of Dr Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, who said he'd keep his head down and do his job.

Trump retweeted a series of

tweets advocating for the anti-malaria drug hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) to be used in Covid-19 patients. Numerous studies have shown that hydroxychloroquine is not effective and the US Food and Drug Administration recently withdrew an order that allowed the drug's use as an emergency treatment.

Trump also shared a post from the Twitter account for a podcast hosted by Steve Bannon, a former top White House adviser to Trump, accusing Fauci of misleading the public over hy-

droxychloroquine.

Twitter halts Trump Jr

Twitter temporarily halted Trump's son, Donald Trump Jr, from tweeting after he shared a video of doctors telling Americans they do not need to wear masks to prevent coronavirus while also pitching hydroxychloroquine as a sure-fire way to treat coronavirus. The video directly refutes advice from Trump's own medical experts, who have urged people to slow the virus' spread by wearing masks.

CRISIS IN NEPAL RULING PARTY

Oli loses ground, rival formula gives party, Prachanda greater say in govt

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE

KATHMANDU, JULY 28

NEPAL PRIME Minister KP Sharma Oli appeared to have lost ground Tuesday in a bitter turf war after majority members of the ruling party's standing committee, angry over his last-minute cancellation of yet another meeting of the panel, met informally to demand his resignation.

Should Oli not resign, he will be offered a six-point working arrangement, devised by a senior member. It clips his wings and gives the ruling Nepal Communist Party and rival Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' a greater say in the government's functioning.

This was the seventh time since the start of the power tussle in Kathmandu that the standing committee, the key decision-making body of the NCP, was not allowed to convene. Oli and Prachanda, a former PM, are co-chairpersons of the NCP.

Of the committee's 44 members, 29 met informally after Oli ordered cancellation of the meeting Tuesday morning.

Minutes before the scheduled start of the meeting at 11 am, Surya Thapa, press adviser to the Prime Minister, tweeted that the meeting stood cancelled because there were some issues still to be discussed and settled between the two chairpersons.

By then, committee members were already on their way to the Prime Minister's official residence in Baluwatar, the venue for the meeting. "It was not proper on the part of Prime Minister Oli to have called off the meeting for which a



Oli and Prachanda are co-chairpersons of the Nepal Communist Party

date had been fixed by the committee," Narayan Kaji Shrestha, spokesperson of the NCP told media persons after the informal assembly of the members.

Oli has been making every effort to defer the meeting and not allow it to adopt any formal resolution since majority members have been seeking his resignation from the posts of party chairperson and Prime Minister. It is learnt that after Oli called off the meeting, Prachanda and Jhala Nath Khanal, also a former PM, asked him to reconsider. When Oli remained unmoved, members got agitated and wanted to censure him for "insulting" them. Prachanda and Madhav Nepal, another former PM, asked members to calm down.

Bamdev Gautam, vice-chairman of the party, put forward a settlement formula which, among other things, suggested that Oli be allowed to remain PM for the remaining half term of the current Parliament while Prachanda be given sole executive powers of the party organisation though Oli could remain chairperson. Gautam also suggested that the cabinet should consult the party on major policy issues, appointments to constitutional bodies and promotion of senior officials.

3 billion animals harmed in Australian bushfires: WWF

REUTERS

SYDNEY, JULY 28

NEARLY 3 billion koalas, kangaroos and other native Australian animals were killed or displaced by bushfires in 2019 and 2020, a study by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) said on Tuesday, triple the group's earlier estimates.

Some 143 million mammals, 2.46 billion reptiles, 180 million birds and 51 million

frogs were impacted by the country's worst bushfires in decades, the WWF said.

When the fires were still blazing, the WWF estimated the number of affected animals at 1.25 billion. The fires destroyed more than 37 million acres across the Australian southeast, equal to about half the area of the UK. "This ranks as one of the worst wildlife disasters in modern history," said WWF-Australia CEO Dermot O'Gorman. **REUTERS**

CORONAVIRUS AND RELATED RESTRICTIONS PUSH ALREADY HUNGRY COMMUNITIES OVER THE EDGE

Virus-linked hunger tied to 10,000 child deaths each month

LORI HINNANT & SAM MEDNICK

HOUNDE (BURKINA FASO), JULY 28

THE LEAN season is coming for Burkina Faso's children. And this time, the long wait for the harvest is bringing a hunger more ferocious than most have ever known.

That hunger is already stalking Haboue Solange Boue, an infant who has lost half her former body weight of 2.5 kg in the last month. With the markets closed because of coronavirus restrictions, her family sold fewer vegetables. Her mother is too malnourished to nurse her.

"My child," Danssanin Lanizou whispers, choking back tears as she unwraps a blanket to reveal her baby's protruding ribs. The infant whimpers soundlessly.

All around the world, the coronavirus and its restrictions are pushing already hungry communities over the edge, cutting off meager farms from markets and isolating villages from food and medical aid. Virus-linked hunger is leading to the deaths of 10,000 more children a month over the first year of the pandemic, according to an urgent call to action from the United Nations shared with The Associated Press ahead of its publication in the *Lancet* medical journal.

In Burkina Faso, 1 in 5 children is chronically malnourished. **AP**

Further, more than 550,000 additional children each month are being struck by what is called wasting, according to the UN —

malnutrition that manifests in spindly limbs and distended bellies. Over a year, that's up 6.7 million from last year's total of 47



16 ECONOMY

SENSEX: 38,492.95 ▲ 558.22 NIFTY: 11,300.55 ▲ 168.75 NIKKEI: 22,657.38 ▼ 58.47 HANG SENG: 24,772.76 ▲ 169.50 FTSE: 6,097.23 ▼ 7.65 DAX: 12,785.03 ▼ 53.63

International market data till 1900 IST

PRODUCTION-LINKED INCENTIVE SCHEME: SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS, PEGATRON LOOK TO EXPAND

Global electronic giants seek to ramp up India play

AASHISH ARYAN
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

AS MANY as six global electronics equipment manufacturers, including Samsung Electronics and Taiwan's Pegatron, are in final stages of discussion with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) to either set up units or expand their present ones in India under a special window that expires in three days. These companies had approached the MeitY to avail benefits under the government's Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, notified in April, senior government officials said.

"The talks are in final stages. Most of these deals will for now be in the sub \$1-billion (roughly Rs 7,500 crore) range for now. More applications could come in before

The scheme, open for a total of 5 years, aims to give out incentives worth ₹5,334 cr in total in the first year

July 31," an official said.

Among the other global electronic manufacturing companies, Singapore-based Flextronics, now re-christened as Flex, has also approached the government to avail benefits under the PLI scheme by expanding its Chennai unit, the sources said. The company currently has 10 other units in India, in addition to the one in Chennai.

Detailed questionnaires sent to Samsung, Pegatron, and Flex on the nature and quantum of investment did not elicit any response. The government had earlier

this year in April notified the new PLI scheme, under which companies which set up new mobile and specified equipment manufacturing units or expanded their present units would get incentives of 4-6 per cent on incremental sales from goods made in India.

The scheme, open for a total of five years, aims to give out incentives worth Rs 5,334 crore in total in the first year, to be divided among all the successful applicants. The total incentive to be given to each company will be decided by an empowered committee, which will have secretaries from the Department of Economic Affairs, Department of Expenditure, Department of Revenue, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Directorate General of Foreign Trade, apart from the MeitY secretary and the chief executive officer of the NITI Aayog.

Under the PLI scheme, for companies making mobile phones which sell for Rs 15,000 or above, the incentive for first year has been kept at 6 per cent of their incremental sales, while for companies which are owned by Indian nationals, the total incentive over four years would be capped at Rs 200 crore. The PLI scheme also en-

visages incentives for manufacturing some electronic equipment

such as transistors, diodes, thyristors, resistors, capacitors and nano-electronic components such as micro electromechanical systems among others. The expenditure on PLI scheme over the next five years is expected to be around Rs 41,000 crore, according to officials.

The government's initial plans to make India a hub for high-end large electronics equipment and semiconductor units hit a roadblock after most global companies opted to assemble in India rather than set up manufacturing units.

The Economic Survey 2019-20 noted this and observed India should follow the Chinese model of becoming an assembling hub for the world for 'network products' such as computers, electronics, and road vehicles to raise its share in the world export market.

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5TH ANNUAL MEETING OF AIIB BOARD OF GOVERNORS



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday attended the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank meeting via video conference in New Delhi. She invited the multilateral development bank to participate in India's \$1.4 trillion infrastructure development programme. Chinese President Xi Jinping also addressed the meet, where current president Jin Liqun was re-elected. ANI

Sensex soars 558 points on US stimulus hopes, buying support

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, JULY 28

THE SENSEX on Tuesday rallied by 558 points to 38,492.95 amid global cues on hopes of further US stimulus, which could help cushion the economic impact of the coronavirus outbreak. The Nifty 50 jumped 169 points to 11,300.55 on sustained buying interest, buoyed by decent corporate earnings for the June quarter.

As per analysts, markets are keenly awaiting the US Federal Reserve policy meeting scheduled on Wednesday where the Fed is expected to reaffirm its dovish stance. US Senate Republicans have proposed a \$1 trillion coronavirus aid package to salvage the economy. On the sector front, all the indices ended in green with auto, IT and metal remaining the top gainers. The broader markets too participated in the upmove but underperformed the benchmark as both midcap and smallcap index ended higher by 0.8 per cent and 0.6 per cent, respectively.

ITC buys Sunrise Foods for ₹2,150 cr

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

ITC Ltd has announced acquisition of spices manufacturer Sunrise Foods Private Ltd (SFPL) in an all-cash deal valued at Rs 2,150 crore.

According to the company, it has acquired shares of SFPL at an "upfront consideration of Rs 2,150 crore on a cash-free, debt-free basis".

SFPL is a Kolkata-based firm engaged in the spices business.

INTERVIEW WITH SECRETARY, DBT

'Confident that we will have a safe and effective indigenous vaccine'

THE DEPARTMENT of Biotechnology (DBT) has been at the helm of the government's efforts to boost vaccine development and testing in India during the COVID-19 pandemic. In an interview, DBT Secretary Dr RENU SWARUP tells PRABHA RAGHAVAN about how this background work may speed up access to a safe, effective and indigenous vaccine here. Edited excerpts:



Renu Swarup. File

When do you think we can realistically see a vaccine for COVID-19 becoming available?

Globally, the non-replicating viral vector-based vaccine from Oxford-AstraZeneca and one inactivated alum platform from SinoVac are the leads being in Phase III. From our current indigenous portfolio, the plasmid DNA candidate from Zydus supported by DBT has become the first Indian vaccine for COVID to enter Adaptive Phase I/II human clinical trials. We have started working on the preparedness for the phase III clinical trials of the Oxford candidate in India and, irrespective of the candidate, our aim remains to strengthen the manufacturing capacities so as to have equitable distribution of the vaccine to all our citizens. We are on track and I am hopeful we will have a safe and effective vaccine soon.

Vaccines using newer technologies like DNA and m-RNA have seldom been successful. What is the

significance of experimentation with these platforms during this pandemic?

The DNA vaccines have better cellular responses, are more stable and offer ease of large-scale manufacturing. Similarly, the mRNA candidates offer rapid, inexpensive and scalable manufacturing besides being safe due to their non-integrating platform. (They) have shown significant merit in preclinical studies and moved forward in a leads-based manner driving them into clinical trials.

What is India's biggest challenge in vaccine development, testing and supply right now and how do you plan to overcome them?

There are many challenges. But, the capacity building we invested in over the last decade, the far-sighted policy decisions we took in building the infrastructure and the support we offered to the industry helped us respond in the way we have.

Full interview on www.indianexpress.com

EPFO COVID ADVANCES

₹8,500 crore disbursed so far this fiscal; daily average release at ₹104 cr

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

OVER RS 8,500 crore has been withdrawn by employees under the COVID-19 advances facility from the Employees' Provident Funds Organisation (EPFO), taking the total withdrawals this fiscal to Rs 27,000-30,000 crore so far by nearly 80 lakh subscribers. The high number of these withdrawals has mostly been from low-income workers, mainly those earning below Rs 15,000 a month, a member of the EPFO's Central Board of Trustees (CBT) said.

"On an average, nearly Rs 104 crore has been disbursed daily for the purpose of COVID-19 claims since the launch of the advance facility," the person said, adding that the rest of the disbursements are averaging at the same rate for the already existing provisions for medical emergency or unemployment.

In the wake of the pandemic, the Centre had in March announced an online facility to allow withdrawal not exceeding the basic wages and dearness allowances for three months or up to 75 per cent of the amount standing to a member's credit in the EPF account, whichever is less. The scheme allowing advance withdrawal was notified on March 27 and the on-line facility launched on March 29.

The existing withdrawal conditions allow subscribers to take

non-refundable advance or withdraw money before retirement for specified purposes, such as a medical emergency, higher education, etc. Also, subscribers who have been unemployed for over a month can withdraw up to 75 per cent of their balance.

As per the last officially released data by EPFO on June 9, in April-May, 36.02 lakh claims were settled, disbursing Rs 11,540 crore in total. Of these, 15.54 lakh claims were settled under the COVID-19 advance facility, disbursing Rs 4,580 crore to the subscribers.

The EPFO had then said that over 74 per cent of total claimants during lockdown were earning below Rs 15,000. The high income category, with wages above Rs 50,000, accounted for 2 per cent of the claimants, while around 24 per cent of the claims were made by members with wages between Rs 15,000-50,000. The 36.02 lakh claims this April-May was a 6.7 per cent rise from 33.75 lakh claims settled in April-May 2019.

Further, Rs 875.52 crore was disbursed by exempted PF Trusts to 79,743 subscribers under this scheme in April, of which 222 private sector establishments disbursed Rs 338.23 crore to 54,641 employees, 76 public sector establishments disbursed Rs 524.75 crore to 24,178 employees and 23 cooperative sector establishments disbursed Rs 12.54 crore to 924 employees.

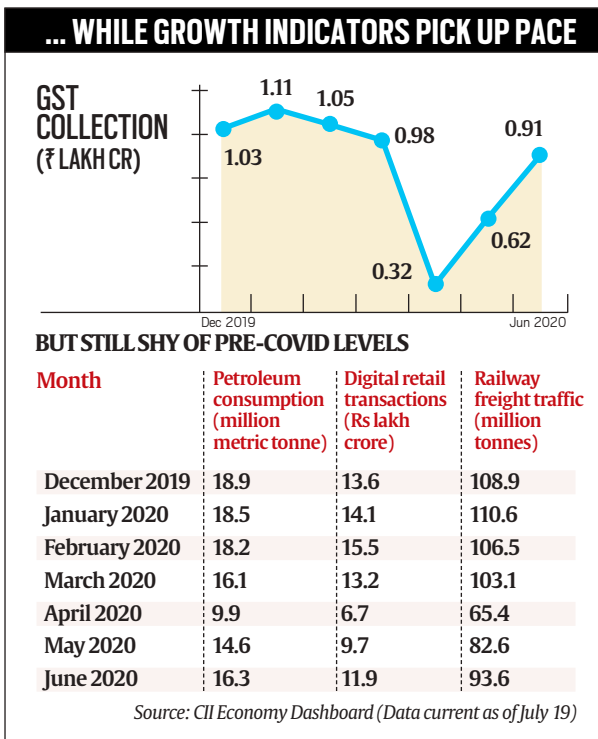
Corporates cite uncertainties as local lockdowns slow pace of recovery

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

DESPITE MACROECONOMIC indicators such as GST collection, railway freight traffic, peak power demand, electronic toll collection, etc pointing towards a V-shaped recovery in the economy post the un-lockdown, repeated interventions by local authorities have resulted in corporates being "unable to plan beyond a horizon of a few weeks, affecting all operations". This has resulted in a stunted recovery with numbers of these indicators being lower than the pre-COVID levels.

"In order to nurture the nascent signs of recovery, it is important to mitigate the uncertainties that are currently prevailing regarding the restrictions. Corporates are unable to plan beyond a horizon of a few weeks, affecting all operations", said Chandrajit Banerjee, director general, CII. The patchy nature of the recovery is also evident from the sluggishness in hiring activity after the lifting of lockdown restrictions. As per Naukri JobSpeak Index, a monthly index for hiring activity based on the job listings on Naukri.com, a month-on-month improvement was seen in hiring activity, rising 33 per cent in June (sequential improvement over May), even as it remained 44 per cent lower than the same period last year.

The decline in hiring activity was highest for Mumbai and Delhi at 56 per cent and 54 per cent, re-



spectively. Other cities fared slightly better with 52 per cent decline in Chennai, 46 per cent in Bengaluru, 45 per cent in Hyderabad, 44 per cent in Kolkata and 42 per cent in Pune. The railway freight traffic reported a recovery in May and June to 82.6 million tonnes and 93.6 million tonnes, respectively, from 65.4 million tonnes in April — lower than 110.6 million tonnes in January.

Contrarily, as per CII, the rural sector has witnessed faster recovery.

The trade body pointed out that while a normal monsoon, healthy sowing and a slew of government schemes have supported the rural economy, interventions by central and state governments to ensure that the lockdowns do not affect rabi harvest in March and April and the sowing of kharif crop in June, has led to expectations of a bumper agriculture production. Consequently, NBFC sector lending in rural areas has been as high as 80 per cent of usual levels.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

PHED CIRCLE KARULI

PH NO. - 07464-250327

E-Mail-sephedkarauli@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Online tenders are invited on behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan for the following works from contractors enlisted in suitable Class with the PHED Rajasthan and meeting eligibility criteria. Contractors enlisted with other Departments of Government of Rajasthan and enlisted with CPWD postal, Telecom, Railways, MES state Govt./Central Govt. Undertaking Organizations equivalent to "AA" class of Rajasthan meeting eligibility criteria may apply after giving prescribed Earnest Money. Tender documents can be downloaded from the web site <http://eproc.raajasthan.gov.in>. Details of the tender notification can also be seen on SPPP.raajasthan.gov.in/www.dipronline.org.

NIT No.	Name of work	Estt. Cost In lacs	Tender Fee In Rupees	Earnest Money in Rupees 2%	Last Date of downloading of T.D. upto	Last date of Bid Submission end & Time upto	Bid opening date & Time upto	Completion Period
17/2020-21	Parallel Rate Contract of supply/laying/jointing/ testing & Commissioning of internal distribution network and providing Functional House Water Connection from already lived/New Distribution Pipe Line to property line, including, all material and all labour under jurisdiction of PHED Division Karauli, UBN:-PHE2021WSRC03858	250.00	2500/-	5000000/-	11.08.20 upto 6.00 PM	13.08.20 upto 2.00 PM	13.08.20 At 4.00 PM	Rate Contract
18/2020-21	Parallel Rate Contract of supply/laying/jointing/ testing & Commissioning of internal distribution network and providing Functional House Water Connection from already lived/New Distribution Pipe Line to property line, including, all material and all labour under jurisdiction of PHED Division Hindaun, UBN:-PHE2021WSRC03859	250.00	2500/-	5000000/-	11.08.20 upto 6.00 PM	13.08.20 upto 2.00 PM	13.08.20 At 4.00 PM	Rate Contract

Term and Conditions:

- Bidders who to participate in bidding will have to procure digital certificate as per IT Act 2000 to sign their electronic bids. Tenders are to be procured and to be submitted only in electronic format on website <http://eproc.raajasthan.gov.in>
- Cost of processing fee will be Rs. 500/- for less than 50 lacs & Rs. 1000/- for 50 lacs or more and Earnest Money as describe in tender, has to be deposited before submission time of tender in the office of undersign will be acceptable Earnest Money In favour of Executive Engineer, PHED, Division Karauli/Hindaun city. Tender cost will be acceptable in favour of Superintending Engineer PHED Circle Karauli
- Earnest Money Tender Cost will be acceptable separately for each tender NIT.
- If holiday is declared on submission & opening date of tender the scheduled activity will take place on next working day.
- Tender may be cancelled by undersigned authority without asking any reason.

Sd/-
(Ram Niwas Meena)
Superintending Engineer
PHED Circle Karauli

DIPR-5722

BRIEFLY

Relaxation in export norms

New Delhi: The government on Tuesday relaxed norms for the export of face shields, certain kind of surgical masks and medical goggles

Thierry Bollore new JLR CEO

New Delhi: Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) Tuesday said Thierry Bollore has been appointed as its CEO.

Civil aviation: FDI policy change

New Delhi: The Centre has notified changes in FDI norms on civil aviation, which will permit non-resident Indian nationals to own 100 per cent stake of Air India.

N Sivaraman is Ica MD-CEO

New Delhi: Ica Tuesday named N Sivaraman its new MD and group CEO, over a year after his predecessor was forced to go on leave.

'Applications for MEIS blocked'

New Delhi: As per an office memo of DGFT, following a communication by revenue department in May, Commerce Ministry has blocked online system for exporters to apply for availing tax sops under MEIS from July 23. PTI

Vision, roadmap for future: PM to meet stakeholders from banks, NBFCs today

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi will Wednesday join stakeholders from banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) to discuss and deliberate on vision and roadmap for the future.

"The topics on agenda include credit products & efficient models for delivery, financial empowerment through technology, prudent practices for stability and sustainability of financial sector," the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement Tuesday. "Banking sector plays an important role in contributing to India's economic growth through financing infrastructure, agriculture, local manufacturing including MSMEs. Financial inclusion can play a big role in financial empowerment through technology," it added.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and top government officials will attend Wednesday's meeting. In an online interaction Monday, the PM said the Centre is willing to listening to all issues being faced industry and has an open mind with regard to further measures that may be needed to

EXPLAINED
Loan recast on agenda

AMID DEMANDS by banks for one-time restructuring of existing loans and NBFCs pitching for government funding even for lower rated companies, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend a review meeting with top financial sector players.

support the economy.

To a query on whether the Centre will provide support to small finance banks and NBFCs, the PM said she will review their situation during the meeting.

Even as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has provided additional liquidity to the financial sector, NBFCs with below AAA grade investment rating are finding it hard to raise resources. Banks are seeking one time restructuring of loans and further liquidity infusion from the RBI to support them during the present downturn.

INDIA ICT DUTY CASE

WTO to weigh pleas for dispute panel

New Delhi: The dispute settlement body of the World Trade Organization (WTO) on July 29 will consider requests of Chinese Taipei and Japan for setting up panels in a case against customs duties imposed on ICT products by India. In May 2019, the two nations had

filed a case against India over duties on information and communications technology (ICT) products

In another development, the United States has raised questions in a committee of the WTO on certain fishery schemes of India, a communication Tuesday said. PTI

17 SPORT

Long-running Broadway hit

Pacer joins the elite 500-wicket club as he leads England to series win over WI

SANDIP G
JULY 28

EVEN IN their 500th wicket, Stuart Broad and Anderson, fast-bowling double acts of the deadliest nature, seem to share a sleight of destiny. Their 500th victim was the same batsman: Kraigg Brathwaite, the West Indies opener, whose middle-stump Anderson knocked over three years ago, and whose half-forward pad Broad struck plumb in front of the stumps on Tuesday.

Broad ended the day on 501, which wrapped up the match and Wisden Trophy for England. Between his two wickets of the day, Chris Woakes collected five for himself as the tourists surrendered without a whiff of fight, resisting England bowlers' onslaught for barely 31 overs. When their innings ended at 129, it seemed their ordeal was finally over, and the 269-run victory margin was an apt reflection of the superiority England had enjoyed over West Indies in the Manchester leg of the series.

Broad's 500th, only the fourth fast bowler in this list, had a very familiar feel to it, the method of dismissal bearing all his hallmarks. A quick, low straight ball that scurried onto his Brathwaite's pads. The build-up, though, has laziness about it, as Broad was struggling with his lengths, often pitching fuller than usual and it seemed he had to wait beyond his first spell. Given the rush that accompanies his wickets, the 21-ball wait seemed an eternity. But Broad has the knack of striking when he's least expected to. As Brathwaite retreated to the pavilion, Broad held the ball and waved. Just the England balcony and empty stands greeted him back. But he was at least fortunate that his father, Chris, the match referee, was in attendance.

It could not have been more different from his first wicket, taken 13 years ago with a short ball that took Chaminda Vaas's wrist-band to Ian Bell at slips in Colombo. If the setting and the dismissal looked dissimilar, the teams have changed out of all recognition. No one who played on either side in that match still play Test cricket today. Even Broad has changed almost beyond recognition. From a bang-it-in enforcer, he has matured into a know-it-all veteran, a bowler of the highest echelons, fit to rank with any who has played for England.



Stuart Broad celebrates after scalping his 500th victim in Test cricket. Reuters

Broad himself admits of change. But age has its compensations. He has an expert understanding of his game and the batsmen's mind, which he blends with a scholarly eye for unseen details that determine a cricket match. At 35, he is playing as well as ever, so relentless in his aggression and so clear in his intentions that he seems to get younger with every spell.

Significantly, he has retained the old drive to take wickets, as well as the energy and stamina, a reason he felt hurt after being left out for the first Test. Whatever the rationale behind that was. He was then on 484 wickets, the sight of the 500th distant and dreamy, like England reclaiming the trophy. But his journey to the 501st could be well the compelling story of the series too. How Broad bounced back from the snub and how England rallied to overcome the setback in Southampton. Both scripts intertwine and overlap. Both are incomplete without each other too.

In the lustre of Broad's milestone, the sheen of Woakes's effort should not be lost. Woakes is an understated bowler. Maybe, it's his lack of frightening pace or artistry of swing. But he reinforced that he's as smart an exponent of seam bowling as any in the world around. All his wickets, fashioned by impeccable lengths and subtlety of seam-movement, came either side of the lunch interval. He winkled out Shai

Hope and Shamrah Brooks before the interval, the latter inside-edged to the keeper while Hope perished to an ungainly heave.

His bizarre stroke symbolised the muddled approach of West Indies, whose response mechanism to this situation was devoid of logic and resolve. With spells of rain often interrupting the match—the match was stopped thrice in the day—and more predicted in the day, it was a matter of hanging around and taking the match as deep as possible. But they self-destructed to their end.

Upon resumption, Woakes picked up three more wickets, all leg-before-to deliveries that fractionally seamed in. In between, his unfortunate colleague Dom Bess, who bowled not a single delivery in the match, affected the run out of Roston Chase to leave the tourists in utter shambles. The signs of resurgence they showed in Southampton seemed a mirage in hindsight. At the same time, the graph of Broad keeps surging.

So what next for Broad? Matching his friend Anderson? Going past Glenn McGrath? Entering the 600 club? So much for the speculation. What we know is that we have some more years to admire a masterful seamer at work, provided his body does not rebel.

BRIEF SCORES: England 369 & 226/2decl bt West Indies 197 & 129 (Woakes 5/50, Broad 4/36) by 269 runs

Punjab's Princepal is fourth Indian picked for NBA developmental league

NITIN SHARMA
CHANDIGARH, JULY 28

GURMEJ SINGH recalls looking through a telescope at Dera Baba Nanak to offer obeisance to the historic Kartarpur Sahib Gurudwara in Pakistan, since the 57-year-old didn't have a passport to cross the border. The proud father will need the document soon as the telescope refocuses on a shooting star rising on the horizon - his 19-year-old son Princepal.

Signed by NBA's developmental team for a select squad announced on Tuesday, the step up takes the 6'10" hoopster closer to his dream of playing in the world's snazziest league. "Today is a big day in my son's career and once the Kartarpur Corridor opens, I will get my passport made and go to pray at Kartarpur Sahib," says the elated father.

Six years back, the Punjab youngster from village Qadian Gujran - five km off the Indo-Pak border near Dera Baba Nanak - was obsessed with volleyball - a sport he played voraciously in the fields. However, a visit by the sitting MLA from Batala, Lakhbir Singh Lodhinangal, to a school competition saw the then 6'4" youngster scouted out for the Ludhiana Basketball Academy, Punjab's prolific nursery. "Back then, I only knew about volleyball and my whole time was spent in setting up the volleyball net. When Lodhinangal sir's son Kunwar Mandeep Singh told me about basketball, I was fascinated by the game. Controlling the ball all over the court looked enjoyable to me," Princepal says.

He looked up to senior Palpreet Singh. "Palpreet *paaji* was the first Indian to be picked for the developmental league and it feels great to follow in his footsteps."

While Gurmej works as an Upper Division Clerk with the Punjab State Electricity Board, Princepal, his youngest, would move to Ludhiana in 2014 to train at the facility that has groomed Satnam Singh Bhamra, Palpreet and Amjyot Singh. Coach Jaipal Singh, assistant to legendary coach, the late Subramanian at LBA, and Punjab Basketball Association secretary Teja Singh Dhaliwal would spend hours thinking how to handle this exceptional talent.

Princepal was 6'4" at 14, and needed work on fitness to strengthen his core and

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THOSE MONTHS, THOSE MINUTES

Forced into an unprecedented lockdown, sport is staring at an unfathomable despair. Indian athletes, though, have given the country reasons to rejoice in the past.

AJIT AGARKAR talks to **Devendra Pandey** about his ton at Lord's
READ THE STORY ON [indianexpress.com](https://www.indianexpress.com)



Princepal Singh has taken a step closer towards his dream of playing in the NBA.

add agility to his tall frame. A quick learner, his ball-carrying skills were immaculate. Two years later, Princepal earned a \$75,000 scholarship with SPIRE Institute in Geneva, Ohio, USA, but saw his visa rejected. But Jaipal ensured he didn't stay dejected.

"It was a huge opportunity. But like any village kid, his English was poor and he couldn't explain the purpose of his US visit to the visa officer. But he didn't allow it to affect his confidence," said Jaipal.

Picked by NBA's India Academy, Princepal would soon head to the league's Global Academy in Canberra, Australia. The stint improved his dribbling and he became versatile playing as a forward despite his immense frame. In 2018, Princepal would also play for the Indian U-18 team in the FIBA U-16 Championships where he averaged 22.17 points and 13 rebounds. The same year saw him captaining India at the FIBA U-18 Asian Championships where he averaged 15.5 points and 9.8 rebounds. In 2018, the youngster was also one of 25 NBA Global Academy prospects who took part in a winter showcase in Las Vegas, attended by top scouts and executives. Leading Punjab to the U-19 title last year, Princepal debuted for the senior Indian team at the 2021 FIBA Asia Cup Qualifiers earlier this year.

"Being in the same team with players from different countries and coaches in Australia helped me understand the technicalities of the sport more. I would play as

Princepal was 6'4" at 14, and needed work on fitness to strengthen his core and add agility to his tall frame. A quick learner, his ball-carrying skills were immaculate

point guard or a forward and understood how to be a good defender too. While we would try to match each other in terms of strength, we would also try to outdo each other in terms of rebounds and dribbling," remembers Princepal.

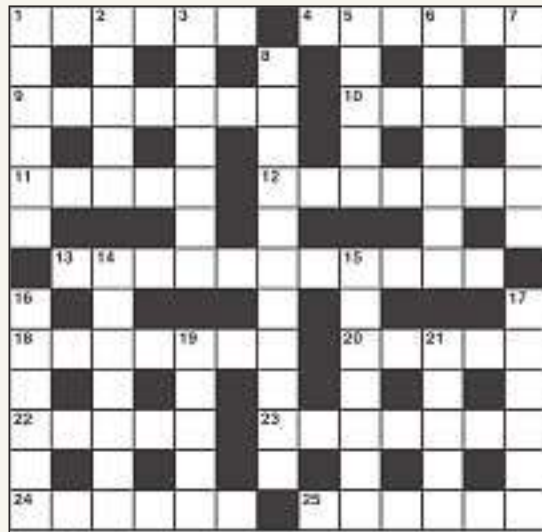
Based in Las Vegas, the league select team spot is offered to elite players who become eligible for an NBA draft the following year. Princepal will be among other draft prospects such as Jalen Green, MVP of the FIBA U-17 World Cup in 2018, Isaiah Todd, Jonathan Kuminga, Daishen Nix and Kai Sotto and the team will be coached by five-time NBA champion Brian Shaw.

"I have heard about Jalen Green and 72" Sotto and I will be rubbing shoulders with players taller than me, which is rare in India. I have also been watching videos of LA Lakers Anthony Davis and I understand that USA will be a lot tougher in terms of competition," he says.

President of the developmental league Shareef Abdur-Rahim said, "We are thrilled to be able to offer Princepal the opportunity to begin his professional basketball journey. We've long hoped that our development pathway for elite high school players would include roster spots for emerging international talent, including players who have participated in the NBA Academy programme, and we're excited to have Princepal forge this new path and develop his skills in our league."

Princepal's mother Hardeep Kaur, herself a regal 5'10", has already started preparing home-made pinnis for her son to take to the States. "He likes to eat pinnis and I will make sure there's no shortage while he is in USA," shared the mother. When their youngest was born, the priest had picked out 'P' for a name from the Guru Granth Sahib. "He is like a Rajkumar to us so we named him Princepal," the mother recalls. He's now the prince-in-waiting as India awaits his NBA coronation.

CROSSWORD 4182



ACROSS

- Equip a girl for naval war service (6)
- Early airman who became unstuck (6)
- One could make the pepper pot mine (7)
- He plays a tiny part that may be superfluous (5)
- Vault with a shout before the gymnastics (5)
- Caterer gets involved in a domestic row (7)
- Helpful intervention provides nice places to work (4,7)
- I sing about one Italian drink (7)
- Restrict it after fifty one thousand (5)
- One wasn't there to make such a defence (5)
- Greek letter varies in slope (7)
- Beam, but allow nothing in return (6)
- Loves one so dear perhaps (6)

Down

- Look for piano in a school (6)
- Well preserved parent? (5)
- Gave a man the wrong date (7)
- Empty vault (5)
- Desert people engaged in fierce competition (3,4)
- Areas for a walk on board (6)
- Labour exchanges? (4,7)
- What one thinks of love taking wing? (7)
- I will shortly become accustomed to being maltreated (3-4)
- A bad hand (6)
- Notes a mistake and makes amends (6)
- Number one's direction is return (5)
- It's held at the back, by gum (5)

Solutions Crossword 4181: Across: 1 Disdain, 5 Digit, 8 Fatal decision, 9 Rondo, 10 Extreme, 11 Führer, 12 Themes, 15 Offices, 17 Upset, 19 General strike, 20 Dread, 21 Redress. Down: 1 Defer, 2 Sit on the fence, 3 All gone, 4 Needed, 5 Drift, 6 Guided missile, 7 Tenders, 11 Flogged, 13 Haunted, 14 Oster, 16 Cured, 18 Teens.

JUMBLD 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.

_____ occurs when you are too young to take up golf and too old to rush up to the net. - Franklin Pierce Adams (6,3)

IRAEE



CCOIL



EMOODD



EGRUGM



SOLUTION: IRAEE: AERIE, COIL: DOOMED, MUCCER up to the net. - Franklin Pierce Adams

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 4184

Difficulty Level 1s

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 4183

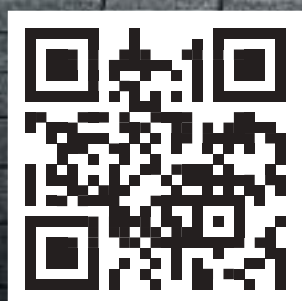



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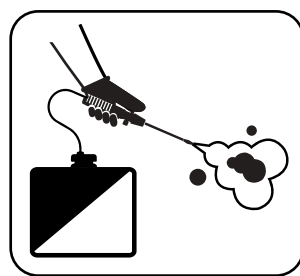
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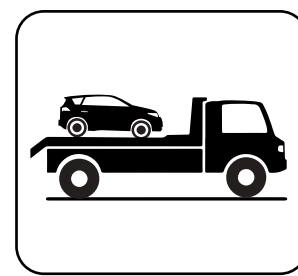
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